



National Drug Control Strategy

HIDTA

High Intensity Drug

Trafficking Area Program

Annual Report

The White House
December 2002

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**The National High Intensity Drug
Trafficking Area Program**
Annual Report

2002

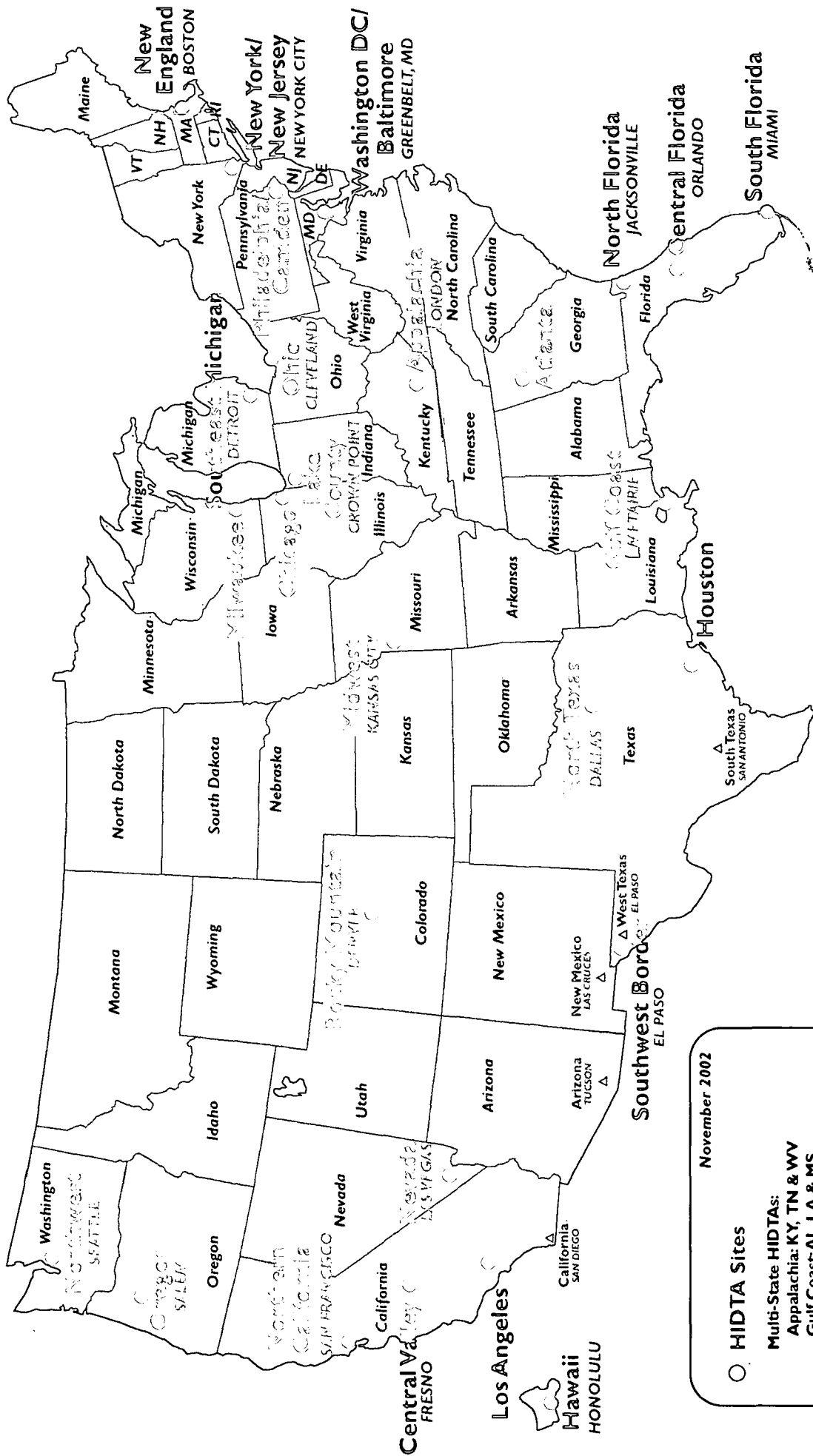
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Office of National Drug Control Policy



**Puerto Rico/
U.S. Virgin Islands**
SAN JUAN

November 2002

○ HIDTA Sites

Multi-State HIDTAs:

Appalachia: KY, TN & WV

**Appalachia: KY, TN & WV
Gulf Coast: AL, LA & MS**

Midwest IA, KS, MO, NE, ND & SD

Midwest: IA, KS, MO, NE, ND & SD

New England: CT, MA, MI

New England: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI & VT

North Texas: TX and OK

North Texas: TX and OK

Rocky Mountain: CO, MI, UI & WY
Southwest Border: AZ CA NM & TX

A Southwest Border: AZ, CA, NM &

CA, AZ, NM, West TX, South TX

Overview

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

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

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

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

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

- **Assess regional drug threats;**
- **Design strategies** to focus efforts that combat drug trafficking threats;

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

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

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

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

Appalachia HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

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

West Virginia: Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Gilmer, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mingo, and Wayne Counties

Contact: (606) 877-2100

Mission Statement

The Appalachia HIDTA seeks to measurably reduce the impact of regional drug production, trafficking, and distribution in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, as well as in other parts of the United States, through unified initiatives involving investigation, intelligence, eradication, interdiction, prosecution, and demand reduction. Although the primary focus of the Appalachia HIDTA is marijuana, the overall focus is to address all drug enforcement activity, as the threat to the area mandates and the Executive Board deems appropriate. Central to this mission is the expansion of cooperative, multi-

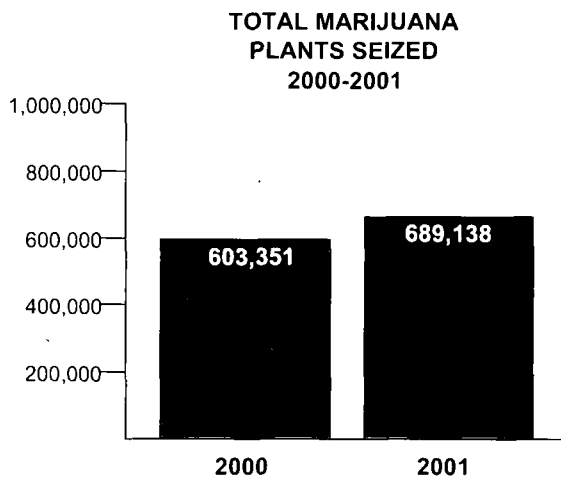
jurisdictional law enforcement efforts involving HIDTA-funded and non-HIDTA funded resources.

Threat Abstract

Marijuana is the number one cash crop in the three states that comprise the Appalachia HIDTA. The states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, with less than 4 percent of the total U.S. population, produced 28.3 percent of the domestic marijuana supply, as measured in total eradicated plants in 2001. Marijuana usage rates in the area, however generally were below the national average. This indicates

that the vast majority of marijuana cultivated in this HIDTA is destined for markets in other regions of the country, and that the Appalachia HIDTA continues to represent a major drug threat to the United States.

Much of the marijuana produced in the Appalachia HIDTA is grown on public land. Marijuana growers in the Appalachia HIDTA use Daniel Boone and Cherokee National Forests and Great Smoky Mountain and Big South Fork National Parks, as well as lands owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Daniel Boone National Forest has led all National Forests in marijuana cultivation for 10 of the last 11 years.



The three states constituting the Appalachia HIDTA are experiencing a dramatic escalation in the methamphetamine threat. The number of methamphetamine labs dismantled in this HIDTA increased from 93 in CY2000 to 241 in CY2001.

Other than marijuana and methamphetamine, cocaine constitutes the major drug seized in the Appalachia HIDTA. The agencies of this HIDTA seized cocaine with a total dollar value of \$729,674.00 in CY2001.

Prescription drug seizures by Appalachia HIDTA officers and agents expanded dramatically from 4,706 dosage units in CY1999 to 13,816 in CY2001. The trafficking and illicit usage of prescription drugs, especially OxyContin, may well be the most significant drug problem aside from marijuana within this HIDTA.

Strategy Abstract

The Appalachia HIDTA Executive Board is comprised of 16 local, state, and federal law enforcement leaders in the Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia HIDTA areas of responsibility. The administration component is housed at the headquarters in London, KY.

The operational backbone is made up of three separate, yet electronically connected, operations centers located in London, KY, Knoxville, TN, and Hurricane, WV. Each houses numerous officials who represent their state's HIDTA participating agencies. Since the 1998 designation of the Appalachia HIDTA, participating agencies have worked together to coordinate drug suppression activities that extend throughout the 68 designated counties and encompass the efforts of six U.S. Attorney's Offices, seven federal agencies, 17 state agencies, two National Forests, and two National Parks.

By balancing efforts to attack drug trafficking at every layer and coordinating non-enforcement efforts in targeted communities, the Appalachia HIDTA has facilitated the cooperation of federal, state, and local agencies into eight collaborative initiatives.

The Appalachia HIDTA consists of three enforcement initiatives—eradication, interdiction, and investigation/money laundering—with a prosecution component to enhance operational efforts. Further complementing

the HIDTA's operational efforts is the intelligence initiative, which is comprised of two separate means of investigative support: the Investigative Support Center (ISC) and the Marijuana Signature (Fingerprinting) Lab, both of which are connected via computer links to the three operation centers. In addition, the HIDTA's support initiatives include a demand reduction team that educates the public with a focus on youth, and the HIDTA administration and operations support initiative.

Investigative Support Center

The Appalachia HIDTA ISC is the centerpiece of the HIDTA, providing for the collocation and commingling of vital federal and state law enforcement personnel and databases that assist all regional law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in counterdrug investigations, eradication, and interdiction. The ISC provides event and subject deconfliction services for officer safety and enhanced intelligence production; strategic intelligence for refined targeting and officer resource allocation; and in-service analytical intelligence training.

The ISC provides HIDTA agencies and task forces with operational, analytical support for ongoing initiative-driven case activity through access to multiple criminal and commercial databases. It also provides narcotics intelligence analysis; prepares threat assessments, strategic reports, and organizational studies; participates in informant-defendant debriefings; cultivates new sources of information; performs post-seizure and search warrant analysis; supports arrest operations; prepares and conducts briefings for visitors to the HIDTA; and assists in trial preparations.

In addition, the ISC conducts self-initiated intelligence analysis projects to generate

leads for HIDTA investigative agencies. The Appalachia HIDTA threat assessment requires quarterly statistical reporting so that resources and direction can be reevaluated among the HIDTA initiatives.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. National Park Service, Tennessee Valley Authority Police, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Marshals Service.

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

Other: Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky, Chiefs of Police Associations and Sheriffs' Associations in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia; Kentucky National Guard; Laurel County Fiscal Court; Tennessee National Guard; West Virginia National Guard; West Virginia Prevention Resource Center; and U.S. Attorney's Offices—Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, Eastern and Middle Districts of Tennessee, and Northern and Southern Districts of West Virginia.

Significant Achievements

In 2001, Appalachia HIDTA investigative agencies dismantled a drug trafficking

organization (DTO) operating in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky that had distributed between 4,000 and 5,000 pounds of marijuana and hundreds of pounds of cocaine. The organization had terrorized the local community, perpetrated several arson attempts against government witnesses, and was responsible for a drug-related shooting in response to an unpaid debt. Fifteen individuals were arrested and convicted, and \$500,000 in assets and currency was forfeited.

Appalachia HIDTA investigative agencies also dismantled a large-scale marijuana and cocaine trafficking organization operating in the northern portion of eastern Tennessee in 2001. More than \$300,000 in cash, 2,640 pounds of marijuana and five kilograms of cocaine were seized, and 51 individuals were indicted. Members of this organization are

suspected of involvement in several homicides.

The dismantling of the organization has significantly affected the illicit drug market in northeastern Tennessee.

In 2001, Operation Snow on the Hills was a HIDTA Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force case that investigated a well-established DTO that distributed powder and crack cocaine in the Upper Cumberland region of middle Tennessee and Kentucky. The organization had distributed more than 50 kilograms of powder cocaine and crack they obtained from sources in Indianapolis, IN, and Nashville, TN, between 1993 and 2000 throughout middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky. Because most of the conspirators were relatives, LEAs had been unable to penetrate the organization despite numerous attempts over the years.

Information above was provided by the Appalachia HIDTA.

Atlanta HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1995

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Georgia: City of Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb Counties

Contact: (404) 815-4400

Mission Statement

The mission of the Atlanta HIDTA is to provide a positive law enforcement impact through improved public safety in designated areas of metropolitan Atlanta. This mission will be achieved by reducing the number of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and violators, reducing the number of armed violent criminals engaged in drugs and firearms distribution in HIDTA zones, seizing profits from illegal drug-related activities, reclaiming neighborhoods from criminal control and environment decay, and employing applicable federal, state, and local laws. The HIDTA mission is accomplished with administrative support to criminal justice, drug treatment, and prevention integrated with focused strategic law enforcement by the Atlanta HIDTA Task Force and the DeKalb HIDTA Task Force.

The Atlanta HIDTA Task Force and the DeKalb HIDTA Task Force are intelligence-driven initiatives. They are geographically focused and target-specific law enforcement

components that apply sustained effort to dismantle illicit DTOs and remove armed criminal predators within or directly influencing the Atlanta HIDTA.

Threat Abstract

Cocaine, in both powder and crack form, remains the primary drug threat in metropolitan Atlanta.

Methamphetamine, in both powder and ice form, is the second largest threat. Many of the counties in the metropolitan area report that methamphetamine, including production in clandestine labs, is becoming a significant law enforcement and community problem. Ice is becoming increasingly popular in the nightclubs in the metropolitan area, with multi-pound seizures by law enforcement becoming more common.

Heroin distribution in the metropolitan Atlanta area generally has been associated with the Vine City/The Bluff area of the city. While that neighborhood remains the hot spot

for heroin distribution, law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in the counties immediately surrounding the city are reporting increases in heroin distribution in their jurisdictions as well. This trend, corroborated by reports received from drug treatment centers in the metropolitan area, indicates that the heroin problem may be spreading out from the city.

Marijuana remains the most highly abused drug in the area. Because of its high profitability, it will continue to be a source of concern for law enforcement. The high profits associated with marijuana trafficking contribute significantly to the levels of violence in some of the designated areas where retail distribution groups act to maintain control of their turf.

The trafficking and abuse of club drugs, especially Ecstasy, is an increasing threat to metropolitan Atlanta. While still primarily associated with young, urban, Caucasians who attend clubs and all-night parties in the area, other groups also are abusing Ecstasy. Gammahydroxybutyrate (GHB) and

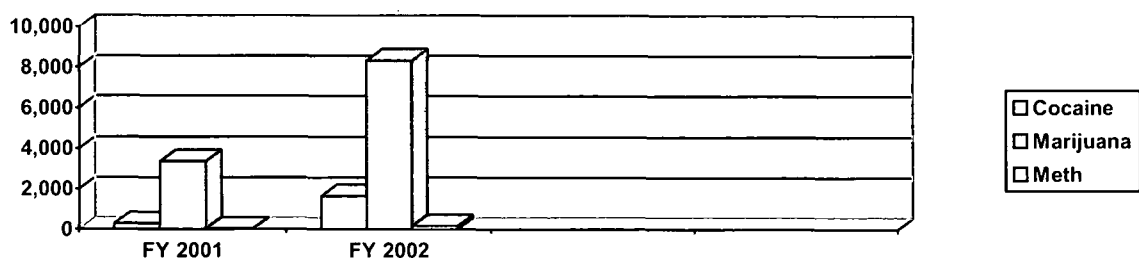
The diversion and abuse of pharmaceuticals in the metropolitan Atlanta area continues to pose a serious but static problem. The primary prescription drug of concern to law enforcement in the area is OxyContin, especially in the suburban and rural counties surrounding the city of Atlanta.

Strategy Abstract

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

The Atlanta HIDTA's operational role is twofold: a traditional, but strategic geographical investigative focus on a number of identified and related DTOs; and a public safety role in removing an

Highway Drug Seizures



The metropolitan Atlanta area's greatest drug-related threat results from its emergence as a drug transportation hub for the Southeastern region. As depicted in the above chart of highway seizures of drugs destined for or originating in Georgia, the increase in cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine across the board has been dramatic. Seizures of methamphetamine nearly tripled from FY2001 to FY2002; cocaine seizures rose by 17 percent, and marijuana seizures rose by 40 percent. Drugs transported into the metropolitan Atlanta area not only fuel the local drug market, but also are redistributed to other cities and regions in the Southeastern United States.

Ketamine are two other drugs identified by area law enforcement as drugs of concern.

identified number of armed predators operating in HIDTA zones.

Equal in importance to the HIDTA's operational role is the institutional assistance and enhancements that it provides to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and prosecutor's offices participating in the HIDTA program. The HIDTA's two task forces target DTOs from an investigative standpoint and apply enforcement actions in specific high-crime areas. The HIDTA also provides collective support to LEAs operating in Fulton and DeKalb counties through the HIDTA Analytical Intelligence Center (AIC), where criminal organizational "dots" are connected for follow-up investigation, and refined strategic targeting and information sharing occurs. At the AIC, leads affecting HIDTA-initiated cases are developed, and then produced and disseminated to participating HIDTA LEAs and other HDTAs. The HIDTA's immediate support to police agencies is tactical because HIDTA task forces routinely conduct activities in areas with the highest crime rates. Atlanta HIDTA's operational and intelligence programs institutionally endorse case deconfliction, coordination, and cooperation with all LEAs.

Investigative Support Center

The Investigative Support Center (ISC) is home to the Atlanta HIDTA task force, the technical equipment facility, the automated wiretap center, a training facility, and the Metropolitan Atlanta Joint Intelligence Group (MAJIG). The functionality and use of all of these component services have greatly facilitated and enhanced the core initiatives.

The ISC houses the HIDTA director, two deputy directors, and the HIDTA administrative staff. Specific budgetary support for operation of the Atlanta HIDTA ISC includes annual leasing, telephone

service, security alarm service, maintenance, cleaning, pest control, and water costs. The ISC and its component services provide a secure environment for enforcement operations and intelligence deconfliction and analysis. It also provides a venue for enhanced coordination and planning of strategic enforcement initiatives and sub-initiatives. In addition, the ISC serves as the center for HIDTA activities, including executive committee budget and policy meetings.

Participating Agencies

Federal: U.S. Attorney's Office-Northern District of Georgia, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Customs Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Marshals Service.

State/Local: Atlanta Police Department, DeKalb County District Attorney's Office, DeKalb County Police Department, Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Fulton County Police Department, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Department of Corrections, Georgia National Guard, Georgia State Attorney General's Office, Georgia State Patrol.

Significant Achievements

The Atlanta HIDTA area of operation encompasses 10 geographically defined sectors of the city of Atlanta and DeKalb County. These areas were designated in early 1997, based on the fact that they have the highest per-capita theaters of drug activity and violent crime. One area is Bowen Homes, which is almost exclusively public housing and situated in Northwest Atlanta.

Concentrated investigative resources were dedicated to the identification, investigation, and prosecution of those responsible for the drug commerce in Bowen Homes in 1977. Three different but related DTOs were identified and targeted by the Atlanta HIDTA. The first DTO, investigated and dismantled in 1999, were responsible for street sales in Bowen Homes and some transshipment of drugs to New York and New Jersey. The dismantlement resulted in the arrest and conviction of 12 individuals.

During the same time, the Atlanta HIDTA targeted the largest of the identified DTOs supplying the Bowen Homes area. This DTO had been brought to the attention of authorities after the leader of the group's father and five associates were arrested in 1993 with two kilograms of cocaine and a large amount of cash and weapons. The head of this group eluded prosecution and proceeded to become one of the larger purveyors of cocaine on the west side of Atlanta.

In 1998, an individual long known for his drug involvement was arrested with 50 kilograms of cocaine after his accomplice was shot and killed during a drug delivery. Further investigative efforts by the HIDTA resulted in the identification and arrest of six other members of this individual's organization. These individuals were trafficking cocaine in the Atlanta area and transshipping it to Philadelphia, PA, California, and Kentucky. The Atlanta HIDTA conducted a \$250,000 reverse operation with a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) task force in Louisville, KY, during this time and seized 75 kilograms of cocaine, \$50,000, and 15 weapons in the South Florida area.

The case then lead to other appendages of the organization through a series of undercover cocaine buys and payments for quantities of

heroin delivered to the Atlanta area. In January 2002, the rest of the organization, including the leader, was indicted. In all, 21 individuals have been arrested and two remain fugitives. This investigation, which spanned more than five years, resulted in a cooperative effort that brought down a long-time, significant DTO operating in the Atlanta area.

The successful completion of this investigation is a shining example of the benefit of cooperative law enforcement efforts and sustained strategic targeting originated by the Atlanta HIDTA and conducted in concert with elements from the below mentioned agencies and task force groups: Atlanta HIDTA; Miami HIDTA; Washington/Baltimore HIDTA; DEA - Louisville, KY, Philadelphia, PA, Anniston, AL, Richmond, VA; Federal Bureau of Investigation-Washington, DC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Los Angeles, CA, Pittsburgh, PA, Montgomery, AL, Jacksonville, FL, Wheeling, WV; Louisville, KY Police Department; and the Kentucky State Attorney's Office.

Information above was provided by the Atlanta HIDTA.

Central Florida HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (407) 585-2644

Mission Statement

The mission of the Central Florida HIDTA is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, money laundering, and violent crime in Central Florida, thereby reducing the impact of drugs and violence on other parts of the United States.

Threat Abstract

The Central Florida HIDTA area covers seven counties from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. It is comprised of (from west to east) Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia Counties. Located within this 8,000-square-mile area, inclusive of Brevard County, are three major cities (Orlando, Tampa, and Daytona Beach), four international airports, two major seaports, 75 miles of coastline on the Gulf, and 47 miles of coastline on the Atlantic. Due to the movement of drugs between Tampa, Orlando, and Daytona

Beach, and the easy accessibility of all counties to Interstate 4, this area has become known as the I-4 corridor.

The Central Florida HIDTA continues to face a unique drug trafficking situation. It is a smuggling importation target due to its geographic location, its tremendous tourism industry, and its large and efficient air, land, and sea transportation systems. The area also supports a large user population, as is evidenced by the overwhelming number of heroin deaths. Its agricultural industry supports a migrant worker population that contributes to the importation of marijuana and methamphetamine from Texas and Mexico.

The major drug problems tend to stay regional. Methamphetamine labs have been located predominately in Polk County. In 1999, however, methamphetamine labs began to appear in the surrounding counties in increasing numbers. Heroin is still the number one problem facing the Central

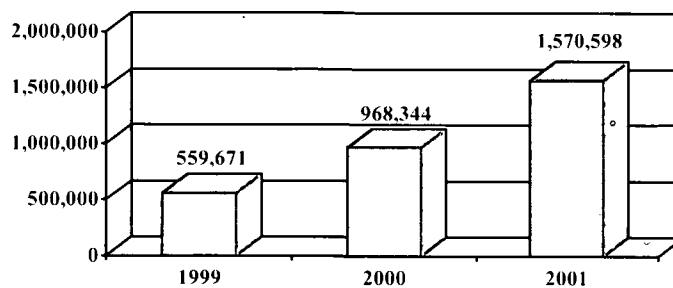
Florida area. Reported heroin overdose deaths for the Central Florida HIDTA reached a total of 96 in 2001, with the most reported in Orange County followed by Pinellas County. A recent *Orlando Sentinel* newspaper article stated: "The toll rose so high that greater Orlando is certain to repeat this year (2002) as the most likely place in Florida for someone to die from heroin." Other counties are also reporting increases in heroin problems. The heroin deaths, however, are overshadowed by the ever-present cocaine problem. The HIDTA has experienced increases in methamphetamine use, with concentrated areas found around the Mexican migrant farming communities. Marijuana is still the drug of choice across Central Florida.

also promotes the use of other club drugs, such as Ketamine, gammahydroxybutyrate (GHB), nitrous oxide, and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD).

Strategy Abstract

The Central Florida HIDTA strategy focuses on a regional concept, concentrating on the most prevalent drugs in each region. Law enforcement agencies strive to disrupt and dismantle organizations responsible for the importation, manufacture, and distribution of illicit drugs. The Central Florida HIDTA coordinated 14 initiatives in 2001, which were contained within four subsystems: intelligence, investigative, support, and prosecutorial.

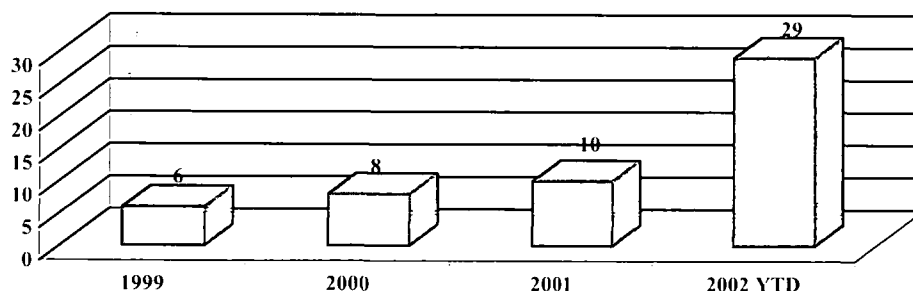
MDMA Dosage Units Seized



Marijuana trafficking and use are facilitated by increased indoor grows, overnight parcel deliveries, and concealment in passenger luggage carried through the international airports. Ecstasy, also known as methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA), is flooding the Central Florida area, primarily Orlando and Tampa. The rave scene in these cities

The intelligence subsystem provides regional intelligence, leads, and investigative support to all HIDTA initiatives and law enforcement in the area. The intelligence initiative is housed in the Central Florida Investigative Support Center (CFISC). The investigative initiatives are made up of 11 investigative task forces

Meth Labs Seized



located throughout the Central Florida HIDTA area.

These task forces drive the HIDTA strategy by disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). This strategy was formulated to address the diverse and regionally unique drug problems throughout the Central Florida HIDTA area. The task forces, including a money laundering task force and a fugitive apprehension task force, are regional, with the exception of both the methamphetamine task force and the heroin task force, which are drug specific. This subsystem operates at several levels with the primary objective as disrupting and dismantling upper-level DTOs.

The support subsystem consists of the Central Florida HIDTA management and coordination initiative, which is responsible for managing and coordinating Central Florida HIDTA activities for the Executive Board. This initiative's HIDTA-funded personnel include the director, executive assistant, financial analyst, and a receptionist-administrative aide. This subsystem coordinates all the Executive Board activities and conducts daily HIDTA business throughout the Central Florida HIDTA and National HIDTA-Office of National Drug Control Policy. It also is responsible for all HIDTA training, maintains inventory control and program evaluation, and tracks all HIDTA funding with the HIDTA Assistance Center in Miami.

Investigative Support Center

The CFISC represents an innovative concept that combines various information resources into a consolidated source product and pools resources for increased investigative effectiveness and safety, while reducing investigative costs. The CFISC helps identify and eliminate overlapping

investigations and duplicitous efforts, and acts as a catalyst to unite agencies into more effective enforcement groups.

CFISC's overall goal is to enhance the ability of agencies to identify, target, arrest, and prosecute key members of criminal organizations by facilitating a rapid and free exchange of information through enhanced coordination and communications. CFISC is designed to provide an effective link between intelligence and enforcement functions, and to enhance the abilities of agencies to identify, target, arrest, and prosecute key members of criminal organizations.

Participating agencies provide the Center with information and inquiries. CFISC queries all available databases and collects and assembles all relevant information for the HIDTA analytical team. Multiple information sources allow the CFISC to develop a broad and accurate assessment of the criminal activities that affect Central Florida. This information then is disseminated via inquiring agencies in a useful and timely manner.

The Center offers a variety of services to participating members, including NDPIX, Narcotics Information Network Joint Agency System (NINJAS), public record checks, automated criminal intelligence database checks and intelligence analyses. Additionally, it provides transactions and transcriptions analyses, coordination for equipment loans, information and intelligence publications, and graphic capabilities (overheads, charts and graphs). It also has space for joint conference activities by participating agencies in multi-agency investigations, training opportunities, overall trends, patterns and predictions of organizations and crimes, and access to a high-tech computer system.

Participating Agencies

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

State/Local: Comptroller's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Florida State Attorney's Office, Florida National Guard, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Lake county Sheriff's Office, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Volusia County Sheriff's Office, Osceola County Sheriff's Office, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Apopka Police Department, Kissimmee Police Department, Lakeland Police Department, Mulberry Police Department, Ocoee Police Department, Orlando Police Department, Tampa Police Department, St. Petersburg Police Department, Tarpon Springs Police Department, Sanford Police Department, Clearwater Police Department, Largo Police Department, Oviedo Police Department, Winter Springs Police Department, Lake Mary Police Department, Altamonte Springs Police Department, Maitland Police Department, Winter Park Police Department.

Significant Achievements

In July 2000, the Tampa Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) field office and the Colombian/South American Task Force initiated an investigation into Ecstasy distribution by several individuals in the Tampa area. During the first year, the investigation focused on lower-level distributors in the area with anticipation that

the efforts would lead to the middle- and upper-tier distributors and suppliers.

By April 2001, investigations revealed individuals responsible for smuggling moderate amounts of Ecstasy from Canada. One individual was interdicted at Tampa International Airport and \$120,000 was recovered from his luggage.

During the investigation, the distribution organization's supply demands grew and a new supplier was contacted in Toronto, Canada. The members of the Tampa DTO then began flying to Buffalo, NY, where they rented a car and drove to Toronto. Their purchases there averaged between 20,000 and 30,000 dosage units per week and continued for the next eight months. The DTO imported an estimated 1 million dosage units from this source.

With combined support from the DEA, USCS, the Colombian/ South American Task Force, the RCMP, and the Toronto Metro Police Department, several controlled purchases were conducted from the Canadian source. Surveillance revealed that the supplier had close ties to a Canadian organized crime family notorious for distributing cocaine and Ecstasy and suspected of operating a Canadian-based Ecstasy laboratory.

The investigation identified a secondary source of supply in Miami, FL. That supplier was arrested after supplying 20,000 dosage units of Ecstasy in April 2001. To date, in excess of \$350,000 in U.S. currency and two vehicles have been seized from co-conspirators in the organization.

Information above was provided by the Central Florida HIDTA.

Central Valley California HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (559) 457-5140

Mission Statement

The mission of the Central Valley California (CVC) HIDTA is to reduce the manufacture, trafficking, and distribution of methamphetamine, precursor chemicals, and other dangerous drugs by attacking and dismantling the large-scale and often violent organizations responsible. Implementing cooperative and innovative strategies, the CVC HIDTA works to achieve its specific goals by reducing methamphetamine manufacturing, distribution of precursor chemicals, money laundering activities, drug-related crime and violence, the demand for methamphetamine, and drug trafficking throughout the CVC HIDTA region and other affected regions of the country. The CVC HIDTA also works to increase the quantity, quality, and dissemination of counterdrug intelligence.

Threat Abstract

The primary drug threat in the CVC HIDTA is methamphetamine, according to

drug enforcement officials and investigators at all levels—federal, state, and local. The threat continues due to the readily available Canadian-sourced pseudoephedrine tablets. Crystal methamphetamine, or ice, production and use appears to be increasing in the Valley. Methamphetamine pills from Southeast Asia (known as yaba) recently have been seized in the Fresno and Sacramento areas. Heroin trafficking and use seems to be on the rise in some areas as well, although it is holding steady in others.

Marijuana production and trafficking often is connected to the same groups trafficking in methamphetamine. Cocaine use and trafficking, both powder and crack, remains steady in most areas, but appears to be concentrated in specific communities and the club scene. Club drugs, such as Ecstasy and gammahydroxybutyrate (GHB), and steroids are rapidly gaining a user base through rave clubs and dance festivals.

CVC HIDTA Region-2001

DRUG	Addicts Seeking Treatment for Addiction	Total DEA Arrests	Reported LEA Drug Seizures (KG)
Cocaine	2586 (+7%)	49	2,470.85
Heroin	8896 (-9.32%)	26	1116.7
Marijuana	3646 (+13.34%)	68	153,371.15
Meth	8675 (+38.9%)	344	6,146.45

In the Central Valley counties, the number of methamphetamine addicts seeking treatment is increasing more than that of any other major drug. While there are more heroin addicts seeking treatment, the number has decreased for two years. Methamphetamine-related arrests overwhelm the number of arrests for any other drug in the Central Valley. Methamphetamine seizures in the valley overwhelm all other major drugs except for marijuana.

Strategy Abstract

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

The CVC continues to be a major manufacturing, distribution, and transshipment area for all types of illegal drugs, but methamphetamine is a particularly prevalent problem. The rates of methamphetamine use and addiction in the area are alarming. The violence associated with drug manufacturing and distribution affects families, neighborhoods, and schools. The environmental fallout from the toxic waste created by methamphetamine production will continue to plague farmlands, waterways, and public health for decades.

The CVC HIDTA utilizes an ambitious approach to identify, target, disrupt, and

dismantle the drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) operating in the CVC. It consists of six operational initiatives, the Investigative Support Center (ISC), four sub-initiatives, and one management-administrative initiative.

The HIDTA management and administrative staff, consisting of the director, administrative assistant, and fiscal officer, facilitates the coordination and administration of all CVC HIDTA initiatives and related budgets to ensure that they reflect the regional threat, and that funds are targeting the intended mission as approved by the CVC HIDTA Executive Board and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force initiative focuses on major methamphetamine trafficking organizations, precursor chemical suppliers, and pseudoephedrine suppliers operating in Fresno and Madera Counties, as well as in other parts of the state. Task Force investigations concentrate on targeting, disrupting, and dismantling criminal organizations.

The Joint Fugitive Task Force uses a collaborative approach to apprehend significant narcotic fugitives. The unit establishes ad hoc task forces, actively increases state and local participation in the CVC HIDTA, and pursues narcotics fugitives. The priorities are federal- and state-significant narcotic fugitives identified by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in the Valley.

The Sacramento Area Intelligence/Narcotics Task Force (SAINT) focuses on developing operational intelligence, identifying methamphetamine labs and narcotic traffickers, and prioritizing information for the enforcement task forces within Sacramento and in other areas of the CVC HIDTA. The group participates in and initiates

major investigations in the greater Sacramento area. In 2001, the task force began operations of a new sub-initiative—the Financial Investigations Task Force, which investigates money laundering activities by DTOs. Also in 2001, the group began a precursor/vendor program (PVP) that provides education about methamphetamine production to retailers who sell non-regulated products used by DTOs to manufacture methamphetamine.

The Southern Tri-County Drug Task Force includes intelligence and investigative components. The group attacks all aspects of methamphetamine trafficking, including the acquisition of precursor chemicals, methamphetamine manufacturing, product distribution, and money laundering. This task force also emphasizes Title III investigations of DTOs.

The Stanislaus-San Joaquin-Merced Methamphetamine Task Force focuses on long-term investigations of sophisticated DTOs that are involved in the acquisition of precursor chemicals and the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. Information developed from these investigations is shared with the other initiatives through the ISC. The group also operates the PVP in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties.

The Financial Investigations Task Force (FIT), a sub-initiative, focuses on non-bank transmitters by investigating small businesses that make up the criminal financial infrastructure of money laundering. The task force is collocated with and directed by the SAINT, and is equipped to provide link analysis for establishing relationships between money launderers and DTOs. The Internal Revenue Service component of this task force increases the likelihood of developing federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigations.

The Fresno Area Surveillance Team (FAST) sub-initiative utilizes a collaborative approach to provide surveillance, intelligence, and investigative activities to the CVC HIDTA. The unit possesses the capability of establishing ad hoc task forces to integrate functions for the purpose of seamless investigations. FAST provides maximum federal, state, and local participation and authority. The team concentrates on flexibility and pursuing wiretap investigations that should increase the numbers of OCDETF cases and federal prosecutions.

The ISC provides a training sub-initiative, the Investigative/Intelligence Training Program (IITP) that offers technical and specialized training in investigations, safety, and intelligence policies and procedures. Training is done in concert with the investigative task forces and participating drug and law drug enforcement agencies (LEAs) in the CVC HIDTA region.

The Precursor/Vendor Task Force identifies legal chemical vendors and obtains their assistance in collecting information regarding necessary but non-essential sales at their businesses. These units are collocated with SAINT and SSJM, and are capable of providing link analyses to clearly identify relationships between retailers and DTOs.

Investigative Support Center

The intelligence initiative is a multi-agency, collocated element with a central office in Fresno. The ISC is comprised of two subunits: an investigative support unit and a technical support unit. The investigative support unit includes intelligence analysts with local law enforcement backgrounds. The California National Guard also supplies analysts to the unit. This unit provides support

for phone-toll investigations, ad hoc post-seizure analyses, suspect and organizational profiles, and graphics support for investigations and prosecutions. ISC personnel also prepare narcotic intelligence analyses, trends assessments, statistical analyses, threat assessments, quarterly and annual statistical and performance reports, and the CVC HIDTA's annual strategy and budget.

The ISC provides analytical support with onsite personnel for the investigative initiatives in Modesto and Bakersfield, as well as support for the FIT analyst in Sacramento. In addition, the ISC provides investigative and intelligence training for the area LEAs. The Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse provides deconfliction services. The CVC HIDTA provides funding for two analysts. The technical unit features an equipment pool that makes equipment available to HIDTA task forces and other Valley agencies. The technical unit also provides computer support. A Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) intelligence unit supervisor provides supervision of this initiative.

Participating Agencies

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

State/Local: Bakersfield Police Department, California Department of Justice-Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, California Department of Motor Vehicles Investigative Unit, California Highway Patrol, California National Guard, Delano Police Department, Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Fresno Police Department, Kern County District Attorney's Office, Kern County Environmental Department, Kern County Sheriff's Department Commander (non-

HIDTA-funded), Kings County District Attorney's Office, LA County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse, Madera Sheriff's Department, Merced County Marshal, Merced County Sheriff's Department, Merced Police Department, Modesto Police Department, Sacramento County Probation Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Sergeant, Sacramento Police Department, San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, State of California- CALMMET, Stockton Police Department, Tulare County Interagency Narcotic Enforcement Task Force, Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

Significant Achievements

The CVC HIDTA formed the Stanislaus-San Joaquin-Merced Methamphetamine (SSJM) Task Force in January 2000. The SSJM is a cooperative effort between federal, state, and local LEAs within the three counties. The task force is collocated with the Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency (SDEA). As a result of HIDTA funding, this task force has been able to provide electronic surveillance and ground positioning satellite (GPS) tracking support for a number of investigations, which led to the identification of large-scale DTOs.

In September 2000, intelligence determined that a large heroin shipment from the Los Angeles area was that was destined for the Valley. After three days of surveillance and investigation in the Garden Grove (Los Angeles) area, two stash locations and several transport vehicles were identified. A traffic stop coordinated with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) enabled task force officers to search the vehicle with a K-9 unit. They located 22 pounds of black tar heroin in a hidden compartment in the fuel tank. Search warrants were executed on the

stash houses and an additional 20 pounds of black tar heroin and 57 pounds of cocaine hydrochloride were located buried in the backyard. Two arrests were made and another location was identified in Hayward (San Francisco Bay area), from which an additional 180 pounds of heroin were seized, the largest domestic heroin seizure in California to date.

In September 2000 as a result of the initial investigations, the task force conducted a three-month T-III investigation into the Ruelas Organization, which was suspected of manufacturing and distributing large amounts of methamphetamine. After executing 14 federal search warrants and 12

federal arrest warrants, the investigation led to the seizure of 24 pounds of methamphetamine and three labs with a combined production capacity of more than 70 pounds.

This investigation included more than a dozen federal, state, and local agencies. In December 2000, a joint operation with SDEA in Turlock investigated a suspect selling large amounts of methamphetamine in the Valley and in Texas. An undercover officer persuaded the subject to front 20 pounds of methamphetamine for a sale in Texas, and later arranged for another 40 pounds. In May 2001, the suspect was arrested with 40 pounds of methamphetamine and four search warrants were served.

*Information above was provided by the
Central Valley California HIDTA.*

Chicago HIDTA



General Description

Year of Designation: 1995

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Illinois: Cook, Grundy, Kendall and Will Counties

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

Mission Statement

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

throughout Chicago, the Great Lakes Region, and the entire Midwest. The quantity of illegal drug activity is most likely due to Chicago's ethnically diverse population, geographic location, strong industrial base, and solid transportation network of highways, railways, airways, and waterways.

Threat Abstract

The Chicago HIDTA was established as an empowerment HIDTA in 1995 to assist local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in dismantling the Gangster Disciples street gang, thereby reducing the flow of illicit drugs and decreasing drug-related crime in the Chicago area. In 1997, Chicago became a full HIDTA and broadened its scope on illicit drug trafficking and related criminal activity.

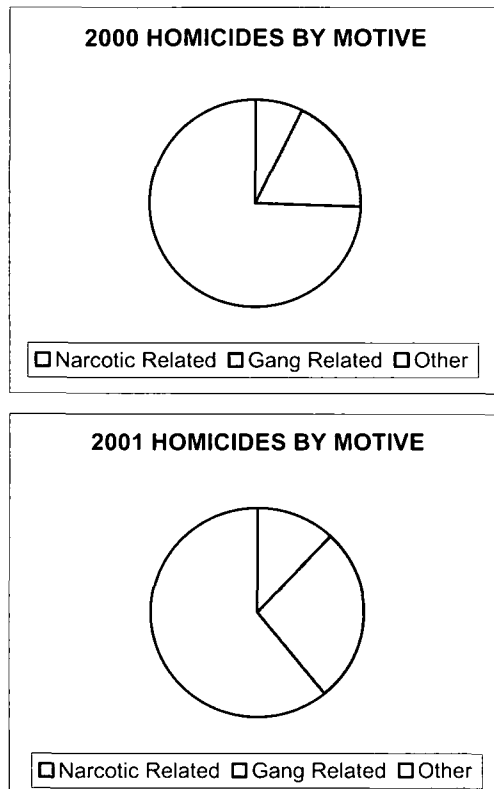
For the last three decades, the Chicago area has been known as the principal non-traditional border area in the United States. The Chicago HIDTA region is a major center for drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) distributing all drugs of abuse

Virtually every drug is available in the Chicago HIDTA region. Organized street gangs continue to control the local distribution and sale of cocaine, heroin, crack, and marijuana. Significant loads of marijuana and cocaine regularly are intercepted from tractor-trailers in route to the Chicago area. Club drugs, prescription drugs, and other dangerous drugs are widely available and pose a serious threat. Methamphetamine, not often found in the Chicago area in the past, has now emerged as a new threat.

Recently, the Chicago area experienced a dramatic increase in gang and drug-related homicides. To combat this problem, the

Chicago HIDTA now includes the expertise of homicide detectives in the drug-related violent crimes initiative.

The pie charts below depict the number of gang- and narcotic-related homicides in Chicago for CY2000 and CY2001.



Strategy Abstract

The Executive Board, which oversees and approves the various initiatives undertaken by the Chicago HIDTA, is comprised of eight federal and eight state and local law enforcement command officials in the Chicago metropolitan area. The Executive Board ensures the coordinated efforts of the various agencies and the elimination of duplicated efforts. The office of the Executive Director oversees the cooperative efforts of each initiative and the participating agencies, and ensures that appropriate resources are allocated where required.

