



Northwest HIDTA

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SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2010

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lead Article	1
Director's Message	2
Lead Article Continued	3
Initiative News	4
Emerging Trends	10
Gangs in Washington State	12
Watch Center Stats	15
Training Schedule	16

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 Blahato

Marijuana Facts and Washington State by Steve Freng, Prevention/Treatment Manager

In his opinion piece published in the *Seattle Times* ("Marijuana's true potency and why the law should change", 9/3/10), John McKay writes that "Federal criminal law should give way to regulation. . . . like (that) guarding that other commodity that failed miserably at prohibition, alcohol." In referencing alcohol prohibition, Mr. McKay neglects to recognize one of the actual benefits of the policy: per capita consumption of alcohol dropped precipitously following enactment, and did not rise back to pre-prohibition levels until the 1970's. Countless lives and resources were saved as a result. Currently, many youth and adults have not tried and do not smoke marijuana simply because it is illegal. Consider the analogous and significant change in behavior throughout the country when driving without a seat belt became illegal – a change that did not previously occur in spite of numerous public education and campaigns.

Mr. McKay also disregards or completely overlooks several aspects of marijuana prohibition. Legalizing marijuana will undoubtedly increase its availability. When considering the risk factors associated with the initiation and continued use of psychoactive substances, the availability of such substances in the community is pre-eminent. Further, he simply does not address the fact that marijuana is not a benign substance – it is, in fact, a drug on which users develop dependence. Nationally, the number of regular marijuana users is estimated to be approximately 15 million (compared to 126 million alcohol consumers), of whom it is estimated 4 million, or nearly 30%, are dependent on the drug and would benefit from participating in an abstinence-based treatment program.

According to a University of Washington report analyzing drug abuse trends in Seattle/King County during 2009, the number and rate of treatment admissions among adults for marijuana dependence has more than doubled since 1999, rising from 920 to 1,715. Marijuana is given as the reason for one in three adolescent crisis calls to the Alcohol/Drug Help Line, and marijuana-related treatment admissions among adolescents far exceed those for any other psychoactive substance, numbering 971 in 2009 – compared to 489 for alcohol dependence and no more than 35 for any other drug. In addition, marijuana ranked 4th as the cause for drug-related emergency room visits in Seattle/King County, trailing only alcohol, opioids and cocaine.

On a statewide basis, the picture looks the same. The Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, administered biennially to state public school students, indicates that marijuana use in the past 30 days among Washington State students continues to increase and remains significantly above the national rate. In 2008 (the most recent year for which data is available) 8.3% of 8th graders, 19.1% of 10th graders and 23.4% of 12th graders reported recent use. According to the Washington State Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, marijuana dependence accounted for 62% of the youth admissions to state treatment programs – compared to 23% for alcohol dependence and no more than 6% for any other substance. In addition, a total of 4,069 youth entered treatment for marijuana dependence statewide in 2008, a rate of 258 admissions per 100,000 population indicating significant incidence and prevalence. With regard to Washington State adults, the number and rate of treatment



Director's Message by Dave Rodriguez

I wish to congratulate all the HIDTA Initiatives for an outstanding year. The quality of the investigations and the tenaciousness of the investigators are truly awesome. Our analysts have been recognized once again for their superior performance in the following investigations:

Valentine Luu provided analytical support to an investigation focused on a large and coordinated group of commercial marijuana growing operations located throughout the region, primarily in south Snohomish County. This was a very complex and involved investigation that culminated on June 30, 2010 with the simultaneous execution of search warrants on 25 residences and one business. The investigation resulted in 36 arrests as well as the seizure of more than 9,500 marijuana plants and over \$70,000 in cash proceeds. She received a Certificate of Commendation from the South Snohomish County Narcotics Task Force.

Julia Fisher received a Certificate of Commendation in recognition of her participation in the outstanding investigative effort and interagency cooperation between the South Snohomish County Narcotics Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Northwest HIDTA during a yearlong investigation. The investigation, identified as Operation Melting Pot, was part of a larger nationwide investigation identified as Project Coronado which focused on the La Familia Drug Cartel. On October 21, 2009, a nationwide takedown of this investigation occurred. The DEA Seattle Field Division portion of Project Coronado resulted in 21 federal drug trafficking indictments, six state level arrests and the seizure of approximately 24 pounds of cocaine, 28 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 13 vehicle, eight firearms, one improvised explosive device (IED), and over \$275,000 in cash proceeds.

