

Northwest HIDTA



Serving the needs of fourteen Northwest Counties:

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



\$1,000,000 tunnel used to smuggle B.C. Bud from

A group of drug smugglers spent more than six months and \$1 million to build a tunnel with electricity and ventilation from a Quonset hut on the Canadian side of the border to the United States.

The approximate 360 foot long tunnel ran from the Quonset hut in Aldergrove, B.C., under the border highway and to the living room of a home in Lynden,

The site of the tunnel was about a quarter of a mile from the Aldergrove/Lynden border crossing station. Three suspects were arrested on July 20, 2005 about a week after completing the tunnel and smuggling over 200 lb of B.C. Bud into the United States.



The traffickers had established a price list to charge \$500 a pound to smuggle the marijuana and maintained they could run 300 lb at a time. The investigation involved both U.S. and Canadian authorities and the continual monitoring of the tunnel construction until its completion on July 14.

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Dave Rodriguez

Director's Message

Good news from the House and Senate Subcommittees that oversee ONDCP and the HIDTA program. They have both approved funding for the HIDTA program at \$227,000,000 for FY06. This is an increase of \$477,000 from FY05. Although the budget has not been finalized and signed by the President, it is expected that the amount approved by Congress will stay the same. This noteworthy achievement is due to all the hard work done by all the participants in the HIDTA program in the Washington State and Nationwide. Your efforts have been recognized and gained the congressional support necessary to continue funding the HIDTA program.

FY05 discretionary funding has also been approved for the NW HIDTA by ONDCP for our part in the National Marijuana Initiative that targets drug trafficking organizations that are using the National Forests and Public Lands to grow Marijuana. The Washington State Patrol administers this program on our behalf and partners with HIDTA and Bryne Grant task forces in eradication, intelligence, and investigative operations. This will be the subject of an article in the next newsletter.

As all of you are aware the hurricane that devastated New Orleans also took its toll on the Gulf Coast HIDTA and their

Enforcement Highlights



**Marc Emery
arrested for
money laundering
and conspiracy to
manufacture**

Marc Emery, a Canadian citizen living in Vancouver, British Columbia, was arrested for money laundering and conspiracy to manufacture marijuana by Canadian authorities on July 22, 2005, based on an indictment obtained in a U.S. court. The arrest was made under a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with Canada that was executed to improve judicial effectiveness between the countries. Emery, known as the "Prince of Pot," operated an Internet-base business that has sold marijuana seeds throughout the world and to customers in most U. S. Emery claimed his business made up to \$3 million a year from selling seeds online and by mail and is believed to have sold more than 4 million seeds in the United States since 1994. DEA Special Agent in Charge, Rodney Benson, said that the seeds sold to customers in the United States have been used for both personal and commercial grow operations. Illegal grows in Indiana, Florida, California, Tennessee, Montana, Virginia, Michigan, New Jersey and North Dakota have been traced to Emery's Internet sales. Emery (photo with B.C. Bud is from his web site at www.cannabisculture.com) is awaiting extradition to the United States.

On June 21, 2005, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation, entitled Operation Intolerance, culminated in the arrests of 32 suspects. The operation also resulted in the seizure of 8 lb of methamphetamine, 4 kilograms of powdered cocaine, 90 lb of marijuana, \$215,000, 34 vehicles, and 30 firearms. The 2-year OCDETF case targeted a polydrug drug trafficking organization (DTO) that distributed drugs in the Yakima Valley and south central Washington areas. The investigation disclosed that illegal drugs were transported from Mexico through California and Oregon to the Yakima area in hidden compartments of vehicles. These same vehicles transported the illegal proceeds from the sales back to Mexico. The DTO allegedly distributed approximately 1,200 lbs. of marijuana, 10 lb of ice methamphetamine and 10 lb of powdered cocaine in Washington as well as Oregon and Minnesota. The joint investigation was led by the DEA Yakima and included participants from the U.S. Attorney's Office for Eastern Washington; ATF; IRS; ICE; USMS; the Law Enforcement Against Drugs Task Force; Lower Valley Task Force; WSP; Yakima Valley Narcotics Task Force; Yakima County Sheriff's Office; Goldendale Police Dept.; Union Gap Police Dept.; and the Yakima Police Department.

