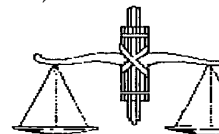


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Criminal Justice Planning Agency
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
Office of the Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



**Edward Byrne Memorial
State & Local Law
Enforcement Assistance
Formula Program Activities**

**1994
STATE ANNUAL
REPORT**

Criminal Justice Planning Agency
POB 1133, CK
Saipan, MP 96950
January 1995



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is the administering agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance formula grant program. The program since its implementation in Fiscal Year 1987 has been funding the criminal justice system within the CNMI. In Fiscal Year 1994, the program funded three (3) action projects of the 23 authorized purpose areas under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, as amended.

The Interagency Financial Crimes and Drug Enforcement Task Force program is designed to support the enhancement of an integrated interdiction, investigation, and prosecution activities, focusing on drug offenses, drug-related violent crimes, organized crime, and other related offenses. The program is a joint effort by the Department of Public Safety (Criminal Investigation Section), Department of Finance (Division of Customs Service-Enforcement Branch), and the Office of the Attorney General (Criminal Division). The Task Force, functioning through a Memorandum of Understanding, have an oversight committee comprised of the department heads of the three participating agencies and will integrate the resources of the said departments.

The CNMI's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) is established to perform the activities for the Criminal History Records Improvement (CHRI) program. The program is designed to automate the CNMI's criminal records and link the criminal justice systems (Commonwealth Superior Court, Department of Public Safety, Criminal Prosecution Division, Immigration Office, and the Criminal Justice Planning Agency) via a computer network system. Furthermore, the program is designed to identify, track, and report convicted felons as well as to create a fingerprint base criminal history record. The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island Law Enforcement Management Information System (CNMI-LEMIS), a public domain software developed by Search Group Inc., is being used for this project. This program is funded in part by the five percent set-aside mandated by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Criminal History Records Improvement (CHRI) program.

The Improving the Operational Effectiveness of the Court Process is a program designed to provide specialized training for the Office of the Public Defender. The program would enable the staff to attend special training in the defense of drug cases. Following the training, the Office of the Public Defender will create a special Drug Defense Unit for the purpose of improving the operational effectiveness of the court process by implementing the court delay reduction programs.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This 1994 CNMI State Annual Report covers all activities funded under the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Assistance Program as required under Section 522 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.). The report contains information on activities covered from July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994.

Administration of the Formula Grant Program

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency is responsible for the development of the Strategy, monitoring, evaluating and awarding grants to eligible recipients. The agency is also administering other federal programs from the U.S. Department of Justice, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program, the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Program (JJDP), the State Analysis Center (SAC) program, and the Criminal History Record Improvement (CHRI) program. In addition, the agency also administers other federal programs such as the Pacific Insular Regional Anti-Substance Abuse Program (PIRAAP) under the Office of Territorial and International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. The agency is governed by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System or the Supervisory Council. The Council has sixteen members, some of which include the Chief Justice of the Commonwealth Supreme Court, Associate Justice of the Commonwealth Superior Court, Attorney General, Public Defender, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Director of Corrections, Chairman of the Parole Board, Commissioner of the Public School System, Director of the Office of the Carolinian Affairs, and the Chairman of the Youth Advisory Council.

Distribution of Formula Grant Funds

In developing the Strategy, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency solicits information on problems and needs for the CNMI Criminal Justice System from our local law enforcement agencies, social service organizations, health organizations, the legislature, judiciary, and education. Information is also solicited from the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) composed of representatives from the Federal and State Law Enforcement agencies on Guam and the CNMI. Information and data collected were then used to formulate the application for formula funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement program.

