



National Drug Control Strategy

HIDTA

High Intensity Drug
Trafficking Area Program
Annual Report

Office of National Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the President
December 2004



The National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program

Annual Report 2004



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503
December 13, 2004

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to welcome those gathered for the seventh annual High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Conference in Washington, D.C. This past year, the HIDTA program continued to bring federal, state and local law enforcement together to make a measurable difference in disrupting the market for illegal drugs.

Investigations into high level traffickers and seizures that disrupt drug trafficking organizations remain the hallmark of the program. A precondition of the HIDTA program being effective is the ability to get federal, state and local law enforcement to work together in a coordinated fashion. This in turn enhances the security of our country from threats both foreign and domestic, and serves as a model for other agencies.

The coming year will see the introduction of the Performance Management Program (PMP), which will allow each of you to better measure the efficiency of your respective efforts. Also, we will have in place a financial database system to better facilitate the use of resources allocated to each HIDTA.

As we gather to honor the achievements of individuals, groups and HIDTAs, I thank you for your fine work and wish you the best in the year ahead as we work together to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in our great Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Walters".

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 which exhibit serious drug trafficking problems and harmfully impact other areas of the country as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). The HIDTA Program provides additional 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 chronic 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 between 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 are also 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**;

- **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 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.

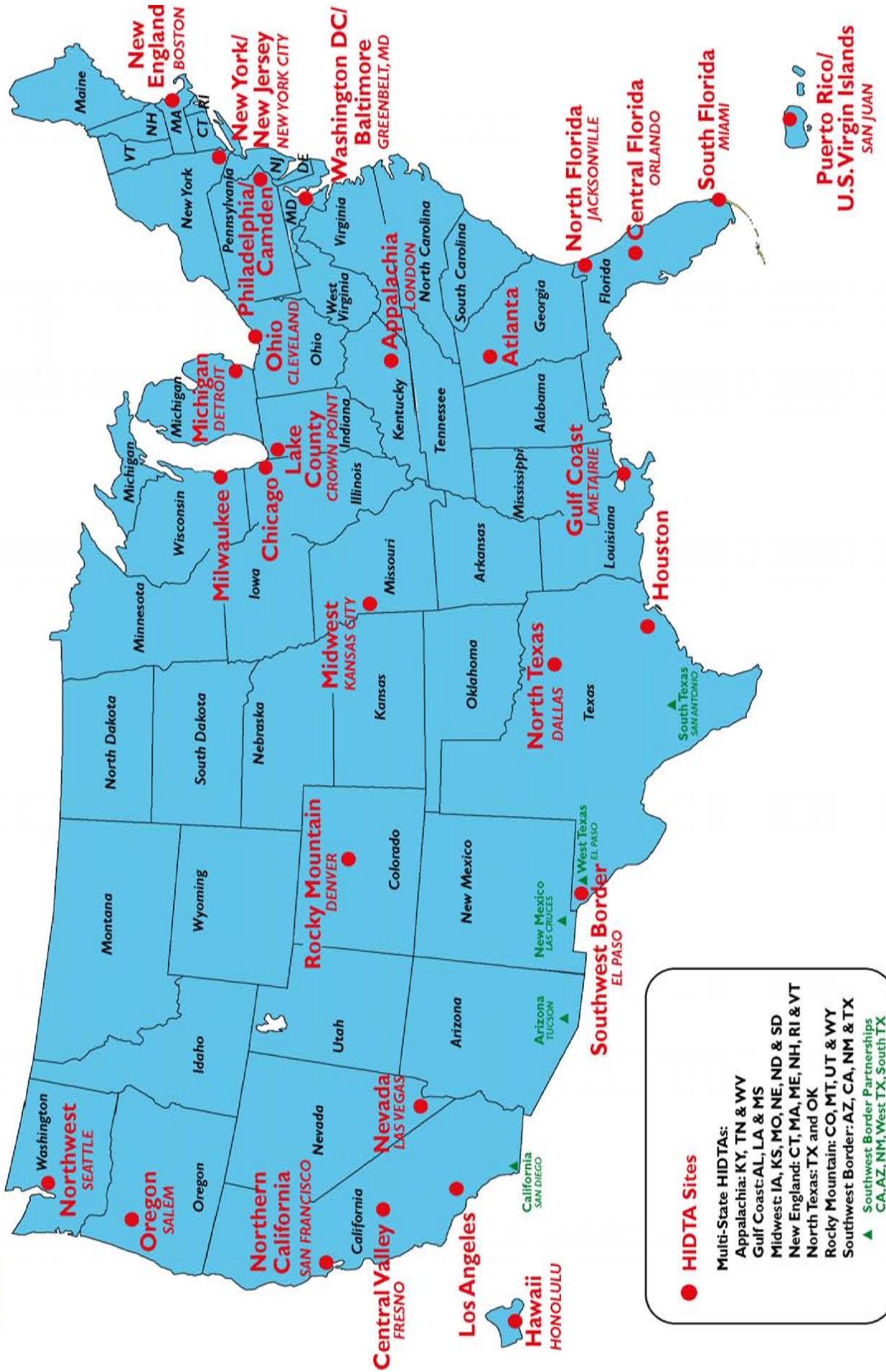
HIDTA-designated counties comprise approximately 13 percent of U.S. counties, they are present in 43 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. The following 28 areas are designated as HIDTAs:

- 1990: **Houston, Los Angeles, New York/New Jersey, South Florida** and **Southwest Border** (California, Arizona, New Mexico and 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 State);
- 1997: **Southeastern Michigan** (subsequently, portions of western Michigan) and **Northern California**;
- 1998: **Appalachia** (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia), **Central Florida**, **Milwaukee** and **North Texas** (Texas and Oklahoma); and
- 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 reduce measurably, and particularly as it relates to marijuana, 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 HIDTA drug production and trafficking have on other areas of the United States. Although marijuana is its primary focus, the Appalachia HIDTA responds to the threat posed by the illicit traffic of other drugs as required. 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 34.5 percent of the domestic marijuana supply in 2003 (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, and that 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 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.

The three states constituting the Appalachia HIDTA are experiencing a dramatic escalation in the methamphetamine threat. The number of methamphetamine labs dismantled in the HIDTA increased from 45 in 1999 to 474 in 2003.

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

Prescription drug seizures by Appalachia HIDTA officers and agents expanded dramatically from 4,706 dosage units in 1999 to 105,757 dosage units in 2003. The trafficking and illicit usage of prescription drugs, especially OxyContin, may well be the most significant drug problem aside from marijuana within the HIDTA.

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 Administration component, or Headquarters, for the Appalachia HIDTA can be found in London, KY with offices in Tennessee and West Virginia. 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. These initiatives target individuals and organizations involved in the supply, trafficking, production and distribution of all drugs, with an emphasis on marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine and prescription drugs. Further complementing the HIDTA's operational efforts is the Appalachia HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC). The four remaining support initiatives for the Appalachia HIDTA include Marijuana Eradication, Demand Reduction Teams, primarily targeting youths and educating the public, an Appalachia HIDTA Training Initiative, and the Appalachia HIDTA 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 for visitors to the HIDTA; 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.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

FEDERAL: ATF, DEA, FBI, IRS-CI, 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 District Attorneys' General Conference, West Virginia

Prosecuting Attorney's Institute, and the West Virginia State Police.

OTHER: Kentucky River Community Care Regional Prevention Center, 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 agencies from all three states.

INITIATIVES:

The following initiatives are included as part of the FY2005 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.

Appalachia HIDTA Intelligence Initiative - This Initiative drives the Appalachia HIDTA Investigative Support Center – members in the three states make up this non-located team who provide strategic, operational and tactical intelligence to law enforcement officers and agencies in the region. Through the Investigative Support Center, the team supports drug investigations for all assigned task forces.

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).

Prosecution Initiatives in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia – Federal and state prosecutors in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia complement all drug-related investigations, 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.

***Investigative Task Force Initiatives-
Kentucky***

Bowling Green - Warren County Drug Task Force

Columbia Area Drug Task Force

DEA London Task Force

Hazard Investigative Task Force

Lake Cumberland Area Drug Task Force

National Forest Marijuana Investigative Task Force

***Investigative Task Force Initiatives-
Tennessee***

DEA Upper East Tennessee Task Force

Middle Tennessee Task Force

Rocky Top Tennessee Task Force

DEA South Tennessee Task Force

***Investigative Task Force Initiatives- West
Virginia***

Huntington Violent Crimes/Drug Task Force

Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team

Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force

U.S. Highway 119 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

In September 2002, the Appalachia HIDTA Rocky Top Task Force and DEA Knoxville entered into a joint OCDETF investigation “Operation Underground” with BATGF&E Knoxville, IRS Knoxville, and Knoxville PD. This investigation targeted a major cocaine trafficking organization in the Knoxville, and east Tennessee area. In July 2003, investigators focused on the communications structure of the organization, ultimately using 17 pen registers and 7 federal Title III wire intercepts. All of the Title III wire intercepts and all but one of the pen registers were funded by the Appalachia HIDTA.

Exploitation of the communications revealed that the organization’s source of supply was based in Atlanta, Georgia. This organization was reportedly importing 100 kilograms of cocaine per month to the Knoxville and Atlanta areas. Investigative leads developed and passed by the Rocky Top Task force to DEA Atlanta Task Force Group IV assisted in identifying a primary source of supply in South Texas responsible for importing cocaine into the United States and distributing

it to Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

In March 2004, Knoxville and DEA Atlanta investigators executed search warrants and arrested ten individuals indicted on drug trafficking and money laundering charges. Additional indictments and arrests are expected. Seizures in the Knoxville investigation totaled 15 kilograms of cocaine and \$156,660 in assets. Information and leads passed by Knoxville investigators to DEA Atlanta Task Force officers assisted in the indictment and arrest of 21 subjects on drug trafficking and money laundering charges, and the seizure of 49 kilograms of cocaine, 1 kilogram of "ice" methamphetamine, and \$452,000 in U.S. Currency. By working together with agencies and investigators from other jurisdictions, a Mexican drug trafficking organization responsible for distributing hundreds of kilograms of cocaine in the Southeast United States was dismantled.

In April 2003, the Appalachia HIDTA DEA London Task Force initiated an OCDEF investigation of a Laurel County marijuana distribution organization. This investigation was launched as the result of an Operation Pipeline interdiction traffic stop by the Kansas Highway Patrol that led to the seizure of 300 pounds of marijuana. The marijuana was en route from Phoenix, Arizona, to London, Kentucky. A subsequent controlled delivery led to the arrest of three subjects in Laurel County.

Further investigation revealed that the three subjects controlled a tight-knit, family-based, Southeastern Kentucky trafficking organization that had distributed approximately 13,000 pounds of marijuana since 1998. Using a system of real estate purchases, semi-legitimate businesses, and complex financial transactions, the organization had laundered between five and ten million dollars during the same time period. This ongoing investigation, conducted

with the assistance of the DEA Phoenix Division Office, DEA Kansas City District Office, Kansas Highway Patrol, and the United States Attorney's Offices for the District of Arizona and the Eastern District of Kentucky, continues to identify additional financial holdings, criminal activities, and organization associates.

In addition to ten arrests, total value of assets seized since April 2003 is approximately \$3.25 million, including \$1.4 million in U.S. Currency and a \$1 million Judgement Forfeiture. This investigation has led to the indictment and filing of a provisional arrest warrant with the Government of Mexico for the Puerto Penasco, Sonora, Mexico-based source of supply. Through investigative and prosecutorial efforts, a major international, multi-state marijuana drug trafficking organization was successfully dismantled.

ATLANTA HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1995

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (404) 815-4400

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Atlanta HIDTA Program is to measurably enhance public safety in strategically designated high crime areas of metropolitan Atlanta (City of Atlanta, Fulton/DeKalb Counties). This mission is to be accomplished principally, by two intelligence driven investigative Drug Task Forces, which are focused on reducing and dismantling a number of categorical international, national, and regional Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and Violent Career Criminals operating within or otherwise affecting Atlanta HIDTA areas of responsibility and other HIDTA zones throughout the US. Financial and technical investigative functions, as well as administrative and intelligence support which enhance targeting coordination of drug trafficking control efforts and interagency cooperation and coordination are essential aspects of this domestic law enforcement mission which is designed to

alleviate the harmful consequences of drug trafficking, drug abuse and armed violence.

Threat Abstract:

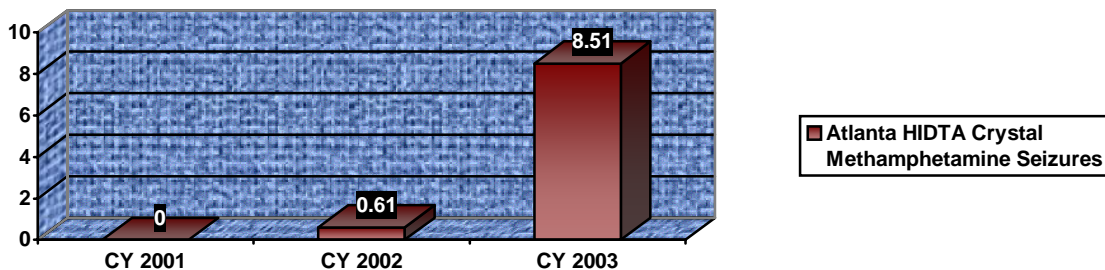
The long standing roles of metropolitan Atlanta as a significant wholesale, retail, and transportation hub for drug trafficking, as well as a major financial center, are factors in the movement of controlled substances into and through the region. Atlanta also serves as a key distribution center for drugs transported into the U.S. from source areas.

Significant increases in the region's Hispanic population, driven primarily by employment opportunities in the construction and service industries, have afforded anonymity to Mexican and Southwestern U.S. based criminal organizations involved in drug transportation and distribution. These criminal organizations are the principle transporters of cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine into the Atlanta region.

The distribution and abuse of cocaine are the most significant drug threats to the metropolitan Atlanta area. Atlanta is a major cocaine transportation and distribution hub for the southeastern United States. Mexico-based DTOs are primarily responsible for transporting cocaine to the area. The primary sources for cocaine are California, Texas, and Mexico. A significant portion of the powdered cocaine transported into the Atlanta metropolitan area is converted to crack cocaine. Violence and social decay associated with the distribution and abuse of crack cocaine plague some sections of the Atlanta

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.

Distribution and abuse of methamphetamine are expanding to all areas of the state. No longer considered ‘the poor man’s cocaine,’ methamphetamine abuse crosses most socioeconomic lines in urban, suburban, and rural areas in Georgia. Many of the counties immediately surrounding Atlanta report that methamphetamine, including its production



Atlanta HIDTA Crystal Methamphetamine or “Ice” seizures increased almost 1,300% between CY 2002 and CY 2003.

metropolitan area. Low-level criminal groups that operate in specific neighborhoods are primarily responsible for cocaine, crack, and other drug-related violence affecting the metropolitan Atlanta region.

Law enforcement reporting reflects that methamphetamine has emerged as the primary threat in suburban communities neighboring Fulton and DeKalb counties and quantities, in both powdered and crystal or “ice” forms, is readily available. The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) National Drug Threat Survey 2004 (NDTS 2004) shows that 68.3% of participating law enforcement agencies identified methamphetamine as posing the greatest threat to their area of responsibility. Methamphetamine is an increasing threat in the suburban areas due to the drug’s price and ready availability and is replacing some traditional drugs as a less expensive, more

in clandestine laboratories, is a significant law enforcement and community threat. Multi-pound seizures by law enforcement are becoming common. The NDTS 2004 (Atlanta HIDTA) reports 50% of methamphetamine cases to be closely associated with violent crimes in their respective areas.

Marijuana is the most readily available and widely abused illicit drug in the Atlanta metropolitan area; however, the drug is considered a lower threat than cocaine because it is less often associated with violent crime. According to the National Drug Threat Assessment, Atlanta is likely to emerge as a primary market for marijuana distribution. Most of the marijuana available in the state is produced in Mexico, although marijuana produced in Georgia and surrounding states is also available. Increasingly, traffickers smuggle multi-hundred pound quantities of marijuana typically using commercial tractor-trailers.

Quantities of heroin are easily obtainable and are trafficked, principally, in inner city Atlanta neighborhoods. Specifically engulfed by a high volume of heroin distribution is the English Avenue Community. According to the Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta is the secondary supply hub for heroin distribution outlets located in Columbus and Savannah as well as to other locations in the southeastern United States. Heroin is transported primarily from Florida, New Jersey, New York, and Texas to the metro Atlanta area.

Atlanta has traditionally supported a thriving club drug trade that is fueled by readily available supplies of MDMA, GHB, LSD, and Rohypnol. Much of the popularity of these drugs is related to the mistaken perception that they have few, if any, negative consequences. Typically, profit margins are very high and the penalties for MDMA and GHB distribution are much less severe than penalties for distribution of other 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 metropolitan area. PCP (phencyclidine) and psilocybin are also available and abused in the metro Atlanta area.

Strategy Abstract:

Previously defined drug and armed violence threats confronting HIDTA Task Forces in Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb counties, are not simply redressed 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 impact measure, is indeed one dimensional and, in terms of measuring overall drug crime suppression, somewhat meaningless.

Strategic targeting and sustained disruption and dismantlement of organized retail, wholesale, and criminal groups, related distribution organizations (wholesalers), transportation networks, clan lab operators, co-conspirator smugglers, sources of supply, and supporting criminal financial services are the heart HIDTA’s 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) participating in the Atlanta HIDTA Program.

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 categorical drug trafficking organizations; and second, a public safety role in incarcerating an identified number of violent career criminals operating in HIDTA zones. OCDETF/CPOT: The Atlanta HIDTA’s two investigative task force components and intelligence center are operationally engaged with DOJ’s OCDETF Program and with CPOT targeting mechanisms dedicated to disrupt and dismantle entire organizational infrastructure of major international, national, and regional trafficking organizations. Those drug threats affecting both the Atlanta region and other HIDTA areas of the US are the focus of the HIDTA Program. Atlanta HIDTA intelligence and enforcement strategy share a collateral support commitment to participating HIDTA

law enforcement agencies in their respective drug investigative activities.

SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Equal in importance to HIDTA's operational role is 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, and to the Metro Atlanta Region, HIDTA provides collective support to law enforcement agencies operating in Fulton and DeKalb Counties through the HIDTA Drug Intelligence Fusion Component, 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.

Investigative Support Center:

The Investigative Support Center (ISC) is home to the Metro 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 our reported strategy.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: U.S. Attorneys Office – Northern District of GA, ATF, ICE, FBI, DEA, IRS-CI.

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, State of Georgia Attorney General's Office, Georgia State Patrol, MARTA Police Department.

Significant Achievements:

Intelligence: In the Spring of 2003, Atlanta HIDTA's Drug Intelligence Fusion Component developed a new sub-initiative – the Statewide Analytical Interdiction Narcotics Team (SAINT). This program, developed through HIDTA participating law enforcement partnerships with the Georgia State Patrol, ICE, and other HIDTA agencies, was developed to address the shipment of controlled substances and contraband cases over interstate highways in Georgia. Specifically, this intelligence support project, was intended to place a coordinated multi-agency intelligence support mechanism for drug interdiction responders and investigative units in Metro Atlanta and other areas of Georgia. During the development of Atlanta HIDTA's SAINT program, this project was "married" to and coordinated with the existing HIDTA interdiction program operation by the Gulf Coast HIDTA and to other HIDTA border interdiction components – all linked to the El Paso Intelligence Center. Since its inception in March 2003, SAINT has collected information on 432 violators, 317 incidents, produced 59 Intelligence Bulletins, 84 Letters of Dissemination, and made over 110 contacts throughout the State of Georgia and the United States.

Task Force: In late 2001, agents initiated a case targeting a violent DTO operating in the Jonesboro South area of Atlanta, Georgia. Agents utilized several cooperating defendants and informants to infiltrate the group. The informants and

undercover officers were able to make several purchases (buys/walks) from several members of the organization, including direct purchase of crack cocaine from the head of the organization by an undercover police officer. In March 2003, agents conducted a search warrant on an apartment controlled by members of the gang. The head of the organization and five of his associates were arrested inside the apartment. Agents seized approximately half a kilogram of crack cocaine, approximately one kilogram of powder cocaine, six pounds of marijuana, one gun, approximately \$17,000 in cash, and personal jewelry worth over \$250,000.00. Total, agents arrested eleven members of the group for narcotics violations. Eight of the defendants were federally indicted for conspiracy to distribute cocaine, and all had subsequently pled guilty. Three of them are serving long federal sentences. The head of the organization and four of his associates are currently awaiting sentencing in Federal Court.

In March 2004, the seizure of 15 kilograms of heroin and the arrests of five individuals were the result of an ongoing investigation into an international cocaine and heroin smuggling DTO. This investigation is ongoing.

The Atlanta and DeKalb HIDTA Task Forces disrupted 27 and dismantled 17 DTOs during CY 2003.

CY 2003 Arrests & Seizures: 395 Arrests; 7.56K Crack Cocaine; 186.69K Cocaine HCL; 44.12K Heroin; 1,741.17K Marijuana; 210 Marijuana Plants; 11.32K Methamphetamine; 8.51K Crystal Methamphetamine; 3 Meth Labs; 90.69K Khat; 21.09K MDMA; 21.46K Opium; \$1,198,271 U.S. Currency; 46 Vehicles; 81 Firearms; 1 home; 10 scales; \$257,000 in Jewelry.

Central Florida HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (407) 585-2741

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:

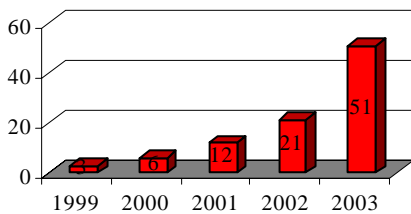
The CFHIDTA covers seven counties from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. It is comprised of (from West to East) Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia Counties. Located within this 8,000 square mile area, inclusive of Brevard County, are several major population 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 a unique drug trafficking situation. It is a center for the importation of drugs due to its geographic location, its tremendous tourism industry, and its 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

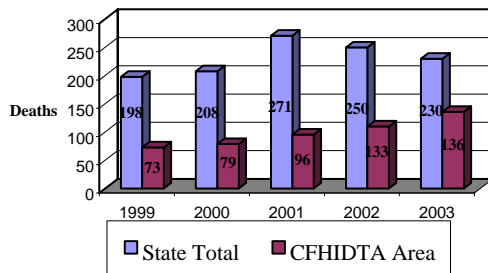
responsible for the importation of marijuana and methamphetamine from California, Texas and Mexico. Clandestine Methamphetamine labs have been predominately located in Polk County. However, in 2003 methamphetamine labs appeared in the surrounding counties and have increased in number.

SEIZED METH LABS REPORTED TO CFHIDTA



Heroin is still the number one problem facing the Central Florida area. Reported heroin overdose deaths for the CFHIDTA reached a total of 136 in 2003, with the most reported in Orange, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties.

FLORIDA HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATHS



The CFHIDTA counties comprise 10% of the Florida counties and accounted for over 59% of the total Heroin overdose deaths in the state. These heroin deaths overshadow the ever-present cocaine problem. The area as a whole has experienced increases in methamphetamine use, with concentrated areas found around the Mexican migrant farming communities. Marijuana is still the drug of choice

across CFHIDTA region. This is facilitated by increased indoor grows, overnight parcel deliveries, as well as, over land 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, concentrating on the most prevalent drug in those regions. It strives to disrupt and dismantle those organizations responsible for the importation, manufacture, and distribution of those drugs. The Central Florida HIDTA coordinated thirteen initiatives in 2004. These initiatives are contained within three subsystems: Intelligence, Investigative, and Support.

The Central Florida Investigative Support Center (CFISC) houses 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 9 analysts, 1 DEA Supervisory Analyst and 1 computer program specialist. The investigative initiatives are made up of Eleven (11) investigative task

forces/initiatives located throughout the CFHIDTA. These task forces drive the strategy through the disruption and dismantling of drug trafficking organizations. This strategy was formulated due to diverse and regionally unique drug problems throughout the Central Florida HIDTA area. 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 training initiative, 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 (Contract employee). 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 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; 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 bought 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 as pill press on order.

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, 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 the highly potent type of methamphetamine called "ICE". 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)457-5040

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Central Valley California HIDTA (CVC HIDTA) is to reduce the manufacture, trafficking, and distribution of methamphetamine, precursor chemicals, and other dangerous drugs by attacking and dismantling the large-scale and often violent organizations responsible through the implementation of cooperative and innovative strategies.

The goals of the CVC HIDTA are to: reduce drug availability by disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations; to reduce the harmful consequences of drug trafficking and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the region's law enforcement organizations.

Threat Abstract:

The primary drug threat in the Central Valley is methamphetamine. The methamphetamine threat continues due to

the ready availability of foreign and domestically acquired supplies of pseudoephedrine tablets, ephedrine hydrochloride and other essential precursors, chemicals and products. Large scale methamphetamine "superlabs" produce more than ten pounds during a single manufacturing process.

Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations generally operate the superlabs. Increasing quantities of methamphetamine is also produced in laboratories in the Republic of Mexico. The finished methamphetamine is smuggled across the border and ultimately into the Central Valley of California. Manufacturing methamphetamine in Mexico is considered less risky and easier to produce due to the readily availability of precursors imported from Asia and other foreign countries.

Crystal methamphetamine ("ice") manufacturing, importation and use is increasing in the Central Valley. Ice generally has a high purity and is

accordingly higher priced. Small laboratories using the Nazi or Birch production method are on the increase. The Nazi process uses Lithium metal such as found in Lithium batteries and Anhydrous Ammonia. Meth pills from Southeast Asia (“Yaba”) have been seized in the Fresno and Sacramento areas. Heroin trafficking and abuse seems to be constant or on the decline in some areas. Treatment program enrollment for heroin addiction has declined.

The demand for marijuana remains high and the use of public lands for cultivating cannabis continues at increasing levels. There has been an increase in marijuana production on public lands by Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations over the last five years in California. Five separate drug trafficking organizations have been identified as operating on National Forest Service land in California according to the Supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest and they are headquartered in Mexico. The “epidemic” of marijuana cultivation and other drug related issues in national forests poses a significant danger to the public and law enforcement. The organizations that grow marijuana are often the same ones that produce methamphetamine.

DRUG TYPE	Treatment Program Admissions 2002	Treatment Program Admissions 2001
Cocaine	3,072	3,147
Heroin	8,553	9,499
Marijuana	4,673	4,542
Meth	13,125	11,685

Table compares last two years of data for treatment program admissions in the Central Valley HIDTA’s nine counties.

Cocaine importation, distribution and use remain steady in most areas. Cocaine supplies appear to remain high with prices

constant. Cocaine sales include both powder and crack forms with crack cocaine use being greater in populated urban communities. Club drugs such as ecstasy and GHB and club drugs are gaining a user base through rave parties, and dances.

Strategy Abstract:

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

The Central Valley of California continues to be a major manufacturing, distribution, and transshipment area for all types of illegal drugs. Regional drug trafficking organizations produce and distribute methamphetamine and marijuana to drug markets throughout the country. Heroin, cocaine and other drugs are smuggled into the region for local consumption or transshipment to other localities in the country. Regional consumption rates vary depending on drug type however methamphetamine abuse and addiction continue at high levels. The violence associated with drug manufacturing and distribution impacts families, neighborhoods, and schools.

The environmental impact from the toxic waste produced by methamphetamine production continues to threaten the viability of regional farmlands, waterways and public areas. This pollution may last for decades. The CVC HIDTA enforcement initiatives proactively identify, target, disrupt and dismantle the drug trafficking organizations operating the California’s Central Valley.

The CVC HIDTA consists of six enforcement initiatives, one intelligence initiative, a training initiative, one unfunded demand reduction initiative and one administrative initiative:

Management and Administrative Initiative: The HIDTA Management and Administrative staff consists of the Director, Administrative Assistant, and Fiscal Officer. They coordinate and administer the CVC HIDTA program and budget. The Director executes the Executive Board's directives and coordinates all initiatives and budgets which are designed to reduce the regional drug threat and meet national HIDTA goals. The Director represents both the Executive Board and ONDCP in all program affairs.

Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force: Located in Fresno, CA. this multi-agency enforcement initiative focuses on disrupting and dismantling major methamphetamine and marijuana trafficking organizations, precursor chemical suppliers, and pseudoephedrine suppliers. Their operational area includes Fresno, Madera and Merced counties.

Fresno Area Surveillance Team: This group is part of the **Fresno Meth Task Force** initiative and conducts surveillance, collects intelligence and investigates regional drug trafficking organizations. The unit is led by a Drug Enforcement Administration supervisor and works with state and local investigators. Investigations follow federal guidelines and are prosecuted under the federal system. The team concentrates on flexibility and pursuing wiretap investigations which increase both OCDETF and Federal prosecutions.

Joint Fugitive Task Force: This Fresno initiative is led by the U.S. Marshal's Service and was created to apprehend

significant narcotic fugitives in the region. The multi-agency task force uses state and local participants to pursue narcotics fugitives. Federal and state narcotic fugitives identified by law enforcement agencies in the Central Valley are the priorities.

Sacramento Area Intelligence/ Narcotics Taskforce: This multi-agency investigative task force initiates major investigations of methamphetamine and polydrug trafficking organizations operating in the greater Sacramento area. It supports other investigative agencies as required and collects operational intelligence to identify methamphetamine and narcotic trafficking organizations. The task force has an intelligence component as well as a Precursor/Vendor Program to educate retailers about methamphetamine production and to collect information about precursor chemical buyers who use the non-regulated products to manufacture methamphetamine.

Southern Tri-County Drug Task Force: This multi-agency task force is headquartered in Bakersfield, CA. and includes an intelligence component and an investigative component. Task force members investigate all aspects of methamphetamine trafficking, including the acquisition of precursor chemicals, manufacturing, distribution, and money laundering. They also investigate and prosecute the drug trafficking organizations that cultivate marijuana growing on public lands in the region. The task force employs Title III investigations of drug trafficking organizations. Their operational area is Kern, Kings and Tulare Counties.

Stanislaus-San-Joaquin Meth Task Force: Task force members conduct long term investigations of regional and national drug trafficking organizations involved in the

acquisition of precursor chemicals, and the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine and other illegal drugs. The initiative is located in Modesto and has an on-site intelligence analyst. Investigations are coordinated through the deconfliction services provided by the Los Angeles Clearinghouse. The initiative operates the Precursor Vendor Program in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties.

Training Initiative: Training programs are presented throughout the Central Valley HIDTA region to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of drug enforcement investigators and intelligence analysts. Technical and specialized training programs are offered in each year and all programs are coordinated with the National HIDTA Assistance Center. This initiative falls under the Investigative Support Center.

Investigative Support Center:

The intelligence initiative is a multi-agency, collocated element with a central office in Fresno. The intelligence center 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 analysts to the unit. This unit provides support for phone toll investigations, ad hoc post-seizure analysis, suspect and organizational profiles, and graphic support for investigations and prosecutions. ISC personnel also prepare narcotic intelligence analysis, trends assessment, statistical analysis, threat assessments, quarterly and annual statistical and performance reports and the CVC HIDTA's annual strategy and budget. The ISC also provides analytical support with on-site personnel for the investigative initiatives in Sacramento, Modesto and Bakersfield. In addition, the ISC provides

investigative and intelligence training for the HIDTA and area LEAs. Deconfliction is provided by the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse, with funding for two analysts supplied by the CVC HIDTA. The technical unit features an equipment pool, which makes equipment available for use by HIDTA task forces and other valley agencies, and computer support. Supervision for this initiative is provided by a DEA Intelligence Unit Supervisor.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Marshals Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

State/Local: Bakersfield Police Department; California Department of Justice-Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement; California Highway Patrol; California National Guard; California Youth Authority; Delano Police Department; Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Fresno Police Department, Kern County Sheriff's Department; LA County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse; Madera Sheriff's Department; Merced County Sheriff's Department; Modesto Police Department; Porterville Police Department; Sacramento Co. Probation Department; Sacramento County Sheriff's Department; Sacramento Police Department; San Joaquin Co. Sheriff's Department; Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department; State of California-CALMMET; Stockton Police Department; Tulare County Interagency Narcotic Enforcement Task Force and the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

Significant Achievements:

DUC TAPE INVESTIGATION

In March 2003 the Sacramento Area Intelligence Narcotics Team (SAINT) concluded an OCDETF investigation into a multi-national organization that imported marijuana, ice and ecstasy into the US from Canada, the Netherlands and Southeast Asia. Cocaine was funneled through California north into Canada. The DTO imported approximately 50,000 ecstasy pills, 500 pounds of marijuana and 50-75 pounds of ice into the US each month. Drug proceeds were sent to Vietnam. A Vancouver B.C.-based Asian DTO coordinated shipments of MDMA from the Netherlands to China, where hundreds of pounds of "ice" (meth) and ephedrine were added to cargo ships bound for the Port of Vancouver. The Vancouver Chapter of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang facilitated unloading of the maritime cargo to stash locations in the Vancouver area. The OMG then smuggled ice, marijuana and ephedrine south from Canada into Washington, Oregon and California. and cocaine north from the US into Canada. Agents served 15 search warrants and arrested 19 subjects for federal drug, conspiracy and money laundering. SAINT seized over \$1.5 million in cash, real property, luxury vehicles and other assets.

HOME INVASION ROBBERIES:

For several months in late 2003 a series of violent home invasion robberies occurred. The Stanislaus San Joaquin HIDTA task force was pressed into service to pursue the violent meth violators who assaulted several women shot a man. The task force set up a 24/7 surveillance on the suspects some of whose members were connected to the Aryan Brotherhood, a notorious and violent prison gang. After 29 days of day and night surveillance, the suspects drove to a rural home and parked out of view of the

surveillance units. Soon afterwards a call to emergency dispatch reported a home invasion robbery at the location. A pursuit ensued and ended with the suspects fleeing the vehicle. Shots were fired at the police and a gun battle ensued. Eventually 11 suspects were arrested and charged with various felonies.

SHOOTOUT WITH SUSPECT IN SLAYING OF POLICE OFFICER

The Stanislaus San Joaquin Meth Task Force was asked to watch several locations where the murderer of a Pittsburgh California Police Department detective might appear. A small red car containing a person matching the suspect's description was eventually located. The suspect saw the arrest team approaching and took a gun from his car. As he ran from his vehicle he fired at a HIDTA supervisor. The bullet shattered the windshield, ricocheted off the steering wheel, and lodged in the headliner approximately 3 inches from the supervisor's head. Other agents engaged the suspect in a firefight and he was killed.

METH PRECURSOR INVESTIGATION

In November 2003, the Stanislaus San Joaquin Meth Task Force investigated a methamphetamine precursor smuggling and manufacturing organization. They distributed drugs California, Washington, Nevada, and Oklahoma. Pseudoephedrine pills from China were smuggled from Canada. Eventually search warrants were served on 12 businesses and residences resulting in the arrest of 31 subjects. Four meth labs and over 40 pounds of finished meth were seized. They also seized forty pounds of meth in solution, over 70 pounds of red phosphorous, (capable of producing 350 lbs of meth), over 80 pounds of iodine crystals (capable of producing 48 lbs of meth), and 480,000 Pseudoephedrine pills.

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 enhance and coordinate America's drug control efforts among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in order to eliminate or reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States. The mission includes coordinated efforts to reduce the production, manufacturing, distribution, transportation and chronic use of illegal drugs, as well as the attendant money laundering of drug proceeds.

Threat Abstract:

The area of responsibility of the Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (Chicago HIDTA) is a microcosm of the drug trafficking and abuse problems facing law enforcement and public health officials across America. The high volume of drugs entering the city, combined with a large pool of abusers, virtually ensures a continuation of the city's severe, chronic drug problems.

Chicago is the hub of an extensive network of state and interstate highways connecting it to other regions of Illinois as well as the rest of the continental United States. This highway network facilitates the transportation of large quantities of illicit drugs to the Chicago area, most commonly in commercial trucks and private vehicles. Mail and parcel delivery services are also used extensively in the transport of these drugs. The largest postal facility in the world is located in Chicago as well as numerous private parcel service providers who handle millions of packages each year. Chicago is also home to the world's busiest rail yards and serves as the principal transshipment point for goods shipped by mail from Mexico to Canada and between the East and West Coasts.

Heroin use continues to be an alarming problem in the Chicago area with Columbian and Nigerian criminal groups the primary smugglers and wholesale suppliers. Heroin is consistently received from all four

source areas: Mexico, South America, Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia. The bulk of this heroin is sold at numerous open-air street corner locations, primarily on the West Side of the city.

Cocaine is transported to the Chicago area in metric ton quantities. Most of this cocaine passes through Mexico before entering the United States. Mexican traffickers dominate distribution in Chicago and organized street gangs control retail level cocaine and crack distribution.

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. These traffickers commonly transport metric ton quantities of marijuana from the Southwest border to the city. Disruption of these polydrug trafficking organizations require continued and aggressive attention.

Although the availability of methamphetamine is limited in the Chicago area, it poses a significant and increasing problem throughout the rest of Illinois. Methamphetamine lab seizures in outlying suburbs are slowly increasing, signaling what may be a gradual incursion of the drug into the Chicago area.

Club drugs continue to be readily available in the Chicago HIDTA area and are typically sold to and used by youthful suburbanites. Asians, Europeans and Israelis, relative “newcomers” to the drug trade, are the primary wholesale distributors of these drugs.

Chicago’s status as a major financial center presents unlimited opportunities for laundering the vast sums of money generated from the trafficking of drugs. Typically, money laundering in Chicago is accomplished by transporting bulk cash to

the Southwest border or through the use of wire transfers and other financial services. Traffickers also invest profits from illegal drug sales into legal, mostly cash, businesses such as nightclubs and grocery stores.

Strategy Abstract:

Chicago HIDTA was established as an empowerment HIDTA in 1995 to assist federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in dismantling the Gangster Disciples street gang in order to reduce the flow of illicit drugs and decrease drug related crime in the Chicago area. In 1997, Chicago became a full HIDTA and broadened its attack on illicit drug trafficking and related criminal activity.

The Executive Board is the governing body of Chicago HIDTA and is comprised of eight federal and eight state and local law enforcement executives. The Executive Director provides oversight and ensures HIDTA program compliance and implementation of Executive Board mandates.

Through its initiatives, the Chicago HIDTA Executive Board has continued and expanded its multi-faceted strategy to significantly diminish the drugs threats identified in the annual Threat Assessment.

Chicago HIDTA initiatives include ten enforcement groups comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement personnel, two support initiatives and a training initiative. Four additional enforcement initiatives have been developed and funded with supplemental funding awards. Enforcement activity by Chicago HIDTA initiatives has been designed to target major illicit drug trafficking organizations through aggressive investigations and enforcement that include sources of supply, sources of

distribution, drug interdiction and drug related financial and violent crimes.

