

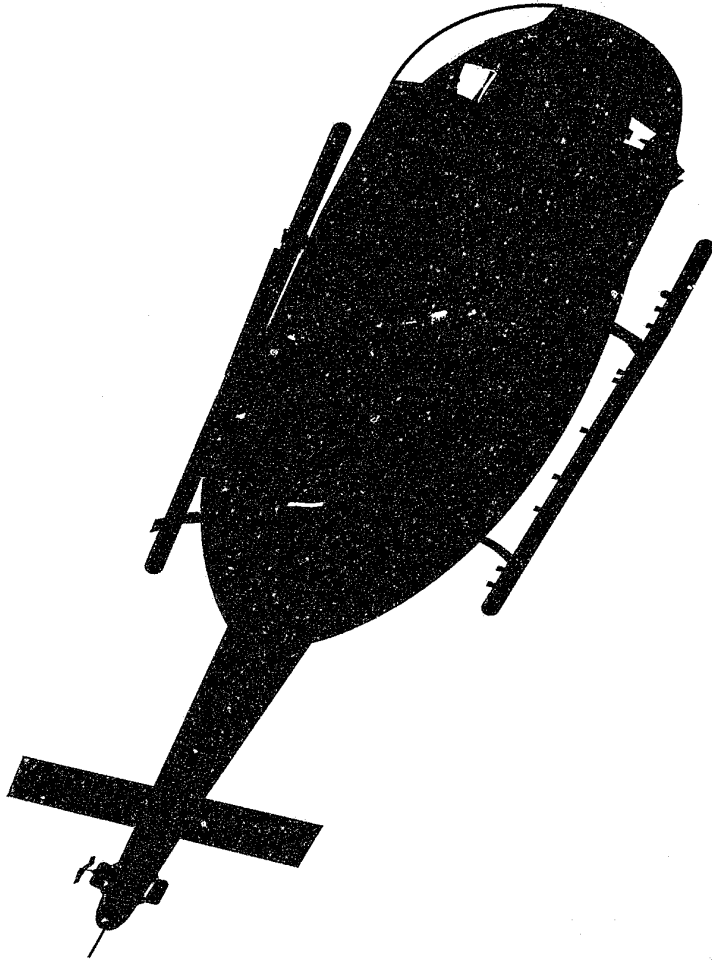
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U.S. Department of Justice  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
*Cannabis Investigations Section*



# 1993 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program



U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

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**DOMESTIC CANNABIS  
ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION  
PROGRAM**

*Prepared by:*

Office of Investigative Support  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
U.S. Department of Justice

The Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this agency.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

Thomas A. Constantine

I take great pride in the accomplishments of DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP). The DCE/SP demonstrates what can be accomplished when the efforts and capabilities of Federal, state and local law enforcement are joined together to curtail the production, distribution and consumption of cannabis, which is the most widely abused illegal substance in the United States. A record quantity of cannabis plants were eradicated in 1993 and there was a significant increase in the number of cultivated plots destroyed. This is even more impressive when you consider that funding levels are being reduced at all levels of government.

Since its inception in 1982, the DCE/SP has dramatically altered the modus operandi of the cannabis growers and traffickers throughout the United States, by causing them to employ progressively more elaborate techniques in order to avoid detection by Federal, state and local law enforcement. The result being that growers now invest heavily in the construction and operation of costly clandestine indoor grow facilities. Due to the success of the DCE/SP's herbicidal eradication program in Hawaii there has been a shortage of supply and distributors are attempting to smuggle in marijuana from the Mainland. In addition to the measures employed by the DCE/SP, DEA has begun to place greater emphasis on developing conspiracy investigations for the purpose of dismantling and bringing to justice major cannabis growers and distributors and seizing their assets.

DEA, along with all the other segments of the law enforcement community, has witnessed a marked increase in drug related violence during the past few years. This holds true for those involved in illicit marijuana operations, as evidenced by the fact that the number of weapons seized in DCE/SP investigations doubled from 1990 to 1993. One of my primary goals is to reduce the proliferation of weapons and the rising tide of violence in our society. Accordingly, DEA will continue to focus its efforts on joint Federal, state and local programs such as the DCE/SP, in an effort to reduce the spread of violence in America.

I salute all the DCE/SP participants: Federal, state and local, for their contributions to this productive and outstanding program and I look forward to further successes and accomplishments in the coming year.



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# MARIJUANA OVERVIEW

Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in the United States; approximately 67.5 million Americans, one fourth of the population, have tried it at some time during their life. Its abuse cuts across all segments of society. According to the 1992 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), 17.4 million people used marijuana at least once during the last year compared to 19.3 million in 1991 and 5.16 million used marijuana once a week or more in 1992 compared to 5.10 million in 1991.

Rates of use increased among high school seniors. In 1992, 32.6% had previously used marijuana as compared to 35.3% of the respondents to the 1993 National High School Senior Survey. Annual use also increased from 21.9% in 1992 to 32.6% in 1993. Current use increased from 11.9% in 1992 to 15.5% in 1993. Rates of use among eighth graders admitting to lifetime use continued to increase from 11.2% in 1992 to 12.6% in 1993 and annual use increased from 7.2% to 9.2%. The upward trend in use among high school students is discouraging, especially the increase of reported use among eighth graders. This is a troubling development considering the higher potency, the increasing availability of marijuana and the fact that it is perceived by the students to be of minimal harm.

There are questions about the psychological and physiological effects of the higher THC content marijuana, however there are no new studies being done to explore these effects. Also of concern is the report that the present demand reduction effort is losing Federal funding throughout the nation. Dwindling funds coupled with many students viewing marijuana as a safe drug to use will continue to contribute to the higher use rates.

Competing resource priorities, the lack of a national cultivation survey, and the trend toward indoor cultivation have made it difficult to provide a statistically valid estimate for U.S. marijuana production in 1993. However, in 1993 the DEA sponsored DCE/SP resulted in the eradication of 4.33 million cultivated cannabis plants and 387.9 million tended ditchweed plants. Increases in the total plant count eradicated, reflected in the 1993 totals, are primarily due to the change in reporting methodology which now includes tended ditchweed. Including tended ditchweed also impacted the THC content averages because large numbers of low potency ditchweed samples were included in the calculations. However, domestic cultivators, in recent years, have improved the THC potency of marijuana through the use of advanced agronomic practices, to include plant selection and

cloning. More recently, operations are increasingly moving inside and employing the widespread use of sophisticated hydroponics and grow lights.

In order of rank, the five major states for total plants eradicated to include ditchweed, outdoor cultivated and all indoor plants were: South Dakota, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. The five highest ranking states for cultivated outdoor plants were: Hawaii, Kentucky, Tennessee, California and Illinois. Indoor cannabis growing operations were found in all states during 1993. The number of indoor operations seized in 1993 was 3,347, down from the 3,849 seized in 1992. The five top states for indoor operations seized were: California, Washington, Oregon, Florida, and Wisconsin. The five top states for total indoor plants include: California, Washington, Florida, North Carolina and Ohio. The average indoor grow has approximately 87 plants in order to avoid mandatory Federal sentencing guidelines for 100 plants or more.

In 1993, DCE/SP-linked investigations resulted in the arrest of over 12,000 violators and the seizure of over 6,000 weapons and \$52 million in assets.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

John T. Peoples, Director  
Office of Investigative Support

Nineteen ninety-three was a challenging year. However, the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP), which is the sole nationwide law enforcement program that exclusively addresses marijuana, mounted another successful campaign.

Marijuana is still the most abused controlled substance in the United States. Statistical surveys show an increase of marijuana usage by twelfth grade and younger students. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) shows the number of accident victims testing positive for marijuana is up dramatically. There is definite evidence of overall increased marijuana usage which must be met with increasing vigilance.

The philosophy of doing more with less became the program's standard operating procedure in 1993. Outstanding coordination and planning efforts led to better utilization of all resources, both within DEA and with the supporting agencies in the field. DEA and cooperating agencies met the challenge of increased indoor cultivation operations by employing advanced technologies like thermal imagery to build effective investigations against these violators. In addition, DEA Special Agents, along with their state and local counterparts, developed innovative investigative and analysis techniques to achieve and maintain their investigative superiority.

The Special Team, multiagency, multistate effort has progressed into several new areas, and future operations will be modeled after the Four Corners and Operation Deep Strike type operations that were successful this past year.