After the Strategy is developed, reviewed and approved by the Supervisory Council, it would then be forwarded to the Governor for his signature. Once that is done, the Strategy is considered completed and would then be submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the funding agency. Upon approval, the CJPA, through the Public Information Officer, would issue an announcement regarding the availability of funds and, at the same times, solicits subgrant applications to be submitted before a certain deadline. The deadline is usually about a month from the date of the announcement. The subgrant applications, after they have been reviewed by the staff for accuracy and consistency with existing policies and procedures, would then be included as part of the agenda for the next Supervisory Council meeting. At the meeting the applicants are required to be present to testify in support of their applications and answer questions from the Council members. If

the application is approved, the CIPA would prepare and issue an official notification of grant award and the accompanying conditions, along with the necessary budget allotment document. At this point the applicants may begin using their awarded funds.

Since the implementation of the Byrne Memorial program in 1987, the Division of Customs Service, the Department of Public Safety, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Defender, and other law enforcement and social service agencies have been awarded funds under this program.

Overview of Programs as Linked to State Strategy

The programs funded under the Edward Byrne Memorial grant mirrors the stated goals and objectives of the state plan focusing on drug problems and violent crimes. The primary goal is to detect, interdict, and prosecute illegal drug traffickers in the CNMI and to reduce the number of violent crimes within our region.

The CNMI is a 300-mile long archipelago in the Western Pacific consisting of about 14 islands (excluding Guam) and located within a major trans-Pacific travel route. The CNMI is located in relatively close proximity to nearly all Asian countries, including Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Philippines, China and Hong Kong, Indonesia, Burma, Thailand, and Laos.

While considered a remote location geographically, with daily direct flights from the orient, as well as daily sea freight service arriving from many Asian ports, the Mariana Islands serves as a possible link in drug trafficking activities occurring on both a regional and global level. Clearly, the Mariana Islands are strategically located at a crossroads which provides easy access to the Orient and the U.S. Mainland.

Furthermore, marijuana smuggling is continuously being smuggled from the Republic of Belau, a neighboring island known for growing high-quality marijuana. It is known that around 40% of the marijuana being smuggled in the CNMI originated from this island. It is also known that around 60% is grown locally in the CNMI with its warm and mild climate. In addition to marijuana, crystal methamphetamine or Ice poses a greater threat to the CNMI. This drug, which is more potent and dangerous than marijuana, was introduced in 1989 and slowly infested the CNMI, causing major family problems and violent crime activities. It is known that majority of this drug is smuggled from the Philippines, and some have been smuggled even from Japan and Korea. From January to September 1994, the CNMI has interdicted and detected a total of 1114.68 grams of Ice. This is an increased of 1034.65 grams compared to 80.03 during the previous calendar year.

With the infestation of Ice in the CNMI, the drug is rampantly destroying the Chamorro and Carolinian family values. Domestic violence is overwhelmingly increasing due to the effects and usage of Ice. Beginning with the FY94 Byrne funds, a new program called the Domestic Violence Task Force was developed and funded to counter this growing problem. This program includes the Department of Public Safety, the Medical Social Services Division of the Commonwealth Health Center, and the Criminal Prosecution Division of the Attorney General's Office. Discussions are underway to also include Karidat, a non-profit organization in the Commonwealth, to become a member of the Task Force for the purpose of providing services to the offenders to further prevent the cycle of violence usually accompanying this problem.

Summary of Federal / State Program Coordination Efforts and Activities

The Interagency Financial Crimes and Drug Enforcement Task Force plans and coordinates their own activities during their monthly meetings. The Task Force is a recipient of two federal programs: the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance program, Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice and the Pacific Insular Regional Anti-Substance Abuse Program (PIRAAP), Office of Territorial and International Affairs (OTIA), U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Task Force also coordinates activities with federal law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), U.S. Customs, U.S. Secret Service, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and the U.S. District Court. The Task Force Chief Prosecutor has been cross-designated and can prosecute drug offenders in the U.S. District Court located on Saipan. The Task Force members are also members of the Pacific Region Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC). The LECC meeting is held every quarter either on Guam or in the CNMI.

