



National Drug Control Strategy

HIDTA
High Intensity Drug
Trafficking Area Program
Annual Report

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Office of National Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the President
December 2003



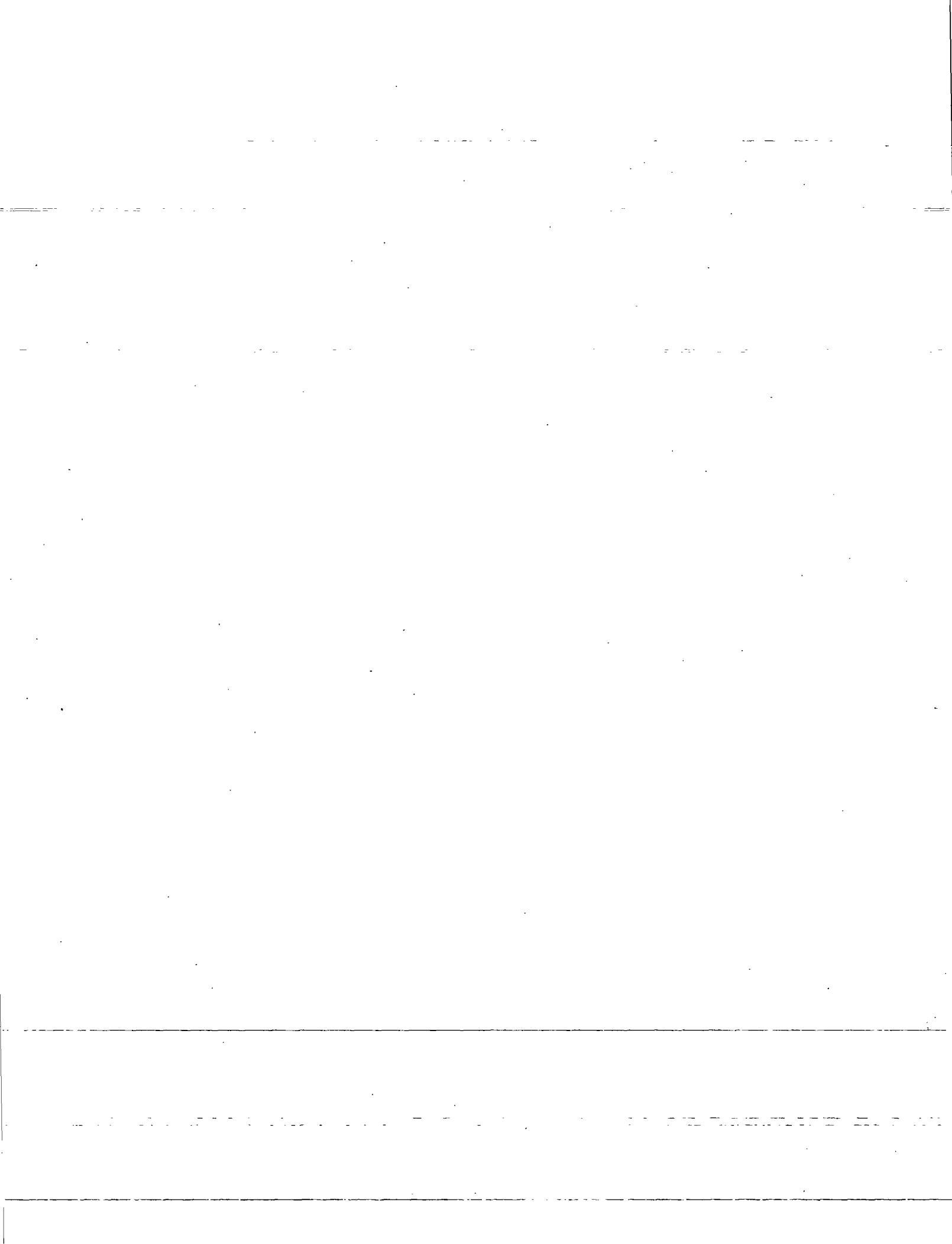
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The National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program

Annual Report 2003





**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503**

December 8, 2003

Greetings:

As we gather for the annual High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Conference in Washington, D.C. I want to thank and commend you for the outstanding work that is being accomplished in HIDTAs around the nation. The HIDTA program is one of the most important counter-drug programs available to bring federal, state and local law enforcement together in a unified and consistent effort to fight drug production and trafficking.

During the past several years intelligence sharing among federal, state and local law enforcement has become more critical than ever. Intelligence sharing is an essential element of the HIDTA program and has been for more than a decade. The HIDTA program provides incentives and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, and it serves as a model for cooperative intelligence efforts in areas such as counter-terrorism and border security. Drug intelligence is central to the successful pursuit and prosecution of drug traffickers, and the importance of HIDTA's work in this area cannot be overstated.

With its renewed emphasis on targeting the highest levels of the international drug trade operating within the United States, the HIDTA program has made invaluable contributions to the success of the Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) program and has re-invigorated partnerships with other agencies to intensify our national efforts against major drug traffickers with international roots.

As we gather to honor the achievements of individuals, groups and numerous HIDTAs during this annual conference, I commend you on your fine work and urge you to continue to bring your professional knowledge to bear on the challenges facing us as we work to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in our great nation.

Sincerely,

John P. Walters
Director

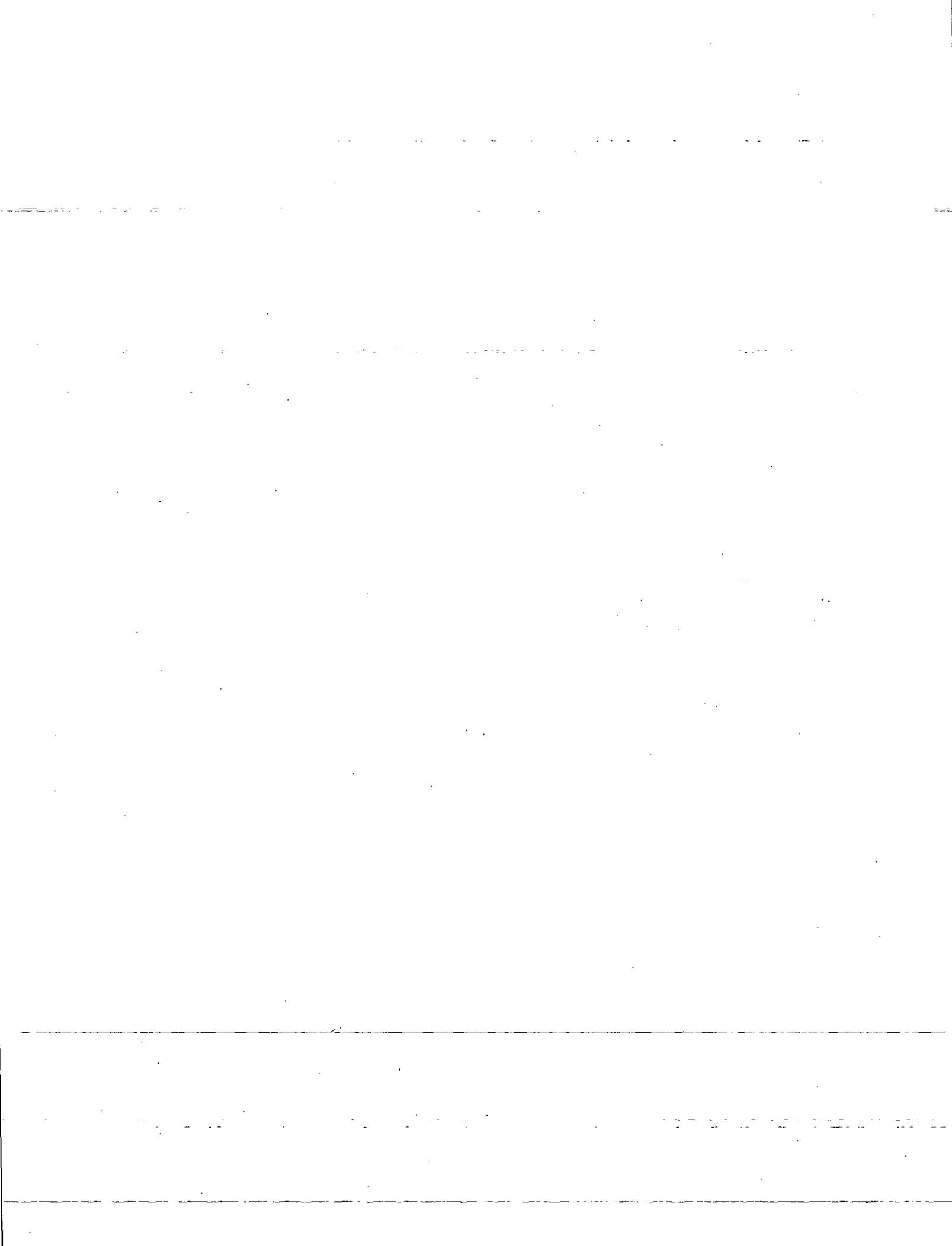
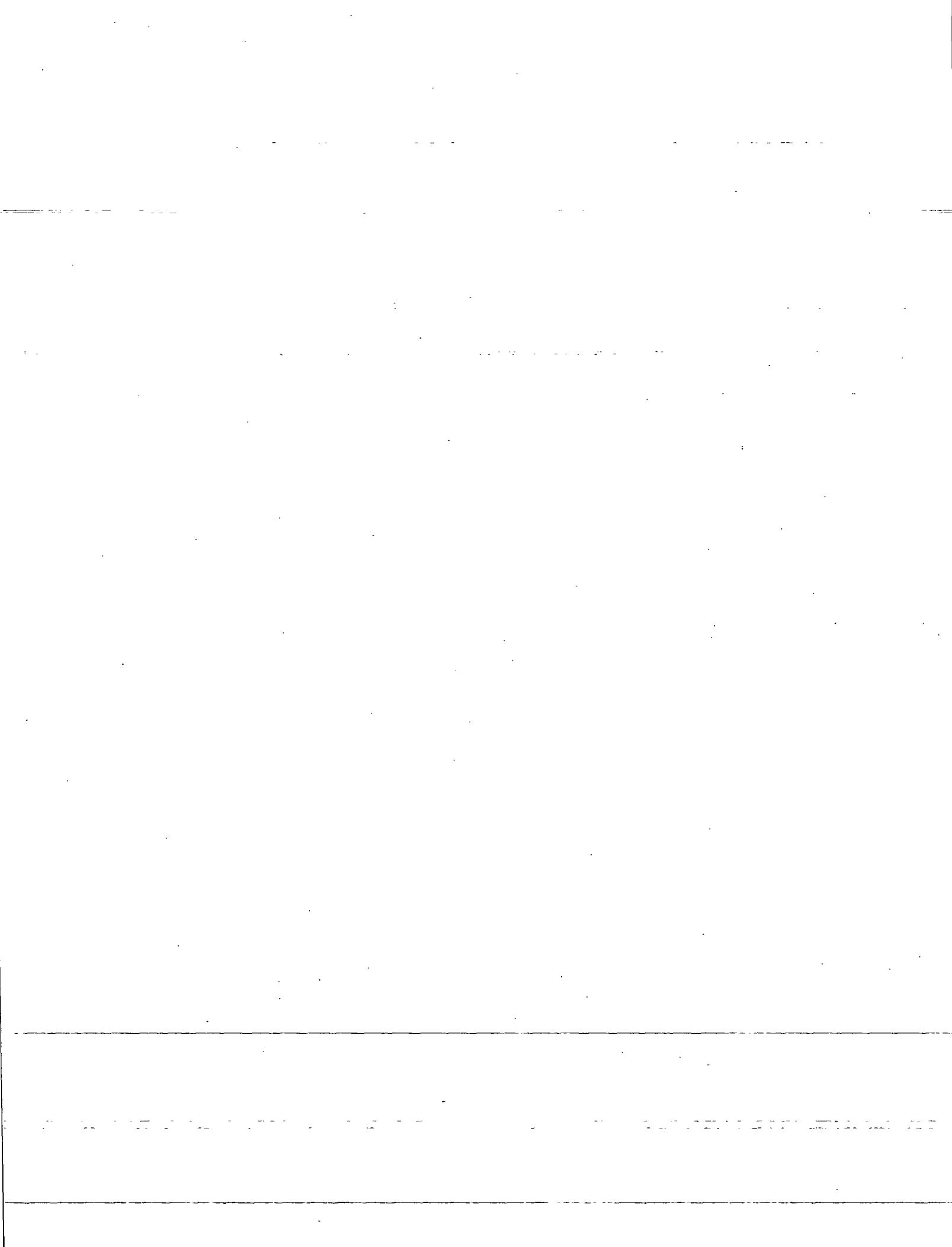


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Overview

Office of National Drug Control Policy High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program

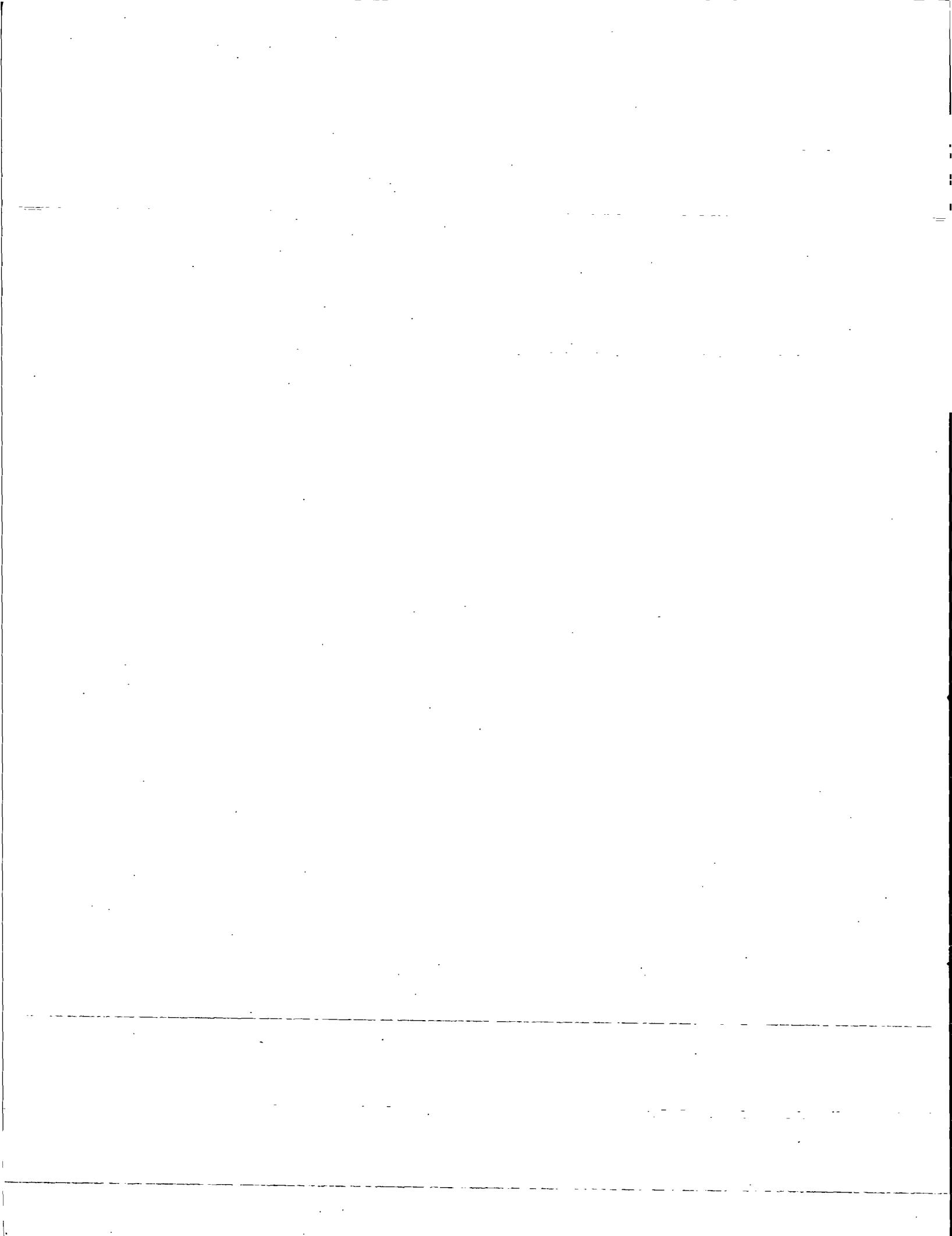
The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and the ONDCP Reauthorization Act of 1998 authorized the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to designate areas within the United States that exhibit serious drug trafficking problems and harmfully impact other areas of the country as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). The HIDTA Program provides federal resources to those areas to help eliminate or reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences. Law enforcement organizations within HIDTAs assess drug trafficking problems and design specific initiatives to reduce or eliminate the production, manufacture, transportation, distribution, and use of illegal drugs and money laundering.

When designating a new HIDTA, the Director of ONDCP consults with the Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury, heads of national drug control agencies, and the appropriate governors, and considers the following statutory criteria:

- The extent to which the area is a center of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution;
- The extent to which state and local law enforcement agencies have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problem in the area, thereby indicating a determination to respond aggressively to the problem;
- The extent to which drug-related activities in the area are having a harmful impact in other areas of the country; and
- The extent to which a significant increase in the allocation of federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to drug-related activities in the area.

The HIDTA Program helps improve the effectiveness and efficiency of drug control efforts by facilitating cooperation among drug control organizations through resource and information sharing, collocating, and implementing joint initiatives. HIDTA funds help federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations invest in infrastructure and joint initiatives to confront drug trafficking organizations. Funds also are used for demand reduction and drug treatment initiatives. The key priorities of the Program are:

- Assess regional drug threats;

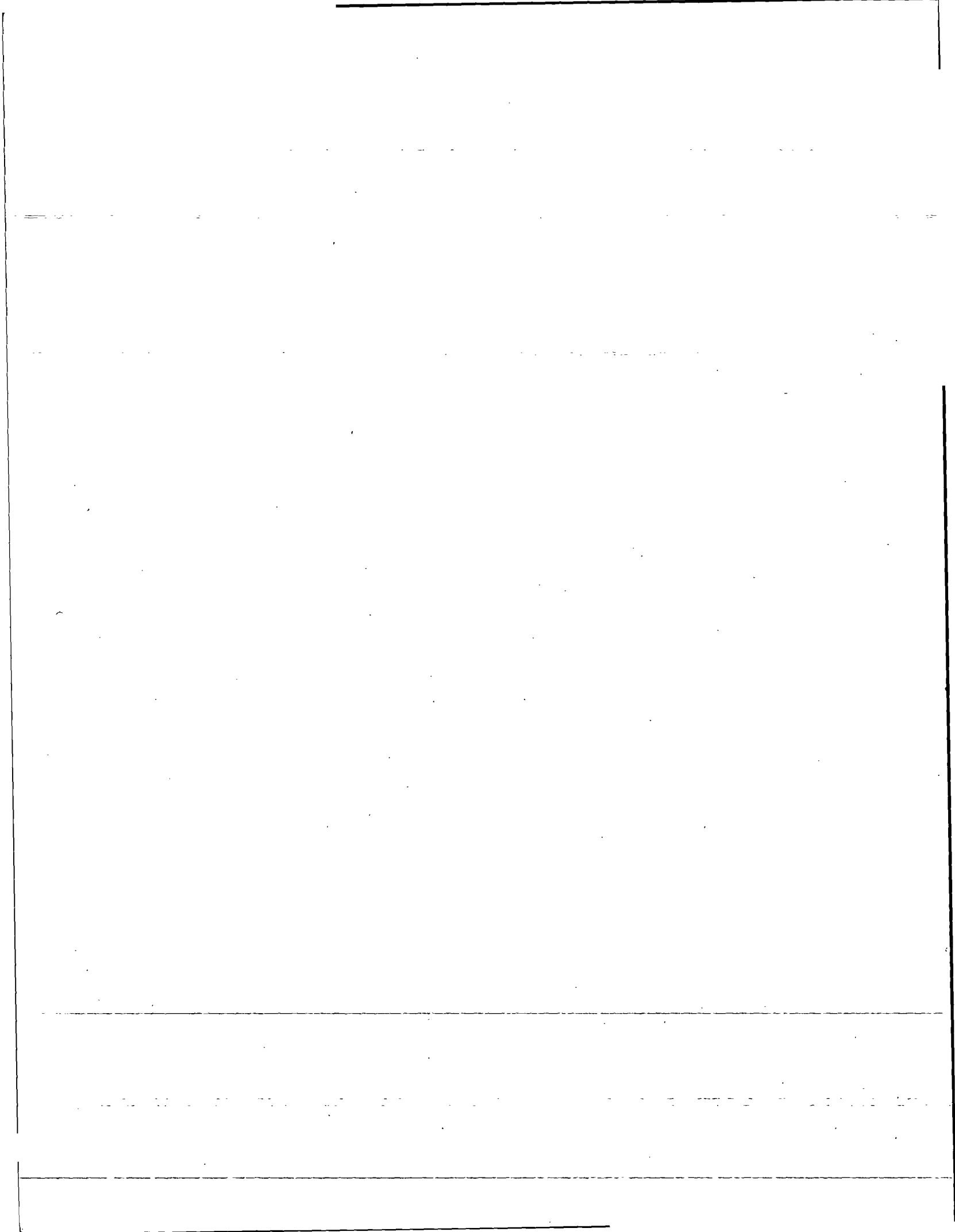


- **Design strategies** to focus efforts that combat drug trafficking threats;
- **Develop and fund initiatives to implement strategies;** and
- **Facilitate coordination** between Federal, State, and local efforts; to
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of drug control efforts to **reduce or eliminate** the harmful impact of **drug trafficking**.

Each HIDTA is governed by its own executive board comprised of approximately 16 members—eight federal members and eight state or local members. These Executive Boards facilitate interagency drug control efforts to eliminate or reduce drug threats. The Executive Boards ensure threat-specific strategies and initiatives are developed, employed, supported, and evaluated.

HIDTA-designated counties comprise approximately 13 percent of U.S. counties, and are present in 43 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The following 28 areas are designated as HIDTAs:

- 1990: **Houston, Los Angeles, New York/New Jersey, South Florida, and Southwest Border** (California, Arizona, New Mexico, and South and West Texas)
- 1994: **Washington/Baltimore** (Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia) and **Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands**
- 1995: **Atlanta, Chicago and Philadelphia/Camden**
- 1996: **Rocky Mountain** (Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming), **Gulf Coast** (Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi), **Lake County** (Indiana), **Midwest** (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) and **Northwest** (Washington)
- 1997: **Southeast Michigan and Northern California**
- 1998: **Appalachia** (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), **Central Florida, Milwaukee and North Texas** (Texas and Oklahoma)
- 1999: **Central Valley California, Hawaii, New England** (Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont), **Ohio, and Oregon**
- 2001: **North Florida and Nevada**





HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS

Office of National Drug Control Policy



Appalachia HIDTA



GENERAL INFORMATION:

YEAR OF DESIGNATION: 1998

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Kentucky:

Adair, Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Magoffin, Marion, Monroe, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Taylor, Warren, Wayne, and Whitley counties;

Tennessee:

Bledsoe, Campbell, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Macon, Marion, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Unicoi, Van Buren, and White counties;

West Virginia:

Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Gilmer, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mingo, and Wayne counties.

Contact:

(606) 877-2100

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Appalachia HIDTA is to measurable reduce the production and trafficking of illegal drugs in its immediate area, to reduce drug-related violent crime in the region, and to reduce the impact that drug production and trafficking in the Appalachia HIDTA have on other areas of the United States. Although marijuana is its primary focus, the Appalachia HIDTA responds to the

threats posed by the illicit trafficking of other drugs as necessary. Central to this mission is the expansion of cooperative, multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts involving HIDTA funded and non-HIDTA funded resources.

Threat Abstract:

Marijuana is the number one cash crop in the three states that comprise the Appalachia HIDTA. The states of

Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, with less than four percent of the total U.S. population, produced 28.4 percent of the eradicated domestic marijuana supply in 2002 (measured in total eradicated plants). Regional marijuana usage rates are generally below the national average, indicating that the vast majority of marijuana cultivated in the HIDTA is destined for markets in other regions of the country. The Appalachia HIDTA continues to represent a major drug threat to the United States. Much of the marijuana produced in the Appalachia HIDTA is grown on public land.

Marijuana growers in the Appalachia HIDTA intrude upon the Daniel Boone and Cherokee National Forests and the Great Smoky Mountain and Big South Fork National Parks, as well as federal lands owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Daniel Boone has led all National Forests in marijuana cultivation for ten of the last 11 years. Public use of these treasures has diminished because of the threat of violence from marijuana producers.

Prescription drug seizures by Appalachia HIDTA officers and agents expanded dramatically from 4,706 dosage units in 1999 to 28,064 in 2002. The trafficking and illicit usage of prescription drugs, especially Oxycodone, may well be the most significant drug problem aside from marijuana within the HIDTA.

The three states constituting the Appalachia HIDTA are also experiencing a dramatic escalation in the methamphetamine threat. The number of methamphetamine labs dismantled in the HIDTA designated counties increased from 45 in 1999 to 394 in 2002.

Cocaine, in both powder and crack forms, remains a significant drug of abuse in metropolitan and rural areas.

Strategy Abstract:

The Appalachia HIDTA Executive Board is comprised of sixteen local, state, and federal law enforcement leaders in the Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia HIDTA areas of responsibility. The management and coordination initiative for the Appalachia HIDTA is located in Administration component, or Headquarters, for the Appalachia HIDTA can be found in London, KY; while the operational backbone is made up of three separate, yet electronically connected, operations centers located in London, KY, Knoxville, TN and Hurricane, WV. Each houses officials representing their state's HIDTA participating agencies. Since the 1998 designation of the Appalachia HIDTA, participating agencies have worked together to coordinate drug suppression activities throughout the sixty-eight designated counties, six United States Attorneys Offices, seven federal, seventeen state, 43 local agencies, two National Forests, and two National Parks. By balancing efforts to attack drug trafficking at every layer, and coordinating non-enforcement efforts in targeted communities, the Appalachia HIDTA facilitates the needed cooperation between federal, state and local agencies into collaborative initiatives that target drug cultivation, distribution, and demand.

More specifically, the Appalachia HIDTA consists of fourteen law enforcement initiatives, including a prosecution component to enhance

operational efforts. Further complementing the HIDTA's operational efforts is the Intelligence Initiative, which is comprised of two separate means of investigative support: the Investigative Support Center (ISC) and Marijuana Signature (Fingerprinting) Lab – both connected via computer links to the three Operations Centers. The three remaining support initiatives for the Appalachia HIDTA include Demand Reduction Teams, primarily targeting youth prevention and public education, a HIDTA Training Initiative, and the Administration and Operations Support Initiative.

Investigative Support Center:

The Appalachia HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the centerpiece of the HIDTA as it provides the collocation and commingling of vital federal and state law enforcement personnel, and databases to assist all regional law enforcement agencies in counterdrug investigations, eradication, and interdiction. The ISC provides event and subject deconfliction services for officer safety and enhanced intelligence production; strategic intelligence for refined targeting and officer resource allocation; and in-service analytical intelligence training. The ISC provides drug intelligence analysis; prepares threat assessments, strategic reports, and organizational studies; participates in informant/defendant debriefings and cultivates new sources of information; performs post-seizure and search warrant analysis; supports arrest operations; prepares and conducts briefings; and assists in trial preparations. Additionally, the ISC initiates intelligence projects to

generate leads for HIDTA investigative agencies and other law enforcement intelligence consumers nationwide.

In 2003, the ISC purchased and implemented a computerized mechanism that provides investigative and eradication personnel with 24/7 event deconfliction service. This software will be capable of case and subject deconfliction in the future, reducing duplication of effort in addition to enhancing officer safety. In 2003, the ISC produced and disseminated three strategic HIDTA special reports, all of which were disseminated at the national level. Additionally, in 2003 the ISC provided leads that led directly to the seizure of dozens of indoor marijuana growing operations within the three HIDTA states and nationwide.

Initiatives:

The following initiatives were implemented as part of the FY2004 Appalachia HIDTA Strategy:

Demand Reduction Initiatives in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia – members conduct year-round demand reduction operations in order to reduce the use of marijuana and other drugs, and to alter the public perception that marijuana is a benign drug.

Eradication Initiatives in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia – members conduct multi-agency aerial and ground surveillance to identify and subsequently eliminate both outdoor and indoor cultivated marijuana. Where possible, these initiatives strive to identify and investigate criminal organizations responsible for marijuana cultivation.

Appalachia HIDTA Intelligence Initiatives - (These Initiatives Include the Appalachia HIDTA Investigative Support Center and the Appalachia HIDTA Marijuana Signature Lab) – members in the three states make up this non-collocated team who provide strategic, operational and tactical intelligence to law enforcement officers and agencies in the region. Through both an Investigative Support Center and the Marijuana Signature (Fingerprinting) Lab, the team supports investigations in identifying geographical source locations and techniques of local and regional highways. The marijuana signature lab is the only one of its kind in the world.

Appalachia HIDTA Regional Training Initiative implements training that is in accordance with the goals and strategy of the Appalachia HIDTA and insures coordination with the National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC) and the National HIDTA Program Office (NHPO). Training opportunities are provided free of charge, in support of HIDTA initiatives and all law enforcement agencies in the area.

Investigative Task Force Initiatives-Kentucky

Bowling Green - Warren County Drug Task Force (BGWCDTF) is committed to the suppression of marijuana and other illegal drugs, and to the reduction of drug-related violent crime. The Drug Task Force, through the combined efforts of local, state and federal agencies, actively pursues those groups or individuals who manufacture, distribute or sell marijuana and other illegal drugs within the jurisdictional

boundaries of Warren County, Kentucky.

Columbia Area Drug Task Force (CADTF) is a six-county initiative in the U.S. Attorney's Western District of Kentucky. Investigations of marijuana cultivation and trafficking comprise a significant part of its mission. Investigations of prescription drug abuse/trafficking, methamphetamine manufacturing/trafficking, and cocaine trafficking are conducted as well in accordance with the level of the threat they pose.

DEA London Task Force (DLTF) is an 18-county task force in the U.S. Attorney's Eastern District of Kentucky. This initiative targets all illegal drug traffickers and organizations, and includes pharmaceutical diversion investigations. This task force identifies, targets, and investigates the most significant marijuana and poly-drug (domestic marijuana cultivation, Mexican marijuana importation, clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, cocaine trafficking/distribution, diversion of pharmaceutical drugs, etc.) organizations that operate in the designated HIDTA counties of Southeastern Kentucky.

Hazard Investigative Task Force (HITF) targets illicit drug trafficking activity in Eastern Kentucky HIDTA designated counties. The HITF focuses on organizations and individuals involved in trafficking marijuana, with methamphetamine, crack, and diverting/trafficking prescription drugs such as Dilaudid and OxyContin receiving investigative priority in accordance with the threat they pose.

Lake Cumberland Area Drug Task Force (LCADTF) covers McCreary, Pulaski, and Wayne Counties. Its mission is to reduce marijuana cultivation/trafficking and other illicit drug-related activity. Any criminal nexus involving other HIDTA counties are also investigated, and all target information is shared with the HIDTA ISC.

Two Rivers Task Force (TRTF) covers four counties in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Eastern Kentucky (Clay, Owsley, Jackson, and Leslie). This initiative investigates marijuana cultivation (both outdoor and indoor) responding to the fact that these four counties contributed twenty-five percent of all eradicated marijuana in Kentucky over the past ten years.

Investigative Task Force Initiatives-Tennessee

DEA Upper East Tennessee Task Force (UETTF) covers the counties of Unicoi, Greene, Hawkins, Cocke, and Hancock. The UETTF is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, collocated task force whose focus is to identify and dismantle/disrupt the most significant poly-drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and/or individuals within its area of responsibility. Investigative targets include those involved in the production or trafficking of cannabis or methamphetamine, as well as other organizations involved in the trafficking of cocaine, crack cocaine, and dangerous drugs such as OxyContin. The targets include drug traffickers and organizations that have the most impact on the community. The UETTF pursues

money laundering and asset forfeiture aspects of these investigations.

Middle Tennessee Task Force (MTTF) covers the Middle Tennessee counties of Cumberland, White, Putnam, Overton, Pickett, Clay, Macon, Jackson, and Fentress. all HIDTA designated counties as well as the adjacent counties. The MTTF's focus is to identify and dismantle/disrupt the most significant DTOs and/or individuals within its area of responsibility. Investigative targets include those involved in the production and/or trafficking of marijuana or methamphetamine, as well as other organizations involved in the trafficking of cocaine, crack cocaine, and dangerous diverted drugs such as OxyContin.

Rocky Top Task Force (RTTF) covers the east Tennessee designed HIDTA counties of Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Scott, Sevier. This is a co-lead task force with DEA and FBI being the lead agencies. The DEA group targets all DTOs and/or individuals that are involved in the supply, trafficking, production and distribution of marijuana, methamphetamine, crack cocaine, OxyContin, cocaine, and other illicit drugs. The FBI Squad utilizes the criminal enterprise investigative strategy to target Mexican and other ethnic groups (Asian, Russian, and Eastern European) criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking using sophisticated investigative techniques to identify, disrupt, and dismantle these criminal organizations.

South Tennessee Task Force (STTF) covers the South Tennessee designated HIDTA Counties of Marion, Franklin, Sequatchie, Grundy, Bledsoe, Rhea and

Van Buren. Its mission is to reduce illicit drug trafficking activity, with significant resources being spent on marijuana organizations, particularly during the growing season.

Investigative Task Force Initiatives- West Virginia

Huntington Violent Crimes/Drug Task Force (HVCDF) operates in Cabell, Mason, Wayne and Logan Counties. The mission is to reduce illegal drug trafficking. The task force focuses on the identification, investigation, and dismantling of DTOs with specific emphasis on the three primary drugs affecting the Appalachia HIDTA region: cannabis, OxyContin, and methamphetamine. This highly productive task force does almost all the drug enforcement for the Huntington, West Virginia area. Located on the WV-KY state line on I-64 beside the Ohio River, and containing a large university (Marshall), Huntington is afflicted with a busy illegal drug trade. This task force is critically located to address that issue, and has historically remained very productive in both state and federal prosecutions.

Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT) initiative's mission is to disrupt or dismantle poly-drug trafficking organizations operating on a local, regional, and/or national scale, which impact HIDTA counties in Southern West Virginia, particularly Kanawha and surrounding counties.

Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force (SRDVCTF) services the HIDTA county of McDowell. Its mission is to reduce illicit drug trafficking by focusing on organizations

and individuals involved in trafficking marijuana, methamphetamine, crack, and diverting/trafficking prescription drugs such as Dilaudid and OxyContin. Bluefield has developed into a significant drug distribution center in this part of Appalachia.

Significant multi-agency drug investigations are underway involving heavy distribution of cannabis, cocaine, and pharmaceuticals. Methamphetamine is an emergent problem.

U.S. Highway 119 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (119DVCTF) is a unit with primary jurisdiction in Logan, Wayne, Boone, and Mingo Counties. The mission is to reduce illegal drug trafficking through the identification, investigation, and dismantling of DTOs with specific emphasis on the three primary drugs affecting the Appalachia HIDTA region: cannabis, OxyContin, and methamphetamine. It has a successful track record in generating state and federal prosecutions over its multi-year history, and provides a coordinated, multi-agency drug enforcement program to some of the most rural counties of Appalachia and to their resource-starved law enforcement agencies.

Prosecution Initiatives in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia – Federal and state prosecutors in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia complement all drug-related investigations by working with the HIDTA to prosecute marijuana cultivators, drug traffickers, drug money launderers, and violent felons, and target their equipment, property, and currency assets for seizure and forfeiture.

Appalachia HIDTA Administration and Operations Support – the HIDTA Director and his staff, located in Operations Centers in the three states, carry out the policies of the Executive Board; ensure that initiatives are established and executed in an efficient manner; provide program oversight; assist in the development of new initiatives, and report to ONDCP through the Executive Board.

Participating Agencies:

FEDERAL: ATF, DEA, FBI, IRS-CI, TVA, USFS, USMS and USAOs (Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, Eastern and Middle Districts of Tennessee, and Northern and Southern Districts of West Virginia).

STATE: Kentucky Governor's Marijuana Strike Force, Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement, Tennessee Alcohol Beverage Commission, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Tennessee Department of Safety, Tennessee District Attorneys' General Conference, Tennessee Governor's Task Force for Marijuana Eradication, West Virginia Prosecuting Attorney's Institute, West Virginia Public Service Commission, and West Virginia State Police.

OTHER: Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky, Chiefs of Police Association and Sheriff's Association in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia, Kentucky National Guard, Laurel County Fiscal Court, Tennessee National Guard, West Virginia National Guard, West Virginia Prevention Resource Center, and numerous local law enforcement officers from all three states.

Significant Achievements:

Eradication - During 2002, participating agencies eradicated 625,615 marijuana plants within Appalachia HIDTA counties, made 157 arrests, seized 53 firearms, and with the investigative and interdiction initiatives, seized \$2,311,764 in currency and other assets.

Investigation - During 2002, the Investigation Team executed 850 drug-related arrests and seized 412 weapons, 966 pounds of marijuana, more than 19 kilograms of cocaine, more than 60,153 grams of methamphetamine, 394 methamphetamine labs, and 25,419 dosage units of illegally obtained prescription drugs. Further, the Investigation Team seized in excess of \$2.3 million in U.S. currency, real property and other assets.

Prosecution - In 2002, the Appalachia HIDTA Prosecution Team (made up of six Assistant United States Attorneys and three state prosecutors) reported 155 federal indictments and 106 convictions. These efforts helped disrupt 53 drug trafficking organizations, and dismantle 26.

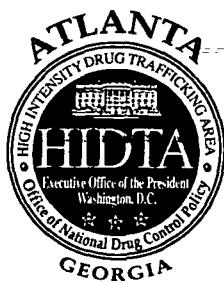
Demand Reduction - In 2002, Demand Reduction Specialists in our three states presented 389 programs to more than 36,000 educators, parents, and youths. They were responsible for more than 600 television, radio, and billboard campaigns.

Intelligence - the Appalachia HIDTA Intelligence Component represents the first time in the region that multiple agencies have gotten together under one roof to share databases, expertise,

operational, tactical, and strategic drug intelligence on a routine, daily basis.

Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration – the HIDTA system facilitates the involvement of the full spectrum of counter-drug resources in strategic planning and tactical execution. Federal, state, and local leaders work together on a level playing field, using their collective experience to develop joint strategies. This collaborative attitude is carried on by field agents and supervisors, who work together toward common goals. Scarce resources are shared among agencies, resulting in more effective, efficient law enforcement, and a sense of teamwork that is rapidly becoming the norm.

Atlanta HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1995

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Georgia: City of Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb Counties, Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport

Contact: (404) 815-4400

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Atlanta HIDTA is to apply quantifiable criminal justice enhancements in geographical areas of metropolitan Atlanta (Fulton/DeKalb Counties). This drug enforcement mission is to be achieved under an intelligence driven quantifiable strategy to disrupt and/or dismantle local, regional, or national priority organizational targets. Mission objectives are aimed at reducing drug abuse and drug availability consistent with National Drug Control Strategy mandates and the consensus of the Atlanta HIDTA Executive Board. Atlanta HIDTA's mission objectives include quantified reductions of drug trafficking organizations, related violent career criminals, and specific criminal financial service organizations aiding or abetting HIDTA targeted drug trafficking organizations.

Threat Abstract:

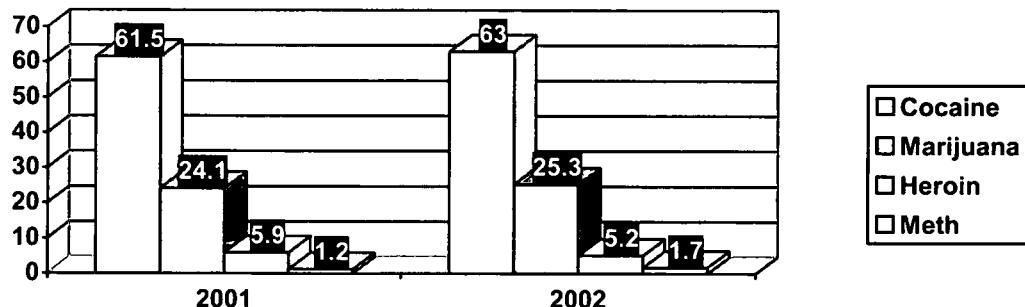
The distribution and abuse of cocaine are the most significant drug threats to the metropolitan Atlanta area. Mexico-based drug trafficking organizations are primarily responsible for transporting cocaine to the area. Atlanta is a major cocaine transportation and distribution hub for the southeastern United States. Primary source areas for cocaine are Florida, New York, and Texas. A significant portion of the powdered cocaine transported into the Atlanta metro area is converted to crack cocaine. Suburban crack abusers typically are young adults who use the drug for recreational purposes, as well as professionals who abuse the drug in the mistaken belief that it will enhance their job performance. Violence and social decay associated with the distribution and abuse of crack cocaine plague some sections of the Atlanta metropolitan area. Street gangs or "crews" and low-level

criminal groups that operate in specific neighborhoods are primarily responsible for cocaine, crack, and other drug-related violence.

Marijuana is the most readily available and widely abused illicit drug in the Atlanta metro area because of its accessibility, comparative low cost and high profit margins for producers and distributors. In Atlanta, individuals of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups abuse marijuana more often than any other illicit drug. Mexico is the primary

Heroin availability and abuse are most visible in metropolitan Atlanta, where heroin abuse is a well-established threat in several economically depressed neighborhoods. However, this threat is filtering into suburbia, especially among younger users who know little about the consequences of heroin abuse. The heroin threat in Georgia is concentrated in Atlanta and the surrounding counties of Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, and Fulton. In Atlanta, the rate of emergency department heroin mentions per capita reached its highest level in 10 years

Percent of Total Drug Episodes for Atlanta



Source: Drug Abuse Warning Network, Emergency Department Trends, Preliminary Estimates, 03/2003 update

source of the marijuana distributed and abused in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Increasingly, traffickers smuggle multi-hundred pound quantities of marijuana typically using commercial tractor-trailers. Although marijuana smuggled from Mexico is the most common variety available in Georgia, domestic cannabis cultivation in rural areas is a widespread threat. The primary wholesale distributors of the marijuana produced in Georgia are Mexican and Caucasian criminal groups as well as Caucasian local independent dealers. The primary retail distributors of marijuana produced in Georgia are Hispanic and African American street gangs, as well as Caucasian local independent dealers.

during 2001, although abuse remains well below the national rate. In DeKalb and Fulton Counties, which comprise most of the Atlanta HIDTA area of responsibility, there is increased abuse of heroin and other opioids, including hydrocodone. Atlanta is a secondary supply hub for heroin distribution outlets located in Columbus and Savannah and to other locations in the southeastern United States. Heroin is transported primarily from Florida, New Jersey, New York, and Texas to the Atlanta metro area.

Methamphetamine availability, in both powdered and crystal or "ice" forms, is emerging in the metro Atlanta area. Methamphetamine is an increasing threat in the suburban areas due to the drug's

cheap price and ready availability and is replacing some traditional drugs as a less expensive, more potent alternative. Although methamphetamine is transported primarily into the Atlanta area from Mexico and California, there also is significant methamphetamine production throughout Georgia in small clandestine laboratories. In Atlanta ice is the preferred form of methamphetamine.

Other dangerous drugs, including the stimulant MDMA (also known as ecstasy), the depressant GHB and its analogs, the hallucinogen LSD, and Rohypnol, are readily available in the city and are abused primarily by adolescents and young adults attracted to "raves" and all-night dance parties. In line with the national trend, Atlanta has experienced a surge in the abuse of these dangerous drugs. The popularity of hallucinogens is particularly high in suburban areas, although many abusers travel into the city to purchase their drugs. Pharmaceuticals are diverted and abused in the Atlanta metro area. PCP and psilocybin also are available and abused in the Atlanta metro area.

Strategy Abstract:

Previously defined drug and armed violence threats confronting HIDTA Task Forces in Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb counties, are not simply addressed by increasing arrests, or effecting larger drug or cash seizures from disparate trafficking cells and "not-so organized" violator groups and individuals. Neither is the availability or actual use of illicit substances appreciably diminished through large seizures or a growing volume of non-strategic arrests. While drug and asset removals from these clandestine

activities are important evidentiary elements in the arrest and prosecution process, singular focus on these criminal commodities as an evaluation measure, is indeed one dimensional and, in terms of overall drug crime suppression, somewhat meaningless.

Strategic targeting and sustained disruption and dismantlement of retail groups, related distribution organizations (wholesalers), transportation networks, clan lab operators, co-conspirator smugglers, sources of supply, and supporting criminal financial services are the heart of an effective drug enforcement program. Suppressing the volume of organized drug trafficking organizations, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally, under a systematic, intelligence-driven strategy is the desirable "end game" for law enforcement and prosecutive agencies (Federal, state, and local).

CORE INITIATIVES

The Atlanta HIDTA's operational role in this strategic process is two fold – one, a traditional, but strategic geographical investigative focus on a number of identified and related drug trafficking organizations; and second, a public safety role in removing an identified number of "armed predators" operating in HIDTA zones.

SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Equal in importance to HIDTA's operational role are the institutional assistance and enhancements provided by the HIDTA Program to Federal, state, and local LEAs and prosecutor's offices participating in the HIDTA Program. As HIDTA's two Task Forces investigatively target DTOs and apply enforcement actions in specific high

crime areas, HIDTA provides collective support to law enforcement agencies operating in Fulton and DeKalb Counties through the HIDTA Analytical Intelligence Center, where criminal organizational “dots are connected” for follow-up investigation, and where refined strategic targeting and information sharing is designed to occur. Leads affecting HIDTA-initiated cases are developed, leads for participating HIDTA law enforcement agencies, and other HIDTAs are produced, and disseminated. HIDTA’s immediate support to police agencies is tactical, since HIDTA Task Forces routinely conduct activities in the highest crime areas. HIDTA’s Operational and Intelligence programs institutionally endorse case deconfliction, coordination and cooperation with all law enforcement agencies.

Investigative Support Center:

The Investigative Support Center (ISC) is home to the Atlanta HIDTA Task Force, a Technical Equipment Facility, an Automated Wiretap Center, a Training Facility, and the Metropolitan Atlanta Joint Intelligence Group (MAJIG). The functionality and usage of all of these component services have greatly facilitated and enhanced our core initiatives and support functions in Atlanta HIDTA’s reported strategy. The ISC has been linked to the RISS.NET and has access to 70% of participating agency’s databases, 70% of databases accessible on-site at the ISC. The ISC houses the HIDTA Director, two Deputy Directors and the HIDTA Administrative Staff. Specific budgetary support for operation of the Atlanta HIDTA ISC includes annual leasing, telephone, security alarm service, maintenance,

cleaning, pest control and water costs. The ISC and its component services provide a secure environment for enforcement operations and intelligence deconfliction and analysis. It also provides a venue for enhanced coordination and planning of strategic enforcement sub-initiatives and initiatives. In addition, the ISC serves as the center for HIDTA activities to include Executive Committee Budget and Policy Meetings.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: United States Attorney’s Office – Northern District of Georgia, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

State/Local: Atlanta Police Department, DeKalb County District Attorney’s Office, DeKalb County Police Department, Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, Fulton County Police Department, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia National Guard, Georgia State Attorney General’s Office, Georgia State Patrol, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) Police Department.

Significant Achievements:

The Atlanta HIDTA area of operation encompasses ten geographically defined sectors of the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. HIDTA areas were first designated by the HIDTA Executive Board in early 1997. Areas were designated based on their being the

highest per capita theaters of drug activity and violent crime. One area is Bowen Homes. The Bowen Homes area is almost exclusively public housing and is situated in Northwest Atlanta.

In 1997, concentrated investigative resources were dedicated to the identification, investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the drug commerce in Bowen Homes. Three different, but related DTOs were identified and targeted by the Atlanta HIDTA. The first DTO was investigated and dismantled in 1999. It had been responsible for street sales in Bowen Homes and some transshipment of drugs to New York and New Jersey. The dismantlement resulted in the arrest and conviction of 12 individuals. During the same time, the largest of the identified DTOs supplying the Bowen Homes area was also targeted by the Atlanta HIDTA.

This DTO had been brought to the attention of authorities after the leader of the group's father and five associates were arrested in 1993 with two kilograms of cocaine and a large amount of cash and weapons. The head of this group eluded prosecution and proceeded to become one of the larger purveyors of cocaine on the west side of Atlanta.

In 1998, an individual long known for his drug involvement was arrested with 50 kilograms of cocaine after his accomplice was shot and killed during a drug delivery. Further investigative efforts by the HIDTA resulted in the identification and arrest of six other members of this individual's organization. These individuals were trafficking cocaine in the Atlanta area and transshipping it to Philadelphia, California, and Kentucky. The Atlanta HIDTA conducted a \$250,000 reverse operation with a DEA Task Force in Louisville, Kentucky during this time

and seized 75 kilograms of cocaine, \$50,000 and 15 weapons in the South Florida area. The case further developed to other appendages of the organization with a series of undercover buys of cocaine and payments for quantities of heroin delivered to the Atlanta area.

In January of 2002 the remainder of the organization, including the leader, were indicted. Twenty-one individuals have been arrested and two are fugitives.

This investigation, which spanned more than 5 years, resulted in a cooperative effort that dismantled a long time significant drug trafficking organization operating in the Atlanta area.

The successful completion of this investigation is an example of the benefits of cooperative law enforcement effort and sustained strategic targeting originated by the Atlanta HIDTA and conducted with elements from the below mentioned agencies and task force groups: Atlanta HIDTA, Miami HIDTA, Washington/Baltimore HIDTA; DEA Louisville, KY; Philadelphia, PA; Anniston, AL; Richmond, VA; FBI Washington, DC; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Los Angeles, CA; Pittsburgh, PA; Montgomery, AL; Jacksonville, FL; Wheeling, WV, the Louisville, KY Police Department and the Kentucky State Attorneys' Office.

The two task forces in the Atlanta HIDTA Program, composed of six individual law enforcement units, carry a case inventory well over 100 investigations wherein a continuum of investigations directed against specifically targeted organization provide enhanced law enforcement attention to metro Atlanta neighborhoods and crime situations.

Central Florida HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Florida: Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia counties.

Contact: (407) 585-2644

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (CFHIDTA) is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, money laundering, and violent crime in Central Florida, thereby reducing the impact of these drugs and their associated violence in other parts of the United States.

Threat Abstract:

The CFHIDTA covers seven counties from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. It is comprised of (from West to East) Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia Counties. Located within this 8,000 square mile area are several major population centers (Orlando, Tampa/St. Petersburg, and Daytona Beach), four international airports, two major

seaports, and 75 miles of coastline on the Gulf of Mexico, 47 miles of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean, and a 2002 population estimate of 4,488,503 (which equates to 1/3 of the total Florida state population). Due to the movement of drugs between Tampa, Orlando, and Daytona Beach and the easy accessibility of all counties to US Interstate 4, this area has become known as the I-4 corridor.

The Central Florida HIDTA continues to face the following unique drug trafficking situation: It is a center for the importation of drugs due to its geographic location, it has a tremendous tourism industry, and additionally has a large and efficient air, land, and sea transportation system. The area also supports a large "user" population as is evidenced by the overwhelming amount of heroin deaths. Its agricultural industry supports a migrant worker population

responsible for the importation of marijuana and methamphetamine from California, Texas and Mexico. Clandestine methamphetamine labs have been predominately located in Polk County. However, in 2002 methamphetamine labs appeared in the surrounding counties and have increased in number. Because of the significance of drug related deaths, heroin is still the number one problem facing the Central Florida area. Reported heroin overdose deaths for the CFHIDTA reached a total of 133 in 2002, with the most reported in Orange, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties. The CFHIDTA counties comprise 10% of the Florida counties and 33% of the states population. Over 53% of the total heroin overdose deaths in the state occur here. These heroin deaths overshadow the ever-present cocaine problem. The area as a whole has also experienced increases in methamphetamine use, with concentrated areas found around the Mexican migrant farming communities. Marijuana is still the main drug of choice across CFHIDTA region. This is facilitated by increased indoor grows, overnight parcel deliveries, as well as overland transportation by privately owned vehicles with hidden compartments.

