

NORTHWEST HIDTA

Serving the needs of 14 Northwest Counties

Benton ~ Clark
Cowlitz ~ Franklin
King ~ Kitsap
Lewis

Pierce ~ Skagit
Snohomish ~ Spokane
Thurston ~ Whatcom
Yakima

JANUARY - APRIL 2011

MAY 16, 2011

Legal Highs - The Rise of Chemical Analogues as Alternatives to Controlled Substances

by Theresa P. Blahato, ISC Manager

Chemical Analogues or Designer Drugs have returned to the spotlight recently, but in a different fashion. In the 1980's, Designer Drugs were marketed as alternatives to controlled substances, particularly narcotics such as heroin, stimulants like amphetamine and cocaine, and hallucinogens as LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) for example. In the past two years, these Designer Drugs have been marketed as commercial products such as incense and Bath Salts rather than marketed as the chemicals themselves. These products contain a warning label that the product is not intended for human consumption. The intention of hiding behind a commercial product enables the manufacturer and/or company owner to avoid criminal prosecution. Law enforcement officers, drug treatment/prevention workers, and the public have become increasingly vigilant in spotting these emerging drug trends. As a result, these chemical analogues are identified quickly and brought to the attention of federal and state law enforcement agencies where officials work to place these chemicals under emergency scheduling and strict regulation. As these types of legal highs become more popular, the law enforcement community both nationally and internationally as well as the public will need to act quickly and systematically to place them under emergency scheduling.

Some of these synthetic cannabinoid products include K-2 and Spice, which is marketed as incense, but contains a synthetic form of the active chemical found in marijuana – THC or tetrahydrocannabinol. Several states have placed these chemicals on emergency scheduling. Washington State Board of Pharmacy filed an emergency rule of the drug on January 7, 2011 ([WSR 11-03-019](#)). The rule adds the chemicals are 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole (JWH-018), 1-butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (JWH-073), 1-[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (JWH-200), 5-(1,1-dimethylheptyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (CP-47,497), and 5-(1,1-dimethyloctyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (cannabicyclohexanol; CP-47,497 C8 homologue) to Schedule I. Schedule I substances have a high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use. The rule makes it illegal to sell or possess these chemicals or products containing these substances. It gives clear authority to law enforcement to prosecute for the sale and possession of these substances and protects the public by alerting them to potential health risks that could result from using them. This rule went into effect on January 7, 2011 for 120 days. The Board of Pharmacy intends to file a CR101 Preproposal Statement of Inquiry to announce its intent to evaluate the need for permanent rules.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) also temporarily scheduled these chemicals effective March 1, 2011. The DEA Administrator issued this final order to temporarily place five synthetic cannabinoids into the Controlled

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Northwest HIDTA
400 2nd Avenue West
Third Floor
Seattle, WA 98119

Ph: (206) 352-3600

Fx: (206)352-3699

This report is specially prepared for the ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program Edited by Theresa P. Blahato



Director's Message by Dave Rodriguez

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and its interagency partners have begun the development process for the *Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy*, and have solicited the perspective of Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement leaders. The *Strategy* will articulate the Administration's plans to substantially reduce the flow of illicit drugs and drug proceeds into and out of Canada, with a focus on small communities along the border and enhanced relationships and cooperation with tribal governments. In furtherance of the Strategy the Northwest HIDTA hosted a roundtable discussion with Director Kerlikowske on March 4th at the HIDTA office. In conjunction with this visit the Deputy Director of State, Local and Tribal Affairs, Mr. Ben Tucker, was able to attend a meeting of HIDTA affiliated Drug Task Force Commanders followed by a meeting of several Tribal Chiefs of Police. He was also updated on our Prevention and Treatment activities. I wish to thank all the participants to these meeting for their valuable input.

I also wanted to thank all the HIDTA fiduciaries for their patience waiting to be informed about when they would receive the 2011 award letters, ONDCP mailed the grant awards for 42 percent of the projected FY 2011 baseline funds to us on March 11th. We are currently waiting for a resolution for the rest of the appropriations.

It is also with deep sadness that we received the news that Kane, the Clark County Police Dog, was stabbed to death trying to apprehend a suspect. Kane and his handler, Deputy Rick Osborne, were instrumental in the success of the Domestic Marijuana Eradication program and were trained to be inserted into difficult terrain via a long line attached to a helicopter. He was quite a sight with his special dog goggles suspended in flight. He also made it safer for the ground units to operate.



Continued from page 1

Substances Act (CSA) pursuant to the temporary scheduling provisions. This action is based on a finding by the Administrator that the placement of these synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the CSA is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. As a result of this order, the full effect of the CSA and its implementing regulations including criminal, civil and administrative penalties, sanctions and regulatory controls of Schedule I substances will be imposed on the manufacture, distribution, possession, importation, and exportation.