The Chicago HIDTA initiatives include 10 enforcement groups consisting of federal, state, and local enforcement personnel; two support initiatives that provide administrative and investigative support; and a training initiative. A High Intensity Financial Crime Area (HIFCA) is now collocated with the Chicago HIDTA to maximize resources and enhance the ability of the Investigative Support Center (ISC) to support money laundering investigations.

Investigative Support Center

The ISC is a Cook County Sheriff's Office-led multi-agency initiative. Established in 1997, the ISC has become the backbone of the Chicago HIDTA, offering analysis of tactical, strategic, and operational functions; deconfliction and technical operations; and administrative and training support.

To maximize support to the law enforcement community, the Chicago HIDTA recently combined the deconfliction unit with the inquiry desk. The inquiry desk, manned by two full-time intelligence analysts, supports 52 LEAs and has an excellent reputation for its response time, accuracy, and professionalism. The deconfliction unit operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More than 774 officers and agents representing 65 federal, state, county, and local LEAs are registered members.

The Chicago HIDTA'S strategic intelligence group is responsible for producing a regional threat assessment, trend and pattern updates, and strategic bulletins. The intelligence analysts working tactical intelligence take a proactive approach towards case support. The analysts access federal, state, and local databases, apply appropriate criminal software programs, and create unique databases to support the drug law enforcement effort.

The Chicago HIDTA has successfully provided LEAs one-stop shopping with connectivity to federal, state, and local networks, and access to several commercial and public record information databases.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Defense's JTF-6, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspectors Service, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Attorney's Office.

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

Local: Cook County Department of Corrections, Cook County Forest Preserve Police, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, Cook County State's Attorney, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, Kendall County Sheriff's Department, Will County Sheriff's Department, Blue Island Police Department, Bolingbrook Police Department, Braidwood Police Department, Bridgeview Police Department, Calumet City Police Department, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Heights Police Department, Dolton Police Department, Joliet Police Department, Lemont Police Department, Lockport Police Department, Matteson Police Department, McCook Police Department, Morris Police Department, Oak Forest Police Department, Oswego Police Department, Palatine Police Department, Posen Police Department, Romeoville Police

Department, Round Lake Police Department, University of Illinois at Chicago Police Department, University Park Police Department, Yorkville Police Department.

Significant Achievements

The Chicago HIDTA International Sources of Supply (Club Drugs) (ISOS) initiative is among the first task force groups in the nation to concentrate exclusively on dismantling international DTOs dealing primarily in club drugs.

The ISOS investigated a Chinese methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) DTO with ties to Triad organized crime syndicates in Hong Kong, Canada, and the United States during the period of June 2001 through May 2002. In cooperation with Canadian law enforcement colleagues, the Chicago HIDTA disrupted a major MDMA DTO supplying tens of thousands of Ecstasy tablets from Canada to the Midwest. This initiative effectively neutralized the group through traditional narcotics law enforcement techniques and exceptional cross-border cooperation. Intelligence developed from the investigation has also led to other significant international narcotics investigations affecting the United States.

During the summer of 2001, undercover investigators met with Canadian MDMA sources of supply to negotiate the delivery of 35,000 MDMA tablets from Ontario, Canada to Chicago.

The DTO imported MDMA from the Netherlands in powder form and tablets, which it then distributed in Toronto, Canada. The DTO had five tableting machines and, for an additional fee, personalized orders with unique logos. The MDMA was smuggled across the U.S.-Canada border with couriers driving passenger cars.

In the months that followed, members of the ISOS initiative worked in unison with Canadian colleagues to build a strong prosecution case against the DTO in the United States and to dismantle the DTO abroad. The U.S. case resulted in the seizure of 35,000 MDMA tablets and three arrests. Two individuals were convicted and received sentences of 11 ½ years each; the third is being extradited from Canada.

The Canadian connection culminated simultaneously with 13 arrests, the seizure

of weapons, assets, and drugs totaling \$4.5 million, and the dismantling of three major DTOs with direct links to organized crime. The success of this case and all of its spinoffs is a direct result of extraordinary interagency cooperation and unselfish working relationships developed among the several partners that comprise this Chicago HIDTA initiative.

Information above was provided by the Chicago HIDTA.

Gulf Coast HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

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

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

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

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

Mission Statement

The mission of the Gulf Coast HIDTA is to measurably reduce violent drug trafficking in its three-state area and the impact of Gulf Coast drug trafficking on other parts of the United States.

Threat Abstract

The Gulf Coast HIDTA is comprised of 20 counties and parishes in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi—three largely rural, agricultural, and impoverished states. The Gulf Coast HIDTA's geographic location between the Southwest border and the Eastern seaboard serves as a strategic corridor for drug traffickers transshipping drugs and money to and from the eastern and northern parts of the country. The

area's waterways, deep-water ports, railway and highway systems, and airports are used extensively by drug trafficking (DTOs) and smuggling organizations. The casino gaming industry in Louisiana and Mississippi is also particularly attractive to DTOs as an alternative for money laundering activities.

There are approximately 402 identified international, national, and regional DTOs operating within the Gulf Coast HIDTA. The drug of choice for consumers remains marijuana, although cocaine, including crack, has the greatest impact on violent crime, the economy, and society.

Methamphetamine lab activity has increased dramatically in the last few years, particularly in the northern areas of the three states. Much of this increase has been due to small manufacturing operations and the

ready availability of precursor chemicals, such as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and anhydrous ammonia.

Heroin use has shown marked increases in some urban areas, particularly the New Orleans metropolitan area. The popularity of club drugs, such as methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA), lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is on the rise throughout the Gulf Coast HIDTA. The prescription drug OxyContin has emerged as a significant abuse problem across the three states. Many areas within the three-state HIDTA rank among the top in the Nation for occurrences of violent crimes. This trend is attributed directly to drug trafficking and use.

Strategy Abstract

The Gulf Coast HIDTA strategy is to address the drug problem through a multi-faceted, threat-driven approach by balancing drug enforcement efforts that target local, regional, and international DTOs and money laundering organizations operating within the area. The strategy is accomplished through a coordinated effort among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The result of this strategy is an unprecedented synergism and synchronization among LEAs within the Gulf Coast HIDTA.

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

Gulf Coast HIDTA training is coordinated by a designated training officer collocated with the Gulf Coast HIDTA Watch Center in Gulfport, MS.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA strives to maintain and improve a systematic approach to facilitating cooperative, collaborative law enforcement efforts, thereby balancing direct support to enforcement operations with robust systems that will continue to enhance law enforcement efforts well into the future.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA strategy is continually fine-tuned to ensure it addresses the ever-changing drug threat. Most recently, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) approved a proposal to expand Gulf Coast HIDTA operations into northern Mississippi, northern Alabama, and northern and western Louisiana to meet the growing threat posed by methamphetamine and violent gang activity.

To accurately measure present drug activity and predict future trends, the Gulf Coast HIDTA produces and publishes a yearly threat assessment in cooperation with federal, state, and local LEAs. The yearly threat assessment is used to develop strategies, which then are implemented through the funding of specific initiatives that target aspects of the threat in a multi-agency collocated environment.

In 2002, the Gulf Coast HIDTA funded operation centers in each state and 11 enforcement initiatives targeting various aspects of the drug threat in the three-state HIDTA. The management and coordination initiative provides programmatic and administrative oversight and is collocated with the Louisiana operations center in Metairie, LA.

Investigative Support Center

The Gulf Coast HIDTA Intelligence Coordination Network (ICN) serves as the intelligence coordination mechanism for all funded initiatives. Because the initiatives are dispersed across a three-state area, an innovative method of collecting, analyzing and disseminating actionable intelligence was devised, resulting in the ICN.

The core of the network is the Network Coordination Group (NCG), which is collocated with the Louisiana operations center in Metairie, LA, another HIDTA-funded enforcement initiative. The supervisor of the NCG, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) supervisory intelligence research specialist, oversees analysts responsible for the collection and distribution of strategic intelligence among initiatives. The group also coordinates the production of the annual threat assessment.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA intelligence coordinator, which is collocated at the NCG, ensures that intelligence assets (analysts and intelligence initiatives) dispersed throughout the Gulf Coast HIDTA, are fully integrated and are sharing information. The coordinator also is responsible for implementing the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan (GCIP) in accordance with ONDCP and participating agency guidelines.

Other Gulf Coast HIDTA-funded intelligence groups include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)-led Joint Drug Intelligence Group (JDIG), a part of the Mobile/Baldwin Counties Task Force. The JDIG supports ongoing investigations in its area of responsibility, and collects and transmits intelligence to the NCG.

The BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center is a U.S. Customs Service initiative, located in

Gulfport, MS. It is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week intelligence support center. Analysts provide real-time law enforcement intelligence to all HIDTA initiatives and to more than 1,700 Customs and cross-designated state and local law enforcement officers across a six-state area. The BLOC/HIDTA also houses a post-seizure analysis team that conducts analyses of seizures reported to the center, and distributes a daily intelligence summary to LEAs throughout the country, updating previous day's seizures.

The target identification group (TIG), supervised by the U.S. Customs Service (USCS) and collocated with the NCG, uses sophisticated analysis procedures to develop profiles of money launders and traffickers. The profiles are provided to enforcement initiatives for operational follow-up. State intelligence support teams (IST) are located in each Gulf Coast HIDTA state. The ISTs provide a full range of tactical and operational analytical support for investigations in each of their respective states.

Intelligence exchange is accomplished through the Gulf Coast HIDTA wide area network (WAN), which allows for instantaneous, secure transmission of sensitive intelligence data among initiatives, along with secure e-mail and other cost-saving advantages. The WAN also serves as the communications backbone for the Gulf Coast HIDTA digital wire intercept facility located in Metairie, LA. The wire intercept facility provides both HIDTA and non-HIDTA entities the ability to monitor court-ordered wiretaps utilizing state-of-the-art digital technology.

In addition, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is linked to the national Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET), a system that allowing other law enforcement and analytical personnel across the country to

access its intelligence databases in a secure environment. The Gulf Coast HIDTA intelligence subsystem also includes the technical support team.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Defense JTF-6, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs Service, National Park Service.

State/Local:

Alabama: Alabama Attorney General's Office, Alabama Bureau of Investigation, Alabama Highway Patrol, Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, Bayou La Batre Police Department, Bessemer Police Department, Birmingham Police Department, Daphne Police Department, Decatur Police Department, Fairfield Police Department, Foley Police Department, Gulfshores Police Department, Huntsville Police Department, Madison Police Department, Madison County Sheriff's Department, Mobile Police Department, Mobile County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery Police Department, Morgan County Sheriff's Department, Mobile County Street Enforcement Narcotics Team, Orange Beach Police Department, Prichard Police Department, Saraland Police Department, University of Southern Alabama.

Louisiana: Acadia Parish Sheriff's Department, Ascension District Attorney's Office, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, Baton Rouge Police Department, Bossier City Police Department, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, Caddo Sheriff's Office, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department, Lafayette Police Department, Louisiana Air National

Guard, Louisiana Army National Guard, Louisiana State Police, Monroe Police Department, New Orleans Police Department, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Shreveport Police Department, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department, West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, West Monroe Police Department.

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

Significant Achievements

The Gulf Coast HIDTA has been uniquely successful in marshalling a singular attack aimed at drug trafficking elements operating within the three-state area. By coordinating the responses of federal, state, and local LEAs to identified drug threats and funding of initiatives, the Gulf Coast HIDTA ensures that drug enforcement assets remain focused on DTOs affecting the drug problem in the three-state area and beyond.

Through the use of the Gulf Coast HIDTA WAN, the development of a web-based event deconfliction solution (SAFETNet), and its Intelligence Coordination Network

(ICN), drug law enforcement units in the area have achieved unprecedented levels of collaboration and are effectively sharing precious resources.

In 2002 alone, HIDTA-coordinated highway interdiction efforts have led to major drug seizures and the confiscation of millions of dollars of illicit drug proceeds. The Gulf Coast HIDTA supports these efforts by providing real-time indices checks of federal, state, and local databases to highway interdiction officers through queries made by the BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center located in Gulfport, MS. The Watch Center has expanded its services to include support to Atlanta HIDTA highway interdiction officers as well. The Gulf Coast HIDTA-developed event deconfliction solution, SAFETNet now has

been adopted by six other HDTAs. Presently, the Gulf Coast HIDTA provides secure, web-based event deconfliction services to the New England HIDTA from its server located in Metairie, LA, resulting in considerable savings.

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

Information above was provided by the Gulf Coast HIDTA.

Hawaii HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Hawaii: Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Counties

Contact: (808) 356-4400

Mission Statement

Located in the Pacific gateway to the western United States, the Hawaii HIDTA's participating agencies work together with integrated initiatives designed to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking in the state of Hawaii and the Nation. With enhanced coordination and collaboration among Hawaii HIDTA agencies, illicit drug transportation, distribution, and usage shall be significantly reduced, thus enhancing public safety for all citizens.

Threat Abstract

Hawaii is a transshipment point for illicit drugs traveling to and from the Pacific Basin, Asia, and the western United States. As an island state, all illicit drugs, with the exception of marijuana, come into Hawaii via air and sea, with the most prevalent methods being package delivery services and couriers on commercial flights.

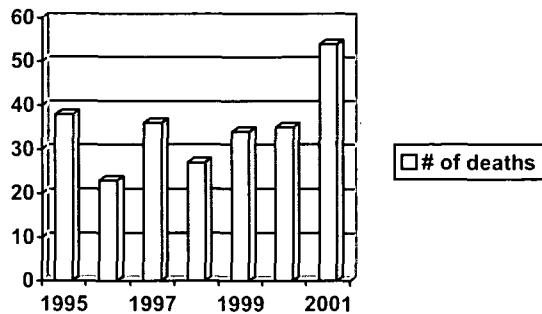
Methamphetamine, particularly high-purity crystal methamphetamine, poses the most significant drug threat in Hawaii. Research has shown that Honolulu has the highest percentage of adult arrestees who test positive for methamphetamine among cities reporting to the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program in both 2000 and 2001, and has experienced a threefold increase in methamphetamine abuse treatment admissions from 1993 through 2000.

Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and, to a lesser extent, Asian DTOs, transport crystal and powdered methamphetamine from the West Coast and Asia to Hawaii and distribute the drug at the wholesale level.

Methamphetamine laboratories are a small but growing concern in Hawaii. Local independent operators convert powdered methamphetamine to crystal methamphetamine. Then street gangs, local independent dealers, and outlaw motorcycle

gangs distribute crystal methamphetamine at the retail level.

Trends in Methamphetamine Deaths



Statistics provided by the Honolulu Medical Examiners office.

Marijuana is the second most significant drug threat to Hawaii because it is widely available and commonly abused. Most marijuana available in Hawaii is grown locally. The state consistently ranks among the top five states in the number of cannabis plants eradicated. Cannabis grown outdoors in Hawaii contains some of the highest THC levels in the Nation due to the optimal growing conditions, the nutrient- and mineral-rich volcanic soil, and advances in hybridization techniques. Pacific Islanders and other local independent growers are primarily responsible for year-round outdoor cannabis cultivation, and the wholesale and retail distribution of marijuana throughout Hawaii.

Local independent dealers and, to a lesser extent, Mexican DTOs transport Hawaii-produced marijuana to the West Coast, primarily California, as well as to Canada and Mexico. Local independent dealers also transport Canadian-produced marijuana, primarily from the West Coast to Hawaii, and distribute the drug at the wholesale level.

Heroin availability, distribution, and abuse continue to be considerable threats to Hawaii.

Mexican black tar heroin and brown heroin are the most common types of heroin available in the state. Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin (China White), once abundant, are now very limited. Mexican DTOs dominate wholesale distribution, while street gangs and, to a lesser extent, local independent dealers dominate retail distribution.

The abuse of cocaine, particularly crack, is decreasing slightly in Hawaii, but remains a major threat. Local independent dealers and Mexican DTOs in Hawaii transport most of the cocaine from the West Coast, and dominate the wholesale distribution of powdered cocaine in Hawaii. Local independent dealers and street gangs dominate the conversion of powdered cocaine to crack and are the primary retail distributors.

Strategy Abstract

The Hawaii HIDTA accomplishes its mission through the strategic coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs). This strategy includes active participation by these agencies in all HIDTA task force initiatives approved by the Hawaii HIDTA Executive Board. Participating Hawaii HIDTA agencies contribute approximately 75 full-time officers, agents, analysts, and other support personnel to support Hawaii's eight initiatives.

The collocation and commingling of task force members and the Investigative Support Center (ISC), which provides full support to all HIDTA task forces and other illicit drug investigations within the HIDTA region, is an intricate part of the Hawaii HIDTA strategy. The office space is configured to provide open access between task forces and to encourage a free exchange of information among law enforcement. Given Hawaii's unique island makeup, task forces on the

outer islands maintain separate office facilities justified by their operational needs. These facilities maintain contact with the other task force initiatives through the ISC local area network (LAN)/wide area network (WAN), Western States Information Network (WSIN), and various other modes of communications.

The Hawaii HIDTA's strategy also includes pursuit of Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) case designation in all investigations that meet OCDETF criteria. HIDTA personnel ensure productive relationships between OCDETF and HIDTA member agencies to achieve the effective utilization of resources from each program.

The Hawaii HIDTA strategy relies on all task force initiatives targeting identified drug threats from the current Hawaii HIDTA threat assessment. Each task force is required to accomplish one or more of the following goals: reduce drug trafficking of methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, or designer drugs by major DTOs engaged in smuggling, transportation, supply, or distribution; reduce the level of drug-related violent crimes and the number of drug-related fugitives operating within Hawaii; reduce money laundering crime related to drug trafficking; and provide effective drug intelligence and investigative support to HIDTA initiatives.

Ultimately, Hawaii HIDTA's strategy relies on the operation of a well-managed HIDTA program, led by the Executive Board and implemented by the director and staff, who direct and facilitate the task force initiatives in the execution of their individual missions as well as the overall mission of the Hawaii HIDTA.

Investigative Support Center

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

The ISC currently is lead by a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) group supervisor and is awaiting the additional appointment of a new state-local law enforcement group supervisor. The ISC houses analysts, agents, and officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Customs Service (USCS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Bureau of Prisons (USBP), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii National Guard, State Narcotics Enforcement Division, CAPERS, as well as contract intelligence research specialists. ISC personnel provide in-depth support through the utilization of established analytical methodologies.

The ISC initiative provides operational intelligence support through its tactical unit to investigations conducted under HIDTA initiatives or HIDTA participating agencies. This support includes analysis of digital number recorder (DNR) information, subpoenaed toll information, Title III support and analysis, pager and clone pager data, flight information, hotel accommodations, wire transfers, post-seizure analysis, subject deconfliction, and

trend-pattern analysis. The analysis is proficiently communicated to agents and officers through report summations, link charts in i2 or Pen Link, spreadsheets, timelines, graphs, or specialized graphics, as necessary. The tactical unit also is accountable for the determination of training needs and the planning and implementing of seminars and courses pivotal to enhancing and developing skills for current investigations and counterdrug trafficking.

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

The Hawaii HIDTA ISC also provides subject and event deconfliction through its partnership with WSIN. Event deconfliction for federal, state, and local law enforcement has been provided since May 1, 2002, with a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week Watch Center linked to Sacramento, CA. The ISC also is linked electronically via WSIN and the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET) to all other HIDTA enforcement initiatives nationwide and to the islands of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

In addition, the ISC provides laptop computers, portable printers, digital cameras, video cameras, and various other technical equipment to HIDTA initiatives and participating agencies working on illicit drugs.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration

and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office-District of Hawaii, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

State/Local: Department of Public Safety, Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii County Police Department, Kauai County Police Department, Maui County Police Department, state and county prosecuting attorneys.

Other: Hawaii National Guard, Western States Information Network, Bureau of Prisons.

Significant Achievements

Each year, the Hawaii State Law Enforcement Officials Association (HSLEOA) honors for meritorious service one federal, state, and local law enforcement professional that shows extraordinary valor, detective work, or drug control using innovative approaches. At the 2002 HSLEOA conference, two individuals were recognized. Their awards were earned, in part, for their accomplishments on Hawaii HIDTA cases.

A Big Island detective was recognized for Operation Island Pipeline, which focused on the importation of large quantities of heroin from Mexico through the Tijuana-San Ysidro border crossing into California. Couriers on commercial air flights then smuggled the heroin into Hilo, HI, with further distribution to neighboring islands.

After piecing together several smaller investigations, it soon became clear that an elaborate organization was responsible for supplying large quantities of heroin to Hawaii via the Big Island. As the

investigation expanded, the Hawaii HIDTA became involved, adding additional state, federal, and local LEAs. This collaboration further initiated a Group II Undercover Operation (UCO) and a Title III wire interception, which provided vital and fruitful information to the investigation.

After a nearly year long investigation, a coordinated effort, including more than 95 federal and local officers, took part in one of the largest drug raids ever on the Big Island. Twenty-six search warrants were executed and a total of 60 individuals were arrested, with 43 of the arrestees facing federal charges and 17 facing state charges. The operation's seizures included 20 pounds of Mexican brown and black heroin, 2.8 pounds of cocaine, 310 grams of marijuana, 156 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 24 firearms, four vehicles, and \$250,000 in U.S. currency.

In addition, the Mexican leader of the DTO was indicted in the Federal District Court of Hawaii and was arrested in Mexico. Federal officials are pursuing his extradition.

In 2002, HSLEOA also recognized a FBI agent for a HIDTA case that was code-named Awaroot. This case originally targeted a Tongan-national drug distribution organization operating in Maui, HI in early 2001. Eight cellular phones used by subjects of the investigation were targeted for a Title III wire interception. The investigation identified members of the organization operating in North Carolina, Utah, California, Hawaii, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia. During late April 2002, a portion of the investigation culminated with the execution of 47 arrest warrants, 30 search warrants, and 13 seizure warrants in Utah, California, Hawaii, and Alaska. In addition, more than \$700,000 in cash, three pounds of cocaine, 10 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, several pieces of real property, and 15 vehicles were seized. On May 1, 2002, 47 subjects were indicted by a federal grand jury in the District of Hawaii.

Information above was provided by the Hawaii HIDTA.

Houston HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (281) 987-3882

Mission

The mission of the Houston HIDTA is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the country.



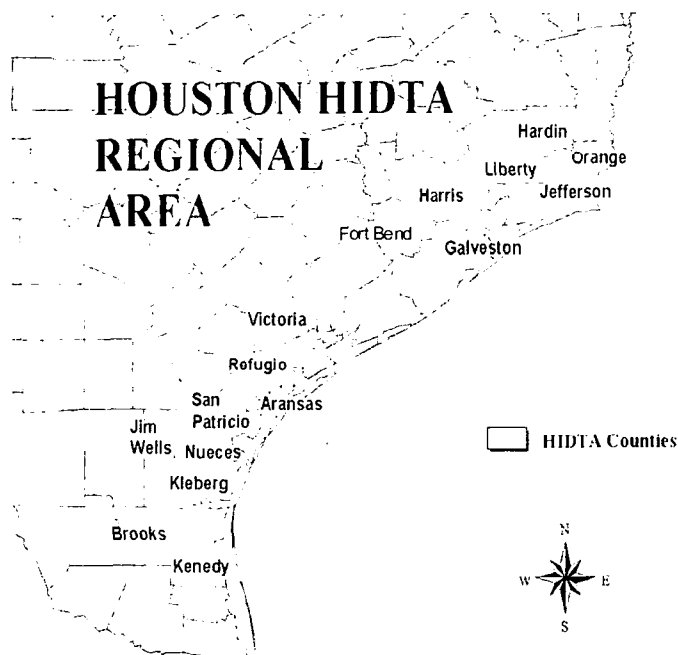
**Destination States for Illicit
Narcotics Trafficked through
Houston HIDTA in 2001**

Threat Abstract

The production areas for drugs and precursors associated with the Houston HIDTA tend to be southern and western Texas. Destinations are nationwide, but predominantly states north and east of Houston, as shown in gray on the map. Investigative and enforcement activities have extended through all 50 states and dozens of countries throughout Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The HIDTA region covers more than 425 miles of coastline and accounts for nearly 70 percent of the available Texas coast.

A dynamic transportation infrastructure within the 15 Houston counties makes the HIDTA easily accessible by air, land, and sea. Houston is home to the fourth largest airport system in the nation and the sixth largest in the world. The HIDTA's land threat is composed of 14,049 lane miles of roadways maintained by the state, including primary entry routes, such as U.S. 281, U.S. 77, and U.S. 59, major exit routes, such as I-37 and I-45, and primary conduit routes, such as Interstates 35 and 10. The



The Houston HIDTA also contains four of the top-10 nationally ranked ports for total trade and foreign trade. The Port of Houston ranked first nationally with the greatest amount of foreign tonnage.

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

Cocaine remains the primary drug threat for the Houston HIDTA. Threats posed by methamphetamine and heroin increased during the 2001 threat assessment survey and reporting period; both threats are expected to continue to increase. Marijuana and Ecstasy remained stable threats and continue to be widely available. Marked increases were noted for lysergic acid

diethylamide (LSD) and codeine, while the diversion of pharmaceuticals such as Xanax also increased.

There were 152 drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) identified by respondents to the 2002 HIDTA threat assessment survey. DTOs originating in Central and South America accounted for more than half of those reported, followed by domestic, Asian, and Caribbean DTOs. Identified DTOs range from highly structured international networks with well-defined leadership to loosely associated localized groups. Of those identified, 14 percent were classified as gangs. The most common source-of-supply country for these DTOs is Mexico, followed by Colombia and the United States. Nearly half of the DTOs used handguns and one-fourth used shotguns or rifles. Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) cases accounted for 30 percent of the organizations identified.

The transportation and distribution of drugs to and through the Houston HIDTA continues to be the primary activity of DTOs operating within the area. The most common method of transportation is overland in private cars, commercial trucks, and courier services. Nearly three-fourths of the identified DTOs are involved in money laundering. Drug proceeds in the HIDTA are laundered primarily through bulk shipments of currency from the United States to Mexico, where it is placed in financial institutions, though proceeds also are laundered via wire transfers to nations worldwide. Outbound currency shipments often are broken down into smaller loads to minimize risk. Other criminal activities include public corruption, firearms trafficking, alien smuggling, homicides, assaults, robberies, and burglaries.

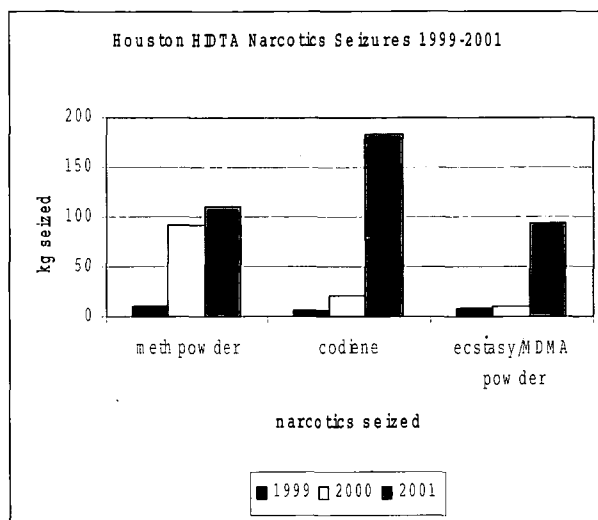
Strategy Abstract

Eight enforcement initiatives covering trafficker enforcement, money laundering, gang investigations, and intelligence development, and one administrative initiative that supports management and oversight of the HIDTA program and brokers training for the 550-person HIDTA task force constitute the Houston HIDTA's strategy. The enforcement initiatives address the HIDTA's geographic and criminal characteristics for target organizations.

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

The Houston HIDTA's seizures of cannabis and cocaine have decreased from 2000-2001, owing in part to increased enforcement at the border ports of entry and checkpoints along the land trafficking routes from Mexico following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and to increased enforcement of other drugs and transportation and distribution venues by investigators. Increased seizures of bulk Ecstasy and methamphetamine powder and other rave and club drug seizures reflect increased trafficking and use of these types of drugs. Increased seizures of codeine and

other illegally obtained prescription narcotics also have occurred throughout the HIDTA.



Investigative Support Center

The Houston HIDTA intelligence subsystem is comprised of four intelligence service initiatives that provide operational support to regional LEAs in narcotics investigations, eradication, and interdiction. The subsystem provides tactical event and subject deconfliction services to support arrest and seizure operations and to ensure officer safety and enhanced intelligence production. It also provides operational intelligence support for active cases by participating in informant-defendant debriefings; cultivates new sources of information and performs post-seizure and search warrant analyses. Additionally, it disseminates officer safety alerts and look-outs for wanted subjects; provides strategic intelligence for refining targeting, improving investigator management, conducts and prepares threat assessments and other reports; and coordinates inservice analytical intelligence training. The initiatives provide research and analytical support and prisoner debriefings for intelligence-led investigations through access to dozens of criminal and commercial databases for HIDTA task force

agencies and others in the region. The initiatives also provide graphics production services for case briefings and court case presentations.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Attorney's Offices-Eastern District of Texas and Southern District of Texas, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Marshals Service.

State/Local: Beaumont Police Department, City of Baytown, Corpus Christi Police Department, Fort Bend County Sheriffs Department, Harris County Sheriffs Department, Houston Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriffs Department, Nueces County Sheriffs Department, Orange County Sheriffs Department, Pasadena Police Department, Port Arthur Police Department, Sam Houston State University, Texas Department of Banking, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Office of the Attorney General, Texas National Guard.

Significant Achievements

The Cadena Del Diablo (Chain of the Devil) case is an example of the Houston HIDTA's Targeted Narcotics Enforcement Team's (TNET) ability to rapidly respond to a change in the regional drug threat. It was a showcase for seamless agency cooperation and HIDTA effectiveness.

In early August 2001, 16 people suddenly died from unexplained drug overdoses

during a 30-hour period in the Houston area, and at least 19 others became seriously ill from a lethal mix of heroin and cocaine distributed by a DTO. The Harris County Medical Examiner met with a TNET member who was a former Houston Police Department (HPD) homicide investigator. By the end of that week, the investigative efforts of multiple agencies were merged into the TNET investigation. The U.S. Attorney's Office was involved in the investigation as a result of technical issues relating to the drug-induced deaths. TNET also worked in conjunction with the Houston Police Department's (HPD) Homicide Division and Criminal Investigation Division, the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's)-Houston Field Division, the Harris County Sheriff's Department (HCSO), and other agencies comprising the Major Drug Squads (MDS) and Joint Drug Intelligence Group HIDTA initiatives.

By the following Wednesday, the first arrest of a distributor of the deadly narcotic occurred. The potent combination of 53 percent heroin and 36 percent cocaine was created in Mexico and transported to the United States for distribution. This unified investigation then quickly yielded the source and transportation route of the lethal drug mixture and stopped its continued distribution.

The cooperative investigative effort led to the dismantling of the Houston-based DTO and federal indictments against nine DTO members, all of whom pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 21 years each in prison. Squad 2 of the HIDTA MDS initiative was expected to indict five additional sources of supply in McAllen, TX, and in Mexico in March 2002. This investigation led to four more indictments through TNET's efforts in late September 2002. It continues to pursue

additional DTO members in Mexico and southern Texas.

This investigation was recognized both locally and nationally. The Houston-based 100 Club, a law enforcement support association active in the Gulf Coast region, presented its Officer of the Year Award to a TNET Group Supervisor HPD Sergeant, an FBI Special Agent, and a HCSO detective.

All participants in the investigation have been nominated for an Administrator's Award in 2002 by the DEA. The success of this case was attributed to the personalities and professionalism of the lead investigators. It would not have been as successful without the close working relationships among the agencies and initiatives which were facilitated by the institutionalized HIDTA program in Houston.

Information above was provided by the Houston HIDTA.

Lake County HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Indiana: Lake County

Contact: (219) 650-2470

Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

Lake County, with a population of approximately 500,000 people, is the second largest of the 92 counties in Indiana. Covering approximately 500 square miles and representing 80 different ethnic cultures, the myriad of problems associated with gangs, drugs, and guns represent a formidable challenge for the county and its citizens.

The county contains 19 incorporated cities and towns with 16 public school corporations. The drug of choice in

the county is cocaine, both crack and powdered. Street gangs in the cities of Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago control and orchestrate street-level cocaine distribution.

While some Lake County gangs have loose alliances with Chicago-based gangs, many of these drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) do not follow any traditional hierarchical structure and instead are based on ad hoc relationships and their ability to purchase and distribute drugs profitably.

Violence is used to control or expand territory and to maintain internal controls, which results in an alarmingly high rate of drug-related homicides. For example, the following graph depicts the homicide rate for the city of Gary, which led the Nation for the seventh straight year with more deaths per capita than any other city with a population of more than 100,000 people. During 2001, one homicide occurred approximately every four days in the city of Gary, resulting in a homicide rate of 81.5

per 100,000 people, while Chicago, which led the Nation with 666 murders, had a rate of only 33.3 per 100,000 people. Gary has almost twice the rate of the next most violent city, New Orleans, which had a rate of 41.3 per 100,000 people.

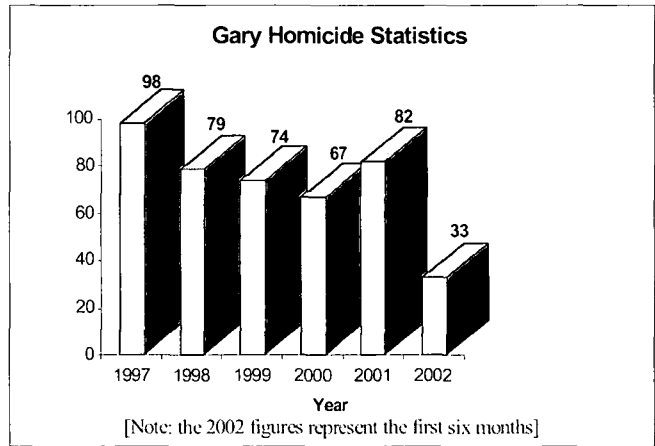
The Lake County HIDTA includes two Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)-led initiatives—the Gary Response Investigative Team and the Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force—both of which are collocated in Gary and focused on attacking street gangs from the crack house to the courthouse.

Because of its central geographic location, Lake County is a major distribution point for shipments of bulk marijuana and cocaine destined for Midwest markets. Investigations have identified familial and business ties between Lake County DTOs and Southwest Border DTOs. In 2002, an investigation for the first time identified a Southeast Asian heroin DTO sending #4 heroin from Thailand directly to Lake County. In addition, a growing methamphetamine problem throughout the state is quickly spreading to Lake County.

Strategy Abstract

The Lake County HIDTA Executive Board has approved five separate enforcement initiatives, each complementing the others without competing or duplicating resources. All five initiatives address the threat from a different perspective. Much like a basketball team applying a full-court press, each initiative is critical to the overall success of the strategy. The enforcement initiatives interface with a collocated prosecution initiative that includes county prosecutors designated as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys with the ability to utilize the most appropriate judicial venue to ensure optimal prosecution.

A training initiative standardizes the collective training of both HIDTA initiatives and area law enforcement. A partnership has been established with the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (NILEA) to ensure the coordination and optimal use of training resources throughout the county.



The following describes the initiatives that were approved by the Executive Board for 2003:

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-led State and Local Task Force is a collocated, multi-agency initiative designed to disrupt and dismantle large-scale DTOs and money laundering organizations operating on a regional and national level. This unit targets organizations with U.S.-Mexican-Southwest Border connections that use Northwest Indiana as a storage and distribution point for cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine destined for the Midwest.

The Gary Response Investigative Team (GRIT) is an FBI-led multi-jurisdictional, collocated task force with a mission to disrupt and dismantle street-level DTOs that are responsible for homicides and other drug-related crimes in Gary. The GRIT uses detention without bond and federal

prosecution as weapons against violent DTOs. This initiative has significantly affected Gary's crack-house epidemic and the violent crimes and plague of homicides it spawned.

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

The Firearms Regional Enforcement Team (FIRE) is a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)-led task force that conducts ballistics testing and identification using the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) instrumentation. The IBIS unit can link bullets and casings with other crimes, thereby providing valuable investigative leads. FIRE also identifies and targets persons who illegally purchase, use, and supply firearms, analyzes firearm transactions, and identifies those who obtain firearms through straw purchases using fictitious or illegally acquired Indiana handgun permits and unlicensed dealers.

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

The Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force is a FBI-led multi-agency initiative. This task

force, which is collocated with the GRIT team, uses intelligence and leads from GRIT street-level operations and federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statutes to disrupt and dismantle the hierarchy of gangs involved in drug trafficking, homicides, serious assaults, extortion, weapon violations, and money laundering.

Lake County HIDTA also has formed partnerships with community organizations and the Indiana National Guard in an effort to increase the effectiveness and impact of the HIDTA. For example, Operation Tattoo Zap provides free laser tattoo removal to former street gang members to enable them to break their ties with the gang culture. In addition, the Indiana National Guard conducts a Demand Reduction Program with numerous innovative programs that have reached thousands of inner-city kids with a drug free message for a healthy, full life.

Investigative Support Center

The Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the cornerstone of the Lake County HIDTA. The mission of the ISC is to provide support that would not be available without the HIDTA program to both HIDTA partners and area law enforcement. Event and target deconfliction services provides a vital safety net for agent-officer safety while also preventing the wasteful duplication of effort and resources.

In addition, the ISC serves as a clearinghouse for all gun arrests made by the four major departments, as well as the numerous city courts in northwest Indiana. The ISC is the only unit in the county with collocated access to federal, state, and local databases. In addition, the ISC assists area law enforcement with video enhancement capabilities, which are provided in support of both investigators and prosecutors in cases ranging from drug trafficking to bank robbery.

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

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

Participating Agencies

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

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

Significant Achievements

As a result of ATF participation, the Lake County HIDTA has the technology vital to helping federal, state, and local agencies

solve firearm-related violent crime in northwest Indiana.

Through its National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), ATF has sponsored a Lake County HIDTA initiative that gives local LEAs access to IBIS ballistic imaging and comparison equipment. By enabling HIDTA personnel to make an initial comparison of bullet and cartridge casing evidence from thousands of cases in minutes, IBIS alerts investigators to potential links between violent crimes. A firearms examiner then compares the original evidence to confirm a match, providing connections between crimes and criminals that often might not be linked by other means.

The establishment of the ATF IBIS initiative has significantly enhanced the ability of LEAs in northwest Indiana to solve gang-related shootings in the area. For example, in 2001 Lake County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene of a drive-by shooting, recovered seven cartridge casings from the scene and submitted them for entry into IBIS. Two weeks later, in the city of Gary, a small child was killed in a drive-by shooting. Gary Police officers recovered 18 cartridge casings and several fired bullets from the crime scene. All were imaged into IBIS. Correlation revealed a potential link between the two cases, which was confirmed by a firearms examiner participating in the HIDTA program.

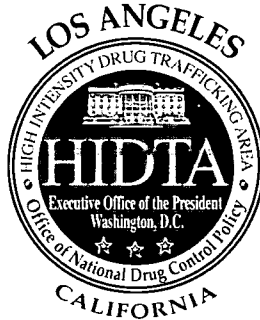
After discovering the link, the HIDTA's FBI-led Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force began an investigation of the Latin Kings, a notorious Gary street gang. The IBIS hit helped show the linkage between gang members and the criminal acts they committed. A federal grand jury subsequently returned a nine-count indictment charging seven gang members

with racketeering, arson, attempted murder, narcotics distribution, and the murder of the small child. All gang members were convicted. This was the first-ever use of the RICO statute against a street gang in the Northern District of Indiana. The cooperation, coordination, and availability of resources facilitated by the Lake County HIDTA culminated in the dismantling of a violent DTO gang. This unprecedented

meshing of technology and tenacious investigations by uniformed patrol officers, narcotics investigators, and federal agents is an excellent example of what the Lake County HIDTA program has been able to accomplish in to northwest Indiana.

Information above was provided by the Lake County HIDTA.

Los Angeles HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

The LA-HIDTA-designated geographic region covers the four counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. It is comprised of some 32,341 square miles, including 213 miles of coastline, with a general population of approximately 16 million.

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

The Port of Los Angeles-Long Beach is the third busiest seaport in the world, and the busiest in the United States, with 9.3 million containers and 123 million tons of cargo passing through annually along 213 miles of shoreline.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes three international, 94 municipal, and three seaplane airports within the LA-HIDTA region. The Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the fifth-busiest passenger airport in the world with

61 million passengers annually and 2,300 flights a day. It also is the second busiest airport for cargo, with 1.9 million metric tons annually.

The land threat from the south is perhaps the most obvious because large quantities of illegal drugs are brought north on the region's major highways.

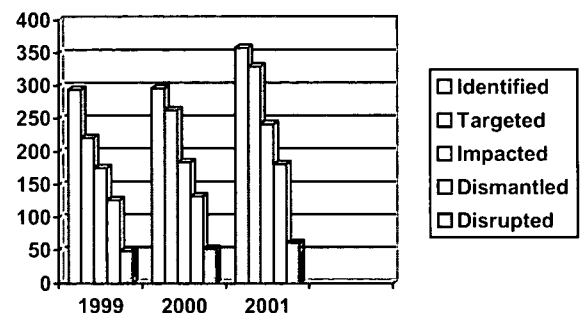
The indigenous harvesting of marijuana in the nearby mountains and the continuing numbers of major polydrug manufacturing and distribution systems pose a significant threat to the region. Hundreds of clandestine large- and small-scale methamphetamine labs continue to proliferate inside the metropolitan and rural areas.

Strategy Abstract

The Executive Board presently has 18 voting members representing a working partnership of the major federal, state and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) that operate in the LA-HIDTA region. The Board and its three subcommittees continue to take a very active and positive role in determining the strategy, priorities, and overall direction of the LA-HIDTA. As a result of their input and guidance, the ongoing effort on the part of all initiatives continues to be enhanced through mutual cooperation and teamwork.

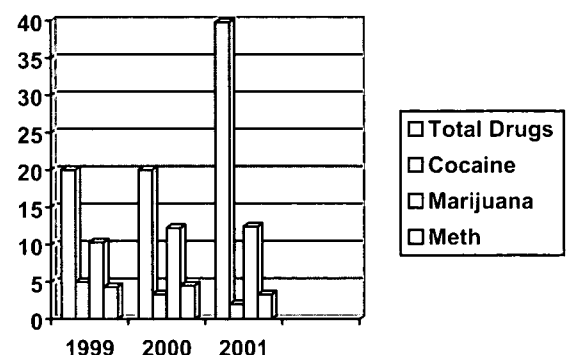
The goals of the LA-HIDTA specifically focus on the dismantling and/or disruption of major DTOs and money laundering organizations that operate in and through the region, with a primary focus on cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin. The LA-HIDTA originally was designated one of the Nation's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

In FY2002, the LA-HIDTA consists of six major task forces comprised of collocated federal, state and local LEAs, three intelligence projects that comprise the Intelligence Support System (ISS), and five critical support initiatives, each dedicated to the task of positively affecting the major drug trafficking problems that continue to face the region and country.



Major DTOs Affected by
LA-HIDTA Enforcement Initiatives

The strategy for the LA-HIDTA is developed in close concert with all of the enforcement and intelligence initiatives. At all levels of this dynamic process, the LA-HIDTA takes into account law enforcement missions, resources, and the overall narcotics



Significant Quantities of Dangerous Drugs
Seized by LA-HIDTA Initiatives

trafficking and money laundering threat in the region.