Organization of Report

This report provides information on activities funded under the Fiscal Year 1993 grant award of the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program and implemented in Fiscal Year 1994. The report includes the goals and objectives of each program and its activities and accomplishments. Also included in this report is the evaluation activities integrated with the programs.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM

Program Title:	Interagency Financial Crimes & Drug Enforcement Task Force (Program Purpose # 2)
Master Grant Number:	93-DB-CX-0069
Project Grant Number:	2813-J3047A (Customs) 2813-J3047B (DPS) 2813-J3047C (AG)
Subgrantee:	Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety, and the Division of Customs Service of the Department of Finance
Address:	Civic Center - Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950
Contact Person:	Mr. Dick Weil, Attorney General
Amount of BJA Funds:	\$300,000.00
Project Duration:	October 1, 1993-September 30, 1994

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this program is to combat drug trafficking, white-collar crime, organized crime, public corruption, gambling related crime, money laundering, and fraud against the CNMI government. The following objectives are designed to meet the goal:

- 1) To investigate and prosecute white-collar crime, organized crime, public corruption, gambling crime, money laundering, and fraud against the government with priority attention to cases involving drug-related official corruption.
- 2) To initiate financial investigative programs which target the identification of money laundering operations and assets obtained through illegal drug trafficking, including the development of proposed model legislation, financial investigative training and financial information sharing systems.
- 3) To increase the apprehension and prosecution of persons who violate laws pertaining to controlled substances.

Number of Subgrants and sites:

This is an individual project for the only Drug Enforcement Task Force in the CNMI. The Task Force office is located in Saipan with members including law enforcement representatives from the islands of Rota and Tinian.

Program Activities and Accomplishments

Since its reorganization in 1992, the Interagency Financial Crimes and Drug Enforcement Task Force has been accomplishing its stated goals and objectives and has significantly contributed to the successful apprehension and prosecution of violent and drug offenders. Coordination and cooperation among the three agencies have been very effective in accomplishing their collective responsibilities.

Since this is a continuation program, the Task Force duties and responsibilities remain the same, with the Enforcement Branch of the Division of Customs Service responsible for screening, detection, interdiction, and investigation of illegal narcotics being imported and distributed throughout the CNMI. The Division of Customs Service is also responsible to inspect all incoming passengers (including personal hand carry baggage), cargoes, vessels, and containers from the seaports and airports for smuggling or importation of illegal substances. They also have an additional responsibility to inspect packages from all the Postal Services in the CNMI. The Division of Customs Service Enforcement Branch includes the Canine and the Operations Units which are responsible to carry forward the enforcement operations. The main goal of the project is currently being accomplished primarily through the use of canine dogs and, secondly, through the use of variety of detection and interdiction techniques.

The Canine Unit presently has six (6) canine drug detector dogs, as one recently died of cancer. Effort is underway to purchase another dog. These dogs were recently recertified and retrained to detect drugs such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and crystal methamphetamine or ice. As part of the recertification, the dogs were also trained to detect explosive devices, firearms, and ammunitions. As stated in the last report, five of the dogs are Malanois breed (Dutch German Shepherds), including the one which died of cancer.

The other two are mixed Golden Retriever and Labrador. Five of the dogs are considered passive and the other one aggressive, which is being used for incoming cargoes. The five Malanois breed dogs were procured in 1993 with funds received from the Pacific Insular Anti-Substance Abuse Program (PIRAAP), Office of Territorial and International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. The mix Golden Retriever and the Labrador were purchased in 1987 using Byrne funds.

Furthermore, the Division of Customs Service recently purchased a Line Scan X-Ray Screening machine. The X-Ray machine, since it became operational, has been successful in detecting illegal substances entering the CNMI. Prior to the use of this equipment, Customs officers were drilling objects suspected of concealing illegal substances such as coolers or ceramic made statutes. However, with the new X-Ray machine, it is much more effective and efficient to screen concealed objects. The X-ray machine was purchased using funds from both PIRAAP and Byrne programs.

