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Drug Enforcement Administration

**Financial
Source
Debriefing
Guide**

PROPERTY OF
National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)
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Rockville, MD 20849-6000

This report was prepared by the Financial Unit of the Strategic Intelligence Section. Comments and requests for copies are welcome and may be directed to the Intelligence Production Unit, Intelligence Division, DEA Headquarters at (202) 307-8726.

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PREFACE

The Intelligence Division has prepared this *Financial Source Debriefing Guide* to assist the debriefer in formulating questions concerning the financial aspects of international and domestic drug trafficking. This *Guide* is intended to be a reference document to supplement the skills and knowledge of the debriefer. Responses to these questions can provide tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence for drug law enforcement officials.

It is not expected that every person interviewed, whether defendant, suspect, or witness, can supply information on all the questions posed in this *Guide*.

Part One suggests questions regarding drug-related financial transactions and is divided into three sections: Section A contains questions concerning payments for drugs supplied to the organization; Section B concerns the handling of proceeds after drugs have been distributed; and Section C contains questions on money movement methods.

Part Two is designed to identify assets of the money laundering organization and its members.

Part Three lists Federal Government agencies that are prepared to provide assistance in the event the subject's answers to the questions in Parts One and/or Two indicate technical or extensive knowledge of financial transactions or money laundering. It is recommended that technical debriefing assistance be requested from those DEA elements or other Federal agencies with in-depth knowledge of these areas.

PART ONE: Drug-Related Financial Transactions

A. Payment for Drug Supplies

1. Who gives instructions on how to make payments for drug supplies?
2. How are payments made to the source(s) of supply (SOS)?
3. Are payments made before or after shipment of the drugs?
4. What form of currency is used to pay the SOS?
5. Where are the payments made?
6. Who is responsible for buying the drugs in your organization?
7. Are there financiers involved who are not associated with the smuggling organization per se?
8. In the SOS organization, who receives the payments?
9. Are unwitting third parties used in this activity? If so, what is their role?

B. Handling of the Drug Proceeds

1. Who collects the proceeds from the customers? Is this a singular responsibility in your organization? Does a specialized group collect the proceeds?
2. When and where are the proceeds collected?
3. Are counting machines used? Give the type and model.
4. Who maintains the record books? Where are the records kept?
5. Are computers used to keep the records? What software program is used?
6. If computers are used, are passwords installed? If so, who has the passwords?
7. Are any built-in computer viruses or other devices used that are meant to destroy the records in the event they are seized by law enforcement officials?
8. Are the records faxed to the principal traffickers in another country? If so, to where? How frequently are they faxed? What are the sending and receiving fax numbers?
9. How is the money packaged and marked for further transportation?

10. How is the money concealed?
11. Are money stash houses used? Safe deposit boxes? Who has access to these repositories? Where are they? How often are they changed? Who purchases or rents the stash houses?
12. How are instructions for the handling of the drug proceeds received? Who gives the instructions?
13. Does your organization handle its own money movement, or is this function contracted out to money laundering organizations?
14. If your organization handles the movement of its drug proceeds, who conducts this activity? Do they use unwitting third parties? Who are they? How are they used?
15. Are the proceeds taken out of this country and, if so, to what country/countries?
16. By what method (i.e., by automobile, boat, airplane) are the proceeds transported to the ultimate destination?
17. If your organization uses money couriers, what types (nationality, sex, age) of persons are they? Do your couriers use false identification documents?
18. How much money do couriers usually carry on their person or in their luggage?

19. How much money does a money courier receive for transporting drug proceeds? On what basis is this pay computed?
20. What instructions are given to the money courier in the event that he/she is stopped by law enforcement officials?
21. If a money laundering organization is used, what is its name and who are the principals of the organization?
22. Is more than one money laundering organization used? If so, give the names and principals of the organization(s).
23. How is the money laundering organization chosen? Are the money laundering organization members aware that they are moving drug money? Do you have any evidence that they are aware of moving drug money? If so, cite evidence of their witting involvement.
24. What instructions are given to the money laundering organization?
25. Can you chart the movement/flow of the drug money?
26. What rate or percentage does the money launderer charge?

27. Were other money laundering organizations employed earlier that are not used now? What are their names and why did your group stop using them?
28. Were you or any of your group aware of any law enforcement undercover activity? If so, where was this activity? Can you name any of the individuals involved?
29. Are you aware of any legitimate businesses that are involved in laundering drug proceeds?
30. What happens to the money couriers or the money laundering organization if the funds are short when received at their ultimate destination? Give examples.
31. Who is held accountable for lost funds?
32. Has your organization experienced any loss of funds? Have law enforcement officials seized any of your drug proceeds? Give examples.
33. What impact has been felt by your organization as a result of law enforcement operations causing seizure of drug proceeds, cash, assets, etc.?