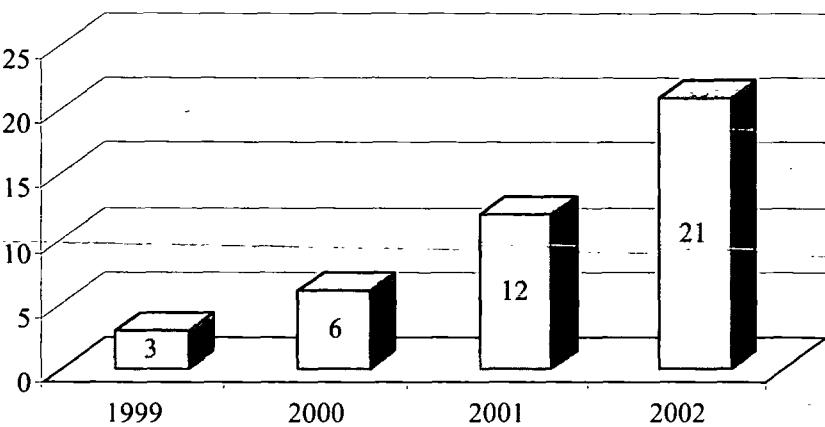
The drug Ecstasy, also known as 3-4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) is inundating the CFHIDTA area, primarily Orlando and Tampa metro areas. The "Rave scene" in these cities also promotes the use of other "Club drugs" such as ketamine, gamma hydroxy Butyrate (GHB), nitrous oxide, and Lysergic Acid Diethyl amide (LSD). Also of concern is the diversion of the highly addictive pharmaceutical Oxycotin.

Strategy Abstract:

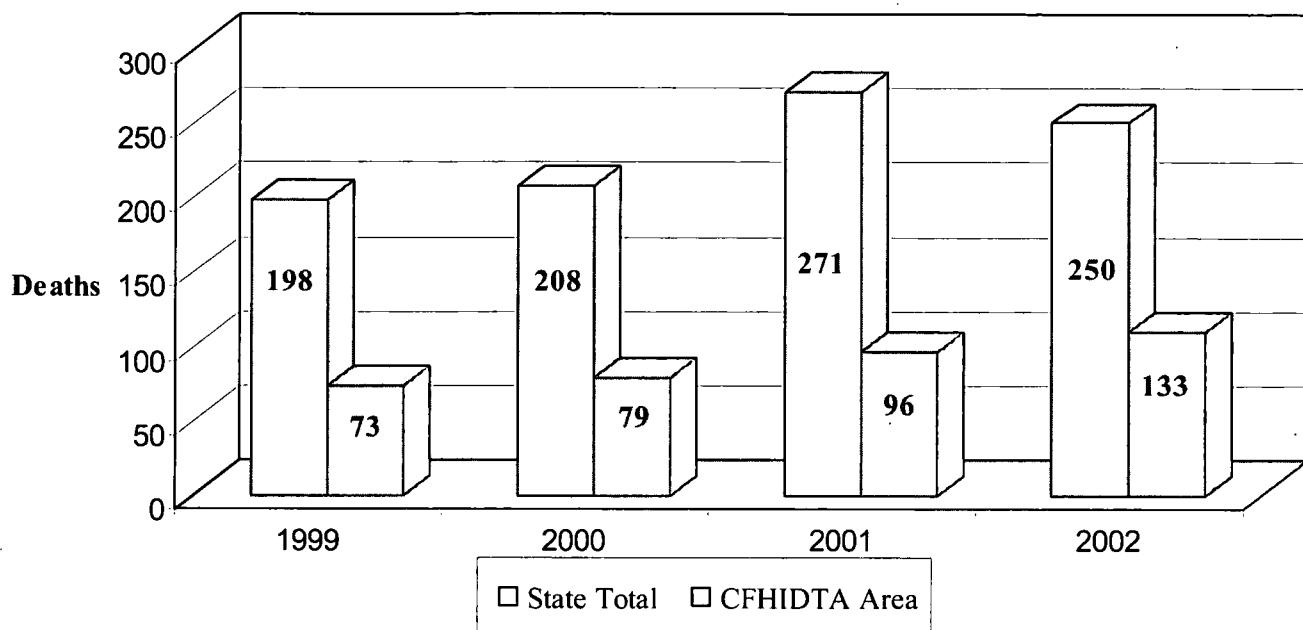
The Central Florida HIDTA focuses on a regional concept striving to disrupt and dismantle those organizations responsible for the importation, manufacture, and distribution of those drugs. The Central Florida HIDTA coordinated ten initiatives in 2003. These initiatives are contained within three subsystems: Intelligence, Investigative, and Support.

The Central Florida Investigative Support Center (CFISC) houses

SEIZED METH LABS REPORTED TO CFHIDTA



FLORIDA HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATHS



the intelligence and support sub-system which was initiated to provide regional intelligence, investigative leads, and investigative support to all CFHIDTA initiatives as well as local law enforcement. The CFISC consists of 12 analysts, 1 DEA Supervisory Analyst and 2 computer program specialists.

The investigative initiatives are made up of ten (10) investigative task forces/initiatives located throughout the CFHIDTA. These task forces drive the strategy through the disruption and dismantling of drug trafficking organizations. These task forces (excluding a Fugitive Apprehension Task Force) are regionally specific, with the exception of the Methamphetamine Task Force and the Heroin Task Force, which are drug specific.

The support sub-system consists of the Central Florida HIDTA Management and Coordination initiative, which is

responsible for managing and coordinating the CFHIDTA for the Executive Board. CFHIDTA funded personnel in this initiative include: the Director (contract), Deputy Director (contract), Executive secretary/training coordinator (Seminole County employee), Financial Analyst (Seminole County employee), and Receptionist/Administrative Aide (Winter Park Police Department). This sub-system coordinates all activities of the Executive Board, and conducts daily HIDTA business throughout the Central Florida HIDTA and National HIDTA/ONDCP. This sub-system has been responsible for all HIDTA training and maintains inventory control, program evaluation, and tracks all HIDTA funding with the HIDTA Assistance Center in Miami.

Investigative Support Center:

The CFISC represents an innovative concept to combine various information resources into a consolidated source product and to pool resources for increased investigative effectiveness and safety, while reducing investigative costs. The Center helps to identify and eliminate overlapping investigations and duplicative efforts, and acts as a catalyst to unite agencies into more effective enforcement groups. Information and inquiries are provided from participating agencies to the Center. CFISC queries all available databases and collects all relevant information to be assembled by an analytical team. Multiple information inputs allow the CFISC to develop a broad and accurate assessment of the criminal activities that affect Central Florida. This information is disseminated via inquiring agencies in a useful and timely manner. The Center offers a variety of services to participating members. These services include, but are not necessarily limited to: NDPIX; NINJAS; Public record checks; Automated criminal intelligence database checks; Intelligence analysis; Transactions & transcriptions analysis; Coordination for Equipment loans; Information/intelligence publications; Graphic capabilities (overheads, charts, graphs and GIS products); Space for joint conference activities by participating agencies in multi-agency investigations; Training opportunities; and Overall Trends, Patterns and Predictions of Organizations and Crimes. Recently, the CFISC has achieved a secure but unclassified network connectivity with all current Task Force/Initiatives and Florida HIDTA's. This connectivity allows a seamless connection to the CFHIDTA

computer network providing agents and analysts the ability to request information from the "field". The CFISC has been designed to provide a more effective link between intelligence and enforcement and to enhance the abilities of both to identify, target, arrest and prosecute key members of criminal organizations by facilitating a rapid and free exchange of information through enhanced coordination and communications.

During the latter part of 2002, a unique program was initiated in which each CFHIDTA Initiative was assigned a CFISC analyst. Initiatives not only have an assigned CFISC analyst, but are electronically connected through the system described above. Most recently, the CFISC completed the design and implementation of the Analyst Request Management System (ARMS). This system allows for the exchange of information requests and intelligence products. Additionally, it enables the CFHIDTA Initiatives to electronically submit their investigative statistical information to the CFHIDTA Director without having to stop, manually compile, and submit statistics on a quarterly/annual basis.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: AMTRAK Police; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Internal Revenue Service; U.S. Attorney's Office; U.S. Border Patrol; U.S. Marshals Service.

State/Local: Altamonte Springs Police Department; Apopka Police Department;

Clearwater Police Department; Clermont Police Department; Florida Department of Financial Services; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; Florida National Guard; Florida State Attorney's Office; Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Kissimmee Police Department; Lake County Sheriff's Office; Lake Mary Police Department; Lakeland Police Department; Largo Police Department; Maitland Police Department; Mount Dora Police Department; Mulberry Police Department; Ocoee Police Department; Orange County Sheriff's Office; Orlando Police Department; Osceola County Sheriff's Office; Oviedo Police Department; Pasco County Sheriff's Office; Pinellas County Sheriff's Office; Polk County Sheriff's Office; Sanford Police Department; Seminole County Sheriff's Office; St. Cloud Police Department; St. Petersburg Police Department; Tampa Police Department; Tarpon Springs Police Department; Volusia County Sheriff's Office; Winter Park Police Department; Winter Springs Police Department

Significant Achievements:

In September 2002 and February 2003, two MDMA laboratories were discovered and dismantled in Orlando. These two MDMA laboratories were connected to the same suspect who reportedly purchased the laboratory equipment over an Internet auction site and the precursor chemicals from an online company. Also of note, was that one of the laboratories had an unlicensed pill press and the other laboratory site had a pill press on order. Another MDMA laboratory was discovered near Fort Walton Beach in November 2002.

This laboratory had enough chemicals to produce 2300 dosage units of MDMA at the time of its discovery.

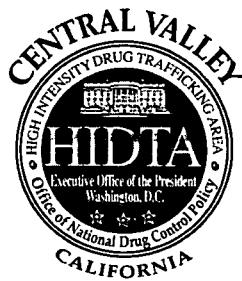
In January 2003, the Osceola County Investigative Bureau (OCIB), a CFHIDTA initiative, concluded a year long investigation called "Operation Crystal Phish". This investigation targeted an organization which was trading methamphetamine for weapons. This organization has since been dismantled by OCIB. To date, this investigation led to nine federal and 10 state arrests. This investigation resulted in the seizure of 70 firearms (including several assault rifles), approximately 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 200 knives, 486 grams of methamphetamine, and four methamphetamine laboratories. OCIB Agents indicated that much of the methamphetamine was obtained during undercover "buys" and had been shipped from the Phoenix, Arizona area in Fed-Ex parcels. Some of the shipments were concealed in hollowed out candles.

During mid-August 2003, a major Central Florida GHB manufacturing and distribution ring was dismantled by the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI). The eight-month investigation conducted by this HIDTA initiative, resulted in the seizure of an active clandestine GHB lab, several gallons of GHB, GBL (the precursor chemical use in the manufacturing of GHB), and the arrest of 15 individuals. Undercover purchases of drugs and seized chemicals had a potential street value of \$405,000 and could have been used to manufacture at least 60,000 doses of GHB. Since March 2003, MBI undercover agents bought approximately six gallons of GHB, 1,000 Ecstasy pills (MDMA), nearly 6 1/2 ounces of

cocaine and unspecified amounts of anabolic steroids from members of this drug trafficking organization (DTO). These drugs were being sold around the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the downtown Orlando club scene. Those arrested include two UCF students, an Orange County middle school teacher and a bodybuilder. Warrants were issued for six more suspects, including two additional UCF students. All subjects were from the Orange County, Florida area.

Between May 28, 2003 and May 31, 2003, the Polk County HIDTA Task Force along with several other local agencies seized 34 pounds of methamphetamine, several firearms and over \$50,000. This enforcement operation also disrupted a large Mexican drug trafficking organization operating between Georgia and Central Florida. Of interest was that out of the 34 pounds of methamphetamine, there were four pounds of a highly potent type of methamphetamine called "ICE". In this form, the methamphetamine has a very high purity and is able to be ingested by smoking. It is anticipated that all individuals arrested will be prosecuted in the federal court system in the Middle District of Florida.

Central Valley HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

California: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare counties.

Contact: (559) 457-5140

Mission Statement:

To reduce the manufacture, trafficking, and distribution of methamphetamine, precursor chemicals, and other dangerous drugs by attacking and dismantling large-scale and often violent organizations through the implementation of cooperative and innovative strategies. The specific goals of the CVC HIDTA are to: reduce methamphetamine manufacture; reduce the distribution of precursor chemicals; reduce drug trafficking throughout the Central Valley, CA HIDTA region and other affected regions of the country; reduce money-laundering activities; increase the quantity, quality, and dissemination of counter-drug intelligence; reduce drug related crime and violence and reduce demand for methamphetamine.

Threat Abstract:

California's Central Valley is the pivotal point in the U.S. battle against methamphetamine and, with other areas of California, is the "source country" for meth to the greater US. CVC HIDTA resources focus on the major threats of meth, its precursor chemicals, and crimes that accompany these threats. The Central Valley leads the nation in complex meth prosecutions. Twenty (20) OCDETF investigations were conducted in the Eastern District of California in 2000; 60% were meth cases. Meth claims the largest share of Valley drug arrests (meth- 2,464; marijuana- 574; cocaine- 347; heroin- 115). 71.3% of the DEA arrests in the Central Valley during 2000 were for meth and 60% of DEA arrests in the Central Valley during 2001 involved meth (334/555); intelligence indicates that DTOs who operate large-scale meth labs and

distribution networks are also heavily involved in large-scale marijuana production on public lands. As a result, marijuana investigations have become a significant part of anti-meth activity for the CVC HIDTA.

CVC HIDTA Region- 2002			
DRUG	Addicts Seeking Treatment for Addiction	Total Reported Arrests	Reported LEA Drug Seizures (KG)
Cocaine	3,006 (+16.24%)	347	715
Heroin	9,209 (+3.5%)	115	132.8
Marijuana	4,432 (+21.6%)	574	14,046.5
Meth	11,900 (+37.2%)	2,464	1,168.1

In the Central Valley counties, the number of meth addicts seeking treatment surpassed treatment requests for other drugs during the past 2 years. Meth-related arrests far exceed the number of arrests for any other drug in the Central Valley. Meth seizures outpaced all other drugs except for marijuana.

Strategy Abstract:

The CVC HIDTA Executive Board is comprised of 16 local, state and Federal law enforcement leaders in the CVC HIDTA region. A collaborative approach between law enforcement and prosecution agencies facilitates efforts to reduce the impact of methamphetamine production, trafficking and distribution in the Central Valley.

The Central Valley continues to be a major manufacturing, distribution, and transhipment area for all types of illegal drugs, but methamphetamine is a particularly prevalent problem. The rates of meth use and addiction in the area are alarming. The violence associated with drug manufacturing and distribution impact families, neighborhoods, and schools. Environmental fallout from the toxic waste produced by meth production will continue to plague farmlands, waterways, and public health for decades. The CVC HIDTA utilizes a collaborative approach to identify, target, disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations operating the Central Valley. The CVC HIDTA consists of the following six operational initiatives (including the

Investigative Support Center), five sub-initiatives and one management/administrative initiative:

Administrative/ Management Initiative (AMI): The HIDTA Management and Administrative staff, consisting of the Executive Director, Executive Assistant, and Fiscal Officer, provides support to facilitate, coordinate and administer all CVC HIDTA initiatives and related budgets. AMI ensures that the CVC HIDTA's strategy, subsequent initiatives and budgets reflect the regional threat, and that the CVC HIDTA funds are targeting the intended mission as approved by the CVC HIDTA Executive Board and the ONDCP.

Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force (FMTF): This initiative focuses on major meth trafficking organizations, precursor chemical suppliers, and pseudoephedrine suppliers operating in Fresno, Madera and Merced counties, as well as in other parts of the state of California. These investigations concentrate on targeting, disrupting, and dismantling methamphetamine trafficking organizations. Due to the involvement in marijuana production by methamphetamine trafficking organizations, FMTF also targets marijuana production and trafficking groups.

Joint Fugitive Task Force (JFTF): This initiative utilizes a collaborative approach to apprehending significant narcotic fugitives. JFTF establishes ad hoc task forces, actively increasing state and local participation in the CVC HIDTA, to pursue narcotics fugitives. The group prioritizes apprehension of significant federal and state narcotic fugitives in the Central Valley.

Sacramento Area Intelligence/ Narcotics Taskforce (SAINT): This initiative develops operational intelligence, including the identification of meth and narcotic traffickers and prioritization of that

information for the use of enforcement task forces within Sacramento and other areas of the CVC HIDTA. The group conducts major investigations in the greater Sacramento area, including clandestine laboratory investigations. SAINT houses the Financial Investigations Taskforce, which investigates money-laundering of illicit drug trafficking proceeds and a Precursor/Vendor Program, which educates retailers who sell non-regulated products used to manufacture meth and identifies rogue distributors.

Southern Tri-County Meth Task Force (STC): This group attacks all aspects of meth trafficking, including the acquisition of precursor chemicals, meth manufacturing, product distribution, and money laundering. Due to the involvement in marijuana production by methamphetamine trafficking organizations, STC also targets marijuana production and trafficking. The team specializes in Title III investigations.

Stanislaus- San Joaquin Meth Task Force (SSJMTF): This initiative focuses on the initiative of long-term investigations of sophisticated drug trafficking organizations involved in acquiring precursor chemicals and the manufacture and distribution of meth. Information developed from these investigations is shared with the other initiatives through the Investigative Support Center. The group also operates a Precursor Vendor Program in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties.

Financial Investigations Task Force (FIT): This sub-initiative targets money-laundering operations and the small businesses that provide the financial infrastructure of drug trafficking organizations. FIT provides link analysis to identify relationships between money launderers and drug traffickers. This team is collocated with and directed by SAINT. The IRS component of this task force

increases the likelihood of developing federal OCDETF investigations.

Fresno Area Surveillance Team (FAST): This sub-initiative utilizes a collaborative approach to providing surveillance, intelligence and investigative activities to the CVC HIDTA. The team specializes in Title III wiretap investigations. FAST is capable of establishing ad hoc task forces to integrate these functions for seamless investigations, providing maximum state and local participation and operational authority, with maximum federal participation. The flexibility of this initiative increases the numbers of OCDETF cases and other Federal prosecutions.

Investigative/ Intelligence Training Program (IITP): The ISC provides a training sub-initiative for the HIDTA, offering specialized technical, safety, investigative and intelligence instruction. Training is offered in concert with the HIDTA investigative task forces and participating law and drug enforcement agencies in the CVC HIDTA region.

Precursor/Vendor Task Force (PVP): This program identifies chemical vendors and requests their assistance in collecting information regarding necessary but non-essential sales in their businesses. These units are collocated with the SAINT and SSJM, and are capable of providing link analysis to identify relationships between retailers and DTOs.

Investigative Support Center:

The intelligence initiative is a multi-agency, collocated element with a central office in Fresno. The ISC is comprised of two sub-units: an investigative support unit and a technical support unit. The investigative support unit includes intel analysts with local law enforcement

backgrounds. The California National Guard also supplies an analyst. This unit provides support for Title III investigations, ad hoc post-seizure analysis, suspect and organizational profiles, and graphics support. ISC personnel provide narcotic intelligence analysis, trends assessments, statistical analysis, threat assessments, quarterly and annual statistical and performance reports and the CVC HIDTA's annual strategy and budget. The ISC provides on-site analytical support personnel for the investigative initiatives in Modesto and Bakersfield, and supplies the analyst for the Financial Investigative Task force sub-initiative in Sacramento. The ISC provides deconfliction services to Central Valley law enforcement agencies through the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LA CLEAR), funding two deconfliction specialists. The technical unit provides an equipment pool and information technology support. A DEA Intelligence Unit Supervisor provides supervision for this initiative.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Marshals Service

State/Local: Bakersfield Police Department, CA Department of Justice- Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, CA Department of Motor Vehicles Investigative Unit, California Highway Patrol, CA National Guard, Delano Police Department, Fresno Co. Sheriff's Department, Fresno Police Department, Kern Co. District Attorney's Office, Kern Co. Environmental Department, Kern Co. Sheriff's Department, Kings Co. Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Co. Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse, Madera Co. Sheriff's Department, Merced Co. Sheriff's Department, Merced Police Department,

Modesto Police Department, Porterville Police Department, Sacramento Co. Probation Department, Sacramento Co. Sheriff's Department, Sacramento Police Department, San Joaquin Co. Sheriff's Department, Stanislaus Co. Sheriff's Department, CALMMET, Stockton Police Department, Tulare Co. Interagency Narcotic Enforcement Task Force, and the Tulare Co. Sheriff's Department.

Significant Achievements:

Affecting Methamphetamine Availability: Decreasing the methamphetamine available in the Central Valley and, therefore, to the entire U.S., is the priority of all task forces in the Central Valley HIDTA (CVC HIDTA). These groups have focused on major drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), identifying 318 since 2000. Task forces have disrupted or dismantled 195 DTOs, a 61.3% impact rate. Task forces have made a total 1,899 arrests in these 3 years. A total 2,498.156 KG (or 5,495.94 lb) of meth has been seized by CVC HIDTA task forces (including meth in solution). This means 24,981,560 1/10th gram doses (uncut) did not reach the street due to CVC HIDTA efforts. Once this meth was cut 4-10 times, between 99,926,240 and 249,815,600 doses would have been available. Task forces seized 202 superlabs (capable of producing at least 10 lb per manufacturing cycle). In addition, \$3,006,241 in cash has been seized from DTOs.

Narco-fugitive Apprehension: The Joint Fugitive Task Force (JFTF) is an effective initiative. In 2001, while still in the developmental stage and before receiving any funding, JFTF apprehended 178 narco-fugitives. In 2002, the team apprehended 445 narco-fugitives. By July 2003 JFTF captured 304 narcotic-related fugitives (927 narco-fugitives in less than 3 years). JFTF is led by the USMS Fresno office, which also has responsibility for

all federal fugitive apprehension duties in Central California and part of Arizona.

suggest that millions of dollars were funneled to Vietnam over the past several years.

Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

Removals: It is common for major violators to produce methamphetamine in residences many of which are occupied by children. Toxic residue has been detected in play areas, children's bedrooms and kitchens. Many or most children removed from labs test positive for meth, iodine, or phosphorous. A total 201 DEC removals have been performed by CVC HIDTA task forces since 2000 (38 in 2000, 43 in 2001, 81 in 2002, and 39 so far in 2003).

Multi-national Impact: In March, 2003, SAINT, FIT and Sacramento CALMMET (CA Multi-jurisdictional Meth Enforcement Team), with assistance from SSJMTF and CAL-MMET in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties and the IRS, concluded a year-long investigation of a Vietnamese poly-drug trafficking organization operating in Northern California, Northern Washington,; Vancouver, British Columbia,; and Vietnam. This organization allegedly imported approximately 50,000 ecstasy pills and 500 lbs of marijuana into Tracy and Sacramento, CA from Canada, and exported or distributed 40-60 KG of cocaine and 50-75 lbs of meth to Canada each month. The drugs were smuggled by outlaw motorcycle gang members in British Columbia and Washington, who used horse trailers as load vehicles. Investigators confirmed the variety of drugs distributed by the organization with the interdiction of 22 lbs of "ice" (crystal meth), 125.4 lbs of cocaine, 2,000 ecstasy pills and 130 lbs of marijuana, along with seizures of cash, real estate, vehicles and other assets with an estimated worth of \$2.5 million. Arrest warrants and search warrants were served in Washington and California. IRS special agents conducted an extensive financial analysis of the organization and discovered a money-laundering network between the U.S. and accounts in Thailand and Vietnam. Financial records and investigative analysts

Chicago HIDTA



General Description:

Year of Designation: 1995

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Illinois: Cook, Grundy, Kendall and Will counties

Contact: (312) 603-8000 and www.chicago-hidta.org

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Chicago HIDTA is to measurably reduce the illicit drug threat by building partnerships; combining resources and leveraging shared information to enhance public safety.

Threat Abstract:

Chicago HIDTA encompasses two major airports, the busiest rail yards and postal facility in the world, the nation's largest trucking center, a number of interstate bus stations, numerous private parcel services, an extensive waterway system including 30 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, and a complex and efficient state and interstate highway network. This well developed and extensive transportation infrastructure makes Chicago an important transshipment hub for drugs destined for markets throughout the Midwest and Great Lakes Region as well as both the East and West

coasts. Nearly six million residents make the area a fertile market for illicit drugs.

Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly used drug in the Chicago area. Polydrug traffickers operating from Mexico are the primary sources for this marijuana. Metric ton quantities of the drug are typically transported from the Southwest border area to the city. Cocaine is also transported into the Chicago area in metric ton quantities. Mexican traffickers dominate distribution of the drug to Chicago where organized street gangs control retail level distribution. Heroin continues to be received from four source areas: Mexico, South America, Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia. The bulk of this heroin is sold by organized street gang members at numerous street corner locations primarily on the West Side of the city. The Methamphetamine threat has not yet materialized to any great degree in this HIDTA area. The predominant drugs of

choice for area suburban youths are Club Drugs, including MDMA.

The high volume of all types of illicit drugs entering the city, combined with a large pool of drug abusers, virtually ensures a continuation of the city's severe, chronic drug problem.

Strategy Abstract:

The Executive Board is the governing body of Chicago HIDTA and is comprised of eight state/local and seven federal law enforcement executives. The Board ensures the coordinated/cooperating efforts of the various agencies and reviews, authorizes and prioritizes initiatives submitted by participating LEAs. The Executive Director is responsible for the development and implementation of the HIDTA strategy, initiatives and budget based on the threat assessment. The Director facilitates and promotes communication and cooperation among HIDTA initiatives and with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Ten of the 13 Chicago HIDTA initiatives are enforcement initiatives and the remaining three provide administration/support. Eight of these enforcement initiatives, including the Investigative Support Center (ISC), are collocated on a single, secure floor in a county government building in downtown Chicago. This collocation with the ISC fosters cooperation and information sharing among the initiatives.

Through its initiatives, Chicago HIDTA has continued and expanded its multi faceted strategy to significantly diminish drug availability and use. Initiatives have been developed to impact major illicit drug trafficking organizations through aggressive investigations and enforcement which targets sources of supply, sources of distribution and illicit drug proceeds. Drug

related violent crimes are also the focus of an initiative.

Since illicit drugs are most commonly transported to the Chicago area on interstate highways, primarily in private vehicles and commercial trucks, the Chicago HIDTA strategy places heavy emphasis on interdiction efforts. This includes specific interdiction components targeting highways and package delivery services.

Investigative Support Center:

The Chicago HIDTA ISC acts as the common thread supporting all Chicago HIDTA Initiatives as well as law enforcement agencies by providing tactical, strategic, investigative and intelligence services in support of narcotic law enforcement activities.

The ISC is a "one stop shop" which serves as a counterdrug information gateway through "on-site" connectivity to federal, state and local government and law enforcement databases as well as commercial information services, investigative software and information sharing systems. The ISC has access to and utilizes over seventy five of these databases and informational sites in providing both long and short term case support and trends, assessment and post seizure analysis.

Chicago HIDTA serves as a RISSNET node and continues to introduce and implement RISSNET at local LEAs and off-site HIDTA Initiatives.

The Deconfliction Unit and Inquiry Desk components of the ISC have recently been combined to maximize support and efficiency of operation. The Deconfliction Unit operates from 0800-2300 Monday-Friday and has been used by over 70 law enforcement agencies in the Chicago area in order to ensure "Officer Safety". The Inquiry Desk is manned by two full time

intelligence analysts and is available to any law enforcement agency.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: ATF, DEA, FBI, IRS, ICE, USAO, USMS, USPIS.

State: Illinois State Police, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Illinois National Guard, Illinois Department of Corrections, State of Illinois States Attorney Appellate Prosecutors Office.

Local: Cook County Sheriff's Office, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, Cook County States Attorneys Office, Cook County Department of Corrections, Kendall County Sheriff's Department, Will County Sheriff's Department, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, Chicago Police Department, Blue Island Police Department, Bolingbrook Police Department, Braidwood Police Department, Chicago Heights Police Department, Dolton Police Department, Joliet Police Department, Lockport Police Department, Matteson Police Department, McCook Police Department, Morris Police Department, Oswego Police Department, Palatine Police Department, Plainfield Police Department, Plano Police Department, Posen Police Department, Romeoville Police Department, Round Lake Police Department, University of Illinois at Chicago Police Department, University Park Police Department, Yorkville Police Department.

Significant Achievements:

The mission of the Chicago HIDTA/Illinois State Police Narcotics and Currency Interdiction (NARCINT) Initiative is to identify and investigate illicit drug trafficking and money laundering organizations that transport drugs and their currency proceeds through the State of Illinois to or from the metropolitan Chicago area. The primary focus is to eliminate

and/or disrupt drug trafficking organizations identified as CPOT'S by the Department of Justice Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Program. NARCINT objectives are met through a coordinated strategy combining enforcement, interdiction and intelligence driven targeting.

NARCINT was originally conceived to impact drug related money laundering operations in the Chicago metropolitan area. It's function was quickly expanded to include rapid response to interdicted shipments of illicit drugs seized from motor vehicles traveling through Illinois and providing support to LEAs involved in seizures occurring elsewhere in the United States and destined for Illinois. NARCINT quickly developed expertise in this area and established an integrated enforcement strategy. The strategy promotes and incorporates federal, state and local law enforcement participation in post interdiction controlled deliveries of in-transit drugs. The strategy also fosters resource and information sharing.

NARCINT was instrumental in establishing the Northeastern Illinois Interdiction Response Alliance, through which NARCINT oversees all controlled deliveries of in-transit drugs destined for a nine county northeastern Illinois "delivery" area. The Alliance ensures that post interdiction controlled deliveries of in-transit drugs involving state level LEAs are coordinated, controlled and effectively managed by a single law enforcement entity. NARCINT also ensures deconfliction of subsequent investigative activities, a prime HIDTA objective.

The interdiction expertise of NARCINT led to its inclusion in the coordinated interdiction operations termed "COBIJA" organized by the LEAs of the four southwest border states of Texas, Arizona,

New Mexico and California in conjunction with the Arizona HIDTA. These operations involved joint enforcement efforts as well as real time reporting of in-transit drug interdiction activity to the Arizona HIDTA for intelligence analysis. The premise behind the operations is to track in-transit

drug seizures occurring in designated arrival zones in the southwest border states as well as the metropolitan area of Chicago and determine patterns of activity through statistical evaluation and analysis. COBIJA has been extremely successful.

The following are NARCINT outputs for the past three years.

Arrests:		211
Marijuana	Seized:	26,306 kilograms
Cocaine	Seized:	2,254 kilograms
Heroin	Seized:	4.35 kilograms
Firearms	Seized:	75
Vehicles	Seized:	79
Currency	Seized:	\$4,876,481.00

Gulf Coast HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Alabama: Baldwin, Jefferson, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery and Morgan Counties

Louisiana: Bossier, Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans and Ouachita Parishes

Mississippi: Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Madison and Rankin Counties

Contact: (504) 840-1400 and www.gchidta.org

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Gulf Coast HIDTA is to reduce drug availability and its harmful consequences in the region.

Threat Abstract:

The Gulf Coast HIDTA is comprised of 20 counties/parishes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Gulf Coast HIDTA's geographic location between the southwest border and the eastern seaboard serves as a strategic corridor for drug traffickers transshipping drugs and money to and from eastern and northern parts of the country. A combination of waterways, deep-water ports, railway and highway

systems, and airports are used extensively by drug trafficking and smuggling organizations. The casino gaming industry in Louisiana and Mississippi is also particularly attractive to drug trafficking organizations as an alternative for money laundering activities.

There are approximately 291 identified international, national and regional drug trafficking organizations operating within the Gulf Coast HIDTA. The drug of choice for consumers remains marijuana, although cocaine and crack cause the greatest regional impact on violent crime, the economy and society. Methamphetamine lab activity has dramatically increased in the last few

years. Much of this increase has been small manufacturing operations fueled by the ready availability of precursor chemicals such as ephedrine/pseudoephedrine and anhydrous ammonia. Heroin use has shown marked increases in some urban areas particularly in New Orleans. The popularity of 'club drugs' such as MDMA, LSD and GHB is on the rise throughout the Gulf Coast HIDTA. Many areas within the three-state HIDTA rank among the top in the nation for occurrences of violent crimes. This trend is attributed directly to drug trafficking and use.

Strategy Abstract:

The Gulf Coast's HIDTA strategy is to address our drug problems through a multi-faceted, threat driven approach balancing drug enforcement efforts targeting local, regional and international drug trafficking/money laundering organizations operating within our area.

In 2003, the Gulf Coast HIDTA had three primary organizational priorities. The first priority was to successfully integrate expansion initiatives into the Gulf Coast HIDTA infrastructure.

The second priority was to improve upon the GCHIDTA's Intelligence Coordination Network (INC) by implementing various planned enhancements. The INC has adopted the South Florida HIDTA Intranet-based Information System (HIBIS) as its intelligence tracking and sharing protocol. The GC HIDTA Executive Board approved expending funds to enhance the event deconfliction system, SAFETNet to include subject, vehicle, weapon, phone number, e-mail, and business name deconfliction. Most

importantly, the HIDTA is developing a system to allow automated searches of multiple agencies' databases during the entry process. SAFETNet has been adopted by ten other HIDTAs as their primary event deconfliction application. The GCHIDTA has formed a committee comprised of representatives from each to guide the development of these new enhancements and share the costs.

The third priority was to enhance inter-HIDTA cooperation and collaboration. We have entered into several MOUs with other HIDTAs, ranging from sharing of intelligence resources such as shared databases and servicing outside HIDTA elements through our BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center. Enhancements to this project are presently under development in a modular design to allow other HIDTAs to incorporate elements into their systems at no cost.

In 2004, building on the accomplishments of 2003, the GCHIDTA's organizational priorities will be: first, to develop intelligence-driven investigations aimed at the highest level drug trafficking organizations; second, to enhance and facilitate information sharing among law enforcement agencies in our area and beyond; and third, to continue our efforts as the principal coordination mechanism for federal, state and local drug enforcement assets in our region.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA strategy is to work in conjunction with local, state and federal enforcement to ensure that program practices meet the ever-changing drug threat by dedicating needed resources to areas of impact.

Investigative Support Center:

The Gulf Coast HIDTA Intelligence Coordination Network (ICN) serves as the intelligence coordination mechanism for all funded initiatives. Because our initiatives are dispersed across three states, an innovative method of collecting, analyzing and disseminating actionable intelligence had to be devised; hence the ICN. The core of the network is the Network Coordination Group (NCG) located in Metairie, Louisiana, collocated with the Louisiana Operations Center, another HIDTA funded enforcement initiative. The supervisor of the NCG is a Drug Enforcement Administration Supervisory Intelligence Research Specialist who oversees analysts responsible for the collection and distribution of strategic intelligence among initiatives. The group also coordinates the production of the HIDTA's annual threat assessment.

Collocated with the NCG is the Gulf Coast HIDTA Intelligence Coordinator. The Intelligence Coordinator ensures intelligence assets (analysts and intelligence initiatives) dispersed throughout the Gulf Coast HIDTA are fully integrated and sharing information. He is also responsible for implementation of the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan (GCIP) in accordance with ONDCP and participating agency guidelines.

The BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center is a United States Customs initiative, located in Gulfport, Mississippi. It is a 24-hour/7 day intelligence support center. Analysts provide real-time law enforcement intelligence to all HIDTA initiatives and to over 1,700 Customs

cross-designated state and local law enforcement officers across a six-state area. It also houses a post-seizure analysis team that conducts analysis of seizures reported to the center. The center distributes a daily intelligence summary to law enforcement agencies throughout the country summarizing previous day's seizures.

State intelligence support teams (ISTs) are located in each Gulf Coast HIDTA state. The IST provides a full range of tactical and operational analytical support for investigations in each of their respective states.

Intelligence exchange is accomplished through the Gulf Coast HIDTA wide-area-network (WAN) which allows for instantaneous, secure transmission of sensitive intelligence data among initiatives along with secure e-mail and other cost saving advantages. The WAN also serves as the communications backbone for the Gulf Coast HIDTA digital wire intercept facility located in Metairie, Louisiana. The wire intercept facility provides both HIDTA and non-HIDTA entities the ability to monitor court ordered wiretaps utilizing state-of-the-art digital technology. Further, the GC HIDTA is a node on the national RISS.NET system allowing our intelligence databases to be hosted and accessed in a secure environment by other law enforcement and analytical personnel across the country.

The GC HIDTA Intelligence Sub-System also includes the Technical Support Team and the Training Program.

Participating Agencies:

Federal:

Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Joint Task Force Six, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, United States Coast Guard, Bureau of Customs and Immigration and Enforcement, National Parks Service.

State/Local:

Alabama - Alabama Attorney General's Office, Alabama Bureau of Investigation, Alabama Highway Patrol, Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, Bayou La Batre Police Department, Bessemer Police Department, Birmingham Police Department, Daphne Police Department, Decatur Police Department, Fairfield Police Department, Foley Police Department, Gulf Shores Police Department, Huntsville Police Department, Madison Police Department, Madison County Sheriff's Department, Mobile Police Department, Mobile County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery Police Department, Morgan County District Attorney's Office, Morgan County Sheriff's Department, Mobile County Street Enforcement Narcotics Team, Orange Beach Police Department, Prichard Police Department, Saraland Police Department, Huntsville Strategic Counterdrug Team, University of South Alabama

Louisiana, Acadia Parish Sheriff's Department, Ascension District Attorney's Office, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, Baton Rouge Police Department, Bossier City Police Department, Bossier Parish Sheriff's

Office, Caddo Sheriff's Office, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department, Lafayette Police Department, Louisiana Army & Air National Guard, Louisiana State Police, Monroe Police Department, New Orleans Police Department, Orleans Civil Sheriff Department, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Shreveport Police Department, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department, West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, West Monroe Police Department.

Mississippi - Biloxi Police Department, Gautier Police Department, Gulfport Police Department, Hancock County Narcotics Task Force, Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Hinds County Sheriff's Department, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority, Jackson Police Department, Mississippi Army & Air National Guard, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Moss Point Police Department, Ocean Springs Police Department, Oxford Police Department, Panola County Sheriff's Office, Pearl Police Department, Rankin County Sheriff's Pascagoula Police, Department, Southaven Police Department, Tupelo Police Department

Significant Achievements:

In CY 2003 the Gulf Coast HIDTA focused focusing on the collection, analysis, sharing and investigation of actionable criminal intelligence. The role of intelligence has become crucial in targeting future criminal organizations.

The BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center continues to improve and disseminate critical time sensitive investigations.

DEA has agreed to assign two Intelligence Analysts to the Watch Center to enhance intelligence collection and decimation capabilities. Also, the BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center has recently received a request from the South Carolina Highway Patrol to integrate with the Watch Center's intelligence databases.

In 2003 alone, HIDTA coordinated highway interdiction efforts have led to major drug seizures and the seizure of millions of dollars of illicit drug proceeds. Many of these seizures have resulted in actionable intelligence passed onto other HIDTAs and nationwide law enforcement agencies.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA had continued to expand and develop the event deconfliction system SAFETNet, which so far has been adopted by ten HIDTAs nationwide. This year we have seen a ten-fold increase in the number of personnel and agencies participating in SAFETNet. In 2003, SAFETNet will be enhanced to include target deconfliction and allow for single entry query of multipal agencies' databases.

Last year Intelligence Coordination Network sponsor a HIDTA Intelligence Conference in Gulfport, Mississippi. Over 150 people from throughout the country including Puerto Rico attended the conference.

The ICN is also responsible for the operation and management of the T2-S2 wire intercept facility. During the past year the facility has undergone a major upgrade. The number of monitoring stations has increased from 12 to 18.

Gulf Coast HIDTA enforcement initiatives continue to effectively target

and dismantle major drug trafficking organizations operating in our area. CPOT and RPOT targets are their focus along with local violent drug trafficking organizations.

Hawaii HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Hawaii: Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii counties.

Contact: (808) 356-4400

Mission Statement:

Located at the Pacific crossroads and gateway to the mainland United States, the Hawaii HIDTA's participating agencies work together through enhanced coordination and integrated initiatives to disrupt and dismantle illicit drug distribution, production, money laundering, transportation, & trafficking within the region.

Threat Abstract:

Hawaii remains a transshipment point for crystal methamphetamine destined for the Pacific Basin from the West Coast and is a source of supply of marijuana for cities in the continental United States. Given the fact that Hawaii is an island state, there are significant environmental risks in regard to drug trafficking. Most illicit drugs, with the exception of Hawaiian produced marijuana, are transported into Hawaii

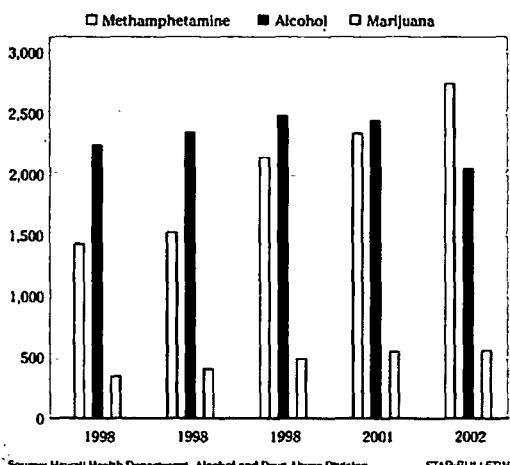
primarily from the super labs in Southern California and smuggling routes directly from San Ysidro as well as Arizona, Texas, and the Pacific Northwest. To a lesser extent, Asian produced illicit drugs are also being smuggled into Hawaii, primarily from Laos, Thailand, the Philippines, and other Southeast Asian countries. The transportation methods are primarily package delivery services, couriers on commercial flights, and air and sea cargo. A majority of the seizures at Hawaii airports include crystal methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and other dangerous drugs such as MDMA and GHB.

Crystal methamphetamine, also known as "ice," is the most significant drug threat in Hawaii. High purity crystal methamphetamine, ranging from 96-99 percent pure, is readily available and commonly abused throughout the State. According to Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS), treatment admissions for

crystal methamphetamine abuse increased from 1,243 in 1998 to 2,089 in 2001. This rate is still steadily increasing through 2003. Hawaii had the dubious distinction of the only State to have "ice" treatment admissions exceed alcohol abuse treatment admissions.

'Ice' use on the rise

Statewide admissions to substance abuse treatment programs show the dramatic rise of addicts, who typically use more than one drug, being treated for methamphetamine as their primary drug of choice.



Source: Hawaii Health Department, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division
STAR-BULLETIN

These crystal methamphetamine abusers have been linked to violent crimes in Hawaii, including an alarming number of domestic crimes such as child neglect cases, hostage situations, and homicides.

National priority targets, commonly referred to as Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOTs) are linked to Hawaii's local and Pacific Islander drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) through high level Mexican crystal methamphetamine traffickers. These local, Mexican, and Pacific Islander DTOs and, to a lesser extent, Asian DTOs connected to Regional Priority Organization Targets (RPOTs), transport crystal methamphetamine to Hawaii and distribute crystal

methamphetamine at the wholesale level.

Hawaii faces a significant drug threat in marijuana. Known locally as "pakalolo", this drug is widely available, and abuse is increasing among Hawaii's juveniles. Health care professionals indicate that high rates of treatment admissions of juveniles are attributed to the addictive properties of the potent marijuana available in the State. Hawaiian grown cannabis is commonly cultivated and contains some of the highest tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the nation. Although most of the marijuana available in Hawaii is produced locally, BC Bud is occasionally smuggled into the continental United States (U.S.) from Canada, and then transported into Hawaii. Local and Pacific Islander DTOs are the primary wholesale and retail marijuana distributors.



Eradication effort on the Big Island

Cocaine prices indicate that sufficient quantities of cocaine and crack cocaine are available to meet user demand in Hawaii and the Honolulu Police Department arrest statistics indicated that cocaine arrests are approximately 148% more than heroin arrests. The distribution and abuse of powdered and crack cocaine are associated with

criminal activities such as homicides, assaults, and child abuse/neglect cases.

Heroin is commonly abused in Hawaii, although according to TEDS, heroin abuse is decreasing as indicated by the lower number of heroin treatment admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities. Mexican DTOs and, to a lesser extent, local and Asian DTOs transport heroin into Hawaii.

Finally, abuse of drugs, including MDMA, GHB, and LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), is increasing among Hawaii's youth and the large military population stationed in Hawaii.

Drug trafficking organizations and their related criminal activities remain a constant concern for Hawaii's law enforcement agencies and are the major threat throughout Hawaii. Local DTOs being supplied with illicit drugs primarily from CPOTs are difficult for law enforcement agencies to dismantle and disrupt because they are fluid organizations with tight family/ethnic relationships, which are constantly rotating. Mexican, Asian, and Pacific Islander DTOs who transport and distribute illicit drugs in Hawaii also remain a significant threat.

In the latest year for which national data is available, Hawaii ranked 2nd for property crime. It has been estimated that approximately 90 percent of the property crime committed in the State is drug-related. This data also indicates that Hawaii's total crime rate is the 6th highest in the nation.

Strategy Abstract:

The Hawaii HIDTA accomplishes its mission through a coordinated strategy and wide participation by Federal, State and Local law enforcement agencies. For FY2004 law enforcement organizations will contribute approximately 135 full-time officers, 67 part-time officers, and 11 non-collocated officers on neighbor islands, for a total of 213 law enforcement personnel organized into 9 initiatives.

Most task force members and the Investigative Support Center are collocated/commingled in a central office facility within the HIDTA Region. Office space is configured to provide open access between task forces and to encourage a free exchange of information among officers. Because of Hawaii's unique island makeup, task forces on the outer islands maintain separate office facilities that justify their operational needs. All separate facilities located on other islands maintain contact with the other initiatives through the ISC LAN/WAN, WSIN and various modes of communications.

Hawaii HIDTA initiatives pursue OCDETF case designation in all investigations that are suitable to OCDETF criteria. HIDTA personnel ensure productive relationships between OCDETF and HIDTA member agencies to achieve an effective utilization of resources from each program.

Establishment of all task force initiatives is based on the targeting of the identified drug threats from the current HIDTA Threat Assessment. Each task force is required to accomplish one or more of the Hawaii HIDTA's goals of disrupting or

dismantling CPOT and RPOT organizations; interdicting illicit drugs destined for Hawaii, or transiting Hawaii's airports and seaports, destined for the mainland U.S. and other foreign destinations; reducing drug trafficking, smuggling, transportation, and distribution; and providing drug intelligence and investigative support to mainland HIDTA initiatives.

Investigative Support Center:

The Hawaii HIDTA ISC is dedicated to offering exhaustive case support and analysis for illicit drugs investigations through its tactical and strategic units which are currently operating as one. Its operation ensures that participating agencies have access to critical open source information as well as a variety of databases to enhance ongoing drug investigations. The ISC serves as the communication infrastructure that facilitates information-sharing between HIDTA participants by housing initiative task forces as well as the Hawaii State WSIN Coordinator.

The ISC is co-led by a DEA group supervisor and a Local HPD supervisor. It houses analysts, agents, and officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service, Bureau of Prisons, Honolulu Police Department, United States Coast Guard, Hawaii National Guard, State Narcotics Enforcement Division, CAPERS, as well as contract intelligence research specialists. The ISC provides in-depth support through utilization of established analytical methodologies.

The ISC initiative provides operational intelligence support through its tactical

unit to investigations being conducted through HIDTA initiatives or HIDTA participating agencies. The analysis is proficiently communicated to agents and officers through report summations, link charts in i2 or Pen-Link, spreadsheets, timelines, graphs or specialized graphics, as considered necessary. The tactical unit is also accountable for the determination of training needs and the planning and implementing of seminars and courses pivotal to enhance and develop skills for current investigations and counter drug trafficking.

Additionally, the ISC strategic unit provides financial analysis, prosecution support, and visual investigative analysis charting, as well as preparing the annual threat assessment, strategic reports, quarterly reports, bulletins, and officer safety alerts. The strategic unit also generates intelligence analysis projects to create leads for HIDTA investigative agencies.

The Hawaii HIDTA ISC also provides subject and event deconfliction through its partnership with WSIN. Event deconfliction for federal, state, and local law enforcement is provided with a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week Watch Center linked to Sacramento. The ISC is electronically linked, via WSIN and the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS), to all other HIDTA enforcement initiatives nation wide, as well as, electronically connecting to all the other HIDTA enforcement initiatives located on the islands of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

Additionally, The ISC provides laptop computers, portable printers, digital cameras, video cameras, and various other technical equipment to HIDTA

initiatives and participating agencies working on illicit drugs.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorneys Office, District of Hawaii, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

State/Local: Department of Public Safety, Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii County Police Department, Kauai County Police Department, Maui County Police Department, and State & County Prosecuting Attorneys.

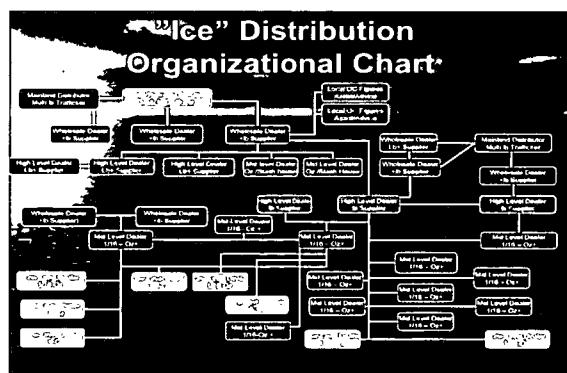
Other: Hawaii National Guard, WSIN, and Bureau of Prisons.

Significant Achievements:

The HI-IMPACT initiative is comprised of 6 task forces involved in a number of significant investigations. For example, HI-IMPACT, Group 1, used a Title III, wire-tap, to expose the crystal methamphetamine, ("ice"), trafficking and money laundering activities of a DTO using a travel agency as a false business front.

The DTO smuggled large quantities of Mexican "ice" primarily from Las Vegas via couriers on commercial air flights and parcel post into Honolulu, Hawaii. Further distribution soon followed into the neighboring islands. The investigation resulted in 35 indictments,

26 arrests, 10 pounds of "ice", 35 guns, and \$750,000 in currency and assets.



The Interdiction Initiative has also been successful in seizing drugs and assets, as illustrated by the following statistics;

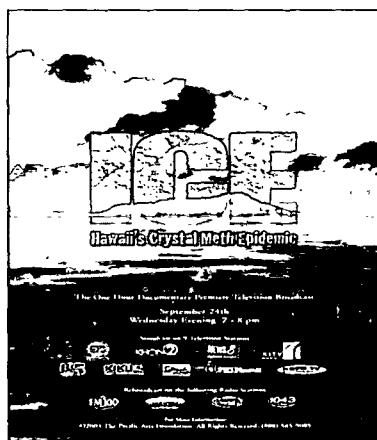
Total cases:	180
Total arrests:	110
Total narcotics seized:	106 kgs
Value of narcotics seized:	\$12,028,018
Total currency seized:	\$1,402,854
K9 currency seized:	\$1,047,881
Total number of vehicles seized:	22
Total number of weapons:	38

PUBLIC AWARENESS and SUPPORT

Over the past year there has been a strong buildup of public awareness and support for Hawaii's law enforcement efforts against illicit drugs. The participating agencies within the Hawaii HIDTA have all been involved in developing awareness about the crystal methamphetamine epidemic facing Hawaii. Neighborhood campaigns were organized, drug summits were held, and extensive legislative hearings took place. The Lt. Governor organized a three-day drug control strategy symposium featuring the Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs, ONDCP as the key

note speaker. The symposium was attended by over 400 federal, state and local officials.

This buildup of activity was followed by the airing of an hour long documentary, directed by award-winning filmmaker Edgy Lee. The broadcast was an unprecedented commercial free simulcast on 11 television stations statewide. It addressed the crystal methamphetamine (ice) epidemic and the associated violence/crime, domestic abuse, child endangerment, and the drain on public resources.



Houston HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Texas: Aransas, Brooks, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Liberty, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio and Victoria counties

Contact: (281) 372-5857

Mission Statement

"To measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the country."

The HIDTA covers more than 425 miles of coastline, nearly 70% of all available Texas coastline. A dynamic transportation infrastructure through the 16 HIDTA counties makes the HIDTA easily accessible by air, land,

Threat Abstract

Much of the nation's cocaine and marijuana supply from Mexico and South America transits the Houston HIDTA. Domestic cells of international criminal organizations control the movement of drugs and related monies. Investigative and enforcement activities originating in the Houston HIDTA have extended through all 50 states and dozens of countries throughout Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.



Destination States for Illicit Drugs Trafficked through Houston HIDTA in 2002

and sea. Houston is home to the fourth largest airport system in the nation and the sixth largest in the world.

The HIDTA's land threat is illustrated by 14,049 lane miles of roadways



maintained by the state. These roadways include primary entry routes such as U.S. 281, U.S. 77, and U.S. 59, major exit routes that include I-37 and I-45, as well as primary conduit routes such as I-35 and I-10. The Houston HIDTA also contains four of the top ten nationally-ranked ports for total trade and foreign trade. The Port of Houston ranked first nationally with the greatest amount of foreign tonnage.

Demographically, the northern portion of the HIDTA is largely Anglo while counties in the southern portion are largely Hispanic. Harris County is diverse, with 23% of the population being foreign-born, with significant populations of Hispanics and Asians.