The Criminal Investigation Section (CIS), formally the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), of the Department of Public Safety has been reorganized and has two units: Narcotics and Intelligence Units. These Units are solely responsible for investigating drug-related violent crimes, public corruption, "white-collar cases," and drug-related organized crimes. These Units conduct operations such as Buy Bust (using the Confidential Informant Funds), Raid Missions (House Search), and Surveillance. These operations, under the direction of their Division Chief and the Senior Special Agent-in-Charge, are well planned and coordinated with other law enforcement agencies, particularly the Enforcement Branch of the Division of Customs Service and federal law enforcement agencies such as the U.S. Customs, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Other operations such as house search are coordinated with the Customs Canine (K-9) Unit particularly for the usage of their canine dogs. The dogs have been instrumental in searching and are very effective in detecting drugs, firearms, and explosive devices.

The Criminal Prosecution Division is primarily responsible for the successful prosecution and disposition of cases forwarded by the Division of Customs Service and the Criminal Investigation Section. The Criminal Prosecution Division has two experienced Drug Prosecutors who work closely with the Enforcement Branch of the Division of Customs Service and the Criminal Investigation Section of the Department of Public Safety on cases for prosecution.

In Fiscal Year 1994, the Task Force was successful in drug seizures operations with over 1072.47 grams of crystal methamphetamine "ice" valued at approximately \$3,056,120 and over 59 pound and 13.78 ounces of marijuana valued at approximately \$1,693,391.60. The total value seized combining both drugs netted approximately \$4,749,511.60. During the same period, Task Force eradicated over 165 cultivated plants and 3 ditchweed plants, as well as confiscated a total of 43 firearms/pistols that were considered illegal in the CNMI. The law in the CNMI regarding firearms only authorizes the use of .22 caliber rifles, .223 caliber rifles, and 410 gauge shotguns. Furthermore, the Task Force seized a total of \$7,434 of hard currencies for the same reporting period.

In performing these operations, the Task Force arrested three individuals in April 1994 for importation of ice from the Philippines. The arrests were made following the discovery of crystal methamphetamine concealed in a DHL package during a routine inspection of incoming packages to the CNMI. The three were arrested for possession, importation, and possession with the intent to deliver, immediately after they picked up the

package at the DHL office. The confiscated ice, weighing 100 grams, had a street value of around \$100,000. Another and biggest "ice" bust occurred two months after the arrests of these individuals. The Enforcement Branch of the Division of Customs Service again arrested three individuals for importation, possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver. The ice, weighing 120 grams with a street value of around \$120,000, was detected in a concealed wooden box by the X-Ray machine. Customs agents did a controlled delivery of the contraband which resulted in the arrest of the three individuals.

The Task Force members have participated in conferences such as the Asian Organized Crime Conference, Pacific Basin Customs Enforcement Conference, Customs Head of Administration Regional Meeting (CHARM), and the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) meeting. The members also participated in the Pacific Training Initiative (PTI) that was conducted by the FBI, the Customs Canine Enforcement Training conducted by the Police Dog Services, and other in-service training conducted by the Task Force Supervisors. The Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General also conducted a training called Law Enforcement Seminar for the Task Force members. The seminar included constitutional issues on 4th and 5th Amendments (Search and Arrest), the CNMI Controlled Substance Act, investigation and trail issues, and prosecution issues. As part of its coordination activities, the members also meet on a monthly basis to discuss Task Force issues.

Crystal Methamphetamine "Ice" and Marijuana Seizures and Arrests by Calendar Year						
Year	Marijuana	Arrests	Value	Methamphetamine	Arrests	Value
1989	184#	37	N/A	0	0	N/A
1991	71#	99	N/A	53.53 grams	18	N/A
1991	259# 14oz	92	N/A	2615.14 grams	43	N/A
1992	80# 12oz	65	\$155,122.50	300.68 grams	34	\$437,866.65
1993	13# 3oz	60	\$66,701.00	80.03 grams	35	\$116,240.00
1994	58# 8oz	96	\$1,669,701.60	1114.68 grams	87	\$3,028,080.00