The DCE/SP is continuing its effort to encourage herbicidal eradication in every state. The most notable new program development is credited to South Dakota where cannabis herbicidal eradication was conducted in four counties. This environmentally safe, and compliant operation destroyed more than 140 million plants at significant cost savings, and is now considered the national model. This remarkable achievement is a testimony to the bold leadership of the late Governor, George S. Mickelson, and South Dakota officials whose actions were equal to their words.

Areas of our Nation that had accepted the growing of marijuana as a cash crop are realizing that the laws are being enforced and will continue to be. This can no longer be seen as a "little crime." Growers are more frequently becoming violent and are accumulating large caches of weapons and ammunition. Their sophisticated operations produce high Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) marijuana with high wholesale and retail prices which, in turn, produce large profits.

Marijuana abuse, cultivation, and trafficking impact on every citizen in the United States. The achievements of the many law enforcement officers across the United States who battle the threat imposed by marijuana on our society, especially our youth, are commendable. We owe a debt of appreciation to them for a job well done.



## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

In 1993, the DCE/SP was managed within the Office of Investigative Support, Special Investigative Support Section, DEA Headquarters. It was staffed with one Special Agent DCE/SP Staff Coordinator, a Marijuana Eradication Program Analyst, a Program Assistant and a National Guard Captain. In each participating state, a Special Agent from the appropriate DEA field office served as a DCE/SP Coordinator. The DEA Coordinator assisted their state and local counterparts in preparing the state Eradication Operation Plan. The Coordinator also assisted DEA field

management in monitoring the Program, compiling Program statistics, developing intelligence and participating in enforcement operations.

DEA's Office of Training located in Quantico, Virginia, assigned a Special Agent Instructor to coordinate the efforts of the DEA Divisional Training Coordinators (DTC). The DTCs conducted aerial cannabis spotter and eradication schools, and seminars for Federal, state and local law enforcement officers, National Guard troops and Civil Air Patrol members. Due to program changes, the Office of Training will be assuming a

greater role in all areas of DCE/SP officer training throughout the country.

A Supervisory Pilot in DEA's Aviation Section which is based in Texas, served as a Program Coordinator to monitor the utilization of DEA's aviation resources for DCE/SP training and aerial surveillance activities.

Coordinators from DEA Headquarters, the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Interior formed an Eradication Working Group to review and coordinate eradication efforts on public lands to increase efficiency.





## PROGRAM COOPERATION

The DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) was established to ensure a coordinated effort between Federal, state and local agencies involved. In this past year, there was a concerted effort to employ special operations. The special operations were like task forces that were multiagency and multistate, targeting known areas with heavy concentrations of marijuana crops. The overriding factor that made the program a success was the coordination of the many Federal, state and local agencies involved.

### Department of Defense (DOD)

**National Guard (NG):** The NG has supported the DCE/SP since its inception. The FY-89 Defense Authorization Act allowed the Secretary of Defense to provide funds for Governors who submit plans for anti-drug operations. NG personnel are under the command of each State Governor and are not restricted by the Posse Comitatus Act which prevents active duty military components from supporting civilian law enforcement operations unless specifically authorized by Congress. NG personnel pledge a "support role" rather than a law enforcement one.

The National Guard Bureau Office of Military Support (NGB-MS) at the Pentagon serves as the point of contact and coordination for anti-drug operations in the 50 States, U.S. territories, and possessions. Proposed operations included in state anti-drug plans are reviewed for policy, legality, and funding by NGB-MS before they are submitted to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The plans are coordinated through NGB-MS, although they are not directly involved in the arrest, search, or seizure of suspects or contraband.

**Civil Air Patrol (CAP):** CAP is a volunteer civilian auxiliary unit of the

U.S. Air Force with extensive search and rescue experience. CAP offers aerial platforms for cannabis search missions. On April 19, 1989, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by DEA, the U.S. Forest Service, CAP and the USAF which allowed CAP to fly "non combat" missions to assist the DCE/SP.

### U.S. Department of Agriculture

**U.S. Forest Service (USFS):** The USFS employs Special Agents and Law Enforcement Officers involved in general law enforcement activities which include cannabis site detection and investigation in the National Forests. It also has an active Target Priority Program to apprehend and prosecute persons involved in cannabis production on National Forest Service lands. The USFS works closely with other Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in support of marijuana law enforcement.

### U.S. Department of the Interior

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM):** The BLM utilizes Special Agents and Law Enforcement Rangers to eradicate marijuana grown on land under its jurisdiction. It investigates, arrests, and prosecutes marijuana cultivators. The BLM uses cooperative law enforcement agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies to augment its program.

**Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):** The FWS has Special Agents and Refuge Officers along with state and local law enforcement officers to assist in eradication. A staff of about 970 Investigators and Refuge Officers conduct marijuana cultivation investigations throughout over 447 refuges and at all U.S. international ports in cooperation with state, local and other Federal agencies.

**National Park Service (NPS):** NPS employs 1,500 permanent and 800 seasonal Rangers who are trained for fire fighting, scuba diving, search and rescue, emergency medical service, resource management, and law enforcement. There are also 600 Park Police Officers who are specialists in the law enforcement field. NPS law enforcement personnel are responsible for resource and visitor protection as well as drug law enforcement throughout the National Park System. Drug enforcement activities on NPS lands include investigation of smuggling, manufacture, cultivation, sale, and the use of illegal drugs. Cannabis detection, apprehension, and prosecution are emphasized in its law enforcement training programs. A close working relationship with state and local authorities maximizes NPS's impact on domestic cannabis eradication and suppression efforts.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):** Over 1,200 BIA and Tribal Law Enforcement Officers provide general law enforcement and public safety services on Indian reservations under Federal jurisdiction. BIA and the tribes also have deputization agreements with several state and local jurisdictions that allow state certified Law Enforcement Officers to enforce Federal and tribal laws on the reservations. BIA has established a highly mobile, Marijuana Eradication and Reconnaissance Team which concentrates on the detection, investigation, and eradication of cannabis cultivated on the reservations. A Special Investigations Unit was also formed to target and achieve maximum prosecution of major drug traffickers and cultivators operating on the reservations. BIA operates a cannabis eradication training school in Klamath Falls, Oregon.



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS



*Eradication crew members riding in a CH-47 waiting to rappel.*

### OPERATION FOUR CORNERS

Operation Four Corners was a DCE/SP operation which targeted the prime marijuana growing areas in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. The concept of the operation centered around a multi-agency, multistate cooperative effort. State and local law enforcement officers provided the major manpower resources with the

support of DEA, National Guardsmen, and Civil Air Patrol personnel who targeted, planned and attacked long-standing areas of marijuana growth.

The operation was swift and controlled, similar to a military field strike operation. Starting in the southwest section of Missouri, the operation resulted in

the seizure and destruction of 75,799 marijuana plants. The northern sector of Kansas operation got underway even while the southeast agencies were in the middle of their operation. This part of the effort resulted in nine arrests, the seizure of five weapons and the eradication of 6,000 marijuana plants.



## 1993 DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM



*Officers of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Highway Patrol, DEA Task Force and Kansas Army National Guard loading dried marijuana to be transported for incineration during Operation Four Corners, North Kansas.*



*Doing a sling load out of a patch.*

### OPERATION DEEP STRIKE

From August 16 through August 20, 1993, a three state multiagency marijuana eradication mission was conducted along the Florida, Georgia and Alabama borders. This mission involved DEA, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Alabama Department of Public Safety, the Florida Department of Law Enforce-

ment, numerous Sheriff's Departments along Florida's northern border, each state's National Guard, and the Civil Air Patrol. The operation was a great success netting over 18,000 marijuana plants, nine arrests, and even greater cooperation between neighboring states. This was only the second operation of its kind

