



2003–2008



In the early 21st century, DEA's work contributed to a substantial decline in domestic methamphetamine production and use; a major national concern. Influential legislation, such as the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (2005), curtailed the availability of three key precursor chemicals used in the drug's production. These new laws dovetailed with DEA's focused enforcement efforts and successful investigations like Operations Northern Star, Imperial Emperor, and Wildfire; domestic initiatives, including increasing meth priority target investigations and expanding clan lab enforcement teams' primary focus; and international initiatives (in particular, partnerships with Mexico's government targeting the most significant meth trafficking organizations on both sides of the border). Such concerted efforts paid off. Meth superlab seizures in the United States declined 93 percent between 2002 and 2007 and small toxic lab seizures declined 73 percent in 2007 from a 2003 peak. Workplace drug tests in 2007 showed a 50 percent decline in nationwide employee meth use compared to 2005. Furthermore, DEA's System to Retrieve Intelligence from Drug Evidence showed a 19 percent decline in meth purity and a 56 percent increase in price per pure gram between 2007 and 2008.

Abroad, increased drug law enforcement cooperation with Mexico yielded positive results. Since assuming office in December 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderón oversaw his government's arrest of several high-level drug traffickers. In 2007, Mexico extradited an unprecedented 83 suspects, including the kingpin of the Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cárdenas-Guillén. DEA investigations yielded 15 extraditions in January 2007 alone, many of them leaders in Mexico's four major drug cartels. Cooperation with Colombian authorities also produced impressive results. Such authorities made unprecedented progress against the narco-terrorist organizations FARC, AUC, and North Valley Cartel, capturing, killing, or extraditing nine CPOTs. In addition, the infamous Cali Cartel collapsed, like the dismantled Medellín Cartel, when its remaining leaders, brothers Miguel and Gilberto Rodríguez-Orejuela, pled guilty in U.S. court to drug smuggling and money laundering charges in 2006. DEA's Drug Flow Attack Strategy, implemented in mid-2005, disrupted drug, money, and chemical trafficking between source zones in Latin America and the United States. Its aggressive, well-planned, and coordinated enforcement operations with host-nation counterparts zeroed in on global source countries, transit zones, and arrival zones. Successful operations included All Inclusive (2005-2007) and Imperial Emperor. Three months after All Inclusive's implementation, the average U.S. price per pure gram of cocaine increased 43 percent. In 2007's first three quarters, it rose 44 percent while average purity fell 15 percent.

On the other side of the globe, DEA expanded its multilateral Operation Containment strategy. Started in 2002, it sought to keep drugs and precursor chemicals from flowing into

and out of Afghanistan by training and mentoring Afghan narcotics officers via Foreign-deployed Advisory Support Team (FAST) personnel and assisting in operations. DEA's support resulted in 33 arrests for violations of Afghan and U.S. drug laws and/or terrorist-related offenses. Operation Containment made history. In 2005, DEA investigations led to the first Afghan heroin kingpin ever extradited from Afghanistan: CPOT Haji Baz Mohammad. Afghan warlord and CPOT narcotics trafficking coconspirator Haji Bashir Noorzai was also arrested, convicted in 2008.

This period was marked by record-breaking domestic and foreign asset seizures: by 2007, \$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 Mexico-based chemical broker who supplied Mexican cartels manufacturing meth; and 23.5 metric tons of cocaine seized by Mexican authorities in Manzanillo, Mexico, based on DEA intelligence.

Prescription drug misuse and diversion unfolded as difficult challenges for DEA in the 2000s. The drugs' supply sources were not typically street dealers but private residences' medicine cabinets and the internet. Illegal cyber-pharmacies facilitated the problem. Only about 11 percent of prescriptions dispensed daily by traditional brick-and-mortar pharmacies involved controlled substances compared to 95 percent filled by typical cyber-pharmacies. The overprescribed drugs were primarily pain killers. Beyond deploying expanded cybercrime investigative capabilities, DEA also focused regulatory and enforcement efforts on wholesale distributors linked to rogue internet pharmacies that handled far more controlled substances than the many individual pharmacies they supplied, choking off online supply chains.

Operation Northern Star (2003)

On April 15, 2003, Operation Northern Star culminated after an 18-month investigation. DEA led the OCDETF investigation in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to disrupt the Canadian supply of pseudoephedrine to Mexican drug traffickers. The

investigation led to 78 arrests across the United States and Canada and identified a connection between drug proceeds, U.S.-based Middle Eastern organizations, and terrorist organizations. It employed a comprehensive top-to-bottom strategy targeting the entire methamphetamine trafficking process, including suppliers of precursor chemicals, chemical brokers, transporters, manufacturers, distributors, and money launderers who helped conceal criminal proceeds.