Investigative Support Center:

The Chicago HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the common thread that supports all Chicago HIDTA initiatives as well as those law enforcement agencies and multi agency groups that request counterdrug investigative support. The ISC staff has responded to all levels of law enforcement by investing in and continually developing the intelligence function, integrating the positions of the Intelligence Analyst and Systems Analyst, emphasizing the customer service function of the Deconfliction/Inquiry Desk and the acquisition and development of effective databases and systems such as SAFETNet. The ISC has instituted the non-traditional approach of having an Intelligence Analyst man the Inquiry/Deconfliction Desk, with access to all ISC resources and investigative software, Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. as well as on weekends. Deconfliction is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Analysts capitalize on their core competencies: skilled investigative software techniques, comprehensive knowledge of agency databases and relationships developed from the multi agency environment fostered at the Chicago HIDTA. The application of Arc View Mapping, visual link charts and the creation of databases in support of Title III investigations has become a model in the Chicago area law enforcement community. Within the first nine months of 2004, eight Chicago HIDTA analysts have supported over thirty wiretap investigations and over forty pen registers.

Innovative data sets and agency databases are constantly being pursued. The ISC

recently obtained the Police Computer Aided Dispatch (PCAD) which is the Chicago 911 Emergency Communications System, and uses it to augment the SAFETNet Pointer Deconfliction System. All location and target submissions are checked against the 911 system to check for any criminal activity, enhancing the officer safety feature of the system. The ISC has also recently acquired CIMIS, the Cook County Inmate Management System. This database provides data on inmates, including visitor lists and photos. The addition of PCAD and CIMIS to existing resources has proved to be invaluable.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, United States Attorney's Office, United States Marshal's Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Postal Inspection Service.

State: Illinois State Police, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Illinois National Guard, State of Illinois State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor's Office, Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois Secretary of State Police.

Local: Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Cook County Department of Corrections, Cook County Forest Preserve Police, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, Kendall County Sheriff's Department, Will County Sheriff's Department, Bolingbrook P.D., Chicago P.D., Chicago Heights P.D., Cicero P.D., Dolton P.D., Joliet P.D., Lockport P.D., Matteson P.D., Oswego P.D., Palatine P.D.,

Plainfield P.D., Plano P.D., Posen P.D., Romeoville P.D., Round Lake P.D., Tinley Park P.D., University Park P.D., Wilmington P.D., Yorkville P.D.

Significant Achievements:

SAFETNet

In 2004 Chicago HIDTA became a proprietary owner of the state of the art Pointer/Deconfliction program known as SAFETNet. Chicago HIDTA then examined the pointer/deconfliction needs of the Great Lakes region with a view to addressing not only the counter drug focus, but also those of general crime and homeland security. Chicago HIDTA has made the SAFETNet program available at no cost to law enforcement in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. The HIDTAs in each of these states have agreed to participate as watch centers for their region in order to maximize effectiveness and minimize expenses in the region.

In Illinois, the Chicago HIDTA pointer/deconfliction coverage has expanded from five counties to coverage for the entire state. The Illinois State Police have fully committed to the use of SAFETNet, creating their own watch centers to assist the HIDTA. The network is now accessible to law enforcement in Illinois through RISSNet, the ISP network and the Chicago Police Department I-CLEAR Network, which has become the state-wide network for booking and LEADS access. The Chicago HIDTA Deconfliction Center will become a participant in the *National Virtual Pointer System in November of 2004.*

Operation DAYTRADER

Case Number – OCEDTF I1-01-0367: In October 2002, the HIDTA West Side Heroin Initiative, comprised of personnel from the Chicago Police Department, Drug Enforcement Agency and Illinois Department of Corrections, focused on the “Open Air Drug Market” (OADM) distribution of heroin on the West Side of the City of Chicago. The Vice Lords street gang was identified as the oldest and largest distributor of the drug in that area. The Mafia Insane Vice Lord faction (MIVL) was targeted due to their organized involvement, use of violence, and control of over fifty OADM locations. Federal wiretaps were initiated resulting in the interception of over 42,000 calls leading to additional targets. Numerous undercover purchases were made from MIVL drug spots for both heroin and cocaine. Documentary evidence was obtained from garbage pulls and extensive surveillances were conducted. At the culmination of the investigation in May of 2004 the “round-up” resulted in federal charges against 47 defendants and various state charges against an additional 55 defendants, all street gang members. As of late September 2004, 75 of these individuals have been arrested – the remainder are fugitives.

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 illicit drug availability and its harmful consequences within its designated areas by standing intelligence-driven task forces and supporting infrastructure designed to target, disrupt and eliminate drug trafficking organizations impacting our region and beyond.

Threat Abstract:

The Gulf Coast HIDTA is comprised of 20 counties/parishes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The three states are largely rural, agricultural and impoverished. 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. Its combination of waterways, deep-water ports, railways, 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 299 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 its base derivative crack, cause the greatest impact on violent crime, the economy and society. Methamphetamine lab activity has dramatically increased in the

last few years particularly in the northern portions of the three states. Much of this increase has been small manufacturing operations and is due to the ready availability of precursor chemicals such as ephedrine/pseudo-ephedrine and anhydrous ammonia. Heroin use has shown marked increases in some urban areas particularly the New Orleans metropolitan area. The popularity of “club drugs” such as MDMA, LSD and GHB is on the rise throughout the Gulf Coast HIDTA. The prescription drug OxyContin has emerged as a significant abuse problem across the three states. 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 HIDTA strategy is to address our drug problem 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. This is accomplished through a coordinated effort among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The result of this strategy brings unprecedented synergism and synchronization among law enforcement agencies within the Gulf Coast HIDTA.

Training is another important component of our approach. The ever-changing drug trafficking environment requires continual training opportunities to provide area drug enforcement officers with the latest and most successful investigative techniques available. HIDTA training is free to all agencies and is coordinated with other training organizations in the three-state area to provide a balanced venue to officers. Gulf Coast HIDTA training is coordinated

by a designated training officer collocated with the Gulf Coast HIDTA Mississippi Operations Center.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA strives to maintain and improve a systematic approach to facilitate cooperative, collaborative law enforcement efforts, balancing direct support to enforcement operations with robust systems designed to enhance law enforcement efforts. The Gulf Coast HIDTA strategy is continually fine-tuned to ensure it addresses the ever-changing drug threat. To accurately measure present drug activity and predict future trends, the Gulf Coast HIDTA coordinates among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies the production and publication of a yearly threat assessment. The yearly threat assessment is used to develop the strategy and align resources. The strategy is implemented through the funding of specific initiatives that target aspects of the threat in a multi-agency collocated environment.

In 2004, the Gulf Coast HIDTA funded Operation Centers in each state and thirteen (13) other enforcement initiatives targeting various aspects of the drug threat throughout our three-state HIDTA. The Management and Coordination initiative provides programmatic and administrative oversight and is collocated with the Louisiana Operations Center in Metairie, LA.

Investigative Support Center:

The Gulf Coast HIDTA Intelligence Coordination Network (ICN) serves as the intelligence coordination mechanism for all funded initiatives. Due to the locations of our initiatives, which are dispersed across a three-state area, 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 who are responsible for the collection and distribution of strategic intelligence among initiatives. The group also coordinates the production of our 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 initiative and to over 2,548 customs cross-designated state and local law enforcement officers across a six state area. They also house a post seizure analysis team that conducts analysis of seizures reported to the center. The center also distributes a daily intelligence summary to law enforcement agencies throughout the country summarizing previous day's seizures.

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.

Participating Agencies:

Federal:

ATF, DEA, Joint Task Force Six, FBI, IRS, USCG, USCS, NPS

State/Local:

Alabama - Alabama Attorney General's Office, Alabama Bureau of Investigation, Alabama Department of Public Safety, 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, Fairhope Police Department, Foley Police Department, Gulfshore Police Department, Huntsville Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Madison County District Attorney's Office, Madison County Sheriff's Department, Madison Police Department, Mobile Police Department, Mobile County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery Police Department, Morgan County Sheriff's Department, Orange Beach Police Department, Saraland Police Department, University of Southern Alabama Police Department

Louisiana - Acadia Parish Sheriff's Department, Ascension District Attorney's Office, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, Baton Rouge Police Department, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, Caddo Parish Canine, Caddo Sheriff's Office, Crowley Police Department, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Gonzales Police Department, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Police Department, Louisiana Air National Guard, Louisiana Army National Guard, Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, Louisiana State Police, Monroe Police Department, New Orleans Police Department, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Port Allen Police Department, Shreveport Canine, Shreveport Police Department, St. Landry Sheriff's Office, St. Martin Sheriff's Office, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department, West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, West Monroe Police Department, Westwego Police Department

Mississippi - Bay St. Louis Police Department, Biloxi Police Department, Flowood Police Department, Gautier Police Department, Gulfport Police Department, Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Hinds County Sheriff's Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority, Jackson Police Department, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Moss Point Police Department, Ocean Springs Police Department, Oxford Police Department, Panola County Sheriff's Office, Pascagoula Police Department, Pearl Police Department, Rankin County Sheriff's Department, Southaven Police Department, Tupelo Police Department

Significant Achievements:

The Gulf Coast HIDTA has been uniquely successful in marshalling a singular attack aimed at drug trafficking elements operating within our three-state area. By coordinating federal, state and local law enforcement's response to identified drug threats through the funding of initiatives, the Gulf Coast HIDTA ensures drug enforcement assets remain focused on drug trafficking organizations impacting the drug problem in our area and beyond. The Gulf Coast HIDTA continues to develop innovative ways to provide area task forces with secure communications to share intelligence. Through the use of the Gulf Coast HIDTA wide-area-network, the refinement of a web-based event/target deconfliction solution (SAFETNet), and our Intelligence Coordination Network, drug law enforcement units in our area have achieved unprecedented levels of collaboration and sharing of precious resources.

In 2004, HIDTA-supported highway interdiction efforts have led to major drug seizures and the confiscation of millions of dollars of illicit drug proceeds. The Gulf Coast HIDTA supports these efforts by providing real-time indices checks to highway interdiction officers of federal, state and local databases through queries made by the HIDTA/BLOC Watch Center located in Gulfport, MS. The Watch Center has expanded its services to include support to Atlanta HIDTA highway interdiction officers as well. HIDTA-assigned investigators assist interdiction officers providing on-scene intelligence collection, evidence processing and the coordination of controlled deliveries. Through these efforts, routine drug interdiction seizures oftentimes result in expanding investigations implicating other elements of sophisticated drug trafficking organizations.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA developed event deconfliction solution, SAFETNet has now been adopted by fifteen (15) other HIDTAs. Presently, the Gulf Coast HIDTA provides secure, web-based event/target deconfliction services to the Appalachia, Atlanta and New England HIDTAs from its server located in Metairie, LA, resulting in considerable savings of operational and start-up costs.

These are but a few examples of how the Gulf Coast HIDTA has utilized its resources to benefit area law enforcement and other HIDTAs. Such sharing of resources has become a standard within the HIDTA program and has opened new vistas and opportunities in law enforcement expanding far beyond drug-focused operations.

HAWAII HIDTA



General Description

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (808) 356-4400

Mission Statement

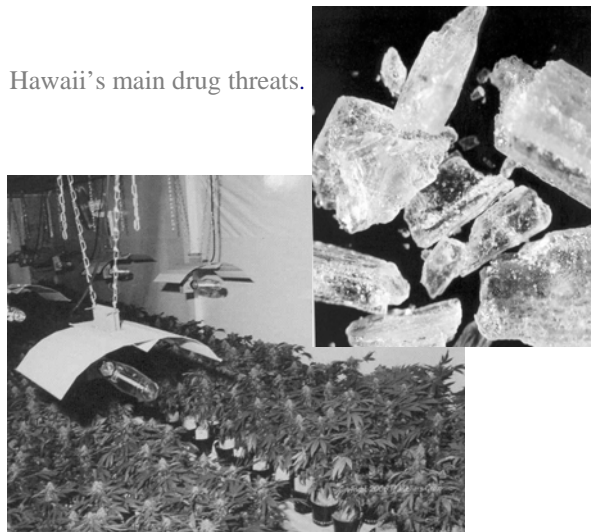
As the crossroad of the Pacific and gateway into the continental United States, the Hawaii HIDTA's participating agencies work together by means of integrated initiatives to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking in the State of Hawaii and in our Nation. With enhanced coordination and collaboration between Hawaii HIDTA agencies, illicit drug transportation, distribution, and usage shall be significantly reduced, thus enhancing public safety for all citizens.

Threat Abstract

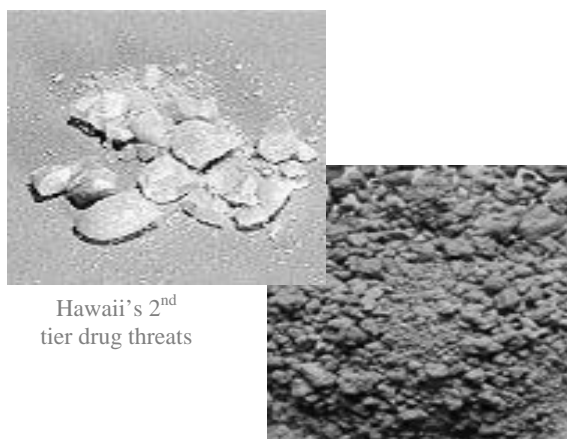
A multitude of illicit drugs are available to varying degrees in Hawaii, as in any populated area. These drugs can be categorized in three tiers based on the severity of the problems they pose to Hawaii's law enforcement and citizens. In the first tier are the two drugs causing the most serious problems, (ice) crystal methamphetamine and marijuana. Arrest

and seizure data for both these drugs indicate that availability is high, while demand data suggest that use of both drugs, along with the consequences of that use, is high and increasing. Nonetheless, the magnitude of the crystal methamphetamine problem in Hawaii, a far more socially disruptive problem, overshadows marijuana, which has seen an increase in associated violence, but not nearly to the same extent. The second-tier drugs are cocaine (usually

Hawaii's main drug threats.



crack cocaine) and heroin which, although they remain problems in Hawaii, appear to rank well behind crystal methamphetamine and marijuana in contributing to the state's drug troubles. Cocaine-related arrests and seizures are on an upswing, but demand data suggest declining prevalence and consequences of use. At the same time, heroin distribution and abuse appear to be diminishing in light of indicators suggesting declines in arrests, seizures, reported use, and treatment.



Hawaii's 2nd
tier drug threats

In the third tier are drugs such as MDMA, GHB, steroids, and diverted pharmaceuticals, which are available and abused in Hawaii but to a much lesser extent. While it is imperative to continue combating these drugs and thus preventing them from becoming a larger problem in the future, it is the trafficking and abuse of primarily crystal methamphetamine as well as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin that currently pose the most viable drug threats to Hawaii.

International and local DTOs have ample opportunity to traffic those four drugs to, through, and from the area because of Hawaii's high volume of international and

domestic air and sea traffic including passengers, cargo, and mail. Hawaii is the destination for crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin supplied from the West Coast and Mexico by Mexican Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOTs) and DTOs; for crystal methamphetamine and heroin transported from Asia, Canada, and the West Coast by Asian DTOs; and for marijuana transported from Canada and the Pacific Northwest by local DTOs. Hawaii is a trans-shipment point for methamphetamine transported from the West Coast to locations in the Pacific Basin, such as Guam, by local DTOs supplied by Mexican DTOs. It also is a trans-shipment point for methamphetamine transported from the West Coast or Asia to locations in the Pacific Basin by Asian DTOs. Finally, Hawaii is the source of high potency marijuana transported to the U.S. mainland, Canada and, to a lesser extent, Mexico by local DTOs.

The region covered by the Hawaii HIDTA comprises four counties. In addition to the threat from the presence of international and local DTOs; drug fugitives, armed violent drug offenders; smuggling, money laundering, and the use of public lands for cannabis cultivation plague the counties. Because of the way Hawaii's drug laws are written, a significant number of drug traffickers are identified but not prosecuted. Among the differences from county to county is that law enforcement in the County of Honolulu, far more than in the other counties, faces the challenge of illicit drug shipments by parcels through Honolulu International Airport and the International Mail Branch. DTOs in Kauai County, unlike in the other three, currently are not linked to CPOTs.

Strategy Abstract

The Hawaii HIDTA Executive Board through its Oversight Committees has devised a clear, well planned, strategy to counter the drug threat facing Hawaii and the surrounding region. The process utilized by the Executive Board:

- 1) Identifies primary threats by geographic area;
- 2) Develops desired goals to counter the threats;
- 3) Assigns responsibility to accomplish the desired goals;
- 4) Evaluates effectiveness of the program's outcomes;
- 5) Provides oversight and implements changes as necessary.

This process is dynamic, ongoing, allowing for change and refinement.

For FY2005 law enforcement organizations will contribute a total of 311 (full and/or part time) law enforcement personnel and support staff, organized into 12 initiatives. Two additional far reaching initiatives will be implemented should supplemental funding become available.

Each of the initiatives and the investigative task forces target identified drug threats from the current HIDTA Threat Assessment. Each Hawaii HIDTA element is required to accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- Disrupt/dismantle International, CPOT, RPOT, and Local drug trafficking organizations.
- Interdict illicit drugs destined for Hawaii, or transiting Hawaii's airports and seaports, for the continental U.S. and other foreign destinations.
- Reduce drug trafficking of methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin,

cocaine and predatory drugs by major drug trafficking organizations engaged in smuggling, transportation, supply or distribution.

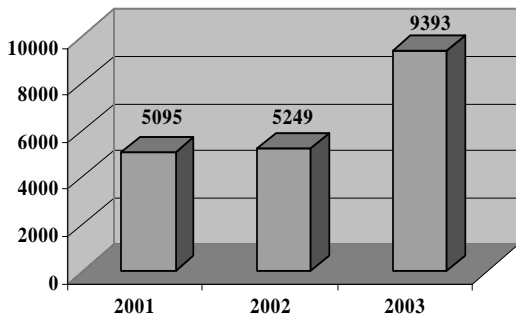
- Reduce the number of firearms connected with drug trafficking and the number of drug fugitives operating within the Hawaii HIDTA.
- Reduce money laundering crime related to drug trafficking.
- Provide drug intelligence and investigative support to HIDTA initiatives.
- Provide event deconfliction and electronic communication links among the island counties.
- Provide administrative support and oversight for program coordination, planning, development, performance, and fiscal accountability of HIDTA resources.
- Provide training that will advance the knowledge and coordinate the skills of HIDTA participating personnel.

Investigative Support Center

The Hawaii HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) provides tactical and strategic intelligence support to enforcement and interdiction initiatives in an effort to reduce drug trafficking in the State of Hawaii. To facilitate the availability and exchange of information, the ISC is collocated with several HIDTA initiatives and links electronically to other initiatives through the Western States Information Network (WSIN). Operation of the ISC provides full support to all HIDTA task forces and other law enforcement within the HIDTA region to achieve an intelligence-based approach to all counter-drug operations.

WSIN Database Entries

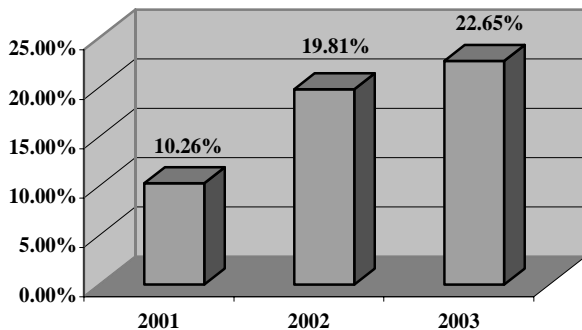
Database Entries 2001-2003



The ISC consists of two intelligence groups. The Investigative Support Group focuses on supporting on-going drug trafficking investigations primarily in the areas of communications analysis, association/link analysis, post seizure analysis, and event/subject deconfliction. The Strategic Support Group focuses on money laundering investigations and strategic reporting. The group collects, assembles, and disseminates data for the Hawaii HIDTA Threat Assessment and Annual Report, Trafficking Trends reports and other intelligence bulletins.

WSIN Database Hit Rates

Database Hit Rates 2001-2003



The collocated and commingled office space is configured to provide open access between investigative task forces and the intelligence component. This encourages free exchange of information between law

enforcement officers and intelligence analysts. Because of Hawaii's unique island makeup, task forces and intelligence components on the outer islands maintain separate office facilities that justify their operational needs. Although there are separate facilities located on the outer islands they do maintain contact with the other initiatives through the ISC LAN/WAN, WSIN and various modes of communications (i.e., telephone, meeting, documents, etc.).

The Investigative Support Center is jointly managed by a DEA supervisor and a Honolulu PD supervisor and has sixteen personnel from the following agencies: DEA, HPD, HNG, ICE, FBI, USCG, HCPD, MPD, KCPD, and WSIN. In addition, the ISC has four contract intelligence analysts.

Participating Agencies

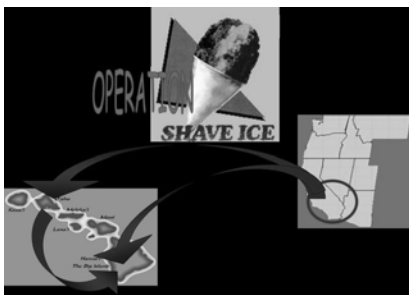
Federal: Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Fisheries Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Internal Revenue Service, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), U.S. Attorneys Office, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Inspector General.

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

Other: Western States Information Network (WSIN) and Contract Intelligence Analysts.

Significant Achievements

Hawaii HIDTA initiatives initiated numerous cases during this period targeting CPOT, RPOT, and local drug trafficking organizations, money launderers, armed, violent offenders, and drug fugitives. Two investigations, in particular, resulted in arrests totaling approximately 100 people and disrupted or dismantled several drug trafficking organizations stretching from Oahu and Hawaii to California, Arizona, and Nevada.



Operation Shave Ice was the investigation of a DTO operating on the island of Hawaii (Big Island) that smuggled multiple kilo quantities of crystal methamphetamine and cocaine through U.S. Mail, cargo, and parcel shipments. Lines of supply originated from Mexico through California, Nevada, and Arizona. Analysis linked the DTO to two CPOT-designated targets. The investigation involved 16 wiretaps and resulted in the arrest and indictment of 60 individuals and the execution of over 50 search warrants on Oahu, the Big Island, California, Arizona, and Nevada. Investigative leads generated from cooperating defendants have resulted in significant spin-off investigations including one wiretap investigation, a series of buy-busts, and reverse operations resulting in 13 additional arrests.

Operation Swing Video resulted in members of the Money Laundering Asset Forfeiture Group arresting a video store owner indicted on 91 counts of money laundering. The

individual was charged with managing and controlling a building that facilitated drug trafficking and drug use. For a \$20 fee dealers were allowed to sell crack cocaine out of the video store which operated 24 hours a day 7 days a week. It was estimated that as high as \$20,000 in unreported currency transactions occurred each day. This investigation led to the seizure of 2 condominiums, 2 cars, and various bank accounts. In addition, the video store was closed along with a service station owned by the offender that had been paid for with drug proceeds. The estimated worth of all of the seized assets exceeds \$1 million. As part of the investigation, DEA arrested 38 alleged dealers and users in the state and elsewhere with connections to cocaine and methamphetamine suppliers in California and Arizona. If convicted, the offenders face up to 20 years in prison for managing a drug trafficking house as well as a maximum 20-year sentence for each of the 91 money laundering charges or 1,820 years in prison.

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

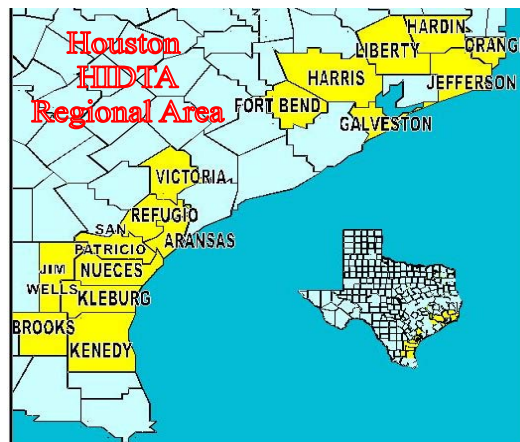
Mission Statement: “To reduce drug availability through the creation and nurture of intelligence-driven task forces targeting major trafficking organizations, money laundering organizations and drug gangs. Further, the Houston HIDTA will enhance and help coordinate efforts among federal, state, and local enforcement agencies.”

Threat Abstract:

A combination of geographic, demographic, and economic factors contributes to the obstacles that law enforcement encountered from the drug trade throughout the Houston HIDTA. Chief among these include the HIDTA’s relative proximity to Mexico, its extensive transportation infrastructure, its diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, and its well-developed system of international commerce.

These factors not only render the HIDTA a highly sophisticated and competitive region

in terms of the world market, but also reinforce the HIDTA’s



vulnerability as one of the nation’s primary distribution and transshipment hubs for regional, national, and international drug trafficking organizations. The region is also an important conduit for the movement of drug proceeds back to source countries. Drug-related threats presented by criminal groups in the Houston HIDTA include the laundering of drug profits, the trafficking of

firearms and aliens, and escalating acts of violence.

A complex transportation infrastructure throughout the 425 miles of coastline and 16 counties that encompass the Houston HIDTA enables direct access from air, land, and sea routes.

Overland means is the primary transportation threat facing the Houston HIDTA. The 15,124 lane miles of state roadways, including six major highways, aptly illustrate the threat to the HIDTA by land. The primary routes throughout the HIDTA are U.S. 281, U.S. 77, U.S. 59, I-37, I-45, and I-10.

The Houston Airport System (HAS) is the sixth largest in the world. In the year 2003, the HAS handled more than 42 million passengers and 743 million pounds of cargo.

Sea traffic apparently poses a moderate threat to the Houston HIDTA. Drug trafficking through the region's waterways and ports is difficult to detect due to the sheer volume of cargo entering the area. Over 455 million tons of cargo passed through Houston HIDTA ports in 2002 (most current data). Four of the top 15 ports ranked by total tonnage for 2002 are in the Houston HIDTA.

The primary drug threat for the Houston HIDTA continues to be cocaine/crack cocaine. Secondary threats include marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, and Ecstasy. Cocaine and marijuana pose stable, chronic threats, whereas methamphetamine, heroin, and Ecstasy are relatively recent threats and are increasing. Methamphetamine seizure amounts rose by 555% over 2002, while the number of labs seized increased 45% over 2002. This trend continues in 2004.

There were 288 DTOs identified in the most recent assessment. One hundred twelve (112) of those were targeted for enforcement or intelligence collection during 2003. Thirty-four percent (34%) of targeted DTOs were CPOT-related cases, 47% were OCFETF cases, and 32% were local cases. Additionally, the Houston HIDTA has active investigations connected to 50% of RPOT targets. In scope, 54% of targeted DTOs were international, 23% were national, 13% were regional, and 9% were local. Eighty-five percent (85%) of targeted DTOs have foreign sources of supply, primarily Mexico and Colombia. The Houston HIDTA serves as the base of operations for nearly half (49%) of targeted DTOs. At least 37% of targeted DTOs are polydrug organizations .

The primary activities of targeted DTOs operating in the Houston HIDTA are the distribution of drugs and the laundering of drug proceeds. At least 54% of targeted DTOs specifically distribute drugs (apart from production and transportation), with at least 39% of those involved in polydrug distribution. Eighty-four percent (84%) of targeted DTOs launder drug proceeds, primarily through bulk currency shipments out of the U.S. using vehicles.

The most common drug-rated offenses (apart from drug trafficking) reported by participants in an annual Houston HIDTA survey were money laundering, assault, homicide, robbery and burglary.

UCR data shows that overall crime rates increased in all but two Houston HIDTA counties (Nueces and San Patricio) from 2001 to 2002 (most recent data). Nueces County had the highest overall crime per capita in 2002.

Homicides in the city of Houston increased by more than 8% to 278 from 2002 to 2003. Those homicides defined as drug-related

declined by 17% during the same time frame.

Strategy Abstract:

Houston HIDTA comprises ten enforcement Initiatives, to address Trafficker Enforcement, Money Laundering, Gang Investigations, and Intelligence Development, and one administrative Initiative (which also brokers training for the 450-person HIDTA task force.) The enforcement Initiatives address the HIDTA's geographic and criminal characteristics for target organizations. The administrative Initiative supports management and oversight of the HIDTA program, and brokers training into the HIDTA community.

The Houston HIDTA Executive Board comprises 16 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 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.

The primary elements of the Strategy are: cooperative, collaborative task forces involving federal, state and local law enforcement officers; intelligence-driven investigations; investigative priorities; innovative approaches; and, accountability and oversight.

Some of the world's most significant traffickers, transporters and drug money launderers operate in the Houston HIDTA

area. The Houston HIDTA Threat Assessment documents the threat that they pose to the rest of the country as well. Mindful of that threat, the Executive Board, based on intelligence from a variety of resources, has identified the Gulf Cartel and its various cells as the Houston HIDTA target that is most damaging to the country. Because of this, the primary enforcement objective of the Houston HIDTA is the immobilization of the Gulf Cartel. Intelligence Initiatives will gather all available intelligence on the cartel and will meet regularly with each Initiative, exploring investigative leads and possible courses of action. Cartel-related cases will become the investigative priority of each Initiative to the degree that those cases are part of the Initiative mission. The Board considers this a long-term project, likely to take several years to complete, and likely to require modification as traffickers adapt to enforcement pressure.

In a target-rich environment such as the Houston HIDTA, however, Initiatives cannot focus all of their efforts on one group: the second priority in the Houston HIDTA is cases of national significance, *i.e.*, CPOT, RPOT, OCDETF, and cases with clear potential to fall into these categories. Finally, Initiatives must address the local threat as well. Since so many drugs transit the Houston HIDTA, Initiatives must work transportation cases, and their impetus is to turn drug seizures into drug investigations, especially when a seizure relates to primary targets. Methamphetamine is a growing problem and local agencies are ill equipped to deal with it, so the HIDTA Initiative will fill the gap. Several national gang sets operate in the Houston HIDTA and many local gangs terrorize Houston neighborhoods.

HIDTA Initiatives will combine time-tested methods of operation with innovative approaches like the Electronic Crimes

Initiative or the wide-area network, which will allow agencies to share information and software with economy and efficiency.

Investigative Support Center:

The Houston HIDTA Intelligence Sub-System comprises three Intelligence Services Initiatives. They provide operational support through timely and actionable intelligence via the products and efforts of local, state and federal law enforcement personnel and databases to assist regional law enforcement agencies in counterdrug activities. 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, participating in informant/defendant debriefings; cultivating new sources of information; performing post-seizure and search warrant analyses; disseminating officer safety alerts and “lookouts” 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:

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

County Sheriffs Office, Nueces County Sheriffs Office, Orange County Sheriffs Office, Pasadena Police Department, Port Arthur Police Department, Sam Houston State University, 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 Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, United States Attorney’s Offices (Eastern District of Texas and Southern District of Texas), United States Department of Defense, United States Marshals Service, United States Secret Service.

Significant Achievements:

Operation Enlightenment: This ongoing OCDETF/Priority Target investigation targeted a Houston-based organization that was trafficking methamphetamine, MDMA and hydroponic marijuana and blossomed into a Title III Electronic Intercept. Major Drug Squad 6 uncovered a multi-cultural group headed by an Asian defendant with ties to a Chinese smuggling group responsible for the smuggling and distribution in excess of 500 lbs. of crystal methamphetamine. This organization used technology such as text messaging and email to circumvent law enforcement. In 2003, **MDS** dismantled this organization by arresting 31 defendants, and seizing more than \$2,000,000 in assets purchased with drug proceeds. Agents made PowerPoint presentations to the defendants and their attorneys that incorporated surveillance videos, wiretap conversations, and still photography and resulted in plea agreements from all of the defendants. Federal prosecutors agreed that his novel technique saved taxpayers considerable resources in

terms of time and money. The dismantlement of this organization has significantly influenced the availability of crystal methamphetamine in the Houston, Texas area. This case carried over to 2004 with additional indictments and identification of new targets.

Operation Get Shorty: This case is based on a successful OCDETF investigation in CY02 that resulted in 12(twelve) Title III wire intercepts and thirty (30) pen registers that originated from an undercover money pickup operation by **Houston Money Laundering Initiative** agents. In CY03, the investigation continued to focus on members of the **Gulf Cartel** who were responsible for the importation and distribution of approximately 600 kilograms of cocaine and the collection of approximately \$10,000,000

of illicit proceeds monthly. Using confidential informants, agents made several narcotic and currency seizures in Atlanta and Houston. The individuals associated with the seizures are high-ranking associates of the **Gulf Cartel**. In addition, agents plan to seize two real properties valued in excess of more than one million dollars. To date, the investigation has resulted in forty-two (42) indictments and the seizure of 851 kilograms of cocaine, 1, 3777 pounds of marijuana, eleven (11) vehicles and \$6.5 million in U.S. currency (narcotics generated proceeds).

LAKE COUNTY HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Indiana: Lake County

Contact: (219) 650-2470

Mission Statement:

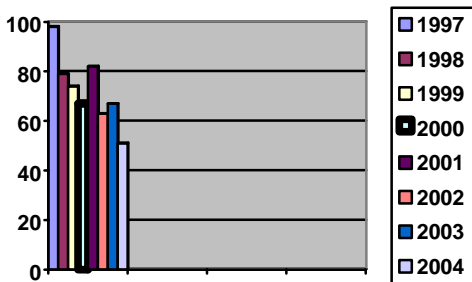
The mission of the Lake County HIDTA is to measurably reduce the availability of illicit drugs, firearms and violence in Northwest Indiana through the use of law enforcement initiatives which are based on a regional strategy that targets individuals, key traffickers and organizations that repeatedly commit drug and violent crimes.

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 of 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 ninth straight year with more deaths per capita than any other city with a population of over 100,000 people. During 2003 one homicide occurred approximately every four days in the City of Gary. Gary's homicide rate was 66 per 100,000 people while Chicago, led the nation with 599 murders. Following Gary, the next most violent city per 100,000 population was Compton, California.



Homicides in Gary, Indiana

The Lake County HIDTA includes an FBI-led initiative, the Gang Response Investigative Team that is attacking street gangs from the crack house to the courthouse.

In addition, because of its central 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. In 2002, for the first time, an investigation identified a Southeast Asian heroin DTO sending #4 heroin from Thailand directly to Lake County. Additionally, a growing methamphetamine problem throughout the state is quickly spreading to Lake County.

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, much like a basketball team applying a full-court press. Each player/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 coordinates 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 2003 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. This unit targets organization with U.S./Mexican Southwest Border connections that use Northwest Indiana as a storage and distribution point for cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine destined for the Midwest.

The Gary Response Investigative Team– is an FBI-led multi-jurisdictional, collocated task force with a mission to disrupt and dismantle street level drug trafficking organizations (DTO) responsible for homicides and other drug related crimes 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 who 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 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 provides free laser tattoo removal to former street gang members to enable them to break their ties with the whole gang culture.

The Indiana National Guard conducts a **Demand Reduction Program** with numerous innovative programs which has reached thousands of inner city kids with a drug free message for a healthy, full life.

Intelligence Support Center:

The Intelligence Support Center is the cornerstone of the Lake County HIDTA.

The mission of the ISC is to provide investigative intelligence support to the HIDTA initiatives as well as area law enforcement agencies. The ISC is the only unit in Lake County with co-located access to a number of Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement databases, as well as commercial databases. Some of these are unique to the ISC. Some examples of these are: County Court records, County Booking records, Police reports of the major cities in Lake County, and unique gag modules resident on a HIDTA-Sponsored inter-city database that are all accessible electronically to the ISC analysts.

Investigative Support that is available includes target and event deconfliction for Officer Safety in Lake County; all HIDTA initiatives are required to use the deconfliction services, and any other law enforcement entities operating in Lake County are invited to use it as well. It is the only resource in Lake County that can provide comprehensive deconfliction for Federal, State and local operations. Deconfliction is through the use of SafetyNet software that links four HIDTA’S (Milwaukee, Chicago, Michigan and Lake County)

The ISC serves as a clearinghouse for all firearms arrests made by the four major departments as well as for the numerous city courts in Northwest Indiana.

The ISC possesses a unique-to-the-area capability to enhance audio and video recordings in support of investigation or court presentations, which has been used in cases ranging from drug trafficking to bank robbery.

Intelligence and analytical support that is available ranges from simple research on criminal histories to detailed document exploitation; charting and production in support of cases; preparation of a wide variety of case-related material, including

photographs, maps, charts, and diagrams as needed by investigators and prosecutors; phone tolls and pen analysis; and support to interdiction activities

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:

Thanks to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Lake County HIDTA has the vital technology to help state, local and federal agencies solve firearm-related violent crime in Northwest Indiana.

Through its National Integrated Ballistic Information Network program, ATF has sponsored a Lake County HIDTA initiative which gives local law enforcement agencies access to ballistic imaging and comparison

equipment known as the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS). By enabling HIDTA personnel to make an initial comparison of bullet and cartridge casing evidence from thousands of cases in minutes, IBIS alerts investigators to potential links between violent crimes. A Firearms Examiner then compares the original evidence to confirm a match, providing connections between crimes and criminals that often could not be linked by other means.

The establishment of the ATF IBIS Initiative has significantly enhanced the ability of law enforcement agencies in Northwest Indiana to solve gang-related shootings in the area. For instance, in 2001, Lake County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene of a drive-by shooting, recovered seven cartridge casings from the scene and submitted them for entry into IBIS. Two weeks later in the City of Gary, a small child was killed in a drive-by shooting. Gary Police Officers recovered 18 cartridge casings and several fired bullets from the crime scene. All were imaged into IBIS. Correlation revealed a potential link between the two cases which was confirmed by a Firearms Examiner at HIDTA.

After the discovery of the link, HIDTA's FBI-led, Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force began an investigation of the Latin Kings, a notorious Gary street gang. The IBIS hit helped to show linkage between gang members and the criminal acts they committed. A Federal Grand Jury subsequently returned a nine-count indictment charging seven gang members with racketeering, arson, attempted murder, narcotics distribution, and the murder of the small child. All gang members were convicted. This was the first ever use of the Federal Racketeering statute against a street gang in the Northern District of Indiana. The cooperation, coordination and resources fostered by the Lake County HIDTA

culminated in the dismantlement of a violent drug trafficking organization/gang. This unprecedented example of the marriage of technology and tenacious investigation by uniformed patrol officers, narcotics investigators and federal agents is what the Lake County HIDTA Program has brought to Northwest Indiana.

LOS ANGELES HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

California: The LA-HIDTA's designated geographic area in the State of California covers the four counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

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

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the LA-HIDTA 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 (+/-) 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 narcotics are manufactured, imported and distributed within the LA-HIDTA and beyond.

Los Angeles – Only Primary Market in Country for All Five Major Drugs – Los Angeles is the only primary drug market area in the country for all five major drugs:

cocaine; methamphetamine; marijuana; heroin and MDMA. Traffickers use the highways to transport most of the illicit drugs into and across the country as well as to move vast sums of illicit proceeds across and out of the country. *Of the 13 primary market areas nationwide, Los Angeles is the only area identified as a primary market for all major drugs of abuse.* It is the nation's largest market for methamphetamine, the largest market in the West for heroin and a staging ground for Mexican drug trafficking organizations and some National street gangs. (source NDIC)

Sea Threat – The Port of Los Angeles / Long Beach is the 3rd busiest seaport in the world – Busiest in the United States – 9.3 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-HIDA region. The Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the 5th busiest passenger airport in the world. 61 million passengers annually / 2,300 flights a day – 2nd busiest for cargo – 1.9 million metric tons annually.