Mephedrone (1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-methylaminopropanone hydrochloride, or 4-methylmethcathinone) is sold as plant food, but its effects are similar to Ecstasy (3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine), cocaine, or amphetamines. It is chemically similar to the Khat plant (cathinone) hence the street name "Meow Meow."



Bath salts, plant food, insect repellent and other commercial products containing the active ingredient MDPV (3,4-Methylenedioxypropylvalerone) are in demand. Both Mephedrone and MDPV are synthetic derivatives of cathinone. MDPV acts as a stimulant with effects similar to cocaine or methamphetamine. The acute effects of MDPV include rapid heartbeat, increase in blood pressure, vasoconstriction, and sweating. Mental effects include increased alertness and awareness, increased wakefulness and arousal, euphoria, anxiety, agitation, and perception of a diminished requirement for food and sleep. The effects have duration of roughly 3 to 4 hours, with after effects such as tachycardia, hypertension, and mild stimulation lasting from 6 to 8 hours. Higher doses have been observed to cause intense, prolonged panic attacks in stimulant-intolerant users, and there are anecdotal reports of psychosis from sleep withdrawal and

Source: Internet AP Photo/Kelley McCall,

addiction at higher doses or more frequent dosing intervals. MDPV has been remarked about more than once for its powers as an aphrodisiac, which have been said to rival those of methamphetamine when dosed correctly. Users often report they feel compelled to continue re-dosing but then lose interest in taking it quickly because of the unpleasant side effects caused by higher doses. Other bath salts such as Vanilla Sky and White Lady, among others, provide similar effects.

On April 15, 2011, the Washington Board of Pharmacy filed an emergency rule (WSR 11-09-044). The rule adds fluoromethcathinone (fephedrone), methylmethcathinone (mephedrone), methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV), methylenedioxypropylmethylcathinone (methylone), methylbenzodioxypyrrolamine (butylone), JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47, 497; and cannabicyclohexanol to the list of Schedule I controlled substances. The rule was effective immediately and remains in effect for 120 days.

Other synthetic psychedelic chemicals marketed as research chemicals, particularly 2C-E (2,5-dimethoxy-4-ethylphenethylamine) are sold under the name Europa. The effects of this class of chemicals are similar to LSD and to other hallucinogenic drugs. The chemical is a variation of 2C-B (4-Bromo-2, 5-dimethoxyphenethylamine), which DEA has listed as Schedule I.



As more and more chemicals are scheduled, traffickers will create other chemical analogues to circumvent law enforcement action and regulation. Strong partnerships among the public, drug treatment and prevention agencies, law enforcement agencies, and the international community will ensure timely responses to these kinds of emerging threats. The Northwest HIDTA will continue to monitor these chemicals and work proactively with law enforcement and drug treatment/prevention agencies.

Source: Internet

For additional information on legal highs, please refer to the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute website, <http://depts.washington.edu/adai/>.

Northwest HIDTA Annual Report for CY2010 by CIS Michelle Pham

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program exists to reduce the trafficking and production of illegal drugs in the United States. Illegal drugs influence nearly every aspect of society. The HIDTA program reduces drug trafficking and the production of illegal drugs by disrupting and dismantling Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs). When these DTOs are disrupted or dismantled and their illegal drugs and associated assets are seized, the regional marketplace for illegal drugs suffers. These seizures cripple DTOs, affecting their profitability, and frequently their ultimate survival. By disturbing the drug supply chain, particularly at the multi-state or international level, law enforcement can impact the flow of drugs into and within our country before it ever reaches the individual user. These law enforcement activities have a cost. A key question emerges, therefore, as to how efficiently and effectively public dollars are being spent on these objectives. This Annual Report addresses those issues.

During Calendar Year (CY) 2010, Northwest HIDTA initiatives disrupted the market for illegal drugs by meeting most or exceeding many of their performance targets for the year, and did so in an efficient and cost effective manner. The following highlights illustrate this success:

- To maximize results, the Northwest HIDTA promotes cooperation and joint efforts between various law enforcement, public health, and regulatory organizations. There were over 96 federal, state, local, and tribal agencies participating in Northwest HIDTA law enforcement, intelligence, or prevention/treatment initiatives. Support from the Northwest HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) facilitates cooperation, enhances intelligence sharing, and promotes coordinated law enforcement strategies among participating agencies within the Northwest HIDTA. This support from the ISC helps law enforcement initiatives identify, investigate, and dismantle the area's most dangerous and prolific DTOs, drug dealers, money launderers, weapons traffickers, and violent criminals.
- Illicit drugs are extremely profitable for the illegal organizations that traffic them. During CY2010, over \$950 million dollars in illicit drug profits were permanently eliminated from the balance sheets of DTOs within the Northwest HIDTA. This loss would constitute a serious financial blow to a legitimate corporation and its impact on illegal DTOs is greater yet, representing a sizeable reduction in illicit drug availability.
- Fighting illicit drug trafficking is an expensive endeavor; Northwest HIDTA initiatives achieved a combined return on investment (ROI) of \$257.43 dollars for every \$1 dollar of Northwest HIDTA funds invested. For every Northwest HIDTA budget dollar spent on law enforcement, prosecution, and investigative support activities, \$253.99 dollars in illicit drugs and \$3.43 dollars in drug-related assets were seized.