Program Title:	Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) (Program Purpose #15b)
Master Grant Number:	93-DB-CX-0069
Project Grant Number:	2811-J30046
Subgrantee:	Department of Public Safety
Address:	P.O. Box 8621, Saipan, MP 96950
Contact Person:	Ms. Connie Guerrero, CJIS Administrator
Amount of BJA Funds:	\$19,569.00
Project Duration:	October 1, 1993-September 30, 1994

Goals and Objectives

This program is designed to automate the CNMI criminal records, link via a computer network system the criminal justice systems, and create a finger print based criminal history record. To this end, the program is tasked to develop and implement systems and procedures designed to accomplish the following goals:

- 1) To Enhance the CNMI's criminal history records in order to identify convicted felons accurately;
- 2) To meet the new Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) voluntary reporting standards for identifying convicted felons, and ;
- 3) To improve the quality and timeliness of the CNMI's criminal history record information.

The primary objectives and focus of this program includes the following:

- 1) To identify accurately those individuals convicted of an offense classified as felony (or equivalent) within the CNMI;
- 2) To improve reporting of criminal justice actions and dispositions to the CNMI's criminal history records systems (particularly arrests and dispositions occurring in the last five years);
- 3) To increase the CNMI's automation of criminal history records;
- 4) To have the CNMI meet the voluntary reporting standards of the FBI;
- 5) To make felony convictions information readily available to appropriate Federal and State requesting agencies;
- 6) To identify impediments to the reporting of dispositions of criminal cases;
- 7) To develop plans and procedures to improve such reporting, and;
- 8) To allocate sufficient resources to complete disposition reporting.

The CJIS program will also participate in the voluntary standards for improving the quality of criminal history records information and will perform the following:

- 1) Maintain fingerprint impressions or copies thereof as the basic source document for each arrest (including incidents based upon a summons issued in lieu of an arrest warrant) recorded in the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).
- 2) Arrest fingerprint impressions submitted to the CNMI CJIS and the FBI Identification Division (ID) will be completed, and will contain the following data elements: date of arrest, originating agency identification number, arrest charges, a unique tracking number (if

available) and the subject's full name, date of birth, race and social security number (if available).

- 3) Ensures that fingerprint impressions of persons arrested for serious and/or significant offenses are included in the CNMI Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).
- 4) All disposition reports submitted to the CNMI CJIS and the FBI ID will contain the following: FBI number (if available), name of subject, date of birth, sex, State identifier number, social security number (if available), date of arrest, tracking number (if available), arrest offense literal, court offense literal, and agency identifier number of agency reporting arrest.
- 5) All final disposition reports submitted to the CNMI CJIS and the FBI ID that report a conviction for an offense classified as a felony (or equivalent) within the CNMI will include a flag identifying the conviction as a felony.
- 6) Ensures to the maximum extent possible that arrest and/or confinement fingerprints are submitted to the CJIS and, when appropriate, to the FBI ID within 24 hours; however, in the case of single-source States, State repositories shall forward fingerprints, when appropriate, to the FBI ID within two weeks of receipt.
- 7) Ensures to the maximum extent possible that final dispositions are reported to the CJIS and, when appropriate, to the FBI ID within a period not to exceed 90 days after the disposition is known.
- 8) Ensures that annual audits of a representative sample of State criminal justice agencies shall be conducted by the CNMI to verify adherence to CNMI and Federal standards and regulations.
- 9) Whenever criminal history record information is collected, stored, or disseminated, the CNMI will institute procedures to assure the physical security of such information, to prevent unauthorized access, disclosure or dissemination, and to ensure that such information cannot be improperly modified, destroyed, accessed, changed, purged, or overlaid.
- 10) To accurately identify to the maximum extent feasible all State criminal history records maintained or received in the future that contain a conviction for an offense classified as a felony (or equivalent) within the CNMI.

Number of Subgrants and Sites:

The Criminal Justice Information System Office is located at the Department of Public Safety on Saipan. However, criminal records to be automated and stored on the network would include records from the islands of Tinian and Rota. These two islands will ultimately be on the network in the near future.