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.

Indigenous – 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.

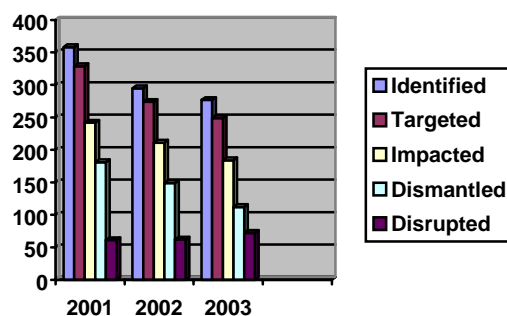
Strategy Abstract:

The Executive Board presently has eighteen voting members representing a working partnership of the major Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies that operate 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 of 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 as one of the Nations “major narcotic gateways”, a distinction which is most evident and holds true to this day.

The following chart reflects the Major Drug Trafficking Organizations impacted by the LA-HIDTA enforcement initiatives, 2001 through 2003:

ENFORCEMENT TARGETS

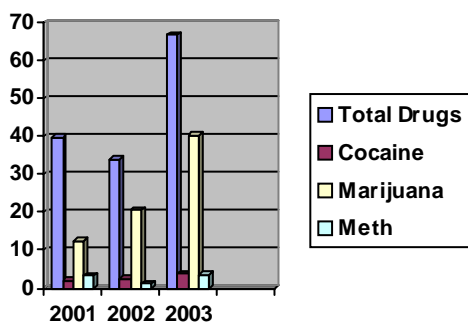


In F/Y 2004, this HIDTA consists of six major task forces comprised of collocated Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies, three intelligence projects, which comprise the Intelligence Support System

(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 above mentioned LA-HIDTA 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 Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area is developed in close concert with all of our enforcement and intelligence initiatives. 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 assist in the process of ensuring that the Strategy adequately addresses the threat, a rather unique system of "reverse planning" is utilized. This plan brings together our various LA-HIDTA law enforcement and intelligence initiatives 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 projects (*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 brings a much needed working memorandum of understanding between our intelligence initiatives, 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 initiatives 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.

Intelligence Driven Law Enforcement --

In C/Y 2003, the three LA-HIDTA Intelligence Initiatives recorded 1,626 combined requests for service (*an increase of 59% over last year*) from various law enforcement agencies within our region which resulted in 21,469 analytical products (*increase of 46% compared to 2002*).

War Room / Intelligence Watch Center --

The War Room provides "real time" operational and tactical intelligence support by tracking, around-the-clock, 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 – LA-HIDTA Region -- In C/Y 2003 the War Room tracked 20,292 Critical Events in the LA-HIDTA region, *an increase of 5.0% over last year*. This number included 1,120 deconflictions (*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 – Currently, the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LACRCIC) is providing the deconfliction services for the Los Angeles, Northern California, Central Valley and Nevada HIDTA’s. 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: Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; 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; Bell Gardens Police Department; Beverly Hills Police Department; Burbank 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; Glendora Police Department; Hawthorne Police Department; Hemet Police Department; Hermosa 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; Monrovia Police Department; Montebello Police Department; Newport Beach Police Department; Orange County Sheriff’s Department; Ontario Police Department; Palm Springs Police Department; Pasadena Police Department; Pomona 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 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 Achievements:

“Operation Running Water”

*Southern California Drug Task Force
Group 45*

Beginning in C/Y 2002 and continuing into C/Y2004, SCDTF, Group 45, has been involved in an extensive investigation focusing on a major PCP manufacturing organization. This investigation has led to a number of “spin-off” investigations, all of which focused on major PCP manufacturers and their command and control elements, that operate in and around the Los Angeles HIDTA region. Many of those individuals targeted were violent career criminals with extensive criminal histories ranging from manslaughter to assault and narcotics trafficking.

During this complex, multi-jurisdictional OCDETF investigation, **19** Federal Title III intercepts were launched against these independent organizations that worked in conjunction with one another. This investigation was conducted over a period of **20** months and has ties to other nationwide PCP trafficking organizations, specifically Houston, Texas, where the DEA Office has initiated a separate Title III investigation based on information and assistance from SCDTF, Group 45.

In the LA-HIDTA Region alone, this investigation has resulted in the Federal indictments of **64** individuals of which **57** have been arrested. In addition, **17** other suspects have been arrested on State charges. This brings the total arrests in this very remarkable case to **74**. This investigation resulted in the seizure of approximately **8** operational / non operational PCP laboratories and chemicals capable of producing approximately **1,000** gallons of PCP, **\$610,000** in cash and assets and **86** handguns and rifles.

The Houston, Texas, takedown resulted in the Federal arrest of **14** individuals, seizure of approximately **6.5** gallons of PCP, **14** gallons of liquid codeine and some **\$23,000** in cash. Other information and intelligence has been provided to a number of DEA offices (*New York; Chicago; Baton Rouge and Denver*) across the country resulting in the arrest and prosecution of **5** other individuals for the manufacturing and distribution of PCP.

Special Notation – Local Violent Crime Impact – *During this investigation, the Federal Title III intercepts assisted the Los Angeles Police Department with the identification of 1 homicide suspect who was arrested and convicted of second degree murder. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office believes that a conviction in this homicide investigation would not have been possible without the intercepted telephone calls. Intelligence and confidential source information developed in this investigation resulted in the solving of 3 additional homicides in the Los Angeles area. These homicide trials are currently pending. Additionally, 2 of the primary suspects arrested in this case are suspects in 17 other murders throughout the region.*

Of significant importance is the fact that the LA-HIDTA region is the source of supply for most of the PCP distributed throughout the United States. *As a direct result of this investigation, the availability of PCP has significantly decreased and the wholesale price has dramatically increased. The price of a gallon of PCP has doubled, from \$10K to \$20K. Additionally, much of the intelligence information has indicated that the few remaining PCP manufacturing organizations have changed their method of operation by moving out of the region.*

The case illustrates the extraordinary results possible with cooperation among local, state, federal, law enforcement units.

Michigan HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1997

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Genessee, 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 with key roles in the North American drug trade. The Michigan HIDTA shares a 700 mile international border with Ontario, Canada, with three principle Ports of Entry into the United States. Each of these accounts 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 consumer and transshipment point from Florida, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, the Mexican border, as well as a center for Middle Eastern Drug Traffickers, Money Launderers and Terrorist Organizations or Cells.

The Michigan HIDTA Region continues to be a major transshipment point for Canadian pseudo-ephedrine used to produce Methamphetamine in California and Mexico Super Labs.

Michigan waterways and lakes 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.

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 defer to land routes.

Strategy Abstract:

The Michigan HIDTA Executive Board, through its subcommittees, coordinates and synchronizes the efforts to reduce drug trafficking; eliminate duplication; systematically improve 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, by investigating Priority Targets (CPOT). Current and future initiatives will provide multi-agency efforts that will support the goals of this strategy. All Initiatives integrate and are supported by the Michigan HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISDC).

The Michigan HIDTA Executive Board has approved twenty-two (22) initiatives for FY 2004 (two of these initiatives were later combined into one due to a reduction in manpower). The approved law enforcement initiatives make up the Investigative Subsystem of the Michigan HIDTA and

support the Michigan HIDTA Strategies to counter the drug threat.

Investigative Support Center:

The Intelligence Subsystem of the Michigan HIDTA is comprised of the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISDC), giving access to all of the Task Force Initiatives and law enforcement agencies. 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 other Task Force Initiatives and other participants.

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 maintained an achievement of 24 of the 26 Intelligence and Information Sharing HIDTA Developmental Standards, and is in compliance with a majority of the milestones, which were contained in the GCIP. All members of the Michigan HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center are collocated, full-time assigned personnel. Several agencies 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 Michigan 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 insures 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: Michigan Attorney General, Metropolitan Organizing Strategies Enabling Strength (MOSES) Community Groups, Michigan National Guard, Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) and Wayne County Prosecutor.

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:

In CY 2003 Michigan HIDTA purchased two ABI 310 Genetic Analyzers which resulted in a total of 600 drug-related violent crime cases completed.

The Task Forces of the Michigan HIDTA Initiatives have collectively increased Drug Seizures by the following:

- Heroin +20%
- Marijuana Plants +756%
- Methamphetamine +404%
- Clandestine Labs +3,200%.

On June 4, 2004, the Combined Hotel Interdiction Team (CHIEF) conducted surveillance and executed a search warrant at a residence in the city of Detroit. Twenty-five kilograms of cocaine, \$204,800 in U.S. currency, one SKS assault rifle, and one

Jennings 9mm Bryco Arms pistol was located during the search of both the residence and the garage. Three subjects who were the target of this investigation were arrested at that time.

An Immigration and Customs Agent (ICE), assigned to the Michigan HIDTA, Thomas Ontko, was responsible for the location and subsequent apprehension of a Spanish National. The Defendant was convicted of the rape and murder of a 13 year-old British girl while she was on a school trip to France in 1996. The subject was extradited, tried, convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison by a French court. SA Thomas Ontko's excellent efforts brought this international predator to justice.

In 2004, US and Canadian authorities successfully concluded an investigation of Vietnamese individuals and their organization in Canada, Michigan, Massachusetts, Maryland and Minnesota who were responsible for trafficking in over

\$40 million worth of BC Bud Marijuana and MDMA. Thirty-one persons were arrested in Michigan and Windsor, more than \$5 million in cash, 850kg of high grade BC Bud Marijuana and 3,000 tablets of MDMA were seized.

Midwest HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: December 1996

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 counties.
- 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 reduce drug availability in critical and identified markets by creating and supporting intelligence driven enforcement task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences through enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking

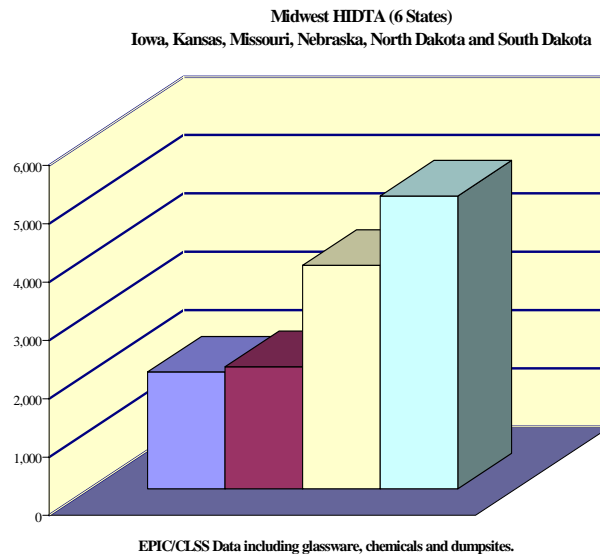
control efforts among federal, state, and local enforcement agencies. Central to this effort is the formation and enhancement of enforcement task forces.

Threat Abstract:

The outlook for the Midwest HIDTA region can best be described by focusing on two distinct entities, urban and rural. Densely

populated urban areas in the region, not unlike other large cities in the nation, will continue to experience major problems with all drugs, especially cocaine. Along with cocaine, other frequently reported problem drugs including methamphetamine and marijuana continue to be popular in the large urban cities of St. Louis, Kansas City and Omaha. Heroin will likely remain prevalent primarily in St. Louis. MDMA, GHB and

enforcement problem in the Midwest HIDTA region remains methamphetamine. Law enforcement continues to confront multi-pound quantities of methamphetamine being transported into the region by Mexican trafficking organizations, and the production of lesser amounts of high-quality methamphetamine in local clandestine laboratories.



other dangerous drugs known as “club drugs” are also consistently present in urban areas.

The ready availability and extensive demand for cocaine and marijuana will 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. Wholesale manufacture, transportation and distribution will continue to be dominated by Mexican drug trafficking organizations

Heroin abuse, although a minor threat in most areas of the region, has been reported in available supply in urban areas. Although DTO’s operating in this region are poly-drug operations, the overall most significant

Strategy Abstract:

The HIDTA Strategy is implemented through several components. Each state, through designated Advisory Boards of law enforcement professionals, has identified threat, and developed enforcement strategies and investigative initiatives. The Midwest HIDTA Executive Board, and the Office of the Midwest HIDTA Director, coordinates the integration and synchronization of all participating agencies' initiatives to ensure a unified regional effort.

The Midwest HIDTA Executive Board is composed of executives from twelve federal and twelve state or local law enforcement agencies. The Board provides programmatic oversight, of all 41 initiatives. The initiatives are organized into and support six counter-drug subsystems (Coordination, Intelligence, Investigations, Forensic Lab

Enhancement, Prosecution and Demand Reduction) each subsystem is integral to the success of the HIDTA. The Midwest HIDTA Investigative mission is to facilitate and assist task forces and other federal, state, and local enforcement agencies within the region in identifying, targeting and dismantling narcotic distribution and trafficking organizations or drug manufacturing operations.

Investigative Support Center:

The MHISC, co-managed by the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, is a multi-agency coalition consisting of federal, state, and local agencies located within the six states Midwest HIDTA. Located in Kansas City, Missouri, the MHISC is electronically linked to task force locations and key state agencies in each of the states. The MHISC collects and analyzes information from all Midwest HIDTA task forces and participating task forces and agencies. The MHISC provides event and subject deconfliction services, multi-source name checks, investigative case support, toll analysis, charting, graphic work, post seizure analysis and trend/predictive analysis. 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 trafficking organizations and individuals involved in the clandestine manufacturing of narcotics. The MHISC coordinates and utilizes three separate initiatives to enhance and implement the intelligence subsystem. The first is the FBI CIU/Terrorism 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. The FBI Criminal Intelligence Group is collocated within the ISC facility and has 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. While physically located in St. Louis, the initiative is electronically connected via firebird, and HIDTA.net to facilitate exchange of information and intelligence products. The initiative primarily focuses on both domestic and international intelligence support to DEA led Midwest 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 is collocated within the MHISC facility. 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, gun tracing, domestic terrorism, and violent drug trafficking offenders. Over 640 users at 71 different locations have connectivity to the ISC through the implementation of HIDTA.net. The Midwest HIDTA is a primary use site for the National Clandestine Lab Database, developed by EPIC and the National Virtual Pointer System.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: ATF, DEA, FBI, ICE, IRS, United States Attorney's Office (Northern and Southern District 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 State Patrol, Iowa National Guard, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas National Guard, Missouri Department of Public Safety, 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 (ND).

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.

Missouri: Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, 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, Grandview Police Department, Green County Sheriff's Office, Independence Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Kansas City Police Department, Lake St. Louis Police

Department, O'Fallon Police Department, Platte County Sheriff's Department, Richmond Police Department, Sikeston Department of Public Safety, Springfield Police Department, 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 Sheriff's 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: Lincoln/Lancaster Task Force (NE), Tri-City Task Force (NE), Tri-State Task Force (NE), Metro Task Force (NE), North Central Task Force (MO), Southeast Missouri Task Force (MO), St. Charles Drug Task Force (MO), Jackson Co. Drug Task Force (MO), Lincoln Co. Drug Task Force (SD), Partnership for a Drug Free America, Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa, Omaha Community, Partnership Toward a Drug Free Nebraska, Partnership for a Drug Free Missouri, South Dakota Plus, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Nebraska, Drug

Abuse Resistance Education in South Dakota, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Missouri, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Iowa, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Kansas, Drug Abuse Resistance Education of America

Significant Achievements:

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 to build 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. In addition, a suspect pointer system for HIDTA taskforces called SafetyNet was further expanded. Over 640 users at 71 enforcement locations were connected via the HIDTA.net intranet system.

The Midwest HIDTA continues to interact with other HIDTA regions in areas involving best practices and information sharing. The Midwest HIDTA is an active participant in the development and full implementation of the EPIC National Clan Lab Database (CLSS), and the National Virtual Pointer System. Midwest HIDTA is also assisting state agencies in developing and initiating systematic information and intelligence sharing utilizing the common

national connectivity plan, riss.net/hidta.net/LEO.

The Midwest HIDTA's strategy, coordinating the efforts of federal, state, and local enforcement agencies, strives to develop and institutionalize a region-wide intelligence sharing network and also provides resources to enhance law enforcement, forensic laboratory capabilities, and prosecution efforts throughout the region. The participating agencies in the six state area enjoy a spirit of cooperation and sense of unity that is essential in achieving the goals and objectives of the Midwest HIDTA.

Milwaukee HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Wisconsin: Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha Counties Wisconsin

Contact: (414) 220-4740

Mission Statement:

In support of the National Drug Control Strategy, Goal 2, Objective 2—[to] “improve the ability of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area’s (HIDTA’s) to counter drug trafficking” the mission of the Milwaukee HIDTA is to apply enhanced intelligence processes, a high level of enforcement coordination, and prosecution to substantially and measurably reduce organized drug distribution, drug related violent crime, and money laundering, and to reduce the demand for illegal drugs within the Milwaukee HIDTA. The Milwaukee HIDTA is also committed to stem the distribution of illegal drugs through the Milwaukee HIDTA to communities and rural areas throughout Wisconsin and beyond. These initiatives are complimented by a coordinated effort to include demand reduction initiatives, 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:

The Milwaukee HIDTA Region encompasses the four counties of Southeastern Wisconsin to include Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha in addition to Milwaukee. The two interstate corridors of I-94 and I-43 constitute the primary route for drugs to move into and out of the region.

Illegal drugs remain readily available and abused throughout the Milwaukee HIDTA Region. Powdered cocaine and crack are significant drug threats in the Milwaukee

HIDTA Region, particularly in the City of Milwaukee. HIDTA initiatives report that cocaine and crack remain a significant drug threat in the region (first in Milwaukee and second to marijuana in the three remaining counties of Kenosha, Racine and Waukesha).

Mexican, Dominican and Nigerian drug trafficking organizations are the primary transporters of drugs from foreign countries and cities in the United States. Chicago is the primary source of drugs abused in the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Crack 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 the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Law enforcement agencies are seizing increasing amounts of cocaine. Cocaine is related to more deaths than any other drug and nearly half of those individuals 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 powdered cocaine and crack. Powdered cocaine and crack prices have remained stable during the last year indicating that the drug is readily available.

Heroin prices have decreased while purity has increased indicating ready availability in the Milwaukee HIDTA region. 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 sources of Southeast Asian and Southwest Asian heroin originating from Chicago, Illinois. Dominican drug trafficking organizations are the dominant wholesale distributors of South American heroin. The South American heroin is coming from New York, New York. 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 region is produced in Mexico and transported by Mexican drug trafficking organizations. Mexican drug trafficking organizations are also the principal wholesale distributors of marijuana, while criminal groups, street gangs and local independent distributors sell marijuana at the retail level. Anecdotal evidence suggests that BC Bud, a type of marijuana with increased potency, is available in limited quantities in the northern areas of the Milwaukee HIDTA Region. MDMA and other club drugs are popular in the Milwaukee HIDTA region, particularly among teenagers and young adults. Independent dealers transport MDMA into the area, primarily from Chicago. On occasion, limited quantities of the drug are brought from Miami, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Other dangerous drugs (ODD), like LSD and including diverted pharmaceuticals, such as: Oxycontin, Vicadin and Percocet are abused by a small number of individuals in the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Pharmaceuticals are generally diverted for abuse within the region.

There are several drug trafficking organizations operating within the Milwaukee HIDTA 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. Dominican criminal groups transport most of the South American heroin available in the region, while Nigerian DTOs are the primary distributors of Southeast Asian and Southwest Asian heroin

in the Milwaukee HIDTA region. African American street gangs are the dominant poly-drug retail distributors in the northern portion of the Milwaukee HIDTA region, while Hispanic gangs are the primary poly-drug retail distributors in the southern portion of the region.

Law Enforcement Agencies located in the Milwaukee HIDTA region have reported the following crime and arrest statistics:

There were 120 homicides, 501 forcible rapes, 3,871 robberies, and 2,812 assaults. For a violent crime total of 7,304 which amount to 60.2 percent for all violent crime for the state of Wisconsin.ⁱ

Forty-three percent of total property crimes in the State of Wisconsin occurred in the HIDTA region.ⁱⁱ

Strategy Abstract:

The Milwaukee HIDTA's initiatives focus on disrupting and dismantling local, regional, and national-level drug and money laundering organizations. The emphasis is on violent drug trafficking gangs that are regional DTO's or have connections with regional, national and/or international DTO's.

The Milwaukee HIDTA will coordinate eleven initiatives in Fiscal Year 2005. There are four 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.

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 managed by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department. The HITS Center has a 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 priority setting; and assists in the coordination of cases and investigations by way of a pointer index system and deconfliction.

All HIDTA initiatives share information and are collocated having access to secure internal electronic communication. Remote users can securely connect to the Milwaukee HIDTA network through a virtual private network (VPN). Currently the HITS Center has achieved 23 out of 26 intelligence and information sharing developmental standards as set forth by ONDCP.

The HITS Center provides the following: Post Seizure Analysis, Telephone Tolls Analysis, Link Analysis, Intelligence Profiles, Charts/Graphs, Trend and Pattern Analysis, and Analytical Case Support. Currently the analysts have access to the following databases and research software tools: Transaction Information for Management (TIME); case management (contains all HIDTA cases); Pen-Link (phone record information); World Wide Information; (Locate Plus) drivers licenses and motor vehicle registration checks; AutoTrack; Lexuz-Nexus; public source database; I-2 Analyst Notebook- charting; RissNet/MOCIC national database for suspect pointer index; Wisconsin utilities-information associated with property owners; Internet-used for general and public searches; and Milwaukee County Sheriff Crimes (on-line booking information).

The Milwaukee HIDTA offers regionally, a secure internet based deconfliction system called SAFETNeT (Secure Automated Fast Event Tracking Network) via the Chicago

HIDTA. Currently accessible through the Watch Center in the Intelligence Center. The system is utilized by other HIDTA's successfully and presents opportunities for deconfliction throughout the Great Lakes Region (Chicago HIDTA, Lake County HIDTA and Michigan HIDTA).

A complete state-of-the-art Title III Operation Room is functional and is using a Lincoln Server System in conjunction with Penlink 8 Interceptor software. This operation is based upon a coalition between the Milwaukee HIDTA and the State of Wisconsin, Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (where the server is located), whereby the costs for operation are equally shared to benefit the entire state.

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 – Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the 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.

Significant Achievements:

The achievement of true collocated environment that includes prevention, enforcement, and prosecution initiatives is a major milestone, increasing the information flow between task forces and other law enforcement agencies.

In the first nine months of 2004 the Milwaukee HIDTA Drug Gang Task Force investigated and successfully dismantled a large scale violent drug trafficking organization in the Milwaukee HIDTA region.

The organization was responsible for a large number of violent crimes dating back to 1994. There were two identified leaders of the organization. Through various acts of intimidation members of this gang were able to successfully avoid prosecution. Based upon co-operating defendant's testimony, it was established that the gang purchased and sold forty (40) to sixty (60) kilograms of cocaine, broken down to street level quantities per month. This included a one-time shipment of 100 kilograms.

Using this information, the Drug Gang Task Force was able to make successful purchases of cocaine from members of the conspiracy group. The investigation progressed and a Federal Authorized Title III Wiretap was obtained. The case against the organization was bolstered by taped telephone conversations which corroborated the information provided by the informants and provided new information. After monitoring the telephone conversations, a conversation between one of the leaders and a member of the conspiracy was intercepted whereby detailed plans were formulated for the murder of one of the identified leaders. This resulted in the "wire" being shut down prematurely.

A total of twenty-seven (27) search warrants were secured and executed in the Milwaukee, WI and the Chicago, IL areas. Over ninety (90) law enforcement officers participated. There were twenty-one (21) persons arrested and federally indicted in this case and 6.829 kilograms of cocaine were recovered.

As a result of this investigation, twenty-three (23) individuals were indicted on Federal Conspiracy charges and the following assets were seized: \$ 1,178,818 in US currency, \$22,000 in stocks and bonds, jewelry valued at \$600,000, one residence valued at over \$300,000, four guns, and eleven vehicles with an approximate value of \$125,000.

This investigation was a cooperative effort between all of the Milwaukee HIDTA participating agencies, USAO – N IL, DEA – Chicago, and Internal Revenue Service – CID. On the roundup day, the police departments in Romeoville, Illinois, and Oak Forest, Illinois also assisted in the execution of search warrants in their respective cities.

As a result of this investigation the organization has been completely dismantled. Information supplied by cooperating defendants on four separate homicides committed by members of the organization have been cleared.

ⁱ State of Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

ⁱⁱ State of Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Nevada HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 2001

Geographic Area of responsibility:

Nevada: Clark County

Contact: (702) 759-8070

Mission Statement:

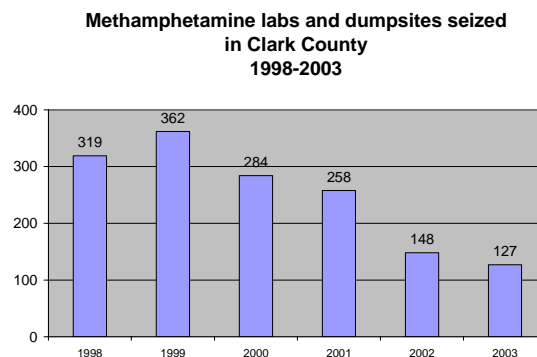
The mission of the Nevada HIDTA is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the country. This mission is accomplished through the use of *multi-agency intelligence driven task forces designed to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.*

Threat Abstract:

Methamphetamine continues to be the most significant drug threat in the Nevada (Clark County) HIDTA. Law enforcement has encountered multi-pound quantities of Mexican manufactured methamphetamine and 'Ice', which is distinguished by its high purity levels (95-98%), and higher price. Although 'Ice' is not considered to be prevalent, distribution is on the rise. Statistics provided by the Southern Nevada Joint Methamphetamine Task Force (SNJMTH) show an alarming increase in the amount of methamphetamine seized within the HIDTA. In CY02, there were approximately 3,673 grams seized. In CY03, seizures totaled 33,895 grams, an increase in over

960%. Additional statistics, provided by the SNJMTH, indicates that clandestine laboratory investigations have decreased by 50% from 2001 (2003-127; 2001-254). The primary reason for this reduction is the inclusion of pseudoephedrine, a precursor to methamphetamine, as a Schedule III Controlled Substance in the State of Nevada. This legislation along with increased law enforcement operations has not only decreased the availability, but has significantly increased the price of case quantities of pseudoephedrine.

Methamphetamine Labs Seized in Clark County



Marijuana continues to be the drug of choice in the Nevada HIDTA. The primary source for marijuana smuggled into the HIDTA is

Mexican poly-drug trafficking organizations; however, it is also cultivated locally via hydroponic production. Additionally, law enforcement has encountered Canadian “BC Bud” in limited instances.

Cocaine remains extremely popular and readily available specifically among the impoverished communities such as housing projects located in the Clark County area. The majority of this cocaine is produced outside of the HIDTA and transported primarily from southern California and Arizona. In CY03, the Clark County Coroner’s office reported that the highest death rate among users of illicit drugs was cocaine. There were 38 deaths as a result of the specific use of cocaine, and 69 deaths attributed to the ingestion of cocaine and other drugs.

The club scene in the Nevada HIDTA is a haven for illegal drug traffickers of club drugs (MDMA, LSD, PCP, GHB/GBL, Rohypnol, Ketamine and analog drugs). These drugs are trafficked and abused in local nightclubs, adult entertainment clubs and at raves. Production of club drugs does not occur within the HIDTA, and the majority of these drugs are supplied by international trafficking organizations. The Clark County Coroner’s Office reported that in CY03, there were a total of 3 deaths from the use of MDMA. The Southern Nevada Club Drug Task Force provided statistics for CY03 indicating there were approximately 67,000-168,000 dosage units of MDMA seized within the Clark County area.

The Diversion of pharmaceutical drugs is on the rise. Prescription fraud, “doctor shopping,” illegal sales by pharmacists, and indiscriminate prescribing by practitioners all contribute to the diversion threat. Law enforcement and the Nevada Controlled Substance Task Force Board report that particularly Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab & Norco); Oxycodone (Percodan, Percocet & Oxycontin) and Alprazolam (Xanax) are the

main pharmaceuticals being diverted, illegally distributed, and abused in the Nevada HIDTA.

In CY02, the number of prescriptions filled (2.7 million) exceeded the state’s population. In CY03, 8,395 patients in Nevada were considered exceeding the drug threshold established by the Board of Pharmacy. According to the DEA, Nevada was above average in Oxycontin distribution from January 2002-December 2003. During this period, Nevada’s ranking for Oxycontin distribution rose from number 3 to 2 in a national ranking of all states for Oxycontin distribution. In CY03, the Clark County Coroner’s Office reported receiving approximately 185 multiple pharmaceutical drug overdose cases.

In identifying 55 DTO’s during CY03, Nevada HIDTA initiatives continue to recognize that Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTO’s) are responsible for supplying the majority of available Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Heroin into the region.

Strategy Abstract:

A Nevada HIDTA Executive Board, comprised of the chief executive officer of seven federal and six state and local law enforcement agencies in Clark County, ensures a system that reduces drug trafficking, eliminates duplication of effort and systematically improves the sharing of drug intelligence. One hundred nineteen 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, one training 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 facility shared with the Las Vegas District Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The other Nevada HIDTA initiatives include the Interdiction Task Force, the Southern Nevada Club Drug Task Force (SNCDTF), the Southern Nevada Joint Methamphetamine Task Force (SNJMTF), the Clark County Gang Task Force, the Money Laundering and Asset Removal Task Force (MLAR), the Major Drug Trafficking Organizations Task Force (MDTO) 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 other initiatives interests.

In CY2003, the Nevada HIDTA posted 2270 critical events with LA Clear which resulted

in 170 (8%) potential event conflicts. Additionally, the Nevada HIDTA made 2256 subject/case inquiries, resulting in 776 (26%) hits.

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 acts as the primary communication and storage facility for intelligence for all initiatives. It provides access to RISS.NET, NDPIX, FINCEN, M204, 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 personnel to provide assistance in investigations to all HIDTA initiatives.

The Nevada Air National Guard RAID detachment and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Air Support Unit provide aerial support and surveillance for the Nevada HIDTA initiatives.

Participating Agencies:

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

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).

Significant Achievements:

Methamphetamine has been identified as the primary drug threat facing the Nevada HIDTA. In March 2003, the SNJMTF initiated an investigation targeting a Mexican methamphetamine 'ICE' distribution organization. In August 2003, the case developed into a Title III investigation targeting three separate cellular phones. Investigators soon determined that this large scale drug trafficking organization was importing multiple pound quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, and cocaine directly from Mexico on a weekly basis. The organization utilized vehicles with sophisticated hidden compartments for importing drugs into the United States and exporting drug proceeds back to Mexico. Additional Title III information showed the Las Vegas based cell of this organization was actively transporting vehicle loads of methamphetamine 'ICE' to Oregon and Nebraska.

The investigation led to the identification of organizational leadership in Tijuana, Mexico and additional co-conspirators to include distributors, facilitators and couriers. The head of the Las Vegas operation was responsible for transporting money and coordinating shipments of drugs to other destinations.

Due to the outstanding efforts of the SNJMTF, total seizures include 93.2 pounds of methamphetamine (street value \$4,231,280), 18 arrests and asset seizures with an estimated value of \$250,000. As the result of large seizures and key arrests, including the head of the Las Vegas operation, this organization's method of operation has been significantly disrupted.

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: George C. Festa - (978) 691-2501 - gresta@dir.nehidta.org

Mission Statement:

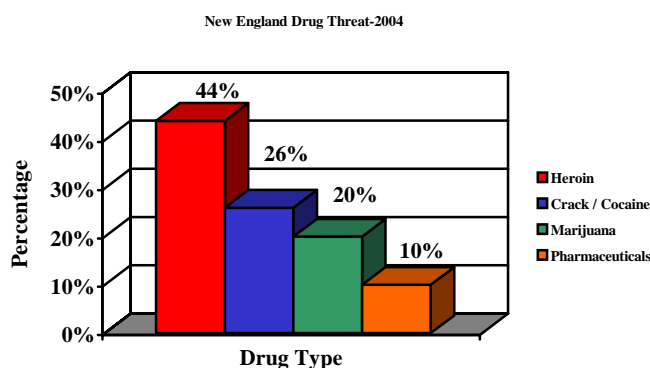
The New England HIDTA, (NEHIDTA) will reduce drug availability through multi-agency collocated and commingled intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences by enhancing and coordinating drug trafficking and financial crimes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

Threat Abstract:

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. Low prices and high purity levels persist with street dosages selling for as low as \$4.00 and purity levels as high as 95%.

Colombian criminal groups continue to supply the region via the New York “pipeline” and several secondary distribution cities in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

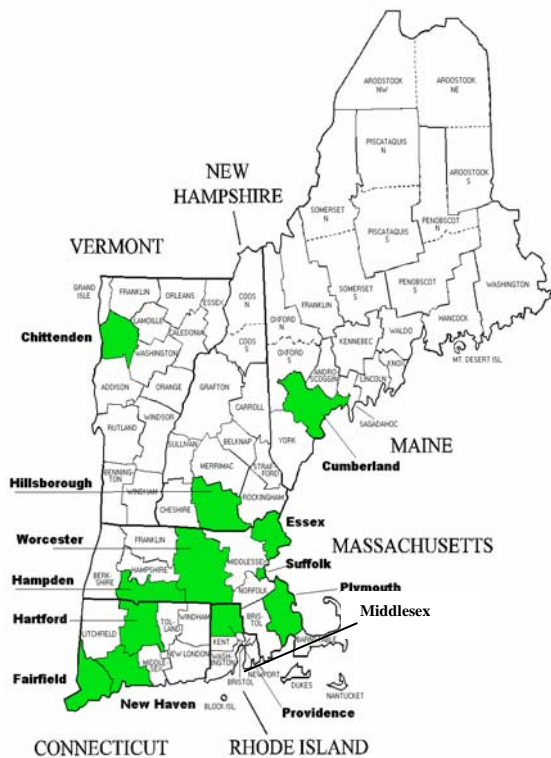
Crack cocaine and powdered cocaine continue to be significant threats to the New England area. These drugs, like heroin, are the two most commonly encountered threats that are facing our region. Throughout New England, the availability of cocaine hydrochloride remained stable, while the availability of crack cocaine continues to rise.



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 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 United



States/Canadian border threat. 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 threat for drug trafficking and terrorism. Accompanying the ever-increasing

drug activity, the quality of life issues such as violence, corruption and economic depletion of US currency are all inherent and latent threats.

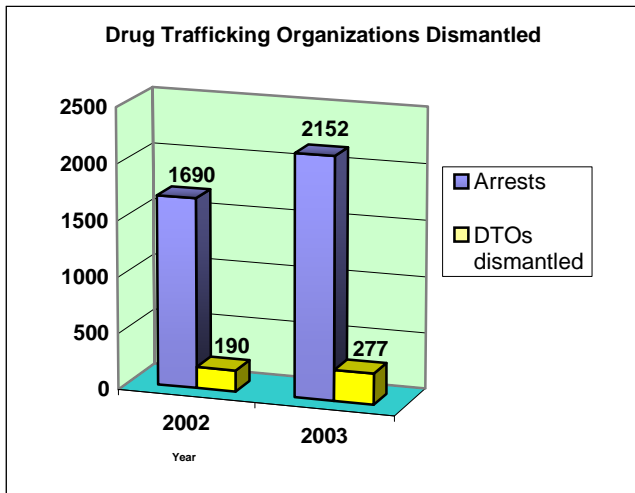
Strategy Abstract:

The strategy for the New England HIDTA is to reduce drug availability and its harmful consequences focusing on the flow of drugs from New York, Canada and elsewhere into New England and enhancing and coordinating drug trafficking and financial crimes 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 the flow of drugs along the pipeline and dismantle the drug trafficking organizations the New England HIDTA has established a total of 15 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) is co-managed by the FBI and the Massachusetts State Police. The ISC has two operational components; the Watch Center and the Analytical Services Section. A DEA Analytical supervisor manages the Analytical Section. The ISC is made up of investigators from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. There are Federal and civilian intelligence analysts in the Analytical Section. 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 provides support to major investigations. These investigations have resulted in 2152 arrests and 277 drug trafficking organizations dismantled for 2003.



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 Marshal's Service Warrant Information Management System, MA Board of Probation, MA State Police RAMS, NESPIN, CT Suspect Pointer Index System, VT Suspect Pointer Index System and the Norfolk County Sheriff's Department. The ISC will connect to the National Virtual Pointer System to enhance information sharing with Federal, state and local law enforcement. 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, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Naval Investigative Service.

State: Connecticut State Police, Attorney General's Office, Connecticut, Connecticut National Guard, Connecticut Air National Guard, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, 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: Boston, MA Police Department, Branford, CT Police Department, Bridgeport, CT Police Department, Bristol, CT Police Department, Brockton, MA, Police Department, Burlington, VT, Police Department, Central Falls, RI, Police Department, Cranston, RI Police Department, Derby, CT Police Department, Easton, CT Police Department, East Haven, CT Police Department, Essex County, MA, District Attorney's Office, Essex County, MA Sheriff's Department, Essex, VT, Police Department, Fairfield, CT, Police Department, Framingham, MA Police Department, Hamden, CT Police Department, Hartford, CT, Police Department, Lawrence, MA, Police Department, Lewiston, ME, Police Department, Lowell, MA Police Department, Lynn, MA Police Department, Manchester, NH Police Department, Methuen, MA, Police Department, Middletown, RI Police Department, Nashua, NH 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, Orange, CT Police Department, Pawtucket, RI Police Department, Providence, RI, Police Department, Scarborough, ME, Police Department, Seymour, CT Police Department, Shelton, CT Police Department, Southbridge, MA Police Department, Stamford, CT Police Department, Stratford, CT Police Department, Trumbull, CT Police Department, Waterford, CT Police

Department, Watertown, CT Police Department, Warwick, RI Police Department, Webster, MA Police Department, Westerly, RI Police Department, West Haven, CT Police Department, Woonsocket, RI 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, Connecticut POST, Holy Family Hospital, Methuen, MA.

Significant Achievements:

HIDTA of the Year Award – The NEHIDTA is the proud recipient of the HIDTA of the Year Award for 2003. The award was presented to NEHIDTA Executive Board members and the Deputy Director, ISC manager and the Director at the National HIDTA Conference in Washington, DC. Winning this award is most gratifying because it is a team award and reflects the hard work, dedication and cooperative spirit of the law enforcement officers, intelligence analysts, participating agencies, Executive Board and Director and Staff of the NEHIDTA. Many thanks to ONDCP for recognizing the NEHIDTA with this prestigious honor.

Heroin Advisory Group – The New England HIDTA Heroin Advisory Group was formed to address the heroin epidemic in the six New England states that is 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.

Training Initiative – Methuen, MA

This initiative became operational in June 2003 and has provided training to 214 Federal, state and local law enforcement officers for a total of 3,665 student hours.

Investigative Support Center – Methuen, MA. The NEHIDTA Watch Center, in partnership with the Gulf Coast HIDTA, provided Event Deconfliction services to NEHIDTA Task Forces. In six months, the Watch Center entered 1069 events, updated/edited 516 events and resolved 238 conflicts. This system will be expanded to support other agencies in the future.