- One goal of the HIDTA program is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking organizations. During CY2010, Northwest HIDTA initiatives identified 189 DTOs and Money Laundering Organizations (MLOs). In total, 59 DTOs or MLOs (31 percent of those opened) were either disrupted or dismantled.
- Northwest HIDTA strives to investigate larger, more complex DTOs/MLOs where the greatest positive impact can be achieved. Disrupting or dismantling a large, complex DTO/MLO generally takes longer than stopping a street level operation, but doing so can substantially reduce the illicit drug marketplace. During CY2010, Northwest HIDTA initiatives investigated complex cases involving larger DTOs/MLOs, but more specifically, 59 percent of the DTOs/MLOs investigated by Northwest HIDTA initiatives were international or multi-state in scope. Of the 59 DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled in CY2010, 49 percent were international or multi-state in scope.
- Northwest HIDTA initiatives have made significant strides in dismantling DTOs responsible for domestic marijuana production. In CY2009, Northwest HIDTA initiatives seized over 595,000 marijuana plants with a wholesale value estimated at nearly \$1.5 billion dollars. In CY2010, there was a large decrease in marijuana plant seizures by Northwest HIDTA initiatives. Northwest HIDTA believes this shows a positive trend, that our enforcement activities have driven some of the outdoor domestic marijuana producers out of the state. Interviews of confidential sources indicate that the risk of doing business for producers of outdoor domestic marijuana is perceived as very high and they are no longer operating their DTOs in the state of Washington. An unseasonably cold growing season and less marijuana spotting flight time also contributed to the decrease in the seizure of outdoor marijuana plants.
- Northwest HIDTA initiatives continue to focus on the seizure of the core drugs and CY2010 has seen a large increase in seizures of several of these drugs. Methamphetamine seizures have increased 214 percent from CY2009 to CY2010. In CY2010, Northwest HIDTA initiatives have increased heroin seizures by 152 percent. Ecstasy seizures have increased 18 percent in CY2010.
- Northwest HIDTA continues to play a leading role in assisting the law enforcement, prosecution, and investigative support initiatives with their information sharing and training needs. Information sharing and training support link these initiatives together, promoting and facilitating greater efficiency and effectiveness. During CY2010, Northwest HIDTA provided 19,890 hours of training to 999 students.



Source: Internet

Prevention/Treatment Initiative by Steve Freng, Manager

As the last of the data counts and analyses are completed for the Northwest HIDTA Annual Report, this issue of the newsletter affords an opportunity to recap the outputs and accomplishments of the FY 2010 Prevention/Treatment Initiative.

The Drug Court programs operating within the NW HIDTA region had to confront some fiscal challenges in 2010, but produced outcomes at even higher levels than in more abundant years. In total, approximately 2,700 drug offenders were enrolled in these Drug Courts over the course of the year. The total number of clients served fell when compared to past years due to program capacity reductions required by significant budgetary pressures at the county and municipal levels for several of the larger programs. However, the aggregated performance of these programs exceeded that of any past year: 55% of enrollees graduated from their programs, 8% were re-arrested and 3% were re-incarcerated, surpassing not only past year performance but significantly exceeding outcomes reported by non-judicially supervised treatment programs. Drug Courts, having demonstrated the capacity to do more with less, continue to have beneficial impacts on recidivism, public safety and public health throughout NW HIDTA communities.

Growth as well as change has characterized the projects comprising the Community Coalition Support Project during the past year. While the use, availability and community-wide consequences of methamphetamine continue to impact NW HIDTA communities, the emergence of prescription drug abuse - particularly opiates - has emerged as a significant threat and in response, the NW HIDTA partner agencies comprising this project continue to mature and adapt to the changing needs and priorities in their communities. With a new emphasis on preventing prescription drug abuse, these organizations conducted or sponsored over 272 community events during the year, providing substance abuse prevention messages and services to nearly 18,000 citizens. Further, projects supported by NW HIDTA resources included 12 service and intervention programs that served over 2,300 children, youth, and families throughout the NW HIDTA region.