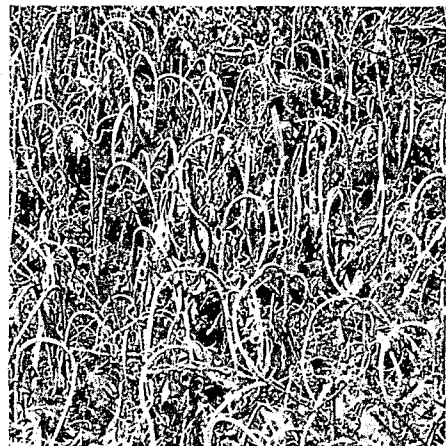
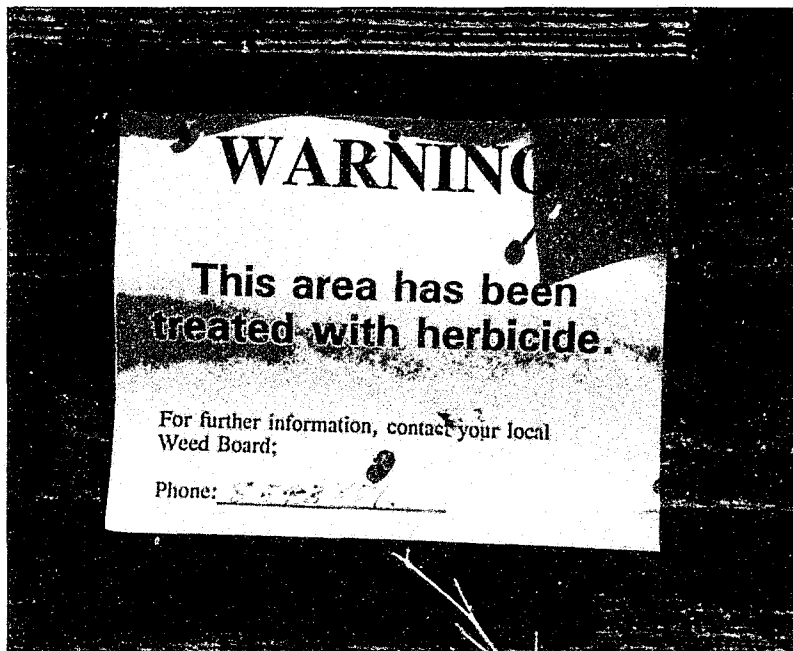
nationally which utilized the resources of multistate law enforcement agencies in cooperation with Federal law enforcement. The cooperative effort illustrated what can be done in a short period of time over a vast geographic area.

## *SOUTH DAKOTA HERBICIDAL SPRAY PROGRAM*



South Dakota began its DCE/SP funded statewide marijuana herbicidal spraying program in 1993. This effort increased the number of plants eradicated by 122 million over the previous year's effort.

Because of South Dakota's high volume of wild "ditchweed" marijuana, the spray program is an excellent use of time and resources, and allows law enforcement to concentrate on cultivated marijuana fields. After environmental studies were completed, the respective County Weed Boards were contracted to perform the herbicidal spraying. The spraying took place under the supervision of at least one law enforcement officer. This represented a significant reduction from the large number of personnel required for "wacking and stacking." Depending on the weather, the marijuana showed severe negative effects from the spray within two to five days.





## SIGNIFICANT CASES

### ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION



OPERATION TRIOX was initiated in September 1991, and by February 1993, over 2,000 leads were developed. The operation recognized that a hydroponic retail store, Southern Lights & Hydroponics, was the primary supplier of indoor grow equipment being utilized by numerous indoor marijuana cultivators in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Selective targeting of the leads and the use of search warrants resulted in 78 indoor grow operations being seized and 99 defendants arrested and convicted. The business was seized and forfeited and the three owners were convicted and sentenced to 16 years incarceration. Marijuana samples from 22 grow sites were analyzed, some of which showed THC levels up to 22.55 percent.



## BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

### PROVIDENCE RESIDENT OFFICE

The Providence Resident Office Special Agents and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office Investigators executed a search warrant at a residence in West Warwick, Rhode Island on May 9, 1993. Investigators seized an indoor marijuana growing site consisting of 1,140 marijuana plants along with growing equipment. Two individuals were convicted and sentenced to Federal prison and a residence valued at \$150,000 was seized and forfeited. This was the largest indoor marijuana grow operation ever seized in the State of Rhode Island.

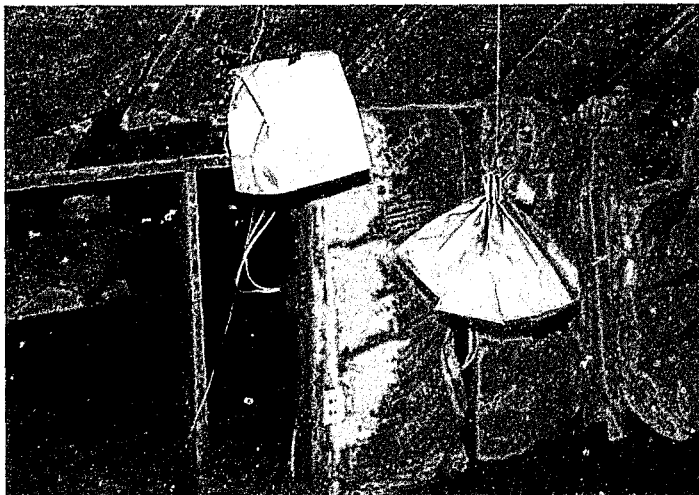
## CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION



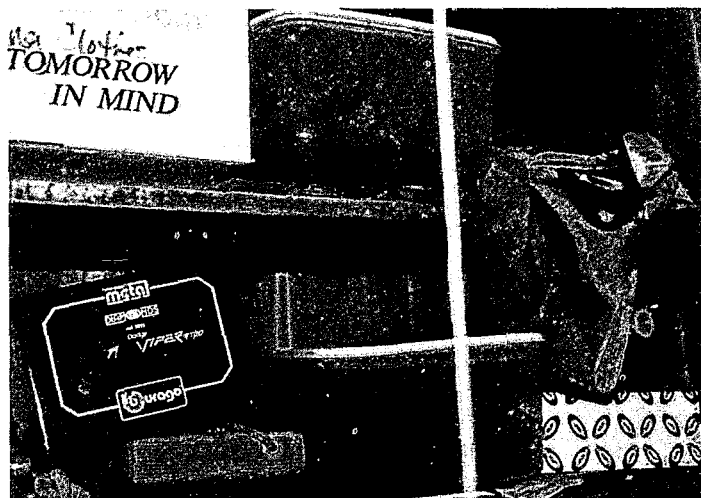
The Port Byron unit of the Illinois State Police and the Port Byron Police Department received information from two separate confidential informants indicating that the attic of a residence was full of marijuana plants. A complete investigation involving surveillance, thermal imagery and trash pickups was conducted. The trash yielded marijuana seeds, stems, rolling papers, etc., and thermal imagery of the target residence showed higher surface temperatures than the surrounding homes. A search warrant was executed which resulted in the seizure of 70 hybrid sinsemilla plants and many pounds of cannabis seeds. Two grow operations were found, one in the attic and the other in the basement. The owners of the home and the operation pled guilty to growing marijuana and were both fined and sentenced.



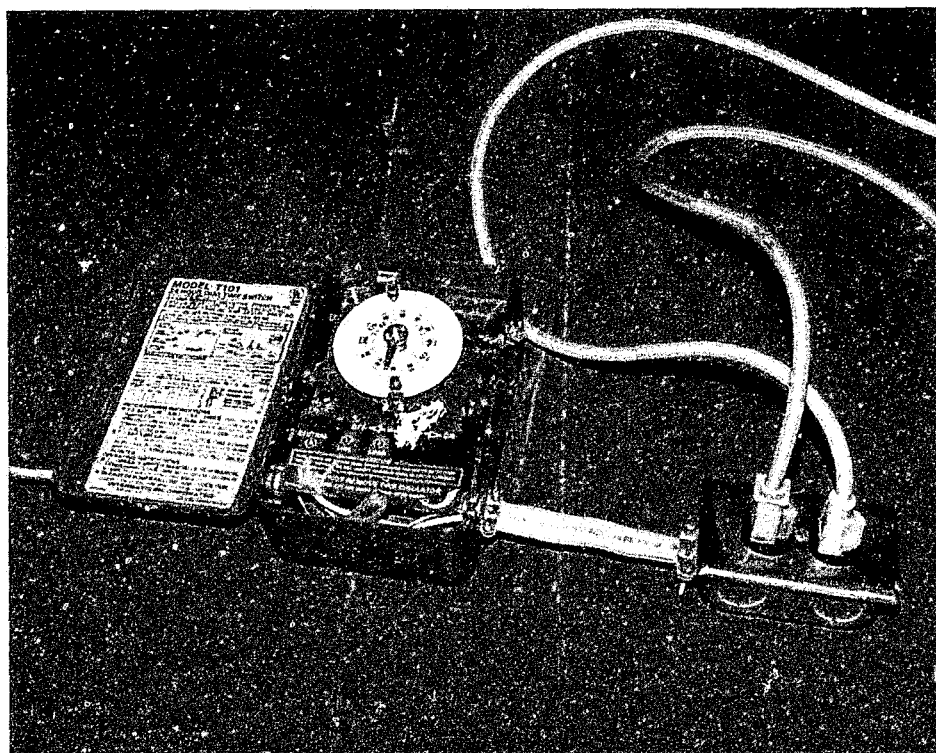
CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION (CONT.)



