

Update

(Enforcement Update *Continued from page 3*)
 Marshal's Service all provided valuable assistance in this case.

WSP K-9 Success Story

Sgt. Travis Matheson reports the following: On July 2, 2003, Detective Brian Black with the Great Falls Street Crimes Unit distributed an Intelligence Advisory, via email, regarding a smuggling ring with a, "Methamphetamine concealment from Washington to Montana inside modified hydraulic bottle jacks." The advisory described the jacks and included five photographs that showed in great detail the concealment method.



When Trooper Nick Gerard's drug detection K9 Pickles alerted on the jack box in the below described case, he was a little bit baffled. However, he remembered seeing the Intelligence Advisory and thought to himself, "I've seen this somewhere before." He began unscrewing the jack top and located the cocaine. Had it not been for having recently seeing the advisory, the cocaine

may not have been located and probably returned to the bad guy.

A big thanks to everyone who played a role in this: Great Falls PD, Cascade County Sheriff's Office, Central Montana Drug Task Force, and the Teton County Sheriff's Office for the initial investigation and discovery of the jacks, Detective Black for developing and distributing the Intelligence Advisory, WSP Sergeant Shawn Berry for further distributing the advisory to WSP district commanders, WSP Captain Dubee for distributing the bulletin to his troopers, the WSP Auto Theft Task Force members for witnessing the dope deal and calling Trooper Gerard who did a great job with the initial search, the warrant, handling his dog, and passing along his discovery to close the loop and further disseminate this increasingly valuable information.



Technology and good old fashion police work combined to net a significant drug dealer and cash/vehicle seizure." HIDTA-Congratulations to all for a job well done!

(Seattle 25-Cities *Continued from page 2*)

The Substance Abuse Treatment Initiative – with the objective of updating, expanding and ensuring implementation of the existing Needs Assessment/Biennial Substance Abuse Plan, focusing on priority populations, new intravenous drug users, the improvement of treatment outcomes, housing, substance abusing offenders, the integration of services, and chronically debilitated individuals; and

The Substance Abuse Prevention Collaboration Initiative – with the objective of increasing collaboration, enhancing coordination and strengthening sustainable partnerships involving neighborhoods, schools and community coalitions in efforts to reduce and prevent substance abuse.

The law enforcement and prevention work groups, soon to be augmented by additional participants, will continue to meet as Steering Committees charged with the development of action steps, timelines and measurable products for their initiatives; the Substance Abuse Treatment Initiative will come under the formal purview of the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board, and calls for the expansion of participation in the monthly city/county Treatment Providers' Meeting toward implementation of the Initiative. The work of all three groups will be actively supplemented by the on-going support and assistance of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, where a "Seattle Desk" has been established.