Program Activities and Accomplishments

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is the administering agency in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the Criminal History Record Improvement (CHRI) program. The CJPA also serves as the lead agency for the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), which is composed of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the CNMI Superior Court, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS). The CJIS primary activities include the automation of the criminal information system among member organizations and the development of a criminal history record system for the CNMI.

Working with the SEARCH Group Incorporated, a technical assistance provider from Sacramento, California, the CJIS project has continued to make progress in implementing activities toward accomplishing the stated goals and objectives. The CJIS project has also procured a public domain software called Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Law Enforcement Information System (CNMI-Lemis) for the automation and creation of a fingerprint base criminal history record. In addition to this software package, the necessary files to track and do technical searches have also been in place. One of these files, the Master Name Index, includes the offender's name, aliases, physical description, and other relevant data. The CNMI-Lemis is also being used to generate the State Identification Number (SID), which is fingerprint-based assigned to an offender who is arrested by DPS. The Master Fingerprint File, another important file, has also been developed and organized in 6,400 bins based on a fingerprint classification scheme using standard pattern type definitions. Each bin is further organized by year of birth, starting from the youngest to the oldest. The Records Section staff have also been trained to do the technical searches, fingerprint classifications, charge tracking and other activities for the development of the criminal history record. The staff have also been forwarding fingerprint cards to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The CJIS project recently purchased five computers, one file server, and one printer for the automation and development of the criminal history record. Prior to that, a computer and a printer were the only equipment for this purpose. Request have been made to purchase additional equipment to complete the automation at DPS and to link the file server located at DPS to the Criminal Prosecution Division, the Superior Court, and the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The file server is located at the CJIS office, while two of the computers are located at the Dispatch Unit, one at the Detention, and two at the Records Section. The computer and the printer purchased earlier are also located at the Records Section. With the additional computers, the automation at DPS would be completed with one computer at the Criminal Investigation Division, one at the CJIS office, one at the Department of Corrections, and two at the Traffic/Patrol Section. The last three would be assigned to the Criminal Prosecution Division, the Superior Court, and the CJPA. All of these computers would be linked via the file server located at the CJIS office. The first patch of equipment were purchased with funds from the 5% set-aside program and from funds received from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the other funding source for this project. In addition, funds have also been made available for this project from the Pacific Insular Regional Anti-Substance Abuse (PIRAAP) program, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Territorial and Insular Affairs.

As of September 1994, the Records Section staff have entered about three hundred arrest records in the only computer available and developed about one hundred ninety criminal history records. The number for both activities would undoubtedly increase as the staff become more efficient in their work and with the aid of the additional computers.

Program Title: Improving the Operational Effectiveness of the Court Process (Program Purpose #10)
Master Grant Number: 93-DB-CX-0069
Project Grant Number: 2815-J30049
Subgrantee: Office of the Public Defender
Address: P.O. Box 1133, CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Contact Person: Mr. Daniel J. DeRienzo, Public Defender
Amount of BJA Funds: \$10,000.00
Project Duration: October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the program is to increase the efficiency of the court and improve the Judicial process. The objectives are:

- 1) To establish a special drug defense unit within the Office of the Public Defender. Attorneys completing the special training in the defense of drug related cases will be assigned to this unit.
- 2) To draft form motions for use at the Office of the Public Defender with respect to search and seizures, border searches, and other drug offense issues.
- 3) To defend all indigent defendants accused of drug offenses.
- 4) To identify and report problem areas to the court by ways of motion or hearing. This will aid in the efficiency of court proceedings and give parity to each side.
- 5) To work with prosecutors and judges toward increasing court efficiency in the disposition of drug cases.