Agents also targeted and arrested six executives from three Canadian chemical companies. They had all sold bulk quantities of pseudoephedrine to methamphetamine manufacturers in the United States with full knowledge that the sales were intended to illegally produce the highly addictive and dangerous drug. 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)

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

Colombian authorities extradited Ochoa to the United States in September 2001 on charges resulting from Operation Millennium, a 1999 case that targeted Alejandro Bernal Madrigal's cocaine trafficking organization. In addition to drug trafficking, a federal grand jury indicted Ochoa for his involvement in the murder of informant Adler



Fabio Ochoa.

“Barry” Seal weeks before Seal was supposed to testify against Ochoa’s older brother, Jorge Luis. As part of the Medellín 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. Escobar and several other Medellín leaders, labeled “The Extraditables,” took increasingly violent measures 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 Medellín Cartel. Several months prior, in December 1990, Ochoa surrendered to Colombian authorities and served prison time from 1991 to 1997. Ochoa continued running his drug operation from prison.

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

DEA SOD-coordinated, OCDETF investigation Operation Trifecta launched shortly after the December 2001 seizure of 9,291 kilograms of cocaine from a fishing vessel off Mexico’s Pacific coast. Because of the seizure and several ongoing DEA and ICE operations, the investigation

focused a nationwide effort on the communications of the Zambada-García Organization’s domestic cells. More than 80 separate investigations across the country were coordinated over a 19-month period, which led to the arrests on July 31, 2003, of more than 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 multinational investigations revealed the vast scope of the Zambada-García organization’s operations, ranging from their Colombian sources of supply, to Mexican maritime and border smugglers, to domestic distribution cells operating in various U.S. cities. “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-García was indicted in July 2003. The indictment alleged that between August 2001 and June 2002, the Zambada-García 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-García emerged as one of Mexico’s top drug smugglers after a bloody battle with the Arellano-Félix Organization, the once-powerful Tijuana cartel, and consolidated his control over the smuggling routes from the Mexican state of Sonora into Arizona. He remains at large.

Operation Double Trouble (2003)

OCDETF investigation Operation Double Trouble culminated on August 29, 2003. Launched in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1999, it had expanded to five states and two continents. Double Trouble successfully targeted and disrupted key Colombian drug and money brokers who operated between the United States and Colombia. Law

enforcement personnel from both countries, 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 investigation’s initial target was CPOT Ivan Henao, who was arrested in South Florida by DEA agents, and his Colombia-based money laundering and cocaine trafficking organization. Colombian drug trafficking cells operating in the United States knew Henao as a drug money broker. At least 18 of such drug distribution cells used his 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 system known as the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE).

At the operation’s conclusion, Administrator Karen Tandy said, “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 yielded forfeitures of \$10 million and \$55 million, respectively. It also resulted in deferred prosecutions.

Centers for Drug Information (2003)

The Centers for Drug Information (CDI) program was an internet-based information sharing system established in March 2002, but fully implemented in 2003, to assist foreign law enforcement elements worldwide in sharing information and coordinating law enforcement operations. The system offered standardized reporting forms, data storage in a central relational database with search capabilities, a passport and fugitive database, an internal email service, real-time chat, and other analytical tools. At one time, 51 countries participated and approximately 250 users shared information on such topics as:

drug movements, seizures, drug traffickers, noncitizen smuggling, money laundering, weapons trafficking, and clandestine drug laboratories. Fifteen African countries pledged to participate in the program.

The program was retired in May 2018. CDI participating nations proved that sharing drug information led to global operational successes. Through the CDI, DEA strengthened partnerships among and with foreign law enforcement counterparts to maximize the impact of worldwide antidrug operations.

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

An exhibit on the depth and breadth of DEA’s and other agencies’ efforts to disrupt drug cartels opened at DEA Headquarters in November 2003. Key artifacts on display in “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 worth over \$200,000 owned by a Texas drug trafficker and seized by DEA; and a 1999 SeaDoo brand jet ski seized by DEA through the asset forfeiture program during a crack cocaine investigation in Baltimore, Maryland. The exhibit ran through December 2004.

National Drug Control Strategy Focus on Prescription Drugs (2004)

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

- nonmedical use of narcotic pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives ranked second (behind marijuana) as a category of illicit drug use among adults and youth;
- in 2002, 6.2 million Americans actively misused prescription drugs;

- 13.7 percent of youth between the ages of 12 and 17 misused prescription drugs at least once in their lifetimes; and
- emergency room visits resulting from narcotic pain relievers’ misuse increased 163 percent since 1995.

