

2003-2008

During the early years of the 21st century, DEA realized significant success combating the national methamphetamine epidemic, attributable to a number of factors including legislation adopted by 43 states that curtailed availability of the three meth precursor chemicals and similar national legislation, the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005. Contributing as well to impacting the U.S. meth problem were focused enforcement efforts by DEA and successful investigations such as Operations Northern Star, Imperial Emperor, and Wildfire; domestic initiatives, including increasing meth priority target investigations, and expanding the primary focus of DEA clan lab enforcement teams; and international initiatives, including, in particular, partnership efforts with the Government of Mexico to target the most significant meth trafficking organizations on both sides of the border. These concerted efforts paid off: meth superlab seizures in the U.S. declined 93 percent between 2002 and 2007 and small toxic lab seizures likewise declined 73 percent in 2007 from a peak in 2003; 2007 workplace drug tests showed a 50 percent decline in nationwide employee meth use compared to 2005; and meth price and purity data from DEA's System to Retrieve Intelligence from Drug Evidence showed a 19 percent decline in meth purity between 2007 and 2008, and a 56 percent increase in price per pure gram over the same timeframe.

In the international arena, increased drug law enforcement cooperation with the Government of Mexico yielded additional positive results: since assuming office in December 2006, the government of Mexican President Felipe Calderon arrested a number of high-level drug traffickers and in 2007 extradited an unprecedented 83 criminals, including the kingpin of the Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cardenas-Guillen. DEA investigations led to the extradition in January 2007 of 15 criminals from Mexico, many of them leaders in Mexico's four major drug cartels. Cooperation with authorities in Colombia also yielded impressive results: Colombian authorities made unprecedented progress against the narco-terrorist organizations FARC, AUC, and North Valley Cartel, capturing, killing, or extraditing nine Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT)-designated targets who were members of those organizations. In addition, the infamous Cali Cartel followed in 2006 the dismantled Medellin Cartel when its remaining leaders, brothers Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela, pled guilty in U.S. court to drug smuggling and money laundering charges.

DEA's Drug Flow Attack Strategy implemented in mid-2005 yielded promising results designed to significantly disrupt the flow of drugs, money, and chemicals between the source zones in Latin America and the U.S. through aggressive, well-planned, and coordinated enforcement operations with host-nation counterparts in global source countries, transit zones, and arrival zones. Successful operations that were part of this strategy included All Inclusive 2005-2007 and Imperial Emperor. The average U.S. price per pure gram of cocaine three months following Operation All Inclusive implementation was found to have increased 43 percent compared with the three months prior. During the first three quarters of 2007, the average U.S. price per pure gram of

cocaine increased 44 percent, while average purity fell 15 percent, indicating the success of the Drug Flow Attack Strategy's large-scale operations.

On the other side of the globe, DEA expanded on its Operation Containment multilateral strategy, begun in 2002, to choke off the flow of drugs and precursor chemicals into and out of Afghanistan, training and mentoring Afghan narcotics officers via Foreign-deployed Advisory Support Team personnel and assisting in operations that resulted in 33 arrests of targets for violations of Afghan and U.S. narcotics laws and/or terrorist-related offenses. DEA investigations led, in 2005, to the first time to successfully taking custody of a drug trafficker, CPOT Haji Baz Mohammad, in the U.S., and the U.S. arrest of Afghan warlord and CPOT narcotics trafficking coconspirator Haji Bashir Noorzai (convicted on Sept. 29 in the Southern District of New York). Arrests and U.S. custody of additional Afghan heroin and opium traffickers followed.

These five years marked a period of record-breaking domestic and foreign assets seized: by 2007, a total \$3.5 billion was seized, compared to \$1.6 billion in 2005. There were also record-breaking single cocaine and cash seizures, both in 2007: \$207 million in cash seized from a chemical broker based in Mexico who was supplying chemicals to Mexican cartels to manufacture meth; and 23.5 metric tons of cocaine seized by Mexican authorities in Manzanillo, Mexico, based upon DEA-supplied intelligence. A difficult challenge to DEA that unfolded during these years was prescription drug abuse and diversion. The source of supply for these drugs of abuse typically was not a street dealer, but the medicine cabinets of private residences and the Internet. Illegal cyber pharmacies facilitated the problem, as evidenced by the fact that only about 11 percent of the prescriptions dispensed daily by a traditional brick and mortar pharmacy involved controlled substances, while 95 percent of the prescriptions filled each day by a typical cyber pharmacy were for controlled substances, primarily pain killers. In addition to directing expanded cyber crime investigative capabilities toward this problem, DEA also focused regulatory and enforcement efforts on wholesale distributors who were linked to rogue Internet pharmacies that handled far more controlled substances than the many individual pharmacies they supplied. This put a chokehold in the Internet supply chain by cutting off the source of supply used by rogue Internet pharmacies.

Operation Northern Star (2003)

On April 15, 2003, "Operation Northern Star" culminated after an 18-month investigation. This DEA-led OCDETF investigation was conducted in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and disrupted the Canadian supply of pseudoephedrine, an essential chemical used in methamphetamine production, to Mexican drug traffickers. The investigation led to 78 arrests across the U.S. and in Canada, and established a connection between drug proceeds, U.S.-based Middle Eastern organizations, and terrorist organizations. The investigation employed a comprehensive top-to-bottom strategy targeting the entire methamphetamine trafficking process, including the suppliers of precursor chemicals, chemical brokers, transporters, manufacturers, distributors, and the money launderers who helped conceal their criminal proceeds. As part of the operation, agents targeted and arrested six executives from three Canadian chemical companies. The executives had all sold bulk quantities of pseudoephedrine to methamphetamine manufacturers in the U.S. with full knowl-

edge that their sales were intended for the illegal production of the highly addictive and dangerous drug methamphetamine. Roger Guevara, DEA's Chief of Operations, said, "Operation Northern Star sends a message to people at all stages of meth production that the community of nations is becoming far less tolerant of executives who are willing to destroy other people's lives so they can line their own pockets."

Fabio Ochoa Convicted and Sentenced on U. S. Drug Charges (2003)

On May 30, 2003, Fabio Ochoa, who, along with his brothers, Pablo Escobar, and others made up the Medellin Cartel in the 1980s, was convicted in Miami federal court on drug conspiracy and money-laundering charges based on his role in a conspiracy to ship 30 tons of cocaine per month into the U.S. from 1997-1999. On Aug. 26, 2003, he was sentenced to 365 months in prison. Said Miami SAC Tom Raffanello at his conviction: "It's tremendously gratifying, and I speak for agents past and present. The conviction should send shock waves to his compadres." Ochoa was



Fabio Ochoa

extradited by Colombian authorities to the U.S. in September of 2001 on charges emanating from Operation Millennium, a 1999 case that targeted the Alejandro Bernal Madrigal cocaine trafficking organization. In addition to drug trafficking, Ochoa was indicted by a federal grand jury for his involvement in the murder of informant Adler "Barry" Seal weeks before Seal was supposed to testify against Ochoa's older brother, Jorge Luis. As part of the Medellin Cartel, which existed until Escobar's death in 1993, Ochoa and his confederates waged a campaign of terror and bribery to pressure the Colombian government to prohibit the extradition of native Colombians. Pablo Escobar and several other Medellin leaders, labeled "The Extraditables," took increasingly violent measures to try to force the government to accept legislation that would protect them from extradition. The cartel was responsible for the assassination of dozens of government officials, and the bribery of many more. In July 1991, the Colombian congress adopted a new constitution that prohibited the extradition of Colombian natives, handing a major victory to the Medellin Cartel. Several months prior, in December 1990, Ochoa surrendered to Colombian authorities and served prison time from 1991 to 1997. Ochoa ran his drug operation from prison during this time.

Operation Trifecta and Indictment of Ismael Zambada-Garcia (2003)

DEA Special Operations Division (SOD)-led, OCDETF investigation "Operation Trifecta" was initiated shortly after the December 2001 seizure of 9,291 kilograms of cocaine from the fishing vessel *Macel*, off the Pacific coast of Mexico. As a result of the *Macel* seizure and several ongoing DEA and Immigra-



tion and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations, the investigation focused a nationwide effort on the communications of the domestic cells of the Zambada-Garcia organization. More than 80 separate investigations across the country were coordinated over a 19-month period. Those investigations led to the arrests on July 31, 2003, of over 240 individuals, and the seizure of 11,759 kilograms of cocaine, 24,409 pounds of marijuana, nearly 108 pounds of methamphetamine, and more than \$8.3 million. These multi-national investigations revealed the vast scope of the Zambada-Garcia organization's operations, ranging from the organization's Colombian sources of supply, to Mexican maritime and border smugglers, to domestic distribution cells operating in various cities in the U.S. "The success of Operation Trifecta is based on unprecedented cooperation between Mexican law enforcement and U.S. counterparts...Information sharing reached new levels. DEA Special Agents, working side by side with agents and officers from seven federal agencies and over 60 state and local departments, crippled the powerful Zambada organization," said DEA's Acting Administrator William Simpkins.

Ismael Zambada-Garcia was indicted in July 2003. The indictment alleged that between August 2001 and June 2002, the Zambada-Garcia organization delivered 1,003 kilograms of cocaine with an estimated value of \$17 million to the New York/New Jersey area; 1,770 kilograms of cocaine with an estimated value of \$30 million to the Chicago area; and 23 kilograms of cocaine with an estimated value of \$391,000 to California. Zambada-Garcia emerged as one of the top drug smugglers in Mexico after a bloody battle with the Arellano-Felix Organization, the once-powerful Tijuana cartel, and consolidated his control over the smuggling routes from the Mexican state of Sonora into Arizona.

Operation Double Trouble (2003)

OCDETF investigation "Operation Double Trouble" culminated on Aug. 29, 2003. Launched in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in 1999, it had expanded to five states and two continents. It successfully targeted and disrupted key Colombian drug and money brokers who operated between the U.S. and Colombia. U.S. and Colombian law enforcement personnel, in a coordinated enforcement effort, arrested 55 drug traffickers and money brokers and seized 36 bank accounts from 11 Colombian banks, over \$12.8 million, 353 kilograms of cocaine, and 21 kilograms of heroin. The initial target of the investigation was CPOT target Ivan Henao, who was arrested in South Florida by DEA agents, and his Colombia-based money laundering and cocaine trafficking organization. Henao was well-known among Colombian drug trafficking cells operating in the U.S. as a drug money broker. At least 18 drug distribution cells throughout the U.S. were using Henao's money laundering services. The investigation documented that, from June 1999 to August 2003, the Henao Organization laundered at least \$30 million in drug proceeds using a money laundering system known as the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE). Administrator Tandy said at the operation's conclusion: "Double Trouble signals a reenergized effort by DEA to attack the financial infrastructure of drug cartels. We are focusing on drug trafficking organizations as if they are Fortune 500 companies, which must be eliminated as single business entities from top to bottom, from the boardroom and purse strings, to the street corner." Operation Double Trouble led to investigations into Bank Atlantic and American Express International for violations of anti-money

laundering regulations, that resulted in forfeitures of \$10 million and \$55 million, respectively. Operation Double Trouble also resulted in deferred prosecutions.

Centers for Drug Information (2003)

The Centers for Drug Information Program (CDI) is an Internet-based information sharing system established in 2003 to assist foreign law enforcement elements worldwide in sharing information and coordinating law enforcement operations. The system offers standardized reporting forms, data storage in a central relational database with search capabilities, passport and fugitive database, an internal e-mail service, real-time chat, and other analytical tools. Presently, there are 51 participating countries and approximately 250 users sharing information on such topics as: drug movements, seizures, drug traffickers, alien smuggling, money laundering, weapons trafficking, and clandestine drug laboratories. Fifteen African countries have pledged to participate in the program. CDI participating nations continue to prove that the concept of sharing drug information leads to global operational successes. Through the CDI, DEA is strengthening partnerships among and with foreign law enforcement counterparts to maximize the impact of worldwide anti drug operations.

DEA Museum "Air, Land, & Sea" Exhibit Opened to Public (2003)

A Museum exhibit that explored the depth and breadth of the efforts that DEA and other agencies take to battle drug cartels and other criminals opened to the public at DEA Headquarters from November 2003 through December 2004. Key artifacts used to tell the story of "DEA: Air, Land, & Sea" included: a 1969 OH-6 helicopter used by DEA in surveillance and investigations; a 30 foot-long alcohol-fueled drag race car owned by Texas drug trafficker and seized by DEA worth over \$200,000; and a 1999 SeaDoo brand jet ski seized by DEA through the asset forfeiture program during a crack cocaine investigation in Baltimore, MD.

National Drug Control Strategy Focus on Prescription Drugs (2004)

Released March 1, 2004, the 2004 National Drug Control Strategy outlined the extent of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. and a coordinated drug strategy to confront the illegal diversion and abuse of prescription drugs. Data at the time indicated that prescription drug abuse, particularly of opioid pain killers, had increased at an alarming rate over the previous 10 years:

- Non-medical use of narcotic pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives ranked second (behind marijuana) as a category of illicit drug abuse among adults and youth;
- In 2002, 6.2 million Americans were current abusers of prescription drugs;
- 13.7 percent of youth between the ages of 12 and 17 abused prescription drugs at least once in their lifetimes; and
- Emergency room visits resulting from narcotic pain relievers abuse increased 163 percent since 1995.

Because more than 10 million Americans were estimated to suffer from chronic pain, the Strategy sought to balance the need for effective pain management therapies with the prevention of misuse, abuse, and diversion of psychotherapeutic drugs.

Operation Candy Box (2004)

On March 31, 2004, DEA announced the culmination of “Operation Candy Box,” a two-year SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation that encompassed 16 cities in the U.S. and three in Canada. This was a two-nation crackdown on a huge drug trafficking ring whose members manufactured bulk quantities of Ecstasy and marijuana in Canada and then shipped them to cities around the U.S. The organization was capable of distributing up to one million MDMA tablets per month in the U.S. and Canada. The investigation revealed that, Ecstasy trafficking, previously controlled by Russian and Israeli gangs, had now spread to groups with ties to Southeast Asia. The two principal targets of this investigation were Ze Wai Wong, a Chinese national, and Mai Phuong Le, a Vietnamese national. It used a sophisticated money laundering network of money remitters and travel agencies in both the U.S. and Canada to launder millions of dollars in drug proceeds. Operation Candy Box culminated in late March 2004 with the arrest of more than 140 members of an Asian organization located in 16 U.S. cities and Canada, including Priority Target and leader of the targeted organization Ze Wai Wong. In early January 2005, DEA Priority Target Ze Wai Wong was extradited from Canada to the U.S. to face charges related to Operation Candy Box. Seizures in Operation Candy Box totaled 407,000 MDMA tablets, 1,370 pounds of marijuana, 6.5 pounds of methamphetamine, and \$8.9 million in currency.

The dismantlement of Ze Wai Wong’s international drug trafficking organization sent a significant aftershock in the U.S. Ecstasy market. Most significantly, findings of the December 2004 Monitoring the Future Survey indicated MDMA use by high school seniors had plummeted 57% from 2001 to 2004. The Survey also reported a 24% decline in perceived availability of MDMA by high school seniors.

RICO Charges against North Valley Cartel (2004)

RICO charges were unsealed on May 6, 2004, against nine leaders of Colombia’s most powerful cocaine-trafficking organizations, including the North Valley Cartel, allegedly responsible for exporting more than 500 metric tons of cocaine worth more than \$10 billion from Colombia to the U.S. Three of the charged defendants had been designated among the “most wanted” international drug trafficking targets by federal law enforcement. In addition, one of the defendants has been added to the FBI’s “Ten Most Wanted” Fugitives list. According to the indictment, the defendants worked together with various Colombian drug transportation specialists to transport multi-ton loads of cocaine from Peru, Colombia, and other locations within South America to Colombia’s Valle del Cauca region where the cartel principally operated. The defendants then used trucks or airplanes to transport the cocaine to the Pacific Coast port city of Buenaventura. The cartel members also associated themselves with Mexican transportation groups that shipped the cocaine loads to Mexico via speed boats, fishing vessels, and other maritime conveyances, for ultimate delivery to the U.S. According to the indictment, between 1990 and 2004, the North Valley Cartel exported more than 1.2 million pounds – or 500 metric tons – of cocaine worth in excess of \$10 billion from Colombia to Mexico and ultimately to the U.S. for resale.

National Virtual Pointer System

DEA, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets), and

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) managers created the National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS) that links existing target deconfliction systems to promote collaborative investigative activity. NVPS became operational in June 2004 and allows participating federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide to determine what other law enforcement entities are focused on the same investigative target. NVPS facilitates coordination/deconfliction by providing connectivity between 18 existing investigative target deconfliction systems and provides access to all participating databases through a single point of entry. NVPS provides participants with contact information for officers/agents working common targets. Currently, there are over 350,000 targets of active investigations within the NVPS system.

Operations Busted Manatee & Double Talk (2004)

DEA’s Caribbean Initiative, a multi-faceted attack on major trafficking organizations operating in the Caribbean corridor, culminated in June 2004 in the indictment and arrest of Colombian drug trafficker Elias Cobos-Munoz, the reputed head of one of the largest drug trafficking and drug transportation organizations based in Colombia and Jamaica, and more than 50 other high-level traffickers. The 29-month-long OCDETF operations “Busted Manatee” and “Double Talk” focused on the Cobos and the Maycock/Smith drug organizations that were affiliated. The Cobos organization had operated since July 2000, importing large shipments of cocaine through transshipment points in the Caribbean and distributed that cocaine in the Miami area and elsewhere. The Maycock/Smith organization transported cocaine and marijuana via aircraft and boat into the U.S. The aggregate gross proceeds generated from the cocaine and marijuana imported and distributed in the U.S. by these organizations was believed to exceed \$275 million. The proceeds of cocaine sales were laundered through financial institutions in New York and elsewhere. During June 2004, DEA, assisted by domestic and law enforcement counterparts in six countries, executed arrest warrants for the members of the Cobos organization in Colombia, Panama, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the U.S., and Canada.

The Arellano Felix Organization and Operation United Eagles (2004)

On June 3, 2004, in an impressive show of force and without incident, 67 specially trained Mexican Federal Agents arrested two key Arellano-Felix organization (AFO) lieutenants, Efrain Perez and Jorge Aureliano-Felix. The action came as a result of “Operation United Eagles,” initiated in July 2003, that combined the efforts of the U.S. and Mexican governments to aggressively pursue, locate, and apprehend indicted CPOTs, including Eduardo and Javier Arellano-Felix and other members of the AFO, operating or living in the U.S. or Mexico. Operation United Eagles was successful in apprehending numerous Tier I (CPOTs) and Tier II (first and second line operational and financial supervisors) targets.

The AFO carried out numerous murders and kidnappings and corrupted state and municipal police officers and federal police officials: law enforcement intelligence showed the AFO was responsible for more than 100 drug-related murders in the U.S. and Mexico, including rival drug traffickers, suspected cooperators, uncooperative Mexican law enforcement and military personnel, and members of the Mexican news media who printed stories unfavorable to



the AFO. DEA systematically pursued members of the AFO since the 1980s. Seven brothers and four sisters of the Arellano-Felix family inherited the Tijuana Cartel from Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo in 1989, after his arrest for drug trafficking. Gallardo has been indicted in the U.S. for his involvement in the torture and brutal murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena.

The AFO is alleged to have operated one of the world’s most violent criminal drug trafficking organizations during the 1990s and early 2000s. It is believed to have been responsible for the brutal execution of special prosecutor Jose “Pepe” Patino Moreno and two of his colleagues. According to Mexican investigators, Patino, a special prosecutor targeting the AFO for the Mexican Attorney General’s drug unit, and two fellow agents endured brutal torture by medieval methods. The AFO was also accused of recruiting, training, and arming groups of bodyguards and assassins who were responsible for protecting their leaders. The AFO transported and distributed multi-ton quantities of cocaine and marijuana, as well as significant quantities of heroin and methamphetamine through Tijuana to the San Diego area. They used many and varied smuggling methods, including sending numerous small loads, known as shotgunning, concealing loads in commercial and passenger vehicles, couriers who concealed smaller amounts on their persons, transportation through underground tunnels, and body carriers riding on commercial buses.

Operation Brain Drain (2004)

On Sept. 23, 2004, DEA announced the successful culmination of “Operation Brain Drain.” This 17-month joint U.S./Royal Canadian Mounted Police OCDETF investigation identified and dismantled the most significant source of ephedrine—one of the major ingredients used to manufacture methamphetamine—that was smuggled from Canada to the U.S. Operation Brain Drain targeted Canadian bulk ephedrine distributors and their U.S. associates, as well as U.S.-based Mexican methamphetamine manufacturers and distributors. The operation yielded 90 arrests, including five major traffickers, 92 pounds of methamphetamine, 2,735 pounds of ephedrine powder, nearly 1.7 million ephedrine pills, two kilograms of cocaine, 62 pounds of precursor chemicals, five gallons of meth solution, two large clandestine meth labs, and \$3.5 million in Canadian currency.