Also noteworthy was the work of the SeaTac HIDTA Task Force, which was formed in September 2006, when the DEA Seattle Field Division HIDTA Transportation/Interdiction Group merged with the Valley Narcotics Enforcement Team. The Task Force is currently comprised of five DEA Special Agents and seven Task Force Officers (TFOs). The resulting Task Force evenly splits its investigative efforts between interdiction investigations and investigations of middle to upper echelon drug trafficking organizations in the greater Seattle, Washington area. The Task Force's interdiction investigations primarily focus on the SeaTac International Airport, but also include express package interdiction, a hotel/motel program, oceangoing shipping (barged vehicles and cargo) between Washington and Alaska, and international air smuggling.

The SeaTac HIDTA Task Force's achievements/accomplishments were highlighted by four significant interdiction investigations which resulted in them being awarded the Narcotics Interdiction Group of the Year (2010) bestowed by the International Narcotics Interdiction Association (INIA), formerly Skynarc (see photo of group accepting their award).

I also want to wish everyone the best of the holiday season and a prosperous and successful New Year.



Continued from page 1

admissions for marijuana dependence increased approximately 50% from 2003 through 2008, from 3,833 (63 per 100,000 population) to 5,662 (113 per 100,000 population). And, the Washington State Patrol reports that an unprecedented – and increasing – number of drivers are being cited for driving under the influence of marijuana.

Further, marijuana cultivation in Washington State has also reached an all-time high with Drug Trafficking Organizations dominating both indoor and outdoor growing as well as distribution. Last year Washington State ranked second in the nation, following only California, for marijuana production. Consequently, public lands -- including our national and state parks, forests and wildlife preserves -- as well as native reservations are suffering severe damage due to illegal hunting, the clearing and terracing of land and diversion of streams, the use of dangerous pesticides and fertilizers, and the dumping of vast amounts of trash. The individuals tending these growing operations are also well armed and are a threat to whoever they encounter.

The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske, has spoken out clearly on the subject of marijuana regulation and legalization, stating that “the concern with marijuana is not born out of any culture war mentality but out of what the science tells us about the drug’s effects: marijuana use is harmful”.

Advocates of legalization say the costs of prohibition – mainly through the criminal justice system – place a great burden on taxpayers and governments. While there are certainly costs for current prohibitions, legalizing marijuana would not significantly cut the costs of the criminal justice system. Arrests for alcohol-related crimes such as violations of liquor laws and driving under the influence totaled nearly **2.7 million** in 2008 while marijuana-related arrests totaled around **750,000** in the same year.

Controls and prohibitions help to keep prices higher, and higher prices help keep use rates relatively low, since drug use, especially among young people, is known to be sensitive to price. Legalization means the price comes down, the number of users goes up, the underground market adapts, and the revenue gained through a regulated market will never keep pace with the financial and social cost of making this drug more accessible.

Our national strategy recognizes that the most promising drug policy is one that prevents drug use in the first place. We have many proven methods for reducing the demand for drugs. The demand can be decreased with comprehensive, evidence-based prevention programs focused on adolescence, which science confirms is the peak period for drug-use initiation and the potential for addiction. Our young people must be made aware of the risks of drug use – at home, in school, in sports leagues, in faith communities, in places of work, and in other settings and activities that attract youth. This is vital because an individual who reaches age 21 without smoking, using drugs or abusing alcohol is virtually certain never to do so.

A balanced approach based on a combination of public health and public safety strategies is the surest route to reducing drug use and its consequences. This approach employs best practices in prevention, treatment, and law enforcement with community partners. We know that working together has resulted in lowering crime and drug use.

John McKay was an excellent U.S. Attorney and is well respected by law enforcement -- but on this issue he is misinformed.

Dave Rodriguez – Director, Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA)
Former DEA Special Agent in Charge, Seattle, former DEA Agent in Charge of the Mexico City Office, and over forty years of Drug Enforcement and Policy experience.

Steve Freng - Prevention/Treatment Manager, Northwest HIDTA
Former King County Substance Abuse Coordinator and Manager, King County Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Psy.D., M.S.W.