With more than 10 million Americans estimated to suffer from chronic pain, the strategy sought to balance demand for effective pain management therapies with the prevention of psychotherapeutic drugs’ misuse and diversion.

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 U.S. cities and 3 Canadian cities. The two-nation crackdown targeted a huge drug trafficking ring whose members manufactured bulk quantities of ecstasy and marijuana in Canada and then shipped them to the United States. The organization was capable of distributing up to one million MDMA tablets per month. Ecstasy trafficking, previously controlled by Russian and Israeli gangs, had now spread to groups with ties to Southeast Asia. The investigation’s two principal targets were Ze Wai Wong, a Chinese national, and Mai Phuong Le, from Vietnam. The ring encompassed a sophisticated money laundering network of money remitters and travel agencies that processed millions of dollars in drug proceeds.

More than 140 people, including Wong, were arrested. In early January 2005, Wong was extradited from Canada to the United States to face charges. 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 international drug trafficking organization’s destruction sent significant shockwaves through the U.S. ecstasy market. Most significantly, MDMA use by high school seniors plummeted 57 percent from 2001 to 2004 per findings of the December 2004 Monitoring the Future Survey. The study also reported a 24 percent decline in perceived MDMA availability by high school seniors.

RICO Charges against North Valley Cartel (2004)

RICO Act charges were unsealed on May 6, 2004, against nine leaders of Colombia’s most powerful cocaine trafficking organizations. These groups, including the North Valley Cartel, were allegedly responsible for exporting more than 500 metric tons of cocaine worth \$10 billion into the United States. Federal law enforcement had designated three of the defendants as “most wanted” international drug trafficking targets. FBI added one defendant to its “Ten Most Wanted” Fugitives list.

According to the indictment, the accused worked together with various Colombian drug transportation specialists to send multi-ton loads of cocaine from Peru, Colombia, and other South American locations to Colombia’s Valle del Cauca region, where the North Valley Cartel principally operated. 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 their country via speed boats, fishing vessels, and other maritime conveyances. The shipments’ final destination was the United States.

National Virtual Pointer System

DEA, HIDTA, International Justice and Public Safety Network, and Regional Information Sharing Systems managers created the National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS) that links existing target deconfliction systems to promote collaborative investigative activity. First operational in June 2004, NVPS allows participating federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide to determine if and which other law enforcement entities are focused on the same investigative target. NVPS facilitates coordination by providing connectivity between existing investigative target deconfliction systems and access to all participating databases through a single point of entry. NVPS supplies participants with contact information for officers and agents working common targets.

Operations Busted Manatee and Double Talk (2004)

DEA’s Caribbean Initiative, a multifaceted attack on major trafficking organizations operating in the Caribbean corridor, culminated in June 2004 with the indictment and arrest of Colombian drug trafficker Elias Cobos-Munoz, the reputed head of one of the largest Colombia- and Jamaica-based drug trafficking and transportation organizations, and more than 50 other high-level traffickers. The 29-month-long OCDETF operations Busted Manatee and Double Talk focused on the affiliated Cobos and the Maycock/Smith drug organizations. The Cobos organization had operated since July 2000, importing large shipments of cocaine through transshipment points in the Caribbean before distributing it in the Miami area and elsewhere. The Maycock/Smith organization transported cocaine and marijuana by air and sea into the United States.

The estimated aggregate gross proceeds generated from the drugs’ U.S. importation exceeded \$275 million. The cocaine sales’ proceeds were laundered through financial institutions, some located in New York. In June 2004, DEA, assisted by domestic law enforcement counterparts in six countries, executed arrest warrants for members of the Cobos organization in Colombia, Panama, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the United States, 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-Félix. The action resulted from Operation United Eagles, initiated in July 2003, that combined the U.S. and Mexican governments’ efforts to aggressively pursue, locate, and apprehend indicted CPOTs, including Eduardo and Javier Arellano-Félix and other members of AFO, operating or living in either country. Operation United Eagles successfully apprehended numerous Tier I (CPOTs) and Tier II (first and second line operational and financial supervisors) targets.

AFO carried out numerous murders and kidnappings and corrupted state and municipal police officers and federal police officials. Law enforcement intelligence demonstrated that AFO was responsible for more than 100 drug-related murders in the United States and Mexico, including rival drug traffickers, suspected cooperators, uncooperative Mexican law enforcement and military personnel, and members of the Mexican news media who printed unfavorable stories. DEA systematically pursued AFO members since the 1980s. Seven brothers and four sisters of the Arellano-Félix 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.