Greater Boston HIDTA Task Force – Boston, MA In a joint investigation with the Financial Task Force this task force arrested the leaders of an entrenched heroin and cocaine DTO. This task force successfully dismantled the Latin Kings Street Gang in Lawrence, MA with the arrest of twenty members, including the leadership.

Central Massachusetts Task Force - Worcester, MA This task force participated in a multi-jurisdictional OCDEF investigation that resulted in the seizure of 283 kilos of cocaine in Maine.

New England HIDTA Fugitive Task Force – Boston, MA -This task force has arrested 382 individuals; 24 of these arrests were for homicides connected to drug violence.

Rhode Island Task Force – Providence, Rhode Island – initiated 66 investigations resulting in 80 arrests. This task force seized assets valued at almost \$1.5 million.

New Haven-Fairfield County Task Force/Hartford County HIDTA Transportation Task Force - Middletown, CT - These very successful task forces had over 1000 arrests. The drug trafficking arrests were for significant amounts of heroin, crack cocaine and cocaine.

Providence County Transportation Task Force – Warwick, RI –This task force dismantled a major marijuana trafficking organization linked to a CPOT target. The task force seized \$500,000 in assets and the main target received a 10-year prison sentence.

Southern New Hampshire Task Force – Concord, NH –This task force initiated 31 drug investigations, arrested 70 mid to upper level traffickers and seized assets worth over \$1.6 million dollars.

New England HIDTA Financial Task Force - Boston, MA – This task force initiated an investigation of an automobile dealership in Massachusetts that has resulted in the arrest of several drug violators in the Dominican Republic and the seizure of four million dollars in assets.

Southwestern Connecticut Task Force – Bridgeport, CT- This task force is investigating significant Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) and OCDEF cases. In one of these investigations 27 organizational members were arrested for the distribution of hundred kilogram quantities of cocaine and multiple kilograms of heroin.

Northern Vermont Task Force - Burlington, VT. This task force identified, penetrated and dismantled the largest known heroin distribution organization in the State of

Vermont.

Southern Maine Task Force - Portland, Maine. This task force targeted the major heroin and cocaine distributors in Cumberland County, Maine. As a result, in CY2003 there was a decrease in heroin –related overdose deaths and decreased availability of controlled substances in that county.

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:

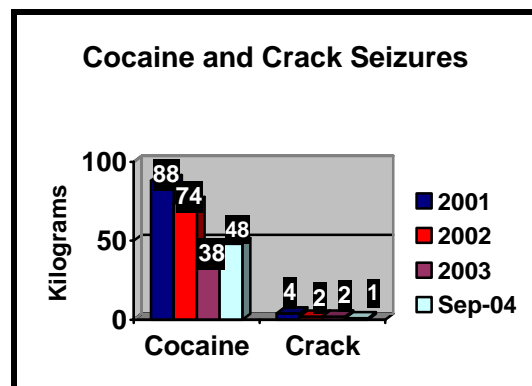
To measurably reduce drug trafficking, related money laundering and violent crime through a balanced partnership of federal, state and local law enforcement leaders directing intelligence-driven initiatives that are performance-oriented and aimed at eliminating or reducing drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in North Florida and 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 and pose the most significant threat to the region. Seventy percent of the law enforcement agencies that participated in the NFHIDTA Annual Drug Threat Assessment reported that cocaine HCl and crack cocaine were their primary drug threat.

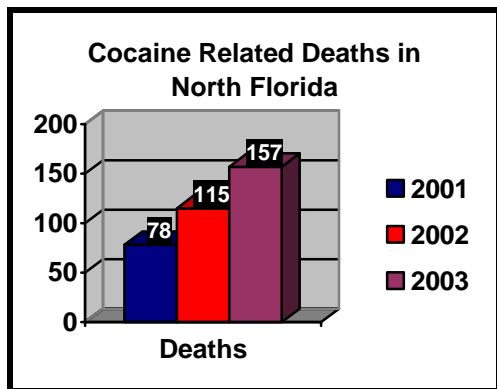
The chart below compares the cocaine and crack seizures effected by members of the NFHIDTA initiatives during CY 2001, CY 2002, CY 2003 and through September 2004. The amount of cocaine seized has increased 21% during the first three quarters of 2004 over calendar year 2003. This increase may be a result of an increased availability of cocaine in the region.



A comparison of the cocaine and crack seizures effected by members of the NFHIDTA initiatives.

The following chart compares the number of deaths where cocaine either was the cause of death or was found in the decedent in four

North Florida districts, according to the Florida Medical Examiner's 2001, 2002 and 2003 Interim Reports. (Data for 2004 is not available). In 2003, there was a 37% increase in the number of cocaine related deaths in North Florida as compared to 2002.



Cocaine related deaths in North Florida as reported by the Florida Medical Examiners.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine has emerged as the secondary drug threat, as its production and availability in the NFHIDTA continue to increase. Members of the NFHIDTA initiatives seized 5.6 kilograms of methamphetamine during the first three quarters of 2004, as compared to 2.4 kilograms during the same period in 2003. This 133% increase may indicate that there is an increased availability of the drug in the region. According to EPIC's National Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System (CLSS), methamphetamine related seizures, including those of manufacturing equipment, chemical dumpsites and laboratories, have steadily increased over the past several years. In addition, the number of NFHIDTA counties that are affected by methamphetamine production is growing. A CLSS report revealed that there were eight meth-related seizures in three NFHIDTA counties during the first three quarters of 2004, as compared to nine laboratory seizures in only two NFHIDTA counties during the same period in 2003.

DIVERTED PHARMACEUTICALS

The diversion of pharmaceuticals, particularly OxyContin (oxycodone), methadone and hydrocodone is an ongoing problem. The diversion of pharmaceuticals has emerged as the tertiary drug threat.

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 2004, the Executive Board is chaired by Randall Bohman, DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge, with Special Agent in Charge Ken Tucker, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Jacksonville Office, as the vice chair. Since the designation of NFHIDTA in 2001, a 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 107 full-time and 36 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 and money laundering problems in the NFHIDTA require 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 that include seven enforcement initiatives, two support initiatives and one intelligence initiative. 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 and RPOT designated investigations. The NFHIDTA initiatives are seamlessly organized into subsystems that focus on a counterdrug emphasis.

Investigative Support Center:

The Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center (NeFISC) is collocated with the NFHIDTA administrative component. The NeFISC is a multi-agency criminal investigative support center consisting of a coalition of collocated local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The NeFISC is staffed by representatives from the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Coast Guard, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Florida National Guard, Clay County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. The NeFISC currently supports a 13 county area that includes the eight 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. The NeFISC maintains a dedicated NFHIDTA website on the RISS network. The goals of NeFISC are to produce and provide strategic and organizational intelligence, enhance information sharing and cooperation, ensure officer safety through the use of the NINJAS event deconfliction system and ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness for all participating agencies.

In an effort to enhance communication and facilitate information sharing, several NeFISC analysts currently utilize the ADNETU web share program. In addition, the NeFISC developed and implemented an officer alert system via e-mail, which sends out e-mail notifications to over 1,100 officers throughout North Florida alerting them to check the NeFISC web page for active criminal intelligence related to various topics, including officer safety issues, narcotics information and current crime trends. This has been a very successful notification tool for all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies within the region.

In an effort to enhance analytical skills, several NeFISC analysts attended Analyst Notebook and Link Analysis training to refine their skills and prepare them to assist with complex cases, i.e. in-depth money laundering analysis. In addition, several NeFISC analysts are undergoing financial fraud training in pursuit of a Certified Fraud Examiner certification to better support financial investigations. In an effort to offer enhanced quality training, several analysts have taken the two-week Instructor Techniques course in pursuit of a state certification, which will also offer increased credibility to the NeFISC analysts who routinely conduct outreach training.

In addition to the above, NeFISC analysts also assist in active case analysis, post seizure and post arrest analysis, telephone toll analysis, trial preparation and counterdrug training. In addition to tactical case support, NeFISC analysts perform strategic analysis, to include researching current economic, drug and violent crimes affecting the region and in-depth threat assessments. NeFISC analysts publish the Annual NFHIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, along with a Semi-Annual Drug Threat Assessment and a minimum of two additional drug threat assessments on specific drug trends affecting the region.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Internal Revenue Service; Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Naval Criminal Investigative Service; U.S. Marshals Service; US Attorney's Office; U.S. Coast Guard 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; State Attorney's Office; Jacksonville Beach Police Department; Jacksonville International Airport Police; Jacksonville Sheriff's Office; Ocala Police Department; Marion County Sheriff's Office; Palatka Police Department; St. Augustine Police Department; St. Johns County Sheriff's Office; Fernandina Beach Police Department; Nassau County Sheriff's Office; and Ocala Police Department.

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 19 and dismantling 12 of the 31 identified drug trafficking organizations YTD 2004 in the NFHIDTA. Thirteen newly identified DTOs are currently being targeted.

One of the most recent notable long-term investigations, "Operation Up in Smoke" was a joint effort by members of NFHIDTA's Prescription and Designer Drug Squad and North Florida HIDTA Task Force, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. This multi-agency, multi-initiative investigation was designated as an RPOT and an OCDETF. On March 31, 2004, this yearlong investigation culminated in the arrest of 20 individuals and the seizure of nearly \$130,000 U.S. currency, 23 kilograms of marijuana, a Rolex watch, 16 vehicles, 18 guns, two RF detectors, several computers, various drug packaging equipment and multiple spin-off cases that are currently under investigation. The arrested individuals were members of a marijuana/MDMA trafficking and money laundering Asian organization primarily based in the Jacksonville, Florida area. During the past three years, this organization was responsible for the distribution of thousands of pounds of high quality Canadian marijuana and thousands of tablets of MDMA throughout North Florida. The head of the Jacksonville cell brokered the importation of BC Bud and MDMA from his Canadian suppliers into the U.S. and then distributed the drugs to his two upper level distributors. His "second-in-command" was not only a distributor, but also stepped in while the group's leader was out of the

country. By compartmentalizing each aspect (importation, transportation, distribution, communication) of his group, the leader limited the risk of being compromised by other members. Infiltration by outsiders was nearly impossible due to the close-knit nature of this Asian organization. A Title III was initiated in December 2003, which resulted in the documentation of numerous pertinent telephone calls made between the Jacksonville broker/leader and his co-conspirators. Conversations among confidential sources and the targets of this investigation revealed that millions of U.S.

dollars in marijuana proceeds were delivered to the Canadian sources of supply. Unknown to the head of the Jacksonville group, a portion of the MDMA distributed by his "second-in-command" originated from a Vietnamese in Pennsylvania. Both the leader of the group and his "second-in-command" wire transferred large amounts of money to Vietnam and invested it in real estate and businesses. "Operation Up in Smoke" was part of a larger, international investigation known as "Operation Candy Box."

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, Sequoyah, Oklahoma, 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 creating intelligence driven task forces aimed at attacking, dismantling, and destroying drug trafficking organizations operating in this region and impacting other areas of the country.

Threat Abstract:

The North Texas HIDTA is a national transshipment and distribution region for drugs arriving from Mexico, destined for northern Texas and Oklahoma as well as other areas within the United States. Drug traffickers use the North Texas HIDTA region for the transport, storage, and distribution of illicit drugs, exploiting its transportation infrastructure to facilitate the movement of illicit drugs. Numerous interstate highways and roadways that support a high volume of traffic transect Oklahoma as well as Texas. Oklahoma's

unique geographical location contributes to its role as a major transshipment supplier of precursor chemicals for the manufacture of methamphetamine. The international air and land transportation corridors further facilitate the movement of illicit drugs through the North Texas HIDTA region. Drug trafficking groups primarily transport their product into and through northern Texas and Oklahoma using Interstates 20, 30, 35, and 45. Interstates 35 and 40 provide north/south and east/west passage through Oklahoma. This collective highway system effectively provides ready access to and from the Texas/Mexico border and into and through the North Texas HIDTA region. The Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport is one of the busiest in the world, affording traffickers a major transshipment facility for drug cargo arriving internationally as well as for couriers transporting shipments to other cities throughout the United States. Traffickers also take advantage of the vast and growing population of the Dallas/Fort Worth region, one of the largest and most

ethnically diverse metropolitan areas in the nation.

Methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and marijuana all pose serious drug threats to the North Texas HIDTA region. However, the growing and continuing abuse, availability, production, and trafficking of methamphetamine constitutes the greatest concern in the area. Seizures of small-scale clandestine laboratories are increasingly common, particularly in rural locations throughout northern Texas and Oklahoma. Increased availability, addiction potential, and health hazards, coupled with the associated violence and dangers of methamphetamine production and costly cleanup operations associated with clandestine laboratory residue, make this substance particularly harmful.

Cocaine, both powder and crack, are readily available and continue to be a primary drug threat. As with the other major drugs, the Dallas/Fort Worth area is considered a wholesale distribution and transshipment center for cocaine. Abundant supply, high purity and stable prices contribute to the persistent availability and abuse of this drug. Most of the cocaine produced in Colombia is transported through Mexico and into the United States and is distributed primarily by Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations.

Widespread availability and a growing potential market of young users make heroin a serious threat to the North Texas HIDTA region. Mexican black tar is the most commonly encountered type of heroin, followed by Mexican brown heroin. The Dallas/Fort Worth area of the North Texas HIDTA region serves as a transshipment point from sources south of the border in Mexico, as well as a consumer base for both of these substances.

Marijuana is the most commonly abused and trafficked drug in the North Texas HIDTA region. The omnipresent threat of marijuana lies primarily in its widespread availability,

popularity, and its general misperception as a “harmless” drug. It is the drug of choice for many adults and adolescents alike. In addition to the abundant supply of foreign grown marijuana, domestically cultivated cannabis is available as well.

Money resulting from drug trafficking is often smuggled in bulk shipments to Mexico via tractor-trailer, privately owned vehicles, parcel delivery services and couriers. Other methods preferred by money launderers include the use of seemingly legitimate businesses and wire transfers.

Strategy Abstract:

The strategy of the North Texas HIDTA is to accomplish its mission of reducing the availability of illicit drugs and drug related violence, through the following elements:

- 1) Wide participation by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in all North Texas HIDTA initiatives - during FY-2004 law enforcement agencies will contribute approximately 162 personnel to the North Texas HIDTA region for assignments on investigative and intelligence initiatives.
- 2) The operation of a well managed HIDTA program, led by an Executive Board, and implemented by the HIDTA Director and staff, to provide support for each initiative to accomplish their identified goals, which will thereby accomplish the mission of the North Texas HIDTA and Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- 3) The collocation and commingling of the majority of the task forces along with the Regional Intelligence Support Center within a central operations facility. Oklahoma task forces are collocated in three locations; two in Oklahoma City and one in Tulsa.
- 4) The operation of a Regional Intelligence Support Center and Oklahoma Intelligence Center to provide threat assessment, deconfliction coordination, and full

intelligence support to the North Texas HIDTA initiatives, as well as all law enforcement in the North Texas/Oklahoma region.

Investigative Support Center:

The Regional Intelligence Support Center (RISC), co-managed by DEA and the Dallas Police Department and staffed with intelligence analysts and officers from a variety of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. It provides comprehensive case support, database checks and deconfliction services. This work is completed for HIDTA initiatives, member agencies and area law enforcement departments.

The RISC Watch Center is designed primarily to enhance officer safety by providing deconfliction of subjects and drug operations to all law enforcement agencies within the region. This center provides over 4,600 event and subject deconflictions a year for law enforcement agencies in the North Texas HIDTA region.

RISC Tactical/Case Support staff 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. Last year 491 intelligence profiles were prepared and over 17,900 database searches conducted.

The RISC provides research for North Texas HIDTA initiatives, has access to all major law enforcement intelligence systems and public information databases, provides specific case support to the North Texas HIDTA investigative initiatives, and promotes participation by area law enforcement agencies. The North Texas HIDTA RISC also operates intelligence subsystems in East Texas (Tyler) and Oklahoma City. These centers work in

conjunction with the RISC and provide similar services to their respective regions.

Participating Agencies:

Federal:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Internal Revenue Service
United States Marshal's Service

State:

Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas National Guard
Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

Local:

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
Navarro County Sheriff's Office
Smith County Sheriff's Office
Smith County District Attorney
Tarrant County Sheriff's Office
Tulsa County Sheriff's Office
Arlington Police Department
Broken Arrow Police Department
Coppell Police Department
Dallas Police Department
Denton Police Department
Fort Worth Police Department
Garland Police Department
Grand Prairie Police Department
Irving Police Department
Jenks Police Department
Kilgore Police Department
Longview Police Department
Marshall Police Department
Oklahoma City Police Department
Plano Police Department
Richardson Police Department

Tulsa Police Department
Tyler Police Department.

Significant Achievements:

North Texas HIDTA Eastern Drug Squad initiated a crack cocaine case in July 2002, targeting several subjects who were selling kilo quantities of crack cocaine in the Dallas and Ellis County area of north Texas. During the investigation, it was determined that members of this drug trafficking enterprise were distributing cocaine and marijuana in Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Ohio, and had direct ties to Mexican drug trafficking organizations. Members of the investigative team included Task Force Officers Tommy Hale, Brad Norman, and the late Tom Pease. Primary DEA participants were Special Agent Don York and Intelligence Analyst Lynn Beshears, all working with Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Guess. Significant traffickers involved the importation of hundreds of kilos of cocaine from Mexico into the United States were identified as well as their extensive network of stash houses in Dallas. The organization was also involved in the smuggling of fully automatic firearms from the United States into Mexico as well as the movement of millions of dollars in drug proceeds.

This investigation, dubbed “Operation Fifth Wheel”, led to the identification and indictment of a Mexican Source of Supply and ultimately culminated in the indictment and arrest of 25 subjects in Texas and Oklahoma in June and July 2003. Seizures included several vehicles, numerous firearms (including fully automatic machine guns), over 160 kilos of cocaine, and approximately \$2.8 million in cash.

The investigative team, led by DEA Group Supervisor Glenn Schneider, worked virtually a 24-hour a day, seven-day-a-week routine to further identify significant

traffickers and piece the organization together. The North Texas HIDTA Eastern Drug Squad received a 2004 National Award for Outstanding OCDETF Investigation “Operation Fifth Wheel”. The group also received one of the 2003 International Narcotic Officers Association Special Agency Awards (DEA) in 2003. The same year, “Operation Fifth Wheel” was further recognized as one of the Regional OCDETF Cases of the Year Award. Glenn Schneider, DEA Group Supervisor for the North Texas HIDTA Eastern Drug Squad, received recognition for Outstanding Group Supervisor of the Year and Ellis County Sheriff’s Officer Brad Norman was awarded the Northern Region Officer of the Year at the Texas Narcotics Officers Association (TNOA) conference in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 1, 2004.

Northern California HIDTA



General Information 2004:

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 mission of the Northern California HIDTA (NC HIDTA), in support of the National Drug Control Policy, is to measurably reduce the impact of regional drug production, trafficking and distribution of illicit drugs and drug-related violence in ten San Francisco Bay Area counties. This mission is focused through initiatives specializing in intelligence, investigation, interdiction, prosecution and demand reduction. When appropriate, the Executive Board may direct responses to other threats in support of the National Drug Control Policy.

Threat Abstract:

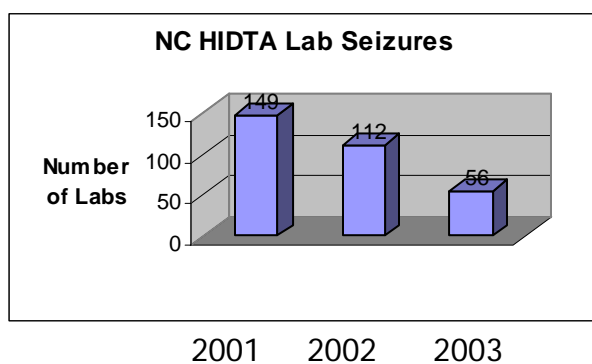
The ten counties composing the San Francisco Bay region continue to be primary manufacturing, trans-shipment, distribution, and consumption areas for illegal drugs. This can be attributed to a number of

economic, demographic, and geographic factors, including a large population base (approximately 7 million people), major national and international transportation centers, and economic disparity. The region is a center for international banking and finance, and hosts large national and international businesses. The NC HIDTA region includes three major cities, over 100 smaller cities and eight Indian reservations. San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose each have international airports and other major transportation facilities. The NC HIDTA region has 300 miles of coastal shoreline and includes three international ports and numerous private harbors. The Port of Oakland's cargo volume makes it the fourth busiest container port in the United States. Almost 60% of the Port's trade is with Asia. 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.

Specific aspects of the threat in this region include:

Methamphetamine has been growing in popularity across the nation in recent years. California has been identified as the source region for the highest volume of domestically produced methamphetamine. From here, finished product is moved across the nation. Statewide, between January and early September 2004, California agencies seized 37 high-capacity (ten pounds or higher capacity) clandestine laboratories (“clan labs”). Oregon, with the seizure of five, follows California in the number of high capacity clan labs seized. While California’s over-all clan lab seizures decreased from 2002 to 2003, the decrease is attributed to the reduced number of small clan labs operating, while the number of large-capacity clan labs remained stable. The consensus among the region’s narcotic investigators is that more methamphetamine is coming directly from Mexico, some of which has been converted into the crystal form in Mexico.



Intelligence sources report “crystal” appears to have become more popular than powder methamphetamine throughout the NC HIDTA region.

The NC HIDTA region is home to individuals who are connected to methamphetamine production in our area and the California Central Valley. Mexican National Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) serve as the primary manufacturing and distribution groups.

Although methamphetamine can be consumed in a variety of ways, smoking is the most common method of ingestion in this region for both crystal (ice) and powder methamphetamine. The primary sources for both forms of methamphetamine are Mexican National manufacturing DTOs.

Area treatment providers report that methamphetamine is the most difficult drug to treat. Methamphetamine abusers are often excitable, displaying varying degrees of agitation and paranoia frequently associated with violent behavior. Untreated meth addicts are strongly associated with identity theft as a means of support.

The full extent of environmental damage from clandestine methamphetamine production is unknown. Soil and water supplies suffer from improper waste disposal.

The volume of pseudoephedrine (a precursor for the manufacturing of methamphetamine) entering the U.S. from Canada has been diminished due to the recent efforts of Canadian and American law enforcement. Taiwan is now becoming a major pseudoephedrine source. California law enforcement agencies have seized large quantities of pseudoephedrine tablets that have been shipped from Taiwan by maritime container to Southern California for use by Mexican national DTOs.

MDMA, GHB, and other so-called “Club Drugs” have been identified as a threat and

are readily available in the urban areas of the NC HIDTA region. These drugs are prevalent in the nightclub and rave dance scenes, and the use of ecstasy resulted in at least three overdose deaths during 2003. The interdiction of these club drugs continues to be a high priority for many law enforcement agencies within the NC HIDTA's ten-county region. Asian crime groups are increasingly involved in the production and importation of MDMA. Many of these groups are also involved in identity theft and other fraudulent activities.

The diversion of prescription drugs is a growing concern in the NC HIDTA region; as reported to NDIC by treatment providers. Oxycontin and related drugs are popular, even among high-school users. Ritalin continues to be a concern, especially among young people.

Cocaine and heroin continue to be available to the NC HIDTA region's user population and are brought into the region primarily by Mexican national smuggling DTOs. Retail distribution is accomplished by local trafficking organizations. The region continues to be a distribution hub, responsible for the movement of heroin and cocaine to adjoining states and the Midwest. One drug treatment provider is reporting a recent dramatic increase in the number of persons seeking treatment for cocaine addiction. 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. Despite the complications to marijuana enforcement, several large seizures have been made of multiple hundreds, even multiple thousands of growing plants in Northern California. Indoor grows continue to be a concern, as they are difficult to detect.

Gangs and other violent groups conduct much of the area's street distribution of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and marijuana. Violence is strongly associated with the drug business and with territorial/respect disputes. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are also actively involved in the drug trade. Some members are found to be involved in distribution of drugs or importation of marijuana from Canada, and some local distributors have ties to Mexican traffickers. Weapon and violent offenses are also part of their criminal involvement.

Khat is sometimes shipped into the area from Somalia and Yemen. It is not a significant threat at this time, but is monitored. Recently, the International Mail Facility was the site of seizures of dried Khat.

Strategy Abstract:

The NC HIDTA area includes the counties of Alameda (including Oakland), Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara (San Jose), Santa Cruz and Sonoma. The Executive Board is comprised of sixteen

local, state and federal law enforcement leaders from the region. The NC HIDTA Administrative and Intelligence Initiatives are located in the San Francisco Federal Building. Fourteen enforcement initiatives have received HIDTA funding for 2004, and thirteen will in 2005. These task forces are located throughout the region. They address the region's primary threats from methamphetamine, plus cocaine, club drugs, heroin, violent drug-related groups, and financial crimes (in 2005).

Investigative Support Center:

In support of the initiatives, NC HIDTA created a narcotic information network. This regional network is called the Bay Area Narcotics Information Network (BAYNIN). It provides operational deconfliction through the Western States Information Network (WSIN), which is part of the nationwide RISS project. This deconfliction system enhances officer safety for all enforcement groups within the NC HIDTA region, and is co-located with the Los Angeles Clearinghouse (LA CLEAR). LA CLEAR provides operational and target deconfliction to several HIDTA's in the western states.

The analysts of the NC HIDTA Intelligence Group provide research, intercept support, analysis, presentation materials, as well as training to drug investigators and other analysts in our region. This group has brought together multiple state, local and federal agencies through support of high-level OCDETF and CPOT cases. We have also supported our communities in emergencies such as drug-related violence episodes by helping to locate suspects and fugitives. The Intelligence Group, as the largest drug enforcement analysis unit in our region, has offered training to analysts in many departments. A two-week analyst course (FLEAT) was offered during 2004, co-sponsored by DEA and HIDTA.

Hands-on training in the use of tools and analytical methods has been provided through on site training at the HIDTA office for five local departments as well. We anticipate the growth of this program to include federal and National Guard analysts.

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 as well as the nationwide drug enforcement effort.

NC HIDTA BAYNIN also 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.

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-per-day, seven-days-a-week.

The Intelligence Support Center 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. This capability has been extremely useful in several investigations.

Significant Achievements:

Bay Area Transportation Initiative and Club Drug Strike Force: The NC HIDTA Transportation Initiative and Club Drug Strike Force targeted an international supplier of GBL, who was indicted in June 2004. The supplier was based in Aberdeen, Scotland, where GBL is legally distributed. However, it was not legal to sell it to customers in the U.S. Cooperation between the two initiatives and with Scottish authorities made this effort successful.

The Club Drug Initiative first targeted a primary customer based in the San Francisco area. The Transportation Initiative (BAHT, SF Airport Group) was able to develop other leads out of the area, ultimately assisting with the opening of investigations in other parts of California, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and other Western States. The BAHT has indicted the supplier and the primary customer in San Francisco.

This supplier provided the basis for roughly five million dosage units of GHB in a three-year period. His removal from commerce should reduce the availability of GHB in several U.S. locations.

Oakland Violent Drug Task Force:

This initiative began in early 2003, targeting the most violent drug offenders in the Oakland area. These individuals are believed to be part of groups that fight for territory, like gangs, but have little to no formal structure. Oakland suffered from a very high homicide rate in 2003 (UCR listings show 109 murders for a population of 407,003). The Task Force hoped to have an impact on violence in Oakland. The investigation ultimately monitored several

pen registers and wires, collecting numerous targets for indictment. Twenty or more subjects have been arrested and/or indicted in 2004. Since the arrests, the homicide rate in Oakland has been lower than the same point in 2003. While law enforcement is unable to scientifically draw a conclusion from this, we believe that the removal of numerous repeatedly violent offenders, on federal charges, has had an impact on the crime in Oakland.

Many targets of the investigation have extensive criminal histories for drug trafficking, firearms violations, felonious assault, assault with a deadly weapon, rape, and homicide. Investigation uncovered ties to past crimes of violence, solicitation of murder for hire, and other criminal dealings with violent criminal groups.

Additional indictments are possible as the data is analyzed. Follow-up investigations have been opened, and a connected case targeting a Mexican drug supplier has been assisted.

Each department in this task force brought its best talent, information, and support. This effort is an outstanding example of how local departments, state officials and federal agencies can partner up to make significant changes in a community.

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 large scale importation and local drug trafficking by intercepting shipments, disrupting local manufacturing and trafficking operations, and to reduce demand by supporting treatment and effective demand reduction programs. The Northwest HIDTA focuses on high-value trafficking targets and financial infrastructure.

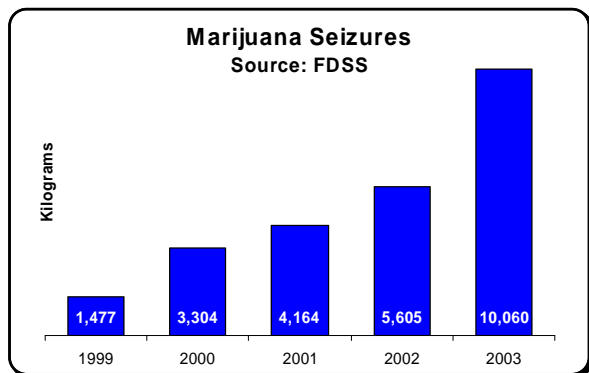
Threat Abstract:

The Northwest HIDTA encompasses 14 counties extending south from the U.S.-Canada border, through the State Capital in Olympia to the Washington-Oregon border. It also extends east through the Yakima Valley to the Washington-Idaho border east of Spokane. Washington State's population

of over 6 million 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 U.S.-Canada border, high potency marijuana or "BC Bud" travels south, while cocaine and illicit proceeds are smuggled north to Canada. It is estimated that 75 to 85 percent of the BC Bud grown in British Columbia is exported to the U.S. Statistics suggest the BC Bud has become one of the largest industries in Canada, with annual production valued at \$6 billion (U.S.). 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 the smuggling of BC Bud into other states as far as Florida. Federal statistics indicate a dramatic increase in marijuana seizures in Washington State between 1999 and 2004, further illustrating this trend. Seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) and methamphetamine precursors 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). The potential exists for land routes between POEs to be used for increased drug smuggling. There appears to be a shift in smuggling to U.S.-Canada border areas east of the Cascade Mountains to Montana.

Maritime Threat – The Puget Sound contains numerous islands and an extensive internal shoreline. The combined ports of Seattle and Tacoma are the second largest load center in the United States with over 3.2 million TEUs, or 20-foot equivalent units (containers), received annually. The volume of maritime traffic and numerous pleasure craft and fishing boats that travel between British Columbia and the United

States without being inspected, has made the state vulnerable to the 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 Agreement” between the United States and Canada. There has also been an increase in the number of “air-drops” of contraband into Washington's National Forests and National Parks.

Domestic Threat – Washington was ranked sixth in 2003 in methamphetamine lab seizures, down from a rank of third in 2001 and 2002. There is a trend in precursors being imported and smuggled into the state versus being obtained locally. This suggests that new laws, enforcement, and public awareness measures are having effects in methamphetamine production and precursor accessibility. Local production of methamphetamine appears to be increasingly shifted to areas in the state with limited resources to combat this threat. In 2002 and 2003, the number of marijuana plants eradicated from outdoor operations surpassed that of indoor grow operations. Indoor marijuana grows also provide a substantial supply of locally grown high potency cannabis, which rivals BC Bud, for state residents. However, outdoor growing operations have increased.

Intelligence increasingly reflects Mexican DTOs are using the Yakima Valley area as a transshipment hub for methamphetamine, cocaine, and black tar heroin to northern mid-western states. Illegal proceeds are moved in bulk cash shipments and also through wire remitters and banks. The primary method Mexican DTOs use to move illegal drug proceeds back to Mexico is wire remitter services in the state.

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 diverse geographic and demographic characteristics require that initiatives employ different strategies to meet the unique needs of each region. The unitized approach to countering illegal drug use includes five mutually supportive subsystems: Intelligence, Investigation, Interdiction, Prosecution, and Support (e.g., Prevention).

Northwest HIDTA initiatives leverage existing task forces and funding sources to create even stronger enforcement programs. Although each agency might have their 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 U.S.-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 ISC is comprised of several components including a Watch Center, Analytical Unit, and Administrative Unit with a Technical Equipment Program and an Information Technology (IT) component.

The Watch Center 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 prepares the *Annual Report*. In addition, the Watch Center augments the Analytical Unit in its investigative case analysis services and strategic research duties.

The Analytical Unit enhances investigative functions of law enforcement agencies through delivery of analytical services from investigation inception to trial. These services include communications analyses (i.e., servicing DNRs and toll activity during

Title IIIs, mapping cell site activity, linking targets); research using multiple agency and commercial databases; production of charts and graphs; post-seizure analysis of evidence; written analytical reports; and PowerPoint presentations. Written products, such as reports of investigation, are provided to the supported 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 Analytical Unit additionally prepares strategic studies and the Annual Threat Assessment.

The Administrative Unit provides 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 drug investigations by local, state, and federal agencies.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Yakama Tribal Police; Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Federal Bureau of Investigation; Food and Drug Administration; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation; U.S. Customs & Border Protection; U.S. Coast Guard, District 13, Seattle; U.S. Marshal's Service; and U.S. Postal Service.

State/Local: Washington State Patrol (WSP); Washington State Department of Corrections; Washington State Department of Health; Washington National Guard; Clark County, Cowlitz County, King County, Lewis County, Pierce County, Skamania County, Snohomish County, Thurston County, Whatcom County, and Yakima County Sheriff's Offices; Pierce County, Snohomish County, Spokane County, and Whatcom County Prosecutor's Offices; Bellingham, Blaine, Bonney Lake, Bothell, Centralia, Chehalis, Des Moines, Everett, Grandview, Granger, Lacey, Longview, Marysville, Olympia, Port of Seattle, Puyallup, Redmond (as part of the Eastside Narcotics Task Force), Seattle, Spokane, Sumner, Sunnyside (Yakima County), Tacoma, Toppenish, Tumwater, Union Gap, and Vancouver Police Departments; Cowlitz County Corrections Department.

Other: Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Canada Customs; Office of the Washington State Lieutenant Governor; Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Washington State Alcohol/Drug Clearinghouse; Educational Service District 105, Yakima; King County Department of Community and Human Services; Cowlitz County, Thurston County, Whatcom County, and Yakima County Superior Courts; King County Department of Judicial Administration; Pierce County Alliance; Pierce County Planning and Land Services; Skagit Recovery Center; North East Washington Treatment Alternatives, Spokane; Snohomish County Human Services Department; Kitsap County Human Services Department; Clark County Community Services Department; Skagit County Human Services Department; Seattle, Neighborhood Group; Pierce County Human Services Department; Thurston County TOGETHER!; Cowlitz County Substance Abuse Coalition; Greater Spokane

Substance Abuse Council; and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Significant Achievements:

On May 24, 2004, over 130 law enforcement personnel from the Snohomish County Drug Task Force and DEA (with the assistance of police personnel from Skagit, Eastside, and South Snohomish County Narcotics Task Forces as well as personnel from Everett, Seattle, Marysville Police Departments, the WSP, ICE and the U.S. Marshal's Service) served search warrants at numerous residences and storage facilities in Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties. Throughout the eight-month investigation, enforcement agents executed a total of 26 search warrants and arrested 23 suspects. Additionally, agents seized over 26 pounds of high quality "ice" methamphetamine, 7.5 pounds of cocaine, and 13.2 pounds of marijuana. The suspects called the methamphetamine "bomb-bomb" because it was over 90 percent pure. Additionally, agents seized over \$229,000 in cash and \$703,000 in stolen checks. Officers and agents seized 32 guns, 8 of which had been reported stolen.

On June 23, 2004, the DEA Tacoma Narcotics Task Force and members of the Gray's Harbor Drug Task Force and ICE completed a two-year investigation into a DTO operating in Gray's Harbor County. Agents and detectives arrested 16 defendants and executed 15 search warrants. This resulted in the seizure of one pound of methamphetamine, a dismantled methamphetamine lab, a 200 plant indoor grow, \$4,000 in cash, and 14 vehicles. Over the course of this investigation, 5.5 pounds of crystal methamphetamine was purchased from members of this organization that was allegedly responsible for the monthly distribution of 50 to 100 pounds of methamphetamine since 2001. The methamphetamine was transported to the Gray's Harbor area from California and the Yakima areas. All 16 defendants were illegal immigrants. An article from the *Aberdeen Daily World* called this enforcement activity the "largest drug bust in county history."

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 reduce domestic drug trafficking and measurably reduce illegal drug use and crime by enhancing and coordinating drug trafficking control efforts. Recognizing that there is no single, effective solution, the NY/NJ HIDTA seeks to accomplish its mission through collaborative, measurable initiatives including information sharing, intelligence driven enforcement, training and prevention.

Threat Abstract:

Crime in New York City has decreased dramatically over the last six years and is now at its lowest level in over 35 years. According to the FBI Index statistics, New York City has been the safest large city in America since 1995. 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 region 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 area, millions of people and packages travel through New York City every day. Over 20 million international passengers and over 100 million tons of freight pass through the region's three major airports, JFK, Newark and LaGuardia each year.

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 significant portion of the heroin seized 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.

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 the negative health effects and its emergence and spread 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 not, as yet, a serious threat to the region, although the level of abuse may be gradually increasing.

Strategy Abstract:

The NY/NJ HIDTA is led by an Executive Board consisting of 18 federal, state and local law enforcement leaders in the New York metropolitan area. Their leadership enhances the integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking, while eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, systematically improving the sharing of drug intelligence, and supporting programs that effectively reduce the demand for illegal drugs. The

Strategy is implemented by the following initiatives:

Intelligence

- The Regional Intelligence Center
- HIDTANET (technology)

Enforcement

- El Dorado Task Force
- Regional Fugitive Task Force
- New Jersey Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force
- New York OCDETF Strike Force

Support

- Regional Training Center
- Support Services

Prevention (non-HIDTA funded)

- Citywide Armory Project

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 three 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. Each Watch query becomes a permanent record in the Information Data System (IDS) which serves as a pointer-index for all requestors of the Watch.

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 ICE 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
Nassau County Intelligence Center
Suffolk 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, 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 Department, 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:

The New York OCDETF Strike Force is a collocated, commingled 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.

Several law enforcement agencies, particularly DEA, FBI, NYPD, ICE and IRS, agreed to combine their independent OCDETF drug enforcement efforts under one umbrella, creating a true Strike Force, just as the OCDETF program originally envisioned over 20 years ago. The Strike Force is a model law enforcement partnership. The 230 law enforcement officers include DEA (59), FBI (31), NYPD (34), ICE (30), IRS (30), USMS (5), OCDETF agency coordinators (including ATF and U.S. Coast Guard) (9), United States Attorneys' Offices for the Eastern and Southern District of New York (3), New York State Police (3), and New York State Banking Department (1). The members of the Strike Force are assigned to 15 enforcement groups under the direction of a DEA Associate SAC.