Initiative News by William Snyder, Analytical Unit Manager

Investigative Support Center

The NW HIDTA ISC is supporting major 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). Recently, the ISC has provided information to the National Gang Intelligence Center for their gang report, and the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) for their report on gang activity in Indian Country. The HIDTA continues its collaborative intelligence sharing efforts with other agencies.

The ISC is looking into the regional economic impact of crime in the community. In the fall of 2009, the local area retailers identified a very active Organized Retail Crime (ORC) group operating in the Burien area that was responsible for stealing large amounts of general merchandise and health and beauty aids on a regular basis from area stores. ORC groups are organized members who steal items for resale. The police initiated an investigation into members of group and their criminal associates. Area retailers advised local law enforcement that stolen commodities were sold at an Asian market in the White Center section of Seattle, and that the stolen goods were shipped via containerized cargo to Cambodia as well. Retailers provided products to the police that were "sold" to the fence, claiming it to be stolen. Preliminary investigations revealed an Asian grocery store in the White Center area was selling suspected stolen merchandise as well as other locations were receiving merchandise from the fence. This investigation identified over thirty boosters (thieves stealing to order), as well as the fence and several stores in the White Center area selling stolen merchandise. The fence routinely provided shopping lists to boosters as well as driving boosters to local stores. This investigation significantly impacted the theft of merchandise in the south King County area. Local retailers actively involved in this investigation included: Safeway, Home Depot, QFC, WinCo, Fred Meyer, Wal-Mart, Albertsons, Bartell Drugs, Haggen Foods, Walgreens, Target, Lowes; law enforcement agencies included the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the King County Sheriff's Office, Normandy Park Police Department, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Northwest HIDTA.

All the boosters were heroin addicts, who stole to feed their daily habits. Other crimes committed by members of this organization included identity theft, robbery, theft, drug dealing, prostitution, and fraud. Collectively, the 30 boosters had more than 1,000 arrests recorded in the Justice Information System for Washington State. The fences laundered their proceeds through sending stolen goods overseas as well as supplying local markets in the White Center area.

While this organization was in operation, retailers suffered approximately \$4.9 million in merchandise losses. These thefts result in lost tax revenue, decreased employment for store employees (stores looking to cover losses by reducing work hours for employees) as well as health issues. Baby formula and Over The Counter (OTC) items were stored carelessly in car trunks and garages belonging to the organization and then sold to the unknowing public.

By taking into account the financial ramifications of drug investigations, these crimes also impact the greater community through higher prices, lost tax revenue, and diminished quality of life.

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force (CWNTF)

In October, detectives arrested two subjects from a long term heroin case resulting in the seizure of over 13 ounces of Heroin, \$6,000 in cash and three vehicles. Ten people have been arrested in this network. In addition, detectives also served a search warrant on an indoor marijuana grow resulting in over 3 pounds of processed marijuana, a gun, and pay-owe sheets. Also, detectives assisted Colville Tribal Police with a 10,000 plant marijuana grow.

In November, detectives served several search warrants for heroin/methamphetamine resulting in the arrest of several individuals on delivery charges.

HIDTA Integrated Task Force

DEA HIDTA Task Force 1



In September, detectives conducted a reverse buy operation in Shoreline to purchase Oxycontin pills for a suspect. Agents a result detectives executed a pre-written search warrant at a residence arresting the main suspect without incident. Agents seized 200+ Oxycontin pills, 1/4 pound of marijuana, \$300,000 in cash, a Ford pick-up, jet-skis, tools, and other miscellaneous items believed to have been purchased with drug money.

In November, detectives conducted a reverse operation in Shoreline on a suspect. The suspect had ordered 3 pounds of heroin and was arrested without incident in a store parking lot. A total of \$27,900 was seized from the suspect.

suspect with the gun was unknown; however, he was identified later and arrested.

In addition, detectives had been assisting ATF with an illegal gun trafficking investigation since March. In the case, 11 illegal firearms were purchased involving four suspects who are all convicted felons. The two primary suspects and an accomplice were already arrested on unrelated charges and booked into jail. The fourth suspect was located during a search warrant at a residence in Bellingham, where a small amount of methamphetamine was also seized.

