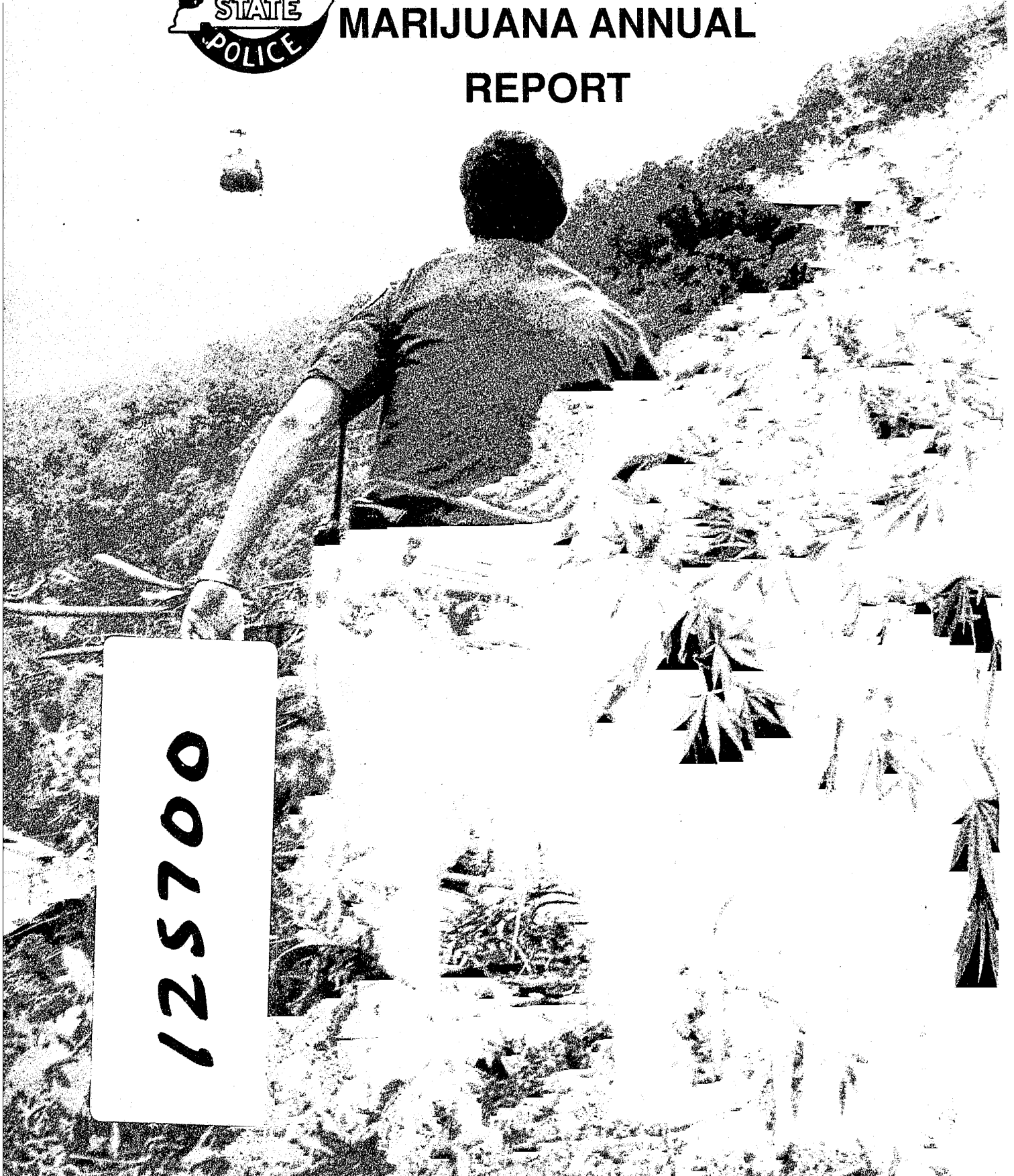


KENTUCKY STATE POLICE



1988 AND 1989 CALENDAR YEARS

MARIJUANA ANNUAL REPORT



125700

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INTRODUCTION

The cultivation of domestic marijuana is a problem of major concern for Kentucky State Police, as well as, all law enforcement agencies. Marijuana eradication and interdiction causes a sizable drain on agency budgets. Marijuana has become one of the most profitable crops grown in the United States. Some claim it is the most profitable crop grown in Kentucky, surpassing the burley tobacco industry.

Kentucky has consistently been in the top five (5) states statistically in the eradication of marijuana. This is not necessarily indicative that the problem is worse in Kentucky than in other states; rather it shows the effort and success of Kentucky's eradication programs.

This informational report is dedicated to all enforcement agencies and personnel that participate in Kentucky's Marijuana Eradication programs. It is based upon statistics reported to the Kentucky State Police Drug Enforcement/Special Investigations Branch by, local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies during calendar years 1988 and 1989. As you will see, the multi-agency cooperation; on-going in Kentucky, has led to two more very successful marijuana eradication seasons.

THE BOTANY OF THE MARIJUANA PLANT

The scientific name for marijuana is *Cannabis Sativa* L. It is sometimes referred to as the hemp plant for its use in making rope. The plant has been used by man for over 6000 years. It has been used in the production of rope fiber, livestock, food supplements, cooking oil, bird seed, paper, and more recently as a medication.

Contrary to common belief, marijuana is a very hearty plant and can withstand light frosts or go without water for a number of days. The growing techniques used with marijuana are very similar to Kentucky's burley tobacco crop. Some of the same tools and machinery can be used to cultivate marijuana. The majority of the domestic marijuana grown in Kentucky is known as "Sinsemilla." This type of marijuana contains extremely potent levels of Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is the principal psychoactive chemical contained in all marijuana plants.

Marijuana plants are dioecious, meaning that a plant is either of the male or female sex. Male plants produce pollen, and female plants produce seeds. Female plants are larger and fuller than male plants. Female plants are the plant of choice by the growers.

Marijuana exhibits a wide variation in height, color, leaf structure and THC content. A mature plant can range from 2 to 18 feet in height. Leaf and plant color is usually dark green although a purple hue is not uncommon. The leaves are generally larger at the bottom of the plant than at the top. The leaves are shaped like fingers with serrated edges. These leaves always appear in odd numbered clusters of from three to seventeen.

The plants have few roots, and they do not penetrate the soil very deeply. The stalk is usually thick, and is the source of the hemp fiber which is used in making rope. As the plant matures, the larger bottom leaves tend to yellow and fall off. Some growers remove these leaves early as they are low in THC content and rob the rest of the plant of nutrients.



The flowering top of the marijuana plant, known as the bud, is clearly evident in this photo.

THC potency varies considerably. The trend over the last several years is that marijuana cultivated for drug use is becoming very potent. Recent tests conducted on Kentucky grown sinsemilla yielded an analysis of 14% THC. According to information gathered by the U.S. Forest Service; some marijuana grown in the Daniel Boone National Forest has tested at a THC level near 18%.

Generally, the potency of parts of the marijuana plant, in

descending order of THC content are: The buds, new leaf growth, the top of the plant, leaves in the middle of the plant, leaves at the base of the plant, new plant limbs, old plant limbs and the stalk.

Sinsemilla cultivation, the growing of unfertilized female plants, has become the technique of choice by most knowledgeable growers. These plants have an average THC content which is near double that of an identical male or fertilized female plants. THC is naturally produced by plant hormones when sexual maturity has occurred. The process continues until the plant is pollinated (Fertilized). Consequently, the elimination of pollinated males causes the THC to continue to increase for the remainder of the female plant's life cycle. Upon fertilization, the female marijuana plant begins to convert THC to other chemicals, thereby reducing the potency and value to the grower.

Illicit growers often have a difficult time keeping their sinsemilla plants from being pollinated. A typical male plant looks identical to the female until the summer solstice occurs, at which time the plants rapidly mature sexually. Allowing a mature male to grow among female plants is disastrous for the sinsemilla grower. Since marijuana is an air-pollinated plant, and its pollen can travel for distances up to several miles, outdoor growing of sinsemilla is very difficult in certain areas. A large male plant has been estimated to produce approximately a half million pollen grains.

Experienced sinsemilla growers often manicure their plants by reducing the number of branches and lower leaves on the main stalk. This manicure procedure encourages bushy plants with large buds. The greatest THC concentration is in the bud area where resin production is highest.

MARIJUANA CULTIVATION AS A BUSINESS

The growing of domestic marijuana has become big business. Even the smaller operations must have a "wholesaler" to move the crop upon harvest. Many times he may contract for the crop before it is even planted. In many criminal's minds, the profit potential far outweighs the risks of apprehension.

As the profit potential continues to increase, and the demand for domestically produced marijuana continues to grow, organized criminal groups have become more involved in the illegal cultivation of marijuana. An example of an operation such as this is a "Marijuana Cartel" that surfaced in July, 1987, and is still under investigation by Drug Enforcement/Special Investigations and Federal Agencies. This group is comprised of Kentucky residents growing marijuana outside the State of Kentucky. Eight (8) other states are involved in this investigation. Authorities have seized a total of 188 tons of marijuana from 33 sites, including 27 farms. Eighty-five (85) persons have faced federal or state charges including eighty-one Kentuckians. Of these Kentuckians, sixty-four are residents of Marion County.

Cooperatives, such as these, are both productive and efficient. They frequently obtain leads on farm land that is for sale through real estate firms which have computer links to offices throughout the United States. In many cases, one cooperative member will travel to a certain area to observe and evaluate farm properties for sale.

This person usually does not purchase property. A second cooperative member then travels to the area, and purchases a pre-selected property, with a minimum down payment, and a contract for payment of the balance due over a period of years. Deed to the property, therefore, does not transfer to the buyer until payment of the balance. The farm may be used by the cooperative for a few years, and payments kept current. However, when seizure occurs or the organization decides not to use a particular farm again, the cooperative defaults on the payments and ownership of the farm reverts back to the seller. Thus, many of the farms are not seizable under forfeiture statutes because many of the sellers, who still own the property, had no knowledge of the farm's illegal crop.

The cooperative, in choosing a farm, looks for the following qualities:

- (1) A remote area;
- (2) Water for irrigation;
- (3) Barns and outbuildings; and
- (4) Ability to purchase the property by contract for deed.

Where a farm does not already have structures suitable for marijuana processing, the cooperative will build the needed facilities. The facilities built by the cooperative include storage buildings, drying racks, alarm systems, stripping rooms, and living quarters.

The cooperative generally plants marijuana within corn fields. The corn is planted late, which leads the neighbors to believe that the planters have little knowledge of farming. However, the later planted corn stays green longer, concealing marijuana for a longer period of time.

Once the marijuana is planted, one or two people usually move to the farm to monitor the crop. This usually occurs in late May. At harvest time, usually late September, bands of workers from Kentucky travel from one farm to another harvesting, processing, and packaging the marijuana. These workers earn approximately \$100 to \$150 per day. Their clothing (usually camouflage), room, board, and transportation are provided by the cooperative. Evidence indicates that the workers (almost all from Marion County, Kentucky) act as a paramilitary force under a punishment and reward system. Many workers had \$300 to \$500 on them at the time of their arrest, apparently for getaway money should law enforcement disrupt their activities. Oddly, this money, as well as money used to make down payments on farms, is usually moldy, dirty, and has a unusual smell.

Other similarities in the operation of the 25 farms include drying racks in the barns, identical packaging materials, cutting tools, and other tools used in the processing of marijuana, black plastic coverings over windows, doors, and walls, written records of payments to farm workers, photoelectric or pressure sensitive alarms, and the presence of firearms, attack dogs, police scanners, and false identification cards.

GROWING METHODS

There are two major growing methods among domestic marijuana growers in Kentucky.

Outdoor

The first method is outdoor growing in fields or along hillsides. This method has been used successfully for years in Kentucky. However, the success in past years of the marijuana eradication effort seems to be forcing the illegal grower to use smaller plots in more isolated rural areas of the state. These smaller plots contain fewer plants and are often concealed in tree growth. Both of these factors are causing the marijuana to be more difficult to spot from the air. The growers are also planting more of their illegal crop on publicly owned land. This prevents the forfeiture of the property in civil proceedings and tracing ownership of the crop.



A Kentucky State Police Officer walks through a marijuana field. Notice the height of the plants compared to the officer.