A unique system of backward planning is utilized to ensure that the strategy adequately addresses the threat. This system brings together the various LA-HIDTA law enforcement and intelligence initiatives for the dual purpose of validating the various strategy elements and establishing individual priorities and achievement goals. By combining the individual projected goals, the strategy objectives are identified and agreed upon, including both expected outputs and desired outcomes.

Investigative Support Center

The Intelligence Architecture Plan redefines the intelligence responsibilities and priorities within the LA-HIDTA. It effectively brings together the intelligence projects—Los Angeles Joint Drug Intelligence Group, Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse, and Inland Narcotics Clearing House—into what today is called the Intelligence Support System (ISS). The ISS brings a much-needed working memorandum of understanding among the intelligence initiatives, enhances lines of communication, and provides clear, definitive lines of responsibility.

In addition, the process brings an enhanced level of intelligence service to the LA-HIDTA law enforcement community. The LA-HIDTA intelligence initiatives work to provide the most recent institutional drug intelligence. They also provide deconfliction, pointer index, case support, target profiles, intelligence fusion, and predictive analysis to the entire regional law enforcement community.

In CY2001, the three LA-HIDTA intelligence initiatives recorded 715

combined requests for service from various LEAs within the region, resulting in 13,700 analytical products.

The War Room Watch Center provides real-time operational and tactical intelligence support by tracking, around-the-clock, all federal, state, and local law enforcement high-risk operations within the four-county LA-HIDTA region. Onsite intelligence analysts are available to immediately research the various law enforcement intelligence databases, thus enabling officers to conduct enhanced narcotic investigations.

In CY2001, the War Room tracked 17,477 critical events, a 2-percent increase over the previous year. This number includes 4,145 deconflictions—23.7 percent or one out of every four critical events—wherein various law enforcement high-risk operations were notified when they were about to conflict with each other during the course of their investigations.

In CY2002, the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LACRCIC) is providing deconfliction services for the Los Angeles, Northern California, Central Valley California, and Nevada HIDTAs. While it is a remarkable thing to accomplish this sharing of resources within the state of California, it is quite another achievement to crossover into the state of Nevada. This notable capability means that the LACRCIC War Room is providing service to 384 federal, state, and local LEAs; 24 of the 58 counties in California (41.4 percent) and one county in Nevada. The combining of regional law enforcement resources to successfully address major drug trafficking issues, truly speaks to the very essence of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP's) national HIDTA Program.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Department of Defense's JTF-6, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service.

State: California National Guard; State of California, Alcoholic Beverage Control; State of California, Department of Justice-Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, State of California, Highway Patrol.

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

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

Other: Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Western States Information Network.

Significant Achievements

Beginning in CY2001, the Southern California Drug Task Force (SCDTF), Group 44, and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)-Narcotics Division, initiated investigations of a regional major cocaine distribution cell directly associated with the Arellano-Felix Organization (AFO). During this complex, detailed Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation, 43 wiretap operations were mounted against the organization over a 22-month period. It soon was discovered that this regional investigation had ties to a nationwide Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigation known as Operation Vice Grip. Nationally, several major domestic cells of the AFO ultimately were targeted by law enforcement. The SCDTF and LAPD-Narcotics Division had responsibility for identifying, investigating, and dismantling one of these major cells.

In Southern California alone, this investigation has resulted in the arrest of 85 suspects, and the seizure of 230 kilograms of cocaine, 177 grams of heroin, 966 kilograms of marijuana, 22 vehicles, nine assault weapons, 11 handguns, and \$2.2 million in cash. On June 13, 2002, simultaneous search and arrest warrants were served in New York, Arizona, Minnesota, Connecticut, and California. More than 400 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from 27 agencies assisted the SCDTF, Group 44, and the LAPD-Narcotics Division in serving search warrants at more than 30 locations in the Southern California area.

The national takedown resulted in 234 arrests, 10 provisional arrest warrants for AFO members in Mexico, seizures of 27,000 kilograms of cocaine, 2,163 kilograms of marijuana, 20.9 kilograms of methamphetamine, and \$13.9 million in assets.

It must be noted that Operation Vice Grip is the largest domestic undertaking by U.S. law enforcement against the AFO. The dedication to the considerable task at hand and the critical involvement of both the SCDTF and LAPD-Narcotics Division resulted in the ultimate dismantling of one of this organization's major regional trafficking cells.

This noteworthy case is a classic example of the National HIDTA Program at its finest. It clearly demonstrates the value of a multi-jurisdictional, collocated law enforcement approach to the identification and dismantling of a significant trafficking organization with both national and international implications.

Information above was provided by the Los Angeles HIDTA.

Midwest HIDTA



General Information

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

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

<i>Iowa:</i>	Muscatine, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Marshall, Black Hawk, Appanoose, Woodbury, and Linn Counties
<i>Kansas:</i>	Cherokee, Crawford, Johnson, Labette, Leavenworth, Saline, Seward, Barton, Sedgwick, Finney, Shawnee, Miami, Franklin, and Wyandotte Counties
<i>Missouri:</i>	Cape Girardeau, Christian, Clay, Jackson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Ray, Scott, St. Charles, St. Louis, Greene, Benton, Buchanan, Jasper, Texas, Platte and Marion Counties
<i>Nebraska:</i>	Dakota, Dawson, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Sarpy, Madison, Dodge, Gage, Jefferson, Platte, and Scott's Bluff Counties
<i>South Dakota:</i>	Clay, Codington, Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Union, Brown, Brookings, Beadle, and Yankton Counties
<i>North Dakota:</i>	Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, Morton, Ramsey, Richland, Walsh, and Ward Counties
<i>Contact:</i>	(816) 746-4911

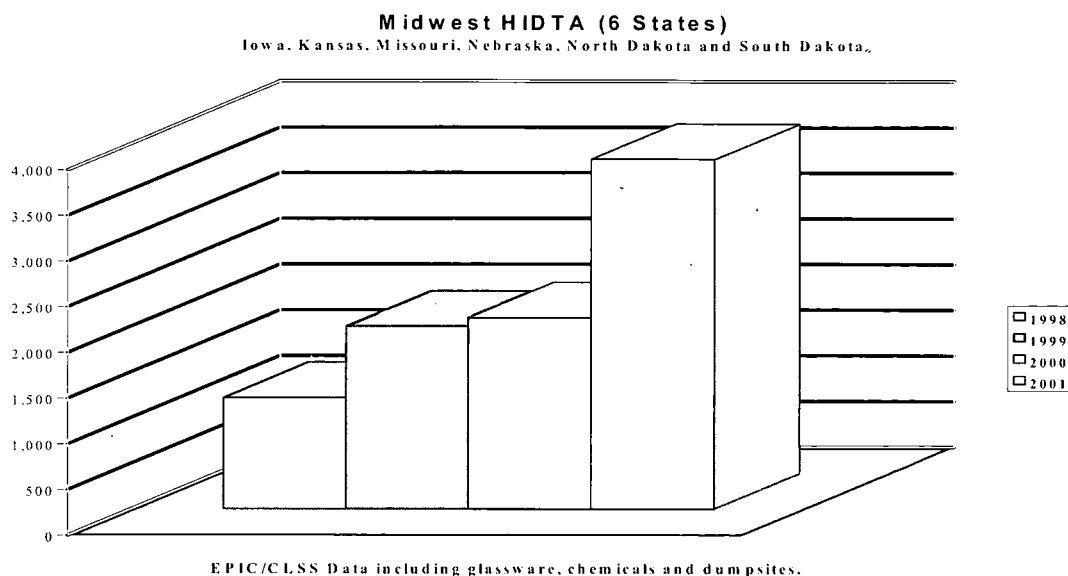
Mission Statement

The mission of the Midwest HIDTA is to measurably reduce the effect of regional drug production, trafficking, and distribution in designated counties in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota, as well as in other parts of the United States, through unified initiatives involving

investigation, intelligence, interdiction, prosecution, and demand reduction.

Threat Abstract

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



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

The ready availability and extensive demand for cocaine and marijuana will continue to be major threats to the entire Midwest HIDTA region. Arrest, seizure, and abuse statistics confirm that transportation and distribution of cocaine and marijuana, predominantly through Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), shows no sign of weakening.

Heroin abuse, although a minor threat in most areas of the region, has been reported in urban areas. Increased problems associated with other dangerous drugs, such as methylenedioxy metham-phetamine (MDMA) and so-called club drugs are expected to continue throughout urban and rural communities as the popularity of these drugs increases, especially among young people. Already limited law enforcement resources will be further compromised if the threats of heroin and other dangerous drugs

continue to expand in the Midwest HIDTA region.

Strategy Abstract

The HIDTA strategy is implemented through several components. Each state, through designated advisory boards comprised of law enforcement professionals, has identified threats and developed enforcement strategies and investigative initiatives. The Midwest HIDTA Executive Board, and the office of the Midwest HIDTA director, coordinates the integration and synchronization of all participating agencies' initiatives to ensure a unified regional effort.

The Midwest HIDTA Executive Board is composed of executives from 12 federal and 12 state or local law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The Board provides programmatic oversight for all 42 initiatives, which are organized into and support five counterdrug subsystems—intelligence, investigations, forensic lab enhancement, prosecution, and demand reduction—each of which is integral to the success of the HIDTA program.

The Midwest HIDTA investigative mission is to facilitate and assist task forces and other federal, state, and local LEAs within the region in identifying, targeting, and dismantling DTOs and drug manufacturing and distribution operations.

Investigative Support Center

The Midwest HIDTA Investigative Support Center (MHISC), co-managed by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Kansas City, MO, Police Department, is a multi-agency coalition consisting of federal, state, and local LEAs located within the six states that make up the Midwest HIDTA. Located in Kansas City, MO, the MHISC is linked electronically to task force locations and key state agencies in each of the states.

The MHISC collects and analyzes information from all Midwest HIDTA task forces and participating task forces and agencies, providing event and subject deconfliction services, multi-source name checks, investigative case support, toll analyses, charting, graphic work, post-seizure analyses, and trend-predictive analyses. The MHISC also provides continual evaluation of the threat to the region and identifies changes in patterns and trends.

By improving the exchange of intelligence and information through more efficient coordination and communications, the MHISC enhances the ability of federal, state, and local LEAs to identify, arrest, and prosecute key members of DTOs and individuals involved in the clandestine manufacture of narcotics. Trend and predictive analyses developed by the MHISC assists the Midwest HIDTA

Executive Board in utilizing its limited resources more efficiently.

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

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Attorney's Office-Northern and Southern District of Iowa, District of Kansas, Western and Eastern Districts of Missouri, District of Nebraska, District of North Dakota, and District of South Dakota.

State: Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa National Guard, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas National Guard, Missouri Department of Public Safety, Missouri National Guard, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Nebraska State Patrol, South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota National Guard, South Dakota State Attorney's Office, South Dakota Attorney General's Office, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (ND).

Local:

Iowa: Altoona Police Department, Ankeny Police Department, Davenport Police Department, Des Moines Police Department, Eldora Police Department, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, Hardin County Sheriff's Department, Iowa Falls Police

Department, Marshall County Prosecutor's Office, Marshall County Sheriff's Department, Marshalltown Police Department, Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Sioux City Police Department, South Sioux City Police Department, Tama Police Department, Tama County Sheriff's Department, Woodbury County Sheriff's Office.

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

Missouri: Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, Cape Girardeau Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff's Department, Christian County Sheriff's Office, Dunklin Police Department, Dysart Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Grandview Police Department, Green County Sheriff's Office, Independence Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Kansas City Police Department, Lake St. Louis Police Department, O'Fallon Police Department, Platte County Sheriff's Department, Richmond Police Department, Sikeston Department of Public Safety, Springfield Police Department, St. Charles Police Department, St. Charles County Sheriff's Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, St. Louis County Police Department, St. Louis Police Department, Stoddard County Sheriff's Department, Trenton Police Department, Wentzville Police Department.

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

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

South Dakota: Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, Meade County Sheriff's Department, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department, Minnehaha County State Attorney's Office, Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Pennington County Attorney's Office, Sioux Falls Police Department.

Other: Lincoln/Lancaster Task Force (NE), Tri-City Task Force (NE), Tri-State Task Force (NE), Metro Task Force (NE), North Central Task Force (MO), Southeast Missouri Task Force (MO), St. Charles Drug Task Force (MO), Jackson Co. Drug Task Force (MO), Lincoln Co. Drug Task Force (SD), Partnership for a Drug Free America, Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa, Omaha Community, Partnership Toward a Drug Free Nebraska, Partnership for a Drug Free Missouri, South Dakota Plus, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Nebraska, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in South Dakota, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Missouri, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Iowa, Drug Abuse Resistance Education in Kansas, Drug Abuse Resistance Education of America.

Significant Achievements

In support of the overall strategy, the information technology subsystem has promoted the sharing of information across the region. Maintaining the connection into the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET) and providing information resources has accomplished one of the Midwest HIDTA's information-sharing goals. In cooperation with RISSNET, an intelligence website was created for all RISS and HIDTA members to share information about Midwest HIDTA's products, agencies, and services, as well as various products and services provided by RISS. In addition, a suspect pointer system for HIDTA taskforces, called the HIDTA Intranet Pointer (HIP), has been expanded. During CY2001, 34 task forces and 209 users were connected via HIP.

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

As of September 2002, more than 500 users are connected and using the VPN system. The ultimate goal of the Midwest HIDTA is to reduce drug-related criminal activity and increase the health and safety of the Midwest region's citizens.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have had a profound effect on law enforcement across the United States, including the six states that makeup the Midwest HIDTA. The DEA-led MHISC offered assistance to the FBI and other law enforcement in the enormous and complex investigation that has continued. A number of agencies participating in Midwest HIDTA task forces had personnel temporarily reassigned to other matters relating to the terrorist attacks. Others either were called back to active duty from reserve status or in the case of the National Guard, were reassigned duties to protect America's airports and other significant locations within their particular state. The MHISC was forced to reduce the number of operating hours the Watch Center was open due to manpower shortages.

During 2001, the Midwest HIDTA Executive Board approved the addition of a collocated ATF Intelligence Group to share office space with the MHISC. The ATF Intelligence Group represents the Kansas City ATF Field Division and will coordinate intelligence activities for ATF in the four-state region of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. This collocation will enhance intelligence sharing for all agencies involved with the Midwest HIDTA.

Information above was provided by the Midwest HIDTA.

Milwaukee HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Wisconsin: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Waukesha Counties

Contact: (414) 220-4740

Mission Statement

The Milwaukee HIDTA's mission is to enhance intelligence processes and greater operational coordination and prosecution to substantially and measurably reduce organized drug distribution, drug-related violent crime and money laundering, and the demand for illegal drugs within the Milwaukee HIDTA. The HIDTA also is committed to stemming the distribution of illegal drugs through the Milwaukee HIDTA to urban areas in northern and western Wisconsin and beyond. These initiatives are complemented by a coordinated effort that includes youth-focused demand-reduction efforts that are designed to improve the quality of life and restore neighborhood control to the citizens of the Milwaukee HIDTA region.

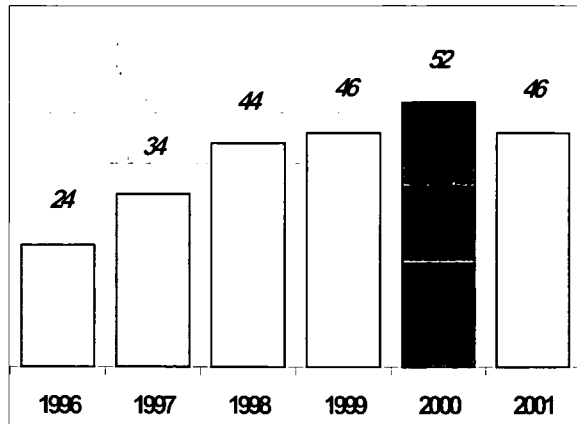
Threat Abstract

Illegal drugs are widely available and abused throughout the Milwaukee HIDTA.

Seizures of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana have increased over the past year, as have drug-related deaths and substance abuse treatment admissions for these drugs. The availability of club drugs, such as methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) is also increasing. Drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) with connections to Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Nigeria are the primary transporters of drugs into the area. Chicago is the primary source of drugs abused in Milwaukee County.

Cocaine, particularly crack, is the greatest drug threat to Milwaukee County and the drug most often linked to violent crime in the area. Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are seizing increasing amounts of cocaine, which is related to more deaths than any other drug and nearly half of the admissions for substance abuse treatment. Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters and wholesale distributors, while street gangs are the primary retail distributors of this drug.

Cocaine-Related Deaths in Milwaukee County



Heroin is an increasing drug threat to the Milwaukee area. Heroin deaths declined in 2001 as seizures and the number of people seeking treatment for heroin abuse increased. Heroin prices have decreased while purity has increased, indicating ready availability. Southeast Asian heroin is most common on Milwaukee's north side, while South American heroin is most available on the city's south side. Nigerian DTOs are the primary transporters and wholesale distributors of Southeast Asian heroin. Dominican DTOs are the dominant wholesale distributors of South American heroin. Street gangs and independent dealers conduct most retail distribution of both types of heroin.

More marijuana is seized than all other drugs combined in the Milwaukee HIDTA region. It is the most widely available and most commonly abused drug in the region. Most marijuana available in the HIDTA region is produced in Mexico. Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters and principal wholesale distributors of marijuana, while street gangs and many other groups sell marijuana at the retail level.

MDMA and other club drugs are increasingly popular, particularly among teenagers and young adults. MDMA,

gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), and Ketamine are some of the club drugs abused in the Milwaukee area. Law enforcement seizures of MDMA have increased annually since the late 1990s. Caucasian independent dealers and DTOs are the primary transporters and distributors, but other groups, including street gangs, may be becoming involved in MDMA distribution.

Hallucinogens, such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), usually are abused by a small number of users, but they have become more popular at raves. Most LSD is produced in northern California and transported to the Milwaukee area, either directly or via Chicago.

The diversion and abuse of pharmaceuticals, such as OxyContin, have increased in the HIDTA region. The availability of pharmaceuticals is high. These drugs often are obtained by forging prescriptions or robbing pharmacies. In Milwaukee County, the number of felony sentences levied related to oxycodone doubled in the past year.

There are many DTOs operating within the Milwaukee HIDTA region. Several are organizations that have international connections and they supply most of the heroin in the area. Mexican DTOs with ties to Mexico, Chicago, Los Angeles, and the Southwest border area supply most of the cocaine and marijuana in the HIDTA. Street gangs, are the dominant retail distributors.

Strategy Abstract

The Milwaukee HIDTA represents a part of the Eastern District of Wisconsin, specifically the county of Milwaukee. Located therein, each federal agency has one regional leader to ensure that the agency is pursuing its mission and coordinating its

efforts with other LEAs. Likewise, state, county, and municipal LEAs exercise the authority of their respective jurisdictions to carry out their missions in overlapping venues.

The following agencies comprise the Milwaukee HIDTA Executive Board: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Attorney's Office-Eastern District of Wisconsin, U.S. Customs Service (USCS), U.S. Marshal's Service (USMS), Wisconsin Division of Narcotic Enforcement, Wisconsin National Guard, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, and the West Allis Police Department.

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

The Milwaukee HIDTA will coordinate an investigative support center (ISC) and 10 initiatives in FY2003. These include three investigative initiatives, one anti-drug/anti-crime initiative, one interdiction initiative, one prosecutorial initiative, one training initiative, one management and coordination initiative, and one information technology initiative. The initiatives are comprised of representatives from a total of 12 agencies: six federal, two state, and four local.

Investigative Support Center

The HIDTA Intelligence and Technical Support (HITS) Center is a collocated effort of federal, state, and local agencies. The HITS Center has the primary function of gathering, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence regarding DTOs. The Center

also identifies DTOs, assists in the development of threat assessments and setting of priorities, and aids in the coordination of cases and investigations. Currently, analysts have access to the following databases and research software tools: Transaction Information for Management (TIME), Pen-Link (phone record information), Property Information Retrieval System (PIRS) for locating property from the City of Milwaukee Assessor's Office, Search Express, CARPAX, Choice Point (Autotrack), DEA's NADDIS, Milwaukee Regional Resource and Knowledge System (MRRKS), I-2 Analyst Notebook for charting, Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET)/ MOCIC national database for suspect pointer index, Wisconsin Utilities for information associated with property owners, Internet for general and public searches, FinCEN for financial and banking inquiries, Milwaukee Police Department NarcTrack and GRIPS, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office CRIMES database, the Wisconsin Department of Justice's DNE CTRIX, the federal government's Antidrug Network, Milwaukee Housing Authority Drug Database, Criminal Justice Information System, and FBI-net.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Attorney's Office-Eastern District of Wisconsin, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service.

State/Local: Wisconsin Division of Narcotic Enforcement, Wisconsin National Guard-Drug Control Program, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, West Allis Police Department.

Significant Achievements

The Milwaukee HIDTA Common Thread Task Force, comprised of members of the City of Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Narcotic Enforcement (WI DOJ-DNE), DEA, USCS, FBI, and the USMS, has been conducting ongoing investigations of narcotics suppliers associated with the Milwaukee area.

In March 1999, intelligence information revealed that a local drug trafficker was receiving large quantities of cocaine and marijuana for distribution in Milwaukee. The task force used many investigative techniques to gather evidence against the traffickers, and developed cooperating witnesses who were able to provide probable cause to apply for two Title III Federal Wire Intercepts, which were conducted in September and October of 2000.

In December 2000, Common Thread conducted a series of search warrants and consent searches in the Milwaukee area. The searches resulted in the seizure of more than \$1 million in contraband and the arrest of three main targets. Common Thread investigators learned that the group received between 40 to 200 kilograms of cocaine and 500 to 2,000 pounds of marijuana at a time from Chicago.

Common Thread arranged for a shipment of Mexican marijuana to be delivered to the Midwest and a shipment of cocaine to be delivered to Milwaukee from Mexico. In February 2001, law enforcement in Illinois, in conjunction with Common Thread, seized 1,300 pounds of marijuana and arrested six men who were convicted of drug conspiracy.

In March 2001, again in conjunction with Common Thread, agents seized 190 kilograms of cocaine and arrested two persons.

Common Thread members have also provided intelligence to investigations that lead to the dismantlement of two DTOs in the Midwest, the seizure of more than 1,300 pounds of marijuana, more than 200 kilograms of cocaine, more than \$1.5 million in U.S. currency, five weapons, and 71 arrests.

In June 2002, Common Thread, additional Milwaukee HIDTA groups, WI DOJ-DNE, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Postal Inspectors, DEA, Milwaukee Police, and the Milwaukee Sheriff's Office dismantled another DTO. Eighteen persons were arrested and 30 search warrants were executed. A multitude of assets were seized during the execution of the search warrants.

The Common Thread Task Force has utilized logical and sophisticated investigative techniques, along with a comprehensive methodology designed to prioritize needs and work with other initiatives and drug task forces, and to target DTOs that have operated locally from Milwaukee to the borders of the United States and beyond. The Common Thread Task Force has coordinated efforts and shared information that extends beyond the Milwaukee HIDTA initiatives and drug task forces to other initiatives and task forces in other regions of the United States. The Milwaukee HIDTA continues to make the Milwaukee area a safer community by significantly reducing and eliminating drug trafficking in the Milwaukee area.

Information above was provided by the Milwaukee HIDTA.

Nevada HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 2001

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Nevada: Clark County

Contact: (702) 636-5035

Mission Statement

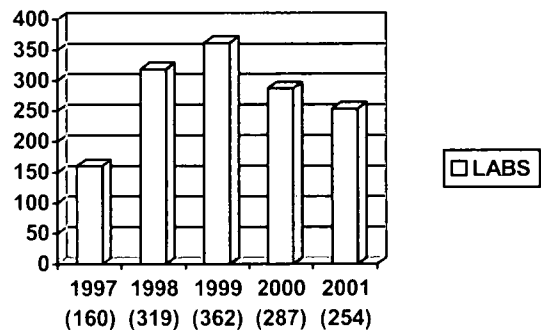
The mission of the Nevada HIDTA is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the country. This mission is accomplished through the use of multi-agency task forces designed to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

Threat Abstract

While on the decline, methamphetamine use and its clandestine manufacturing continue to be the most significant drug threats in the Nevada HIDTA region. Although down from the record high 362 labs in 1999, there were still 254 labs investigated in 2001. Most of these labs are classified as small-level labs, capable of producing 2 to 4 ounces at a time. Five super labs were seized, however, in 2001. An April 2002 El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) report ranked Nevada as thirteenth among the states for the number of labs seized in

CY2001. In the first nine months of 2002, the Southern Nevada Joint Methamphetamine Task Force (SNJMTF) seized more than 1,386 cases of pseudoephedrine, 50 kilos of red phosphorus, and 63 pounds of iodine, all precursor chemicals destined for methamphetamine production.

**Methamphetamine Labs Seized
in Clark County**



Methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA), or Ecstasy, has become another significant drug problem in the Nevada HIDTA. Use of this club drug has grown at such an alarming

rate that in 2002 the Nevada HIDTA Executive Board determined the need for the mid-year creation of a new initiative, the Southern Nevada Club Drug Task Force (SNCDTF). The SNCDTF targets organizations and individuals supplying drugs to the after-hours club scene in Las Vegas, as well as other areas of the country. MDMA traffickers, many of which are polydrug dealers, have been associated with organized criminals that operate internationally.

The after-hour clubs, often referred to as raves, are frequented by young adults in their teens and early 20s, many of whom are experiencing drug overdoses. The Clark County Coroners office reported six overdose deaths from MDMA in 2001.

An interdiction effort at McCarran International Airport in CY2001 resulted in the seizure of 36 pounds of MDMA powder. Subsequent investigation revealed the MDMA was destined for distribution in Las Vegas, much of it in the rave clubs.

Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Ketamine, Rohypnol, and to a lesser extent lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), have all appeared at the rave clubs. To date, six GHB labs have been seized in Clark County, with one lab producing 300 gallons, or more than 23,000 dosage units, of finished product.

Street gang drug dealing, and the violence associated with it, continues to be another primary concern for the Nevada HIDTA. Local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) have identified more than 300 street gangs in Clark County with a combined membership exceeding 6,600 members, plus an additional 3,000-gang member associates. Crack cocaine is still the drug of choice within the street gangs, which continue to war over turf. In addition, gang members from Los Angeles are

frequently arrested in Las Vegas when they come to supply crack cocaine to local gangs. These LA gangs often establish their own sales operations locally prior to returning to Los Angeles.

Fifteen murders have been attributed to gang rivalry thus far in 2002. Recently an eight-year-old girl was killed in a street shooting between rival gangs when she used her body to shield an infant she was holding in her arms.

Strategy Abstract

The Nevada HIDTA Executive Board, comprised of the chief executive officer of six federal and five state and local LEAs in Clark County, ensures a system that reduces drug trafficking, eliminates duplication of effort, and systematically improves the sharing of drug intelligence. One-hundred-sixteen representatives from 13 federal, state and local LEAs are full-time participants in Nevada HIDTA initiatives.

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

The Investigative Support Center (ISC) and the management and coordination initiatives are collocated in a facility shared with the Major Drug Trafficking Organizations Task Force (MDTO).

The other Nevada HIDTA initiatives include the Interdiction Task Force, the SNCDTF, the SNJMTF, the Clark County Gang Task Force, the Money Laundering and Asset Removal Task Force (MLAR) and the Nevada Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (NV FIST).

Investigative Support Center

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

The ISC's intelligence function provides investigators from all the initiatives with tactical multi-source intelligence on a daily basis, as well as strategic intelligence relating to emerging trends in the production, distribution, and transportation of drugs. The ISC also acts as the primary communication and storage facility for intelligence for all initiatives and provides access to the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET), NDPIX, ADNET, FinCEN, NADDIS/DRUG X, RMIN, TECS, and other various federal, state, and local databases.

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

The strategic intelligence function monitors domestic and foreign trends associated with narcotics activity, including such issues as dominant individuals and organizations, concealment methods, currency transfers, price, purity, and availability. The strategic intelligence function conducts an annual narcotics-crime survey based on statistical information provided by relevant agencies in the HIDTA area of interest. This information is consolidated to generate the annual threat assessment for the Executive Board's review and approval.

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

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Land Management, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Forest Service

State/Local: Clark County District Attorney's Office, Henderson Police Department, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada Department of Public Safety, Nevada National Guard, North Las Vegas Police Department

Significant Achievements

Methamphetamine has been identified as the single most serious drug threat facing the Nevada HIDTA. Prior to 2001, clandestine methamphetamine production had been on

the increase almost every year. In 1997, 160 labs were identified and dismantled in Clark County at a cleanup cost of approximately \$44,000. In 1998 that count grew to 319 labs and \$86,000 in cleanup costs. By 1999 there were 362 labs dismantled in Clark County with cleanup costs approaching \$175,000. The years 2000 and 2001 saw some decline in actual labs, at 287 and 254 labs respectively.

In 2001, Nevada's Clark County was designated a HIDTA and funding was made available that could be utilized by the SNJMTF. This Task Force was expanded and now is comprised of full-time agents and officers from the DEA, the Nevada Department of Public Safety, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, as well as part-time participation by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Henderson Police Department.

The SNJMTF recognized that much of the methamphetamine being produced in Clark County was coming from several organizations led by a relatively small number of independent individuals, known as cooks. These cooks were careful to produce only small quantities of methamphetamine in a single batch, thereby limiting the interest of the court system should they get caught. By only having what appeared to be a small-time operation, these cooks, when arrested, were able to make bail easily and then move their operation to another part of the county and start cooking again.

The SNJMTF compiled a Top-20 Most Wanted list comprised of the 20 cooks recognized as the most active repeat

offenders. They were then able to proceed through the list conducting meticulous investigations and targeting these individuals and their organizations. In cooperation with the Clark County District Attorney's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office, they have arrested all 20 individuals and dismantled their organizations. In the first nine months of 2002, only 117 labs have been seized, which is almost a 60-percent decrease from 2001.

The SNJMTF is dedicated to cooperative efforts with LEAs in Nevada, as well as throughout the country. For example, in January 2002 the SNJMTF initiated an investigation into a DTO based in Apple Valley, CA. This DTO was providing cooks in the Las Vegas area and southern California with chemicals and laboratory supplies. In cooperation with the DEA's Riverside District Office and the San Bernardino Sheriff's Office, the SNJMTF was able to make undercover purchases of pseudoephedrine, iodine, and red phosphorus. These purchases provided probable cause for search warrants that ultimately lead to the arrest of several individuals in southern California and Nevada, and the dismantling of the DTO.

A second example occurred in February 2002 when the SNJMTF and the DEA's Cincinnati Resident Office conducted two international controlled deliveries of pseudoephedrine to Las Vegas. These controlled deliveries were conducted in furtherance of an undercover investigation into the activities of a Cincinnati Resident Office target. As a result of the controlled deliveries, 360 cases of pseudoephedrine and approximately \$190,000 were seized and five persons were arrested.

Information above was provided by the Nevada HIDTA.



General Information

<i>Year of Designation:</i>	1999
<i>Geographic Areas of Responsibility:</i>	
<i>Massachusetts:</i>	Suffolk, Essex, Worcester, Plymouth, Hampden, and Middlesex Counties
<i>Connecticut:</i>	Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven Counties
<i>Rhode Island:</i>	Providence County
<i>Vermont:</i>	Chittenden County
<i>Maine:</i>	Cumberland County
<i>New Hampshire:</i>	Hillsborough County
<i>Contact:</i>	(978) 691-2501

Mission Statement

The New England HIDTA (NEHIDTA), through multi-agency collocated and commingled initiatives, strives to promote cooperation in identifying, disrupting, and dismantling international and other significant drug trafficking (DTOs) and money laundering organizations operating in New England.

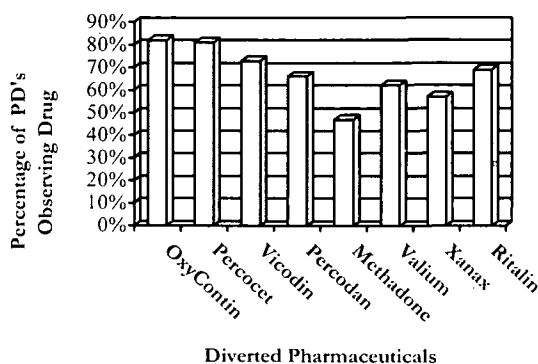
Threat Abstract

The Northeast Region of the United States contains the largest heroin consuming population in the country. Every state in New England, and in particular the 13 designated NEHIDTA counties, are experiencing an unprecedented rise in heroin treatment admissions, hospital emergency department

overdoses, and deaths. Heroin has increased throughout the six New England states and has spread into suburban communities, attracting younger users. Much of this threat can be attributed to the drug's availability, low prices, and high quality. In northern New England, however, heroin prices continue to be higher than those witnessed in the heroin source centers of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Local law enforcement recognizes heroin use as the most significant drug threat at 39.3 percent, followed by marijuana use at 23.9 percent, and powder and crack cocaine use at 20.5 percent. Other dangerous drugs, such as methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) use at 6.8 percent and OxyContin use at 4.3 percent appear to be new and emerging threats in New England.

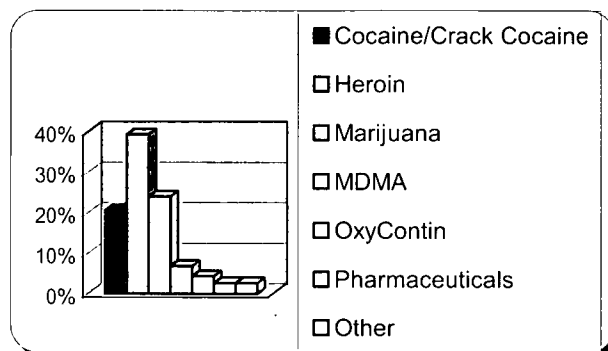
Heroin is available in all quantities in New England, with purity levels ranging from 30 to 90 percent. Heroin overdoses have increased statewide in Massachusetts. In 2000, heroin-morphine was the top-ranking drug among Boston drug-related deaths reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) at 54 percent. In Maine, there was a 40-percent increase in heroin-related arrests and a 166-percent increase in heroin seizures during FY2000. Dominican criminal groups operate primarily in Massachusetts and are the primary suppliers and distributors for all of the New England states.

Cocaine hydrochloride and crack cocaine also continue to be significant drug threats throughout the New England area. Seizures of powder and crack cocaine by the NEHIDTA task force initiatives have increased almost 97 percent since the inception of the NEHIDTA. The national average of arrests for 2000 for the sale and manufacturing of heroin or cocaine and their derivatives was 9.3 percent of the total for drug violations. New England's average, however, was nearly double that at 18.1 percent. Similarly, the national average of arrests for possession of heroin or cocaine and their derivatives during the same period was 24.2 percent of the total for drug violations. The New England average was slightly higher at 26.5 percent.



In addition, diverted pharmaceuticals are an emerging threat in New England. The diverted pharmaceutical oxycodone (OxyContin) has become the most frequently abused prescription drug. The highly addictive synthetic opium-based drug has exploded across New England.

Drug Threat in New England



The Northeast is reporting the largest levels of diversion and abuse of OxyContin nationwide. Four New England states—New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut—are ranked among the top 10 states for the number of OxyContin prescriptions written per 100,000 people.

The New England area also faces the United States-Canada border threat. The northern regions of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine are rural, rugged, and sparsely populated, providing an ideal environment for cross-border smuggling.

Strategy Abstract

The NEHIDTA has developed a cohesive and comprehensive program that combines regional and state-specific initiatives within the six-state New England region. The Executive Board, with the director and staff, systematically synchronize efforts to improve the sharing of drug intelligence and reduce drug trafficking in the NEHIDTA

area. Representatives from more than 100 federal, state, and local agencies support the NEHIDTA by sharing resources, information, and intelligence. The NEHIDTA's strategy is to target the flow of drugs from New York and Canada into New England. The transportation of drugs from New York is a problem shared by all of the New England states. Successfully attacking this transportation system will help to reduce the impact of illicit drugs and related violent criminal activity in the entire region.

The NEHIDTA developed a cohesive and comprehensive program combining regional and state-specific initiatives. The initiatives focus on reducing and disrupting the flow of drugs along the pipeline. To accomplish this, the NEHIDTA is coordinating 14 initiatives in FY2002. These initiatives are organized into and support four counterdrug subsystems, with each subsystem integral to the success of the NEHIDTA.

The law enforcement executives on the Executive Board and the director and staff are the command and control of drug law enforcement and prosecution in New England. This unified approach enables law enforcement executives from federal, state, and local agencies to develop a regional threat assessment and to determine a strategy for attacking the drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

Investigative Support Center

The NEHIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) is a multi-agency coalition that consists of investigators and intelligence analysts from federal, state, and local agencies. The ISC is co-managed by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the Massachusetts State Police. The ISC's mission is to proactively collect, evaluate,

collate, analyze, and disseminate detailed and relevant all-source information concerning DTOs and money laundering organizations. A component integral to the success of the ISC is the free exchange of intelligence and information among all HIDTA participants and other federal, state, and local LEAs throughout the region.

Through the analytical service unit, the ISC provides investigators with tactical and strategic analyses, with special emphasis on cases being worked by the HIDTA initiatives. Advanced computer technology assists in the collation, analysis, retrieval, and dissemination of strategic and tactical intelligence.

Tactical analyses directly support the investigations and prosecutions by providing research and analysis functions to investigators to further expand each investigation. Tactical support functions include analytical case support, target identification, cross-case analysis, post-seizure analysis, and package preparation, such as link charts, timelines, and maps.

Strategic analyses provide the NEHIDTA director, staff, and investigators with an overview of the drug trafficking situation in the New England area. Furthermore, strategic analyses help target specific groups, project potential criminal drug operations, analyze the area drug threat, and identify trends for the six-state area.

The Watch Center within the ISC provides event and case deconfliction for officer safety and enhanced intelligence. The Watch Center is developing and will be a centralized repository for law enforcement databases and will provide one-stop shopping to investigators.

The NEHIDTA has improved the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence by instituting a system-sharing network throughout the Northeast region. The ISC coordinates this effort with national intelligence centers, such as El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) and the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), as well as the New England State Police Intelligence Network (NESPIN) on a regional level. Partnerships have been developed among HIDTAs, specifically with the New York/New Jersey HIDTA, to identify sources of supply in New York that provide illegal supplies to the New England area. The ISC became operational in 2001.

Participating Agencies

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

State: Connecticut State Police, Connecticut National Guard, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, Maine State Police, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Department of Corrections, Massachusetts National Guard, New Hampshire State Police, New Hampshire National Guard, New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force, Rhode Island State Police, Rhode Island National Guard, Vermont State Police, Vermont National Guard

Local: Ansonia, CT Police Department, Auburn, MA Police Department, Boston, MA Police Department, Branford, CT Police Department, Bridgeport, CT Police Department, Bridgeton ME Police Department, Brighton, ME Police Department, Bristol, CT Police Department, Brockton, MA Police Department, Burlington, VT, Police Department, Chelsea, MA Police Department, Cranston, RI Police Department, Derby, CT Police Department, Easton, CT Police Department, East Hartford, CT Police Department, East Haven, CT Police Department, East Providence, RI Police Department, Enfield, CT Police Department, Essex County, MA Sheriff's Department, Fairfield, CT Police Department, Fitchburg, MA Police Department, Framingham, MA Police Department, Franklin, MA Police Department, Gardner, MA Police Department, Greenwich, CT Police Department, Hamden, CT Police Department, Hartford, CT, Police Department, Hopkinton, RI Police Department, Lawrence, MA Police Department, Lowell, MA Police Department, Lynn, MA Police Department, Madison, CT Police Department, Manchester, NH Police Department, MBTA Police Department, Milford, CT Police Department, Milford, MA Police Department, Nashua, NH Police Department, Naugatuck, CT Police Department, New Britain, CT Police Department, Newburyport, MA Police Department, New Haven, CT Police Department, North Andover, MA Police Department, Norwalk, CT Police Department, Orange, CT Police Department, Pawtucket, RI Police Department, Portland, ME Police Department, Providence, RI Police Department, Seymour, CT Police Department, Shelton, CT Police Department, Southbridge, MA Police Department, Southington, CT Police Department,

South Burlington, VT Police Department, South Portland, ME Police Department, Spencer, MA Police Department, Stamford, CT Police Department, Stratford, CT Police Department, Sturbridge, MA Police Department, Trumbull, CT Police Department, Waterbury, CT Police Department, Watertown, MA Police Department, Warwick, RI Police Department, Webster, MA Police Department, Westbrook, ME Police Department, Westerly, RI Police Department, West Haven, CT Police Department, Woodbridge, CT Police Department, Woonsocket, RI Police Department, Worcester, MA Police Department

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

Significant Achievements

The NEHIDTA Fugitive Task Force was initiated to assist federal, state, and local LEAs in identifying and capturing fugitives in narcotics-related crimes, as well as drug-related homicides and crimes of major violence. The Fugitive Task Force is comprised of five federal agents, one state police officer, and three local police officers,

all participating on a full-time basis. Since its commencement three years ago, the task force has been responsible for the arrest of 250 federal fugitives and 482 state and local fugitives. Of these arrests, 27 were drug-related homicides.

This task force has achieved many outstanding accomplishments. A recent case involved the murder of a drug trafficker in Massachusetts. A competitor murdered the trafficker by shooting him in the head and chest execution-style. The murderer became a fugitive and fled from Massachusetts. The NEHIDTA Fugitive Task Force conducted an intense, nine-month investigation that tracked the murderer in Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Florida. The murderer was subsequently arrested in Florida with a semi-automatic 9mm handgun and numerous false identifications.

The arrest of this violent drug trafficker is a significant accomplishment because he was one of Boston's most violent fugitives. He was apprehended as a direct result of the cooperative nature, creative investigative techniques, and tenacity of the NEHIDTA Fugitive Task Force.

The NEHIDTA Fugitive Task Force has displayed outstanding partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement in its mandate to locate and apprehend fugitives.

Information above was provided by the New England HIDTA.

North Florida HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 2001

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (904) 393-2050

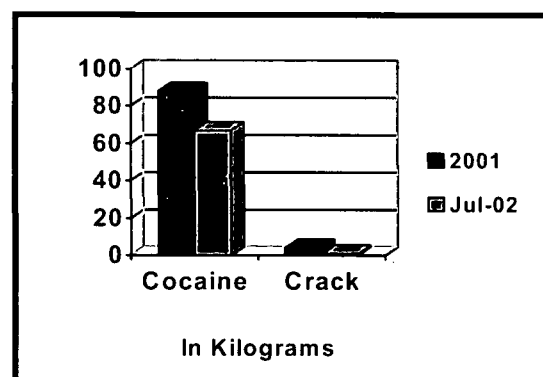
Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

Cocaine and marijuana are the primary threats to the north Florida region. Cocaine, crack, and marijuana remain the most widely used and distributed drugs in the NFHIDTA. Cocaine is predominantly transported from south and central Florida to north Florida and cooked into crack for resale in the NFHIDTA. Open-air crack markets plague several areas in the NFHIDTA and violence attributed to the abuse and distribution of crack is evident in the region.