Each enforcement group is assigned an Intelligence Analyst from the HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center ("HIDTA RIC"). The analyst supports the group's investigations and ensures 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 work closely with the HIDTA RIC, and particularly with the CPOT Drug Intelligence Group, to provide the Strike Force with comprehensive case support, a constantly-updated list of Regional Priority Targets, and access to law enforcement databases. In turn, the Strike Force contributes intelligence from its ongoing investigations to the HIDTA RIC for support of other HIDTA investigations. In addition, the Strike Force registers all targets via a direct connection to UDECS, the state-wide deconfliction system maintained at the HIDTA RIC.

The Strike Force officially began operations in May, 2004 and is already among the finest drug enforcement task forces in the country. The Strike Force is located at Chelsea Market, which is connected by a bridge on one side to the 700-member HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center and the 130-member HIDTA Fugitive Task Force, both of which provide invaluable support to the Strike Force. On the other side of the Strike Force space, another bridge will soon be built to connect the Strike Force to the DEA's New York headquarters, thereby creating a law enforcement campus of unprecedented proportions.

By physically merging the resources and talents of the aforementioned 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 are being enhanced beyond anything achieved ever before in drug enforcement.

Since May, 2004 Strike Force CPOT investigations have already yielded \$22,000,000; 23,400 pounds of marijuana; and 230 kilograms of cocaine.

Ohio HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Ohio: Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark, Summit and Warren Counties

Contact: (216) 739-3500

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Ohio 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. This will be accomplished through the coordination and sharing of intelligence, unified law enforcement effort, and community cooperation, which will improve the quality of life in Ohio.

Threat Abstract:

The Ohio HIDTA was designated on June 15, 1999. In 2004, six additional counties were added and the HIDTA is now located in an eleven-county region in Northern and Southern 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

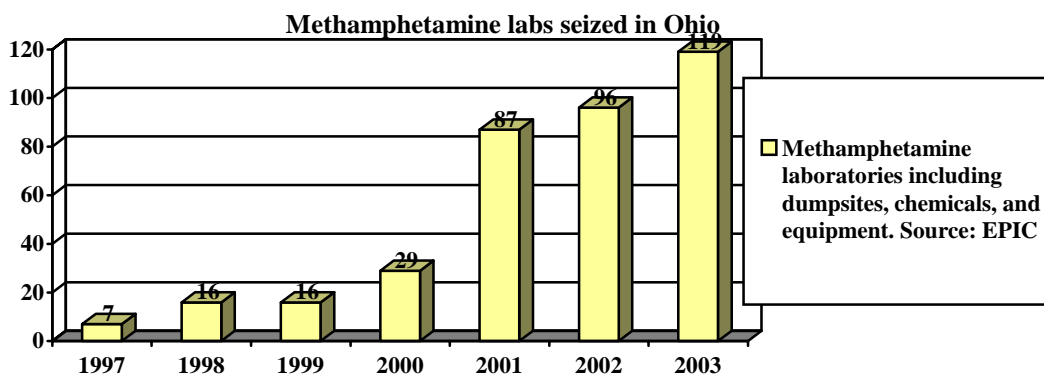
landmass and approximately 6.5 million residents. The Ohio HIDTA region consists of five metropolitan cities, Toledo, Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Youngstown all of which have lost much of their industrial base since the 1970's. Of these metropolitan areas, Toledo and Cleveland are major international 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) reveal a consistent in-crease in the number of

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. This will be accomplished through 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 Ohio HIDTA resources against major narcotics and money laundering organizations. An



clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures in Ohio. Since the year 2000, the number of labs seized in Ohio has more than quadrupled. The easy manufacture of this illicit drug coupled with its serious health risks makes 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.

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

Initiatives/Budget Subcommittee, in conjunction with the lead OCDETF attorney for the district, will review all task force investigations to ensure the appropriate use of Ohio HIDTA resources, and that cases are submitted for Ohio HIDTA and 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 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*
14. *South Central Drug Task Force*
15. *Southwest Ohio Regional Task Force (Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit)*
16. *Miami Valley Drug Task Force*

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 analysis, 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 (ATF), 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), Office of the Inspector General, United States Postal Inspector (USPI).

State/Local: ACE, 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, Brookpark PD, CANE, Canfield PD, Canton PD, Cleveland PD, Cleveland Heights PD, Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority PD, Cincinnati PD, Columbus PD, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, East

Cleveland PD, DART, Dayton PD, Euclid PD, Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, Geauga County Sheriff's Office, Greene County Sheriff's Office, Huber Heights PD, 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, Montgomery county Sheriff's Office, Northwood PD, Ohio State Highway Patrol, 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, SWORD, Sylvania PD, Toledo PD, Trootwood PD, Trumbull County Sheriff's Office, Warren County Sheriff's Office, Warren-Clinton Drug/Strategic Operations Task Force, Warrensville Heights PD, Westlake PD, Wickliffe PD, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Youngstown PD, Youngstown State Univ. PD.

Significant Achievements:

One of the highlights of the year was the dismantling of a Miami-based South-American heroin drug trafficking organization by the Ohio HIDTA Caribbean/Gang Drug Task Force. Title III monitoring revealed numerous Cleveland area heroin customers supplied by two Columbian couriers. Cleveland federally indicted 18 members of this DTO and FBI Miami indicted 5 subjects. This investigation also resulted in the seizure of 2.4 kilograms of heroin. As a result of Cleveland and Miami's efforts, this international heroin trafficking organization has been completely dismantled. Resulting from the above, a major New York heroin supplier to the Cleveland distributors was federally convicted after a week-long trial.

Because of the increased concern of heroin trafficking in the Ohio HIDTA region, intelligence analysts assigned to the Investigative Support Center chose "The Emerging Heroin Threat" as the theme of the 2004 Drug Intelligence Symposium, hosted by the Ohio HIDTA each fall. This annual symposium, identified as a "best practice," brings together intelligence analysts and investigators in an effort to share intelligence, discuss timely issues, and establish professional networks in the counterdrug and counterterrorism communities.

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.”

Oregon HIDTA federal, state, and local cooperative initiatives include, but are not limited to, intelligence sharing, investigation, investigative support, interdiction, and prosecution.

Threat Abstract:

The Oregon HIDTA designated counties contain approximately 63% of the Oregon Population or 2,233,640 people as of July 1st, 2003. During 2004, the Oregon HIDTA Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC)

identified 78 drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) with foreign and domestic connections that are actively operating in the Oregon HIDTA counties. Mexican and Caucasian DTOs control the majority of the transportation and distribution of illicit drugs into and out of the HIDTA counties. The drug distribution activities of the Mexican DTOs identified are significantly supported by illegal aliens. Mexican DTOs specialize in trafficking multiple drug types simultaneously. They are known as Poly-Drug Trafficking Organizations. They are the primary traffickers of the cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine abused in Oregon. Other DTOs and criminal groups, such as outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs), street gangs, and Asian, Canadian, Honduran, Middle Eastern, and Russian DTOs, also transport and distribute drugs in Oregon, but to a lesser extent. MDMA, GHB,

LSD, PCP, ketamine, psilocybin and pseudo-ephedrine are also smuggled into the HIDTA region. In 2003, federal law enforcement agencies seized 100,000 MDMA tablets.

An additional major threat to the entire state and especially the HIDTA region is the correlation between major drug offenders and related weapons seizures and crimes. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives report that in 2003, 9,561 Oregon residents qualify as potential “armed career criminals.” Those identified as potential armed career criminals are responsible for over 41,000 criminal court charges in Oregon. Of the 9,561 potential armed career criminals, 48% (or 4,620) have a felony drug conviction as one of the three predicate offenses. Felony drug fugitives also pose a significant threat to the citizens of Oregon, and specifically the personal safety of Oregon Law Enforcement Officers. Information obtained from the U.S. Marshal’s Service Portland Office (a HIDTA fugitive task force) reports that a recent survey of federal warrants in the District of Oregon identified 8 Consolidated Priority Target (CPOT) warrants, 83 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) warrants, and another 59 active federal felony drug warrants. A query of Oregon Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) shows 6,981 current felony drug warrants outstanding in Oregon, of which 77% (or 5,346) originate in Oregon HIDTA Counties.

Methamphetamine continues to be a serious and growing threat throughout Oregon and is currently the most personally and environmentally damaging and dangerous drug problem

in Oregon. The “Crystal” or “ICE” form of methamphetamine is now the predominate form of meth in Oregon and is smoked. This is extremely addictive and will lead to many new meth related crime and health problems in Oregon. During 2003, Oregon law enforcement reported 437 methamphetamine lab seizures.

Marijuana is the most abused illegal drug in Oregon and together with alcohol is a primary gateway drug to other more dangerous drugs. 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. Marijuana is grown on Oregon public lands in our U.S. Forests by local traffickers as well and Mexican drug trafficking groups.

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.

Cocaine, including the Crack version is still a significant problem in the Portland Metropolitan area and other urban Oregon communities. It is of note that the availability and use of cocaine seems to be rising as the cost of “Crystal” methamphetamine has exceeded the cost of cocaine.

Methamphetamine, on a state-wide basis, and HIDTA wide basis, is still the stimulant drug of choice over cocaine.

Strategy Abstract:

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

A. Create intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana,

B. Focus task force efforts at “High Value” drug trafficking organizations,

C. Provide an Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) that serves as a “one stop research shop” and “coordination umbrella” that provides accurate, detailed and timely tactical and strategic drug intelligence to HIDTA initiatives, HIDTA participating agencies, and other law enforcement agencies as appropriate both locally and nationally,

D. Provide an Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) that serves as a primary investigative resource for technical support and equipment, to include state-of-the-art Title III and Pen Register equipment, GPS tracking equipment, crime analysis equipment, surveillance equipment, undercover equipment, video enhancement services, and computer forensic services.

E. Provide an electronic officer safety warning system through the ISC Watch Center that serves to deconflict and coordinate tactical operations and investigations occurring in close proximity to each other on a twenty-four hour basis, seven days per week.

F. Conduct field operations and investigations, which dismantle drug

trafficking organizations through systematic and thorough investigations, that lead to successful criminal prosecutions and forfeiture of their illicit assets,

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

H. Provide quality training to law enforcement personnel to enhance their skills at investigating, prosecuting, and preventing drug trafficking and drug abuse at all levels and promote officer safety.

Investigative Support Center:

The Oregon HIDTA Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the primary information sharing 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 a Watch Center by phone or electronically over the Oregon State Intelligence Network (OSIN) via the secure web RISS.net electronic highway. The OSIN database interfaces with the Western States Information Network (WSIN) database serving the five western states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. The ISC also provides an access point for law enforcement investigators to other vital federal, state and local law enforcement personnel and databases to assist all regional law enforcement agencies in counter drug investigations, eradication, and interdiction. The ISC provides

event and case coordination (deconfliction) services for officer safety and enhanced information sharing. 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, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), U.S. 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), United States Postal Service (USPS) 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, and the Marion County District Attorney's Office, Gresham Police Department, Portland Police Bureau, 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, Beaverton Police Department, Tigard Police Department, Hillsboro Police Department.

Other: Oregon Partnership, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Director's Association of Oregon.

Significant Achievements:

The Oregon HIDTA Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) represents a very significant enhancement to Oregon drug enforcement efforts. 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, information sharing, and information analysis. It now is interfaced with homeland security efforts as well.

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 conceived and built as an integrated component of the OCIU.

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

Since full deployment of the OSIN system in August 2003, ISC staff have

trained nearly 800 investigators from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and activated electronic access for more than 112 individual agencies.

Additionally, total electronic coordination (deconfliction) is available for both case investigations and events such as search warrants, undercover buy busts, and other undercover operations. Over 300 events have been entered as of this writing and over 3500 inquiries have been made of the OSIN system. All is overseen by a Watch Center and all occurs either via the secure RISS.net or by phone. 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 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 will use a multi-faceted program to reduce the cultivation, production, trafficking, distribution, and use of illegal drugs. The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA will increase 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. The location of Philadelphia and Camden on the eastern seaboard, particularly their proximity to New York, places the cities 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 370 open-air markets in PC HIDTA Region. Cocaine is sold at most of these locations. Philadelphia remains the source city for cocaine distribution in central and northeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. According to the mortality data from Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), there were 784 drug related deaths in 2002. Of the nearly 1.9 million visits to Philadelphia area Emergency Departments (ED) in 2002, about 1 percent (27,753) were related to

drug abuse. According to the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program data (ADAM), 76.2 percent of adult male arrestees in Philadelphia tested positive for abusing at least one drug, i.e., cocaine, opiates, marijuana, methamphetamine or phencyclidine (PCP), in 2002.

Crack is one of the most widely available illicit drugs in Philadelphia and Camden. The North and West areas of the city continue to be sources of supply. Crack appears to be the drug of choice in the inner city minority population centers; however, heroin after marijuana use is on the rise and may replace crack.

Heroin is plentiful, inexpensive, easily administered (snorted rather than intravenously) and is being aggressively marketed. Philadelphia is the source city for the PC HIDTA area, including Delaware. There were 344 heroin related deaths in Philadelphia in 2002. South American heroin is the most prevalent type available in the PC HIDTA region. Philadelphia has the highest purity (80-90%) in the nation according to the DEA.

Marijuana is readily available and widely abused illicit drug in the Philadelphia/Camden region. A variety of ethnic DTOs, criminal groups, independent dealers, and street gangs distribute and transport marijuana using a variety of methods. There was a total of 46 marijuana related deaths in Philadelphia in 2002. The Philadelphia area is ranked 1st in the nation in the number of marijuana related ED mention per 100,000 population in 2002. Methamphetamine poses an increasing threat to the PC HIDTA region. Although methamphetamine abuse is at low levels in the PC HIDTA region, the availability and production of the drug appears to be increasing. There was a total of 17 methamphetamine related deaths in Philadelphia in 2002.

MDMA (Ecstasy) is the most frequently abused and available club drug in the PC HIDTA region. Most MDMA available in the PC HIDTA region is produced in the Netherlands and is smuggled into New York City and then transported via private vehicle to Philadelphia by a variety of criminals.

Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is a behavioral, central nervous system depressant. It is most commonly sold as a colorless, bitter or salty-tasting liquid, but also is available as a crystal powder. GHB is available at low levels and stable prices in the PC HIDTA region.

Inhalant abuse is an emerging problem in the region. Inhalants are everyday products that are abused for the purpose of reaching a high. Pennsylvania was chosen as one of the first states to use the Inhalant Abuse Prevention Program- an experimental program designed to provide school guidance counselors with the materials to teach parents and students about the dangers and signs of inhalant abuse.

Diverted pharmaceuticals, (e.g. benzodiazepine, Codeine, Fentanyl, methadone, morphine and oxycodone) remain a concern in the PC HIDTA region.

Strategy Abstract:

The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Executive Board is comprised of eighteen 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 PCHIDTA Strategy is a coordinated, four tiered operation; Street-level/open-air drug markets, Mid-level suppliers, Interdiction and Money Laundering. Street-level and open-air drug markets are investigated by the Drug Violence Intelligence Initiative in Philadelphia and Operation Sunburst in Camden. These Initiatives are supported by the Criminal Conspiracy Task Force, the Centerpiece Task Force, Major Drug Heroin Task Force and the Violent Crimes/Fugitive Task Force with an investigative purpose to determine mid-level suppliers, seize weapons and locate the most dangerous drug/homicide fugitives. The Interdiction Initiative is composed of four task forces with an investigative focus on drug trafficking organizations using the Philadelphia International Airport, the Philadelphia/Camden Seaport, area hotels/motels and parcel delivery services to import drugs and export proceeds.

Investigative Support Center:

The Suspect Pointer Index Network (SPIN) database allows for real-time sharing of intelligence information between PCHIDTA agencies. Officers at the Watch Center access the SPIN database and search the system by entering specific perpetrator /address locations into the database. If another agency has an active investigation on the target it will come up as a hit. Participating agencies can access SPIN through PCHIDTA's network. The Watch Center expects to support member agencies. Over 4,500 SPIN entries are projected for 2004.

The Philadelphia Police Department has initiated a new gun recovery program. The new program involves giving monetary rewards to citizens who provide information, which results in an arrest involving a firearm. The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA's watch center personnel

participated in training Philadelphia Police Department personnel to do appropriate databases searches with DIGS supplied by PCHIDTA. The goal of the program continues to be removing firearms from the street and reduce crime and the associated violence.

The ISC will continue to do inquires and appropriate case support on all shootings incidents in the City of Philadelphia. The newly implemented Shooting Report Database created by Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA will facilitate this responsibility. This report will be reviewed for possible connections to PPD INCT data and to active cases both at the FBI and those currently entered into SPIN. This shooting database will be accessible over DIGS.

Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA will continue to analyze drug arrests through the Hidden Traffickers program and how certain enforcement programs may be impacting on drug traffickers and changing the patterns of drug sales on non-resident buyers and sellers.

The ISC has in place a case support-tracking database. This database tracks any assistance given to participating agencies for their investigations. In 2004 the ISC is in the process of creating procedures to review the value of the intelligence given to each agency. This new procedure will result in the evaluation of our case support thereby customizing the intelligence to the particular agency's needs. Over 1,900 case supports are projected.

In 2004, the Philadelphia FBI together with the HIDTA developed a process for participating agencies to electronically request FBI file searches. This process that uses an ACCESS database located on the HIDTA computer network, provides a direct link between the ISC and FBI. This process is waiting formal approval by FBI HDQTS and implementation is expected in 2004. If

successful it will be expanded to other select police units and Federal agencies. Search criteria and results will remain in the database for continual availability under DIGS as a pointer system.

Existing databases already on the HIDTA computer network will be reviewed to ensure that key fields i.e. names, addresses, identification numbers (FBI #, SID, PPN, SSAN etc) are as complete as possible for each record and that each record has been thoroughly "mapped" under DIGS for maximum analytic capability. This will insure that critical intelligence is not being lost, and that full integration of data sources is being accomplished. 100% compliance projected.

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, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 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, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia Police Department, and University of Pennsylvania Police Department.

Significant Achievements:

Joint Camden Task Force Camden, NJ --

The following investigation was spearheaded by the Initiative with significant contribution from Group 11 of the PC HIDTA, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands HIDTA, and the Puerto Rico State Police. In November 2003, initiative detectives completed an investigation regarding the Benitez DTO. The cocaine and heroin that the organization was controlling supplied seven drug sets. Results of that investigation included the arrest of 17 participants of the organization as well as a large quantity of drugs, weapons, and cash. The organizational structure of the operation from top to bottom was completely dismantled including 2 Puerto Rican suppliers of the drugs. The organization had an elaborate re-canning system wherein the Puerto Rican source of supply of the cocaine and heroin would secrete bulk quantities of the drugs within vacuum-packed cans of food. The sealed drugs were immersed in the food, rendering it virtually undetectable. The sealed cans were then shipped from Puerto Rico to various residential locations in Camden. Information on the shipments was gleaned via an electronic surveillance that was being conducted by the Initiative.

Criminal Conspiracy Squad - ATF Philadelphia, PA -----

One organization has been disrupted/dismantled with 8 defendants indicted and arrested on various Federal Firearms and Narcotics violations. This OCDETF investigation, Operation High Rider, was investigated jointly with DEA & FBI and was initiated after community complaints of violence associated with a methamphetamine trafficking group operating in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. This group was supported by the Warlocks Outlaw Motorcycle Gang.

This investigation is continuing and additional arrests are expected.

Investigations into two other drug organizations continue, as they are long term in basis. One of those continuing investigations, OCDEF case "Operation Fastbreak" has yielded, to date, 20 defendants as the case is proceeding towards the upper levels of the organization. To date, there have been 25 related shootings that have been matched through ballistics imaging that is attributed to the group.

Parcel Squad – USPIS Philadelphia, PA --

In November 2003, a significant cocaine trafficking organization was disrupted by the HIDTA Parcel Squad. Postal Inspectors interdicted three UPS parcels in Philadelphia, PA that were shipped from Oakland, CA. A federal search warrant was obtained for the parcels and found to contain

a total of 32 kilograms of cocaine secreted in computer towers. The parcels were addressed to an individual at a mail drop in Philadelphia, PA. Further investigation revealed that two more parcels were waiting for this individual at the mail drop. These two parcels had arrived the day before and were immediately seized by agents. A controlled delivery of the three parcels was conducted with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the HIDTA Mass Transportation Squad. After the subject returned to his hotel room with the parcels, he opened one of the parcels and was subsequently arrested.

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) 474-8710 and gmiranda@prvi.hidta.net

Mission Statement:

In support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA participating agencies creates intelligence driven task forces comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement agents aimed at eliminating or reducing drug trafficking and its associated consequences within the domestic environment.



Threat Abstract:

The PR/USVI HIDTA was designated in 1994 as transshipment HIDTA. Drug trafficking Organizations (DTOs) account for trafficking from 110 - 150 metric tons of cocaine from Colombia using multiple transportation methods. Over 70% of it is destined for the US, Canada and Europe. Colombian cocaine & heroin traffickers continue to dominate the supply, the Dominican have become smugglers and developed countries are the main consumers. Preferred method for trafficking is by sea means, ranging from “go-fast” boats to small island-hopping freighters. The two principal narcotics smuggled from Colombia are cocaine and heroin, and some marijuana. Marijuana is primarily imported from Mexico through CONUS and other Caribbean islands while European ecstasy is trafficked through Dominican Republic.

Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands drug consumption is estimated at about 20-30% of the drugs transhipped, while the predominant drug of choice is cocaine. The PR/USVI region is very attractive to DTOs due to the fact that is a U. S. major commercial port, has the strongest regional economy and, moreover, its proximity to the surveillance and interdiction.

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 380 miles from South America coast and having a high volume of commercial containerized shipments, facilitates narcotics transshipment.

Strategy Abstract:

An Executive Board comprised of 10 federal and 10 state/local agency heads (16 from PR and 4 from USVI) implement joint law enforcement initiatives, allocates resources and prioritizes operations to ensure a joint/commingled interactive approach, more information sharing, innovative drug interdiction techniques, and prioritizing criminal investigations. Most important, the Board annually reviews each Initiative 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) coordinates 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 815 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 Area of Responsibility (AOR). To address

poorest countries in the Caribbean, and its strong ties to Spanish-speaking culture, has made it an ideal place for the drug business. Annually the area hosts over 2,500,000 cruise ship passengers and the PR airport processes over 9,500,000 visitors. These high tourism/transient visitors are contributory factors that complicate both, 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, dismantling money laundering schemes and detecting new criminal trends. All of them converging to develop a systematic joint approach designed to reduce the opportunity to conduct successful drug trafficking operations. This joint approach is used to reduce the AOR's attractiveness as a preferred Caribbean staging and transshipment route to and from CONUS for illegal drugs, illegal firearms, illegal aliens and drug proceeds money laundering.

Initiatives approved to implement the PR/USVI HIDTA 2004-05 Strategy include:

1. ***Air & Marine Interdiction Program (FURA)*** – this PR Police Department led initiative provides command, control, communications, coordination & intelligence (C4&I) to assigned forces which allow for marine, air and ground interdiction within the coastline of Puerto Rico.
2. ***Blue Lightning Strike Force*** – this US Virgin Islands Police Department led task force implement maritime interdiction efforts in the surrounding waters of the USVI to close the entry of contraband, the inflow of cocaine, heroin

and marijuana from being utilized as a transshipment point to CONUS.

3. **DEA Forensic Laboratory** – this DEA led initiative provides technical forensic support, ensure efficient and effective evidence analysis/processing, and prompt availability of expert witnesses to support successful prosecutions.
4. **HIDTA Training Initiative** – this USCG lead task force recently modified, is responsible to train the law enforcement community to enhance the quality of drug related investigations, strengthen the local/state law enforcement agencies, increase the conviction rate of drug trafficking related crime defendants at the state level and increase the safety of law enforcement officers in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.
5. **HIDTA / HIFCA Money Laundering Initiative** – led by ICE this task force conducts complex investigations and interdiction of money laundering organizations and schemes related to DTOs. Its purpose is to detect/ interdict/ dismantle DTOs smuggling and laundering illegally obtained cash proceeds from their operations.
6. **Fajardo Major Organization Investigations** – led by DEA this initiative conducts long-term complex investigations geared to dismantle sophisticated DTOs operating in the East area of Puerto Rico, including offshore municipalities of Vieques and Culebra islands.
7. **High Seas Narcotics / Migrant Trafficking Operations** - led by USCG this initiative address regional illegal narcotic and illegal migrant trafficking through 24 hour investigation/ interdiction by means of sea and air over 12 nautical miles.



8. **Investigative Support Center (ISC)** – lead by FBI this task force provides strategic, operations and tactical information, deconfliction services through coordination of intelligence support sharing among all law enforcement agencies within the HIDTA and graphically organize investigative information. By acquiring information, processing it into meaningful data and disseminating intelligence it supports all HIDTA subsystems and task forces.
9. **Management and Coordination Support Initiative (MCSI)** - led by contracted civilians this initiative provides management, administrative, coordination, and logistical support structure for all HIDTA initiatives. MCSI serves as a facilitator to the Executive Board decision making process, program implementation, ensure cost-effectiveness, maintaining resources accountability and control over all programs, property and funds.
10. **Ponce Major Organization Investigations** - led by DEA this initiative conducts long-range complex investigations geared to dismantle sophisticated DTOs operating in the Southwest region of PR.
11. **Puerto Rico Fugitive Task Force** - led by USMS this initiative arrest narcotic criminals associated with smuggling, distribution, money laundering and street gang drug related activities throughout the AOR.



12. ***Safe Neighborhoods Initiative*** – This newly created initiative identify, target, investigate and prosecute drug trafficking criminal organizations, dismantle/disrupt their operational establishment as it relates to the use of firearms during the commission of violent crimes associated with drug trafficking throughout Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. It engages organizations that supply illegal firearms to organizations that use them to exert violent control over the different residential communities in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
13. ***St. Croix Major Organization Investigations*** – led by DEA this initiative conducts long-range complex investigations geared to dismantle sophisticated DTOs operating in St. Croix.
14. ***San Juan Major Organization Investigations*** – led by DEA this initiative conducts long-range complex investigations geared to dismantle sophisticated DTOs operating in the North West region of PR.
15. ***St. Thomas Major Organization Investigations*** – led by DEA this initiative conducts long-term complex investigations geared to dismantle sophisticated DTOs operating in St. Thomas, VI.

Investigative Support Center (ISC):

Comprised of 52 intelligence analysts and agents from most of the HIDTA participating agencies, receives information and delivers accurate and timely intelligence on drug related criminal activity to initiatives and law enforcement agencies (LEA). Specifics include: Communication links to allow sharing of timely and relevant information among all operators of the law enforcement community. It fosters information sharing among LEAs in an unbiased working environment to all law enforcement components: State/Local and Federal. Provide one central location for all LEAs intelligence services to base initiative participants commingling 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 Enterprise Investigation (RICO) concept. Analysts, provided by FBI, DEA, USBOP, USCS, USARSO and PRNG uncovers links by serving instant, accurate, organized and clean intelligence products, meet agent-informants requirements, which are then transformed into investigative or law enforcement operations. Using advance technology databases, advanced hardware, latest software and ultimate communication devices like Title III (TII/S2 system), training the force and DEA Forensic Laboratory support, accelerates and enhances the investigative capacities. It serves as one site information gathering and dissemination structure that organize the necessary evidence for successful prosecution and conviction of criminals. Uncover criminal targets of opportunity, provide deconfliction of investigations and assure the dismantling of organizations by allowing for the highest quality and timely intelligence products and identifying DTOs resources purchased with drug proceeds.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Drug Enforcement Agency, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigations, (Chair) Immigration and Customs Enforcement, US Coast Guard, Internal Revenue Service, United States Attorney's Office - Puerto Rico, United States Attorney's Office - Virgin Islands, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marshal Service

State: Drug Control Office - PR, Department of Justice - PR, Department of Justice - VI, Puerto Rico National Guard, Virgin Islands National Guard, Puerto Rico Department of Corrections, Puerto Rico Department of Treasury, Puerto Rico Police Department, (Vice-Chair) PR Special Investigations Bureau, and Virgin Islands Police Department

Significant Achievements:

We have achieved extraordinary success in intelligence, operational and organizational developments since our inception. Beginning in FY 1996 as a "Gateway" HIDTA, we had twelve barely staffed and equipped squads comprising one Interdiction, one Intelligence, eight Investigative and two Support initiatives. By FY 1997, PR/USVI HIDTA had dismantled/disrupted twelve organizations that were mostly operating state/local and national. The first threat assessment developed through the intelligence initiative caused participating agencies to develop a greater involvement in investigations, assign additional resources and participate in joint and commingled operations. By the end of CY 2001, 16 initiatives have yielded over 250 DTOs/MLOs dismantled/disrupted.

Our Operational-TEMPO since CY 2002 has been driven by intelligence and improving our capability to conduct investigative and interdiction activities, the

effectiveness of judicial and local law enforcement institutions, and reducing the introduction of drugs in the Caribbean. Totally focused in the joint/commingled investigative approach, this HIDTA have grown to 91% of maturity in the PMEs and over 92% on the GPR requirements resulting in better investigations. The PR/USVI HIDTA Money Laundering Initiative /HIFCA have indirectly and effectively contributed to the National counter-money laundering efforts. "Operation Double Impact" was an investigation that revealed that Roberto FERRARIO and his associates laundered approximately \$32 million in narcotics



proceeds through Banco Popular de PR during the period of July 1995 to December 1998. Additionally, an IRS investigation targeting Jairo de Jesus VALLEJO-JURADO which resulted in an indictment in June 2000, revealed that from late 1998 through 2000 (*post Ferrario*), Vallejo used two accounts at BPPR to launder nearly \$2 million of narcotics proceeds. This investigation, which encompassed FERRARIO and VALLEJO criminal cases, was expanded to include a financial analysis of approximately eleven- (11) accounts maintained at BPPR by Dominican Republic money services business (MSB) that appear to have laundered billions of dollars in criminally derived proceeds through BPPR. The investigation proved that the corporation, including the Board of Directors and other managers, had knowledge of the money laundering activity and were willfully blind to the activity. On January 15, 2003, the U.S. Department of

Justice (DOJ) and BPPR entered into a Deferred Prosecution Agreement. Pursuant to a forfeiture clause in the agreement, BPPR paid **\$21.6 million dollars** that were deposited into the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.

- **Reaching Out To Other HIDTAs:** The PR/USVI HIDTA has promote the counter-drug efforts and coordinated support from/to the Caribbean countries and Florida, Washington/Baltimore, New York/New Jersey, and El Paso HIDTAs among others. Cooperation in investigative efforts and information sharing has been critical in the success for case solving.

- **Cooperative International Support:** PU/USVI HIDTA is been asked to brief other countries joint law enforcement/military groups on the HIDTA concept. These groups have demonstrated interest in using the HIDTA joint concept at their countries as a way to deter drugs trafficking within their AORs.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Colorado: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Jefferson, LaPlata, Larimer, Mesa, Moffatt, Pueblo, Routt and Weld counties

Montana: Cascade, Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Yellowstone

Utah: Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Washington and Weber counties

Wyoming: 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 of reducing drug use in this nation. Specifically, the RMHIDTA ultimate mission is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among federal, state and local drug enforcement efforts to enhance combating drug trafficking organizations locally, regionally and nationally. This mission is accomplished through intelligence-driven joint multi-agency collocated drug task forces sharing information and working cooperatively with other drug enforcement initiatives including interdiction.

Threat Abstract

Methamphetamine continues to pose the greatest threat in Rocky Mountain HIDTA's four-state region. Methamphetamine abuse and trafficking are associated with financial, property, and violent crimes throughout Colorado, Utah, Montana and Wyoming. Mexican drug trafficking organizations (MDTOs) produce, transport, and distribute most of the methamphetamine in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. Methamphetamine production also occurs in Montana and places a tremendous burden on law enforcement resources.

Cocaine represents a significant threat to Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. Criminal groups and individuals that distribute and abuse cocaine often engage in violent acts, especially assault, assault on law enforcement, and homicide. MDTOs are the

primary transporters and distributors of cocaine. The threat to Montana posed by crack cocaine is greater than that posed by powdered cocaine. Although violence is infrequently associated with cocaine distribution and abuse in Montana, African American street gangs that distribute cocaine in Billings are known to commit violent crimes such as drive-by shootings and assault in other cities in the United States.

Heroin, specifically Mexican black tar and, to a lesser extent, Mexican brown powdered, poses a moderate but increasing threat to Colorado and Utah. MDTOs and criminal groups are the primary transporters and distributors of Mexican black tar and brown powdered heroin.

Marijuana poses a significant threat to all states and continues to be the most readily available and abused illicit drug within the four-state region. Most of the marijuana in all states is produced, transported, and distributed by MDTOs. Highly potent “BC Bud” from Canada is increasingly available in Colorado, Montana and Wyoming. Cannabis is also cultivated in the states, both indoors and outdoors. Cannabis cultivators sometimes employ armed guards, guard dogs, and booby traps to deter civilian and law enforcement discovery of cannabis crops.

The drugs often referred to collectively as “club drugs” pose an increasing threat to Colorado and Utah. In particular, MDMA is readily available in these states. Hallucinogens pose a concern in Montana and are abused primarily by high school and college-age students. LSD poses an increasing threat to Colorado and Utah. Psilocybin is grown in Colorado and is the most widely abused hallucinogen in the state.

Diverted pharmaceuticals pose a concern to Colorado, Utah and Wyoming and pose a growing threat in Montana. The most commonly diverted pharmaceuticals include opioids (narcotic analgesics) such as Dilaudid, Fentanyl, OxyContin, Percocet, Percodan, Vicodin, and sedative hypnotics (benzodiazepines) such as Valium and Xanax. Stimulants such as Adderall, Dexedrine, and Ritalin also are commonly diverted in Montana.

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, gang task force, 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 1,145 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 is 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, Carbonade, 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:

- Established 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 standardizing 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 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.
- Rocky Mountain HIDTA programs increased the number of drug trafficking organizations disrupted/dismantled by 15%, arrests by 44% and drug seizures by 30% and have seen a decrease in the number of clandestine labs.
- Helped foster the coordination of over 321 separate investigations with other HIDTA regions.
- Trained approximately 1,700 officers in 47 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 analyst course.

- Cooperation 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 150% and 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.
- Work 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) 430-4906

Mission Statement:

The mission of South Florida HIDTA is to enhance and facilitate the coordination of South Florida's drug control efforts among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in order to eliminate or reduce drug trafficking and related money laundering and violence and their harmful consequences in South Florida and other regions of the United States.

Threat Abstract:

Florida is currently the 4th most populous state and is projected to become 3rd in the nation. The region includes the Miami-Fort Lauderdale metropolis, the 5th most populous metropolitan region of the United States. The South Florida region remains one of the major illicit drug centers in the United States.

Major drug trafficking operations – cocaine, heroin, marijuana, MDMA, and diverted pharmaceuticals are all concentrated heavily in the South Florida area. Cocaine alone is a multibillion dollar criminal enterprise orchestrated by international, regional and local criminal enterprises. The other major regional threat drugs – heroin, MDMA, and marijuana – represent similar criminal ventures of near equal proportion in the region.

The South Florida HIDTA region is located in the critical United States gateway from Latin America and the Caribbean. Its geographic area is divided into four counties – Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach.

The area is a contiguous metropolitan corridor along the Atlantic Ocean. It includes South Florida's three major international airports, three major deep-

DRUG SEIZURES

Agency	Cocaine 2002 (Kg)	Cocaine 2003 (Kg)	Heroin 2002 (Kg)	Heroin 2003 (Kg)	Marijuana 2002 (Kg)	Marijuana 2003 (Kg)
ICE/CBP	20,320.4	12,912.6	440.2	497.1	15,282.2	14,897.1
DEA	7,297.8	6,367.7	186.1	125.2	1,818.0	1,019.5
FBI	4,394.4	871.7	21.1	31.6	0.1	501.8
USCG	3,334.0	4,394.0	0.0		4,671.6	1,223.1
Monroe County Sheriff	93.8	75.7	0.0	0.0	7.9	8.0
Key West P.D.	1,645.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	1,308.6	215.2
Miami-Dade P.D.	2,152.9	3,665.1	30.0	50.0	5,399.5	7,492.8
Miami P.D.	301.4	315.7	3.3	25.5	270.0	504.5
Broward County Sheriff	4,157.5	1,914.0	46.6	22.0	3,576.4	2,982.0
Fort Lauderdale P.D.	828.0	2.7	2.0	0.5	134.0	84.0
Palm Beach Sheriff	76.5	591.8	0.2	2.5	864.8	1,241.0
All Other Agencies		1,916.3		14.2		11,920.0
Total	44,601.9	33,027.7	729.5	768.6	33,333.0	42,089.0

water international seaports and an efficient ground-based network that includes well-developed interstate highway, rail, and other transportation systems.

The South Florida drug threat consists of the following major drugs, each with its significant regional and international money laundering activities:

- Colombian-supplied cocaine and heroin
- Crack cocaine
- European produced MDMA
- Jamaican, Mexican, Canadian and local marijuana
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals

Colombian cocaine and heroin shipments continue to arrive in South Florida from Colombia and the Caribbean islands. These same drugs also arrive directly from other South American countries, including Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela. The drugs arriving in South Florida include major quantities earmarked for delivery to other

United States and European markets. In addition to the South Florida area, the drugs are transshipped to other areas to include New York and New Jersey in the northeast and numerous states in the Southwest and Central United States.

The South Florida HIDTA Initiatives identified a total of 255 drug trafficking organizations for CY 2003; there were 339 disruptions and 143 DTOs were dismantled. These drug trafficking and money laundering organizations represent the known threat organizations that are operating in the South Florida HIDTA region. All are considered national and/or international in scope.

Strategy Abstract:

The tri-county area of 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 proposals are grouped into task force initiatives instead of single agency programs. Once reviewed by a subcommittee and approved by the South Florida HIDTA Executive Board, collocated task forces that strategically attack criminal systems and target organizations implement initiatives.

The HIDTA Executive Board includes eight federal and eight state and local representatives. In FY04, it is chaired by Major Gary Moore, Broward Sheriff's Office, with a federal agency Principal Field Officer Mr. Marcos D. Jiminez, United States Attorney, 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, brokering and support to the initiatives approved by the Executive Board. He serves as a conduit for directives, policy and related administrative information required by ONDCP

The South Florida HIDTA-participating agencies focus on disrupting and dismantling international 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.

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 SFLHIC is designed to take maximum advantage of today's state-of-the-art information technology such as the HIDTA Intranet Base Information System (HIBIS), which is a web-based portal that links seven subsystems into one web environment.

Participating Agencies:

FEDERAL: ATF, CBP, DEA, FBI, Federal Bureau of Prisons, ICE, IRS, NDIC, USAO, USBP, USCG, US Department of State, US Dept. of Defense, USPS, USSS

STATE/LOCAL: Aventura PD, Bal Harbour PD, Broward Sheriff's Office, 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, Glades 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, Pembroke Pines PD, Plantation PD, State Attorneys Office, Sunny Isles Beach PD, Sunrise PD.

Significant Achievements:

Of the 85 new OCDETF investigations initiated in South Florida, 34 (40%) are by HIDTA initiatives

Miami Task Force 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 continuation of this investigation targets the remaining leadership of the Cali Cartel still operating as a key drug trafficking organization.