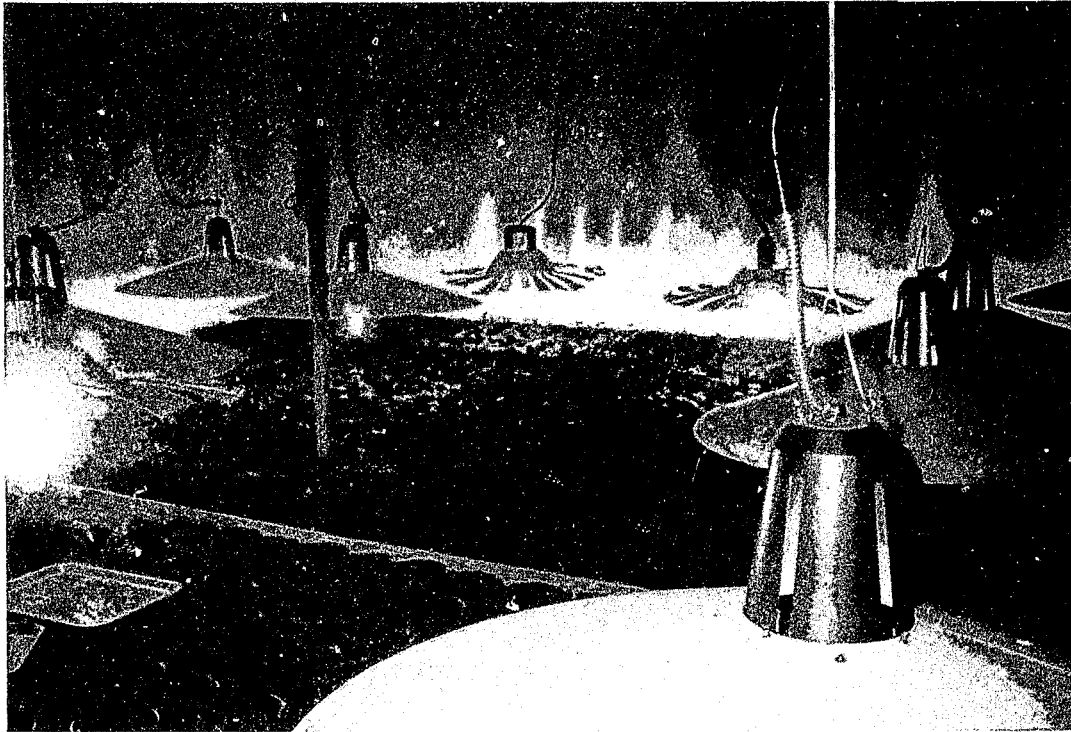
Occasionally marijuana is still found planted near the center of large fields of corn. Since the corn grows to about the same height as marijuana, it provides a barrier against spotting the marijuana from the ground. The owner of the corn and/or property may not be aware that the marijuana has been planted in the field. The corn is harvested after the time that the marijuana has matured, therefore, preventing the discovery that marijuana was ever grown on the property. This method is not widely used because most large farmers spray their fields with herbicide when they plant the corn seed. The herbicide appears to restrict the growth of the marijuana plants.

Other farm crops may be used to conceal the growing of marijuana. During 1989 a field of soybeans in Central Kentucky was discovered with marijuana plants among the rows. The marijuana had been tied close to the ground so that it was forced to lie near, and follow the contour of the ground.

Indoor

The second growing method is the use of indoor greenhouse operations. These operations appear to be on the increase. Obviously this method is an excellent way to conceal the illegal growing of marijuana from air surveillance and eliminates the problem of plant theft that occurs in outdoor fields. An added advantage in the use of a greenhouse is the continuous growing cycle, because the grower can control the environment, and grow on a year-round basis.

The sophistication of a greenhouse operation can vary from a few plants located in a window or a basement to a very high-tech set up consisting of specialized light sources, air ventilation systems, and chemical nutrient feeder devices.



A large scale sophisticated marijuana greenhouse. This greenhouse was equipped with rotating grow lights and an automatic sprinkler system.

In Kentucky greenhouse operations have been found in old warehouses, or store buildings, with elaborate systems for nurturing the plants. They have also been found in the basements of inhabited homes and in outbuildings with the roof partially removed.

Except for the few plants that may be found growing in a window, the use of any of these other indoor techniques is indicative of a serious marijuana cultivator.

KENTUCKY'S MARIJUANA ERADICATION EFFORT

Kentucky has been a leading producer of the marijuana plant for many years. During World War II, Kentucky marijuana was used in the manufacturing of rope. Many counties still have an area of their community known as Hemphill, or an old building that was once used for legally processing hemp. The rich, moist limestone based soil, and mild climate are conducive to hearty marijuana plants. Marijuana has also been found growing wild in many areas of the State. With traditions and conditions such as these, it is no wonder that Kentucky is repeatedly one of the top five states where marijuana is eradicated.

The Kentucky State Police Drug Enforcement/Special Investigations Branch have records indicating that between 1973 and 1979, 416,254 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated throughout Kentucky by Kentucky State Police. During the same period 143 people were arrested for the Cultivation of Marijuana. By today's figures, this seven year total appears relatively small but it must be kept in mind that the extent of the problem was just becoming recognized.

In 1981, the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration began to supplement the Kentucky State Police eradication effort with money from Federal grants. The money was

used to pay overtime to Kentucky State Police officers. Since that time nearly 4,000,000 cultivated plants have been eradicated and over 1700 arrests have been made.

Outdoor Growing Season

The outdoor marijuana growing season usually begins in mid-April, after the danger of a frost has passed. It usually lasts into late October, or until the first killing frost. During this six (6) months period the Kentucky State Police expend hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars on the eradication of marijuana. Most of the funds for these hours, and operational expenses, are absorbed by the department's budget.

During the 1989 growing season it is estimated that Kentucky State Police officers dedicated 13,000 hours of regular time toward the actual eradication of marijuana. In contrast 7,990 hours of overtime was paid from the DEA Federal Overtime Grant. In 1988, 8701 hours of overtime was charged to the Federal Overtime Program. There were no records kept of the actual hours expended during regular working time, but it would be a reasonable assumption that the hours would be about the same as in 1989.

During the winter months planning sessions are conducted, greenhouse operations are discovered, and eliminated, intelligence information is gathered and analyzed and marijuana traffickers and processors are apprehended and prosecuted. Obviously the eradication of marijuana is truly a year-round effort.

Strategy Sessions

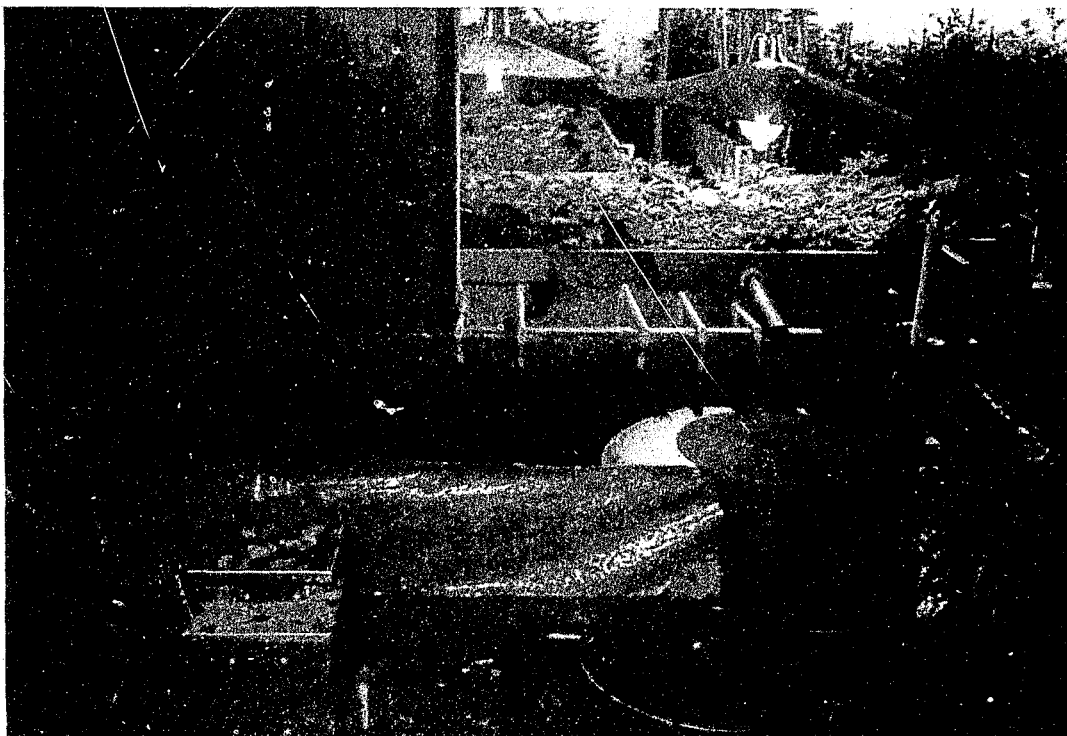
The strategy sessions consist of meetings in which the past season's program is examined, and critiqued. Input is gathered from all elements that participated in the program in order to make future programs more efficient. Meetings are also conducted with other law enforcement agencies. Their ideas are examined to see if they, and their personnel, can be incorporated into the statewide program.

Equipment needs are another important part of these planning sessions. The equipment may consist of vehicles, electronic surveillance personnel protection, or other devices that may be of assistance. During 1988 funds were allocated that permitted the purchase of a Bell Long Ranger helicopter to search for marijuana plots. In 1989, sixteen (16) Loran C Navigational Devices were purchased. These devices will allow the operator to relocate marijuana plots on the grounds that have been spotted with an aircraft. In addition, four (4) four-wheel drive vehicles, two electronic surveillance cameras, two night scopes, and ten programmable portable radios have been purchased. Equipment such as this may be used year round for eradication or surveillance applications.

Greenhouse Operations

Greenhouse operations may be discovered at any time during the year. Most are discovered during undercover activities or through the use of informants. They may range from the very basic, such as a few plants in a residence to elaborate and costly operations in a

large building. The elaborate systems very often utilize hydroponics. This method allows the plants to grow without using any soil. The roots of the plants are continuously or intermittently immersed in a solution of nutrients. Soil is replaced by vermiculite, or peat moss, which are both not as messy as normal soil. Another advantage of this method is problems associated with lack of soil nutrients, and soil acidity are avoided. A hydroponic system can be active (pumped) or passive (wick fed) and operates in a continuous, intermittent, or drip mode. The temperature of the growing room is controlled by elaborate heating or cooling systems. They maintain a constant temperature that is conducive to the growing of hearty plants. Lighting is obtained from massive rotating high intensity lights. Many times these lights are placed on a timing device. In this manner they are kept on for several hours, and then turned off. After a few hours they are again illuminated. This will deceive the plants into a more rapid photosynthesis which leads to quicker maturation. It has been estimated that the use of systems such as these will cut the normal growing time in half.



Nutrient tank for irrigating the marijuana plants. The beds in the background contain plants of different sizes.

Specialized stores have emerged over the past few years that supply this type of equipment. The equipment can be used legally for indoor vegetable, and flower gardens, but the high cost, both initially and operationally, generally prevents the purchase for anything other than illegal use.

During 1988, there were 12 greenhouse operations discovered in Kentucky by Kentucky State Police. In 1989, an additional 14 greenhouses were discovered.

Intelligence Information

Intelligence information is constantly gathered from a variety of sources. Many of these reports come from concerned citizens in a community. They report their information to one of the Kentucky State Police posts or Troopers. The Trooper then submits the information to the Intelligence Section or investigate the report. Another source of intelligence is informants. These sources may have deep roots within marijuana growing circles.

Regardless of where the information is obtained it must be analyzed and correlated. Many times only small bits of information are reported but occasionally information from several sources can be consolidated on the same marijuana grower or trafficker. During 1988, the Intelligence Section received 315 intelligence reports directly related to marijuana, and through September 30, 1989, 318 reports were received.

Apprehension of Traffickers and Processors

The apprehension of those responsible for growing marijuana is not the only focus of the eradication program. Those who conduct sales of the harvested product are another area of prime

responsibility. Criminals who sell the illegal product avoid the payment of taxes on their illegally obtained gains, and may contribute to other criminal activity by their customers. Additionally, society will not tolerate the sale of illegal substances, such as marijuana, to our young people. Discussions have been conducted that indicate that the use of marijuana may be a precursor to the use of other more harmful substances.

Although street sales by small time dealers are an area of concern, it is believed that a more effective program includes the targeting of major dealers or wholesalers. When these people are removed from the supply chain a break occurs in the flow of the illegal product. There is also the possibility that the higher up the supply chain one proceeds, the more likely that growers and processors will be identified and prosecuted.

In 1988 there were 2,680 people arrested in Kentucky for marijuana violations other than cultivating. The figures for 1989 will not be available until after the first of the year.



Kentucky State Police personnel cut marijuana in a field in Owsley County.