Operation Money Clip (2004)

On Oct. 19, 2004, DEA announced the culmination of “Operation Money Clip,” an SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation launched in October 2003 in a DEA initiative to focus investigations on the abilities, methods, and routes used to smuggle large amounts of currency from the U.S. to the sources of drug supply in Mexico and other foreign countries. It targeted a Mexican-based poly-drug trafficking organization with ties to the Mexican drug trafficking “Federation of Traffickers.” Operation Money Clip dismantled an international money laundering and drug trafficking organization and resulted in the arrest of 83 defendants. DEA San Antonio and the Kimble County, TX, Sheriff’s Department began the investigation based on a bulk currency seizure of over \$2.2 million in a traffic stop in rural Texas. Based on evidence seized at the traffic stop, Money Clip was ultimately expanded to 54 investigations spanning the nation, and agents found that the organization allegedly laundered as much as \$200 million from various rural and urban American cities to Mexican targets over a two-year pe-

riod. The ensuing investigation established that this organization allegedly distributed approximately 500 kilograms of cocaine, 200 pounds of methamphetamine, 20 kilograms of heroin, and 10,000 pounds of marijuana per month over a two-year period. Operation Money Clip resulted in 26 separate seizures for a total of \$4.7 million, 2,526 kilograms of cocaine, 74 pounds of crystallized methamphetamine, 2.8 pounds of methamphetamine, and over 40,000 pounds of marijuana. The money was laundered through remitter services, businesses, and foreign bank accounts. Metropolitan areas of Chicago, Atlanta, New York, and Los Angeles were involved, as were rural sections in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Iowa, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Afghanistan Five Pillar Plan (2004)

On Nov. 17, 2004, DEA joined with coalition partners, the State Department, and the Department of Defense in announcing its involvement in the U.S. Embassy Kabul Counternarcotics Implementation Plan. This represented an expansion of the DEA-led 19-country Operation Containment multilateral strategy begun in 2002 to choke off the flow of drugs and precursor chemicals into and out of Afghanistan before they can spread to broader markets. The Five Pillar Plan provided DEA unique opportunities to reduce heroin production in Afghanistan, the world’s leading opium producer, and contribute to the stabilization and rebuilding of the war-torn country. The Five Pillar Plan also called for DEA to continue lending its expertise by providing drug enforcement training to counterparts in the Counternarcotics Police Afghanistan to build Afghanistan’s institutions of justice and strengthen internal counternarcotics capabilities. Under the “Interdiction Pillar,” DEA assists with the goal of destroying clandestine labs and seizing precursor chemicals, opium, and opiate stockpiles. To achieve that, DEA expanded its presence in Afghanistan by permanently stationing additional Special Agents and Intelligence Analysts to enhance that country’s counternarcotics capacity.

FAST Teams Deploy (2004)

In November 2004, as part of the Afghanistan Five Pillar Plan, DEA announced a program aimed at reducing heroin production and contributing to the stabilization and rebuilding of the war-torn country: in conjunction with coalition partners, the State Department, the Department of Defense (DOD), and DEA pledged to deploy Foreign-deployed Advisory and Support Teams (FAST). The FAST consisted of five teams of DEA Special Agents and Intelligence Research Specialists rotating on a TDY basis to Afghanistan. These teams provide guidance and conduct bilateral investigations that identify, target, and disrupt illicit drug trafficking organizations. The FAST mission is to mentor, train, and advise the National Interdiction Units (NIU), a specialized group formed from members of the Counter Narcotics Police-Afghanistan (CNP-A). While FAST focuses primarily on Afghanistan’s heroin threat, it also assists Afghan authorities in bilateral investigations by identifying, targeting, and disrupting illicit drug trafficking organizations. With DOD’s support, FAST also assists with the destruction of existing opium storage sites, clandestine heroin processing labs, and precursor chemical supplies. During January 2005, initial advanced training of FAST personnel commenced at the U.S. Army’s Ft. Benning, GA, with instruction by the U.S. military. This training consisted of familiarization with

communication equipment, weapons training, cultural awareness, improvised explosive device familiarization, combat lifesaving courses, land navigation, ground assault, small unit tactics/patrolling, airmobile operations (with the MI-8 helicopter), and urban terrain assault training. In April 2005, the first two FAST squads (Alpha and Bravo) departed on a U.S. military flight for Afghanistan. They immediately started to assist the Kabul Country Office in its mission. One of the FAST squads was based at the U.S. Embassy Kabul, and the other was based at the U.S. military airfield in Bagram, Afghanistan. Since its inception, FAST personnel have deployed 13 times to Afghanistan, three times to Haiti, twice to Kyrgyzstan, and once to Guatemala and Honduras. FAST has also upgraded its capability through unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and technical targeting to support operations against high-value targets and hostage rescue operations in remote and hostile environments worldwide.

The FAST and counterparts have realized significant successes, including numerous large-scale operations shutting down drug labs and seizing significant amounts of precursor chemicals, opium, and heroin, and arresting high- and mid-level traffickers. One such successful operation occurred on June 9, 2008, when a FAST, DEA Sensitive Investigative Unit (SIU), the Afghanistan National Interdiction Unit (NIU), Afghan Special Narcotics Force (ASNF), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) completed Operation ALBATROSS, a two-phase operation targeting a super-lab complex protected by the Taliban in the Kandahar Province. The initial phase of this operation resulted in the seizure of approximately 3.4 metric tons of hashish, while the second phase resulted in the seizure of approximately 262 metric tons of hashish, the largest seizure of hashish in history.

“Chapo” Guzman Reward (2004)

On Dec. 20, 2004, DEA announced up to a \$5 million reward through the State Department’s Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of Joaquin Guzman-Loera, a.k.a. “Chapo” Guzman. Guzman remains wanted in the Southern District of California for conspiracy to import cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, money laundering and criminal forfeiture. In the 1980s, Guzman was associated with Miguel Angel Felix-Gallardo, a.k.a. El Padrino, head of the most powerful drug trafficking group in Mexico at that time. He left the El Padrino organization and soon gained notoriety as the head of his own international criminal enterprise.

Guzman was known for his use of a sophisticated tunnel located in Douglas, AZ to smuggle cocaine from Mexico into the U.S. in the early 1990s. In 1993, a 7.3 ton load of his cocaine destined for the U.S., concealed in cans of chili peppers, was seized in Tecate, Baja California Norte, Mexico. In May of that year, members of the rival Arellano-Felix Organization coordinated a failed attempt to assassinate Guzman in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, which resulted in the much publicized murder of the prominent Catholic Cardinal Jan Jesus Posadas-Ocampo.

At about the same time, an even more sophisticated tunnel that stretched from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, Mexico to the Otay Mesa, CA area was discovered. The following month, Guzman was arrested in Mexico on homicide and drug charges. In January 2001, he escaped from a maximum security prison

located in Mexico and quickly regained full control of his internationally based drug trafficking organization.

FARC Leaders Extradited and Convicted (2004)

On Dec. 31, 2004, top leftist Colombian rebel Juvenal Ovidio Ricardo Palmera Pineda, aka Simon Trinidad, was the first leader of the violent Colombian narco-terrorist guerilla group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) to be sent to face prosecution in a U.S. federal court. Former Chief of Operations and Finance of the FARC’s Caribbean Bloc, he was wanted by Colombian authorities on charges of kidnapping, homicide, conspiracy, personal injury, assault, terrorism, assassination, and rebellion. He faced U.S. drug and terrorism charges following the FARC’s refusal to free dozens of hostages, including three Americans and a German. Simon Trinidad is currently serving a 60-year sentence on kidnapping charges. FARC leader Nayibe Rojas Valderama, aka Sonia, was extradited from Colombia to the U.S. to face prosecution on drug charges on March 9, 2005. In February 2004, Sonia, finance officer and part of the command and control structure of the FARC 14th Front, was captured in Colombia in a joint DEA-Colombian military operation.

Her brother Leonel, aka Farol, and 13 other FARC members, including Sonia’s security force and two minors, were taken into custody during the enforcement operation. On Feb. 20, 2007, Sonia was convicted on drug charges by a jury in Washington, D.C. and later sentenced to 200 months in prison. The FARC controlled large portions of Colombia and financed its violent conflict with the Colombian government by engaging in drug trafficking, augmented by other means including kidnapping and extortion. DEA estimated that the FARC controlled approximately 70 percent of Colombia’s cocaine trade. The FARC is still in operation today.

Denying Assets to Traffickers (2004)

In 2004, it was estimated that \$65 billion dollars changed hands for drugs each year in the U.S. DEA established financial investigations—“following the money”—as a top priority. The agency’s attack on the financial infrastructure of drug cartels was reenergized to permanently dismantle these trafficking organizations, whose total profits would rank them 13th among Fortune 500 companies by revenue. In FY 2003, DEA established a new Office of Financial Operations in Headquarters and specialized Money Laundering Groups in each DEA domestic field division to aggressively address the drug trade as a business. DEA also established a Financial Investigations Team (FIT) in its Bangkok and Bogota offices. In addition, DEA increased interagency cooperation and information sharing through joint efforts with the Internal Revenue Service and Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement by collaborating on issues, such as the bulk currency program, which developed new investigations pertaining to seizures of large amounts of currency as well as linking these seizures to ongoing drug investigations. These efforts ensured the coordination of all U.S. highway interdiction money seizures since smuggling large sums of cash across our borders is the primary method used to expatriate drug proceeds. DEA also changed its investigative tactics to assure that money laundering investigations against the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE) inflict the most damage against the Colombian sources of drug supply. The BMPE is the largest known money laundering system



in the Western Hemisphere, responsible for moving an estimated \$4 billion worth of drug proceeds every year from the U.S. to Colombia. DEA added several financial targets to the CPOT list. Finally, DEA recruited Special Agents with finance and accounting backgrounds to further increase the financial investigative skills of agency employees.

As a result of the focus on targeting drug money, DEA set records attacking illicit drug proceeds and related assets beginning in 2004. From FY 2005 through the end of FY 2007, DEA denied drug trafficking organizations more than \$7 billion in revenue through the seizure of both assets and drugs. DEA denied drug traffickers a record-setting \$3.5 billion in FY 2007—a goal not anticipated reaching until 2009. Domestic and foreign asset seizures increased from \$908 million in FY 2006 to \$1.7 billion in FY 2007, an increase of \$865 million, or 95%. Additionally, DEA assisted our domestic law enforcement counterparts in investigations that resulted in the seizure of \$179 million in FY 2006, and \$247 million in FY 2007, an increase of \$68 million, or 38%.

Operation Jump Start (2005)

On Feb. 15, 2005, DEA announced the successful culmination of SOD-supported OCDETF “Operation Jump Start,” which represented a first for DEA: disrupting an established trend involving the flow of Colombian heroin, typically shipped in multi-kilogram quantities hidden in car batteries, on a specific route from Guatemala through Mexico to Texas, and eventually to New York and other parts of the U.S. The culmination of this operation was a highly orchestrated multijurisdictional, multi-national takedown resulting in 100 arrests, including key targets of the Colombian and Guatemalan leadership of the trafficking organization. Nine of the defendants were the first individuals extradited from Guatemala for federal narcotics violations since 1992. The removal of the senior directors of the organization effectively dismantled this drug cartel. Operation Jump Start began in October 2003 when a drug seizure made by the Louisiana State Police was connected by SOD to an ongoing drug investigation started in 2002 by the DEA Washington Division Greenbelt, MD, HIDTA Task Force and Montgomery County, MD, Police Department. The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force had also initiated an investigation during the same time period. The Maryland and New York efforts led to investigations in 14 additional judicial districts, as well as the DEA Country Offices in Guatemala and Colombia. Over the course of this investigation, 100 individuals linked to this powerful drug trafficking organization were arrested and 22 kilograms of heroin, 80 kilograms of cocaine, and over \$1 million in U.S. currency were seized.

Arrests and Seizures in Afghanistan (2005-2007)

DEA assisted in operations targeting narcotics traffickers, money launderers, and the Taliban/insurgent forces in Afghanistan, which resulted in total arrests and seizures of narcotics and precursor chemicals between 2005-2007 of:

- Opium – 51.3 metric tons (from 27.6 in 2005)
- Heroin – 6.6 metric tons (from 2.8 in 2005)
- Chemicals – 14.5 metric tons (from 7.7 in 2005)
- Clandestine Conversion Laboratories – 279 (from 27 in 2005)
- Morphine Base – 362 kilograms
- Hashish – 144.9 metric tons
- Arrested/Detained – 144 individuals (from 69 in 2005)

Virtual Enforcement Initiative: Operations Cyber Chase, CyberRx, Gear Grinder (2005)

DEA’s Virtual Enforcement Initiative (VEI) an SOD-led OCDETF Program, was launched in April 2005 to combat traffickers selling prescription drugs over the Internet. It included Operations Cyber Chase, CyberRx, and Gear Grinder, and resulted in the seizure of more than \$21.6 million in cash, property, computers, and bank accounts.

Operation Cyber Chase was the first major VEI effort, and resulted in the identification of over 200 web sites that illegally sold pharmaceutical drugs. Because of this year-long operation that began after the Philadelphia-based international Internet drug trafficking Bansal organization, headed by Indian nationals, was identified, more than 20 criminals were arrested in eight U.S. cities and four foreign countries. Until they were arrested, these “e-traffickers” had been operating in the U.S., India, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean, and were using their rogue pharmacies to distribute drugs worldwide.

Operation CyberRx targeted for the first time e-trafficking taking place solely within the U.S. The drug dealers who operated these rogue Internet pharmacies received prescription orders for controlled substances over the Internet that were then shipped to the doors of many U.S. citizens—sometimes without any prescription needed. These criminal pharmaceutical drug traffickers averaged more than \$50,000 a day in profits from their illegal Internet-based enterprise.

Operation Gear Grinder resulted in the largest DEA steroid bust in history. It was a 21-month investigation that targeted eight major Mexican steroid manufacturing companies, their owners, and their trafficking associates. DEA intelligence analysts and diversion investigators found that 82 percent of the steroids seized and analyzed were of Mexican origin. A large majority of those steroids originated from the eight companies identified in Operation Gear Grinder. These businesses conducted their sales via the Internet; DEA estimated their combined U.S. steroid sales exceeded \$56 million per year.

Operation Mallorca (2005)

On June 14, 2005, DEA announced the culmination of “Operation Mallorca,” a 27-month investigation that targeted the money laundering activities of four Colombian-based money brokers who funneled drug proceeds through the Black Market Peso Exchange. It was learned during the course of the investigation that monies were laundered through approximately 300 wire transfers to 200 bank accounts, involving 170 separate account holders, in 16 U.S. cities and 13 foreign countries. In addition, investigative efforts revealed 13 different trafficking groups in Colombia. Operation Mallorca resulted in the arrests of 36 individuals in two countries, including 13 Colombian drug traffickers taken into custody as a result of the operation. In addition, during the operation, \$7.2 million, as well as 947 kilograms of cocaine, 7 kilograms of heroin, and 21,650 pounds of marijuana were seized. Indictments were returned against 81 defendants and four businesses in the District of Puerto Rico and the Southern District of New York.

Drug Flow Attack Strategy (2005)

DEA implemented its ongoing, multi-agency Drug Flow Prevention strategy in May 2005. It was designed to significantly dis-

rupt the flow of drugs, money, and chemicals between the source zones in Latin America and the U.S. by attacking vulnerabilities in the supply chains, transportation systems, and financial infrastructure of major drug trafficking organizations. The strategy, which targeted the command and control structures of foreign-based drug trafficking organizations responsible for violence in Mexico's border areas where they extended across U.S. frontiers and operated in the U.S., revolved around aggressive, well-planned, and coordinated enforcement operations with host-nation counterparts in global source countries, transit zones, and arrival zones. At the 2007 International Association of Chiefs of Police convention, Administrator Tandy described the strategy this way: "At DEA, we stopped using that tired phrase—you have to do more with less—and started looking for the traffickers' Achilles Heel—that narrow chokehold where we could inflict the most damage with the least amount of resources; and use the traffickers' corrupt officials against them, causing them to make mistakes that we capitalize on to seriously disrupt their traditional lines of transportation for drugs, money and chemicals. We devised a strategy that did just that—the Drug Flow Attack Strategy. With this international strategy, we stepped up our game—in essence, we went from playing checkers to playing chess."

Successful operations executed as part of this strategy included Operation All Inclusive 2005-2007, the centerpiece of the Drug Flow Attack Strategy, and Operation Imperial Emperor. When the three-month periods before and after Operation All Inclusive 2005 were compared, the average U.S. price per pure gram of cocaine was found to have increased 43 percent. During the first three quarters of 2007, the average U.S. price per pure gram of cocaine increased 44 percent, while average purity fell 15 percent, indicating the success of the Drug Flow Prevention strategy's large-scale operations. Operation All Inclusive was a multinational, intelligence-driven Drug Flow Strategy initiative implemented in August 2005 to disrupt the flow of drugs and money between South and Central American source zones and the U.S. Operation All-Inclusive 2005 targeted Central American transit zones resulted in the interception and seizure of more than 46 metric tons of cocaine and 21 metric tons of marijuana before the drugs reached Mexico. Operation All Inclusive 2006 resulted in the seizure of 43 metric tons of cocaine, including a 16 metric ton maritime seizure in the Eastern Pacific and Western Caribbean, and the seizure and dismantlement of 15 cocaine processing labs in Colombia that yielded 92.6 metric tons of precursor chemicals. Operation All Inclusive 2007 resulted in the seizure of 115 metric tons of cocaine, a quantity estimated to be 12 to 28 percent of the cocaine transported through transit zones to the U.S. during 2006.

First Ever Canada / U.S. Tunnel Discovered (2005)

On July 21, 2005, the first sophisticated drug smuggling tunnel known to run between Canada and the U.S.—from British Columbia, Canada, into Washington State—was shut down. It



One of 34 U.S.-Canadian cross-border tunnels discovered on July 21, 2005.

had been under construction for more than a year and had been monitored by both Canadian and American law enforcement. On the Canadian side of the border, the entrance to the 360-foot long tunnel was hidden under a Quonset hut; on the U.S. side, the tunnel terminated beneath the living room floor of a home in Lynden, WA. It ran at a depth of between three and 10 feet, and was reinforced with iron rebar and 2x6 wood supports. DEA agents apprehended several loads of marijuana and Ecstasy that the conspirators had tried to move through the tunnel.

Guilty Verdict Remains for Killer of Special Agents Seema and Montoya (2005)

Seventeen years after Michael Chia, a co-conspirator in the murder of Special Agents Paul Seema and George Montoya and the serious wounding of SA Jose Martinez, was convicted, he was again convicted in a re-trial in Los Angeles County on Sept. 28, 2005. Michael Chia, who was not present at the agents' shooting, was arrested soon after. His intimate interaction with the conspirators during the hours preceding the shootings and his involvement in the plot to rob and kill the agents were debated extensively during his trial in 1988. He was ultimately convicted of two counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted murder, and second degree robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery. Chia was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences in prison.

On Feb. 28, 2002, the Ninth Circuit Court overturned Chia's original conviction and ordered that Chia's appeal be granted unless he was allowed a new trial within a reasonable period of time. On March 10, 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court vacated the Ninth Circuit's reversal of Chia's conviction, and remanded it back to them for reconsideration. Almost a year later, the Ninth Circuit affirmed its previous ruling in *People v. Chia* when it ruled that Chia's due process rights were violated. The Court again ruled that Chia be granted a new trial. Several months after this decision, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the California Attorney General's petition to review the Chia case. The new trial of Michael Chia began on Aug. 2, 2005. Although the decision to retry Chia presented a challenge to DEA, the Los Angeles Field



Division (LAFD) made his successful prosecution their highest priority. LAFD worked closely with the prosecutorial team to retry this 17-year old case, spending countless hours reviewing the facts and evidence of the case. In announcing Chia's re-conviction, LAFD SAC Stephen Delgado stated, "Justice was served today. This conviction is tremendously gratifying for agents past and present, as well as the families of George Montoya and Paul Seema."

DEA Response to Hurricane Katrina (2005)

DEA's response was nothing short of heroic in the wake of Hurricane Katrina that struck and devastated the New Orleans area on Aug. 29, 2005. The U.S. Attorney for Eastern Louisiana said that as the last drop of rain from Hurricane Katrina fell on the streets of New Orleans, DEA Special Agents were the first federal law enforcement officers in the field. DEA employees provided assistance to citizens and city authorities, aiding in rescue and cleanup for weeks following the disaster. The Air Wing, along with the Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, St. Louis, and Miami Field Divisions collectively deployed 113 special agents and special agent/pilots to provide assistance to 13 law enforcement agencies in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. MET Teams provided patrol assistance on a rotating basis in 21-day shifts. Some 70,000 pounds of supplies and equipment (including night vision goggles, guns, and ammunition) were transported by the Air Wing to perform law enforcement and search and rescue efforts for DEA employees and Louisiana and Mississippi hurricane victims. DEA Special Agents worked with hospitals to transport medicine to law enforcement personnel to combat hepatitis A and B, which allowed DEA and law enforcement partners to sustain their rescue missions. DEA partnered with Texas and Arkansas pharmacy boards on emergency prescription refill procedures in response to requests from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. DEA assisted with 24-hour security patrols and ultimately rescued over 3,340 civilians, including more than 70 abandoned elderly residents at a flooded nursing home. DEA located missing loved ones for survivors and rescued 63 family members of DEA employees. To meet local law enforcement needs, DEA secured 130 cars through the asset forfeiture fund and loaned them to local law enforcement departments that lost their vehicles. In addition to all of the on-site assistance DEA provided in the disaster areas, employees throughout the agency donated cash and needed items. The Aviation Division, which spearheaded the charitable donations and ensured the delivery of goods, estimated that a total of nearly \$121,000 was collected to assist those in need.

The DEA team who rescued 70 elderly and infirm patients from a New Orleans nursing home trapped in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina won the Attorney General's Award was a finalist for the 2006 Service to America Citizen Services Medal for their impact on addressing the needs of the nation. The team, despite nearby gunfire, rising waters, and looters, carried the residents, many crippled in wheelchairs and bedridden, down five flights of stairs to safety and provided supplies to dozens more who were evacuated days later. For DEA's heroic actions in rescuing over 3,000 stranded Americans during Hurricane Katrina, Hearst Newspapers lauded DEA as one of only two agencies in the relief efforts to get the "people piece right" in its emergency response.