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

Training

In August 2005, local, State and Federal authorities launched Operation Wildfire Nationwide in a coordinated roundup of methamphetamine producers and dealers. Of the more than 427 arrests made in 200 U.S. cities, 24 were taken custody in Western Washington. Six search warrants were issued resulting in the seizure of more than 15 lb of methamphetamine, 2 lb of crystal methamphetamine, 6 lb of cocaine, 5 lb of marijuana, several weapons, and \$40,000 in cash.

On August 15, 2005, the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force seized over 40,000 doses of steroids (see photo) with a street value of 1.5 million dollars. The Task Force not only seized the pills, but also liquid steroids and needles to inject the drug. One arrest was made in what was the largest seizure of steroids in Thurston County in the recall of county detectives.



On July 21, 2005, twelve search warrants were served and 25 members of a DTO believed responsible for distributing multi-pound quantities of crystal methamphetamine and cocaine from Mexico to Washington

State were arrested. Approximately 1/2 kilo of cocaine, 5 kilos of crystal methamphetamine, 2 ounces of heroin, 8 handguns, 12 vehicles, and \$71,000 were seized. Between 125 to 150 law enforcement officers from DEA, ICE, the Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, King County Sheriff's Office, Everett Police Dept., Bothell Police Dept., Marysville Police Dept. and the Washington State Patrol participated in the arrests and search warrants.

The 2006 NW HIDTA Training Year calendar is beginning to fill in. Our mission is to provide the highest quality training at the lowest possible cost to all those involved in the fight against drug trafficking and substance abuse. The classes cover all aspects of counterdrug law-enforcement training, and many of the training opportunities are provided tuition-free to law enforcement across the region.

All instructors have been identified as subject matter experts in their fields with years of experience as law enforcement officers or criminal justice professionals. New classes are being added continuously, so be sure to check with us for updates.

The Midwest Counterdrug Training Center (MCTC) will handle the registration on line for the courses they provide. The web site to register and to find additional information about their classes is:

<http://www.counterdrugtraining.com/>

2006 Scheduled Training Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Location/Provider</u>
January 23-25 2006	Financial Investigative Techniques	CJTC/MCTC
February 6-8 2006	Basic Spanish for Law Enforcement	CJTC/MCTC
February 27 –March 3 2006	Interview and Interrogation	Richland PD/MCTC
March 26 2006	**Pharmaceutical Drug Investigations	TBD/MCTFT**
March 27-29 2006	Basic Spanish for Law Enforcement	Richland PD/MCTC
April 10-14 2006	Interview & Interrogation	CJTC/MCTC
May 8-10 2006	Informant Development	CJTC/MCTC
May 22-26 2006	High Risk Event Planning	Richland PD/MCTC
September 13-15 2006	Video Techniques for LE	Richland PD/MCTC
TBD	Introduction to Intelligence for LE	Cowlitz Co/MCTC
TBD	Highway Drug Investigations for Patrol	Puyllaup/MCTC
TBD	Drug Unit Supervisor	TBD/MCTC
TBD	U/C Ops	TBD/MCTC
TBD	Clan Lab Investigator Certification	TBD/MCTC

HIDTA Equipment Loan Program

The Northwest HIDTA maintains over \$500,000 in law enforcement related technical equipment that is available for loan to local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies in the 14 HIDTA counties in furtherance of drug nexus criminal investigations. This program includes the lending, installation, technical support, and training of law enforcement personnel in the use of electronic surveillance equipment to enhance and improve surveillance capabilities. This factor allows law enforcement agencies a stand off and/or 24-hour surveillance capability without having to place personnel on the target of an investigation. This can save unnecessary overtime and avoid compromising an investigation.