MARIJUANA ERADICATION ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Kentucky receives most of it's publicity and recognition, in regard to marijuana, for the physical eradication of the plants. The yearly numerical ranking of the States are derived from these numbers, and are issued by the DEA shortly after the first of the year. The award of federal grants for eradication is based upon these statistics. Kentucky has traditionally had a successful program, and therefore have been successful in receiving grants, and grant renewals. The actual success of the program can be attributed to the hard work, and planning of all those involved in the program at every level.

There are specialized Kentucky State Police personnel, in addition to personnel at each Post, that are utilized throughout the year. These include the personnel of the Aircraft Section, Drug Enforcement/Special Investigations Section, the Hazardous Devices Unit, and the Canine Unit.

The Kentucky State Police act as a clearinghouse for all State and local marijuana eradication statistics. Therefore, the coordination of the overall program, and it's grants are done through the DE/SI Branch. These grants include Team Effort in Apprehending Marijuana Sources, and the Marijuana Suppression Strike Force, in addition to the DEA Federal Overtime Program. DE/SI also coordinates a program that is known as the Green/Gray Sweep.

Specialized Services

Aircraft Section

The aircraft section and pilots of the Kentucky State Police aircraft section provide a valuable service to Kentucky's Marijuana eradication season. Each year hundreds of hours are flown, in all areas of the State, to spot and help ground crews locate plots of marijuana.

During 1988, the Aircraft Section provided a fixed-wing aircraft for each Green/Gray sweep operation that was conducted. In 1989 the aircraft section operated on a schedule independent of the Green/Gray Sweep; thereby providing coverage for more areas of the State during the same time period.

The following charts represent the number of flights and hours flown in each post area during 1988, and 1989.



K.S.P. personnel prepare for a marijuana eradication mission aboard the Bell Long-Ranger helicopter.

	1988		1989	
Post 1 Mayfield	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	2	8.1	0	0
Helicopter	<u>3</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10.7</u>
TOTAL	5	32.3	2	10.7
Post 2 Madisonville	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	4	13.2	1	4.7
Helicopter	<u>2</u>	<u>10.9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>16.8</u>
TOTAL	6	24.1	4	21.5

	1988		1989	
Post 3 Bowling Green	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	10	26.2	0	0
Helicopter	<u>3</u>	<u>16.8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>17.1</u>
TOTAL	13	43.0	3	17.1
Post 4 Elizabethtown	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	4	17.3	0	0
Helicopter	<u>2</u>	<u>15.9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>20.3</u>
TOTAL	6	24.1	4	21.5
Post 5 LaGrange	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	2	8.7	0	0
Helicopter	<u>2</u>	<u>12.1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>18.1</u>
TOTAL	4	20.8	3	18.1
Post 6 Dry Ridge	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	1	3.4	1	1.3
Helicopter	<u>2</u>	<u>13.4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11.9</u>
TOTAL	3	16.8	3	13.2
Post 7 Richmond	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	7	24.2	3	11.3
Helicopter	<u>6</u>	<u>46.9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>62.6</u>
TOTAL	13	71.1	13	73.9

	1988		1989	
Post 8 Morehead	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	5	17.6	1	2.5
Helicopter	<u>2</u>	<u>15.6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6.2</u>
TOTAL	7	33.2	2	8.7
Post 9 Pikeville	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	1	3.5	2	9.8
Helicopter	<u>2</u>	<u>18.0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6.4</u>
TOTAL	3	21.5	3	16.2
Post 10 Harlan	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	18	96.9	6	28.7
Helicopter	<u>6</u>	<u>40.5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>42.2</u>
TOTAL	24	137.4	11	70.9
Post 11 London	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	8	30.8	3	10.4
Helicopter	<u>2</u>	<u>16.2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>45.4</u>
TOTAL	10	47.0	9	55.8
Post 12 Frankfort	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	8	31.7	8	15.1
Helicopter	<u>6</u>	<u>21.0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>28.9</u>
TOTAL	14	52.7	16	44.0
Post 13 Hazard	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	6	28.9	0	0
Helicopter	<u>5</u>	<u>36.5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>21.6</u>
TOTAL	11	65.4	3	21.6

	1988		1989	
	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Post 14 Ashland				
Airplanes	3	10.2	2	13.1
Helicopter	<u>3</u>	<u>19.8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8.3</u>
TOTAL	6	30.0	3	21.4
Post 15 Columbia				
Airplanes	14	46.1	4	17.3
Helicopter	<u>5</u>	<u>30.4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>47.1</u>
TOTAL	19	76.5	10	64.4
Post 16 Henderson				
Airplanes	3	15.3	2	6.0
Helicopter	<u>3</u>	<u>24.9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	6	40.2	2	6.0

Green-Gray Sweep High Bird Support

	1988		1989	
	Flights	Hours	Flights	Hours
Airplanes	10	85.7	0	0

Total Marijuana Related Flights

1988		1989	
Airplanes	Helicopters	Airplanes	Helicopters
106	54	33	57

Total Marijuana Related Hours

1988		1989	
Airplanes	Helicopters	Airplanes	Helicopters
467.8	363.1	120.2	363.6

Drug Enforcement/Special Investigations Sections

The DE/SI Sections are based out of two offices located in Bowling Green and Lexington. Each office conducts specialized investigations in their area of the State. Many of the personnel assigned to these offices have developed, through training and/or experience, the ability to spot marijuana from the air. During the marijuana growing season, DE/SI personnel are used for that function or the investigation of a major grower or trafficker. Marijuana that is eradicated by DE/SI personnel is reported by the statistics for the respective Posts.



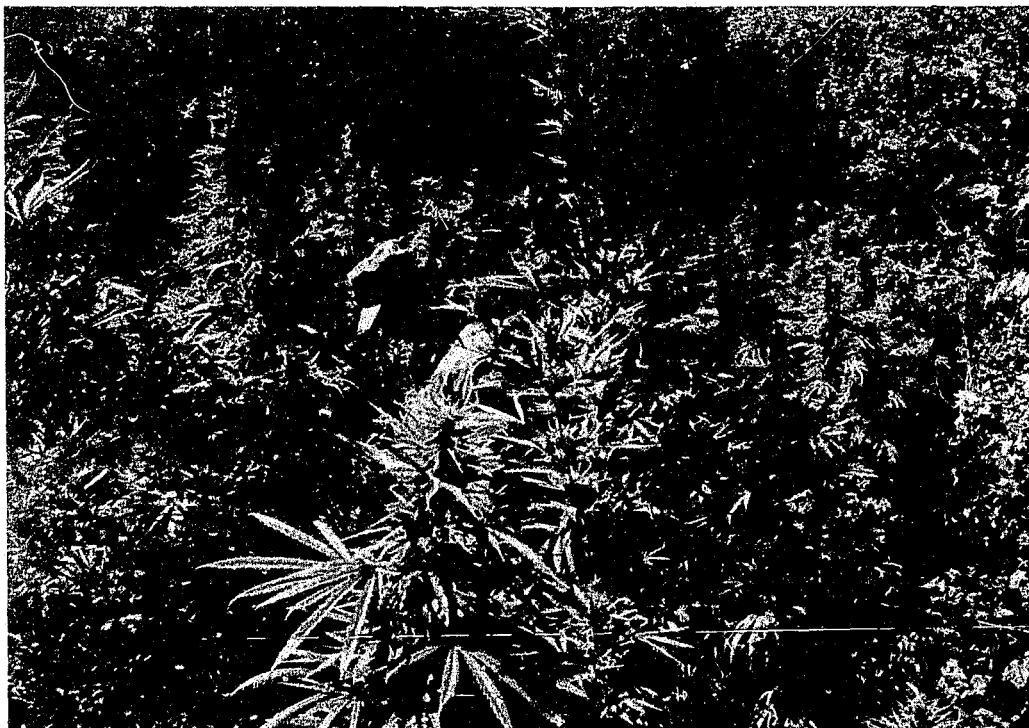
Two detectives cut marijuana, while one stacks the marijuana to be burned.

DE/SI personnel also conduct investigations of marijuana greenhouses and major marijuana traffickers. Some of these investigations originate through the use of informants and intelligence that were developed as the result of arrests during the growing season.

Hazardous Devices Unit

The eradication of marijuana is a dangerous venture for all law enforcement personnel. An increase in the number of booby traps is encountered during each eradication season. Some devices have been discovered during the past two years that contained up to a pound and a half of explosive material. Also on the increase are the instances where other types of booby traps are discovered. These devices include fish hooks, both in the plants and tied at eye level, steel animal traps, boards with large nails driven through them, and electric discharge devices. The use and design of any of these types of devices is limited only by the imagination of the illegal grower.

Civilians are also prone to injury or death when they enter an area used for growing marijuana. There have been numerous reports of confrontations between growers and civilians when they wander upon a plot. In 1988, six (6) civilians suffered injuries from explosions, or gun shots, while they were in, or near



An officer searches a field for booby traps before the cutting commences.

marijuana fields. During the same period in 1989, there were reports of two (2) injuries to civilians. There were no injuries to eradication personnel during either year. However, there was at least one occasion when an explosive device was triggered by a police officer entering a field, but complete detonation did not take place.

Statistics - 1988

The Hazardous Devices Unit disarmed or investigated the explosion of 19 explosive booby traps within 9 marijuana fields during 1988. The unit responded to 31 calls for assistance to examine possible booby traps, and dedicated 700 hours to this function. Non-explosive booby traps were located in at least 72 marijuana plots. Unfortunately, Kentucky led the nation in booby trapped marijuana fields during the 1988 calendar year.



A blasting cap that had been buried in a marijuana field. This device could have been detonated by a trip wire, - Nelson County 1988.

Statistics - 1989

In 1989 the unit reported that 35 explosive devices were encountered in 9 plots. There have been 9 arrests for criminal violations directly related to these devices.

The types of explosive devices located ranged from shotgun shells, mounted to scatter the pellets over an area, to one (1) cast booster, and one (1) stick of dynamite in the same explosive charge.



A hazardous devices investigator disarms Det-Cord and an electrical cap. The Pulaski County Sheriff looks on. Pulaski County-1988.

The unit responded to 22 separate incidents where explosive charges were thought to have been discovered, and dedicated 1150 hours to the marijuana eradication effort. There were 53 other non-explosive booby traps discovered during 1989.

Programs and Grants

TEAM Effort in Apprehending Marijuana Sources (TEAMS)

Initiated in 1988, this program was formed as a means of encouraging the participation by local departments in the marijuana eradication effort. TEAMS is used to identify, investigate, arrest, prosecute, seize property, and obtain assets associated with the cultivation of marijuana. It is funded from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Kentucky Justice Cabinet.

TEAMS established 16 regional task forces across the state that coincide with the geographical boundaries of the Kentucky State Police Posts. Each Post Commander appointed one (1) of his supervisors as TEAMS coordinator. This supervisor was responsible for the operation of the program in his area. Each TEAMS team was comprised of officers from local, county, and State agencies in addition to Kentucky State Police officers. The funds from the grant were utilized to pay these officers for overtime while eradicating marijuana. Kentucky State Police officers, however, did not receive compensation from this grant.