The economics of the HIDTA are as diverse as its demographics. While the southern portion relies largely on agricultural and petrochemical industries, Harris County is truly part of the global economy with hundreds of international businesses and banks, and several foreign consulates. The leading trade partner with the Houston area is Mexico.

Cocaine remains the primary drug threat for the Houston HIDTA. Threats posed by methamphetamine, heroin and Ecstasy increased during the 2002 Threat Assessment survey and reporting period. The marijuana threat remained stable and marijuana continues to be widely available.

Respondents to the 2002 HIDTA threat assessment survey identified 120 drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) operating in the Houston HIDTA. An additional 200 gangs operate in the Houston area alone. Eighty-six percent of the DTOs have foreign sources of supply, mostly Mexican or Colombian. Forty-eight percent have direct international ties. Identified DTOs range from highly-structured international networks or cells of major organizations with well-defined leadership to loosely-associated localized groups. Nearly half of the DTOs used handguns and one-fourth use shotguns or rifles. Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) cases accounted for 38% of the organizational targets, and 8% were national priority targets.

The transportation and distribution of drugs to and through the Houston HIDTA continues to be the primary activity of DTOs operating within the area. The most common method of transportation is overland via private cars, commercial trucks, and courier services. Sixty percent of the identified DTOs are involved in money laundering. Drug proceeds are laundered in the HIDTA primarily through bulk shipments of currency out of the U.S. to Mexico where it is placed into financial institutions, but also via wire transfer to nations worldwide. Outbound currency shipments are often broken down into

smaller loads to minimize risk. Other criminal activities include public corruption, firearms trafficking, alien smuggling, homicides, assaults, robberies and burglaries.

Strategy Abstract:

The Houston HIDTA Strategy directly correlates to the *National Drug Control Strategy* and the National HIDTA Program Goals which are: 1. Reduce drug availability by disrupting or dismantling drug trafficking organizations; 2. Reduce the harmful consequences of drug trafficking; and, 3. Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement within the HIDTA. The Houston HIDTA serves as a coordination umbrella for a variety of task forces, or Initiatives, with balanced federal, state and local law enforcement agency participation and leadership. Each Initiative implements its part of the strategy according to its particular expertise and the level of threat it is designed to address.

The central tenet of Houston HIDTA operations is the elimination and disruption of major drug trafficking organizations. Toward this end, each Initiative targets organizations with national impact. Further, the Houston HIDTA has identified the most significant DTOs affecting its trafficking situation. All Initiatives actively seek intelligence regarding this organization and share it with one another at regularly scheduled meetings. The primary organization is the number one priority of all initiatives. Using this approach, it may require several years to eliminate the priority organization; hence arrest and seizure statistics may not fully reflect the impact of these high level

investigations. The Houston HIDTA Executive Board believes that this approach will have the most long-term effect on the Houston HIDTA and other parts of the country.

A total of twelve Initiatives in four categories comprise the enforcement strategy. These categories include four intelligence initiatives, one money laundering initiative, two gang initiatives and five other enforcement initiatives. A thirteenth administrative initiative handles systemic and administrative management issues and manages training for the HIDTA community.

The Houston HIDTA Executive Board is comprised of 15 local, state, and federal law enforcement executives in southeastern Texas. The Administration component of the HIDTA is in Houston, while the operational components are based in Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Ft. Bend County and Houston. The leverage provided by the multi-jurisdiction task force has proven invaluable in the successful prosecution of hundreds of DTOs since the HIDTA's inception in 1990. Formal participation by HIDTA task force member agencies with foreign nations' law enforcement agencies has improved international law enforcement communication and facilitates future case cooperation.

Investigative Support Center

The Houston HIDTA Intelligence Sub-System includes four Intelligence Initiatives that provide operational support through timely and actionable intelligence via the products and efforts of local, state and federal law enforcement personnel and databases. They assist regional law enforcement

agencies in drug and money laundering investigations, eradication, and interdiction. The sub-system provides: *Tactical* event and subject deconfliction services to support arrest and seizure operations, and for officer safety and enhanced intelligence production; *Operational* intelligence support for active cases; participation in informant/defendant debriefings; cultivation of new sources of information; post-seizure and search warrant analyses; dissemination of officer safety alerts and "look-outs" for wanted subjects; *Strategic* intelligence to refine targeting, to improve investigator management, to conduct and prepare Threat Assessments and other reports; and in-service analytical intelligence training. The Initiatives provide research and analytical support and prisoner debriefings, for intelligence-led investigations through access to dozens of criminal and commercial databases for HIDTA task force agencies (and others) in the region. The Initiatives also provide graphics production services for case briefings and court case presentation.

Participating Agencies:

About 464 people from 34 federal, state and local agencies work full-time to implement the Houston HIDTA Strategy. Another 101 are part-time participants. These numbers may change daily due to normal fluctuations in manpower. Participating agencies are:

State/Local: Beaumont Police Department, City of Baytown, Corpus Christi Police Department, Fort Bend County Sheriffs Department, Harris County Sheriffs Department, Harris

County District Attorney's Office, Houston Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriffs Department, Nueces County Sheriffs Department, Orange County Sheriffs Department, Pasadena Police Department, Port Arthur Police

Department, Sam Houston State University, Texas Department of Banking, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Office of the Attorney General, Texas National Guard.

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, United States Attorney's Offices (Eastern District of Texas and Southern District of Texas), United States Coast Guard, United States Customs Service, United States Department of Defense, United States Marshals Service.

Significant Achievements:

Interagency cooperation, collaboration, and innovation are the hallmarks of Houston HIDTA operations. The following cases illustrate, not only the level of traffickers investigated by elements of the Houston HIDTA, but the importance of innovative multi-agency investigations in the counter-drug effort.

In one case, the Major Drug Squad 1, in collaboration with the Houston FBI, developed information that a Colombia-based organization was transporting tons of cocaine to the United States and Europe, and was attempting to trade 2,800 kilograms of cocaine for military weapons. These weapons were destined for a U.S. Department of State-

designated terrorist group. In cooperation with numerous domestic law enforcement agencies and those of at least six foreign governments in the Americas and Europe, authorities arrested the group's leaders on federal drug trafficking charges. This marked the first indictment in Houston for Conspiracy to Aid a Foreign Terrorist Organization. This group had shipped more than fifty tons of cocaine to Houston for later distribution to other parts of the U.S.

Greed is the driving force behind drug trafficking, so the Houston Money Laundering Initiative targets the organizations that move the money. In one such case, this Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly U.S. Customs) - led multi-agency initiative targeted a cell of the infamous Gulf Coast Cartel after the seizure of 31 kilograms of cocaine and \$637,000 in one operation. Through innovative techniques including electronic surveillance, undercover, and extensive investigation of documents, this initiative, working with law enforcement agencies in other parts of the U.S. has resulted in the arrest of 38 drug traffickers and seized more than \$6.2 million, 846 kilograms of cocaine and 1300 pounds of marijuana.

The traffic of heroin is one of the most deadly criminal activities. The Houston Police Department – led Targeted Narcotics Enforcement Team (TNET) linked eight agencies together to target a Houston-based organization dealing black tar heroin in Houston and other cities. To complete this case, TNET enlisted the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Major Drug Squad and the Harris County District Attorney's Office

to conduct a wire intercept, resulting in the immobilization of a group spreading misery in Houston and beyond.

These are but three of many examples of the important work being done by the agencies that participate in the Houston HIDTA. As important as the work itself is the willingness of the participants to conceive and try new approaches, and to work together for the good of their agencies and the public they serve.

Lake County HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Indiana: Lake County

Contact: (219) 650-2470

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lake County HIDTA is to reduce drug availability and usage by creating intelligence-driven task forces (initiatives) aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful effects through the enhancement and coordination of drug trafficking control efforts among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

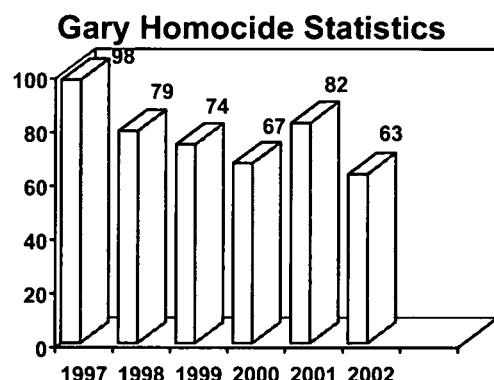
Threat Abstract:

Lake County, with a population of almost one-half million people, is the second largest of the 92 counties in Indiana. Covering approximately 500 square miles and representing 80 different ethnic cultures, the myriad of problems associated with gangs, drugs and guns represent a formidable

challenge for the county and its citizens. The county contains 19 incorporated cities and towns with 16 public school corporations. The drug of choice in this county is cocaine, both crack and powdered. Street gangs in the cities of Gary, Hammond and East Chicago control and orchestrate the street level distribution of cocaine.

Lake County gangs have loose alliances with Chicago-based gangs but many of these drug trafficking organizations do not follow any traditional hierarchical structure. They are based in many cases on ad hoc relationships and their ability to purchase and distribute drugs profitably. Violence is used to control or expand territory and to maintain internal controls, resulting in an alarmingly high rate of drug-related homicides. For example, the following graph depicts the homicide rate for the City of Gary, which led the nation for the eighth

straight year with more deaths per capita than any other city with a population of over 100,000 people. In 2002, however, the homicide rate was reduced to its lowest point in fourteen years with a 25% reduction in the number of homicides. Although Gary has almost twice the rate of the next most violent city, the concerted efforts of the mayor, city officials



and law enforcement, especially the Gary Police Department and the Lake County HIDTA, had a positive impact on reducing violent crime in the city.

The Lake County HIDTA includes two FBI-led initiatives. The first is the Gary Response Investigative Team, located in the heart of Gary, attacking street gangs from the crack house to the courthouse; the second is the Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force, which follows gang activity from Gary to both Hammond and East Chicago.

In addition, because of its geographic location, Lake County is a major distribution point for shipments of bulk marijuana and cocaine destined for the Midwest market. Investigations have identified familial and business ties between Lake County DTOs and

Southwest Border DTOs. Additionally, a potentially explosive methamphetamine problem throughout the state is now spreading to Lake County. For instance, in 2002 methamphetamine seizures by HIDTA initiatives increased by 122%.

Strategy Abstract:

The Lake County HIDTA Executive Board has approved five separate enforcement initiatives, each complementing the other, without competing or duplicating resources. All five initiatives attack the threat from a different perspective. Each initiative is critical to the overall success of the strategy. The enforcement initiatives interface with a collocated Prosecution Initiative that includes county prosecutors who have been designated as Special Assistant United States Attorneys and have the ability to utilize the most appropriate judicial venue to ensure optimal prosecution. A Training Initiative systemizes the collective training of both HIDTA initiatives and area law enforcement. A partnership has been established with the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy to ensure the coordination and optimal use of training resources throughout the county.

Lake County Initiatives approved by the Executive Board for 2004 included the following:

The DEA State & Local Task Force – is a DEA-led collocated, multi-agency initiative designed to disrupt and dismantle large scale drug trafficking and money laundering organizations operating on a regional and national level. In 2004, this unit will encompass

an interdiction effort, targeting organizations with U.S./Mexican Southwest Border connections using the highways of Northwest Indiana to transport cocaine, marijuana, and the illicit proceeds they generate into and through the area.

The Gary Response Investigative Team- is an FBI-led multi-jurisdictional, collocated task force with a mission to disrupt and dismantle mid/upper level drug trafficking organizations (DTO) responsible for homicides and other drug related violent crime in Gary. The GRIT uses detention without bond and federal prosecution as weapons against violent DTOs. This initiative has significantly impacted Gary's crack-house epidemic and the violent crimes and plague of homicides it spawned.

The Lake County Combined Task Force- is a collocated, multi-agency task force led by the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the DEA. Its mission is to target, disrupt and dismantle locally established drug trafficking organizations, money laundering organizations, and violent criminal street gangs operating in Lake County.

The Firearms Regional Enforcement Team- is an ATF-led task force that conducts ballistics testing and identification by utilizing the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) instrumentation. The IBIS unit can link bullets and casings with other crimes, thereby providing valuable investigative leads. FIRE also identifies and targets persons and organizations that illegally purchase, use, and supply firearms. FIRE analyzes firearm transactions and identifies those who obtain firearms through "straw" purchases, the use of

fictitious or illegally acquired Indiana handgun permits and unlicensed dealers.

The Prosecution Initiative- provides a full time staff of collocated prosecutors supporting HIDTA enforcement initiatives. The staff provides case support including warrant preparation, legal strategies, training, trial preparation, and prosecution. These Lake County Prosecutors are cross-designated as Special Assistant United States Attorneys to facilitate the filing and prosecution of cases in the proper venue. They have successfully presented cases in both state and federal courts.

The Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force- is a FBI-led multi-agency initiative, located in Merrillville that investigates violent street gangs in East Chicago and Hammond. The task force often uses intelligence and leads from GRIT investigations and operations. This initiative successfully uses Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statutes to disrupt and dismantle the hierarchy of gangs involved in drug trafficking, homicides, serious assaults, extortion, weapon violations, and money laundering.

The Lake County HIDTA has also formed partnerships with community organizations and the Indiana National Guard in an effort to increase the effectiveness and impact of the HIDTA.

Operation Tattoo Zap is an innovative community outreach program attacking the pervasive gang cultures in Northwest Indiana and its most visible gang symbol, *the tattoo*. The program provides free laser tattoo removal to former street gang members to enable

them to break their ties with the whole gang culture. To date, over 1,000 laser treatments have been performed on former members.

The **Demand Reduction Program** is a collocated operation administered by the Indiana National Guard in partnership with the Lake County HIDTA with numerous innovative programs, which have reached thousands of inner city kids with a drug free message for a healthy and full life. The thrust of the program is to provide Indiana National Guard soldiers and airmen as drug free role models for youth; this is accomplished by building partnerships with a broad base of community groups.

Investigative Support Center:

The Investigative Support Center is the cornerstone of the Lake County HIDTA. The mission of the ISC is to provide support to both HIDTA partners and area law enforcement that would not be available without the HIDTA program. Event and target deconfliction service provides a vital safety net for agent/officer safety while also preventing the wasteful duplication of effort and resources. In addition, the ISC serves as a clearinghouse for all gun arrests made by the four major departments as well as the numerous city courts in Northwest Indiana. The ISC is the only unit in the county with collocated access to county, state and federal databases. The ISC also assists area law enforcement with its state-of-art video enhancement capabilities, which are provided in support of both investigators and prosecutors in cases ranging from drug trafficking to bank robbery to homicide.

The Lake County ISC also has a new Computer Forensic Lab that is able to process electronic evidence from multiple cases. The trained forensic examiners are able to identify, seize, acquire and analyze different forms of electronic media. The ISC is the only unit in the region that can conduct on-site computer forensic examinations. While the priority of the unit is drug investigations, support is also provided to local agencies with major, non-drug investigations on a case-by-case basis as workload permits. The unit also supports the Chicago HIDTA.

The ISC also provides investigative intelligence support to the HIDTA initiatives along with area law enforcement agencies. Support includes analysis of telephone toll and pen register data. Preparation of case-related material, including photographs, charts and diagrams, as needed by both investigators and prosecutors.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, United States Attorney's Office, United States Marshals Service and United States Secret Service.

State/Local: Dyer Police Department, East Chicago Police Department, Gary Police Department, Griffith Police Department, Hammond Police Department, Indiana State Police, Highland Police Department, Lake County Prosecutor's Office, Lake County Sheriff's Department, Merrillville Police Department, Portage

Police Department and Schererville Police Department.

Significant Achievements:

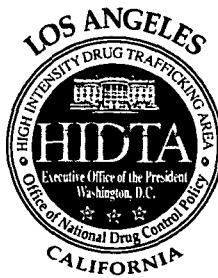
A yearlong investigation by the Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force culminated in 2003 with a major enforcement operation on the Latin Kings, arguably the major street gang operating in the 148th street section of north Hammond, Indiana. Fourteen members of the gang, including several key leaders, were indicted and arrested based on a 22 count indictment charging federal drug and firearms violations.

The indictment also charged that Latin King members engaged in acts of violence and intimidation as a means of protecting "their territory" while distributing illegal drugs.

The Lake County HIDTA Training Initiative completed a training program designed to enhance the usage of the Investigative Support Center's new Computer Forensic Laboratory. Training classes were provided to all HIDTA initiatives, which provided the investigators with a basic understanding of key technical and legal factors regarding the search and seizure of electronic storage devices and media. Hand out materials included a best practices list for seizing electronic evidence as well as boilerplate language for search warrants. Additional classes were held for non-HIDTA personnel from law enforcement agencies throughout Northwest Indiana. In addition, two separate courses were designed and held for prosecutors to provide them with an understanding of how electronic evidence is discovered and acquired by forensic investigators.

The completion of this training initiative, coupled with the state of art Computer Forensic Laboratory, has provided law enforcement agencies in Northwest Indiana with a readily available and invaluable resource in fighting crime in the region.

Los Angeles HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

California: Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

Contact: (213) 989 - 6457 / (213) 989-6460

Mission Statement:

The mission of the LA-HIDTA is to measurably reduce drug trafficking; thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the country. This mission is to be accomplished through the use of multi-jurisdictional (Federal, State, and local), collocated, and commingled law enforcement and intelligence initiatives designed to attack, disrupt, and dismantle major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations that are operating in and through the LA-HIDTA region.

Threat Abstract:

The Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area's (LA-HIDTA) designated geographic area covers the four counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino and is comprised of some 32,341 square miles

including 213 miles of coastline with a general population of approximately 16 million.

The economically and culturally diverse population of the region exceeds that of 41 states. The territorial expanse of the LA-HIDTA extends from Santa Catalina Island, located in the Pacific Ocean approximately 25 miles offshore, in the west to the Arizona and Nevada borders in the east. The Southern region of the LA-HIDTA is some 90 miles off of the United States / Mexico border. All types of drugs are manufactured, imported and distributed within the LA-HIDTA and beyond.

Sea Threat – The Port of Los Angeles / Long Beach is the 3rd busiest seaport in the world and is the busiest in the United States with 9.7 million containers / 123 million tons of cargo annually – 213 miles of shoreline.

Air Threat – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes 3 international, 94 municipal, and 3 seaplane airports within the LA-HIDTA region. The Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the 5th busiest passenger airport in the world with 61 million passengers annually / 2,300 flights a day and is the 2nd busiest for cargo with 2 million metric tons annually (50% of this being international).

Land Threat – The land threat from the South is perhaps the most obvious where large quantities of illegal drugs are brought North on the major highways of the region. *The Southern region of the LA-HIDTA is 90 miles from the U.S. / Mexico Border.*

Domestic Production – The indigenous harvesting of marijuana in the nearby mountains and the continuing numbers of major poly-drug manufacturing and distribution systems pose a significant threat to our region. Inside the metropolitan and rural areas, hundreds of clandestine (large and small scale) methamphetamine labs continue to proliferate.

Strategy Abstract:

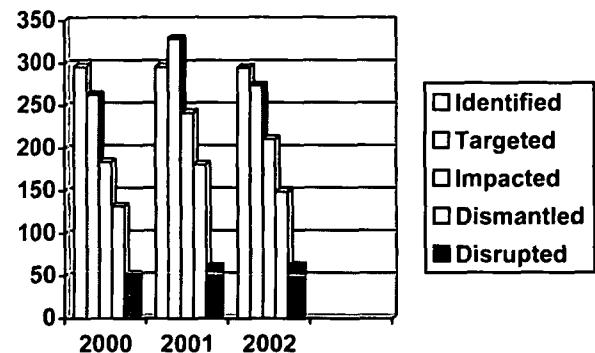
The Executive Board presently has eighteen voting members representing a working partnership of the major Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies operating in the LA-HIDTA region. The LA-HIDTA Executive Board and its three subcommittees continue to take a very active and positive role in determining the strategy, priorities and overall direction of the LA-HIDTA. As a result of their input and guidance, the on-going effort on the

part of all initiatives continues to be enhanced through mutual cooperation and teamwork.

The goals of the LA-HIDTA specifically focus on the dismantling and /or disrupting major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations that operate in and through the region with a primary focus on cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin. The LA-HIDTA was originally designated in 1990 as one of the Nation's "major narcotic gateways", a distinction which still holds true to this day.

The following chart reflects the Major Drug Trafficking Organizations impacted by the LA-HIDTA enforcement initiatives, 2000 through 2002:

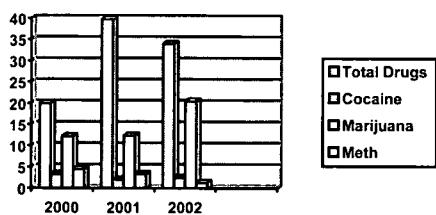
ENFORCEMENT TARGETS



In F/Y 2003, this HIDTA consists of six major task forces comprised of collocated Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies, three intelligence components, which comprise the Intelligence Support System (ISS) and five critical support initiatives each dedicated to the task of positively impacting the major drug trafficking problems that continue to face our geographic region and country.

Over the years, the LA-HIDTA's enforcement/intelligence initiatives have seized significant amounts of dangerous drugs as reflected in the following chart:

DRUG SEIZURES (TONS)



LA-HIDTA Strategy -- Design / Planning - The Strategy for the LA HIDTA is developed in close concert with all of our enforcement initiatives and the Intelligence Support System (ISS). At all levels of this dynamic process, we take into account both law enforcement missions / resources and the overall narcotics trafficking and money laundering threat in our region.

To ensure that the Strategy adequately addresses the threat, a unique system of "reverse planning" is utilized. This plan brings together our various LA-HIDTA law enforcement initiatives and the Intelligence Support System (ISS) for the dual purpose of validating the various Strategy elements and establishing individual priorities and achievement goals. By combining the individual projected goals, the objectives of the Strategy are identified, and agreed upon, to include both expected outputs and desired outcomes.

Intelligence Support System (ISS):

Intelligence Architecture Plan -- This plan redefines the intelligence responsibilities and priorities within the

LA-HIDTA, effectively "bringing together" our intelligence components (*Los Angeles Joint Drug Intelligence Group; Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse; and Inland Narcotics Clearing House*) into what today is called the Intelligence Support System (ISS). It provides a written / signed memorandum of understanding between our intelligence components, enhanced lines of communication, and provides clear definitive lines of responsibility.

Additionally, the process brings an enhanced level of intelligence service to the LA-HIDTA law enforcement community. The intelligence components of the LA-HIDTA work to provide the most recent institutional drug intelligence. Additionally they provide deconfliction, pointer index, case support, target profiles, intelligence fusion, and predictive analysis to the entire law enforcement community in our region. The LA-HIDTA Intelligence Support System has been linked to the RISS.NET and 100% of all ISS participating agencies intelligence databases are available / accessible.

Impact - In C/Y 2002, the LA-HIDTA Intelligence Support System (ISS) recorded 1,025 combined requests for service (+44% increase over 2001) from various law enforcement agencies within our region which resulted in 14,674 (+7.1% increase over 2001) analytical products.

War Room / Intelligence Watch Center -- The War Room provides "real time" operational and tactical intelligence support by tracking, around-the-clock (24/7), all Federal, State and local law enforcement "high risk" operations

within the four county region known as the LA-HIDTA. On-site Intelligence Analysts are available to immediately research the various law enforcement intelligence data bases thus enabling officers to conduct enhanced narcotic investigations.

Critical Event Tracking -- In C/Y 2002 the War Room tracked 19,319 Critical Events in the LA-HIDTA region, an increase of 10.5% over last year. This number included 1,065 deconflicts (6.0% - *one out of every eighteen critical events*) wherein various law enforcement "high risk" operations are notified when they are about to conflict with each other during the course of their investigation.

Providing Deconfliction Services for Other HIDTA Regions – The Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LACRCIC), a component of the LA-HIDTA Intelligence Support System (ISS), is providing deconfliction services for the Los Angeles, Northern California, Central Valley and Nevada HIDTA's. While it is a remarkable thing to accomplish this "sharing of resources" within the State of California, it is quite another achievement to "crossover" into the State of Nevada. This notable capability, within the 4 HIDTA regions, means that the LACRCIC "War Room" is providing service to 384 Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies; 24 out of 58 counties in California (41.4%) and 1 county in Nevada. The combining of regional law enforcement resources such as this, in order to successfully address major drug trafficking issues, truly speaks to the very essence of the ONDCP National HIDTA Program.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Department of Defense, JTF-6; Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Internal Revenue Service; United States Attorney's Office; and the United States Marshal's Service.

State: California National Guard; State of California, Alcoholic Beverage Control; State of California, Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement; State of California, Department of Justice, Criminal Intelligence Bureau; and the State of California, Highway Patrol.

Local: Alhambra Police Department; Arcadia Police Department; Azusa Police Department; Baldwin Park Police Department; Beaumont Police Department; Bell Police Department; Brea Police Department; Burbank Police Department; Claremont Police Department; Corona Police Department; Costa Mesa Police Department; Culver City Police Department; Downey Police Department; El Monte Police Department; El Segundo Police Department; Fullerton Police Department; Gardena Police Department; Hawthorne Police Department; Hemet Police Department; Hermosa Beach Police Department; Huntington Beach Police Department; Inglewood Police Department; Laguna Beach Police Department; LaVerne Police Department; Long Beach Police Department; Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Los Angeles Police Department; Manhattan Beach Police Department; Monrovia Police Department; Monterey Park Police Department; Newport Beach Police

Department; Orange County Sheriff's Department; Ontario Police Department; Palm Springs Police Department; Pasadena Police Department; Port of Los Angeles Police Department; Redlands Police Department; Redondo Beach Police Department; Riverside County Sheriff's Department; Riverside Police Department; Santa Ana Police Department; San Bernardino Police Department; San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; San Gabriel Police Department; Tustin Police Department; Vernon Police Department; West Covina Police Department; and the Whittier Police Department.

Other: Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office; and the Western States Information Network.

Significant Accomplishments:

"Operation Northern Star" *Southern California Drug Task Force Group 50*

In August 2002, the Southern California Drug Task Force, Group 50, initiated a Title III investigation which focused on a Middle Eastern pseudoephedrine (PSE) organization run by Galeb Mizyed. This organization, which was based out of Chicago, Illinois, transported large amounts of PSE from Canada to the U.S. This organization then distributed the PSE to Mexican national methamphetamine manufacturers.

MIZYED ran a sophisticated organization which included at least ten different cells located throughout the country. PSE was smuggled across the US-Canada border at Detroit, Michigan and shipped onward from there to

various parts of the United States, including large amounts to Southern California. The group made extensive use of commercial storage lockers to stash the PSE until it was sold. Cellular telephone numbers were changed frequently for security purposes. Even though the organization was based in Chicago, it used cellular telephones with Chicago, Mississippi, Las Vegas and Los Angeles telephone numbers. Fourteen different telephones were the targets of federal Title III investigations.

An example of the complexity of the investigation and the coordination involved occurred in February 2003, when the wiretaps indicated that **3-1/2** tons of PSE stored in a Canadian warehouse would be transported into the United States. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) observed two vans drive from Ottawa to Toronto, where they offloaded boxes into a tractor-trailer. Then RCMP followed the tractor-trailer to the Detroit and the U.S./Canadian border.

After the tractor-trailer entered the United States, DEA Detroit followed it to Gary, Indiana where the DEA Chicago, Field Division, joined the surveillance. The PSE was transferred to a second tractor-trailer at Gary. Surveillance involving eight different DEA offices followed the second truck to Cedar City, Utah, where SCDTF, Group 50, and DEA Las Vegas took over surveillance. The truck was followed to Las Vegas, where a female suspect met it and led it to three different truck stops, conducting counter-surveillance driving on the way. Las Vegas police eventually contacted the truck and conducted a K-9 search. The **3-1/2** tons of Canadian PSE were

recovered, as well as evidence further linking the shipment to MIZYED. An attempted controlled delivery was not successful, but MIZYED attributed the seizure of the PSE to an unlucky break, and continued to send other shipments into the U.S. and to discuss his plans on the telephone.

The investigation involved the DEA Chicago, Detroit, and New York Field Divisions; the DEA Gulfport, Mississippi; DEA Ottawa; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enforcement; IRS; the California Highway Patrol; the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; the Los Angeles International Airport Task Force; and the Las Vegas Metro, Anaheim and Ontario (California) Police Departments.

Ultimately, **65** conspirators were arrested including **18** indictments out of Los Angeles. Six executives from three pharmaceutical companies located in Canada were arrested by the RCMP. Approximately **16** tons of pseudoephedrine and **3.5** million dollars of assets were seized in the United States and Canada.

The case illustrates the extraordinary results possible with cooperation among local, state, federal, and international police units.

Midwest HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: December 1996; February 1999 designated counties in North Dakota joined the Midwest HIDTA

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Iowa: Muscatine, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Marshall, Black Hawk, Appanoose, Woodbury, and Linn counties;

Kansas: Cherokee, Crawford, Johnson, Labette, Leavenworth, Saline, Seward, Barton, Sedgwick, Finney, Shawnee, Miami, Franklin, and Wyandotte counties;

Missouri: Cape Girardeau, Christian, Clay, Jackson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Ray, Scott, St. Charles, Greene, Benton, Buchanan, Jasper, Texas, Platte, Marion, and St. Louis, to include the city of St. Louis;

Nebraska: Dakota, Dawson, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Sarpy, Madison, Dodge, Gage, Jefferson, Platte, and Scott's Bluff counties;

South Dakota: Clay, Codington, Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Union, Brown, Brookings, Beadle, and Yankton counties;

North Dakota: Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, Morton, Ramsey, Richland, Walsh, and Ward;

Contact: (816) 746-4911

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Midwest HIDTA is to measurably reduce the impact of regional drug production, trafficking, and distribution in designated counties in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska,

South Dakota, and North Dakota, as well as in other parts of the United States. The goal of the Midwest HIDTA is to reduce drug availability by assisting intelligence driven enforcement task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful

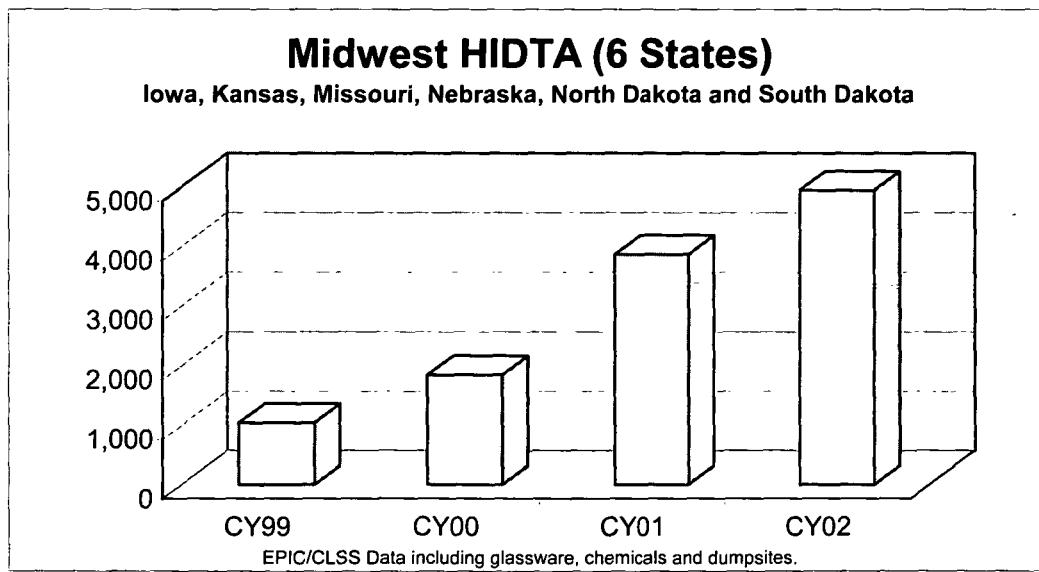
consequences through partnerships of federal, state, and local enforcement agencies. Central to this mission is the expansion of cooperative, multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts involving HIDTA funded and non-HIDTA funded resources. The Midwest HIDTA mission impacts markets identified in the designated six state region and other parts of the United States, thereby implementing the National Drug Control Strategy and reducing the violent impact of drug trafficking and abuse.

Threat Abstract:

The Midwest HIDTA region continues to experience increases in imported methamphetamine as well as a proliferation of clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizure

continue to be major threats to the entire Midwest HIDTA region. Arrest, seizure and abuse statistics confirm that transportation and distribution of cocaine and marijuana, predominantly through Mexican DTOs, shows no sign of weakening.

Heroin, although a minor threat in most areas of the region, has been reported in available supply in urban areas. Increased problems associated with Other Dangerous Drugs, such as MDMA and so called "club drugs" are expected to continue throughout urban and rural communities as the popularity of these drugs increases especially among young people. Limited law enforcement resources will be further compromised if the threats of heroin and other dangerous drugs continue to expand in the Midwest HIDTA region.



incidents. The lithium/sodium metal reduction formula, also known as the "Birch Reduction" or "Nazi" method of production is likely to remain prevalent in the vast majority of the region.

The ready availability and extensive demand for cocaine and marijuana will

Strategy Abstract:

Midwest HIDTA consists of 74 designated counties. These designated counties consist of urban core cities, statistical metropolitan areas, suburban

and rural areas with a population of 8.1 million people, making the Midwest HIDTA one of the more populous of the 28 HIDTA's. The HIDTA Strategy is implemented through several components. Each state, through designated Advisory Boards of law enforcement professionals, has identified threats, and developed enforcement strategies and investigative initiatives. The Midwest HIDTA Executive Board, and the Office of the Midwest HIDTA Director, coordinate the integration and synchronization of all participating agencies' initiatives to ensure a unified regional effort.

The Midwest HIDTA has developed a cohesive and comprehensive program combining regional and state specific initiatives. The Midwest HIDTA's initiatives focus on reducing and disrupting the importation, distribution, and manufacturing of illegal narcotics. Additionally, the Midwest HIDTA strives to enhance the public awareness of the social, economic and environmental dangers of drug abuse, improve the systematic sharing of intelligence and increase officer safety as it relates to the investigation of clandestine laboratories. To accomplish this, the Midwest HIDTA will coordinate 42 initiatives in FY2004. These initiatives are organized into and support five counter-drug subsystems, with each subsystem integral to the success of the Midwest HIDTA.

Investigative Support Center:

The Midwest HIDTA Investigative Support Center (MHISC), managed by the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, is a multi-agency

intelligence task force consisting of federal, state, and local agencies located within the six-state Midwest HIDTA and located in Kansas City, Missouri. The MHISC collects and analyzes information from all Midwest HIDTA task forces and other participating task forces and agencies. The MHISC provides event and subject deconfliction, multi-source name checks, post seizure analysis, investigative case support, toll analysis, charting, and trend analysis. The MHISC also provides continual evaluation of the drug threat to the region, identifying changes in patterns and trends. By improving the exchange of intelligence and information through more efficient coordination and communications, the MHISC enhances the ability of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to identify, arrest, and prosecute key members of narcotic trafficking and manufacturing organizations. Trend and predictive analysis developed by the MHISC assists the Midwest HIDTA in utilizing its limited resources more efficiently.

Connectivity between the ISC and each state task force was established during 2001. The Midwest HIDTA is a primary use site for the National Clandestine Lab Database, developed by EPIC and the Southwest Border HIDTA.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: ATF, DEA, FBI, BICE, IRS, United States Attorney's Office (Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa, District of Kansas, Western and Eastern Districts of Missouri, District of Nebraska, District of North Dakota, and District of South Dakota), USMS, USBP, USFS.

State/Local: Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office, Iowa National Guard, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Attorney General's Office, Kansas National Guard, Missouri National Guard, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Nebraska State Patrol, South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota National Guard, South Dakota State Attorney's Office, South Dakota Attorney General's Office, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, North Dakota Attorney General's Office.

Iowa: Altoona Police Department, Ankeny Police Department, Davenport Police Department, Des Moines Police Department, Eldora Police Department, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, Hardin County Sheriff's Department, Iowa Falls Police Department, Marshall County Prosecutor's Office, Marshall County Sheriff's Department, Marshalltown Police Department, Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Sioux City Police Department, South Sioux City Police Department, Tama Police Department, Tama County Sheriff's Department, Woodbury County Sheriff's Office.

Kansas: Bonner Springs Police Department, Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Finney County Sheriff's Office, Garden City Police Department, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Kansas City Police Department, Leavenworth Police Department, Olathe Police Department, Overland Park Police Department, Pittsburg Police Department, Sedgwick County Prosecutor's Office, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, Wichita Police Department.

Missouri: Cape Girardeau Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff's Department, Christian County Sheriff's Office, Dunklin Police Department, Dysart Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Green County Sheriff's Office, Independence Police Department, Jackson County Drug Task Force, Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Kansas City Police Department, Lake St. Louis Police Department, O'Fallon Police Department, Sikeston Department of Public Safety, Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force, Springfield Police Department, St. Charles Drug Task Force, St. Charles Police Department, St. Charles County Sheriff's Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, St. Louis County Police Department, St. Louis Police Department, Stoddard County Sheriff's Department, Trenton Police Department, Wentzville Police Department.

Nebraska: Adams County Sheriff's Office, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Grand Island Police Department, Lincoln Police Department, Nebraska Police Department, Scottsbluff Sheriffs Office, Gering Police Department, Scottsbluff Police Department, Fremont Police Department, Dodge County Sheriff Department, Hooper/Scribner Police Department, Blair Police Department, Burt County Sheriff Department.

North Dakota: Minot Police Department, Ward County Sheriff, Grand Forks Police Department, Grand Forks County Sheriff, Walsh County Sheriff, Fargo Police Department, Cass County Sheriff.

South Dakota: Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, Meade County Sheriff's Department, Minnehaha

County Sheriff's Department, Minnehaha County State Attorney's Office, Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Pennington County Attorney's Office, Sioux Falls Police Department.

Other: Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy, Midwest Counterdrug Training Center, Sioux City Counterdrug Training Center

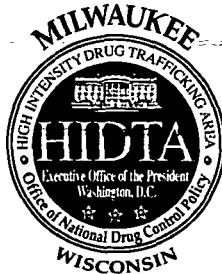
Significant Achievements:

The MHISC coordinates and utilizes three separate initiatives to implement the intelligence subsystem. The first is the FBI CIU Squad 3 in Kansas City. The CIU consists of representatives from various local, state and federal agencies within the Kansas City area. The group collects and analyzes information regarding Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and disseminates this information to the MHISC for sharing with other law enforcement agencies. During CY2002 the FBI Criminal Intelligence Group collocated within the ISC and expanded its mission to provide interface and activity into terrorism and Homeland Security. The second initiative supporting the MHISC is the DEA St. Louis Intelligence Group. This initiative assists in gathering, analyzing, and evaluating information to the St. Louis DEA regional enforcement area. The initiative primarily focuses on both domestic and international intelligence support to DEA led HIDTA task forces. The initiative also addresses DTO-CPOT intelligence issues in the St. Louis DEA geographic region. The third integrated initiative is the Bureau of ATF Regional Intelligence Group, which in CY2002 collocated within the Midwest HIDTA ISC. This group provides intelligence support and assistance within the Kansas City

Division area of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. This collocation will enhance the coordination of intelligence relating to firearms, domestic terrorism, and violent drug trafficking offenders.

During CY2003 and continuing into CY2004, the Intelligence subsystem is implementing and further deploying dual purpose all crime intelligence systems. This then assists law enforcement agencies in sharing, analyzing and the dissemination of crime intelligence. The Midwest HIDTA through the Office of the Director continues to lead efforts to implement the ONDCP HIDTA connectivity and intelligence-sharing project. The establishment of a Wide Area Network between HIDTA's, with ONDCP National HIDTA Program Office, and with National data centers, such as HIDTA Assistance Center, EPIC, and NDIC, is a priority project to implement the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan, and fulfill the mission of the National and the Midwest HIDTA Program. The use of riss.net/hidta.net and existing technology makes it possible to accomplish connecting different HIDTA's together. Midwest HIDTA is a NODE on this secure Virtual Private Network system, and continues to develop and host intelligence resources for HIDTA agencies and task forces, implementing GCIP action items.

Milwaukee HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Wisconsin: Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Note: Milwaukee HIDTA was expanded to include Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha Counties in late 2002.

Contact: (414) 220-4740

Mission Statement:

The Milwaukee HIDTA's mission is to apply enhanced intelligence processes, greater operational coordination and prosecution toward the substantial and measurable reduction of organized drug distribution, drug related violent crime and money laundering, and the demand for illegal drugs within the Milwaukee HIDTA. We are also committed to stem the distribution of illegal drugs through the Milwaukee HIDTA to urban areas in northern and western Wisconsin and beyond. These initiatives will be complimented by a coordinated effort to include demand reduction efforts which are youth focused and designed to improve the quality of life and restore neighborhood control to the citizens of the Milwaukee HIDTA.



Threat Abstract:

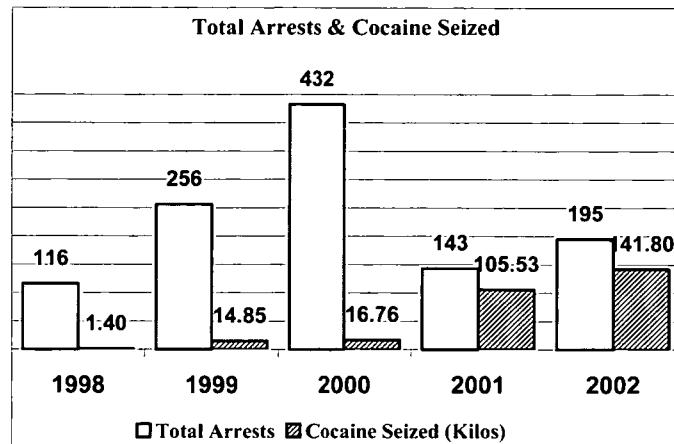
On September 27, 2002, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director John P. Walters designated 53 new counties for inclusion in the HIDTA program. The three Wisconsin counties of Kenosha, Racine and Waukesha were among those designated and now redefine the geography of the Milwaukee HIDTA. The newly

expanded Milwaukee HIDTA extends the coordination umbrella of the HIDTA program throughout the I-94 and I-43 corridors in the southeastern part of Wisconsin.

Illegal drugs are readily available and abused throughout the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Abuse of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana have increased over the past year, as have drug-related deaths and substance abuse treatment admissions for these drugs. The availability of club drugs, such as MDMA, is stabilizing. Mexican, Dominican and Nigerian drug trafficking organizations are the primary transporters of drugs from foreign countries and cities in the United States, including Chicago which is the primary source of drugs abused in the Milwaukee HIDTA region.

Cocaine, particularly crack, is the most serious drug threat to the city of Milwaukee, while marijuana is the greatest overall drug threat to the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Crack cocaine is the drug most often linked to violent crime in the city of Milwaukee, while marijuana is frequently linked to violence in other areas of Southeastern Wisconsin. Law enforcement agencies are seizing increasing amounts of cocaine which is related to more deaths than any other drug and nearly half of those admitted for substance abuse treatment are cocaine abusers. Mexican drug trafficking organizations are the primary transporters and wholesale distributors, while street gangs and criminal groups are the primary retail distributors of cocaine HCl and crack cocaine.

The heroin drug threat to the Milwaukee area has stabilized. Heroin deaths have



declined, but seizures and the number of people seeking treatment for heroin abuse increased. Heroin prices have decreased while purity has increased, indicating ready availability in the northern portion of the Milwaukee HIDTA region. However, heroin prices have increased and purity has decreased in the southern portion of the Milwaukee HIDTA region due to law enforcement interdiction efforts. Southeast Asian and Southwest Asian heroin are most common in the northern portion of the Milwaukee HIDTA region, while South American heroin is most common on the city's south side. Nigerian drug trafficking organizations are the primary transporters and wholesale distributors of Southeast Asian and Southwest Asian heroin. Dominican drug trafficking organizations are the dominant wholesale distributors of South American heroin. Most retail distribution of heroin is conducted by criminal groups, street gangs and independent dealers.

More marijuana is seized than all other drugs combined. It is the most widely available and most commonly abused drug in the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Most marijuana available in the HIDTA is produced in Mexico and transported by Mexican drug trafficking organizations. They also are the principal wholesale distributors of marijuana, while criminal groups, street

gangs and local independent distributors sell marijuana at the retail level.

MDMA and other club drugs are popular in the Milwaukee HIDTA region, particularly among teenagers and young adults. MDMA, GHB, and ketamine are some of the club drugs abused in Southeast Wisconsin. Caucasian independent dealers and drug trafficking organizations are the primary transporters and distributors, but other groups, including street gangs, may become involved in MDMA distribution.

Hallucinogens such as LSD have usually been abused by a small number, but they have become more popular at raves. Most LSD is produced in California and transported to the Milwaukee area either directly or via Chicago. The primary distributors are Caucasian independent dealers, though local independent dealers of Hispanic descent have been noted as well.

The diversion and abuse of pharmaceuticals such as OxyContin, Xanax, and Valium have stabilized in the HIDTA. Availability of diverted pharmaceuticals is high. Diverted pharmaceuticals are often obtained by forging prescriptions or robbing pharmacies. In Milwaukee County, the number of felony sentences levied related to oxycodone stabilized in the past year.

There are several drug trafficking organizations operating within the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Organizations with international connections, such as Dominican and Nigerian groups, supply most of the heroin in the region. Mexican drug trafficking organizations with connections to Mexico, Chicago, Los

Angeles, and Southwest Border states supply most of the cocaine and marijuana in Southeast Wisconsin. African American street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples are the dominant retail distributors of most drugs on the northern portion of the Milwaukee HIDTA region, while Hispanic gangs such as the Latin Kings are the primary retail distributors in the southern portion of the region.

Strategy Abstract:

The Milwaukee HIDTA represents a part of the Eastern District of Wisconsin, specifically the counties of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha. Each federal agency has one regional leader to insure that every agency is pursuing its mission and is coordinating efforts with other law enforcement agencies. Likewise, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies exercise the authority of their respective jurisdictions to carry out their missions in overlapping venues.

The following agencies make up the Milwaukee HIDTA Executive Board:

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Attorney's Office – Eastern District of Wisconsin, Department of Homeland Security – Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Marshal's Service, Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation, and the Wisconsin National Guard., Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, West Allis Police Department, Waukesha County Sheriff's Office, Racine County

Sheriff's Office and the Kenosha County Sheriff's Office.

The Milwaukee HIDTA's initiatives focus on disrupting and dismantling local, regional, and national-level drug and money laundering organizations.

The Milwaukee HIDTA will coordinate ten initiatives in Fiscal Year 2004: three investigative initiatives; There is one anti-drug/anti-crime initiative; one interdiction initiative; one prosecutorial initiative; one training initiative; one management and coordination initiative and one information technology initiative and an investigative support center.

The initiatives are comprised of representatives from a total of fifteen agencies. There are six federal agencies, two state agencies, and seven local agencies participating in the Milwaukee HIDTA.

Investigative Support Center:

The HIDTA Intelligence and Technical Support Center, (HITS Center) is a collocated effort of federal, state, and local agencies. This task force is co-supervised by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The HITS Center has primary function of gathering, analyzing and disseminating strategic intelligence regarding drug traffickers and gang organizations. The HITS Center also identifies drug trafficking organizations, assists in the development of threat assessments and the setting of priorities and assists in the coordination of cases and investigations by way of a pointer index system and deconfliction.

Currently, the analysts have access to the following databases and research software tools: Transaction Information for Management (TIME), Pen-Link (phone record information), Property Information Retrieval System (PIRS) for locating property from the City of Milwaukee Assessor's Office, Search Express, CARPAX, Choice Point (Autotrack), DEA NADDIS, MRRKS (Milwaukee Regional Resource and Knowledge System), I-2 Analyst Notebook for charting, Riss-Net/MOCIC national database for suspect pointer index. The internet is used for general and public searches, Fin-Cen for financial and banking inquiries, Milwaukee Police Department NarcTrack and GRIPS, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office CRIMES database, WI DOJ/DNE CTRIX, Milwaukee Housing Authority Drug Database, Criminal Justice Information System, and FBI-net.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Attorney's Office – Eastern District of Wisconsin, Department of Homeland Security – Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Marshal's Service.

State/Local: Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation, and the Wisconsin National Guard, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, West Allis Police Department, Waukesha County Sheriff's Office, Racine County Sheriff's Office

and the Kenosha County Sheriff's Office, Department, Waukesha County Sheriff's Office, Racine County Sheriff's Office and the Kenosha County Sheriff's Office.

Significant Achievements:

In the spring of 2000, the Heroin Initiative (HI) of the Milwaukee HIDTA began an investigation into the heroin trafficking activities of an individual operating on the north side of Milwaukee. Over the course of several months, law enforcement purchased multi-gram quantities of heroin from this individual. The subject was arrested and identified their source of heroin from whom additional larger quantities of heroin were purchased. That subject was later arrested and identified his own source of heroin. Several controlled purchases of heroin were conducted with that source. During one of the purchases, the target was observed to meet with a Nigerian male who was subsequently identified as the ultimate source of heroin.

Numerous investigative techniques were utilized over a period of time resulting in the issuance of a Search Warrant on the Nigerian's residence. The arrest of the Nigerian and the subsequent execution of the Search Warrant resulted in the seizure of approximately 2.3 kilograms of heroin, the largest seizure of heroin ever recorded in Wisconsin.

Follow-up investigation revealed that Wisconsin had been utilized as a transshipment point for heroin to other destinations throughout the Midwest. The Nigerian was identified as being connected to a larger Nigerian group that was responsible for mailing a large

number of packages containing heroin from Thailand to Wisconsin during the late 1990's.

This Nigerian group not only mailed heroin to the U.S. but also utilized couriers from Milwaukee, Wisconsin who would travel to other countries in order to pick up heroin and return it to Milwaukee. It is believed that this Nigerian group was responsible for the importation of over 50 kilograms of heroin into Wisconsin. In addition, this group utilized commercial wire transfer services to wire money back to the source countries. This money represented both the cost of the heroin and profits from the sale of heroin in the U.S. It is estimated that approximately \$2,000,000 has been wired to the other countries.

As a result of this joint investigation between the Milwaukee HIDTA-HI, DEA, FBI, IRS-CID and BICE, a sealed indictment has been obtained in the Eastern District of Wisconsin for an additional 13 defendants related to this international trafficking investigation. This investigation represents the dismantling of this international heroin trafficking organization.

Nevada HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 2001

Geographic Area of responsibility:

Nevada: Clark County

Cities of: Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City and Mesquite and the unincorporated townships of Laughlin, Primm, Searchlight, Jean, Indian Springs, Blue Diamond, Glendale, Logandale and Overton.

Contact: (702) 759-8070

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Nevada HIDTA is to measurably reduce drug trafficking through Intelligence driven task forces, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the country. The specific goals of this HIDTA are to:

- Reduce drug availability by disrupting/dismantling drug trafficking organizations
- Measurably reduce methamphetamine manufacturing
- Reduce the harmful consequences of drug trafficking
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement organizations and their efforts
- Measurably reduce drug related crime
- Establish a multi-agency drug intelligence network within the HIDTA region

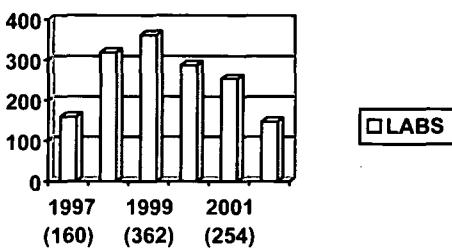
Threat Abstract:

Although Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA'S) in Southern Nevada have made significant progress in reducing the number of methamphetamine labs operating in Clark County over the past few years, the clandestine manufacturing of methamphetamine and the distribution of methamphetamine continue to be the most significant drug threats in the Nevada (Clark County) HIDTA. Although down from the record high 362 labs in 1999, there were still 148 labs investigated in 2002.

The costs associated with lab cleanup have exceeded \$200,000 annually each of the past four years. These costs have had a severe impact on local law enforcement agency budgets and have required cost cutting measures in other enforcement areas to compensate for this expense. The efforts of

the Southern Nevada Methamphetamine Task Force have resulted in a steady decline in the number of labs operating in the Southern Nevada area since 1999.

Methamphetamine Labs Seized in Clark County



MDMA (ecstasy) and GHB (commonly referred to as the "date rape drug") have become other significant drug problems in the Nevada HIDTA. Their use has grown at such an alarming rate that in 2002 the Nevada HIDTA Executive Board determined the need for the mid year creation of a new initiative, the Southern Nevada Club Drug Task Force (SNCDTF). The activities of SNCDTF are targeted at organizations and individuals supplying drugs to the after hours club scene in Las Vegas as well as other areas of the country. MDMA and GHB traffickers, many of which are poly-drug dealers, have been associated with Israeli and Russian organized criminals that operate on an international level.