C. Money Movement Methods

1. Does your organization smuggle the drug proceeds out of the country in the form of cash? What does it do with the cash?
2. Does your organization carry money into or out of the country and declare it on the Currency Monetary Instrument Reports (CMIR's)?
3. Are monetary instruments, such as money orders, travelers checks, etc., used?
4. Does your organization use the U.S. Postal Service or overnight delivery companies to move drug proceeds?
5. Does your organization use banks and bank wire transfers to move its money? Does this involve structuring of deposits, transferring by wire, using the bank's Currency Transaction Report (CTR) exemption list, corrupting bank officials, etc.?
6. Are special accounts such as payable-through accounts, threshold accounts, or offshore accounts used?
7. If banks are used, what are their names and where are they located? Can you name any corrupt bank officials? Do you know of any bank account numbers used by your organization?

8. Does your organization use nonbank financial institutions, such as cash checking shops, exchange houses, remittance companies, etc.? If so, which ones and where are they located?
9. Does your organization use investment companies or stock brokerages to launder its drug proceeds? If so, name them.
10. Are any high-tech computer methods, such as e-money, smart cards, the Internet, etc., used to move money?
11. Are nonfinancial businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, jewelry shops, etc., used? Are they front companies or shell companies?
12. If shell companies are used, who sets them up? Where are they located?
13. Are contraband shipments used to repatriate money?
14. Are precious metals companies used?
15. Are real estate companies or car/boat dealerships used?
16. Are lotteries, race tracks, or other gambling institutions used?
17. Does your organization use casinos to change bill denominations, fabricate winnings, or wire transfer money?

18. Is invoice manipulation used to move proceeds abroad? Is it accomplished by under- or over-invoicing commodities, or producing bogus invoices and shipping papers?
19. Are you familiar with any underground banking systems, i.e., Indian, Chinese, or other ethnic-based system, used by your organization to move drug proceeds?
20. Through what countries do the drug proceeds of your organization move? What country is their final destination?
21. In your experience, has the route for the repatriation of drug proceeds changed? If so, why? Was the cause due to changes in legislation and/or law enforcement methods in foreign countries? Explain.
22. Does your organization stay informed of the latest changes in worldwide money laundering legislation and law enforcement methods? How?
23. Do you hire financial consultants, witting or unwitting? Can you name any financial consultants?

24. Are there banks and/or bank officials in other countries wittingly involved in your organization's money laundering activities? Can you name the banks and/or bank officials?
25. In payment for drugs, or in receiving payment for drugs, have you paid with or received counterfeit currency?

PART TWO: Asset Identification

1. In what form do the principals of your organization keep their money? Do they buy businesses, real estate; invest in stocks, construction, etc.?
2. Are there any assets, such as bank accounts, real estate, and businesses, in the United States that belong to members of your organization? In whose names are these assets?
3. Do you know any family members, friends, or associates of your organization members? If so, list their names, relationships to organization members, locations, and any assets that might belong to them.
4. Do you know of any assets located in other countries? If so, where are they and in whose names are the assets?
5. Do you know of drug proceeds going into trust funds, school tuition, alimony payments, insurance policies, etc.?
6. In the past, were your organization's assets seized? Were the seized assets connected to a particular drug smuggling activity?

7. Do you know of any banker who may have knowledge of the money laundering methods currently being used by drug traffickers?
8. Do you know of any individual in prison who may have knowledge of money laundering methods, or who may know of a trafficker's hidden assets?

**PART THREE: Federal Sources for
Information and Assistance**

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of International Affairs
10th & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 514-2000

- Money laundering prosecutions
- Letters Rogatory
- Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties

Drug Enforcement Administration
Operations Division
Financial Operations Section
Washington, DC 20537
(202) 307-8396

Drug Enforcement Administration
Intelligence Division
Strategic Financial Unit
Washington, DC 20537
(202) 307-8837

United States Customs Service
Smuggling Investigations Division
Currency Investigation Branch
14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20229
(202) 566-8005

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
(FinCEN)
Project Gateway
Suite 200
2070 Chain Bridge Road
Vienna, VA 22182
1-800-SOS-BUCK
• Referrals to state and local law
enforcement coordinators

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Financial Crimes Section
Criminal Investigative Division
10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535
(202) 342-2000

Internal Revenue Service
Narcotics/Currency Crimes Section
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20229
(202) 622-2000

Or contact the Criminal Investigations
Division of your local IRS office

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