The available equipment includes covert video and audio devices, GPS-based tracking systems, direction finders, pager intercepts, and cell phone and landline intercepts for Pen Registers / traps and traces. The Trap and Trace is installed by the impacted telephone company to capture incoming calls to the target phone. Copies of court orders are required to loan some of the equipment, for instance where there is an expectation of privacy. The costs of installation and operational maintenance of Pen Registers or a Trap and Trace are paid by the requesting agency.

Gary Fiber is in charge of the loan out program. He can be contacted at (206) 352-3637 or email gfiber@nw.hidta.org.

Information Safety Bulletins

- 7/11/05 PowerPoint Presentation on Mexican Voter Cards
- 7/12/05 Blacklight Tattooing
- 7/13/05 Requesting Assistance with Cold Case Homicide
- 7/19/05 Officer Assist Request - 2005 B37 Gang Graffiti
- 7/19/05 Capital City Gang Conference Flyer
- 7/20/05 Drugs Hidden Inside Flaps of Flip-Flop Sandals
- 8/11/05 2005 LA HIDTA Training Schedule
- 8/11/05 Concealment Techniques & Counter Surveillance Training
- 8/15/05 Requesting Assistance - MS-13 Graffiti
- 8/15/05 Swiss Army Knife with Memory Stick

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

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calls from citizens who wish to report meth-related activity, including manufacturing and trafficking. Callers are encouraged to provide only as much information as is comfortable calls can be anonymous – although some specific geographic information is desirable. Watch Center staff inform the caller that the pertinent municipal agency, county sheriff or task force will be notified *and ask the caller if he/she would like the call to be acknowledged by the pertinent agency*. This is intended to alleviate a common misperception that law enforcement agencies are unresponsive or unresponsive to such tips.

A complimentary role for the Northwest HIDTA is to provide as much public information about methamphetamine as resources allow, distrib-

HIDTA Equipment Currently Available

Camcorder
Digital camera
Hi-8 video recorders,
Microwave Video Pole Cams
Microwave video NMEA boxes
Tactical voice repeaters
Body wires
RF bodywire recording receivers
Fiber optic scope
RF beacon
Radio direction finder

uted as widely as possible. Such information is provided in print, electronic and web-based formats, and each includes a reference and the number for the Meth Hotline. The Hotline thus provides feedback on the reach and the impact of the material. For instance, the Northwest HIDTA in collaboration with a non-profit, community-based organization distributes wristbands stating “Don’t Meth Around” and giving the Hotline number. Calls to the Hotline have increased steadily since distribution began. A campaign in Clark County (Vancouver) that entailed billboards and bus placards resulted in a significant spike in calls from southwest Washington – as well as northwest Oregon. A billboard campaign developed by the Office of the Washington State Lieutenant Governor resulted in a similar outcome, while also increasing the visitors to the “M-Files” website (www.mfiles.org). In addition to providing basic information about meth dangers and consequences, such efforts encourage citizen participation in the issue, essentially “marketing” the availability and responsiveness of law enforcement. Calls to the Hotline through August 2005 total 176, representing a 30% increase over the entire previous year – in only eight months.

It seems also that our reach extends well beyond the Northwest HIDTA region. The Watch Center received a call from the Ramsey County (St. Paul) Minnesota Sheriff’s Office, requesting as much information as possible about meth labs and Washington State’s meth strategies. They have been provided with the full array of materials and curricula. And a call was just recently received from the Sussex County (Newton) New Jersey Meth Task Force, where a spate of meth labs has lately been seized. They too have been provided with materials and assistance in their effort to mobilize around the problem.

Public education about methamphetamine – and about the partnerships that are essential to addressing it effectively – is critical to stemming this crisis. If you’d like more information about the Northwest HIDTA public education projects or about the Prevention/Treatment Initiative, please contact Steve Freng at 206.352.3603 or sfreg@nw.hidta.org.