Street Gang drug dealing, and the violence associated with it, continue to be another primary concern for the Nevada HIDTA. Local law enforcement agencies have identified over 300 street gangs in Clark County with a combined membership exceeding 6,600 members plus an additional 3,000-gang member associates. Crack cocaine is still the drug of choice within the African-American street gangs. These gangs continue to "war" over turf. Additionally gang members from Los Angeles are frequently arrested in Las Vegas when they come to supply crack cocaine to local gangs.

These L.A. gangs often set up their own sales operation locally prior to returning to Los Angeles.

Thirty-five gang members were murdered in Southern Nevada in 2002 and twenty-six have been killed to date in 2003.

Strategy Abstract:

A Nevada HIDTA Executive Board, which is comprised of the chief executive officer of six federal and six state and local law enforcement agencies in Clark County, ensures that the HIDTA agencies work together systematically to reduce drug trafficking, eliminate duplication of effort and systematically improve the sharing of drug intelligence. One hundred sixteen representatives from thirteen federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are full time participants in NV HIDTA initiatives.

The strategy is implemented through seven collocated multi agency investigative task forces, one collocated multi-agency intelligence initiative and one management and administrative initiative. The seven task force initiatives target drug trafficking, money laundering, clandestine drug lab manufacturing, apprehension of drug fugitives and violent street gang drug trafficking organizations with the intent to disrupt/dismantle these organizations through such techniques as undercover purchases, controlled deliveries, pen registers, toll analysis and wire intercepts.

The Investigative Support Center (ISC) and the Management and Coordination Initiatives are collocated in a DEA provided facility that is shared with the Southern Nevada Joint Methamphetamine Task Force (SNJMTF) and the Clark County Gang Task Force (CCGTF).

The other Nevada HIDTA initiatives include the Interdiction Task Force, the Southern Nevada Club Drug Task Force (SNCDTF),

the Major Drug Trafficking Organizations Task Force (MDTO), the Money Laundering and Asset Removal Task Force (MLAR) and the Nevada Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (NV FIST).

Investigative Support Center:

The Investigative Support Center (ISC) serves as a dual function initiative providing both intelligence and tactical support to the other Nevada HIDTA initiatives. Of critical importance is the deconfliction support that provides 7 day a week, 24 hour a day deconfliction services via a contract with the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearing House (L.A.CLEAR). This process ensures the officers and agents from all the initiatives are working in an environment free from other law enforcement investigations and with a pointer system should these investigations cross over to another initiative's interests.

The ISC'S intelligence role is also to provide investigators from all the initiatives with tactical multi-source intelligence on a daily basis as well as with strategic intelligence relating to emerging trends in production, distribution and transportation of drugs.

The ISC also acts as the primary communication and storage facility for intelligence for all initiatives. It provides access to RISS.NET, NDPIX, ADNET, FINCEN, NADDIS/DRUG-X, RMIN, TECS and other various federal, state and local databases.

The tactical intelligence function also provides the initiatives with initial subject and organization background investigations, and is prepared to do net worth investigations, asset identification and post-seizure analysis.

The strategic intelligence function monitors domestic and foreign trends associated with

narcotics activity. This includes such issues as dominant individuals/organizations, concealment methods, currency transfers, price, purity and availability. The strategic intelligence function conducts an annual narcotics/crime survey based upon statistical information provided by relevant agencies in the HIDTA area of interest. This information is consolidated to generate the annual threat assessment for the Executive Boards review and approval.

The ISC also serves as a resource pool of technical equipment and personnel to provide assistance in audio, video and wire intercept investigations to all HIDTA initiatives. This group also provides aerial surveillance via the Nevada Air National Guard RAID unit.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF); Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE); Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); United States Attorneys Office; United States Customs Service (USCS); United States Marshals Service (USMS), and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

State/Local: Clark County District Attorney's Office; Henderson Police Department (HPD); Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD); Nevada Department of Public Safety; Nevada National Guard (NNG), and the North Las Vegas Police Department (NLVPD).

While methamphetamine has been identified as the single most serious drug threat facing the Nevada HIDTA, analog drugs are emerging as a new threat. Early in 2002 the Southern Nevada Joint Methamphetamine Task Force (SNJMTF) initiated an

investigation into the activities of a subject engaged in distributing illegal substances via an internet web-site. This subject had twice been convicted in the 1980's, once for Continuing Criminal Enterprise and once for Manufacture of Methamphetamine. Upon his release from prison the subject became involved in the domestic and international distribution of controlled substance analogs, such as 2CT7, via his internet web-site. This investigation was approved as an OCDETF case in late June 2002 and in September 2002 as a DEA Priority Target Investigation. The SNJMTF conducted an Internet Title III investigation targeting the e-mail account and internet web-site of the subject. On September 24, 2002, the U. S. Customs Service, at the direction of the SNJMTF, intercepted a package from China addressed to the subject's business address. This package contained approximately 200 grams of Diethyltryptamine (DET), a controlled substance which was not listed on the shipping manifest. As a result of this seizure the SNJMTF decided to arrest the subject and serve federal search warrants, at his residence and two storage facilities. During the execution of these warrants the SNJMTF located a clandestine laboratory which the subject was using to manufacture tryptamine and phenethylamine analog substances. The DEA Southwest Regional Laboratory (SRL) conducted an analysis of the materials and chemicals found at the search warrant locations and, based on the most abundant precursors located in the search, determined the lab had the capability of producing 17 kilograms of 2CC, 23 kilograms of DPT, and 3 kilograms of 5-meo-AMT. The subject was advertising these products for sale via his internet web-site at; \$65,000 per kilogram for 2CC; \$30,000 per kilogram for DPT and \$75,000 per kilogram for 5-meo-AMT. It is believed this laboratory seizure is the largest of its kind in the western United States.

The Major Drug Trafficking Organizations Task Force (MDTO) and the Las Vegas

Metropolitan Police Department partnered in Operation Chronic, which identified a major inter-state and international marijuana distribution ring servicing the nightclub market in Las Vegas and other large cities. This investigation employed a Title III and long term undercover investigation to identify the principals in the organization who were involved in local cultivation of high grade marijuana as well as the transportation of marijuana from Canada, Mexico, Washington, Oregon and California. To date this investigation is responsible for the dismantlement of this Drug Trafficking Organization through the indictment of seven individuals, including a supplier from California and a supplier from Mexico, and the seizure of a ton-and-a-quarter of marijuana. Several other indictments are pending in this investigation.

New England HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Massachusetts:	Suffolk, Essex, Worcester, Plymouth, Hampden, and Middlesex Counties
Connecticut:	Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven Counties
Rhode Island:	Providence County
Vermont:	Chittenden County
Maine:	Cumberland County
New Hampshire:	Hillsborough County

Contact: (978) 691-2501

Mission Statement:

The New England HIDTA, (NEHIDTA) will reduce drug availability through multi-agency collocated and commingled intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences by enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking and financial crimes control efforts.

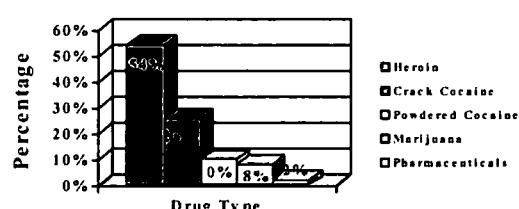
Threat Abstract:

Every state in New England is experiencing an unprecedented rise in heroin treatment admissions, hospital emergency department overdoses and deaths. In particular, the greater Boston area has been identified as a primary heroin market in the United States

based on high levels of abuse, significant consequences of that abuse, and widespread distribution. Expansion of the Boston market has been facilitated greatly by several New York-based criminal groups. Colombian and Dominican distributors are predominant, supplying wholesale and mid-level quantities of South American heroin to retail distributors in Boston and, subsequently, throughout New England.

Crack cocaine and powdered cocaine continue to be significant threats to the New England area. These drugs, like heroin, are the two most commonly encountered threats

New England Drug Threat-2003



that are facing our region. Throughout New England, the availability of cocaine hydrochloride remained stable, while the availability of crack cocaine continues to rise. Crimes have increased with the user population committing all different types of crimes to afford the cost associated with drug addiction. Colombian traffickers are typically the importers into the region, while Dominican traffickers tend to be more active distributors at the retail level.

The NEHIDTA task forces report a significant increase in marijuana seizures during 2002. Cumulatively, the NEHIDTA task force initiatives recovered 4,617 kilograms of marijuana as compared to a mere 392 kilograms seized in 2001. Information from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have identified hydroponic marijuana readily available in all of the six New England states. In recent years, hydroponic marijuana, either from Canada or domestic indoor grows, had only been observed in Northern New England. However, currently hydroponic marijuana can be obtained throughout the entire New England area.

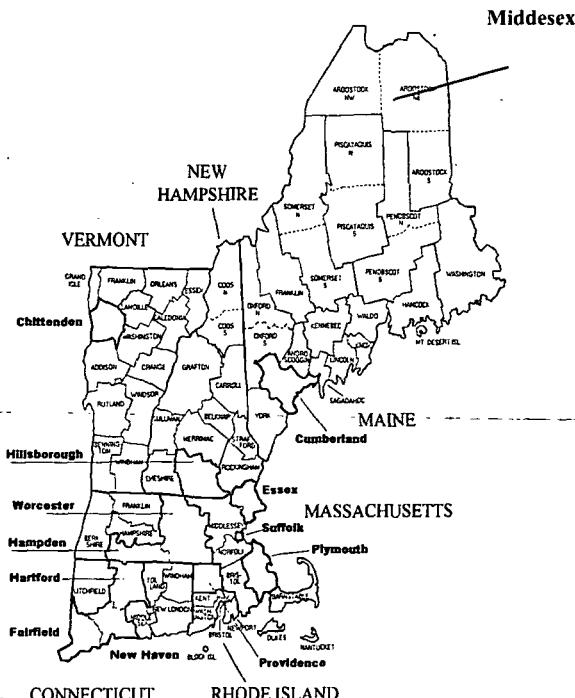
The availability and abuse of diverted pharmaceuticals continue to threaten the New England states. Specifically, Oxycodone (OxyContin) and MDMA

(Ecstasy) pose the most significant threat to New England.

The New England area also faces the threat of drug trafficking across the U.S./Canadian border. There is availability of all types of illegal drugs in the northern border regions of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The US/Canadian border is a 4,000-mile stretch that is an increasing opportunity for drug trafficking and terrorism. Accompanying the ever-increasing drug activity, the quality of life issues such as violence, corruption and economic depletion of U.S. currency are all inherent and latent threats.

Strategy Abstract:

The strategy for the New England HIDTA is to reduce drug availability and its harmful consequences by focusing on the flow of drugs from New York, Canada and elsewhere into New England and enhancing and coordinating drug trafficking control efforts among Federal, State and Local law enforcement agencies. This is accomplished by collecting, analyzing and disseminating information and intelligence on drug trafficking and money laundering organizations to the NEHIDTA task forces and other law enforcement agencies. This intelligence is then used by NEHIDTA collocated federal, state and local task forces to initiate intelligence-driven investigations on the major organizations. Representatives from over 100 federal, state and local agencies support the NEHIDTA with the sharing of resources and information / intelligence. In order to reduce and dismantle the flow of drugs along the transportation pipeline, the New England HIDTA has established a total of 14 initiatives throughout New England. The law enforcement executives on the Executive Board and the Director and Staff are the command and control of drug law enforcement and prosecution in New England. This unified approach in the New England region enables law enforcement



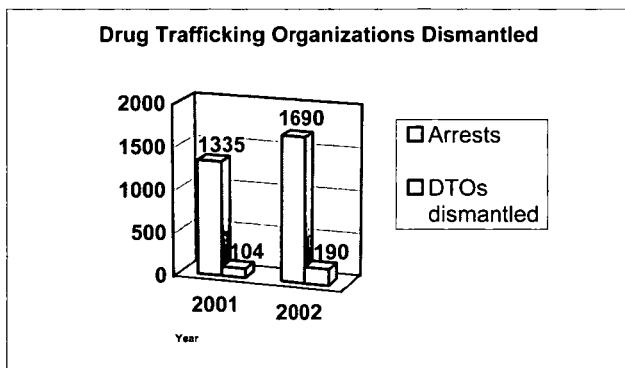
executives from federal, state and local agencies to develop a regional threat assessment and determine a strategy of attacking the drug trafficking organizations.

Investigative Support Center:

The New England HIDTA's Investigative Support Center (ISC) consists of two operational components: the Watch Center and the Analytical Services section which are managed by the FBI and co-managed by the Massachusetts State Police. The ISC is made up of investigators and intelligence analysts from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The mission of the ISC is to proactively collect, evaluate, collate, analyze and disseminate detailed and relevant all-source information concerning drug trafficking and money laundering operations. An integral component governing the success of the NEHIDTA is the free exchange of intelligence information among all HIDTA participants and other federal, state and local agencies throughout the region. The analytical section and watch center provide support to major investigations. These investigations have resulted in 1,690 arrests and 190 drug trafficking organizations dismantled for 2002.

The ISC utilizes advanced computer technology to assist in the collection, analysis, retrieval, and dissemination of all the collected data. The ISC has a protocol for documenting major criminal conspiracies, which is utilized to support historical conspiracy prosecutions on significant drug trafficking organizations operating in New England. The New England Watch Center has partnered with the Gulf Coast, Houston, Atlanta and Mid-West, West Texas and Appalachia HIDTA's users group to provide input and utilize an Internet based Event and Target Deconfliction application. The NEHIDTA ISC is linked to and utilizes federal, state and local intelligence databases, such as FBI, ACS, DEA DRUG X, ICE TECSII, US

Marshall's Service Warrant Information Management System, MA Board of Probations, MA State Police RAMS NESPIN, CT Suspect Pointer Index System, VT Suspect Pointer Index System and the Norfolk County Sheriff's Department. The NEHIDTA provides outstanding support to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.



Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, JTF-6, United States Attorney's for New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, United States Coast Guard, United States Marshals for Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, United States Postal Service, United States Secret Service and Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

State: Connecticut State Police, Attorney General's Office, Connecticut, Connecticut National Guard, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, Maine State Police, Attorney General's Office, Maine, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Department of Corrections, Massachusetts Parole Office Attorney General's Office, Massachusetts, Massachusetts National Guard, New Hampshire State Police, New Hampshire National Guard, New Hampshire Attorney

General's Drug Task Force, Attorney General's Office, New Hampshire, Rhode Island State Police, Rhode Island National Guard, Attorney General's Office, Rhode Island, Vermont State Police, Vermont National Guard, Attorney General's Office, Rhode Island, Rhode Island Airport Police.

Local: Ansonia, CT Police Department, Auburn, MA Police Department, Boston, MA Police Department, Branford, CT Police Department, Bridgeport, CT Police Department, Bridgeton ME Police Department, Brighton, ME Police Department, Bristol, CT Police Department, Brockton, MA, Police Department, Brookfield, CT, Police Department, Burlington, VT, Police Department, Central Falls, RI, Police Department, Chelsea, MA Police Department, Chittenden County, VT, Sheriff's Department, Cranston, RI Police Department, Derby, CT Police Department, Easton, CT Police Department, East Hartford, CT Police Department, East Haven, CT Police Department, East Providence, RI Police Department, Enfield, CT Police Department, Essex County, MA, District Attorney's Office, Essex, VT, Police Department, Fairfield, CT, Police Department, Fitchburg, MA Police Department, Framingham, MA Police Department, Franklin, MA Police Department, Gardner, MA Police Department, Greenwich, CT, Police Department, Groton, CT, Police Department, Hamden, CT Police Department, Hartford, CT, Police Department, Hopkinton, RI Police Department, Lawrence, MA, Police Department, Lewiston, ME, Police Department, Lowell, MA Police Department, Lynn, MA Police Department, Madison, CT Police Department, Manchester, NH Police Department, MBTA, Police Department, Methuen, MA, Police Department, Milford, CT Police Department, Milford, MA Police Department, Nashua, NH Police Department, Naugatuck, CT Police Department, New Britain, CT Police

Department, Newburyport, MA Police Department, New Haven, CT, Police Department, New London, CT, Police Department, New Milford, Ct, Police Department, Newtown, CT, Police Department, North Andover, MA Police Department, Norwalk, CT, Police Department, Old Orchard Beach, ME, Police Department, Orange, CT Police Department, Pawtucket, RI Police Department, Portland, ME Police Department, Providence, RI, Police Department, Scarborough, ME, Police Department, Seymour, CT Police Department, Shelton, CT Police Department, Southbridge, MA Police Department, Southington, CT Police Department, South Burlington, VT Police Department, South Portland, ME Police Department, Spencer, MA Police Department, Stamford, CT Police Department, Stratford, CT Police Department, Sturbridge, MA Police Department, Trumball, CT Police Department, Waterbury, CT Police Department, Watertown, MA Police Department, Warwick, RI Police Department, Webster, MA Police Department, Westbrook, ME Police Department, Westerly, RI Police Department, West Haven, CT Police Department, Woodbridge, CT Police Department, Woonsocket, RI Police Department, Worcester, MA Police Department.

Other: State Medical Examiners; State Directors of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and State/Local Directors of Emergency Medical Services in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, and Rhode Island. Essex County (Massachusetts) Sheriff's Department.

Significant Achievements:

Heroin Advisory Group - The New England HIDTA Heroin Advisory Group was formed to address the heroin epidemic in the six New England states caused by the very pure and potent heroin that is found throughout the region. The group consists of medical examiners, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, prevention and education specialists, treatment professionals, emergency service personnel and doctors. The Heroin Advisory Group has established a regional strategy and action items to deal with the heroin problem in a comprehensive, coordinated manner.

Investigative Support Center – Methuen, MA. The NEHIDTA Watch Center provided significant assistance that led to the identification and location of a subject directly responsible for the homicide of an on-duty Vermont State Police sergeant.

Greater Boston HIDTA Task Force – Boston, MA – In Lynn, MA this task force, in a Title III investigation indicted 26 members of a Dominican heroin/Ecstasy DTO. The second group of this task force, the Lawrence Enforcement Group, successfully dismantled the Latin Gangsta Disciples (LGD) and the Outlaws street gangs.

Central Massachusetts Task Force – Worcester, MA This task force targeted a Dominican Drug Trafficking Organization in Central Massachusetts. In three separate undercover purchases the heroin purity levels proved to be 94%, 88% and 81% respectively.

New England HIDTA Fugitive Task Force – Boston, MA - Since inception, this task force has arrested 269 federal fugitives and 576 state and local fugitives; 34 of these arrests were for homicides connected to drug violence.

Rhode Island Task Force – Providence, Rhode Island –This very successful task force targeted a Dominican trafficking group with the source of supply in New York. The

subsequent investigation and arrests disclosed two vehicles with hidden hydraulic compartments that were used to transport the cocaine from New York to Providence, RI.

New Haven-Fairfield County Task Force/Hartford County HIDTA

Transportation Task Force - Middletown, CT - These very successful task forces had over 600 arrests for 2002. These drug trafficking arrests were for significant amounts of heroin, crack cocaine and cocaine.

Providence County Transportation Task Force – Warwick, RI –As a result of a consensual encounter at T.F. Green Airport members of this task force initiated an investigation that resulted in seizures of 10 kilograms of cocaine, over one thousand MDMA tablets, thirty pounds of ketamine, 260 pounds of marijuana, three houses, eleven vehicles and approximately \$180,000 United States currency.

Northern New England Task Force – Concord, NH –This task force initiated 37 drug investigations, which is ten more than last year and arrested 60 mid to upper level traffickers.

New England HIDTA Financial Task Force - Boston, MA – The Financial Task Force worked closely with the Providence County Transportation Task Force in the successful prosecution of a large-scale marijuana trafficker with ties to the Southwest border.

Southern New England Task Force – Bridgeport, CT- This task force is investigating significant Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) and OCDETF cases. In one of these investigations 65 defendants were arrested and \$1.3 million in assets seized.

Northern Vermont Task Force - Burlington, VT - This task force identified, penetrated and immobilized three large scale, multi-state trafficking organizations operating in Vermont.

Northeast New England Task Force-

Portland, Maine - This task force targeted a Dominican drug trafficking organization from the Lowell/Lawrence, Massachusetts area. The source of supply and the distributor were arrested in this significant heroin investigation.

U.S./Canadian Border

The New England HIDTA has recently completed a Canadian-New England Border Threat Assessment and is in the process of developing a border strategy to address the increasing availability of high-grade hydroponically grown marijuana and other drugs entering the United States from Quebec.

North Florida HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 2001

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Florida: Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Contact: (904) 256-5903

Mission Statement:

The mission of the North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NFHIDTA) is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, related money laundering and violent crime in north Florida and other areas of the United States.

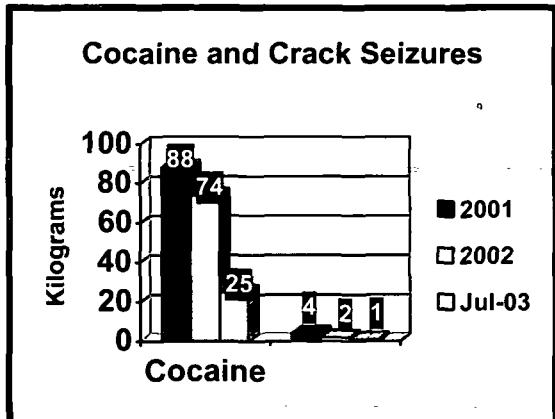
Threat Abstract:

COCAINE

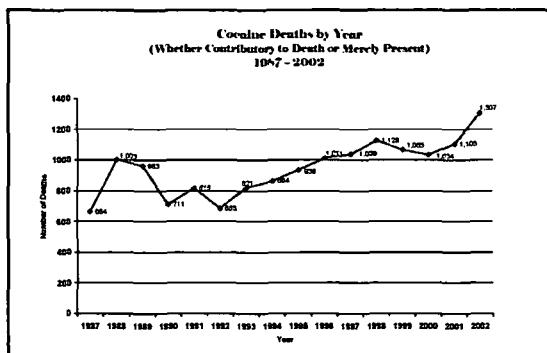
The demand, availability and abuse of illegal drugs are ever-present in the north Florida region. Cocaine HCl and crack cocaine remain the most widely used and distributed drugs in the NFHIDTA. Miami and the surrounding south Florida counties are the primary sources of cocaine HCl which is transported to north Florida in commercial and private vehicles and cooked into crack for resale in the NFHIDTA. Several areas in the

NFHIDTA are plagued by open-air crack markets. Violence attributed to its abuse and distribution is evident in the region.

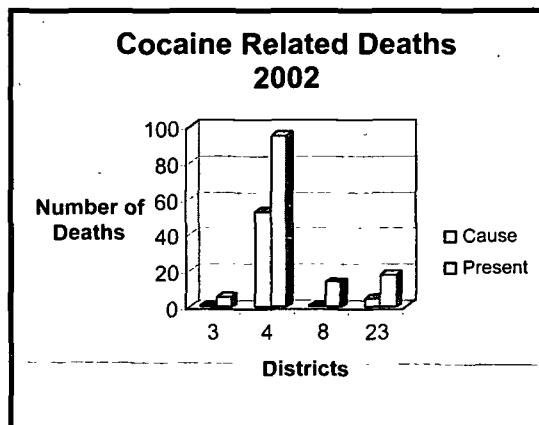
The chart below compares the cocaine and crack seizures made by agencies of the NFHIDTA during CY 2001, CY 2002 and through July 2003. Cocaine/crack distributors are employing counter-surveillance techniques, utilizing cell phones and automobiles more than in the past to conduct their illegal transactions.



**Cocaine Deaths by Year
(Whether Contributory or Merely Present)
1987-2002**



The above chart represents a steady increase in deaths in the state of Florida where cocaine was present in the decedent, as reported by the Florida Medical Examiners in their 2002 Report.

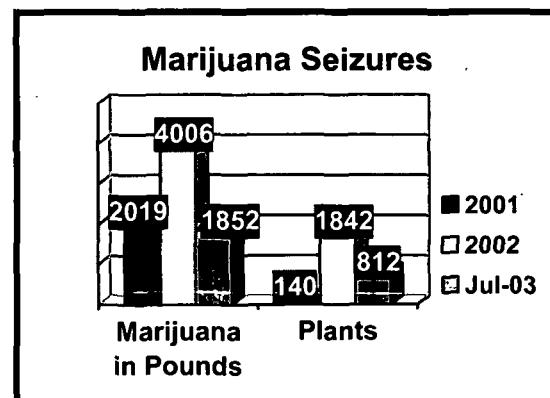


The above chart reflects CY 2002 deaths caused by cocaine and where cocaine

was present in the decedent in four north Florida districts, according to the Florida Medical Examiner's 2002 Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons.

MARIJUANA

Marijuana abuse spans all ages and socioeconomic levels and is considered the second greatest drug threat in the NFHIDTA and most of its surrounding counties. Imported and domestic marijuana are plentiful in the NFHIDTA. The Drug Enforcement Administration's FY 2002 Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program (DCE/SP) statistics for the north Florida region revealed that 112 marijuana sites (30 indoor and 82 outdoor) with a total of 8,923 plants were seized. Marijuana is also imported from source areas such as Canada (BC Bud) and the Southwest Border, and to a lesser extent, Jamaica. There is an increased use of parcel delivery services in the smuggling of marijuana from the southwest border to the NFHIDTA agencies. The chart below reflects the marijuana and marijuana plants seizures effected by the NFHIDTA during CY 2001, CY 2002 and through July 2003.

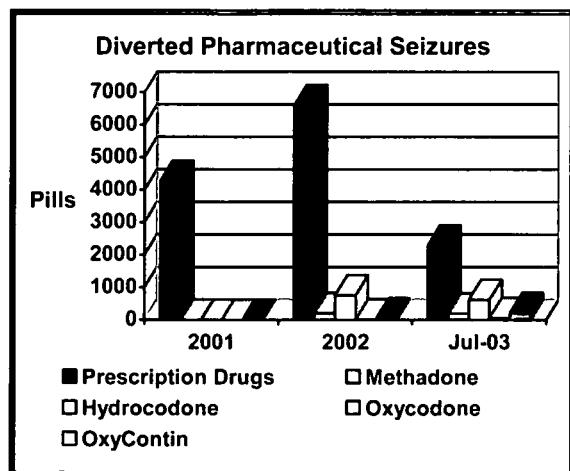


DIVERTED PHARMACEUTICALS

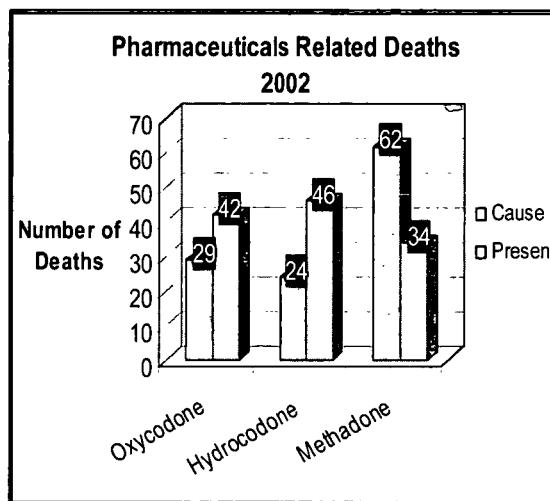
The diversion of pharmaceuticals, particularly OxyContin, methadone and hydrocodone is an ongoing problem. The

overall demand for diverted pharmaceuticals is high and increasing. Individuals are using foreign based pharmacies via the Internet to fill their prescriptions. This poses a serious concern for law enforcement as there is usually no doctor-patient relationship established. Law enforcement officials reported that interdicted packages containing pharmaceuticals obtained illegally from overseas pharmacies were not clearly or accurately labeled. They contained more and sometimes different pills than the packages and the labels stated. A Prescription and Designer Drug Initiative was established in 2003 to address this growing threat.

The chart below compares the diverted pharmaceuticals seized by agencies in the NFHIDTA initiatives in 2001, 2002 and through July 2003.



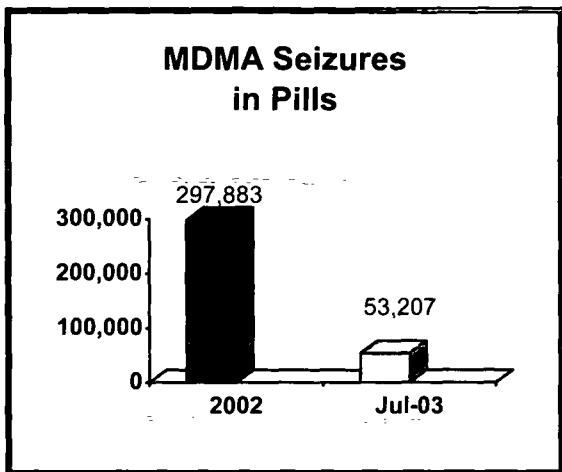
The chart below shows the CY 2002 deaths caused by and where oxycodone, hydrocodone or methadone were present in the decedent in four north Florida districts, according to the Florida Medical Examiner's 2002 Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons.



MDMA

MDMA continues to be a significant problem, with a proliferation of all-night clubs that provide an atmosphere conducive to its sale and abuse. Intelligence indicates that large quantities of MDMA continue to be imported into south Florida from Europe. The main source areas of the MDMA found in the NFHIDTA are south and central Florida. Many law enforcement officials have expressed concern that the recent emergence of traditional crack cocaine dealers into the MDMA distribution arena may lead to associated violence.

The chart below compares the number of MDMA pills seized by the agencies in the NFHIDTA initiatives in CY 2002 and through July 2003.



A continuing trend is for users to combine MDMA with a pharmaceutical to counter the negative effects of Ecstasy. Two popular combinations are Ecstasy and Viagra and Ecstasy and Prozac. Doctors warn that combining the drugs can cause heart problems or lead to anatomical damage.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine abuse and production are emerging as a significant threat in the NFHIDTA. The production and availability of methamphetamine in the north Florida region are increasing at an alarming rate. Intelligence indicates that methamphetamine is predominantly "cooked" in rural areas of north Florida. The Nazi Method, or Pseudoephedrine with Anhydrous Ammonia, is the most widely used production method in north Florida. Violent crimes, such as robbery and murder are attributed to methamphetamine abuse and production in the NFHIDTA.

Strategy Abstract:

Each NFHIDTA participating initiative has its own strategies, requirements and missions. The NFHIDTA Executive Board coordinates the integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking, eliminate unnecessary duplication of equipment or effort, and promote the sharing of drug intelligence and targeting information.

The NFHIDTA Executive Board is comprised of sixteen members from federal, state and local agencies. In CY 2003, the Executive Board is chaired by Sheriff Neil Perry, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, with Randall Bohman, DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge, as the vice chair. Since the designation of NFHIDTA in 2001, the large number of participating agencies have worked together to coordinate drug suppression activities. The activities have extended throughout the eight counties within the NFHIDTA and enhanced the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida; four State Attorney's Offices; nine federal; four state and ten local agencies. Partnerships have been established with 99 full-time and 23 part-time participants in ten current initiatives. The partnerships formed balance the efforts to attack drug trafficking within the region and across the country at every level.

The diversity of the drug trafficking/money laundering problem in the NFHIDTA requires a law enforcement approach that includes multi-agency intelligence sharing. The unique geography of the area is also addressed in this approach. The collocation of the multi-agency task forces fosters open lines of

communication and provides for a coordinated law enforcement effort. The NFHIDTA is comprised of ten initiatives in FY 2003 which employs seven enforcement initiatives, one intelligence initiative and two support initiatives. The intelligence initiative is the Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center (NeFISC) and the support initiatives include the administrative and training components. These initiatives focus on disrupting and dismantling local, regional, national, and international drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. It is important to note that a strong and productive relationship exists between the OCDETF and the NFHIDTA programs in north Florida. The standard for the NFHIDTA is the development of OCDETF/ CPOT/ RPOT designated investigations. The NFHIDTA initiatives are seamlessly organized into subsystems that focus on a counterdrug emphasis.

Investigative Support Center:

The NFHIDTA administrative component is collocated with the Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center (NeFISC). The NeFISC is a multi-agency criminal investigative support center consisting of a coalition of collocated local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The Center is staffed by representatives from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Internal Revenue Service, State Fire Marshal, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Florida National Guard. This Center currently supports a thirteen (13) county area that includes the eight (8) counties which make up the NFHIDTA. The NeFISC was designed

to assist law enforcement agencies to identify, target, arrest, and prosecute key members of criminal organizations by facilitating a rapid and free exchange of information through enhanced coordination and communications. Currently, all the NFHIDTA initiatives are on the RISS.net system. It serves as the hub for the development, fielding and export of automated information and networks in support of law enforcement operations. The goals of the Center are to produce and provide strategic and organizational intelligence, enhance information sharing and cooperation, ensure officer safety through the use of NINJAS, and to ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness for all participating agencies. To better achieve these goals, all the analysts from the Center attended basic and advanced Pen Link training. Several analysts have attended training for the Clan Lab Seizure System database housed at El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), which will allow for strategic analysis of the threat of methamphetamine in the region. Several of the analysts have attended financial investigative techniques training, which gave rise to utilizing more superior techniques to aiding financial investigations. The Center will also assist in active case analysis, post seizure and post arrest analysis, telephone toll analysis, trial preparation, and counterdrug training. In addition to case support, the Center researches current economic, drug and violent crime threats affecting this region and presents this intelligence in a written document for dissemination.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Drug Enforcement

Administration; Department of Labor; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Internal Revenue Service; Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Naval Criminal Investigative Service; U.S. Marshals Service; and U.S. Coast Guard.

State/Local: Baker County Sheriff's Office; Baldwin Police Department; Clay County Sheriff's Office; Flagler County Sheriff's Office; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Florida Highway Patrol; Florida National Guard; Jacksonville Beach Police Department; Jacksonville International Airport; Jacksonville Sheriff's Office; Ocala Police Department; Marion County Sheriff's Office; Orange Park Police Department; Palatka Police Department; State Fire Marshal; St. Augustine Police Department; St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Significant Achievements:

The NFHIDTA initiatives have made outstanding achievements in disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations that have been identified in the region. Their combined efforts have led to successfully disrupting eighteen and dismantling four of the 24 identified drug trafficking organizations in the NFHIDTA.

In addition to the success in disrupting and eliminating 92% of the DTOs in the region, the NFHIDTA initiatives are currently involved with several long term investigations, involving money laundering and various drugs being trafficked to and through the region.

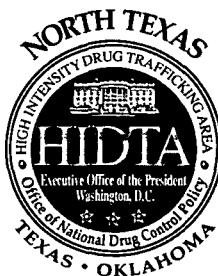
NFHIDTA analysts in conjunction with members of the UDEST initiative are

currently involved in an investigation that focuses on a Colombian financial cell operating in Marion County. To date, approximately 30 bank accounts have been identified and sealed indictments are planned for the subjects involved.

NFHIDTA analysts are supporting an investigation initiated by the CNTI initiative that focuses on drug trafficking organizations that transport large quantities of marijuana from California and the southwest border to the NFHIDTA. These organizations utilize various mail facilities, such as FEDEX and UPS, to ship the contraband. Subsequently, the marijuana is distributed to cities in the southeast U.S. NFHIDTA analysts are keeping track of these shipments and the packaging labels, performing post-seizure analyses, and have been instrumental in identifying trafficking routes and patterns.

The CNTI initiative is involved in an on-going investigation of an auto transport company. The subjects, who have Jamaican connections, were transporting multi-pound quantities of Tex-Mex marijuana from California to Jacksonville via car haulers. To date, the initiative has made two seizures from this company. One was for 216 pounds of marijuana and a firearm. The other was for 505 pounds of marijuana secreted in several vehicles on the hauler.

North Texas HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Texas: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Lubbock, Navarro, Parker, Rockwall, Smith and Tarrant Counties.

Oklahoma: Cleveland, Comanche, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Sequoyah, and Tulsa Counties.

Contact: (972) 915-9500

Mission Statement:

The mission of the North Texas HIDTA is to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and drug related violence by attacking, disrupting, dismantling, and destroying drug trafficking organizations throughout the North Texas HIDTA, by arresting and convicting principals, seizing their contraband and assets, and reducing the demand for drugs in the region.

Threat Abstract:

The North Texas HIDTA has become a strategic location for the production, smuggling, transportation, and nationwide distribution of illegal drugs. The Dallas/Fort Worth Metropolitan region is the ninth largest and the third fastest growing metropolitan area in the country, and is encompassed within this HIDTA. The

Oklahoma region, designated as part of this HIDTA in 2002, includes the major population centers of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The proximity of these areas to the Mexican border, as well as their centralized location in the United States, make these attractive areas for Mexican poly-drug trafficking organizations to establish their base of operations. The attractiveness of this region to Drug Trafficking Organizations is further enhanced by the largest transportation network in the Southwest, with DFW Airport the third busiest airport in the United States; highly developed highway corridors such as I-20, I-30, I-35 and I-45 in Texas, and I-35, I-40 and I-44 in Oklahoma, providing direct access from the Southwest border to major cities in the Midwest and East Coast of the United States; and as home to many major shipping, transportation and multinational corporations. The Dallas / Fort Worth area

is a primary banking and financial center of the Southwest, which is attractive to drug traffickers seeking to launder their illegal drug proceeds. Oklahoma has the largest number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in the Midwest United States with 1254 seized in 2002, and is a major supplier of precursor chemicals to other regions of the country.

The major identified drug threats to this region are as follows: Drug Trafficking Organizations, primarily of Mexican origin but including Colombian, Caribbean, local street gangs, and other organized groups, who are engaged in smuggling, transporting, and distributing, locally as well as nationally, large quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, and "designer" drugs; production of methamphetamine in clandestine Oklahoma laboratories and distribution of precursor chemicals from Oklahoma to other areas; Money Laundering Organizations which utilize the financial infrastructure in the North Texas HIDTA to launder the illegal proceeds resulting from their drug trafficking activities; and a high level of violent crime in the major population centers, utilizing firearms, which is directly related to drug trafficking activities.

Strategy Abstract:

The strategy of the North Texas HIDTA is to accomplish its mission of reducing the availability of illegal drugs and drug related violence, through the following means: a) broad Federal, state and local participation in HIDTA initiatives – personnel dedicated to HIDTA initiatives in Texas and Oklahoma represent a total of 42 law enforcement agencies; b) provide enhanced coordination, sharing of resources and targeting of the most significant drug trafficking organizations, through the consolidation of all Texas enforcement

efforts into one initiative (the Texas Enforcement Initiative), led by an Operations Manager, and consisting of six component investigative squads; c) increased targeting of OCDETF and CPOT/RPOT level investigations by all initiatives; d) operation of the Regional Intelligence Support Center, with two sub units – East Texas Intelligence Unit and the Oklahoma Intelligence Center, to provide drug threat assessment, deconfliction of investigations and operational events, and investigative case support for the HIDTA initiatives; and e) operation of a well managed HIDTA program, led by the Executive Board and implemented by the HIDTA Director, to achieve financial efficiency to provide the maximum support for operational needs.

Investigative Support Center:

The Regional Intelligence Support Center (RISC), jointly led by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Dallas Police Department and staffed with intelligence analysts and officers from a variety of Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, provides intelligence support and sharing of information to all North Texas HIDTA member agencies. This initiative operates a Watch Center for officer safety and processes approximately 5000 deconfliction inquiries per year of subjects and drug operations for all law enforcement agencies within the region. It also directly supports the North Texas HIDTA investigative initiatives by identifying major drug trafficking organizations and providing analysis of the patterns and trends of these organizations – 445 intelligence profiles were produced last year; profiling significant and / or new drugs of abuse and the methods used in the distribution of these drugs; identifying crimes related to drug trafficking and their relationship to the targeted drug trafficking organizations;

providing research for North Texas HIDTA initiatives, of all major law enforcement intelligence systems and public information data bases; providing specific case support to the North Texas HIDTA investigative initiatives -12,000 database searches were conducted and 245,000 telephone toll records were processed last year; and promoting the participation by area law enforcement agencies in the RISC. The East Texas Intelligence Unit, led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and located in Smith County at Tyler, Texas, functions as a component of the RISC. It provides intelligence services and other investigative assistance in East Texas to existing Federal, state and local drug enforcement agencies and task forces. The Oklahoma Intelligence Center, led by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and located at the DEA office in Oklahoma City, will coordinate and provide intelligence services to the Oklahoma region law enforcement agencies and the HIDTA investigative initiatives in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, when fully staffed.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Housing and Urban Development, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service, United States Marshal's Service.

State: Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas National Guard, Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics.

Local:

(Texas)

Collin County Sheriff's Office, Dallas County District Attorney, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Denton County Sheriff's Office, Ellis County Sheriff's Office, Gregg County Sheriff's Office, Gregg County

District Attorney, Harrison County District Attorney, Smith County Sheriff's Office, Smith County District Attorney, Navarro County Sheriff's Office, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Arlington Police Department, Carrollton Police Department, Coppell Police Department, Dallas Police Department, Denton Police Department, Euless Police Department, Fort Worth Police Department, Garland Police Department, Grand Prairie Police Department, Irving Police Department, Kilgore Police Department, Longview Police Department, Marshall Police Department, Plano Police Department, Richardson Police Department, Tyler Police Department.

(Oklahoma)

Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, Norman Police Department, Midwest City Police Department, Tulsa Police Department, Tulsa Sheriff's Office, Broken Arrow Police Department, Owasso Police Department, Jenks Police Department.

Significant Achievements:

Willis Washington Case:

The North Texas HIDTA, Eastern Drug Squad (DEA) and the Ellis County Narcotics Task Force initiated an investigation of Willis Washington, who was residing in southeast Dallas and selling large quantities of crack cocaine in Dallas and Ellis Counties. A court ordered Title III intercept was initiated on Washington and it was determined that his organization was supplying cocaine to Oklahoma, Jackson MS, and Columbus Ohio.

Once the organization's source of supply was identified the Eastern Drug Squad began to move this investigation up the supply chain of command. A total of nine

(9) Title III's were initiated targeting associated organization subjects and their Mexican drug suppliers. These Title III's resulted in the interception of over 34,000 telephone calls and required extensive surveillance, including surveillance outside of the Dallas area. Other North Texas HIDTA Squads assisted the investigation on several occasions and DEA Offices in McAlester, Waco, San Antonio, and Laredo provided significant assistance to the development of various phases of this case. This investigation confirmed this organization is linked to both the Osiel Cardenas Guillen Organization and the Chapo Guzman Organization in Mexico.

This investigation resulted in the seizures of 10 pounds methamphetamine, 158 kilos of cocaine, six vehicles, \$2,694,440 U.S Currency, a number of weapons, and the arrests of 26 members of the organization in Texas and Oklahoma. From this investigation it was also learned this organization sent cocaine to North Dakota and a spin-off investigation there resulted in the seizure of over 160 kilos of cocaine and \$2.8 million dollars.

This case was a DEA Priority case as well as an OCDETF investigation. It has received the OCDETF Regional Investigative award and the case agents have also received awards from the International Enforcement Officers Association for this investigation.

Scotty Jay Pilcher Case:

The North Texas HIDTA, Northern Drug Squad (FBI) initiated an investigation on the Scotty Jay Pilcher Organization, based upon reports of a large-scale methamphetamine distribution organization operating within the Collin and Denton Counties areas of North Texas, which was directly associated with this subject. Through this investigation, approximately 50 individuals involved in the manufacture, distribution

and sale of large quantities of methamphetamine associated with this organization were identified. Members of the Northern Drug Squad worked directly with representatives from at least 20 different Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies as well as various state and local prosecutors, including the DEA; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; US Marshal's Service; Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Service (DPS/NS); DPS Motor Vehicle Theft Service; DPS Highway Patrol; Collin County Sheriff's Office; Cooke County Sheriff's Office; Grayson County Sheriff's Office; Denton County Sheriff's Office; Collinsville PD; Denton PD; Denison PD; Lindsey PD; North Central Texas Narcotics Task Force; Pilot Point PD; Pottsboro PD; Sanger PD; Sherman PD; and the Whitesboro PD. The Northern Drug Squad met with and obtained historical investigative material from these agencies to identify 33 separate overt acts targeting 18 main subjects. The supporting documentation resulted in the indictment of 18 subjects, with 17 subjects arrested and one fugitive. Eight subjects have pled guilty while 12 have signed plea agreements. The arrested subjects have begun to cooperate fully which has resulted in further investigations. The conspiracy charges have been expanded to encompass additional subjects involved in the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine identified through investigation. A superceding indictment for 12 subjects is pending. The Northern Drug Squad investigation has provided case specific information to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which has fully identified 12 additional subjects for indictment in a companion investigation.

The trust, rapport, and camaraderie developed through this cooperative investigation, as well as the common

mission of all parties to reduce methamphetamine trafficking, should benefit all related agencies in future investigations and significant case referrals. Reciprocal information sharing is directly responsible for the successes in this investigation. State and Local law enforcement agencies have advised that the dismantlement of this organization will have a tremendous impact and is expected to significantly reduce the amount of methamphetamine available in Denton, Collin, Cooke, and Grayson Counties.

Northern California HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1997

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

California: Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma counties.

Contact: (415) 436-8530

Mission Statement:

The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) established the Northern California HIDTA (NC HIDTA) in 1997 with a defined mission to substantially reduce drug related crime and violence by measurably reducing drug trafficking. This mission is addressed through a cooperative approach to law enforcement that enables Federal, State and local multi-agency drug enforcement teams to leverage resources and information.

The 2003 National Drug Control Strategy has refocused the mission of the NC HIDTA Program nationally, as well as in Northern California. The revised mission of the NC HIDTA is:

To reduce drug availability by creating

intelligence driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences by enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking control efforts among Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies.

This mission is focused through initiatives specializing in intelligence, investigation, interdiction and prosecution.

Threat Abstract:

The San Francisco Bay Area has a population of more than seven million people and remains one of the most costly areas in the United States to live. The NC HIDTA consists of 10,866 square miles organized into ten counties: Lake, Marin, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Sonoma, Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Monterey. These racial and

ethically diverse counties continue to be primary manufacturing, trans-shipment, distribution and consumption areas for illegal drugs. Three large cities, over 100 smaller cities and eight Indian reservations, are located in the region. The three large cities (San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose) each has its own international airports and other major transportation facilities. Interstate freeways bring millions of cars and trucks transiting from Mexico, Canada, and other states. Law enforcement is provided to the area by over 100 local and State law enforcement agencies and 15 Federal agencies.

This document examines trends and related factors for the purpose of identifying the illegal drug threat in this region. Specific finds include:

Methamphetamine manufactured in the NC HIDTA region is distributed to a growing customer base, not only regionally but also throughout the United States. Methamphetamine consumption and manufacturing continues to flourish in the NC HIDTA region. The user population is diverse. Mexican National Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) serve as the primary manufacturing and distribution groups for methamphetamine, which distribute their product across California and the nation.

Although methamphetamine can be consumed in a variety of ways, the most common method of ingestion in this region for both crystal (ice) and powder Methamphetamine is smoking. An emerging concern is the two-fold increase in the reported HIV infection rate of those who use ice. The reported increase in use is consistent with the information from area treatment providers who also report that methamphetamine is most difficult drug use to treat. Methamphetamine abusers are often excitable, displaying varying degrees

of agitation and paranoia, frequently associated with violent behavior.

The environmental damage caused by clandestine methamphetamine laboratories is difficult to measure because the true extent of the environmental damage may not be manifested for many years. The research by the State of California and others has demonstrated that the improper disposal of clandestine laboratory waste permanently damages soil and the aquifers and watersheds that are a source of waters for rural and urban areas. The total expenditure in 2002 associated with clandestine laboratory cleanups in the NC HIDTA region was \$479,105.

Emerging threats are MDMA, Ketamine, GHB, Rohypnol, PCP, and other so-called "Club Drugs", which are readily available and increasing in popularity in the urban areas of the NC HIDTA region. These drugs have become a high priority for many law enforcement agencies within the ten-county area. NC HIDTA has established a club drug initiative to address this growing problem.

Cocaine and heroin prices remain stable in the region, indicating the continuous availability to users, while at the same time, area treatment providers indicate the addict population is increasing. The area continues to be a destination and trans-shipment point for cocaine and black tar heroin smuggled across the Mexican border by Mexican DTOs. Most of the heroin and cocaine imported for trans-shipment is destined for the Pacific Northwest and Midwest.

Marijuana availability continues to be a threat. Marijuana is imported into the area from Mexico, Canada, and domestic source areas. Within the area, large commercial marijuana plantations are frequently seized

on both private and public lands. The trend of Mexican National DTOs controlling these major operations continues. Medicinal cannabis cultivation cooperatives and sales to purported medically qualified people is a difficult issue, which occasionally brings Federal and local agencies into conflict. Federal agencies investigating these operations for violation of Federal law find that local agencies are frequently unable to assist in these investigations due to directives from their local political leadership

There are a number of locations within the area where narcotics trafficking is openly transacted by local criminal gangs and unorganized groups. The incidents of inter-gang violence involving firearms is increasing between rival gangs associated with the methamphetamine trade. Illustrative of the problem is the city of Oakland homicide rate of 28:100,000 during 2002 (113 total murders) compared with a rate of 7.6:100,000 for San Francisco and 2.1:100,000 for San Jose, the other two large cities in the area. Oakland authorities attribute a high percentage of the violence homicides to inter gang conflict and the open market nature of narcotics trafficking in some areas of their city, giving the city of Oakland one of the highest homicide rates in the United States in 2002.

Although not expected to have a major impact on the area, recent seizures of Khat shipped into the area from Somalia and Yemen illustrate the changing nature of the demographics of the region and the need for the NC HIDTA to continue its training efforts to enlighten law enforcement of the emergence of new drug threats.

Strategy Abstract:

The NC HIDTA coordinates the integration and synchronization of multiple agencies' efforts to reduce the availability and trafficking of methamphetamine, heroin, and club drugs, reduce the crime and violence associated with drug trafficking, eliminate unnecessary duplication of equipment or effort, and promote the sharing of drug intelligence and targeting information. This is done by implementation of the mission statement by the Executive Board, through the NC HIDTA Director and each initiative.

The NC HIDTA Executive Committee is comprised of 16 members from Federal, State, and local agencies. The Executive Committee monitors the implementation of this strategy to ensure the joint efforts of the NC HIDTA initiatives achieve the desired results. The Committee provides program priorities and guidance to the NC HIDTA Director. The NC HIDTA Director is selected by the Executive Committee and provides the day-to-day coordination critical to the success of the NC HIDTA and its individual initiatives, and ensures that national program goals and procedures are followed by the Executive Committee and NC HIDTA initiatives. During 2003, the NC HIDTA consisted of a 16 member Board, Director, Deputy Director, administrative unit, Investigative Support Center (ISC), training initiative, and 13 enforcement initiatives.

Investigative Support Center:

In support of the initiatives, NC HIDTA organized the Bay Area Narcotics Information Network (BAYNIN) initiative. The BAYNIN mission is to bring the geographically diverse task forces of the NC HIDTA together, eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, maximizing resources, and improving intelligence and information

sharing within the NC HIDTA.

The BAYNIN Intelligence Group supports priority investigations region-wide. Connections between criminal groups are found by bringing analysts and investigators together, and by storing investigative data in NC HIDTA databases. This pooling of intelligence in a central location provides a conduit for developing and passing leads from one investigator to another. These investigators may be in the local area or in other states. The sharing within and across regions benefits the NC HIDTA and the nationwide drug enforcement effort.

The BAYNIN Intelligence Group provides 24 hour/day, 7 day/week information sharing and critical event deconfliction through its contract with the Western States Information Network (WSIN) and the Los Angeles Clearinghouse (LA CLEAR). These deconfliction services and WSIN, access provided by LA CLEAR, bring investigators and information together. A query to LA CLEAR can identify other agencies that are interested in the same target, or which are operating in close proximity to each other.

BAYNIN personnel provide centralized analytical and post-seizure analysis services to all the NC HIDTA initiatives. In addition to the High Intensity Financial Crimes Area (HIFCA) investigators, NC HIDTA maintains and staffs a wire intercept room containing the most advanced surveillance equipment available. This facility is available for use by any of the NC HIDTA initiatives or agencies. Information gathered through the use of this technology is shared with the BAYNIN Intelligence Group for analysis and data sharing.

A regional equipment pool has been established by BAYNIN to make high technology counterdrug equipment available

to all agencies within the NC HIDTA. The pool specializes in equipment that is too expensive for a single agency to own, but used frequently on a regional basis. The equipment pool is accessible 24 hours, seven days a week.

The ISC also provides computer forensic support to NC HIDTA initiatives. Trained technicians are available to assist agents with the seizure of computers and related equipment and then later to conduct a forensic analysis of the equipment.