DEA's New Orleans Field Division office was damaged by the Hurricane, but employees of the NOFD were able to reoccupy its Hurricane Katrina-damaged office space beginning Nov. 7, 2005. DEA's Gulfport, MS, office fared much worse, being badly destroyed by the Hurricane. Employees returned to that office in April 2006.

A few months after the storm, crime became a major issue in New Orleans. By Christmas 2006, murders, violence, robberies, and shootings started escalating out of control. New Orleans had twice the murders per capita than the next highest city. Attorney General Gonzales decided that federal resources were needed to help stem the surge in violent crime in the city. He gave DEA in New Orleans the power to arrest and enforce any federal law under any title, as opposed to just enforcing Title 21-the Controlled Substances Act. DEA is not aware of this ever happening in the past. NOFD detailed 21 SAs in New Orleans to various NOPD specialized units that included the Crime Abatement Team (CAT), Special Operation Division (SOD), and Major Narcotics Section. DEA also committed the HIDTA Task Force to the worst crime area in central city. DEA efforts centered on increasing prosecution of cases involving violent offenders, firearms, and drugs in the Federal system, and the results were tremendous. Over a 7-month period, 65 defendants were indicted on Federal charges in investigations in which DEA led or participated, 963 individuals were arrested on various State charges and a total of 142 firearms, one kilogram of heroin, 3-1/2 kilograms of crack, three kilograms of cocaine powder, 15 kilograms of marijuana, 65 grams of methamphetamine, 3,404 dosage units of MDMA, and \$194,838 dollars were seized.

In 2006, New Orleans SAC Bill Renton and Deputy Administrator for Operational Support Jim Craig (former Houston SAC) each received the prestigious Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award for their law enforcement leadership in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

NOFD SAC Bill Renton summed up DEA's response this way: "I sincerely believe that DEA's collective efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina, this country's worst natural disaster, was a seminal moment in our history. If any member of the DEA family had a relative, friend, or friend of a friend who lived in the area, they called the NOFD, and we found them and ensured they were safe. If somebody called and said they needed anything, we did it, and vice versa. When we called any DEA office, anything was possible. It was really good to see people and the media recognize what DEA did. We're a small agency, but we were by far the most visible federal agency in the city, bar none.... DEA's crowning achievement has to be that we rescued more than 3,000 people. When everyone else was waiting to start their SWAT operations, we were out there pulling people from their homes. They would absolutely have been dead if it weren't for us. No question."

DEA's Teen Web Page Launched (2005)

On Aug. 30, 2005, DEA launched the teen website www.justthinktwice.com as part of its efforts to raise public awareness about the dangers of drugs and counter the messages that America's youth are bombarded with that drug use is a rite of passage and a normal part of adolescence. The website provides facts to teens about drugs like methamphetamine, including before and after photos of meth users that graphically depict the ravages of this drug on the user. In addition to the information on metham-

phetamine, the site contains material on prescription drug abuse, marijuana, steroids, and “club drugs,” and provides teens with information on the legal consequences of drug trafficking and manufacturing. It also provides thought-provoking “real life” scenarios and teens’ legal responsibilities in the areas of drugged driving, drug-facilitated sexual assaults, and providing drugs to their peers. Teens also can learn first hand about the tragedies of drug use through the personal stories of young people who lost their lives to drugs. The website won the Attorney General’s Award for Excellence in Information Technology in 2006. The site proved to be tremendously popular and received 319 million hits from its launch until mid-2008.

Operation Wildfire (2005)

DEA announced the successful culmination of “Operation Wildfire,” the largest nationally coordinated anti-methamphetamine law enforcement initiative in U.S. law enforcement history on Aug. 30, 2005. It was designed to target all levels of the meth manufacturing and distribution chain in the U.S. and to fight its further spread. This unprecedented effort culminated in August 2005 and involved over 200 U.S. cities, and resulted in the arrest of 427 individuals. The coordinated efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement in the execution of 96 search warrants resulted in the seizure of 209 pounds of methamphetamine, over 200,000 tablets of pseudoephedrine, 158 kilograms of pseudoephedrine powder, and close to 225,000 tablets of ephedrine. Fifty six clandestine laboratories were seized in the nationwide sweep and 30 endangered children were removed from their meth environments. Administrator Tandy said at the culmination of Operation Wildfire: “Methamphetamine abuse has ruined families, destroyed neighborhoods and put a tremendous strain on all levels of law enforcement and social services. This historic enforcement effort illustrates our commitment to extinguishing this plague and protecting innocent Americans from the harmful ripple effects meth leaves behind.”

Operation Angry Sapo/Ambush of CNP Officers (2005)

Initiated in September 2005 by DEA and the Policía Nacional de Colombia Dirección de la Policía Judicial y Investigaciones de Cali (CNP DIJIN - Cali), SOD-supported Operation Angry Sapo was a multi-national, multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency wire intercept investigation targeting a corrupt group of CNP and retired CNP officials. These individuals represented the North Valley Cartel, specifically the Wilber Varela organization, and were known to identify elements in the ranks of the CNP that were critical to their trafficking efforts where they could facilitate and foster corruption. These corrupt officials used their contacts and/or former positions within the CNP to approach other police officials to gain access to information or exert influence to facilitate the shipment of narcotics from Colombia into Mexico, Europe, and the U.S. This operation began when cooperating source information exposed a corrupt CNP

underworld operating out of the Bogota International Airport shipping multi-ton quantities of cocaine to Mexico via commercial airlines.

Operation Angry Sapo employed some first time investigative techniques, such as using active CNP officers working in undercover capacities and the judicial interceptions of Avantel “push to talk” phones. The active duty CNP officers that were involved in this investigation as “undercovers” and potential witnesses were part of the Bogotá Airport Antinarcotics Unit, as were two of the targets of this case.

On Dec. 1, 2005, DEA Bogotá presented this case to a Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York, which returned a sealed indictment charging 10 defendants. Two of these individuals were active CNP officers, one individual was an Avianca Airline security officer, and seven were former CNP officers who were working for the North Valley Cartel. On April 3, 2006, DEA Bogotá in conjunction with the CNP DIJIN successfully executed seven provisional arrest warrants related to the Leonidas Molina trafficking organization. Due to the involvement of corrupt active and retired CNP officers in this investigation, security (both operational and physical) was a primary concern. As a direct result of the successes of this case, threats were made against members of the DIJIN Cali unit.

On May 22, 2006, CNP officers arrived in the town of Jamundi, Colombia, following a lead from an informant who told them they would find at least 100 kilograms of cocaine near a psychiatric center, just outside of Cali. When the police pulled up, they were ambushed by Colombian soldiers, acting on the orders of cashiered army Lt. Col. Byron Carvajal. Most of the officers died of shots to the head, neck and chest, while not a single soldier was wounded. The slain officers, belonging to the most elite unit of Colombia’s judicial investigative police, were among those working closely with DEA.

On Feb. 18, 2008, Lt. Col. Carvajal and 14 soldiers were convicted of murdering 10 CNP officers in that ambush that marked the depth of corruption in Colombia’s security forces. On May 7, 2008, Carvajal was sentenced to 54 years in prison, Carvajal’s second-in command was sentenced to 52 years, and the other 13



Administrator Tandy lays a wreath in honor of slain CNP Officers killed in September 2005.



soldiers were sentenced to 50 years for their participation in the ambush and slaughter of the CNP officers.

In honor of the slain CNP officers, a plaque with the pictures of each of the fallen heroes is on display at DEA/SOD as a memorial to the officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice:

Ramon Dario Gavis Londono
Gilmar Mamian Jiménez
William Andres Rodriguez Montero
Carlos Alberto Murillo Castaneda
Pedro Leon Perea Galindo
Jose Luis Rodriguez
Franklin Oswaldo Sanchez Bautista
Luis Alberto Farfan Castiblanco
Elkin Molina Aldana
Roosevelt Garcia Ramirez

DEA's Secure Electronic Ordering System (2005)

On Sept. 1, 2005, DEA launched its cost and time-saving, error-reducing paperless Controlled Substances Ordering System (CSOS). This was a direct result of DEA's Office of Diversion Control cooperation during the previous several years with the pharmaceutical industry to develop an electronic version of the current ordering system for Schedule II controlled substances. It replaces a legally mandated three-part form generated by industry that was maintained by the supplier, the purchaser, and DEA for all purchases of Schedule II controlled substances. CSOS provides a secure and authenticated means for industry to electronically submit orders for Schedule II controlled substances directly to their supplier, streamlining the supply chain, and helping patients get necessary prescriptions more quickly.

Operation Long Wine (2005)

On Oct. 12, 2005, the first phase of "Operation Long Wine" culminated. It was an OCDETF investigation coordinated by SOD targeting the Atlanta-based cell of a major Mexican meth and cocaine trafficking organization that trafficked hundreds of kilos of cocaine and pounds of meth into the U.S. The organization also laundered millions of dollars of proceeds from the trafficking of these drugs, often attempting to transport the laundered money by smuggling it in vehicles back into Mexico to fund their criminal enterprise. This phase resulted in the arrest of 28 individuals, the seizure of over \$8 million, 40 lbs. of "ice" meth, and over 592 kilos of cocaine. Operation Long Wine marked the second round of success in DEA's Money Trail Initiative, an innovative financial crime strategy that attacks the financing of the illegal drug trade in order to dismantle major drug trafficking organizations.

Operation Motor City Mafia (2005)

On Oct. 28, 2005, a total of 47 members and associates of the self-named Black Mafia Family (BMF) were arrested and \$14 million in currency and assets seized, along with nearly 635 kilograms of cocaine and numerous weapons, in a two-year SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation that had been launched in October 2003. The BMF was a large-scale cocaine trafficking and money laundering organization based in Detroit, whose operations spanned the country and whose founders and ringleaders, brothers Terry and Demetrius Flenory, began their drug trafficking careers selling \$50 bags of crack during their high school years in

the mid-1980s. Expanding to other cities in the 1990s, the brothers extended their small scale trafficking organization into a multi-million dollar criminal enterprise operating in numerous states. Their organization distributed thousands of kilograms of cocaine and laundered millions of dollars in drug proceeds. BMF members and associates were responsible for trafficking approximately 2,500 kilos of cocaine monthly through their Atlanta hub. The organization used sophisticated "traps" (hidden compartments) in stretch limousines to conceal and transport drugs and money. In an attempt to foil drug-sniffing dogs, they equipped some of their vehicles with devices to mechanically expel drug-tainted air.

Operation Sweet Tooth (2005)

On Nov. 17, 2005, DEA announced the culmination of "Operation Sweet Tooth," a two-year, SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation that targeted international Ecstasy and marijuana trafficking rings whose drug smuggling and money laundering operations ranged from the back alleys of the Far East to the neighborhood streets of Canada and the U.S. It followed Operation Candy Box that dismantled an international ring importing one million MDMA tablets a month into Canada for distribution in the U.S. Operation Sweet Tooth was comprised of DEA-led investigations in 12 separate U.S. judicial districts and resulted in the arrest of 291 individuals and the execution of 98 search warrants both in the U.S. and Canada. The seizures totaled 931,300 MDMA tablets, 1,777 pounds of marijuana, and \$7.75 million in U.S. assets. The leaders of the criminal organizations targeted in Operation Sweet Tooth refined and improved on the methods used by those in the Operation Candy Box organization: the Operation Sweet Tooth organizations were responsible for distributing 1.5 million tablets of MDMA per month, equivalent to more than 22 percent of the estimated 8 metric tons of MDMA imported into the U.S. in 2003. Operation Sweet Tooth identified drug trafficking networks that imported MDMA powder into Canada, established clandestine pill press warehouses, and smuggled bulk quantities of MDMA tablets into the U.S. The financial aspect of the investigation revealed that the drug trafficking syndicates laundered millions of dollars in drug proceeds through the use of bulk courier transport, money remitters and the Vietnamese underground banking system. Assistance provided by both the Vietnamese and Canadian authorities allowed Operation Sweet Tooth to identify the drug distribution and money laundering methods of the organizations.

Operation Northern Impact (2005)

On Nov. 30, 2005, DEA concluded "Operation Northern Impact," a 24-month SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation that targeted an international cocaine and marijuana trafficking ring whose drug smuggling and money laundering operations ranged across the Southwest Border and into the northeastern U.S. It identified and dismantled a multi-million dollar drug distribution network responsible for smuggling and distributing significant quantities of cocaine from Mexico to the U.S., whose distribution network extended from the Southwest Border as far northeast as the Washington D.C.-Baltimore area. Three major drug transportation rings based in Greensboro, NC; Phoenix, AZ; and Los Angeles, CA were dismantled. Operation Northern Impact resulted in the arrest of 53 individuals on charges that included drug conspiracy and money laundering. Operation sei-

zures totaled 341 kilograms of cocaine, 2,258 pounds of marijuana, and \$1.4 million in U.S. assets.

Operation High Step (2005)

On Nov. 30, 2005, DEA concluded “Operation High Step,” a year-long DEA-led multi-jurisdictional, multinational investigation targeting all levels of a major heroin trafficking organization that smuggled the drug from Colombia to the streets of Boston, New York, Chicago, and Orlando. The organization concealed heroin bricks inside porcelain frames of paintings that would be shattered by drug dealers to retrieve the drugs for sale. The traffickers also concealed heroin in shipments of furniture, shoes, and sewn into clothing. The organization was responsible for smuggling 25 kilograms of heroin monthly into the U.S. Following the drug’s wholesale distribution stateside, the illegal proceeds were wire-transferred back to Colombia. Operation High Step resulted in 19 arrests in Colombia, including the two leaders of the organization.

Prevention of Hostile Acts in Afghanistan (2005)

DEA provided actionable intelligence that has deterred hostile acts, including rocket and IED attacks, against U.S. and Coalition personnel and interests inside of Afghanistan on more than 19 occasions since December 2005. In addition, DEA intelligence has also led to the apprehension of high-value targets and the seizure of Taliban weapons caches. DEA’s investigative efforts have been vital not only to capturing Afghanistan’s top drug barons, but also in stabilizing Afghanistan and contributing to the security of all Coalition forces there.

First Afghan Drug Trafficker Successfully Brought to Justice in the U.S. (2005)

In October 2005, Haji Baz Mohammad became the first Afghan heroin kingpin under the authority of Afghanistan President Hamid Karzaiever brought to the U.S. justice system. Since 1990, Baz Mohammad had led an international heroin-trafficking organization that provided financial support to the Taliban in Afghanistan, in exchange for which the Taliban provided protection for the organization’s opium crops, heroin laboratories, drug-transportation routes, and members and associates. The organization was responsible for manufacturing and distributing more than \$25 million worth of heroin in Afghanistan and Pakistan, some of which the organization ultimately sold in the U.S. Baz Mohammad stated that selling heroin in the U.S. was a “Jihad” because they were taking the Americans’ money at the same time the heroin they were paying for was killing them. Baz Mohammad and Bashir Noorzai, arrested by DEA in April 2005 on heroin-importation charges, are the only Afghan narcotics traffickers to have been sanctioned by the U.S. President under the Kingpin Act. Baz Mohammad pled guilty on July 11, 2006, and was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison on Oct. 5, 2007. DEA Administrator Tandy summed up the significance of the arrest, extradition, and sentencing by saying, “The sentencing of Haji Baz Mohammad—the first person ever extradited from Afghanistan to the U.S.—demonstrates both our nations’ resolve to destroy the hold opium lords have on Afghanistan. This drug kingpin bragged that he waged Jihad against Americans by poisoning them with his heroin. His attack was unconventional, and his massive drug profits funded the Taliban and other extremist organizations dedicated to destroying freedom and justice. Today,

as Mohammad loses his own freedom, he begins a long, hands-on lesson in the certainty of American justice.”

Money Trail Initiative (2005)

In 2005, DEA implemented its Money Trail Initiative, an innovative financial crime strategy that attacked the financing of the illegal drug trade and dismantled major drug trafficking organizations. In the first year and a half, the Money Trail Initiative was responsible for dismantling six national organizations involved in the transportation of bulk currency drug proceeds from various points in the U.S. to Mexico. As of July 2006, this initiative resulted in the arrest of 418 defendants and the seizure of \$65.4 million in U.S. currency, \$14.5 million in assets, 59.6 metric tons of marijuana, 9.7 metric tons of cocaine, 126.7 kilograms of methamphetamine, 9 kilograms of heroin, 249 vehicles, and 77 weapons. One of these SOD investigations, Operation Choque, resulted in the identification and arrest of Mexican CPOTs Oscar, Miguel, and Luis Arriola-Marquez, and the dismantlement of their organization, which, based on ledgers seized by Mexican authorities, was responsible for the smuggling of at least 14,000 kilos of cocaine into the U.S. and the smuggling of \$240 million out of the U.S. Based on information supplied by DEA, Mexican authorities have seized over \$18 million of the Arriola-Marquez Organization’s assets.

2005 Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA)

The Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA) of 2005 was signed into law on March 9, 2006 to regulate, among other things, retail over-the-counter (i.e. nonprescription) sales of products containing the List I chemicals ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine, common ingredients found in cough, cold, and allergy products. The three chemicals can be used for clandestine methamphetamine manufacture. Retail provisions of the CMEA included daily sales limits and 30-day purchase limits, placement of product out of direct customer access, record keeping requirements on most sales, customer ID verification, employee training and self-certification of regulated sellers. The CMEA was passed to curtail their availability for diversion to the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine or amphetamine. The CMEA mandated that, to purchase products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine, an individual must show identification and sign a log book at pharmacies. DEA, along with state and local law enforcement, were responsible for monitoring these log books to identify if any one person is purchasing more than 9 grams within a month’s time. Additional provisions of the CMEA mandated that DEA establish total annual requirements, import quotas, individual manufacturing quotas, and procurement quotas for the three meth precursors; limit the domestic production and importation of materials containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine to quantities necessary for medical, scientific and other legitimate purposes; and eliminate exemptions for chemical mixtures containing these chemicals regardless of concentration or form.

U.S./Mexico Methamphetamine Partnership (2006)

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Mexican Attorney General Daniel Cabeza De Vaca announced new anti-methamphetamine initiatives and new partnerships between the U.S.



and Mexico at a National Methamphetamine and Chemicals Initiative Strategy Conference in Dallas held May 17-18, 2006. The goals of the new initiatives and partnerships were improved enforcement, increased law enforcement training, improved information-sharing, and increased public awareness concerning U.S./Mexico anti-trafficking efforts.

The initiatives included:

- establishing specialized meth enforcement teams on either side of the border, to whom DEA donated six refurbished trucks used in clan lab enforcement operations;
- collaborative intelligence efforts focused on investigating large-scale meth trafficking organizations that were operating in Mexico and the U.S.;
- establishment of a Bi-National Law Enforcement Working Group to focus on meth production and trafficking from both an enforcement and intelligence perspective;
- joint DEA/Mexican police development of a Most Wanted list of chemical and methamphetamine trafficking organizations, focus on the biggest threats;
- and exchanges of DEA/Mexican chemical regulatory personnel to enable both sides to observe, learn best practices, and implement joint strategies.

In addition, DEA offered training for nearly 1,000 Mexican police officials in locations throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Central America on investigative, enforcement, and regulatory methods related to meth trafficking. Domestic U.S. efforts were planned to focus on a redirection of DEA clan lab enforcement teams and direct them toward identifying and dismantling U.S.-based transportation and distribution cells. In addition, DEA established a national meth registry at the DEA website identifying locations of U.S. properties at which meth labs or chemical dumpsites were found; and a new, state-of-the-art clan lab training facility was planned for the DEA Academy at Quantico.

Puppies Used to Smuggle Heroin (2006)

On Feb. 1, 2006, DEA concluded a two-year multi-agency investigation that identified an organization based in Medellin, Colombia that was using varied and unique concealment methods for its drug smuggling, including surgically implanting heroin packets in pure-bred puppies. The international round-up included 18 search warrants in six different Colombian cities, and the arrest of 22 Colombian nationals. During the course of the investigation, there were 14 separate seizures of heroin totaling 24 kilograms and one seizure of six kilograms of cocaine. The organization's distribution network reached from Miami to New York City. The story of the puppies, many of which survived the cruel surgery and were adopted by Colombian families, received huge attention in the national and international media, becoming one of DEA's most popular media stories to date. DEA and CNP received a certificate of thanks from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, saying, "Their work in this case has spared untold numbers of animals from painful surgeries, stressful transport across the border, and an uncertain fate in the name of illegal profit."

Oscar Arriola-Marquez, Mexican Drug Kingpin, Arrested (2006)

On Feb. 3, 2006, Mexican drug kingpin Oscar Arturo Arriola-Marquez, head of an international drug distribution network

whose operations extended from Mexico across the U.S. border and throughout the U.S., was arrested in Mexico as a result of a joint operation between DEA and the Mexican authorities. The Arriola-Marquez cartel was a violent criminal organization responsible for trafficking thousands of kilos of cocaine and marijuana into the U.S. and laundering the resulting illegal proceeds. As part of this investigation, Mexican government officials seized approximately \$32 million in assets from the Arriola-Marquez cartel. The cartel was investigated under the Money Trail Initiative for its role in laundering drug money proceeds.

