
Foreword

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program has enormous value to the United States. The HIDTA Program advances the *National Drug Control Strategy* by fostering coordination among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies on drug control efforts.

Effective law enforcement is essential in reducing drug-related crime within the United States. Illegal drug trafficking inflicts violence and corruption on our communities. Law enforcement is the first line of defense against such unacceptable activity. Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies must share information and resources in order to maximize their impact on criminal drug trafficking organizations. The HIDTA Program is designed to achieve such results.

The HIDTA strategy is developed around the principles of promoting coordination, intelligence and resource sharing, connectivity, and deconfliction of operations; and focusing on criminal targets that cause our nation the most damage. The HIDTA concept of equal partnership among participating agencies empowers America's drug control agencies to collectively achieve levels of success that could not have been attained with separate efforts. This increases America's impact on the drug trafficking industry and helps make our communities safe and free of drugs.

The accomplishments that the HIDTA Program has made to date is to the credit of the participating local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for their operational successes; Congress, for previous and future support; and the regional HIDTA management staffs, for dedication and implementation.

As we conclude the first decade of the HIDTA Program and enter the new millennium, we are confident that the HIDTA Program will continue to make significant contributions towards increasing the safety of America's citizens. Coordinating federal, state, and local responses with federal resources through HIDTA can only strengthen our Nation's drug-control efforts in reducing drug trafficking and drug-related crime.



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