Significant Achievements:

Drug Trafficking Over the Internet:

The Marin County Task Force is a NC HIDTA multi-agency, collocated initiative, managed by the Marin County Sheriff's Office, targeting methamphetamine traffickers. In the winter of 2003, task force officers became aware of a local Marin resident who was dealing large quantities of methamphetamine (ice) to local users. During the course of the investigation, task force officers developed evidence that the suspect was conducting transactions with a Southern California source by use of email, the Internet and FedEx. BAYNIN provided analytical and computer forensic support to the investigation. Task force officers, along with the DEA's Los Angeles Metro Unit and the NC HIDTA's CFU, served several search warrants on locations in Northern and Southern California. The warrants netted a total of 1-½ pounds of methamphetamine, \$2,500 in U.S. currency, six computers, and four boxes full of computer storage media. The search of the electronic storage media resulted in the seizure of the documentation of methamphetamine sales made entirely over the Internet. Remarkably, in one video clip seized, the suspect is displaying bags of methamphetamine, presumably to a potential buyer via video phone.

The South Bay Methamphetamine Task Force is a multi-agency, collocated initiative, managed by the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (DOJ/BNE) in conjunction with the DEA Oakland office, targeting suppliers of pseudoephedrine, ephedrine pills, and methamphetamine. Additional conspirators have been identified through dialed number recorders (pen registers or DNRs) and three Title III telephone intercepts. One clandestine lab was seized during 2002, and another was seized in early 2003. Almost two tons of pseudoephedrine pills and 33 pounds of methamphetamine have been seized in this case (some in early 2003). NC HIDTA Intelligence and equipment pool resources have assisted this case.

In February 2003, the South Bay Methamphetamine Task Force completed a 3 year, 7 month, joint investigation with the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the DEA into the "Las Puercas" methamphetamine drug trafficking organization, cumulating in the arrest of 11 defendants and the seizure of over 64,500 grams of methamphetamine.

The Alameda County Violent Crime Gang Task Force is a multi-agency, collocated initiative, co-managed by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and DOJ/BNE. This case was initiated in early 2002. Participating agencies included the FBI, DEA, CHP and numerous other local law enforcement agencies. This task force receives support from BAYNIN (Intelligence Group and equipment pool) and is working closely on this investigation with other NC HIDTA funded initiatives. The case involved a DTO that transported between 30 and 50 kilograms of cocaine a week from the Los Angeles area to numerous locations in

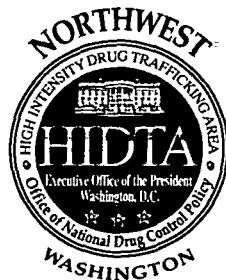
Alameda County. The end result of this operation was the arrest of 3 individuals, 9 pounds of methamphetamine, and over \$95,000 in U.S. currency. The NC HIDTA technical equipment pool provided 2 DNRs and a camera. A total of 6 DNRs were monitored during the case.

San Francisco Campaign Against Drug Abuse (CADA) is a multi-agency, collocated initiative, managed by the DOJ/BNE. This initiative is intended to close the gap between the substance abuse community and law enforcement. Working with law enforcement and social service agencies, CADA diverts hardcore substance abusers toward the City's Drug Court system or to other treatment programs. The BAYNIN Intelligence Group performs the data analysis. This program is very popular in San Francisco, so data is frequently used for briefings of community groups, city officials, and the police department. During 2002, 309 individuals were cited for violations to California Health and Safety Code 11550, "Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance" and given the option to go into treatment.

The East Bay Heroin/Methamphetamine Task Force is a multi-agency, collocated initiative, managed by DOJ/BNE. This case concluded after a 16-month investigation into a significant heroin trafficker organization operating throughout the East and South regions of the NC HIDTA. Other NC HIDTA initiates, including the ISC, FBI and DEA, contributed resources to the investigation that resulted in the arrest of 9 significant heroin distributors, 3 of whom are members of a violent street gang operating in North Richmond.

These few examples demonstrate NC HIDTA initiatives working in conjunction with other State and Federal agencies in successfully implementing the NC HIDTA counterdrug strategy.

Northwest HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1997

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Washington: Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima counties

Contact: Director Dave Rodriguez, telephone (206) 352-3600

Mission Statement:

The Northwest HIDTA mission is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, money laundering and drug-related crime and violence; and its mission is to reduce demand by supporting treatment and effective demand reduction programs. The Northwest HIDTA focuses on high-value trafficking targets and financial infrastructure.

Threat Abstract:

The Northwest HIDTA encompasses 14 counties extending from the US-Canada border, south through the State Capital in Olympia to the Washington-Oregon border. It extends east through the Yakima Valley to the Washington-Idaho border east of Spokane. Washington State has a population of over 6.1 million. The majority of the population is primarily concentrated in the west

with most of the state's industry, whereas the eastern half is primarily agricultural.

Land Threat – Washington's highway system, specifically the I-5 corridor, remains the most commonly used drug smuggling route into and through the region. The National Forests and National Parks are another commonly used route for the movement of drugs, and money. At the US-Canada border, high potency marijuana or "BC Bud" continues to come south, and cocaine and money move north to Canada. It is estimated that 75 to 85 percent of the BC Bud crops, with an estimated worth in excess of 1 billion dollars, moves to the US market. The retail price of BC Bud crops is significantly higher in the United States. In Vancouver, British Columbia, BC Bud marijuana sells for \$1,500 to \$2,000 per pound, compared to \$3,000 per pound in Washington and

\$6,000 in California. Washington State is a primary staging area for smuggling of BC Bud into other states as far as Florida.

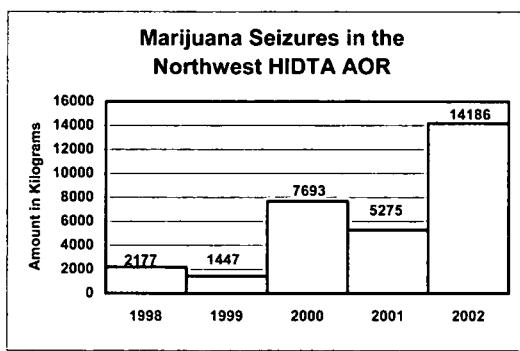
Seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) and pseudoephedrine (a methamphetamine precursor) from Canada appear to be increasing. Mexican-controlled drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) use the highway system to move black tar heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine to the state from California and Arizona. Since September 11, 2001 there has been a significant increase in security at the border ports of entry (POE). As a result, land routes between POEs are seeing increased activity in drug smuggling, and it appears that these activities are increasing in the eastern half of the state.

Maritime Threat – The Puget Sound contains numerous islands and an extensive internal shoreline. Over 1 million US and Canada registered vessels use the waterway between the two countries for commercial and recreational purposes. The combined ports of Seattle and Tacoma are the third largest load center in the United States with over 2.9 million 20-foot equivalent units (containers), annually. Increased enforcement efforts at land POEs have resulted in the increased use of maritime routes to transport drugs.

Air Threat – Washington State has 7 international airports, 138 public-landing sites, 100 heliports and numerous private-landing sites. Smugglers in the movement of illicit cargoes via air transportation have increasingly

exploited the “Open Skies” policy between the United States and Canada. There has also been an increase in the number of “air-drops” of contraband into the National Forests and National Parks.

Domestic Production – Locally obtained and imported precursors are used to produce a significant supply of methamphetamine, increasingly in rural areas. The state was ranked third in the nation in lab seizures for both 2001 and 2002. Indoor marijuana grows also provide a substantial supply of locally grown high potency cannabis, which rivals BC Bud, for state residents. However, in 2002 the number of marijuana plants eradicated from outdoor growing operations surpassed the number for indoor operations.



Strategy Abstract:

The design and placement of Northwest HIDTA initiatives brings a unique blend of law enforcement and prevention programs together to respond to the drug threat in the Pacific Northwest. They incorporate both sparse rural and dense urban areas. The geographic and demographic characteristics require that initiatives employ different strategies to meet the unique needs of each region. The unified approach to countering illegal drug use includes five mutually supportive subsystems: Intelligence, Investigation, Interdiction, Prosecution, and Support (e.g., Prevention).

HIDTA initiatives leverage existing task forces and funding sources to create even stronger enforcement programs. Although each agency might have its individual drug enforcement strategy,

the HIDTA program unites and combines resources for greater effectiveness against drug law violators. Initiatives stress the partnership, sharing, and co-location of multi-jurisdictional task forces throughout the HIDTA area. These enforcement groups concentrate efforts against the high-value drug trafficking organizations operating within the Northwest HIDTA counties and against the four most common drugs of abuse: methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. A Transportation Task Force concentrates on the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport as well as other means of transshipping drugs and drug profits.

The Northwest HIDTA coordinates and synchronizes task force efforts by providing significant investigative case analysis and intelligence information to each of these task forces. Since smuggling on the US-Canada border is commonplace, a tactical intelligence center is in place adjacent to the border. This Integrated Border Intelligence Team (IBIT) directly services border interdiction and enforcement teams while coordinating with the HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC). The IBIT accesses the Western States Information Network via the RISS.net to receive and share intelligence information. Border smugglers arrested with lesser drug quantities are charged in Washington State courts if prosecution is declined by the United States Attorney's Office. A HIDTA funded Whatcom County Deputy Prosecutor charges such individuals in state and county courts.

The Northwest HIDTA support initiatives include those efforts promoting drug education, drug courts, and building community coalitions with HIDTA funds.

Investigative Support Center:

The Northwest HIDTA Investigative Support Center is comprised of several components including an Information Services Unit, Analytical Unit, and the Administrative Unit with a Technical Equipment Program and an Information Technology (IT) component.

The Information Services Unit operates a Watch Center that provides critical event deconfliction services to all law enforcement agencies throughout the state for officer safety. The Watch Center is a node to the Western States Information Network, which is a member of the national Regional Information Sharing System. The Watch Center coordinates critical drug intelligence information among local, state, and federal agencies. The unit has a strategic function to prepare the *Threat Assessment* and *Annual Report*. In addition, the unit prepares special studies and augments the Analytical Unit in its investigative case analysis services.

The Analytical Unit enhances investigative functions of law enforcement agencies through delivery of analytical services. These services include communications analyses (i.e., toll activity during Title IIIs, mapping cell site activity, linking targets); database research using multiple agency and commercial databases; production of charts and graphs; post-seizure analysis of evidence; written analytical reports; and PowerPoint presentations. The products are prepared for participating agencies to assist in investigations from inception to trial. Written products, such as reports of investigation, are provided to participating agencies for use in their

reporting systems. Many of the investigations supported are designated Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) cases, have a money laundering element, or are complex and of long duration.

The Administrative Unit serves to provide training opportunities, Information Technology support, and Technical Equipment expertise. The training function of the Administrative Unit provides a wide array of training opportunities to intelligence center staff and law enforcement officers. The Information Technology personnel design, install, and support all of the information processing systems in the ISC and augment the IT activities of the Northwest HIDTA Initiatives. The Technical Equipment program loans, services, and installs evidence-gathering technical equipment needed in the conduct of drug investigations by local, state, and federal agencies.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Coast Guard; Drug Enforcement Administration; El Paso Intelligence Center; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation; Joint Task Force-6; Marshals Service; National Drug Intelligence Center; National Institute of Justice-ADAM Program; Office of Customs and Border Enforcement; Office of National Drug Control Policy; Secret Service; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; US Attorneys' Offices-Eastern/Western Districts of Washington; US Postal Inspection

Service; US Sentencing Commission; and USDA-Forest Service.

State/Local: Washington State Attorney General's Office-Criminal Investigation Section; Dept. of Community, Trade and Economic Development; Dept. of Corrections; Department of Ecology; Dept. of Natural Resources; Department of Social and Health Services-DASA, and Child Protective Services; Department of Transportation; Governor's Office on Indian Affairs; National Guard-Counterdrug Program; Office of Financial Management; Office of Lieutenant Governor; and Washington State Patrol. Bremerton, Mountlake Terrace, Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma Police Departments; Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit; Columbia River, Grays Harbor County, Northwest, Quad-Cities, and Tri-City Metro Drug Task Forces; Law Enforcement Against Drugs Task Force; Interagency, Unified, Valley, and West Sound Narcotics Enforcement Teams; Clark-Skamania, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum, Eastside, North Central Washington, Snohomish Regional, and Thurston County Narcotics Task Forces; Grant, King, Pierce, Spokane, Whatcom, and Yakima County Sheriff's Offices; Spokane and Whatcom County Prosecutors; and ESD 105-Yakima.

Other: RCMP, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, and Western States Information Network.

Significant Achievements:

In September 2002, the DEA Tacoma Narcotics Task Force completed a long-term investigation of a Mexican National drug trafficking organization centered in Pierce County, Washington. The organization was distributing

approximately 200 lb of methamphetamine and 50 lb of heroin monthly. These drugs were primarily from Mexico and Southern California and were moved up the I-5 corridor via ground transportation to the state. The investigation revealed links to DTOs in six additional states (California, Hawaii, Arizona, Illinois, Alabama, and Colorado) that resulted in separate investigative efforts in these other states. During the investigation in the state of Washington, a load vehicle bringing drugs north from the Los Angeles area was identified and seized. A subsequent search of the vehicle yielded 37 lb of methamphetamine. The Washington DTO was involved in four murders including the murder of a confidential informant. Twenty-two search warrants were executed and 27 arrests were made in Washington without compromising other investigative efforts that continued in the other states.

The Northwest HIDTA Financial Investigation Unit initiated a money laundering investigation on a suspected drug trafficker in the state of Washington, who had accumulated considerable assets without evidence of the income to support his wealth. As the historical case developed, with the assistance of analytical support by the ISC, the head of the drug trafficking organization was identified in Vancouver, British Columbia. This investigation grew into an OCDETF case and subsequently disrupted the flow of BC Bud, methamphetamine and ephedrine from Canada for distribution in Washington, Oregon and California. The organization used the money from the sale of the marijuana, methamphetamine and ephedrine to purchase cocaine brought up from Mexico for distribution in British

Columbia. Canadian members of the DTO used some of the illegal proceeds to buy a hotel in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Though initiated primarily as a money laundering case, 37 kilos of cocaine, 4.7 lbs of methamphetamine, 55 lbs of ephedrine and 315 lbs of marijuana were seized in the three Pacific states.

The Bronx Major Case Unit in New York City initiated an investigation in April 2001 on the SORIANO organization. The Northwest HIDTA Integrated Task Force subsequently became involved in the long-term investigation that involved the importation of heroin and cocaine from South/Central America into the Puget Sound Region and New York City. The ISC provided financial and post-seizure analysis for the investigation.

The investigation revealed the source of supply of heroin and cocaine to the New York organization was living and operating in Seattle. Wire intercepts also disclosed the Seattle target was importing loads of cocaine in 500-kilo quantities into the United States as well as multiple kilograms of heroin from a source in Colombia, South America.

As of August 12, 2003, 21 search warrants for the Seattle portion of the OCDETF case have been executed at various residences and vehicles in the Puget Sound area. There have also been nine arrests locally and one arrest in Medellín, Colombia, and one arrest in New York. The US Attorney's Office, Western District of Washington, will seek to have the suspect in Medellín extradited to Seattle for trial.

New York / New Jersey HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

New York: New York City and Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties

New Jersey: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union Counties

Contact: (646) 805-6105

Mission Statement:

The mission of the NY/NJ HIDTA is to measurably reduce illegal drug use and crime. Recognizing that there is no single, effective solution, the NY/NJ HIDTA seeks to accomplish its mission through collaborative, measurable initiatives including information sharing, enforcement, training and prevention.

Threat Abstract:

Crime in New York City has decreased dramatically over the last ten years and is now at its lowest level in over 35 years. Despite law enforcement's tremendous accomplishments, communities in the New York metropolitan area are still plagued by illegal drugs and related crime. The NY/NJ HIDTA remains one of the nation's major marketplaces and

gateways for narcotics trafficking for several reasons:

New York City presents an ideal location for the importation of drugs from around the world. With 20 million people from more than 100 different countries living in the New York metropolitan area, millions of people and packages travel through New York City every day. Over 20 million international passengers pass through the region's three major airports, JFK, Newark and LaGuardia each year. In addition, over 100 million tons of freight enter the country through JFK and Newark Airports.

Numerous other transportation hubs are located throughout the area: several domestic airports, the railroad complexes of Grand Central and Pennsylvania Stations, and hundreds of

miles of subway tracks. The New York metropolitan area also has an extensive waterfront and various points-of-entry for shipping cargo of every size and type and a complex network of highways and bridges which bring over one billion people into New York City each year. Each of these transportation avenues serves as a potential entry point for illegal drugs.

New York City, particularly the Washington Heights section of northern Manhattan, is the primary distribution center for retail and wholesale cocaine and heroin throughout the Northeast and is a significant point of distribution for locations across North America. A large portion of the heroin intercepted in the United States is seized in or destined for New York City. In addition, a significant portion of the cocaine imported into the United States comes to or through New York City.

The overall rate of drug abuse in the region is high as reflected in a large number of drug-related treatment admissions, deaths, emergency department (ED) mentions, and arrestees testing positive for drugs. Furthermore, most drugs remain readily available in the region.

Cocaine, both powdered and crack, poses the most serious drug threat to the New York/New Jersey HIDTA region. It is readily available, frequently abused, and more often associated with violent crime than any other illicit drug. Heroin, primarily South American, poses the second most serious threat to the region because of negative health effects and emergence within a new, younger abuser population. Marijuana's ubiquitous presence and acceptance by many

segments of society distinguish it as a constant threat. The dramatic increase in the availability and abuse of other dangerous drugs (ODDs), particularly MDMA (Ecstasy), mark these substances as the next greatest cause for concern. Methamphetamine is also emerging as a threat to the region.

In the money laundering arena, New York City is one of the financial capitals of the world, providing drug traffickers with numerous opportunities for laundering drug profits. The city's economic infrastructure includes many of the world's largest financial markets and financial institutions, as well as several clearinghouse banks, brokerage houses, and the jewelry and precious metals industries. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Bureau of Immigration, Customs Enforcement (BICE) estimates that each year drug traffickers launder between six and eight billion dollars through the New York metropolitan area.

Strategy Abstract:

Based on the Threat Assessment, which is developed each year through a collaborative effort between the Regional Intelligence Center and the enforcement initiatives, a Strategy is developed that describes the HIDTA's overall plan to address that threat. The HIDTA Director then works closely with the Executive Committee, which oversees the operations of the HIDTA, to develop new and/or revise existing initiatives that will best implement the Strategy. Outputs of the initiatives are monitored quarterly to ensure that each Initiative's missions and goals are being achieved.

In 2004, the Strategy will be implemented through the following initiatives:

Intelligence

- The Regional Intelligence Center
- HIDTANET (technology)

Enforcement

- New York OCDETF Strike Force (*a merger of the FBI Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force and DEA HIDTA Group*)
- New Jersey Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force
- El Dorado Financial Task Force
- Regional Fugitive Task Force

Support

- Regional Training Center
- Support Services

Investigative Support Center:

The Regional Intelligence Center ("RIC") consists of approximately 600 representatives from all the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the New York metropolitan area. The RIC is the central conduit for information sharing among the numerous law enforcement agencies in the region. The RIC is organized into five sections and six satellite intelligence centers:

Watch Section: The Watch Section provides law enforcement with immediate access -“one-stop shopping”- to a wide range of law enforcement and commercial databases, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. RIC analysts have access to virtually all of the law enforcement and commercial computer records. Inquiries can be run on, among other things, persons, vehicles, businesses, addresses, and telephone numbers.

Borough Intelligence Section: The Borough Intelligence Section consists of investigators from the NYPD, divided geographically into eight Borough Intelligence Teams (“BITS”) throughout New York City. The mission of the BITS is to provide a comprehensive, integrated picture of crime block-by-block, precinct-by-precinct throughout New York City. Each BIT consists of one Field Intelligence Officer (“FIO”) for every precinct in that BIT’s geographic area of responsibility. The BITS have access to all intelligence reports within the NYPD and their Task Forces and are responsible for providing a timely and complete criminal intelligence picture in order to effectively drive enforcement decisions.

El Dorado Money Laundering Intelligence Section (HIFCA):

The Money Laundering Intelligence Section, led by BICE and IRS, is also known as the HIFCA Section (High Intensity Financial Crimes Area). The HIFCA Section is responsible for providing a comprehensive, integrated intelligence picture of drug related money laundering in the New York metropolitan area to the HIDTA El Dorado Task Force.

The Firearms Section (Regional Crime Gun Center): The Gun Center, led by ATF, is the central location for all criminal and regulatory firearm information. The Gun Center gathers and consolidates all aspects of intelligence on illegal firearms use and trafficking and makes that information available to law enforcement 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Priority Targeting Section (PTS): The Priority Targeting Section consists of investigators and analysts, and is responsible for providing a comprehensive, integrated intelligence picture of the most significant drug trafficking and other violent organizations in the New York metropolitan area. They provide case support, threat assessments, strategic reports and organizational studies to Investigators. The Priority Targeting Section also cultivates informants and cooperating witnesses and generates investigations. Once developed, these cases are referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for further investigation.

Satellite Intelligence Centers:

Westchester Intelligence Center

New Jersey Intelligence Center
Suffolk County Intelligence Center
Nassau County Intelligence Center
Upstate NY Regional Intelligence Center
Rockland County Intelligence Center
(non-HIDTA funded)

Participating Agencies:

Federal

Army National Guard, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USCS and INS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of Criminal Investigative Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Reserve Bank, FinCEN, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, United States Attorney's Offices, United States Coast Guard,

United States Department of Defense/Joint Task Force-6, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development/Office of the Inspector General, United States Department of State, United States Marshals Service, United States Postal Inspection Service, United States Probation, and United States Secret Service.

State

New York: New York National Guard, New York State Banking Department, New York State Commission of Investigation, New York State Department of Corrections, New York State Department of Health and Human Services, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York State Division of Parole, New York State Police, and Waterfront Commission.

New Jersey: New Jersey Attorney General's Office, New Jersey Department of Corrections, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, New Jersey Division of Parole, New Jersey National Guard, and New Jersey State Police.

Local

New York: Bronx County District Attorney's Office, Clarkstown Police Department, Kings County District Attorney's Office, Mt. Vernon Police Department, Nassau County District Attorney's Office, Nassau County Police Department, New York City Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office, New York City Department of Correction, New York City Department of Investigation, New York City Police Department, New York County District Attorney's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Department,

Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for New York City, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Queens County District Attorney's Office, Ramapo Police Department, Richmond County District Attorney's Office, Rockland County District Attorney's Office, Rockland County Sheriff's Department, Stony Point Police Department, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Suffolk County Police Department, Suffolk County Probation Department, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Westchester County Department of Corrections, Westchester County Department of Public Safety, and Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

New Jersey: Bayonne Police Dept, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Department, East Brunswick Police Department, East Orange Police Department, Elizabeth Police Department, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Essex County Sheriff's Office, Fort Lee Police Department, Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, Newark Police Department, Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, and Trenton Police Department, Union City Police Department, Union County Prosecutor's Office, and Union County Sheriff's Office.

Significant Achievements:

Creation of the New York OCDETF Strike Force:

The NY/NJ HIDTA is creating, at a single location, a commingled federal,

state and local HIDTA-supported Task Force dedicated exclusively to disrupting and dismantling Consolidated Priority Organizational Targets (CPOTs) and their drug trafficking organization affiliates in the New York metropolitan area. This will more fully integrate than ever before the capabilities of New York City's HIDTA and OCDETF programs. Among other consolidations, the current DEA Group will merge with the FBI Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force to form a CPOT-focused Task Force at the NY/NJ HIDTA. By physically merging the resources and talents of the DEA, the FBI, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies into a single, commingled, powerful Task Force dedicated to the destruction of the area's most prominent drug trafficking organizations, the opportunities to reduce the illicit drug flow to the consumer will be enhanced beyond anything achieved ever before in drug enforcement. With mixed intelligence and enforcement groups comprised of agents and supervisors from the various HIDTA initiatives and OCDETF constituent agencies, the Task Force will focus on identifying, targeting, disrupting/dismantling CPOTs, Regional Priority Organizational Targets, and affiliated organizations operating within the New York metropolitan area. The focus and the intensity that this approach will create have never before been attempted in drug enforcement.

The NY/NJ HIDTA-CPOT Task Force will be a national prototype, placing for the first time OCDETF resources from federal agencies in a single task force at a single location and dedicated exclusively to disrupting/dismantling CPOT targets. Collocating this Task Force with the NY/NJ HIDTA Regional

Intelligence Center and the Regional Fugitive Task Force will greatly increase the impact of these investigators. All investigators and analysts of the Task Force will access CPOT leads from the NY/NJ HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center, the DEA Special Operations Division, and DEA's overseas offices.

The 225 plus members of the NY/NJ HIDTA-CPOT Task Force will be grouped into six-to-eight enforcement groups under the direction of a DEA ASAC. Each group will be staffed by DEA Agents, FBI Agents, New York City Police Detectives, Investigators from the New York State Police, Prosecutors from the US Attorney's Office and Agents from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, and the US Marshal Service. Additional agencies, particularly the US Customs Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, are expected to participate in the Task Force once it has been established.

In addition to these law enforcement officers, each group will also be assigned an Intelligence Analyst from the NY/NJ HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center. The analyst will support the group's investigations and ensure the free flow of information between and among the groups, law enforcement agencies in New York and throughout the country, and the Special Operations Division ("SOD"). The Intelligence Analysts will work closely with the Regional Intelligence Center, and particularly with a CPOT Drug Intelligence Group, to provide the Task Force with comprehensive case support, a constantly updated list of Regional Priority Targets, and access to law

enforcement databases. In turn, the Task Force will contribute intelligence from its ongoing investigations to the NY/NJ HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center for support of other HIDTA investigations.

The work of the Task Force will be monitored by the OCDETF Regional Coordination Group, which consists of representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Ohio HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Ohio: Cuyahoga, Lucas, Mahoning, Stark, and Summit Counties

Contact: (216) 739-3500

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Ohio HIDTA is to reduce drug distribution and money-laundering organizations, reduce the impact of illicit drugs and the associated violent crimes in the Ohio HIDTA region, and undermine the development of violent gangs that traffic in controlled substances. This will be accomplished through the coordination and sharing of intelligence and unified law enforcement efforts.

Threat Abstract:

The Ohio HIDTA was designated on June 15, 1999, and is located in a five-county region in Northern Ohio where access to illicit narcotics has become a lucrative business and thus a challenging task for law enforcement. Northern Ohio consists of approximately 40 counties, encompassing approximately 18,000 square miles of landmass and approximately 6.5 million residents. The

Ohio HIDTA region consists of five metropolitan cities, Toledo, Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Youngstown, all of which have lost much of their industrial base since the 1970's. Of these metropolitan areas, Toledo and Cleveland are major international seaports processing in excess of 28,000,000 tons of bulk and dry cargo each year. The Port of Cleveland receives between 120-165 foreign vessels annually.

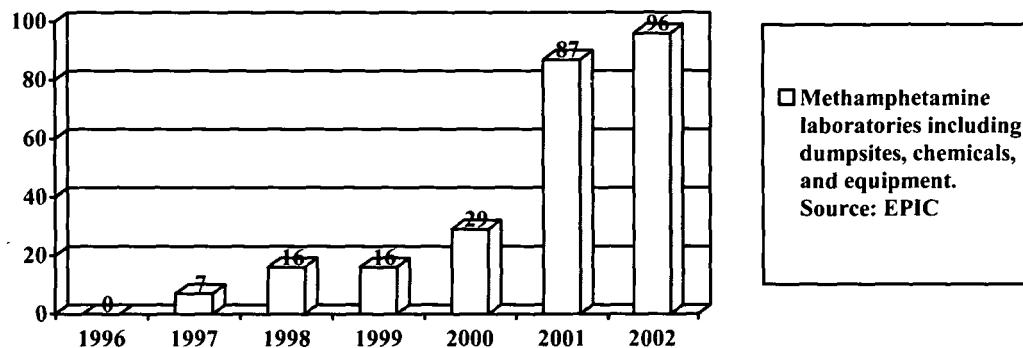
The primary drug threat to the Ohio HIDTA region has been, and continues to be, cocaine in both powder and crack form. Many drug trafficking organizations exist and operate in Northern Ohio with no one group as the "major player." The most significant drug trafficking organizations in this region consist of Jamaican and Hispanic (Dominicans, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans) traffickers. Outlaw motorcycle clubs, other ethnic-based groups and street gangs are also involved

in drug trafficking activity in this region. Typical methods of distribution include the use of well-developed interstate highways (I-80, I-90, I-75, I-77, and I-71) and the transport of drugs by travelers on commercial airline flights, although a considerable decline in the latter method has occurred in response to increased airport security.

Besides the trafficking in cocaine, Northern Ohio contends with the emerging threat of heroin and a growing methamphetamine problem. Recent data from the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) reveals a consistent in-

Strategy Abstract:

The overall investigative strategy of the Ohio HIDTA consists of ten multi-agency metropolitan task forces representing the geographic territory of the five-county region. Each task force will develop its own strategies, based upon a regional Threat Assessment, and structure the task force for achieving the primary goal of the Ohio HIDTA: the development of Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) quality investigations. Each task force will submit annual proposals for multi-agency initiatives designed to focus



crease in the number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures in Ohio. In 2002, 96 clandestine labs were seized compared with 87 in the previous year and 29 in 2000. The easy manufacture of this illicit drug coupled with its serious health risks make methamphetamine an especially salient concern in this region. Marijuana is ubiquitous in Ohio as it is elsewhere and constitutes the most commonly available and abused drug in this region. The so-called "designer-drugs" or "club drugs" (i.e., GHB, Ecstasy) have become popular among young adults and juveniles in the area and pose a threat to users who often view the use of these drugs as relatively harmless and benign.

Ohio HIDTA resources against major narcotics and money laundering organizations. An Initiatives/Budget Subcommittee, in conjunction with the lead OCDETF attorney for the district, will review all task force investigations to ensure Ohio HIDTA resources are used appropriately and that cases are submitted for OCDETF designation. The Ohio HIDTA Executive Board, which is made up of 8 federal and 8 local/state law enforcement executives, through subcommittees, will coordinate the integration and synchronization of efforts to dismantle organizations, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and improve the systematic sharing of intelligence. The Ohio HIDTA

Executive Board will continue to monitor the implementation of this strategy to ensure the efforts of the Ohio HIDTA will produce the desired impact and further determine whether the distribution of resources is consistent with the overall Ohio HIDTA strategy.

Initiatives:

1. *Management and Coordination*
2. *Investigative Support Center*
3. *Training Initiative*
4. *Caribbean/Gang Drug Task Force*
5. *DEA Youngstown Task Force*
6. *Akron/Summit County HIDTA Initiative*
7. *Mahoning Valley Drug Task Force*
8. *Northeast Ohio Interdiction Task Force*
9. *Northwest Ohio HIDTA Task Force*
10. *Stark County Violent Crimes Task Force*
11. *Toledo Metro Drug Task Force*
12. *HIDTA Money Laundering/Intelligence Initiative*
13. *Commercial Vehicle/Intelligence Initiative*

Investigative Support Center:

The Ohio HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) became fully operational in early 2001. Through the use of

numerous commercial and criminal law enforcement databases, it now provides event deconfliction, case/subject deconfliction, post-seizure analysis, telephone toll, link analysis, intelligence profiles, Title III support, charts/graphs, trend and pattern analysis, as well as financial/analytical case support, and training. The Technical Support/Computer Evidence Recovery Lab offers additional services to law enforcement. All interdiction operations and investigations are coordinated through the ISC. The Ohio HIDTA ISC also coordinates with local and federal intelligence networks, as well as other HIDTAs to ensure connectivity. The ISC brokers information to the metropolitan and interdiction task forces and, where appropriate, to non-participating law enforcement agencies, in accordance with federal regulations.

The ISC also conducts surveys and provides analytical and investigative training to area law enforcement personnel. Training is coordinated through the National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC) when possible to maximize and coordinate training opportunities to all Ohio HIDTA task force personnel.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), United States Attorney's Office (USAO), United States Marshals Service (USMS), United States Postal Inspector (USPI).

State/Local: Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Ohio National Guard, Akron PD, Alliance PD, Austintown PD, Bay Village PD, Beaver Township PD, Boardman PD, Canfield PD, Canton PD, Cleveland PD, Cleveland Heights PD, Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority PD, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, East Cleveland PD, Euclid PD, Geauga County Sheriff's Office, Independence PD, Jackson Township PD, Liberty PD, Louisville PD, Lucas County Sheriff's Office, Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, Massillon PD, Monroe County (MI) Sheriff's Office, Northwood PD, Orange PD, Parma PD, Perry Township PD, Perrysburg Township PD, Poland Township PD, Poland Village PD, Regional Transit Authority PD, SEAL (Southeast Area Law Enforcement Narcotics), Shaker Heights PD, Stark County Sheriff's Office, Struther's PD, Summit County Sheriff's Office, Sylvania PD, Toledo PD, Trumbull County Sheriff's Office, Warrensville Heights PD, Westlake PD, Wickliffe PD, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Youngstown PD, Youngstown State Univ. PD.

Significant Achievements:

A joint FBI/IRS investigation targeted a drug-trafficking network transporting large quantities of marijuana from Arizona to northeast Ohio. The network spanned several jurisdictions including Charlotte, North Carolina and Denver, Colorado. A Title III was initiated in February 2001 targeting an individual believed to be responsible for transporting marijuana to the northeast Ohio region. Two additional Title III's were initiated from the original, one

targeting another significant marijuana distributor in Akron, Ohio and the other targeting an Arizona-based supplier.

Fifteen individuals were indicted and arrested in northern Ohio, Charlotte, NC and Denver, CO. Further investigation identified five additional individuals who were subsequently arrested as part of the drug trafficking conspiracy. One main subject admitted to trafficking over 6,000 lbs of marijuana over a 10-year period (1992-2002). As a result of this investigation, 20 subjects have been indicted, arrested, and convicted and over 2 million dollars in assets and monies have been seized.

The Ohio HIDTA Money Laundering Initiative offered unique and indispensable assistance during the investigation. Officers assigned to the Money Laundering Initiative assisted with a detailed analysis of the targets financial documents, which included tax returns, bank accounts, and business records. This analysis provided the evidence to show that over one million dollars worth of real estate, vehicles, and other assets were obtained with the proceeds of the targets illegal marijuana trafficking activities.

Oregon HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1999- Deschutes, Jackson, and Marion Counties

Year of Designation: 2002- Clackamas, Douglas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Oregon: Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington counties.

Contact: (503) 378-5123

Mission Statement:

To reduce drug availability by creating intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences by enhancing, and helping to coordinate, drug trafficking control efforts among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

With this Mission, the Oregon HIDTA is attempting to significantly contribute to the National Drug Control Strategy efforts to reduce illegal drug use by 10% in the next two years and 25% in the next five years.

To accomplish the Mission of the Oregon HIDTA, the Executive Board will leverage, allocate, and focus the available, Value Added, HIDTA

resources on federal, state, and local multi-agency law enforcement initiatives that have a direct relationship to: (A). Modifying individual behavior in order to discourage drug use and addiction, and (B). Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by dismantling the drug networks that transport and distribute drugs and illicit proceeds from their sale.

Initiatives include, but are not limited to, investigation, intelligence, investigative support, interdiction, prosecution, and money laundering.

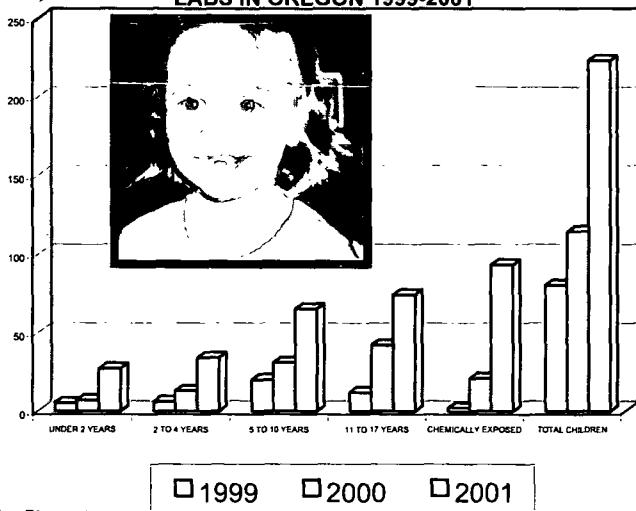
Threat Abstract:

The greatest drug threat to Oregon citizens and visitors to Oregon continues to be a steady increase in demand, usage, and addiction levels fostered by an attitude of tolerance and pro-legalization

by special interest groups. Criminal drug trafficking organizations are encouraged in this political environment. Criminal drug trafficking organizations, both foreign and local, represent the most serious supply and distribution sources in Oregon. These groups either manufacture, transport, and/or distribute large quantities of marijuana, methamphetamine, black tar heroin, cocaine, and designer drugs such as ecstasy (MDMA) in Oregon.

Methamphetamine continues to be a serious and growing threat throughout Oregon and is currently the most personally and environmentally dangerous drug problem in Oregon. During 2002, Oregon law enforcement reported 529 methamphetamine lab seizures. There is also a dramatic increase in the number of children discovered to be present at methamphetamine laboratory sites, complicating the already tragic nature of Oregon's meth trade.

CHILDREN PRESENT AT METHAMPHETAMINE LABS IN OREGON 1999-2001



Marijuana is the most abused illegal drug in Oregon. The majority of those in drug treatment in Oregon have an

addiction to marijuana. High potency marijuana is grown locally and trafficking of highly potent Canadian marijuana or "BC Bud" continues to have a significant impact in Oregon as well as the HIDTA counties and neighboring states.

Black tar heroin continues to be a serious problem in the urban centers of Oregon and the abuse of the related prescription drug, OxyContin, is still increasing. Tar Heroin is smuggled into Oregon by Hispanic drug trafficking organizations, which tend to be poly-drug traffickers, i.e. cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, precursor chemicals, and heroin.

Cocaine, including the Crack version is still a problem in the Portland Metropolitan area and other urban cities.

However, methamphetamine has become the stimulant drug of choice over cocaine.

Club drugs; such as MDMA and GHB have continued to grow in popularity with young people in Oregon.

Strategy Abstract:

The primary strategies to achieve the Mission of the Oregon HIDTA Program and the goals of the National Drug Control Strategy are to:

- A. Create intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana,
- B. Target task force efforts at "High Value" drug trafficking organizations,

C. Provide an Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) which serves as a "one stop shop" for case research, analytical case support, information exchange, and deconfliction, for all law enforcement agencies both locally and nationally;

D. Conduct field operations and investigations, which dismantle drug trafficking organizations by systematic and thorough investigations, which lead in turn to successful criminal prosecutions and forfeiture of their illicit assets;

E. Leverage and coordinate federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts to reduce the production, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, and use of illegal drugs, as well as the related money laundering of drug proceeds,

F. Provide quality training to law enforcement personnel to enhance their skills investigating, prosecuting, and in preventing drug trafficking and drug abuse at all levels;

G. Ensure that the Oregon HIDTA/ODOJ Investigative Support Center (ISC) serves as a federal, state, and local drug enforcement "coordination umbrella" by providing accurate, detailed and timely tactical, investigative and strategic drug intelligence to HIDTA initiatives, HIDTA participating agencies, and other law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

These strategies include the formation of law enforcement and community partnerships designed to enhance and facilitate the coordination of America's drug control efforts.

Investigative Support Center:

The Oregon HIDTA Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the central information and research component of the Oregon HIDTA. The ISC maintains an-all crimes criminal intelligence database for the State of Oregon that can be accessed by law enforcement personnel through the Watch Center by phone or electronically over the Oregon State Intelligence Network (OSIN) via the secure web RISS.net electronic highway. This database communicates seamlessly with the Western States Information Network (WSIN) database serving the five western states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. It also provides the collocation and commingling of other vital federal, state and local law enforcement personnel and databases to assist all regional law enforcement agencies in counterdrug investigations, eradication, and interdiction. The ISC provides event and case coordination (deconfliction) services for officer safety and enhanced intelligence production; strategic intelligence for refined targeting and officer resource allocation; and in-service analytical intelligence training. The ISC provides participating agencies and HIDTA task forces operational analytical support for ongoing "initiative driven" case activity through access to multiple criminal and commercial databases. The ISC provides narcotics intelligence analyses, prepares threat assessments, strategic reports, and organizational studies; performs post-seizure and search warrant analyses; supports arrest operations; prepares and conducts briefings for visitors to the HIDTA; and assists in trial preparations. Additionally, the ISC conducts self-

initiated intelligence analysis projects to generate leads for HIDTA investigative agencies. Additionally, the ISC maintains specialized equipment for law enforcement agency use on a case by case basis.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement (BICE), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation (IRS), United States Forest Service (USFS), United States Marshals Service (USMS), and the U.S. Attorneys Offices in Oregon (USA).

State/Local: Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon State Police, Oregon National Guard, Deschutes County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Crook County Sheriff's Department, Bend Police Department, Redmond Police Department, Madras Police Department, Prineville Police Department, Warm Springs Tribal Police, Deschutes County District Attorney's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Medford Police Department, Ashland Police Department, Jackson County District Attorney's Office, Salem Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Department, Keizer Police Department, Woodburn Police Department, Silverton Police Department, and the Marion County District Attorney's Office, Vancouver Police Department, Gresham Police Department, Portland Police Bureau, Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, Lake Oswego Police Department, Washington County Sheriff's Office,

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, St. Helens Police Department, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Roseburg Police Department, Douglas County District Attorney's Office, Beaverton Police Department, Stayton Police Department, Woodburn Police Department, Tigard Police Department, Hillsboro Police Department.

Other: Oregon Chiefs of Police Association and Sheriff's Association, Oregon District Attorney's Association, Oregon State Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Director's Association of Oregon.

Successful Achievements

The Oregon HIDTA Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) represents the most significant enhancement to Oregon drug enforcement efforts in the past several years. It serves federal, state, and local law enforcement as a one-stop service center for criminal research, intelligence collection, case coordination (deconfliction), strategic and tactical analytical support, and information analysis.

Oregon has had a statewide all crimes criminal intelligence database for many years. Paper media provided information for this database. This database is managed by the Oregon Department of Justice. When Oregon received its HIDTA designation in 1999, the Oregon Criminal Intelligence Unit (OCIU) was able to enhance its services to the HIDTA counties and the state as a whole. The HIDTA Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) was

born as an integrated component of the OCIU.

The HIDTA Program funding has enabled the OCIU to enhance its facility and services. Due to the HIDTA funding, the OCIU/ISC has web enabled the database via RISS.net, created electronic case and event coordination (deconfliction), and upgraded equipment and analytical support services to drug investigators in the field. Federal, state, and local investigators can electronically access the criminal intelligence database to make inquiries and get real time results or make clan-lab, gang, drug, terrorism, or general crime intelligence submissions into the database. Electronic Geo-mapping is also available for coordination, deconfliction, and tactical planning.

Additionally, total electronic deconfliction is available for both case investigations and events such as search warrants, undercover buy busts, and other undercover operations. All is overseen by a Watch Center and all occurs via the secure RISS.net. Many other links for criminal case research are available and more will be added as the system grows. OSIN is designed to provide a seamless exchange of information to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The new system is called the Oregon State Intelligence Network (OSIN) and is now fully operational. This would not have been possible without federal HIDTA funds.

The ISC services have already resulted in major drug trafficking organizations being disrupted, many kilos of drugs being seized, and well over a million

dollars in illegal assets seized, just in the last year.

Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1995

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia County

New Jersey: City of Camden New Jersey within Camden County

Contact: (215) 560-1661, www.hidta.info

Mission Statement:

The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA employs a multi-faceted program to reduce the cultivation, production, trafficking, distribution, and use of illegal drugs. The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA is committed to increasing the safety and quality of life of the citizens in the Philadelphia/Camden region by measurably reducing drug-related crime and violence.

Threat Abstract:

The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA was designated in 1995. Philadelphia remains a center of activity for the importation, wholesale distribution, and street level sales of illegal drugs on the East Coast. Camden, New Jersey, separated from Philadelphia by the Delaware River, is a

focal point for drug trafficking from Philadelphia and the New York area. The location of Philadelphia and Camden on the eastern seaboard, particularly their proximity to New York, places the city on one of the busiest illegal drug transit routes. Major interstate rail and highway systems, a major international airport, one of the fastest growing in the world, and key shipping terminals on the 100 miles of waterfront along the Delaware River facilitate drug trafficking into and through the region. The Port of Philadelphia/Camden is a major international seaport and the second largest seaport in the nation. Multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine are trafficked through this port. Major New York drug trafficking organizations use Philadelphia as a transshipment point for their drugs, drug-proceeds, and illegal

guns. New York gangs have expanded their territory to the outskirts of the area.

There are approximately 300 open-air drug markets in Philadelphia and 135 in Camden. Cocaine remains available with a purity of 80-90% and priced at \$28,000-\$35,000 per kilogram. The Philadelphia County Medical Examiner reported that of the 216 drug-induced or caused deaths by a single drug, cocaine was present in 65% of the decedents.

Philadelphia heroin is known for having the highest level of purity in the nation. Five of the top heroin brands seized in the PCHIDTA area are: *Super Nautica, White Control, White House, 911 and Landover*. Heroin is plentiful, inexpensive, easily administered (snorted rather than intravenously) and is being aggressively marketed. Philadelphia is the source city for the PCHIDTA area, including Delaware. In 2000, 66% of deaths were drug induced. Of those deaths, heroin was present in the decedent 52% of the time. Virtually all heroin is from South America and Philadelphia has the highest purity (70-80%) in the nation according to the DEA.

Marijuana is easily found in Philadelphia or in Camden's open-air markets. Marijuana is trafficked and distributed essentially by Jamaican and Mexican organizations whose supply originates not only from the Southwestern United States and Mexico, but also New York, Florida, and Western Pennsylvania.

Hallucinogens and a variety of other club/designer drugs are becoming very popular in the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA area, especially among young people. MDMA (Ecstasy) is found commonly in Philadelphia's alternative

and late-night nightclubs and can be purchased for as little as \$20.00 a pill. In 2001, the Philadelphia International Airport had its largest seizure of 200,000 pills of ecstasy.

Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is a central nervous system depressant. It is most commonly distributed at affluent nightclubs, high schools, college campuses and rave clubs. A 55 gallon drum of GHB cost \$3,200 and could yield nearly 100,000 doses. At a street value of between \$5 and \$10 per hit, the distributor could make as much as \$1 million.

Oxycontin is a prescription drug intended to help people with cancer and moderate to severe chronic pain. In the Pennsylvania, Oxycontin is referred to as "Scratchers". Other names are "Oxys" or "Ocs". The cost is usually \$.50 to \$1.00 per milligram. As many as twenty people in the Philadelphia area have died since November 2000 because of or in conjunction with Oxycontin use.

Strategy Abstract:

The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Executive Board is comprised of seventeen local, state, and Federal law enforcement leaders in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Specifically, this HIDTA's area of responsibility includes the cities of Philadelphia and Camden respectively. A unified effort among law enforcement and prosecution agencies ensures a coordinated effort to reduce the impact of cocaine and heroin distribution within the region. Coordinated activities extend throughout the State of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. A total of twenty-three agencies participate in eleven HIDTA Initiatives. The administrative

component, the Regional Investigative Support Center, along with three enforcement Initiatives are located in the US Customs House in Center City Philadelphia. Three interdiction units along with the IRS Narco-Dollar Task Force are co-located at the Philadelphia International Airport. All locations are connected through a secured wide area network to communicate interactively with the Regional Investigative Support Center (RISC). The RISC includes a Watch Center that provides real-time de-confliction on enforcement events, along with intelligence and analytical support to all Initiatives.

Regional Investigative Support Center:

Central to the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA success is the establishment of the Regional Investigative Support Center (RISC), which coordinates the collection, analyses, and dissemination of all drug related intelligence for the Philadelphia/Camden area. The HIDTA RISC receives collects, organizes, and interprets intelligence information concerning drug trafficking in the area. Coordination of enforcement activity (de-confliction) to prevent duplication of investigative efforts and encourage officer safety is a primary function of the RISC's Watch Center. Equally as important are the intelligence fusion, case support, and strategic intelligence components of the RISC's Intelligence Center. The RISC continues to develop within the HIDTA headquarters serving as the hub for the collection and analysis of information from Philadelphia and Camden. Communication between the two locations and HIDTA headquarters is by way of a secure wide area network, providing a secure Intranet as well as

external access to the Internet. The source information is incident-report based; stripping pertinent drug trafficking and the related violent crime data and entering it into a database for use by the investigating detectives/special agents. The network includes a matrix of agency indices and software and accompanying hardware to fulfill the mission.

The cornerstone of the RISC is the PCHIDTA Watch Center that is staffed 24 hours, seven days a week by the Philadelphia Police Department. The Center provides real-time event de-confliction. During 2001, the Center entered and monitored 13,861 events with 7,408 events found to be in conflict, requiring notification to the agencies whose operations were in question. The Center also maintains the Suspect Pointer Index Network (SPIN) for case de-confliction. In 2001, 16,409 individuals were entered into spin. In support of investigative operations, the center provided information on 472 data inquiry requests and provided 380 intelligence case supports during 2001.

During 2002, the RISC expanded access to SPIN to surrounding counties and state law enforcement agencies in southern New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and northern Delaware. This provides enhanced coordination and information sharing with those counties that are adversely affected by Philadelphia/Camden drug trafficking organizations.

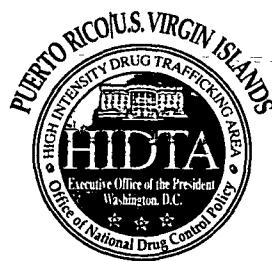
Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service,

Joint Task Force Six, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

State/Local: Pennsylvania Bureau of Narcotics Investigations, New Jersey National Guard, New Jersey State Police, Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General, Pennsylvania National Guard, Pennsylvania State Police, Camden County, New Jersey Prosecutor's Office, Camden Police Department, Delaware River Port Authority Police, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia Police Department, and University of Pennsylvania Police Department.

Puerto Rico/U. S. Virgin Islands HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1994

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Puerto Rico: The Islands of Puerto Rico, Vieques and Culebra.

U. S. Virgin Islands: The Islands of Saint Thomas, Saint Croix and Saint John.

Contact: (787) 474-8701 and gmg@centennialpr.net

Mission Statement

In support of the *National Drug Control Strategy* the PR/USVI HIDTA investigates high value/sophisticated drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and their associated criminal operations within the area of responsibility (AOR) to reduce drug availability in local markets, dismantle/disrupt drug organized crime, and reduce the use of the islands as entry to the Continental United States (CONUS) drug market.

Threat Abstract

The PR/USVI HIDTA was designated in 1994 as transshipment HIDTA. Drug trafficking Organizations (DTOs) transport from 450 to 600 metric tons of cocaine and heroin from Colombia using multiple transportation methods. Over 70% of it is destined for the U.S., Canada and Europe. Colombian cocaine and heroin traffickers continue to dominate the supply, with Dominican organizations smuggling the

drug to developed nations. Preferred method for trafficking is by sea, ranging from the use of "go-fast" boats to small island-hopping freighters. While some marijuana from Colombia is smuggled into Puerto Rico, marijuana is primarily imported from Mexico through the Continental U.S. and other Caribbean islands. European ecstasy is trafficked through Dominican Republic.



Seizure at high seas

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands users consume an estimated 15-20% of the

drugs transshipped; with the predominant drug of choice is cocaine. The Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands area is very attractive to drug trafficking organizations for several reasons including well developed commercial ports, a strong regional economy, a health banking system with international ties and a language and culture familiar to many drug traffickers.

Annually the area hosts over 2,500,000 cruise ship passengers and the PR airport processes over 8,500,000 visitors. These high tourism/ temporary visitors are contributory factors that complicate and, surveillance and the interdiction of drugs.

The geophysical composition of the islands, more than 50 small islets and cays in the USVI alone, also facilitates clandestine activities and correspondingly makes it difficult to patrol. The more than 363 miles of coastline in Puerto Rico and the 105 miles in USVI make it ideal for coast smuggling activities. Being only 430 miles from the South American coast and the high volume of commercial containerized shipments, Puerto Rico's role in narcotics transshipment is easily understood.