Detectives concluded a case involving two suspects that were supplying heroin to a large number of customers from the Lummi Reservation. A search warrant was served at their residence resulting in a seizure of about 3 ounces of heroin and some marijuana. One suspect and another resident were arrested, with uniformed officers actively looking for the other primary suspect.

On December 13 , 2010, agents assisted the with Bellingham PD seize more than 20 pounds of cocaine from a DTO.



DEA Photo

Northwest HIDTA Northern Border Drug Task Force

*Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office*

In September, detectives and ICE investigated an Opium Poppy (Doda) distribution/smuggling organization based in a Dollar Plus Store in Bellingham. Six people were arrested loading four hockey bags of the poppies into two vehicles from the rear of the store. The poppies were destined for Canada. A search warrant was obtained resulting in the seizure of additional poppies, four vehicles, and \$1,600 in cash. The following day search warrants were served on several associated storage lockers. In total 400 pounds of poppies were seized.

Detectives concluded a six month investigation of a heroin distribution organization. Three suspects were arrested and a search warrant was served at the suspect's residence located in a suburb of Bellingham. The property has been placed in seizure. This case has made a significant impact on the community and the neighbors have expressed their gratitude.

Detectives assisted DEA on an OCEDTF case that began in 2008. The investigation led to 12 arrests and several search warrants were served.

Detectives have observed a rise in indoor marijuana cultivation in the area. Three separate search warrants were served which resulted in five arrests.

In November, detectives assisted Bellingham PD with an armed robbery investigation involving a male/female on their way to a known drug dealer in Bellingham to buy drugs. The male was sent to the ATM to get more money; meanwhile the drug dealer's supplier arrived, held a gun to the head of the female, took \$700 and fled. When the male returned, both buyers assaulted the drug dealer and stole her property. All three were arrested, but the identity of the

Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force (SRDTF)

In December, SRDTF worked on a subject bringing large amounts of methamphetamine up from San Jose, California to Washington State. The SRDTF made arrangements with the target to purchase 1 pound of methamphetamine for \$8,000. The full price was \$14,000. When the target arrived in Lynnwood, he was arrested along with two other subjects. All of the subjects were confirmed to be illegally in the United States.

A subsequent search warrant on the vehicle revealed over 1 pound of methamphetamine concealed in a compartment in the rear of the SUV. The methamphetamine was in a gallon sized plastic zip-lock bag. That bag was incased in a vacuumed sealed bag which was then covered in a substance believed to be mustard. That bag was inside of a second vacuumed

sealed bag which was then covered in a substance believed to be mustard. That bag was inside of a second vacuumed sealed bag which was wrapped in black electrical tape and concealed in a plastic shopping sack. All three subjects were charged with delivery and conspiracy to deliver a controlled substance. ICE was contacted and placed a hold on all three subjects.

In addition, SRDTF received information about a company called Botanical Urban Dispensary Service (BUDS) LLC operating a marijuana growing operation in Arlington, Washington. They obtained probable cause for a search warrant for the business, and once inside located approximately 900 marijuana plants. SRDTF spoke to several patients and determined that there was a dispensary for the business located in Snohomish, Washington. They obtained a search warrant for the business and served it. Inside officers located 2,011 grams of processed marijuana, along with numerous brownies, cookies, jars of oils, and butter all containing marijuana. SRDTF also located documents indicating that the business was making thousands of dollars a day. There are currently three suspects waiting to be charged.



SRDTF Photo

**Washington State Patrol
Investigative Assistance Initiative**

SWAT

In September, SWAT served a high-risk narcotics-related search warrant in Grays Harbor County for WestNET, resulting in the seizure of a marijuana grow along with numerous weapons. Agents made several arrests.

In October, SWAT provided a methamphetamine lab consult to Mason County SO regarding an abandoned storage drum containing an unknown liquid/sludge, and resulted in a Department of Ecology response for

disposal. A small contingent of operators provided tactical over watch for MECTF during a search warrant in rural Thurston County.

In December, SWAT served a high-risk narcotics-related search warrant in Quincy for the DEA Yakima Task Force, resulting in several arrests of armed suspects; in a joint effort with SW Region SWAT, the team served a meth lab-related search warrant in Camas for the Clark-Skamania DTF.