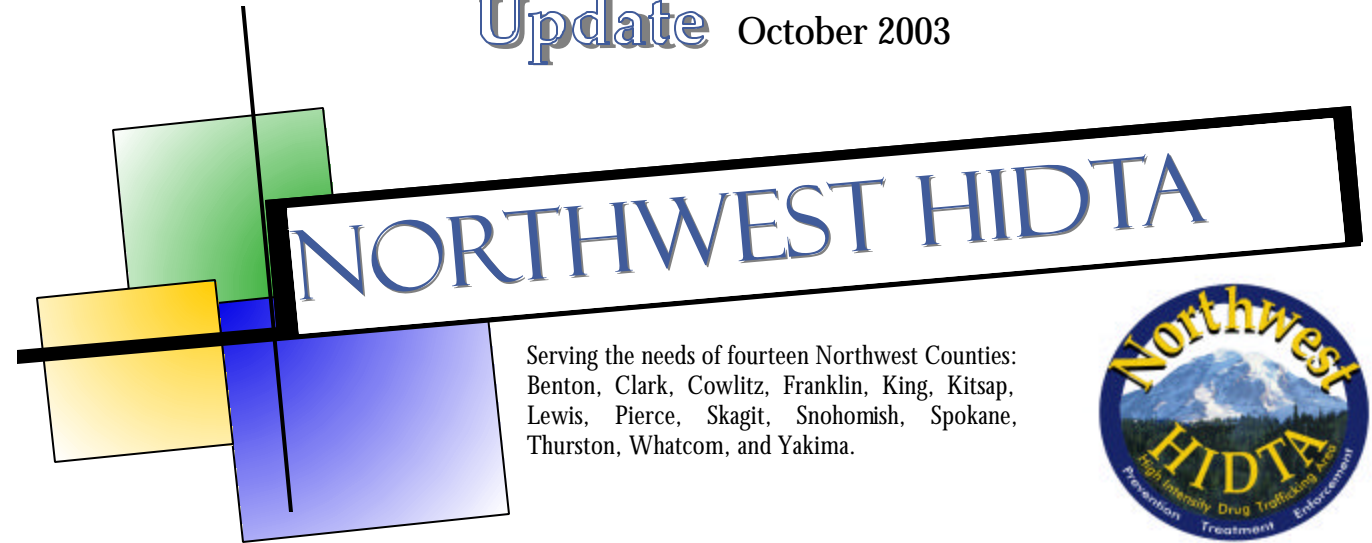
Updates regarding the progress and accomplishments of the Seattle 25-Cities Initiatives will be provided in this column. A brief summary of this process would not be complete without acknowledging the invaluable contribution of Patrick Vanzo, King County Department of Community and Human Services, in organizing and coordinating every step along the way.

For further information about the NW HIDTA Prevention/Treatment Initiative, Steve Freng can be contacted at 206.352.3603 and sfreng@nw.hidta.org.

Annual HIDTA Self-Review Set to Begin Soon

The annual self-review is scheduled to begin October 7, 2003. Details and guidance will be sent out to all participants and initiatives within the next two weeks. The tentative schedule is:

10-7-02, 1:00pm	Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force
10-8-03, 10:00am	Tacoma Regional HIDTA Task Force
10-9-03, 10:00am	HIDTA Integrated Task Force
10-9-03, 1:00pm	Transportation Group
10-9-03, 10:00am	Thurston County Narcotics Task Force
10-14-03, 10:00am	Investigative Support Unit
10-16-03, 10:00am	Northwest HIDTA Yakima County TF
10-16-03, 10:00am	Clark/Skamania Drug Task Force
10-16-03, 1:00pm	Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force
10-21-03, 10:00am	Northwest HIDTA Border Task Force
10-21-03, 10:00am	Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team
10-21-03, 1:00pm	WSP Pro-Active Meth Team
10-21-03, 10:00am	Management & Coordination Initiative
10-22-03, 11:00am	Spokane County HIDTA Task Force



Message from the Director



Dave Rodriguez

There were two significant events that took place this past quarter; the 25 Cities Initiative and the statewide Meth summit. The 25 Cities Initiative tour will be reported in depth in a separate article on page 2 of this newsletter. However, I wish to convey the gratitude of Director John Walters and the staff of ONDCP for all the hardwork and the commitment of all the participants to this project. The statewide Meth summit, held in Vancouver, was the best attended summit thus far. The organizers are to be congratulated for providing an informative program involving such a diverse audience.

The Reauthorization Bill and the Budget for the National HIDTA Program are still being deliberated in Congress. It appears that we will be on a continuing resolution until agreement is reached.

The HIDTA Executive Board approved the nomination of Chief Tim Kimsey, Port of Seattle Police, to the Executive Board. The Port of Seattle Police have participated in the NW HIDTA program since its inception.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Special Agent Terrance Johnson, the Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) Squad Leader with the IRS Criminal Investigation Division of the United States Department of the Treasury. Special Agent Johnson unexpectedly passed away from natural causes on April 4, 2003. He was a close friend to all of us here at the Northwest HIDTA and a leader and mentor to the detectives, agents and analysts assigned to both the FIU and the Investigative Support Center. Professionally, his contributions and success in investigating money-laundering cases with a drug nexus were unmatched in the Western District of Washington. Personally, he was also highly involved in contributing to his community through his participation and leadership roles in several organizations, but his first priority was always his family.