50 Leaders of Narco-Terrorist FARC Indicted (2006)

On March 1, 2006, 50 leaders of the FARC, a designated foreign terrorist organization, were indicted on U.S. charges of importing more than \$25 billion worth of cocaine into the U.S. and other countries. In addition, the U.S. Department of State announced more than \$75 million worth of rewards for information that leads to the capture of the remaining FARC leaders. The FARC was supplying more than 50 percent of the world's cocaine and more than 60 percent of the cocaine that entered the U.S. The paramilitary organization initially taxed other narcotics traffickers involved in the manufacture and distribution of cocaine in areas the FARC controlled. Recognizing the increased profits available, beginning in the 1990s the FARC moved to become directly involved in the production and distribution of cocaine by, among other criminal and violent activities, setting the prices to be paid to farmers across Colombia for cocaine paste, the raw material used to produce cocaine, and transporting cocaine paste to jungle laboratories under FARC control where it was converted into ton quantities of finished cocaine and then shipped out of Colombia to the U.S. and other countries. Recognizing that cocaine was the "lifeblood" of the FARC, the charged FARC leaders collected millions of dollars in cocaine proceeds and used the money to purchase weapons for the FARC's terrorist activities against the government and people of Colombia.

Ecstasy Trafficker Extradited from Israel (2006)

On March 6, 2006, Israeli national and notorious criminal Ze'ev Rosenstein was extradited and appeared in federal court in the Southern District of Florida to face charges he was at the center of a conspiracy to smuggle hundreds of thousands of Ecstasy tablets into the U.S. for illegal sale. A significant part of the case against Rosenstein, worked with the assistance of Israeli authorities and local U.S. authorities in Florida and New York, was based on the seizure of 700,000 Ecstasy pills in July 2001. Rosenstein's indictment covered a two-year period during which he headed a sophisticated drug trafficking network whose operations spanned four continents and involved the shipment of well over one million Ecstasy pills to the U.S. Administrator Tandy called him at the time, "the most infamous criminal in Israel." The July 2001 seizure occurred after one of Rosenstein's co-conspirators sold a sample of the Ecstasy pills to a confidential source in New York. Rosenstein pled guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison in January 2007.

Marijuana-Laced Candy Manufacturers Busted (2006)

On March 16, 2006, DEA arrested 12 individuals on charges of distribution of marijuana. As a result of searches in the San

Francisco Bay area conducted at the time of the arrests, law enforcement seized four sophisticated indoor marijuana grows, thousands of marijuana plants, a large amount of U.S. currency, two semi-automatic weapons, one revolver, and hundreds of pot-laced candy and soft drinks. This investigation began in October 2005, when the DEA obtained information that Beyond Bomb, a manufacturer of marijuana candy in Oakland, CA, was in operation. The marijuana-laced candy and other edibles manufactured by the company mimicked the name and appearance of well known name brand candies and products, such as Stoney Ranchers, Munchy Way, Rasta Reece's, Buddafingers, and Pot Tarts.

Operation Twin Oceans (2006)

The results of DEA-led "Operation Twin Oceans" were announced on May 17, 2006, culminating a three-year multi-jurisdictional and multinational investigation that targeted the cocaine trafficking organization of Colombian national and CPOT target Pablo Rayo-Montano, who was responsible for smuggling more than 15 tons of cocaine per month from Colombia to the streets of the U.S. and Europe. The organization's information technology-savvy managers used highly sophisticated methods to coordinate the movement of cocaine north and illegal drug proceeds south, by means of a vast array of marine vessels, such as fast boats, fishing boats, submersibles, and containerized cargo vessels. The organization was associated with the AUC, FARC, and the North Valley Cartel. An international coalition spearheaded by the Brazilian Federal Police, Panamanian Judicial Police, Colombian National Police, and DEA was responsible for dismantling this international drug cartel. The investigation resulted in over 100 arrests and the seizure of 52 tons of cocaine and nearly \$70 million in assets. As part of Operation Twin Oceans, three islands off the coast of Panama, personally owned by the Rayo-Montano organization, were seized. Additional seizures included assets such as yachts, fishing trawlers, art galleries, and the largest fishing and boating store in Panama. Administrator Tandy described the operation this way: "The Rayo-Montano organization had its own private, rogue navy to run a drug business that was nearly as sophisticated as a small nation. As well-equipped and complex as this enterprise was, it was a matter of time before law enforcement caught on, and now Rayo-Montano's decadent, drug-funded lifestyle has caught up with him. This morning, his real estate holdings went from three islands to one jail cell."

First-Ever Candlelight Vigil for "Lost Promise" Held (2006)

On June 8, 2006, the first-ever Candlelight Vigil took place at Headquarters to bring together those involved in drug prevention, treatment, and education, and those who have lost loved ones—and their promise—to drug abuse. The Vigil was cosponsored by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Courage to Speak Foundation. The event was attended by about 500 people and included many families who suffered the loss of a loved one to drugs. Joining these families was Dr. Lonise Bias, mother of former University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, who was a guest speaker 20 years after her son's cocaine-related death. As part of the event, a Memorial Wall and a Virtual Wall were established for families and friends to post photos and brief

stories of loved ones lost to drugs. The Memorial Wall became part of the "Target America" traveling exhibit.

Francisco Javier Arellano-Felix Arrested (2006)

On Aug. 14, 2006, AFO leader Francisco Javier Arellano-Felix was arrested by the U.S. Coast Guard in international waters on a recreational vessel off the coast of Mexico based on DEA intelligence. Also taken into custody and arrested at the same time was Manuel Arturo Villarreal-Heredia, a member and one of Arellano's top six under bosses, in command of crews that carried out enforcement operations and drug trafficking activities on behalf of the AFO. Both men were subsequently indicted and charged with racketeering, drug trafficking, money laundering offenses, and with operating a continuing criminal enterprise, under which they are eligible for the death penalty.

Francisco Javier Arellano-Felix is the youngest of four Arellano-Felix brothers who controlled the Arellano-Felix drug cartel since the late 1980s. He was put in charge of AFO daily Tijuana/Mexicali operations in 2000, and assumed control of the cartel in March of 2002 following the incapacitation of his older brothers Benjamin (arrested in Mexico in March 2002) and Ramon (killed in Mexico in February 2002). Chief of Operations Michael Braun said at a press conference announcing Javier's arrest: "For over a decade, the Arellano-Felix family dominated the Mexican drug trade and flooded our nation with literally tons of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine. That dynasty, built on drugs and violence, began to topple in 2002 with the death of one Arellano-Felix brother and the arrest of another, and was further weakened with the 2003 indictments of the major remaining organization leaders.

The DEA has pursued those leaders relentlessly ever since. The capture of Francisco Javier Arellano-Felix is the successful culmination of years of hard work by the Drug Enforcement Administration and our counterparts here and in Mexico ... We've got this brutal organization in a chokehold and we're not letting up."

Mexican Law Enforcement Officials Graduate From DEA Academy Anti-Meth Training (2006)

On Sept. 7, 2006, DEA completed its first ever clandestine methamphetamine laboratory safety training class for Mexican law enforcement officers conducted at the DEA Training Academy in Quantico, VA. Forty-nine officers from the Mexican-based Federal Preventive Police (PFP) and six prosecutors from the Federal Organized Crime Division Prosecutors (SIEDO) received a month-long course. The training was part of the larger agreement between DEA and the Government of Mexico to establish specialized methamphetamine enforcement teams on both sides of the border. In Mexico, these Mexican enforcement teams focused on investigating and targeting the most wanted Mexican methamphetamine drug trafficking organizations in five meth hot spots in the Mexican states of Sinaloa, Michoacan, Jalisco, Sonora, and Baja California Norte. The training covered the latest techniques in clandestine lab detection, enforcement, and chemical identification. During CY 2006 through the end of CY 2007, more than 3,300 Mexican law enforcement officers were trained by DEA to improve their methamphetamine trafficking law enforcement skills. This training included the first opportunity for Mexican officers to be certified in clandestine laboratory investigations.



Rodriguez-Orejuela Brothers Extradited and Pled Guilty (2006)

Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela, brothers who ran the infamous Cali Cartel in Colombia that was responsible for importing tons of cocaine into the U.S. over the last two decades, pled guilty on Sept. 26, 2006, to a charge of conspiracy to import cocaine into the U.S. They also pled guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering by hiding the proceeds of narcotics trafficking. Under the terms of the plea deal, the Rodriguez-Orejuela brothers agreed to the entry of a final judgment of forfeiture in the amount of \$2.1 billion to be levied against their narcotics-related assets and businesses found anywhere in the world. That included any narcotics-funded assets previously put in the names of family members in an effort to thwart forfeiture. "These guilty pleas deal a final and fatal blow to the Cali Cartel, a violent drug trafficking organization that once operated outside of the law," said Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales.

The brothers were arrested by Colombian authorities in 1995 and were sentenced to 30 years in prison based on their illegal conduct after 1997, when Colombia lifted the seven-year-long prohibition against extraditing its nationals. While imprisoned in Colombia, they continued to run their cartel from prison by working through Miguel's son, William Rodriguez-Abadia, and others who oversaw various aspects of the cartel using new routes and new methods - such as hiding cocaine in shipments of empty chlorine gas cylinders and, later, the placement of cocaine in containers of pumpkins for surreptitious removal by co-conspirators working at the Port of Miami. On March 8, 2006, William Rodriguez-Abadia pleaded guilty in Miami to his involvement in this drug trafficking conspiracy and was sentenced to more than 21 years in prison. After Colombia lifted its ban on the extradition of nationals in 1997, U.S. law enforcement and Colombian counterparts continued to investigate the Rodriguez-Orejuela brothers, resulting in criminal charges in Miami and New York. Then in December 2004, Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela was extradited from Colombia, and Miguel was extradited in March 2005 to face prosecution on those charges.

The brothers were leaders of the Cali Cartel that for many years was the largest supplier of cocaine to the U.S., responsible for sending a total of more than 200 tons of cocaine to this country. Drug shipments were smuggled in using a variety of concealment methods, including secreting the cocaine in concrete posts, ceramic tiles, and coffee. The cartel was a sophisticated criminal enterprise handling all aspects of the cocaine trade, including production, transportation, wholesale distribution, and money laundering. At the height of its reign, the cartel used violence to terrorize would-be competitors and potential witnesses, and relied upon corruption to influence and gain control of many Colombian institutions.

Although the Rodriguez-Orejuela brothers were imprisoned by Colombia in 1995, the money laundering conspiracy charges against them, to which they agreed to plead guilty, alleged that they laundered the illicit fortune of the Cali Cartel through a pharmaceutical drug empire that included more than 400 retail drug stores across Colombia and pharmaceutical drug laboratories that manufactured the drugs. By investing millions of cocaine-trafficking dollars in these ostensibly legitimate companies, the Rodriguez-Orejuela brothers succeeded in laundering millions of dollars of Cali Cartel cocaine proceeds. In addition to the agree-

ments entered by the brothers, 28 of their family members entered into an agreement with the U.S. in which they agreed to forfeit their right, title, and interest in all Rodriguez-Orejuela business entities and other assets worldwide, as well as all assets of any nature in the U.S.

The convictions of the Rodriguez-Orejuela brothers resulted from OCEDEF investigation Operation Cornerstone, an ICE-led investigation that began in August 1991 with the discovery of more than 12,000 kilograms of cocaine at the port of Miami hidden inside a cargo of cement posts imported from South America. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of several individuals and provided evidence that the Cali Cartel had become the greatest drug trafficking threat to the U.S., eclipsing the dying Medellin Cartel. Operation Cornerstone yielded several major seizures of cocaine, including the cocaine hidden in products shipped from Central America. Since it began, Operation Cornerstone led to the conviction of 105 defendants, the seizure of 47,500 kilograms of cocaine, and documentation through seized records and witness testimony of 200,000 kilos of cocaine being smuggled into the U.S., representing \$2.1 billion in drug proceeds.

DEA Policy on Pain Treatment (2006)

On Sept. 6, 2006, DEA unveiled a proposed rule to make it easier for patients with chronic pain or other chronic conditions to avoid multiple trips to a physician. It allowed a physician to prescribe up to a 90-day supply of Schedule II controlled substances during a single office visit, where medically appropriate. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was accompanied by a policy statement, "Dispensing Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain," which provided information requested by medical professionals regarding DEA's position on this important issue. DEA also launched a new page on its website called "Cases Against Doctors." DEA's guiding principle was to prevent the abuse and diversion of prescription controlled substances, which had become increasingly popular and deadly, without impacting the ability of patients with legitimate need to have full access to pain relief prescribed by their physician. The new policy statement outlined the longstanding legal requirements on dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of pain. It addressed the requirement that controlled substances be prescribed only for a legitimate medical purpose, examined the issues surrounding the treatment of pain, and elaborated on DEA's policy for taking appropriate legal action against those very few physicians who illegally prescribe controlled substances. "We believe that the statement and proposed rule will help the medical professional ensure that only patients who need medication for pain relief get it. The statement reflects an awareness of patients' needs as well as the importance of preventing any illegal diversion of prescription drugs," added Administrator Tandy.

On Nov. 19, 2007, DEA finalized its rule regarding the issuance by physicians of multiple sequential Schedule II prescriptions. Under the rule, physicians must, as they have always been required to do, determine whether the patient has a legitimate medical need for the controlled substance being prescribed, and must be acting in the usual course of professional practice. DEA's proposed regulation would then permit the physician to issue multiple Schedule II prescriptions, during a single office visit, allowing patients to receive a total of up to a 90-day supply of controlled substances according to the fill date that the doctor gives the pharmacist.

Operation Triple Play (2006)

With the Sept. 28, 2006, culmination of “Operation Triple Play,” DEA announced the unsealing of charges in Manhattan federal court against 22 members of a massive Ecstasy-trafficking organization that smuggled more than \$5 million worth of Ecstasy from Canada into the U.S. for resale. Nineteen defendants were arrested in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and one defendant was arrested in Canada. Law enforcement seized more than 50,000 Ecstasy pills worth more than \$1 million, and over \$100,000 in cash. According to a three-count indictment, since 2005, the criminal organization imported more than 250,000 Ecstasy pills — worth more than \$5 million on New York City streets — from Canada into the U.S. for distribution. The organization was supplied by Jung Chao and Chung My Huong Nguyen, who were based in Canada

and occasionally traveled into the U.S. to oversee the distribution of tens of thousands of Ecstasy pills. The indictment charged that Thuong Tri Tang, aka “Tang,” was the criminal organization’s primary distributor of Ecstasy in the U.S. Tang had direct dealings with the sources of supply in Canada, receiving tens of thousands of Ecstasy pills at a time for distribution in the U.S. After the Ecstasy pills were smuggled across the border from Canada into the U.S., Tang arranged for the distribution of the organization’s pills to the distribution cells on the East Coast. The distribution cells then sold the Ecstasy to retail drug dealers for resale to users in the street, in clubs, and in brothels. Once the Ecstasy was sold in the U.S., members of the organization arranged for the drug proceeds to be collected and laundered back to the organization’s sources of supply in Canada. The criminal organization stored the pills at self-storage facilities located in New Jersey. The Ecstasy pills were labeled with many different stamps or markings, including, among others: a cherry, the Versace and Louis Vitton logos, and a 6-point star.

Operation Cyber-Roid (2006)

On October 26, 2006, five defendants were arrested in two separate criminal cases involving illegal distribution of prescription drugs and anabolic steroids via the Internet. DEA, the FDA, and IRS began the investigation in 2005 following a complaint from a Massachusetts man that his son had used his credit card without permission to purchase anabolic steroids over the Internet from PMeds.com. Six defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, including anabolic steroids, through the website PMeds.com. Beginning in January 2003, the website took orders from a residence in Massachusetts, forwarded the orders to a site in Metepec, Mexico, and then smuggled anabolic steroids and other controlled substances into the U.S. for shipment to customers. PMeds also used commercial carriers to ship steroids concealed in electronic equipment and women’s shoes into the U.S. Another defendant located in Georgia supplied PMeds with steroids and other controlled substances from his business in Belize.



Agustin Vasquez-Mendoza is escorted to a police vehicle while being extradited to the U.S.

Richard Fass Murderer Extradited from Mexico and Sentenced to Life (2006)

The extradition on Jan. 29, 2005, from Mexico of Agustin Vasquez-Mendoza, the murderer of Special Agent Richard E. Fass, culminated a long and arduous investigation led by the Phoenix Division with assistance from the Mexico City Country Office. On Nov. 14, 2006, Agustin Vasquez-Mendoza was sentenced to life in prison for the first-degree murder of Special Agent Fass. The sentencing was the fourth stemming from the June 1994 murder of Agent Fass during an undercover operation in Glendale, AZ. Vasquez-Mendoza was convicted by a state jury in August 2006 on a 10-count indictment that included armed robbery, kidnapping, and first-degree murder charges. Evidence at trial proved Vasquez-Mendoza and three associates planned to rob Agent Fass of \$160,000 in cash they believed was for the purchase of methamphetamine. At the time of sentencing, Phoenix SAC Tim Landrum said, “Twelve years ago, this agency was robbed of a brave and talented Special Agent. Twelve years ago, a family was robbed of a loving husband and father. Nothing can change that. So today is not a happy day, but it is a day of hard-fought justice. DEA will never forget Richard Fass, and we honor his memory by working tirelessly to put all violent drug traffickers behind bars.”

National Methamphetamine Awareness Day (2006)

President George W. Bush issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 30, 2006, National Methamphetamine Awareness Day the largest single nationwide educational effort warning against the dangers of using methamphetamine. It was part of a nationwide effort highlight national efforts to increase awareness and decrease demand for the drug. Leading this effort, the Department of Justice coordinated over 100 events across the country by working with partners at the federal, state and local level, in the government, private, and non-profit sectors. DEA held press conferences, town hall meetings, presentations, and informational meetings across the country and set up mock meth labs to demonstrate the dangers.



DEA Creates First-Ever National Meth Site Registry (2006)

On Dec. 5, 2006, the DEA announced that DEA's webpage would post locations in each state where known methamphetamine clandestine labs or dumpsites were located, so that individuals could be aware of possible meth-contaminated sites within their communities. This was the first such national listing of seized former meth sites available to the public. The new website captured addresses reported by a variety of law enforcement agencies where chemicals or other items related to meth production were found or dumped.

Domestic Monitor Programs (2006)

In 1979, the New York Field Division initiated the Heroin Domestic Monitor Program (HDMP), a retail heroin buy program whose goal is to provide information regarding the nature of the domestic heroin problem at the street level. New York's large heroin user market and strategic location as a gateway city for heroin distribution in the U.S. served as the impetus for instituting this program. The HDMP provides to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement authorities, drug policymakers, and drug-abuse researchers, information on the price, purity, and geographic origin of retail-level heroin that is available in major metropolitan areas of the U.S. Over the past 30 years, the HDMP has proven to be a valuable tool in identifying emerging heroin markets, the dominant type of heroin available, and new geographic sources of heroin. With this information, DEA has aggressively targeted emerging heroin problems, as well as developed strategies to counter them. The program has been expanded to 28 U.S. cities.

In 2006, DEA initiated the Cocaine and Methamphetamine Domestic Monitor Programs, modeled after the Heroin DMP. Due to the threat posed by cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking, these programs were instituted to provide data to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement authorities, drug policymakers, and drug-abuse researchers on the prices and purity of cocaine and methamphetamine at the retail level. Cocaine DMP was initiated in 11 cities and the Methamphetamine DMP in 12 cities. These pilot programs are reflecting that there are wide variations in drug purity even within the same city that may indicate shifts in distribution and/or corroborate investigative intelligence regarding changes in availability.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Fusion Center (2006)

Under DEA leadership, the OCDETF Fusion Center became fully operational in 2006 with the mission to fuse all investigative and regulatory reporting contributed by its participating agencies. The Center provides a common, central repository for all drug, drug-related financial, and gang-related case data from its participating agencies, as well as intelligence analysis generated by the Center. It provides a permanent, collective body of knowledge developed over time, as well as continually updated intelligence that is fused with new reporting. Through both human analysis and sophisticated link analysis tools, the Center conducts comprehensive analyses of available information, produces investigative leads for investigators in the field, and supports the coordination of multi-agency, multi jurisdictional investigations targeting the most significant drug trafficking organizations threatening the U.S. At the heart of the OFC is a powerful computer with access

to a massive database that applies advanced analytics to queries, as well as one of the most potent free text search engines available today.

Support to the Diversion Control Program

The Intelligence Program has expanded its support to the DEA Diversion Control Program with the addition of 73 Intelligence Analysts. Intelligence analytical support to the Diversion Control Program can vary from support to criminal or regulatory investigations to strategic intelligence projects. DEA Intelligence provided support to an investigation of the third largest pharmaceutical distributor in the country, ranked 19 on the Fortune 500 list of major corporations. The analysis indicated that the company disregarded DEA compliance requirements and sold millions of dosage units of hydrocodone to rogue Internet pharmacies. On October 2, the company agreed to pay a \$34 million settlement for failure to report suspicious sales. Intelligence support to the Diversion Control Program also led to the designation of the first chemical Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT). This organization attempted to illegally import into Mexico over 300 metric tons of pseudoephedrine tablets to supply Mexican methamphetamine producers, an amount that could have potentially produced approximately 60 metric tons of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of over \$1 billion.

DEA Rejoins the Intelligence Community (2006)

In February 2006, with the signing of a joint memorandum by the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General, DEA re-joined the Intelligence Community (IC) through the designation of the Office of National Security Intelligence in the Intelligence Division as the 16th member of the IC. The DEA and the IC have a long history of partnering to produce strategic assessments and identify and disrupt drug trafficking organizations, a successful partnership that has facilitated the exchange of vital information and the leveraging of expertise. The Office of National Security Intelligence facilitates intelligence coordination and information sharing with other members of the intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security communities by ensuring that DEA resources are responsive to national security requirements and leveraging the institutions, diversity, and capabilities of the Intelligence Community to strengthen and support law enforcement efforts. The Office of National Security Intelligence disseminates DEA intelligence products-- operational and strategic--through cables and in finished intelligence format directly to partner agencies. Through its membership in the IC the Office of National Security Intelligence also represents DEA and its interests by ensuring that issues related to drug trafficking are brought to the attention of the highest levels of the Intelligence Community.