1988

Fifty (50) local and county police departments participated in the program. They contributed 2,006 hours to eradication, and received \$26,300.29 for their services. The Post team, and the departments that participated were:

Mayfield - Post #1

Paducah Police Department

Murray Police Department

Carlisle County Sheriff's Office

Madisonville, Post #2	Muhlenberg County Sheriff's Office
	Caldwell County Sheriff's Office
Bowling Green, Post #3	Glasgow Police Department
	Barren County Sheriff's Office
	Hart County Sheriff's Office
	Bowling Green Police Department
	Allen County Police Department
	Scottsville Police Department
	Edmonson County Sheriff's Office
Elizabethtown, Post #4	Larue County Sheriff's Office
	Nelson County Sheriff's Office
	Grayson County Sheriff's Office
	Bullitt County Sheriff's Office
	Nelson County Police Department
	Meade County Sheriff's Office
LaGrange, Post #5	Trimble County Sheriff's Office
	Carrollton Police Department
	Owenton Police Department
	Carroll County Sheriff's Office
Dry Ridge, Post #6	Boone County Police Department
	Boone County Sheriff's Office
	Bracken County Sheriff's Office
Richmond, Post #7	No Participating Agencies
Morehead, Post #8	Morgan County Sheriff's Office
	Rowan County Sheriff's Office
	Mason County Sheriff's Office
	Mt. Sterling Police Department
Pikeville, Post #9	Floyd County Sheriff's Office

Harlan, Post #10	Harlan County Sheriff's Office
London, Post #11	Mt. Vernon Police Department
Frankfort, Post #12	Franklin County Sheriff's Office
	Scott County Sheriff's Office
	Georgetown Police Department
	Shelbyville Police Department
Hazard, Post #13	Knott County Sheriff's Office
Ashland, Post #14	Grayson Police Department
	Louisa Police Department
Columbia, Post #15	Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
	Washington County Sheriff's Office
	Marion County Sheriff's Office
	Lebanon Police Department
	Casey County Sheriff's Office
	Burkesville Police Department
	Springfield Police Department
Henderson, Post #16	Sturgis Police Department
	Ohio County Sheriff's Office

1989

This grant was renewed for 1989 in the amount of \$50,000.00. All of the funds were expended to pay overtime for local, county, and two State agencies. A total of 4,390 hours were dedicated by these agencies to the TEAMS program. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Kentucky Water Patrol had officers that participated throughout the State. The

local and county departments that participated were:

Mayfield, Post #1	Trigg County Sheriff's Office
	Lyon County Police Department
Madisonville, Post #2	Cadiz Police Department
Bowling Green, Post #3	Auburn Police Department
	Logan County Sheriff's Office
	Adairville Police Department
	Russellville Police Department
	Butler County Sheriff's Office
Elizabethtown, Post #4	Leitchfield Police Department
	Larue County Sheriff's Office
	Grayson County Sheriff's Office
	Caneyville Police Department
	Meade County Sheriff's Office
	Nelson County Police Department
	Hodgenville Police Department
	Grayson County Jail
	Nelson County Sheriff's Office
	Hardin County Sheriff's Office
LaGrange, Post #5	Carroll County Sheriff's Office
	Trimble County Sheriff's Office
	Pleasureville Police Department
Dry Ridge, Post #6	Boone County Sheriff's Office
	Grant County Sheriff's Office
	Harrison County Sheriff's Office
	Bracken County Sheriff's Office
	Robertson County Sheriff's Office

Richmond, Post #7	No Participating Agencies
Morehead, Post #8	Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Pikeville, Post #9	No Participating Agencies
Harlan, Post #10	Harlan County Sheriff's Office
London, Post #11	Somerset Police Department
Frankfort, Post #12	Anderson County Police Department
	Lawrenceburg Police Department
	Georgetown Police Department
	Franklin County Sheriff's Office
	Shelby County Sheriff's Office
	Spencer County Sheriff's Office
	Scott County Sheriff's Office
	Woodford County Sheriff's Office
Hazard, Post #13	No Participating Agencies
Ashland, Post #14	No Participating Agencies
Columbia, Post #15	Washington County Sheriff's Office
	Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
	Campbellsville Police Department
	Taylor County Sheriff's Office
	Metcalf County Sheriff's Office
	Casey County Sheriff's Office
Henderson, Post #16	Ohio County Sheriff's Office
	Fordsville Police Department
	Hawesville Police Department
	Daviess County Sheriff's Office

Marijuana Suppression Strike Force

This new grant was one of two (2) marijuana suppression grants offered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance during 1989. The Kentucky State Police was fortunate to be one of the recipients of the \$250,000.00 that was made available. There were a total of twenty-eight applicants for the two (2) grants. The past results of Kentucky's Marijuana Eradication Program, no doubt, played a role in the award of the Grant.

Known as the Strike Force, this program targets major marijuana growers and traffickers for surveillance, undercover buys, arrest, prosecution and the ultimate forfeiture of assets. Two (2) teams were established, each based at a DE/SI Section Office. Each team is composed of a supervisor and detective personnel.

The budget allotted funds for overtime for team members as well as personnel assigned to perform legal, analytical and intelligence research. A fund was also established for the purchase of evidence, and sophisticated technical equipment.

Although this program has only been in operation since late 1989, the teams are already involved in several major on-going investigation.

Federal Overtime Program

Since 1981, the Kentucky State Police have received an annual grant from the Drug Enforcement Administration. These grants, part of the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, are used to pay overtime to Kentucky State Police officers while eradicating marijuana. A major goal of the program is to deter the cultivation of marijuana in the United States. Along with eradication, other primary elements are deterrents such as arrest and prosecution, seizure of assets, and discouragement of cultivators.

During 1988, and 1989, all posts and several sections were allocated a number of hours to be applied toward the marijuana eradication effort. Officers who participated in the program were required to work forty hours regular time during the week in order to receive overtime compensation.

1988

During 1988, \$245,497.00 was received as a part of this



A K.S.P. officer stirs the burning marijuana to allow air to the fire.

grant. There were 8,701 hours paid in overtime at a cost of \$212,624.42. Operational expenses for the newly purchased helicopter were also paid form this program.

1989

In 1989, \$230,000.00 was received as a result of this grant. The hours charged to the program totaled 7,990 hours at a cost of \$186,058.46. Each post, additionally received a Loran C navigational device that was paid for from this grant. These devices will hopefully make relocating plots of marijuana on the ground easier after they have been spotted from an aircraft. The cost of these sixteen devices was \$6,000.00.

Green/Gray Sweep

The Kentucky Army National Guard have participated with the Kentucky State Police in a joint marijuana eradication effort since 1986. This combined effort is known as the Green/Gray Sweep. In 1986, and 1987, the National Guard furnished helicopters and pilots to transport Kentucky State Police



K.S.P. personnel deploy from a National Guard helicopter during the Green Gray Sweep III.

officers to remote areas for marijuana eradication activities. The National Guard expanded their role in this effort during the 1988, and 1989 seasons.

1988

In 1988, the National Guard began to supply personnel and equipment to supplement Kentucky State Police resources while cutting and transporting marijuana. Nine (9) of the sixteen Kentucky State Police Post areas were targeted for Green/Gray activities. These Posts encompassed sixty-four eastern counties from south central to north eastern Kentucky. The eight (8) day operation was divided into three phases. Phase I was three days long and was conducted in the Post 14 - Ashland, Post 9 - Pikeville, and Post 8 - Morehead areas. Phase II was also three days in duration. It was conducted in the Post 10 - Harlan, Post 11 - London, and Post 13 - Hazard areas. The plant count for these three days alone exceeded the entire Green/Gray plant count for 1987! Phase III was two days long. It was conducted in the



Green-Gray Sweep III personnel return to the landing zone with a cut crop of marijuana to be destroyed - fall 1988.

Post 7 - Richmond, Post 12 - Frankfort, and Post 15 - Columbia areas.

The following is a breakdown of Green/Gray Sweep 1988:

<u>PHASE I</u>	<u>PLOTS</u>	<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>
DAY 1	35	8,059	1
DAY 2	54	17,261	1
DAY 3	<u>25</u>	<u>2,113</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	114	27,433	2
<u>PHASE II</u>	<u>PLOTS</u>	<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>
DAY 1	86	24,191	0
DAY 2	49	16,835	1
DAY 3	<u>48</u>	<u>5,682</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	183	46,708	2
<u>PHASE III</u>	<u>PLOTS</u>	<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>
DAY 1	61	5,583	2
DAY 2	<u>78</u>	<u>12,024</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	139	17,607	2
<u>GRAND TOTALS</u>			
1988	436	91,748	5

1989

During 1989, the National Guard again expanded it's role in the eradication effort. A fixed schedule for Green/Gray concentration was developed for most areas of the State. These areas received a full compliment of Guard personnel, and equipment to supplement Kentucky State Police resources. Other areas of the State received a scaled down version of Guard personnel and equipment. The duration of the entire operation was expanded from July 1st through October 30th. Results of the operations were not published until after the termination of the operation.

Additionally, the Guard supplied personnel to be assigned for the surveillance of selected marijuana fields. These teams consisted of a combination of DE/SI Detectives and Guard personnel. Their mission was to gather intelligence for the arrest and prosecution of marijuana growers.

The following is a breakdown of Green/Gray Sweep 1989:

GREEN/GRAY SWEEP STATISTICS, 1989

GREEN/GRAY 1989
STATISTICAL SUMMARY BY POSTS

<u>POSTS</u>	<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>PLOTS</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>
Post 1 - Mayfield	64	1	0
Post 2 - Madisonville	317	2	0
Post 3 - Bowling Green	0	0	0
Post 4 - Elizabethtown	3,122	39	3
Post 5 - LaGrange	408	12	0
Post 6 - Dry Ridge	101	2	0
Post 7 - Richmond	30,951	175	7
Post 8 - Morehead	5,259	42	0
Post 9 - Pikeville	14,280	91	2
Post 10 - Harlan	16,339	98	0
Post 11 - London	17,264	144	7
Post 12 - Frankfort	35	2	1
Post 13 - Hazard	34,074	128	3
Post 14 - Ashland	3,394	11	3
Post 15 - Columbia	14,652	177	0
Post 16 - Henderson	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	168,282	926	26

Statistics reflect all activity within Post area's during period
National Guard was in Post area.

Marijuana Eradication Statistical Totals by Post Area

As has been stated previously Kentucky traditionally ranks in the top five states nationwide for the eradication of marijuana. In 1988, Kentucky was ranked third in figures reported by the Drug Enforcement Administration. As of the date of publication of this report tabulations have not been reported to DEA by other states for 1989.

The following statistics are the results of the eradication efforts reported by local, county, and state agencies for 1988, and 1989. These figures do not include reports filed with DEA by Federal agencies. The counties have been arranged to correspond with the geographic boundaries of the Kentucky State Police.

BOUNDARIES OF THE KENTUCKY STATE POLICE POSTS

	1988			1989		
	Plants	Plots	Arrests	Plants	Plots	Arrests
POST 1 - MAYFIELD						
Ballard	*	*	*	24	6	0
Calloway	74	4	2	57	17	3
Carlisle	203	4	0	72	4	0
Fulton	41	3	1	1	1	0
Graves	27	2	0	724	31	3
Hickman	37	3	1	28	6	0
Livingston	835	1	0	313	10	2
Lyon	32	2	2	167	0	0
McCracken	48	7	0	0	0	0
Marshall	4	1	1	11	1	0
Trigg	15	4	0	849	4	1
Post 1 Totals:	1,316	31	7	2,246	80	9

POST 2 - MADISONVILLE						
Caldwell	66	4	2	10	3	2
Christian	33	1	0	349	4	0
Crittenden	8	1	0	7	1	0
Hopkins	371	8	0	11,545	42	8
Muhlenberg	216	8	2	16	16	1
Todd	18	3	0	1	1	0
Webster	100	1	0	127	5	0
Post 2 Totals:	812	26	4	12,055	72	11

POST 3 - BOWLING GREEN						
Allen	147	1	0	262	27	0
Barren	71	5	0	204	9	1
Butler	1,181	9	4	176	11	0
Edmonson	418	18	1	189	7	3
Hart	7,606	11	0	926	51	2
Logan	289	12	3	1,735	13	8
Simpson	0	0	0	100	4	0
Warren	455	12	4	443	12	3
Post 3 Totals:	10,167	68	12	4,035	134	17

*No Reported Activity.

BOUNDARIES OF THE KENTUCKY STATE POLICE POSTS

	1988 Plants	1988 Plots	Arrests	1989 Plants	1989 Plots	Arrests
POST 4 - ELIZABETHTOWN						
Breckinridge	93	6	0	3,148	5	0
Bullitt	593	19	0	526	10	2
Grayson	454	26	2	666	31	2
Hardin	589	25	3	620	13	6
Jefferson	2	1	0	*	*	*
Larue	2,021	16	4	176	11	0
Meade	342	6	1	1,810	41	5
Nelson	1,562	28	2	36,199	76	5
Post 4 Totals:	5,656	127	12	43,145	187	20
POST 5 - LAGRANGE						
Carroll	21	1	0	509	7	0
Gallatin	36	2	2	6	1	0
Henry	422	12	0	3,758	21	3
Oldham	102	1	0	3	1	0
Owen	16,796	27	0	804	16	2
Trimble	2,223	4	0	2,654	7	1
Post 5 Totals:	19,600	47	2	7,734	53	6
POST 6 - DRY RIDGE						
Boone	2,158	4	0	*	*	*
Bourbon	74,541	11	1	19,702	26	1
Bracken	32	6	1	2,043	14	1
Campbell	0	0	0	63	3	0
Grant	86	9	1	327	25	5
Harrison	*	*	*	199	15	1
Kenton	*	*	*	251	4	1
Nicholas	*	*	*	7	6	0
Pendleton	83	28	0	6	6	0
Robertson	156	13	0	22	6	1
Post 6 Totals:	77,056	71	3	22,620	105	10

*No Reported Activity.