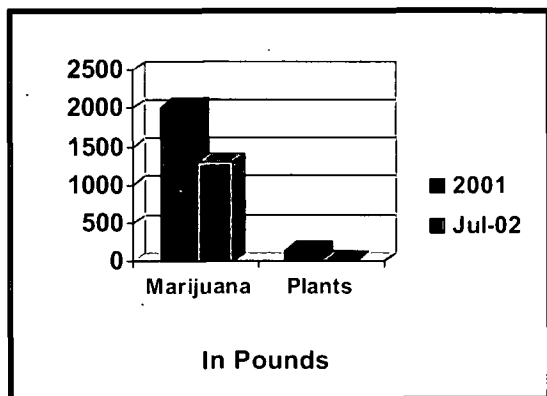
The following chart reflects cocaine and crack seizures within the NFHIDTA during CY2001 and through July 2002.



Both imported and domestic marijuana pose a continuous threat to the NFHIDTA. Domestic marijuana production continues, with significant problems from both indoor and outdoor cultivation. Domestic marijuana is becoming more expensive to purchase than marijuana that is imported from the

Southwest Border area, which usually is transported over land, often by way of Interstate 10. Parcel delivery services also are being used increasingly to smuggle marijuana from the Southwest Border to NFHIDTA.

The chart below reflects the marijuana and marijuana plants seizures within NFHIDTA during CY2001 and through July 2002.



Methamphetamine abuse and production is emerging as a significant threat in NFHIDTA. The production and availability of methamphetamine in the north Florida region are increasing at an alarming rate. Intelligence indicates that methamphetamine is predominantly cooked in rural areas of north Florida by low-income Caucasians. The red phosphorous manufacturing method is the most widely used. Violent crimes, such as robbery and murder, are attributed to methamphetamine abuse and production in NFHIDTA.

Methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) continues to be a significant problem, with a proliferation of all-night clubs that provide an atmosphere conducive to its sale and abuse. Intelligence indicates that large quantities of MDMA continue to be imported from south Florida, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Diversion of pharmaceuticals, particularly OxyContin, is

an emerging problem. Reports of pharmacy burglaries and prescription fraud are up.

Although the NFHIDTA has not seen a major growth in heroin trafficking, the drug still poses a threat to the area. Street-level quantities of heroin and other opiate-based drugs are readily available, and a significant number of related deaths have been reported by the Medical Examiner's Office. A Florida Medical Examiner's comparison report of drug-related deaths in 2000 and 2001 shows a 19-percent increase in heroin-related deaths, a 45-percent increase in oxycodone/hydrocodone-related deaths, and a 71-percent increase in methadone-related deaths.

North Florida continues as a major transshipment and distribution center for drug traffickers. Drug and currency transportation by way of interstates and other roadways, rail, and passenger bus is well documented. Interdiction efforts on the interstate highways and at the bus and train stations have resulted in significant seizures of drugs and money and many arrests. During routine interdiction, the Currency and Narcotics Transportation Interdiction Initiative seized \$495,890 through August 2002, a 39-percent increase from 2001; 8.7 kilograms of heroin, an 89-percent increase from 2001; 5.0 kilograms of cocaine and crack and 1,404 pounds of marijuana. The initiative resulted in 85 arrests through August 2002, a 65-percent increase from 2001.

Strategy Abstract

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

promotes the sharing of drug intelligence and targeting information.

The NFHIDTA Executive Board is comprised of 16 members from federal, state, and local agencies. In CY2002, U.S. Attorney Paul Perez, Middle District of Florida, is serving as chair, with Sheriff Neil Perry, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, as vice chair. The administrative headquarters are located in Jacksonville, FL.

Since the designation of the NFHIDTA in 2001, a large number of participating agencies have worked together to coordinate drug suppression activities. The activities have extended throughout the eight counties within the NFHIDTA and enhanced the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office-Middle District of Florida, four State Attorney's Offices, nine federal, four state, and 10 local agencies. Partnerships have been established with 70 full-time and 32 part-time participants in eight current initiatives. The partnerships balance efforts to address drug trafficking within the region and across the country at every level.

The diversity of the drug trafficking and money laundering problem in the NFHIDTA requires a law enforcement approach that includes multi-agency intelligence sharing. This approach also addresses the area's unique geography. The collocation of the multi-agency task forces fosters open lines of communication and provides for a coordinated law enforcement effort.

In FY2002, the NFHIDTA is comprised of eight initiatives: five enforcement initiatives, one intelligence initiative, and two support initiatives. The law enforcement initiatives are comprised of interdictions, investigations, fugitive apprehension, and money laundering. The intelligence initiative is the Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center (NeFISC); the

support initiatives include administrative and training components.

These initiatives focus on disrupting and dismantling local, regional, national, and international drug trafficking (DTOs) and money laundering organizations. It is important to note that a strong and productive relationship exists between the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) and the NFHIDTA programs. The standard for the NFHIDTA is the development of OCDETF-designated investigations. The NFHIDTA initiatives are seamlessly organized into subsystems with a counterdrug focus.

Investigative Support Center

The NFHIDTA administrative component is collocated with the NeFISC. The NeFISC is a multi-agency criminal investigative support center consisting of a coalition of collocated federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The Center is staffed by representatives from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), State Fire Marshal, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Florida National Guard.

The Center currently supports 13 counties, including the eight counties in the NFHIDTA. It was designed to assist LEAs in identifying, targeting, arresting, and prosecuting key members of criminal organizations by facilitating the rapid and free exchange of information through enhanced coordination and communications. The Center is a hub for the development, fielding, and export of automated information and networks supporting law enforcement operations.

The Center's goals are to produce and provide strategic and organizational intelligence, to enhance information sharing and cooperation, to ensure officer safety through the use of the Narcotics Information Network Joint Agency System (NINJAS), and to ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness for all participating agencies. The Center also assists in active case analyses, post-seizure and post-arrest analyses, telephone-toll analyses, trial preparation, and counterdrug training.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Marshals Service, Naval Criminal Investigative Service

State/Local: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida National Guard, State Fire Marshal, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Baker County Sheriff's Office, Fernandina Beach Police Department, Flagler County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Palatka Police Department, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, St. Augustine Police Department, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

Significant Achievements

NFHIDTA's Tri-County Task Force initiated Operation Knock Out, a two-month investigation into the sale and distribution of GHB in north and central Florida. The investigation resulted in the arrest of three men and the dismantling of a DTO that was distributing the drug. The Task Force members included law enforcement personnel from the DEA, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, St. Johns County Sheriff's

Office, St. Augustine Police Department, and the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor.

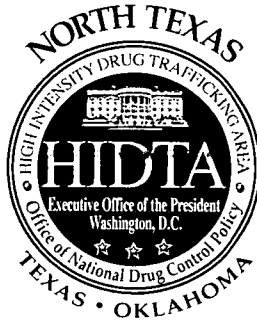
During the investigation, undercover agents purchased more than 162 pounds of liquid GHB in the Ponte Vedra and Orlando areas. The investigation culminated on April 18, 2002. A search warrant was executed in Orlando, resulting in the seizure of an additional 11 gallons of GHB. In all, a total of 20 gallons were seized during the course of the investigation.

This was one of the largest cases in Florida involving GHB. In comparison, the total amount of GHB seized in Florida in 2001 was 30 gallons. This case is the direct result of the cooperation and coordination of the NFHIDTA with federal, state, and local LEAs.

In July 2002, the NFHIDTA Task Force, comprised of personnel from the DEA, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Baker, Clay, and Jacksonville Sheriff's Offices, initiated an investigation into a Mexican cocaine DTO based in Chicago, with distribution points in the cities of Jacksonville and Tampa, and the counties of St. Johns and Putnam.

To date, nine kilograms of cocaine have been seized. The investigation revealed that the DTO was involved in the distribution of more than 300 kilograms of cocaine. Several arrests already have been made and additional indictments are expected to be issued by the U.S. Attorney's Offices in the Middle District of Florida and Chicago. This case is the result of the cooperation and coordination of the NFHIDTA with federal, state, and local LEAs within the state of Florida, as well as other areas of the Nation. *Information above was provided by the North Florida HIDTA.*

North Texas HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1998

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

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

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

Contact: (972) 915-9500

Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

The North Texas HIDTA region has become a strategic location for the smuggling, transportation, and nationwide distribution of illegal drugs. The North Texas HIDTA encompasses most of the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) metropolitan region, the ninth-largest and third-fastest-growing metropolitan area in the country. The proximity

of the area to the Mexico border and its centralized location in the United States make this an attractive area for Mexican polydrug DTOs to establish their base of operations.

The attractiveness of this region to DTOs is further enhanced by the largest transportation network in the Southwest, including the DFW airport, the third-busiest airport in the world; highly developed highway corridors, such as Interstates I-20, I-30, I-35, and I-45 that provide direct access from the Southwest border to major cities in the Midwest and East Coast of the United States; and many major shipping, transportation, and multinational corporations. The DFW area is a primary banking and financial center for the Southwest, making it attractive to drug traffickers seeking to launder their illegal drug proceeds. The major drug threats to this region follow.

Methamphetamine is a serious and emerging threat in this region, with a significant increase in the number of clandestine laboratories and widespread abuse. Availability is high from both Mexican DTOs in California and Mexico, as well as the local manufacture of the drug using Internet recipes, such as the Nazi method.

Cocaine, in both powder and crack forms, remains the most frequently used hard drug in this region, although it has experienced a slight decline from 1998 to the present. Use is still above the nationwide average: 87 per 100 kilograms in Dallas vs. 70 per 100 kilograms in United States.

Heroin use, specifically Mexican black tar, is a serious threat facing North Texas, affecting about 17 percent of treatment admissions in 2001.

Marijuana continues to be the most frequently trafficked drug in North Texas, with more than 50 percent of all U.S. seizures occurring in Texas. This region is a corridor to Midwest and East Coast markets for Mexican-grown drugs. A significant increase in use by adolescents in Texas has been documented from 1987 to present.

Mexican DTOs pose the most serious threat to the North Texas HIDTA. The area is both a destination and transshipment point for drugs destined for locations throughout the United States. These organizations control the methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin trade in the region.

Although Mexican DTOs are the primary suppliers and distributors of drugs throughout the region, street-level gangs also are active in distribution. The associated violence and criminal activities

that are common with gang membership occur throughout the North Texas HIDTA.

In addition to the drug threats, violent crimes, such as firearms trafficking, theft, assaults, burglaries, and homicides, occur throughout North Texas and often have a direct correlation to drug trafficking. There also is continued concern regarding the opportunities for corruption of law enforcement officials.

Law enforcement reports indicate that money resulting from drug trafficking often is smuggled in bulk shipments to Mexico. Some of the means used to move the currency include tractor-trailers, privately owned vehicles, private aircraft, parcel delivery services, motor homes, and couriers. Other preferred money laundering methods include seemingly legitimate businesses and wire transfers.

Strategy Abstract

The North Texas HIDTA's strategy for accomplishing its mission of reducing the availability of illicit drugs and drug-related violence is achieved through the following five elements.

- Wide participation by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in all North Texas HIDTA initiatives. During FY2003, LEAs will contribute approximately 149 personnel to the North Texas HIDTA for assignments on investigative and intelligence initiatives.
- Operation of a well-managed and efficient North Texas HIDTA program. Led by an Executive Board that represents the largest federal, state, and local LEAs in the area, and implemented by the HIDTA director, the program provides support for each initiative to

achieve their identified goals, thereby accomplishing the mission of the North Texas HIDTA and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

- Collocation and commingling of agencies and functions. Most of the investigative initiatives, the Regional Intelligence Support Center (RISC), and the administrative offices are collocated in a single, central operations facility.
- Establishment and operation of eight investigative initiatives for 2003 that target the most significant DTOs, money laundering organizations, and drug-related violent crime in this area.
- Operation of RISC to provide threat assessment, deconfliction coordination, and direct investigative support to the North Texas HIDTA initiatives, as well as all law enforcement in the North Texas area, thereby achieving an exchange of drug intelligence information, coordination of drug operations, and improved targeting for all North Texas HIDTA investigations.

Investigative Support Center

The RISC, jointly led by a federal agency and a local police department, and staffed with intelligence analysts and officers from a variety of federal, state, and local LEAs, provides intelligence support to and shares information with all North Texas HIDTA member agencies.

This initiative operates a Watch Center for officer safety that provides subject and drug operations deconfliction to all LEAs within the region. Each year, the RISC provides more than 5,000 event and subject

deconflictions for LEAs in the HIDTA region. It also directly supports the North Texas HIDTA investigative initiatives by identifying major DTOs and providing analyses of the patterns and trends of these organizations. Last year, 644 intelligence profiles were prepared and more than 10,000 database searches were conducted.

The RISC also is responsible for profiling significant and/or new drugs of abuse and the associated distribution methods; identifying crimes related to drug trafficking and their relationship to the targeted DTOs; providing research for North Texas HIDTA initiatives using all major law enforcement intelligence systems and public information databases; providing specific case support to the North Texas HIDTA investigative initiatives; and promoting LEAs' participation in the RISC.

The East Texas Intelligence Unit, led by a federal agency and located in Smith County at Tyler, TX, functions as a branch of the RISC. It provides intelligence services and other investigative assistance in East Texas to federal, state, and local drug enforcement agencies and task forces.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Housing and Urban Development, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Department of Defense.

State: Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas National Guard.

Local: Collin County Sheriff's Office, Dallas County District Attorney, Dallas

County Sheriff's Office, Denton County Sheriff's Office, Ellis County Sheriff's Office, Gregg County Sheriff's Office, Gregg County District Attorney, Harrison County District Attorney, Smith County Sheriff's Office, Smith County District Attorney, Navarro County Sheriff's Office, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Arlington Police Department, Carrollton Police Department, Coppell Police Department, Dallas Police Department, Denton Police Department, DFW International Airport Department of Public Safety, Euless Police Department, Fort Worth Police Department, Garland Police Department, Grapevine Police Department, Irving Police Department, Longview Police Department, Marshall Police Department, Plano Police Department, Richardson Police Department, Tyler Police Department.

Significant Achievements

A long-term investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)-led Violent Crime/Fugitive Task Force comprised of officers from the Dallas Police Department, Garland Police Department, and ATF. This investigation successfully dismantled the North Texas Chapter of the Aryan Brotherhood (AB). The AB members were recruited, organized, and formed into local units within the confines of the Texas prison system. These AB members are primarily violent, multiple-conviction felons who had been involved in narcotics and firearm trafficking, burglaries, theft, armed robberies, shootings, assaults, and murders.

The investigation centered on the AB chapter in the DFW region. The AB concentrated their efforts on methamphetamine production and trafficking. They utilized firearms for intimidation, retaliation, and as barter for methamphetamine and precursor chemicals. One defendant described how he planned armed robberies of

his competitors to steal the drugs and eliminate his competition in the local methamphetamine market.

A total of 19 defendants were presented for federal prosecution on firearms and narcotics trafficking violations. The majority of these individuals faced long federal sentences under mandatory firearm sentencing guidelines. No less than 23 pounds methamphetamine were purchased and seized during the course of the investigation. A total of 63 firearms were seized, purchased, or recovered, with 19 of the firearms reported as stolen.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)-led Collin-Denton County Drug Task Force (CDCDTF), along with the Denton Police Department's (DPD) Narcotics Unit, initiated an investigation into the Catlin Family Organization (CFO). The DPD Narcotics Unit had developed information over the past several years that the CFO was responsible for operating a crack cocaine distribution and money laundering organization in Denton, TX. Despite numerous attempts, the DPD had been unsuccessful in infiltrating this organization or developing prosecutable cases against its upper-echelon members.

This investigation indicated that the CFO had contact with major cocaine suppliers in Dallas, TX, and were responsible for making the arrangements for the crack cocaine to be picked up and payments delivered to the Dallas, TX, suppliers. Members of the CFO were responsible for making deliveries to the street-level dealers, who in turn sold to the crack cocaine users.

As a result of this two-year investigation, 16 members of this organization were indicted in a 24-count federal indictment in the Eastern District of Texas on drug conspiracy and possession with intent to deliver. To date,

subjects have been sentenced to a total of 94 years in federal custody. The DPD Narcotics Unit estimates that this investigation reduced

the amount of crack cocaine in the Denton area by 65 percent. *Information above was provided by the North Texas HIDTA.*

Northern California HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1997

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (415) 436-8530

Mission Statement

The mission of the Northern California HIDTA (NC HIDTA) in support of the National Drug Control Policy (NDCP) is to measurably reduce the impact of regional drug production, trafficking, and distribution of illicit drugs and drug-related violence in the 10 San Francisco Bay Area counties that comprise the NC HIDTA, as well as in other regions of the state and country. This mission is accomplished through initiatives specializing in intelligence, investigation, interdiction, prosecution, and demand reduction. The Executive Board may direct, as appropriate, other threats in support of the NDCP that may benefit the region as a whole.

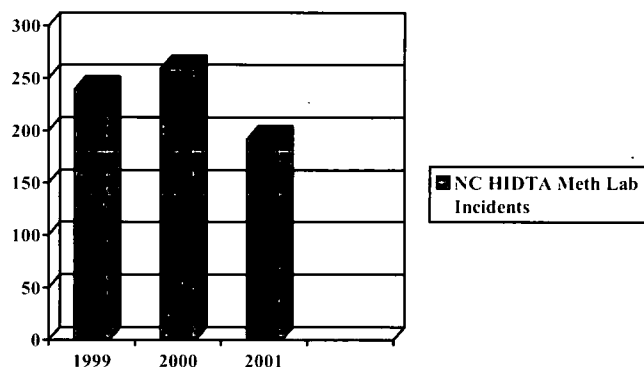
Threat Abstract

The 10 counties surrounding the San Francisco Bay Area continue to be primary manufacturing, transshipment, distribution, and consumption areas for illegal drugs. This can be attributed to a number of

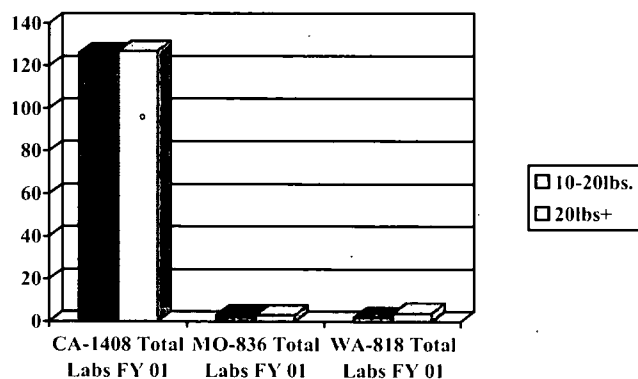
economic, demographic, and geographic factors, including the large population base of approximately 7 million people, major national and international transportation centers, and racial and ethnic diversity. The region is a center for international banking and finance, and boasts a robust economic climate. This document examines trends and related factors for the purpose of identifying the illegal drug threat in this region. Specific findings follow.

Methamphetamine is rapidly becoming the drug of choice for the western United States and much of the rest of the country. California has been identified as the source country for methamphetamine. The three states responsible for the largest number of methamphetamine labs are California, Missouri, and Washington. While all three show very high total-lab numbers, it is easy to see that California is responsible for the vast majority of the super labs, those with a production range of 10 to 20 pounds and the above-20-pound per cook range. The NC

HIDTA region is a source of supply for both methamphetamine and its precursors, and equipment utilized in its manufacture. The user population is diverse. Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) serve as the primary manufacturing and distribution groups for methamphetamine.



The number of methamphetamine lab seizures has increased substantially in recent years. In 1990, the California State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) dismantled 286 clandestine laboratories in California. In 2001, the number rose to 1,862 labs. Law enforcement is presented with the enormous cost of investigation and environmental cleanup. Local gangs are the primary distributors of illegal narcotics at the street level. Gangs use firearms and violence to protect their territories and supplies. Gang violence is increasing and strongly associated with the methamphetamine trade.



Cocaine and heroin prices remain stable in the region, indicating continuous availability to users. Cocaine and black tar heroin continue to be smuggled across the Mexican border and shipped to the NC HIDTA area via Mexican DTOs. San Jose, the East Bay, and Southern Monterey County, in turn, serve as transshipment points for the Pacific Northwest and Midwest.

Sinsemilla marijuana, grown in the NC HIDTA region, is a high-potency form of marijuana that is in great demand throughout the country. The THC content continues to increase for this product.

Indoor cultivation of marijuana is increasing due to law enforcement's outdoor eradication efforts. The indoor growing operations are difficult to detect and are labor intensive to investigate and dismantle.

Strategy Abstract

The NC HIDTA area includes the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma. The Executive Board is comprised of 16 federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders from the region. The NC HIDTA administrative and intelligence initiatives are located in the San Francisco Federal Building. The 14 enforcement initiatives are located throughout the 10-county NC HIDTA area. The NC HIDTA comprises 10,866 square miles, including eight Indian reservations, 100 local and state law enforcement agencies (LEAs), and 15 federal agencies. The administrative and intelligence initiatives act as focal points for the fiscal, deconfliction, and analytical support of the enforcement initiatives. The 14 initiatives address a wide range of drug trafficking activities, including smuggling, manufacturing, distribution, violent crimes, and money laundering.

Northern California offers many avenues for smuggling narcotics—two major interstate freeways, several intrastate highways, three deepwater ports, rail and bus hubs, and 16 municipal and three international airports, as well as major parcel transfer and U.S. Postal Service facilities.

Investigative Support Center

In support of the initiatives, the NC HIDTA has created a narcotic information network. This regional network, called the Bay Area Narcotics Information Network (BAYNIN), provides operational deconfliction through the Statewide Investigative Network System (SINS) run by the California Department of Justice. This deconfliction system provides officer safety to all enforcement groups that are operating within the 10 Bay Area counties, and is collocated with the Los Angeles Clearing House (L.A. CLEAR). The San Diego Regional Intelligence Center, Central Valley HIDTA, Hawaii HIDTA, Nevada HIDTA, and the Northwest HIDTA in the state of Washington also utilize the SINS system.

All agencies within the NC HIDTA have access to numerous law enforcement and commercial database services. Intelligence analysts are available to assist HIDTA agencies with case development, court presentations, and financial analyses. Case support from agency-provided intelligence analysts complements multi-jurisdictional cases and prevents duplication of effort. Proactive analysis of drug trafficking trends assists agencies in deploying assets in the most efficient manner.

A regional equipment pool has been established by BAYNIN to make high-technology counterdrug equipment available to all agencies within the NC HIDTA. The 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week pool specializes

in equipment that is used frequently on a regional basis, but is too expensive for a single agency to own. Three contract technicians are available to train agents on the use of the equipment or to install it as necessary.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, U.S. Marshals Service, Joint Inter-Agency Task Force-West, U.S. Attorney's Office-Northern District of California.

State/Local: California Department of Justice-Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, California National Guard, California Highway Patrol, California State Park Police, Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Marin County Sheriff's Office, Monterey County Sheriff's Office, San Benito County Sheriff's Office, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, Alameda County District Attorney's Office, San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office, Alameda Police Department, Capitola Police Department, Clear Lake Police Department, Gilroy Police Department, Hollister Police Department, Lakeport Police Department, Morgan Hill Police Department, Navato Police Department, Richmond Police Department, Salinas Police Department, San Francisco Police Department, San Jose Police Department, San Pablo Police Department, Santa Cruz Police Department, Vallejo Police Department, Watsonville

Police Department, Scotts Valley Police Department, Contra Costa County Probation Department, Lake County Probation Department, San Benito County Probation.

Significant Achievements

The South Bay Methamphetamine Task Force (SBMTF), a HIDTA initiative managed by the State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, consists of full-time collocated, federal, state, and local law enforcement resources. The SBMTF conducts investigations that target methamphetamine trafficking organizations.

From January 2001 to October 10, 2001, the SBMTF seized one PCP and 71 methamphetamine laboratories. Fifteen of the methamphetamine labs seized are considered to be Mexican drug organizations' super labs capable of manufacturing 10 to 100 pounds per cook. All current intelligence indicates that these Mexican drug organizations produce in excess of 80 percent of the methamphetamine sold in the United States. During the first nine months of 2001, the SBMTF was involved in investigations that led to the seizure of five large Mexican organized crime methamphetamine labs. Each of these labs was capable of producing approximately 100 pounds of methamphetamine per cook.

On February 9, 2001, the SBMTF, with the San Jose BNE Lab Team, conducted surveillance on a potential target in Hollister, CA. On February 10, 2001, agents served a search warrant on the location and seized a large-scale methamphetamine manufacturing operation. Agents arrested four suspects, and seized \$5,880 in U.S. currency, 116 pounds of methamphetamine, and approximately 20

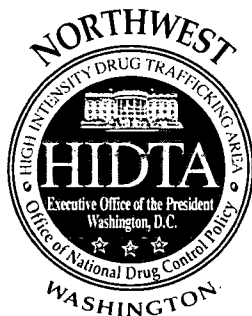
gallons of methamphetamine in solution. SBMTF agents processed two large dumpsites in the following days. Evidence tied them to the Hollister seizure and indicated that the group had produced up to 500 pounds of methamphetamine in the past year. Post-seizure analysis indicated a significant decrease in the wholesale availability of methamphetamine in the area.

On April 29, 2001 members of the SBMTF with BNE, Santa Cruz County Narcotic Enforcement Team (SCCNET), the Unified Narcotic Enforcement Team (UNET), the Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SCCSET), and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, seized a methamphetamine laboratory in Watsonville, CA. Five adults were arrested as they fled the lab site. The suspects had just begun to gas the methamphetamine and approximately 55 gallons of methamphetamine in solution were seized. If fully processed, the methamphetamine in solution could have yielded approximately 220 pounds of finished product. Analysis showed that this group supplied a three-county area, and, for a three-to-four-week period, the methamphetamine source of supply was eliminated. This lab seizure was linked to eight lab dumpsites in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties.

These examples show how HIDTA Task Forces, such as the SBMTF and the SCNET, working in conjunction with other county and state agencies and non-HIDTA task forces, combined their efforts and achieved notable success. They focused on common targets and were responsible for the arrest of 27 suspects and the seizure of approximately 16 pounds of methamphetamine, cash, guns, vehicles, and production equipment.

Information above was provided by the Northern California HIDTA.

Northwest HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (206) 352-3600

Mission Statement

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

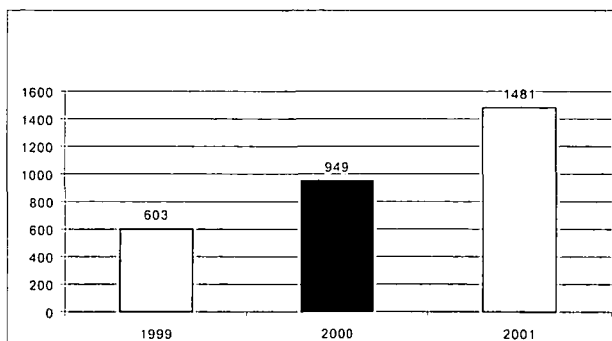
Threat Abstract

The 14 Northwest HIDTA counties in the state of Washington stretch 275 miles from the United States-Canada border to the north to the state's southern border with Oregon along the Columbia River. In the west the counties encircle the Puget Sound waterway, which opens to the Pacific Ocean, and in the east, the area spans more than 300 miles to the Idaho border. Washington State's 5.8-million population is concentrated primarily

in the west with most of its industry. The eastern half of the state is primarily an agricultural area supported by significant numbers of migrant workers.

Washington's highway system remains the most commonly used method of moving drugs into and through the region.

Washington State Clandestine Lab Seizures (Includes Labs, Dumpsites, Chemical and Equipment Seizures)



Traffickers extensively use routes through national forest land and national parks to move drugs and money on land.

At the United States-Canada border, high-potency marijuana, or BC Bud, continues to come south into the HIDTA, and cocaine and money move north into Canada. Because of market saturation in British Columbia, officials estimated 75 percent to 85 percent of this crop—valued at more than \$1 billion—moves into the U.S. market through Washington, the primary staging area for marijuana being transported to states as far away as Florida.

Seizures of methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA), or Ecstasy, from Canada appear to be increasing. Mexican-led drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) use the highway system to move black tar heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine into the state from California and Arizona. Because of the increased vigilance at high-use border ports of entry (POE) since the September 11 incident, land routes in the eastern half of the state are seeing increased drug smuggling activity.

The Puget Sound contains numerous islands and an extensive internal shoreline. More than one million U.S.- and Canadian-registered vessels use the waterway between the two countries for commercial and recreational purposes. In addition, the combined ports of Seattle and Tacoma are the second busiest in the United States with more than 3 million 20-foot containers annually. Increased enforcement efforts at land POEs have resulted in the increased use of maritime routes to transport drugs.

Seven international airports, 138 public-landing sites, 100 heliports, and numerous private-landing sites serve Washington State. Smugglers moving illicit cargoes via

air transportation increasingly exploit the open-skies policy between the United States and Canada.

Locally obtained and imported precursors are used to cook a significant supply of methamphetamine on state land, mostly in rural areas. Washington was ranked third in the Nation in lab seizures on 2001. Indoor marijuana grows also provide a substantial supply of high-potency cannabis for state residents. Outdoor grows are more likely to be found in the eastern half of the state. The unregulated wire remitter service in the state is the primary method Mexican DTOs use to move illegal drug proceeds back to Mexico.

Strategy Abstract

The design and placement of Northwest HIDTA initiatives brings a unique combination of law enforcement and prevention programs together to respond to the drug threat in the Pacific Northwest. The initiatives incorporate both sparse rural and dense urban areas. The geographic and demographic characteristics mandate initiatives that meet the respective needs of each region. This approach to countering illegal drugs encompasses the five mutually supportive disciplines of intelligence, investigation, interdiction, education, and prevention.

HIDTA initiatives leverage existing task forces and funding sources to create even stronger enforcement programs. Although each agency might have their own individual drug enforcement strategy, the HIDTA program unites and combines resources for greater effectiveness against drug law violators.

Initiatives stress the partnership, sharing, and collocation of multi-jurisdictional task forces throughout the HIDTA area. These

enforcement groups concentrate efforts against the high-value DTOs operating within the Northwest HIDTA counties and against the four most common drugs of abuse: methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. A transportation task force concentrates on the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, as well as other means of transshipping drugs and drug profits.

The Northwest HIDTA coordinates and synchronizes its task force efforts by providing investigative support and intelligence information to them. Because smuggling on the United States-Canada border is commonplace, a tactical intelligence center was located adjacent to the border. This Integrated Border Intelligence Team (IBIT) directly services border interdiction and enforcement teams, while coordinating with the HIDTA's investigative support center (ISC). Border smugglers are arrested and charged in Washington State courts or the U.S. Attorney's Office. A HIDTA-funded Whatcom County Deputy Prosecutor charges such individuals in state and county courts.

The Northwest HIDTA support initiatives include efforts to promote drug education, support drug courts, and build community coalitions.

Investigative Support Center

The Northwest HIDTA ISC is composed of several components, including an information services unit, an analytical unit, and an administrative unit with a technical equipment program and information technology (IT) component.

The information services unit includes a Watch Center that provides critical event

deconfliction support to participating law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in HIDTA-designated counties for officer safety. It is linked to the Western State Information Network (WSIN), which is a member of the national Regional Information Sharing System (RISS). The Watch Center coordinates critical drug intelligence information among federal, state, and local agencies. The unit has the strategic function of preparing the threat assessment and the annual report. In addition, the unit prepares special studies and augments the analytical unit in its investigative support services.

The analytical unit enhances LEAs' investigative functions through the delivery of analytical services, including communication analyses, such as servicing digital number recorders (DNRs) and toll activity during Title IIIs, mapping cell-site activity, and linking targets; database research using multi-agency and commercial databases; production of charts and graphs; post-seizure evidence analyses; and preparing written analytical reports and PowerPoint presentations. These products are provided to assist the supported agencies with preparations for legal processes. Written products or investigation reports are provided to the supported agencies for use in their reporting systems. Many of the investigations supported are designated Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) cases, have a money laundering element, or are complex and long in duration.

The technical equipment program loans, services, and installs evidence-gathering technical equipment needed to conduct drug investigations by federal, state, and local agencies. The IT personnel design, install, and support all the information processing systems in the ISC and augment the Northwest HIDTA initiatives' IT activities.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Yakima Tribal Police; Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, Department of Defense's JTF-6; U.S. Border Patrol; U.S. Coast Guard-13th District, Seattle; U.S. Customs Service; U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Service

State/Local: Washington State Patrol, Washington State Department of Corrections, and Washington National Guard; Benton County, Clark County, Cowlitz County, Franklin County, King County, Kitsap County, Lewis County, Pierce County, Skagit County, Snohomish County, Spokane County, Thurston County, Whatcom County, and Yakima County Sheriff's Offices; Pierce County, Thurston County, Whatcom County, and Yakima County Prosecutor's Offices; Auburn, Bellevue, Bellingham, Black Diamond, Blaine, Bonny Lake, Bothell, Everett, Grandview, Granger, Lacey, Marysville, Mount Vernon, Olympia, Port of Seattle, Puyallup, Seattle, Spokane, Sumner, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Tacoma, Tumwater, Union Gap, and Yakima Police Departments; Federal Way Department of Public Safety

Other: Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse; Washington State Office of Lieutenant Governor; Washington National Guard Counterdrug Program; University of Washington; Washington State Labor Council; Washington State Alcohol/Drug Clearinghouse and Helpline; King County, Pierce County, Skagit County, Snohomish County, Thurston County, Whatcom County, and Yakima County

Superior Courts; King County Department of Judicial Administration; Snohomish County Human Services Department; Pierce County Alliance; Thurston County TOGETHER!; Pierce County Human Services Department; Seattle and King County Public Health Department; Yakima County Substance Abuse Coalition; Skagit County Human Services Department; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Whatcom County

Significant Achievements

An OCDETF case was approved in April 2001 after detectives from the Seattle Police Department and investigators from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division and the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service began making controlled buys of the hallucinogenic drug MDMA out of the Club FX nightclub, which operated rave parties in Seattle. The drugs were being distributed at the rave parties and dance clubs catering to younger clientele, many under age 21. The dealers bragged that they had access to large amounts of MDMA and that management and security at the club were involved in the distribution.

The Seattle Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-led HIDTA integrated task force joined the investigation, designated Operation E-Trade. Additional controlled buys in larger amounts were made and higher-level suspects were developed. During the course of the investigation, ties to the DEA investigation and approved OCDETF Operation Ultra E case were revealed. The two approved OCDETF cases were combined with Operation E-Trade focusing on distributors and Operation Ultra E targeting the suppliers. Though not incorporated in this OCDETF case, several other linked peripheral cases were later identified.

Investigative techniques involved undercover purchases of drugs, use of sources, interviews, use of pen registers and phone-toll analysis, and surveillance. Probable cause for an affidavit for a Title III was developed, and the Title III results ultimately established clear evidence to incriminate upper-level members of the DTOs involved. The U.S. Attorney's Office-Western District of Washington provided continuing legal guidance to ensure compliance with federal law and the successful prosecution of the suspects.

On January 23 and 24, 2002, the HIDTA integrated task force, under DEA's direction, coordinated the efforts of approximately 220 law enforcement officers in the execution of 44 federal search warrants. Federal indictments charged 35 defendants with conspiracy to distribute 50,000 tablets of Ecstasy, five kilograms of cocaine, a half-kilogram of methamphetamine, and 257 pounds of marijuana. The lengthy investigation resulted in the arrest of 67 individuals and the seizure of

approximately \$368,000 in cash, 14 vehicles valued at \$279,030, \$7,500 in counterfeit currency, 14 guns, and jewelry and other property valued at \$13,850. This was the first major multi-jurisdictional MDMA investigation in the Pacific Northwest and only the second Title III-MDMA investigation in the Nation. As part of the plea agreements, two defendants were required to give prevention speeches to youth groups on the dangers of club drugs.

Assisting agencies included DEA offices in Los Angeles, Portland, Sacramento, Phoenix, Orlando, and Ottawa; Seattle Police Department; King County Sheriff's Office; Eastside Narcotics Task Force; South Snohomish County Drug Task Force; Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force; Oak Harbor Police Department; Portland Bureau of Police; Naval Criminal Investigative Service; U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Division-Ft. Lewis; Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division; and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Information above was provided by the Northwest HIDTA.

New York/New Jersey HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

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

Contact: (646) 805-6105

Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

Crime in New York City has decreased dramatically over the last six years, and is now at its lowest level in more than 35 years. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) index statistics, New York City has been the safest large city in America since 1995. Despite law enforcement's tremendous accomplishments, communities in the New York metropolitan area still are plagued by illegal drugs and related crime. The NY/NJ HIDTA region

remains one of the Nation's major marketplaces and gateways for narcotics trafficking for several reasons.

New York City presents an ideal location for the importation of drugs from around the world. With 20 million people from more than 100 different countries living in the area, millions of people and packages travel through New York City every day. More than 20 million international passengers and more than 100 million tons of freight pass through the region's three major airports—John F. Kennedy, Newark, and LaGuardia—each year.

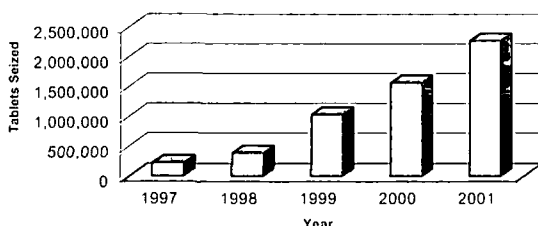
Numerous other transportation hubs are located throughout the area, including several domestic airports, the railroad complexes of Grand Central and Pennsylvania stations, and hundreds of miles of subway tracks. The New York metropolitan area also has an extensive waterfront and various points of entry for shipping cargo of every size and type and a

complex network of highways and bridges that bring more than one billion people into New York City each year. Each of these transportation avenues serves as a potential entry point for illegal drugs.

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

Over the past several years, seizures of Ecstasy in the New York metropolitan area have skyrocketed. The U.S. Customs Service (USCS) reports that seizures of Ecstasy in the New York metropolitan area have increased from 225,000 pills in 1997 to 2,276,191 pills in 2001, an increase of 912 percent. These figures indicate that Ecstasy is soaring in popularity, and thus becoming one of the biggest drug threats to the New York region. The following graph depicts the continuous rise in seizures over the last five years.

**Ecstasy Seizures
New York metropolitan area
1997 - 2001**



Strategy Abstract

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

- Intelligence
- The Regional Intelligence Center
- HIDTANET (technology)
- Enforcement
- El Dorado Task Force
- Regional Fugitive Task Force
- FBI Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force
- DEA HIDTA Group
- New Jersey Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force
- Support
- Regional Training Center
- Support Services

Investigative Support Center

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

The 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week Watch Section provides law enforcement with immediate one-stop-shopping access to a wide range of law enforcement and

commercial databases. RIC analysts have access to virtually all law enforcement and commercial computer records. Inquiries can be run on persons, vehicles, businesses, addresses, and telephone numbers, among other things. Each of these queries also becomes a permanent record in the RIC database, which is modeled after the El Paso Intelligence Center's (EPIC's) internal database and serves as a pointer-index for all requestors.

The Borough Intelligence Section consists of investigators from the New York Police Department (NYPD), and is divided geographically into eight borough intelligence teams (BITs) throughout New York City. The mission of the BITs is to provide a comprehensive, integrated picture of crime block-by-block, precinct-by-precinct throughout the city. Each BIT includes a field intelligence officer (FIO) for every precinct in that BIT's geographic area of responsibility. The BITs have access to all intelligence reports within the NYPD and its task forces, and are responsible for providing a timely and complete criminal intelligence picture in order to effectively drive enforcement decisions.

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

The Gun Center, led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), is the central location for all criminal and regulatory firearm information. The Gun Center gathers and consolidates all aspects of intelligence on illegal firearm use and trafficking and makes that information

available to law enforcement 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Priority Targeting Section (PTS) consists of investigators and analysts, and is responsible for providing a comprehensive, integrated intelligence picture of the most significant DTOs and other violent organizations in the New York metropolitan area. Teams are responsible for designated geographic areas.

The three satellite intelligence centers are: Westchester Intelligence Center, New Jersey Intelligence Center, and the non-HIDTA-funded Rockland County Intelligence Center.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Reserve Bank, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Army National Guard, U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Department of Defense's JTF-6, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Probation, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Social Security Administration.

State:

New York: NY National Guard, NY State Banking Department, NY State Commission of Investigation, NY State Department of Corrections, NY State Division of Parole, NY State Police, Waterfront Commission.
New Jersey: NJ Attorney General's Office, NJ Department of Corrections, NJ Division of Criminal Justice, NJ National Guard, NJ State Parole, NJ State Police.

Local:

New York: Amityville Police Department, Bronx County DA's Office, Clarkstown Police Department, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, Kings County DA's Office, Mt. Vernon Police Department, Nassau County DA's Office, Nassau County Police Department, New York City Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office, New York City Department of Correction, New York City Department of Investigation, New York City Police Department, New York County DA's Office, Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for New York City, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Poughkeepsie Police Department, Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Queens County DA's Office, Ramapo Police Department, Richmond County DA's Office, Rockland County DA's Office, Rockland County Sheriff's Department, Stony Point Police Department, Suffolk County DA's Office, Suffolk Westchester County Police Department, White Plains Police Department, Yonkers Police Department.

New Jersey: Bayonne Police Department, Camden Police Department, East Brunswick Police Department, East Orange Police Department, Elizabeth Police Department, Essex County Police Department, Essex County Sheriff's Department, Fort Lee Police Department, Hamilton Police Department, Jersey City Police Department, Montclair Police Department, Newark County Police Department, Suffolk County Probation Department, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Westchester County Department of Correction, Westchester County Department of Public Safety, Westchester County DA's Office, Police Department, Paterson Police Department, Trenton Police Department, and Prosecutor's Offices from the following

counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren.