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Special Agent Terrance Johnson

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On August 4, 2003, Special Agent Johnson's spouse, Jonelle, posthumously received the Albert Gallatin Award on his behalf in recognition of his tremendous contributions to the Department of Treasury. This is the highest award for service that a federal employee can be nominated for at the Secretary of Treasury level. In addition to Special Agent Johnson's family, numerous representatives from other local, state and federal agencies and the NW HIDTA were on hand at the auditorium in the Jackson Federal Building in Seattle for the presentation.

As a role model in both his professional and personal lives, Special Agent Johnson's kindness, sense of humor, dedication, leadership and moral courage will continue to be a great inspiration to his many friends in the law enforcement community for many years to come.

NW HIDTA Analysts Receive IRS Awards



Blue Plate Pride Awards from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Criminal Investigation Field Office located in Seattle were presented to several members of the Northwest HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) staff on June 11, 2003. The awards were in recognition of the contributions by the ISC to the IRS sponsored Financial Investigation Unit initiative that had been co-located at the HIDTA. IRS Special Agent Todd Peterson (far right of photo) and Tax Fraud Investigative Assistant Stacy Stenberg (far left) presented the awards at the ISC. They noted that those who received the award were recognized for their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to making the FIU initiative a success. State Patrol employees receiving the award from left to right included: Bill Wittenberger; Jennifer Young, Will Snyder, Jayne Frost, Harry Hansen and Jo Ray (not pictured).

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

Northwest HIDTA Program Coordinator Jerry Adams Recently Appointed...

Northwest HIDTA Program Coordinator Jerry Adams was recently appointed to the national Board of Directors of the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center (MCTC). The purpose of MCTC is to provide counterdrug training to drug law enforcement officers, demand reduction professionals and community coalition members. It was formed under the 2003 Defense Appropriations Act and was established at the Counter Drug Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa. MCTC's operating area covers the National Guard Bureau's Northwest region including Washington State. Several free training programs are already being planned for next year as a result of this MCTC. Look for upcoming training announcements from the Northwest HIDTA.

Seattle 25-Cities Prevention and Treatment Initiatives

As mentioned in this issue's Message from the Director, the Office of National Drug Control Policy's 25-Cities Initiative has been taken up in the city of Seattle, creating a process that involves stakeholders representing local leadership, law enforcement, treatment, prevention, education and research. The preliminary outcomes of this process were presented, discussed and favorably received by Director Walters during his visit in mid-September, and are briefly summarized below.

In preparation for the visit, a 2-day work session was convened by ONDCP Deputy Director Andrea Barthwell in August, attended by over 30 local professionals from a range of disciplines. These stakeholders were organized into three work groups focused respectively on law enforcement, treatment and prevention. Their goal was to propose actionable and data-supported initiatives to be implemented within the city of Seattle that: use proven techniques in expanding efforts to reduce drug use; promote coordination among all segments of the community; develop citizen and governmental commitments to supporting effective anti-drug campaigns; and assist in the gathering and maintenance of accurate data reflecting the status of drug use in the city.

The resulting preliminary initiatives include:

The Drug Affected Neighborhoods (DAN) Initiative - with the objective of reducing drug abuse, improving neighborhoods and increasing personal safety from the crimes and violence attributed to criminal retail drug activity;

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Enforcement Highlights



suspect set the vessel afire...