BOUNDARIES OF THE KENTUCKY STATE POLICE POSTS

	1988			1989		
	Plants	Plots	Arrests	Plants	Plots	Arrests
POST 7 - RICHMOND						
Boyle	539	3	0	109	3	0
Clark	639	6	3	200	20	0
Estill	490	9	2	1,378	4	1
Garrard	39	1	0	2,453	19	2
Jackson	9,094	36	0	2,439	10	1
Jessamine	593	12	3	77	6	0
Lee	11,251	113	5	3,327	58	6
Lincoln	3,843	11	0	8,020	4	0
Madison	42	6	5	845	11	2
Mercer	46	2	1	272	5	2
Owsley	15,104	141	5	54,649	238	6
Post 7 Totals:	41,680	340	24	73,770	378	20

POST 8 - MOREHEAD						
Bath	*	*	*	23	0	0
Elliott	1,209	70	3	42	0	0
Fleming	98	3	2	40	1	1
Lewis	1,307	6	1	390	12	2
Mason	394	21	0	*	*	*
Menifee	47	13	0	319	10	1
Morgan	224	10	0	380	7	0
Montgomery	2,268	3	0	*	*	*
Powell	310	17	0	36	3	1
Rowan	460	37	5	232	6	1
Wolfe	434	22	0	5,293	35	0
Post 8 Totals:	6,751	202	11	6,755	80	6

POST 9 - PIKEVILLE						
Floyd	11,536	52	6	16,435	115	4
Johnson	818	7	0	25	1	0
Magoffin	18,502	85	0	1,973	24	3
Martin	*	*	*	127	3	1
Pike	1,368	67	5	432	15	5
Post 9 Totals:	32,224	211	11	18,992	158	13

*No Reported Activity.

BOUNDARIES OF THE KENTUCKY STATE POLICE POSTS

	1988			1989		
	Plants	Plots	Arrests	Plants	Plots	Arrests
POST 10 - HARLAN						
Bell	8,849	75	2	10,716	97	1
Harlan	18,621	68	0	19,971	151	2
Knox	11,624	53	14	19,860	105	7
Post 10 Totals:		38,979	193	16	50,547	353

POST 11 - LONDON						
Clay	14,736	105	3	26,061	345	6
Laurel	1,950	24	0	4,806	39	3
McCreary	1,338	8	0	1,707	3	0
Pulaski	923	8	5	502	19	2
Rockcastle	19,343	111	0	11,558	105	7
Wayne	6,601	54	0	567	9	0
Whitley	249	3	0	2,468	68	3
Post 11 Totals:		45,140	313	8	47,402	586

POST 12 - FRANKFORT						
Anderson	1,344	23	2	112	9	11
Fayette	*	*	*	193	9	5
Franklin	1,113	29	5	411	25	14
Scott	1,331	10	0	40,006	21	9
Shelby	10,970	36	8	1,983	22	2
Spencer	2,228	29	5	2,674	43	7
Woodford	45	1	0	103	8	2
Post 12 Totals:		17,031	128	20	45,482	137

POST 13 - HAZARD						
Breathitt	4,754	79	10	28,823	126	7
Knott	4,111	44	3	3,578	29	1
Leslie	56,890	253	5	21,248	100	4
Letcher	621	18	3	24	1	0
Perry	5,301	88	4	1,596	24	3
Post 13 Totals:		71,677	482	25	55,269	280

*No Reported Activity.

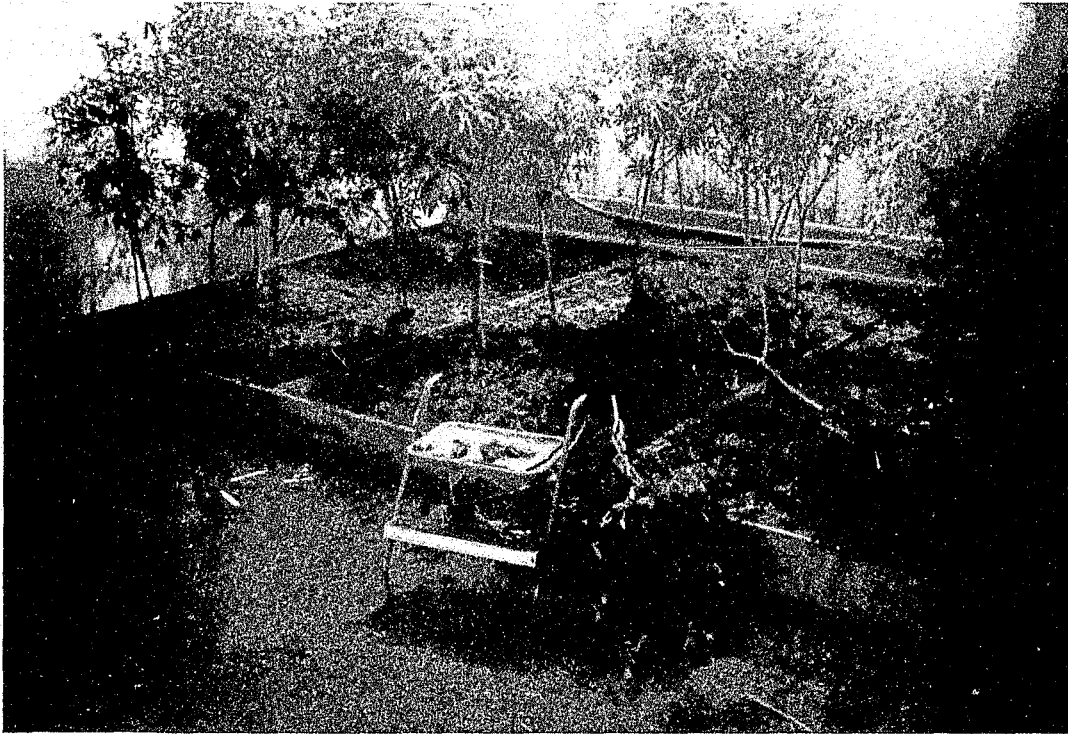
BOUNDARIES OF THE KENTUCKY STATE POLICE POSTS

	1988			1989		
	Plants	Plots	Arrests	Plants	Plots	Arrests
POST 14 - ASHLAND						
Boyd	355	3	5	13	2	0
Carter	1,322	26	0	642	28	1
Greenup	148	2	0	3,302	27	3
Lawrence	1,132	12	0	129	4	0
Post 14 Totals:		2,957	43	5	4,086	61

POST 15 - COLUMBIA						
Adair	7,312	24	2	1,283	31	4
Casey	488	9	2	9,073	70	2
Clinton	4,176	47	1	8,964	8	3
Cumberland	6,255	45	2	4,436	18	0
Green	2,422	11	2	2,559	20	0
Marion	8,906	34	3	9,137	29	4
Metcalfe	97	5	0	261	11	3
Monroe	83	2	0	1,038	7	0
Russell	836	8	2	2,675	33	1
Taylor	4,853	22	0	528	11	1
Washington	6,136	20	1	3,586	23	3
Post 15 Totals:		41,564	227	15	43,540	261

POST 16 - HENDERSON						
Daviess	176	6	0	*	*	*
Hancock	346	5	0	354	7	4
Henderson	491	2	0	619	7	6
McLean	682	5	0	84	9	0
Ohio	274	11	2	378	31	1
Union	*	*	*	*	*	*
Post 16 Totals:		1,969	29	2	1,435	54

*No Reported Activity.



Large marijuana plants growing in a greenhouse.



Volume purchases of horticultural items such as these by a person not normally using such material may indicate that the purchaser is growing marijuana.

SUMMARY OF THE KENTUCKY STATE POLICE POSTS

	1988			1989		
	Plants	Plots	Arrests	Plants	Plots	Arrests
Post 1 - Mayfield	1,316	31	7	2,246	80	9
Post 2 - Madisonville	812	26	4	12,055	72	11
Post 3 - Bowling Green	10,617	68	12	4,035	134	17
Post 4 - Elizabethtown	5,656	127	12	43,145	187	20
Post 5 - LaGrange	19,600	47	2	7,734	53	6
Post 6 - Dry Ridge	77,056	71	3	22,620	105	10
Post 7 - Richmond	41,680	340	24	73,770	378	20
Post 8 - Morehead	6,751	202	11	6,755	80	6
Post 9 - Pikeville	32,224	211	11	18,992	158	13
Post 10 - Harlan	38,979	193	16	50,547	353	10
Post 11 - London	45,140	313	8	47,402	586	21
Post 12 - Frankfort	17,031	128	20	45,482	137	50
Post 13 - Hazard	71,677	482	25	55,269	280	15
Post 14 - Ashland	2,957	43	5	4,086	61	4
Post 15 - Columbia	41,564	227	15	43,540	261	21
Post 16 - Henderson	1,969	29	2	1,435	54	11
TOTALS	414,579	2,538	177	439,113	2,979	244

MEDIA COVERAGE

The problems of drug abuse have captured the attention of the nation. We are made aware of the extent and impact of the problem through print and electronic coverage provided by the media. Most of Kentucky's media coverage, regarding drugs, has been focused on the cultivation of marijuana.

In all probability, every newspaper in the state has printed at least one story, and every broadcast median has aired a segment on the marijuana eradication efforts in Kentucky. Kentucky has also received nationwide coverage from stories such as those that appeared on 48 Hours, Inside Edition, and that which appeared in USA Today.

The following pages are copies of actual news stories that appeared in Kentucky newspapers during the 1988, and 1989 eradication efforts.

JUL 08 1988
Daily Enterprise
Harlan, Ky.

Record Marijuana Eradication

Police Destroy 8,070 Plants, Shots Fired

By LISA FEE
Of The Enterprise Staff

The largest marijuana eradication in Post 10 history was recorded Thursday as Kentucky State Police and Harlan County Sheriff's Deputies combined efforts to destroy crops totaling more than \$8.5 million in Harlan and Bell Counties.

At one location just off of KY 2009 near Bledsoe, several plots were discovered and shots fired in the vicinity of officers sent to cut the plants.

The officers believe the shots were fired from a vehicle traveling or stopped on KY 2009.

We, Deputy Bill Adams and myself, were positioned near the creek bed down below from where the other officers were cutting the marijuana," said Trooper Tim Sullivan.

"We had gone down there after it came across on our portable hand-held radios that someone had been seen in one of the plots and had fled in our direction on foot. We went down toward the road to block the exit and try and apprehend the subject."

"All of a sudden we heard a door slam and approximately five to six rounds were fired," Sullivan said. "We didn't see anyone, nor the vehicle. Riley

(KSP Det. William H. Riley) was on a three-wheeler down below us and saw the dust from a vehicle leaving the scene.

Sullivan noted after the incident a gray car was observed traveling up and down KY 2009 in front of the area officers were located. The car was pulled over and the driver questioned, but no arrests had been made this morning in connection with the incident.

The marijuana plots were discovered Thursday by a KSP airplane and a drug enforcement officer in the craft trained in the aerial spotting of the illegal crop.

The aircraft notified the ground units of the marijuana located off of KY 2009 around 4 p.m. and estimated they contained in excess of 6,000 plants in separate plots.

Upon following the aerial directions from Post 10, Drug Enforcement Officer Ken Crider, a ground team of approximately 15 men followed a dirt road leading to the marijuana plots.

The road at one point was barricaded by a steel gate and padlock and at least one other gate attempted to block the entrance, as well as several trees which had been cut along the road.

The dirt road led directly to the marijuana plots which in fact contained several thousand plants.

A trailer, several vehicles, buildings and farm animals (horses, chickens and pigs) were located at about mid-point of the road, along with a water tanker and several water pumps beside a pond in front of the trailer.

No one was found at the time of the officers' initial entry of the area.

Officers continued on the dirt road which came to a dead end at the edge of one of the largest of six plots located near the road.

The officers then divided into teams and began cutting the individual plots when someone was spotted by KSP Sgt. T.A. Miller at the outer corner of the end crop.

"Just as I came over the edge of the road I spotted someone down in the far end of the last plot, right where we found a fertilizer mix, and I shouted 'stop, Kentucky State Police,'" Miller recounted.

"I heard the person fall down when I yelled and then run down over the hill," Miller added.

After it was determined no one remained in the immediate area of the marijuana plots and the vicinity of the mobile home, a thorough search of the grounds was made by officers.

The door of the trailer stood ajar and upon entering several half-gallons of moonshine whiskey, five cases of beer and a cardboard box containing processed or dried marijuana was found.

The items were confiscated as illegal contraband and taken to Post 10.

Also inside the trailer, several bags of fertilizer, three pieces of equipment, including a generator and maps, were discovered.

At least seven vehicles, including the water tanker and a bus were positioned around the mobile home and checked by the officers.

Several officers involved in the search said the mobile home was used strictly as a guard structure or headquarters for the marijuana growers.

"This whole setup was definitely used strictly in the protection and cultivation of marijuana," claimed Miller. "It had no other reason for being up here. When you consider the amount of the crop we cut, it is only logical."