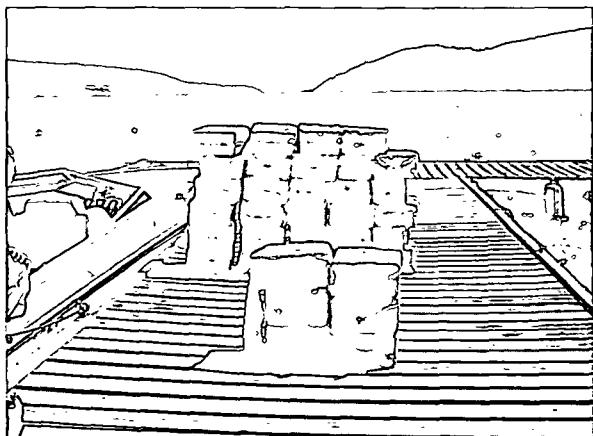


USCG Seizure 2002

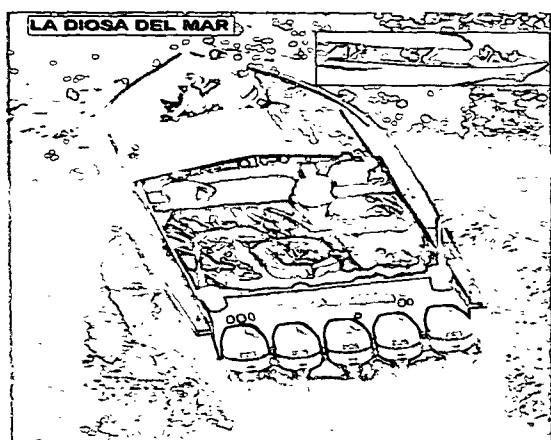
Strategy Abstract:

An Executive Board comprised of 10 federal and 10 state/local agency heads (16 from PR and 4 from USVI) implements joint law enforcement initiatives, allocates resources and prioritizes operations to ensure a joint/commingled interactive approach, more information sharing, innovative drug interdiction techniques, and the prioritization of criminal investigations. Most important, the Board annually reviews each Initiative's goals and outcomes/outputs to enhance performance, and works to achieve national supply reduction strategic goals. Two Case Management Committees (one for PR and one for USVI) coordinate all investigative efforts to ensure coordination and information sharing among participating agencies. Both are comprised of the initiatives' supervisors and federal and state prosecutors. Over 1,570 state, local and federal law enforcement and support personnel are co-located, commingled, and strategically positioned across the threat spectrum to enhance coverage within the HIDTA. To address the drug threat there are 16 (sixteen) Initiatives: three smuggling (interdiction), nine investigative, one regional intelligence, and three regional support Initiatives.

All operations are based in solid developed intelligence to focus law enforcement coverage, constant interdiction activities, uncover communication links, investigate criminal activities, dismantle money laundering schemes and detect new criminal trends. All of them converge to develop a systematic joint approach designed to reduce the opportunity for local drug trafficking to coordinate operations. This joint approach is used to reduce the attractiveness of the area as a preferred staging and transshipment route for illegal drugs, illegal firearms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and drug money laundering.



Seizure FURA 2001



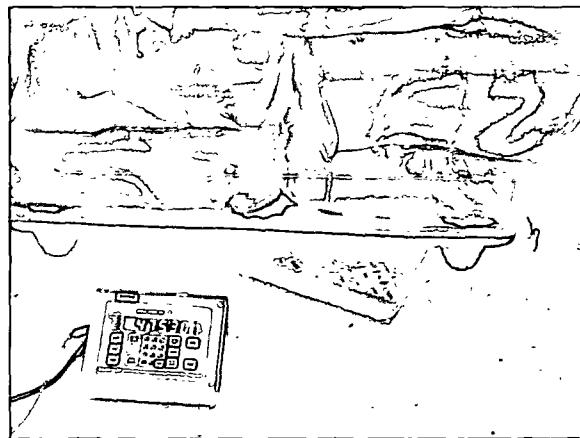
DTO High Speed Vessel

Investigative Support Center (ISC):

Comprised of 56 intelligence analysts and agents from most of the HIDTA participating agencies. The ISC receives information and delivers accurate and timely intelligence on drug related criminal activity to HIDTA initiatives and law enforcement agencies. The ISC supports communication links to allow sharing of timely and relevant information among all operators of the law enforcement community. It fosters information sharing among law enforcement agencies at all levels in an unbiased working environment. The ISC provides one central location for all intelligence services to

initiative participants, in a personal information sharing environment.

The ISC serves as a central mechanism to collect, organize and disseminate information as final intelligence product using the Racketeering Enterprises Investigation (RICO) concept. Analysts, provided by the FBI, DEA, USBOP, USCS, USARSO and PRNG uncover links by providing instant, accurate, organized and clean intelligence products, meet agent-informants requirements, which are then transformed into investigative or law enforcement operations. Using advanced technology databases, advanced hardware, the latest software and ultimate communication devices like Title III (TII/S2 system), and DEA Forensic Laboratory support, cooperative efforts accelerate and enhance investigative capacities. The ISC serves as a one site information gathering and dissemination structure that organizes the necessary evidence for successful prosecution and conviction of criminals.



FURA Seizure 2001

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service, Attorney's Office

- District of Puerto Rico, Attorney's Office -
District of Virgin Islands, Coast Guard,
Border Patrol, Marshals Service.

State: Puerto Rico (PR) Office for Drug Control, PR Department of Justice, Virgin Islands (VI) Department of Justice, PR National Guard, VI National Guard, PR Department of Corrections, PR Department of Treasury, PR Police Department, PR Special Investigations Bureau, VI Police Department In addition four Metro-Area Cities Municipal Police Departments participate as invites by the Executive Board.

Significant Achievements:

For CY 2002 this HIDTA supported 199 open investigations. It includes 110 from the DEA, 23 by the FBI, 38 by USCS 24 by ATF and 4 by PR-SIB. Law Enforcement has conducted investigations into all aspects of the drug market to include individuals participating in drug pick-ups ("palos"), drug cutting (mixing illegal drugs with non-active ingredients), wholesale providers, drug point sales, drug smugglers, money pick-ups, air/sea transporters, money laundering, drug money investors, illegal weapons providers, drug point security and fake legal business for money laundering.

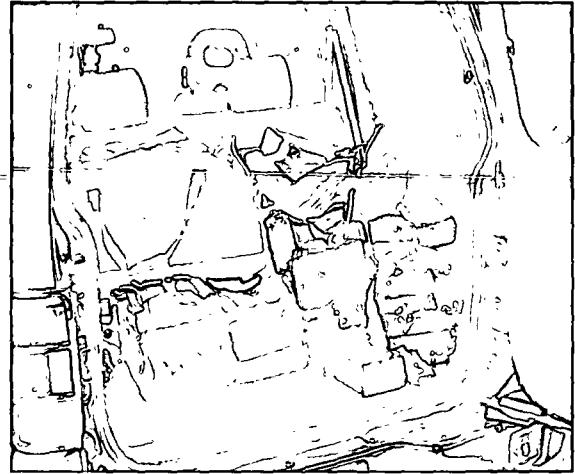
Illegal drug traffickers/criminals are usually hired by other known criminals to provide a service in one of those crime processes along the drug track based in their experience and personal relationship with the contact. Some times agents find one individual working as executioner under someone that worked as laborer in a drug operation conducted three weeks before.



BICE Seizure 2001

- The ISC consists of 52 collocated agents and investigative support staff from all agencies. It is structured and located in a neutral location; it is highly technical, interconnected worldwide and has military intelligence that provides coordination with local, state, federal and international law enforcement organizations in joint and combined regional operations.
- High Seas Interdiction Enhancement Initiative, led by the USCG, and supported by FURA, PRNG, USCS and the ISC, has resulted in 14 large drug shipment interceptions from CY00 to CY02 originating out of South America. Our two marine based police (PR and USVI) have provided key support.
- The PR/USVI HIDTA has achieved a 91% level of maturity in the Performance Measures of Effectiveness for CY02, which represents a 20% increase from CY98.
- Overall, major crime in PR has been reduced by 21% over the last five years, according to the Puerto Rico Police Department.

- Success and growth in intelligence sharing and operational/organizational developments, have resulted in 349 DTOs being disrupted/dismantled, with approximately 57% of those being at the international level.
- Results during the period of 1997-2002 have resulted in 3,745 arrests and substantial seizures: 58,479 kg of cocaine, 183.5 kg of heroin, 19,419 kg marijuana, 4,504 cannabis plants, 2,718 vials of crack cocaine, 41,226 ecstasy pills, 6,155 methamphetamine pills and 29,823 steroid pills. This HIDTA has also confiscated currency, assets and property for a market value over \$500 Million.
- Our Title III and OCDETF investigations have dramatically increased from one in 1997 to 57 by 2002. We anticipate a further 10% performance increase for CY03.
- The PR/USVI High Intensity Financial Crimes Area (PR/USVI HIFCA) Task Force was accepted by ONDCP as the Money Laundering Initiative of PR/USVI HIDTA. The US Customs, IRS-CI and various local law enforcement agencies are collocated in this initiative, which has substantially enhanced inter-agency coordination of narcotics money laundering investigations.



Seizure PRPD

- The PR/USVI HIDTA Money Laundering Initiative has directly and effectively contributed to the National Money Laundering Strategy. This initiative has focused and successfully carried out investigative efforts to combat illegal use of wire remitting outlets and targeting / disrupting / dismantling Black Market Peso Exchange money laundering organizations in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. This initiative has also conducted investigations of national and international financial institutions for failure to maintain required anti-money laundering procedures and alleged involvement in money laundering schemes. For FY 02, these efforts resulted in the disruption and dismantling of over 13 money laundering organizations, 93 arrests, and the seizure of 1,268.5 kilograms of Cocaine, 38.7 kilograms of heroin, 26.4 kilograms of marijuana, \$8,865,500.00 in US currency, 9 Firearms, 14 Vehicles (valued approximately in \$123,500.00), and 5 Real Estate Properties valued in excess of \$530,000.

- Lastly, 68 law enforcement personnel, primarily police officers, were arrested under Federal conspiracy and drug trafficking charges. This resulted in the dismantling of several organizations in which members of law enforcement were either trafficking in illegal drugs or protecting drug traffickers.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Colorado:</i> | Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Jefferson, LaPlata, Larimer, Mesa, Moffatt, Pueblo, Routt and Weld counties |
| <i>Montana:</i> | Cascade, Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Yellowstone |
| <i>Utah:</i> | Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Washington and Weber counties |
| <i>Wyoming:</i> | Albany, Campbell, Laramie, Natrona, Sweetwater and Uinta counties |

Contact: (303) 671-2180

Mission Statement:

The mission of Rocky Mountain HIDTA (RMHIDTA) is to support the national drug control strategy to reduce drug use in this nation. Specifically, RMHIDTA's mission is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among federal, state and local drug enforcement efforts to enhance combating the drug trafficking problem locally, regionally and nationally. This mission is accomplished through joint multi-agency collocated drug task forces sharing information and working cooperatively with

other drug enforcement initiatives including interdiction.

Threat Abstract:

Methamphetamine remains the number one drug threat in RMHIDTA's four-state region. The primary sources consist of small in-state clandestine methamphetamine labs and Mexican drug trafficking organizations transporting and distributing methamphetamine. The methamphetamine comes from the Juarez, Mexico/El Paso, Texas area, Nogales, Mexico, Tucson/Phoenix area and Southern

California, Colorado, Montana and Wyoming, over the past number of years, have seen an increase in the number of small methamphetamine labs producing small quantities of meth for both personal use and sales. Utah, through some aggressive legislation and enforcement/prosecution efforts, has actually seen a decrease in the number of methamphetamine labs over the last couple of years.

The four-state region is used as a transhipment point for drug couriers as well as a distribution center in the more metropolitan areas. The majority of the methamphetamine distributed outside the Rocky Mountain region is destined for states generally to the north and east such as Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, and as far as Illinois.

The second greatest drug threat in the four states varies by state. In Colorado, cocaine represents the second greatest threat whereas in Utah, club drugs are an emerging problem. In Wyoming, cocaine is rated second as a threat and in Montana it is marijuana.

In Colorado, cocaine continues to pose a threat with some indicators increasing and others declining in recent years. Trafficking organizations with sources of supply located in Mexico transport cocaine to Colorado in private and commercial vehicles traveling the interstate highway system. Investigations have uncovered ties to both Colombian and Mexican cartels. Colorado authorities, particularly in the Denver metro area, have confirmed that cocaine use and distribution are still prevalent among gangs who are considered the most violent of criminal groups involved in the drug trade.

MDMA poses the greatest threat to Utah in the club drug category. Its abuse has crossed demographic and geographic

boundaries in Utah. Abuse of these drugs is no longer limited to rave parties and night clubs. Information indicates that most of the club drugs in Utah are coming in from California, Las Vegas, Nevada and British Columbia, Canada.

In Montana, the second greatest drug threat is marijuana, which is transported into Montana by Mexican trafficking organizations. It is increasingly transported from Canada and cultivated in both outdoor and indoor grows.

Colorado, like Utah, is seeing an increasing problem with club drugs particularly Ecstasy or MDMA. Rave parties have become common as has the use and distribution of a variety of club drugs including MDMA, GHB and LSD. Wyoming has not yet experienced the significant problem that exists in Colorado and Utah but has also seen an increase in club drugs in their state.

Strategy Abstract:

Rocky Mountain HIDTA includes seventeen counties in Colorado, five in Montana, six in Utah and six in Wyoming. The governing body or Executive Board is made up of federal, state and local criminal justice system executives from the four states. This Board employs the director and other administrative staff housed in Denver to oversee the day-to-day operation of the HIDTA.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA is broken down into five subcomponents, which include Administration, Training, Intelligence, Investigation and Interdiction. Each of these subcomponents consists of individual initiatives developed in order to address the identified threat and carry out the mission.

The Investigative subcomponent consists of thirty multi-agency collocated drug Task Forces strategically placed throughout the region. The Interdiction subcomponent

consists of the Colorado State Patrol Interdiction Program, Utah Department of Public Safety Criminal Interdiction Team, Wyoming Highway Patrol Interdiction Program and the Denver Metro Interdiction Task Force. The Administration, Training and Intelligence subcomponents are classified as support initiatives and service the needs of drug law enforcement and prosecution. All five subcomponents are closely related and interact on a regular basis in addressing the threat. Rocky Mountain HIDTA supports a number of major drug trafficking organization task forces, a gang Task Force, a financial Task Force, and the newly-developed Highway Patrol Network which is a collaboration of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming Highway Patrols.

These initiatives include nineteen different federal agencies involving 115 federal personnel; fourteen state agencies involving 51 state personnel; 118 local agencies involving 322 local personnel; and 4 state National Guard Units involving 11 National Guard personnel. The Investigation and Interdiction subcomponents have achieved success in meeting the projected overall outputs.

Investigative Support Center:

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA Investigative Support Center is the central hub for the Investigative and Interdiction subcomponents. The Investigative Support Center consists of the Case Analytical Unit and the Watch Center. These two units are made up of a combination of federal, state and local personnel primarily analysts to assist drug task forces and units in their investigative efforts. The Investigative Support Center has a satellite center in Salt Lake City, Utah and coordinates with the Wyoming DCI center in Cheyenne.

The Case Analytical Unit provides

analytical support to the various HIDTA task forces in pursuit of their investigations. This support includes wire intercepts, PEN registers, graphs, charts, telephone toll analysis, document analysis, geo-mapping, link analysis, statistical analysis, subject background reports, and operational briefing books. The majority of the major investigations that have national impact have had an ISC analyst assigned to the case.

Through the Watch Center function of the ISC, Rocky Mountain HIDTA enforcement agencies are provided real-time tactical deconfliction. Tactical deconfliction is offered to agencies located in eleven Colorado counties. Research is currently underway to expand the Watch Center services into projected areas of need throughout the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region.

The ISC supports and facilitates drug pointer-index information sharing between the four Rocky Mountain HIDTA states and continues to work on direct connectivity between ISC support functions and the investigative initiatives. The intelligence subsystem includes activities and satellite analytical support functions through the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, Montana Division of Criminal Investigation and the Utah Department of Public Safety.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enforcement Under Department of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office (Colorado, Utah and Wyoming), U.S. Marshals Service, U. S.

Postal Inspections Service and U.S. Customs Service.

State: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Colorado National Guard, Colorado State Patrol, University of Colorado Police Department, Colorado Department of Corrections, Montana Division of Criminal Investigation, Montana Department of Corrections, Montana National Guard, Utah Adult Parole Division, University of Utah Police Department, Utah Attorney General's Office, Utah Department of Corrections, Utah Department of Public Safety including Bureau of State Investigations and Utah Highway Patrol, Utah National Guard, Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation and Wyoming Highway Patrol

Local:

Colorado: The 1st, 4th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 17th, and 19th Judicial Districts Attorneys' Offices; Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Jefferson, LaPlata, Larimer, Mesa, Moffatt, Pueblo, Routt, Teller, and Weld Counties Sheriff's Offices; Arvada, Aurora, Boulder, Brighton, Broomfield, Carbondale, Colorado Springs, Commerce City, Craig, Denver, Durango, Englewood, Erie, Evans, Federal Heights, Fort Collins, Fountain, Garfield, Glendale, Glenwood Springs, Golden, Grand Junction, Greeley, Greenwood Village, Lafayette, Lakewood, Littleton, Louisville, Loveland, Manitou Springs, Northglenn, Pueblo, Rifle, Rio Blanco, Sheridan, Steamboat Springs, Thornton, Westminster, Wheat Ridge and Woodland Park Police Departments.

Utah: Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office; Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Washington Counties Sheriff's Offices; American Fork, Bountiful, Clearfield, Kaysville, Layton, Mapleton, Midvale, Murray City, Orem, Pleasant Grove, Provo, Salt Lake City, Sandy, South Salt Lake City, Spanish Fork, Springville, St. George, West

Jordan, West Valley, Woods Cross, Pleasant Grove, Lehi, Mapleton and Salem Police Departments; Salt Lake International Airport Police; Bayfield Marshal's Office

Montana: Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Teton, Yellowstone, Lewis and Clark, Missoula Counties Sheriff's Offices; Billings, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Laurel, Missoula, and Whitefish Police Departments.

Wyoming: Laramie, Natrona and Sweetwater Counties District Attorney's Offices; Campbell, Carbon, Laramie, Natrona, Sheridan, Sweetwater, and Uinta Counties Sheriff's Offices; Casper, Cheyenne, Douglas, Evanston, Gillette, Green River, Laramie, Sheridan, Torrington, and Wheatland Police Departments.

Significant Achievements:

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA;

- Established its first federal, state and local Denver Metro drug task force of 42 officers and 2 prosecutors collocated and commingled.
- Started 6 collocated/commingled drug task forces that were not in existence.
- Initiated the first collocated/commingled task force in the tri-state area to solely target money laundering and financial aspects of drug trafficking.
- Helped facilitate the standardization of all drug enforcement in Wyoming under the Regional Enforcement Team concept.
- Assisted in facilitating a consolidated statewide Utah methamphetamine program including officers, analysts, prosecutors and forensic experts all working together as a team. This resulted in a three-year decrease in clan lab seizures.

- Began the first drug K-9 programs in all three states highway patrol departments.
- Created the first statewide fugitive location task force in Colorado.
- Increased the number of drug trafficking organizations disrupted/dismantled by 20%, arrests by 21% and drug seizures by 37% and increased the number of clandestine labs seized by 35%.
- Helped foster the coordination of over 218 separate investigations with other HIDTA regions.
- Trained approximately 1,400 officers in 45 training classes. The only HIDTA to develop its own Two-week Basic Drug Investigations School, Clan Lab Safety Course, Street Survival Spanish, and Drug Unit Commanders Course, all are POST certified. First HIDTA to host off-site Federal Law Enforcement Analyst Training (FLEAT), a DEA intelligence analyst course.
- Cooperated with the National Drug Intelligence Center including housing two NDIC field specialists.
- Sponsored the first and ongoing federal, state and local Drug Unit Commanders quarterly meetings for training, problem resolution and information sharing.
- Increased use of pointer name index system in each state by 153% and was responsible for unanimous agreement among agencies for mandated use.
- Helped facilitate establishment of the Colorado Drug Investigators Association who set up their first annual conference.
- Established tactical deconfliction watch center and secured unanimous agreement for mandated use.
- Developed a comprehensive policy and procedure manual that was requested and distributed to over 19 HIDTAs.
- Developed the Rocky Mountain Highway Patrol Network to foster tri-state coordination and cooperation.
- Initiated and sponsored the first HIDTA ISC Manager's Meeting.
- Responsible for the ONDCP/CTAC radio interoperability pilot project and its success.
- Worked closely with Montana authorities to bring them into RMHIDTA. Assisted with the threat assessment, budget and forming appropriate task forces.
- Connected Utah's pointer name index (ULEIN) with RISS.NET. In the process of connecting Colorado and Wyoming.
- Established a methamphetamine coordinator's position in coordination with the National Chemical Initiative which facilitated passage of a strong precursor/chemical law in Colorado.
- Facilitated passage of the Drug Endangered Children's law in Colorado and helped establish Colorado coalition of drug endangered children.
- Established a satellite Investigative Support Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

South Florida HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Florida: Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties.

Contact: (954) 430-4900

Mission Statement:

The mission of the South Florida HIDTA is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, related money laundering, violent crime and drug abuse in South Florida, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in other areas of the country.

Threat Abstract:

South Florida HIDTA covers the Broward, Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties in the southeast tip of Florida. The population is approximately 3.3 million people, representing a rich demographic mixture. South Florida remains the command and control center for Columbian drug trafficking organizations operating in the United States. It is an international hub for drug traffickers and money launderers from Central America, South America and the Caribbean. It has also been identified as having our country's second largest concentration of Russian and Eurasian

immigrants and a proportionate number of career criminals and organized crime. Many geographic and commercial conditions contribute to North Florida's role in drug trade: climate of the region, the island chain of the Florida Keys and the extensive shoreline of the Florida peninsula; several international airports, multiple regional airports and two major ports, all ranking among the world's busiest in passengers, cargo and international trade; and its role as an international tourist, transportation and financial center vulnerable for exploitation by criminal organizations. The importation and distribution of a variety of drugs, and more recently the cultivation of marijuana, and the continual operation of the full spectrum of money laundering systems pose a major threat to South Florida. The role of South Florida as an international transportation and distribution hub and money laundering center serves to extend this drug threat nationally and internationally. Problems facing law

enforcement include the sheer volume of drugs entering and passing through the region, and the seemingly unlimited potential for concealment of drugs and cash entering and exiting the nation.

South Florida is without question a major transit point for cocaine, heroin, marijuana and MDMA (Ecstasy) entering the United States destined for other parts of the country. However, cocaine continues to be the predominant threat to the SFLHIDTA. Every indicator, except for the gross weight seized, confirms the overwhelming and continuing dominance of cocaine in South Florida.

Strategy Abstract:

The South Florida HIDTA represents part of one federal district, the Southern District of Florida. Within it, each federal agency has a regional leader who represents his organization and jurisdiction, and ensures that his personnel pursue their agency's mission while they coordinate with other law enforcement organizations. Similarly, the state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies use the authority of their jurisdictions to carry out their missions in overlapping geographic areas. HIDTA-participating agencies submit annual proposals for multi-agency initiatives to address drug trafficking and related money laundering and violence identified by these agencies and in the HIDTA's Regional Threat Assessment.

The HIDTA Executive Board includes eight federal and eight state and local representatives. In FY04, it is chaired by a federal agency Principal Field Officer Hugo Barrera, Special Agent In Charge, ATF. Major Gary Moore, Broward Sheriff's Office, serves as vice chair. The chair, vice chair and all Executive

Board members are selected by their peers according to guidance from ONDCP. The South Florida HIDTA Director Timothy D. Wagner was nominated by the Executive Board and approved by the Director of ONDCP. The HIDTA Director and Deputy Director Joel Widell provide day-to-day program management, broker multi-agency participation, provide support to the drug law enforcement initiatives approved by the Executive Board and serve as a conduit for directives, policy and related administrative information required by ONDCP and the South Florida HIDTA Executive Board. The Director and his staff consolidate initiatives into task forces that make up the South Florida HIDTA proposal for preliminary review by a subcommittee of representatives of the HIDTA Executive Board. The final proposal is then presented to the full Executive Board for review and approval before being submitted to ONDCP each year. In some instances, the Director's office will recognize enforcement opportunities and broker multi-agency coalitions to pursue them as initiatives. The Director and Deputy Director do not exercise operational authority over task forces.

The South Florida HIDTA-participating agencies focus on disrupting and dismantling international, national or multi-regional organizations and conspiracies devoted to smuggling illicit drugs into the United States and distributing them throughout the country, as well as organizations involved in laundering the profits of the illicit drug industry. They also target organizations and individuals that use violence in the furtherance of these criminal activities. Due to the drug threat assessment of the South Florida area, the primary drugs targeted by this

HIDTA are cocaine (powder), heroin, crack cocaine, MDMA, and marijuana.

Investigative Support Center:

The SFLHIDTA Intelligence Center (SFLHIC) is a multi-agency investigative support center that provides analytical assistance through specialized intelligence for law enforcement agencies in South Florida. The Center provides actionable intelligence through target research, organization analysis, and development. Direct case support is available to more than 100 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties. The mission of the South Florida HIDTA Intelligence Center is to facilitate the timely exchange of intelligence information with all HIDTA initiatives and participating law enforcement agencies. Strategic and tactical intelligence is collected, analyzed, and disseminated in support of drug trafficking, money laundering, drug-related firearms trafficking and violent crime investigations. The SFLHIC is designed to take maximum advantage of today's state-of-the-art information technology such as the HIDTA Intranet Based Information System (HIBIS). It runs on secure law enforcement intranet connections, (i.e., RISSNET), and has the following subsystems: *Case Information Support System (CISS), *HIDTA Statistical Reporting, *National Interaction Notification Joint Agency System (NINJAS), *Data Query, *Conveyance Reporting, *Suspect Tracking and *Diverted Container/Cargo Reporting. The HIBIS portal was developed by the SFLHIDTA and is used by a number of other HIDTAs as their in-house case management system.

The SFLHIC Tactical Branch manages and coordinates requests for information and subject queries by providing timely, (within 48 hours), support to South Florida HIDTA agencies, in addition to providing accurate and reliable event, subject, and case deconfliction service to all HIDTA initiatives that are available on a 24-hour basis.

The Operations Branch manages and coordinates analytical personnel to provide investigative analysis for South Florida HIDTA initiatives. Full-service case support is provided for long-term investigations to include: organizational analysis, case development, grand jury presentations, document exploitation, telephone record and financial analysis, and the preparation of graphics such as link charts, graphs, flow charts and time lines for prosecution purposes. The SFLHIC is certified by the NDIC to conduct DOCEX analysis utilizing the RAID program.

The Strategic Branch manages and coordinates the production of threat assessments and produces trends and pattern analysis for the South Florida region. Comprehensive intelligence documents are produced that assist in calculating the threat level of various drugs and drug-trafficking organizations operating in the South Florida region.

The South Florida HIDTA Joint Training Initiative (JTI) offers mission enhancement training in investigations, analysis, and computer programs not readily available to regional law enforcement.

Participating Agencies:

FEDERAL: ATF, BCBP, BICE, DEA, DOJ, , FBI, IRS, USAO, USBP, USCG, US Dept. of State, US Dept. of Defense, USPS, USSS,

STATE/LOCAL: Aventura PD, Bal Harbour PD, Broward Sheriff's Office, Cooper City PD, Coral Gables PD, Coral Springs PD, Davie PD, Florida City PD, Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida National Guard, Fort Lauderdale PD, Hallandale PD, Hialeah PD, Hollywood PD, Homestead PD, Indiancreek PD, Key Biscayne PD, Key West PD, Lauderhill PD, Lighthouse Point PD, Margate PD, Medley PD, Miami Beach PD, Miami PD, Miami-Dade PD, Miramar PD, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, N. Bay Village PD, N Miami PD, N Miami Beach PD, Pembroke Pines PD, Plantation PD, State Attorneys Office, Sunny Isles Beach PD, Sunrise PD

Significant Achievements:

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTH FLORIDA ENFORCEMENT SUCCESSES FOR 2002:

Seized \$109.4 million of drug proceeds and assets
Seized 12,608 kilograms of cocaine
Seized 141 kilograms of heroin
Seized 15,809 kilograms of marijuana
Seized 1,261 plants
Seized 1,189,235 MDMA pills
Dismantled 113, disrupted 337 drug smuggling/money -laundering organizations.
Dismantled 27 violent drug-involved organizations.
Arrested 3,010 individuals involved in drug smuggling, drug sales, money laundering, and violent crimes organizations.

During 2002, multi-agency federal, state and local initiatives continued to target several internal conspiracy narcotics smuggling operations simultaneously through the use of multiple certified

undercover operations, title three intercepts and wiretaps, controlled deliveries, informant information and other means. Close coordination and intelligence sharing between DEA, BICE and FBI led initiatives have yielded impressive successes in targeting airline employee groups and commercial importing firms exploiting the airport. Examples include: Operation Sky Thieves conducted two Title III intercepts, resulting in the identification and indictment of 14 airline/air service employees for multiple incidents wherein large shipments of narcotics (and sham narcotics) were concealed in and subsequently removed from passenger airliners. Three hundred ninety-six kilograms of cocaine, 1,909 kilograms of marijuana and 79.4 kilograms of heroin were seized, three organizations were disrupted and two were dismantled as a result of this operation during 2002. Another internal conspiracy investigation yielded the indictment of 16 individuals, seizures of 20 kilograms of heroin, 20 kilograms of cocaine, and \$150,000 in cash.

Several other significant investigations have been concluded, initiated, or continued during the last year. These investigations have successfully penetrated additional international drug smuggling organizations using Miami International Airport employees to divert drug shipments.

Operation Bug Spray is historical drug smuggling, conspiracy investigative operation primarily utilizing cooperating defendants to document and corroborate previous drug shipments into the Port of Miami and Port Everglades. Through this process, assets have also been identified and seized. To date, over 25 individuals have been arrested and

approximately 20,000 kilograms of cocaine have been documented as having been shipped through the Port of Miami and Port Everglades.

A large-scale smuggling organization utilizing small coastal freighters equipped with concealed compartments has been identified and targeted. The organization has been linked to at least five drug related homicides in the South Florida area. As a result of this investigation, agents have seized a substantial quantity of cocaine and have identified numerous members of the organization through surveillances and telephone record analysis. The case is being conducted jointly by the Miami Task Force and includes BICE (USCS), DEA, Fla. Dept. of Law Enforcement, Miami-Dade Police Department, and the Miami Police Department.

Miami Task Force (MTF) Operation Capstone was initiated as a result of the prior MTF Operation Cornerstone investigation against Cali Cartel leadership in which 47,000 kilograms of cocaine were seized, the cartel was indicted as a racketeering enterprise and forfeiture provisions for \$2 billion were charged. The continuation of this investigation targets the remaining leadership of the Cali Cartel, still operating as a key drug trafficking organization.

Currently, coordinated efforts have been made against Cali Cartel leadership and the identification and infiltration of their assets. In addition, two major systems for off-shore money laundering and investing of illegal funds outside of Colombia in so-called bank-haven and tax-haven countries have been discovered and successfully targeted. As a result of this investigation a major Colombian money broker (Black Market

Peso Exchange-BMPE) was indicted in December 2002.

Operation Green Quest, a BICE-led multi-agency task force targeting terrorist funding sources, initiated an investigation into the utilization of the BMPE to launder funds for narco-terrorist groups based in Colombia. It is believed that individuals associated with such groups are using exports of merchandise to mask the movement of funds that support terrorism. Couriers who transport cash into the United States are being identified as targets of this investigation. One such subject has already been arrested and indicted and the investigation of his activities is yielding additional insight. Since its inception in October 2001, this initiative has made 22 seizures of cash totaling \$4.7 million and 9 arrests.

Operation Green Sweep, an IRS-led Broward County HIDTA task force investigation targeting businesses and individuals using the BMPE to launder drug funds, has arrested three subjects, seized \$767,000, 152 kilos of cocaine and 7 lbs. of marijuana during 2002. In another investigation, the same task force is targeting a stock broker laundering funds for drug traffickers.

Another investigation by the FBI-led Russian/Eurasian Organized Crime Task Force has targeted Russian groups laundering proceeds of ecstasy sales through retail ventures. During an eighteen month period, over \$49 million has been laundered by the violators.

Miami Task Force undercover agents have infiltrated businesses exporting high value shipments of merchandise to Colombia. Several container loads of merchandise have been exported to Colombian businesses, and large

shipments of cash and wire transfers from Mexico have been received as payment for the merchandise.

The South Florida Money Laundering Strike Force led by FDLE and several local departments seized \$8.2 million, 63 kilos of cocaine and 32 kilos of heroin and produced a total of 51 arrests. One of their investigations resulted in the arrest of three individuals involved in a travel agency laundering funds for the Rodriguez-Orjuela Colombian Cartel Organization.

A Miami Task Force Initiative targeting the Outbound and Inbound movement of narcotics currency has focused on unlicensed couriers many of whom attempt to operate under the guise of legitimate business. This operation seized \$22 million during 2002 and arrested 10 subjects for money laundering and narcotics trafficking.

Bank officers laundering huge amounts of drug funds have been successfully targeted. On May 20, a high ranking Bank Atlantic official was sentenced to 20 years incarceration for laundering drug funds as a result of a precedent setting six-year South Florida HIDTA investigation. This case was followed closely by the banking community and sent a clear message that corrupt bank officers are not immune from prosecution regardless of their influence and ability to hire the best legal defense teams.

Violent Crime:

Although most of our initiatives can and do focus on targets of opportunity engaged in violence, South Florida HIDTA agencies have dedicated considerable resources to select initiatives whose strategy and focus directly target armed violent drug

organizations. Highlights of CY 2002 accomplishments include:

A HIDTA/OCDETF multi agency investigation focused on an area known as the "Triangle" located in Opa Locka, Florida. The Triangle is a street distribution zone comprised of over 15 established "drug holes"(area). A struggle for control of this lucrative drug territory resulted in a high number of shootings and 13 homicides. As a result of four title III intercepts and controlled narcotics purchases, two drug distribution organizations were dismantled through the arrest and conviction of 28 individuals. An additional six are pending indictment. The case has also resulted in a spin off that targets large quantity cocaine distributors involved in drug rips and homicides, through a cooperating witness and title III intercepts. To date, 13 subjects are pending indictment.

A separate investigation was conducted in response to an alarming number of drug-related homicides and shootings in the Overtown section of Miami. Through the use of an undercover officer and title III intercepts, seven subjects were arrested in September 2002, and all have pleaded guilty. Debriefings have thus far resulted in an additional 6 pending indictments.

OCDETF PROGRAM:

During 2002, South Florida HIDTA continued to target the highest level drug trafficking/money laundering organizations through development of long-term OCDETF investigations. Of the 85 new OCDETF investigations initiated in South Florida, 34 (40%) are by HIDTA initiatives targeting drug trafficking into the Miami River.

Michigan HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1997

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Michigan: Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Genesee, Kent, Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren Counties

Contact: (877) 848-4500

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Michigan HIDTA is to reduce drug trafficking, related violent crime, and money laundering in the HIDTA Region. This will be accomplished through the coordination and sharing of Intelligence, a unified Law Enforcement effort and Community Cooperation which will improve the quality of life in the State of Michigan.

Threat Abstract:

The Michigan HIDTA Region is centrally located with access to Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Toronto and Montreal. All are major urban centers which play key roles in the North American drug trade. The Michigan HIDTA shares a 700 mile International Border with Ontario, Canada, with three principal Ports of Entry into the United States, accounting for many thousands of

vehicles and trucks, entering and leaving the United States. Numerous airports, including Detroit Metro Airport service the region with direct International flights to source countries. The Michigan region has historically served as a major market for drugs and transshipment point from Florida, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, the Mexican Border, as well as a center for Middle Eastern drug traffickers, money launders and cells of terrorist organizations. The region continues to be a major transshipment point for Canadian pseudo-ephedrine used to produce methamphetamine in California and Mexico super-Labs.

The Detroit Metropolitan airport has been a major smuggling route for narcotics both inbound and outbound for many years. Numerous seizures have been made at this international airport including cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and large sums of cash. Numerous

regional airports and private landing strips facilitate the transshipment of narcotics into the Michigan HIDTA area. Since September 11, 2001, heightened security at area airports has reduced activities, which have now shifted to land routes.

Michigan waterways and lakes also provide virtually unhindered access to limitless landing areas from cities and ports in Canada, The St. Lawrence Seaway, as well as U.S. cities such as Cleveland and Chicago.

Strategy Abstract:

The Michigan HIDTA Executive Board, through its subcommittees, coordinates and synchronizes the efforts to reduce drug trafficking; eliminates duplication; systematically improves the sharing of drug intelligence and targeting information; and utilizes specialized law enforcement task forces to concentrate on particular areas of criminal activity associated with drug trafficking.

Michigan HIDTA initiatives focus on multi-level drug trafficking. To accomplish this, the Michigan HIDTA Executive Board continues to adopt a three-tiered strategy to counter drug trafficking. Level One Initiatives focus on "street level" drug trafficking, Level Two Initiatives focus on drug traffickers and the importation of drugs into the Michigan area, and Level Three Initiatives focus on the major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations, including Consolidated Priority Organization Targets(CPOT). Current and future initiatives will provide additional multi-agency efforts that will support the goals of this strategy. All initiatives are integrated

into and are supported by the Michigan HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISDC).

There were twenty-five (25) MI- HIDTA Initiatives approved and funded during FY 2002. Two of these initiatives were withdrawn by the parent agencies and replaced with one new initiative for a total of 24 initiatives for 2002. The MI-HIDTA Executive Board has studied the financial needs of these existing initiatives, on balance with the allocated amount of HIDTA funds available for FY 2003. The Executive Board has approved twenty-two (22) initiatives for FY 2003 funding (one Initiative is approved but unfunded). The approved law enforcement initiatives make up the Investigative Subsystem of the MI-HIDTA and support the MI- HIDTA Strategies to counter the threat.

Investigative Support Center:

The Intelligence Subsystem of the MI-HIDTA is comprised of the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISDC), which all of the Task Force Initiatives, and all law enforcement agencies can access. The ISDC is comprised of a Deconfliction Section and four investigative support sections. Each investigative support section will have primary responsibility to an assigned group of Task Force Initiatives and secondary responsibility to all Task Force initiatives and other participants. The Michigan HIDTA ISDC is structured and has seamlessly implemented and fully participates in the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan (GCIP).

Core functions of the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center include, but are not limited to:

- Event and case deconfliction
- Post seizure analysis
- Analytical case support
- Strategic intelligence
- Annual Threat Assessment
- One-stop-shopping for federal, state and local intelligence databases.

The Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center is inter-connected through the Milwaukee HIDTA ISC as part of the Riss.net connectivity plan. The Michigan HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center has achieved 24 of the 26 Intelligence and Information Sharing HIDTA Developmental Standards, and is in compliance with a majority of the milestones contained in the GCIP. All members of the Michigan HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center are collocated, full-time assigned personnel. Several agencies also contribute to the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center on a part-time basis, such as the Internal Revenue Service and the Canadian Customs Service.

The Michigan HIDTA Strategy focuses on obtaining the most recent institutional drug intelligence and on developing new sources. This information is supported as much as possible by national intelligence agency sources. The MI-HIDTA attempts to fuse this data into a consolidated targeting picture that will enable investigative and enforcement agencies and task forces to prioritize their collective efforts on those activities that give the greatest outcomes. This central information/intelligence

collection point facilitates cross-case analysis, prevents duplication, and ensures the Executive Board has sufficient information to establish priorities for the approved initiatives.

The goals of the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center are to provide responsive deconfliction, pointer index, case support, intelligence fusion, target and strategic financial crimes information. These services are provided by the participation and intelligence contribution of participating and non-participating agencies. This support is provided on site in the center. Each initiative benefits from and contributes to the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center by querying and updating the information at the center, and by use of the center to provide deconfliction with other tactical operations in the region. All Michigan HIDTA operations and investigations are coordinated with the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center. This is accomplished by the mutual agreement of the Executive Board and respective participating agencies.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, United States Marshals Service, U.S. Attorneys Office from the Eastern District of Michigan and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

State/Local: Michigan State Police, Detroit Police Department, Eastern Michigan Sheriffs, Western

Michigan Sheriffs, Eastern Michigan Chiefs of Police, Western Michigan Chiefs of Police, Michigan Prosecutor Representative,

Other: Metropolitan Organizing Strategies Enabling Strength (MOSES) Community Groups, Michigan National Guard, and the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP).

Many other federal and local agencies participate within HIDTA Task Forces/Initiatives. In CY 2003 369 law enforcement personnel were assigned to HIDTA Task Forces/Initiatives from federal, state and local agencies.

Significant Achievements:

The Michigan HIDTA grew by five counties in 2003. Three of these West Michigan Counties are beset with small toxic methamphetamine laboratories. In response, the Executive Board created two meth lab enforcement initiatives.

A Methamphetamine Laboratory Training Initiative was also created to train first responders, with a goal of training 20 officers. The impetus resulted in the actual training and equipping of 60 state, county and local first responder Officers to deal with the growing problem of small meth labs.

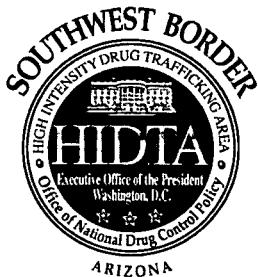
The Michigan HIDTA created a Forensic Services Initiative to support investigations and to meet the state-of-the-art requirements needed for modern law enforcement. MI-HIDTA purchased two Fourier Transform Infra Red Spectrometers (FTIRS), used for drug and substance analysis. The efficiency of

By purchasing this equipment, the Michigan HIDTA was able to release two forensic Scientists back to their agencies and the HIDTA still met its forensic obligations.

Michigan HIDTA law enforcement initiatives increased marijuana seizures by 1300%; Club Drugs by + 90%. A HIDTA/ FBI sponsored initiative Task Force seized 21 kilos of high purity heroin from an international organization. This Investigation continues.

Southwest Border HIDTA

Arizona Regional Partnership



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Arizona: Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma Counties.

Contact: (520) 746-4426/4400

Mission Statement:

To facilitate federal/state/local multi-agency task forces and other partnerships to increase the safety of Arizona's citizens, by substantially reducing drug trafficking, money laundering, and drug-related crime and violence.

Threat Abstract:

Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. This rapid population growth continues to strain law enforcement resources. The region has six Customs land ports of entry, three of which are major ports, five designated international airports, and an excellent transportation infrastructure that is exploited by drug traffickers. The

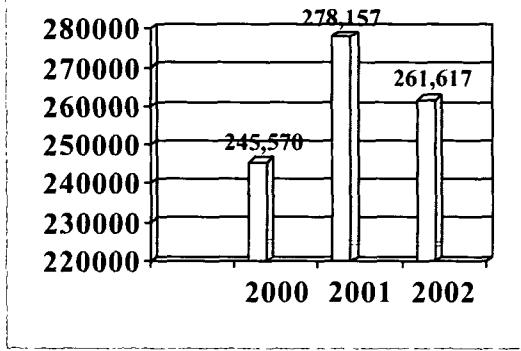
two major metropolitan areas in the HIDTA, Tucson and Phoenix, are primary distribution centers and drug transit areas with close proximity and easy access to the Arizona-Sonora border. The primary threat is from major drug trafficking, money laundering groups, and street gangs that operate in Arizona and Mexico. There were 494 drug trafficking organizations identified in CY 2002 with 46% of them having international connections.

Arizona is considered a transshipment point for loads of drugs, primarily marijuana, cocaine, Mexican black tar heroin, and increasingly methamphetamine produced in Mexico, destined for other areas in the U.S. Marijuana continues to be the most abused and trafficked drug in the state that serves as America's pipeline for

Mexican marijuana. Cocaine remains the second most abused drug. Methamphetamine poses the most significant law enforcement challenge statewide and has replaced cocaine as the second most popular drug of choice in several areas of the state. It is the most abused stimulant drug in Arizona. Heroin is the least abused illicit drug in Arizona. Mexican black tar heroin is the most common type of heroin available in Arizona. Ecstasy has become an "acceptable" and trendy drug among teens and young adults.

Marijuana seizures in CY2002 were 261,617 kilos. This represents a 5.9% drop from CY 2001.

Arizona Statewide Marijuana Seizures (kilograms)



Cocaine seizures dropped from 4.1 metric tons in CY 2001 to 3.2 metric tons in CY 2002.

Clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures decreased from 324 in CY 2001 to 297 in CY 2002; however, statewide methamphetamine seizures increased from 266 kilograms to 285 kilograms on CY 2003, an increase of 11.6% since CY 2000. Increased numbers of seizures

have occurred at the ports of entry and in traffic stops.

Heroin is routinely smuggled into the United States through Arizona Ports of Entry. Heroin seizures are down from 49 kilos in CY 2001 to 7.6 kilos in CY 2002. Drug proceeds are smuggled from Arizona to Mexico in bulk by vehicles, commerce shipments, private and commercial aircraft, and pedestrians. The easy access to illicit drugs generates local community drug abuse problems throughout the state.

Increased interdiction efforts have frustrated the alien and narcotic smuggler. This has resulted in significant acts of aggression and violence toward law enforcement officials - up from 192 incidents in CY 2000 to 248 in CY 2001 then slightly down CY 2002 to 218. Drug trafficking and consumption in the region inevitably lead to drug-related crime. CY 2001 vice CY 2002 violent crime statistics for homicides (397 to 384) and robberies (8,778 to 7,926) were down. Aggravated assaults and rapes increased slightly and all crimes against property were up. Drug-related violence and property crime are increasingly perpetrated by drug gangs and abusers and threatens the safety of Arizona's citizens.

Strategy Abstract:

The Arizona HIDTA operates as an extension of the Southwest Border HIDTA and under the guidance of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Participating agencies have their own missions, strategies, and policies/procedures. The Arizona HIDTA Executive Committee (AHEC) provides the unity of effort and

coordination to synchronize the HIDTA strategy as it targets the drug threat and reduces drug-related crime. The AHEC consists of 13 voting members, 5 local, 3 state, and 5 federal. There is also one non-voting member - JTF-6. The AHEC is a policy making board that may empower subcommittees to accomplish their objectives. They review and approve annual budget submissions and provide guidance to the Arizona HIDTA staff. The Arizona HIDTA provides the coordination umbrella for all HIDTA initiatives and special projects.

The AHEC has funded 23 initiatives to execute the HIDTA strategy and meet the Performance Measures of Effectiveness/Government Performance Results Act targets and the ONDCP Developmental Standards. Each initiative is a multi-agency federal, state, and local effort. All initiatives are collocated and commingled except in two instances where a large, diverse, rural environment does not permit collocation.

The HIDTA counties each have one "centerpiece" initiative (task force) that serves that respective county with a collocated or collaborative multi-agency task force directed at major drug case development and drug smuggling. These "centerpiece" task forces are essentially multi-dimensional to meet HIDTA program guidance criteria. The remaining initiatives augment the primary task forces by providing specialized units to target money laundering, drug-related violence, corruption, fugitive apprehension, surveillance expertise, training, demand reduction, technical or intelligence support.

To accomplish these priorities, grant funding is administered to 23 initiatives. These joint federal, state, and local initiatives are organized seamlessly into counter-drug systems. Each system focuses on a counter-drug imperative. The systems are intelligence, interdiction, investigation, prosecution, demand reduction and support.

Investigative Support Center:

At the direction of the ONDCP, the Arizona HIDTA Executive Committee has implemented an interdiction, intelligence and investigative based HIDTA Center in Tucson, Arizona. The mission of the Center is two-fold: to provide a support environment for the collocation of vital federal, state, and local law enforcement resources involved in counter drug investigations, interdiction, and intelligence and; to provide investigation and interdiction intelligence systems and products that support and enhance Arizona HIDTA drug task forces/initiatives capability to disrupt/dismantle drug trafficking organizations in support of the Arizona HIDTA Strategy. Participants include an Administration Support Group with 6 full-time and 1 part-time collocated members, and an Intelligence Division with 40 full-time and 2 part-time collocated members. The Administration Support Group is staffed by Pima County Sheriff's Department personnel and provides facility management and security services, information systems technical support, operates/maintains the event deconfliction system NINJAS, and conducts research and development for enhanced databases electronic connectivity and analytical support systems. The Intelligence Division is an

Arizona Department of Public Safety led federal, state, and local initiative. The Intelligence Division provides all source intelligence, trend and pattern analysis, analytical case support, and case deconfliction support to the HIDTA initiatives and other appropriate users. To support these efforts, the Intelligence Division has access to over 36 databases. They use the Geographic Information System Arcview to provide predictive intelligence as well as graphically display drug, currency, weapons, and other seizure data. The ISC provides this graphic display through COBIJA WebShare to over 900 vetted users throughout the United States. Collocated at the Arizona HIDTA Center are three other initiatives. Also co-housed are components of the Tucson Police Department Special Investigations Unit, the Border Patrol Prosecution Unit, a Deputy Pima County Attorney, and air assets of the Arizona DPS and Pima County Sheriff's Department.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States National Park Service, United States Forest Service, United States Border Patrol, United States Customs Service, United States Marshals Service, and United States Attorneys Office.

State/Local: Arizona Attorney General's Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Local: Benson Police Department, Bisbee Police Department, Cochise County Attorney's Office, Cochise

County Sheriff's Department, Chandler Police Department, Casa Grande Police Department, Eloy Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Kearney Police Department, Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, Mesa Police Department, Mohave County Sheriff's Office, Nogales Police Department, Oro Valley Police Department, Peoria Police Department, Phoenix Police Department, Pima County Attorney's Office, Pima County Attorney's Office, Pima County Sheriff's Department, Pinal County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Tucson Police Department, Wilcox Police Department, Youngtown Police Department, Yuma County Sheriff's Department, Yuma Police Department

Other: National Guard, Department of Defense JTF-6

Significant Achievements:

The Arizona HIDTA, working with the California Border Alliance Group, the New Mexico HIDTA, the South Texas HIDTA, the Chicago HIDTA, the Southwest Michigan HIDTA and others, has spearheaded a concept called COBIJA (blanket in Spanish). COBIJA is used as a coordinating mechanism that allows the HIDTAs to facilitate federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement coordinated interdiction planning, interdiction operations, and information sharing. There have been fifteen COBIJA cycles since its inception in August 1998. Each cycle involves an operational planning conference (usually attended by 250 - 350 law enforcement representatives), an operational period, and lessons learned. Each phase is supported with intelligence.

COBIJA involves the four southwest border states, and representatives from Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Utah, Wyoming, Ohio, Wisconsin, Missouri, Georgia, Kentucky, New York, Nevada, Washington, Arkansas, and Canada. Over 90 law enforcement agencies and task forces are participants.

COBIJA supports the ONDCP strategic goals, the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan, the Border Coordination Initiative, and the President's drug reduction goals. The Border Coordination Initiative and COBIJA have partnered in order to further enhance multi-agency coordination and information sharing.

The Department of Defense, Defense Systems Information Agency supports COBIJA by providing, at no cost, a secure electronic tool via the Anti-Drug Network Unclassified system. This allows for secure dissemination of intelligence and operational information to all vetted users of the system (over 1,100). COBIJA WebShare hosts the interactive situational map Arcview that graphically displays drug and currency seizures, and other information. Over 30,000 drug seizure reports are submitted annually to the Arizona HIDTA Investigative Support Center from across the nation and Canada. These reports are made available to all WebShare users via the situation map.

The COBIJA concept has been briefed to The Interdiction Committee in WA DC, Project Northstar, Canadian officials, the National HIDTA Conference, and dozens of other law enforcement, government, technology symposiums, and academia organizations.

The Arizona HIDTA, in conjunction with their partner HIDTAs, facilitates three COBIJA cycles each calendar year. COBIJA XVI will begin in February 2004.

Southwest Border HIDTA

California Border Alliance Group



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

California: San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Contact: (619) 557-5880

Mission Statement:

Measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this region and other areas of the country. To accomplish this mission, the CBAG will assist in the coordination of joint operational and supporting initiatives to deter, disrupt, dismantle, and ultimately destroy the most significant Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO's), their supporting transportation and money laundering organizations. The CBAG will also emphasize efforts against methamphetamine manufacturing, precursor supply, and abuse through innovative enforcement operations and demand reduction programs utilizing a multi-agency, joint concept of operations.

Threat Abstract:

The CBAG area of responsibility extends from the U.S.-Mexico border North to the Orange and Riverside County lines, and

from the Pacific Ocean to the Arizona Border. The geographic characteristics are unique: from beaches and seaports to deserts, with forested mountains in between, and the area is home to the largest binational metropolis in the world. Although the 140-mile border within the CBAG's jurisdiction represents only 7% of the entire U.S.-Mexican border, it is home to 60% of the entire Southwest Border population. The CBAG area not only contains five of the nation's busiest land Ports of Entry (San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Tecate, Calexico East and Calexico West), but also international airports and seaports, urban, rural and designated wilderness areas. It remains one of the most active transit areas for drugs and illegal aliens moving north, and for monies traveling south.