AFO operated one of the world’s most violent criminal drug trafficking organizations during the 1990s and early 2000s. Allegedly, it was responsible for the brutal execution of special prosecutor Jose “Pepe” Patino Moreno and two of his colleagues. According to Mexican investigators, Patino, who targeted AFO for the Mexican attorney general’s drug unit, and two fellow agents endured brutal torture. AFO was also accused of recruiting, training, and arming groups of bodyguards and assassins responsible for protecting their leaders. The organization 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 varied smuggling methods, including shotgunning (sending numerous small loads), concealing loads in commercial and passenger vehicles, deploying couriers who concealed smaller amounts on their persons, transporting drugs through underground tunnels, and sending body carriers riding on commercial buses.

Operation Brain Drain (2004)

DEA announced the successful culmination of Operation Brain Drain on September 23, 2004. This 17-month joint U.S./RCMP OCDETF investigation identified and dismantled the most significant source of ephedrine smuggled from Canada to the United States. The operation targeted

Canadian bulk ephedrine distributors and their U.S. associates, as well as U.S.-based Mexican methamphetamine manufacturers and distributors. It yielded 90 arrests (including 5 major traffickers) and the seizure of 92 pounds of methamphetamine, 2,735 pounds of ephedrine powder, nearly 1.7 million ephedrine pills, 2 kilograms of cocaine, 62 pounds of precursor chemicals, 5 gallons of meth solution, 2 large clandestine meth labs, and \$3.5 million in Canadian currency.

Operation Money Clip (2004)

On October 19, 2004, DEA announced the culmination of Operation Money Clip, an SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation launched in October 2003. It was part of a larger initiative to focus investigations on the abilities, methods, and routes used to smuggle large amounts of currency from the United States to sources of drug supply in Mexico and other foreign countries. The operation targeted a Mexican-based polydrug trafficking organization with ties to a country-wide federation of traffickers.

Operation Money Clip dismantled an international money laundering and drug trafficking organization, resulting in the arrest of 83 defendants. DEA San Antonio and the Kimble County, Texas, 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 during the stop, Money Clip was ultimately expanded to 54 investigations spanning the nation. Agents found that the organization allegedly laundered as much as \$200 million from various rural and urban American cities to Mexican targets over two years. It also 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 parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Iowa, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Afghanistan Five Pillar Plan (2004)

DEA joined with coalition partners, the State Department, and the Department of Defense on November 17, 2004, to announce its participation in the U.S. Embassy Kabul Counternarcotics Implementation Plan. The agency's involvement expanded the DEA-led 19-country Operation Containment multilateral strategy begun in 2002 to stem the flow of drugs and precursor chemicals into and out of Afghanistan before spreading 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 war-torn country's stabilization and rebuilding. The plan also called for DEA to continue lending its expertise to counterparts in the Counter Narcotics Police Afghanistan (CNP-A). The agency provided drug enforcement training, building up Afghanistan's justice institutions and strengthening internal counternarcotics capabilities. Under the "Interdiction Pillar," DEA supported the destruction of clandestine labs and seizure of precursor chemicals, opium, and opiate stockpiles. To do so, DEA expanded its ground presence by permanently stationing additional special agents and intelligence analysts to enhance the country's counternarcotics capacity.

FAST Program Launched (2004)

In November 2004, as part of the Five Pillar Plan, DEA announced a program to reduce heroin production and contribute to Afghanistan's stabilization and rebuilding. In conjunction with coalition partners, the State Department, the Department of Defense, and DEA pledged to launch FAST. The program initially consisted of five teams of DEA special agents and intelligence analysts rotating on a temporary duty (TDY) basis to Afghanistan. They provided guidance and conducted bilateral investigations to identify, target, and disrupt illicit drug trafficking organizations.

FAST's mission was to mentor, train, and advise National Interdiction Units (NIU), specialized groups formed from CNP-A members. While FAST focused primarily on Afghanistan's heroin threat, it also assisted Afghan authorities' investigations. With the Defense Department's support, FAST helped destroy existing opium storage sites, clandestine heroin processing labs, and precursor chemical supplies.