El Paso Intelligence Center

The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) made a significant advancement in information collection and sharing by adding foreign government liaison officers to its staff. Representatives from the Colombian National Police and the Government of Mexico, Attorney General's Office, now serve in EPIC. The benefit of the foreign liaison presence was realized almost immediately with the facilitation of the exchange of information regarding the interdiction by Mexican authorities of a Self Propelled Semi-submersible

(SPSS) vessel used in cocaine smuggling. Based on expanding trust, EPIC Intelligence Analysts participated in a debriefing of four crew members of the captured SPSS, as well as examining the seized SPSS vessel. The Colombian representative provided valuable information on SPSS activities. The Colombian and Mexican representatives provide weekly briefings to EPIC, which has increased the depth and significance of the information being shared. The weekly briefings and daily contact with the liaison officers are proving to be a significant opportunity for the exchange of valuable information that can and is being applied in law enforcement operations.

In an effort to expand support to the law enforcement community, EPIC launched a concerted effort in 2006 to make EPIC information more available through Internet technology under the EPIC Open Connectivity Project, which provides web-based access to EPIC data. Users now can access EPIC data from their internet connection that can be in their offices or in their squad cars. The information available includes 34 years of drug information collected from state/local federal agencies. EPIC's Open Connectivity has proven very successful because of its ease of use, timely responses, and diversity of valuable, usable information that can be applied in a law enforcement setting.

As part of EPIC's Open Connectivity Project, a National Seizure System (NSS) was developed by EPIC and its many law enforcement partners. NSS captures via Internet communication drug seizures from around the world, with particular focus on those in the U.S. The information available includes type and amount of drug, circumstances leading to the seizure, organizations associated with the seizure, information on arrestees, and post seizure/event information to include detainee and seizure photos, diagrams, charts, and maps. Users/contributors also can manipulate and analyze the data for strategic purposes within their areas of responsibility or beyond, or request that EPIC provide the analysis of that data set. There are now over 13,000 users who have registered to access EPIC's data, clearly indicating the value placed on this innovative tool developed by the law enforcement community.

EPIC initiated the Gatekeeper Project to research, analyze, and report information on the Mexican drug trafficking organizations that control entry corridors in Mexico for illegal goods being smuggled into the U.S. The tracking and analysis of the operations and members/associates of these organizations provide specific information on command and control, organizational structures, and methods of operation of the traffickers operating on the U.S. Mexican border. It also serves as a guide for policy makers to better understand drug smuggling across the border and initiate enforcement programs and prioritize U.S. counter drug operations. EPIC has provided briefings on the Gatekeeper Project to many government and law enforcement officials to include members of Congress, all of whom recognize the value of this program.

EPIC receives information from many law enforcement, military, and Intelligence Community agencies. A perfect example of EPIC's collection, analytical, and coordination capabilities is reflected in the analysis of intelligence received about possible maritime drug movement in the Pacific Ocean. It was not known if this drug operation involved a surface transfer using go-fast vessels or a self propelled semisubmersible (SPSS) vessel. After several days of critical analysis of incoming intelligence, EPIC was able to locate the suspect vessel. The information was coordinated with

the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South and the Information Analysis Center in Mexico City. EPIC determined the vessel was possibly an SPSS – information that was passed onto the Mexican Navy that interdicted the SPSS and seized 5.8 metric tons of cocaine.

Operation Click-4-Drugs (2007)

On Jan. 29, 2007, "Operation Click-4-Drugs" was launched, targeting a Puerto Rico-based organization that distributed large quantities of Schedule III and Schedule IV controlled substances via the Internet. These Internet doctors issued thousands of illegal prescriptions via the Internet for drugs such as hydrocodone, phentermine, and diazepam. The physicians were involved with Internet Facilitation Centers and Internet pharmacies that solicited customers throughout the U.S. who were seeking controlled substances. These centers referred the customers to these physicians using numerous web sites and email addresses. The doctors reviewed on-line questionnaires and electronically approved prescriptions via the Internet, with no legitimate medical examination. Pharmacies in the U.S. would then ship the controlled substances via private carriers to customers in numerous jurisdictions within the 50 states.

Gulf Cartel Boss Extradited with 14 Other Mexican Traffickers (2007)

On Jan. 19, 2007, Osiel Cardenas-Guillen, head of Mexico's Gulf Cartel that controlled large-scale marijuana and cocaine trafficking from Mexico to the U.S., was extradited to the U.S., along with 14 other of the world's most violent and ruthless criminals. Cardenas-Guillen was captured on March 14, 2003, by law enforcement in Mexico, with the assistance of DEA, the FBI, and U.S. Customs. Cardenas-Guillen was one of the most wanted, feared, and violent drug traffickers in the world. The Gulf Cartel was responsible for the transportation of thousands of kilograms of drugs into the U.S. from Colombia through Mexico's Northeastern region. Administrator Tandy said of the historic extraditions: "It was a clean sweep-those extradited include leaders from all four of Mexico's major drug cartels: a gatekeeper who controlled drug smuggling across the border for the Juarez cartel; two top echelon lieutenants of the Tijuana cartel; the kingpin of the Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cardenas-Guillen; and two high-level lieutenants, two mid-level lieutenants, and both a high and mid-level transportation coordinator for the Federation. These extraditions are unprecedented in the history of Mexico."

Operation Imperial Emperor (2007)

Operation Imperial Emperor, a long-term investigation into a Mexican drug trafficking organization and its U.S.-based distribution cells, resulted in the arrest of more than 400 individuals nationwide and the seizure of \$45 million and 18 tons of drugs. The operation, which concluded on Feb. 28, 2007, targeted the Mexico-based Victor Emilio Cazares-Gastellum, a.k.a. "Victor Emilio Cazares-Salazar," drug trafficking organization, which had been supplying multi-ton quantities of cocaine, as well as large amounts of methamphetamine and marijuana, monthly to distribution cells throughout the U.S. The organization had also laundered millions of dollars generated from this illegal activity.

The 20-month DEA-led investigation resulted in the seizure of approximately \$45.2 million in U.S. currency, 27,229 pounds



of marijuana, 9,512 pounds of cocaine, 705 pounds of methamphetamine, 227 pounds of pure methamphetamine or “ice,” and 11 pounds of heroin. “The Cazares-Gastellum drug empire that rose to such heights of power in only two years, fell today at the hands of DEA and our partners,” said Administrator Tandy. “This sprawling drug domain, headquartered in Mexico, penetrated deep into all corners of this country. Today we ripped out this empire’s U.S. infrastructure from its commanders and transportation coordinators to its local distribution cells across the country and stripped it of \$45 million in cash.”

\$207 Million Seized in Mexico City (2007)

On March 20, 2007, \$207 million was seized in Mexico, the largest single drug cash seizure the world had ever seen. This record-setting feat was the result of tremendous police work by Mexican law enforcement in collaboration with DEA. The money was seized from chemical brokers who were supplying chemicals to Mexican cartels to manufacture huge quantities of methamphetamine—most destined for the U.S. Mexican law enforcement seized the money from the residence of Zhenli Ye Gon, the owner of a pharmaceutical wholesale business based in Mexico City. Ye Gon was arrested by DEA on July 23, 2007, in Maryland on drug and money laundering charges for allegedly conspiring to aid and abet the manufacturing of methamphetamine, knowing that it would be imported into the U.S. Administrator Karen Tandy explained the significance of the arrest by saying: “With the arrest of Zhenli Ye Gon, we’ve apprehended not only the man behind the money, but the man behind the meth. He may never have touched the drugs, but he made it all possible, facilitating the massive meth trade by brokering chemicals to kingpins.”

DEA, Coast Guard Make Record Maritime Cocaine Seizure (2007)

On March 21, 2007, the DEA and the U.S. Coast Guard announced the record maritime seizure of 42,845 pounds of cocaine aboard the Panamanian flagged motor vessel *Gatun* off the coast of Panama. A Coast Guard boarding team conducted a search and discovered the cocaine hidden in two containers aboard the ship. The 14 Panamanian and Mexican crewmembers of the *Gatun* were arrested and transferred to the U.S. and Panama for prosecution. The cocaine denied Mexican drug lords an estimated \$300 million. Previously, the largest cocaine seizures by the Coast Guard were: 30,109 pounds from the stateless vessel *Lina Maria* in 2004; 26,397 pounds from the Cambodian-flagged vessel *Svesda Maru* in 2001; and 26,369 pounds from the Belize-flagged vessel *San Jose* also in 2004—and 23.5 metric tons of cocaine seized by Mexican authorities in Manzanillo, Mexico, based upon DEA-supplied intelligence.

DEA Declared a Great Place to Work (2007)

On May 3, 2007, DEA continued to distinguish itself as one of the highest performers among government agencies that employees rate as an outstanding place to work, according to the 2006 Federal Human Capital Survey and the Best Places to Work rankings in the federal government 2006. DEA ranked in the Top 20 best places to work in the federal government, placing 18 out of 222 agencies in the Partnership for Public Service’s rankings of Best Places to Work in the federal government, which is based on responses from more than 221,000 civil servants. DEA

significantly exceeded ratings of other Government agencies in many measures of performance culture. The survey revealed that the majority of DEA employees trust their supervisor, believe the workforce is representative of all segments of society, and would recommend DEA as a good place to work.

Arrest of Taliban-Linked Afghan Heroin Trafficker (2007)

Mohammad Essa was arrested on May 11, 2007 and was charged with conspiring to import \$25 million worth of heroin from Afghanistan and Pakistan into the U.S. and other countries. Essa, previously in custody in Afghanistan, consented to his removal to the U.S., and arrived in New York on April 27, 2007. From 1990 until January 2005, Essa was a member of the Baz Mohammad heroin trafficking organization. Essa is one of the co-conspirators alleged to have managed the distribution of heroin by the Baz Mohammad organization’s operatives in the U.S. and elsewhere. From 1994 through 2000, Essa and his co-conspirators had collected heroin proceeds in the U.S. for the Taliban.

International Drug Enforcement Conference (2007)

On May 8, 2007, the DEA sponsored the 25th International Drug Enforcement Conference in Madrid, Spain. Participating countries had grown from 12 in 1982, to 84 countries from all corners of the world. The 12 charter countries were: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the U.S., and Venezuela. Between 2004 and 2008, IDECs were held and focused on the following themes:

- IDEC XXII: 2004, Lima, Peru: “Combating International Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering”
- IDEC XXIII: 2005, Santiago, Chile: “Expanding Global Partnerships to Destroy Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Organizations”
- IDEC XXIV: 2006, Montreal, Canada: “Targeting Drug Trafficking Money Laundering, and Diversion of Chemicals on a Global Level”
- IDEC XXV: 2007, Madrid, Spain: “Celebrating 25 Years of Cooperation”
- IDEC XXVI: 2008, Istanbul, Turkey: “Drug Law Enforcement in a Changing World”

International Arms Dealer With Ties to Terrorist Organizations Arrested and Extradited (2007)

Monzer al Kassar, an international arms dealer, was arrested by Spanish authorities in Madrid on June 8, 2007, and was charged with conspiring to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons to the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC)—a designated foreign terrorist organization — to be used to kill Americans in Colombia. He and two associates were arrested as they prepared to finalize the multimillion-dollar transaction to pay for the weapons. Since the early 1970s, Kassar had been a ready source of weapons and military equipment for armed factions engaged in violent conflicts around the world. Kassar had provided weapons and military equipment to such factions in Nicaragua, Brazil, Cyprus, Bosnia, Croatia, Somalia, Iran, and Iraq, among other countries. Some of these factions had included known terrorist organizations, such as the Palestinian Liberation Front, the goals of which included attacking U.S. interests and U.S. nationals. Between February 2006 and May 2007, Kassar and his associates

agreed to sell to the FARC millions of dollars worth of weapons, including thousands of machine guns, millions of rounds of ammunition, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and surface-to-air missile systems. During a series of recorded telephone calls, emails, and in-person meetings, Kassar agreed to sell the weapons to two confidential sources working with DEA who represented that they were acquiring these weapons for the FARC, with the specific understanding that the weapons were to be used to attack U.S. helicopters in Colombia. Kassar also promised to provide the FARC with ton-quantities of C4 explosives, as well as expert trainers from Lebanon to teach the FARC how to effectively use C4 and improvised explosive devices. In addition, Kassar offered to send a thousand men to fight with the FARC against U.S. military officers in Colombia.

At the time of his arrest, Administrator Tandy stated, “Monzer al Kassar commands a global munitions empire, arming and funding insurgents and terrorists across the globe, particularly those who wish to harm Americans. He operates in the shadows, the silent partner behind the business of death and terror. Kassar’s capture is a testament to DEA’s unique investigative skills and broad reach of its international intelligence network.”

Kassar was extradited from Spain on June 13, 2008.

Kingpin Salazar-Espinoza Extradited and Found Guilty (2007)

On June 18, 2007, a jury in Manhattan convicted Manuel “Hoover” Salazar-Espinoza on cocaine importation and money laundering charges. Manuel Hoover Salazar-Espinoza was a CPOT and had conspired with notorious Mexican cocaine cartel leaders Armando Valencia-Cornelio and Oscar Navavalencia to import ton-quantities of Colombian cocaine, through Mexico, to the City of New York, on a weekly basis. Salazar-Espinoza had also assisted in the laundering of \$14 million in narcotics proceeds per week during the period 2002 to 2005, and was responsible for a 1.3-



Stolen hydrocodone tablets.

ton cocaine shipment destined for the U.S. that was seized while concealed in the arm of a crane in Panama in July 2005. Colombian authorities, pursuant to a request for a provisional arrest from the U.S., arrested Salazar-Espinoza in Cali, Colombia on May 23, 2005. He was extradited from Colombia on August 23, 2006.

Theft of 16.6 Million Hydrocodone Tablets (2007)

In June 2007, a tractor trailer containing over sixteen million hydrocodone tablets was stolen from a Pilot Truck Stop in Troy, IL. The tablets were being transported from the manufacturer in California to a pharmaceutical distribution facility in Gurnee, IL. Several days later, local law enforcement discovered the stolen cab 10 miles north of Troy, IL, but the trailer was still missing.

On July 3, 2007, DEA St. Louis staff conducted two interviews with local television stations that aired stories about the theft. DEA provided the reporters with information regarding the thefts, including descriptions of two suspects and a description of the missing trailer. That same day a witness contacted the Troy Police Department and informed them that a trailer matching the television description was located at a vacant lot near Troy. Troy Police and DEA St. Louis responded to the location and located the trailer. The trailer was unlocked and appeared to still be full, with the pallets inside still shrink-wrapped.

The recovery of what amounted to 16,659,900 stolen hydrocodone tablets and 804,000 glipizide tablets prevented the illegal distribution of nearly \$83 million in black market value hydrocodone. Follow-up investigations by the DEA St. Louis Tactical Diversion Squad led to the identification, indictment and conviction in U.S. District Court of the hijackers.

“Good Medicine, Bad Behavior” Exhibit Opens (2007)

On Nov. 13, 2007, a new DEA Museum exhibit opened on prescription drug abuse, “Good Medicine, Bad Behavior: Drug Diversion in America.” The exhibit delved into the rising prescription drug abuse problem in America. It explored the history of prescrip-



The extradition of Manuel “Hoover” Salazar-Espinoza.



tion drug abuse and diversion in the U.S., and efforts to combat the problem through time. The exhibit included re-creations of period pharmacies, depictions of significant cases, and displays that illustrated the impact of these substances on the human body. The rise of rogue internet pharmacies in the past ten years also was highlighted. The exhibit presented the science of how these medicines can have therapeutic effects on the body when taken properly, but detrimental effects when misused. There also was a resource area where visitors could read more about the issues surrounding prescription drug abuse, interact with key anti-drug abuse websites, and take home literature with more detailed information.

Colombian Police Officers and Airline Employees Arrested (2007)

On Nov. 28, 2007, five individuals, including Colombian law enforcement and airport and airline personnel, were arrested in Colombia and charged with conspiracy to import heroin into the U.S. Three others, including two Colombian law enforcement officials, were previously arrested as part of the same investigation. Since August 2006, Humbeiro Carvajal Montoya led a drug trafficking organization that smuggled heroin into the U.S. from Colombia through the Jose Maria Cordoba International Airport in Medellin, Colombia. The organization included law enforcement officials and airport and airline personnel who facilitated the export of heroin through Medellin Airport. Couriers for the organization smuggled heroin into the U.S. inside layers of clothing, within the linings of suitcases and handbags, beneath false bottoms of suitcases, inside computers, and inside international cargo, among other means. Organization couriers traveled at least once a month from the Medellin area to New York City, each time carrying between several hundred grams to several kilograms of heroin at a time. New York SAC John P. Gilbride stated, "Due to these arrests, millions of dollars of heroin will cease to land in our neighborhoods and those responsible will face the consequences of their actions."

Operation Funk 49 (2007)

On Dec. 6, 2007, the culmination of Operation Funk 49 was announced by DEA San Diego. Operation Funk 49 was a three-year undercover investigation targeting an international drug trafficking operation originating in Guadalajara, Mexico with a vast distribution network based in San Diego County. The operation began in April 2004, after a tip to law enforcement from a low-level drug user. Investigators followed the drug trail to key distributors in San Diego. During the undercover operation, law enforcement targeted dozens of suspects and continued to patiently follow the complicated drug distribution web to cities across the country. The drug organization smuggled large quantities of methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin from Guadalajara, Mexico, through Tijuana, Mexico into the U.S. From there, it was distributed across the country. In San Diego County, more than a dozen warrants were issued, resulting in the arrests of 59 individuals and the confiscation of two pounds of heroin, 1,246 pounds of cocaine, 604 pounds of methamphetamine, and more than \$9.1 million in cash.

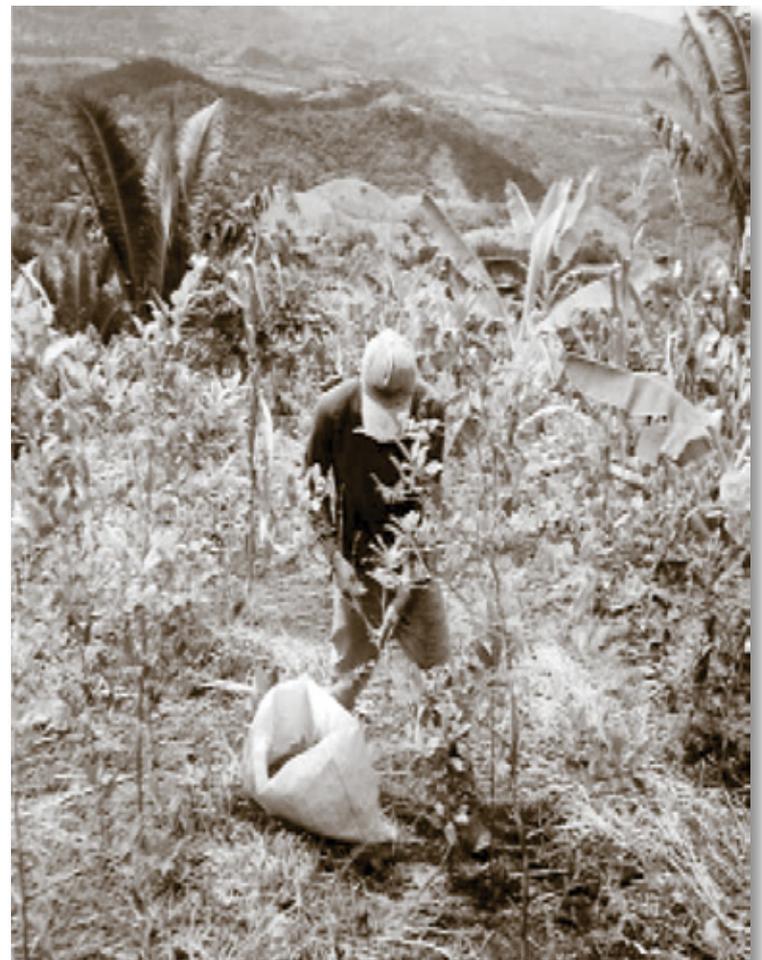
Extradition of Iranian Heroin Trafficker (2007)

On Dec. 14, 2007, DEA announced the extradition from Austria of Hussein Karimi, aka "Hussein Karimi Rikabadi," aka "Hossein Salim Khani," an Iranian national previously living in

Romania, was announced. He was extradited on charges relating to the importation of heroin into the U.S. from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since 1998, Karimi led an international heroin trafficking organization (the "Rikabadi Organization") responsible for the worldwide distribution of thousands of kilograms of South-west Asian heroin. The Rikabadi Organization purchased heroin from suppliers in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and arranged for the heroin to be transported through various countries including Iran and Turkey. The Rikabadi Organization's heroin was imported into the U.S., Canada, and Western European countries and sold for hundreds of millions of dollars. Karimi controlled the heroin-trafficking activities of his organization from locations in Romania. Karimi was arrested in March 2007 while attempting to cross from Austria to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Scientific Studies on Drug Production

The Intelligence Division and the Office of Forensic Sciences have collected and analyzed scientific data on coca cultivation and cocaine processing in the Andean Region and, most recently, on opium poppy cultivation and heroin processing in Colombia and other parts of the world. These studies provide policy makers with unique forensic data and strategic intelligence on the global threats posed by illicit crop cultivation and drug production. The strategic objective of this ongoing initiative is to provide the U.S. counterdrug community with the scientific data required to more accurately estimate potential cocaine and heroin production and to provide senior U.S.G policy makers with new insights critical to the creation of strategies for coca eradication, essential chemical control, and alternative development. This initiative has had a profound impact on the U.S.G's understanding of the threat posed by South American cocaine



and heroin production. For example, in September 2008, the U.S.G decreased its estimate of Colombia's potential cocaine production by 155 metric tons over two years (2006-07). The revised estimates for Colombia are a direct result of several recent DEA coca yield studies in Colombia. DEA experts assess that this 155-metric ton decrease in Colombia's estimated potential cocaine production is largely due to the Colombian National Police's massive and sustained aerial coca eradication operations in certain growing regions of Colombia.