Importation of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine through San Diego and Imperial counties, marijuana cultivation, and methamphetamine manufacturing, and high drug use rates (especially

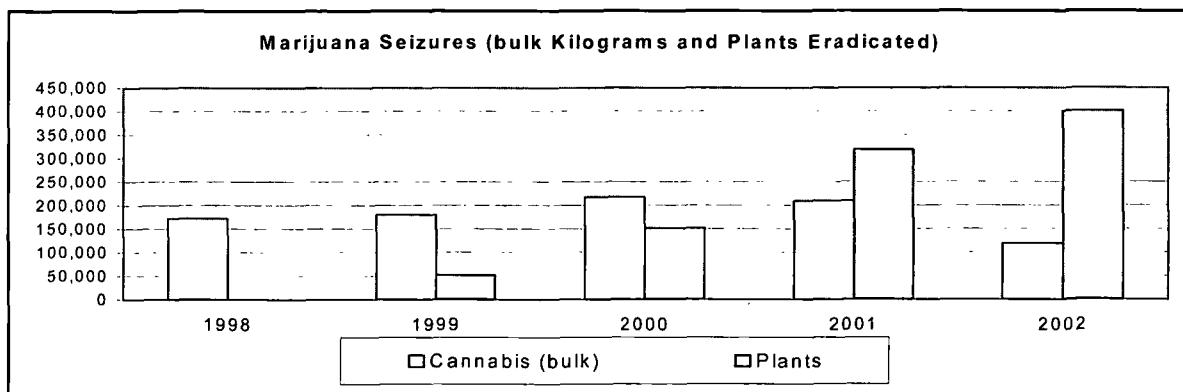
methamphetamine and club drugs) are the primary regional drug threats.

The CBAG measurably impacted drug trafficking in San Diego and Imperial Counties. 40 of 140 Drug Trafficking Organizations and supporting gangs (29 percent) identified in the Fiscal Year 2002 Threat Assessment were disrupted or dismantled from 10 to 100 percent by CBAG initiatives, task forces, and member

AFO, and the beginning of the extradition process.

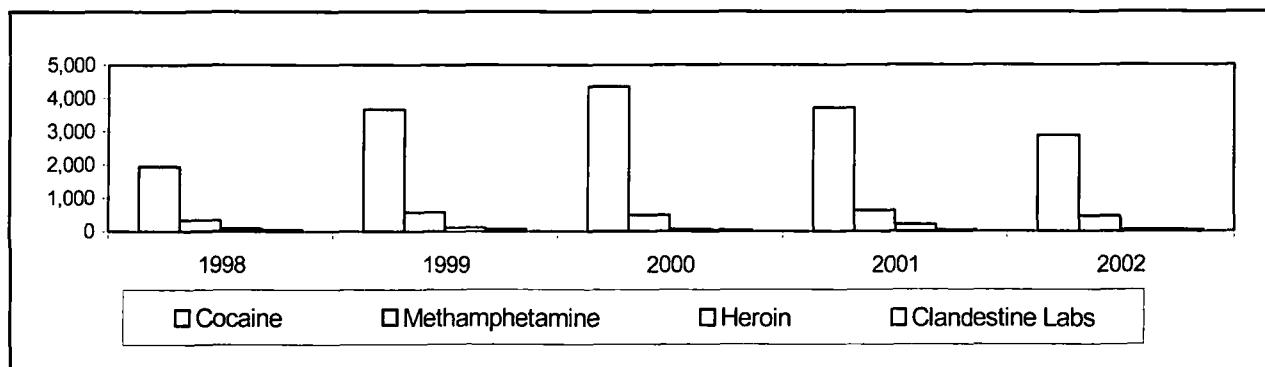
During 2002, CBAG task forces and member agencies seized in excess of 119,173 Kg Marijuana, 401,153 Marijuana plants, 2,875 Kg Cocaine, 50.2 Kg Heroin, 458 Kg Methamphetamine, 5,015 Arrests, \$ 5.81 Million Cash, and 46 Clan Labs.

Although marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and



agencies this year. Significant progress in the disruption of major drug trafficking organizations has been achieved through the efforts of multi-agency joint task forces and initiatives, which have utilized historical conspiracy cases, sophisticated investigative methods, and coordinated interdiction efforts. Several major cases involving the

methamphetamine seizures along the California border decreased again during 2002, proximity to Mexico and drug smuggling remain a major threat. However, the amount of cocaine seized in the Eastern Pacific through the cooperation of the Coast Guard, national-level agencies, local agencies, and CBAG initiatives remains



Arellano Felix Organization and other national- and international-level DTO's have achieved highly significant milestones in 2003, culminating in a joint US-Mexico Attorneys General announcement of indictments against the principals in the

significant: 10 Metric Tons that was destined to cross the border through California or Arizona was seized on the high seas. Higher levels of border seizures would most likely have occurred had it not been taken off at sea. In addition to border

seizures, over 400,000 marijuana plants (equivalent to over 400,000 Kilos) were seized in San Diego County – most of them in large remote operations run by Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations.

Strategy Abstract:

To accomplish its mission, the CBAG coordinates 19 intelligence-driven, joint, multi-agency coordinated initiatives, which are organized into five mutually supporting subsystems. The emphasis is on seamless mutual support among intelligence, interdictors, investigators and prosecutors, with cross-attachment and collocation of enforcement groups with responsibility for differing operational methods, target regions and target levels of investigation. The flow of information, both intelligence and investigative/operational, is critical to comprehensive success against the widely varying drug threats in the region.

Each agency has its own strategies, requirements, and missions. The CBAG Executive Committee, through subcommittees, coordinates the integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and improve the systematic sharing of intelligence. The Executive Committee monitors the implementation of the strategy to ensure the joint efforts of the CBAG produce the desired impact. The Committee provides a coordination umbrella over networked joint task forces, the intelligence center, task forces not funded by CBAG, and single agency task forces and narcotics units within the CBAG. The Committee is formed of 16 Members/Officers, 8 Federal and 8 State/local. An Intelligence Subcommittee provides guidance and direction to the Intelligence Center (the San Diego/Imperial County Regional Narcotics Information

Network - NIN) and develops intelligence policies for the approval of the Executive Committee. A Fiscal Subcommittee reviews and recommends budget and reprogramming requests for Executive Committee action and approval. The CBAG Director provides day-to-day coordination and programmatic and fiscal accountability critical to the CBAG. The Director is responsible for developing draft proposals of the Threat Assessment, Strategy, Initiatives, and Annual Report for submission to the CBAG Executive Committee. The Director is also responsible for the management of the CBAG Staff, which includes Budget, Program Analysis, Network Administration, Demand Reduction, and Training and Equipment Coordination.

Intelligence Support Center:

The San Diego/Imperial County Regional Narcotic Information Network (NIN), the centerpiece of the CBAG's Intelligence Support subsystem, provides responsive deconfliction, pointer index, case support, intelligence fusion, and predictive analyses in cooperation and coordination with the California Southwest Border Intelligence Group, the Imperial Valley Law Enforcement Coordination Center intelligence division, and member agency intelligence units. The NIN is the CBAG region's intelligence "hub", connected by on-line systems and cross-attached personnel to those intelligence nodes within the region, and with the other Southwest Border HIDTA ISC's and nationwide via the Western States Information Network and RISSNET. Interdiction operations and investigations are coordinated with the intelligence center to the greatest extent practicable.

The intelligence center works to identify and assess core and secondary DTOs, and

develop organizational profiles including key personalities, methodologies, facilities, assets, and capabilities and vulnerabilities of those DTOs. Further, the intelligence center assesses and prioritizes geographical areas and smuggling methodologies with the highest levels of trafficking activity. Based on these assessments, the intelligence center develops a prioritized list of targets, identifying critical nodes and their susceptibility to interdiction, investigation, prosecution, or further intelligence exploitation. This necessitates, within prudent security limits, the free and mutual flow of information to the NIN, with the full cooperation of all participating Law Enforcement Agencies.

The NIN has also developed, in cooperation and with the assistance of the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) a Document Exploitation team, providing the capability to quickly retrieve, scan, process and analyze large volumes of documents in support of investigations, prosecutions, and intelligence efforts.

The CBAG Narco-Terrorism Initiative is an innovative effort to coordinate, and ultimately to integrate, Drug and Homeland Security Intelligence and Information Sharing operations and centers within the CBAG region. It focuses on collocation and commingling of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Regional Computer Forensics Lab, and a cadre of NIN analysts, and support for the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) – FBI information-sharing pilot project.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Civil Air Patrol, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal

Communications Commission, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, United States Attorney's Office, United States Border Patrol, United States Bureau of Land Management, United States Coast Guard, United States Customs Service, United States Forest Service, United States Marshals Service, United States Postal Inspection Service, Department of Defense-Joint Task Force-Six

State: California Department of Justice-Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, California Department of Justice-Western States Information Network, California Department of Corrections, California Highway Patrol, California National Guard

Local: Calipatria Police Department, Brawley Police Department, Calexico Police Department, Carlsbad Police Department, Chula Vista Police Department, Coronado Police Department, El Centro Police Department, El Monte Police Department, Escondido Police Department, Holtville Police Department, Imperial County District Attorney's Office, Imperial County Probation Department, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, Imperial County Fire Department, Imperial Police Department, National City Police Department, Oceanside Police Department, San Diego Police Department, San Diego District Attorney's Office, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, San Diego County Probation Dept, San Diego Harbor Police Department, Westmoreland Police Department.

Other: San Diego County Prevention Coalition, National Institute of Justice-Border Research and Technology Center, San Diego County Board of Supervisors-Methamphetamine Strike Force

Significant Achievements:

The Arellano-Felix Organization Task Force was formed in 1995 with representation from Federal, State, and local agencies, with the mission to investigate, indict, and prosecute members of the Arellano-Felix Organization, a ruthless drug trafficking cartel controlling the Tijuana, Baja California Norte corridor.

On July 8, 2003, United States Attorney General John Ashcroft and Mexican Attorney General Rafael Macedo de la Concha, in a joint press conference, announced the unsealing of a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization or RICO indictment in the Southern District of California entitled United States v. Benjamin Arellano-Felix. The indictment charges 11 defendants who compose the ultimate leadership of the Arellano-Felix Organization (AFO), the Tijuana-based cartel responsible for importing thousands of tons of cocaine and marijuana into the United States and murdering hundreds of people. The indictment joins the results of previous investigative efforts with evidence and witnesses that recently became available. As a result, a comprehensive composite of the AFO's drug operations and associated violent acts in the United States, Mexico and Colombia is now known to U.S. law enforcement.

The significance of this indictment cannot be overstated and several elements are noteworthy. Thirty-five first-tier witnesses were developed from California, Mexico, Colombia and elsewhere and more than sixty witnesses entered into the Witness Security Program. Furthermore, for the first time, the Government of Mexico temporarily released three witnesses from their Witness Security Program for appearances before a San Diego Grand Jury

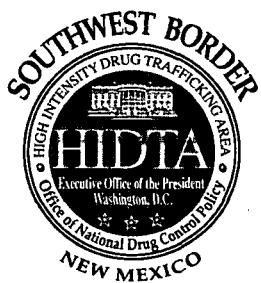
in accordance with the Geneva Convention protocol. Moreover, this indictment represents the first time the RICO statute has been applied against a Mexican drug cartel. This innovative approach places the United States in the best possible position to extradite the defendants and bring about the AFO's ultimate demise.

Task Force and agency participation in the San Diego/Imperial County NIN (the CBAG's Regional Intelligence Center) continues to increase every year. During 2002, the NIN Watch Center processed 8,592 narcotic enforcement actions or events taking place in San Diego and Imperial counties. This is a 12% increase over the number of Critical Events handled by the Watch Center in 2001. There were 578 deconflicts during the year, again, up 8% from 2001. Additionally, the Watch Center conducted 71,159 database inquiries, which resulted in 22,008 system "hits" or sharing of information, a hit rate of 30 percent.

The most remarkable change in the behavior of DTO's, and probably some indication of law enforcement success, is the proliferation of smuggling tunnels: 2 discovered in 2002, and 5 more in 2003. Although tunneling has been used in the past, when taken with the reduction in border drug seizures this year, it may be that DTO's are being affected by increased POE inspections, border operations, and successful investigations, and are looking for alternate methods of moving drugs.

Southwest Border HIDTA

New Mexico Regional Partnership



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

New Mexico: Bernalillo, Chaves, Hidalgo, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, and Santa Fe Counties and all the municipalities therein.

Contact: (505) 541-7501

Mission Statement:

The New Mexico HIDTA's mission is to develop a synchronized system involving coordinated intelligence, interdiction, investigation and prosecution efforts to measurably reduce drug trafficking; thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this state and other areas of the country.

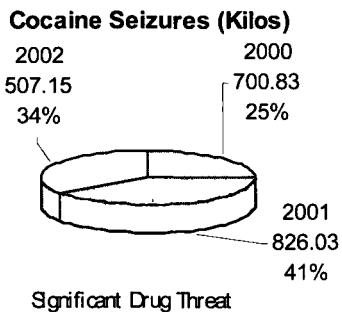
Threat Abstract:

The New Mexico region was designated in 1990 as one of the five regions of the Southwest Border HIDTA. The region encompasses thirteen counties, four Ports-of-Entry, and about 180 miles of international border shared with Mexico. Most of the New

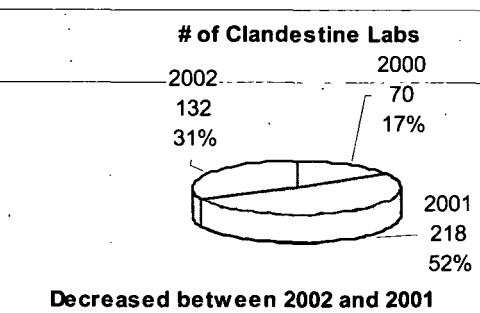
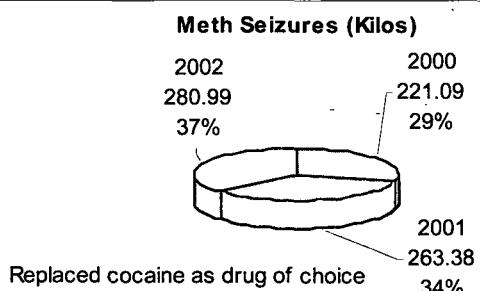
Mexico/Mexico border area is open desert, barren and generally uninhabited with innumerable roads, trails, footpaths and private ranches, which offer drug smugglers easy access into the United States and to major interstate highways. The remoteness of the areas between the Ports-of-Entry offer favorable conditions of smuggling alternatives. The proximity to the Ciudad Juarez, Mexico/El Paso, Texas corridor threatens the region as this corridor is a major factor in the flow of narcotics into and through this region. Drug traffickers are increasingly exploiting the North America Free Trade Agreement provisions, which has resulted in significant increases in commercial trade. Freight trains and commercial motor vehicle carriers which cross the

Texas/New Mexico and Mexican borders, travel through New Mexico and are frequently utilized by major Mexican drug trafficking organizations to move drugs into and throughout the United States.

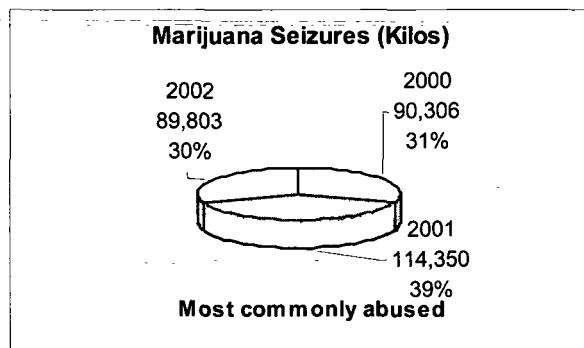
The importation, distribution, and consumption of cocaine and "crack cocaine" are the biggest threat in the region.



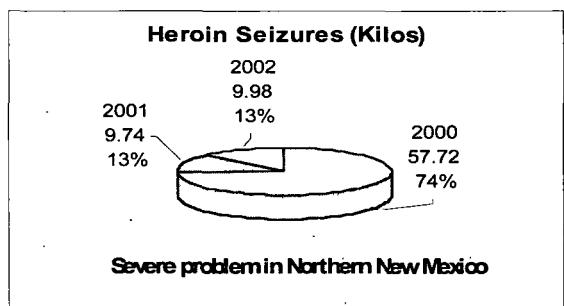
The availability of methamphetamine – from Mexico, California, and locally produced – is increasing rapidly. Although local methamphetamine lab seizures have decreased, seizures of methamphetamine produced in California have increased overall and from one pound quantities to over one kilogram quantities per incident.



Mexican marijuana is the most prevalent drug abused and the most interdicted drug.



The availability of Mexican black tar heroin continues throughout New Mexico and is a severe problem along the Northern Rio Grande Valley, from Albuquerque to Taos County.



Gangs facilitate much of the drug distribution that occurs at the street level and are responsible for much of the drug-related violence in the region.

Strategy Abstract:

An Executive Board comprised of six federal and eight state/local law enforcement leaders in the New Mexico HIDTA area allows for seamless integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking, eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort, systematically improve the

sharing of drug intelligence, and support programs that effectively reduce the demand for illegal drugs. The goals are to reduce the transshipment of drugs transported into New Mexico by identifying the responsible organizations; reducing distribution of drugs within communities; continuing interdiction of smuggled drugs; following up investigations; and reducing the manufacturing of methamphetamine. The New Mexico HIDTA coordinates fourteen initiatives to build four counterdrug systems. Hundreds of representatives from 63 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies are full-time participants in the New Mexico HIDTA initiatives that implement the strategy including: ten collocated multi-agency task forces; one prosecution initiative that includes two U. S. Attorney Offices and seven District Attorney Offices; one forensic criminal laboratory; one Investigative Support Center; and one administrative support initiative. An intelligence system works through a Regional Intelligence Center to gather intelligence and analyze data. Interdiction efforts are emphasized on transportation systems. An investigation system employs post seizure analysis and investigation in complex cases to include money-laundering investigations. The prosecution system coordinates between the U. S. Attorney's offices and state prosecutors focusing on high profile cases in order to address the high volume of cases originating from the border region.

Investigative Support Center:

The New Mexico HIDTA Investigative Support Center (NMISC) is the centerpiece of the HIDTA as it provides the collocation and commingling of vital

federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel and databases that are available to assist all area law enforcement agencies in counterdrug investigations and interdiction. The NMISC provides event and case deconfliction for officer safety and enhanced intelligence; strategic intelligence for refined targeting and officer resource allocation; and in-service analytical intelligence training. The NMISC provides HIDTA task forces with operational analytical support for ongoing initiative-driven case activity through access to criminal and commercial databases. The NMISC provides law enforcement with immediate access with "one stop shopping" to a wide range of law enforcement and commercial databases.

Participating Agencies:

The NMISC currently has the following databases: Treasury Enforcement Communication System (TECS), National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) and related subsystems, including the Interstate Identification Index (III), National Law Enforcement Teletype System (NLETS), INS Central Index System (CIS), Commercial Drivers License Information System (CDLIS and SAFER), DEA Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Information System (NADDIS), New Mexico Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), FBI Field Office Information Management System (FOIMS), the state Corrections Management Information System (CMIS), two commercial databases, Choicepoint/Autotrak and Lexis-Nexis, Narcotics Information Network Joint Agency System (NINJAS) and Rocky Mountain Info Network (RMIN). The New Mexico

HIDTA Threat Assessment requires quarterly reporting so that resources and direction can be reevaluated among the HIDTA initiatives. This information and statistics are shared with the NMISC.

Federal: Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Amtrak Police Department, Department of Defense JTF-6, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Marshal Service, United States Attorney's Office, Border & Customs Protection and Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enforcement.

State: New Mexico Department of Corrections and Parole, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, New Mexico National Guard, and District Attorney's Offices of the First, Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Eleventh and Twelfth Judicial Districts.

County/Municipal: Albuquerque Police Department, Alamogordo Department of Public Safety, Artesia Police Department, Aztec Police Department, Belen Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department, Bernalillo Police Department, Bloomfield Police Department, Carlsbad Police Department, Corrales Police Department, Deming Police Department, Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department, Eddy County Sheriff's Department, Espanola Police Department, Eunice Police Department, Farmington Police Department, Grant County Sheriff's Department, Hatch Police Department, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department, Hobbs Police Department, Jal Police Department, Las Cruces Police Department, Lea County Sheriff's Department, Los Alamos Police Department, Los Lunas Police Department, Lovington Police

Department, Luna County Sheriff's Department, Otero County Sheriff's Department, Questa Police Department, Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Department, Rio Rancho Police Department, Sandoval County Sheriff's Department, San Juan County Sheriff's Department, Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department, Santa Fe Police Department, Silver City Police Department, Sunland Park Police Department, Taos Police Department, Taos Police Department, Tatum Police Department, Torrance County Sheriff's Department, University of New Mexico Police Department, and Valencia County Sheriff's Department.

Other: New Mexico Sheriff's and Police Association.

Law Enforcement Cooperation/Coordination

Many Drug Trafficking Organizations continually utilize the New Mexico highway system as a major thoroughfare for the transportation of drugs that are destined to distribution points in New Mexico and other locations in the U.S.

Federal, state and county/municipal law enforcement agencies in New Mexico often intercept these drug shipments along the New Mexico/Mexico border, highways and Amtrak railway. These seizures and resulting arrests are referred to HIDTA investigative initiatives for follow-up investigation and prosecution. The follow-up investigation often involves efforts to deliver the seized contraband to its intended destination in an undercover capacity and controlled environment. Through these controlled deliveries, law enforcement personnel have been able to identify and arrest additional members of major Drug

Trafficking Organizations and often make additional drug and asset seizures. This type of investigative technique has proven to be very successful in disrupting and dismantling the activities of numerous national and international Drug Trafficking Organizations. Some of the drug shipments that were intercepted in New Mexico during CY 2002 were destined for locations in Massachusetts, Ohio, Washington D.C., Oklahoma, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, California, North Carolina, North Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, New York and Georgia.

Investigative initiatives also begin and develop drug-related investigations that result in seizures of drugs, drug-related assets and prosecution of members involved with Drug Trafficking Organizations.

Additionally, the New Mexico HIDTA also participates in coordinated, synchronized and planned interdiction efforts in concert with the other HIDTAs along the Southwest Border (AZ, CA and TX). The New Mexico HIDTA initiatives are frequent participants in these joint drug interdiction operations where intelligence and information are shared among all HIDTA initiatives of the Southwest Border HIDTAs. These efforts have also proven to be very successful in stemming the flow of drugs that are transported through the State of New Mexico.

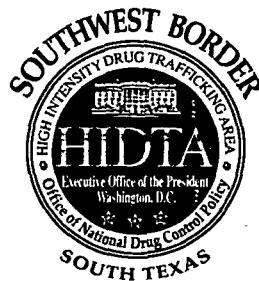
A Prosecution initiative coordinates its efforts with those initiatives referring cases to them and closely communicates and cooperates with other jurisdictions to pursue the best possible results.

An Intelligence initiative develops and shares intelligence information received by HIDTA agencies and shares it with law enforcement agencies that may be able to maximize its impact.

The following are the statistical outputs produced as a result of coordinated and cooperative efforts among participants from the New Mexico HIDTA initiatives during CY 2002:

- Total Defendant Arrests: 3,339
- Drug Seizures:
 - Cocaine – 507.15 Kg.
 - Heroin – 9.98 Kg.
 - Marijuana – 89,803.10 Kg.
 - Methamphetamine – 280.99 Kg.
 - Methamphetamine Labs – 132
- Asset Seizures: \$7,235,209.00
- Dismantled 91 Drug Organizations
- Disrupted 298 Drug Organizations

Southwest Border HIDTA South Texas Regional Partnership



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Texas: Bexar, Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Starr, Maverick, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala counties

Contact: (210) 692-1532

Mission Statement:

The mission of the South Texas (ST) Partnership, Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (SWB HIDTA) is to reduce drug availability by creating intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences through enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking control efforts among Federal, State and local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA). To accomplish its mission, the ST Executive Committee and Director identified specific goals that include: reducing drug availability by eliminating or disrupting CPOT/RPOT DTOs, increased focus on CPOT/RPOT transportation and distribution organizations; partnering with OCDETF regarding priority CPOT/RPOT;

increasing investigative focus on money laundering activities with intelligence providing avenues for investigations, thus impacting on drug trafficking profits; seeking to identify, dismantle, and prosecute large-scale narcotics and money laundering organizations, and seize the assets associated with their illegal activities; increasing coordination and consolidation among SWB HIDTA Initiatives; increasing counter-drug information collection, analysis, production and fusion for useable intelligence, and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Law Enforcement Organizations (LEO) within the STR through enhanced training, coordination, and officer safety.

Threat Abstract:

The South Texas Region (STR) is a major corridor for the transportation,

transshipment, and temporary storage of illegal drugs from Mexico and South America. Local organizations, businesses and individuals involved in facilitating the transportation and transshipment of illegal narcotics present the major drug-related threat to the STR. Large-scale DTOs operating throughout the area maintain smuggling networks that transport shipments of cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, and other dangerous drugs across the Mexican border. The South Texas Region has the most active drug smuggling corridors of the Southwest Border. The area encompasses more than 625 miles of shared border with Mexico, which accounts for 31% of the entire SWB, and approximately 50% of the Texas-Mexico border. According to EPIC, almost 40% of the drug seizures along the SWB in 2002 occurred in the STR. It is estimated that the various DTO operating along the U.S./Mexico border generate \$20 to \$40 billion dollars of U.S. Currency (USC) annually. In order to collect their profits, the DTOs reverse their smuggling operations to return the illicit profits from the U.S. into Mexico. Methods of smuggling illicit proceeds range from old-fashioned bulk currency shipments to sophisticated multi-bank transfers.

Drugs seized by the STR initiatives and task forces during calendar year 2002 totaled more than 20,000 kilos of cocaine, 108 kilos of heroin, 325,000 kilos of marijuana, 125 kilos of methamphetamine and other significant volumes of dangerous and illegal drugs. Currency and assets seized by the task forces totaled in excess of \$43 million dollars in USC. More than 2,600 suspects were arrested as a result of the

task force seizures.

During Calendar Year 2003 (CY 03) there has been a significant increase in drug-related homicides on both sides of the Texas/Mexico border.

Strategy Abstract:

The ST Partnership, SWB HIDTA Executive Committee consists of 12 local, State, and Federal law enforcement leaders representing the 14 counties of the ST region, SWB HIDTA. The Executive Committee coordinates and integrates, with the SWB HIDTA, counter narcotic efforts in interdiction, intelligence collection, development and exchange, and investigations to facilitate prosecutions of drug trafficking organization members. There are 47 local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) participating in the ST Partnership's initiatives and task forces. The 47 agencies represent 12 Federal, four State, and 31 local LEA working multi-jurisdictional, collocated task forces.

The STR Director and Executive Committee performed a significant review of the established initiatives and task forces during CY 03. As a result, some initiatives were restructured or consolidated to better address the STR mission. The STR consists of 16 investigative and interdiction task forces with six intelligence elements. One of the intelligence nodes is the primary Investigative Support Center (ISC) with the remaining five providing frontline support directly to the supported task forces and border region LEA. Further, five task forces receive direct prosecution support from assigned local prosecutors. With this refocused

structure within the STR, the major trafficking issues within the STR and how it impacts the nation will improve. It also will improve local and regional successes.

A staunch partner of the OCDETF Program, the STR task forces supported more than 90 OCDETF investigations in CY 02 while initiating 10 of its own OCDETF cases.

The STR task forces performed more than 2,600 drug-related arrests in CY 02.

The STR also participated in more than 70 controlled deliveries across the nation in CY 02.

Investigative Support Center:

The ISC in the STR is structured around a hub and spoke concept. The South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center (STHIC) is the main ISC with remote intelligence nodes located in each of the major cities along the Texas/Mexico border and the state capital of Austin. All nodes are electronically connected with each other via the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISS Net) Network as well as the Texas Criminal Law Enforcement Reference Information System (CLERIS) through the Texas Narcotics Information System, (TNIS). Each intelligence site has access to databases available within the region, State, SWB, and the Nation.

The STR ISC is the RISS Net node for four partnerships of the SWB HIDTA as well as the North Texas HIDTA, which covers not only counties of North Texas but also counties within the state of Oklahoma. Through this RISS Net connectivity, all administrative and operational elements within the STR

have secure communications with HIDTA and RISS Net LEA across the nation.

In CY 02, the Intelligence elements within the STR responded to more than 20,000 event deconfliction requests and 111,000 intelligence queries, assisted in more than 1,400 OCDETF investigations, 40 Title III, and processed 186,000 telephone tolls while providing more than 25,000 intelligence profiles. Efforts are on going to provide event deconfliction support for all of Texas' LEAs.

The ISC has participants from local, State, and Federal LEA at each location. As a result of its comprehensive counter narcotics efforts, the ISC hosts' periodic intelligence conferences with attendees from LEA agencies in adjacent states.

The ISC is also an active participant and coordinator of the Cobija Concept during operational planning, performance and review periods.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), Department of Homeland Security - Office of the Inspector General (DHS-OIG), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Park Service (NPS), Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI), United States Attorney's Offices from the Southern and Western Districts of Texas (USAO-SDT/WDT) United States Coast Guard

(USCG), and United States Marshal's Service (USMS).

State/Local: Texas Attorney General's Office, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Department of Public Safety, 63rd Judicial District, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Brownsville Police Department, Cameron County Auditor, Cameron County District attorney, Cameron County Sheriff's Office, Del Rio Police Department, Eagle Pass City Attorney, Eagle Pass Police Department, Harlingen Police Department, Hidalgo County Auditor, Hidalgo County District Attorney, Kinney County Sheriff's Office, La Salle Sheriff's Office, Laredo Police Department, Leon Valley Police Department, McAllen Police Department, Mission Police Department, Pharr Police Department, Rio Grande City Police Department, San Antonio Police Department, San Benito Police Department, Starr County District Attorney, Starr County Sheriff's Office, Val Verde Sheriff's Office, Webb County District attorney, Webb County Sheriff's Office, Weslaco Police Department, Zapata County District Attorney, and Zapata County Sheriff's Office.

Significant Achievements:

The South Texas Partnership made numerous strides to achieve the objectives of the HIDTA Program in CY 02, continuing into CY 03.

The ST Partnership ended CY 02 with a review of the region and its operations by the National HIDTA Program Office. The review allowed the Partnership to better address issues identified within the region and take action to improve

policies, procedures, and related guidelines.

In an effort to more efficiently consolidate operational resources, the ST Director and Executive Committee made strides to further collocate task force elements of initiatives, beginning in CY 02. Task forces in San Antonio and Brownsville continue their efforts to decrease the number of locations from which their task forces operate. Though these actions required the relocation of the Director and associated support element, the moves allow more operational task forces to collocate in a single building.

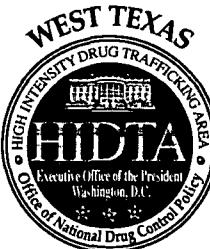
Participation of more Federal agencies in the ISC further enhanced the ability of the intelligence elements to perform their duties. Through the improved connectivity provided by the RISSNET, the ISC better supports not only HIDTA but more regional LEAs as well. The ISC also hosted four quarterly Intelligence Conferences during CY 02, with LEAs from numerous states represented.

The STP increased local, State, and Federal agency participation and support of the counter-narcotics effort through participation and support of the Cobija Concept, originated by the SWB HIDTA Arizona Partnership. The ST Partnership hosted a National and SWB HIDTA Cobija Planning and Coordination Conference in CY 02 with more than 120 LEA attendees from Federal, State, and local agencies across the nation. Further, the access of the Cobija Webshare Internet database increased by 75 Texas users in CY 02. Training within the ST Partnership continued to receive increased emphasis

in CY 02. The ST Partnership trained more than 78 local, State, and Federal task force participants from 45 agencies in the HIDTA Program Policies and Procedures, with a focus on budgetary requirements. An additional 30 participants received training on Annual Report requirements. The ST Partnership also provided professional job-related investigative, interdiction, and administrative training for more than 425 Federal, State, and local LEAs

Southwest Border HIDTA

West Texas Regional Partnership



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Texas: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Terrell, Crockett, Pecos, and Reeves counties.

Contact: (915) 532-9550

Mission Statement:

The mission of the West Texas Region of the Southwest Border HIDTA is to dismantle the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) in our region and to stop the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States. We will make our area "unattractive" to the DTOs via the development and coordination of intelligence, interdiction, investigative, forfeiture and prosecution initiatives.

Threat Abstract:

The West Texas Region of the Southwest Border HIDTA (SWB HIDTA – West Texas) adjoins the 490 miles of international border including five of the busiest Ports of Entry (POEs) on any US Border. The primary routes for drug smuggling in the area are

through the POEs via motor vehicles ranging from passenger cars to semi-trailers. Remote stretches of unregulated territory between the POEs are also vulnerable to drug trafficking. The El Paso International Airport, Interstate-10, which accesses both ends of the country, and rail companies are exploited by narcotics entrepreneurs as well. An extensively interconnected commercial and social infrastructure in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, and to a lesser extent Presidio, Texas and Ciudad Ojinaga, Mexico, provide drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) with innumerable methods of "masking" their illicit trade. Commerce between the Mexico and the United States has been on the rise due to NAFTA and expected to continue. Increasing trade and corresponding traffic through the region will amplify the complexity of the drug threat.

Drug traffickers in the area are major, high-level international organizations with command and control components operating out of Mexico. Large-scale importation and trafficking of all types of drugs - predominantly cocaine, marijuana, and heroin - destined for all major cities throughout the United States are the primary problem. El Paso is a hub for illicit drug distribution and money laundering systems. Cocaine seizures on the United States side of the border have doubled since 1997 and continue to rise. Marijuana seizures continue to be some of the largest in the country. Heroin seizures continue to grow. DTOs are sophisticated and wealthy enough to avoid law enforcement efforts to curtail money-laundering activities. Internal and external power struggles to control the Juarez Cartel unleashed an unprecedented wave of violence in Ciudad Juarez and into Ojinaga, Mexico. Corruption on both sides of the border assists the DTOs in advancing their illicit trade.

Charts 1 and 2 from the West Texas HIDTA 2004 Threat Assessment demonstrate the increasing burden of drug trafficking in the West Texas region. As this region is being used increasingly in DTO's transshipment activities, and as more organizations are disrupted and dismantled, federal and state prosecutors' caseloads have significantly increased.

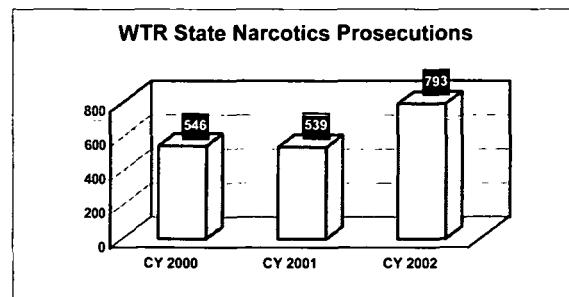


Chart 1 - State Caseload

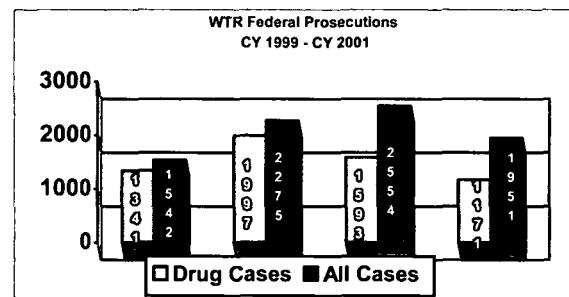


Chart 2 - Federal Caseload

Strategy Abstract:

West Texas, designated in 1990 as one of the five regions of the Southwest Border HIDTA, encompasses ten west Texas counties that adjoin 490 miles of international border with Mexico. The West Texas Regional Executive Board is comprised of 3 local, 1 state, and 6 federal law enforcement leaders in the SWB HIDTA-West Texas area of responsibility. A unified approach between law enforcement and prosecution agencies facilitates regional efforts to stem the flow of drugs entering the United States for distribution. A total of 23 federal, state, and local agencies cooperatively participate in 12 multi-agency initiatives. The management & coordination component of this HIDTA region is located in El

Paso, TX. The Investigative Support Center (ISC), comprising the intelligence backbone of the HIDTA, is also co-located in El Paso, TX. The Texas Narcotics Information System, is a statewide multi-HIDTA initiative located in Austin, TX. Six investigative initiatives target the major drug trafficking organizations, and their components, operating in the region. This includes targeting the highest command and control levels of drug trafficking organizations, their transportation organizations, money laundering organizations, the transient traffickers, and the fugitives related to drug trafficking. Four interdiction initiatives target the Ports of Entry, the use of wide-open territory throughout the region, and the prolific use of stash houses to accumulate and ship large quantities of drugs throughout the country. The prosecution initiative enhances enforcement efforts by ensuring the full prosecution of narcotics traffickers.

Investigative Support Center:

The West Texas Region Intelligence Initiative consists of 3 nodes, which provide operational units with a seamless intelligence support system. The structure and policies of the entire initiative comply with the federal General counter drug Intelligence Plan (GCIP). The Intelligence Initiative functions in the following manner. The ***Investigative Support Center (ISC)*** is the hub of the West Texas HIDTA and it is located in one office location, the El Paso Federal Criminal Justice Building. Three agencies are full participants in, and co-manage the ISC: Drug Enforcement Administration, El Paso Field Division; El Paso County Sheriff's

Department; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The ISC is the initial point of contact on all service requests to the Intelligence Initiative. It also sponsors yearly marketing presentations (on services provided by the Intelligence Initiative), which will be presented to all narcotics enforcement personnel in the region. The ISC provides data base query, deconfliction pointer index services, and a full range of tactical and strategic analytical support and reports. With the addition of translators from JTF-6, the ISC provides translation/transcription services to all of the HIDTA initiatives. It also develops intelligence driven investigations to provide to the operational units. The ISC serves as the hub of communications between all of the agencies/initiatives, the West Texas Region administrative center and the other SWB Regions through the development and operation of a secure Intranet/e-mail system. Access to all federal, state, local and commercial databases has been achieved. Connectivity to the RISSNET has also been achieved. The FBI, DEA, BICE, DPS, EPCSD and the EPPD have all assigned personnel to the ISC on a full-time basis. The TOAG, USBP-El Paso and USBP-Marfa have all assigned part-time personnel to the ISC. EPIC also plays a role in the ISC with connectivity to the ISC WAN, and the ISC has access to EPIC's Clandestine Lab database.

The ***Alpine/Marfa/Big Bend Intelligence Center (AMBBIC)*** is being established as a satellite ISC that provides limited intelligence support in the Alpine/Marfa/Big Bend areas of the West Texas Region. The ***Texas Narcotics Intelligence System (TNIS)*** is the third node of the West Texas HIDTA Intelligence Initiative that provides

national database connectivity, a central information repository and limited analytical support. The ISC coordinates the efforts of the AMBBIC and TNIS components of the initiative so that the narcotics agent/officer is serviced by a seamless intelligence support system.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI), United States Border Patrol from the El Paso and Marfa Sectors (USBP), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), United States National Park Service (NPS), United States Marshals Service (USMS), and U.S. Attorneys Offices (AUSA) from the Western District of Texas.

State/Local: Texas Office of the Attorney General (TXOAG), Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS), Texas Board of Criminal Justice – Inspector General Division (TBCJ-IG), Texas National Guard, Counter Drug Program (TXNG-CD), 34th Judicial District Attorney's Office (34 DA), Alpine Police Department (APD), Brewster County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), Culberson County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), El Paso County Sheriff's Department (EPCSD), El Paso Police Department (EPPD), Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), and the Presidio County Sheriff's Office (PCSO).

Other: El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), JTF-6, and El Paso County Metro Narcotics Task Force.

Successful Achievements:

The ISC provided crucial assistance to local law enforcement in filing a civil injunction against the Barrio Aztecas. The Barrio Azteca (BA) is a prison gang that is very strong in federal, state and county prisons in the southwest area of the U.S. The BA is involved in narcotics, gun, violence, intimidation and money laundering rackets. They have an estimated membership of 2000 nationwide and approximately 200 in the El Paso area. Their narcotics market centers around the downtown area of El Paso. This year the ISC worked with the EPPD and the El Paso County Attorney's Office in filing a civil injunction against the BA which forbids known gang members from congregating in, or near the downtown area. Breach of the injunction results in an immediate arrest. The ISC was very instrumental in providing the County Attorney with the member roster and pictures, known associates, and hangouts. After the injunction was filed and approved the ISC provided the officers in the area with gang members' pictures, associates, etc., so that they could enforce the injunction which has decreased crime in the area by 15%. The gang is undertaking countermeasures including relocating part of their command and control structure to the midland/Odessa area. The ISC is providing training to the Midland/Odessa law enforcement community on the BA and their propensities for violent activities.

Another example of West Texas HIDTA successes includes the unique and innovative interdiction techniques of the Ground Rail and Bus (GRAB) Task Force, established February 2002. At the time the GRAB Task Force was

initiated, efforts in money interdiction were largely limited to the El Paso International Airport. GRAB has made significant disruption efforts of Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) by applying the known technique of money courier interdiction at the interstate bus lines where drug money interdiction efforts were very minimal. In these cases, drug money couriers were detected based on known indicators, consensual interview, and consensual searches.

GRAB proactively investigates modes of transportation venues along with other locations in the El Paso area, in which drug trafficking organizations are transshipping large quantities of narcotics for delivery to locations throughout the United States. The initiative attempts to dismantle and/or disrupt these DTOs by seizing narcotics, assets, and arresting and incarcerating the individuals involved.

The GRAB Task Force has been successful in their efforts due to the strong personal contacts with the employees where conveyances frequent as part of a day to day commerce. In turn, the investigators address all information promptly and vigilantly therefore producing effective results.

Total seizure statistics since the GRAB Task Force's inception are:

Currency: \$1,620,858

Cocaine: 274 lbs.

Marijuana: 3,409 lbs.

Arrests: 60

State Cases: 93

Federal Cases: 14

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1994

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Maryland: Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard Montgomery, Prince George's and Charles Counties

Washington, D.C.

Virginia: City of Alexandria, Loudoun, Prince William, Arlington and Fairfax Counties

Mission Statement:

The mission of the HIDTA Program is to reduce drug availability by creating intelligence-driven task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences through enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking control efforts among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA region.

Threat Abstract:

The 2000 Census reports more than six million residents in the HIDTA region, an 11% increase from 1990. The region's demographics present a number of challenges to drug enforcement efforts. The many foreign languages spoken in the area and the substantial transient population hamper efforts to gather criminal intelligence and identify potential investigative targets. Additionally, the

Washington/Baltimore region is one of the highest income areas in the United States.

Overall, in the W/B HIDTA region, consumption rates of powder and crack cocaine have leveled off, but both remain widely available at stable prices. High-quality, low-cost heroin continues to be abused and is available in most areas of the region, particularly Baltimore where drug related crime and heroin addiction have dominated law enforcement, treatment and prevention activities. Marijuana is the drug most readily available. MDMA (Ecstasy) has proliferated substantially throughout the region, and is used by an array of groups. Methamphetamine is encountered on a limited basis throughout the region and must be monitored closely. The popularity of illegally diverted prescription drugs (such as OxyContin) is growing at an alarming rate. The re-emergence of PCP in the District of Columbia is also generating great concern. Overall, drug availability in the W/B

HIDTA region remains high; prices have increased in areas in which demand has increased. This is a trend that will be examined more closely in the upcoming year.

While the majority of identified drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and gangs in the region are comprised of African-Americans, Dominican DTOs are the most commonly mentioned wholesale suppliers of heroin and cocaine to the region. Jamaican organizations, street gangs, and inner-city "street crews" also appear to exert considerable influence over the region's drug trade. Mexican traffickers operate in the greater Washington, D.C. area as well as other locales beyond the W/B HIDTA region such as Maryland's Eastern Shore, western Virginia and the Tidewater, Virginia area.

In the greater Baltimore area, more than 100 DTOs have been identified; over 90 DTOs have been identified in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. The District of Columbia has noted at least 97 such organizations, whereas five DTOs have been identified in northern Virginia. The majority of DTOs in the region operate on the local level. However, nation-wide gangs such as Mara Salvatrucha (MS13), the Gangster Disciples and the Latin Kings are also involved in trafficking drugs and weapons, along with committing violent crimes. A recent surge in criminal activity involving gangs in northern Virginia and the District of Columbia is a matter of great concern for the region's law enforcement community.

Law enforcement asserts that 60 to 70% of the homicides and aggravated assaults in Baltimore are drug-related; in other W/B HIDTA jurisdictions, the estimates are somewhat less. Cocaine (especially crack)

is the drug most associated with violent crime. The Baltimore County Police Department reports that 95 to 98% of home invasion robberies and 90 to 95% of street and commercial robberies are drug-related. Much of this violence stems from turf wars, hostile takeovers and drug financing.

Strategy Abstract:

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA's strategy is developed and implemented by its 20-member Executive Board. The Board members represent the more than 120 Federal, state and local agencies and organizations taking part in HIDTA's initiatives. In addition to revitalizing its Intelligence Committee and taking significant steps to expand information sharing, the Board is also improving HIDTA's performance management and program review processes to enhance efficiency and accountability. Various Board members have also played important roles in focusing HIDTA's attention on emerging threats such as violent street gangs in northern Virginia and increased drug trafficking activity in the nearby Richmond and Tidewater areas in Virginia.

The HIDTA's law enforcement and intelligence initiatives continue to focus on dismantling drug trafficking organizations and attacking the violent crime, weapons trafficking and money laundering/financial crime associated with the drug trade. Intelligence-based targeting strategies, close working relationships with member agencies and increased intelligence sharing have helped the HIDTA's law enforcement initiatives build bigger and stronger cases. Personnel from the law enforcement and intelligence initiatives work closely with the region's Joint Terrorism Task Forces and appropriate Federal agencies to address homeland security threats exposed by their investigations. The Law Enforcement

Committee has continued its drive to improve the effectiveness of HIDTA's law enforcement efforts, merging initiatives with similar missions and working closely with initiative supervisors to insure that initiative goals and missions are evolving to meet the region's changing drug threats.

The treatment/criminal justice supervision initiatives are also producing excellent results. Through training and an enhanced commitment to evaluation efforts, these initiatives continue to improve their overall performance and the quality of their services. Recent evaluation reports clearly demonstrate that both the HIDTA's crime control treatment model and its treatment/criminal justice supervision initiatives are highly effective. A recently completed qualitative evaluation provides valuable insights that will help the treatment initiatives build on their already considerable success.

The W/B HIDTA's prevention initiatives are continuing to enjoy great success. These initiatives, targeted toward at-risk youth in selected parts of the HIDTA region, encourage young people to reject involvement with illegal drugs and criminal activity and promote positive involvement in educational and community activities. Over the past year, the prevention initiative serving the City of Baltimore has been redesigned to assist the Baltimore Police Department and community organizations in forming community coalitions to carry out substance abuse prevention activities. The staff of these initiatives has also begun to work closely with HIDTA's Intelligence Center to share information on gang activities.

Investigative Support Center:

In the fall of 2002, the HIDTA's Intelligence Center began a major reorganization effort

which has resulted in a significant improvement in HIDTA's analytical and information sharing capabilities. The expanded array of intelligence services made possible by this reorganization are playing a vital part in helping agencies and initiatives address the changing drug and narco-terrorism threats facing the HIDTA region.

The Watch Center continues to serve as a central hub for law enforcement information sharing in the Washington/Baltimore region, providing case/subject deconfliction services, one-stop access to a wide variety of law enforcement databases, and a region-wide event deconfliction service. The Watch Center has significantly enhanced its capabilities by adopting the Case Explorer system for case/subject deconfliction and beginning the implementation of an automated, round-the-clock event deconfliction system. The Watch Center's information sharing efforts have also received a significant boost from new Executive Board policies mandating the use of Case Explorer and event deconfliction services by agencies and initiatives participating in the W/B HIDTA.

Providing case development and support services is one of the Intelligence Center's most important priorities. The Strategic Analysis Section's (SAS) Case Development Unit (which continues the work of the Hidden Traffickers Project) and the Investigative Intelligence Unit assist HIDTA initiatives and participating agencies in developing more significant cases and making the most of the intelligence data they collect. A number of investigative successes over the past year can be attributed in part to the diligent efforts of these two units.

The Intelligence Center also assists initiatives and agencies with specialized

analytical services. The Law Enforcement Evaluation and Crime Mapping Unit helps initiatives and agencies conduct geo-targeting studies and evaluate the impacts of their operations. The SAS Futures Unit monitors emerging trends, provides predictive intelligence analysis and issues intelligence bulletins to inform the region's law enforcement community of new developments. Other SAS subunits provide specialized analysis services in the areas of gang activity, financial crimes, and post-seizure analysis.

The Intelligence Center continues to play a leading role in the effort to expand intelligence sharing and cooperation beyond HIDTA initiative and participating agencies. Case/subject deconfliction data and local databases are routinely shared with the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA through the information sharing capabilities of Case Explorer. The Intelligence Center's analysts also work closely with relevant outside organizations and other HIDTA regions on matters of mutual interest.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Protective Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), US Customs Service, US Marshals Service, US Postal Inspectors, US Secret Service, US Attorney's Office - District of Maryland, US Attorney's Office - District of Columbia, US Attorney's Office - Eastern District of Virginia, Department of Defense's JTF-6, US Probation, US Court Pretrial Services.

State: District of Columbia National Guard, Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Administration, Maryland State Police, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Maryland Transportation Authority Police, Maryland Capital Park Police, Maryland National Guard, Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, University of Maryland, Virginia State Police, Virginia National Guard, Virginia Parole and Probation.

Local: District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, Washington DC Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Washington DC Addiction, Prevention and Recovery Administration, District of Columbia Department of Corrections, Baltimore County Police Department, Baltimore County Bureau of Corrections, Baltimore County District Court, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Baltimore County Department of Health Bureau of Substance Abuse, Baltimore City Police Department, Baltimore City Housing Authority, Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, Baltimore Circuit Court, Baltimore City Detention Center, Baltimore City Health Department, Howard County Police Department, Howard County Health Department Addiction Services, Howard County State's Attorney's Office, Howard County Department of Corrections, Howard County District Court, Howard County Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County Police Department, Annapolis Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Montgomery County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Prince George's County Police Department, Prince George's County States

Attorneys Office, Prince George's County Department of Corrections, Prince George's County Health Department, Prince George's County Public Defenders Office, Greenbelt Police Department, Mt. Rainier Police Department, Takoma Park Police Department, Charles County Sheriff's Department, Charles County Health Department, Charles County Detention Center, Charles County Mental Health Authority, Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Sheriff's Department, Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County Department of Human Services-Bureau of Substance Abuse, Arlington County Detention Facility, Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Alexandria Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Alexandria Community Services Board, Alexandria City Courts, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff's Department, Fairfax County Community Services Board, Fairfax County Alcohol and Drug Services, Fairfax County Department of Corrections, Fairfax County Circuit Court, Falls Church Police Department, Vienna Police Department, Loudon County Sheriff's Department, Loudon County Community Services Board, Loudon County Mental Health Agency, Loudon County Circuit Court, Prince William County Police Department, Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center, Prince William County Office of Criminal Justice Service, Prince William County Community Services Board, Prince William County District Court, Prince William County Juvenile Court Services, Prince William County Social Services, Prince William County Circuit Court, Manassas Police Department, Fauquier County Police Department.

Others: Amtrak Police, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority Police, Metropolitan Transit Police, Second

Genesis, Outpatient Addictions Contract Network, Jude House, Carroll Avenue Quebec Terrace Community Center, Silver Spring YMCA Youth Services, Housing Opportunities Commission, Long Branch Neighborhood Initiative, Silver Spring Team for Children and Families Voices vs. Violence/Mental Health Association, St. Camillus Church, Carroll Avenue Apartments, FAST, Voices vs. Violence Mental Health Association, Right Turn of Maryland, LLC, Outpatient Addictions Contract Network.

Significant Achievement:

Through emphasis on intelligence-driven investigations and cooperative efforts, the W/B HIDTA's law enforcement initiatives are making significant progress against the region's drug traffickers. The investigation of the Kennedy family Oxycontin distribution ring is an outstanding example of these efforts.

Acting on information obtained from a confidential informant developed by the Maryland State Police, the Intelligence Center's Case Development Unit spearheaded and coordinated a multi-source, multi-state investigation of a pharmaceutical diversion ring. Through the use of post-seizure analysis and analytical case support techniques, the Unit's intelligence analysts discovered that the ring was distributing diverted drugs up and down the East Coast. Their work led to the development of search and seizure warrants for several residences owned by the Kennedy family.

The evidence and arrests generated by these warrants led the Case Development Unit analysts to the identities of distribution ring associates in Cecil and Harford Counties in Maryland; Bluefield, West Virginia; and the states of Virginia, Delaware and North Carolina. Investigators from the Maryland

State Police, the DEA Drug Diversion Group, the ATF and the Cecil County Drug Task Force participated in this investigation. The W/B HIDTA and the agencies participating in this case successfully sought OCDETF designation to ensure that sufficient resources were available to support this complex investigative effort.