After the eradication operation had concluded, Crider expressed his enthusiasm at Thursday's results.

"This was an extremely good day for us," said Crider. "It showed a maximum effort not only by Kentucky State Police but the Harlan County Sheriff's Department as well.

"It takes a great deal of work and training to spot marijuana from the air and especially using an airplane like we had today, rather than a helicopter. It's a lot harder with the airplane because you have to continue to circle over the spotted crops until the ground units can interpret the spotters and pilots directions."

The number of marijuana plants cut and destroyed Thursday totaled 8,070 with fields discovered at Reuben's Branch, Bledsoe and the crops eradicated near KY 2009.

Four-wheel drive vehicles and three-wheelers were used to reach the mountainous and rough terrain plots.

"So far this year we're way above the Post 10 six-month average for marijuana eradication," noted Miller. "Last year from January to June we destroyed approximately 600 plants and this year it's over 8,000 for the same period. They're growing it more, we have additional support in Frankfort from the KSP Commissioner and complete support here at home too with our own Post Commander Doug Asher.

"The state has eradicated about 35,000 marijuana plants so far in 1988," said Miller. "We at Post 10 alone have destroyed well over 16,000, including today's crops. That puts us at being responsible for about one-third of Kentucky's total," said Miller.

"Our captain is supporting these efforts 100 percent. If he didn't we couldn't spend the time and manpower that this type of work takes. He has taken on running the post almost solely, administrative wise, to allow myself and the other sergeants to aid in these eradications."

Miller said the combined effort Thursday of the state police and sheriff's department was the most successful operation in which Post 10 has participated.

"In the number's department, this was the best operation we have ever had," he said. "The cooperation between these different agencies really helps and the overall result reflects this joint effort."

Harlan County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Land agreed with Miller's outlook of Thursday's eradication operation and said the sheriff's department would continue with their effort in destroying the illegal crops in Harlan County.

"As long as it's out there, we'll be cutting it," said Land, who has been a sheriff's deputy for four-and-one-half-years.

"It really surprised me the amount we got," he said. "The type of operation we discovered on 2009 with the water trucks and everything was really something I didn't expect. I just wish we could have caught the people and made an arrest, but it's really hard to do that in that type of situation.

According to officials, the marijuana destroyed Thursday ranged in size from one to 12 feet and were discovered in plots of 50 to 900 plants.



Guard Site For Marijuana Crops

Officers descend on the grounds of a mobile home used as the headquarters and guard site for nearby marijuana crops after shots were fired in their vicinity. (Daily Enterprise Staff Photo By Lisa Fee)

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**Kentucky Press
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8-11-88
Herald-Leader
Lexington, KY

Police, National Guard begin aerial pot sweep

Staff, wire reports

FRANKFORT — Kentucky State Police and National Guard personnel teamed up again yesterday for the third annual aerial assault on the state's marijuana crop.

Green-Gray Sweep III fanned out from state police posts in Ashland, Pikeville and Morehead yesterday in eight Guard helicopters with state police spotters on board.

Once a patch of the illegal weed was found and state police secured the area, six Guard squads helped in chopping the plants.

State police Capt. John Lile said marijuana eradication efforts through Friday had netted 220,325 plants in 1,167 plots, and 112 arrests.

One area in Floyd County brought six plots yesterday with 2,500 to 3,000 plants, Lile said. One arrest was made in the Floyd County find.

The cooperative effort will continue periodically through the harvesting season.

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AUG 10 1988
Henry Co. Local
New Castle, Ky.
Circulation: 4,259

Raid uncovers nearly \$18 million of pot

BY ANDY IVERS
HCL News Editor

A marijuana eradication program launched by the Kentucky State Police last Tuesday resulted in the destruction of two marijuana fields in Owen County and two in Henry County, including a \$17 million crop near Owenton.

The Owen County crop, the largest field of marijuana found in the state this year, contained 17,528 cultivated plants and was discovered in 18 different plots 9.5 miles south of Owenton on Lucas Lane.

According to Trooper Jim Mudd, information officer at the LaGrange State Police Post, some of the plots were camouflaged by the growers by placing chicken wire, mulch and small cedar trees around the plants.

The total estimated value of the crop was \$17,528,000.

Discovered in Henry County were nine plots of marijuana found in two separate locations.

One field was located 6½ miles east of Bethlehem off of KY 22 where 205 plants were discovered and then destroyed. A smaller tract of marijuana in Henry County containing 141 plants was discovered four miles east of Glenmary off of Gums Lane.

The Henry County plants had a total estimated value of \$346,000.

Also, in Owen County, 50 marijuana plants were discovered in three different plots in a sabotaged field off Shady Lane in Monterey.

According to Mudd, the plots were surrounded with booby traps consisting of pieces of wood buried underground with large,

spiked, rusty nails sticking above ground. The estimates street value of these plots were \$50,000.

The marijuana eradication program is being conducted by Kentucky State Police personnel from Post 5 with the assistance from the KSP aircraft section, the narcotics division and the special investigation units.

Police currently have no suspects involving the cultivation of the marijuana.

The state police are urging citizens with information concerning the location of marijuana fields to call toll-free 1-800-222-5555. The information will be kept in strict confidence.

Kentucky State Police are warning against approaching marijuana fields because some growers have been setting traps around their crops.

Clipping Division
**Kentucky Press
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Frankfort, Ky. 40601
AUG 23 1988

Wayne Co. Outlook
Monticello, Ky.
Circulation: 5,589

Largest marijuana crop ever found

One of Wayne County's largest marijuana crops of the year—worth more than a million dollars—was discovered in a remote wooded area last week.

According to Wayne County Sheriff Jim Hill, 1,425 plants were confiscated in the Dry Hollow community on Thursday, August 18.

"That's the largest crop in the county we've gotten this year," noted Hill.

With plants estimated at a street

value of \$800 each, value of the plants that were confiscated totaled in excess of \$1.1 million.

The Kentucky State Police originally began the air search for the crop in Clinton County, but it was later discovered on a mountain top in Wayne County.

A team from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Kentucky State Police was involved in the confiscation of the crop, which was later destroyed.

Clipping Division
**Kentucky Press
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Frankfort, Ky. 40601

SEP 01 1988
News Enterprise
Elizabethtown, Ky.

Booby trap's blast leads police to harvest pot field

STAFF REPORT

A Nelson County man was injured Wednesday when he stepped on an explosive device in a marijuana field near Boston. Police searched the area Thursday and found about 173 marijuana plants but no other booby traps.

The area was thoroughly searched but only the device that exploded and injured the man was found, said Trooper Eddie Lair of the Kentucky State Police. About 96 of the plants, which were cut and seized, were in the same area as the explosive device, he said.

Joseph Robert Nalley III, 21, of Bardstown, was injured Wednesday when he and three friends were walking through the field. He was taken to Flaget Hospital in Bardstown for treatment.

Involved in the search and seizure were members of the State Police hazardous devices units and the U.S. Army Explosives Ordnance Detachment. Also involved were Nelson County police, the Nelson County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Division of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

No arrests have been made, Lair said, and police are continuing their investigation. ■

Clipping Division
**Kentucky Press
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332 Capitol Avenue
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AUG 18 1988

Licking Valley Courier
West Liberty, Ky.
Circulation: 3,750

Marijuana Worth Over \$1 Million Found In Elliott

A total of 1,080 marijuana plants were destroyed in Elliott County during a two-day search and destroy operation by the Kentucky State Police.

Trooper John Lambert of the Morehead KSP Post said the estimated value of the crop was more than \$1 million. A total of 61 plots of the illegal weed were found, 60 in Elliott and one in the edge of Rowan County.

The operation, which included use of a State Police helicopter, resulted in the arrests of four persons charged with cultivating marijuana.

Those cited were Patricia Mabry, 39, of Newfound-land, David Boggs, 41, and his brother, Earsel Boggs, 19, both of Route 3 Olive Hill (the Stark section of Elliott County), and Paul J. Cox, 60, also of the Stark section.

Clipping Division
**Kentucky Press
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AUG 25 1988

Wolfe Co. News
Campton, Ky.
Circulation: 2,067

Valued At \$17.5 Million—

Record Marijuana Crop Is Discovered In Magoffin

The Salyersville Independent

Magoffin County has yielded the largest marijuana crop ever confiscated within the Kentucky State Police Pikeville Post Nine area.

On Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning of last week, a total of 17,500 plants discovered at the head of Dry Bread Fork of Middle Creek, a hollow located off Route 114, approximately six miles east of Salyersville, was destroyed by members of the National Guard and the Kentucky State Police. The contraband was hauled to Pike County in five Army-issued trucks where it was burned.

A spokesperson at Post Nine estimated the street value of the marijuana, at maturity, at \$17.5 million, or roughly \$1,000 per plant.

According to a State Police report at Pikeville, a total of 16,100 plants was cut and transported Wednesday to an area near the Pike-Floyd county lines where it was burned.

Unofficially the bonfire burned for approximately five hours. The balance of 1,400 plants were removed Wednesday morning and burned in the same manner.

The raid on Dry Bread was part of the Green-Gray Sweep Program, an eradication program involving the Kentucky State Police and the Kentucky National Guard.

Members of the National Guard use helicopters to regularly patrol the county, searching for fields of the illegal plant. When a field is spotted, the unit contacts the Kentucky State Police and the groundwork begins. Guardsmen also assist in disposing of any plants or crops.

Although the crop on Dry Bread was officially spotted by guardsmen in a helicopter, it is believed that particular area had been under surveillance by law enforcement officers prior to the official discovery.

The isolated area where the pot was discovered is located approximately one-half mile above any type of road considered to be

"halfway" accessible and approximately two miles from the Mouth of the Middle Creek, or Rt. 114.

One officer participating in the raid described the crop as being "well manicured." The height of the plants were not included in the report.

There were unofficial reports that the field where the crop was found was surrounded with "booby-traps" and the path leading from the access road to the field was lined with explosive devices, giving every indication the area had been well-guarded up until the time of discovery.

It was confirmed that this particular raid in Magoffin County represented the largest single marijuana crop ever to be discovered in Pike, Floyd, Magoffin, Martin or Johnson counties, the five counties that comprise the Pikeville Post Nine area.

No arrests have been made in connection with the raid. However, a Kentucky State Police spokesman confirmed that an investigation will continue.

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SEP 8 1988
Courier-Journal
Louisville, KY

Pot-busters' tally tops 375,000 marijuana plants

By DAVID CAZARES
Staff Writer

Kentucky State Police officers have found and destroyed more than 375,000 marijuana plants so far this year, a spokesman said yesterday.

That is less than the approximately 410,000 plants destroyed by this time last year — and the 478,527 total for 1987. But police say the difference is misleading because more than 200,000 plants were found on one plot last year.

And despite the fact that marijuana growers are changing their methods to avoid detection, this year's "Operation Green-Gray Sweep," a marijuana-eradication effort of state police and the Kentucky Army National Guard, added nearly 92,000 plants to the total, said Capt. John Lile, a state police spokesman.

"It's putting more pressure on them," he said of the three-week operation that ended last week. "We hope that there's some deterrent."

Lile said the program, which began with a one-day effort late in the 1986 season, more than doubled the amount of plants destroyed during the same three-week period last year.

State police credited the operation with the discovery of 91,748 plants on 436 plots this year, up from 45,780 in 1987.

He also said that the trend toward smaller plots continues because growers are trying to avoid discovery from the air.

The use of National Guard helicopters ended last week, but state police will continue flying their own helicopter until the

See STATE POLICE
PAGE 3, col. 1, this section

State police have destroyed 375,000 pot plants

Continued from Page B 1

first frost, Lile said.

He said authorities concentrated their efforts in Eastern and Central Kentucky, where marijuana production is heaviest.

Kentucky, which has been among the national leaders in marijuana production throughout the 1980s, also remains among the leaders in eradication this year, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

As of yesterday Kentucky ranked third in the number of cultivated marijuana plants found and destroyed, behind Hawaii and Missouri.

Hawaii destroyed 646,134 cultivated plants on 6,789 plots; Missouri, 321,436 plants on 238 plots; Kentucky, 310,106 plants on 1,883 plots; Tennessee, 226,537 plants on 1,132 plots, and California, 103,895 plants on 668 plots. (The total number of Kentucky plants is higher because

some uncultivated marijuana has also been destroyed.)

Indiana again led the nation in total discoveries — with 51.4 million plants — but only 4,478 plants on 783 plots were cultivated. The wild plants have very little THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

Officials say the drought has curtailed marijuana production this year.

Capt. Don Pendleton, commander of the Kentucky State Police post at Richmond, said plants are about 20 percent smaller, but said "we still found some 20-foot plants."