Special Field Intelligence Program Operation African Frontier (2007)

In 2007, DEA/Rome initiated Special Field Intelligence Program (SFIP) African Frontier that addresses a variety of significant intelligence gaps across the African continent. DEA personnel in Europe and Africa participated in broad-based intelligence collection efforts focused on cocaine, heroin, and precursor chemical trafficking organizations operating in Africa, as well as on groups involved in narco-terrorism and international money laundering activities. SFIP African Frontier has enabled DEA to develop an understanding of the drug threats in Africa, which has led to DEA's principle role in the development of U.S.G counter narcotics and aid strategies across Africa. The target-specific data collected under the SFIP has allowed DEA to prioritize enforcement goals in Africa. The strategic-level intelligence has been briefed to senior DEA management, as well as to policy decision makers within the Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, and the National Security Council.

Information Sharing through One-DOJ

The One-DOJ System in the Department of Justice (DOJ) shares criminal law enforcement information across DOJ's internal investigative components, and connects with regional criminal law enforcement sharing initiatives, allowing authorized users to conduct searches of One-DOJ information. This concept reaches across all DOJ information sharing efforts, providing our partners with one access point for DOJ law enforcement information. DEA took a significant collaborative role in developing system policies and providing significant input to DOJ on practical issues regarding its use. DEA also assumed a leadership role as it pertains to data inclusion within the system and currently has over two and one-half million records within the One-DOJ System. DEA has taken an active role in delivering One-DOJ presentations to law enforcement audiences nationwide to detail the system's status and capabilities and encourage participation.

Establishment of Field Intelligence Managers

The Intelligence Division recognized the need to establish Field Intelligence Managers (FIM) within its field divisions and foreign regions in order to develop and manage a comprehensive drug intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination program within their areas of responsibility. FIM positions have been created within all DEA field divisions and foreign regions. FIM responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Identify and target for enforcement action significant drug traffickers/drug trafficking organizations impacting the U.S. from an international, national, regional, or local perspective;
2. Support all phases of DEA/multiagency investigations;

3. Produce strategic drug trafficking assessments on drug trafficking patterns and drug trafficking organizations; and
4. Conduct liaison with federal, state, local, and foreign agencies to facilitate and develop new information sharing programs.

The establishment of these FIM positions improved the identification of priority intelligence collection requirements, effectively allocated intelligence and enforcement resources for collection and analysis purposes, and streamlined the reporting criteria and protocols to ensure timely dissemination of intelligence.

Intelligence Assessments

One of the Intelligence Program's primary functions is to analyze and produce assessments on the various aspects of the drug traffic and those involved in the traffic. To highlight a few: The *Alternative Chemicals Sought to Produce Methamphetamine Precursors* report reflects that some drug trafficking organizations are manufacturing their own meth precursors that are not on domestic or international watch lists and thus can go undetected by law enforcement. The many reports published on drug money laundering and money flow highlight vulnerabilities of undeveloped economies, the types of businesses used to launder drug proceeds, identified the most prevalent business beneficiaries of trafficker-directed funds and demonstrated both the existing vulnerabilities of internet virtual worlds and how their extensive growth and evolution could represent significant challenges for drug law enforcement in the future. DEA also plays a central role in coordinating and leading Intelligence Community strategic intelligence projects. For example, DEA led an interagency effort that produced an assessment that identified crucial relationships between major Mexican and Colombian drug traffickers. The assessment focused on eight major cocaine transporters identified as playing key roles in coordinating activity between Mexican and Colombian drug traffickers. These eight transporters are now targets of joint U.S.G and Government of Mexico intelligence collection and enforcement efforts. Three of the targets have been arrested by Colombian and Mexican authorities. DEA also led an effort to produce a comprehensive examination of the cocaine threat posed by West Africa, with a focus on Guinea-Bissau. DEA reporting and analysis also provided the basis for an assessment of shortages of cocaine in the U.S. DEA's Intelligence Program, in cooperation with many U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, produced *The U.S.-Canada Border Drug Threat Assessment 2007* that provided U.S. and Canadian ministers an up-to-date picture of the current drug trafficking situation between the U.S. and Canada while highlighting areas of concern that needed to be addressed in future collaborative projects.

Drug-Related Violence

Through intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination, DEA's Intelligence Program has taken the lead in defining the critical and increasing threat from drug-related violence along the Southwest Border. DEA Intelligence Analysts lead or participate in formal collection programs, source debriefings, and investigations focused on this threat. The El Paso Field Division, for example, initiated SFIP Tigres del Norte to collect information concerning drug-related violence occurring along the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez trafficking corridor. This initiative col-



lected valuable intelligence on the primary Mexican drug traffickers and assassination squads operating in Ciudad Juarez. The Houston Field Division expanded the aims of Tigres del Norte to encompass violence along the entire southwest border under SFIP Operation Black Flag. The DEA Intelligence Program also produces predictive reports based on the analysis of source debriefings and investigative information in order to forecast where “hot spots” of drug-related violence may surface and who may be targeted. The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) also has devoted considerable intelligence resources to the problem of drug-related violence, focusing on the near-daily changes in the structure and leadership of the dominant drug trafficking organizations. Information provided by EPIC is tactical in nature, and is concerned with the real-time tracking and targeting of drug traffickers in Mexico.

Intelligence Analysts: Key to DEA's Success (2007)

Intelligence Analysts (I/A) were present when DEA Special Agents talked with a longtime Afghan heroin trafficker and warlord. Preparation for the debriefings and the follow up verification of his information kept the debriefing team working 10-14 hours per day. Topics ranged from heroin trafficking proceeds used to fund the insurgency in Afghanistan to the role of the Taliban in the opium trade. After years of analyzing his activities, the I/As literally sat face-to-face with the trafficker across a table, engaging in a give-and-take question and answer session that was essentially a chess match-like battle of wits.

In April 2007, a DEA I/A traveled with DEA Agents to Iraq to interview several alleged insurgents who had been detained by U.S. forces near the Syrian border with a large amount of drugs. The team was investigating whether the suspects were using narcotics proceeds to fund attacks against coalition forces. A native Arabic speaker, the I/A participated in the debriefing of the detainees and provided invaluable support to the DEA team based on his language skills and vast knowledge of Iraqi cultural practices.

An I/A traveled to a Chinese prison to debrief a well known drug trafficker who worked for a Colombian trafficking organization responsible for transporting multi-kilo quantities of cocaine to China. This was the first time that the Government of China allowed DEA to participate in the debriefing of a Chinese criminal defendant.

The I/A assigned to support the investigation of a violent drug trafficking organization --Vineland Boys Organization (VBO), a distribution cell of CPOT Ismael ZAMBADA-Garcia -- successfully linked voluminous pertinent telephone calls with surveillance information, seizures, witness statements, and various criminal acts producing a clear picture of the organization's criminal activities. Significant sentences were handed down. VBO members had murdered two police officers and wounded one in 2003; one was arrested in Mexico and returned to the U.S.

In 1988, DEA Special Agents Paul Seema and George Montoya were murdered in California. When a re-trial of the defendant was granted, preparation for this re-trial required the examination of evidence and reconstruction of testimony dating back 17 years. The I/A's tremendous efforts in evaluating documents, identifying pertinent non-drug evidence, providing assistance to the District Attorney's Office, and liaison abilities were vital to another guilty verdict of the defendant—sentenced to 61 years to life.

The New Orleans Field Division's Intelligence Analysts provided critical analytical support during and following Hurricane Katrina. They excelled in the vital roles of command and control throughout the crisis by ensuring DEA managers and field agents had the information they needed to perform law enforcement missions and conduct rescue operations. Following the storm, an immediate assessment of the changing drug trade in the New Orleans Field Division's area of operation was conducted and recommendations were made regarding the realignment of resources and personnel to meet the changing drug threat.

In early 2007, the Mexican government seized over \$207 million, the largest drug related cash seizure in history from Zhenli Ye Gon. DEA I/As were collecting, researching, and analyzing data for months and were actually tracking his movements just before arrest. As a result of their efforts, several businesses were identified and searched, millions of dollars of assets were seized, witnesses were identified and questioned, and a criminal associate was identified and later indicted.

Results of Meth Enforcement and Initiatives (2008)

By 2008, DEA realized significant success combating the national methamphetamine epidemic, attributable to a number of factors including: legislation adopted by 43 states that curtailed availability of the three meth precursor chemicals; the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005; and strong enforcement efforts by both the U.S. and Mexico. Focused enforcement efforts by DEA; successful investigations; domestic initiatives, including increasing meth priority target investigations and expanding the primary focus of DEA clan lab enforcement teams; and international initiatives, including, in particular, partnership efforts with the Government of Mexico to target the most significant meth trafficking organizations on both sides of the border paid off. Mexico instituted stricter and more comprehensive controls over methamphetamine precursor chemicals than any other government in the world. Meth superlab seizures in the U.S. declined 93 percent from 144 in 2002 to 11 in 2007. Small toxic lab seizures likewise declined 73 percent nationally from a peak in 2003 of 10,146 to 2,732 in 2007.

Meth seizures along the Southwest Border of the U.S. increased from 1,170 kilograms in 2001 to 2,008 kilograms in 2007, a 71 percent increase. Furthermore, between 2001 and 2007, meth use by teens plummeted 64%. 2007 workplace drug tests showed a 50 percent decline in nationwide employee meth use compared to 2005. Finally, meth price and purity data from DEA's System to Retrieve Intelligence from Drug Evidence showed a 19 percent decline in meth purity between 2007 and 2008, and a 56 percent increase in price per pure gram over the same timeframe.

Proliferation of Cannabis-Derived "Hemp" Products

Beginning in the late 1990s, DEA began receiving inquiries about the legal status of products made from the cannabis plant (marijuana), which were being marketed as “hemp” products. Among the cannabis-derived products being sold in the U.S. were food and beverage products, personal care items (such as soaps and shampoos), and industrial products (such as rope, textiles, and paper products). Those who marketed the food and beverage products, as well as the personal care items, claimed that the products contained oil from cannabis seeds. Since marijuana

na and tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) are schedule I controlled substances, questions arose whether these cannabis-derived products were likewise schedule I controlled substances. DEA received such questions from a variety of sources, such as employers whose employees had undergone drug screening and tested positive for THC, only to claim that the results were due to “lawful” ingestion of “hemp” products. DEA also received inquiries from Customs inspectors who requested guidance on the legal status of “hemp” products that were being presented for importation into the U.S. After carefully reviewing the matter, DEA issued a series of rules and regulations in 2001 and 2003 that were designed to address definitively the legal status of these products. DEA took the position that it would follow the plain language of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), which expressly states that anything that contains “any quantity” of marijuana or THC is a schedule I controlled substance. However, as a reasonable accommodation, DEA exempted from control legitimate industrial products that contained THC but were not intended for human consumption (such as clothing, paper, and animal feed). Shortly after DEA issued these rules, a group of companies that manufactured cannabis-derived food products challenged the rules in the ninth circuit federal court of appeals. Despite the plain language of the statute supporting DEA’s position, the ninth circuit ruled in 2004 that the DEA rules were impermissible under the statute and therefore ordered DEA to refrain from enforcing them. Subsequently, in 2006, another federal court of appeals (the eight circuit) took a different view, stating, as DEA had said in its rules: “The plain language of the CSA states that schedule I(c) includes ‘any material... which contains any quantity of THC’ and thus such material is regulated.” *U.S. v. White Plume*, 447 F.3d 1067, 1073 (8th Cir. 2006) (emphasis in original). Thus, the federal courts have expressed conflicting views regarding the legal status of cannabis derivatives.



One of 14 marijuana fields located in the Crabtree Nature Preserve.

Cultivation of Marijuana for Industrial Purposes

Coincident with the increase in marketing of cannabis-derived “hemp” products, there has been an increased interest among some in the U.S. to grow marijuana to produce these products. Under the CSA, anyone who seeks to grow marijuana for any purpose must first obtain a DEA registration authorizing such activity. However, several persons have claimed that growing marijuana to produce so-called “hemp” (which purportedly contains a relatively low percentage of THC) is not subject to CSA control and requires no DEA registration. All such claims have thus far failed, as every federal court that has addressed the issue has ruled that any person who seeks to grow any form of marijuana (no matter the THC content or the purpose for which it is grown) must obtain a DEA registration. *New Hampshire Hemp Council, Inc. v. Marshall*, 203 F.3d 1 (1st Cir 2000); *U.S. v. White Plume*, supra; *Monson v. DEA*, 522 F.Supp.2d 1188 (D. N.D. 2007), appeal docketed, No. 07-3837 (8th Cir. 2007). Another related development during this same time period is that several states have enacted laws declaring cannabis grown for industrial purposes to

be “hemp” - not marijuana - and treating such cannabis as a non-controlled substance. These laws conflict with the CSA, which does not differentiate, for control purposes, between marijuana of relatively low THC content and marijuana of greater THC content. Because of this conflict with federal law, the Governor of California twice vetoed (in 2006 and 2007) bills that would have decontrolled cannabis with a relatively low THC content. Nonetheless, advocates of “hemp” continue to lobby state legislatures to enact such laws.

California Cannabis Clubs

DEA offices throughout California opened investigations and served numerous search warrants on marijuana distribution facilities including, among other things, cannabis clubs and “cooperative” grow sites that were growing marijuana to supply other cannabis clubs. One notable San Francisco investigation worked in conjunction with IRS involved the Norton brothers, who operated the for-profit Compassionate Patients’ Cooperative, a large-scale marijuana distribution center in Hayward, CA. The distribution center’s sales in the first six months of 2007 allegedly totaled more than \$26 million. As a result of the investigation, law enforcement seized several hundred pounds of marijuana, approximately \$200,000 in cash, bank accounts, IRAs, two luxury vehicles, a residence, and a commercial building. The indictment of the Norton brothers charged them, among other things, with possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and money laundering. In one egregious Los Angeles case, the indictment of the owner and the manager of a chain of marijuana stores located in seven different California cities alleged that their West Hollywood-based store had an ATM machine and credit card readers to facilitate marijuana purchases; in a single month, the store was alleged to have sold more than \$1.7 million in marijuana and THC-laced products.

Public Lands Cannabis Eradication

Between 2003 and 2008, marijuana remained the most commonly used illicit drug in the U.S. The number of cannabis plants destroyed at outdoor cultivation sites in the U.S. increased



since 2004. The majority of the plants were located on public lands, and the largest seizures occurred in California and Kentucky. Other leading states for outdoor cannabis cultivation in 2007 were Ohio, Hawaii, Michigan, and Tennessee. The average number of plants eradicated at each site also increased. 4.7 million cannabis plants were eradicated on public and private lands in California alone—over 3.9 million of them on public lands. In September 2007, DEA led a multi-agency three-week operation targeting large-scale cannabis grows on public lands in California, Oregon, and Washington. This three-state surge, dubbed Operation Green Acres, resulted in the seizure of 1.09 million cannabis plants, 5,144 pounds of marijuana, and the arrests of 224 individuals. In July 2007, over 38,000 cannabis plants were removed from 14 cultivated fields located inside the Crabtree Nature Preserve in Barrington, IL—the largest such removal in a single state outside of California. Two individuals were charged with cultivating marijuana and criminal damage to land. It was the fourth marijuana eradication in the Cook County Forest Preserves to take place during 2007. In addition to the marijuana fields, investigators located more than one encampment with tents, cots, and supplies, including food, a cooking area, shower area, and fertilizer bags. Also found near one of the encampments was a reinforced underground bunker, lined with four-inch logs and covered with dirt.

McKesson Corporation and Cardinal Health Pay Record-Setting Penalties (2008)

DEA addressed the growing problem of the abuse of prescription controlled substances by investigating and taking action against wholesale drug distributors. Many wholesalers were distributing unusually large amounts of narcotics to pharmacies that were participating in Internet diversion schemes. Dozens of pharmacies were filling Internet orders for controlled substances for individuals who did not have legitimate prescriptions. In order to fill these illicit orders, the pharmacies ordered amounts controlled substances that far exceeded legitimate demand. In spite of written and oral warnings that DEA had given to the wholesale distributors, many distributors continued to distribute large amounts of controlled substances to rogue pharmacies. DEA took administrative action to revoke the DEA registrations of more than distributors, including McKesson and Cardinal, the two largest distributors of controlled substances in the U.S. In addition to taking administrative action, DEA pursued civil penalties against a number of distributors who failed to detect and report to DEA suspicious orders of controlled substances as required by DEA regulations. In May 2008, McKesson paid \$13,250,000, to the U.S. for failing to report suspicious orders of controlled substances. The civil penalty against McKesson was the largest civil penalty in the history of the Controlled Substance Act. Five months later, McKesson's record-setting penalty was eclipsed by the \$34 million civil penalty paid by Cardinal for failing to report suspicious orders of controlled substances. In addition to the civil penalties assessed against Cardinal and McKesson, both companies entered an agreement with DEA requiring implementation of enhanced diversion control measures at the 56 distribution centers operated by the two companies. DEA's actions against McKesson, Cardinal, and other distributors significantly reduced the availability of pharmaceutical controlled substances to pharmacies that divert these drugs into illegitimate channels.

TSA and Delta Employees Indicted in Drug Sting (2008)

On Feb. 20, 2008, two employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and one of Delta Air Lines were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges relating to a drug-smuggling operation at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (HJIA). Beginning in December 2007, a DEA confidential source (CS) on three occasions over the next three months brokered deals with the TSA employees for the transportation of what the defendants believed were illicit drugs (cocaine on one occasion and heroin the other two, although the CS provided fake drug substitutes) through HJIA to New York. Their transportation fees were \$5,000 for the first kilogram and \$3,000 for each subsequent kilogram. The 'drugs' were transported by the Delta employee on Delta flights. Upon negotiating the third and final transaction, the Delta and TSA employees were arrested.

FARC Associate Extradited to U.S. (2008)

On April 22, 2008, Juan Jose Martinez Vega, aka "Gentil Alvis Patino," aka "Chiguiro," was extradited from Colombia to the U.S. to face cocaine importation conspiracy charges. Martinez Vega was a FARC associate who worked closely with the FARC's 16th Front and assisted the FARC in procuring weapons, ammunition, money and other materials in exchange for cocaine and cocaine paste. Over several years, Martinez Vega made dozens of such deliveries to the 16th Front, including a delivery in February 2002 of 37 tons of weapons and ammunition in exchange for 2,500 kilograms of cocaine paste and 750 million Colombian pesos. Martinez Vega also led, in 1996, a squad of FARC members that executed four other FARC members suspected of stealing arms that the FARC purchased with cocaine.

Afghan Taliban Member Convicted on Narco-Terrorism (2008)

On May 20, 2008, Khan Mohammed, a member of an Afghan Taliban cell, was convicted on charges of narcotics distribution and narco-terrorism. The conviction represented the first time a defendant had been convicted in U.S. federal court of narco-terrorism since the statute was enacted in March 2006. Mohammed had been investigated by the DEA for weapons and narcotics offenses. The investigation revealed that Mohammed was part of a Taliban plan to obtain rockets to attack U.S. military and Afghan civilian personnel at Jalalabad Airfield in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. A cooperating witness working with the DEA met with Mohammed on several occasions to plan the rocket attack. Evidence presented at trial established that Mohammed had previously engaged in similar rocket attacks against other Afghan targets. During the investigation, Mohammed also sold opium and heroin that he knew was intended for importation into the U.S.

Arms Dealer Indicted for Conspiracy to Kill Americans (2008)

On May 6, 2008, the indictment of international arms dealer Viktor Bout on terrorism offenses was announced for conspiring to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons to the Colombian terrorist organization FARC to be used to kill Americans in Colombia. Bout was arrested by Thai authorities on a provisional arrest warrant on April 9, 2008, based on a complaint filed in a New York federal court, charging conspiracy to provide material

support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization. Bout had been in custody in Thailand since March 6, 2008. Bout, an international weapons trafficker since the 1990s, had carried out his weapons-trafficking business by assembling a fleet of cargo airplanes capable of transporting weapons and military equipment to various parts of the world, including Africa, South America and the Middle East. In 2004, as a result of his weapons trafficking activities in Liberia, the U.S. Department of Treasury placed Bout on the Specially Designated Nationals list, which prohibits any transactions between Bout and U.S. nationals, and freezes any of his assets that are within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Bout had agreed between November 2007 and March 2008 to sell to two DEA CSs, who purportedly represented the FARC, millions of dollars worth of weapons, with the specific understanding that the weapons were to be used to attack U.S. helicopters in Colombia.

The weapons were to include surface-to-air missile systems, armor piercing rocket launchers, AK-47 firearms, millions of rounds of ammunition, Russian spare parts for rifles, antipersonnel land mines, C-4 plastic explosives, night-vision equipment, "ultralight" airplanes that could be outfitted with grenade launchers and missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles. During a covertly recorded meeting in Thailand on March 6, 2008, Bout stated to the CSs that he could arrange to airdrop the arms to the FARC in Colombia, and offered to sell two cargo planes to the FARC that could be used for arms deliveries. Bout also provided a map of South America, and asked the CSs to show him American radar locations in Colombia. Bout said that he understood that the CSs wanted the arms for use against American personnel in Colombia, and advised that the U.S. was also his enemy, stating that the FARC's fight against the U.S. was also his fight. During the meeting, Bout also offered to provide people to train the FARC in the use of the arms.