During 2003 the investigation resulted in the indictment of the leaders of the notorious Cali Cartel, 11 defendants, including the two founding members, brothers Miguel-Rodriguez-Orejuela and Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela. The indictment charges the laundering of \$2.1 billion worth of drug proceeds as well as narcotics trafficking including smuggling and obstruction of justice through multiple murders and payoffs. Extraditions are anticipated in late 2004. Thus far, five subjects have been taken into custody.

Operation Double Trouble, a long term investigation targeting the Henao Organization which utilized the Black Market Peso Exchange, offshore banks, and corporations to launder drug proceeds has arrested 60 defendants and seized 40 bank accounts to date. During 2003, a 30 count indictment was issued, charging 36 individuals with money laundering and narcotics-related charges. During August 2003, 28 subjects were arrested. This was recognized with an Outstanding Task Force award by the Director, ONDCP in December 2003.

Operation X targets three international drug trafficking money laundering organizations. To date the investigation has dismantled two organizations, arrested 20 subjects and

seized \$3.1 million in assets. In December 2003, an additional indictment was returned.

Operation Riptide has targeted multiple Colombian Peso Brokers. During 2003, the initiative dismantled four significant money laundering organizations, disrupted seven, and seized almost \$12 million in currency.

Operation Green Sweep, a Broward County HIDTA task force investigation targeting businesses and individuals using the BMPE to launder drug funds, has arrested 23 subjects, seized \$3,327,685, 19 kilos of cocaine and dismantled 1 money laundering organization while disrupting 8 during 2003. In another investigation, the same task force is targeting an importer/exporter who uses commercial shipments to conceal narcotics and launders narcotics funds through various businesses

Another task force focusing on outbound movements of narcotics targeted a high level organization. The investigation has yielded the seizure of two large inbound shipments of heroin and cocaine concealed in cargo and large outbound shipments of cash concealed in cargo. During 2003 the task force seized \$7 million in cash arrested 25 individuals, dismantled 3 organizations and disrupted three.

VIOLENT CRIME:

During 2003, overall violent crime rates for the South Florida HIDTA counties declined by approximately 3.6%. Although declining, the following rates per 100,000 population depict a serious problem for South Florida: homicides 338, robberies 14,165, assaults 27,318, rapes 1,923, and burglaries 52,404.

Despite declines in the crime index totals, violent crime continues to be a serious concern for the South Florida community..

Drug-related street level violence is common. The daily newspapers report

shootings of innocent children who were in the wrong place at the wrong time when rival gang members confront each other over drug turf. Street-level armed robberies are the most commonly reported violent crime. Kidnappings occur every day by addicts robbing for money to purchase drugs. Drug owners who are robbed of their product and its profit buy murder contracts. Intimidation and retaliation are by-products of the drug trade; witnesses testifying at drug trials and their relatives are threatened and intimidated by violence.

In October 2002, Gang Strike Force investigators targeted the “Lincoln Fields Gangsters” and their associates to dismantle their drug distribution network operating in the North-Side District of Miami-Dade County. Over the next nine months, GSF investigators conducted numerous surveillances and identified 60 members of the gang and numerous associate members. Undercover detectives purchased cocaine and/or cannabis from “Lincoln Fields Gangsters” and their associates and made narcotics and firearms arrests on 48 occasions. GSF investigators were able to document the organization’s use of specific types of packaging designed to build brand loyalty. The investigation revealed that the subjects and their associates were directly responsible for or associated with over 300 crimes in Miami-Dade County. Most had an extensive criminal history including homicides, shootings, robberies, and countless cocaine and cannabis sales. In May, one member was shot by another member over accounting discrepancies at one of the organizations drug holes.

On June 24, 2003 GSF prosecutors issued 33 warrants charging members and associates with drug trafficking and related crimes. To date, a total of 32 of the 33 gang members have been arrested.

Through this and several other significant investigations, GSF made 42 federal and 68 state arrests. They dismantled three violent drug trafficking organizations.

Operation STOP dismantled an operation supplying the AUC and FARC with numerous assault rifles. Records indicate approximately 600-700 weapons sold in the past. A shipment of 50 assault rifles was seized subsequent to two controlled deliveries to two sets of Colombian nationals. STOP also initiated Operation Destination Trinidad, targeting an organization funded by narcotics proceeds, trafficking assault rifles and silencers to an extremist terrorist organization, Jamat et Muslimen. During 2003 the investigation, which is still ongoing, resulted in federal prosecutions and seizure of assault type weapons. Significant home invasion groups were successfully targeted throughout 2003, resulting in the dismantling of a total of 8 organizations, disruption of 19 organizations, 91 arrests, and seizure of 179 weapons.

Arizona Regional Partnership

Southwest Border HIDTA



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.

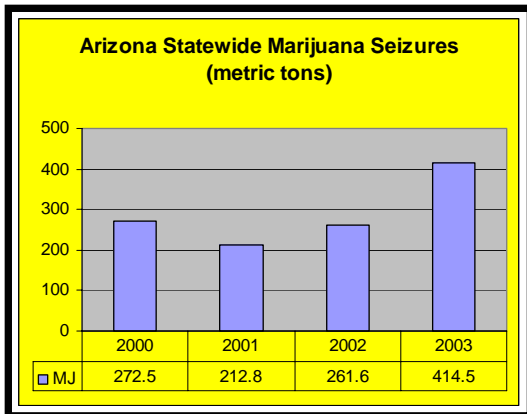
Threat Abstract:

Arizona continues to be 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.

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 policing problem 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 CY2003 were 911,854 pounds. This represents a 57% increase from CY 2002.



Cocaine seizures dropped from 7,540 pounds in CY 2002 to 6,347 pounds in CY 2003. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures decreased from 297 in CY 2002 to 116 in CY 2003; however, statewide seizures increased from 639 pounds to 1,641 pounds on CY 2003. Statewide methamphetamine seizures in Arizona have increased 160% 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 15 pounds in CY 2002 to 11 pounds in CY 2003. 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. Drug trafficking and consumption in the region inevitably lead to drug-related crime. In CY 2003 violent crime statistics for homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, rapes, and 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 supports and enhances 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 7 full-time members and an Intelligence Division with 40 full-time and 22 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 1,500 vetted users throughout the United States and Canada. Additionally, during '03 SIPRNET/ADNET connectivity was established and functioning as an information resource and secure e-mail resource. 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 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, New Mexico HIDTA, South Texas HIDTA, Chicago HIDTA, Michigan HIDTA and others, has spearheaded a concept called Cobija (blanket in Spanish). Cobija is a coordinating mechanism that assists HIDTAs in facilitating federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement coordinated/synchronized criminal interdiction operational planning, operations, information sharing and intelligence generation supporting interdiction, investigative, and intelligence agencies. There have been sixteen Cobija cycles since its inception in August 1998. Each cycle involves an operational planning conference (usually attended by 300 - 400 law enforcement representatives), an

operational period, and lessons learned. Each phase is continually supported with intelligence.

Cobija involves representatives from Arizona, California, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Idaho, Maine, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, Ohio, Wisconsin, Missouri, Georgia, Kentucky, New York, Nevada, Kentucky, Ohio, New Jersey, Alabama, Washington, Arkansas, and Canada. Over 120 law enforcement agencies and task forces are participants.

Cobija supports the ONDCP strategic goals, General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan, DHS Arizona Border Control Initiative, and the President's drug reduction goals. Cobija works closely with the Counterdrug Executive Secretariat to further enhance federal, state, tribal, and local 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 1,500). 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 Arizona HIDTA, along with the CBAG and New Mexico HIDTA, are working with El Paso Intelligence Center to establish the connectivity model that will be format between EPIC and all HIDTAs. The Cobija

process, with its ability to receive local and tribal seizure and incident reporting, is a major contributing factor to this effort.

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 two/three Cobija cycles each calendar year. Cobija XVII will begin in February 2005.

California Regional Partnership

Southwest Border HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

California: San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Contact: (619) 557-5880

Mission Statement:

To 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 eliminate 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 "club drug" abuse through innovative enforcement operations and demand reduction programs utilizing a multi-agency, joint concept of operations.

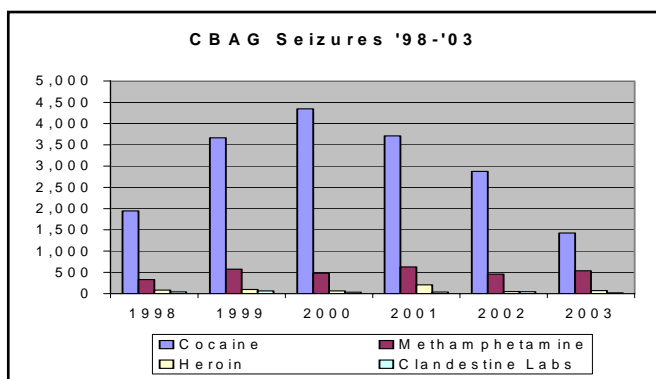
Threat Abstract:

The California Border Alliance Group's (CBAG) area of responsibility, San Diego and Imperial Counties, extends north 65 miles from the international border with Mexico to the Orange and Riverside County

lines, from the Pacific Ocean on the west 140 miles east to the Arizona State line, and includes the seven Ports of Entry at San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Otay East, Tecate, Calexico West, Calexico East, and Andrade. The geographic location is truly unique: terrain that ranges from seaports and beaches to deserts, with forested mountains in between, yet home to the largest bi-national metropolis in the world.

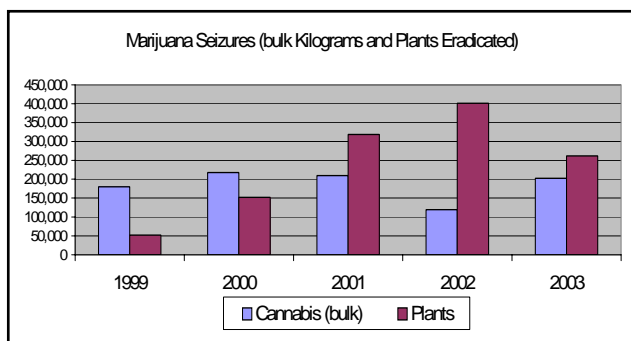
Both San Diego and Imperial Counties have large Mexican cities directly to the south. Tijuana's population is officially reported as 1.5 million, but estimates run as high as 2 million; it is Mexico's third largest, and fastest-growing, city. Mexicali, which borders Imperial County, is the capital of Baja California Norte and has a population of close to 1 million. Although the 140-mile border facing the CBAG is only 7% of the entire U.S.-Mexican border, it is home to 60% of the entire US-Mexican Southwest Border population. The CBAG area of responsibility not only has five of the busiest

U.S. land Ports of Entry to contend with, but also international airports and seaports. The threats range from land, sea, and airborne drug smuggling, distribution, production, and consumption of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, prescription drugs, and precursor chemicals, and from Major Drug Trafficking Organizations, international Narco-terrorism and money laundering to street gangs and drug abusers. It remains one of the most active transit areas for drugs and illegal aliens moving north and for monies traveling south, as well as a major domestic marijuana cultivation area.



During 2003, CBAG task forces and member agencies seized more than:

Marijuana	202,310 Kg
Marijuana eradicated	262,029 plants (260,00 Kg)
Cocaine	1,424 Kg
Cocaine (maritime)	48,181 Kg
Heroin	72.5 Kg
Methamphetamine	537.8 Kg
Arrests	5,015
Cash/assets	\$ 16.2 Million
Clan Labs	19



Additionally, CBAG initiatives participated in out-of-area seizures of over 48 Metric Tons of cocaine seized at sea, and another 113 Kg of heroin on controlled deliveries to destinations outside of the CBAG area.

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: Intelligence, Interdiction, Investigation, Prosecution, Demand Reduction, and Support Initiatives. Of note, two of those initiatives, the National Methamphetamine Chemical Initiative and the National Marijuana on Public Lands Initiative, coordinate nation-wide efforts against their respective targeted drug trafficking problems.

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.

Investigative 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, with exceptions for applicable grand jury secrecy, privacy of taxpayer information, Title III restrictions, and agency security requirements. The NIN Watch Center processed 9,383 narcotic enforcement actions taking place in San Diego and Imperial counties, resulting in

729 deconflictions (just under 8 percent.) Additionally, the Watch Center conducted 74,864 database inquiries which resulted in 25,058 system hits or sharing of information, or a "hit rate" of just over 33 percent.

Planning and implementation are ongoing for a comprehensive, co-located multi-agency Law Enforcement Coordinating Center, containing a joint Regional Intelligence Center (RIC) to radically improve the Intelligence process and the coordination of investigations and enforcement in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The concept is based on the collocation and commingling of the San Diego/Imperial County Narcotics Information Network (NIN), California Southwest Border Intelligence Group (ICE), San Diego Police, and San Diego Sheriff's Intelligence Units, and intelligence units from the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, DEA, FBI, and California Anti-Terrorism Information Center (CATIC) into a true multi-agency Joint Intelligence Center, supported on-site by ARJIS (Automated Regional Justice Information System) and other appropriate entities. The homeland security-focused Regional Terrorist Threat Assessment Center (RTAC) will be integrated with an overall intelligence fusion center, with robust connectivity and coordination with, and between, the Imperial Valley Law Enforcement Coordination Center, the San Diego Joint Harbor Operations Center, and other entities within the region. Approximately 500 agents, analysts, and support personnel will be located at this center.

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 and Border Protection, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Forest Service, United States Marshals Service, United States Postal Inspection Service, Department of Defense-Joint Task Force North

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, Brawley, Calexico, Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, El Centro, Escondido, and Holtville Police Departments, Imperial County District Attorney's Office, Imperial County Probation Department, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, Imperial, National City, Oceanside, and San Diego Police Departments, 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

In Total: 784 Federal, State, and local personnel participate in CBAG HIDTA Initiatives.

Significant Achievements:

Cocaine seizures along the California border decreased again during 2003, while marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine seizures increased. However, 48 Metric Tons of cocaine were seized on the high seas that was destined to cross the Southwest Border through California, Arizona, New Mexico or Texas and would almost certainly have resulted in higher border seizure rates had it not been seized at sea. The amount of cocaine seized in the Eastern Pacific through the cooperation of the Coast Guard, Federal Agencies, and CBAG initiatives seems to indicate at least two things: the EastPac-to-Mexico route for entry via the Southwest Border remains dominant, and enforcement successes in the Transit Zone directly affect seizures in the Arrival Zone. The San Diego Marine Task Force seized 6,220 Kg of cocaine in local cases tied directly to the Southern California coast. In addition to border seizures of marijuana, 262,029 plants (equivalent to over 260,000 Kilos) were seized in San Diego County – most of them in large remote operations run by Mexican DTOs.

The dismantlement of the Arellano-Felix Organization (AFO) continues with indictments, arrests, and extradition proceedings for the upper echelon and transportation and enforcement cells of that cartel, as well as unprecedented cooperative efforts between U.S. and Mexican law enforcement. Multiple intelligence sources tell us that the remaining cells of the Arellano-Felix Organization are having difficulty getting cocaine from the source countries, and have been forced to turn to other sources of income such as alien smuggling and kidnapping. Of course, a lack of drug income makes the AFO even more vulnerable to the pressures being exerted by the Zambada-Garcia organization, currently making a play for the Tijuana plaza. The push for complete

dismantlement of the AFO, as well as proactive investigations of associated DTOs and the Zambada-Garcia organization, continue unabated as a top priority for this HIDTA.

The continued decline in lab activity in San Diego and Imperial Counties, and increase of labs in Mexico, is compelling evidence of a successful long-term methamphetamine reduction strategy for this and other regions. Clandestine laboratories, mostly methamphetamine labs, continue to affect the CBAG region, but only 19 were seized in the CBAG area during 2003. 827 labs were seized in California, of which 132 were “super labs” capable of producing 10 pounds or more methamphetamine in a single cook (92% of the nation’s total of 143 super labs.) Mexican lab seizures are highly significant: at least 47 labs were seized in the Tijuana

and Mexicali areas in 2003, for a total of 119 reported over the past two years. While methamphetamine use continues to be a significant public safety and health problem in our region, our comprehensive approach to the methamphetamine issue may be having success. Once considered the “Methamphetamine Capital” of the US, a concerted and coordinated effort on the part of San Diego Law Enforcement, Public Health, Demand Reduction, Government officials, and corporate interests have essentially shut down the large-scale production, reduced emergency department mentions, and increased treatment admissions for methamphetamine.

New Mexico Regional Partnership

Southwest Border HIDTA



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

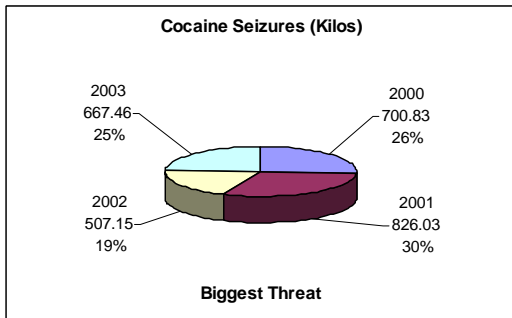
Mission Statement:

The New Mexico Region's mission is to reduce drug availability by creating intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at disrupting or dismantling international and domestic drug trafficking organizations, and the harmful consequences through enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking investigative efforts among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

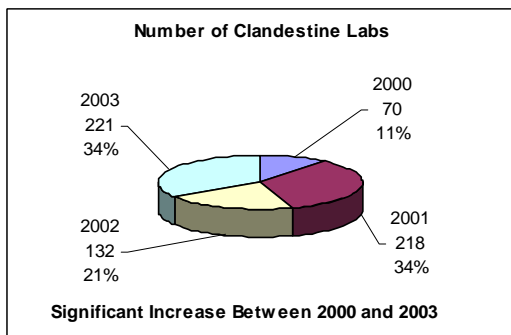
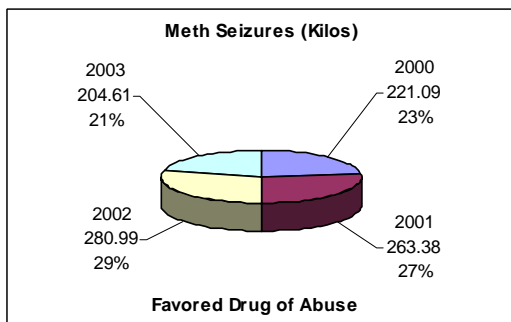
Threat Abstract:

The New Mexico Regional Partnership was designated in 1990 as one of the five regions of the Southwest Border HIDTA. The region encompasses 13 counties, four Ports-of-Entry, and about 180 miles of the international border shared with Mexico. The proximity to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas is also a major corridor for

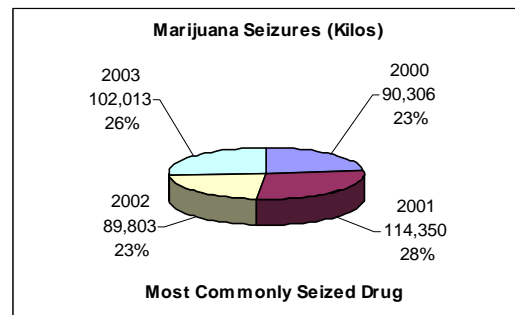
traffickers who smuggle narcotics into the United States through New Mexico. Freight trains and commercial motor vehicle carriers that cross the Texas/New Mexico and Mexican borders are frequently used by major poly-drug trafficking organizations to move significant amounts of drugs into and throughout the United States. These poly-drug organizations have effectively established distribution networks in key locations throughout the State of New Mexico where heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana are readily available. Drug traffickers are increasingly exploiting the North American Free Trade Agreement provisions as a means of facilitating the illegal movement of their drugs mixed with the significant increase of illegal commercial trade. The importation, distribution, and consumption of cocaine and "crack cocaine" are the biggest threat in the region. Cocaine seizures are on the rise in the State of New Mexico.



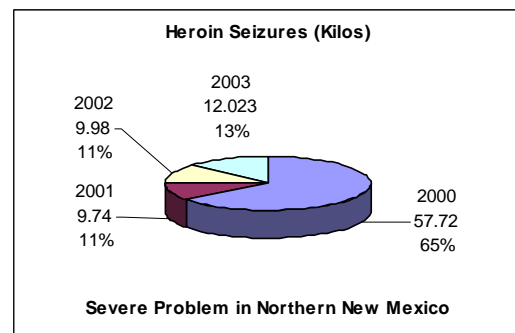
Methamphetamine is of major concern to New Mexico as it is still the most favored drug for abuse. In general, Methamphetamine is produced in Mexico in its purest form and then smuggled into the United States in bulk quantities where it passes through New Mexico for distribution in other parts of the United States. Methamphetamine also comes into New Mexico for personal use from mid-level distributors from Arizona and California. Additionally, methamphetamine is produced in small quantities in New Mexico by users, but in such small amounts, it usually only reaches the personal use level.



Mexican marijuana is the most prevalent drug abused and the most commonly seized drug resulting from interdiction seizures. The marijuana market is dominated primarily by Mexican traffickers, but there is also evidence that marijuana is being grown in New Mexico. Marijuana is also being grown in California and Arizona and does cross New Mexico's borders, but is usually destined for the northeastern coast of the U.S. Multi-ton marijuana seizures occur annually along the southern New Mexican borders and the three Interstate arteries, I-40, I-25, and I-10.



The availability of Mexican black tar heroin continues throughout New Mexico; and both brown and white heroin have been encountered. Two counties in northern New Mexico, Rio Arriba County and Santa Fe County, rank number one and two in the nation for heroin overdoses per capita. Heroin abuse has been a persistent problem for generations, but the addict population continues to grow steadily as a result of the location of the main supplier.



Lastly, 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 Committee comprised of seven federal and seven state/local law enforcement leaders in the New Mexico Region allows for a 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 Region coordinates 13 initiatives that include representatives from 73 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. There are full-time participants in the New Mexico Regional initiatives that implement the strategy including: 17 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. Interdiction efforts are emphasized on the transshipment of drugs in New Mexico. Investigations employ post seizure analysis and follow-up techniques in complex cases to include financial/money-laundering investigations. A prosecution system coordinates efforts between the U. S. Attorney's and state prosecutors focusing on high profile cases, including Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigations, and addressing

the high volume of cases that originate from the border region.

Investigative Support Center:

The New Mexico Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the centerpiece of the HIDTA Region 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. In addition to reporting on strategic intelligence, the ISC provides event and case deconfliction for officer safety and enhanced intelligence; case support to develop tactical intelligence for refined targeting Consolidated Priority Organization Target and Regional Organization Target (CPOT and RPOT); and in-service analytical intelligence training. The ISC provides HIDTA task forces operational analytical support for ongoing initiative driven case activity through access to criminal and commercial databases. The ISC provides law enforcement immediate access to a wide range of law enforcement and commercial databases. The ISC 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), an event deconfliction system (SafeTnet) and Rocky Mountain Info Network (RMIN). The New Mexico Regional 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.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Amtrak Police Department, Department of Defense JTF-6, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Marshal Service, United States Attorney's Office and United States Border Patrol.

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, New Mexico State University Police 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, Town of Mesilla Marshal, University of New Mexico Police Department, and Valencia County Sheriff's Department.

Other: New Mexico Sheriff's and Police Association

Significant Achievements:

In CY 2003, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) recognized the Albuquerque DEA HIDTA Task Force for their efforts with an award as an Outstanding HIDTA Interdiction Initiative. This Task Force performs interdiction duties on all forms of public transportation and the New Mexico highways. The cooperative spirit, hard work and dedication of the Task Force participants led to numerous outstanding successes throughout the United States, as well as in the State of New Mexico. These outstanding achievements included 76 individual arrests, numerous seizures totaling 1,370 kilograms of marijuana, 38 kilograms of cocaine, 11 kilograms of methamphetamine, 2 kilograms of heroin, 154 kilograms of other dangerous drugs and cash currency totaling over \$2,338,552.00.

The Albuquerque DEA HIDTA Task Force demonstrated an outstanding ability to forge cooperative relationships among group members, as well as with the varied law enforcement participants. This Task Force

was able to initiate and cultivate productive relationships with private entities that promoted the continued effectiveness of the group's interdiction endeavors. Members of this group are continuously sought to provide training to federal, state and local agencies throughout the U.S. regarding case law, methods, trends and techniques for successful interdiction operations.

The interdiction efforts of the Task Force participants 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 Task Force was contacted by employees of the company about a suspicious package. The package was subsequently seized by DEA and was found to contain 11 pounds of marijuana and 1.6 kilograms of cocaine. Through additional investigative techniques and surveillance, the case led to an additional cocaine seizure of 16 kilograms, 17 arrests and the dismantling of a drug trafficking organization.
- A joint operation by members of the DEA HIDTA Task Force, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Albuquerque Police Department, that was conducted in two simultaneous, synchronized stages netted four arrests, the seizure of \$285,820.00 U.S. cash currency, 583 kilograms of marijuana, two pickup trucks, two goose-neck trailers with false compartments, a forklift, and two John Deere Gator Utility Vehicles.
- During a routine interview of a train passenger, agents and officers observed dried glue on the outside sole of an individual's "new" shoes. This observation led to the discovery of .85 kilograms of heroin hidden in the soles of the passenger's shoes.

South Texas Regional Partnership

Southwest Border HIDTA



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). The ST Partnership's Director and Executive Committee identified eight specific goals to accomplish the mission. The major goals are reducing drug availability by eliminating or disrupting Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOT) and Regional Priority Organization Targets (RPOT) Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO); increasing focus on CPOT/RPOT

transportation and distribution organizations; partnering with Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) regarding CPOT/RPOT; increasing investigative focus on money laundering activities through 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 into 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 is a primary corridor for transportation and transshipment of illegal drugs entering the United States from Mexico. Major DTOs operating within the region and across the border in Mexico plague South Texas with their poly-drug trafficking activities. The South Texas region is a nationally significant transportation and transshipment hub for drugs destined for the rest of the nation. Drugs transit the South Texas region to Dallas or Houston on route to their final destinations.

The illegal drugs DTOs conceal are shipped via private and commercial cargo vehicle as well as other regional methods of transportation. The enormous volumes of commercial and pedestrian traffic transiting South Texas provides excellent masking opportunities for smuggling through and between Ports of Entry.

Significant shipments of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and marijuana transit the region. Large sums of illegally obtained funds also transit the region on the way south to the DTO operators.

The availability of Mexican black tar heroin through the region attracts a number of new users, including adolescents. An increasing indication of South American heroin indicates the region is quickly becoming a new market for this drug in the South Texas region.

Mexican methamphetamine continues to be a major problem within the region. Mexican methamphetamine DTO increasingly try to smuggle large amounts of their illicit drug through the area.

Strategy Abstract:

The ST Partnership, SWB HIDTA Executive Committee consists of 13 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 49 local, state, and federal LEA participating in the ST Partnership's initiatives and task forces. The 49 agencies represent 12 federal, three state and 34 local LEA are working in the region's multi-jurisdictional, collocated task forces. The counterdrug efforts target illicit narcotic activities across all the 14 counties in the South Texas Partnership's areas of responsibility. The South Texas region's calendar year 2003 seizures totaled more than 52 percent of the cocaine, 38 percent of the marijuana, 32 percent of the methamphetamine, and 29 percent of the heroin seized during the year on the SWB. Ecstasy is also being seized in increasing quantities.

Operational elements are located in the major border cities and ports of entry of Brownsville, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, McAllen (Hidalgo POE), Rio Grande City, and San Antonio. Initiatives consist of multi-agency, collocated counterdrug task forces participating in counter drug related interdiction, investigative/money laundering, intelligence, and prosecution efforts across the South Texas region.

A total of 14 operational task forces, supported by the Investigative Support Center (ISC) and its nodes, cover the South Texas region.

The Administrative staff for the South Texas Partnership headquarters itself in San Antonio, TX. The Administrative staff also provides training support for South Texas and regional LEA.

Investigative Support Center:

The San Antonio Investigative Support Center (ISC), and its support elements in Austin, Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, and Del Rio, provides support for operational activities.

The ST HIDTA Intelligence Center (STHIC), located in San Antonio, provides the ISC needs within the ST Partnership. It is a full service center providing information, assistance and support in narcotics investigations. Its mission is to provide accurate, detailed, and timely tactical, investigative, and strategic drug intelligence to HIDTA initiatives, participating agencies, and other LEA, as appropriate. Coupled with the five supporting intelligence elements and the Deconfliction Center, the STHIC meets the needs of not only the 14 ST counties but also supports LEA requests from an additional 58 plus counties within the South Texas Region. Local, state, and Federal LEA from 88 different cities and locations within the state use the center. The ISC therefore supports several cornerstones of the HIDTA Development Standards.

The elements enhance intelligence collection, analysis, reporting, and production within the partnership. Each element of the STHIC consists of a cell of collocated and commingling local, state, and federal intelligence professionals catering to the needs of task forces and the mission to reduce drug availability in the region and the nation.

The Deconfliction Center provides support for LEA located throughout the state as well as meeting the needs of HIDTA partnership personnel. The database used is an information storage and mapping software system designed to enhance officer safety during high-risk enforcement actions. Again, more than 72 counties within the State of Texas participate in and work with the ST Deconfliction Center.

Overall, the STHIC and its subordinate task forces provide tactical and strategic support as well as continually reviewing and updating the Threat Assessment and providing deconfliction services for the STP, SWB HIDTA.

The STHIC is the hub for three of the SWB HIDTA Partnerships in their use of the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET). RISSNET is a national LEA network which enhances the support received from the ISC of the region and the nation.

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; participates in informant and defendant debriefings; performs tactical alert distribution, provides for 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. The STHIC requires intelligence managers within the region to meet quarterly to enhance regional reporting so resources and direction of the South Texas Partnership

may be evaluated, with relationship to initiatives.

Participating Agencies:

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (United States Border Patrol (USBP)), Bureau of Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (BICE), Department of Justice - Office of the Inspector General (DOJ-OIG), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI), United States Coast Guard (USCG), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS), United States Marshals Service (USMS), United States National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Attorneys Offices from the Southern and Western Districts of Texas (USAO-SDT/WDT).

State/Local: Texas Attorney General's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas National Guard, 293rd Judicial District, 63rd Judicial District, Bexar County Constable's Office, Brownsville Police Department, Cameron County Auditor's Office, Cameron County District Attorney, Cameron County Sheriff's Office, Combes Police Department, Eagle Pass Police Department, Harlingen Police Department, Hidalgo County Auditor's Office, Hidalgo County District Attorney, Kimble County Sheriff's Office, Kinney County Sheriff's Office, La Salle County Sheriff's Office, Laredo Police Department, Leon Valley Police Department, McAllen Police Department, Mission Police Department, Pharr Police Department, Port Isabel Police Department, Rio Grande City Police Department, San Antonio Police Department, San Benito Police Department, Starr County District Attorney, Starr County Sheriff's Office, Union Pacific Railroad, Val

Verde County Sheriff's Office, Webb County District Attorney's Office, Webb County Sheriff's Office, Weslaco Police Department, Willacy County Sheriff's Office, Zapata County District Attorney, and Zapata County Sheriff's Office.

Significant Achievements:

The South Texas Partnership of the SWB HIDTA made significant management and leadership gains within the last year. As mention previously, the El Paso Intelligence Center reports the region is responsible for the seizure of more than 52 percent of the cocaine, 38 percent of the marijuana, 32 percent of the methamphetamine and 29 percent of the heroin in 2003.

In 2004, the South Texas Partnership, through the leadership and guidance of the Director and Executive Committee, undertook a major review of regional assets, procedures, management methods, budgetary practices, and intelligence capabilities. The reviews objectives resulted in heightened sensitivity to initiative and task force needs as well as a better use of intelligence resources.

Financially, a bottoms-up review, led by the appointed Financial Subcommittee, resulted in a better distribution of scarce funds while focusing on real growth and greater achievements from existing task forces. Critical and hard financial decisions resulted in more meaningful "ownership rights" for lead agencies and participating agencies. With input from the Director's Administrative Support Element's (DASE) Director and Financial Officer, the Executive Committee received a presentation focusing on demonstrated historical fiscal management. This presentation, coupled with a presentation of the Operational Review Subcommittee,

provided an annual recap of resources provided compared to task force outputs and outcomes.

The Investigative Support Center, with its hub and nodes, received a review of its support abilities and overall performance on targeted DTO. The Intelligence Subcommittee performed this evaluation and review.

Not to be left out, the DASE received an in-depth evaluation as well. The Executive Committee's Chair, Vice-Chair, and two additional Executive Committee members performed an evaluation of the DASE.

Results of the overall review of the ST Partnership and its intelligence, interdiction, investigative, and prosecution elements resulted in a more cohesive and comprehensive HIDTA Program within this SWB Partnership.

Improved communications, on-site inspections, task force feedback, fiscal and operational training opportunities and attendance give a significant perspective to this bottom-up review procedure.

Though not a panacea to all, the program is a start in a continual effort within the Partnership to provide overall support to the federal, state, and local Law Enforcement Agencies participating within our region. Increased intelligence exchange, deconfliction support, investigative achievements, and interdiction efforts reflect the success and goals identified by the leadership of the ST Partnership, SWB HIDTA.

West Texas Regional Partnership

Southwest Border HIDTA



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: Travis B. Kuykendall, Director (915) 532-9550

Mission Statement:

The mission of the West Texas Region of the Southwest Border HIDTA is to dismantle the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) 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 smaller scale Presidio, Texas and Ciudad Ojinaga, Mexico, provide drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) with innumerable methods of "masking" their illicit trade. Commerce between the two countries has been on the rise due to NAFTA and expected to continue. Increasing trade and corresponding traffic through the region amplify the complexity of the 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 State is 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 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 a wave of violence in Ciudad Juarez and Ojinaga, Mexico that continues to be a problem. Corruption on both sides of the border assists the DTOs in advancing their illicit trade.

Charts 1 and 2 from the West Texas HIDTA 2005 Threat Assessment demonstrate the increasing burden of drug trafficking in the West Texas region. Increasing successes in disrupting and dismantling the drug trafficking organizations, combined with increased use of this region to transship narcotics to the United States is reflected in the caseloads of prosecutors.

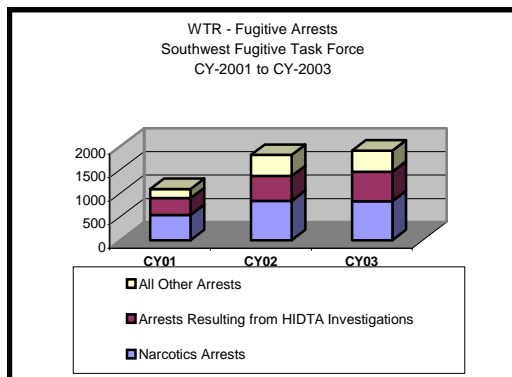


Chart 1 – Fugitive Arrests

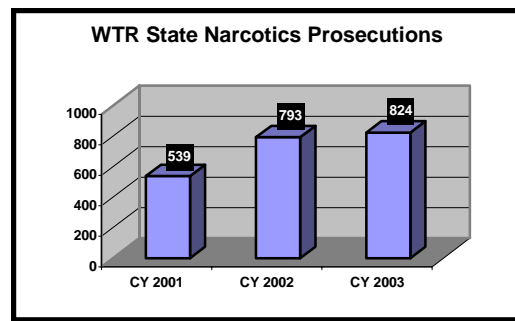


Chart 2 – State Narcotics Prosecutions

The continued increase of fugitive arrests, combined with an increase in Federal, state, and local warrants indicate the growing need for law enforcement, prosecution, and corrections resources in the West Texas area.

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 Committee 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, and the fugitives related to drug trafficking. Three interdiction initiatives target the Ports of Entry, the use of wide-open territory throughout the region, transient traffickers, 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 cases.

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. 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 the Texas National Guard, 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 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, CBP/USBP-El Paso and CBP/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 (CBP/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-North, and El Paso County Metro Narcotics Task Force.

Significant Achievements:

Beginning in 2003, the West Texas Region initiated Consolidate Priority Organization Targeting (CPOT) efforts. Even without funding available at the time, this became a comprehensive, multiple agency/initiative effort to the Vicente Carrillo Fuentes DTO (VCFO), the Ismael Zambada Garcia DTO (IZGO), and associated RPOT organizations with an intelligence driven investigative operation that will result in the disruption of the VCFO and IZGO and the dismantlement of their associated RPOT organizations.

West Texas Region began conducting this operation with the underlying goal of dismantling the VCFO and IZGO.

The ISC became the driving force for this operational initiative. The initiative is managed by the CPOTS Management Committee (CMC), which consists of the area task force commanders that reflect the make-up of the Regional Executive Committee (EXCOM). The CMC approves targets and expenditures and coordinates case investigations to maximize the efficient and effective use of our resources.

The ISC is the intelligence hub for the operation. They coordinate target enforcement solely as a deconfliction mechanism. Investigative initiatives focus their efforts on dismantling the organizations validated as CPOT targets by the ISC. Interdiction initiatives focus their efforts on disrupting operations associated with the identified RPOT organizations. Interdiction operations funded under this project are intelligence driven and specifically linked to the targeted organizations. VCFO, IZGO and associated RPOT assets are targeted by all initiatives.

Some success of the West Texas Region’s CPOT initiative has already been realized. In 2003 and 2004, the West Texas Smuggling Initiative significantly disrupted the VCFO at the highest levels in their efforts under Operations “Pale Horse” and “Pasadores”. A total of twenty-two smuggling, and/or transportation organizations (or “cells”) were identified through a single confidential source, and specific individuals or targets were chosen for targeting based on priority, importance, ease of infiltration, current activity, and ranking within the Juarez Cartel. Two organizations responsible for command, control, and oversight of the Juarez smuggling corridor were identified and dismantled.

To date the HIDTA investigation has resulted in the seizure of 58 pounds of cocaine and 6,000 pounds of marijuana. The investigation revealed that the primary target was used by the organization as an "Enforcer". The primary target was responsible for the collection of debts owed the organization and the patronage payments for the use of the Juarez smuggling corridor. During this investigation the primary target was linked to a total of twelve murders committed in Juarez, Mexico. Since the murders were directly related to criminal activity occurring within the jurisdiction of U.S. law enforcement officials, the U.S. Attorney's Office agreed to seek indictments against him for Continuing Criminal Enterprise and the Federal Murder statutes.

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 Washington/Baltimore HIDTA is to improve interagency collaboration, promote the sharing of accurate and timely information and intelligence, and provide specialized training and other resources to W/B HIDTA participating law enforcement and treatment/criminal justice agencies that will enhance their ability to provide superior services and meet their operational objectives. Through its state-of-the-art Intelligence Center, its highly trained and skilled professional staff will enhance and help to coordinate drug control efforts throughout the W/B HIDTA region and, when practical, in other areas of the country with the aim of bringing about measurable reductions in drug availability, drug trafficking, drug use and the social public health, public safety and financial consequences associated with illicit drugs.

Threat Abstract:

Illegal drugs remain widely available at relatively stable prices throughout the W/B HIDTA region. Drug use patterns within the HIDTA region vary considerably by geographic area.

In the Baltimore metropolitan area, heroin remains the drug of choice, although there are signs that cocaine distribution and use may be challenging heroin's traditional dominance. Baltimore-area law enforcement officials are also concerned about the growing use of illegally diverted pharmaceuticals (primarily painkillers) and have expressed concern that Baltimore may be emerging as a source area for diverted OxyContin.