Several milestones were achieved in the area of Public Education/Awareness, contributing to an improving level of community knowledge regarding drug trafficking and the consequences of drug use. **The Washington Rx Watch** train-the-trainer program – a companion to the **Washington Meth Watch Public Education Project** trained 280 presenters over the course of the year. To date, a total of 882 presenters have been trained to provide either curriculum within their own communities, and have in turn provided 1,230 presentations to over 47,700 Washington State citizens. The “M-Files” website (www.mfiles.org) continues to provide reliable, documented, up-to-date information about methamphetamine and marijuana on a local and national basis, and is embarking on the development of prescription medicine content. With the Office of the Washington State Lieutenant Governor serving as Webmaster, the M-files received over 723,000 hits and over 27,000 visitors in 2010. And more broadly, the NW HIDTA produced, purchased and facilitated the distribution of over 55,400 pieces of print and electronic material last year, including brochures, posters, resource guides and videos.

2011 already has the makings of another productive and energetic year – due to the vision, commitment and perseverance of each of our NW HIDTA partner agencies. Without their contributions, few if any of these milestones could have been achieved; our appreciation is immeasurable.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Northwest HIDTA Prevention/Treatment Initiative, Steve Freng can be contacted at 206.352.3603 or sfreng@nw.hidta.org.

2010 Integrated Border Intelligence Team (IBIT) Accomplishments by Corporal Therese Cochlin, RCMP

The Integrated Border Intelligence Team (IBIT) is a multi-agency group, primarily comprised of analysts from agencies with cross border law enforcement responsibilities from Canada and the United States. These analysts are co-located in Blaine, Washington and among their many duties they track, analyze, and report on cross border drug seizures in the Pacific and Okanagan IBIT area. This area includes the coastal regions of Southern BC and Northern Washington State and the land border eastward to Alberta and Glacier National Park in Montana.

In 2010, there were only three significant marijuana seizures in the IBIT reporting region, with a combined weight of 977 pounds. This was the lowest amount seized since the IBIT began tracking data in 1999. The amount of MDMA (ecstasy) seized during the past calendar year was also significantly less than the previous year, with approximately 1.4 million dosage units intercepted, down from the 2.6 million units in 2009. In terms of synthetic drugs, it is interesting to note that in 2010 there were no BZP seizures, a sharp contrast to the more than 600,000 units seized in 2009.

Border seizures of northbound cocaine also declined slightly in 2010 with 564 kilograms seized during 13 incidents in the IBIT region. Although the amount of cocaine seized at the border decreased, the overall amount was actually much higher taking into account a 1001 kilogram maritime load that transited through the IBIT area, but was interdicted away from the border on Northern Vancouver Island. A complete summary of cross border trends for 2010 will soon be available from the Pacific IBIT in the coming weeks and provides a comprehensive look at the long term trends and factors influencing cross border drug activity.

Every two years the team leader position at the IBIT transfers between Canada and the United States and in February 2010, the United States Border Patrol assumed the lead from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with Mark Kotwicki now serving as the Team Leader. I would like to thank all of the IBIT partners for their support over the past 2 years including the Northwest HIDTA, who has been a long term, and much appreciated, supporter of the Integrated Border Intelligence Team.

Cpl. Therese Cochlin - RCMP
 Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET) and former IBIT Team Leader.
therese.conchlin@rcmp-grc.gc.ca



Source: IBIT

Initiative News by William Snyder, Analytical Unit Manager

Investigative Support Center

The NW HIDTA ISC continues to support major international, national, regional, tribal, and local impact investigations in many of its initiatives. The analysts also support national HIDTA initiatives, such as the Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE), the National Marijuana Initiative (NMI), the National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceutical Initiative (NMPI), and the Native American Project (NAP). The ISC provides gang intelligence information to the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC) for their strategic gang reports, and the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) for their report on gang activity in Indian Country. The Northwest HIDTA ISC is working closely with NDIC in their Drug Market Analysis report for Washington State. The HIDTA continues its collaborative intelligence sharing efforts with other agencies.

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force (CWNTF)

In February, detectives arrested four individuals and seized 1/2 pound each of heroin and crystal meth and several firearms, two which were stolen.

In March, detectives and ICE agents conducted numerous knock and talks in King County. Nine subjects were arrested, along with three vehicles and cash seized.

In April, detectives along with Clark County, Kelso Police Department, and Longview PD conducted a buy/bust operation of 3 pounds of crystal meth. The operation resulted in the arrest of three subjects, recovery of a large quantity of meth, and seizure of \$57,000 cash and three vehicles

Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force (SRDTF)

In February, detectives arranged a deal to purchase 2 pounds of meth from a Hispanic male from Tacoma. When the dealer arrived with a Hispanic female he was identified and arrested. Detectives served a search warrant on the vehicle and recovered 2 pounds of meth from a purse located behind the passenger seat.