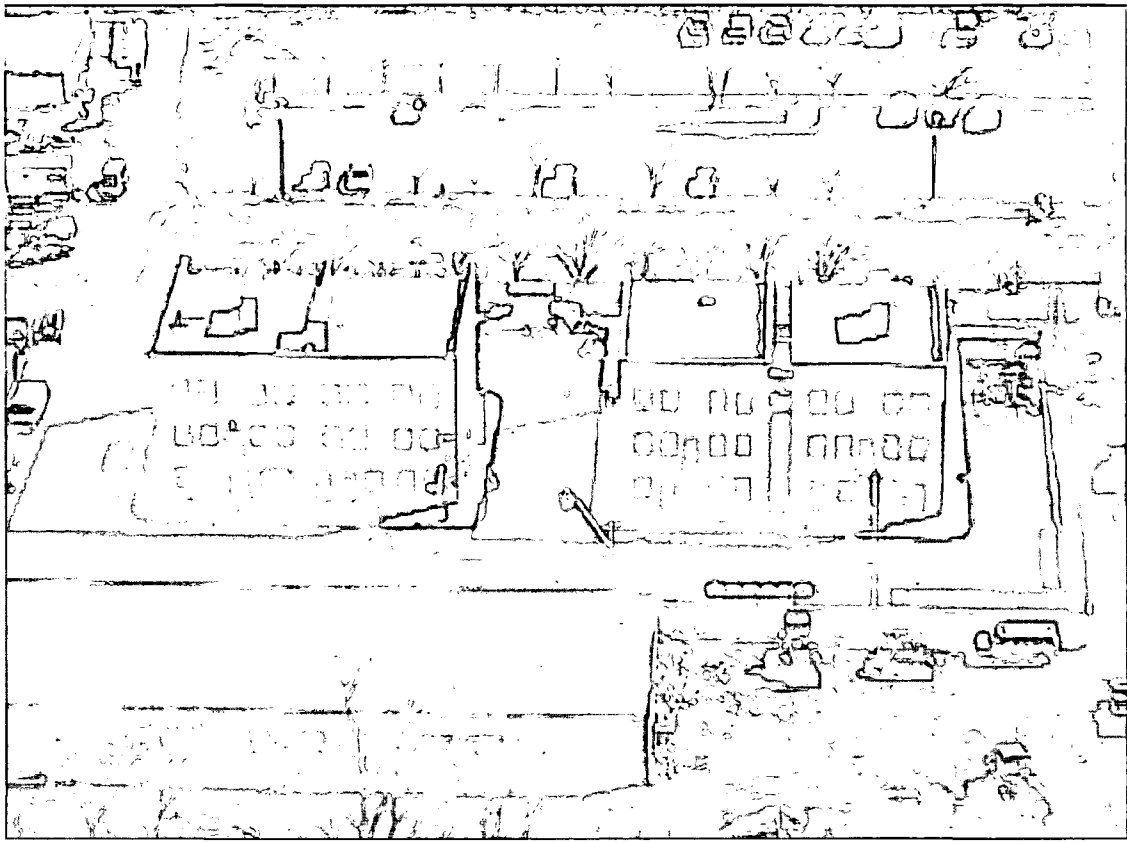
Significant Achievements

Every day law enforcement officers in the New York metropolitan area face potentially life-threatening situations, from executing a search warrant, to investigating shots fired on the rooftop of a building, to making undercover drug purchases in an apartment, and so on. Until recently, law enforcement did not have adequate facilities to train and prepare officers for these potentially dangerous situations.

In 2000, the U.S. Department of Defense's JTF-6 built a four-building simulated city street (Phase I of the project) called the Urban Training Center (UTC). The UTC is located at the NYPD firing range in the Bronx and is available to the federal, state, and local law enforcement community for training. In 2001, JTF-6 built a 10,000-square-foot classroom for law enforcement students across the street from the four training buildings (Phase II).

The UTC was been built at no cost to the NY/NJ HIDTA, other than materials, because JTF-6 donated the labor of approximately 50 soldiers for a total of nine months.

Buildings One and Two, which were completed in 2000, were used to train more than 1,800 law enforcement personnel in 2001. Buildings Three, Four, and the classroom will be available for training in 2002. The site is shown in the photo on the following page.



Information above was provided by the New York/New Jersey HIDTA.

Ohio HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (216) 739-3500

Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

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

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

The primary drug threat to the Ohio HIDTA region has been, and continues to be, cocaine in both powder and crack forms. Many drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) exist and operate in northern Ohio with no one group as the major player. The most significant DTOs in this region have connections with Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Mexico. Outlaw motorcycle clubs, other ethnic-based groups, and street gangs also are involved in drug trafficking activity in this region.

Typical methods of distribution include the use of well-developed interstate highways, including I-80, I-90, I-75, I-77, and I-71, and

the transport of drugs by travelers on commercial airline flights, although a considerable decline in the latter method has occurred because of increased airport security.

Besides cocaine trafficking, northern Ohio is contending with the new threat of heroin and a growing methamphetamine problem. Recent data from the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) reveal a dramatic increase in the number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures in Ohio. In 2001, 87 clandestine labs were seized compared with 29 in the previous year and 16 in 1999. The easy manufacture of this illicit drug, coupled with its serious health risks, makes methamphetamine an especially salient concern in this region.

Marijuana is ubiquitous in Ohio as it is elsewhere, and constitutes the most commonly available and abused drug in this region. The so-called designer drugs or club drugs, such as gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and Ecstasy, have become popular among young adults and juveniles, and pose a threat to users who often view these drugs as relatively harmless and benign.

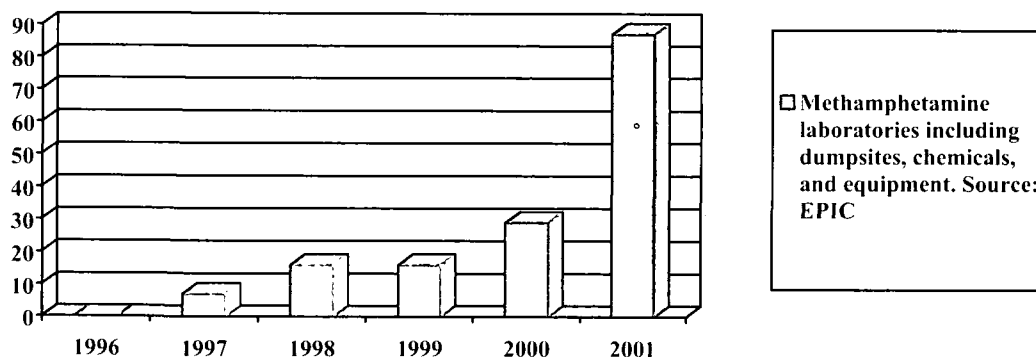
Strategy Abstract

The overall investigative strategy of the Ohio HIDTA consists of 10 multi-agency, metropolitan task forces representing the

geographic territory of the five-county region. Each task force develops its own strategies based on a regional threat assessment, and structures the task force to achieve the primary goals of the Ohio HIDTA. This is accomplished through the development of Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigations. Each task force submits annual proposals for multi-agency initiatives designed to focus Ohio HIDTA resources on major narcotics and money laundering organizations.

An initiatives budget subcommittee, in conjunction with the lead OCDETF attorney for the district, reviews all task force investigations to ensure the appropriate use of Ohio HIDTA resources, and that cases are submitted for Ohio HIDTA and OCDETF designation.

The Ohio HIDTA Executive Board, which is made up of eight federal and eight local and state law enforcement executives, through its subcommittees, coordinates the integration and synchronization of efforts to dismantle organizations, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and improve the systematic sharing of intelligence. The Ohio HIDTA Executive Board monitors the implementation of this strategy to ensure that the efforts of the Ohio HIDTA produce the desired impact, and to determine whether the distribution of resources is



consistent with the overall Ohio HIDTA strategy. The initiatives include:

- Management and Coordination
- Investigative Support Center
- Caribbean/Gang Drug Task Force
- DEA Youngstown Task Force
- Akron/Summit County HIDTA Initiative
- Mahoning Valley Drug Task Force
- Northeast Ohio Interdiction Task Force
- Northwest Ohio HIDTA Task Force
- Stark County Violent Crimes Task Force
- Toledo Metro Drug Task Force
- HIDTA Money Laundering/Intelligence Initiative
- Commercial Vehicle/Intelligence Initiative

Investigative Support Center

The Ohio HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) became fully operational in early 2001. Through the use of numerous commercial and law enforcement databases, it now provides event deconfliction, case and subject deconfliction, post-seizure analyses, telephone toll and link analyses, intelligence profiles, Title III support, charts and graphs, trend and pattern analyses, financial and analytical case support, and training. The technical support and computer evidence recovery lab offers additional services to law enforcement.

All interdiction operations and investigations are coordinated through the ISC. The ISC also coordinates with federal and local intelligence networks, as well as other HDTAs to ensure connectivity. It brokers information to the metropolitan and interdiction task forces and, when appropriate, to non-participating law enforcement agencies (LEAs), in accordance with federal regulations.

The ISC also conducts surveys and provides analytical and investigative training to area

law enforcement personnel. Training is coordinated through the National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC), when possible, to maximize and coordinate training opportunities for all Ohio HIDTA task force personnel.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspector.

State/Local: Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Ohio National Guard, Akron Police Department, Alliance Police Department, Austintown Police Department, Bay Village Police Department, Beachwood Police Department, Beaver Township Police Department, Boardman Police Department, Canfield Police Department, Canton Police Department, Cleveland Police Department, Cleveland Heights Police Department, Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority Police Department, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, East Cleveland Police Department, Euclid Police Department, Geauga County Sheriff's Office, Independence Police Department, Jackson Township Police Department, Liberty Police Department, Louisville Police Department, Lucas County Sheriff's Office, Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, Massillon Police Department, Monroe County (MI) Sheriff's Office, Northwood Police Department, Orange Police Department, Parma Police Department, Perry Township Police Department, Perrysburg Township Police Department, Poland Township Police Department, Poland Village Police Department, Regional Transit Authority

Police Department, SEAL (Southeast Area Law Enforcement Narcotics), Shaker Heights Police Department, Stark County Sheriff's Office, Struther's Police Department, Summit County Sheriff's Office, Sylvania Police Department, Toledo Police Department, Trumbull County Sheriff's Office, Warrensville Heights Police Department, Westlake Police Department, Wickliffe Police Department, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Youngstown Police Department, Youngstown State University Police Department.

Significant Achievements

An Ohio Bureau of Investigation special agent conducted a large-scale marijuana investigation that was initiated in Mentor, OH. This investigation led to the indictment of six individuals from outside Lake County and the identification of the marijuana suppliers in Omaha, NE, and Tucson, AZ. The HIDTA supplied the manpower and equipment to construct flow charts that were used to indict the marijuana distribution organization's participants. The Ohio

HIDTA also funded travel to and from Tucson, AZ, and Omaha, NE, to arrest and interview the subjects. The case would not have progressed from the Northern District of Ohio without the resources that the HIDTA program provided to the special agent. Specifically, without the HIDTA, six local individuals would not have been arrested.

With HIDTA's involvement, 16 individuals were arrested and have subsequently pleaded guilty to federal charges of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute marijuana. More than \$2 million dollars in assets and more than \$2.8 million in U.S. currency were seized. The investigation involved seven states and four countries. The investigation revealed that the organization was responsible for more than 30 thousand pounds of marijuana entering the United States.

Information above was provided by the Ohio HIDTA.

Oregon HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1999

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Oregon: Clackamus, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Marion, Multnomah and Washington Counties

Contact: (503) 378-5123

Mission Statement

The mission of the Oregon HIDTA is to significantly contribute to the National Drug Control Strategy's efforts to reduce illegal drug use by 10 percent in the next two years and 25 percent in the next five years.

To accomplish the mission of the Oregon HIDTA, the Executive Board leverages, allocates, and focuses the available value-added HIDTA resources on federal, state, and local multi-agency law enforcement initiatives that have a direct relationship to: 1) modifying individual behavior in order to discourage drug use and addiction; and 2) disrupting the market for illegal drugs by dismantling the drug networks that transport and distribute drugs and illicit proceeds from their sale.

Initiatives include, but are not limited to, investigation, intelligence, investigative

support, interdiction, prosecution, and money laundering.

Threat Abstract

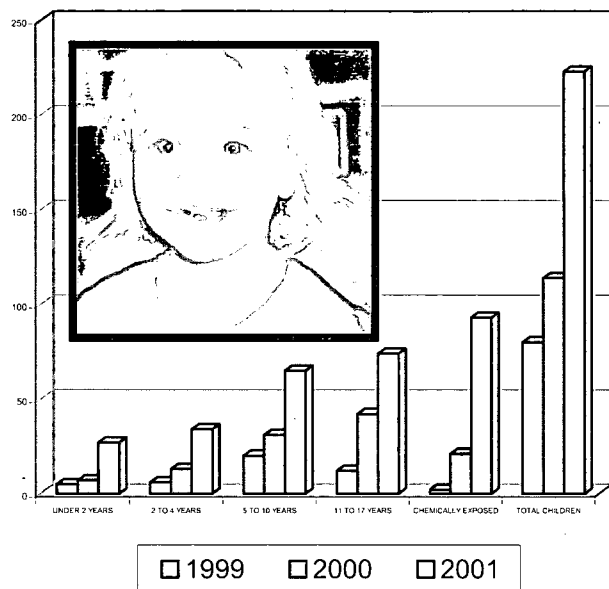
The greatest drug threat to Oregon citizens and visitors continues to be a steady increase in the demand and use of drugs, and addiction levels that are supported by criminal drug trafficking organizations.

Criminal DTOs, both foreign and local, represent the most serious supply and distribution sources in Oregon. These groups manufacture, transport, and/or distribute large quantities of methamphetamine, black tar heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and designer drugs, such as methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) or Ecstasy in Oregon.

Methamphetamine continues to be a serious and growing threat throughout Oregon and is currently the most personally and

environmentally dangerous drug problem in the state. During 2001, Oregon law enforcement reported 573 methamphetamine lab seizures. This was fifth highest in the Nation. Methamphetamine has become the stimulant drug of choice over cocaine.

CHILDREN PRESENT AT METHAMPHETAMINE LABS IN OREGON 1999-2001



Marijuana is the most abused illegal drug in Oregon. High-potency marijuana is grown locally, and trafficking of highly potent Canadian marijuana, or BC Bud, continues to have a significant impact in Oregon as well as the HIDTA counties and neighboring states.

In April 2002, a 1,300-plant indoor grow was discovered and seized in southern Oregon. On May 28th, 2002, a 9,744-plant grow was discovered and seized in the eastern Oregon county of Umatilla.

Black tar heroin continues to be a serious problem in the urban centers of Oregon and the abuse of the related prescription drug OxyContin is beginning to increase. Tar heroin is smuggled into Oregon by Hispanic DTOs, which tend to be polydrug traffickers

of cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, precursor chemicals, and heroin.

Club drug abuse, such as MDMA and gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) has continued to grow in popularity with young people in Oregon. On March 3, 2001, a 19-year-old woman died from using MDMA after a rave party. In April 2002, the 21-year-old who sold her the drug was convicted and sentenced for criminally negligent homicide, becoming the first person in Oregon to be held criminally responsible for selling the club drugs that caused another person to die.

Strategy Abstract

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

- Provide enhanced, multi-agency, criminal investigation, enforcement, and prosecution teams that serve as deterrents to drug trafficking
- Provide an intelligence and investigative support center (ISC) to serve as a one-stop shop for criminal research, analytical case support, information exchange, and case coordination services, which is often referred to as deconfliction
- Conduct enforcement operations and investigations that inhibit illegal drug use
- Conduct enforcement operations and investigations that serve as powerful catalysts for addicted users to obtain drug treatment
- Conduct enforcement operations and investigations that disrupt the drug market and available supply of illegal drugs to inhibit drug use

- Conduct enforcement operations and investigations that dismantle DTOs using systematic and thorough investigations that lead to successful criminal prosecutions and forfeiture of illicit assets.

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

Investigative Support Center

The Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the Oregon HIDTA's central information and research component. The ISC maintains an all-crimes criminal intelligence database—the Oregon State Information Network (OSIN)—that can be accessed via the Watch Center by phone or electronically over the secure Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET). This database communicates seamlessly with the Western States Information Network (WSIN) database serving the five western states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

The ISC also provides the collocation and commingling of other vital federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel and databases to assist all regional law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in counterdrug investigations, eradication, and interdiction. The ISC provides event and case coordination and deconfliction services for officer safety and enhanced intelligence production; strategic intelligence for refined targeting and officer resource allocation; and in-service analytical intelligence training.

The Center also supplies participating agencies and HIDTA task forces with operational analytical support for ongoing, initiative-driven case activity through access

to multiple criminal and commercial databases. The ISC provides narcotics intelligence analyses; prepares threat assessments, strategic reports, and organizational studies; performs post-seizure and search warrant analyses; supports arrest operations; prepares and conducts briefings for visitors to the HIDTA; and assists in trial preparations. In addition, the ISC conducts self-initiated intelligence analysis projects to generate leads for HIDTA investigative agencies.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Attorney's Offices in Oregon.

State/Local: Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon State Police, Deschutes County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Crook County Sheriff's Department, Bend Police Department, Redmond Police Department, Madras Police Department, Prineville Police Department, Warm Springs Tribal Police, Oregon National Guard, Deschutes County District Attorney's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Medford Police Department, Ashland Police Department, Jackson County District Attorney's Office, Salem Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Department, Keizer Police Department, Woodburn Police Department, Silverton Police Department, Marion County District Attorney's Office.

Other: Oregon Chiefs of Police Association and Sheriff's Association, Oregon District Attorney's Association,

Oregon State Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Director's Association of Oregon.

Significant Achievements

The Oregon HIDTA ISC represents the most significant enhancement to Oregon's drug enforcement efforts. It serves federal, state, and local law enforcement as a one-stop service center for criminal research, intelligence collection, case coordination, and information analysis.

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

The HIDTA program funding enabled the OCIU to enhance its facility and services by web-enabling the database via RISSNET; created electronic case and event coordination and deconfliction; and upgrade equipment and analytical support services to drug investigators in the field.

Federal, state, and local investigators can access the criminal intelligence database electronically to make inquiries and get real-time results or make clan-lab, gang, drug, terrorism, or general criminal intelligence submissions to the database. Electronic geo-mapping is also available for coordination, deconfliction, and tactical planning purposes.

In addition, total electronic deconfliction is available for both case investigations and events, such as search warrants and undercover buy busts. All activities are overseen by a Watch Center, and occur via the secure RISSNET. Many other criminal case research links are available and more will be added as the system grows. A seamless exchange of information is being developed with the OCIU/ISC database and the WSIN database in Sacramento, CA. The objective is to ensure that all Oregon criminal intelligence is shared with WSIN and available via RISSNET for federal, state, or local law enforcement query and research purposes.

The OSIN system is almost fully operational. As of October 2002, beta testing is nearly completed, and the system will be ready to be completely deployed to the HIDTA counties, and then statewide. This would not have been possible without the provision of federal HIDTA funds.

Information above was provided by the Oregon HIDTA.

Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1995

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

<i>Pennsylvania:</i>	Philadelphia County
<i>New Jersey:</i>	City of Camden within Camden County
<i>Contact:</i>	(215) 560-1661 or www.hidta.info

Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

The PCHIDTA was designated in 1995. Philadelphia remains a center of activity for the importation, wholesale distribution, and street-level sale of illegal drugs on the East Coast.

The location of Philadelphia and Camden on the Eastern Seaboard, particularly their proximity to New York, places the cities on one of the busiest illegal drug transit routes in the country. Major interstate rail and

highway systems; a major international airport that is one of the fastest growing in the world; and key shipping terminals on the 100-mile waterfront along the Delaware River facilitate drug trafficking into and through the region.

The Port of Philadelphia/Camden is a major international seaport, the second largest seaport in the Nation. Multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine are trafficked through this port. Major New York drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) use Philadelphia as a transshipment point for their drugs, drug proceeds, and illegal guns. New York gangs have expanded their territory to the outskirts of the area.

There are approximately 300 open-air drug markets in Philadelphia and 135 in Camden, which is separated from Philadelphia by the Delaware River. Cocaine remains readily available, with a purity of 80 percent to 90 percent, priced at \$28,000 to \$35,000 per kilogram. The Philadelphia County Medical

Examiner reported that of the 216 drug-induced or caused deaths by a single drug, cocaine was present in 65 percent of the decedents.

Philadelphia heroin is known for having the highest level of purity in the Nation, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Five of the top heroin brands seized in the PCHIDTA area are Super Nautica, White Control, White House, 911, and Landover. Heroin is plentiful, inexpensive, easily administered—snorted rather than taken intravenously—and aggressively marketed. Philadelphia is the source city for the PCHIDTA area, including Delaware. In 2000, 66 percent of deaths were drug-induced. Of those deaths, heroin was present in 52 percent of the decedents. Virtually all heroin is from South America.

Marijuana is considered a major crop and easily found in Philadelphia's and Camden's open-air markets. Marijuana is trafficked and distributed essentially by Jamaican and Mexican DTOs, with the supply originating in the Southwestern United States and Mexico, and also in New York, Florida, and western Pennsylvania. While the rate of use among male users has decreased, the rate of use among female users continues to increase.

Hallucinogens and a variety of other club and designer drugs are becoming very popular in the PCHIDTA area, especially among young people. Methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA), or Ecstasy, is found commonly in Philadelphia's alternative and late-night nightclubs and can be purchased for as little as \$20 a pill. In 2001, the Philadelphia International Airport had its largest seizure of Ecstasy—200,000 pills.

Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is a behavioral, central nervous system

depressant most commonly distributed at affluent nightclubs, high schools, college campuses, and rave clubs. A 55-gallon drum of GHB cost \$3,200 and can yield nearly 100,000 doses. At a street value of between \$5 and \$10 per hit, a distributor can make as much as \$1 million.

Phila. Area Drug-Related Emergencies

Top 10 metro areas for emergency-room visits

Estimated emergency-room visits because of drugs:

City	Rate per 100,000
1. Philadelphia*	573
2. Chicago	558
3. San Francisco	546
4. Seattle	538
5. Baltimore	505
6. Boston	472
7. Detroit	463
8. Miami	430
9. Newark, N.J.	417
10. Buffalo	398

Top 10 metro areas for drug-related deaths

Fatalities because of drug overdoses:

City	Rate per 100,000
1. Baltimore	23
2. Philadelphia*	21
New Orleans	21
Phoenix	21
5. San Francisco	16
6. Detroit	17
7. Chicago	15
Newark, N.J.	15
9. San Diego	14
Los Angeles	14

Drug-related emergency-room visits in region

Selected drugs that caused emergency visits to hospitals in the region* over the last five years:

Drug category	1997	2001	Percent change
MDMA (ecstasy)	19	203	+968.4%
PCP	481	785	+63.2
Heroin	3,712	5,362	+44.5
Alcohol in combination with other drug(s)	7,496	9,228	+23.1
Marijuana	4,560	5,496	+20.5
Cocaine	11,202	11,358	+1.4
Amphetamines	420	400	-4.8
Methamphetamine	101	60	-40.6

*Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties
SOURCES: Office of Applied Studies; SAMHSA; Drug Abuse Warning Network 2000, 2001

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OxyContin is a prescription drug that is intended to help people with cancer address moderate to severe chronic pain. In Pennsylvania, OxyContin is referred to as Scratchers. Other names are Oxsy or Ocs.

The cost is usually \$.50 to \$1.00 per milligram. As many as 20 people in the Philadelphia area have died since November 2000 because of or in conjunction with OxyContin use.

Strategy Abstract

The PCHIDTA Executive Board is comprised of 18 federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Specifically, the HIDTA's area of responsibility includes the cities of Philadelphia and Camden. A unified effort among law enforcement (LEAs) and prosecution agencies ensures a coordinated effort to reduce the impact of cocaine and heroin distribution within the region.

Coordinated activities extend throughout the state of Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. A total of 23 agencies participate in 11 HIDTA initiatives. The administrative component, the Regional Investigative Support Center (RISC), along with three enforcement initiatives are located in the U.S. Customs House in Center City Philadelphia. The RISC also includes a Watch Center that provides real-time deconfliction on enforcement events, along with intelligence and analytical support to all initiatives.

Three interdiction units, along with the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS's) Narco-Dollar Task Force, are collocated at the Philadelphia International Airport. All locations are connected through a secured wide area network (WAN) enabling them to communicate interactively with the RISC.

The PCHIDTA strategy is a coordinated, four-tiered operation: street-level and open-air drug markets; mid-level suppliers; interdiction; and money laundering. Street-level and open-air drug markets are investigated by Operation Sunrise in

Philadelphia and Operation Sunburst in Camden. These initiatives are supported by the Violent Crimes Conspiracy Task Force, the Centerpiece Task Force, DEA Group 9, and the Violent Crime/Fugitive Task Force, which have the investigative purpose of determining mid-level suppliers, seizing weapons, and locating the most dangerous drug and homicide fugitives.

The interdiction initiative is composed of four task forces with an investigative focus on DTOs that use the Philadelphia International Airport, the Philadelphia/Camden Seaport, area hotels and motels, and parcel delivery services to import drugs and export proceeds. Lastly, the Narco-Dollar Task Force focuses on the money trail of illicit profits gained by DTOs.

Investigative Support Center

The RISC, which coordinates the collection, analysis, and dissemination of all drug-related intelligence for the Philadelphia and Camden area, is central to PCHIDTA's success. The PCHIDTA RISC receives, collects, organizes, and interprets intelligence information concerning drug trafficking in the area.

The primary function of the Watch Center, the cornerstone of the RISC, is the coordination and real-time event deconfliction of enforcement activity to prevent duplication of investigative efforts and enhance officer safety. The Watch Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by the Philadelphia Police Department. During 2001, the Center entered and monitored 13,861 events with 7,408 events found to be in conflict, requiring notification to the agencies whose operations were in question.

The RISC's Intelligence Center's components include intelligence fusion, case support, and strategic intelligence.

The RISC continues to develop within the HIDTA headquarters, serving as the hub for the collection and analysis of information from Philadelphia and Camden. Communication between the two locations and the HIDTA headquarters is through the use of a secure WAN, which provides a secure Intranet, as well as external access to the Internet. The source information is incident-report based, stripping pertinent data that relates to drug trafficking and the violent crime that supports it, and entering it in a complex set of hardware and software for use by the investigating detectives and special agents. The network includes a matrix of agency indices and software and accompanying hardware to fulfill the mission.

The RISC also maintains the Suspect Pointer Index Network (SPIN) for case de-confliction. In 2001, 16,409 data entries were entered into SPIN. In support of investigative operations, the RISC provided information on 472 data inquiry requests and provided 380 intelligence case supports during 2001. During 2002, access to SPIN was expanded to surrounding counties and state LEAs in southern New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and northern Delaware to enhance coordination and information sharing with those counties that are adversely affected by Philadelphia and Camden DTOs.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Defense's JTF-6, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

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

Significant Achievements

The leader and 10 co-conspirators of a notorious DTO were arrested in early morning raids on September 13, 2002. The Perez Organization, led by Enrique Perez, operated two drug sets at 9th and Cedar Streets and 5th and Grant Streets in Camden. Depending on the distribution location, \$10 bags of heroin were stamped with a brand name or mark, including Scarface, El Nino, or Payback. The organization averaged \$250,000 in heroin and crack cocaine sales per week.

A criminal complaint charging members of the Perez Organization with conspiracy describes the murders of two individuals—the shooting deaths of Kenneth Allen, aka Smoochie, on May 11, 2001, and Hiram Rosa on February 19, 2001. Rosa was to graduate from Rutgers University in May 2001. Authorities believe that Rosa had no criminal involvement, but could have been mistaken for another individual.

This gang's ruthlessness was unparalleled in Camden. Their intimidation tactics and willingness to murder people who they perceived as a threat to their business caused a blight on Camden. Prosecutors said the takedown of the Perez Organization is the biggest interruption in Camden's drug trade since the open-air drug market known as the

Alley and the 33rd Street drug set was broken up in 1998. (This also was a PCHIDTA case.)

Operation Family Man focused primarily on West Philadelphia and involved a well-entrenched DTO of 35 to 40 members that operated for seven to eight years without significant law enforcement impact. Dealing in both powder and crack cocaine, its leadership and members were involved in numerous firearms-related shootings, including homicides, for which they have been indicted at the federal level. Several of the shootings occurred in public places, one at the University of Pennsylvania campus, and one at a shopping center. One source alone has admitted to more than 20 shootings perpetrated on behalf of the gang in the past two years. Undercover drug purchases, firearms recoveries, multiple digital number recorder (DNR) installations, clone pagers, and grand jury testimony have been conducted.

In February 2002, the CCTF executed 10 federal search warrants in the Philadelphia area, two federal search warrants in both West Palm Beach, FL, and New York City, and coordinated the execution of eight state search warrants. Numerous evidentiary items were recovered, most notably:

- \$344,233 in U.S. currency
- 4 firearms
- 2 kilograms of cocaine
- 6 vehicles, including a 2000 BMW, 2000 Volvo, 1999 Mercedes Benz, 2001 Ford F-150, 1999 Ford Expedition, and a 1998 Ford Expedition seized via federal seizure warrants

To date, 34 organization members, including its top leaders have been indicted for various federal firearms and drug violations.

Information above was provided by the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA.

Puerto Rico/U. S. Virgin Islands HIDTA



General Information:

Year of Designation: 1994

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Puerto Rico: The Territory of Puerto Rico, including the islands of Puerto Rico, Vieques and Culebra.

U. S. Virgin Islands: The Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, including the islands of Saint Thomas, Saint Croix, and Saint John.

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

Mission Statement

In support of the National Drug Control Strategy, the Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Island (PR/USVI) HIDTA investigates high-value, sophisticated drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and their associated criminal operations within its area of responsibility (AOR) to reduce drug availability in local markets, dismantle and disrupt drug organized crime, and reduce use of the islands as an entry point to the continental United States (CONUS) drug market.

Threat Abstract

The PR/USVI HIDTA was designated in 1994 as a transshipment HIDTA. Using multiple transportation methods, DTOs traffic between 110 and 150 metric tons of cocaine from Colombia into and through the

PR/USVI HIDTA, with more than 70 percent of the cocaine destined for the United States, Canada, and Europe. The preferred trafficking method is by sea, ranging from "go-fast" boats to small island-hopping freighters. Colombian cocaine and heroin traffickers continue to dominate the supply.

Cocaine and heroin are the two principal narcotics smuggled from Colombia, along with some marijuana. Marijuana is primarily imported from Mexico through CONUS and other Caribbean islands, while European Ecstasy is trafficked through the Dominican Republic.

PR/USVI drug consumption is estimated at approximately 10 percent to 20 percent of the drugs transshipped, with cocaine the predominant drug of choice. The PR/USVI region is very attractive to DTOs because it is a major U.S. commercial port, has the

strongest regional economy, is in close proximity to the poorest countries in the Caribbean, and has strong ties to Spanish-speaking cultures.

The area hosts more than 2.5 million cruise ship passengers and the Puerto Rico airport processes more than 8.5 million visitors annually. This high number of tourists and transient visitors is a contributory factor that complicates both surveillance and interdiction. The high volume of commercial containerized shipments also facilitates narcotics transshipment.

The geophysical composition of the islands, with more than 50 small islets and cays in the USVI alone, also facilitates clandestine activities and, correspondingly, makes it difficult to patrol. The more than 363 miles of coastline in Puerto Rico, the 105 miles of coastline in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the proximity of the South American coast (only 380 miles away) make the area ideal for coast-smuggling activities.

Strategy Abstract

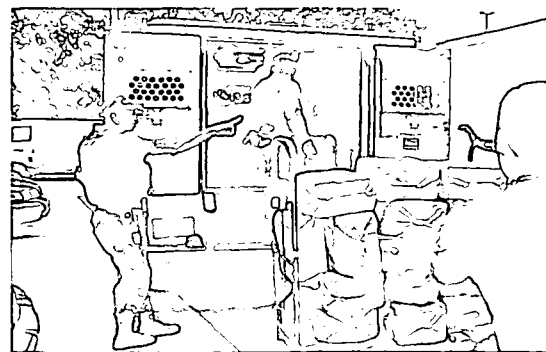
An Executive Board, comprised of 10 federal and 10 state and local agency heads (16 from Puerto Rico and four from U.S. Virgin Islands), implements joint law enforcement initiatives, allocates resources, and prioritizes operations and criminal investigations. The HIDTA strategy ensures a joint, commingled interactive approach, more information sharing, and innovative drug interdiction techniques.

The Board annually reviews each initiative's goals, outcomes, and outputs to enhance performance, and works to achieve national strategic goals for supply reduction. Two case management committees, one for Puerto Rico and one for the U.S. Virgin Islands, coordinate all investigative efforts

to ensure coordination and information sharing among participating agencies. Both are comprised of the initiatives' supervisors, and federal and state prosecutors. More than 1,450 federal, state, and local law enforcement and support personnel are collocated, commingled, and strategically positioned across the threat spectrum to enhance coverage within the AOR. To address the drug threat, there are 16 initiatives: two for smuggling interdiction, 10 investigative, one for regional intelligence, and three for regional support.

All operations are based on solid, well-developed intelligence to focus law enforcement coverage, employ constant interdiction activities, uncover communication links, investigate criminal activities, dismantle money laundering schemes, and detect new criminal trends.

The operations converge to develop a systematic joint approach that is designed to conduct successful counterdrug trafficking operations. This joint approach is used to reduce the AOR's attractiveness as a preferred Caribbean staging and transshipment route to and from CONUS for illegal drugs, illegal weapons, illegal aliens, and drug money laundering. Initiatives approved to implement the PR/USVI HIDTA 2003 strategy are described below.



FURA Seizure 2001

The Puerto Rico Police Department-led Air and Marine Interdiction Program (FURA) provides command, control, communications, coordination, and intelligence (C4&I) to assigned forces that allow for ground, air, and marine interdiction up to 12 miles from the coastline of Puerto Rico.

The DEA Forensic Laboratory initiative offers technical forensic support, ensures efficient and effective evidence analysis and processing, and provides prompt availability of expert witnesses to support successful prosecutions.

The Special Investigations Bureau (SIB)-led Drug-related Mass Murders and Homicides/Public Housing Investigations initiative, which addresses the high and rising incidence of drug-related murders in Puerto Rico, conducts investigations into drug-related multiple homicide organizations in public housing communities.

The recently incorporated, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)-led HIDTA training task force is responsible for training the law enforcement community to enhance the quality of drug-related investigations, strengthen state and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs), increase the conviction rate of drug trafficking-related crime defendants at the state level, and increase the safety of law enforcement officers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Led by the U.S. Customs Service (USCS), the money laundering task force conducts complex investigations and interdictions into money laundering organizations and schemes related to DTOs. Its purpose is to detect, interdict, and dismantle DTOs that are smuggling and laundering illegally obtained cash proceeds from their operations.

Led by the DEA, five major organization investigations conduct long-term, complex investigations that are geared toward dismantling sophisticated DTOs: the Fajardo investigation focuses on the east coast of Puerto Rico, including the offshore municipalities of Vieques and Culebra islands; the Ponce investigation focuses on the southwest region of Puerto Rico; the St. Croix investigation focuses on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; the San Juan investigation focuses on the northwest region of Puerto Rico; and the St. Thomas investigation focuses on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the firearms trafficking/violent crimes initiative investigates firearms trafficking organizations associated with narcotics trafficking and other violent crime groups operating within Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. By stemming the flow of illegal firearms, this task force increases citizen safety.

The high seas and coastal interdiction enhancement initiative, led by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), addresses regional narcotic and migrant trafficking through 24-hour interdiction, by means of sea and air for 12 nautical miles.

Led by the FBI, the Investigative Support Center (ISC) provides strategic, operating, and deconfliction information; coordinates and supports intelligence sharing among all law enforcement agencies within the HIDTA; and graphically organizes investigative information. By acquiring, processing, and disseminating intelligence, it supports all HIDTA subsystems and task forces.

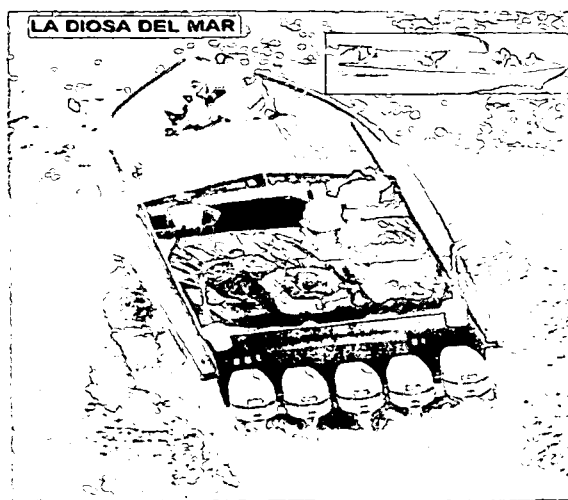
The management and coordination support initiative (MCSI), led by contracted

civilians, provides a management, administrative, and logistical support structure for all HIDTA initiatives. MCSI serves as a facilitator for the Executive Board's decision-making process and ensures cost-effectiveness, resource accountability, and control over all property and funds.

Led by the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), the Puerto Rico fugitive task force arrests narcotics criminals associated with smuggling, distribution, money laundering, and street gang drug-related activities throughout the AOR.

Investigative Support Center

Comprised of 52 intelligence analysts and agents from most HIDTA participating agencies, the ISC receives information and delivers accurate and timely intelligence on drug-related criminal activity to PR/USVI initiatives and LEAs. Specifics include: 1) communication links that allow the sharing of timely and relevant information among federal, state, and local operators within the law enforcement community in an unbiased working environment; 2) a central location for all LEA intelligence services to base initiative participants, commingling in a personal, information sharing environment.



The ISC serves as a central mechanism for collecting, organizing, and disseminating information as a final intelligence product using the Racketeering Enterprise Investigation (RICO) concept. Analysts, provided by the FBI, DEA, U.S. Bureau of Prisons (USBOP), USCS, U.S. Army-Special Operations (USARSO) and Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG), uncover links by producing instant, accurate, organized, and clean intelligence products, and meeting agent-informants' requirements that are then transformed into investigative or law enforcement operations. Investigative capacities are accelerated and enhanced with the use of and training on advanced technology databases, quality hardware, the latest software, and innovative communication devices like the TII/S2 system (Title III), and DEA's forensic laboratory support.

The ISC serves as an one-stop information gathering and dissemination service that organizes necessary evidence for the successful prosecution and conviction of criminals. Its efforts assist in uncovering criminal targets of opportunity, providing investigations deconfliction services, and ensuring the dismantling of organizations by providing high-quality and timely intelligence products and identifying DTO resources that are purchased with drug proceeds.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office-District of Puerto Rico, U.S. Attorney's Office-District of Virgin Islands, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshal Service.

State: Puerto Rico Office for Drug Control, Puerto Rico Department of Justice, Virgin Islands Department of Justice, Puerto Rico National Guard, Virgin Islands National Guard, Puerto Rico Department of Corrections, Puerto Rico Department of Treasury, Puerto Rico Police Department, Puerto Rico Special Investigations Bureau, Virgin Islands Police Department.

Significant Achievements

The PR/USVI HIDTA has achieved extraordinary success in intelligence, operational, and organizational developments since its inception. Beginning in FY1996 as a gateway HIDTA, the HIDTA had 12 sparsely staffed and equipped squads comprising one interdiction, one intelligence, eight investigative, and two support initiatives. By FY1997, PR/USVI HIDTA had dismantled and disrupted 12 organizations operating at the national, state, and local levels. The first threat assessment developed through the intelligence initiative caused participating agencies to become more involved in investigations, assign additional resources, and participate in joint and commingled operations. By the end of CY2001, the 16 initiatives have yielded the dismantling or disruption of more than 250 DTOs and money laundering organizations.

In April 2000, the St. Croix Major Organization Investigations (MOI) initiative started an investigation into a major DTO that was associated with an open-air drug market located in the Estate Profit section on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. This sector has a famous history of supporting mid-level drug trafficking and violent criminals. The DTO's distribution route extended from New Jersey and Florida to Vieques, Puerto Rico. They trafficked in heroin, powder and crack cocaine, and marijuana. At least three

deaths within 12 months had been attributed to the heroin trafficking associated with this organization.

During the investigation, the St. Croix MOI conducted approximately 15 federal search warrants, seized close to 1,000 decks of heroin, one kilogram of powder cocaine, one kilogram of crack cocaine, 0.2 kilograms of marijuana, and two handguns. Investigated as a conspiracy, the St. Croix MOI used witness testimony, document analysis, wired confidants, purchased and seized approximately 120 drug exhibits, and collected more than 150 non-drug exhibits.

In April 2002, Operation Limpia Casa (Operation Clean House) was conducted. Prior to Operation Limpia Casa, the St. Croix MOI, with the assistance of FBI resources from Washington D.C., constructed a model of the neighborhood where the organization distributed its product. This model assisted in the arrest phase of the operation and also will be used during the prosecution stage. More than 110 federal and local law enforcement agents and officers from the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico supported the operation. Participating agencies included the FBI, USMS, ATF, INS, and the Virgin Islands Police Department. Pursuant to federal and territorial grand jury indictments, these agencies arrested 35 defendants without incident, including the case file title, and seized three properties that were valued at more than \$300,000. In addition, during this phase, two federal search warrants were executed. The arrest warrants stemmed from multiple violations to Title 18 U.S. Code and Title 21 U.S. Code.

This significant investigation has imbued the local community with a renewed sense of appreciation and a cooperative spirit among law enforcement and the general public. The

St. Croix MOI accomplished all of this with seven agents and officers on a 50,000-person island.

In CY2002, Operation TEMPO, which is driven by intelligence, improves the HIDTA's capability to conduct investigative and interdiction activities, and the effectiveness of judicial and local law enforcement institutions. It also reduces the flow of drugs in the Caribbean.

With its commitment to the joint and commingled investigative approach, the PR/USVI HIDTA has grown to include 91-percent maturity in the Performance Measures of Effectiveness (PMEs) and more than 92-percent maturity on the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) requirements. This has resulted in better quality investigations in the DTA program.

Information above was provided by the Puerto Rico/Virgin Island HIDTA.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1996

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

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

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

Wyoming: Albany, Campbell, Laramie, Natrona, Sweetwater, and Uinta Counties

Contact: (303) 671-2180

Mission Statement

The mission of Rocky Mountain HIDTA is to support the National Drug Control Strategy by reducing drug use in the Nation. To this end, the Rocky Mountain HIDTA's mission is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among federal, state, and local drug enforcement activity to enhance efforts to combat the local, regional, and national drug trafficking problem. This mission is accomplished through joint, multi-agency, collocated drug task forces that share information and work cooperatively with other drug enforcement initiatives, including interdiction.

Threat Abstract

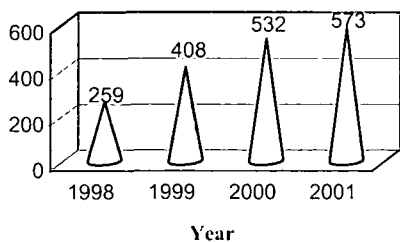
Methamphetamine remains the number one drug threat in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA's three-state region. The primary sources consist of small, in-state clandestine methamphetamine labs and Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) that transport and distribute methamphetamine. The methamphetamine comes from the Juarez, Mexico-El Paso, TX area, the Nogales, Mexico-Tucson/Phoenix, AZ area, and southern California. Over the past several years, Colorado and Wyoming have seen a substantial increase in the number of small methamphetamine labs producing small quantities for both personal use and sales. Through some aggressive legislation and

enforcement and prosecution efforts, Utah actually has seen a decrease in the number of methamphetamine labs over the last couple of years.

The three-state region has been used as a transshipment point for drug couriers and as a distribution center in the more metropolitan areas. The majority of the methamphetamine distributed outside the Rocky Mountain region is destined for states generally to the north and east, such as Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, Nebraska, and as far away as Illinois.

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

Methamphetamine Lab Seizures



In Colorado, treatment admissions for cocaine have been decreasing since 1998, but cocaine use still remains the second most prevalent problem for law enforcement. Mexican DTOs are the source for Colorado's cocaine, as well as most methamphetamine. A number of major DTOs, with ties to Colombian and Mexican cartels, have been identified in the Denver metro area that are distributing cocaine outside the Rocky Mountain region. Colorado authorities, particularly in the Denver metro area, also have confirmed that

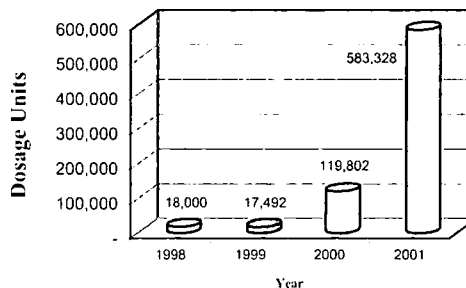
cocaine use and distribution is still prevalent among gangs.