**Tacoma Regional HIDTA
Task Force**

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

In November, detectives dismantled a methamphetamine and cocaine distribution organization and arrested two suspects, seized 33 pounds of methamphetamine and 5 kilograms of cocaine. Agents were able to make an additional arrest and seizure of 10 pounds of methamphetamine.

Detectives assisted Tribal Police with a small methamphetamine investigation which resulted in the seizure of 2 ounces of methamphetamine and two arrests.

Detectives concluded a case in Tacoma and California that led to the arrest of two suspects and 3 pounds of methamphetamine. In that case, agents served a search warrant in California.

**Thurston County Narcotics Task Force
(TNT)**

In October, detectives made arrangements to purchase methamphetamine from a suspect. While waiting, he was approached by two men from Oregon who offered to sell him marijuana. During the transaction one suspect attempted to flee but was arrested. After a struggle during the arrest, agents found the suspect was armed with a handgun.

In November, detectives received information from WSP Auto Theft about a suspect with a meth lab in Graham. Detectives obtained a search warrant and found: lab, methamphetamine, marijuana, firearms, and paraphernalia. Three suspects were booked into jail. WSP Auto Theft detectives recovered a stolen Honda, watercraft, and two engines.

Yakima County HIDTA Task Force

In December, detectives initiated an investigation involving a Pharmacist who was a manager at a local grocery store in Olympia. The pharmacist was stealing oxycodone doses and other prescriptions to counteract the effects. Agents estimate that the pharmacist was consuming eight pills every four hours for months. A search warrant of the pharmacist's residence revealed numerous stolen prescriptions.

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

In October, detectives were introduced to a subject wanting to sell 50 pounds of marijuana. Surveillance operations implicated residences in Yakima and Granger. A successful buy/walk led to an order of 30 pounds. Two subjects were taken into custody, one armed, without incident. Search warrants led to an additional 1/2 pound of marijuana; the additional 19.5 lbs was not found in the vehicles or residences searched.

On November 5, 2010, LEAD, DEA, ICE, ATF, and Grandview SWAT executed a search warrant in a compound environment that included eight structures and located two sophisticated indoor marijuana growing operations. Both operations contained high-end equipment, including 12 inch insulated walls, a 15 ton industrial grade climate control and ventilation system, and a high grade irrigation system. Three subjects were arrested and 137 marijuana plants, 20 pounds of processed bud, and a shotgun and rifle were taken for evidentiary purposes.



