

NW HIDTA

Serving the needs of fourteen Northwest Counties: Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima.



32 Arrested in Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang

On June 6, 2005, more than 300 federal, state and local law enforcement officers teamed up to execute 21 search warrants and to make 32 arrests of members and associates of the Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG). The execution of the warrants and arrests occurred in Washington, Oregon, Montana, South Dakota and Texas, but centered on activities in Whatcom County, WA where the International President of the OMG resides. Crimes investigated in the case initiated by ATF, the Bellingham Police Dept. and the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office in 2002, include firearms and narcotics trafficking, assault, kidnapping, witness intimidation and trafficking in stolen vehicles. Ten counts of the Grand Jury indictment were related to the distribution of marijuana and methamphetamine by the Chapter President living in Whatcom County, a lieutenant of the International President. U.S. Attorney John McKay described the crackdown of the Bandidos OMG as "probably the most significant" for OMG members in the state in the last 20 years. The Bandidos OMG have about 170 chapters and 2,400 members in 14 countries.

OPERATION ROADHOUSE



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Dave Rodriguez

Director's Message

On June 30th the NW HIDTA Threat Assessment, Strategy, Initiatives and budgets were forwarded to ONDCP. What made this so different from last year was that the content and formatting were changed to meet the new Performance Management Plan criteria. Also new was the manner that these documents were transmitted to ONDCP through the new financial on line database (see article below). I wish to thank all participants in this process who enabled us to meet our deadline and develop an excellent product.

The HIDTA appropriation process is continuing with the House subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban development assigned to review our program for funding. This is a positive step since HIDTA is included with the rest of ONDCP for review. The next issue will be what funding the subcommittee will recommend for the HIDTA program. Letters have been sent to each member of the subcommittee requesting full funding for HIDTA and sharing some of our performance measurement data for the year 2004. It is anticipated that the Senate subcommittee will not deal with this issue till some time in July. I will keep you apprised as developments unfold.

Performance Management Plan

ONDCP and the National HIDTA program are automating their reporting systems through a new procedure known as the Performance Management Process (PMP). PMP is a result of new accountability mandates from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). PMP uses a detailed matrix(s) to illustrate efficiency and effectiveness. The PMP Matrix identifies primary threats by geographic area; develops desired goals (outputs) to counter the threats; assigns responsibility to accomplish the desired goals; captures outputs; and illustrates the program's outcomes.

A new automated Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) database is now being added to the PMP. The DTO database is used by each HIDTA to develop targets, track results, and identify characteristics of each drug trafficking organization within each HIDTA's area of responsibility.

A new automated Financial Management System called EVEREST will also be part of the PMP. EVEREST is a tool that manages the grant life from request to closure and works the process from approval of the grant to distribution of reimbursement

requests. The Financial Manager will input the budget and reimbursement requests then the information gets approved up the line from the HIDTA Director to ONDCP to FMO, who deals with the money and disbursement. Now each HIDTA can see its own information on line and the secure data is only visible to the appropriate eyes. EVEREST compares each initiative with the initiative's budget to determine its over-all cost effectiveness. EVEREST in conjunction with PMP is one more way for HIDTA's to demonstrate to ONDCP their success in using HIDTA funds in the most cost effective way.

Enforcement Highlights

Continued from page 1

On May 10, 2005, the culmination of a joint **DEA/ICE** investigation entitled Operation Block Watch resulted in the execution of eleven search warrants and the arrest of 15 suspects. The operation targeted a major methamphetamine distribution organization operating in the Yakima Valley area and resulted in the seizure of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, weapons and currency. Fifteen local, state and federal law enforcement agencies were involved in the round up.

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Specially prepared for the ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program.

“Marijuana Eradication Up for 6th Consecutive Year”

Washington State Patrol/ Investigative Assistance Division

The number of Marijuana plants seized in Washington has hit a record high this year at 134,476 plants. This is the 6th year in a row that record numbers have been removed statewide and is a 105 percent increase over last year. The Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) oversee the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) which is tasked with removing domestically grown marijuana throughout the state. The program targets both indoor and outdoor grown marijuana and those who grow it. Law enforcement made 400 arrests and recovered 540 weapons during eradication efforts in 2004.

The Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program grant provides primarily overtime monies and equipment to select counties throughout the state to conduct eradication efforts. City, County, state and federal officers frequently utilize DEA and National Guard helicopters to fly in likely growing areas to spot grows. Units on the ground conduct follow-up investigation making arrests when possible and removing the plants for destruction.

This year saw large quantities of marijuana being grown on public lands across the state. Grows are sometimes tens of thousands of plants in size. Often public lands are devastated by the clearing of trees, terracing of the land, and diversion of natural springs and creeks to water plants.

Many of the large grows are very sophisticated in nature and produce high quality marijuana, which ends up being sold in our local communities. Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) levels, which are responsible for the potency and effects of Marijuana intoxication, are increasing. Marijuana in the 1960's averaged between 1 and 3 percent THC content. THC levels in recent years routinely range between 10 and 25 percent.

The use of drugs has long been associated with other criminal behavior. The Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) study asks for voluntary, anonymous, urine samples from arrestees being booked into jails around the country to test for illegal drug use. Seattle and Spokane were the two participating cities in 2003 within Washington State. The study tests for cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, opiates, and PCP. In Seattle 37.2 percent and Spokane 43.6 percent of arrestees tested positive for Marijuana. In Seattle 67.3 percent and Spokane 69.5 percent of arrestees tested positive for at least one of the 5 drugs tested for.

Troopers trained as Drug Recognition Experts continue to find Marijuana as the primary cause of impairment among drivers tested. Thirty-five percent of DUI arrests for drug impairment involve Marijuana.

Anti-drug efforts to educate teens and parents about the harms of Marijuana and other drugs continue to have a positive impact

on youth attitudes and drug trends. A recent survey shows a decline in teen Marijuana use as awareness about its risks increases. Between 2002 and 2003 there was a 5 percent decline in use among 12 to 17 year olds. Use by 12 to 13 year olds saw a 30 percent decrease. The percentage of youth who associated a great risk with marijuana use increase 8 percent.

The WSP maintains a hotline where tips reference marijuana grows can be given to law enforcement. Citizens can remain anonymous and be paid up to \$5,000 dollars depending on the number of plants discovered. The hotline number is 1-800-388-GROW. For more information about the marijuana hotline program, please contact Lieutenant Richard A. Wiley, Narcotics Section at (509) 353-2964 or (360) 507-0453.

Law enforcement throughout Washington continues to do an outstanding job with the resources and support of DEA to address the domestic production of Marijuana in Washington State.

Training

Date	Course	Location/ Provider
JUL 12-14 2005	Interview and Interrogation	CAMP MURRAY, WA**
JUL 12-13 2005	FinCen	HIDTA**
JUL 14-15	FinCen	HIDTA**
AUG 9-10	Financial Mgmt of HIDTA Funds	SEATAC Doubletree##
AUG 10-11 2005	Essential Writing Skills	HIDTA**
AUG 24-26 2005	Video Techniques for Law Enforcement	CJTC**
SEP 7 2005	Communications Analysis	CJTC##
SEP 8 2005	Effective Briefing Tech.	CJTC##

** Course is full
Quotas available.

Please contact Sherrie Funston at (206) 352-3648 to register.

For additional information, please contact Robert Wicklund at (206) 352-3647.