Utah authorities are particularly concerned with the emergence of club drugs, specifically Ecstasy, or methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA). Abuse of these drugs is increasing among high school and college youth, and use is common at rave parties. Intelligence information indicates that most of the club drugs in Utah are coming from California, Las Vegas, Nevada, and British Columbia, Canada.

In Wyoming, the second greatest drug threat is marijuana, which generally comes into the state through Mexican criminal groups from California or Washington. Locally grown marijuana also is available, particularly from indoor cultivation operations.

Colorado, like Utah, is experiencing an increasing problem with club drugs, especially Ecstasy. Rave parties have become common, as have the use and distribution of a variety of club drugs including MDMA, gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). Wyoming has not yet experienced the significant problem that exists in Colorado and Utah, but has seen an increase

Club Drug Seizures



in the use of club drugs.

Strategy Abstract

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA includes 17 counties in Colorado, six in Utah, and six in Wyoming. The Executive Board is comprised of federal, state, and local criminal justice system executives from the three states. The director and other administrative staff, housed in Denver, oversee day-to-day operations.

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA organization is comprised of five subsystems: administration, training, intelligence, investigation, and interdiction. Each of these subsystems consists of individual initiatives that address the identified threat and carry out the mission.

The investigative subsystem consists of 23 multi-agency, collocated drug task forces that are strategically placed throughout the region. The interdiction subsystem consists of the Colorado State Patrol Interdiction Program, Utah Department of Public Safety Criminal Interdiction Team, Wyoming Highway Patrol Interdiction Program, and the Denver Metro Interdiction Task Force. The administration, training, and intelligence subsystems are classified as support initiatives and service the needs of drug law enforcement and prosecution. All five subsystems are closely related and interact on a regular basis to address the threat.

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA supports a number of major DTO task forces, a gang task force, a financial task force, and the newly developed collaboration among Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming Highway Patrols—the Highway Patrol Network.

The initiatives include 136 personnel from 10 different federal agencies; 46 personnel from six state agencies; 389 personnel from 109 local agencies; and 12 personnel from three state National Guard Units. The

investigation and interdiction subsystems have achieved success in meeting their projected overall outputs.

Investigative Support Center

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

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

The Watch Center provides event deconfliction in the metro Denver and Colorado Springs areas to prevent operations from overlapping or interfering with one another. The Center averages approximately one conflict in every 100 operations. It also provides subject background reports for the various task forces and drug units through its access to more than 17 databases.

The ISC utilizes the three state Law Enforcement Information Networks (LEINs) to provide subject deconfliction capabilities. These systems are currently in the process of

being connected to the national Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET). There are 25 personnel involved in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA's intelligence subsystem.

Participating Agencies

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

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

Local:

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

Springs, Northglenn, Pueblo, Rifle, Rio Blanco, Sheridan, Steamboat Springs, Thornton, Westminster, Wheat Ridge and Woodland Park Police Departments; Bayfield Marshal's Office.

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

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

Significant Achievements

The following are the Rocky Mountain HIDTA's significant achievements:

- Collocated and commingled the first federal, state, and local Denver metro drug task force consisting of 42 officers and two prosecutors
- Started six collocated and commingled drug task forces
- Initiated the first collocated and commingled task force in the tri-state area to solely target money laundering and the financial aspects of drug trafficking
- Helped to facilitate the standardization of all drug enforcement in Wyoming under the regional enforcement team concept

- Assisted in facilitating a consolidated, statewide Utah methamphetamine program, including officers, analysts, prosecutors, and forensics, resulting in a two-year decrease in clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures
- Began the first drug K-9 programs in the highway patrol departments in all three states
- Created the first statewide fugitive location task force in Colorado
- Increased the number of DTOs disrupted or dismantled by 30 percent, arrests by 19 percent, and drug seizures by 47 percent, and the number of clandestine labs seized by 25 percent
- Helped foster the coordination of more than 150 separate investigations with other HIDTAs
- Trained approximately 1,641 officers through 51 training classes on an annual basis—the Rocky Mountain HIDTA is the only HIDTA to develop its own two-week Basic Drug Investigations School, Clandestine Lab Safety Course, Street Survival Spanish, and Drug Unit Commanders Course, all of which are POST certified
- Cooperated with the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), including the housing of two NDIC field specialists
- Sponsored the first and now ongoing federal, state, and local drug unit commanders quarterly meetings for training, information sharing, and problem resolution
- Increased use of pointer name index system in each state by 127 percent; secured unanimous agreement among agencies for mandated use
- Helped facilitate establishment of the Colorado Drug Investigators Association
- Established a tactical deconfliction and Watch Center; secured unanimous agreement for mandated use
- Developed a comprehensive policy and procedure manual that has been requested by and distributed to more than 19 other HIDTAs
- Developed the Rocky Mountain Highway Patrol Network to foster tri-state coordination and cooperation
- Initiated and sponsored the first HIDTA ISC managers' meeting
- Developed and successfully implemented the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Counter Technology Assessment Center radio interoperability pilot project
- Worked closely with Montana authorities to bring them into the Rocky Mountain HIDTA; assisted with the threat assessment, budget, and formation of appropriate task forces

Information above was reported by the Rocky Mountain HIDTA.

South Florida HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

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

Contact: (305) 597-1947

Mission Statement

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

Threat Abstract

South Florida is, without question, a major transit point for cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and Ecstasy, or methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), entering the United States and destined for other parts of the country. Cocaine, however, continues to be the predominate threat to the SFL-HIDTA. Every indicator confirms the overwhelming and continuing dominance of cocaine in South Florida. Of the approximately 140 new Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) cases approved in

calendar year 2001, 127 of the investigations involved cocaine.

As a direct result of two SFL-HIDTA operations targeting the Miami River terminals—Operation River Sweep in CY2000 and Operation River Walk in CY2001—Jamaica has replaced Haiti as the transshipment point for maritime smuggling ventures that transit the Bahamas before entering the United States along the south Florida coast. The primary means of transportation is private vessels laden with large quantities—between 400 and 900 kilograms—of Colombian-manufactured cocaine. Jamaican-grown marijuana, on the other hand, appears to be entering the United States primarily in containerized cargo through the Port of Miami and Port Everglades. Heroin abuse and trafficking in South Florida continues to rise. Colombian heroin is the principal heroin threat to the region and Miami International Airport (MIA) is the most significant point of entry in Florida.

A review of 140 OCDETF cases approved in South Florida in 2001 shows 25 cases involving heroin, four of which involve heroin and no other drug. Case activity reported by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and other agencies and task forces uncovered a large number of domestic marijuana grow houses during CY2001 that appear to have been in operation, in some cases, for three to seven years. The quality of the domestically grown hydroponics marijuana is such that it commands a price three to four times higher than Jamaican marijuana.

Reflecting a national trend, diversion of prescription drugs, principally oxycodone and Benzodiazepines, has become much more active in the SFL-HIDTA region and Palm Beach County. Drug users often mix these drugs with cocaine and heroin. Basic methods used to conceal drug profits did not change during 2001. Structuring of cash transactions, the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE), in and outbound wire transfers through banks and money services businesses (MSB), outbound bulk currency

shipments, and bulk purchases of commodities paid in cash for exports continue to be used to place, layer, and integrate illicit funds.

Strategy Abstract

The tri-county area of the SFL-HIDTA region represents part of the Southern District of Florida. Within the area, each federal agency has a regional leader that represents the organization and jurisdiction, and ensures that personnel pursue their agency's mission while coordinating with other law enforcement organizations. Similarly, state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) use their jurisdictional authority to carry out their missions in overlapping geographic areas. HIDTA-participating agencies submit annual proposals for multi-agency initiatives to address drug trafficking, related money laundering, and violence identified by these agencies and in the HIDTA's regional threat assessment. The proposals are grouped into task force initiatives instead of single-agency programs.

Drug Seizures

Agency (in Kilograms)	Cocaine 2000	Cocaine 2001	Heroin 2000	Heroin 2001	Marijuana 2000	Marijuana 2001
USCS	16,298	7,899	390	532	23,360	32,367
DEA	4,646	3,611	56	129	7,819	2,007
FBI	154	209	0.8	2.98	23	210
USCG	2,387	931	0	0	813	2,464
Monroe County	10	4.8	0.02	0.04	0.5	67
Key West	0.9	5.9	0.027	0.42	11,581	13
Miami-Dade	2367	759	29	6	32,570	9,554
Miami P.D.	70	86	0.055	1.8	84	202
Broward Sheriff	7714	2,315	10.34	38.18	7,116	5,452
Ft. Lauderdale P.D.	1576	40	0.368	3.48	475	204
Palm Beach County	N/A	778	N/A	0.06	N/A	1,240
W. Palm Beach P.D.	N/A	299	N/A	0.13	N/A	410
Total	35,222.9	16,937.7	486.61	714.09	83,841.5	54,190

Once reviewed by a subcommittee and approved by the SFL-HIDTA Executive Board, the collocated task forces implement the initiatives that strategically attack criminal systems and target organizations. Integrated jurisdictional strategies are used to maximize the disruption and dismantling of the targeted drug trafficking, money laundering, and related violent organizations and systems.

Agency representatives on the Executive Board represent the region's law enforcement community. They coordinate the sharing of intelligence and resources and the development of multi-agency strategies for conducting the joint investigations. Through their staffs, they synchronize enforcement actions that maximize investigator safety while gathering evidence, arresting individuals, and contributing to effective prosecutions at the federal and state level.

The HIDTA Executive Board includes eight federal and eight state or local representatives. In FY2003, Major Gary Moore, Broward Sheriff's Office serves as chair, with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Principal Field Officer Mr. Hugo Barrera, Special Agent In Charge, serves as vice chair. The chair, vice chair, and all Executive Board members are selected by their peers according to guidance from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Director Timothy D. Wagner was nominated by the Executive Board and approved by the director of ONDCP. Mr. Wagner and Deputy Director Joel Widell provide day-to-day program management, brokering, and support to the initiatives approved by the Executive Board. Mr. Wagner also brokers multi-agency participation and serves as a conduit for directives, policies, and related administrative

information required by ONDCP and the regional HIDTA Executive Board.

The director and his staff consolidate the initiatives into task forces and prepare the SFL-HIDTA proposal for preliminary review by a subcommittee of representatives of the HIDTA Executive Board. The final proposal then is presented to the full Executive Board for review and approval before being submitted to ONDCP each year. In some situations, the director's office will recognize enforcement opportunities and broker multi-agency coalitions to pursue as initiatives. The director and deputy do not exercise operational authority over task forces.

The SFL-HIDTA-participating agencies focus on disrupting and dismantling international organizations and conspiracies devoted to smuggling illicit drugs into the United States and distributing them throughout the country, as well as organizations involved in laundering the profits of the illicit drug industry. They also target organizations and individuals that use violence in the furtherance of these criminal activities. Due to the drug trafficking practices in the South Florida area, the primary drugs targeted by the SFL-HIDTA are cocaine in powder and crack forms, heroin, MDMA, and marijuana.

Investigative Support Center

The SFL-HIDTA Intelligence Center (SFLHIC) is a multi-agency investigative support center that provides analytical assistance through specialized intelligence for LEAs in South Florida. The Center provides actionable intelligence through target research, organization analysis, and development. Direct case support is available to more than 100 federal, state, and local LEAs in Broward, Miami-Dade,

Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties. The mission of the SFLHIC is to facilitate the timely exchange of information from federal, state, local, HIDTA, and commercial databases with all HIDTA initiatives and participating LEAs. Strategic and tactical intelligence is collected, analyzed, and disseminated to support investigations of drug trafficking, money laundering, drug-related firearms trafficking, and drug-related violent crime. The SFLHIC is designed to take maximum advantage of state-of-the-art information technology, such as the HIDTA Intranet Base Information System (HIBIS), a web-based portal that links five subsystems into one web environment.

The SFLHIC tactical branch manages and coordinates queries that supply short-term support to the SFL-HIDTA agencies, in addition to providing accurate and reliable event, subject, and case deconfliction service to all HIDTA initiatives. The Narcotics Information Network Joint Agency System (NINJAS), a statewide deconfliction program managed by the SFLHIC, is designed to prevent law enforcement officers from unknowingly conducting undercover transactions against one another or from operating in dangerously close proximity to one another.

Full-service case support is provided for long-term investigations. This includes organizational analyses and case development that extracts and structures investigative data for identifying targets for grand jury presentations. In addition, the SFLHIC provides document exploitation, telephone record and financial analysis, and preparation of graphics, such as link charts, graphs, flow charts, and time lines for grand jury and trial presentations. Comprehensive documents are produced to assist in understanding the threat level of various drugs and types of drug trafficking

organizations (DTOs) in the South Florida region.

The Joint Training Initiative (JTI) offers mission enhancement training for investigations, analyses, and computer programs that is not readily available to regional law enforcement.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice-OIG, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Secret Service.

State/Local: Aventura Police Department, Bal Harbour Police Department, Broward Sheriff's Office, Cooper City Police Department, Coral Gables Police Department, Coral Springs Police Department, Davie Police Department, Florida City Police Department, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida National Guard, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Glades Police Department, Hallandale Police Department, Hialeah Police Department, Hollywood Police Department, Homestead Police Department, Indiancreek Police Department, Key Biscayne Police Department, Key West Police Department, Lauderhill Police Department, Lighthouse Point Police Department, Margate Police Department, Medley Police Department, Miami Beach Police Department, Miami Police Department, Miami-Dade Police Department, Miramar Police Department, Monroe County

Sheriff's Office, N. Bay Village Police Department, N Miami Police Department, Pembroke Pines Police Department, Plantation Police Department, State Attorneys Office, Sunny Isles Beach Police Department, Sunrise Police Department

Significant Achievements

The Miami Task Force is South Florida's largest law enforcement task force and has been responsible for a continual flow of major law enforcement successes. The scope and magnitude of its accomplishments could only have been accomplished by a HIDTA-assisted, combined, multi-agency, federal, state, and local task force. Highlights of this task force's accomplishments follow.

Agencies combined forces to target corrupt airline and related service-industry employees at MIA. The employees, together with corrupt government and law enforcement officials, were involved in the smuggling and subsequent domestic delivery of multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin into the United States. This problem had reached epidemic proportions at MIA. Traditional safeguards and agency resources were insufficient to address the problem. Separate agency initiatives, begun as early as 1997, were united under a joint DEA-U.S. Customs Service (USCS)-led multi-agency initiative.

The successful conclusion of these investigations came with the indictment of 73 individuals and the arrest of 70 airline employees or contracted ramp service employees. Three law enforcement officers also were indicted for violation of the federal narcotics laws. In addition, the investigation exposed similar problems at other airports throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. As a result, eight other persons were arrested in New York. The

combined effort of local and federal law enforcement, the security of our airports, commercial airlines industry, and the public has been greatly enhanced.

The SFL-HIDTA threat assessment identified the smuggling of cocaine and marijuana via coastal freighters arriving at the Miami River from Haiti and the Bahamas as the single greatest threat from DTOs operating in the South Florida area. To address this threat, Operation River Walk, led jointly by the USCS and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, began a six-month intensive law enforcement effort to shut down commercial vessel drug trafficking on the Miami River. The Operation was followed by an 18-month follow-up investigation. To implement this intensive enforcement effort, the SFL-HIDTA sponsored an initiative designed to bring federal, state, and local personnel and funding resources to bear on the Miami River and its commercial shipyards and vessel service facilities.

As a result of Operation River Walk, more than 607 pounds of cocaine, \$52,000 in U.S. currency, and eight freighters were seized. In addition, 11 drug arrests were made. The Operation also included planning for enforcement operations to interdict displacement of drug trafficking routes from the Miami River to other areas of South Florida. As a result of this displacement planning, more than 3,700 pounds of cocaine and 3,800 pounds of marijuana were seized during the six-month intensive effort. Intelligence developed during this operation concluded that Operation River Walk was an unqualified success in suppressing drug trafficking on the Miami River.

Information above was provided by the South Florida HIDTA.

Southeast Michigan HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1997

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Michigan: Allegan, Genesee, Kalamazoo, Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties

Contact: (877) 848-4500

Mission Statement

The mission of the Southeast Michigan (SEM) HIDTA is to reduce drug trafficking, related violent crime, and money laundering in the HIDTA region through the coordination and sharing of intelligence, unified law enforcement efforts, and community cooperation, which ultimately will improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan.

Threat Abstract

The SEM HIDTA region is centrally located between Chicago, Cleveland, and New York, and Toronto, and Montreal, Canada. Each is an urban center with key roles in the North American drug trade. The SEM HIDTA also shares a 700-mile international border with Ontario, Canada, and is adjacent to several major interstate highways. A large international airport services the

area with direct flights into and out of Southeast Asia.

The region historically has served as a major consumer and transshipment outlet for Colombian drug organizations based in southern Florida and New York, for Mexican organizations centered in the Southwest, and for Middle-Eastern heroin organizations. Recent indicators reflect that the region increasingly is a hub for the operations of Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). The SEM HIDTA also is a major importation and transshipment point for pseudoephedrine, which is used to produce methamphetamine in California and Mexico.

Michigan waterways and lakes provide virtually unhindered access to limitless landing areas from cities and ports in Canada as well as U.S. cities, such as Cleveland and Chicago. In addition, the Detroit Metropolitan Airport has been a major smuggling route for narcotics both inbound and outbound for many years.

Numerous seizures have been made at this international airport, including cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and large sums of cash. Numerous regional and local airports and private landing strips also facilitate the transshipment of narcotics into the SEM HIDTA. Since September 11, 2001, heightened security at area airports has reduced these activities.

Strategy Abstract

The SEM HIDTA Executive Board, through its subcommittees, coordinates the integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking; eliminates unnecessary duplication; systematically improves the sharing of drug intelligence and targeting information; and utilizes specialized law enforcement task forces to concentrate on particular areas of criminal activity associated with drug trafficking.

The SEM HIDTA initiatives focus on multi-level drug trafficking. To accomplish this, the Executive Board continues to adopt a three-tiered strategy to counter drug trafficking. Level-one initiatives focus on street-level drug trafficking. Level-two initiatives focus on drug traffickers and the importation of drugs into the SEM HIDTA. Level-three initiatives focus on the major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. Current and future initiatives will provide multi-agency efforts to support the goals of this strategy. All initiatives integrate with the investigative support and deconfliction center through intelligence support.

There were 24 SEM HIDTA initiatives implemented during FY2002. The approved law enforcement initiatives make up the investigative subsystem of the SEM HIDTA and support the SEM HIDTA strategies to counter the threat.

Investigative Support Center

The intelligence subsystem of the SEM HIDTA is comprised of the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISDC), which is accessible to all task force initiatives and participating law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The ISDC is comprised of a deconfliction section and five investigative support sections. Each investigative support section has primary responsibility to an assigned group of task force initiatives and secondary responsibility to all task force initiatives and other participants. The SEM HIDTA ISDC is structured to seamlessly implement and fully participate in the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan (GCIP).

Core functions of the ISDC include, but are not limited to:

- Event and case deconfliction
- Post seizure analysis
- Analytical case support
- Strategic intelligence
- Annual threat assessment preparation
- One-stop shopping for federal, state, and local intelligence databases

Efforts are underway for the ISDC to be interconnected through the Milwaukee HIDTA ISC as part of the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET) connectivity plan. The SEM HIDTA ISDC has achieved 24 of the 26 intelligence and information sharing HIDTA developmental standards, and is in compliance with a majority of the milestones contained in the GCIP. All members of the SEM HIDTA ISDC are collocated, full-time, assigned personnel. Several agencies contribute to the ISDC on a part-time basis, such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Ontario Provisional Police, and Canadian Customs.

The SEM HIDTA strategy focuses on obtaining the most recent institutional drug intelligence and on developing new sources. This information is supported, as much as possible, by national intelligence agency sources. The SEM HIDTA attempts to fuse this data into a consolidated targeting picture that enables investigative and enforcement agencies and task forces to prioritize their collective efforts on those activities that give the greatest outcomes. This central information and intelligence collection point facilitates cross-case analyses, prevents duplication, and ensures that the Executive Board has sufficient information to establish priorities for the approved initiatives.

The goals of the ISDC are to provide responsive deconfliction, pointer index, case support, intelligence fusion, and target and strategic financial crimes information. These services are provided through the participation and intelligence contributions of participating and non-participating agencies. Support is provided onsite at the ISDC. Each initiative benefits from and contributes to the ISDC by querying and updating the information at the Center, and by using the Center to provide deconfliction with other tactical operations in the region. All SEM HIDTA operations and investigations are coordinated with the ISDC. This is accomplished through mutual agreement between the Executive Board and respective participating agencies.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Marshals Service,

U.S. Attorney's Offices-Eastern District of Michigan, U.S. Customs Service.

State/Local: Michigan State Police, Detroit Police Department, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Macomb County Sheriff's Department, Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Michigan Chiefs of Police Association Representative.

Other: Metropolitan Organizing Strategies Enabling Strength (MOSES) Community Groups, Michigan National Guard, Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy.

Many additional federal and local agencies participate in SEM HIDTA task force initiatives. In CY2001, 336 law enforcement personnel were assigned to HIDTA task forces initiatives from federal, state, and local agencies.

Significant Achievements

From October 2000 through August 2002, more than 78 million pseudoephedrine tablets were seized through interdiction efforts. The majority of these tablets were destined for clandestine methamphetamine super labs in Mexico and the western United States. These tablets would have produced approximately 40,000 pounds of processed methamphetamine. Recognizing the unique position of the Detroit, MI-Windsor, Canada border within the SEM HIDTA region, a HIDTA Methamphetamine Task Force was approved for funding for 2002. The mission of this task force is to work in conjunction with federal, state, and local agencies to identify and dismantle or disrupt methamphetamine trafficking organizations within the region. *Information above was provided by the Southeast Michigan HIDTA.*

Southwest Border HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

The Southwest Border HIDTA is subdivided into five regions that encompass 48 counties in the four Southwest Border states. The regions and counties are as follows:

- California:* San Diego and Imperial Counties
- Arizona:* Cochise, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yuma, and La Paz Counties
- New Mexico:* Bernalillo, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, and Santa Fe Counties
- West Texas:* Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Crockett, and Terrell Counties
- South Texas:* Bexar, Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Starr, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala Counties
- Contact:* (915) 838-8545

Mission Statement

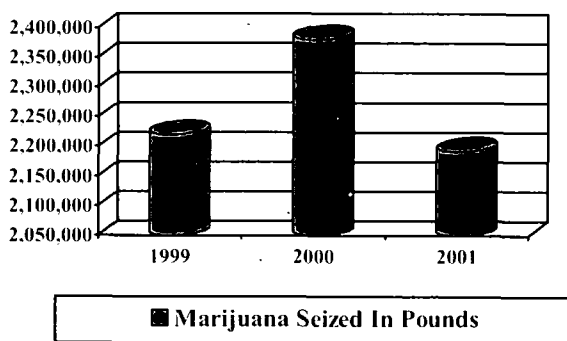
The mission of the Southwest Border HIDTA (SWBH) is to develop joint, seamless, regional systems for a coordinated interdiction, intelligence, investigation, and prosecution effort that results in a measurable reduction in illegal drug trafficking and drug-related activities, both in the SWBH and the continental United States.

Threat Abstract

The proximity of the Mexico border is the major problem confronting the SWBH. This creates fertile ground for drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) to conduct their drug smuggling and money laundering activities. The entire SWBH area is mostly a narcotics transshipment point. El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) documents that 65 percent of the narcotics sold in U.S. markets enter the

country through the SWBH. The SWBH is comprised of four distinct trafficking corridors, called plazas, which are used by the DTOs to ply their trade. Some cities in the SWBH have drug usage problems, while others are merely trans-shipment areas.

The most transshipped narcotic in the SWBH is marijuana. Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) seized more than 873,862 kilos in CY2001. It is also the most abused drug in the area.



The graph above, which depicts the staggering amounts of Marijuana seized during the last three years, does not include marijuana eradication seizures.

Cocaine is the second most transshipped drug through the SWBH. Seizures in CY2001 totaled 17,953 kilos. Cocaine also is the second most abused drug in the area. The third most trafficked narcotic in the SWBH area is methamphetamine. Seizures in CY2001 totaled 1,367 kilos. The fourth most trafficked narcotic in the SWBH is heroin. Seizures in CY2001 totaled 403 kilos. The fifth most transshipped narcotics through the SWBH are other dangerous drugs, such as methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), and Rohypnol.

Strategy Abstract

As one of the original gateway HIDTAs, the SWBH is divided into five regions: Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas, and South Texas. Each region has its own Regional Executive Committee and employs a regional director to assist the respective Executive Committees in the implementation of National Drug Control and SWBH strategies.

The SWBH Executive Board has equal federal, state, and local representation. The five Executive Committees designate their own representatives for membership on the SWBH Executive Board, who is normally the chair and vice-chair or other senior members. The SWBH Executive Board then selects its own chair and vice-chair. These positions alternate between federal agency representatives and state and local representatives.

The SWBH executive director and staff, located in El Paso, TX, directly support the SWBH Executive Board and provide programmatic oversight and administration of the HIDTA program along the Southwest border.

Within each SWBH region, the Regional Executive Committees are delegated authority and responsibility for the development, approval, implementation, evaluation, and review of initiatives within their region. The SWBH Executive Board and the SWBH executive director, in cooperation with the Regional Executive Committees, coordinate the integration and synchronization of all initiatives to ensure a unified effort in achieving the mission of the SWBH.

Investigative Support Center

The SWBH demonstrates the utility of a completely integrated and unified intelligence and investigative support system, both within each region and across the Southwest Border as a whole. The five Regional HIDTA Investigative Support Centers (ISCs) are the centerpiece of the SWBH as they provide the collocation and commingling of vital federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel and databases to assist all regional LEAs in counterdrug investigations, eradication, interdiction, and prosecution.

There will continue to be increased emphasis on improved intelligence collection and management, analysis, and targeting and dissemination capabilities within and among LEAs, HIDTA-supported multi-agency task forces, the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), and EPIC. This achievement will result in a more focused and intelligence-based approach to investigations, interdiction operations, and enhanced prosecutions.

The SWBH will continue to develop border-wide intelligence architecture to support law enforcement along the Southwest border. The Investigative Support Centers (ISCs) and intelligence units of the SWBH provide responsive deconfliction, pointer index, case support, intelligence fusion, and predictive analysis, as set forth in the guidelines. They also develop verifiable drug intelligence that reflects major changes undertaken by traffickers to counteract the implementation of the HIDTA strategy.

A major goal of the SWBH strategy is the facilitation of sharing pertinent intelligence information between the five regional ISCs and HIDTA-supported task forces Border-wide. The SWBH coordinates efforts with national intelligence centers such as EPIC,

the NDIC, and other HDTAs, including the Houston and Los Angeles HDTAs.

Participating Agencies

Federal: National Drug Intelligence Center (Please refer to the individual Southwest Border HIDTA regions for a complete list of participating federal agencies.)

State/Local: Please refer to the individual Southwest Border HIDTA Regional partnership sections for a complete list of participating state and local agencies.

Significant Achievements

The SWBH has, and continues to develop strong, coordinated, and cooperative efforts among LEAs within the SWBH and throughout the country. An example of this is demonstrated by the Albuquerque, NM, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) HIDTA Interdiction Task Force, winner of the 2001 Annual HIDTA Award for Outstanding HIDTA Interdiction Effort.

In April 2000, the task force seized \$1,049,000 from two passengers traveling on the Amtrak train system from Chicago, IL, to Los Angeles, CA. Continued investigation disclosed that the passengers were associated with a well-known heroin distribution group that was operating in Chicago. The task force continues to work in conjunction with federal and state LEAs in Illinois in an attempt to target this heroin distribution organization.

In November 2000, task force members seized one kilogram of methamphetamine from an individual who was transporting the methamphetamine from Las Vegas, NV, to Philadelphia, PA. Task force members gained the individual's cooperation, which

led to a major conspiracy investigation targeting the methamphetamine source in Las Vegas and the distribution organization in the Philadelphia area. This organization was responsible for the distribution of hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine, and has ties to both organized crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs operating in the northeastern United States

In March 2001, the task force seized \$640,000 from a passenger on an Amtrak train. Follow-up investigation led to indictments against several individuals in New York with strong ties to organized crime.

Information above was provided by the Southwest Border HIDTA.

Southwest Border HIDTA

Arizona Regional Partnership



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Arizona: Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma Counties

Contact: (520) 746-4426/4400

Mission Statement

The Arizona Regional Partnership seeks to facilitate federal, state, and local multi-agency task forces and other partnerships to increase the safety of Arizona's citizens by substantially reducing drug trafficking, money laundering, and drug-related crime and violence.

Threat Abstract

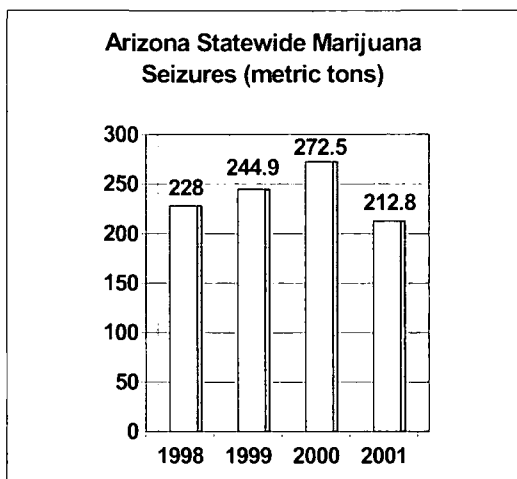
As one of the fastest growing states in the Nation, Arizona's rapid population growth continues to strain law enforcement resources. The region has six U.S. Customs land ports of entry (POEs), three of which are major ports; five designated international airports; and an excellent transportation infrastructure—all of which are exploited by drug traffickers. The two major

metropolitan areas in the Regional Partnership, Tucson and Phoenix, are primary distribution centers and drug transit areas with close proximity and easy access to the Arizona-Sonora, Mexico border. The primary threat to the area is from major drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), money laundering groups, and street gangs that operate in Arizona and Mexico. There were 410 DTOs identified in CY2001, more than 50 percent of which have international connections.

Arizona is considered a transshipment point for drugs, primarily marijuana, cocaine, Mexican black tar heroin and, increasingly, Mexican-produced methamphetamine that is destined for other areas of the United States.

Marijuana continues to be the most abused and trafficked drug in the state. Marijuana

seizures in CY2001 totaled 468,231 pounds—a 22-percent drop from CY2000.



Cocaine is the second most abused drug. Cocaine seizures dropped from 4.3 metric tons in CY2000 to 3.2 metric tons in CY2001.

Methamphetamine poses the most significant policing problem statewide, and is the most abused hallucinogenic drug in Arizona. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures decreased from 375 in CY2000 to 324 in CY2001 in conjunction with the decrease in statewide seizures from 250 kilograms to 168 kilograms.

These drops probably reflect DTOs attempts to adjust their operations as a result of the previous year's large seizures.

Heroin abuse is minimal in Arizona; it remains the fourth most abused drug in the state. Heroin routinely is smuggled into the United States through Arizona POEs. In addition, Ecstasy has become an acceptable and trendy drug among teens and young adults.

Drug proceeds are smuggled in bulk from Arizona to Mexico using vehicles, commerce shipments, private and commercial aircraft, and pedestrians. Easy

access to illicit drugs generates local community drug abuse problems throughout the state.

Increased interdiction efforts have frustrated the alien and narcotics smuggler. This has resulted in significant acts of aggression and violence toward law enforcement officials—up from 192 incidents in CY2000 to 248 in CY2001.

Drug trafficking and consumption in the region inevitably lead to drug-related crime. In CY2001, violent crime statistics for homicides and robberies were up from CY2000. Aggravated assaults and rapes remained nearly the same; all crimes against property were up. Drug-related violence and property crime, perpetrated increasingly by drug gangs and abusers, threatens the safety of Arizona's citizens.

Strategy Abstract

The Arizona Regional Partnership operates as an extension of the Southwest Border HIDTA (SWBH), and under the guidance of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Participating agencies have their own missions, strategies, policies, and procedures. The Arizona Regional Partnership Executive Committee provides unity of effort and synchronizes the partnership's strategy as it targets the drug threat and reduces drug-related crime. The Executive Committee consists of 13 voting members—five federal, three state, and five local. There is also one non-voting member—the Department of Defense's JTF-6. The Executive Committee is a policy-making board that may empower subcommittees to accomplish their objectives. It reviews and approves annual budget submissions and provides guidance to the Arizona Regional Partnership staff. The Arizona Regional Partnership provides

the coordination umbrella for all partnership initiatives and special projects.

The Executive Committee has funded 22 initiatives to execute the partnership's strategy and meet the Performance Measures of Effectiveness (PMEs), Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) targets, and the ONDCP developmental standards. Each initiative is a multi-agency federal, state, and local effort. All initiatives were colocated and commingled, except in two situations where a large, diverse, rural environment did not permit collocation.

The partnership counties each have one centerpiece task force initiative that serves the respective county with a colocated or collaborative multi-agency task force directed at major drug case development and drug smuggling. These centerpiece task forces essentially are multi-dimensional to meet partnership and HIDTA program guidance criteria.

The remaining initiatives augment the task forces by providing specialized units to target money laundering, violence, drug-related corruption, fugitive apprehension, surveillance expertise, training, demand reduction, and technical and intelligence support. The joint federal, state, and local initiatives are organized seamlessly into counterdrug subsystems, with each subsystem—intelligence, support, demand reduction, interdiction, investigation, prosecution—focusing on a counterdrug imperative.

Investigative Support Center

At the direction of the ONDCP, the Arizona Regional Partnership Executive Committee has implemented an interdiction, intelligence, and investigative-based HIDTA Center in Tucson. The Center's mission is two-fold: 1) to provide a support

environment for the collocation of vital federal, state, and local law enforcement resources that are involved in counterdrug investigations, interdiction, and intelligence; and 2) to provide investigation and interdiction intelligence systems and products that support and enhance Arizona Regional Partnership drug task force initiatives' capability to disrupt and dismantle DTOs in support of the Arizona Regional Partnership strategy. Participants include an administration support group with six full-time and one part-time colocated members, and an intelligence division with 40 full-time and two part-time colocated members.

The administration support group is staffed by Pima County Sheriff's Department personnel, and provides facility management and security services, and information systems technical support. It operates and maintains the event deconfliction Narcotics Information Network Joint Agency System (NINJAS), and conducts research and development for enhanced databases, electronic connectivity, and analytical support systems.

The intelligence division is an Arizona Department of Public Safety-led federal, state, and local initiative that provides all source intelligence, trend and pattern analysis, analytical case support, and case deconfliction support to the partnership initiatives and other appropriate users. To support these efforts, the intelligence division has access to more than 36 databases and uses the geographic information system, Arcview, to provide predictive intelligence, as well as to graphically display drug, currency, weapons, and other seizure data.

The ISC provides this graphic display through COBIJA WebShare to more than

900 vetted users throughout the United States. Collocated at the Arizona HIDTA Center are three other initiatives, as well as components of the Tucson Police Department's Special Investigations Unit, the U.S. Border Patrol's Prosecution Unit, a Deputy Pima County Attorney, and air assets of the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Attorney's Office.

State/Local: Arizona Attorney General's Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Local: Benson Police Department, Bisbee Police Department, Cochise County Attorney's Office, Cochise County Sheriff's Department, Chandler Police Department, Casa Grande Police Department, Eloy Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Kearney Police Department, Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, Mesa Police Department, Mohave County Sheriff's Office, Nogales Police Department, Oro Valley Police Department, Peoria Police Department, Phoenix Police Department, Pima County Attorney's Office, Pima County Attorney's Office, Pima County Sheriff's Department, Pinal County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Tucson Police Department, Wilcox Police Department, Youngtown Police Department, Yuma County Sheriff's Department, Yuma Police Department.

Other: National Guard, Department of Defense's JTF-6.

Significant Achievements

The Arizona Regional Partnership, working with the California Regional Partnership, New Mexico Regional Partnership, South Texas Regional Partnership, Chicago HIDTA, Southwest Michigan HIDTA, and others, has spearheaded a concept called COBIJA (blanket in Spanish). COBIJA is a coordinating mechanism that facilitates federal, state, and local law enforcement-coordinated interdiction planning, operations, and information sharing among the HIDTAs.

There have been 12 COBIJA cycles since its inception in August 1998. Each cycle involves an operational planning conference, which usually is attended by 200 to 300 law enforcement representatives, an operational period, and lessons learned. Each phase is supported with intelligence. More than 70 law enforcement agencies and task forces from the four Southwest border states, and representatives from Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, and Washington participate.

COBIJA supports the ONDCP strategic goals, the General Counter Intelligence Plan, and the Border Coordination Initiative (BCI). The BCI and COBIJA have partnered to further enhance multi-agency coordination and information sharing.

The Department of Defense's Defense Systems Information Agency supports COBIJA by providing, at no cost, a secure electronic tool via the Anti-Drug Network Unclassified system. This allows for the secure dissemination of intelligence and operational information to the more than 900 vetted users of the system. COBIJA WebShare hosts the interactive situational

map, Arcview, which graphically displays drug and currency seizures and other information.

The Arizona Regional Partnership, in conjunction with their partner HIDTAs, facilitates three COBIJA cycles each calendar year. COBIJA XIII will begin in January 2003.

Information above was provided by the Arizona Regional Partnership.

Southwest Border HIDTA

California Regional Partnership



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

California: San Diego and Imperial Counties

Contact: (619) 557-5880

Mission Statement

The mission of the California Regional Partnership (CRP) is to reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the effect of illicit drugs in the region and other areas of the country. To accomplish this mission, the CRP assists in the coordination of joint operational and supporting initiatives to deter, disrupt, dismantle, and ultimately eliminate the most significant drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and their supporting transportation and money laundering organizations. The CRP also emphasizes efforts against methamphetamine manufacturing, precursor supply, and club drug abuse through innovative enforcement operations and demand-reduction programs utilizing a multi-agency, joint concept of operations.

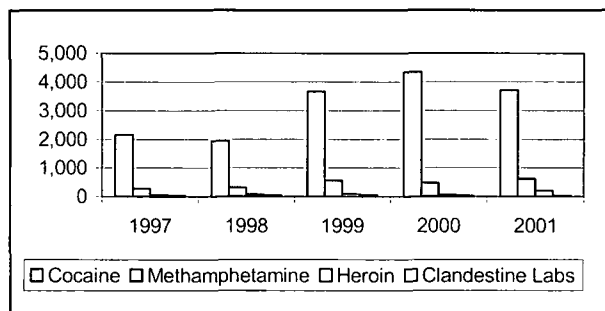
Threat Abstract

The CRP was designated in 1990 as one of the five partnerships of the Southwest Border

HIDTA (SWBH). The CRP's area of responsibility (ARO) includes the 140-mile United State-Mexico border, 7 percent of the entire border shared by the two countries, five of the Nation's busiest land ports of entry (POEs) (San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Tecate, Calexico East and Calexico West), as well as international airports and seaports, and urban, rural, and designated wilderness areas. The ARO extends from the United States-Mexico border north to the Orange and Riverside County lines, and from the Pacific Ocean to the Arizona border. The geographic location is unique: from beaches and seaports to deserts, with forested mountains in between. The CRP's ARO is home to the largest bi-national metropolis in the world and 60 percent of the entire SWBH population. The CRP's ARO remains one of the most active transit areas for drugs and illegal aliens moving north, and for monies traveling south.

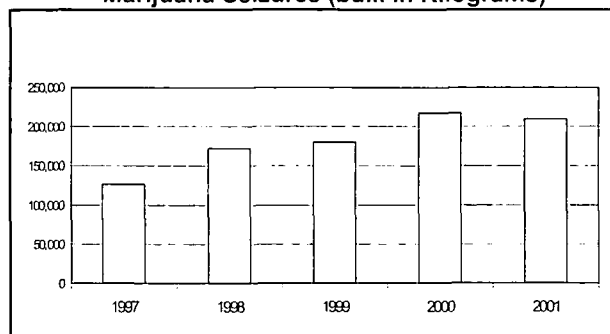
The primary regional drug threats are the importation of marijuana, cocaine, heroin,

and methamphetamine through San Diego and Imperial counties, marijuana cultivation, methamphetamine manufacturing, and high drug use rates, especially for methamphetamine and club drugs. The CRP measurably affects drug trafficking in these counties. Thirty-six of 123 DTOs and supporting gangs (29 percent) identified in the 2001 threat assessment were disrupted or dismantled from 10 to 100 percent by CRP initiatives, task forces, and member agencies this year.



Significant progress in the disruption of major DTOs has been achieved through the efforts of multi-agency, joint task forces and initiatives that have utilized historical conspiracy cases, innovative and sophisticated investigative methods, and coordinated interdiction efforts. Several major cases involving the Arellano Felix Organization (AFO) and other national and international DTOs have achieved highly significant milestones.

Marijuana Seizures (bulk in Kilograms)



During 2001, CRP task forces and participating member agencies seized more

than 209,675 kilograms marijuana, 3,709 kilograms of cocaine, 207 kilograms of heroin, 630 kilograms of methamphetamine, made 2,855 arrests, seized \$ 7.63 million in cash, and destroyed 35 clandestine drug labs. The marine task force participated in the seizure of an additional 25 tons of cocaine in the Eastern Pacific destined for the SWBH via Mexico.

Strategy Abstract

To accomplish its mission, the CRP coordinates 18 intelligence-driven, joint, multi-agency coordinated initiatives, which are organized into five mutually supportive subsystems: intelligence, interdiction, investigation, prosecution, and demand reduction.

Each agency has its own strategies, requirements, and missions. The CRP Executive Committee, through its subcommittees, coordinates the integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and improve the systematic sharing of intelligence.

The Executive Committee monitors the implementation of the strategy to ensure CRP's joint efforts produce the desired affect. The Committee provides a coordination umbrella over networked joint task forces, the intelligence center (IC), task forces not funded by the CRP and single-agency task forces and narcotics units within CRP. The Committee is comprised of 16 members and officers—eight federal and eight state or local.

An intelligence subcommittee provides guidance and direction to the region's intelligence hub, the San Diego-Imperial County Regional Narcotics Information Network (NIN), and develops intelligence policies for the approval by the Executive

Committee. A fiscal subcommittee reviews and recommends budget and reprogramming requests for Executive Committee action and approval.

The CRP director provides day-to-day coordination and programmatic and fiscal accountability critical to the California Regional Partnership. The director is responsible for developing draft proposals of the threat assessment, strategy, initiatives, and annual report for submission to the CRP Executive Committee. The director also is responsible for managing the CRP staff, which includes budget, program analysis, network administration, demand reduction, and training and equipment coordination.

Investigative Support Center

The NIN, the centerpiece of the CRP's intelligence support subsystem, provides responsive deconfliction, pointer index, case support, intelligence fusion, and predictive analyses in cooperation and coordination with the California Southwest Border Intelligence Group, two law enforcement coordination center intelligence cells, and member agency intelligence units. The NIN is connected by online systems and personnel cross-attached to those intelligence links within the region, with the other SWBH investigative support centers, and nationwide via the Western States Information Network (WSIN) and the Regional Information Systems Sharing Network (RISSNET).