TNT Photo

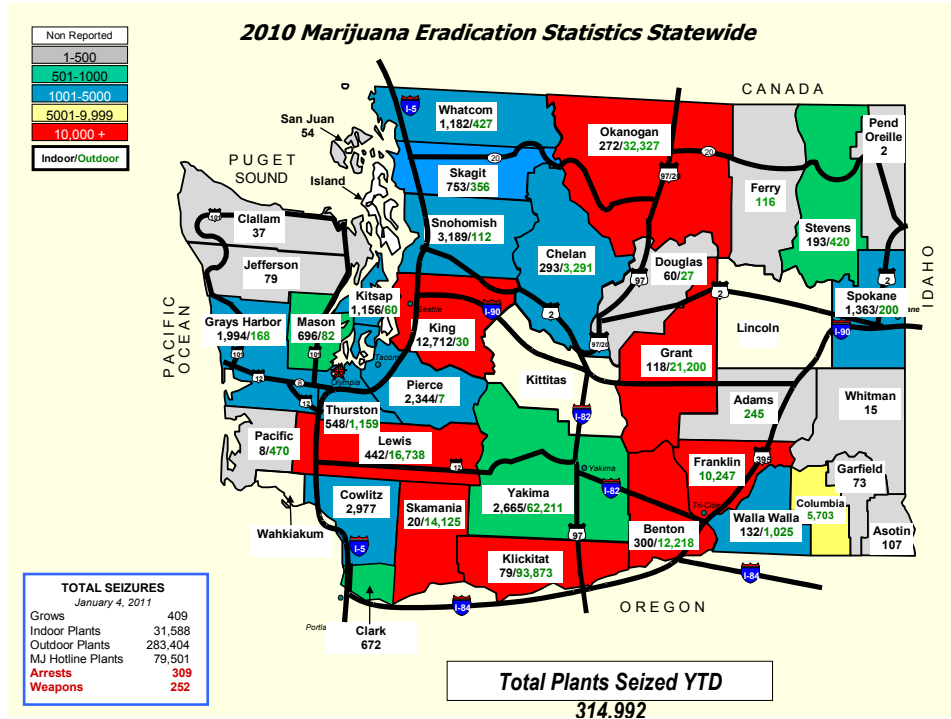


National Marijuana Initiative (NMI) Update

In 2010, Washington State continued to work closely with partnered agencies in the National Marijuana Initiative (NMI) to conduct investigations, target large-scale Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs), share information, and gather intelligence. These fostered partnerships have proven to be an effective tool in disrupting and dismantling DTOs operating in the State of Washington and beyond.

Washington seized 314,992 plants during the 2010 season, down from 607,345 in 2009. This decrease in plant counts is attributable to a number of factors, including less funding and airtime, as well as cooler weather conditions during the primary May-September growing season. The 2010 growing season also saw fewer grows on tribal land in Yakima and especially the fiber farms in Walla Walla County, which was the top-producing county in the state in 2009.

With respect to overall trends, several counties have reported an increase in investigations relating to “medical marijuana” indoor and outdoor grows, as well as dispensaries. Investigators also noticed the size of outdoor grows had decreased this year, on average between 1,500 and 3,500 plants. While Washington did not have any reports of violence between law enforcement and grow tenders, weapons are still being found in virtually every grow.



Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) Update

This year, Washington State participated in two corridor Projects. Washington State is a participant in the I90/94/82/84 Corridor and the Northwest Public Safety Project. The I90/94/82/84 Corridor goes from Seattle, Washington to Boston, Massachusetts. Participating states include: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts. The Northwest Public Safety Project runs along Interstate 5 (I-5) from the Washington-Canada border to the California-Mexico border and includes California, Oregon, Washington, and Canada. These Corridor Projects run from May to October, during which states coordinate a 2-3 day enforcement operation at least once a month.

This is a statistical recap of DHE Region II including Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Washington

Number of Seizures	162
Number of Arrests	200
Cocaine	415.15/kg
Crack	90.5/g
Pharmaceuticals	2304.75/du
Heroin	4763.83/g; 5 Syringes
Marijuana	45.43/kg; 221 marijuana plants
Methamphetamine	4512.12/g
ICE Methamphetamine	33.1/g
MDMA	321,084/du; 367.88/kg
Psilocybin	193.9/g
Hashish	1,396.76/g
PCP	14/du
Currency	\$1,520,702
Doda	271.26/kg
Firearms	10
Number Disseminated to other HIDTAs	16
Number Disseminated to other agencies	56

Idaho

Number of seizures	26
Marijuana	35.3/kg and 4 plants
Cocaine	146.7/g
Heroin	Residue (2 incidents)
ICE Methamphetamine	130/g
Methamphetamine	120/g
Pharmaceuticals	15/du
Currency	\$141,025

Oregon

Number of Seizures	213
Cocaine	31.62/kg
Crack	140/g
Pharmaceuticals	10,641/du
Heroin	110/g; 20/du
Marijuana	700.7/kg
Methamphetamine	10.59/kg
ICE Methamphetamine	6.55/kg
MDMA	94/du
Psilocybin	3.32/kg
Hashish	184/g
Currency	\$1,772,739
Firearms	35; 2 stun guns
Number Disseminated to other HIDTAs	91

Emerging Trends - Mexican Methamphetamine and Heroin destined to Canada by Theresa P. Blahato

During this reporting period, law enforcement reported that Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) are smuggling heroin and methamphetamine into Canada, a country with its own significant production of methamphetamine and historically an abuser of Southwest Asian (SWA) heroin.

Washington State remains a significant pipeline for drugs and money entering both the United States and Canada. Until recently, cocaine was the primary drug entering British Columbia from Washington State. Information from the Northwest HIDTA Northern Border Task Force detailed several seizures of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine destined to Canada. The methamphetamine and heroin were Mexican in origin. There have been reports of small quantities of Mexican heroin available in the Vancouver, British Columbia area, but there have never been reports of Mexican methamphetamine in Canada. The below seizures highlight the dominance of Mexican DTOs in the region and their interest in expanding their polydrug activities into Canada. The Northwest HIDTA will continue to monitor this trend.