*Attic drying area.*



*Mixed storage.*



## SPRINGFIELD RESIDENT OFFICE



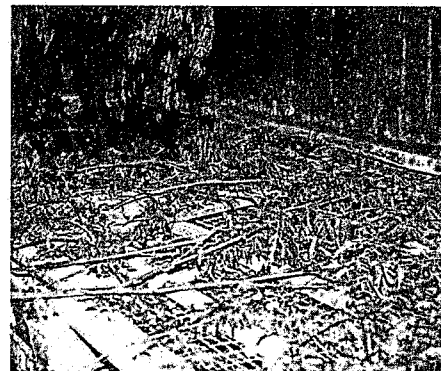
The Madison County Sheriff's Office was contacted by a local farmer who found marijuana plants growing in his corn field. On July 21, 1993, investigators observed approximately 196 cannabis plants that had been transplanted into the corn field. The investigators later noted that the male plants had been pulled and left to rot. The remaining 104 plants were eradicated and burned. The Illinois State Police Air Operations flew over the area and spotted additional plants that had been planted in the same manner as the original area. A suspect was identified and arrested with over 100 harvested sinsemilla plants drying in his chicken coop. He and two codefendants were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury.



*Usually three plants were planted in each clearing.*



*Marijuana photo taken towards the end of the grow season.*



*Marijuana in chicken coop (placed there to dry).*



## DALLAS FIELD DIVISION

Special Agents of the Dallas Field Division, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, and the North Texas Regional Task Force, supported by the Oklahoma National Guard, conducted a year long investigation into the marijuana cultivation and distribution organization of Emory Brakers. During the investigation, 1,414 sinsemilla plants

were seized in Love County, Texas. A total of thirteen individuals were arrested and convicted. Several of the individuals arrested were residents of Humboldt County, California who had come to the Texas and Oklahoma areas to help the growing operation. To date, assets in excess of \$413,000 in U.S. currency and real property have been seized.

## TYLER RESIDENT OFFICE

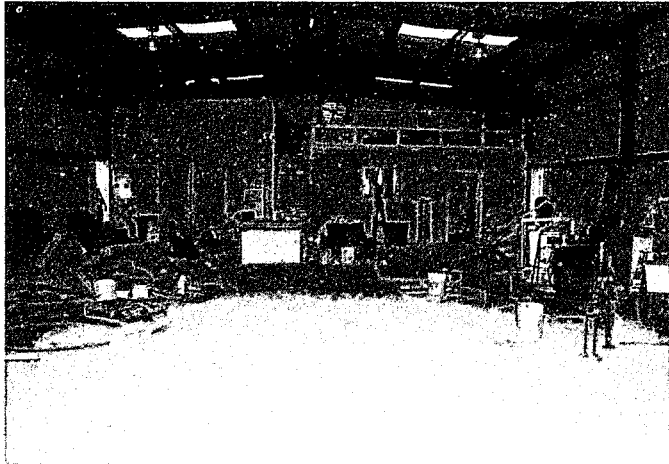


*40' x 80' metal building as seen from woodpile which concealed exhaust heat and air intake.*

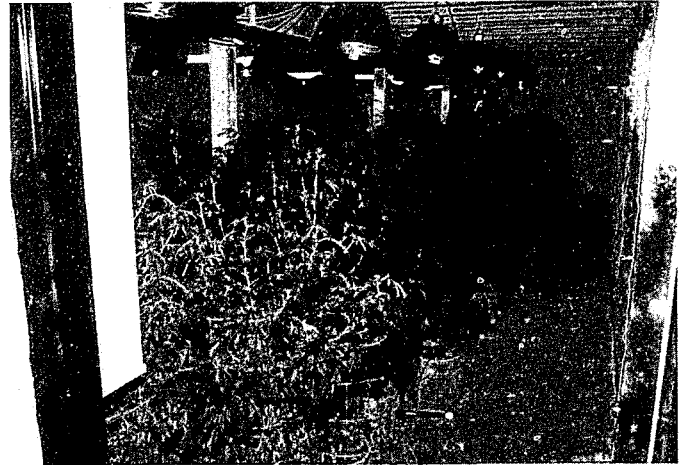
On September 29, 1993, the Tyler Resident Office working in conjunction with the Houston Field Division executed a search warrant which resulted in the arrest of two suspects and the seizure of 770 sinsemilla plants. The plants were being cultivated in a highly sophisticated subterranean grow site located under a large metal building. The technology supporting the subterranean grow consisted of grow lights, hydraulic lifts, generator systems and an elaborate ventilation system. As a result of this case, the use of thermal imagery instruments to detect indoor marijuana grows was challenged in the Eastern District of Texas and is currently under appeal in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals by the U.S. Attorney's Office.



TYLER RESIDENT OFFICE (CONT.)



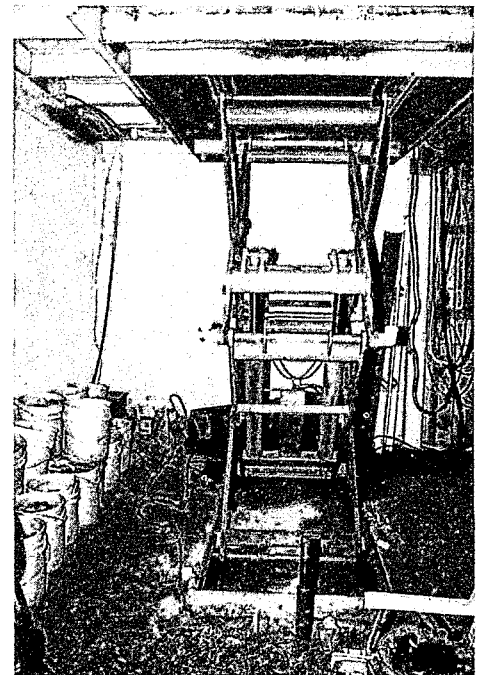
*Rough framing inside steel building. Room on the left housed entry to the underground grow.*



*One of two main grow rooms complete with artificial sunshine.*



*Hydraulic lift ascending, bringing floor of lift just below concrete floor of building. Note foot-operated lift controls.*



*Hydraulic lift in extended position as seen from below.*



## DENVER FIELD DIVISION

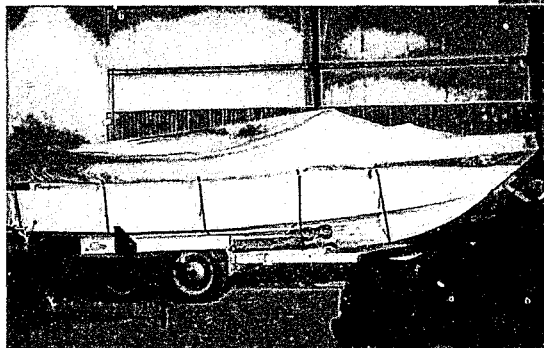
A prominent Colorado family, operating a large marijuana cultivation and distribution organization, was the target of an investigation which resulted in the seizure of over 6,500 plants in 1991 and 1992. The investigation culminated on August 21, 1993 when DEA, ATF and the

Logan County Sheriff's Office served 66 search warrants on 13 residences and one business located on the farm. Over 1,200 sinsemilla plants and approximately 83 weapons were seized. Most of the weapons were semiautomatic handguns and assault rifles. There have been four

successful prosecutions and three Federal indictments in the case to date. It is expected that several more Federal indictments will follow the latest search. Approximately 1,000 acres of farmland valued at over \$1,500 per acre were seized and forfeited.