Interdiction operations and investigations are coordinated with the IC to the greatest extent practicable, with exceptions for applicable grand jury secrecy, privacy of taxpayer information, Title III restrictions, and agency security requirements.

The IC works to identify and assess core and secondary DTOs, and develop organizational profiles, including key personalities, methodologies, facilities, assets, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. Further, the IC assesses and prioritizes geographical areas and smuggling methodologies with the highest levels of trafficking activity. Based on these assessments, the IC develops a prioritized list of targets and identifies critical nodes and their susceptibility to interdiction, investigation, prosecution, or further intelligence exploitation. This necessitates, within prudent security limits, the free and mutual flow of information to the NIN, with the full cooperation of all participating law enforcement agencies (LEAs).

The NIN also has developed, in cooperation with and the assistance of the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), a document exploitation team that has the capability to quickly retrieve, scan, process, and analyze large volumes of documents in support of investigations, prosecutions, and intelligence efforts.

The CRP Narco-Terrorism Initiative is an innovative effort to coordinate, and ultimately integrate, drug and homeland security intelligence and information sharing operations and centers within the CRP region. It focuses on the collocating and commingling of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Regional Computer Forensics Lab, and a cadre of NIN analysts, and provides support for the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS), an FBI information sharing pilot project.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Civil Air Patrol, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau

of Investigation, Federal Communications Commission, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Department of Defense's JTF-6.

State: California Department of Justice-Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, California Department of Justice-Western States Information Network, California Department of Corrections, California Highway Patrol, California National Guard.

Local: Calipatria Police Department, Brawley Police Department, Calexico Police Department, Carlsbad Police Department, Chula Vista Police Department, Coronado Police Department, El Centro Police Department, El Monte Police Department, Escondido Police Department, Holtville Police Department, Imperial County District Attorney's Office, Imperial County Probation Department, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, Imperial County Fire Department, Imperial Police Department, National City Police Department, Oceanside Police Department, San Diego Police Department, San Diego District Attorney's Office, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, San Diego County Probation Dept, San Diego Harbor Police Department, Westmoreland Police Department.

Other: San Diego County Prevention Coalition, National Institute of Justice-Border Research and Technology Center, San Diego County Board of Supervisors-Methamphetamine Strike Force.

Significant Achievements

There were extraordinary developments in Mexico and southern California in 2001 and 2002 regarding the most significant Mexican DTOs, the effects of which will be felt for years to come in the California Regional Partnership region and throughout Mexico and the United States.

The AFO, the target of a major CRP initiative, has been seriously disrupted by unprecedented law enforcement operations by the governments of Mexico and the United States, as well as by conflicts with other DTOs. In February and March 2001, entire AFO cells were dismantled in Mexicali and Mexico City, respectively. Adan Amezcua Contreras was arrested in May, Ramon Alcides Magana (El Metro) in June, and Ivonne Soto Vega (La Pantera—the main AFO money launderer) in July. In December, Miguel Angel Caro Quintero was detained for possible extradition to the United States. Arturo "Kitty" Paez pleaded guilty in U.S. federal court, and was sentenced to 30 years.

In early 2002, Ramon Arellano Felix was killed in Mazatlan, and Benjamin Arellano Felix was arrested outside Mexico City. Finally, another drug tunnel linked to the AFO was discovered in East San Diego County in February. The efforts of the Arellano Felix Task Force, DEA, FBI, U.S. Customs, Internal Revenue Service, Chula Vista Police Department, San Diego Sheriff's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, and other agencies clearly were critical to the above law enforcement successes, yet the actual meaning and full impact of all of these developments are not yet fully known.

Information above was provided by the California Regional Partnership.

Southwest Border HIDTA

New Mexico Regional Partnership



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

New Mexico: Bernalillo, Chaves, Hidalgo, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, and Santa Fe Counties, and all the municipalities therein

Contact: (505) 541-7501

Mission Statement

The New Mexico Regional Partnership's mission is to develop a synchronized system involving coordinated intelligence, interdiction, investigation, and prosecution efforts to measurably reduce drug trafficking; thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this state and other areas of the country.

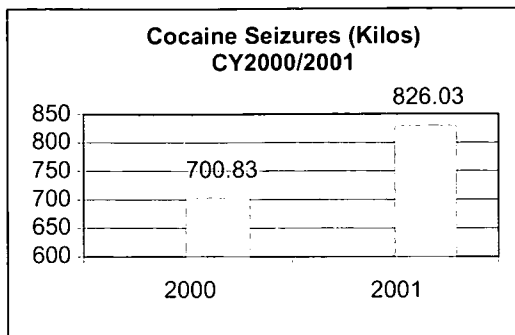
Threat Abstract

The New Mexico region was designated in 1990 as one of the five regions of the Southwest Border HIDTA (SWBH). It encompasses 13 counties, four ports of entry (POEs), and about 180 miles of the international border shared with Mexico. Most of the New Mexico-Mexico border area is open desert, remote, barren, and generally uninhabited with innumerable roads, trails, footpaths, and private ranches that offer drug

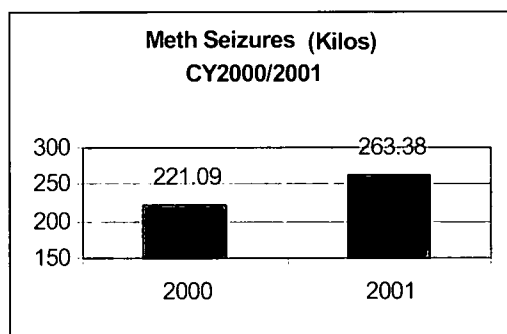
smugglers easy access into the United States and its major interstate highways—all favorable conditions for smuggling.

The region's proximity to the Ciudad Juarez, Mexico-El Paso, TX corridor is a threat as this corridor is a major contributor to the flow of narcotics into and through the region. Moreover, drug traffickers increasingly are exploiting the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provisions, which have brought about significant increases in commercial trade. Major Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) utilize freight trains and commercial motor vehicle carriers that frequently travel through New Mexico and cross the Texas-New Mexico and Mexico borders to move drugs into and throughout the United States.

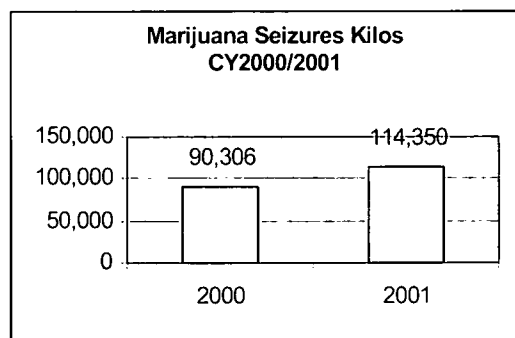
The importation, distribution, and consumption of powder and crack cocaine are the biggest threats in the region.



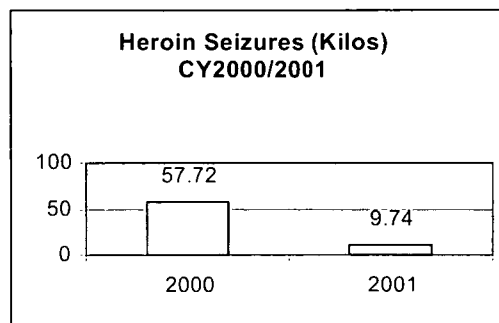
The availability of locally produced methamphetamine and product from Mexico and California is increasing rapidly. Local methamphetamine lab seizures are increasing at alarming rates. Seizures of methamphetamine produced in California have increased from one-pound quantities to more than one-kilogram quantities per incident.



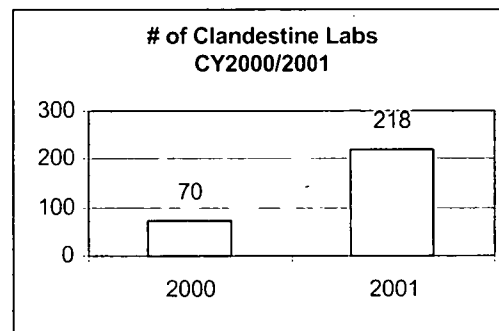
Mexican marijuana is the most prevalent drug abused and the drug most commonly seized from interdiction seizures.



The availability of Mexican black tar heroin continues throughout New Mexico; and both brown and white heroin have been encountered.



Gangs facilitate much of the drug distribution that occurs at the street level and are responsible for much of the drug-related violence in the region.



Strategy Abstract

An Executive Committee, comprised of six federal and eight state and local law enforcement leaders in the New Mexico Regional Partnership area allows for the seamless integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking. It eliminates unnecessary duplication of effort, systematically improves the sharing of drug intelligence, and supports programs that effectively reduce the demand for illegal drugs.

The goals of the New Mexico Regional Partnership are to reduce the transshipment of drugs transported into New Mexico by identifying the responsible organizations; reducing the distribution of drugs within communities; continuing interdiction of smuggled drugs; following up investigations; and reducing methamphetamine manufacturing.

The New Mexico Regional Partnership coordinates 14 initiatives that build four counterdrug subsystems. Hundreds of representatives from 63 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are full-time participants in the New Mexico Regional Partnership initiatives. This includes 10 collocated multi-agency task forces; one prosecution initiative that includes two U.S. Attorney's Offices and seven District Attorney's Offices; one forensic criminal laboratory; one investigative support center; and one administrative support initiative.

An intelligence subsystem works through the regional intelligence center to gather intelligence and analyze data. Interdiction efforts are emphasized on transportation systems. An investigation subsystem employs post-seizure analysis and investigation in complex cases, including money laundering investigations. The prosecution subsystem coordinates between the U.S. Attorney's Offices and state prosecutors focusing on high-profile cases in order to address the high volume of cases originating from the Border region.

Investigative Support Center

The New Mexico Regional Partnership Investigative Support Center (NMISC) is the centerpiece of the partnership, providing for the collocation and commingling of vital federal, state, and local law enforcement

personnel and the databases that are available to assist all area LEAs in counterdrug investigations and interdiction. The NMISC provides event and case deconfliction for officer safety and enhanced intelligence; strategic intelligence for refined targeting and officer resource allocation; and in-service analytical intelligence training.

The NMISC provides partnership task forces with operational analytical support for ongoing, initiative-driven case activity through access to criminal and commercial databases. The NMISC provides law enforcement with immediate access and one-stop shopping to a wide range of law enforcement and commercial databases.

The NMISC provides access to the following databases: Treasury Enforcement Communication System (TECS); National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) and related subsystems, including the Interstate Identification Index (III); National Law Enforcement Teletype System (NLETS); INS Central Index System (CIS); Commercial Drivers License Information System (CDLIS and SAFER); DEA Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Information System (NADDIS); New Mexico Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS); FBI Field Office Information Management System (FOIMS); the state Corrections Management Information System (CMIS); two commercial databases, Choicepoint/Autotrak and Lexis-Nexis; Narcotics Information Network Joint Agency System (NINJAS); and Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN).

The New Mexico Regional Partnership threat assessment requires quarterly reporting so that resources and direction can be reevaluated among the partnership

initiatives. This information and statistics are shared with the NMISC.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Amtrak Police Department, Department of Defense's JTF-6, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Marshal Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Customs Service.

State: New Mexico Department of Corrections and Parole, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, New Mexico National Guard, and District Attorney's Offices of the First, Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Eleventh and Twelfth Judicial Districts.

County/Municipal: Albuquerque Police Department, Alamogordo Department of Public Safety, Artesia Police Department, Aztec Police Department, Belen Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department, Bernalillo Police Department, Bloomfield Police Department, Carlsbad Police Department, Corrales Police Department, Deming Police Department, Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department, Eddy County Sheriff's Department, Espanola Police Department, Eunice Police Department, Farmington Police Department, Grant County Sheriff's Department, Hatch Police Department, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department, Hobbs Police Department, Jal Police Department, Las Cruces Police Department, Lea County Sheriff's Department, Los Alamos Police Department, Los Lunas Police Department, Lovington Police Department, Luna County Sheriff's Department, Otero County Sheriff's Department, Questa Police Department, Rio Arriba County Sheriff's

Department, Rio Rancho Police Department, Sandoval County Sheriff's Department, San Juan County Sheriff's Department, Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department, Santa Fe Police Department, Silver City Police Department, Sunland Park Police Department, Taos Police Department, Taos Police Department, Tatum Police Department, Torrance County Sheriff's Department, University of New Mexico Police Department, and Valencia County Sheriff's Department.

Other: New Mexico Sheriff's and Police Association.

Significant Achievements

Many DTOs continually utilize the New Mexico highway system as a major thoroughfare for the transportation of drugs destined for distribution points in New Mexico and other U.S. locations.

Federal, state, and local LEAs in New Mexico often intercept these drug shipments along the New Mexico-Mexico border, area highways, and the Amtrak railway. These seizures and resulting arrests are referred to partnership investigative initiatives for follow-up investigation and prosecution. The follow-up investigation often involves efforts to deliver the seized contraband to its intended destination in an undercover capacity and controlled environment. Through these controlled deliveries, law enforcement personnel have been able to identify and arrest additional members of major DTOs, and conduct activities that often result in seizures of additional drugs and drug-related assets. This type of investigative technique has proven to be very successful in disrupting and dismantling the activities of numerous national and international DTOs.

Some of the drug shipments intercepted in New Mexico during CY2001 were destined to locations in Massachusetts, Ohio, Washington, D.C., Oklahoma, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, California, North Carolina, North Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, New York, and Georgia.

Investigative initiatives also originate and develop drug-related investigations that result in seizures of drugs, drug-related assets, and prosecution of members involved with DTOs. In addition, the New Mexico Regional partnership also participates in coordinated, synchronized, and planned interdiction efforts in concert with the other Regional Partnerships along the Southwest Border.

The New Mexico Regional Partnerships initiatives are frequent participants in joint drug interdiction operations where intelligence and information are shared among all initiatives of the SWBH. These efforts also have proven very successful in stemming the flow of drugs transported through New Mexico.

A prosecution initiative coordinates its efforts with those initiatives referring cases to them, and closely communicates and cooperates with other jurisdictions to pursue the best possible results.

An intelligence initiative develops the intelligence information received and shares it with LEAs that may have a potential affect.

The following are statistics from New Mexico Regional Partnership initiatives during CY2001:

- Total defendant arrests: 3,430
- Drug seizures:
 - Cocaine – 826 kilograms
 - Heroin – 9.74 kilograms
 - Marijuana – 114,350 kilograms
 - Methamphetamine – 263 kilograms
 - Methamphetamine labs – 218
- Asset seizures: \$9,648,504.00
- Number of DTOs dismantled: 90
- Number of DTOs disrupted: 324

Information above was provided by the New Mexico Regional Partnership.

Southwest Border HIDTA

South Texas Regional Partnership



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Texas: Bexar, Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Starr, Maverick, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala Counties

Contact: (210) 692-1532

Mission Statement

The mission of the South Texas Regional Partnership (STRP) is to measurably diminish drug trafficking; thereby reducing the effect of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the SWBH and the nation as a whole. The STRP Executive Committee has identified six specific goals to accomplish this mission.

The major goals are: 1) increase counterdrug information collection, analysis, production, and fusion into useable intelligence; 2) expand intelligence access and exchange between regional law enforcement agencies (LEAs) as well as HIDTAs nationwide; 3) provide for and expand officer safety in operations throughout the region; 4) target, disrupt, and/or dismantle the major identified drug trafficking organizations

(DTOs) within the STRP region; 5) increase illicit drug seizures, and thus reduce the available illicit drug supply; 6) increase financial investigations to boost illicit drug money and asset seizures, thereby dismantling DTOs' fiscal infrastructures, and provide resources to successfully indict, arrest, and bring to prosecution all identified DTO participants.

Threat Abstract

The STRP region is a primary, nationally significant hub for the transportation and transshipment of illegal drugs entering the United States from Mexico, based on its location on the Mexico-United States border and its connectivity to the area's transportation infrastructure. Major DTOs operating within the region and across the

border in Mexico plague the STRP region with their polydrug trafficking activities.

The DTOs conceal their shipments in legitimate cargo and private vehicle traffic northbound from Mexico through the South Texas region. The enormous volumes of commercial and pedestrian traffic transiting the South Texas region also provides excellent masking opportunities for smuggling through ports of entry (POEs).

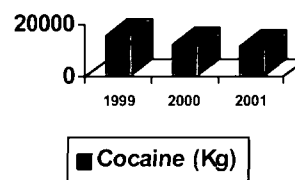
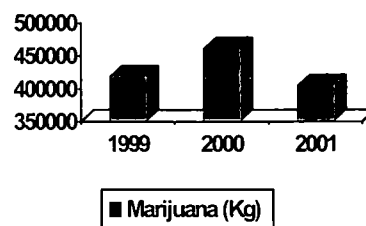
Large shipments of cocaine and marijuana transit the region. Based on the increasing sizes of shipments seized in the past year, this trend will continue. Traffickers are attempting to expand their investments in transportation venues to provide a convenient and profitable avenue for overland smuggling.

The availability of Mexican black tar heroin throughout the region attracts a number of new users, including adolescents. The increasing use of Mexico as a transshipment point for South American heroin leads to increased availability and trafficking of this drug in the South Texas region.

The South Texas region is one of the primary entry zones for Mexican-produced methamphetamine. Increased seizures in the area support the contention that Mexican DTOs view this region as a favorable smuggling corridor, and support the contention that Mexican DTOs likely will expand their trafficking activity efforts through the region.

Strategy Abstract

The STRP Executive Committee consists of 12 leaders representing the 14 counties in the partnership's area. The Executive Committee coordinates and integrates counter-narcotics



efforts in interdiction, intelligence collection, development and exchange, and investigation to facilitate prosecutions of DTO members in coordination with the SWBH.

There are 46 federal, state, and local LEAs participating in the STRP's initiatives and multi-jurisdictional, collocated task forces. The 46 agencies represent 12 federal, five state, and 29 local LEAs. The counterdrug efforts target illegal narcotics activities across the 14 counties in the STRP's area of responsibility (AROs).

The South Texas region's CY2001 seizures totaled more than 23 percent of the methamphetamine, 19 percent of the heroin, 36 percent of the marijuana, and 56 percent of the cocaine seized in the SWBH. OxyContin and Ecstasy also are being seized in increasing quantities.

Operational elements are located in the major cities and at the Brownsville, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, McAllen, and San Antonio POEs.

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

There are 12 multi-agency, collocated counterdrug initiatives with 24 task forces in the STRP. The task forces consist of 24 units: 17 for investigative-money laundering, one for interdiction, and six for intelligence. Prosecution support exists in five of the investigative and one intelligence units.

The administrative staff of the STRP is headquartered in San Antonio, TX and provides training support for the STRP and regional LEAs.

Investigative Support Center

The South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center (STHIC), located in San Antonio, is a full-service center providing information, assistance, and support in narcotics investigations. Its mission is to provide accurate, detailed, and timely tactical, investigative, and strategic drug intelligence to HIDTA initiatives, participating agencies, and other LEAs, as appropriate. Coupled with the five supporting intelligence elements and the organic deconfliction center, the STHIC meets the needs of the 14 counties in the ST Partnership's AROs and also supports LEA requests from more than 20 counties within the South Texas region. More than 60 local, state, and federal LEAs use the STHIC, which supports several cornerstones of the HIDTA Development Standards.

Each element of the STHIC consists of a cell of collocated and commingling federal, state, and local intelligence professionals who cater to the needs of task force members and the

STHIC. They enhance intelligence collection, analysis, reporting, and production within the partnership.

The deconfliction center provides support for LEAs located throughout Texas, and meets the needs of partnership personnel. The database is an information storage and mapping software system designed to enhance officer safety during high-risk enforcement actions.

Overall, the STHIC and its subordinate task forces provide tactical and strategic support while continually reviewing and updating the threat assessment and providing deconfliction services for the ST Partnership-SWBH.

The STHIC is designated as the HIDTA hub for three of the SWBH partnerships in their use of the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET). RISSNET is a national LEA network that enhances the support received from investigative support centers within the region and the Nation.

The STHIC provides participating agencies and HIDTA task forces with operational analytical support for ongoing initiative-driven case activity through its access to multiple criminal and commercial databases. It provides narcotics intelligence analyses; prepares threat assessments, strategic reports, and organizational studies; participates in informant and defendant debriefings; performs tactical alert distribution; provides for post-seizure and search warrant analyses; supports arrest operations; prepares and conducts briefings for visitors to the HIDTA; and assists in trial preparations. In addition, the STHIC conducts self-initiated intelligence analysis projects to generate leads for HIDTA investigative agencies. The STHIC requires that intelligence managers within the region

meet quarterly to enhance regional reporting so resources and direction of the South Texas Regional Partnership may be evaluated in relationship to its initiatives.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice-Office of the Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, Department of Defense's JTF-6, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Attorney's Offices-Southern and Western Districts of Texas.

State/Local: Texas Attorney General's Office, Texas Banking Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas National Guard, Texas Rangers, 293rd Judicial District, Alamo Heights Police Department, Brownsville Police Department, Cameron County Auditor's Office, Cameron County Constable's Office, Cameron County District Attorney, Cameron County Sheriff's Office, Eagle Pass Police Department, Harlingen Police Department, Hidalgo County District Attorney, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, Kinney County Sheriff's Office, La Salle County Sheriff's Office, Laredo Police Department, Leon Valley Police Department, Mission Police department, Pharr Police Department, Port Isabel Police Department, Rio Grande City Police Department, San Antonio Police Department, Starr County District Attorney, Starr County Sheriff's Office, Val Verde County Sheriff's Office, Webb County District Attorney's Office, Webb County Sheriff's Office, Weslaco Police Department, Zapata County District Attorney, and Zapata County Sheriff's Office.

Significant Achievements

Ms. Yolanda DeLeon, Cameron County District Attorney, has played a key role in the success achieved by the South Texas Regional Partnership's Executive Committee and the SWBH Executive Board since January 1, 2001.

There are 120 local LEAs within the 14 county South Texas Regional Partnership's ARO. Twenty-nine believe in and participate in the South Texas Regional Partnership program initiatives and task forces. Their participation reflects the coalition building, leadership, and outstanding success that the South Texas Regional Partnership Executive Committee and its associated LEAs have made. Not all of the participating agencies receive fiscal benefit, but they do receive a safer environment to live in.

As chairperson of the South Texas Regional Partnership Executive Committee, Ms. DeLeon added a LEA member to the Executive Committee. Ms. DeLeon was instrumental in gaining the Executive Committee's acceptance of the Starr County District Attorney as a new member. This membership balanced federal and state-local committee memberships. The Executive Committee now has six federal and six state and local voting members. As a result, the South Texas Regional Partnership created a new investigative task force located in Starr County, which is an extremely critical area along the South Texas border with Mexico.

Ms. DeLeon led the Executive Committee to develop more effective and efficient subcommittees. Under her tutelage, the Executive Committee developed new direction for an intelligence subcommittee. Her firm guidelines were followed and ensured that initiatives and task

forces produced more effective results through strict budgeting and intelligence sharing principles.

As chairperson of the SWBH Executive Board, she developed a renewed cohesion among participating agencies. The SWBH now has a new coordination element that is centrally located in El Paso, TX. The administrative and coordination element better provides for the liaison and support necessary for the successful unification of efforts between the United States and Mexico.

Through team building efforts, the SWBH Executive Board developed and approved the first SWBH standard operating procedures manual. Though the Executive

Board members are separated by up to 2,000 miles, a consensus was achieved and the procedures were quickly approved. Ms. DeLeon prompted funds from previous year grants to be disbursed across the SWBH to fill partnership needs. One especially effective fund-sharing effort resulted in a coordinated equipment inventory control system.

Information above was provided by the South Texas Regional Partnership.

Southwest Border HIDTA

West Texas Regional Partnership



General Information

Year of Designation: 1990

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Texas: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Terrell, Crockett, Pecos, and Reeves Counties

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

Mission Statement

The mission of the West Texas Regional Partnership is to dismantle the drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) in the region and to stop the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States by making the area unattractive to the DTOs via the development and coordination of intelligence, interdiction, investigative, forfeiture, and prosecution initiatives.

Threat Abstract

The West Texas Regional Partnership adjoins the 490 miles of international border, including five of the busiest ports of entry (POEs) on any U.S. border. The primary routes for drug smuggling in the area are through the POEs via motor vehicles, ranging from passenger cars to semi-trailers. Remote stretches of unregulated territory between the

POEs also are vulnerable to drug trafficking. Narcotics entrepreneurs exploit the El Paso International Airport, Interstate 10, which accesses both ends of the country, and rail companies.

An extensively interconnected commercial and social infrastructure in El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and, on a smaller scale, Presidio, TX and Ciudad Ojinaga, Mexico, provide drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) with innumerable methods of masking their illicit trade. Commerce between the two countries has been on the rise—a trend that is expected to continue due to the North American Free Trade Agreement. Increasing trade and corresponding traffic through the region amplifies the complexity of the threat.

Drug traffickers in the area are major, high-level, international organizations with command-and-control components operating

out of Mexico. Large-scale importation and trafficking of all types of drugs is the primary problem. El Paso is a hub for illicit drug distribution and money laundering systems.

Cocaine seizures on the U.S. side of the border have doubled since 1997 and continue to rise. Marijuana seizures continue to be one of the largest in the country. Heroin seizures continue to grow. DTOs are sophisticated and wealthy enough to avoid law enforcement efforts that curtail money laundering activities. Internal and external power struggles to control the Juarez Cartel unleashed an unprecedented wave of violence in Ciudad Juarez and Ojinaga, Mexico. Corruption on both sides of the border assists the DTOs in advancing their illicit trade.

Charts 1 and 2 from the West Texas Regional Partnership's 2003 threat assessment demonstrate the increasing burden of drug trafficking in the West Texas region. Increasing successes in disrupting and dismantling the DTOs, combined with increased use of this region to transship narcotics into the United States is reflected in the caseloads of prosecutors at both the state and federal levels.

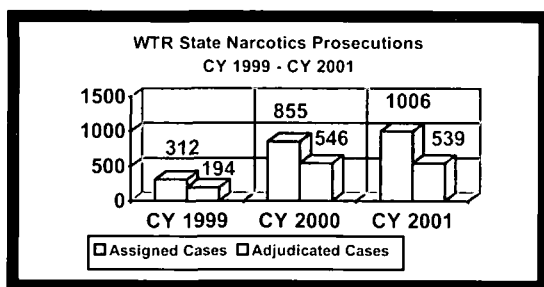


Chart 1 - State Caseloads

Strategy Abstract

The West Texas Regional Partnership was designated in 1990 as one of the five regions

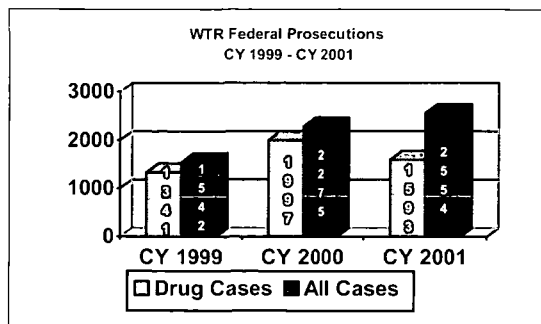


Chart 2 - Federal Caseloads

of the Southwest Border HIDTA (SWBH). The West Texas Regional Partnership Executive Committee is comprised of six federal, one state, and three local law enforcement leaders in the West Texas Regional Partnership area of responsibility.

A unified approach between law enforcement (LEAs) and prosecution agencies facilitates regional efforts to stem the flow of drugs entering the United States for distribution. A total of 23 federal, state, and local agencies cooperatively participate in 12 multi-agency initiatives.

The management and coordination component of this HIDTA region is located in El Paso, TX. The Investigative Support Center (ISC), comprising the intelligence backbone of the HIDTA, is also collocated in El Paso. The Texas Narcotics Information System (TNIS) is a statewide, multi-HIDTA initiative located in Austin, TX.

Six investigative initiatives target the major DTOs and their components operating in the region. This includes targeting the DTOs' highest command-and-control levels, their transportation organizations, money laundering organizations, transient traffickers, and fugitives related to drug trafficking. Four interdiction initiatives target the POEs, the use of wide-open territory throughout the region, and the prolific use of stash houses to accumulate and ship large quantities of drugs throughout the country. The prosecution

initiative enhances enforcement efforts by ensuring the full prosecution of narcotics traffickers.

Investigative Support Center

The West Texas Regional Partnership Intelligence Initiative (RII) consists of three links that provide operational units with a seamless intelligence support system. The initiative's structure and policies comply with the federal General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan (GCIP).

The RII functions in the following manner. The Investigative Support Center (ISC) is the hub of the West Texas Regional Partnership and is located in the El Paso Federal Criminal Justice Building. Three agencies are full participants in and co-manage the ISC—Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-El Paso Field Division, El Paso County Sheriff's Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The ISC is the initial point of contact on all service requests to the RII. It also sponsors yearly marketing presentations on services provided by the RII, which are presented to all narcotics enforcement personnel in the region. The ISC provides database queries, deconfliction pointer index services, and a full range of tactical and strategic analytical support and reports. With the addition of translators from the Department of Defense's JTF-6, the ISC provides translation and transcription services to all of the HIDTA initiatives. It also develops intelligence-driven investigations and provides them to the operational units.

The ISC serves as the communications hub between all of the agencies and initiatives, the West Texas Regional Partnership administrative center, and the other SWB regions through the development and

operation of a secure Intranet and e-mail system.

The ISC provides access to all federal, state, local, and commercial databases, and connectivity to the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISSNET). The FBI, DEA, U.S. Customs Service, Department of Public Safety, El Paso County Sheriff's Department, and the El Paso Police Department all have assigned personnel to the ISC on a full-time basis. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Texas Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)-El Paso and Marfa all have assigned part-time personnel to the ISC. The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) also plays a role in the ISC, with connectivity to the ISC wide area network (WAN), and ISC access to EPIC's clandestine lab database.

The Alpine/Marfa/Big Bend Intelligence Center (AMBBIC) is being established as a satellite ISC that will provide limited intelligence support in the Alpine/Marfa/Big Bend areas of the West Texas Regional Partnership. TNIS is the third node of the West Texas RII, providing national database connectivity, a central information repository, and limited analytical support. The ISC coordinates the efforts of the AMBBIC and TNIS components of the initiative so that the narcotics agent-officer is serviced by a seamless intelligence support system.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Border Patrol-El Paso and Marfa Sectors, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Attorney's Offices-Western District of Texas.

State/Local: Texas Office of the Attorney General, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Board of Criminal Justice-Inspector General Division, Texas National Guard, Counter Drug Program, 34th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Alpine Police Department, Brewster County Sheriff's Office, Culberson County Sheriff's Office, El Paso County Sheriff's Department, El Paso Police Department, Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office, and the Presidio County Sheriff's Office.

Other: El Paso Intelligence Center, Department of Defense's JTF-6, and El Paso County Metro Narcotics Task Force.

Significant Achievements

The best example of the HIDTA program's success in West Texas is the cooperation and coordination demonstrated by the West Texas Investigative Support Center (ISC). The West Texas Regional Partnership began developing the RII in 1997. What started with a staff of four in a small office has grown into a fully functional ISC with participation from every agency and initiative in the West Texas region.

The ISC moved into FBI-funded space in 1999. This space, located in El Paso's Federal Criminal Justice Center along with the DEA and FBI, now houses 55 analysts, agents, and detectives from eight federal, state, and local agencies. An additional 50 personnel are collocated with the ISC part-time. The ISC has become the hub of the West Texas Regional Partnership, and is the initial point of contact on all service requests for intelligence.

Currently, the ISC handles more than 1,200 service requests a month. The ISC has access to all federal, state, and local databases. With the Narcotics Information Network Joint Agency System (NINJA) event deconfliction system established, all

agencies in the West Texas Regional Partnership area are utilizing the system, which receives 76 entries a month.

The West Texas ISC was the first to develop a pointer index system. During 2001, more than 6,450 entries in the pointer index system were made and the ISC was able to bring together more than 221 cases. These services facilitate successful interagency case coordination, resulting in more efficient and effective investigations. Through much cooperative effort, the ISC is now the first remote location to have full electronic access to all El Paso county and city records, including court records, land deed records, probation records, and so on. The ISC was the first HIDTA ISC to have direct electronic access to EPIC, and in 2000 was chosen as a test site for their national clandestine lab database.

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the ISC was in a perfect position to be a primary response source to a barrage of queries within the West Texas region. The FBI used the ISC as their state and local hub for information sharing in the days after the attacks, and activities continue today. In the week following the attacks, the ISC provided research on more than 400 queries. The ISC became a part of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in El Paso, expanding the gang and terrorism focus. In the West Texas region, gang, terrorism, and narcotics enforcement utilize the same resources and operate in the same venues. Segregating resources for these areas was not a logical solution for agencies in the region. The West Texas ISC has proven to be the natural tool for a synergistic approach to multiple-disciplinary information sharing.

In 2001, the ISC's gang intelligence unit was instrumental in dismantling a regional prison gang known for violence and drug

trafficking. Due to the intelligence gathering and sharing of the ISC, all El Paso LEAs, and multiple HIDTA initiatives were leveraged towards the investigation, resulting in the arrest of the entire gang leadership plus 64 of its members in El Paso. The support of the

ISC has continued throughout the prosecution phase towards a successful end.

Information above was provided by the West Texas Regional Partnership.

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA



General Information

Year of Designation: 1994

Geographic Areas of Responsibility:

Maryland: Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard
Montgomery, Prince George's and Charles Counties

Washington, D.C.

Virginia: City of Alexandria, Loudon, Prince William, Arlington, and
Fairfax Counties

Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington/Baltimore (W/B) HIDTA is to enhance and coordinate America's drug control efforts among federal, state, and local agencies in order to eliminate or reduce drug trafficking, including the distribution, production, manufacture, transportation, and chronic use of illegal drugs and money laundering, and its harmful consequences throughout the W/B HIDTA region.

Threat Abstract

The W/B HIDTA continues to experience reductions in the numbers and rates of violent crimes committed against residents of and visitors to the region.

The use and availability of high-quality, low-cost heroin continues in most areas of

the Washington, D.C. metro (DC/Metro) area. Intranasal heroin abuse—snorting and inhaling—continues to increase, especially among young adults. Consumption of powder and crack cocaine has declined in the inner cities and increased in rural areas. Powder and crack cocaine are widely available at stable prices.

Marijuana is abundant throughout the region, with marijuana abuse by youthful offenders and young adults on the rise. Ecstasy, previously confined to the rave scene, has migrated to the streets of the DC/Metro area. Methamphetamine is encountered on a regular basis throughout the region and should be monitored closely.

Dominican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) have the greatest impact on the heroin and cocaine traffic within the region. To a lesser degree, Jamaican organizations, street gangs, and inner city drug gangs also

make an impact. Mexican traffickers are active in the greater Washington, D.C. area and in other locales outside the W/B HIDTA region, including Maryland's Eastern Shore, Western Virginia, and the Tidewater area of Virginia. A relatively new pattern involving a wide variety of Asian groups has been identified in the District of Columbia. Nepalese, Chinese, and other ethnic groups have formed their own DTOs and pose a serious challenge to law enforcement. There is evidence of international connections among a limited number of DTOs operating in the region as well.

Baltimore is one of the key regions for heroin abuse. In fact, heroin usage in Baltimore has, until recently, surpassed usage in all other areas of the country. Its wide availability, low price, and high quality make it popular among users. A growing heroin-addict population has led to a massive increase in Ecstasy use because Ecstasy eases the effects of heroin withdrawal. Baltimore County Ecstasy seizures increased from a mere 5 tablets in 1998 to 3,280 tablets in the first half of 2001.

Strategy Abstract

The W/B HIDTA Executive Board provides program oversight, policy guidance, regional coordination, and also serves as a regional planning forum for HIDTA participating agencies. The Executive Board is comprised of 24 executives from the federal, state, and local law enforcement, criminal justice, treatment, prevention, and judicial communities. The chairperson and vice-chairperson are elected from the ranks of the Board pursuant to the national program policy and the W/B HIDTA memorandum of understanding.

The W/B HIDTA enjoys a close working relationship with the region's Organized

Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) operations. The director, deputy director, and OCDETF coordinators from the three federal districts meet periodically, and currently are exploring ways to conduct joint training, expand intelligence gathering, and use intelligence to develop better cases and improve outcomes.

The assistant director/law enforcement program manager reviews all HIDTA investigations and ensures that those HIDTA cases meeting the respective district's OCDETF criteria are presented for consideration.

Investigative Support Center

The W/B HIDTA Intelligence Center (IC) aggressively promotes the exchange of intelligence with other HDTAs and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) throughout the country. Of particular note is the timely exchange of vital information with the New York/New Jersey HIDTA on common intelligence targets identified by the Hidden Traffickers Project (HTP). The regular exchange of arrestee intelligence is developed through expedient initiation of intelligence investigations. This process has been shared with the Philadelphia, Gulf Coast, Atlanta, Detroit, and San Diego HDTAs, as well as state and local agencies throughout the East and Midwest.

The HTP concept has proliferated during the past year. As a result of these deliberations, new alliances have developed among HIDTA Investigative Support Centers (ISC), further enhancing the exchange of intelligence. The W/B HIDTA IC has offered its support to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network (MARGIN) through the establishment of a gang intelligence link on the HIDTA website. A rapid-response list server, managed by HIDTA, distributes e-mail

messages on gang activities to more than 300 MARGIN members throughout the region. This resource will be accessible to the public on MARGIN. Secure access information will include a MARGIN member's directory, current gang intelligence, and HIDTA-analyzed reports concerning gang migrations and trends.

The Watch Center is a conduit for information that is shared among numerous federal, state, and local databases. It also is a catalyst for the sharing of case information among agencies outside the region, particularly in New York City, the Southwest Border, and other U.S. cities, through the management of various pointer index databases. The onsite use of FinCEN databases by Watch Center operators places the W/B HIDTA in a unique position to surface information on subjects or investigative targets throughout the United States. Extensive efforts have been undertaken to bring additional intelligence sources and databases into the Watch Center.

The Prince George's County Department of Corrections Automated Booking System, with its wide variety of criminal justice and biographical data on arrestees and their associates, and Virginia's state criminal justice and drug intelligence databases, are among those that will be connected to the Watch Center.

The W/B HIDTA has a comprehensive law enforcement evaluation component that manages the COMETS database and provides state-of-the-art crime mapping for HIDTA initiatives and participating agencies throughout the region. The IC also provides evaluation assistance to law enforcement initiatives. The mapping and evaluation unit provides analyses of crime trends and assists agencies with the development of their own crime analysis capabilities.

Participating Agencies

Federal: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Protective Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Housing and Urban Development, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspectors, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Attorney's Office-District of Maryland, U.S. Attorney's Office-District of Columbia, U.S. Attorney's Office-Eastern District of Virginia, Department of Defense's JTF-6, U.S. Probation, U.S. Court Pretrial Services.

State: District of Columbia National Guard, Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, Maryland State Police, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Maryland Transportation Authority Police, Maryland Capital Park Police, Maryland National Guard, Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, University of Maryland, Virginia State Police, Virginia National Guard, Virginia Parole and Probation.

Local: District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, Washington DC Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Washington DC Addiction, Prevention and Recovery Administration, District of Columbia Department of Corrections, Baltimore County Police Department, Baltimore County Bureau of Corrections, Baltimore County District Court, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Baltimore County Department of Health Bureau of Substance Abuse, Baltimore City Police Department, Baltimore City Housing Authority, Baltimore City States Attorney's Office, Baltimore Circuit Court, Baltimore City Detention Center, Baltimore City Health Department, Howard County Police

Department, Howard County Health Department Addiction Services, Howard County States Attorney's Office, Howard County Department of Corrections, Howard County District Court, Howard County Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County Police Department, Annapolis Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Montgomery County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Montgomery County States Attorneys Office, Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Prince George's County Police Department, Prince George's County States Attorneys Office, Prince George's County Department of Corrections, Prince George's County Health Department, Prince George's County Public Defenders Office, Greenbelt Police Department, Mt. Rainier Police Department, Takoma Park Police Department, Charles County Sheriff's Department, Charles County Health Department, Charles County Detention Center, Charles County Mental Health Authority, Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Sheriff's Department, Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County Department of Human Services-Bureau of Substance Abuse, Arlington County Detention Facility, Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Alexandria Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Alexandria Community Services Board, Alexandria City Courts, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff's Department, Fairfax County Community Services Board, Fairfax County Alcohol and Drug Services, Fairfax County Department of Corrections, Fairfax County Circuit Court, Falls Church Police

Department, Vienna Police Department, Loudon County Sheriff's Department, Loudon County Community Services Board, Loudon County Mental Health Agency, Loudon County Circuit Court, Prince William County Police Department, Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center, Prince William County Office of Criminal Justice Service, Prince William County Community Services Board, Prince William County District Court, Prince William County Juvenile Court Services, Prince William County Social Services, Prince William County Circuit Court, Manassas Police Department, Fauquier County Police Department.

Others: Amtrak Police, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority Police, Metropolitan Transit Police, Second Genesis, Outpatient Addictions Contract Network, Jude House, Carroll Avenue Quebec Terrace Community Center, Silver Spring YMCA Youth Services, Housing Opportunities Commission, Long Branch Neighborhood Initiative, Silver Spring Team for Children and Families Voices vs. Violence/Mental Health Association, St. Camillus Church, Carroll Avenue Apartments, FAST, Voices vs. Violence Mental Health Association, Right Turn of Maryland, LLC, Outpatient Addictions Contract Network.

Significant Achievements

Investigation of money laundering, currency movement, and financial crimes related to drug trafficking has been recognized as an essential tool in the Nation's efforts to address drug trafficking and drug-related crime. The W/B HIDTA has taken a leading role in promoting money laundering and financial crimes investigation in this region through initiatives such as the Drug Money Laundering Initiative (DMLI).

The DMLI is led by a U.S. Customs Service (USCS) group supervisor and includes task force officers from the USCS, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Baltimore County Police, Prince George's County Police, Montgomery County Police, and the Maryland State Police, as well as three analysts representing the USCS, Maryland National Guard, and the W/B HIDTA. This combination of intelligence analysts trained in financial crimes investigation and law enforcement personnel familiar with the HIDTA region's drug trafficking problems has proven highly successful.

During Summer 2001, the DMLI took part in an USCS-sponsored OCEDTF investigation, Operation Grand Slam that focused on the money laundering and smuggling activities of a Dominican DTO operating in Maryland. When one of the suspects in this investigation attempted to export a vehicle from the Port of Baltimore to the Dominican Republic, DMLI task force officers searched it and found a hidden, electronically controlled compartment containing a loaded firearm,

ledgers, and heroin residue. Analysis by the FBI's Racketeering Records Analysis Unit indicated that the ledgers were consistent with those that might be maintained by a DTO. The ledger entries detailed the distribution of 15 kilograms of heroin with a street value of \$822,000.

With the support of the FBI and the W/B HIDTA IC, DMLI personnel identified a Mexican DTO operating in conjunction with the Dominicans and orchestrated two vehicle stops. The first vehicle stop resulted in the seizure of \$1,125,000 by the Maryland State Police. One week later, police officers in North Carolina, acting on information provided by the DMLI, seized an additional \$165,000. This case is still ongoing. Information generated by the investigation described above has disclosed related criminal activity in Florida, New York, Texas, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and Colombia.