To date, 20 physicians and nine primary targets have been identified. It is estimated that the Kennedy family organization generated illicit profits of more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) annually.

The treatment/criminal justice initiatives contribute to HIDTA's efforts to control drug trafficking and related criminal activity by targeting repeat drug offenders. The HIDTA crime control treatment model works to break the cycle of drug use and its resultant criminality in the lives of these offenders while addressing the public safety concerns of victims and residents of communities significantly impacted by the illegal drug trade.

A series of quantitative evaluations conducted by the University of Maryland's Bureau of Government Research and the Institute for Behavior and Health (IBH) conclusively demonstrate the success of HIDTA's treatment initiatives. In 2001, IBH evaluators found that HIDTA treatment interventions reduced the overall arrest rates of HIDTA treatment clients by 43%; if technical offenses (such as parole violations) were not considered, the arrest rate reduction would reach 51%. An impressive 61% reduction was found in the number of arrests for drug-related crimes, and arrests for crimes commonly associated with drug use (such as burglary and auto theft) were reduced by nearly 60%.

The results of a recently completed qualitative evaluation were equally compelling. Through a series of interviews with HIDTA treatment clients who had successfully completed their treatment programs, researchers examined their experiences and what factors contributed to their success. All of the interviewees agreed that the HIDTA treatment programs contributed significantly to improvements in their ability to control drug use and develop the necessary internal controls to remain crime- and drug-free. One of the most important elements that contributed to their success was the continuum of care that is integrated into the HIDTA treatment model, which allowed for customized treatment to meet the individual needs of participants.

The HIDTA treatment programs also provided education and support to assist participants in making positive, life-altering changes. The assistance they received from their treatment programs helped participants to enter or re-enter the work force, improve family and marital relationships, further or complete educational pursuits, and reconstruct their daily lives. These changes benefit not only the participants, but their families and communities as well. Through the recidivism reductions and the positive changes in participants' lives, the HIDTA treatment/criminal justice initiatives serve as a catalyst to improve the lives of individuals and communities ravaged by the effects of drugs and crime.

The W/B HIDTA's prevention initiatives are continuing to build on their long record of successes. In response to the murder of the Dawson family and the public outcry that followed this tragedy, the prevention initiative serving the City of Baltimore was redesigned to better serve the city's needs. This initiative now supports the formation of community coalitions that will provide

prevention services to Baltimore residents and assist the Baltimore Police Department's crime prevention efforts. The HIDTA staff is continuing to work closely with Representative Elijah Cummings, Mayor Martin O'Malley and other concerned public officials to address Baltimore's persistently high levels of drug abuse and drug-related crime.

The prevention initiatives operating in Montgomery County, Maryland and Prince William County, Virginia are both enjoying strong community support and strong demand for the services they provide. The Prevention Committee is looking into the possibility of seeking grant funding to help these initiatives expand their operations to meet the growing need.

The staff of the prevention initiatives has taken an active role in calling attention to the growing threat that gangs pose to the HIDTA region. With the support of the HIDTA's Prevention Committee, prevention initiative staffs are sharing information on emerging gang threats in the jurisdictions they serve with the HIDTA's intelligence initiatives. This information sharing effort has produced valuable information about the local activities of Mara Salvatucha (MS-13), a nationwide street gang that has emerged as a significant threat to public safety in the HIDTA region over the past year. The recent emergence of new drug trafficking organizations in the HIDTA region has posed a considerable challenge to drug enforcement efforts. Over a period of five months, the Prevention Program Manager worked closely with a senior narcotics control officer from Nepal who was participating in the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Johns Hopkins University. Through this partnership, the Prevention Program Manager and other members of HIDTA staff gained valuable

insights into drug trafficking activity in Nepal and the various challenges that American and Nepalese officials must face to address drug trafficking between their countries.

National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program

2003 Awards

2003 National HIDTA Program Award

OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT

The Edward M. Toatley Memorial Award

South Florida HIDTA - Southeast Florida Regional Task Force – “Operation Double Trouble”

Operation Double Trouble (ODT) is an active investigation granted authority by the Attorney General of the United States to launder drug proceeds in December of 1999. This undercover investigation is being conducted by the Southeast Florida Regional Task Force (SEFRTF), under the supervision of the DEA Fort Lauderdale District Office. Significant investigative efforts by each member of this task force has resulted in unprecedented success in targeting an international drug trafficking and money laundering organization based in Colombia and operating throughout the United States.

ODT initially targeted the drug trafficking and money laundering activities of the Ivan Henao drug trafficking organization. This organization was responsible for importing hundred kilogram quantities of cocaine from Colombia into South Florida and New York and the laundering of millions of dollars of illicit proceeds derived from cocaine trafficking activity. Through outstanding investigative efforts by the SEFRTF, including the successful undercover infiltration of this organization, ODT was able to identify key players within the Henao organization and became entrusted with laundering millions of dollars of the organization's drug proceeds through DEA-controlled accounts. Additionally, the SEFRTF was able to utilize undercover officers to negotiate drug shipments from South America into South Florida that were ultimately seized.

Throughout this investigation, numerous innovative and unique investigative techniques were employed to further investigative activity. Among the techniques employed were the utilization of trafficker-directed funds to finance international controlled deliveries of multi-hundred kilogram quantities of cocaine from South America to South Florida which resulted in seizure. Additionally, ODT received approval from the Sensitive Activity Review Committee (SARC) to lure individuals from foreign locations to various international locations for eventual arrest. Finally, ODT received SARC approval to utilize electronic currency flashes of multi-hundred thousand dollar amounts to secure credibility with trafficking organizations.

As a result of ODT, the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida indicted 36 individuals under the money laundering and money laundering conspiracy statutes. Over the course of the investigation, the SEFRTF arranged 68 money laundry transactions, receiving in excess of \$18 million and laundering in excess of \$17 million. To date, the operation has netted seizures of \$13.7 million, 353 kilograms of cocaine, 21 kilograms of heroin, as well as 27 arrests of investigative targets. Enforcement activity culminated on August 28 and 29, 2003 with the coordinated arrests of 23 ODT targets in South Florida, Puerto Rico, New York, Illinois, Connecticut and California. Many of these individuals occupied command and control positions within these organizations. Additionally, the DEA Bogota Country Office, in coordination with the Colombian National Police, arrested seven defendants in Colombia. In addition to the arrests, the Colombian National Police seized approximately 320,000,000 Colombian pesos in 35 bank accounts, approximately 40,000,000 Colombian pesos cash, titles to more than 150 properties subject to seizure, and approximately 200 liters of chemicals believed to be utilized for the manufacture of heroin. The SEFRTF anticipates seizing approximately 24 additional domestic bank accounts associated with targets of this investigation.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award

OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT

Los Angeles HIDTA - Southern California Drug Task Force, Group 50 – “Operation Northern Star”

In August 2002 the Southern California Drug Task Force Group 50 initiated a Title III investigation which focused on a Middle Eastern pseudoephedrine (PSE) organization run by Galeb Mizyed. This organization, which was based out of Chicago, Illinois, transported large amounts of PSE from Canada to the U.S. and then distributed the PSE to Mexican national methamphetamine manufacturers.

Mizyed ran a sophisticated organization which included at least ten different cells located throughout the country. PSE was smuggled across the US-Canada border at Detroit, Michigan and shipped onward from there to various parts of the United States, including large amounts to Southern California. The group made extensive use of commercial storage lockers to stash the PSE until it was sold. Cellular telephone numbers were changed frequently for security purposes. Even though the organization was based in Chicago, it used cellular telephones with Chicago, Mississippi, Las Vegas and Los Angeles telephone numbers. Fourteen different telephones were the targets of federal Title III investigations.

An example of the complexity of the investigation and the coordination involved occurred in February 2003, when the wiretaps indicated that 3-1/2 tons of PSE stored in a Canadian warehouse would be transported into the United States. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) observed two vans drive from Ottawa to Toronto, where they offloaded boxes into a tractor-trailer. RCMP followed the tractor-trailer to the Detroit POE. After the tractor-trailer entered the United States, DEA Detroit followed it to Gary, Indiana where DEA Chicago FD joined the surveillance. The PSE was transferred to a second tractor-trailer at Gary. Surveillance involving eight different DEA offices followed the second truck to Cedar City, Utah, where SCDF Group 50 and DEA Las Vegas took over surveillance. The truck was followed to Las Vegas, where a female suspect met it and led it to three different truck stops, conducting counter-surveillance driving on the way. Las Vegas police eventually contacted the truck and conducted a K-9 search. The 3-1/2 tons of Canadian PSE were recovered, as well as evidence further linking the shipment to MIZYED. An attempted controlled delivery was not successful, but MIZYED attributed the seizure of the PSE to an unlucky break, and continued to send other shipments into the U.S. and to discuss his plans on the telephone.

The investigation involved the DEA Chicago, Detroit, and New York Field Divisions; the DEA Gulfport, Mississippi RO; DEA Ottawa; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; U.S. BICE; U.S. IRS; the California Highway Patrol; the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; the Los Angeles International Airport Task Force; and the Las Vegas Metro, Anaheim and Ontario (California) Police Departments.

Ultimately, 65 conspirators were arrested including 18 indictments out of Los Angeles. Six executives from three pharmaceutical companies located in Canada were arrested by the RCMP. Approximately 16 tons of pseudoephedrine and 3.5 million dollars of assets were seized in the United States and Canada. The case illustrates the extraordinary results possible with cooperation among local, state, federal, and international police units.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT
RESULTING SIGNIFICANT ASSET FORFEITURE

North Texas HIDTA - Northern Drug Squad and Eastern Drug Squad

The Northern Drug Squad and Eastern Drug Squad of the North Texas HIDTA Texas Enforcement Initiative are nominated for the Outstanding Investigative Effort Resulting in Significant Asset Forfeiture award for their investigation of the Wilfredo Rodriguez Case, which has resulted in the seizure of \$4,130,032 in cash and an estimated \$6,000,000 in real property, along with the arrest of 21 subjects to date.

The Northern Drug Squad and Eastern Drug Squad began working with the FBI Chicago and FBI Newark Divisions in their respective cases involving a large-scale cocaine distribution organization. Offices from FBI Chicago, FBI Newark, DEA Detroit, FBI San Antonio, FBI Dallas, FBI Houston, DEA Chicago, and DEA Dallas participated at various levels of this major investigation during 2003.

The Northern Drug Squad was contacted by FBI Chicago regarding a former DEA source residing in Dallas, who could assist in a major drug investigation. The Northern Drug Squad and Eastern Drug Squad joined forces to work with this source who was contacted and provided information regarding the Wilfredo Rodriguez organization. The investigation was able to identify Rodriguez and forward the information to FBI Chicago and FBI Newark.

Through surveillance in Dallas subjects were observed meeting with a car hauler concerning a proposed cocaine purchase, and \$253,233 offered as a down payment for the cocaine was seized. The investigation continued with the Eastern Drug Squad providing an undercover agent (UCA) who met with a subject and arranged for a 400-kilogram cocaine deal that would take place in Newark, New Jersey.

In June 2003 the UCA met with subjects in Newark, New Jersey where he was shown several properties, numerous property documents, vehicles, and a large quantity of cash related to narcotics trafficking. The FBI and DEA at Newark took the principal subject and his associates into custody seizing an additional \$3,269,940.00 and arresting 21 subjects. Following his arrest, the principal subject provided information concerning additional drug proceeds hidden and a search was conducted wherein an additional \$606,850.00 in cash was located in three safes hidden behind a wall in a subject's residence.

The Northern Drug Squad and Eastern Drug Squad were directly responsible for the identification and arrest the principal subjects and were instrumental in the identification and seizure of properties with an estimated \$6 million dollar value and \$4,130,032 in cash.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award

OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT RESULTING SIGNIFICANT ASSET FORFEITURE

New York / New Jersey HIDTA - NJ Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force – “Dean and Mayes Case”

The New York/New Jersey HIDTA nominates the NJ Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force’s investigation of Jamil Dean and William Troy Mayes for Outstanding Investigative Effort Resulting in Significant Asset Forfeiture. In February 2002, the NJ Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force received information from a confidential source regarding the heroin distribution activities of Jamil Dean and William Troy Mayes in Elizabeth, NJ and elsewhere. Information from this investigation, including source meetings and surveillance, revealed that Dean and Mayes were currently residing in Pittsburgh, PA and as part of their heroin distribution activities, were traveling on a regular basis from Pittsburgh, PA to Elizabeth, NJ to purchase heroin. They would then transport it back to Pittsburgh for sale.

Based on the above information, on April 16, 2002, the Task Force initiated an operation in which a confidential source would negotiate to sell Dean and Mayes three kilos of heroin. However, due to the targets of this investigation having extensive knowledge of the confidential source, an operational plan had to be implemented which would allow the source to maintain obscurity.

A decision was made to utilize local Elizabeth Police Department Narcotics Detectives and Investigators from the Union County Narcotics Strike Force. Dean and Mayes, prior to moving to the Pittsburgh area had accumulated extensive criminal histories in Elizabeth, NJ and were well known by the local narcotics detectives and investigators. Conversely, Dean and Mayes, for the same reasons, were also very familiar with the local narcotics detectives. A plan was then formulated which would allow law enforcement to conduct an operation which would present itself to Dean and Mayes at its conclusion as bad luck and bad timing.

Following a series of consensually recorded phone calls and meetings between the confidential source and Mayes, Dean, Mayes and a third individual, identified as Darcell Boyd, arrived at a White Castle restaurant in Elizabeth, NJ. Upon arriving at the White Castle restaurant, Dean and Mayes entered the source’s vehicle carrying a plastic bag. Local Elizabeth Police Narcotics Detectives and Union County Narcotics Strike Force Investigators subsequently approached the vehicle while HIDTA units maintained security on the perimeter of the stop. This stop was conducted in a very low key manner and the Detectives presented themselves to Dean and Mayes as though they were conducting routine narcotics patrol. The Elizabeth Narcotics Detectives, through the use of interviewing techniques, gained access to the source’s vehicle, at which time a Play Station 2 box containing \$99,870 was located and seized.

Dean and Mayes were then arrested by Elizabeth Narcotics Detectives based on local outstanding warrants. Information learned from the investigation led law enforcement to the Swan Motel where it was believed that Dean and Mayes were staying while in Elizabeth, NJ. Interviews of individuals connected to Dean and Mayes at the Swan motel led to additional seizures of \$14,657, a 1999 Mercedes Benz CLK 430, and a 1998 Chrysler Concorde.

On July 24, 2002, subsequent to the seizure of the Mercedes Benz CLK 430, Hisham Sadek, owner of Auto Village, a used car dealership in Linden, New Jersey, filed a Petition for Remission or Mitigation of Forfeiture for return of the Mercedes Benz. The ensuing Petition investigation that was

conducted found that the filing submitted by Sadek was a complete fabrication. In addition, a source interviewed during the course of the Petition investigation, revealed that at the time Sadek sold the Mercedes Benz to Jamil Dean, he was fully cognizant that Dean was purchasing the vehicle with narcotics proceeds. SADEK knowingly and intentionally structured the sale in a manner that would not immediately disclose Dean's involvement, thereby assisting him with the laundering of narcotics proceeds. The investigation also found that Sadek had a reputation, within the illicit drug dealing community, as an individual willing to structure cash deals in a manner that would conceal both methods of payment and ownership.

Based on information developed during the course of this investigation, the Task Force, in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey, formulated a plan that entailed the undercover purchase of one vehicle from Hisham Sadek and Auto Village. The undercover purchase unequivocally confirmed Sadek's illegal business practices and ultimately led to the seizure of his entire used car dealership for violations of 18 USC 1956 (Money Laundering).

On May 21, 2003, the Task Force conducted an undercover meeting with Hisham Sadek. This meeting occurred inside a DEA Newark Division special purpose vehicle equipped for audio and video recording. Based on evidence documented during this undercover meeting, the U.S. Attorney's Office agreed that sufficient evidence of Money Laundering was presented. The USAO also agreed that should the Task Force successfully purchase a vehicle from Sadek, as planned, it would move to seize all vehicles from Hisham Sadek and Auto Village.

On June 2, 2003, according to plan, a confidential source and two undercover officers successfully purchased a 1995 Mercedes Benz S320 from Sadek with a \$28,900 cash payment. The purchase of the Mercedes Benz S320 was captured on both video and audio. On June 30, 2003, the Task Force obtained a criminal complaint from a U.S. Magistrate, District of New Jersey, authorizing the arrest of Egyptian nationals Hisham Sadek and Tarek Ayoub and the criminal seizure of all assets belonging to Auto Village, Inc. The two count criminal complaint charging money laundering crimes was issued in violation of Title 18 USC, Sections 1956 (a)(3) & 2 and Title 31 USC, Section 5324(b)(1) and Title 18, USC, Section 2.

On July 1, 2003, the Task Force executed the aforementioned arrest and seizure warrants. The enforcement operation was coordinated by the Task Force, with assistance from approximately 50 federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies. Specialists from the New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles Forensic Investigative Unit, Business License Compliance, Internal Audits and Internal Investigations Unit were also on hand and contributed a significant effort.

The Auto Village car lot in Linden, New Jersey contained 101 used late model luxury vehicles such as Mercedes Benz, Lexus, BMWs and an assortment of sport utility vehicles. Subsequent tracing of VIN numbers and lien information by NJ DMV and the Asset Removal Group revealed that 15 of the 102 vehicles on the lot held liens and were not seized. The remaining 86 vehicles were determined to be without liens and had clear titles. All 86 vehicles were seized. Total estimated value of the seized vehicles is \$1,700,000. Subsequent investigation also revealed a 2003 Hummer 2 valued at \$54,000 which was owned outright by and titled to Auto Village. The Hummer 2 was located and seized shortly thereafter. Also seized was an Auto Village bank account containing \$26,838 and a .38 caliber revolver from the desk of Hisham Sadek.

Both defendants in this investigation cooperated from the onset and have been providing information which is expected to lead to additional vehicle seizures, as well as the identification of other New Jersey based narcotics dealers. Also, based on current plea negotiations it appears very likely that as part of Sadek's plea agreement, he will not contest any of the asset seizures.

The assistance of multiple agencies was crucial in order to successfully complete a seizure of this magnitude. In particular, the entire DEA Newark Division Asset Removal Group and the U.S. Marshals Service played a major role in the orderly seizure of Auto Village.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award

OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INTERDICTION EFFORT

PR/USVI HIDTA - PR/USVI HIDTA Money Laundering Initiative – “Operation Grand Slam”

The PR/USVI HIDTA Money Laundering (ML) Initiative is comprised by personnel of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), Puerto Rico Police Dept. (PRPD), Puerto Rico Dept. of Internal Revenue (HAC), Puerto Rico Special Investigations Bureau (SIB), San Juan Municipal Police Dept. (SJMP). This ICE/IRS led Initiative uses a multi-agency enforcement approach to disrupt and dismantle money laundering organizations using Puerto Rico (PR) to illegally transship and/or export the proceeds of drugs distribution. Besides, the initiative identifies criminal organizations attempting to exploit the financial infrastructure in PR to launder their illegally gained proceeds.

The cooperative effort among a variety of federal, state, and municipal law enforcement agencies is evident in the composition of this Initiative’s Task Force. The Task Force concept provides multi-disciplined law enforcement expertise, which is constructively applied in furtherance of the Initiative’s investigative, and enforcement related success. Investigative success and an outstanding interdiction effort were achieved though the multi agency-approach as follows:

Operation Grand Slam is an ICE sponsored Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation targeting the Mickey Vargas-Lugo (AKA: Ratón) drug smuggling and money laundering organization operating in Juncos, Caguas and adjacent municipalities in PR. In June 2000, ICE Agents arrested Peter Dezweemer and seized 1.5 kgs. of Heroin. A subsequent controlled delivery resulted in the arrests of Hector Lopez-Rosado, Ramon Santa-Medina and Edgar Cases-Pacheco. This enforcement action led to the initiation of Operation GRAND SLAM that targeted the trafficking activities of the intended recipient, Charlie Vazquez-Peña (AKA: El Zorro).

During the course of the investigation, “Ratón” was identified as the leader of an organization dedicated to the large-scale importation of cocaine and heroin that was supplied to the “El Zorro’s” trafficking organization. In August 2002, ICE, ML Initiative Task Force Agents and the SJMP performed a routine enforcement action seizing \$298,329.00 from an organization member; money that was to be laundered for “Ratón”. Subsequently, ICE seized 226 kgs. of cocaine and arrested Julio Rivera-Cardona. In October 2002, ICE seized an additional 113 kgs. of cocaine and arrested Ider Pérez-Carbajal. Both seizures were made jointly with the PRPD performing routine enforcement actions in the Fajardo, PR area. These drug loads were coordinated by Nestor R. Rivas-Beltre and intended for “Ratón”.

Investigation arose that this organization was responsible for the importation of multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine and heroin, which were distributed in NY, NJ, and PR, and the laundering of the proceeds generated by this business. The organization was extremely organized and violent, murdered one ICE informant on August 2002 and attempted the murder of another on September 2002. This group was one of the most feared and violent organizations operating in the Caguas / Juncos region, whose actions were extensively covered by the local media.

On July 2003, the organization was effectively dismantled with the execution of multiple arrest and seizure and search warrants. Same resulted in 30 Indictments, 25 arrests, 9 convictions, seizure of 1.5 kgs. of heroin, 2,443 crack vials, 369 kgs. of cocaine, 14 vehicles, furniture, \$15,000 in jewelry, and \$298,329.00 U.S. currency, and the Post and Walk of 5 real estate properties.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award

OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INTERDICTION EFFORT

SWB HIDTA - New Mexico Regional Partnership - NM Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Interdiction Task Force

The Albuquerque, NM Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Interdiction Task Force consists of DEA Special Agents, Albuquerque Police Detectives, New Mexico State Police and Amtrak Police. This Task Force performs interdiction duties on all forms of public transportation including New Mexico highways. During the time period of January 01, 2003 through September 15, 2003, the cooperative spirit, hard work and dedication of the Task Force personnel has led to outstanding successes regarding interdiction efforts throughout the United States, as well as in the State of New Mexico. These outstanding achievements have included 76 arrests, the seizures of 1,370 kilograms marijuana, 38 kilograms cocaine, 11 kilograms methamphetamine, 2 kilograms heroin, 154 kilograms of other dangerous drugs and currency totaling over \$2,338,552.00. The Task Force has also developed significant investigations derived from interdiction efforts.

The Albuquerque Interdiction Task Force has demonstrated an outstanding ability to forge cooperative relationships among group members, as well as with the varied law enforcement entities represented. As previously enumerated, the Albuquerque Interdiction Task Force has achieved outstanding success in the utilization of their interdiction efforts as an effective counter-drug measure.

The interdiction efforts of Task Force members also resulted in the initiation and development of several significant investigations. The following investigations are provided as a sample:

- After developing a cooperative working relationship with Mail Boxes Etc., the Interdiction Task Force was contacted by employees of the company about a suspicious package. The package which was subsequently seized by DEA was found to contain 11 pounds of marijuana and 1.6 kilograms of cocaine. Through additional investigative techniques and surveillance the case was furthered by the Interdiction Task Force which led to an additional cocaine seizure of 16 kilograms, 17 arrests and the dismantling of a drug trafficking organization.
- A joint operation between the DEA Interdiction Task Force, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Albuquerque Police Department, conducted in two simultaneous, synchronized stages, netted 4 arrests, the seizure of \$285,820.00 USC, 583 kilograms of marijuana, two pickup trucks, two goose-neck trailers with false compartments, a Hyster forklift, and two John Deere Gator Utility Vehicles.
- During one encounter agents and officers observed dried glue on the outside sole of the defendants "new" shoes. The observation led to the discovery of .85 kilograms of heroin hidden in the soles of the shoes. This investigation is continuing.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award **OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE EFFORT**

Central Valley California HIDTA - Sacramento Area Intelligence /Narcotics Task Force (SAINT)

The Executive Board of the Central Valley, CA HIDTA nominates the Sacramento Area Intelligence/Narcotic Taskforce (SAINT) for the 2003 Outstanding Cooperative Effort Award. The SAINT demonstrated outstanding ability to utilize a task force approach to succeed in an investigative/interdiction matter that would not have been possible without this type of interagency cooperation.

In March 2003 the team concluded a year-long federal OCDETF investigation into the multi-national DTO of Giap Lien and associates (AKA Operation Duc Tape). The case originated with information identifying Giap as a major distributor of cocaine, ecstasy, crystal methamphetamine ("ice") and marijuana. The well-educated members of this DTO were proficient in covert communications. Utilizing informants and sophisticated surveillance techniques (pole cameras, GPS trackers and mobile transmitters, 20 pen registers and 5 federal wiretaps), investigators uncovered an elaborate operation facilitating the distribution of marijuana, ice, and ecstasy into the US from Canada, the Netherlands and Southeast Asia in exchange for cocaine funneled through California north into Canada. Officers/agents developed information suggesting that the DTO imported approximately 50,000 ecstasy pills, 500 lbs of marijuana and 50-75 lbs of ice into the US on a monthly basis. IRS special agents conducted extensive financial analysis of the DTO and discovered a money-laundering network between the US and accounts in Thailand and Vietnam. Analysis suggested that several million dollars had been sent to Vietnam over the past several years. Investigative analysis and post-arrest interviews uncovered a Vancouver-based Chinese DTO coordinating shipments of MDMA from the Netherlands to China, where hundreds of lbs of ice and ephedrine were added to cargo ships bound for the Port of Vancouver. The Vancouver chapter of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang was employed to facilitate transfer of the cargo to stash locations in the Vancouver area. The OMG also smuggled ice, marijuana and ephedrine south from Canada into Washington, Oregon and California and cocaine north from the US into Canada.

This highly sophisticated organization was dismantled and their international network was disrupted. While developing the case, investigators confirmed the poly-drug nature of the DTO by interdicting 22 lb of ice, 125.4 lb of cocaine, 2,000 ecstasy pills and 130 lbs of marijuana. SAINT also seized cash, real property, luxury vehicles and other assets worth over \$1.5 million. During the enforcement phases of the investigation officers/agents served 15 search warrants and arrested 19 subjects for federal drug, conspiracy, and money-laundering. The SAINT team arrested an entire Vietnamese distribution cell; an East Indian source of cocaine; and 4 subjects from Washington State who are associates of a Vancouver OMG. DEA Vancouver, RCMP and SAINT continue to cooperate in further investigations of this OMG and associated Chinese DTOs. DEA Bangkok and Thai authorities are currently targeting financial institutions and commercial establishments the DTO utilized for possible seizure proceedings. Due to the DTO's multi-national nature, RCMP and DEA Vancouver cooperation was vital. SAINT was assisted by the entire Sacramento Co. Sheriff's Dept. Narcotic Division; DEA (Sacramento, San Jose, Washington, Canada, Bangkok, Vietnam offices); FBI; IRS CID; BICE; USAO; RCMP, and Thai authorities. This investigation would not have been possible without the coordination of and cooperation engaged by the team. SAINT clearly demonstrates the HIDTA philosophy of joining agencies at every level for successful disruption and dismantling of DTOs.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award **OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE EFFORT**

SWB HIDTA - California Border Alliance Group (CBAG) - San Diego Regional Pharmaceutical Narcotic Enforcement Team (RxNET)

The San Diego Regional Pharmaceutical Narcotic Enforcement Team (RxNET) Initiative investigates the diversion of legal drugs to illicit channels, prosecutes professionals prescribing medications without pathology, arrest prescription forgers and "Doctor Shoppers", and provides a resource through training to medical professionals, law enforcement, and the community. RxNET is a cooperative effort of the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, the San Diego Police Department, the California Department of Insurance, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the California Triplicate Prescription Program, and the San Diego/Imperial County Narcotic Information Network (NIN). All investigations are jointly conducted by the participating members who contribute many types of resources in furtherance of these investigations.

During 2003, RxNET has made over 100 felony arrests, investigated over 400 incidences involving pharmaceutical diversion, executed state search warrants, and identified over \$570,000.00 worth of insurance fraud. Furthermore, 20% of those arrests involve Licensed Medical Professionals, which include Medical Doctors, Certified Registered Nurses, and Pharmacists, to name a few.

In addition to conducting investigations, arrests, and prosecutions, RxNET has been committed to providing an aggressive and dynamic training component, which has allowed RxNET to achieve a level of success and respect not often experienced in this profession. This past year alone, RxNET has provided training at various medical institutions, instructing over 600 Doctors, 300 Registered Nurses, and 100 Pharmacists in identifying diversion trends and characteristics, as well as providing an enforcement resource. RxNET has also been instrumental in providing monthly training for the Professional Diversion Intelligence Network (PDIN). These meetings are comprised of State Medical Board, Pharmacy Board, and Nursing Board personnel, along with both state and local entities. Of course, RxNET also felt it important to emphasize a consistency when investigating pharmaceutical diversion and has provided training to local law enforcement agencies throughout San Diego County. RxNET has gained an outstanding reputation among law enforcement throughout the nation and are called upon to provide expertise in a variety of sensitive investigations.

RxNET implemented a program called FAX-Alert. FAX-Alert subscribes to approximately 400 Doctors, Pharmacies, and medical clinics throughout San Diego County, simultaneously faxing information to the 400 enrolled clients with alert information regarding criminal activity involving drug diversion. This program has been well received and utilized by law enforcement and the medical community. In addition, RxNET has developed an exclusive yet standard reporting system called PHIX. PHIX will collect data, provide limited search capabilities, and produce simple statistical information. Understanding the potential of both the FAX-Alert and PHIX systems, RxNET sought out and obtained funding through HIDTA and the U.S. Department of Justice to realize state-of-the-art computer equipment and program software, over-time allowances not currently rendered by each respective agency, and analytical support. The result will be a one-stop shopping diversion program, utilizing a web site,

which will provide real time information from medical personnel and law enforcement, on potential diversion violators.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award **OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE COMMANDER**

Rocky Mountain HIDTA -Commander Kurt Pillard, Colorado Springs Metro VNI Task Force

Approximately eighteen months ago Commander Pillard took over leadership of the Colorado Springs Metro VNI Task Force comprised of forty-two federal, state and local drug enforcement officers. During his relatively short tenure, task force productivity has increased, clandestine lab seizures doubled, types of investigations have been upgraded, involvement with the Rocky Mountain HIDTA ISC has increased significantly, metro Colorado Springs joined with Denver Metro in the tactical deconfliction network, task force members have begun taking leadership roles in Colorado drug law enforcement and relationships between the agencies in the greater Colorado Springs area have never been better. Some of the things that Commander Pillard has accomplished in the above-mentioned areas include but are not limited to:

- In the Rocky Mountain HIDTA Operational Assessment Report it reads “for the second year in a row the overall productivity remains above average and the task force has met or exceeded expected outputs.
- The task force was responsible for seizing 153 clandestine lab operations, making 495 felony arrests, targeting 8 and disrupting 6 drug trafficking organizations and coordinating 7 investigations outside the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region.
- Commander Pillard, emphasizing drug trafficking organization investigations, met with DEA and formed another task force with the Colorado Springs resident office to strictly work major drug trafficking organizations. The task force currently has three priority target investigations with a number of others that potentially will meet that level.
- Commander Pillard has facilitated and enhanced the relationship with ATF and his task force has a joint operation called Project Safe Neighborhoods/Project Exile. This partnership with ATF targets violent criminals who are involved in drugs. Since the inception of the partnership, they have filed 351 federal cases and seized 2,000 firearms.
- Commander Pillard was responsible for expanding the Rocky Mountain HIDTA tactical deconfliction system to include the greater Colorado Springs area. It was Commander Pillard’s view that this was an officer safety tool that was critical in a metropolitan area. Since implementing the system, the participation among member agencies is extremely high.
- Commander Pillard, realizing the importance of analytical support in investigations, has encouraged his task force members to increase use of the services available through the Investigative Support Center. This change in philosophy has resulted in a significant increase in the use of the ISC by Colorado Springs Metro VNI Task Force.
- Commander Pillard, recognizing the need for mandated meth lab facility remediation, volunteered to chair the Meth Lab Remediation Committee for Rocky Mountain HIDTA. This committee was able to form a coalition among a number of community groups including the county and city association to deal with legislative issues on remediation. This committee also got the Colorado Health Department to issue clean up guidelines. Although the legislation was barely defeated in the last legislative session, this coalition intends to bring this issue to the forefront again. Through Commander Pillard’s efforts many of the cities and counties are independently instituting remediation requirements.

- Commander Pillard is one of the founding members of the newly formed Colorado Drug Investigators Association. It is his belief that bringing drug enforcement officers together for information-sharing, training and developing relationships is an important part of combating the drug problem. He is a member of the Executive Board and in September of 2003 Colorado Springs Metro sponsored the first annual CDIA conference, which involved approximately 200 federal, state and local law enforcement officers throughout Colorado. The conference was deemed highly successful by those who attended with the consensus being to have Colorado Springs Metro sponsor the next one.
- With all of the above activities, Commander Pillard is also an adjunct faculty member of Regis University where he teaches ethical decision-making, psychology and a criminal mind, sexual homicide, and violence in the workplace.
- Lastly, and probably most important, is that his nomination to Rocky Mountain HIDTA as the Drug Unit Commander of the Year was generated by the sworn and non-sworn staff that work for him. This is indicative of the respect and admiration they have for their drug unit commander and the impact he is having on the drug problem not only locally, regionally but also nationally. If all drug unit commanders had the same work ethic, dedication, spirit of cooperation and coordination that Commander Pillard possesses, we would be much ahead in combating this problem. He is a role model for what an outstanding task force commander should be.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE COMMANDER

SWB HIDTA - California Border Alliance Group – SWB HIDTA - Craig R. Hammer, Special Agent Supervisor, CA Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE)

Craig Hammer has a dual role as Commander of the Orange County Laboratory Enforcement Response Team, and as the Supervisor of the California Methamphetamine Strategy Team, and is an active member of HIDTA's National Methamphetamine Chemicals Initiative (NMCI) and the California Precursor Committee (CPC). Hammer's nomination is based on his personal initiative in utilizing innovative techniques, and providing leadership and direction to his teams and to this HIDTA initiative.

Hammer recognized that 22-liter heating mantles were a key component of Meth super labs, producing 12 pounds of finished Meth per cycle and highly valued by major Mexican national organizations. Hammer discovered that one company in the U.S. makes these, that Hispanic individuals in California bought 90% of them, and that they were untraceable if the serial number tags were removed. Armed with this information, Hammer made presentations to NMCI and CPC meetings, stressing the extent of the problem and the opportunity to act on it in a nationwide effort. With the support of the NMCI and the CPC, Hammer addressed the mantle manufacturer's executives, advising them of the effect their mantles were having on the production of Meth. The company ceased all sales in California and agreed to a surreptitious method of marking the mantles in order to trace them back to the purchaser if the serial tags were removed. The company continues to provide Hammer with updated lists of buyers, enabling Hammer to develop leads on suspicious domestic and international buyers, especially from Canada and Mexico, and to share this intelligence nationally.

Hammer's efforts raised awareness of the illicit use of this equipment in California and across the nation. After some time, these mantles again began to surface in super labs in California. Although these mantles had serial tags removed, the secret markings that Hammer initiated enabled him to trace them back to a company called Micro Lab in Walnut, California, which had been receiving them through an out-of-state intermediary. Although Micro Lab portrayed itself as strictly export to Asia, Hammer directed his Meth Task Force to initiate an investigation, which documented Mexican traffickers picking up heating mantles at the rear of the business.

Hammer enlisted the DEA and IRS to the case and obtained OCDETF status and federal prosecution. During the investigation, 34 heating mantle set-ups (including flasks) were tracked from the business and seized, three Meth labs and one pseudoephedrine extraction lab were seized, ten Meth labs seized by other agencies were linked to Micro Lab through the hidden markings, 38 subjects have been arrested for manufacturing, or for narcotics or firearms possession, and one 2 ½ yr. old child found at an operational lab was taken into protective custody. The case culminated with the execution of federal search arrest warrants on the owners of Micro Lab. Forty-two heating mantles and \$611,000 in cash, equipment, and vehicles were seized. Investigation revealed that Micro Lab had received and subsequently distributed 425 22-liter heating mantles and 1,297 flasks. After 2 & 1/2 days of testimony by Craig Hammer, Micro Lab's owners (husband and wife) pleaded guilty in the middle of trial, admitting knowledge that the mantles were to be used to manufacture Meth. Sentencing is scheduled later this year with the probation department recommending that they be held accountable for the manufacture of 4,523 lbs. of methamphetamine, 1,355 lbs. of which was actually seized.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award **OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE ANALYST**

South Florida HIDTA - Juana "Janet" Kough, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Juana "Janet" Kough, Monroe County Sheriff's Office Criminal Intelligence Analyst, is a senior member of the South Florida HIDTA Intelligence Center (Operations Group). Ms. Kough exemplifies analytic support that provides new direction, innovative techniques and commitment to the HIDTA mission.

Ms. Kough has provided direct case support to numerous HIDTA investigations and initiatives, many of which involved her as lead analyst. Case support provided by Ms. Kough involved investigation of violation ranging from weapons charges associated with violent gangs to sophisticated mortgage fraud schemes used to launder suspected drug trafficking.

In one case, as a direct result of Ms. Kough work, officer safety and enforcement actions were materially enhanced through her innovative development of a suspect targeting book. The suspect targeting book included photographs, criminal histories, weapons violations, suspect financial activity, immigration status, and suspect foreign travel among other elements used by investigators to either arrest or search over 50 violent gang members believed to be planning a massacre on the anniversary of a "drive-by-shooting" by a rival gang. This targeting book was produced and sufficient copies made to support the Miami Anti-Gang Task Force in a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional sweep of neighborhoods known to be used as a refuge by these competing gangs.

In addition to the above, Ms. Kough received an Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer award for 2003 from the US Attorney's Office for her role in identifying assets and developing evidence of money laundering operations that support a ring of marijuana grow house operators in Palm Beach County, FL. Over \$4.2 million in cash, real estate and personal property were forfeited as a result of assets identified during this case.

Ms. Kough also received a letter of commendation from the State Attorney's Office (15th Judicial Circuit of Florida) for developing evidence and preparing separate Power Point presentations that illustrated criminal activity associated with two of their cases. One involved the diversion of over 500,000 Hydrocodone tablets and laundering of \$800,000 in assets that were subsequently seized. The other involved an organized scheme to defraud in which, financial institutions incurred losses exceeding \$600,000.

During the course of the year, Ms. Kough has provided direction to criminal investigations, supporting material from a variety of sources for prosecutions and forfeiture actions and analytic products that made neighborhoods safer, improved officers' ability to perform their jobs on the street, and remove substantial criminal proceeds from the hands of drug traffickers and fraudsters. She has set an example for all analysts to follow and developed innovative means to support the law enforcement community in South Florida.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award **OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE ANALYST**

North Texas HIDTA - Karen E. Keith, DEA Intelligence Research Specialist, North Texas HIDTA

Intelligence Analyst (I/A) Karen Keith is nominated for the outstanding intelligence analyst award based on her accomplishments during assignment to the North Texas HIDTA Regional Intelligence Support Center (RISC) during the past four years. During this period, she has been tasked to provide tactical intelligence support to major drug investigations conducted by HIDTA initiatives. She was also given the responsibility to provide strategic intelligence support and analyst training for the RISC, and assistance to deconfliction activities in the HIDTA Watch Center. She made significant contributions to intelligence operations and the mission of the HIDTA by consistently developing and utilizing innovative approaches to case support for task force initiatives. She exhibited exceptional initiative and dedication to duty by her willingness to accept greater and additional responsibilities and provided exceptional support to numerous drug investigations.

I/A Keith displayed initiative and self-confidence in actively interfacing with local and federal law enforcement officials from many state, federal and local law enforcement agencies including the DEA, FBI, USCS, ATFE, Texas DPS, IRS and several area police departments and sheriff's offices. She was pro-active in her involvement with her tactical assignments, supporting numerous investigations during the last year, three of which were Title III's involving voluminous wire records. During the year, she also managed, processed, and analyzed 1000's of pen register records and telephone toll records. She routinely briefed case agents as to the status of her support to their investigations and provided them with updated working reports. She also ensured that her tactical and strategic HIDTA intelligence products were supplemented with appropriate charts and graphs to facilitate understanding of the information.

I/A Keith continually developed new and innovative analytical methods to expedite and enhance the quality of investigative support. She developed a system that eliminated the necessity of extensive and time-consuming manual data entry which utilized ASCII file transfer and an Excel spreadsheet format to capture subscriber information in Pen-Link and transfer it to the T2S2 system, greatly reducing the time and effort required in this endeavor. This method was adopted by the DEA Oklahoma City District Office and has become a standard method for the capture/transfer of data between the two systems.

I/A Keith also streamlined the procedure of issuing administrative subpoenas to receive telephone company records related to active investigations by consulting with case agents, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and DEA Chief Counsel, and then implementing a procedure whereby telephone company records could be obtained based on a reference to court orders instead of by issuing individual subpoenas. This expedited the routine process of obtaining subscriber and toll information by greatly reducing the amount of man-hours required preparing paperwork and resulted in allowing the analysts more time for analytical support.

I/A Keith has always provided quality strategic and tactical intelligence support that was timely, accurate, and complete. She frequently conducted tactical and strategic intelligence training for other agency analysts assigned to the HIDTA, and provided Penlink training and troubleshooting for analysts and enforcement personnel. I/A Keith has performed her duties with zeal and professionalism, constantly seeking methods to improve her analytical tasks.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award

OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER

**West Texas HIDTA - West Texas Investigative Support Center (WTXISC), Dir. Edward Ortega,
EPCSD**

Participating Agencies: EPCSD, EPPD, TXDPS, DEA, FBI, ICE, and USBP provide 33 full-time collocated participants. BCBP and TXOAG provide 3 part-time participants.

Significant Accomplishments: The WTXISC has uniquely become the intelligence center, providing multi-discipline support to the region.

Civil Injunctions Against the BA Organization: In 2002 the West Texas HIDTA concluded a significant RICO investigation that resulted in 62 federal indictments on the leadership of the Barrio Azteca (BA) gang. This prison gang is strong in federal, state and county prisons in southwestern US, and are involved in narcotics, gun, violence, intimidation and money laundering rackets. They have an estimated national membership of 2,000 with approximately 200 living in El Paso County, centering in the downtown area. This year the WTXISC, the EPPD, and the El Paso Co. Attorney's Office worked together to obtain a civil injunction, forbidding the known BA gang members from congregating in or near the downtown area. The ISC was instrumental in providing the County Attorney with BA member rosters, pictures, known associates, and hangouts. This injunction has decreased crime in the downtown area by 15%. As pressure is put on the organization in the El Paso area, the BA is known to be expanding to other cities. The ISC is now providing training and information with Midland/Odessa area LEA to help them deal with the problem.

Simulated Disaster Drill: The WTXISC has developed a GIS support system that provides visual graphics (up to 1 meter proximity) of the El Paso/Juarez area. This system has a layering capability, providing a readily identifiable view of all governmental facilities, public utilities, hospitals, etc in the area. The GIS system's primary purpose is to support narcotics law enforcement operations and investigations. It is a portable system and is currently housed in the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force Command Center (JTTF). In June all area public safety agencies conducted a hostage/terrorism disaster drill to determine the area's preparedness. During the drill, the agencies had command staff in the JTTF, and the ISC's GIS system provided integral support to include: providing ingress and egress routes; evacuation locations; command scenes and personnel locations.

Strategic Support: The WTXISC coordinates with the JTTF on identifying items of interest related to terrorist organizations. Through the CPOTs/RPOTs project the ISC has developed timely organizational information on the large DTOs that operate in Mexico. The ISC has determined leadership structures, areas and methods of operation, and interrelationships between DTOs. The information is disseminated to appropriate agencies. The ISC provides a quarterly intelligence briefing to the Executive Committee, including information on CPOT/RPOT, narcotics trafficking, terrorism, gangs, organized crime, white collar crime, and other law enforcement items of interest.

Integrated Data Sources: In-house translation services provide English translations of open source Mexican news from our area, to assist in corroborating some issues. The ISC has electronic access to all local and county records in El Paso. Access to Texas driver's license records and photos as well as the county jail records allows the ISC to provide timely photo lineups to agents/officers. The ISC is working with the EPPD and EPCSD on a project to merge their databases. This will significantly improve searching capabilities in order to provide GIS, strategic, and tactical products to the LEAs in the area.

Training Efforts: ISC personnel have received extensive analytical training to include the use of intelligence software and hardware to enhance their work products. The ISC is a key provider of training in the area. Numerous briefings have been provided to Federal, state, and local agencies and policy makers. Access is granted to all agencies. To facilitate this open use, over 300 LEAs are trained each year. The ISC's Gang unit is known as the premier gang unit in the state of Texas. This unit has developed unique software that integrates data from EPPD and the EPCSD on gangs and gang members. The software program has been shared with pertinent agencies in the region. The Gang Unit has provided training to groups ranging from 20-150 in Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Abilene, and Midland/Odessa.

2003 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR

Houston HIDTA - Carol Wilson, Houston HIDTA Financial Manager

The Houston HIDTA Executive Board unanimously nominates Carol M. Wilson, Houston HIDTA Financial Manager, for this award. Ms. Wilson has been part of the HIDTA family since 1996. Teeming with experience, talent and enthusiasm, Carol has since then evolved into what many consider the national HIDTA program's most "go-to" financial expert.

Please consider her contributions and their nationwide effect over the last seven years. Carol unilaterally researched, developed, implemented and exported to other HIDTAs a unique expenditure tracking software program...FACTS (Financial Analysis Cost Tracking System). She continues as an integral participant in the national financial database project. She served as the principal auditor on several HIDTA reviews for the NHPO. Carol recently devoted countless man-hours in assisting the HAC in their development of a Financial Manager's Training Course and manual. She willingly and cheerfully supports and mentors new and existing financial counterparts throughout the country. She will receive an MBA from Sam Houston State University in December 2003 as a straight-A post graduate student.

Her contributions locally continue to impress all observers. Carol continuously maintains, monitors, analyzes and balances approximately 75-90 grants for 18 fiduciaries totaling \$17-18 million at any given moment. For the FY/04 Budget submission, Ms. Wilson offered the Houston HIDTA Executive Board and the NHPO/FMO a remarkable, original array of statistical information in the form of charts, graphs and narratives clearly and simply depicting Houston HIDTA's financial state and evolution. Her in-depth reporting and fiscal analysis removes the necessity of passback inquiry because of the totality of its comprehensiveness. NHPO praised her product, stating that it would be offered as a "best practice" for all other HIDTAs to emulate. Her analysis also offers the Executive Board all the financial information required to formulate strategic decisions.

Fiduciaries laud her professional tact and competence and consistently seek her guidance. Carol is firm in her commitment to maintain fiscal integrity and adherence to ONDCP guidelines and her demeanor with fiduciaries is such that compliance is a team effort with them rather than an adversarial relationship. Very little "old money" exists in our HIDTA because of Carol's diligence to ensure prompt and proper spending habits and practices by Initiatives. Her expenditure tracking design allows the Director, Executive Board and fund recipients to make informed, credible decisions on how and where to expend funds. She provides up-to-date and important information to our Initiative Review and Evaluation processes. She is always available to lend a helping hand whether it is dealing with vendors, negotiating contracts or moving the office. Everyone who interacts with her compliments her.

Carol Wilson is the fiscal integrity of the Houston HIDTA. Her unparalleled wisdom, flexibility and innovation in addressing financial and economic matters and crises over the years allow this HIDTA to perform soundly and successfully. We heartily submit Carol Wilson for the prestigious title and award Outstanding Administrator!

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2003 National HIDTA Program Award ONDCP DIRECTOR'S AWARD

South Florida HIDTA - Sheriff Richard Roth, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Since 1991, Sheriff Roth has provided legal and administrative support to the HIDTA program through:

Fiscal Administrator for South Florida HIDTA - employs approximately 70 full time individuals including HIDTA Director, Deputy Director and Intelligence Center Coordinator, Intelligence Analysts, Translators, and other support personnel Maintains leases of three buildings.

Fiscal Administrator for National HIDTA Assistance Center Serves as employer for all NHAC staff Serves as fiscal administrator for NHAC funding

Fiscal Administrator for Puerto Rico/ U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA. Was instrumental in helping to get PRVI HIDTA operational in 1995. Has contracted for the services of the HIDTA Director, Deputy Director, and other personnel since 1995. Has contracted with the City of San Juan to employ HIDTA personnel. Maintains leases of four facilities

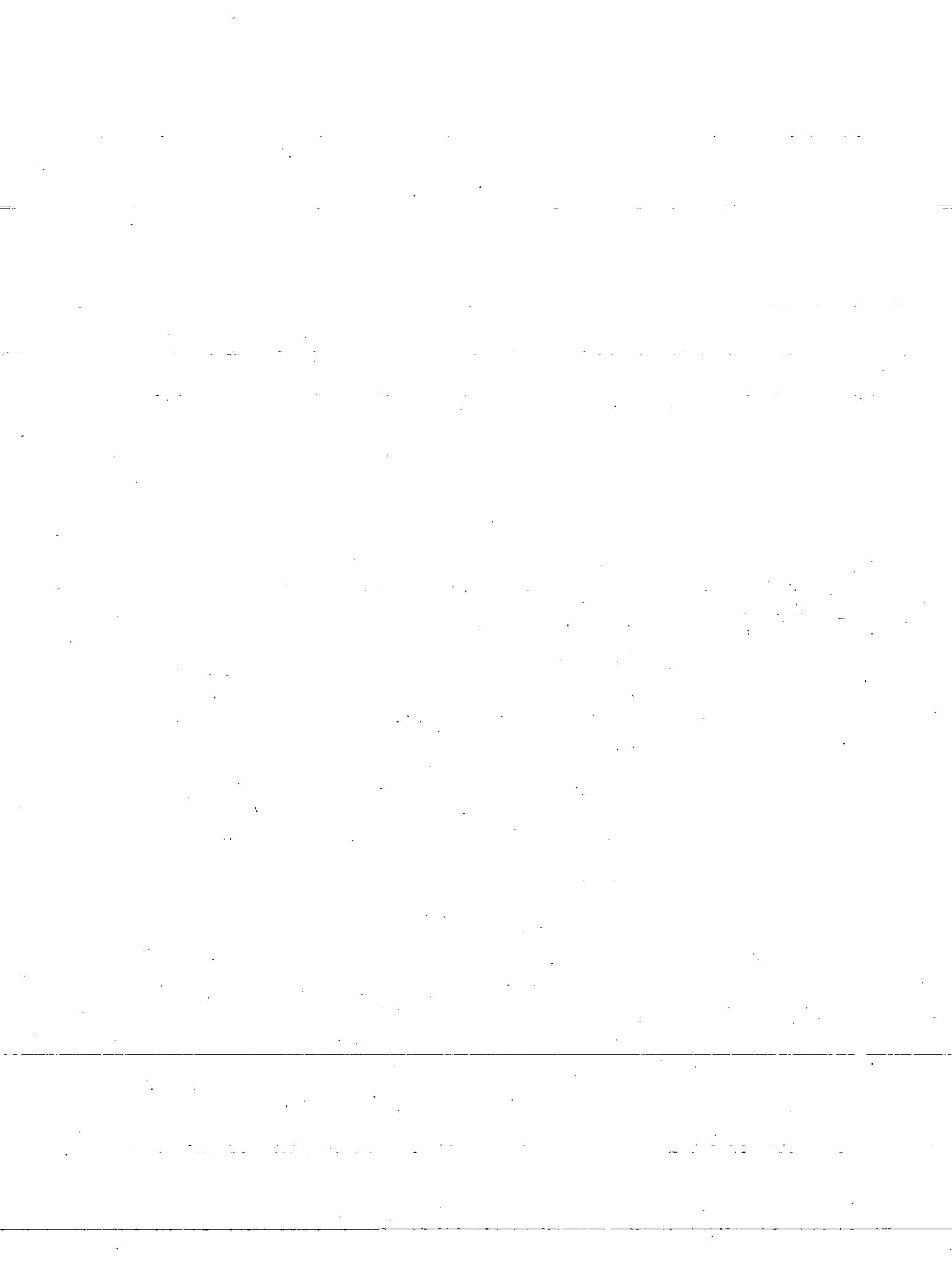
Providing support to the National HIDTA Program Office of ONDCP Contracts with personnel providing support to the HIDTA program by staffing the On Site review program, Intelligence program Instructor cadre, fiscal review and other functions. Serving as administrator of fiscal 2002 CPOT funds for the entire nation.

Various other services have been provided to the HIDTA program during the last twelve years. A few examples from many include:

Contracted with Directors on a temporary basis to assist new HIDTAS (Detroit, San Diego)

Provided assistance with the process of developing a national fiscal database for the HIDTA.

Program Since the inception of HIDTA, Sheriff Roth has handled in excess of \$100 million on behalf of the program.



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