## SALT LAKE CITY RESIDENT OFFICE

In Vintah County, during August 1993, two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees were arrested while in the process of cultivating over 2,800 marijuana plants on BLM lands which they managed. Numerous vehicles and other assets were seized including a mobile home, trucks, portable water pumps, computers and several large bank accounts. The defendants are both pending trial in Federal court.



SALT LAKE CITY RESIDENT OFFICE (CONT.)



*Remote water connection.*



*Marijuana growing between natural desert foliage.*



*Eleven foot marijuana plant.*



## SALT LAKE CITY RESIDENT OFFICE (CONT.)



In Iron County, a local rancher was found growing 1,500 marijuana plants on his 240 acre ranch. The ranch was seized and the grower was sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years in Federal prison.



## LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

On July 2, 1993, Special Agents from the Los Angeles Field Division and Detectives from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department eradicated a sophisticated indoor hydroponic cannabis cultivation operation in Malibu, California.

Discovered inside two large greenhouse structures were 725 marijuana plants. The residence contained a drying room where approximately 20 pounds of sinsemilla were discovered. The two violators were arrested.



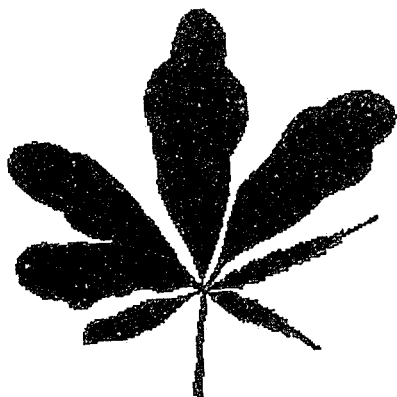


## MIAMI FIELD DIVISION JACKSONVILLE RESIDENT OFFICE

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office uncovered an indoor growing operation that netted over 700 sinsemilla plants. The grow was completely computerized, utilizing probes to feed information to a computer which in turn routed the proper

water, nutrients, and light to the plants as needed. This operation also maximized the grow space available by employing a pyramid configuration to rotate the plants as they grew to ensure proper lighting for each stage of growth.

## ORLANDO RESIDENT OFFICE



A new variety of cannabis plant was discovered in Seminole County. The plant's leaves were rounded and resembled an oak leaf as compared to the traditional serrated edged leaf of the known cannabis plant. The plants were seized at an indoor grow and sent to the University of Mississippi for evaluation and THC testing. The University of Mississippi did have some previous knowledge of this type of cannabis variation and reported the THC as in excess of 2%. Information is still being gathered on this new plant and will be made available as soon as it can be analyzed.

## PHILADELPHIA FIELD DIVISION

During July 1993, the Philadelphia Field Division in cooperation with the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Office was able to indict members of a wholesale marijuana distribution organization. The

organization distributed over 20,000 pounds of marijuana in the Philadelphia and northern Pennsylvania (Pocanoes) areas. The operation had sources of supply in Arizona, California, Texas and Mexico.

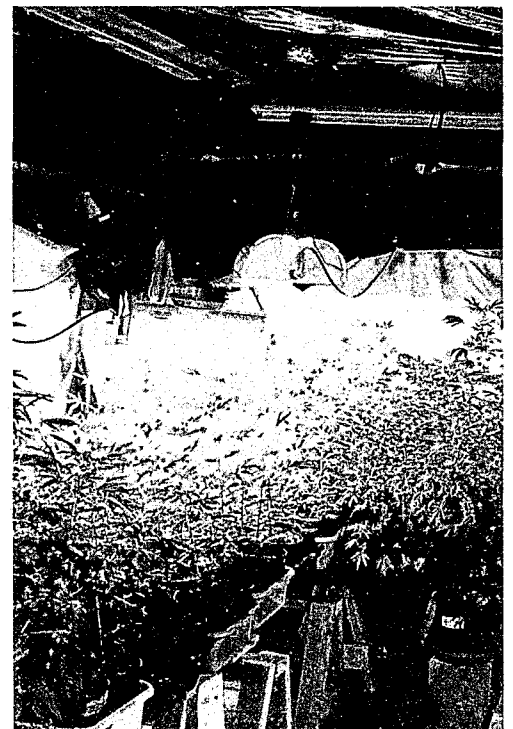
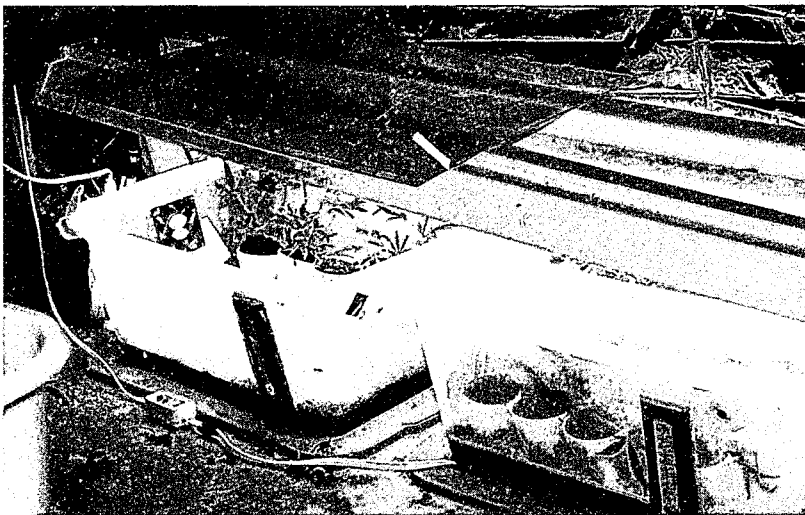
Fourteen violators were indicted. All the defendants pled guilty and \$2,100,000 in assets were seized including U.S. currency, vehicles, boats and real estate valued at approximately \$1,400,000.

## SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION

In San Marcos, California, Operation Greentrees started in 1992 with the seizure of two pounds of high grade sinsemilla colas. In June 1993, information led to the execution of a state search warrant resulting in the seizure of approximately 563 sinsemilla plants that were of very high quality. The growers were using

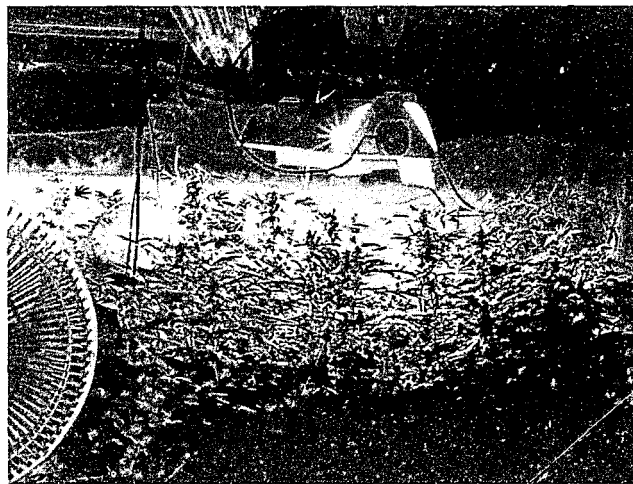
four large "Mother" plants and 200 of the plants seized were clones from these plants. The grower became a suspect because of his history of cultivating marijuana in 1988. (He was also a former Olympic Silver Medalist in the Montreal Olympic swimming competition.) The operation was found in a single family

home. Overall, Operation Greentrees culminated with 21 search warrants being served, the arrest of 24 subjects, the eradication of 1,681 high grade sinsemilla plants, and the seizure of six weapons and approximately \$19,330 in U.S. currency.





SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION (CONT.)



In August 1993, in Bertha Canyon, California, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, San Diego DEA DCE/SP Team, and the California Army National Guard Aviation Unit based at Coronado, California

conducted a major effort targeting three outdoor cannabis cultivators. The California Guard performed overflight missions in the suspected grow site area and observed evidence of a major cannabis site. Four members of the team went to

the site and arrested three growers without incident. Over 19,000 marijuana plants ranging from six inches to five feet tall were eradicated.



## SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION SACRAMENTO RESIDENT OFFICE

In August 1993, the Sacramento RO Special Agents and Siskiyou County, California Detectives conducted a multi-month investigation into the indoor growing activities of a family in Yerka, California. Agents executed Federal and state search warrants on a gold mine in a

rural location which had been converted into both a living area and a cultivation operation. The defendants had transformed the abandoned gold mine into several rooms with electricity and water. Agents arrested the four defendants after extensive surveillance. Approximately

2,700 recently harvested plants and root-balls were seized, as well as 60 pounds of processed marijuana and over 5 tons of cultivation equipment. The investigation was highly successful as a result of the cooperative effort by Federal and local law enforcement.