Spokane County Task Force

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Spokane County Regional Task Force

Detectives conducted several 1/4 pound controlled buys of meth and cocaine from a DTO based in the Columbia Basin. This DTO is responsible for the monthly distribution of over 100 pounds of meth and cocaine throughout the Western United States. The DTO is a Mexican National group directly linked to a cartel based in Quiaaila, Mexico.

Washington State Patrol Investigative Assistance Initiative

SWAT

In February, SWAT assisted DEA Seattle Diversion Group with a high-risk narcotics search warrant at an apartment complex in Everett where the suspect was known to have several weapons.

In March, SWAT assisted Department of Corrections with a fugitive roundup operation in Thurston County, where seven fugitives were located/arrested. SWAT provided armored tactical assistance to Yakima Police Department SWAT with a high-risk narcotics search warrant. The SWAT also assisted Yakima Police Department City Narcotics with a high-risk narcotics search warrant in Yakima; and provided a tactical consult to CID's Tacoma RATU regarding a tracker/search warrant operation in Milton.

Tacoma Regional HIDTA Task Force

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Pierce County Sheriff's Department Tacoma Police Department

In January, a year-long DEA Tacoma investigation of a Mexican methamphetamine and heroin Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) operating in western WA was completed. This investigation involved controlled purchases of methamphetamine and heroin from DTO members. The heroin being distributed by this DTO was submitted to the DEA Western Regional

Laboratory for purity testing. The results revealed the purchased heroin to contain a 36% purity, one of the highest purities seen by the lab in several years for the four states it covers for DEA, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and Oregon. On January 13, 2011 DEA Tacoma culminated this investigation with the arrests of five DTO members, including the DTO's sources of supply for methamphetamine and heroin. The investigation resulted in the seizure of over 1 pound of heroin, 1/2 pound of methamphetamine, 3 vehicles, and approximately \$30,000 in USC and assets. All five defendants were charged in federal court for the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and heroin.

In March, DEA Tacoma culminated a year-long OCDEF of a Vietnamese marijuana cultivating and trafficking organization. Agents executed 22 federal search warrants throughout western Washington on March 1, 2011. The search warrants resulted in the arrests of seven DTO leaders and the seizures of over 5,200 marijuana plants found at seven grow sites, 6 handguns and 1 rifle, approximately 30 pounds of marijuana, \$50,000 in USC, 16 vehicles, for a total of over \$684,000 in assets. All defendants have been charged in federal court for the conspiracy to manufacture 1,000 marijuana plants.



Source: DEA Tacoma

In April, DEA Tacoma concluded a case following a tip of suspicious narcotics activity in Olympia, WA. Surveillance conducted by DEA Tacoma members was able to identify a subject mailing a marijuana laden package to Tennessee. DEAT Tacoma officers, along with the assistance of the Thurston County Narcotics Team (TNT), were able to obtain a search warrant on the package which

revealed approximately 2 pounds of marijuana. DEA Tacoma officers subsequently intercepted a second package, in-bound from Tennessee, for the apartment where the marijuana laden package had come. A search warrant was obtained for the second package, which revealed \$28,500 USC. A subsequent search warrant was conducted at the residence where an additional \$20,000 USC, assorted assets, and one SUV, all for a total of \$71,000 in assets. One subject was arrested and charged in Thurston County for the distribution of marijuana.

In April, WestNet assisted DEA Tacoma with a search warrant arresting the main target and seizing two rifles and drugs. The target has ties to local gangs in Tacoma.

**Yakima County HIDTA
Task Force**

***Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD)***

In February, a search warrant was served, for a Sureno Gang member. Officers seized marijuana, cash, and drug paraphernalia. Another search warrant was executed in the Yakima area, where officers seized 8 kilograms of cocaine and a 2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer.

In addition, February also had a two cases conclude that were opened 2010. Two search warrants were executed in Wapato where drugs, weapons, and stolen property were recovered from suspects believed to be involved in a large scale theft case involving Wal-Mart/Target stores in the Yakima Valley. They were suspected of shoplifting items then selling them at yard sales. Attempts to locate and substantiate the stolen items being sold were unsuccessful. Detectives were contacted by the asset protection coordinator from Wal-Mart in Sacramento in January requesting assistance and offering surveillance video of two suspects shoplifting from the Yakima store on a nightly basis. Surveillance was conducted and two subjects were followed to a residence known for drug/gang activity. Detectives conducted a search warrant and discovered, in the basement, a cache of clothing approximately three feet deep. The recovery was estimated by Wal-Mart to be in excess of \$70,000 with a conservative estimate that over \$100,000 worth of merchandise was stolen by the suspects over a 6-month period. In addition the investigation showed that children were used to help facilitate the thefts.