Spike TV Launches Original Series "DEA" (2008)

In the spring of 2008, Spike TV aired six one-hour weekly episodes of a new original narrative series "DEA" that offered viewers a never-before-seen look at the inner workings of the DEA. Produced by Al Roker Entertainment, Inc., in association with Size 12 Productions, Spike TV was given exclusive access to follow a group of Special Agents and Task Force Officers in the DEA Detroit division as they risked their lives daily in the ongoing battle against illegal drugs. The series followed Special Agents as they work cases ranging from street level dealers all the way up to international drug traffickers. "DEA" underscored the danger Special Agents experience on a daily basis in order to do their jobs. Viewers witnessed first-hand what it is like for Special Agents to go out on undercover missions and pose as drug dealers. The series also took a look at the complex relationship that DEA Special Agents have with informants, revealing the strange kinship they share with these criminals who see themselves not as arch enemies, but rather as opponents in "the game" of the illegal drug trade. Roker became interested in airing a series featuring DEA following his



Al Roker speaks with a member of the media during a conference call to announce the new Spike TV series "DEA".

visit in 2006 to the DEA training facility in Quantico to tape a show concerning the U.S. meth epidemic.

The premiere of "DEA" on Spike TV was the network's highest rated non-scripted premiere in over two years and "DEA" was the #2 ranked show in its time slot for men 18-49 years old among all basic cable networks. "DEA" boosted the Spike network's viewership by 227% compared to the same time period the previous year. Also, "DEA" added to Spike TV's best ratings quarter in three years. The viewer statistics also reflect increased interest in DEA beyond pure entertainment. Following the April 2 debut, statistics revealed that the DEA.gov website received the largest number of 'hits' ever in one week-3.14 million. (In 2007, the site averaged 2.4 million hits per week.)

DEA gave careful consideration to the hazards of disclosing the agency's inner workings, and an agreement was reached among all parties involved, including the state prosecutor, on the "rules of engagement" for the show. One stipulation was that cases that were highlighted in the series were ones that would be swiftly adjudicated in state court. Federally prosecuted cases were not included because of the length of time they take to be adjudicated. Additionally, care was taken that the enforcement operation methods depicted on the show, such as surveillance, undercover work, and the use of Confidential Sources, revealed nothing that was not already in the public domain, so as not to compromise DEA's operational effectiveness.

"DEA" received positive media attention. The *New York Times* review of "DEA" put it in perspective: "With so much attention focused in recent years on the war on terror and the dangerous work being done by American soldiers, the main contribution of 'DEA' may be to remind us that there is still a war on drugs being waged as well, with similar dangers and urgency."

"Target America" Exhibit Traveled Across America (2003-2008)

The "Target America: Drug Traffickers, Terrorists, and You" exhibit, which was developed in the months after the September 11th attacks and illustrated the high price Americans pay



for drug abuse, traveled the nation during 2003-2008. The exhibit, which was viewed by more than 8 million people during this time, began with an in-depth look at drug production, trafficking and money laundering—in a historical and present-day context—from trading opium on the Silk Road in the 1800s to the Columbian cocaine trade that exists today. Guests also discovered the many intricate ways different drugs are produced throughout the world. Displays illustrating drug production include a recreated jungle cocaine lab, an Afghan heroin factory and a toxic methamphetamine hotel “cook” room. Displays that focused on trafficking showed how drugs are smuggled in soles of shoes; soaked into fabrics; or even swallowed by drug “mules,” people who perform the dangerous and sometimes lethal task of swallowing balloons full of drugs to transport the illegal cargo. The exhibit also explained where drug money goes and how it is secretly laundered, very often through wire transfers, and sometimes to the financial benefit of terrorist groups around the world. The opium and heroin connections of Afghanistan’s Taliban regime were explored, as were the interrelationships between drugs and terrorism. Also included was a display on the link between drugs and terror that included a memorial containing wreckage and artifacts from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The exhibit touched upon the damage that drug production has on our environment, which is not often addressed. This included the clear cutting of the rain forests in Central and South America to plant coca fields, the destruction of natural forests in the U.S. to growing marijuana and the dumping of hazardous waste products into the water table after the manufacture of methamphetamine. At the end of the exhibit, guests reach the exhibit’s “Discovery Corner,” an area that offers many resources on how the cycle of drug abuse and drug-related violence can be broken with awareness, outreach and treatment.

“Target America is a powerful display showing how drugs eat away not just at individual users, but entire families, communities and our nation,” DEA Administrator Karen Tandy said. “Drugs cost all of us dearly: from financing terrorism and causing crime, to increased health care costs, danger on the highways, economic loss and family breakdown.” The exhibit also had a display of “Lost Talent,” depicting everyday Americans and law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty whose lives and contributions to society were tragically cut short due to drugs and drug-related violence.

The exhibit was developed in partnership with The AFFNA DEA Museum Foundation, The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, The National Guard, The National Institute on Drug Abuse, The Office of National Drug Control Policy, and The Partnership for a Drug Free America. The Exhibit traveled to the following places:

- DEA Museum, Arlington, VA, September 2002-August 2003
- The Science Place, Dallas, TX, September 2003-March 2004

- Strategic Air & Space Museum, Omaha, NE, April 2004-August 2004
- One Times Square, New York, NY, September 2004-March 2005
- New Detroit Science Center, Detroit, MI, April 2005-October 2005
- The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL, August 2006-December 2006

Aviation

Beginning in 2003, the Aviation Division reshaped itself to better meet the needs of an evolving DEA, developing a strategy to modernize its fleet with more capable aircraft. An aggressive effort to sell aging aircraft and replace them with more modern platforms resulted in DEA today operating one of the most modern fleet of aircraft of any agency in the Federal government.

The Division systematically replaced aging Cessna 206 surveillance aircraft that were the workhorses of the fleet. To better serve enforcement operations targeting the Caribbean and Central and South America, the Aviation Division acquired an ATR-42 medium cargo aircraft in 2004 for the transportation of prisoners and larger loads of cargo and sensitive equipment that proved to be one of the most used aircraft in the fleet. Also in furtherance of this strategy, four Bell 412 twin-engine helicopters were added to the Aviation Division fleet to support Caribbean operations and to provide logistical transport capabilities for DEA’s developing Foreign-deployed Advisory and Support Team program.

The Aviation Division continued to seek out innovative technologies, pioneering the use of high-definition camera systems for the Federal government, installed by mid-2008, in four of DEA’s largest divisions: Houston, New York, Newark, and the Los Angeles Divisions. The Aviation Division was working toward acquir-



ing additional systems for use on the Southwest Border and in other DEA Divisions, anticipating ownership and operation of 11 systems by the end of FY 2008.

In June 2006, the Aviation Division deployed the first of two King Air 350 aircraft to Kabul, Afghanistan, to provide a needed capability for DEA personnel and their counterparts to travel safely throughout a dangerous region. In June 2008 a second King Air 350 equipped with both video and signals intercept equipment was provided to offer the region an intelligence and reconnaissance capability unmatched by any other law enforcement agency.

On Oct. 1, 2007, the Aviation Division assumed the aviation support role for OpBAT in Georgetown, Bahamas. This role had been filled by the U.S. Army for over 20 years, but given the need for helicopters to support the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, DEA was asked to take over the aviation role. DEA replaced the Army's helicopters with Bell 412 platforms and a uniquely outfitted surveillance aircraft known as the RU-38 Shadowhawk. The Aviation Division was positioned to assist the Nassau Country Office with this long-standing DEA program.

Laboratories

In 2005, the DEA laboratories became the first crime laboratories in the world to be accredited under the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board-International program. Accreditation was received in the disciplines of controlled substances, latent prints, and digital evidence.

A deadly drug mixture of heroin and fentanyl, a synthetic opiate 30 to 50 times more powerful than heroin, contributed to over 700 deaths nationwide, mostly in the Midwest and Northeast, between March 2005 and November 2006. This situation prompted federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in several major metropolitan areas to coordinate enforcement operations to identify the source of the fentanyl and eliminate it. (DEA Chicago HIDTA Group 43's Operation Snakebite took down the trafficking organization responsible for trafficking the deadly mixture in the U.S.) By late spring 2006, investigative efforts led to the discovery of a large-scale operational clandestine fentanyl laboratory near Mexico City. Following a raid on this lab, U.S. and Mexican law enforcement, DEA forensic chemists from the Northeast Laboratory, North Central Laboratory, and the Special Testing and Research Laboratory worked in conjunction with the Mexican Police and numerous DEA Special Agents and Diversion Investigators from the DEA-Mexico City Country Office and collected evidence during two visits to the laboratory site.

In the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the FBI's Disaster Squad, which provides worldwide humanitarian support by identifying deceased victims of mass disasters from their fingerprints, sought help from DEA to cope with the sheer number of casualties overwhelming their capabilities. The DEA Office of Forensic Sciences coordinated DEA's Hurricane Katrina assistance effort with the FBI, providing a team of 11 fingerprint specialists from five of DEA's seven regional laboratories. Over a period of six weeks starting the second week of September 2005, teams of fingerprint specialists from various DEA labs provided assistance, working grueling seven-day rotations fingerprinting the bodies of victims lost in the catastrophe. The assignment gained in difficulty as the weeks advanced, due to the progressing deterioration of the remains.

Since its inception in 2003, the DEA Digital Evidence Laboratory has seen increasing demand for digital forensic support, especially for diversion investigations. Digital forensic examinations are extremely labor intensive and time consuming due to the typically very large number of exhibits, most of which are computers that contain proprietary databases and volumes of email and other invaluable information crucial to the successful prosecution of these investigations. One such case was Operation CYBERx, involving 23 rogue pharmacies and more than 4,600 rogue Internet pharmaceutical websites that yielded in excess of 100 evidence exhibits. The evidence showed that a doctor could make up to \$1.7 million a year by approving illegal drug orders. The examination results facilitated guilty pleas from all identified defendants and assets seized in excess of \$15 million.

Since 2003, forensic chemists from the Special Testing and Research Laboratory continued to respond to international clandestine drug manufacturing laboratories. The DEA-loaned chemists provided technical assistance during the dismantling, processing, and investigation of these laboratories that clandestinely manufactured such drugs as Ecstasy, LSD, methamphetamine, and cocaine. Assistance was provided all around the globe, from Indonesia to the UK, and Peru to Cambodia.

The Southwest and South Central Laboratories assisted in a meth study to determine chemical identities and exposure concentrations generated during a clandestine cook, contamination levels throughout a cook site, and contaminant persistence after cook completion. This study involved conducting controlled methamphetamine cooks in a condemned home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and in two abandoned homes in Corsicana, TX, using common appliances and household chemicals. The results of this research are anticipated to have far-reaching implications for legislative actions and remediation guidelines.

Environmental Management System (2004-2008)

Every federal agency is required by presidential Executive Order to undertake initiatives to improve the management of national resources through environmental management systems (EMS). In 2004, DEA formed a HQ panel to begin developing the agency's EMS structure for all facilities as a tool to incorporate environmental stewardship into daily operations to reduce federal agency environmental impacts and simultaneously increase operating efficiency. Federal EMS goals are established in areas such as energy and water management, green purchasing, sustainable building, electronic stewardship, toxic chemical and hazardous material reduction, and fleet management. DEA remained committed to improving the management of our nation's resources, and, by 2008, EMS was integral to 19 DEA facilities. Eventually it will be integrated into all DEA divisions and offices.

Active EMS's at all DEA laboratories and at a number of DEA divisions and offices made significant strides in improving DEA's management of natural resources through sustained environmental stewardship. The Office of Forensic Sciences made EMS a priority within laboratory operations, and EMS's throughout DEA have reduced energy usage, lowered electricity rates, reduced potential for hazardous spills, improved green purchasing, and implemented comprehensive recycling programs.

Many facilities with EMS's joined the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) to encourage electronic stewardship. In 2007,



the Aviation Division won an FEC bronze award for their improved electronic stewardship. In 2008, 11 DEA facilities won FEC awards—seven went to DEA laboratories. And in 2008, the Aviation Division won a prestigious DOJ Energy and Environmental Management Award for their 2007 EMS efforts, saving over \$68,000 in electricity costs, conserving over 480,000 gallons of water, and recycling nearly 43,000 pounds of paper, fuel and oil, absorbents, air craft tires, oil filters, and other items.

Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program (2004-2008)

Since 2003, the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program became more efficient as DEA's Hazardous Waste Disposal Section increased its' environmental expertise for the safe and proper cleanup of clandestine drug laboratories. The number of clandestine laboratory cleanups peaked in 2004 at approximately 9,800; the 2005 Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act had a significant impact on the problem, resulting in DEA funding a greatly reduced 3,400 clan lab cleanups in 2007.

Technical requirements of new hazardous waste contracts that became effective in 2008 resulted in increased waste tracking and environmental compliance standards. The new contracts contained provisions for weekly pickups of hazardous waste seized from illegal methamphetamine laboratories by state and local law enforcement agencies and from temporary storage locations—Authorized Central Storage (ACS) sites—in participating states that have established container storage programs and entered into a Letter of Agreement with DEA to provide this service. The ACS's provided safe, temporary storage pending removal of waste from the ACS site by DEA contractors who consolidate and transport the waste to a final disposal facility. DEA and the Kentucky State Police established the first ACS sites in Kentucky during FY 2004. DEA expanded the program in 2007, implementing it in Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, and Oklahoma. During 2007-2008, the program lowered the clandestine laboratory disposal cost in those states from an average of approximately \$3,500 to approximately \$610 per cleanup.

Technology

From 2003 through 2008, DEA committed significant resources to protect data, mindful of the importance of securing employee privacy, operational data, and sensitive records. The agency implemented best business practices and procedures that employ solid technology to support the war on drugs, and DEA remained diligently engaged in protection against cyber security attacks and recovery from disasters.

DEA's use of technology was continuously evolving as the agency strived to employ increasingly complex and sophisticated technologies in executing DEA's mission. Building on the unique and secure DEA Firebird computer network, the Office of Information Systems expanded the network into more of DEA's foreign locations for the first time, and communication capabilities were further extended with the addition of outside email traffic capability.

Wireless technologies were central to the everyday work of DEA Special Agents and staff—yesterday's pagers have been replaced with cell phones and PDAs to enable easy communication. The Office of Information Systems worked to keep pace with the growing array of wireless tools that assist law enforcement on notebook computers, scanners, and cameras.

The Office of Information Systems moved into a new, award-winning, state-of-the-art Technical Center in 2008. The culmination of this multi-year project brought DEA's equipment and systems into a secure technology center built with redundancy in power and telecommunications, backup generators, and cooling, enabling the relocation of contractor support staff into federal space that improved problem solving capability and systems reliability.

Training

In 2007, DEA's Office of Training (TR) broke ground adjacent to the DEA Training Academy for the new 31,600-square-foot Clandestine Laboratory Training Center at the DEA Training Academy in Quantico, VA, that was scheduled for completion in 2008. DEA trained, equipped, and certified thousands of state and local officers each year in compliance of Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards that govern hazardous waste operations. When completed, the multi-million dollar project will have two modern, 50-seat classrooms that can be re-configured into a single, large room; the facility's administrative portion will have 26 work stations and a conference room. All of the venues specific to clandestine laboratory training and certification will be under one roof, including the equipment and dressing rooms, mat room, smoke house, equipment storage, air-tank, and generator storage. A two-story raid facility, physical training room, mock lab, break room for students, laundry, shower facilities, and an analytical lab, also will be integrated into the building.

During 2003-2008, TR continued its mission to ensure that DEA employees were provided the technical and professional competencies and leadership skills training necessary to accomplish DEA's mission. TR provided newly expanded Basic Agent training to over 1,300 new trainees; Diversion Leadership training to DEA diversion employees at the GS-12 and GS-13 level; Basic Intelligence Research Specialist training to more than 200 trainees; and training over 4,500 students in a newly-developed comprehensive financial investigation curriculum for DEA Special Agents, Task Force Officers, Intelligence Analysts, and Diversion Investigators, DOJ-component law enforcement personnel, and prosecutors.

TR continued during 2003-2008 to partner with other federal, state, and local counterparts, and provided Federal Law Enforcement Analysts Training over 1,000 law enforcement and intelligence personnel as a means to enhance critical thinking abilities, computer and interrogation and communications skills, and intelligence-related writing skills. Additionally, more than 200,000 state and local enforcement officers participated in TR training opportunities such as tactical aspects of drug enforcement, confidential source management, clandestine laboratory operations, legal issues for management, and executive decision making.

TR continued to lead the law enforcement community in the delivery of international law enforcement training:

TR offered bilateral programs conducted by mobile training teams both in-country and regionally. Over 8,200 foreign law enforcement officers from more than 80 countries around the world participated in TRI's bilateral courses.

TRI participated in the International Law Enforcement Academies program, developing foreign police managers' abilities to handle a broad spectrum of contemporary law enforcement is-

sues and increases their capacity to investigate crime and criminal organizations. ILEAs currently operate in Budapest, Hungary; Bangkok, Thailand; Gaborone, Botswana; and San Salvador, El Salvador. Over 4,300 foreign law enforcement officers participated in TRI-conducted training at the four ILEAs.

TR's Sensitive Investigative Units (SIU) training cooperatively trained, equipped, and supported specialized units within host nation police forces to develop and share intelligence in order to target, disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute major international drug trafficking organizations. Over 1,500 foreign law enforcement officers from countries including Mexico, Afghanistan, Panama, Colombia, Pakistan, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Uzbekistan have participated in TRI's SIU Program.

A TR initiative begun in 2008 was the DEA Learning Management System (DEALs), an enterprise-wide system solution to the delivery of on-line training courses that was being developed in conjunction with the Department of Justice. DEALs will allow for employee training at their Firebird terminal; hundreds of online courses and tools will be available, as well as the ability for employees to individualize employee development through a competency related learning plan.

Inspections

The Office of Inspections (IN) reorganized several of its internal operating structures to improve IN's overall ability to provide precise yet comprehensive on-site inspections, reviews, and guidance to the field. IN's staff, utilized the analogy that IN acted as the "guard rail" allowing DEA to move forward in a positive direction, yet within the policies and procedures in regards to the management and the integrity of DEA. IN conducted honest, fair, thorough, and consistent assessments of all DEA operations to meet this mandate.

The establishment of the Program Analysis Team (PAT) ensured that sufficient analytical resources and institutional knowledge were available to address specific projects and reviews within a cohesive team effort for sharing similar duties and responsibilities. This helped ensure a more efficient coordination for in-depth analytical assignments and streamline the entire IN review process enabling DEA to economically manage its mission while reducing operating costs.

Along similar lines IN has created a separate team of accountant/auditors and teamed with the Office of Financial Operations (FO) to conduct joint program reviews of DEA's Attorney General Exempt Operations (AGEOs) and of DEA's Sensitive Investigative Units (SIU). While reviews of these programs are mandated by statute, IN noted that IN and FO were conducting separate reviews, often duplicating efforts and wasting man-hours and resources. IN conducted joint reviews of these programs with FO, which reduced costs and disruption to field office activities, and resulted in a thorough and comprehensive review.

Another significant change within IN was the initiation of the IN-SITE program, an effort that partnered the field with IN. The Program provided IN management consulting services to the field and assisted DEA senior leadership in identifying and addressing problems outside the inspection process. IN, in a cooperative effort with the field office, helped develop solutions to evolving problems within the Division.

In addition to the DEA's internal inspection and evaluation practices, DEA's programs were subjected to external audits

and reviews, as part of maintaining the public's trust in DEA's ability to manage resources in fulfillment of our mission. The Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) were the two primary auditing agencies that reviewed DEA's programs. The outcome of external audits, whether positive or negative, had a significant impact on DEA's programs. In December 2006, the external review process was assigned to the Office of Inspections which established an Audit Liaison Team to become the central point-of-contact for all matters pertaining to external reviews conducted of DEA.

Since December 2006, the Audit Liaison Team has effectively overseen and coordinated 57 external audits and reviews of DEA program areas. During this time frame, GAO initiated 29 audits, OIG initiated 25 audits, and three audits were initiated by other agencies. Due to the high demand of requests for documents, interviews, and other information during the audit and review process, the Audit Liaison Team worked with DEA's Office of Chief Counsel and the OIG to formulate new policies and procedures that streamlined and standardized the process for sharing of information with external agencies. These policies and procedures were implemented to safeguard DEA's investigations, methodologies, and sensitive information. In addition to developing improved policies and procedures, the Audit Liaison Team also revised the Planning and Inspection Manual section regarding external audits.

In 2007, IN revised the scope of the Self Inspection Program (SIP) and tailored the program to assess the specific functions of domestic, foreign, and Headquarters offices to obtain a more uniform and useful report. To help eliminate any confusion, the entire self inspection program was scrutinized and all checklists and reporting procedures were standardized. The new internal review period cover fiscal year to fiscal year; as the previous method had caused confusion. The field was also given ample time to report their findings and establish specific plans for correcting problem areas, establish realistic time parameters for the completion of the corrective actions, and provide for Certification that the corrective action had been completed. IN intended to utilize these SIP reports submitted by offices to select problematic program areas for special reviews. In this way, IN could identify potential at risk areas earlier than in a three-year inspection cycle and ensure that these risks were addressed.

From 2003 through 2008, IN conducted 55 on-site inspections worldwide. The locations of these inspections consisted of 27 domestic divisions/lab offices, seven foreign offices and 21 Headquarters offices.