FAST personnel's advanced training commenced in January 2005 at the U.S. Army's Ft. Moore (formerly Ft. Benning) in Georgia. With military instruction, training consisted of familiarization with communication equipment, weapons training, cultural awareness, improvised explosive device familiarization, combat life-saving 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 squads (Alpha and Bravo) departed on a U.S. military flight for Afghanistan. They immediately assisted the Kabul Country Office. One squad was based at the U.S. Embassy Kabul and the other at the U.S. military airfield in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Since its inception, FAST personnel deployed to several countries, including Afghanistan, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Guatemala, and Honduras. With time, the teams upgraded their capabilities. Unmanned aerial vehicles and technical targeting supported operations against high-value targets and hostage rescue operations in remote and hostile environments worldwide. The program successfully conducted numerous large-scale operations that shut down drug labs, seized significant amounts of precursor chemicals, opium, and heroin, and arrested high- and mid-level traffickers. For example, on June 9, 2008, a FAST, DEA Sensitive Investigative Unit (SIU), Afghanistan NIU, Afghan Special Narcotics Force, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) completed Operation Albatross, which targeted a Taliban-protected superlab complex in the Kandahar Province. The operation's initial phase resulted in the seizure of approximately 3.4 metric tons of hashish while the second yielded 262 metric tons, the largest hashish seizure at that time.





FAST abroad.



“Chapo” Guzman Reward (2004)

On December 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 Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera, AKA Chapo Guzmán. At the time, Guzmán was 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, Guzmán associated with Miguel Ángel Félix-Gallardo, AKA El Padrino, head of the most powerful drug trafficking group in Mexico at that time. He left El Padrino’s organization, soon gaining notoriety as the head of his own international criminal enterprise.

Guzmán was known for using a sophisticated tunnel in Douglas, Arizona, to smuggle cocaine from Mexico in the early 1990s. In 1993, a 7.3-ton load of his cocaine destined for the United States, concealed in cans of chili peppers, was seized in Tecate, Baja California Norte, Mexico. In May of that year, members of the rival Arellano-Félix Organization coordinated a failed attempt to assassinate Guzmán in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, which resulted in the much-publicized murder of prominent Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas-Ocampo.

At about the same time, an even more sophisticated tunnel stretching from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, Mexico, to the Otay Mesa, California, area was discovered. The following month, Guzmán 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 December 31, 2004, top leftist Colombian rebel Juvenal Ovidio Ricardo Palmera Pineda, AKA Simón Trinidad, was the first leader of the violent Colombian narco-terrorist guerilla group FARC to face prosecution in a U.S. federal court. The former chief of operations and finance of FARC’s

Caribbean Bloc 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 FARC’s refusal to free dozens of hostages, including three Americans and a German. Simón Trinidad is currently serving a 60-year sentence on kidnapping charges. FARC leader Nayibe Rojas Valderama, AKA Sonia, was extradited on March 9, 2005, from Colombia to the United States to face prosecution on drug charges. In February 2004, Sonia, finance officer and part of the FARC 14th Front’s command and control structure, 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 February 20, 2007, Sonia was convicted on drug charges by a jury in Washington, DC, and later sentenced to 200 months in prison. FARC controlled large portions of Colombia and financed its violent conflict with the Colombian government by engaging in drug trafficking, kidnapping, and extortion. DEA estimated that FARC controlled approximately 70 percent of Colombia’s cocaine trade in the early 2000s.

Denying Assets to Traffickers (2004)

In 2004, it was estimated that \$65 billion dollars changed hands for drugs each year in the United States. DEA established financial investigations—“following the money”—as a top priority. The agency reenergized its attacks on drug cartels’ financial infrastructures to permanently dismantle 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. The agency also established a Financial Investigations Team in its Bangkok and Bogotá offices. In addition, DEA increased interagency cooperation and information sharing through joint efforts with the IRS and Bureau of Immigration and

Customs Enforcement. By collaborating on issues, such as the bulk currency program, DEA and its partners developed new investigations that yielded large currency seizures with links to ongoing drug investigations. Since smuggling large cash sums across American borders was the primary method used to expatriate drug proceeds, these interagency efforts ensured the coordination of all U.S. highway interdiction money seizures.

DEA also changed its tactics so that money laundering investigations of the BMPE inflicted the most damage against Colombian drug supply sources. BMPE is the largest known money laundering system in the Western Hemisphere. In the early-to-mid 2000s, it was responsible for moving an estimated \$4 billion worth of drug proceeds every year from the United States to Colombia. By zeroing in on drug money, DEA added several financial targets to its CPOT list. Moreover, DEA recruited special agents with finance and accounting backgrounds to further increase the agency's in-house financial investigative skills.

The strategy paid off. DEA set records attacking illicit drug proceeds and related assets beginning in 2004. From FY 2005 through FY 2007, DEA denied drug trafficking organizations more than \$7 billion in revenue through asset and drug seizures. DEA denied drug traffickers a record-setting \$3.5 billion in FY 2007—a goal not anticipated 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 percent. Additionally, DEA assisted 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 percent.

Operation Jump Start (2005)

On February 15, 2005, DEA announced the successful culmination of SOD-supported OCDETF Operation Jump Start, which represented a first for DEA: disrupting the flow of Colombian heroin, typically shipped in multi-kilogram quantities hidden in car batteries, on a route from Guatemala through Mexico to Texas. The cocaine eventually traveled to New York and other parts of the United States.