The second closed case was an investigation of multiple suspects accepting money and stolen property in exchange for drugs. The residence was surrounded by a six foot fence and cameras making surveillance difficult so an informant purchased drugs and numerous presumably

stolen items. In February, a search warrant was executed recovering quantities of ecstasy, heroin, marijuana, meth, cash in excess of \$6,000, one stolen motorcycle, two stolen All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's), one stolen TV, 10 firearms (two of which were stolen), 19 stolen paintball guns with CO2 cartridges, and one stolen log splitter. Over 300 additional items were recovered and are being linked to other burglaries in Washington and Idaho.

Northwest HIDTA Northern Border Task Force

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

In January a federal jury convicted a resident of Vancouver, British Columbia, on five counts related to the trafficking and illegal possession of firearms, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

Oliver King, who is also known as Hamid Malekpour, 35, was arrested by HSI agents on May 19, 2010, in Ferndale, Wash., after traveling from Canada to McMinnville, Ore., and back to Ferndale over a two-day period. At the time of his arrest, he had 21 weapons in his possession.

Prosecutors brought five charges against King including unlawful dealing in firearms, being a non-immigrant alien in possession of firearms, and three counts of making false statements to a government agency. The jury deliberated five hours before reaching its guilty verdict.

According to court documents, King repeatedly lied to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers when he entered the United States from Canada. For example, on May 18, 2010, King told the CBP officer at the Peace Arch port of entry in Blaine, Wash., that he was picking up his wife at a Target store in Bellingham, Washington.

Instead, King drove to McMinnville Hunting and Police Supply, a storefront in Oregon, and picked up boxes of firearms and ammunition. He had established this business with a U.S. citizen, but hid his ownership role from regulators. As a non-immigrant alien, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

The next morning, King took several boxes of weapons

and ammunition from the store and put them into his vehicle and drove to a storage facility in Ferndale. When he arrived, he was met by HSI agents who questioned him and arrested him shortly afterwards.

During closing arguments to the jury, Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Roe noted that King's arsenal of guns was in "full array" and on display for the jury. She added, "Mr. King's deception is just as big and obvious in this case, as the guns,"

"The defendant in this case illegally possessed weapons, trafficked them without a license and deceived investigators to cover up his actions," said Leigh Winchell, special agent in charge of HSI in the Pacific Northwest. "HSI will continue to address illegal trafficking of weapons both domestically and internationally."

King faces up to 10 years in federal prison when he is sentenced April 11 by U.S. District Judge James L. Robart. HSI was joined in the investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In March seven members of a drug conspiracy with ties to the Hells Angels outlaw motorcycle gang were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and probation today for their roles in trafficking thousands of pounds of B.C. Bud marijuana and cocaine across the U.S./Canada border. JODY YORK, 36, of Barriere, B.C. was sentenced to the longest prison term – 59 months – and was taken into custody on the spot. EDWARD RUSSELL, 34, of Surrey, B.C., a dual U.S. and Canadian citizen was sentenced to 54 months in prison, three years of supervised release and a \$10,000 fine. RUSSELL too was taken into custody after sentencing. The men were described as managers in a drug organization that moved thousands of pounds of marijuana south into the U.S. hidden in PVC pipe, hallowed out logs, wood chips and hidden compartments in tractor trailer rigs. The leader of the conspiracy, Rob Shannon, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in March 2009.

Shannon and co-conspirator Devron Quast were arrested in June 2008, following a three year investigation that involved undercover officers and resulted in the seizure of more than 1,700 pounds of cocaine, 7,000 pounds of BC Bud and about \$3.5 million. To date, 54 defendants have been charged in connection with the investigation, and 48 have been convicted. Twenty-eight Canadians have been charged in the conspiracy and 22 have pleaded guilty. The defendants sentenced today voluntarily traveled

from Canada to accept responsibility for their criminal conduct. Their voluntary surrender is reflected in the government sentencing recommendations.

At the sentencing hearings Chief U.S. District Judge Robert S. Lasnik talked with each defendant about their role in the case, and the large amount of drugs trafficked. Judge Lasnik told JODY YORK, this was “a major drug organization that had a terrible impact on lower British Columbia and this part of the U.S. ... Your kids and other people’s kids are the ones that suffer when a community is riddled with violence the way Vancouver B.C. is.”

This was an Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation, providing supplemental federal funding to the federal and state agencies involved. This investigation was led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with significant support from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force.

**Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) Update
by Jodi Mahoney, National Guard Analyst
Washington State Counterdrug**

There were several significant highway seizures during this reporting period:

Snohomish County, Washington — 1/2 pound Marijuana and \$2,500 U.S. Currency

On January 4, 2011, at 2200, a Washington State Patrol Trooper stopped a 2005 Ford Explorer, CA registration, Northbound on Interstate 5 at milepost 189 in Everett, WA for a traffic violation. The 2 subjects claimed they were traveling from Mercer Island, WA to Bellingham, WA. A search of the vehicle located 1/2 pound of marijuana and \$2,500.00 U.S. currency. The marijuana and currency were located in a Starbucks paper bag inside the vehicle. The marijuana and currency were seized and the subjects were taken into custody.

Kittitas County, Washington — 1/4 pound Heroin, 0.4 gram Methamphetamine, and .38 Caliber Handgun

On February 24, 2011, at 2045, a Washington State Patrol Troopers stopped a 2002 Ford Escape, WA registration, Eastbound on Interstate 90 at milepost 129 in Vantage, WA for a traffic violation. The subject claimed he was traveling to Spokane, WA from Everett, WA. A search of the vehicle located 1/4 pound of heroin, 0.4 grams of methamphetamine, and .38 caliber handgun in baggage in the center console and glove compartment. The methamphetamine, heroin, and firearm were seized and the subject was taken into custody.

Kitsap County, Washington — 58.3 grams Heroin and 16 Pills Methadone

On February 2, 2011, at 1822, a Washington State Patrol Trooper stopped a 2006 Dodge Stratus, WA registration, Westbound on State Route 16 at milepost 29 in Gorst, WA for a traffic violation. The subjects claimed they were traveling from Tacoma, WA to Bremerton, WA. A search of the vehicle located 58.3 grams of heroin and 16 pills of Methadone. The heroin and Methadone were located in the subject’s purse and in the other subject’s rectum. The heroin and Methadone were seized and the subjects were taken into custody.



Heroin and pipe.
Source: Washington State Patrol

The overall statistics are based on seizures occurring in Washington and Oregon on I-5 and Idaho on US-95. All seizures for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho occurred during the operation time period of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

Tables 1-3 represent the total weight of each drug seized, currency and weapons seized, as well as data on subjects involved and intelligence/coordination outputs by each state.

Table 1 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR WASHINGTON FOR 1/01/2010 – 12/31/2010*

WASHINGTON	
Enforcement Outputs:	
Marijuana seized -	14.4 kg
Hashish seized -	180 g
Cocaine seized -	182 g
Methamphetamine seized -	2.4 kg
Prescription Drugs	1,186.5 du
Heroin seized -	314 g
MDMA seized –	109 du
Psilocybin seized -	80 g
Currency seized -	\$170,054.00
Firearms	4
Total arrests for drug offenses -	38
Total Seizures	40
Total Subjects	48
Total Operations	9
Intelligence/Coordination Outputs:	
Total of WSIN inquiries -	663
Investigative leads developed -	29
Total of case deconflictions -	15
Total Database Checks	938

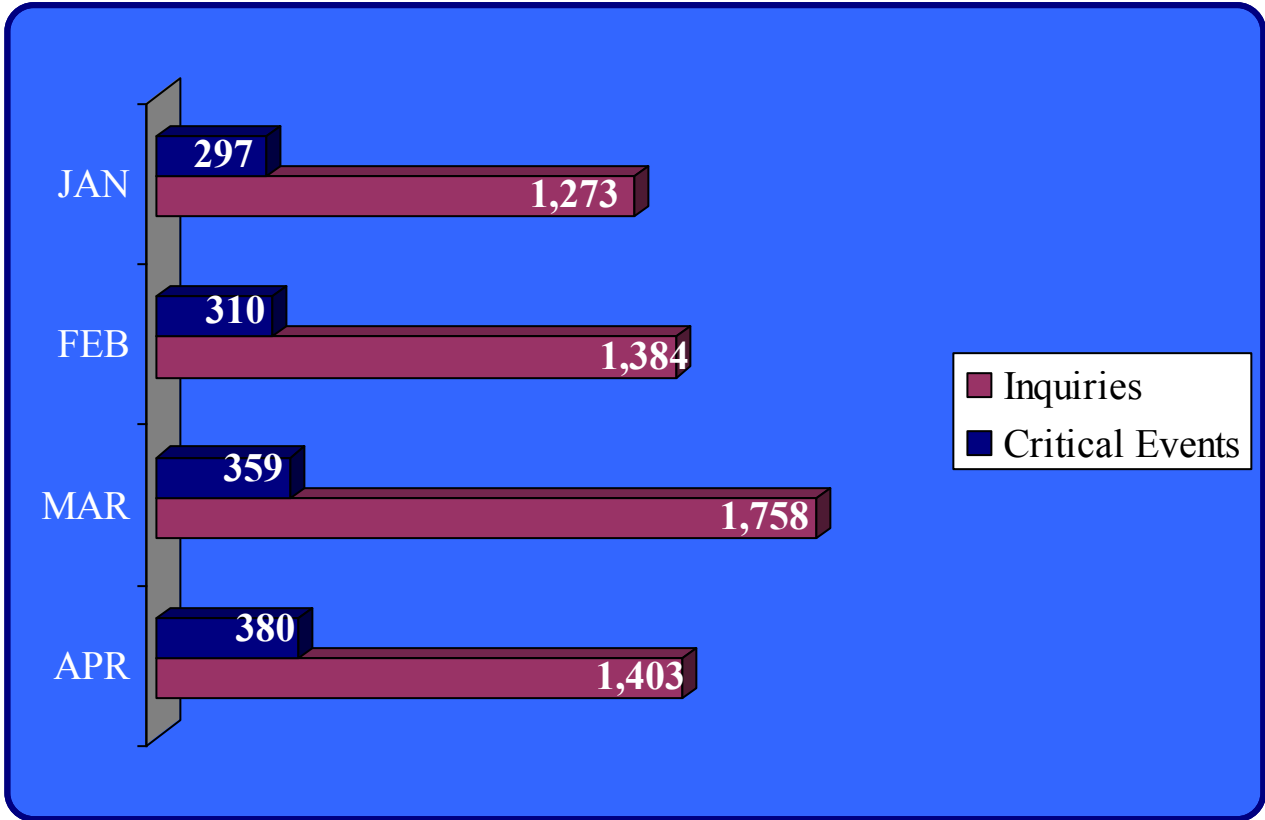
Table 2 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OREGON FOR 1/01/2010 – 12/31/2010*