## SEATTLE FIELD DIVISION ANCHORAGE RESIDENT OFFICE

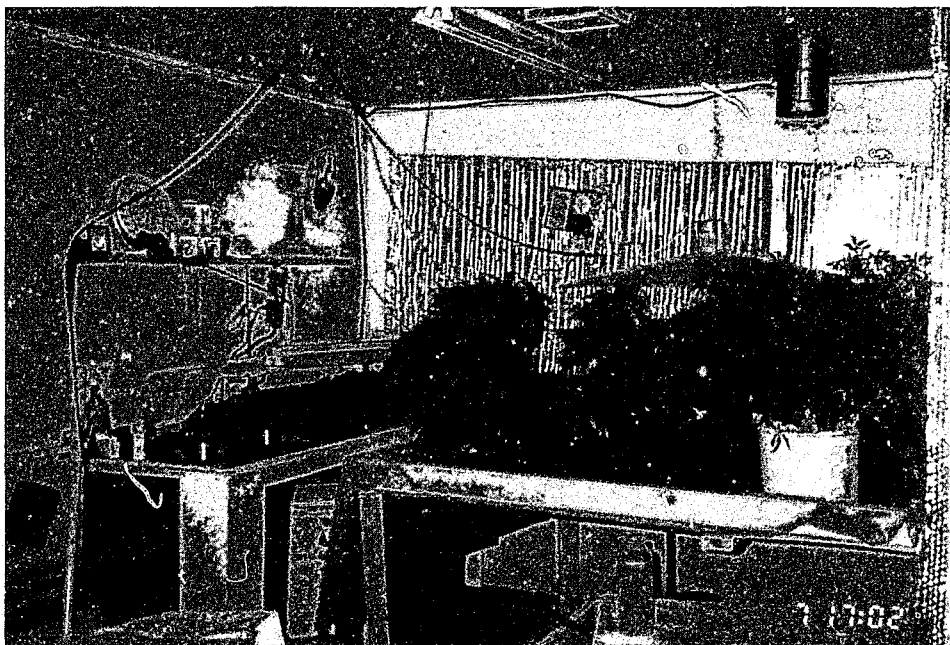
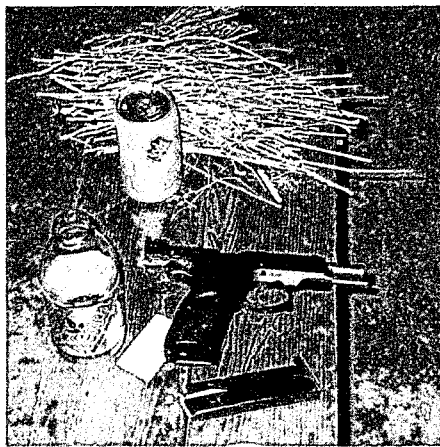
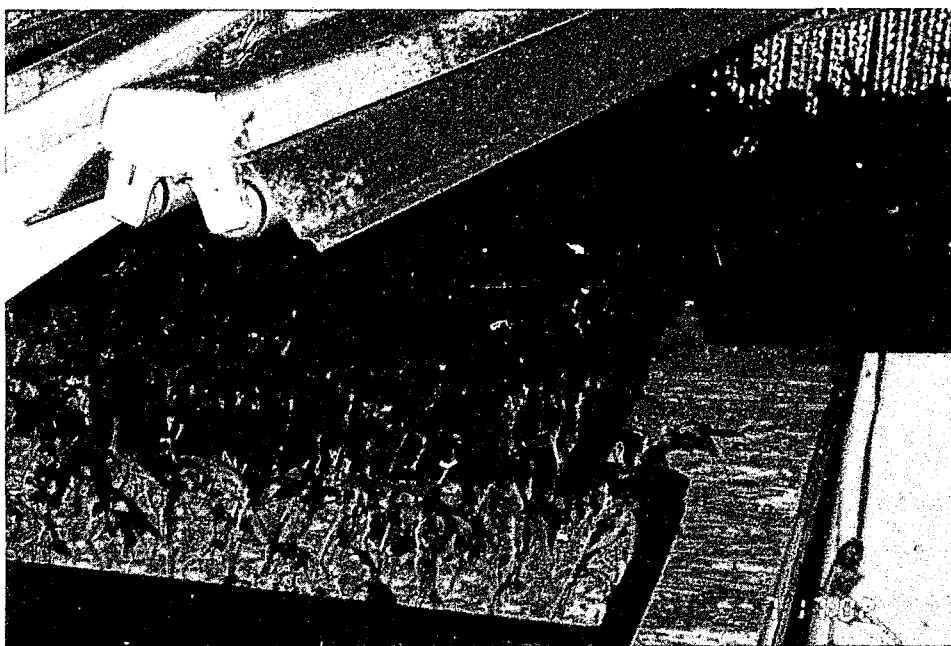


The Alaska State Troopers, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Mat-Su) Drug Enforcement Unit responding to a lead, arrived at a residence where no one was home and observed the strong odor of marijuana. A search warrant was issued on December 7, 1993. Three suspects were apprehended. Three weapons, two shot guns, a hand gun and \$13,750 in cash were seized. Over 1,400 live sinsemilla plants, two pounds of dried sinsemilla, 65 grams of hash oil, and one ounce of psilocybin mushrooms were also seized. The high grade sinsemilla was being exported from Alaska to Hawaii.





SEATTLE FIELD DIVISION  
ANCHORAGE RESIDENT OFFICE (CONT.)



## ST. LOUIS FIELD DIVISION CAPE GIRARDEAU RESIDENT OFFICE

On October 1, 1993, the DEA Cape Girardeau RO assisted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and U.S. Forest Service Officers arrested a long time marijuana cultivator with 150 plants and approximately 15 pounds of processed

marijuana. It is estimated that this grower has been active for over fifteen years and had averaged 4,000 plants per year without detection prior to arrest. The grower stated that he had developed his own strain of cannabis.

## SPRINGFIELD RESIDENT OFFICE

The Springfield RO and Oregon County Sheriff's Office assisted by the Missouri Highway Patrol arrested another long time grower with 1,170 growing plants and 157 pounds of processed marijuana. This grower stated that he had been growing marijuana for 12 years and that in 1991 lost 19,000 plants to eradicators in one day.

In McDonald County, the Missouri Deputy Sheriff received information that an individual had constructed a two story garage that was partially built into the side of a hill in order to conceal two underground rooms. Investigators found and seized 51 plants between five and ten feet tall growing inside the concealed grow area.



# FUNDING

In Fiscal Year 1993, the DCE/SP received \$5 million in direct funding to distribute among the 50 states and \$5 million to reimburse state and local law enforcement officers for overtime hours. Letters of Agreement were initiated with 64 state and local law enforcement agencies.

## DCE/SP FUNDING LEVEL (IN MILLIONS)

1982	\$ .8
1983	\$ 2.4
1984	\$ 3.4
1985	\$ 3.2
1986	\$ 3.6
1987	\$ 3.8
1988	\$ 3.8
1989	\$ 3.8
1990	\$ 3.8
1991	\$13.7
1992	\$10.0
1993	\$10.0

## TOP TEN STATES RANKED BY TOTAL 1993 DCE/SP FUNDING

CALIFORNIA	\$730,000
MISSOURI	\$494,500
KENTUCKY	\$480,000
HAWAII	\$477,000
TEXAS	\$450,000
TENNESSEE	\$424,000
ILLINOIS	\$406,000
OKLAHOMA	\$390,000
GEORGIA	\$375,000
INDIANA	\$330,000

## 1993 DCE/SP

### TOP TEN STATES ARREST TOTALS

KENTUCKY	1,903
CALIFORNIA	1,623
INDIANA	1,432
FLORIDA	696
HAWAII	452
TENNESSEE	446
WASHINGTON	430
WISCONSIN	414
MISSOURI	356
NEW YORK	302