December 2009

20 kilograms of methamphetamine



ICE Photo

November 2009

2.36 kilograms of methamphetamine



ICE Photo

August 10, 2010

22 kilograms cocaine
3.4 kilograms heroin
1.4 kilograms methamphetamine



ICE Photo



Photo source: Internet

Gangs in Washington State

by CIS Kat Sattarov



Photo: Members of Lil Valley Lokos (LVL) Street Gang, Sunnyside, Washington

Source: Internet

Outlaw Motorcycle (OMG) and Street Gangs have been active for several years in Washington State. Both OMG's and Street Gangs have now become entrenched in the region. Street Gangs are involved in a variety of crimes to include drug trafficking, fraud, and prostitution, and have formed alliances with other gangs. They often serve as distribution networks for Mexican National Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO's).

Gang membership and affiliation continue to rise in Washington State. Many gangs have infiltrated Indian Country and cooperated with DTO's, which has enabled them to recruit additional members. Both OMG's and Street Gangs pose a serious threat to the safety of law enforcement personnel and to the safety of the local communities.

Street Gangs present in Washington State include Black Street Gangs, Pacific Islander Street Gangs, Asian Gangs, Hispanic Gangs, and White Supremacists.

As of 2010 there are approximately 300 active street gangs in Washington State with approximately 15,000 active gang members.

King County has approximately 40 percent (120) of the street gangs in Washington State. Pierce County has the second largest numbers with 16 percent (50) of the active street gangs, followed by Yakima County with 13 percent (40) and Thurston County with 7 percent (21). Some of the most prevalent gangs in the state are Lil Valley Lokos 13 (LVL), Florencia 13, 18th Street, and the 74 Hoover Crips.



Source: Northwest HIDTA

In Washington State Prisons gang members make up 18 percent of the state's prison population of 18,000 but account for 43 percent of major violent incidents once inside the prison system. The Washington State Department of Corrections reported that the gangs with the most members in the state prison system are the Crips with 2,385 members, the Surenos with 1,773 members, and the White Supremacists with 1,389 members. The Nortenos and Surenos are responsible for most of the fights in prison.

There are more than 17 OMGs active in Washington State. The dominant gangs are Bandidos, Hombres, Amigos, Destralos, Canyon Riders, Unforgiven, Brother Speed, Ghost Riders, Gypsy Jokers, Hells Angels, Nomads, Resurrection, Iron Horseman, Mongols, and Outsiders. After the state of Texas, which has the highest membership of Bandidos, Washington State is the second in the nation for Bandido gang membership.



Photo: Bandidos Colors, Washington
Source: Internet

Gang-related crime and violence are also concentrated around major Indian reservations including the Colville, Puyallup, Spokane, and Yakama Reservations. Eastern Washington and nearby Indian reservations have experienced significant increases in violent crimes, marijuana grows, Pharmaceutical abuse (Oxycontin), and methamphetamine abuse.



Photo: Florencia 13, Tri-Cities, Washington

In Washington State there are seven major military bases at which a variety of gang members are active including but not limited to Aryan Brotherhood, Asian Gangs, Black Gangster Disciples, Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Hells Angels, Latin Kings, MS-13, Nortenos, Skinheads, and 18th Street Gangs.