Information above was provided by the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA.

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

2002 Awards

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT

The Edward M. Toatley Memorial Award

***Commercial Interdiction Unit—San Diego Narcotic Task Force
California Border Alliance Group—Southwest Border HIDTA***

Beginning in April 2001, agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) San Diego Field Division, California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement Commercial Interdiction Unit, and Simi Valley Police Department members from the Los Angeles HIDTA combined resources to dismantle the highest-volume Ketamine trafficking organization in Mexico. This informal Ketamine task force employed traditional and resourceful investigative techniques, wiretaps, nationwide informants operating in the United States and Mexico, multi-HIDTA cooperation, and unprecedented foreign cooperation.

Jorge Chevreuil-Bravo headed the targeted Tijuana, Mexico-based Ketamine trafficking organization, which operated throughout the United States, smuggling in excess of 100,000 vials of Ketamine into the country on a monthly basis for illicit distribution. Bravo utilized veterinary supply stores to traffic hundred-thousand-vial quantities of Ketamine, as well as unlimited quantities of anabolic steroids. Bravo also formed a partnership with a Mexico City-area pharmaceutical manufacturing company, Laboratorios Ttokkyo. A conservative estimate indicates that 70 percent to 80 percent of all U.S. seizures were Ttokkyo-brand Ketamine.

The task force utilized expertise in commercial parcel operations to interdict numerous overnight and ground shipments, with Ketamine seizures ranging from 500 to 9,000 vials. Multiple controlled deliveries in New Jersey, New York, and Florida were conducted, resulting in numerous arrests and the seizure of approximately \$8.8 million in U.S. currency. The task force conducted a wiretap and used informants to penetrate the organization, making purchases directly from Bravo and recording their communications. In a surprising gesture by the Government of Mexico, the task force was allowed not only to conduct multiple undercover meetings, but also to record conversations between the task force informant and Bravo and another target, Molina, in Tijuana, Mexico City, and at the Ttokkyo manufacturing site.

In August 2002, Bravo, Molina, and nine other members of the organization were indicted on federal charges in the Southern District of California for CCE, conspiracy distribution, and money laundering. The investigation and indictment linked this conspiracy with the seizure of more than 70,000 vials of Ketamine, including the seizure of 23,817 vials in July 2001 in Kansas. In August 2002, in preparation of a takedown operation, agents traveled to Mexico City and met with Mexican law enforcement officials to share information pertinent to the investigation.

A plan was formulated to lure Bravo and Molina to Panama, where they were allegedly to meet with Colombian traffickers who were looking to supplement the recent methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) popularity in Colombia with Ketamine. On September 17, 2002, Bravo and Molina were expelled from Panama and placed on a DEA plane, then flown to the United States. Based on bilateral cooperation with Mexico, the PGR conducted a series of search warrants in the Tijuana and the Mexico City areas. The search warrants in Mexico resulted in a record seizure of 220,000 vials of Ketamine and 400 kilograms of Ketamine raw materials,

enough to manufacture 400,000 vials. The Government of Mexico also reportedly froze six Mexican bank accounts.

The Miami, New York, Newark, and Boston DEA Field Divisions participated throughout this investigation, resulting in the joint seizure of thousands of vials of Ketamine, eight stolen vehicles worth more than \$400,000, drug proceeds in excess of \$1 million, and more than 20 additional arrests. In total, more than 30 arrests were made, along with the seizure of more than \$1.5 million in U.S. currency and more than 290,000 vials of Ketamine and 400 kilograms of raw materials. The street value of the seized finished product and the raw materials was \$69 million.

Participants: Special Agent S. Jack Robertson, DEA San Diego; Diversion Investigator Bob Brasich, DEA San Diego; Detective Richard Lamb, Simi Valley Police Department; Detective Kevin Duncan, Simi Valley Police Department; Special Agent Brian Fichtner, CA Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement; and Intelligence Analyst Angie Bisi, DEA San Diego.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT

Southern California Drug Task Force (SCDTF) – Group 48
Los Angeles HIDTA

During February 2001, SCDTF Group 48 initiated an investigation targeting four Los Angeles based retail paint and hardware stores selling quantities of denatured alcohol in excess of industry standards. Intensive surveillance of these products led to numerous clandestine lab sites (great majority were "Type A" = 20+ pounds) within our region and beyond. To date, this investigation has resulted in the following seizures: over 2 million pseudoephedrine tablets; 958 gallons of pseudoephedrine in solution; 350 pounds of extracted pseudoephedrine (creates an equivalent amount of finished methamphetamine); 455 gallons of methamphetamine in solution (equates to approximately 1,800 pounds of methamphetamine); 53 pounds of finished methamphetamine; 3.5 pounds of crystallized methamphetamine; 109 pounds of cocaine, 83 firearms, 12 vehicles and \$1,785,245.00. Additionally, these investigations have resulted in the arrest of 161 individuals on various drug manufacturing and trafficking charges. Over 20 Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies continue to work together on this particular case. This investigation has involved the disruption of methamphetamine laboratories all over the State of California -- Los Angeles to Sacramento.

The following are some specific investigative examples of this most remarkable case, which continues: In San Luis Obispo, California, a "Type A" methamphetamine laboratory was discharging precursor chemicals into a nearby stream through a sophisticated plumbing system. The stream flowed directly into federal wetlands. A federal environmental based prosecution is currently pending.

A "Type A" methamphetamine laboratory was discovered inside an airplane hangar at the Santa Paula Airport, located in Ventura County, California. The laboratory had a maximum production capacity of nearly one-half ton of methamphetamine per week. One hundred ninety gallons of methamphetamine-in-solution was seized. Had the final step been completed, approximately 760 pounds of methamphetamine would have been ready for distribution. Additionally, investigators seized 12 guns and a "live" hand grenade.

Investigators conducting surveillance at a methamphetamine laboratory observed a seven-month-old baby being held out the window to breathe fresh air. The air at the laboratory was so severely contaminated it required the responding law enforcement personnel to utilize self-contained breathing apparatus.

A residence in Los Angeles County contained dangerously high levels of phosphene gas, a lethal by-product that can be accidentally produced during the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Discovery of the laboratory ultimately saved the lives the defendants and possibly innocent neighbors.

Presently, this unique "single" case has resulted in the seizure of 52 significant clandestine laboratories with a combined estimated production capacity in excess of a half ton of methamphetamine per manufacturing cycle. Over 5,000 pounds of methamphetamine would have been manufactured and distributed throughout the United States if not for this enforcement effort. Most worthy of award consideration, is the rescue of the 43 children who were found at several laboratory sites and subsequently turned over to the appropriate local officials.

The intra-agency level of cooperation has been remarkable as demonstrated by the fact that this continuing investigation would not have been possible without the most capable assistance of some 20 State and local law enforcement agencies throughout the State of California.

Participants: Doug Driver, GS/DEA, Paul Carbone, SA/USCS and Det. Lee Smith, Bell Police Department.

**OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT
RESULTING IN SIGNIFICANT ASSET FORFEITURE**

***El Dorado Task Force: Operation Wirecutter
New York/New Jersey HIDTA***

Operation Wirecutter was a comprehensive, groundbreaking money laundering investigation that encapsulated all of the HIDTA program's investigative objectives. The investigation's success was due to the cooperative effort of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers assigned to the task force, as well as considerable assistance provided by Colombian law enforcement. These officers worked diligently within a team framework to dismantle an extraordinarily large and complex money laundering organization.

Operation Wirecutter targeted the money laundering activities of the Alberto Orlandez-Gamboa organization and its use of the Colombian Black Market Peso Exchange to repatriate narcotics proceeds. This three-year Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation was led by the U.S. Customs Service (USCS), which worked jointly with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), New York Police Department (NYPD), and officers from several New York City and state police departments. The investigation utilized undercover pickups to infiltrate the sophisticated money laundering organization. Moreover, they arranged to have 44 lines of electronic communications intercepted by Colombian "vetted units."

This investigation provided detailed insight into the money laundering methodologies that Colombian money brokers employed to transfer funds between the United States and Colombia, resulting in their having to seek alternatives to wire transfers in order to launder narcotics proceeds. Specifically, as a result of the investigation, Colombian banks now refuse to accept wire transfers in Bogotá.

Much of the evidence and case history for Operation Wirecutter was buried in the rubble of the U.S. Customhouse, located at 6 World Trade Center, during the September 11, 2001 attacks. Agents, determined to continue pursuing this case despite the destruction of their offices, combed through piles of debris to salvage evidence for the case. USCS Special Agent Erichs and others recovered crucial files, which enabled them to continue their investigation and ultimately dismantle the organization of Colombian money brokers.

The New York investigation resulted in the initiation of 21 related money laundering investigations in cities throughout the United States and Canada, the arrest of 42 individuals, and the seizure of \$8.2 million in U.S. currency, 725 kilograms of cocaine, 6.5 kilograms of heroin, and 205 pounds of marijuana. Eight Colombian money brokers were arrested in Colombia with the assistance of the Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS) pursuant to provisional arrest warrants filed in New York for money laundering violations. Extradition requests have been filed for the eight brokers. To date, three of the extradition requests have been approved. In addition, Colombian authorities arrested six additional individuals for related money laundering violations.

Operation Wirecutter's unprecedented success in targeting the Colombian Black Market Peso Exchange proved to be groundbreaking, for it was the first time that United States and Colombian law enforcement have collaborated to trace the entire cycle of the conversion of narcotics proceeds.

OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT RESULTING IN SIGNIFICANT ASSET FORFEITURE

Asprilla Investigation—Drug Money Laundering Initiative Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

The Washington/Baltimore (W/B) HIDTA's Drug Money Laundering Initiative (DMLI) repeatedly has shown the value of money laundering investigations in the Nation's efforts against drug trafficking. The DMLI, which is supervised by U.S. Customs Service (USCS) Group Supervisor Ronald Solesha, includes agents from the USCS and Internal Revenue Service (IRS); a Maryland State Police officer; officers from the Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County police departments in Maryland; and analysts from the USCS and Maryland National Guard, as well as an additional intelligence analyst and an administrative assistant hired through the W/B HIDTA.

The DMLI began the Asprilla investigation in 2000, on the basis of confidential information regarding money laundering activity in the Baltimore area. The name Vincenti Asprilla was one of the pieces of information provided by the source, who is an individual involved with a money remitter in Baltimore's Fells Point. Further investigation revealed that Asprilla, a Colombian national, was involved in collecting, counting, and packaging money for four separate Colombian criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and money laundering.

The investigation expanded rapidly. DMLI, with support from HIDTA's intelligence center and investigative intelligence unit, used pen registers to monitor daily phone traffic, identify co-conspirators, and establish the relationships between the various subjects under investigation. Using intelligence gathered from the pen registers, investigators continued to build their case with hotel surveillance and the court-authorized use of vehicle tracking technology. As they gathered information about currency shipments, DMLI task force officers coordinated efforts with the HIDTA's mass transportation initiative, the Maryland State Police, and several local law enforcement agencies so that the shipments could be seized without revealing DMLI's ongoing investigation. They also provided information to the sheriff's department in Carroll County, Georgia, which led to an additional currency seizure.

By the end of the Asprilla investigation, eight currency seizures totaling more than \$1.4 million in U.S. currency were associated with this case. In addition, the investigation generated information that led to numerous cocaine seizures in Maryland, Tennessee, and Texas. Five individuals have been arrested, including Vincente Asprilla. One already has pled guilty to money laundering; the others are still pending prosecution.

The Asprilla investigation also generated information that led to four spin-off cases. One of these cases, pursued by the Drug Enforcement Administration, led to the dismantling of a cocaine distribution organization in Houston, Texas. The other three investigations focus on money laundering activities in Colombia, Panama, and Baltimore, Maryland.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INTERDICTION EFFORT

***The Parcel Delivery Squad
Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA***

The Parcel Delivery Squad is a multi-agency, colocated, and multi-jurisdictional initiative that focuses on short-term investigations involving the receipt of drug parcels via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and commercial delivery services. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), as lead agency, works in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police Department, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Pennsylvania National Guard in this unique, one-of-a-kind task force that has gained the cooperation of commercial overnight delivery services such as Federal Express, United Parcel Service, Airborne, and DHL.

The initiative developed certain characteristics associated with parcels' addresses and geographical derivation that it uses when reviewing suspect drug parcels from historically identified drug-source states, such as California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida. This review, used in conjunction with a K-9, has proven to be highly effective and successful. Parcel labels are further analyzed for certain characteristics that indicate that the parcel contains drugs. Based on this analysis, a "parcel watch" is placed on the target address for future shipments. This information is captured in a common database that is shared with the Regional Investigative Support Center.

As parcels are physically reviewed, a search of the database is conducted for prior seizures, controlled deliveries, and suspect labels. This information is utilized for probable cause in affidavits in support of search warrants. Once drugs are detected, the controlled delivery technique is enacted utilizing the uniforms and trucks of certain parcel carriers or the initiative's own overnight parcel delivery company. Many of these investigations develop into long-term, national investigations involving entire drug organizations, including shippers, recipients, and distributors.

As a result of these techniques, the initiative had the following statistical accomplishments in 2001:

- 1,622 pounds of marijuana seized
- 35.71 pounds of cocaine seized
- 0.12 pounds of methamphetamine seized
- \$52,638 in U.S. currency seized
- 4 local drug trafficking organizations disrupted
- 1 national drug trafficking organization disrupted
- 1 local drug trafficking organization dismantled
- 1 national drug trafficking organization dismantled
- 1 international drug trafficking organization dismantled

More important than the above statistics, the initiative's investigative efforts have provided information and intelligence that have generated source investigations in California, Arizona, and Texas.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INTERDICTION EFFORT

Package Interdiction Initiative
Chicago HIDTA

The Package Interdiction Initiative is comprised of personnel from the Illinois State Police, the Chicago Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Key techniques employed by the team include the daily inspection of packages at the postal facility located in O'Hare Airport and at 12 private delivery companies (United Parcel Service, Federal Express and Airborne Express) arriving from narcotic source States (Arizona, California, Florida, Texas). Officers on this team have developed a network of information sources with law enforcement agencies and private delivery companies across the U.S. in addition to their daily interaction with the loss prevention managers in Chicago.

From January 1, 2001, through October 1, 2002, this team has made 127 arrests, seized 25 firearms, 32 vehicles and \$168,672.00 USC. In that same time period, the team obtained 187 opening and delivery search warrants and seized a total of 1,130,000 grams of cannabis with a street value of \$6,904,550.00 along with 47,912 grams of cocaine with a street value of \$6,019,997.00. Other drugs that were seized as a result of this team's efforts include heroin, MDMA, GHB, methamphetamine (pseudoephedrine), KHAT and steroids with an estimated street value of \$32,500,000.00. These seizures, arrests, indictments and forfeitures have made a substantial impact on the trafficking of narcotics into Chicago via the package delivery system.

In addition to its daily package inspection duties, the team initiated two operations in 2001. Operation "Big Box" was initiated on March 15, 2001, and involved an investigation into a family and several other individuals involved in a Jamaican cannabis trafficking organization operating in the western suburbs. The team seized 181,164.89 grams of cannabis, 1,000 grams of cocaine, 1 gun, 5 vehicles, \$35,510.00 USC and made 5 arrests related to this operation. Operation "Kat N' Mouse" which was initiated on April 18, 2001, involved the investigation of a major distributor of "designer drugs" and methamphetamine on the north side of Chicago. During the course of this investigation, it was revealed that the key suspect in this operation had developed a distribution network that ran between Boston, Massachusetts and Orange County, California. The team seized 1,615.25 grams of ketamine, 3 grams of cocaine, 725.7 grams of methamphetamine, 30 grams of steroids, 1 vehicle and \$16,300.00 USC in the course of this investigation. The team has also been conducting an investigation involving large amounts of pseudoephedrine being shipped out of Chicago to California via private delivery companies. Working with the U. S. Customs Service, it was learned that the pseudoephedrine was being imported into the United States from Canada and then sent on to California where the drug was processed into methamphetamine. Contact with law enforcement agencies in California led to an arrest and the dismantling of a methamphetamine lab after a controlled delivery of the pseudoephedrine was executed in that State.

Participants: Sergeant Michael Ryle, Chicago Police Department; Carl Bator, Chicago Police Department; Nick Lymperis, Chicago Police Department; Steve Martinez, Chicago Police Department; Janet Niedziejko, United States Postal Service; Dennis O'Shea, Chicago Police Department; Jefferey Show, Chicago Police Department; Charles Sisler, Chicago Police

Department; Judith Solava, Chicago Police Department; Berea St. Clair, Chicago Police Department; Master Sergeant Ronald Wilson, Illinois State Police; Dennis White, Chicago Police Department; Garry Zuelke, Chicago Police Department.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE EFFORT

Prince George's County Safe Streets Initiative
Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

The dismantling of the Marco Polo Honesty Organization (MPHO) by the Prince George's County (Maryland) Safe Streets Initiative (PGCSSI) is an outstanding example of how cooperative investigation efforts can develop local information into a case with nationwide impact. This initiative, which is supervised by Supervisory Special Agent Warren Bamford and includes officers and agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Maryland State Police, Prince George's County Police Department, and the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department, focuses its efforts on drug trafficking and related criminal activity affecting the areas surrounding the border between the District of Columbia and Prince George's County, Maryland.

The operation began as an undercover investigation into cocaine distribution and violent crimes committed by the MPHO. Based on information provided by cooperating sources, the task force used information gathered during this investigation to initiate a 29-day-long Title III surveillance of the MPHO with support from the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA's Watch Center and investigative intelligence unit. This surveillance led to the identification of 30 subjects involved with the MPHO, as well as the identification of its cocaine supplier.

An additional 30 days of Title III surveillance not only built the case against the newly identified supplier, but also identified several of his suppliers in Los Angeles, CA. Continued electronic surveillance, telephone toll analyses, and physical surveillance by task force officers, (as well as information provided by the Nebraska State Police, who seized 41-kilogram cocaine shipments from one of the suppliers being investigated), led to a significant seizure in April 2001.

PGCSSI task force officers cooperated with the Maryland State Police to interdict a 39-kilogram cocaine shipment in Frederick, MD, and arrest five suspects, including both of the higher-level suppliers identified in the second stage of the Title III surveillance. Through the cooperation of several suspects and additional telephone toll analyses by the investigative intelligence unit, several additional cocaine suppliers were identified and arrested in Washington, D.C. in October 2001 and Los Angeles, CA, in April 2002.

This investigative effort ultimately led to 35 federal indictments, the seizure of more than \$400,000 in assets and more than 80 kilograms of cocaine, and the dismantling of five drug distribution organizations that were supplying cocaine to six major metropolitan areas. The cooperative efforts of the PGSSI task force officers, the investigative intelligence unit, and law enforcement officers in Maryland, Nebraska, and Washington, D.C. made it possible to attack every level of the MPHO from its street level "rock sellers" to its multi-kilogram suppliers. This case serves as a first-rate example of how cooperation can turn a low-level local case into a significant, multi-state success against drug trafficking.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE EFFORT

***Miami Task Force DEA Group 44: Operation X-Isle
South Florida HIDTA***

Operation X-Isle (Drug Enforcement Administration case number G1-02-0013) is a joint, multi-jurisdictional investigation by the South Florida HIDTA Miami Task Force DEA Group 44, and the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) that targeted a major worldwide methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA) or Ecstasy distribution network. The investigation began in July 2001 following negotiations for a 65,000 MDMA pill-transaction in Miami, FL, between confidential sources and two suspects. One suspect was in Bogota, Colombia, and the other was in Madrid, Spain. The suspects insisted that the delivery take place in New York City. As a result, the New York Police Department Queens Narcotics Unit (QNU) was brought on board. Through coordinated enforcement efforts, including undercover operations and a search warrant, the QNU seized approximately 1.6 million MDMA pills and \$287,000 in U.S. currency. Also, two Israeli nationals were arrested and charged by the state of New York.

Following that seizure, investigation by Group 44 and the MDPD, in conjunction with the QNU, the DEA Special Operations Division (SOD), the DEA Bogotá, Madrid, and Nicosia Country Offices, and the Israeli National Police, resulted in the Madrid suspect being identified as an Israeli national who was linked to major Israeli organized crime figures. In addition, the Bogotá subject, as well as other individuals in Colombia, were identified and linked to this international MDMA trafficking group.

During the course of this investigation, another MDMA transaction was negotiated through two of the suspects in Bogotá. On March 5, 2002, Group 44 and the MDPD seized about 400,000 MDMA pills, approximately \$1.3 million in U.S. currency, and a motor home that was used to import the pills from the Netherlands to the United States. Two Swiss nationals were arrested in Miami. A third Swiss national tied to this transaction was subsequently arrested in Miami.

As a result of the two seizures, federal drug indictments were obtained in Miami against the Israeli subject from Madrid, the two Israelis initially arrested in New York, and three Colombian subjects. Spanish authorities arrested the defendant in Madrid, who subsequently waived extradition to the United States and is now incarcerated in Miami awaiting trial. One of the Colombian nationals was arrested in Miami, while the other two were arrested in Colombia where they are awaiting extradition to the United States.

To date, the investigation has resulted in nine arrests and the seizure of about 2 million MDMA pills, as well as approximately \$2 million in U.S. currency. Currently, investigative efforts are directed at the both the Israeli organized crime elements that financed this organization and the Dutch MDMA sources of supply.

Participants:

Miami Task Force DEA Group 44—Group Supervisor John McKenna, DEA; Special Agent Thomas Highsmith, DEA; Special Agent Catherine Coirin, DEA; Special Agent Michael Brito, DEA; Special Agent Michael Maxwell, DEA; Task Force Officer Robert Deak, Glades

County Sheriff's Office; Task Force Officer Charles Corton, Hialeah Police Department; Intelligence Analyst Lisa Diaz-Forsythe, Monroe County Sheriff's Office; Group Assistant Josephine Martinez, DEA

Miami-Dade Police Department Narcotics Unit—Lieutenant Terrance Torrence, MDPD; Sergeant Thomas Williams, MDPD; Detective Thomas O'Keefe, MDPD; Detective Robert Holleran, MDPD; Detective Richard Fandrey, MDPD; Detective Juan Fernandez, MDPD; Sergeant Eddie Denson, Miami-Dade Department of Corrections

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE COMMANDER

***Matthew Healey, Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal, USMS
New York/New Jersey HIDTA***

In October 1999, Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Matthew Healey was assigned to the New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ) HIDTA's Regional Fugitive Task Force (RFTF); in January 2000 he assumed the role of Task Force Commander. Established in April 1994, the RFTF has grown in reputation, effectiveness, and participation due in large part to Healey's outstanding leadership.

Upon assuming his leadership role, Supervisor Healey immediately initiated several innovative and unique concepts. He added a full-time special agent from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to the team, which then consisted of 15 individuals from the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), New York City Police Department (NYPD), and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Using a cooperative law enforcement approach, the task force investigates, locates, and arrests targeted fugitives. The DEA agent then works with the Regional Intelligence Center's (RIC) priority targeting section and the Borough Intelligence Teams (BITs) to debrief fugitives for further intelligence. The information then is used to initiate, supplement, and verify numerous HIDTA-assisted narcotics investigations. Because most of these fugitives are known players within illegal organizations, their arrests also directly reduce narcotics trafficking and, ultimately, crime rates.

Another innovative concept that Supervisor Healey has developed utilizes INS agents to target high-crime areas and drug-prone locations for fugitives and individuals wanted for immigration charges, most of whom also are wanted as suspects in homicides, shootings, or drug trafficking. Once arrested, a large percentage of the suspects either provide information or cooperate with HIDTA agencies to disrupt their organizations, which actually lowers crime rates within the targeted areas.

Supervisor Healey also gained support and participation from numerous agencies and departments by proving the effectiveness and success of the task force. He convinced the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to eliminate their fugitive task force and join the HIDTA RFTF, thereby eliminating duplicated effort and establishing one centralized task force for fugitive investigations in the NY/NJ metropolitan area—a goal that many believed was not possible.

Due to his leadership, work ethic, and promotion of the HIDTA concept, Supervisor Healey convinced the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to allocate substantial funds to acquire vehicles, equipment, and additional overtime for local officers. Both HIDTA and the USMS also have increased task force funding under his leadership. As a result, he has expanded the task force to its current size of more than 100 law enforcement officers from more than 35 different agencies.

Supervisor Healey has proven his commitment to the HIDTA program by promoting interagency sharing and establishing a cooperative spirit that has produced significant successes between January 1, 2001 and August 31, 2002, including 846 fugitives arrested; more than 1,500 fugitive investigations closed; 32 firearms recovered; and 16.4 kilos of heroin, 12.75 kilos of cocaine, 2.7 pounds of marijuana, \$151,000 in U.S. currency, and 11 vehicles seized. In addition,

post-arrest debriefings have resulted in the initiation of 10 narcotics investigations and five narcotics-related firearms investigations. NY/NJ HIDTA participating agencies developed many of the fugitives into cooperating individuals.

Supervisors Healy's innovative techniques and efficient management style are evidence that the task force approach can be used successfully.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING TASK FORCE COMMANDER

Supervisor Robert Pennal
California Department of Justice/Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement
Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force—Central Valley California HIDTA

Supervisor Robert Pennal, California Department of Justice/Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, is commander of the Central Valley California (CVC) HIDTA Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force (FMTF). The FMTF, consisting of 27 individuals from nine different federal, state, and local agencies, began operations in January 2000 under Supervisor Pennal's leadership.

The FMTF's primary mission is the identification, arrest, and prosecution of major methamphetamine manufacturers, distributors, and chemical suppliers, by targeting and systematically dismantling Mexican national DTOs through the collective effort of federal, state, and local prosecutions—a first for law enforcement in the CVC. The FMTF also focuses on the arduous task of dismantling super labs—clandestine methamphetamine laboratories capable of producing more than 10 pounds of methamphetamine per cooking cycle.

Supervisor Pennal has utilized his extensive experience in methamphetamine investigations to develop unique approaches for investigating clandestine labs, including reverse undercover operations, financial investigations, complex conspiracy investigations that target rogue chemical suppliers, and laboratory investigations that target lab operators and traffickers responsible for the labs. Under his leadership, the FMTF initiated three Title-III investigations of major methamphetamine drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

The FMTF was one of the first groups to recognize the connection between Middle Eastern precursor suppliers and Mexican national DTOs, and also has been active in the innovative Drug Endangered Children's program, prosecuting lab operators on two fronts—drug violations and child endangerment. Supervisor Pennal's big-picture approach has led to six Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigations initiated by the FMTF.

Supervisor Pennal, a nationally recognized expert on methamphetamine production and DTOs, has shared his experience with numerous HIDTAs, and has trained more than 3,500 law enforcement officers in the United States and Canada. He is a founding member of the California Precursor Committee and serves on several subcommittees that address various national and state issues involving precursor chemicals. Supervisor Pennal also is actively involved in the California Narcotic Officers Association (CNOA), through which he annually trains hundreds of Californian narcotic officers. During the past 18 months, Supervisor Pennal has traveled to Canada to discuss the acute problems that California faces from the proliferation of Canadian-manufactured pseudoephedrine. He also has met with persons from both the law enforcement and the manufacturing sectors in Canada to discuss the dangers that Canadian-sourced pseudoephedrine possess to the CVC and the rest of the United States.

Long before the CVC HIDTA began its operations, Supervisor Pennal started to identify and convene interested parties at the federal, state, and local level who would commit resources to the CVC HIDTA. He was successful not only in selling the HIDTA concept, but also in recruiting the best narcotic investigators in the Fresno area to join the HIDTA FMTF. To

accomplish this he had to overcome the local agencies' suspicion of another "new" task force and a lack of knowledge about the HIDTA program. Supervisor Pennal's enthusiasm and professionalism soon overcame any lingering concerns.

The bottom line is the incredible success of the FMTF. Since January 2001 there have been 286 arrests; 91 dismantled methamphetamine labs, 43 of which were super labs; 181 lbs of methamphetamine, 690 gal of methamphetamine in solution (2,760 pounds), 4.5 pounds of heroin, 58 firearms, \$1,352,664 in U.S. currency seized; and 47 drug endangered children rescued. Several traffickers and confidential informants have advised area law enforcement officers that many Mexican national DTOs now consider Fresno "too hot" a place in which to do business, due in large part to the FMTF's activities. The FMTF, under Supervisor Pennal's direction, has received numerous federal, state, and local awards for its outstanding investigative efforts.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Sergeant Thomas A. Hayden, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Arizona Regional Partnership–Southwest Border HIDTA

Sergeant Tom Hayden of the Pima County Sheriff's Department is the supervisor of the All Source Analyst Team (ASAT), one of the teams in the Arizona HIDTA's Intelligence Support Center (ISC). Sgt. Hayden, an innovative and committed leader who is able to visualize the direction and purpose of the ASAT, has been instrumental in the program's evolution as illustrated by the following examples.

Embracing the Arizona HIDTA's COBIJA concept after coming to the ISC three years ago, Sgt. Hayden began redirecting ASAT activities to facilitate information sharing and data intelligence analysis from drug seizures during COBIJA operational periods. He assigned personnel to specific functional areas to facilitate the creation of the Southwest Border GIS-SITMAP, which fuses federal, local, and local seizure data into a secure, interactive, web-enabled communication device. The GIS-SITMAP, a prototype for a national seizure database, provides operators, intelligence analysts, decision makers, and others with a comprehensive and current overview of the drug smuggling situation along the Southwest border. The only such information sharing and intelligence data site in the United States, GIS-SITMAP benefits law enforcement officers working strategic, tactical, and interdiction operations by providing for officer safety and the effective deployment of resources.

Sgt. Hayden has traveled extensively throughout the Southwest Border region and United States to champion the GIS-SITMAP and the importance of having all law enforcement agencies share information and intelligence to create a comprehensive seizure database. As additional counterdrug personnel have observed the GIS-SITMAP capabilities and listened to Sgt. Hayden's vision of the analytical support it offers, additional resources have become available to improve and expand the system.

Additional data has been provided through the assistance and cooperation of the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), the Border Coordination Initiative (BCI), the Border Patrol Special Coordination Center, AMICC, other HIDTA ISCs in the Southwest Border region, and state police agencies. Sgt. Hayden and the personnel he supervises also have enhanced the data disseminated by the ASAT by acquiring open-source information relating to drug seizures occurring in Mexico, suspect aircraft fade data, border violence incidents, and weapon and currency seizures. This information has been integrated into the GIS-SITMAP to continue the information and intelligence sharing process. As this data has been graphically displayed, additional case connections, trends, and patterns have been recognized for future enforcement efforts.

Sgt. Hayden's commitment to the ASAT and Arizona HIDTA is demonstrated by his continual search and implementation of new computer software and hardware that will improve the capabilities and products of ASAT personnel. He was able to persuade ESRI to provide critical software and technical expertise at significantly reduced costs, which allowed the dollar savings to be used elsewhere in the ISC. When the National Guard personnel who were instrumental in the collection, collation, and data entry functions that kept the GIS-SITMAP database current and robust were reassigned after September 11, 2001, Sgt. Hayden was able to recruit Pima County Sheriff's Department civilian volunteers to come into the Arizona

HIDTA/PSAT area to perform those functions. Because of Sgt. Hayden's creative and focused actions, the result was only a minimal delay in processing the backlogged information.

Sgt. Hayden is a role model for others seeking to develop innovation, creative, and effective intelligence sharing systems. He has shown that he can overcome many of the challenges that effect the dissemination of pertinent and current data to a wide group of end users, and as such is a valued and vital member of the Arizona HIDTA.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

***Gary Murray, Supervisory Intelligence Research Specialist, USCS
New York/New Jersey HIDTA***

Mr. Gary Murray, program manager of the El Dorado Task Force High Intensity Financial Crime Area (HIFCA) Intelligence Section, leads a unit of 35 law enforcement officers and intelligence analysts who represent 12 law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

As one of five sections comprising the New York/New Jersey HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center (RIC), the El Dorado Intelligence Section provides direct support to the El Dorado Task Force and serves as a repository for money laundering intelligence for all law enforcement in the New York metropolitan area. Established following the designation of the El Dorado Task Force as the HIFCA for the New York metropolitan area, the money laundering intelligence section (MLIS) consists of three groups: the suspicious activity report (SAR) review unit, the investigative support unit, and the strategic unit.

Mr. Murray was instrumental in the formulation of the MLIS when it was established in August 2000. He has greatly contributed to the successful implementation of the original concept, which now serves as a model for the country.

Prior to assuming the role of program director of the El Dorado Task Force HIFCA Intelligence Section, Mr. Murray formulated the design of the suspicious activity review (SAR) unit and, as its Section Supervisor, established an effective process for SAR reviews. The unit initially was established to systematically review all SARs filed within the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. As of July 2002, the review was expanded to all of New York State. Prior to the establishment of this group, SARs were reviewed individually by a host of agencies seeking signs of money laundering or other violations of the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA). Today, SARs are downloaded in the HIFCA offices and each SAR is reviewed individually and then evaluated for suspected violations of the BSA by analysts assigned to the unit. The process has developed from an isolated review by individual agencies to a multi-agency, cooperative effort.

Between August 2000 and October 2002, the SAR review unit downloaded and reviewed 38,852 SARs. After the initial review process, approximately 50 percent of the SARs were referred for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax review, while the balance was referred for additional law enforcement and open-source database checks. SARs that have the greatest potential for case development are reviewed, and a summary of the suspected activity and findings are prepared for referral to El Dorado or other partner agencies, as appropriate.

Mr. Murray also established bi-weekly meetings to review SARs that have been researched and referred to the El Dorado Task Force or other agencies. These meetings are attended by representatives of the El Dorado Task Force, which is co-chaired by U.S. Customs Service and the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Attorney's Offices in both the Eastern and Southern Districts, New York State Banking, Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Thrift Savings, U.S. Secret Service, and other partner agencies, as warranted.

Mr. Murray also oversees the strategic group that identifies and exploits significant new trends, patterns, and methods in money laundering and related fraud activities, as well as the case support unit, which to date has supported 79 financial investigations for HIDTA-related

agencies. This group provides support that includes pen link, link charting, case organization, and document exploitation.

Mr. Murray's analytical and law enforcement experiences have been critical in the developmental success of the MLIS. He has been instrumental in establishing a successful working relationship between law enforcement personnel and the financial community in the New York metropolitan area.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER

Midwest HIDTA

In 2002, the Midwest HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) provided a distinguished level of intelligence, technical support, event de-confliction and training to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies across the six state Midwest HIDTA region. In response to intelligence support requests for approximately 70 investigations, the ISC has conducted over 500 target checks, produced over 270 charts and graphs and received over 1,000 event de-confliction incidents. Three examples of outstanding investigative support are summarized in the following paragraphs.

During February 2001, the DEA Green Bay Resident Office seized approximately 37 pounds of methamphetamine from Mexican Nationals with ties to the Kansas City area. During the following months, the ISC staff provided critical intelligence support which led to the identification and indictment of an Arizona based source of supply. Through continuous efforts of the ISC, the fugitive was apprehended in Geary County, Kansas, as the result of a traffic stop during October 2001.

During July 2002, the ISC staff, working in conjunction with the United States Marshal's Service (USMS), aided in the capture of two DEA fugitives. Through the collection of human intelligence and the proactive analysis of phone toll records, the ISC staff helped to identify and track both fugitives from specific locations in Illinois, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Idaho. Additionally, the ISC staff helped coordinate USMS efforts in Alpine, Texas and Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas.

After September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade center and the Pentagon, the FBI requested the ISC to produce a link analysis on 500 individuals and related addresses/phone numbers generated during the course of the FBI's investigation. The ISC staff began by attempting to fully identify each individual through open source checks in Lexis/Nexis and Auto Track, and continued with Customs, DEA, FBI, and INS database checks via EPIC. The checks produced over 250 associated names, 1,400 addresses, 500 phone numbers, 60 vehicles and 1 financial account. Through the utilization of intelligence software located at the HIDTA, the ISC staff produced a comprehensive link chart and narrative for the FBI to further its investigation.

The ISC has developed an outstanding reputation for its leadership role in information exchange, technical support, and training. The ISC personnel have established a bi-annual intelligence symposium for the Midwest HIDTA region and a quarterly intelligence sharing meeting for the state of Missouri. The meetings provide a forum for federal, state and local law enforcement representatives to provide case specific information and establish valuable points of contact.

The Midwest HIDTA technical support staff has provided 46 task force locations, including the FBI and DEA, with access to the RISSNET and secure e-mail. RISSNET capability provides the user with access to law enforcement generated intelligence nationwide as well as the ability to send and receive law enforcement sensitive material via secure e-mail. At present, the ISC technical support staff is responsible for overseeing 140 computers located throughout the six state Midwest HIDTA region.

During 2002, the Midwest HIDTA ISC has provided and coordinated analytical, informational, and technical training critical to the law enforcement mission. Utilizing elements of both the DEA Basic Intelligence Course and AnaCapa, the ISC staff has provided law enforcement personnel with instruction in charting, post seizure/document analysis, and the utilization of intelligence software such as I2 Analyst Notebook and RAID. Additionally, over 200 law enforcement personnel have received technical training on the RISSNET and secure e-mail.

Throughout 2002, ISC personnel have provided power point presentations to members of the law enforcement community and academia on such topics as clandestine laboratory operations and MDMA/Ecstasy. As a result, ISC professionalism and subject matter knowledge is widely recognized throughout the HIDTA region and is gaining on a nationwide basis.

Participants: Guy Hargreaves, Group Supervisor, DEA Kansas City District Office (DO); Doug Weishar, Captain, Kansas City, Missouri Police Department (PD); Michael Harrington, Special Agent, DEA Kansas City DO; Phil Stockard, Detective, Kansas City, Missouri PD; Shelly Volker, Detective, Kansas City, Missouri PD; Rance Quinn, Police Officer, Kansas City, Kansas PD; Woody Pool, Detective, Independence, Missouri PD; Harley Sparks, Intelligence Analyst, Jackson County Task Force; Sandy Lentz, Intelligence Analyst, Kansas City, Missouri PD; Brian Schmidt, Intelligence Analyst, FBI Kansas City; Marty Lewis, Intelligence Analyst, DEA Kansas City; Dave Starbuck, Field Representative, NDIC; Joe McCroy, Intelligence Analyst, Missouri National Guard; Kendrea Shingleton, Intelligence Analyst, Kansas National Guard; Brian Dawson, Systems Project Manager, Midwest HIDTA; Sam Thompson, User Support Specialist, Midwest HIDTA; Kelly Sedik, Network Support Specialist, Midwest HIDTA; Larisa Thompson, Office Manager, Midwest HIDTA.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR

***R. Renee Robinson, Program Manager
Treatment/Criminal Justice Program
Washington/Baltimore HIDTA***

Renee Robinson has done an outstanding job of demonstrating the value of substance abuse treatment for hardcore drug offenders as a crime control strategy. Her leadership and commitment have been essential ingredients in the success of the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA's (W/B HIDTA) treatment/criminal justice initiatives.

As the HIDTA's treatment/criminal justice program manager, Ms. Robinson oversees 12 initiatives, each of which is run by a consortium of treatment providers, corrections agencies, courts, and parole and probation agencies working in the jurisdiction served by the initiative. She has worked tirelessly to facilitate interagency cooperation and encourage full interagency participation in both the initiatives themselves and in the HIDTA's treatment/criminal justice committee.

In spite of the serious financial constraints imposed by language in the Office of National Drug Control Policy's most recent reauthorization bill, which prohibits the spending of additional funds on treatment efforts without Congressional consent, Ms. Robinson and the treatment/criminal justice initiatives have not cut the level of services provided to their treatment clients. She also has taken the lead in promoting thorough and rigorous evaluation of the treatment initiatives' effectiveness. In addition to an annual quantitative study of the initiatives' effect on recidivism among the offenders they serve, the program conducts annual reviews of each initiative's operations using the Corrections Program Assessment Inventory, a research-validated evaluation instrument designed to measure the effectiveness of programs serving offenders in the criminal justice system.

Ms. Robinson's most significant accomplishment has been her successful campaign to promote the W/B HIDTA's crime control treatment model, an approach to treating hard-core substance abusers in the criminal justice system. The model combines a continuum of treatment services that can be tailored to meet the needs of individual offenders with intensive community supervision and an emphasis on offender accountability. The treatment model promotes close interagency cooperation among the courts, corrections personnel, treatment providers, and parole and probation agencies to improve treatment services and the supervision of offenders in the community. Compliance with treatment conditions is ensured through frequent drug testing and the use of graduated sanctions to address noncompliance.

The results of the treatment/criminal justice program's latest evaluation clearly demonstrate the success of this model. In spite of the fact that the HIDTA's treatment initiatives target hard-core drug offenders (the typical treatment client had 10 prior arrests and five prior criminal convictions), the initiatives reduced the re-arrest rate of clients by an average of 51 percent over a one-year period. The most significant indicator of the crime control treatment model's success is the state of Maryland's decision to adopt this model for use in all of its substance abuse efforts targeted at offenders in its criminal justice system.

2002 National HIDTA Program Award
ONDCP DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Ms. Yolanda DeLeon
South Texas Regional Partnership–Southwest Border HIDTA

But for the actions of Ms. Yolanda DeLeon, Cameron County District Attorney, the successes achieved by the South Texas Executive Committee, the Southwest Border HIDTA (SWBH) Executive Board, and the growth of the HIDTA program within the South Texas Regional Partnership and across the Southwest Border of the United States since January 1, 2001 would not have been achieved.

Of the 120 local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) within the 14-county, South Texas region, 29 LEAs believe in and participate in the South Texas HIDTA program's initiatives and task forces. Their participation reflects the coalition building, leadership, and outstanding success of the South Texas Executive Committee and its associated LEAs.

As chairperson and vice-chairperson of the South Texas Regional Partnership's Executive Committee, Ms. DeLeon was instrumental in gaining acceptance of the Starr County District Attorney as a new board member, thereby balancing federal, state, and local board memberships. The South Texas Executive Committee now has six federal and six state and local voting members. As a result of this membership, the South Texas Regional Partnership also created a new investigative task force located in Starr County, an extremely critical area along the South Texas border with Mexico.

The region historically has had significant volumes of illegal drug seizures. During her tenure, Ms. DeLeon led the South Texas Executive Committee to develop more effective and efficient subcommittees. These subcommittees oversaw task force operations and fiscal management procedures. Under her tutelage, the Executive Committee developed new direction for an intelligence subcommittee to follow. Overall, firm guidelines were followed during her tenure to ensure initiatives and task forces produced more effective results through strict budgeting and intelligence sharing principles.

As chairperson and vice-chairperson of the SWBH Executive Board, Ms. DeLeon developed a renewed cohesion between participating agencies as a result of rebuilding and refocusing of the SWBH administrative office. The SWBH now has a new coordination headquarters element centrally located in El Paso, TX. The administrative and coordination element better provides for the liaison and support necessary for the successful unification of efforts along the Southwest border between the United States and Mexico. Through team-building efforts, the SWBH Executive Board developed and approved the first SWBH standard operating procedure manual. Though Executive Board members are separated by up to 2,000 miles, a consensus was met and the procedures approved in a relatively short time. Ms. DeLeon oversaw the identification of funds from previous years' grants that were efficiently disbursed across the SWBH to fill partnership needs. One especially effective fund-sharing effort resulted in a coordinated and mutually acceptable equipment inventory control system.

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