In Southern Maryland, cocaine and marijuana are the primary drugs of abuse. Violence among the many drug trafficking organizations and gangs distributing drugs

in this area continues to pose a serious challenge to law enforcement.

Cocaine is the predominant drug of abuse in Washington, DC but heroin distribution has expanded considerably over the past year. PCP and LSD are seen as emerging threats in this area; while overall use of these drugs is relatively small compared to cocaine, there is some evidence to indicate that distribution of PCP and LSD is expanding.

In Northern Virginia, cocaine and marijuana are considered the primary drug treats facing the area. Distribution of heroin, diverted pharmaceuticals, MDMA and “club drugs” pose smaller but growing threats. While overall use of methamphetamine remains low, Virginia law enforcement officials have expressed concern regarding the growing availability of methamphetamine in surrounding states.

In 2003, law enforcement sources identified 141 drug trafficking organizations operating in the W/B HIDTA region. A number of factors (such as growth in money laundering activity and an increasing number of DTOs that distribute two or more drugs) suggest that these organizations are becoming more sophisticated than in years past.

Gang activity (and the violence that often accompanies it) is a growing concern throughout the region. The Baltimore Police Department has identified 242 distinct gangs operating in the city; 95 percent of these gangs are involved in drug distribution. The emergence of Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) as a leading gang in the HIDTA region has generated considerable concern in law enforcement circles, especially in Northern Virginia and Southern Maryland.

Drug transportation and distribution are also region-wide concerns. Most of the drugs entering the HIDTA region are transported in privately-owned vehicles traveling on Interstate 95 and the HIDTA region’s

extensive highway system. Traffickers also use parcel delivery services, the US mails, and couriers traveling on public transportation systems to import substantial quantities of drugs.

Strategy Abstract:

The W/B HIDTA is committed to bringing together Federal, state and local agencies in an equal cooperative partnership and actively promotes intelligence sharing and coordinated drug enforcement, treatment and prevention efforts.

Its Executive Board plays a central role in shaping the HIDTA’s strategy, formulating its budget, overseeing threat assessment and performance management efforts and, through its active committee system, guiding the efforts of the HIDTA’s numerous initiatives. The Board has incorporated homeland security priorities into the HIDTA’s ongoing efforts and is actively seeking to expand its intelligence resources.

The majority of the W/B HIDTA’s law enforcement initiatives focus on investigating and dismantling drug trafficking organizations. Other initiatives attack drug trafficking through investigation of drug-related violent crime, firearms trafficking, money laundering operations and drug movement and distribution. The HIDTA’s prosecution initiatives advise other law enforcement initiatives and focus on building strong cases against the leadership of drug trafficking organizations operation in the HIDTA region.

The HIDTA’s Treatment/Criminal Justice initiatives focus on reducing crime by implementing a coerced treatment model for drug-addicted repeat offenders. By emphasizing the creation of a seamless treatment and supervision system, demanding accountability on the part of offenders and ensuring strict supervision and drug testing, these initiatives can

dramatically reduce recidivism among addicted offenders.

Prevention initiatives funded by the W/B HIDTA focus on at-risk youth with the goals of preventing illegal drug use and promoting positive involvement with their families, schools and communities. Each prevention initiative is run by a coalition of law enforcement officials, local agencies, school system personnel and community organizations and is evaluated annually to ensure that they are meeting local needs effectively.

The efforts of all of these initiatives are supported by the HIDTA's training and administrative support initiatives. These initiatives provide training courses, financial management services, IT support, administrative oversight and logistical support to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the W/B HIDTA.

Investigative Support Center:

The HIDTA's intelligence initiatives are continuing to expand intelligence services and enhance intelligence sharing among the region's law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. At the W/B HIDTA, the ISC is comprised of two initiatives, the Intelligence Center Initiative and the Investigative Intelligence Unit. The HIDTA's overall intelligence effort is coordinated by the Intelligence Center Program Manager, who works closely with the Executive Board and the Director to ensure that the ISC's services meet current demands and continue to evolve as new threats emerge.

The Intelligence Center Initiative consists of four subunits: the Watch Center, Case Development Unit, Futures Unit and Evaluation and Crime Mapping Unit.

The Watch Center serves as a central hub for law enforcement information sharing in the Washington/Baltimore region, providing

case/subject deconfliction services (through the Case Explorer system), one-stop access to a wide variety of law enforcement databases, and a region-wide event deconfliction service.

The Case Development Unit assists investigative initiatives and participating agencies in identifying previously undetected drug traffickers and provides case development and support services to help investigators build larger, more significant cases. This unit's analysts also offer post-seizure analysis and document exploitation services.

To assist the region's law enforcement agencies in staying abreast of new developments in drug trafficking and substance abuse, the Futures Unit focuses on monitoring new and emerging trends and developing predictive intelligence products. In addition to producing a steady flow of intelligence bulletins and special reports on new or emerging threats, the unit's analysts also conduct longer-term research on threats of special concern in the region (such as gang activity).

Through its mapping efforts and geo-targeting studies, the Evaluation and Crime Mapping Unit helps HIDTA initiatives and participating agencies plan more effective enforcement operations and evaluate the effects of their work. In addition to its work with law enforcement agencies, the unit has also assisted numerous criminal justice and treatment agencies in developing maps to support service planning and evaluation efforts. The Evaluation and Crime Mapping Unit staff has also played an important role in the development and implementation of the HIDTA's new performance measurement process.

The Investigative Intelligence Unit concentrates on providing support for complex, long-term conspiracy cases and Title III intercepts. Its analysts make use of

the latest analytical software and intelligence techniques to assist agencies in confronting the drug treats posed by the increasingly complex and sophisticated DTOs operating in the HIDTA region. This initiative is also expanding its efforts to support initiatives and participating agencies pursuing cases in northern Virginia.

Participating Agencies:

LAW ENFORCEMENT

FEDERAL: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Explosives, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Marshals Service, United States Park Police, United States Postal Service, United States Coast Guard, United States Attorney - Eastern District of Virginia, United States Attorney - District of Columbia, United States Attorney - District of Maryland

STATE & LOCAL:

Alexandria Police Department, Annapolis Police Department, Arlington County Commonwealth Attorney, Anne Arundel County Police Department, Arlington County Police Department, Baltimore City Housing Authority Police Department, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, Calvert County Sheriff's Office, Charles County Sheriff's Office, District of Columbia National Guard, Fairfax County Police Department, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, Greenbelt Police Department, Harford County Sheriff's Office. Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Maryland National Capital Park Police/PG County Div., Maryland National Capital Park Police/Montgomery County Div., Maryland National Guard, Maryland Natural Resources Police Department, Maryland

Transit Administration Police Department, Maryland Transportation Authority Police Department, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, Metropolitan Transit Authority, Metropolitan Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department, Prince George's County Police Department, Prince William County Police Department, State's Attorney's Office – Baltimore, University of Maryland Police, Vienna Police Department, Virginia State Police, Virginia National Guard

TREATMENT / CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Arlington County: Virginia Department of Mental Health; Substance Abuse and Mental Retardation; Arlington County Detention Center; Arlington County Substance Abuse Services; Virginia Department of Corrections / Alexandria City: Virginia Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Mental Retardation; Alexandria Community Service Board; Virginia Department of Corrections; Virginia Department of Probation and Parole; Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; Alexandria City Circuit Court / Baltimore City: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services- Division of Parole and Probation / Baltimore County: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Baltimore County Department of Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse; Baltimore County Bureau of Corrections / Charles County: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Charles County Health Department; Charles County Detention Center; Charles County offices of the MD Department of Parole and Probation / Washington DC: Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration; Administrative Office of the US Courts/Federal Corrections and Supervision Division; Washington, DC

Superior Court; Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the U S Department of Health and Human Services; Correctional Program Office of the U S Department of Justice; Superior Court of Washington DC; US Pretrial Services / Fairfax County: Virginia Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Mental Retardation; Fairfax County Community Service Board; Virginia Department of Corrections; Community Services Board (Fairfax, VA); Virginia Department of Probation and Parole; Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the U S Department of Health and Human Services; Correctional Program Office of the U S Department of Justice; US Pretrial Services / Howard County: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Howard County Health Department; Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration: Ellicott City, Waldorf, Howard County Health Department; Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the US Department of Health and Human Services; Correctional Program, Office of the US Department of Justice; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Circuit Court of Maryland; District Court of Maryland; US Pretrial Services / Loudoun County: Virginia Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Mental Retardation; Loudoun County Mental Health Services; Loudoun County Mental Health Center,; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the US Department of Health and Human Services; Correctional Program Office of the US Department of Justice; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Circuit Court of Maryland; District Court of Maryland; Superior Court of Washington D .C.; U S Pretrial Services / Montgomery County: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Montgomery County Government; Federal Substance Abuse and

Mental Health Services Administration "Treatment for Homeless" Grant; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (Rockville, MD); Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the US Department of Health and Human Services; Correctional Program Office of the U S Department of Justice; Circuit Court of Maryland; District Court of Maryland; Montgomery County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation / Prince George's County: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Prince George's County Government Division of Addictions (Largo, MD); Prince George's County Department of Corrections; Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Correctional Program Office of the U.S. Department of Justice; Circuit Court of Maryland; District Court of Maryland / Prince William County: Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse; Prince William County Community Services Board; Virginia Department of Corrections; Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse; Prince William County Community Services Board; Virginia Department of Corrections

PREVENTION

Baltimore City, Maryland: Baltimore Police Department; Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods; Baltimore Community Affairs Unit; C-Safe; Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP); Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative; Community Relations Officers in each Police District in Baltimore; Regional Auto Theft Task Force; Environmental Crimes Unit; Baltimore City Fire Department, Arson Task Force; Community Policing Youth Violence Program; The Baltimore Urban Lighting Board; The Baltimore Prostitution Task Force; Office of the State's Attorney for

Baltimore City; Code Enforcement Unit, Department of Housing & Community Development; Police Explorers; Police Athletic League (PAL) / Montgomery County, Maryland: Department of Health & Human Services; Montgomery County Police Department; Montgomery County Public Schools; Maryland National Capitol Park & Planning Commission; YMCA Silver Spring Youth Services; Equity Management; Commonwealth Foundation; United Way; Impact Silver Spring; Montgomery County Department of Recreation; Southern Management; Carroll Avenue Quebec Terrace Community Center; After School Activities Project (ASAP) / Prince William County, Virginia: Prince William County Police Department; 31st District Juvenile Court Service Unit; Prince William County Interfaith Caregivers; Osbourne High School; Manassas City Police Department; Manassas Park Police; Juvenile Court Services; FAST; Metz High School; Manassas Detention Center; Prince William County Community Services Board; Manassas City School Board; Prince William School Board; Department of Social Services; Johnson Learning Center; Prince William county Juvenile Detention Home; Manassas City Family Assessment Team; Metz Middle School; Georgetown

Significant Achievement:

Over the past several years, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA region has seen an increase in the diversion and abuse of prescription painkillers (especially in the Baltimore metropolitan area). A recent case, in which the HIDTA's Intelligence Center played a central role, illustrates how solid intelligence and investigative efforts can be used to counter the growing threat of pharmaceutical diversion.

The investigation began in May 2003 when the Cecil County Drug Task Force (composed of investigators from the Maryland State Police and Cecil County, Maryland Sheriff's Office) executed several search warrants against a suspected OxyContin distributor. In spite of careful planning and the cooperation of an informant involved in supplying the distributors with OxyContin through "doctor shopping", the task force was only able to charge one suspect with a minor drug possession offense. Due to the task force's heavy workload, investigators were forced to close the case without further investigation.

Convinced that there was more to their OxyContin distribution case, several task force officers contacted the W/B HIDTA's Intelligence Center. Although Cecil County is not designated as part of the HIDTA, its drug task force has established a strong working relationship with a number of the HIDTA's Maryland-based initiatives. As analysts from the Intelligence Center's Case Development Unit began examining the non-drug evidence collected during the execution of the Cecil County Drug Task Force's search warrants, they quickly discovered that the task force investigators were right about their case.

Using document exploitation techniques, subpoenas and telephone toll analysis, the Case Development Unit's analysts quickly identified other members of the original target's family who were involved in OxyContin distribution and began tracing its suppliers and customers. As new information came in, analysts were able to trace the organization's distribution activities throughout Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Carolina and Tennessee.

As the case grew, the Case Development Unit and the Cecil County Drug Task Force enlisted the help of DEA's Diversion

Control Program. As the Case Development Unit identified doctors and pharmacies used by the organization's "doctor shoppers" to obtain OxyContin, DEA personnel used their regulatory and inspection authorities to gather additional evidence and encourage doctors and pharmacists to provide investigators with additional information on their targets' activities. DEA and ATFE agents helped to coordinate investigation of distribution activities outside of Maryland.

The investigation culminated in the spring of 2004 with the arrest of all of the suspects involved in the distribution operation and several members of two other families who supplied them with OxyContin through "doctor shopping" and prescription fraud.

All of the suspects are scheduled to stand trial in September of 2004 on Federal narcotics and conspiracy charges. Since their initial arrest, two of these suspects have been rearrested for attempting to intimidate witnesses and a prosecutor involved in this case; a third suspects has be rearrested for a parole violation. This case is an outstanding example of how intelligence analysis and interagency cooperation can be used to build a successful case from what at first appeared to be a minor drug case.

**National High Intensity Drug
Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
Program**

2004 Awards

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR

APPALACHIA HIDTA – KAREN MANNING, APPALACHIA HIDTA FINANCIAL MANAGER

The AHIDTA Executive Board nominates Karen Manning, AHIDTA Financial Manager, for the National "Outstanding Administrator" Award. We nominate her in recognition of the specific accomplishments as set forth below. We nominate her in recognition of her years of experience upon which we have come to rely. And most of all, we nominate her for her unceasing, enthusiastic and tireless dedication to the people of Appalachia.

Karen has been with the AHIDTA since its inception in 1998. Under her able leadership, Karen's financial staff has built the financial infrastructure of the AHIDTA, from the ground up, into an efficient and effective operation. The backbone of this infrastructure is the *Fundware* budget tracking software system. Karen selected this system from among several that she and her team evaluated. Working with the fiduciary, Karen and her team implemented the software and tailored it to efficiently track expenditures and budget balances in a manner that has assured excellent financial management for the AHIDTA. The system allows for the monitoring of expenditures by grant year, initiative, agency, budget category and sub-category. This level of budget management contributes to the efficient overall operation of the AHIDTA.

Karen has conducted numerous training sessions for participating agencies in all three states in the AHIDTA. These sessions covered the methods and procedures for all applicable aspects of financial management at the AHIDTA. These sessions have been well received by AHIDTA participants and have resulted in enhanced communications and more efficient operations.

In August 2004, Karen was selected as one of six Financial Managers from the National HIDTA program to travel to Miami and test the new *Everest* Financial Database Software being developed for the HIDTA program.

Beginning in 2003, based on reviews and recommendations by ONDCP, the Executive Board along with the AHIDTA management team was challenged to restructure AHIDTA. Karen, with her experience and leadership, assisted in transforming the AHIDTA into the kind of HIDTA envisioned; a full functioning and effective collaboration of federal, state and local law enforcement, prosecutors, and demand reduction specialists working toward the reduction of drug use and trafficking. The AHIDTA changed the fundamental structure of 7 umbrella type of initiatives that were agency focused to 27 multi agency initiatives which are task force driven. Karen's job expanded from one of monitoring 12 federal and 17 state agency budgets to that of monitoring 9 federal, 13 state and 64 local law enforcement agency HIDTA budgets. With these changes, Karen saw the need for expenditure monitoring at the task force level. Karen devised a system, utilizing an AHIDTA form LC-07, that allows task force commanders to review all HIDTA expenditures for their task force before HIDTA funds are dispersed. In effect, this system provides accurate, timely and reliable financial information. It also creates another channel of communication through which the task forces can make their needs known to AHIDTA management in a timely and direct way. In turn, AHIDTA management is able to provide the task forces and its officers with the resources they need to get their job accomplished.

Karen Manning's responsibilities notably do not end with the financial side of AHIDTA. Considering that long range planning and finance are inextricably linked, and recognizing Karen's skill as both a financial planner and a manager, the Executive Board Chair appointed Karen to the newly formed AHIDTA Strategic Planning and Budget Committee as an ex-officio member. This committee is responsible for long range strategic and financial planning for the AHIDTA and became fully functional in January 2004.

In January 2004, AHIDTA held its first Annual Conference where Karen not only made a presentation concerning the AHIDTA budget process, but was actively involved in the conference planning.

In February 2004, Karen provided assistance in the Initiative Write-up Training, held for all the AHIDTA task force commanders and initiative representatives as they prepared their 2005 Initiatives and Budgets.

Karen additionally has been involved with the development and responsibilities of the State Coordinating Committees (SCC) beginning in late 2003 with AHIDTA's restructure and new vision. The SCC is a working committee responsible for recommending the submissions of interim reports to the Executive Board by way of Executive Committees. The SCC additionally is responsible for initiative development, budgets and a review process. In July, 2004, Karen assisted the SCC with its mid-year AHIDTA Initiative Reviews by providing a budget history for the initiatives and assisting in the preparation of an evaluation process which has become a standard to be utilized in future reviews.

Her leadership and experience is called upon daily by the AHIDTA Director, management team and AHIDTA participants. In September 2004, Karen was instrumental in preparing an AHIDTA Interdiction Initiative proposal by requesting additional funding from ONDCP regarding discretionary funding announced in August 2004.

As a consummate professional, and team player, Karen has not only completely restructured the financial landscape of AHIDTA, she has shown her leadership skills through constant support of the AHIDTA staff and all the participants of AHIDTA that she considers extended family. Karen exhibits compassion, excellent team building skills, and a logical approach to problem solving. The entire AHIDTA team has come to rely on Karen's knowledge and experience as evident from the above examples. AHIDTA values her advice and opinion. Karen Manning is "making a difference" for the citizens of AHIDTA and our country. These qualities make Karen a vital member of the AHIDTA management team and an outstanding emissary of the HIDTA Program. AHIDTA, enthusiastically nominates her for this honor.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE COMMANDER

Central Valley California HIDTA – Sergeant Fred Links

At first glance Sergeant Fred Links looks like a football star and Marine Corps advertisement. The fact that he is a boat builder, World Champion speed boat racer, and a heart attack survivor isn't apparent. Nor does one see that Fred has been awarded two Silver Stars and three Bronze Stars for Bravery by his department. What is clearly evident is that he is charismatic, radiates confidence and has a clear dedication to law enforcement and the HIDTA mission. He is a 25 year veteran of the Sacramento County Sheriffs Department and is married to a Sheriff's Sergeant who's assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit. Fred is Commander of the HIDTA's Sacramento Area Intelligence Narcotics Task Force (SAINT) initiative that was awarded "Outstanding HIDTA Task Force Cooperative Effort" last year. SAINT became operational in 2000 has been under Sergeant Links' leadership for most of that time. The task force consists of 12 individuals from 8 different local, state and Federal agencies. The mission of the SAINT is the identification, arrest and prosecution of major methamphetamine manufacturers, drug distributors and chemical suppliers. SAINT members are cross trained as clandestine laboratory specialists able to dismantle methamphetamine laboratory sites.

This past year SAINT members seized 151 pounds of cocaine, 46 pounds of methamphetamine, 132 pounds of marijuana and over \$700,000 in drug proceeds. They initiated 54 investigations and disrupted or dismantled 16 major drug trafficking organizations. On September 23, 2004, a 17 month SAINT investigation into a Sacramento-area "ice" or crystal meth producing and distributing DTO concluded. Investigators were led to the DTO's Canadian ephedrine suppliers who smuggled the precursor into the U.S. The Ice was shipped to Hawaii and Minnesota as well as distributed throughout CA. Twenty four search warrants led to 27 arrests. There was 20 pounds of meth seized, \$130,000 cash, 18 guns, 12 vehicles and 10 children placed into protective custody. In Canada, the RCMP determined that the DTO imported thousands of pounds of ephedrine. Two thirds of it went to an outlaw motorcycle club in Canada and one third to Sacramento. The RCMP arrested 54 individuals, seized 80 pounds of methamphetamine, seized 2,620 pounds of ephedrine powder, 1.6 million ephedrine pills, 2 kilograms of cocaine and \$3 million Canadian currency.

Use of Innovation in Supervising Investigations - Sergeant Links and SAINT members relentlessly pursue DTOs operating in the Sacramento, Northern and Central California regions. Fred uses unique approaches to investigations. One has been to target the essential chemicals, equipment and precursors used in labs. He uses reverse undercover operations, financial investigations, complex conspiracy investigations as well as targeting of rogue chemical suppliers. He relies heavily upon the application of technology. Each Title III investigation is complex and demanding, requiring long hours of work and coordination. His recognition of the sophistication and countermeasures used by DTOs has fostered his technical investigative approach. SAINT operates pen registers and dialed number recorders to collect telephone call activity. This year to date, SAINT initiated 9 Title-III investigations into major DTOs. Because Fred understands the value of case analysis, all data is provided to the on-site ISC intelligence analyst who has the latest versions of analytical software and robust computer systems. Another innovation is Fred's Precursor Vendor Program (PVP). Under PVP, an investigator acts as a liaison to local businesses such as tack and feed stores that sell products used in meth

laboratories. Businesses are encouraged to voluntarily report information regarding the buyers of products that might be used to manufacture methamphetamine. PVP data is researched and analyzed to disclose links to meth labs. Research may also identify if a conspiratorial relationship exists between chemical retailer and DTOs.

Innovation and investigative experience still lead to arrest situations where confrontation is often an element. Fred received one Bronze Star for Bravery when he led the “entry team” on a search warrant. He was confronted by an armed suspect preparing to fire on officers. Fred physically subdued him and neutralized the danger. Another of his Bronze Stars for Bravery was awarded for his involvement in a pursuit of a fleeing suspect armed with an AR 15 who fired on officers then fled into a brushy area. Fred was a member of the SWAT team that entered the wooded area eventually located the suspect and took him into custody.

Leadership and Direction - Over 10 years ago Fred helped develop and organize one of the most recognized tactical entry courses in California, “Round Hill Tactical Entry Training.” He’s demonstrated his innovation and dedication through his commitment to this program that improves officer safety. He developed training methods and techniques to improve safety skills. He’s the lead instructor, advisor, and tactical guru of the program. Round Hill uses on-site, hands-on scenarios encountered by major narcotic and other plainclothes specialized enforcement units. Fred has instructed and coordinated over a thousand students from hundreds of agencies on how to operate during these high-risk situations, ensuring that cops stay alive. Fred is one of California’s recognized experts in high-risk officer safety situations.

Fred leads by example and has demonstrated his abilities in countless situations. He was awarded a Silver Star for Bravery after he entered a two-story apartment complex that was engulfed in fire. He searched for victims and at one point was pinned in by fire on the second floor. He escaped by running through a wall of flames and jumped from the second story to a roof and eventually to the ground. He returned to the building to rescue a man paralyzed by fear and then carried the man to safety. His other Silver Star for Bravery was received when Fred wrestled with an armed suicidal man in an attempt to save him from self-destruction. As Fred struggled to control the violent person, three rounds were fired from the assailant’s shotgun. He saved the man from himself.

Commitment to the HIDTA Program and Law Enforcement - Collocation and collaboration are part of Fred’s philosophy. He recognizes that drug enforcement is often not a localized issue and task forces must think globally to be successful. His approach is one of complete cooperation with all agencies as their assistance may be needed at some future date in return. This interactive policy led SAINT to participate in 3 OCDETF investigations this past year involving agencies in California, several other states and Canada. Meth producers in California use Canadian suppliers of Pseudoephedrine and ephedrine. One of SAINT’s long-term investigations involved an Asian-based international group that moved drugs from Canada to the Sacramento area. Drug proceeds were electronically transferred to an Asian country. The multi-agency investigation led to the seizure of meth precursors. Laboratory locations were identified and the products seized. Drug supplies were impounded and many distribution groups in Sacramento County and the surrounding area were disrupted and dismantled. This example of a collaborative effort typifies Sgt. Links’ requirement of SAINT members to assist other local and federal agencies. They’ve helped 29 other agencies to conduct investigations within the SAINT area of responsibility this year. SAINT investigations are international and multi-state in nature. This year their operations have spanned from Canada to Mexico and from Minnesota to Hawaii.

Sergeant Fred Links is a true leader in the HIDTA's efforts to combat drug trafficking organizations and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement. He is the consummate professional and has received no less than 90 letters of commendation, recognition, appreciation, outstanding employee awards and unit citations. Sergeant Links should receive ONDCP's recognition as "Outstanding Task Force Commander."

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING INTERDICTION EFFORT

Gulf Coast HIDTA – Caddo/Bossier Drug Task Force

The Caddo/Bossier Drug Task (CBTF) based out of Shreveport, Louisiana consists of personnel from the Shreveport Police Department, the Bossier City Police Department, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The CBTF has two enforcement groups, one of which is dedicated to airport, bus, parcel, and highway interdiction efforts. The CBTF has always had an excellent working relationship with the Louisiana State Police's Criminal Patrol (CP) program based out of Bossier City, Louisiana. The CBTF has assisted the CP interdiction efforts by providing personnel and resources to further investigations that stemmed from drug and/or money seizures made during traffic stops. This assistance has included case adoption for federal prosecution as well as assisting in controlled deliveries of contraband to other destinations outside the state of Louisiana.

The CBTF is being nominated for Outstanding Interdiction Effort for an investigation that began on the morning of September 26, 2003, when the Louisiana State Police (LSP) detained a subject after a traffic stop on Interstate 20 in Bossier Parish Louisiana. The LSP troopers recovered approximately five kilograms of heroin from a false battery in the vehicle. Following an interview conducted by CBTF agents, the subject decided to cooperate and stated that he had been hired by an individual, later identified as Saul BARRERA-CRUZ, to transport the heroin from Nacogdoches, Texas to Elizabeth, New Jersey. With the continued cooperation of the defendant, the CBTF then began driving the defendant and the heroin from Shreveport, LA to Elizabeth, New Jersey. This trip was better than 1500 miles one way. The length of the trip was exacerbated by the time frame that the defendant had been given to arrive. On the first leg of the trip, agents drove sixteen hours non-stop. The first stop was made in Durham, NC. The defendant had been instructed to call a particular number from there. This call was made successfully, and the defendant was instructed to get some sleep and then drive to Newark, NJ on the following day. The defendant was led to believe that he would be met immediately following his arrival. For that reason, agents only allowed themselves about four hours of sleep and then got right back onto the road.

Upon arrival into Newark, NJ, the CBTF agents met with their DEA counterparts from the Newark DEA office and devised a plan to conduct the controlled delivery to the intended recipient. Once plans had been made, the defendant called the intended recipient. The intended recipient was later identified as Manuel LINARES-SANDOVAL. The defendant was told to meet LINARES at a particular motel in Elizabeth, NJ. The defendant and the agents waited for about four hours but LINARES did not show up. At this point the CBTF agents instructed the defendant to call LINARES and to tell him to meet at a different hotel and that this was his last opportunity to obtain the dope. LINARES showed up late for that deal as well, but he was spotted by the CBTF agents in the restaurant of the hotel. At that point, agents were only guessing that he was the intended recipient. The only Spanish-speaking agent stood beside LINARES while LINARES was talking on his cellular telephone. The conversation overheard by the CBTF agent confirmed the agents' suspicions and surveillance of LINARES then began.

By this point, the assisting Newark DEA agents had left for the night. The commander of the CBTF had agents follow LINARES. CBTF agents followed LINARES from Elizabeth, NJ to Queens, NY. There the agents observed LINARES remove a large red backpack from the vehicle that he was driving. LINARES stashed the vehicle behind a locked gate, and got into a second vehicle driven by an unidentified black male. The CBTF agents then observed LINARES bring the red backpack into a nearby business. The agents noted both the address of the business and the address where the car was stashed. Surveillance was terminated at that point, but the agents passed along what they had learned and observed to DEA New York.

The following day the controlled delivery to LINARES was successfully completed. Agents used a ruse to identify LINARES and did not arrest him. This turned out to be a huge break for DEA New York. They had been investigating LINARES and knew that he was a major heroin dealer, but did not have him identified, nor were they aware of the two addresses that the CBTF agents acquired by following him the preceding night. LINERAS then became a primary target of the New York investigation.

Upon their return to Shreveport, the CBTF agents discovered that BARRERA- CRUZ was the head of a transportation cell of a major heroin and cocaine trafficking organization based out of Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. The identifications of BARRERA-CRUZ and LINARES as well as the telephone numbers used and called by each expanded the investigation exponentially. Designated as Operation "Jump Start" by DEA's Special Operations Division, this investigation was joined by in excess of twenty domestic DEA offices and five foreign DEA offices.

The CBTF went on to develop a second informant. This led to the seizure of an additional five kilos of heroin. The CBTF also provided invaluable intelligence to DEA NY that helped them obtain the probable cause for a Title III intercept. The CBTF also developed enough probable cause for two Title III intercepts at the Shreveport Resident Office. This was a first for the DEA Shreveport Office as well as for the CBTF. The Shreveport wire tap not only produced additional evidence against BARRERA-CRUZ but also led directly to the arrests of twenty-six illegal aliens and three coyotes by the U.S. Border Patrol.

On April 23, 2004, the CBTF arrested BARRERA-CRUZ and his associates in Nacogdoches, Texas for drug distribution and alien smuggling. BARRERA-CRUZ is currently cooperating with the CBTF and has elicited the help of his brothers in Mexico. The brothers have been offered the responsibility of overseeing loads of heroin and cocaine for a high-ranking member of the Guatemalan organization. The first recorded telephone calls by the brothers to the Guatemalan will be made in early October 2004. The Guatemalan has been identified by the CBTF agents and is indictable already due to his role in the ten kilograms of heroin seized thus far. It is anticipated that the investigation will soon enter into a new phase that will bring the agents additional seizures and indictments against some of the highest members of this international smuggling organization. This outstanding investigation, which began with the follow-up investigation of a traffic stop, continues to broaden in scope.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT

Hawaii HIDTA – HI-Impact Task Force – Operation Shave Ice

Hawaii HIDTA, Operation SHAVE ICE, was given OCDETF designation, and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Hawaii County Police Department (HCPD), Honolulu Police Department (HPD), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The initial investigation targeted the Marvin Postadan Organization. Postadan led a drug distribution organization on the Big Island of Hawaii that smuggled crystal methamphetamine ("ice") and cocaine from California to Hawaii. In addition, Postadan owned two automotive businesses on the Big Island. Postadan's California supplier, Francisco Guterrez Ramirez was shown through telephone analysis to have Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) connections to the Arellano-Felix and Zambada-Garcia organizations. The Postadan organization was involved in the distribution of multiple kilo quantities of ice and cocaine. The transportation methods included cargo shipments, U.S. Mail, and private carriers such as UPS and Fedex.

Between May and October of 2003, sixteen wiretaps were conducted to further this investigation. Four additional groups were identified and dismantled including the criminal enterprises of William Totten, Brandon Chang, Jasen Antonio, and Shane Tom. In addition to the drug lines of supply coming from Ramirez to Postadan, three other distinct drug lines of supply into Hawaii were dismantled. These lines of supply included Michael "Playboy" Huwe from Nevada who supplied Shane Tom's organization, Roman Calderon from Arizona who supplied William Totten's organization and Carlos Pagan who obtained his drugs in California and was one of the suppliers of Jasen Antonio's organization. The investigation included pre-takedown ice seizures of 1 pound, 1 ½ pounds, 2 pounds, and five pounds respectively. In addition, several shipments of currency representing drug proceeds were intercepted leaving Hawaii including one for \$99,030. The other currency seizures were conducted by airport interdictions of body carriers identified through the wiretaps. The total amount of currency seized in this case is approximately \$510,000.00. The value of the assets seized in this case amount to approximately \$75,000.00. In addition, 15 firearms comprised of handguns, shotguns, and rifles were seized.

In October, sixty individuals were indicted and over fifty search warrants were executed including search and arrest warrants in Hawaii (on Oahu and the Big Island), California, Arizona, and Nevada. These search warrants resulted in many asset seizures. All indicted subjects were arrested and several have been convicted.

Investigative leads generated from cooperating defendants have resulted in significant spin-off investigations including one wiretap investigation, and a series of buy-busts and reverse operations which have resulted in approximately 13 additional arrests to date of significant targets who transport drug supplies into Hawaii.

On the Big Island, Shave Ice was initiated by HCPD Detective Ernest Saldua and FBI SA Neil Rogers, who also wrote two Title III affidavits. HCPD Lieutenant Norman Keamo coordinated the investigation on the Hilo side of the Big Island. FBI SA Lisa Nielsen wrote the initial Title III affidavit and one later affidavit. On the Island of Oahu, the HIDTA wire-room operations were supervised by FBI SA Daniel Brady, who wrote five Title III affidavits, and HPD Detective Michael Church. Most of the manpower was provided by HPD through the efforts of Captain John Lum who ensured the continuing support of the HPD command. Finally, the prosecution efforts of AUSA Chris Thomas ensured that the hard work of the above team and many others reached the appropriate conclusion. DEA, ICE, MPD, HDPS, KPD, IRS, USPIS, HNG, and BATF provided significant support during the lengthy investigation.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER

Houston HIDTA – Houston HIDTA Investigative Support Center

The Houston Intelligence Support Center (HISC) is the intelligence centerpiece of the Houston HIDTA. Established in 1992 as the Joint Drug Intelligence Group, the HISC serves as the focal point for drug trafficking and criminal intelligence for the Houston HIDTA and area law enforcement. The FBI sponsors the Initiative, and the Houston Police Department provides a Deputy Coordinator. Other participants include ATF, DEA, the Harris County Sheriff's Office, ICE, the Texas Attorney General's Office the Texas Department of Public Safety and the USCG. The HISC also houses the Houston HIDTA Intelligence Coordinator, and works closely with him. In this multi-agency task force environment, analysts and investigators use the most advanced analytic tools and methods to collect, organize, evaluate, and analyze raw information and disseminate finished intelligence products to the Houston HIDTA community and beyond.

The HISC is fully integrated into the Houston FBI's Field Intelligence Group (FIG). HISC analysts are trained on and have access to many of the same systems as FBI analysts, which allows them to provide analytical support across the law enforcement/intelligence spectrum, regardless of investigative program. This concept originated in the Houston HIDTA, and has become the model for other FBI Field Divisions. This model has benefited the Houston HIDTA by providing a far more comprehensive analytical capability than would otherwise exist. One example of this integration is that HISC analysts actively participate in multi-agency efforts such as the Joint Intelligence Center which provided analytical services 24 hours a day during the week of the 2004 Super Bowl and All-Star games in support of security and enforcement efforts.

Houston HIDTA Initiatives and area agencies rely heavily on the HISC. The 45 investigators, analysts, administrators and support personnel that comprise the HISC provide all of the services outlined in HIDTA Program Guidance and the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan except event deconfliction, which is the mission of a separate Initiative. Case/subject deconfliction is institutionalized in the Houston HIDTA and the deconfliction database contains thousands of names. Potential conflicts are quickly identified and resolved. The HIDTA DTO list is maintained by the HISC, and continuously updated. At least one HISC analyst from the long-term support team (OST) is assigned to each CPOT investigation and most other priority targets, providing the full gamut of analytical support. A short-term analytical support team, the IRT, provides a dedicated local telephone number, a toll-free long distance telephone number, and an e-mail address for agencies seeking analytical support. This team has responded to nearly 3,000 requests for support in the first eight months of 2004. These requests may be completed in a few hours, or a few weeks, depending on the requestor's requirements.

The HISC does not limit itself to reactive support. A team of investigators collects information to identify significant drug trafficking organizations in the Houston HIDTA. Traditional investigative techniques such as informant interviews, surveillance, communications collection, and undercover operations are used in furtherance of these investigations. Once the scope of the targeted criminal conspiracy has been fully identified and assessed (often in conjunction with analytical personnel), the investigation is referred to operational units for enforcement action. Since January 1, 2004, two case referrals have been disseminated to HIDTA member agencies. In addition to fully-developed case referrals, this squad also distributes

actionable intelligence information to operational squads or agencies for short-term enforcement action. Thirty eight (38) such disseminations have occurred so far this year. The HISC's novel prisoner debriefing concept has generated the development of cooperating individuals and witnesses in furtherance of case development.

Thus far in CY/04 HISC disseminations have directly contributed to 71 arrests, and the seizure of over 60 methamphetamine labs, 7 kg methamphetamine, 60 kg of cocaine, 3 kg of heroin, 79 firearms, and \$1,024,434.00. It has provided support in investigations resulting in many more arrests and seizures across the country.

Nor is the HISC limited to operational intelligence. The Strategic Analysis Team (SAT) produces comprehensive threat assessments in support of the Houston HIDTA and area law enforcement. This team is responsible for the collection, analysis, and publication of strategic products such as the annual HIDTA Threat assessment, and topic-specific assessments as warranted or requested. When trends have been identified in the collection and analysis processes, the SAT has produced specific assessments to address trends such as raves, methamphetamine, and heroin. One such document, the *Houston Situation Report*, published in 2004, received high praise across the country for the depth of its presentation in a concise format. The SAT also develops and maintains liaison with regional enforcement agencies in order to collect and analyze intelligence. It has a working relationship with the National Drug Intelligence Center and other HIDTA and non-HIDTA intelligence operations. This team produced the 2004 Houston HIDTA Threat Assessment and assisted in the production and dissemination of pamphlets distributed to area retailers about common products used in methamphetamine production. ONDCP and others have consistently praised the Houston HIDTA Threat Assessment, particularly its reporting on drug trafficking organizations.

In monthly intelligence meetings, HISC representatives provide snapshots of ongoing investigations and trends. It maintains a booklet of databases to which it has access, updates it continuously, and provides it to HIDTA Initiatives. These sources of information include local, state and federal law enforcement databases, global intelligence, and commercial databases. In 2004, the HISC and the FIG conducted a 2-day open house to showcase its capabilities. It also conducts agency-specific briefings that have been very well received.

For management purposes, the HISC provides monthly, quarterly, and annual performance results. As all support is captured in electronic format, statistical information on all aspects of HISC operations is provided routinely. All analytical support and disseminations are reported, along with which agencies made the requests, whether the requesting agency is a Houston HIDTA member agency, and whether the requestor is part of a Houston HIDTA Initiative. Both the HISC management and the HIDTA management are provided current information on the extent to which Houston HIDTA Initiatives use the HISC to receive analytical support and services.