In Western Kentucky, where the drought's effects have been worse, plants were a third smaller than last year, said Capt. Louis Stiles, of the state police post at Madisonville. "If you can get them water, then they'll grow," he said.

But irrigation has meant that marijuana plants stand out in areas affected by the drought.

Some say the state's increased ef-

forts to combat marijuana have forced growers out of state.

A case in point is the arrest of 17 people from Central Kentucky last October in a large marijuana-processing operation in Minnesota.

To avoid detection, some growers are also using federal lands.

Officials at Fort Knox have found about 1,000 plants this year and have offered a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

On Aug. 18, more than 700 plants were discovered at Mammoth Cave National Park. The plants were protected by animal traps. Phil Veluzat, chief park ranger, said that, although it is not unusual to find marijuana growing on park property, it is unusual to find plots deep inside its boundaries.

Police are increasingly finding booby traps to keep them — and others — away from plots.

Nelson County Police Chief James Goatley said a Bardstown man recently was treated at a local hospital after he stepped on an explosive device used to protect a marijuana plot.

"We try to be as cautious as we can be any time we go into a marijuana field," he said, "but right now we're giving caution a little more consideration."

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SEP 14 1988
Kentucky New Era
Hopkinsville, KY

'Pot' patch explosives raise ante in drug war

By DAVID S. JENNINGS
NEW ERA Staff Writer

WHITE PLAINS, Ky. — A field of cultivated marijuana laden with explosives signals an escalation in the war on drugs, state police said today.

"This is the first time that we in the Post 2 area have seen any type of explosives to guard a marijuana patch," Trooper Bryan Pitney said this morning.

Pitney made the remark after state and federal officials spent about 12 hours Tuesday removing marijuana and explosives from a patch outside this Hopkins County community.

"The whole operation took about 12 hours," Pitney said. "Much of that time was the time it took for the state police hazardous materials squad to arrive from Frankfort. It took about three hours for the explosives to be neutralized," he said.

Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) also participated in the cleanup.

Approximately 300 plants with a street value of \$280,000 were con-

fiscated during the operation, Pitney said. State police first came across the patch Tuesday morning after receiving a tip, Pitney said.

The patch was located off a gravel road near Kentucky 813. Pitney was unable to provide the name of the property owner.

When lawmen discovered the booby traps, they sent for reinforcements.

Pitney declined to identify the type and amount of explosives in use at the field, but noted that they were sufficient to injure someone fatally.

Law enforcement officials prevented reporters from getting too close to the field.

"People are not willing to play the game any more," Pitney said. "They're getting too serious about it and, consequently, we're going to have to be more serious about it."

"Instead of reading about it someplace else, we're going to have to expect it here," he said.

Pitney said an investigation into the case is continuing.

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SEPT 1 1988
McLean Co. News
Calhoun, Ky.
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Kentucky State Troopers search for marijuana plants in the high weeds while maintaining radio contact with

the helicopter.

[NEWS staff photo by Joe Vandiver]



Trooper Bill Walker inspects some of the 875 marijuana plants confiscated last Friday.

[NEWS staff photo by Gina Hancock]

AUG 04 1989

Sentinel-Echo
London, Ky.
Circulation: 10,034

Third of U.S. pot is in D.B. Forest

By H.H. Krusekopf

One-third of all marijuana cut by authorities in national forests across the United States last year was found in the Daniel Boone National Forest, and the U.S. Forest Service is making another concerted effort again this year to eradicate the illegal weed from public lands.

During the past two weeks, a task force headed by law enforcement agents from the Forest Service has destroyed more than 33,000 marijuana plants in the southern portion of the Daniel Boone.

Most of the pot has been found in Laurel, Clay and Owsley counties, according to Bill Dixon, law enforcement ranger for the Daniel Boone. Marijuana patches growing on national forest land in Rockcastle, Pulaski and McCreary counties have also been targets of the raids.

Eight Forest Service agents from Virginia, Florida and Mississippi have joined local rangers in the search and

destroy mission that has resulted in 252 marijuana plots being cut.

"We're just trying to get more people in here" to eradicate the illegal crop, Dixon said.

Kentucky State Police and local sheriff's departments have worked alongside the Forest Service personnel in the eradication work. Aerial surveillance has been used to plot the patches and coordinate ground efforts.

The 33,000 total cut during the two week operation includes nearly 4,000 destroyed last Thursday in Laurel County near Cold Hill by forest rangers, troopers from the London KSP post, and Laurel County Sheriff's deputies.

The raids have resulted in three arrests, no names were available, and the seizure of two vehicles. None of the arrests were in Laurel County, Dixon said.

One of the busts involved a weapon's charge and the use of poison around the patch, Dixon said. Under a new law, the two charges would add an automatic ten years to the suspect's sentence if he is convicted of cultivating marijuana.

Dixon said fishhooks hanging on line stretched across trails and several steel "varmint" traps had been found near pot patches during the raids.

Near one of the raid sites, agents found pungie sticks stacked in a barn. The sharpened sticks are put in a hole then covered by a thin surface so wildlife, or people, will accidentally step onto them, Dixon said.

The huge marijuana sweep in the area is likely to anger pot growers, but Dixon said that will not deter the eradication effort.

A task force headed by law enforcement agents from the Forest Service has destroyed more than 33,000 marijuana plants in the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Last year, according to a recent article in USA Today, growers in Clay County told officials that for every patch of marijuana destroyed they would burn an acres of national forest land. Several fires swept the area last year that were determined to be deliberately set, possibly by disgruntled growers.

"We're going to cut and eradicate as much marijuana as we can," Dixon said. "We're going to arrest as many marijuana growers as we can. And when it gets to be fire season, we're going to arrest anybody caught setting fires."

While the pot-cutting crews from Virginia, Mississippi and Florida are heading home this weekend, the Forest Service plans to begin another two-week eradication exercise with law enforcement agents towards the end of next week.

A third task force will probably arrive in the area during the September harvesting season to make another assault on eastern Kentucky's marijuana crop, Dixon said.

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AUG 9 1989

Casey Co. News
Liberty, Ky.
Circulation: 6,165

Major pot operation discovered by police

Arrests are expected to be made in a "major marijuana operation" discovered Friday afternoon in Casey County near the Boyle County line.

State and local police confiscated and destroyed 3,986 marijuana plants that were found in 14 plots in an 800-acre area located in the Minor's Branch Road area of northern Casey County.

Also confiscated were a travel trailer, a camper trailer, a dump truck, a pickup truck, a bulldozer, various pumps and generators, tractors, and a goose-neck trailer.

Casey Sheriff Carl Meece said all of the equipment seized from the property was used in the marijuana operation found on the farm.

"It's one of the biggest marijuana crops in the state of Kentucky and definitely the biggest ever found in Casey County," said Meece.

'It's one of the biggest marijuana crops in the state of Kentucky and definitely the biggest ever found in Casey County.'

— Casey Sheriff Carl Meece

The marijuana crop was discovered Friday afternoon by the Kentucky State Police. About 10 state troopers and the Casey County sheriff's office worked Friday and through Saturday night to confiscate the marijuana, identified as the new Afghan Red variety.

Trooper Don Knifley, public affairs officer for the KSP post in Columbia, said the Afghan Red marijuana grows outward instead of upward.

Meece said the marijuana was found growing inside wooded areas and had been planted with potting soil. He said the marijuana ranged up to 5 feet and 6 feet tall.

Neither Meece nor Knifley would estimate the value of the marijuana crop. However, some reports said each marijuana plant was worth about \$800, making the value more than \$3 million.

Meece said yesterday morning that law officers will be making arrests in the case. He said authorities are not sure whether the case will be presented to a state court or a federal court. He said the Federal Bureau of Investigation has joined in the investigation of the case.

Meece said authorities are still investigating to determine who owned the land on which the marijuana was found. Y

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AUG 12 1989
Ashland Independent
Ashland, KY

Greenup raid nets marijuana valued at \$4.5 million; 3 held

By JIM ROBINSON
Independent News Writer

SOUTH PORTSMOUTH — Law enforcement officers seized a marijuana crop valued at \$4.5 million and arrested three men Friday in what is believed to be the biggest raid in Greenup County history.

The raid on Lower White Oak Road in South Portsmouth involved nearly two dozen Kentucky State Police and Greenup County Sheriff's officers and a National Guard helicopter. It netted 2,755 eight-foot-tall marijuana plants.

KSP Detective Wayne Carter, who led the month-long in-

vestigation that resulted in Friday's raid and arrests, said the crop may be part of a larger drug operation and police may make more arrests in connection with the case.

"I don't believe it's an isolated incident," he said.

Police arrested Russell Jones, 32, of Portsmouth, Ohio, and Scotty Worthington, 23, and David McClurg, 22, both of South Shore, during the raid.

The three were being held in the Greenup County Jail this morning.

Each is charged with one felony

Turn to GREENUP, Page 8

Continued from Page 1

count of cultivating marijuana. If convicted they could spend five years in jail, Carter said.

The three fled the marijuana patch and holed up in a nearby house for several hours before surrendering without incident about 6 p.m. to officers who had surrounded the house.

"There was no place else for them to go," Carter said. "I don't know if these people thought that if it gets dark that we're going to go home or what. But they came out without any incident."

Carter identified the men as either workers or co-owners of the crop. They were unarmed.

"They're not amateurs," he said.

The crop, which was four to six weeks from maturity, was spread out in six separate plots in a central location, a pattern that allows the growers to avoid detection and more easily guard the plants, Carter said.

The owner of the property, whom Carter would not identify, was not involved in the operation, according to Carter.

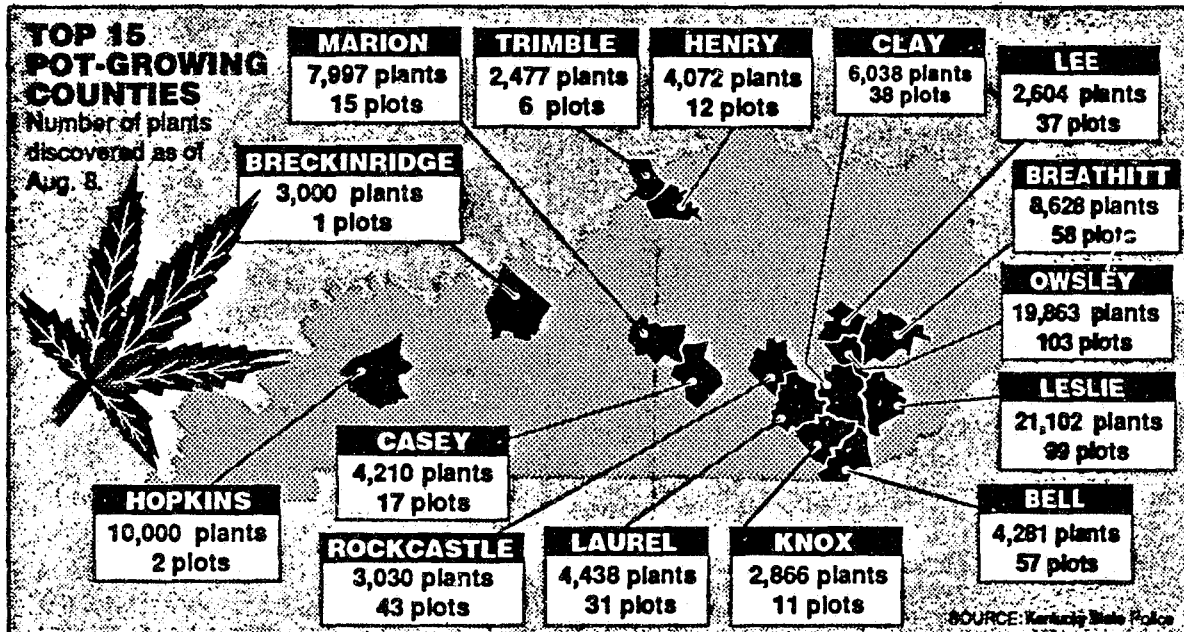
Except for a few samples to prosecute the case, police destroyed the confiscated marijuana, Carter said.

The crop would have been worth an estimated \$4.5 million if had been sold on the street.

A special KSP drug task force participated in the raid.

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AUG 14 1989
 Courier-Journal
 Louisville, KY

SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION



Troopers out as harvest nears for bountiful marijuana crop

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
 Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Surveillance helicopters are clattering over rural Kentucky.

Troopers with tobacco knives and machetes are picking their way through cornfields, sometimes confronting bombs or bear traps as they seek and destroy hidden plots of marijuana.

It's almost harvest time in Kentucky, which has ranked for years among the nation's top three producers of the illegal weed.