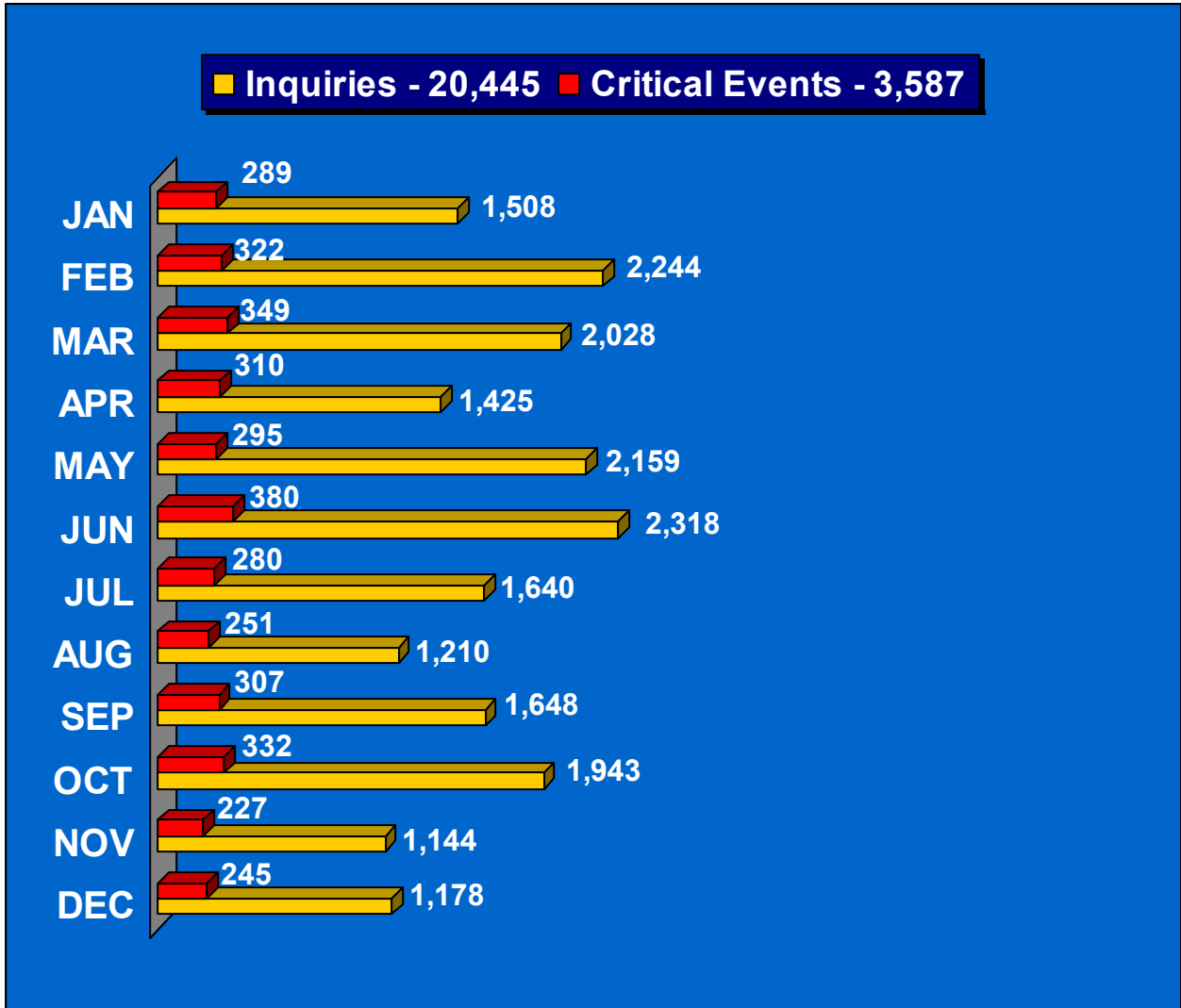
In response, the Northwest HIDTA has expanded its intelligence-sharing capabilities and analytical support to gang investigations, and in the preparation of strategic intelligence products.

The Northwest HIDTA will continue its cooperation with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies as well as with the drug prevention and treatment community.

Major Gangs on Military Bases

- Aryan Brotherhood
- Asian gangs
- Black Gangster Disciples**
- Bloods
- Crips
- Gangster Disciples
- Hells Angels
- Latin Kings
- MS-13
- Nortenos
- Skinheads
- 18th Street Gang

Watch Center YTD Stats



TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE	COURSE	PROVIDER	LOCATION
1/10-1/12/2011	WSIN Analytical Academy	WSIN	Sacramento
1/10-1/14/2011	CADCA's National Coalition Academy Cohort 1, Week 1	WRCTC	Camp Murray
1/19/2011	Follow the Money	DEA	Seattle
1/25/2011	Finding Concealed Compartments	DEA	Seattle
2/7-2/11/2011	DEA Diversion Investigator	DEA	Quantic
2/24-2/25/2011	Indoor Marijuana Cultivation Investigation	DEA	Seattle
4/5-4/6/2011	PowerPoint for Public Safety	Police Tech	Spokane
5/9-5/13/2011	CADRE Clan Lab	CADRE	WSP Fire Training Academy

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