### TOP TEN STATES ASSET SEIZURE TOTALS

CALIFORNIA	\$9,096,420
WASHINGTON	\$5,932,534
COLORADO	\$4,939,358
HAWAII	\$3,411,460
NEW YORK	\$3,241,590
FLORIDA	\$2,154,811
MARYLAND	\$2,084,968
INDIANA	\$1,848,957
MINNESOTA	\$1,693,640
MICHIGAN	\$1,508,300

### GRAND TOTALS FOR ALL STATES

ARRESTS 12,397

ASSETS \$52,038,163



# 1993 DCE/SP

## OVERALL STATE RANKING

1st . . . . .	California	23rd . . . . .	Arizona
2nd . . . . .	Indiana	24th . . . . .	Louisiana
3rd . . . . .	Kentucky	25th . . . . .	W. Virginia
4th . . . . .	Illinois	26th . . . . .	Mississippi
5th . . . . .	Michigan	27th . . . . .	Utah
6th . . . . .	Florida	28th . . . . .	Virginia
7th . . . . .	Wisconsin	28th . . . . .	Massachusetts
8th . . . . .	Tennessee	29th . . . . .	Pennsylvania
8th . . . . .	Ohio	30th . . . . .	S. Carolina
9th . . . . .	New York	31st . . . . .	Nebraska
9th . . . . .	Colorado	32nd . . . . .	Alaska
10th . . . . .	Washington	33rd . . . . .	New Mexico
11th . . . . .	N. Carolina	34th . . . . .	Iowa
12th . . . . .	Hawaii	35th . . . . .	Vermont
13th . . . . .	Missouri	36th . . . . .	Idaho
14th . . . . .	Arkansas	37th . . . . .	S. Dakota
15th . . . . .	Minnesota	38th . . . . .	Montana
16th . . . . .	Oregon	39th . . . . .	N. Dakota
17th . . . . .	Texas	40th . . . . .	New Hampshire
18th . . . . .	Georgia	40th . . . . .	New Jersey
19th . . . . .	Kansas	41st . . . . .	Nevada
20th . . . . .	Maine	42nd . . . . .	Connecticut
21st . . . . .	Oklahoma	43rd . . . . .	Wyoming
22nd . . . . .	Alabama	44th . . . . .	Rhode Island
22nd . . . . .	Maryland	45th . . . . .	Delaware

STATES	ERADICATED PLOTS OUTDOOR	CULTIVATED* PLANTS OUTDOOR	DITCHWEED ERADICATED	INDOOR GROWS SEIZED	INDOOR PLANTS	TOTAL PLANTS ERADICATED	BULK- PROCESSED MARIJUANA	NUMBER OF ARREST	WEAPON SEIZURES	ASSETS SEIZED (VALUE)	REPORTING PERIOD
ALABAMA	2,621	194,700	0	18	8,007	202,707	13	134	42	\$61,050	12-20-93
ALASKA	1	98	0	87	8,421	8,519	134	73	61	\$98,165	12-31-93
ARIZONA	102	5,436	8	126	1,732	7,176	2,501	264	27	\$261,162	12-31-93
ARKANSAS	1,645	156,166	0	36	1,997	158,163	480	179	102	\$326,107	12-31-93
CALIFORNIA	2,230	301,207	0	450	70,552	371,759	4,601	1,623	895	\$9,096,420	12-31-93
COLORADO	100	27,913	46,344	121	8,873	83,130	1,164	179	705	\$4,939,358	12-31-93
CONNECTICUT	62	1,531	0	22	832	2,363	16	41	7	\$147,845	12-31-93
DELAWARE	4	280	0	2	160	440	0	2	0	\$250	12-31-93
FLORIDA	1,602	115,324	0	200	21,396	136,720	888	696	214	\$2,154,811	12-31-93
GEORGIA	1,757	67,413	0	61	6,406	73,819	209	163	30	\$199,800	12-31-93
HAWAII	19,963	777,937	0	9	1,683	779,620	47	452	71	\$3,411,460	12-31-93
IDAHO	28	1,880	0	52	1,497	3,377	62	37	34	\$219,156	12-31-93
ILLINOIS	1,746	242,167	30,291,595	132	5,087	30,538,849	916	270	206	\$1,151,196	12-31-93
INDIANA	5,432	138,360	129,751,646	90	4,019	129,894,025	8,025	1,432	256	\$1,848,957	12-31-93
IOWA	138	13,518	576,075	14	664	590,257	291	12	12	\$52,394	12-31-93
KANSAS	340	32,861	565,885	22	4,949	603,695	3,132	66	51	\$277,234	12-14-93
KENTUCKY	9,863	640,395	6,419,336	73	4,837	7,064,568	2,345	1,903	402	\$1,399,772	12-31-93
LOUISIANA	441	24,021	0	25	1,164	25,185	101	121	80	\$262,625	12-31-93
MAINE	309	10,419	0	71	2,661	13,080	87	199	288	\$503,958	12-31-93
MARYLAND	500	6,550	0	54	2,103	8,653	99	180	73	\$2,084,968	12-31-93
MASSACHUSETTS	106	3,467	0	51	1,632	5,099	912	190	43	\$901,514	12-17-93
MICHIGAN	1,404	171,094	4,055	109	8,669	183,818	17,849	246	183	\$1,508,300	12-20-93
MINNESOTA	826	17,084	1,575,062	45	5,624	1,597,770	1,361	84	14	\$1,693,640	12-31-93
MISSISSIPPI	1,602	70,765	0	27	522	71,287	388	86	46	\$131,570	12-31-93
MISSOURI	900	78,947	41,605,750	44	1,872	41,686,569	453	356	23	\$237,082	12-31-93
MONTANA	3	402	4	20	841	1,247	40	103	26	\$316,067	12-31-93
NEBRASKA	13	5,571	1,690,050	32	1,778	1,697,399	1,213	92	24	\$88,300	12-31-93
NEVADA	9	337	0	10	968	1,305	10	23	36	\$700,150	12-31-93
NEW HAMPSHIRE	66	3,251	7,193	17	129	10,573	0	31	62	\$25,150	12-31-93
NEW JERSEY	43	10,904	0	5	126	11,030	140	17	4	\$153,000	12-15-93
NEW MEXICO	74	8,496	0	30	1,238	9,734	82	59	345	\$0	12-31-93
NEW YORK	262	45,728	0	91	8,745	54,473	2,130	302	153	\$3,241,590	12-31-93
NORTH CAROLINA	1,944	80,195	0	30	16,032	96,227	1,580	174	28	\$1,315,634	12-31-93
NORTH DAKOTA	52	2,621	4,000,000	8	95	4,002,716	24	16	8	\$4,200	12-31-93
OHIO	1,440	57,061	0	76	12,969	70,030	2,823	228	355	\$968,111	12-31-93
OKLAHOMA	1,046	33,297	3,493,628	3	119	3,527,044	7,380	62	43	\$1,014,589	12-10-93
OREGON	265	9,098	0	204	12,442	21,540	0	273	220	\$868,564	12-31-93
PENNSYLVANIA	361	4,583	0	88	2,951	7,534	81	89	76	\$153,302	12-31-93
RHODE ISLAND	25	1,725	0	3	1,405	3,130	0	15	0	\$165,000	12-31-93
SOUTH CAROLINA	824	17,048	0	19	2,248	19,296	69	104	38	\$222,461	12-21-93
SOUTH DAKOTA	133	0	144,137,330	5	168	144,137,498	1	9	2	\$600	12-31-93
TENNESSEE	1,669	510,997	0	63	3,791	514,788	3,903	446	88	\$554,197	12-31-93
TEXAS	216	22,801	7,408,967	15	3,011	7,434,779	479	91	60	\$1,364,422	12-31-93
UTAH	35	10,937	0	43	608	11,545	5,777	94	70	\$438,962	12-31-93
VERMONT	128	10,155	12,930	13	374	23,459	51	71	43	\$100,290	12-31-93
VIRGINIA	688	22,189	0	66	3,476	25,665	16	145	26	\$96,520	12-31-93
WASHINGTON	122	7,110	0	345	30,749	37,859	57	430	285	\$5,932,534	12-31-93
WEST VIRGINIA	511	41,270	2,548,730	17	2,719	2,592,739	1	105	43	\$11,750	12-31-93
WISCONSIN	482	43,227	13,807,729	192	7,208	13,858,164	657	414	144	\$780,984	12-31-93
WYOMING	0	0	0	11	904	904	13	16	18	\$552,993	12-31-93
TOTAL	64,132	4,048,536	387,942,337	3,347	290,453	392,281,326	72,601	12,397	6,062	\$52,038,163	