OREGON	
Enforcement Outputs:	
Marijuana seized -	295 kg/1,276 plants
Hashish Seized	.5 kg
Cocaine seized -	20.85 kg
Methamphetamine seized -	25.2 kg
Prescription Drugs	10,277 du
Heroin seized -	0 kg
MDMA seized –	42 du
Psilocybin seized	2.8 kg
Currency seized -	\$1,089,154.00
Firearms	19
Total of arrests for drug offenses -	87
Total Seizures	106
Total Subjects	207
Total Operations	5
Intelligence/Coordination Outputs:	
Total of WSIN inquiries -	N/R
Investigative leads developed -	N/R
Total of case deconflictions -	N/R
Total Database Checks	N/R

Table 3 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR IDAHO FOR 1/01/2010 – 12/31/2010*

IDAHO	
Enforcement Outputs:	
Marijuana seized -	378.4 g
Hashish seized -	4.4 g
Cocaine seized -	4.7 g
Methamphetamine seized -	5.8 g
Prescription Drugs	64 du
Heroin seized -	4 g/ 1 fl oz
MDMA seized -	0 du
Currency seized -	\$0.00
Firearms	0
Total of arrests for drug offenses -	48
Total Seizures	82
Total Subjects	132
Total Operations	1
Intelligence/Coordination Outputs:	
Total of WSIN inquiries -	N/R
Investigative leads developed -	N/R
Total of case deconflictions -	N/R
Total Database Checks	N/R

Watch Center YTD Stats



TRAINING CALENDAR

DATE	COURSE	PROVIDER	LOCATION
5/9 - 5/13/2011	CADRE Clan Lab	CADRE	WSP Fire Training Academy
05/17 - 05/19/2011	Pen Link	Pen Link	Scottsdale, AZ
05/16 - 05/20/2011	Narcotics K9 Detection Training	Pacific Northwest Police Detection Dog Association	Salem, OR
05/23/2011	Rise of Asian Gangs	OCSI	Seattle Police Department
06/27 - 06/30/2011	Rural Observation Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures	WRCTC	Camp Murray
08/16—08/17/2011	PowerPoint for Public Safety	Police Technical	Tukwila PD

The NW HIDTA coordinates with the National Guard Midwest Counterdrug Training Center (MCTC) and the new Western Region Counterdrug Training Center (WRCTC) located at Camp Murray Washington, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to present these courses.

There is no cost to the attendees or their agencies, except for per diem, if applicable.

The courses are open to federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, criminal intelligence analysts, program analysts, and military personnel assigned to counter-drug activities.

For additional information on these courses please contact Bob Wicklund or Neclisa Floyd at (206) 352-3600.

New WRCTC website!

The Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center has a user friendly registration process to better serve you. Features include a course calendar, real time updates of seats available, on-line certificates, and enhanced email communication. Please take a moment to look around if you have any questions or problems feel free to contact them at registrations@wrctc.org



To receive this newsletter via email,
please request at clbiggs@nw.hidta.org