Number of Subgrants and Sites:

The CNMI Office of the Public Defender provides services to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Program Activities and Accomplishments

The CNMI Office of the Public Defender provides defense attorneys for offenders on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The crimes include drug and traffic (alcohol abuse) violations. With the increasing number of drug and alcohol abuse cases, this program is designed to allow the Office of the Public Defender to establish innovative ideas to reduce the number of court loads and cases. In pursuit of this goal, the Office of the Public Defender has the following activities to be performed:

- 1) To gather information concerning legal seminars offered to provide continuing legal education in the area of the defense of drug related cases.
- 2) To choose a seminar which offers a comprehensive up to date analysis of the issues involving drug offense prosecution and defense, including the latest Supreme Court, Federal District Court and Appellate Court decisions in this area.
- 3) To begin a drug defense unit within the Office of the Public Defender. Those attorneys who attend the seminar can then share information and ideas with the other attorneys in the office, and with the Court by way of motions and hearings.
- 4) To draft form motions and begin an office drug defense library within the Office of the Public Defender.

The Office of the Public Defender attended two conferences. One was the Maryland Criminal Defense Conference entitled "The ABC's of CDS: Taking the Offense in Drug Defense" and the Fourth Annual New York State Lawyer Assistance Program Spring Conference on alcohol and substance abuse, addictive behaviors, emotion disorders, attention deficit disorder, learning disorders, family problems and stress related to employment.

The Maryland Criminal Defense Conference outlined the capitalist aspects of the illegal drug network, the racial aspects of drug laws and the differences in the criminality associated with different drugs (e.g., cocaine users tend to commit crimes while under the influence of the drug, whereas heroin users tend to commit crimes in order to obtain the drug). The conference also provided valuable information regarding the identification of confidential informants.

The Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney's Conference provided the Public Defender with the necessary skills to develop the Drug Defense Unit to handle all drug offenses assigned to the Office of the Public Defender. The Public Defender has been tasked to defend all drug related cases including importation, distribution, manufacturing and crop cultivation. The creation of the Drug Defense Unit has allowed the Office of the Public Defender to work with the Office of the Attorney General in developing a coordination agreement and actively engaged in informant strategy. Furthermore, the efficiency of the Drug Defense Unit and the court's efficiency has been greatly enhanced. The response time and entry into plea negotiations has been faster and has been less of a need for time consuming motions and trials. In addition, the cooperation between the Public Defender's Office and the Attorney General's Office has led to focused investigations and increased drug arrests.

The Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney's Conference also provided the Public Defender additional information on alternative sentencing techniques necessary to implement successful policies concerning rehabilitation of drug offenders and crime prevention. Following the seminar, the Office of the Public Defender has increased its number of drug and alcohol related cases. The Public Defender has since been providing swift dispositions.

The Public Defender has also written a series of articles which were published in the Marianas Variety, a local newspaper. The articles specifically addressed drug and alcohol addiction in the hope that the people of the Commonwealth would know about addiction, its symptoms, and suggested treatment. It is strongly believed that providing the public with information about drug and alcohol addiction will encourage the addict and his or her family and friends to seek counseling and treatment prior to court ordered intervention. This public information campaign was made possible by the Public Defender's participation at the Fourth Annual Spring Conference and the impact of this activity was overwhelming by the number of phone calls and letters received by the Office of the Public Defender.

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency through its Research and Evaluation Specialist develops the evaluation plan for projects to be implemented under the Byrne program. The plan includes the following:

1. Upon receiving project applications for funding, the staff reviews the purpose of the project and the stated goals and objectives. The reviewing process includes the intended accomplishment of the project.
2. The Individual Project Report (IPR) is submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the specified time frame or after the project is subgranted to the recipients.
3. Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) is required to be submitted by the subgrantees to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency on a quarterly basis (see enclosed QPR formats). The reports are reviewed for accuracy and other pertinent information covered within that period.
4. The QPR is also used to develop the State Annual Report (SAR) submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
5. Project monitoring are conducted as necessary for collection of information using both telephonic and on-site visits at least on a quarterly basis.

Since 1991, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency had evaluated two projects funded under the Byrne grant. Plans to evaluate other projects are proposed in the near future.