The operation's culmination was a highly orchestrated, multijurisdictional, and multinational takedown resulting in 100 arrests, including key targets of the trafficking organization's Colombian and Guatemalan leadership. Nine of the defendants were the first individuals extradited from Guatemala for federal narcotics violations since 1992. Removing senior directors from the organization effectively dismantled the drug cartel.

Operation Jump Start began in October 2003 when SOD connected a drug seizure made by the Louisiana State Police to an ongoing drug investigation started in 2002 by DEA's Washington Division Greenbelt, Maryland, HIDTA Task Force and the Montgomery County, Maryland, 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 and 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, and Gear Grinder (2005)

DEA's Virtual Enforcement Initiative (VEI), a SOD-coordinated 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. VEI resulted in more than \$21.6 million in cash, property, computers, and bank accounts seizures.

Operation Cyber Chase was the first major VEI effort, which identified over 200 websites that illegally sold pharmaceutical drugs. Because of this year-long operation that began after the identification of a Philadelphia-based international internet drug trafficking Bansal organization, headed by Indian nationals, more than 20 criminals were arrested in 8 U.S. cities and 4 foreign countries. Until they were arrested, these "e-traffickers" had been operating in the United States, India, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean. They used their rogue pharmacies to distribute drugs worldwide.

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

Operation Gear Grinder resulted in the largest DEA steroid bust in history. It was a 21-month investigation that targeted 8 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 (most originating from the companies identified). The businesses conducted their sales online; their estimated 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 BMPE. From the investigation, DEA learned 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 based in Colombia.

Operation Mallorca yielded the arrests of 36 individuals in 2 countries, including 13 Colombian drug traffickers taken into custody. 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 4 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 Attack Strategy in May 2005. It was designed to significantly disrupt the flow of drugs, money, and chemicals between source zones in Latin America and the United States by attacking vulnerabilities in major drug trafficking organizations' supply chains, transportation systems, and financial infrastructure. 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, centered 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: "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 from 2005 to 2007, the centerpiece of the Drug Flow Attack Strategy, and Operation Imperial Emperor. When the three-month periods before and after Operation All Inclusive were compared, the average U.S. price per pure gram of cocaine increased 43 percent. During the first three quarters of 2007, it 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 initiative implemented in August 2005 to disrupt the flow of drugs and money between South and Central American source zones and the United States. In its first year, the operation’s targeting of Central American transit zones yielded 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 Colombia-based cocaine processing labs that yielded 92.6 metric tons of precursor chemicals. In the operation’s final year, law enforcement seized 115 metric tons of cocaine, a quantity estimated to be 12 to 28 percent of the cocaine transported through transit zones to the United States in 2006.

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

On July 21, 2005, authorities shut down the first sophisticated drug smuggling tunnel known to run between Canada and the United States. Extending between British Columbia, Canada, and Washington State, it was under construction for more than a year and 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



A U.S.-Canadian cross-border tunnel discovered on July 21, 2005.

tunnel terminated beneath the living room floor of a home in Lynden, Washington. It ran at a depth of between 3 and 10 feet, reinforced with iron rebar and wooden supports. DEA agents apprehended several loads of marijuana and ecstasy that conspirators tried to move through the tunnel.

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

Seventeen years after the conviction of Michael Chia, a co-conspirator in the murder of Special Agents Paul Seema and George Montoya and the serious wounding of Special Agent Jose Martinez, he was again convicted in a retrial in Los Angeles County on September 28, 2005. While not present at the agents’ shooting, Chia 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 1988 trial. He was ultimately convicted of two counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted murder, second-degree robbery, and conspiracy to commit robbery. Chia was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences in prison.

On February 28, 2002, the Ninth Circuit Court overturned Chia's original conviction and ordered his 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 and remanded it back to them for reconsideration. Almost a year later, the Ninth Circuit affirmed that Chia's due process rights were violated and granted him 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.

Chia's new trial began on August 2, 2005. Although the retrial presented a challenge to DEA, the Los Angeles Field Division (LAFD) made Chia's successful prosecution their highest priority. LAFD worked closely with the prosecutorial team, spending countless hours reviewing facts and evidence. In announcing Chia's reconviction, 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, which struck and devastated New Orleans on August 29, 2005. The U.S. Attorney for Eastern Louisiana recalled DEA special agents to be the first federal law enforcement officers in the field as the last drop of rain from Hurricane Katrina fell on the city's streets. DEA employees assisted citizens and city authorities, aiding in rescue and cleanup for weeks following the disaster.