The Office of Inspections was responsible for investigating or overseeing the investigation of all DEA shooting and assault incidents. IN inspectors made up the DEA Shooting Response Team and responded or oversaw all shooting and assault investigations. IN ensured that all shooting/assault investigations were thorough, factual, objective, and completed in a timely fashion.

International Arms Dealer Viktor Bout

Between November 2007 and 2008, Viktor Bout agreed to sell millions of dollars' worth of weapons to the FARC, including 700-800 surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), over 20,000 AK-47 fire-arms, 10 million rounds of ammunition, five tons of C-4 plastic explosives, "ultra-light" airplanes outfitted with grenade launch-



Viktor Bout

ers, and unmanned aerial vehicles. Bout agreed to sell the weapons to two Confidential Sources (CS) working with the DEA who represented they were acquiring them for the FARC, with the specific understanding that the weapons were to be used to attack U.S. helicopters in Colombia.

During a covertly recorded meeting in Thailand in March 2008, Viktor Bout stated to the CSs that he could arrange to airdrop the arms to the FARC in Colombia, and offered to sell them two cargo planes that could be used for arms deliveries. He also provided a map of South America and asked the CSs to show him American radar locations in Colombia. Bout said that he understood that the CSs wanted the arms to use against American personnel in Colombia, and advised that, “We have the same enemy” referring to the United States...“for 10 to 15 years.” During the meeting he also offered to provide people to train the FARC how to use the arms. Bout was arrested in Thailand in March 2008 based on a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court.

Viktor Bout spent two and one-half years in a Thai prison while ferociously fighting his extradition to the United States. His supporters, who insisted he was a legitimate businessman, also contributed funds and fought to prevent his extradition. Lawyers on both sides of the issue used every tactic available to them. High level government officials from both Russia and the United States weighed in on the issue. On February 17, 2010, Viktor Bout was charged in the Southern District of New York with conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Bout’s eventual conviction in U.S. federal court did not come without a struggle: the United States had to appeal to a higher Thai court to gain Bout’s extradition. The Thai Criminal Court initially denied the appeal, citing the political nature of the case. For a time Bout and his supporters thought they were close to securing his freedom. On August 20, 2010, a panel of three judges from the court of appeals in Bangkok reversed the decision made by a lower court, concluding there was enough evidence to extradite Mr. Bout to the United States. Representa-

tatives from the DEA Bangkok Country Office were in attendance when the pivotal ruling was announced. The court order authorizing the extradition to the U.S. to stand trial for his alleged crimes had to be carried out within 90 days.

Despite Russian government protests that it was illegal, Bout was extradited to the United States on November 16, 2010. In the early morning hours, he was quietly transferred from the custody of the Department of Corrections of Thailand to DEA Special Agents, who escorted him to the airport and put him on a plane bound for the United States. Bout was accompanied by DEA Special Agents who had worked on the case over the previous three years.

The trial for Viktor Bout, now 44, began October 12, 2011, and a jury pronounced his guilt three weeks later. Bout was convicted on all counts from the indictment, including conspiring to kill U.S. nationals,

conspiring to kill U.S. officers and employees, conspiring to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles, and conspiring to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. Bout’s conviction is particularly significant because it set a precedent for bringing other international crime kingpin suspects to trial. Bout was sentenced on April 5, 2012 to 25 years in prison.

This DEA Special Operations Division-supported investigation was conducted with assistance from the DEA Bangkok Country Office, the DEA New York Field Division, the DEA Caribbean Field Division, the Royal Thai Police, the Office of the Attorney General for Thailand, the Royal Thai Government, the Romanian National Police, the Romanian Prosecutor’s Office, the Korps Politie Curacao of the Netherlands Antilles, and the Danish National Police Security Services.

DEA Expelled from Bolivia

In August 2008, Evo Morales was re-elected as President of Bolivia. President Morales was previously the head of a coca growers union and his re-election signaled the continuation of legalized coca leaf cultivation in that country.

On November 2, 2008, a diplomatic note was delivered to the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, stating that DEA was expelled from the country and was to exit the country as a group within 90 days. DEA Headquarters sections, including the Office of Global Enforcement Operations, the Transportation Relocation Unit, the Operations Budget Section, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Information Systems, the Office of Administration, and the Career Board all worked in conjunction with the La Paz Country Office in order to relocate 109 DEA personnel and family members from the country.

In a span of 77 days, DEA personnel closed Resident Offices in Trinidad, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz, as well as the Country Office located at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz. The closing of these four offices involved moving sensitive DEA files and computers, office furniture, and government vehicles out of the country. The move from Bolivia represented the largest evacuation of DEA personnel in the history of the agency.



General Rene Sanabria

After DEA's expulsion from Bolivia, cocaine production increased tremendously and cocaine traffickers flocked to the country to cash in on lax law enforcement. DEA offices continued to work active investigations targeting Bolivian traffickers. These efforts led to the arrest of Bolivia's former

anti-drug police chief, General Rene Sanabria. Sanabria entered a guilty plea after being arrested by DEA agents in Panama in February of 2011 in connection with a 144-kilogram shipment of cocaine smuggled from Bolivia via a Chilean seaport. Businessman Marcelo Foronda was sentenced to nine years for arranging for the drugs to be disguised in a cargo of minerals.

Mr. Sanabria had already retired as head of the police anti-narcotics unit at the time of his arrest, but remained in charge of a special counter-intelligence office in the Interior Ministry that he used to protect drug shipments and international drug cartels. In September of 2011, Sanabria was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a Miami federal court for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

Operation Peso Connection

A seven-year bilateral money laundering investigation, dubbed Operation Peso Connection, led by the St. Louis Division's Financial Investigations Group, resulted in the forfeiture of \$15 million from a remitter company named the Sigue Corporation. Based on information gleaned from 45 previous DEA investigations, drug trafficking organizations had been increasingly utilizing Sigue to wire drug proceeds to Mexico.

During the investigation, 86 undercover reverse money laundering transactions were conducted at 59 Sigue locations in 21 states, for a total dollar amount laundered of \$520,273. In 48 of the transactions, amounts were structured to evade reporting requirements. A total of 206 individual transmittals, including the structured amounts, were conducted. During each undercover transaction, monies purported to be drug proceeds were sent to Mexico via Sigue and were retrieved by vetted undercover agents of the Government of Mexico, working in conjunction with the DEA. Audits and interviews of current and former employees revealed inadequate training of remitter agents and insufficient compliance procedures at Sigue.

Operation Peso Connection resulted in Sigue forfeiting \$15 million on January 28, 2008, and being required to infuse \$9.7 mil-

lion into Sigue's compliance program. According to a report published by Financial Crime Enforcement Network in 2010, the investigation reformed the compliance practices of money service businesses. The investigation was conducted in cooperation with 36 DEA field offices, 63 state/local agencies, and the Government of Mexico.

Med-Turn Investigation

This investigation was initiated in August 2008 when a methamphetamine trafficker arrested by the DEA Dallas Field Division began to cooperate and provide information about his ability to acquire massive quantities of Oxycontin and other controlled substances from a source in Arlington, Texas. Heath was reported to have a source connected to a facility in Fort Worth, Texas, that could remove expired drugs from a warehouse licensed to destroy expired drugs.

In November 2008, the DEA Dallas Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS) coordinated with the Lafayette, Louisiana Metro Narcotics Unit to target Billy Heath who was interdicted in Lafayette. Seized from Heath were 7,011 dosage units (DUs) of Oxycodone, 3,615 DUs of Adderall, 240 DUs of Dilaudid, 676 DUs of Methadone, 100 DUs of Methylphenidate, 9 DUs of Percocet, and 14 DUs of Ambien.

On November 6, 2008, the DEA Dallas TDS, assisted by the DEA Fort Worth Resident Office and the Arlington, Texas Police Department, executed a federal search warrant on a clandestine warehouse in Arlington, Texas, resulting in the seizure of approximately 640,609 DUs of controlled substances including Oxycodone, Adderall, Dextroamphetamine, Codeine, Methadone, Methylphenidate, Demerol, Dexedrine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, morphine, opium, and cocaine. The seizure also included a pallet of sealed bottles containing 112,300 tablets of pseudoephedrine, believed to be available for sale for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

In November 2009, James Reid Smith was arrested on a federal complaint, cooperated, and was later indicted by a Federal



Med-Turn Investigation, Dallas, TX



Grand Jury in Fort Worth for conspiracy to distribute in excess of 20,000 DUs of Oxycontin. The indictment also named Christopher McGee, who was the Compliance Manager and later the Operations Manager for Med-Turn, a DEA-licensed reverse distributor in Fort Worth, Texas. The investigation determined that pallet loads of controlled substances already marked as destroyed in the Med-Turn system had been removed by McGee and Smith and repackaged for street distribution. All three traffickers involved in this investigation were found guilty and sentenced to prison.

Colombian AUC Members Extradited to U.S.

In May 2008, one of the most significant extradition missions in the history of DEA occurred when the Colombian Government extradited to the United States a total of 16 leaders of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia—United Self Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC). Collectively, these AUC leaders headed this designated terrorist organization which, during the late 1990s, commanded over 40,000 right-wing armed paramilitary members, produced and transported hundreds of metric tons of cocaine per year, and committed atrocities and massacres that left tens of thousands of Colombians murdered.

In June 2005, the AUC leaders negotiated their surrender with the Colombian Government under a Justice and Peace (J&P) law. The provisions of this J&P law entitled AUC members to lenient prison terms of 5 to 8 years and the suspension of any extradition requests in exchange for: (1) disarming and demobilizing, (2) the full public admission of their crimes, (3) the surrender of illegally gained assets, (4) the reparation to families of the murdered victims, and (5) the cessation of all criminal activity.

By May 2008, DEA, working with the Colombian National Police (CNP), developed evidence and intelligence that the incarcerated AUC leadership were continuing to commit crimes and run their criminal networks from Colombian prison cells. Furthermore, intelligence revealed that the AUC leadership did not reveal their illicitly gained assets and they were not being truthful in their public admission. Based on the overwhelming evidence, then-Colombia President Alvaro Uribe secretly authorized the AUC leadership's extradition.

To avoid the possibility of a Colombian court injunction, President Uribe signed the executive order after the Colombian courts were closed for the day and the extradition mission was kept a tightly guarded secret. Teams composed of DEA Special Agents, government officials, and CNP SWAT members were dispatched to maximum security prisons around the country. These teams arrived unannounced and in the middle-of-the-night; prison wardens who questioned the validity of the orders were placed in telephonic contact with the Presidency.

Of the 16 extradited defendants, three were Consolidated Priority Organized Targets (CPOTs) (Diego Murillo Bejarano, aka "Don Berna"; Carlos Mario Jimenez Naranjo, aka "Macaco"; and Hernan Giraldo Serna, aka "el Viejo"). Hundreds of police

officers, several CNP helicopters, and seven DEA aircraft flew multiple excursions to ferry the defendants from various prisons in Colombia to Bogota and then to numerous federal districts in the United States.

It was the most complex extradition mission ever performed by DEA, and one of the most important extradition missions in DEA's storied foreign operations. It was a historic event for Colombia and a judicial game-changer. The next morning, Colombia's newspaper of record, *El Tiempo*, ran a front page bold print headline which read, "End of a Para [Para-Military] Era" with a large picture of seven AUC leaders sitting in an airplane hanger moments before their one-way flight to the United States.

Operation Seoul Coughing

An investigation initiated in 2007 with the DEA Portland District Office, the Clark Skamania Task Force, and ICE, this joint Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) effort targeted the drug trafficking activities of a South Korea-based company named OPA Trade. The investigation revealed that OPA Trade advertised the sale of pseudoephedrine through internet websites. Information was later uncovered that a Washington state resident had obtained a case of pseudoephedrine that had been shipped from South Korea, but was documented as used school supplies on the shipping invoice. The pseudoephedrine was to be used for manufacturing methamphetamine. In August 2008, the Korean National Police Agency executed search warrants and arrested So Young Yoon, also seizing 7,104 bottles of pseudocomin and 30,689,280 tablets of pseudoephedrine. During the execution of the warrants, Suk Chang Yoon, the father of So Young Yoon, confessed to investigators that he was the person who devised the smuggling scheme. The net weight of pseudoephedrine available for distribution by this trafficking organization was approximately 1,866.24 kilos (over 4,105 lbs). That amount of pseudoephedrine produced into methamphetamine could have yielded between \$63 and \$98 million dollars in street sales.



Operation Seoul Coughing

“El Paquete”

In September 2008, DEA Laredo District Office Group D-73 initiated a case targeting an entire family acting as a continuing criminal enterprise. The Martinez Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) worked under a veil of secrecy by employing only family members in their daily illicit operations. For several years, members of the DTO utilized arson, murder, gang affiliation, dog fighting events, and established drug cartels to protect and expand their criminal empire. The DTO had direct affiliations to the Hermanos Pistoleros Street (HPL) gang and the Los Zetas drug cartel and was asked to kidnap a DEA informant for execution in Mexico.

The investigation resulted in the federal convictions of 29 defendants, 10 additional federal arrests, 33 state arrests, six state

convictions, 22 pending indictments, and the identification of over 100 co-conspirators. Group D-73 initiated this investigation with the arrest of two low-level drug couriers. Over the course of the investigation, Group D-73 utilized informants, cooperating defendants, undercover agents, controlled deliveries, surveillances, seizures, toll analysis, financial investigations, search warrants, consent searches, arrest warrants, mobile tracking devices, warrant round-ups, and communication with other Federal and local law enforcement agencies.

As a result, DEA Laredo identified and prosecuted all significant family members of the Martinez DTO, responsible for the distribution of thousands of pounds of marijuana, cocaine, steroids, and heroin, and the laundering of millions of dollars for the HPL and Los Zetas drug cartels.



HPL tattoo

Operation Pale Rider

In September 2008, Dallas Field Division High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Group Two concluded a year-long investigation and in coordination with the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Northern District of Texas, obtained a Grand Jury indictment of 21 individuals. As part of DEA Project Reckoning, investigators executed five federal search warrants targeting an entrenched distribution organization operating in the greater Dallas area under the command and control of the Gulf Cartel.

The investigation included numerous wiretaps, which revealed that the organization often used semi tractor-trailers to transport hundred kilogram quantities of cocaine to various private warehouses located throughout Dallas where it would then be secreted at several stash locations. After currency derived from the sale of the cocaine was collected, another tractor-trailer would be dispatched from Mexico to Dallas to transport the bulk cash.

In support of the roundup, HIDTA Group Two was assisted by officers from the Dallas, Allen, Arlington, Fort Worth, and Grand Prairie Police Departments, the U.S. Marshals Service, ICE, the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office, and other law enforcement entities. On the date of the roundup, 16 of the 21 indicted



Operation Pale Rider. Left to right: TFO Heath Cook, IRS SA Kareem Carter, TFO Chip McGee, SA Tim Davis, TFO Johnny Sosa, SA Matt Toth, SA Dave Phillips, TFO Ken Sam, and TFO Jerry Cedillo with the 1.9 million dollars, 249 kilograms of cocaine, and 360 pounds of crystal methamphetamine.



defendants were arrested without incident. Investigators seized 1.9 million dollars from two of the organization's main stash locations, 249 kilograms of cocaine, 360 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 15 firearms, and explosive devices.

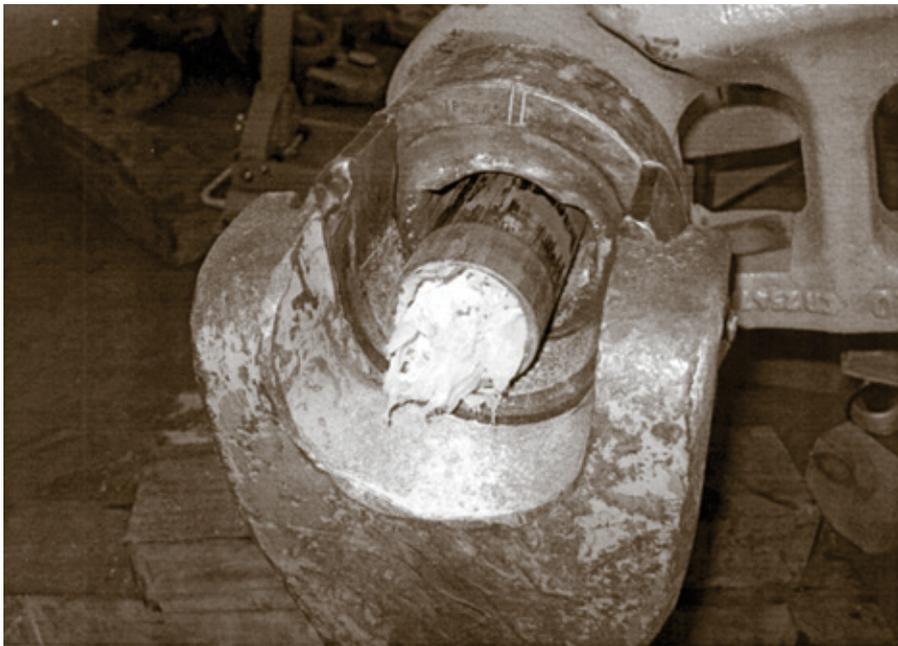
Smuggling Methods Used From South America to South Florida

Between 2002 and 2008, DEA Miami Field Division initiated multiple investigations into various drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) which utilized different methods to smuggle narcotics into South Florida from source countries in South America. As a result, DEA Agents made multiple arrests and seizures of United States currency, assets, and multi-kilogram quantities of narcotics. The DTOs used a variety of methods to conceal their drugs as part of their operations. Some of the narcotics intercepted by the agents during this time were concealed in vessels, shipping containers, aircraft, vehicle parts and concealed traps, furniture, appliances, electronic equipment, luggage, various articles of clothing, boxes of flowers, and humans, known as "swallowers" or "mules."

DEA Dedicates Clan Lab Training Facility in Quantico

On December 5, 2008, DEA unveiled its latest resource in combating methamphetamine when it formally dedicated its new clandestine laboratory training and research center in a ceremony at the DEA Training Academy in Quantico, VA. The two-year construction project of the 31,600-square foot, \$16.4 million building was overseen by the Office of Administration working with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Washington.

The purpose of the complex is to provide a state-of-the-art facility for the safe and effective training of international, federal, state, and local government officials who are responsible for working in a contaminated environment caused by clandestine laboratories. In addition to providing training, DEA will also be offering classes for law enforcement officials to receive the Occupational Safety and Health Administration certifications required prior to working in a contaminated environment such as a meth lab.



Congress Passes Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act

On October 1, 2008, Congress passed the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act. This act addressed the problems of online prescription drug trafficking, abuse, and availability. The Act had six main components: a face-to-face requirement for prescribing, an endorsement requirement from DEA, enhanced penalties for unlawfully dispensing controlled substances in Schedules III through V, a prohibition on advertising illegal sales, a requirement that internet pharmacies post certain information on their websites, and State Cause of Action, which means that a state can bring a civil action in a federal district court to enjoin the actions of an online pharmacy or person that is operating in violation of this Act.



Operation Sudden Fall

On May 6, 2008, DEA announced the culmination of "Operation Sudden Fall," an extensive undercover drug operation on the campus of San Diego State University (SDSU). The operation came about following the May 2007 overdose death of a student in her bedroom. Undercover officers determined students and non-students were heavily involved in selling drugs for profit both on and off campus. DEA Agents infiltrated several student drug distribution cells and made more than 130 drug purchases and seizures during the five-month operation.

As a result, 75 SDSU students and 21 non-students were arrested for various drug offenses ranging from possession of marijuana and cocaine to sales of cocaine. Ironically, one student arrested was a cocaine dealer on campus who was just one month away from obtaining his Master's Degree in Homeland Security and who also worked as a student Community Service Officer on campus re-

Some of the different methods used by the drug trafficking organizations to smuggle in narcotics, particularly heroin in these operations in South Florida.

porting to the campus police. Another student arrested for possession of 500 grams of cocaine and two guns was a Criminal Justice major. Items seized during this operation included four pounds of cocaine, 50 pounds of marijuana, 48 hydroponic marijuana plants, 350 ecstasy pills, psilocybin mushrooms, 30 vials of hash oil, methamphetamine, various illicit prescription drugs, one shotgun, three semi-automatic pistols, three brass knuckles, and \$60,000 in cash.

Operation Albatross

In June 2008, DEA announced the culmination of Operation Albatross, a record-breaking hashish seizure in Afghanistan. The 262-ton hashish seizure was the largest of any known drug seizure in DEA history. Operation Albatross was a joint effort between the government of Afghanistan and DEA's Foreign-Deployed Advisory and Support Teams (FAST). Operation Albatross was also supported by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of State.

Search warrants were executed on five narcotics super-labs and numerous underground drug-bunkers in Taliban-controlled areas of Kandahar Province. Twelve suspects were arrested during Operation Albatross.

Project Reckoning

With the September 2008 culmination of Project Reckoning, DEA wrapped up a long-term investigation into one of Mexico's largest drug trafficking cartels and its U.S. and international distribution networks. Project Reckoning was a multi-agency law enforcement effort led by DEA, targeting the Mexican drug trafficking organization known as the Gulf Cartel. The Gulf Cartel was responsible for the transportation of multi-ton quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana from Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, and Mexico to the United States, as well as the distribution of those narcotics within the United States. The cartel was also believed to be responsible for laundering multiple millions of dollars in criminal proceeds. Project Reckoning resulted in the arrest of more than 500 individuals in the United States, Mexico, and Italy. Also seized were approximately \$60.1 million in U.S. currency, 16,711 kilograms of cocaine, 1,039 pounds of methamphetamine, 19 pounds of heroin, 51,258 pounds of marijuana, 176 vehicles, and 167 weapons.