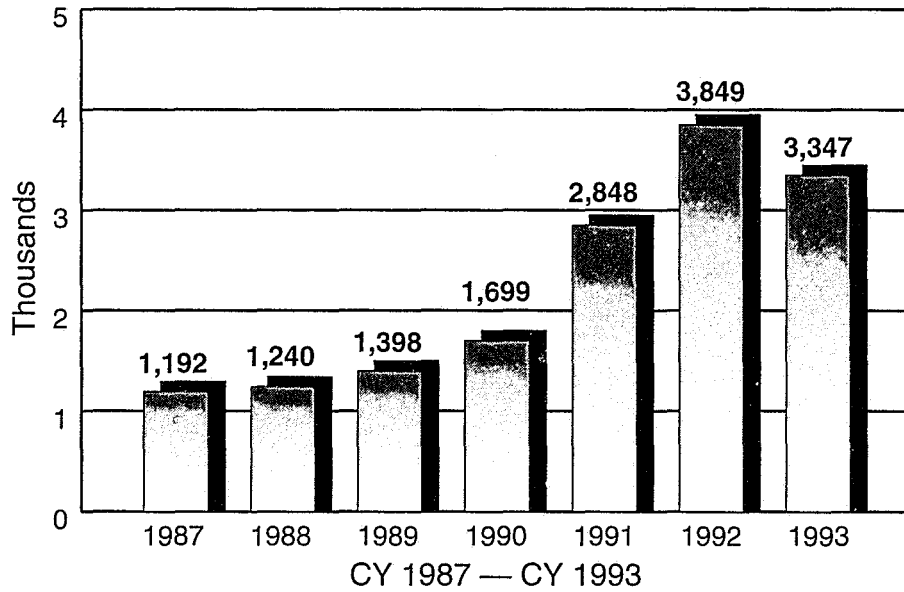
\*MAY INCLUDE TENDED DITCHWEED

TOTAL 1992 FINAL FIGURES	48,603	7,490,379	264,206,672	3,849	349,271	272,046,333	52,320	12,639	5,541	\$69,268,640
TOTAL 1991 FINAL FIGURES	42,660	5,257,486	133,786,059	2,848	282,908	139,326,453	39,041	9,364	4,200	\$52,830,475
TOTAL 1990 FINAL FIGURES	29,469	7,328,769	118,547,983	1,669		125,876,752		5,729	3,210	\$38,691,584

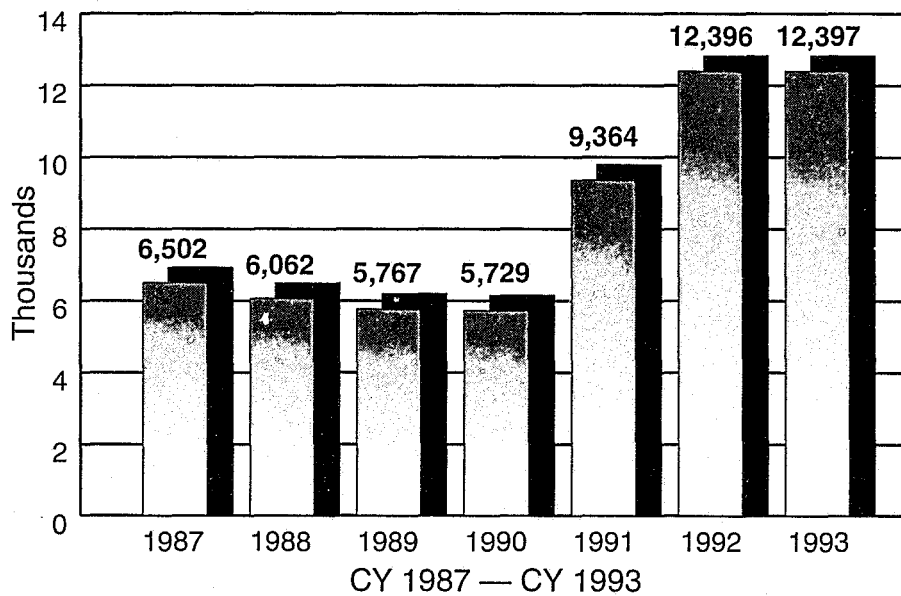


## Appendix

### Number of Indoor Cannabis Cultivation Operations Seized



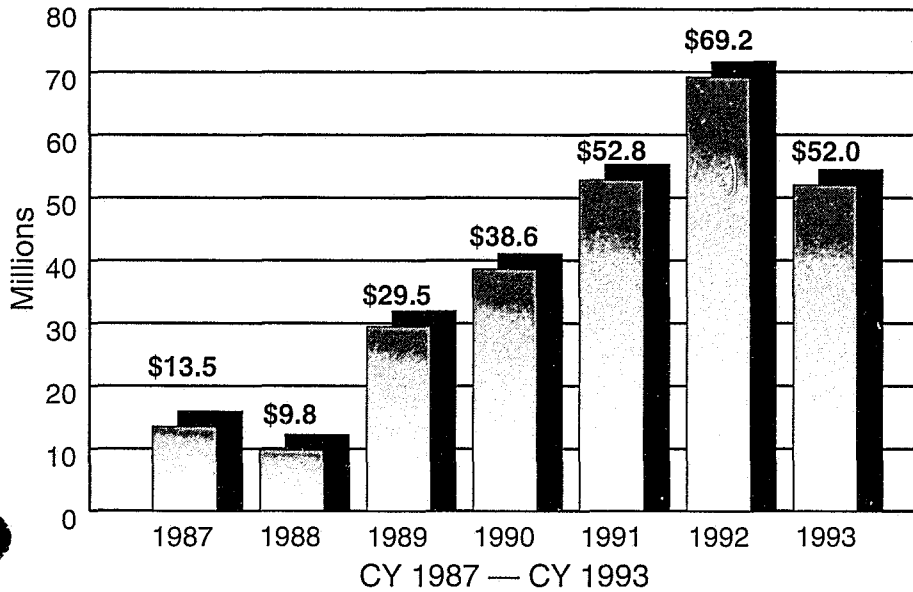
### Number of Arrests



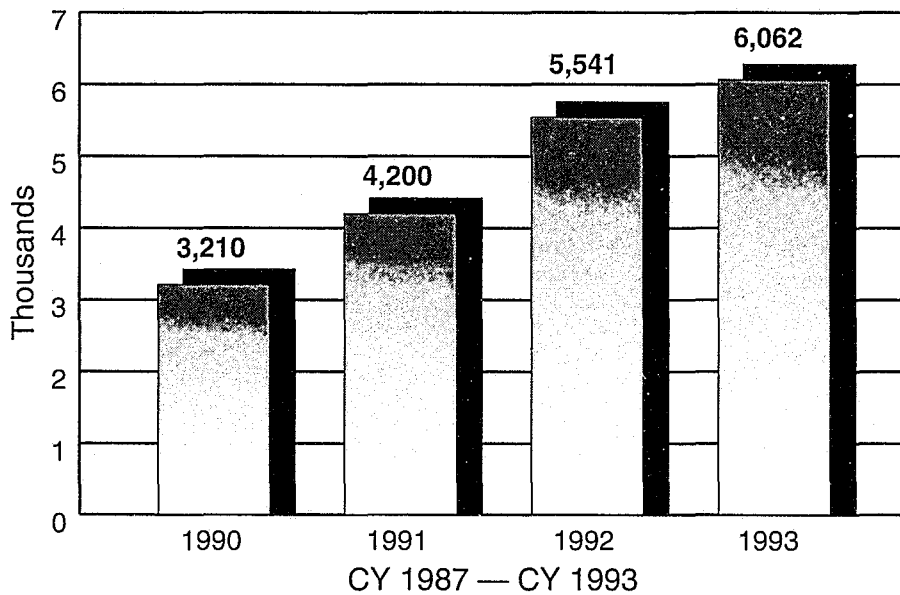
Indoor and Outdoor Cannabis Operations



### **Assets Seized** Cannabis Operations



### **Weapons Seized** 1990-1993



Hand Guns, Shot Guns, Rifles, Automatic Weapons