The Aviation Division and the Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, St. Louis, and Miami Field Divisions collectively deployed 113 special agents and special agent/pilots to support 13 law enforcement agencies in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. DEA 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 Aviation Division 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, allowing 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. The agency 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. Moreover, 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. Beyond the extensive onsite assistance DEA provided in the disaster areas, employees across the agency donated cash and needed items. The Aviation Division, which spearheaded the charitable donations and ensured the delivery of goods, estimated that nearly \$121,000 was collected to assist those in need.

The DEA team who rescued the nursing home patients won the Attorney General's Award and was a finalist for the 2006 Service to America Citizen Services Medal. 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 following the disaster, Hearst Newspapers lauded the agency as one of only two to get the "people piece right" in its emergency response.

The hurricane damaged DEA's New Orleans Field Division (NOFD) office, but employees were able to reoccupy the space on November 7, 2005. DEA's Gulfport, Mississippi, office fared much worse; it was largely destroyed. Employees eventually returned 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 escalated significantly. New Orleans had twice the murders per capita than the next highest city. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

determined that federal resources were needed to help stem the violent crime surge. He gave DEA in New Orleans the power to arrest and enforce any federal law under any title, as opposed to just Title 21 (the CSA)—a historic allowance. NOFD detailed 21 special agents to various New Orleans Police Department specialized units, including the Crime Abatement Team, Special Operation Division, and Major Narcotics Section. DEA also committed the HIDTA Task Force to the worst crime area in central city. The agency's efforts focused on increasing the 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 DEA-led or participating investigations, 963 individuals were arrested on various state charges, and a total of 142 firearms, 1 kilogram of heroin, 3.5 kilograms of crack, 3 kilograms of cocaine powder, 15 kilograms of marijuana, 65 grams of methamphetamine, 3,404 dosage units (DUs) of MDMA, and \$194,838 dollars were seized. In 2006, NOFD SAC Bill Renton and Assistant 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.

Renton summed up DEA's response: "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 Website Launched (2005)

On August 30, 2005, DEA launched the teen website www.justthinktwice.com to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs and counter messages bombarding America's youth that drug use is a rite of passage or a normal part of adolescence. The website provides facts to teens about drugs like methamphetamine, including before and after photos of people who use meth that graphically depict the drug's physical effects. Beyond information on methamphetamine, the site contains material on prescription drug misuse, marijuana, steroids, and club drugs. It also features resources on the legal consequences of drug trafficking and manufacturing. Thought-provoking, real-life scenarios appear alongside teens' legal responsibilities in the areas of drugged driving, drug-facilitated sexual assaults, and supplying 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 through 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. history, on August 30, 2005. It was designed to target all levels of the domestic meth manufacturing and distribution chain and to fight its further spread. This unprecedented operation involved over 200 U.S. cities and resulted in 427 arrests. 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 meth-ridden environments. At the culmination of Operation Wildfire, Administrator Tandy said, "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 and an 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 multinational, multijurisdictional, and multiagency wire intercept investigation targeting a corrupt group of on-duty and retired CNP officials. These individuals represented the North Valley Cartel, specifically the Wilber Varela organization, and were known to identify elements in CNP’s ranks susceptible to corruption and critical to their trafficking efforts. These corrupt officials used their contacts and/or former CNP positions to approach other police officials to access information or exert influence and facilitate narcotics shipments from Colombia into Mexico, Europe, and the United States. DEA’s joint operation began when information was developed that exposed a corrupt CNP underworld operating from the Bogotá International Airport shipping multi-ton quantities of cocaine to Mexico via commercial airlines.

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

On December 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 were active CNP officers, one an Avianca Airline security officer, and seven former CNP officers working for the North Valley Cartel. On April 3, 2006, DEA Bogotá in conjunction with CNP DIJIN-Cali 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. In response to the case’s success, threats were made against members of the CNP DIJIN-Cali unit.

CNP officers arrived in the town of Jamundi, Colombia, on May 22, 2006, 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 from 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 February 18, 2008, Carvajal and 14 soldiers were convicted of murdering 10 CNP officers. The ambush revealed 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 to 52, and the other 13 soldiers to 50 for their participation in the ambush.

In honor of the slain CNP officers, a plaque with pictures of each fallen hero is on display at DEA/SOD. The display memorializes the following officers who made 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





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

DEA's Secure Electronic Ordering System (2005)

DEA launched its cost- and time-saving, error-reducing paperless Controlled Substances Ordering System (CSOS) on September 1, 2005. For several years, DEA's Office of Diversion Control cooperated with the pharmaceutical industry to develop an electronic version of the ordering system for Schedule II controlled substances. It replaced a legally mandated, three-part form generated by industry and maintained by the supplier, the purchaser, and DEA for all purchases of Schedule II substances. CSOS provides a secure and authenticated way to electronically submit orders directly to Schedule II suppliers, streamlining the supply chain and helping patients get necessary prescriptions faster.