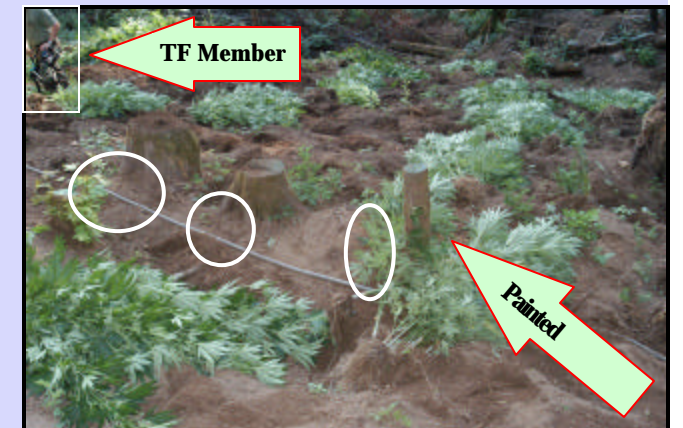
On July 11, 2003, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) made two separate maritime seizures. In one case a suspect was bringing approximately 450 lbs., of marijuana in a commercial vessel from Canada into U.S. waters. When BICE enforcement personnel attempted to stop the vessel, the suspect set the vessel afire (see photo) in an attempt to scuttle the boat. In the second case occurring the same date, BICE enforcement personnel boarded a non-registered vessel going north toward Canada and seized 13.6 kilograms of cocaine.

On June 23, 2003, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors at the Blaine POE seized 21 lbs., (42,000 tablets) of MDMA from a vehicle. Though Canadian authorities reported seizing 20 MDMA labs in 2002, most MDMA that is smuggled into the U. S. from Canada is still believed to be produced in Europe. On September 10, 2003, approximately 30 lbs. of cocaine being smuggled into Canada was recovered off a rural road in the Lynden sector that parallels the Canadian border.

On July 12, during secondary inspection of a truck, 25 kilos of ephedrine was discovered in the bottom of a fuel tank. On August 23, 2003, 138 lbs. of BC Bud and 332 lbs. of ephedrine was found in a shipment of wastepaper on a Freightliner destined for Tacoma, WA. In 2001, 37.5 kilos of ephedrine were seized on the western sector of the Washington state border with Canada. Through mid-September 2003, 176 kilos of ephedrine have been seized.

On July 8, 2003, the DEA Task Force in Tacoma arrested a suspect attempting to deliver approximately 6 lbs. of 99 percent pure methamphetamine. The suspect expected a payment of \$96,000. On September 4, 2003, Task Force officers arrested three suspects who were attempting to deliver 1.5 kilograms of cocaine in a casino parking lot. Two weapons were also seized during the search of the suspects vehicle and residence.

On August 6, 2003, members of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force assisted by members of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, executed a search warrant on an outdoor marijuana grow found on private forested property. The illegal Mexican National caught at the site had a prior drug conviction in 1991 and an outstanding warrant from a search warrant served on May 2, 2003, for possession of 10 lbs. of BC Bud valued at \$28,000. The grow had been spotted earlier in the summer during a routine surveillance flight using a National Guard helicopter. The grow site was cleared on a southwestern hillside in a densely forested area. The slope was terraced and a hole in the hillside was dug to retain rainwater to irrigate the crop with a hose. Freshly cut tree stumps had been painted green to camouflage them from aerial surveillance (see photo). The 374 plants found at the grow would have earned \$187,000 according to the estimates provided by the suspect. It is expected this will be the first federal prosecution for a marijuana grow occurring in Cowlitz County in many years.



The New York City Police Dept. initiated an investigation in April 2001 on the SORIANO organization. The Northwest HIDTA Integrated Task Force subsequently joined this long-term investigation that involved the importation of heroin and cocaine from South and Central America into the Puget Sound Region and New York City. The investigation revealed the source of supply of heroin and cocaine to the New York organization was living and operating in Seattle. Wire intercepts also disclosed the Seattle target was importing loads of cocaine in 500 kilogram quantities into the United States as well as multiple kilograms of heroin from a source in Colombia, South America. As of August 12, 2003, 21 search warrants for the Seattle portion of the OCDETF case have been executed at various residences and vehicles in the Puget Sound area. There have also been nine arrests locally; one arrest in Medellin, Colombia; and one arrest in New York. The U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Washington, will seek to have the suspect in Medellin extradited to Seattle for trial. Seattle PD, the King county SO, the Snohomish Regional Narcotics Task Force and the U.S.