Almost daily this month, law-enforcement officials have found another field in another county, and have proceeded to hack down thousands of stalks.

The effort began the first of the month, and it will continue through the first frosts.

The busiest counties so far this year include Leslie, where police found 21,102 plants in 99 plots; Owsley, with 19,863 plants in 103 plots; Breathitt, with 8,628 in 58 plots; Marion, with 7,997 plants in 15 plots; and Clay, with 6,038 plants in 38 plots.

Hopkins County, in the west, has contributed, too

■ Eastern Kentucky's federal prosecutor is probing corruption tied to drug trade. Page B 3.

— police have found 10,000 plants in two plots there. So far police have found only 16 plants in Fayette County and none in Jefferson or Daviess counties.

"It's extremely back-breaking work," said state police Sgt. D. K. Damrel of the Richmond post. "Everyone wears bullet-proof vests, which makes it very, very hot."

Damrel said he sweated off three pounds in a single foray.

But police say the effort is paying off. Already this year, state police have destroyed a total of 129,667 pot plants in Kentucky — nearly \$130 million worth. Police use a standard figure — \$1,000 per plant — to estimate the street value of a marijuana crop.

State police Maj. Thomas Rakestraw is predicting a significant impact this year. "I'll guarantee you,

See TROOPERS
 Back page, col. 1, this section

Destroying pot crop

Continued from Page One

based on the effort we're putting forth ... we're finding well above 50 percent of the marijuana being grown in the state."

But Rakestraw, commander of the drug-enforcement and special investigations branch of the Kentucky State Police, added, "There's no way to really estimate it."

Just how well the government is succeeding is difficult to determine. Police and spokesmen for other organizations that keep track of pot production acknowledge their estimates are rough.

Last year, officials said, state police discovered 478,527 plants — or almost half a billion dollars worth of marijuana — growing in Kentucky.

If police destroy that many plants again this year — and if it represents half the total crop — then pot growers will safely harvest about \$500 million worth of pot this year, despite the eradication effort.

By comparison, state agriculture officials said tobacco, Kentucky's top legal cash crop, brought farmers 39 cents a plant in 1987 — and a total of \$471.7 million from tobacco sales in 1988.

Although the 39 cents doesn't reflect the "street value" of tobacco in terms of cigarettes, "You can see why they might choose to grow marijuana," said Cecil Goodlett, a tobacco farmer who is director of livestock and agricultural services for the Department of Agriculture.

A spokesman for an organization that favors the legalization of marijuana claimed Kentucky's annual harvest has been worth closer to \$1.25 billion.

"Law enforcement tends to under-report the prevalence of marijuana within the U.S.," said Doug McVay, a spokesman for the National Organization for the Reform of Mari-

juana Laws, a lobbying group based in Washington, D.C. "It should be under control, and it's an embarrassment to them because it's not."

McVay doubts claims of high eradication rates, such as Rakestraw's 50 percent estimate. "There's no sign of that kind of impact on the (marijuana) markets around the country."

Rakestraw called McVay's claims "asinine and ridiculous" and said McVay obviously doesn't understand the extent of Kentucky's eradication efforts.

Those efforts include two state police task forces, in Eastern and Western Kentucky, and programs that pay overtime to local and state police for eradication work. Federal grants totaling \$500,000 fund both efforts, Rakestraw said.

This year state police received a special federal grant of \$250,000 to set up a strike force to target organized marijuana-growing groups based in Kentucky. One such group is the self-described "corn bread mafia" which included several Marion County residents who were arrested last year. Rakestraw said state police believe a dozen such groups still operate in Kentucky.

The grants are only a part of the total amount Kentucky has received in the past few years to fight drugs. The Omnibus Crime Act, passed in 1986, has given Kentucky law enforcement nearly \$5.63 million to fight drugs, said Debra McGovern, administrator of the Justice Cabinet's Narcotics Control Assistance Program.

That money has gone toward projects such as upgrading the state police crime lab, prosecutor and police training programs, improved computer networks for local police, and drug testing and treatment programs, McGovern said.

In addition, federal laws enacted

in 1986 allow state and federal law enforcement agencies to seize drug-related assets after convictions. Kentucky police agencies have received at least \$830,000 from property forfeited by convicted drug felons, according to U.S. Marshals Service figures provided by the two U.S. attorneys' offices in Kentucky.

Rakestraw said cases offering another \$6 million in potential forfeitures are still pending in federal courts.

All told, that may seem like a lot of money for a drug war, even in Miami or New York. But it may not be enough in Kentucky.

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration has ranked Kentucky as one of the top three producers for several years, along with Hawaii and Oregon or California.

People familiar with marijuana growing and eradication efforts say they're not surprised Kentucky is a top producer, but they give different reasons.

Steve Hager, editor of High Times, a New York-based magazine that espouses the use of marijuana, says Kentucky was a "primary center" of Confederate hemp production during the Civil War, and the plant has grown here ever since.

McVay theorizes that Kentucky has been a marijuana leader because "your state has a long tradition of bootlegging."

Police say money is the motive, especially in poor counties with few job opportunities.

Because of the money at stake, Rakestraw said, explosives and booby traps set by growers to guard against theft have been "one of our primary concerns this season."

"Last year we found 19 explosive devices, which we define as ones that can cause death or injury, and 76 booby traps, which can cause injuries, but not as severe," he said.

"This year, we've already exceeded the total of explosive devices."

Said Damrel: "It makes me very cautious."

X

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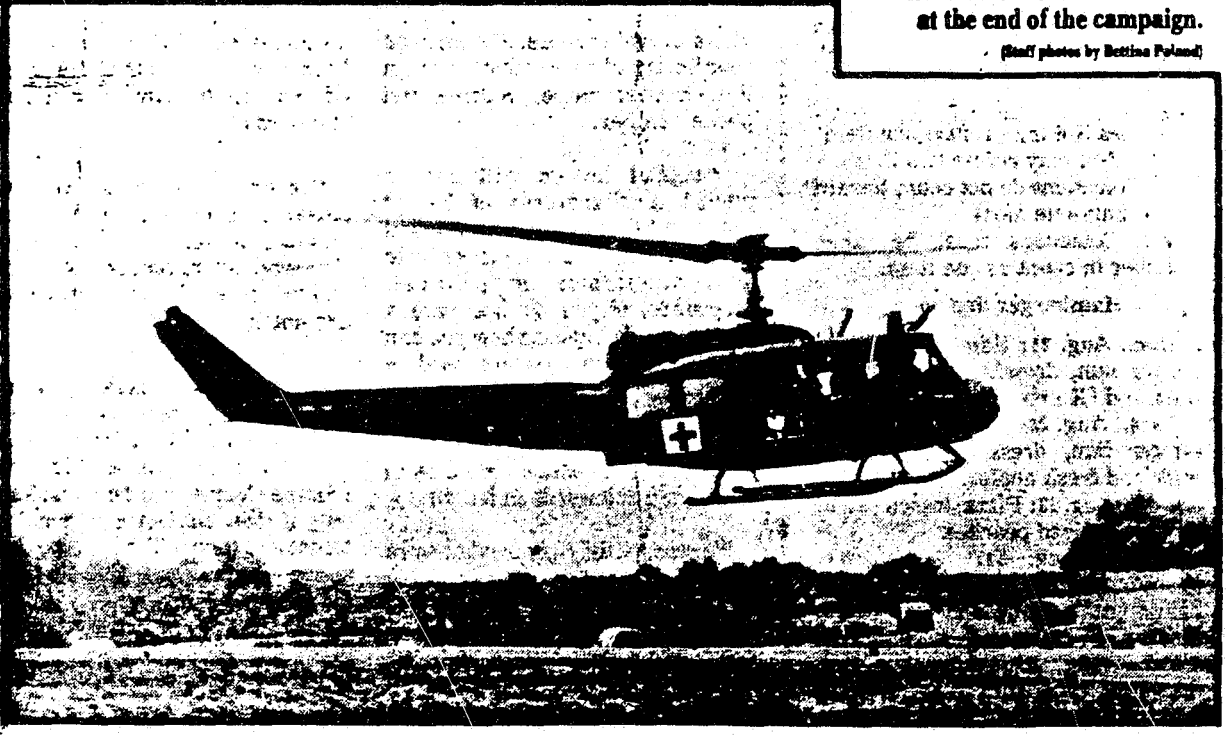


Green, green grass of home!

The Kentucky National Guard and the Kentucky State Police converged on Monroe County Tuesday as part of a statewide "Green/Gray Sweep" — a program devised to detect and confiscate marijuana crops. At

left is a load of marijuana which was brought in Tuesday morning, and (bottom) a helicopter transporting a cutting crew takes off at the Tompkinsville/Monroe County airport. A smaller helicopter was used to spot crops and a Black Hawk helicopter carried a cargo net for large loads. The campaign was carried out with the cooperation of the local sheriff. State officials will release more information at the end of the campaign.

(Staff photos by Bettina Poland)



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~~AUG 31~~ 1989

Graphic

Georgetown, Ky.
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TEAMS effort: Suspects run, but cannot hide

For the second time this month, the TEAMS concept helped to eradicate the marijuana supply in Scott County.

Late Monday afternoon, two Georgetown police officers, Scott Coleman and Greg Reeves, initiated the confiscation of 6,200 plants as they were en route to Scott County.

They spotted a vehicle stopped on the side of I-75 and they pulled over to see if there was any assistance needed.

When the uniformed officers stepped out of their vehicles, two men fled on foot. Coleman and Reeves followed the men up an embankment, and when they spotted others in a marijuana field, they radioed for assistance.

Members of the TEAMS concept, a combination of city, county, and state officers, responded to the site near Lemons Mill Road.

John Wayne Fisk, 19, of

Demosseville, Ky. and Andrew Brown King, 19, of Covington, were discovered in the field as they were "cropping" the domestic or wild marijuana. Sheriff's Deputy Duane Perry responded to arrest these men and confiscate approximately 6,000 plants from the field.

During this elapse in time, the first two suspects had eluded the police and circled back to their car to escape.

However, Trooper John Goble spotted their vehicle in Grant County and Loren Fisk, 18, of Demosseville and a juvenile were arrested with 200 plants in their car.

The juvenile was transferred to Bowling Green, and then later released to his parents. The others are currently lodged in the Scott County Jail.

All four were charged with the cultivation of marijuana.

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6,500 pot plants seized in Letcher County

WHITESBURG — More than 6,500 marijuana plants were found yesterday during an extensive raid of six fields in rural Letcher County, officials said.

Kentucky State Police and the Letcher County sheriff's office reported three arrests after the raid, 10 miles south of Whitesburg of Kentucky 932 near the Kentucky-Virginia state line.

Letcher County sheriff's deputies had been at the scene since 2 p.m. Wednesday and discovered three marijuana patches that evening, and an additional three patches at daybreak yesterday officers said. The sheriff's office said at least 6,500 plants had been discovered.

Such a crop at maturity would be worth \$6.5 million, using the Kentucky State Police's standard estimate that a single mature marijuana plant is worth \$1,000.

Arrested and charged with cultivating marijuana were Linzi Wright, 49, and Alan Wright, 44, both of Colburn, Va.; and James Earl Wright, 53, of Eolia in Letcher County.

During the raid, officers found a sophisticated marijuana growing operation, complete with an intercom system from a farmhouse to the pot fields, and trails rigged with tripwires attached to bells or rattles to alert growers of intruders. The irrigation system used an abandoned mine filled with water with pipes leading to the field. Officers also found bottles of liquid fertilizer and a sprayer to use on the plants.

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Attorneys ask farmers to help fight drug war

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Federal prosecutors in Kentucky, among the nation's top marijuana-producing states, have gone to the farm to seek help in the war on drugs.

"We can enlist the aid of farmers in the war on drugs by encouraging them to be the eyes and ears for law enforcement, by reporting to the drug enforcement administration or the Kentucky State Police the activities of persons in their communities suspected of being involved with marijuana," said Joseph Whittle, U.S. attorney for western Kentucky.

Whittle appeared at a news conference Friday with Lillian Hart, director of the state office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; and Louis DeFalaise, the U.S. attorney for eastern Kentucky.

The program is the first time

U.S. law-enforcement officials have drafted the federal agricultural agency to fight drugs, the officials said.

Letters will be sent to all Kentucky farmers within two weeks warning them about the penalties for growing marijuana and telling them how to detect it. Farmers are sometimes unaware that outsiders are using their land to grow marijuana.

The program could thwart efforts by marijuana growers to lease or buy farmland, Whittle said.

Leasing is a favorite tactic of growers of the illegal crop because they want to avoid having their land seized by the government if they are caught, he said.

"Often the farms are leased or purchased in fictitious names and usually with large amounts of cash," he said.