As part of the Initiative Review process, all Initiatives are specifically queried about the support that the HISC provides. In the 2003 cycle, one hundred percent of Houston HIDTA Initiatives reported satisfaction with HISC services. There were no complaints, and no suggested improvements. The Initiative has been praised by area law enforcement and FBI Headquarters as well. ONDCP recently suggested that the HIDTA Assistance Center use the HISC as an object lesson in the Intelligence Management curriculum that it is currently developing, highlighting many HISC routine procedures as 'best practices' for implementation by other HIDTAs.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE EFFORT

Los Angeles HIDTA – Inland Crackdown Allied Task Force

In September 2003, an investigative lead was passed to INCA Task Force from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Special Operations Division (SOD) via DEA Los Angeles Field Division, Southwest Border Group Three (SWB-3). The lead consisted of three (909) area code phone numbers with information that the numbers were in contact with a large drug trafficking organization based in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Based on toll analysis and investigation, including the use of the Regional Information Sharing System, through the Western State Information Network database, the DEA Multiple Source Query, and El Paso Intelligence Center checks, the phone numbers were determined to be in contact with numerous previously identified narcotics related telephones. On October 31, 2003, a California state wiretap was obtained targeting two of the numbers passed in the SOD lead. Soon after monitoring began, it was determined the same individual, identified as Salvador MENDOZA, was using both phones.

In December 2003, based on intercepted communications, a vehicle was identified by the INCA Task Force, which was believed to contain a load of cocaine enroute to New York. At INCA request, officers of the California Highway Patrol, in Victorville, California, stopped the vehicle. The vehicle was found to have hidden compartments, which contained **46** kilograms of cocaine. The driver was arrested and prosecuted in California state court and pled guilty.

Additionally in December 2003, intercepted communications indicated a subject was driving a load of narcotics from California to Chicago, Illinois. This information was passed to Chicago, DEA who was able to identify the driver and his vehicle, which was a pick-up truck pulling a large cargo trailer. Chicago DEA was able to identify an associate of MENDOZA in Chicago as Jose URENA. During the surveillance Chicago DEA used an undercover officer to initiate a conversation with the driver, identified as Glen FULLER, of Aspen, Colorado, in a bar inside a hotel in Illinois. DEA agents later placed a court authorized tracking device in the trailer to monitor movement of the trailer. In late December 2003 Chicago DEA advised INCA that the trailer was enroute back to California. Shortly after the first of the year, 2004, INCA members were able to locate the trailer in Riverside, CA. Intercepted conversations indicated the trailer was loaded with narcotics after it arrived in California, and was then returned to FULLER to be transported back to Illinois. Based on a request from Chicago, DEA, in the spirit of cooperation, and in order to more fully identify the members of the organization in Illinois and to further the investigation, a decision was made to allow the trailer to be transported to Illinois prior to any enforcement action. FULLER left California with the vehicle in early January 2004.

On January 10, 2004, Illinois State Police stopped the vehicle just outside of Chicago, Illinois. The trailer was searched without FULLER's knowledge, and **137** kilograms of cocaine were located in the compartment. In order to further the investigation, the compartment was returned to the original condition, and the vehicle was returned to FULLER the next day. Intercepted communications indicated that FULLER believed the cocaine was still in the trailer. Later that evening, to avoid endangering FULLER's life when he delivered an empty trailer to the drug trafficking associates in Chicago, DEA agents cut the lock of the trailer and forced open the compartment to make it appear as if the narcotics had been stolen. The ruse worked, and the intercepted conversations since that time led to the identification of the source of the cocaine in

Mexico, the identification of the transportation organization in Colorado, and the identification of other members of the organization in Chicago, Minnesota, and California. Additionally, MENDOZA was forced to travel to Mexico to explain the loss to the head of the drug trafficking organization. Members of the DEA Guadalajara, Mexico Office observed MENDOZA meeting with Luis RODRIGUEZ-OLIVERA, identified as the head of the newest CPOT organization.

In August 2004, intercepted conversations indicated that MENDOZA and associates would be traveling to Monterrey, Mexico. Members of the Mexican police, working with DEA in Monterrey, followed MENDOZA to a warehouse approximately one hour from Monterrey. After MENDOZA left, Mexican officers were able to search the warehouse and located approximately **11,000** pounds of marijuana much of which was already packaged in tile boxes prepared for shipment to locations in Texas and Georgia.

Additionally in August 2004, based on intercepted communications, INCA Task Force initiated surveillance on a location in Alhambra, CA. During the surveillance, INCA members observed a subject leave the location and meet with three other subjects. An exchange was observed, and the three subjects were stopped after they left the area. A search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery and seizure of **21** pounds of "ice" methamphetamine, and a concealed handgun. INCA Task Force members later served a search warrant at the residence in Alhambra and over **3,100** pounds of marijuana was seized. Intercepted conversations and surveillance have led to identification of associates in Georgia, Minnesota, Texas, New York, Illinois in the United States, and Los Mochis, Manzanillo, and Monterrey, Mexico. Wiretaps have been initiated in Chicago, IL, Milwaukee, MN, Atlanta, GA, and El Paso, TX.

Impact -- As a result of the investigation so far, a total of **208** kilograms of cocaine, **68** pounds of methamphetamine (in a form commonly known as "ice"), **32,799** pounds of marijuana, one kilogram of heroin, and **\$559,000** in US currency have been seized and **33** subjects have been arrested for narcotics related crimes in the United States and Mexico. Various investigative techniques have also been used, including "wall stops", pen registers, and court authorized video surveillance inside of an identified warehouse, and sealed search warrants. The investigation is continuing.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT

Los Angeles HIDTA – Southern California Drug Task Force – Group 44 – “Operation Trifecta”

This narrative concerns the Los Angeles segment of Operation TRIFECTA, a national and international investigation coordinated by DEA’s Special Operations Division and involving activities in Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Phoenix, Chicago and various cities in Mexico. The targets were three cells connected to the ZAMBADA-GARCIA drug trafficking cartel based in Mexico. An investigation against a fourth cell is currently being conducted based on intelligence and informants developed from the first three cases.

A search warrant conducted in Los Angeles in March 2002 and another one in November provided evidence that the AVENDANO Organization was active in the Los Angeles area. By January 2003 Group 44 had developed sufficient probable cause to allow the initiation of wire intercepts on various members of the organization.

Group 44 conducted **75** wiretaps over the next seventeen months, spinning off to new targets as the opportunity arose. Information gained from the wiretaps provided the probable cause for two border searches, **23** state and federal search warrants and ten traffic stops, all resulting in arrests and seizures. Group 44 did an outstanding job of overseeing and coordinating the enforcement activities of several other law enforcement agencies to include U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the California Highway Patrol, the Los Angeles Sheriffs Department, the Kern County Sheriffs Department, the LAPD and police departments from Los Angeles suburbs of Inglewood, Pomona, El Monte, Pasadena, Santa Ana and Glendale. Two additional LAHIDTA funded task forces, LA-IMPACT and LA-CLEAR also provided support to Group 44. The level of cooperation received from all of these agencies was extraordinary.

Group 44 also coordinated with offices across the U.S. in seeking the highest possible level of development of this case. Connections to Atlanta, Phoenix and Denver were shared with DEA offices in those cities. Information given to DEA offices in San Jose, California and Fayetteville, Arkansas allowed those offices to start intercepting telephones in their respective areas, resulting in seizures and arrests. In April 2003 Group 44 provided information to DEA Columbus, Ohio concerning a delivery of marijuana to the area. DEA Columbus seized **128** pounds of marijuana and arrested two suspects. Group 44 also developed information about a distributor in Cincinnati, Ohio who was working for their main target. Using information from Group 44’s wiretap, DEA Cincinnati was initiated its own wiretap, resulting in seizures of **\$81,800** in Cincinnati and **\$206,000** in Oklahoma and important intelligence about money flows as well.

Group 44 did an extraordinary amount of work that led to extraordinary accomplishments. In total **95** arrests were made; and **1,313** pounds of cocaine, **5,789** pounds of marijuana, **76** pounds of methamphetamine, **5.4** pounds of heroin, **\$4.4** million in cash and assets and numerous firearms were seized.

This long-term investigation targeted an arm of one of the wealthiest and most successful Mexican cocaine cartels in operation – the ZAMBADA-GARCIA Organization. Two major figures in the cartel are currently the subjects of international arrest warrants, thus inhibiting their ability to travel, and three drug trafficking cells run by the organization have been dismantled.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Los Angeles HIDTA – Jane Chung

In January 2004, Jane W. Chung, Contract Intelligence Analyst, joined a multi-agency investigative team of agents and analysts in support of “*Operation Vanquish Niño*”. This joint FBI and ICE led investigation targeted a significant Los Angeles based “poly-drug” Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization (MDTO) involved in money laundering and the transportation of marijuana and cocaine. Both agencies had seized significant narcotics and proceeds, but not in proportion to the organization’s illegal activities known to exist. They enlisted the help of the *Los Angeles Joint Drug Intelligence Group (LAJDIG)* to develop a method of approaching the case against three major targets who would not likely be cooperative with law enforcement after they were taken into custody.

Upon consultation with the prosecuting attorney and case agents, and assessment of the available intelligence, Jane Chung pursued the innovative formulation of a scheme to develop documentary-style videos tailored to each target with the intent to compel the key targets to cooperate with authorities. Jane dubbed the video project, “*Video Dossiers*”, in reference to the traditional “file and dossier” method of interrogation.

The *Video Dossiers* were produced using the latest computer technology available at the LAJDIG. The *Video Dossiers* employed the tactic of setting one target in opposition to another and exploiting the target’s familial participation in criminal activities. Also, the *Video Dossiers* used the conventional method of feigning an abundance of knowledge on the law enforcement side by convincing the target that their crimes and behavior are well known to the authorities and it would be in their best interest to confess and cooperate.

In total, three *Video Dossiers* were produced and custom-tailored to three separate targets. The medium used for the *Vanquish Niño Video Dossiers* included still images (such as photos or seized documents), surveillance videos, consensually recorded audio conversations, excerpts from multiple line T-III wire intercepts, footage of local police traffic stops, etc. Each video illustrated each respective target’s involvement and implication in the narcotics trafficking and money laundering organization. Additionally, the videos demonstrated extensive target knowledge due to audio tapes and footage of the target’s family members involved in the organization, known mistresses, girlfriends, homes, businesses, associations, and travel destinations.

One segment of a target’s *Video Dossier* depicted photographs of his teenage daughter’s encounter with a local police officer. The audiotape simultaneously heard in the background is a wiretapped conversation between father (target) and daughter during which he asks her to give a man a sum of \$14,500 in cash (of drug proceeds), which was hidden in their home. The *Video Dossier* concept has an amazing impact on the psyche of the targets and thus in turn the outcome of the investigation. Case agents have highly recommended this approach for future investigations.

Jane Chung’s seven years of experience as a Counterintelligence Agent in the U.S. Army Reserves and two years as a LAJDIG Intelligence Analyst contributed to her exemplary performance on the *Video Dossier* project. Her understanding of Psychological Operations in the military allowed her to identify and exploit the weaknesses of the key targets in order to persuade them to cooperate with law enforcement.

The takedown and interrogations of the three key subjects is indicative of the effectiveness of the *Video Dossiers*. All three targets are cooperating based upon the effectiveness of this product.

Though many investigative and analytical efforts have brought this case to fruition, the crucial role of the innovative *Video Dossiers* was instrumental in contributing to the overall successful outcome of the “*Operation Vanquish Niño*”.

Additionally, Jane Chung has assisted in several multi-agency investigations in the last year and she has repeatedly proven herself to be professional when representing the LAJDIG and working with clients. Her nomination is supported through her innovative development of *Video Dossiers*, which at their core utilize intelligence and analytical approaches, coupled with proven psychological principles that she has ingeniously adapted for a law enforcement setting.

Video Dossiers have become a vital support product that the LAJDIG provides to its clients. The *Video Dossiers* help to enhance the LA-HIDTA’s utility and participation in future investigations, not only enhancing the professional products available, but also promoting the analytical support offered through the HIDTA. The *Video Dossiers* concept should be considered a “best practice” and used as a national model for HIDTA Intelligence Support Centers in support of their clients.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING INTERDICTION EFFORT

Midwest HIDTA - DEA Kansas City Interdiction Task Force (KCITF)

The KCITF is multi-agency task force that targets drug trafficking organizations utilizing private or commercial modes of transportation, shipping or temporary lodging to facilitate the delivery of drugs or proceeds. The interception of drug/money couriers directly impacts Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) operating in other areas of the country.

The KCITF initiates interdiction investigations through direct support of Operation Pipeline by rapidly responding to the scene of the initial stop/arrest and relieving the road officer of the follow up investigative burden. KCITF conducts interviews, processes prisoners, coordinates all collected evidence with the appropriate DEA and HIDTA entities and presents the case to prosecutors. Reference Operation Jetway, KCITF agents recruit and maintain Confidential Sources at the Kansas City International Airport to include: Airline employees, baggage handlers, security screeners and rental car agencies and initiate investigations as needed.

The KCITF routinely responds to area hotels/motels looking for persons with prior drug history or displaying known courier characteristics. Using proven surveillance techniques, probable cause is developed and interdiction stops are made. Nearly all such operations yield useful intelligence; some have resulted in sizeable seizures of drugs and currency.

Since January 1, 2004, the KCITF initiated 73 cases, affected 87 arrests, obtained high conviction rates and seized \$3,159,810 in assets. During that same time the KCITF achieved the following drug removals: 133 kilograms cocaine, 2,568 kilograms marijuana, 912 live marijuana plants, 20.5 kilograms methamphetamine, 0.92 kilograms of Heroin, 70 fluid ounces of PCP and 6,000 dosage units of MDMA. The KCITF conducted four controlled delivery operations to various cities across the country and received five controlled delivery operations into Kansas City.

Derivative Case Example

On February 13, 2004, a Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) Trooper stopped a vehicle occupied by 2 occupants on I-70 west of Topeka. During a subsequent consensual search, 12 kilograms of cocaine was located inside the tailgate. KCITF agents responded, downloaded and disseminated telephone intelligence. Through interviews and telephone analysis KCITF agents determined that the subject was the son of a previously arrested courier, who was arrested by the KHP on December 11, 2003, in possession of 24 kilograms of cocaine. This subject confessed to the facilitation of over 100 ten to 30 kilogram cocaine transactions with the same source of supply in Denver. This son utilized his Mother, to transport cocaine from Denver to his customer base in Washington D.C. In coordination with the SOD, the Denver DEA Division and the Washington DEA Division, both the source of supply and the intended recipients have been identified and face future federal indictment.

As a result of the information collected by the KCITF, the Denver Division initiated a Title III investigation that intercepted four separate telephone lines. The Washington, Chicago, Boston and Newark Divisions all continue to actively investigate this identified organization.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE EFFORT

North Texas HIDTA – Northern Drug Squad (NDS)

In 2002, the NDS, which is a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) lead HIDTA Initiative, initiated an investigation into Scotty Jay Pilcher who was identified as a major methamphetamine (METH) distributor. The NDS executed a search warrant at Pilcher's residence resulting in the arrest of 9 subjects, and the seizure of 53,000 pseudoephedrine tablets and 38 firearms. On the same day, the Pilcher investigation was approved as an OCEDTF investigation and was designated "Operation White Mercury".

As the Pilcher investigation continued, the NDS executed numerous search warrants, resulting in the dismantling of 6 clandestine laboratories and a "super lab", located on Pilcher's grandfather's property. Pilcher and other co-conspirators later admitted that over 100 lbs of METH had been manufactured at the super lab between August of 2001 and April of 2002.

On May 14, 2003 the NDS indicted 18 subjects in the Pilcher investigation. At that time, Paul Lynn Schlieve, a former University of North Texas professor was identified as financing the manufacture of METH at the Pines 2 Paradise (P2P) ranch in rural Cooke County, Texas. The acronym P2P (A reference to an old technique for manufacturing METH) was intentional.

After the referenced indictments, several subjects began providing proffer statements. These statements and other suspicious activity led investigators to a Walgreen Pharmacy in Denton, Texas. DEA Diversion conducted numerous interviews and determined that Pilcher and his associates had been allowed to purchase unlimited quantities of pseudoephedrine. Further, Walgreen had failed to comply with federal regulations and no suspicious purchase reports had been filed with DEA.

Walgreen's subsequently turned over a surveillance video showing subject Donnie Pence, an associate of subject Pilcher, purchasing two shopping carts full of pseudoephedrine tablets at the Denton, Texas Walgreen at 2:00 am in the morning and took almost two hours to check out due to the packaging and sales restrictions.

On September 10, 2003, 7 additional subjects, including Dr. Schlieve, were charged in a superceding indictment. On January 23, 2004, Dr. Schlieve was convicted by a jury of his peers. By the time of Dr. Schlieve's trial, the other 24 people charged in the conspiracy had pled guilty. As a result of the Pilcher investigation and the prosecution of Dr. Schlieve, "D" magazine, a prominent Dallas based publication, wrote an excellent article in the summer of 2004, on Dr. Schlieve that helped to publicize the nature and extent of the METH problem in North East Texas.

The NDS also initiated an investigation into Jesus Valencia Farias and his family. The Farias investigation demonstrated that traditional Mexican Drug Cartels are heavily involved in the distribution METH/ICE in North East Texas. The Farias investigation led to 11 federal indictments and the seizure of over 30 lbs of METH/ICE. An additional 7 indictments are anticipated in early 2005.

In August of 2003, United States Attorney (USA) Matt Orwig responded to the Pilcher investigation, "Operation White Mercury," the Farias investigation, and other prominent cases by creating the Eastern District METH Initiative (EDMI) with the NDS. The EDM I was created out of the growing METH problem, which is prevalent within the Eastern District of Texas. The initiation of the EDM I was a direct result of "Operation White Mercury" and the action taken by

USA Orwig. Over the last 12 months the EDMI has facilitated the federal prosecution of numerous worthy subjects and has generated several multi-defendant sub-investigations, which are being worked as stand alone cases.

As of September 13, 2004, the EDMI has produced 27 indictments, 20 arrests, 19 convictions, 8 criminal enterprise disruptions, 5 criminal complaints, \$79,235 in forfeitures (approximately \$20,000 more pending), and the seizure of 13.611 Kilos (30 lbs) of METH (Cocaine, Marijuana, GHB and other drugs have also been seized). "Operation White Mercury" has been a very cost effective investigation. The historical nature of the conspiracy has eliminated the need for many expensive proactive investigative techniques. To date, more than 50 overt acts have been identified.

The most remarkable accomplishments associated with the EDMI occurred during the summer of 2004. Relying on source information, the NDS initiated an investigation concerning a subject identified as Prindle. To date, a dozen subjects associated with Prindle have been identified and three have been indicted. Numerous additional federal indictments are anticipated. On August 26, 2004 the most significant subject in the Prindle investigation was arrested. The NDS in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies utilized a source to secure the delivery of over 17 lbs of METH/ICE. This METH was obtained from Leonardo Alvarado Blanco, a.k.a. "El Tigre." It was 94% pure and the street value easily exceeds one million dollars. The 17 lbs of METH is believed to have originated from Mexico and efforts are underway to fully identify the source of supply thereby developing a CPOT connection.

Finally, in August 2004 an FBI source provided information that led to the arrest of Richard Carl Roberts and the search of Roberts' residence wherein METH, firearms, and a videotape containing child pornography were discovered. The investigation revealed that Roberts had been using METH to obtain the cooperation of a juvenile for the purpose of manufacturing child pornography, which Roberts intended to distribute over the Internet. On September 8, 2004 Roberts was charged in a 5 count federal indictment.

Captioned matter and the associated sub-investigations are a true cooperative effort of not only the larger federal agencies involved in the EDMI, but that of local law enforcement agencies. Most, if not all, of the local law enforcement agencies participating within the EDMI acquiesced their prosecutive venue on very deserving subjects and instead have allowed for federal prosecution within a larger conspiracy investigation. In the fall of 2004, 12 to 16 additional indictments are anticipated.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

New York / New Jersey HIDTA – Alan Goldfisher

Mr. Goldfisher is the Supervisor of the Strategic Group within the Money Laundering Intelligence Section of the Regional Intelligence Center. In his role as the Strategic Group Supervisor, Mr. Goldfisher leads a unit of 10 law enforcement officers and intelligence analysts representing five law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

The Money Laundering Intelligence Section is one of five sections comprising the New York/New Jersey HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center (“RIC”). It was established following the designation of the El Dorado Task Force as the High Intensity Financial Crimes Area (HIFCA) for the New York metropolitan area. The Money Laundering Intelligence Section (HIFCA) provides direct support to the El Dorado Task Force and serves as a repository for money laundering intelligence for all law enforcement in the New York metropolitan area.

USE OF INNOVATIVE ANALYTICAL SUPPORT

Mr. Goldfisher has been instrumental in the formulation of the Strategic Group for the last 18 months. He has greatly contributed to the successful implementation of original programs for identifying money laundering trends and patterns. In addition he has worked with the financial community to identify new methods for identifying the illegal movement of money to the Middle East and Southwest Asia. These methods now serve as the model for the country.

Example: Mr. Goldfisher directed members of his group in the analysis of hundreds of Yemen-owned deli/grocery businesses operating in the New York metropolitan area and elsewhere in the US that are operating as illegal money remitters. Mr. Goldfisher developed a methodology to examine relationships between these businesses and their role in moving millions of dollars a year to Yemen, mostly as unreported outbound funds. It is believed that these businesses are operating as illegal money remitters (Hawalas), which avoid the banking system and all reporting requirements. Based on the analysis of these businesses Mr. Goldfisher developed over 50 targets and referred them to the El Dorado Task Force, NYPD, HHS, FDA, USPIS and other agencies for investigation.

Example: In conjunction with an investigation being conducted by ICE, SAC, NY, Mr. Goldfisher directed the analysis of multiple boxes of documents associated with a large KHAT smuggling organization. The analysis, from a khat smuggling case, resulted in the identification of over 30 narcotics couriers and over one million dollars in proceeds. Mr. Goldfisher and his analysts met with the case agents and US attorney to present the analytical findings that resulted in the indictment of the main subject on money laundering and conspiracy charges.

Example: Money Orders – directed the analysis of over 2,500 instances of money orders purchased in the NY area and negotiated in banks in Yemen. Mr. Goldfisher developed a method to look at the financial documents after they had been negotiated overseas thereby being able not only to identify the originator of the financial document but also those that negotiated the money overseas. This enabled Mr. Goldfisher to coordinate with the New York area

financial institutions and was able to identify in excess of \$300 million in funds that were primarily purchased with maximum denomination, even dollar amount money orders. Using this information, analysis was conducted on NY area money order agents whose daily activity appeared suspicious. A total of 12 targets were developed based on this analysis and referred for further investigation.

Example: Geographic and Industry Studies were initiated to identify money laundering techniques, fraudulent banking schemes including credit card bust outs and businesses or industries in the New York area and nationwide that perpetuate or facilitate these schemes. Statistical analysis of credit card bust out activity revealed that from 4/1/96 – 8/31/04 a total of over \$900,000 Suspicious Activity Reports were filed by financial institutions. Approximately 237,000 (27%) were categorized under violations which are indicative of bust out schemes. Much of the money derived from these schemes fall into the hands of non-US citizens; some potentially being used to support or fund terrorism. Under Mr. Goldfisher's direction, HIFCA initiated a project to promote the investigation and prosecution of subjects involved in bust out schemes. In one scenario a three block section of Brooklyn, NY was reviewed for financial and criminal activity. As a result, he was able to identify a potential conspiracy involving a group of middle eastern nationals that are engaged in organized schemes to defraud financial institutions utilizing a variety of methods that included bust out schemes, check fraud, fraudulent casino lines of credit as well as immigration frauds and outstanding warrants.

The credit card bust out project initiated by Mr. Goldfisher has resulted in an active ICE JFK investigation involving bust out activity and human smuggling.

DIRECTION

Mr. Goldfisher's analytical and law enforcement experience has been a critical factor in the developmental success of the Strategic Group of the Money Laundering Intelligence Section. In addition he has been instrumental in establishing a successful working relationship between law enforcement and the financial community in the New York metropolitan area.

Mr. Goldfisher consistently develops innovative ideas and concepts to improve the intelligence collection process and information sharing among law enforcement agencies, financial regulators and the financial community.

COMMITMENT TO THE HIDTA PROGRAM

Mr. Goldfisher regularly conducts presentations within the law enforcement and financial community in order to develop new sources of information as it pertains to financial crimes. The information exchange provides a means of coordinating law enforcement and financial community information that can be analyzed and disseminated for use by other law enforcement agencies. The information is shared with law enforcement and regulatory agencies at regular HIFCA meetings, sponsored conferences and at symposiums for the financial community.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE COMMANDER

Ohio HIDTA – Cleveland FBI Supervisory Special Agent Stephen E. Vogt

The Caribbean/ Gang Drug Task Force (CGDTF) has been the premier Ohio HIDTA Drug task force since the Ohio HIDTA was formed in 1999. This multi-agency HIDTA initiative has been supervised by Cleveland FBI Supervisory Special Agent Stephen E. Vogt since December of 2000. The CGDTF consists of 4 FBI agents, 1 DEA agent, 1 IRS agent and 15 state and local task force officers with the primary focus on working long-term, multi-state conspiracy investigations with links to international Consolidated Priority Targets (CPOT) as outlined in both the HIDTA and OCDETF national program goals.

As the Task Force Commander of the CGDTF, SSA Vogt has organized and coordinated intelligence sharing amongst multiple federal, state and local Northern Ohio law enforcement agencies in order to identify local drug trafficking organizations (DTO's) with the goal of linking these DTO's to national and international CPOT targets.

1. Use of Innovation in Supervisory Investigations

Since taking command of the CGDTF HIDTA Initiative, SSA Vogt has refocused task force personnel away from street-level buy/bust operations to more sophisticated multi-state, multi-jurisdictional conspiracy cases that impact other HIDTA regions. SSA Vogt has provided direction and coordination over the CGDTF HIDTA Initiative's complex investigations. SSA Vogt has emphasized the importance of telephone toll manipulation and the usage of the Special Operations Division (SOD) in order to link local DTO's to higher-level national/international DTO's. SSA Vogt developed the innovative idea of having HIDTA CGDTF personnel draft spin-off Title III affidavits and provide court orders to other HIDTA regions' task forces to move the cases forward throughout the country. This technique has made it easier for HIDTA groups in other regions to initiate Title III spin-off investigations on targets significant in their jurisdiction.

During this past year SSA Vogt was unique in his application of Global Positioning Technology (GPS) to track cellular communications on a DTO. This is a unique application of this technology to locate and identify movement of large drug shipments. SSA Vogt successfully used this technique in OCDETF investigation "Noon Ore" to track and intercept a tractor-trailer, bound for Ohio from the Southwest Border loaded with 1000 lbs. of marijuana and 30 kilograms of cocaine.

2. Leadership and Direction

After September 11, 2001, FBI Headquarters directed FBI field offices to re-assign a large contingent of drug investigators to counter-terrorism matters. However the Cleveland Division was made an exception due in part to the strength and commitment of SSA Vogt's HIDTA Initiative's drug program and the impact it has had on the national level in reducing the flow of illegal drugs into the United States. During the 2004 reporting period under SSA Vogt's leadership and direction, CGDTF HIDTA Initiative developed 25 Title III investigations and passed 6 spin-off investigations to law enforcement agencies in Phoenix, Tucson, Miami and

New York. SSA Vogt has personally drafted Title III affidavits for other HIDTA groups to move cases up the chain to identify and prosecute the hierarchy of national/international DTO's. SSA Vogt has been certified by the Federal District Court in Northern Ohio to testify as an expert witness on drug cases. SSA Vogt has taught Title III investigative techniques at the FBI Academy, Cleveland Heights Police Academy, Chicago FBI Field Office and the Ohio HIDTA to further exploit the usage of the Title III investigative technique.

3. Commitment to the HIDTA Program

SSA Vogt is a firm believer in the HIDTA and OCDETF national strategy of promoting intelligence sharing for the purpose of identifying and investigating multi-state, multi-jurisdictional DTO's. Over the past year, SSA Vogt's HIDTA Initiative has shared intelligence that resulted in six spin-off investigations to other HIDTA regions. SSA Vogt has coordinated investigative activity with other HIDTA regions in order to maximize the dismantlement of the entire DTO.

During the past year, the CGDTF HIDTA Initiative under SSA Vogt's leadership has achieved the following successes as a result of his commitment to the HIDTA Program:

- 25 Title III's
- Interception and analysis of over 20,000 wiretap telephone conversations
- 6 spin-off Title III's to other HIDTA regions
- Over 100 indictments
- *Seizures include:*
 - 60 kg of cocaine
 - 1022 lbs marijuana
 - \$500,000 cash
 - \$2 million in property and assets

SSA Vogt has been a powerful proponent of innovative and sophisticated investigative techniques to promote intelligence sharing throughout the HIDTA program and push investigations beyond the borders of the Ohio HIDTA.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT RESULTING IN
SIGNIFICANT ASSET FORFEITURE

Rocky Mountain HIDTA – Southern Colorado Task Force – “Operation Forklift”

The Southern Colorado Task Force targeted an organization involved primarily in the distribution of cocaine and money laundering activities by individuals in the Colorado Springs metro area. It is estimated that the organization distributes over 2,000 kilos of cocaine and generates 40 million dollars annually. As the investigation progressed, the documentation and evidence linked this group to a consolidated priority organization target (CPOT) Vicente Carillo-Fuentes.

Southern Colorado Task Force worked this case fulltime for 2 years. They utilized 52 pen registers, 20 Title III intercepts, satellite tracking devices, cell site surveys, aircraft, pole cameras, recruitment of informants and interviews of potential witnesses/defendants. The task force also engaged in thousands of miles of surveillances coordinated with other jurisdictions across the country. Surveillances were successfully supervised, established and maintained to and from Chicago, Illinois, Greensborough, North Carolina and El Paso, Texas. All of the evidence collected on this on-going investigation involved extensive use of the federal grand jury system. Some of the highlights of the investigation included:

- January 2003-Agents seized 265 kilos of cocaine. The controlled delivery to New York resulted in seizing 1.4 million dollars.
- March 2003-Undercover agents purchased a kilo of cocaine from one of the primaries in Colorado Springs, which resulted in the identification of the ranch where the cocaine was stored.
- May 2003- Agents seized 270 pounds of marijuana, 5 weapons, and \$143,000 cash in Woodland Park, Colorado.
- May 2003- Agents seized approximately 2 millions dollars in Pueblo, Colorado.
- July 2003- Agents seized \$350,000 cash in Chicago Illinois.
- July 2003- Agents seized \$700,000 cash in El Paso, Texas.
- August 2003- Agents seized 14 kilograms of cocaine and an assault rifle in Pueblo, Colorado.
- September 2003- Agents seized 548 kilograms of cocaine in Chicago, Illinois.
- October 2003- Agents seized \$1,395,000 cash in New York City.
- October 2003- Agents seized ½ million dollars cash in New York City.
- November 2003- Agents seized \$830,000 cash in Greeley, Colorado.
- November 2003-Agents seized 1.7 million dollars cash in Chicago, Illinois.
- November 2003-Agents seized \$86,552 cash in El Paso, Texas.
- December 2003-Agents seized 125 kilos of cocaine in El Paso, Texas.

As a result of the efforts of the Southern Colorado Task Force and in cooperation with drug law enforcement authorities throughout Colorado, Texas, New York, North Carolina and Illinois, this drug trafficking organization and money laundering group was dismantled in the spring/summer of 2004 with the arrest of 60 members of the organization, seizure of 1,824 kilos

of cocaine, 521 pounds of marijuana, and \$8,900,000 cash. Three high level members of the Mexican Cartel have been indicted in Colorado. This investigation has also led to “spin off” wire intercepts in three different DEA Divisions.

This is historically one of the most significant investigations ever completed out of the Rocky Mountain region and has had major impact nationwide. The Southern Colorado Drug Task Force felt that the cooperation and coordination nationwide with various HIDTAS, federal authorities, as well as state and local authorities, was tremendous. This case has and will continue to have inflicted a tremendous blow to the Vicente Carillo-Fuentes organization, particularly related to their bulk currency system.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award ONDCP DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Washington / Baltimore HIDTA – Director, Thomas H. Carr

Few individuals involved in the National HIDTA Program have contributed as much as Thomas Carr. Since 1988, he has played an active role in shaping the HIDTA Program and led the way in encouraging HDTAs to adopt the latest developments in technology and intelligence techniques. His leadership and vision have contributed to the HIDTA Program's success and growth in numerous ways both great and small.

Thomas Carr began working with the staff of the National HIDTTA Program in late 1989 after a distinguished career with the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission. During the early years of the HIDTA Program, he used his expertise in drug enforcement and law enforcement intelligence operations to help ONDCP staff shape the HIDTA Program's approach to drug enforcement. When the Washington Baltimore HIDTA was designated in February of 1994, Mr. Carr quickly emerged as the one candidate for Director who could command the trust and respect of the many agencies that would be participating in the newly formed HIDTA's activities.

From the very beginning, Mr. Carr turned to technology and innovative intelligence and investigative techniques to address the challenges faced by the W/B HIDTA region. To improve communication and coordination among initiatives located throughout the HIDTA region (which includes areas of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia), he worked with his technology staff to build a wide area network which today connects more than 400 computers. Realizing the potential of information technology to improve information sharing, he secured HIDTA and outside grant funds to develop the Case Explorer system (a case management/case deconfliction system) and the HIDTA Automated Treatment System (an information system that allows treatment providers and criminal justice system professionals to track offenders in treatment from intake through the completion of their treatment programs after their release on probation or parole). With the help of Dr. John Eck, a nationally known expert on crime mapping and the relationship between crime and place, he established the Evaluation and Crime Mapping Unit (the first of its kind in the HIDTA Program) to assist law enforcement and intelligence personnel in evaluating drug trafficking and crime patterns, conducting geo-targeting studies to identify areas suffering from the highest concentration of drug activity and evaluating the effects of enforcement efforts in targeted areas. He has also taken a leading role in promoting regional and national information sharing efforts, such as supporting the connection of HDTAs to the RISS network and working with the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA to promote use of its DIGS data mining system.

Thomas Carr has also distinguished himself as one of the HIDTA Program's most capable directors. His leadership and determination to see that all participating agencies received an equal voice in the HIDTA's affairs was instrumental in unifying the HIDTA during its early days. As participating agencies' commitment to the HIDTA grew, he harnessed this growing sense of unity to build support for addressing several challenging issues. He worked closely with the Executive Board's committees to enhance fiscal accountability at the initiative level and promote an active role for committee and Executive Board members in the budget process. He has been a prominent supporter of the HIDTA's intelligence program, encouraging initiative supervisors to adopt intelligence-driven investigative techniques, assisting participating agencies

in building their own information sharing programs and helping to generate Executive Board support for expanding and reorganizing the HIDTA's intelligence program to meet changing drug threats. As the W/B HIDTA confronted the challenges posed by limited funding and large-scale redeployment of personnel and resources following the September 11 terrorist attacks, his quiet example and commitment to fair play were invaluable in preserving the smooth and efficient operation of the HIDTA and its initiatives.

His greatest contributions to the HIDTA Program's management culture have come in the area of performance measurement. Building on the example set by the HIDTA's Treatment/Criminal Justice Program, Mr. Carr has been the driving force behind efforts to develop meaningful and quantifiable measurements of each initiative's performance, actively encouraging the Executive Board and its committees to mandate regular statistical reporting and the use of electronic systems such as Case Explorer and HATS to track progress on key outcomes. His expertise in this area was recognized by the HDAC when he was chosen to lead several committees that played key roles in helping the HIDTA Program to develop the HIDTA Performance Standards and revise its performance measurement policies. In 2003 and 2004, his years of effort in this area culminated in the design and adoption of the HIDTA Program's new Performance Measurement Process (PMP) system. The PMP system is a truly unique achievement, providing a performance measurement system flexible enough to meet the needs of the various HIDTA regions yet powerful enough to provide ONDCP with the data needed to conclusively demonstrate the HIDTA Program's effectiveness. His ongoing involvement in training HIDTA region staff and implementing the new system is sure to pay many dividends to both the individual HIDTA regions and the National HIDTA Program in the years to come.

Mr. Carr's leadership at the HIDTA Program's national level has not been restricted solely to performance measurement. Over the years, he has played an active part in HDAC efforts to improve the HIDTA Program's financial management, intelligence systems and information technology. At the request of ONDCP staff, he has taken part in various efforts to develop improved intelligence sharing (such as planning for development of the National Virtual Pointer System) and has assisted a number of newly-appointed HIDTA Directors in setting up their operations. His dedication to the principles of the HIDTA Program and his determination to help it grow and succeed have won him the respect and admiration of his fellow Directors and ONDCP staff alike.

Thomas Carr's numerous accomplishments have benefited not only the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA, but the National HIDTA Program as a whole. His many contributions have played an invaluable role in making the HIDTA Program what it is today.

2004 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT RESULTING IN
SIGNIFICANT ASSET FORFEITURE

Southwest Border HIDTA, West Texas Regional Partnership – “Operation Lone Star”

Operation Lone Star is a unique HIDTA initiative. Lone Star is not the usual initiative in the traditional full-time collocated sense. This initiative is an umbrella initiative covering an enormously expansive border region with joint, cooperative, inter-agency interdiction operations. Operation Lone Star is organized to capitalize on intelligence and information that will lead to successful interdiction operations along the border highways, desert crossings, and Border Patrol checkpoints. Participating agencies in Operation Lone Star will collaborate and conduct joint interdiction operations that target, interdict and seize a substantial amount of drugs, vehicles and Drug Trafficking Organization proceeds.

The success of this initiative in its cooperative investigative and interdiction efforts through the multi-agency task force concept resulted in a significant disruptive impact to drug trafficking in the Big Bend region. Throughout 2003 and 2004, significant operations within the Marfa Border Patrol Sector included "Hilltop I & II, Gear Jammer 2003, Gear Jammer II 2003", netting significant amounts of marijuana, weapons and vehicles seized. Additionally, El Paso Sector Operation "Cobija XIV" netted significant amounts of marijuana, vehicles, and cocaine seized.

Communication and counter-drug measures initiated through the Operation Lone Star initiative – between U.S. Border Patrol and counterpart county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies - have resulted in the disruption of 7 local, 2 regional, 2 national, and 1 international drug trafficking and money laundering organizations in calendar year 2003. These disruptions have continued throughout 2004.

Counter-drug measures resulted in the seizure of currency in the amount of \$648,005, vehicle assets valued at \$7,004,415, the seizure of 82,317.67 kilos of marijuana, 793 kilos of cocaine, and 9.523 kilos of heroin, leading to 968 arrests. Drug trafficking organizations' operations and financial returns are disrupted and reduced due to the outstanding interdiction efforts of this initiative.

Liaison between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and interdiction techniques initiated by Operation Lone Star have led to the increase of jurisdictional cooperation in a vast region. Without this cooperation, it would be extremely difficult for a single agency to succeed in the prevention of narcotics further invading our country. The liaison among these agencies developed into further investigations by the Department of Homeland Security -- Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration that has led to targeting and dismantling multiple organizations.

Initiative quantitative efforts significantly breached narcotics trafficking activities to the area. Ongoing investigative efforts between these agencies and the Operation Lone Star initiative are predicted to disrupt and possibly dismantle drug trafficking organizations affecting the West Texas HIDTA Region in the future.

Asset forfeiture and vehicle seizure numbers demonstrated by Operation Lone Star and participating law enforcement agencies impeded the narcotics traffickers' profits and armed the West Texas HIDTA Region with accountable measures for further funding of its mission - to deter, disrupt, and dismantle narco-terrorism threatening national security.

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