Update

Safety Bulletins Sent

- 01/27/05 FN 5.7 HANDGUN
- 01/27/05 Seized Money Contaminated with Viral Agent
- 02/01/05 Water Bottle Concealment
- 02/09/05 Concealed Hypodermic Needle
- 02/17/05 Knife/Handcuff Key Disguised as Ordinary Key
- 02/17/05 Officer Safety-Open Handcuffs with Comb
- 02/22/05 ASP Handcuffs Safety Warning
- 02/28/05 Automatic Shotgun Extended Mag
- 02/10/05 Light Fixture Concealment Method
- 02/10/05 Update on Black Cocaine
- 03/15/05 Personal Hidden Camera Detector
- 03/17/05 Electric Prod
- 03/17/05 Counter-Surveillance Technique
- 04/05/05 Concealment Method Using Bath Gel Capsules
- 04/11/05 Concealment Method - Weapons (Carabiner)
- 04/13/05 Contact Information for Law Enforcement (Ebay)
- 04/18/05 Stolen Trailers Loaded with Police Ammunition

If you have not received the safety bulletins and would like to be on the mailing list, please contact Jo Ray, 206-352-3640 or email jray@nw.hidta.org

Methamphetamine Myths Involving Precursor Chemicals

Methamphetamine myths will continue to circulate as long as methamphetamine abusers seek faster and cheaper ways to manufacture the drug. The nationwide tweaker subculture allows myths to spread rapidly. It is quite common for law enforcement officers and first responders throughout the United States to report hearing an unusual story about a new methamphetamine production method, a shortcut used in the production process, or an alternative to a common precursor. However, as officers and first responders become more aware of the effects of methamphetamine abuse and particularly the intricacies of tweakers, they will recognize methamphetamine myths for what they are—the drug culture’s version of the urban legend.

Myth	Fact
ARGON GAS can be used in place of anhydrous ammonia.	Argon gas was rumored to be useful in place of anhydrous ammonia; however, this myth was based on the fact that a company called “Airgas” manufactures a high-purity form of anhydrous ammonia called “ammonia blue”.
CARPENTER’S CHALK contains red phosphorus that can be used in the red phosphorus production method.	Commercial red carpenter’s chalk closely resembles red phosphorus but cannot be used in place of red phosphorus.
CREATINE can be used to produce methamphetamine.	Creatine is a dietary supplement and is not useful in methamphetamine production. Creatine has been used as a diluent for methamphetamine, cocaine, and ketamine.
Methamphetamine can be produced by passing an ELECTRIC CURRENT through an ALUMINUM SCREEN sprayed with FOAM INSECTICIDE .	The resulting compound does not contain methamphetamine, but some methamphetamine abusers reportedly have used the substance as a cutting agent (diluent) for methamphetamine. Insecticide is toxic when ingested, injected or inhaled by humans.
One of the chemicals in FIX-A-FLAT tire repair can be used in place of anhydrous ammonia to produce methamphetamine.	Some tire repair products contain a minute amount of ammonia, but it cannot be separated from the solvents.
HALON from halon fire extinguishers can be used in place of anhydrous ammonia in methamphetamine production.	Halon fire extinguishers contain no chemicals that can be used in place of anhydrous ammonia. Lab operators often use empty fire extinguisher canisters to contain anhydrous ammonia stolen from storage tanks.
HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA can be used in place of anhydrous ammonia.	Household ammonia contains too much water to be used in methamphetamine production.
Ephedrine or pseudoephedrine can be extracted from MINERAL BLOCKS such as SALT LICKS .	Mineral blocks including salt licks do not contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine; however, salt can be extracted from salt licks and used in methamphetamine production.
Red phosphorus can be extracted from incendiary SHOTGUN SHELLS , particularly Dragon’s Breath shells.	Dragon’s Breath shells are constructed with a propellant charge and particles of zirconium metal. Shotgun shells typically contain no red phosphorus.
Ammonia can be extracted from SMELLING SALTS .	The quantity of ammonia in smelling salts is minute, and the product would be no more useful in methamphetamine production than trying to use household ammonia.
Red phosphorus can be obtained from the heads of “STRIKE ANYWHERE” MATCHES .	“Strike Anywhere” match heads contain phosphorus sulphide, oxidizing agents, powdered glass, and glue. Red phosphorus cannot be extracted from the match heads.
Story found in NDIC Narcotics Digest Weekly, Volume 4, Number 2 January 11, 2005 Product#2005-RO485-002	