Money Trail Initiative (2005)

DEA implemented its Money Trail Initiative in 2005. The innovative financial crime strategy attacked the financing of the illegal drug trade and dismantled major drug trafficking organizations. In its first year and a half, the initiative was responsible for dismantling six national organizations that transported bulk currency drug proceeds from the United States to Mexico.

By July 2006, the initiative resulted in 418 arrests 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. A related SOD-coordinated investigation, Operation Choque, yielded the identification and arrest of Mexican CPOTs Oscar, Miguel, and Luis Arriola-Marquez, dismantling their organization, which, based on ledgers seized by Mexican authorities, was responsible for smuggling at least 14,000 kilograms of cocaine into the United States and \$240 million out. Based on information supplied by DEA, Mexican authorities seized over \$18 million of the Arriola-Marquez Organization's assets.

Operation Long Wine (2005)

On October 12, 2005, the first phase of Operation Long Wine culminated. It was an SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation targeting the Atlanta-based cell of a major Mexican meth and cocaine trafficking organization. The group trafficked hundreds of kilograms of cocaine and pounds of meth into the United States. It also laundered millions of dollars in illicit drug proceeds, often smuggling the laundered money in vehicles back to Mexico to fund their criminal enterprise. The operation's first phase resulted in 28 arrests and the seizure of over \$8 million, 40 pounds of "ice" meth, and over 592 kilograms of cocaine. Operation Long Wine marked the second round of success in DEA's Money Trail Initiative.

Operation Motor City Mafia (2005)

On October 28, 2005, 47 members and associates of the self-named Black Mafia Family (BMF) were arrested following a two-year SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation. Nearly 635 kilograms of cocaine, numerous weapons, and \$14 million in currency and assets were also seized. BMF was a large-scale cocaine trafficking and money laundering organization based in Detroit, whose operations spanned the country. The group's founders and ringleaders, brothers Terry and Demetrius Flenory, began their drug trafficking careers selling \$50 bags of crack in high school through the mid-1980s. Expanding to other cities in the 1990s, the brothers extended their small-scale trafficking

organization into a multimillion-dollar criminal enterprise operating in numerous states.

The organization distributed thousands of kilograms of cocaine and laundered millions of dollars in drug proceeds. BMF members and associates trafficked approximately 2,500 kilograms of cocaine monthly through their Atlanta hub. The organization used sophisticated traps (i.e., 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.

The Flenory brothers ultimately pled guilty to leading their criminal enterprise. In 2008, a U.S. District Court sentenced both to 50 years in prison (30 for their coordination of BMF and 20 for money laundering).

Operation Sweet Tooth (2005)

DEA announced the culmination of Operation Sweet Tooth on November 17, 2005. The two-year, SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation targeted international ecstasy and marijuana trafficking rings whose drug smuggling and money laundering operations spanned back alleys in Asia to neighborhood streets in Canada and the United States. It followed Operation Candy Box, which dismantled an international ring importing one million MDMA tablets a month into Canada for U.S. distribution.

Operation Sweet Tooth comprised DEA-led investigations in 12 separate U.S. judicial districts. It resulted in 291 arrests and the execution of 98 search warrants domestically and in Canada. Seizures totaled 931,300 MDMA tablets, 1,777 pounds of marijuana, and \$7.75 million in U.S. assets. The criminal organizations' leaders refined and improved methods used by those targeted in Operation Candy Box. Ultimately, they 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 United States in 2003. The Sweet Tooth investigation identified drug trafficking networks that imported MDMA powder into Canada, established clandestine pill press warehouses, and smuggled bulk quantities of MDMA tablets into the United States. The

operation's financial work revealed that the drug trafficking syndicates laundered millions of dollars in proceeds using bulk courier transport, money remitters, and the Vietnamese underground banking system. Assistance provided by both Vietnamese and Canadian authorities made Operation Sweet Tooth possible.

Operation Northern Impact (2005)

Operation Northern Impact concluded on November 30, 2005. The 24-month SOD-coordinated OCDETF investigation targeted an international cocaine and marijuana trafficking ring that smuggled drugs and laundered money across the Southwest border and into the northeastern United States. It identified and dismantled a multimillion-dollar drug distribution network responsible for smuggling and distributing significant quantities of cocaine from Mexico. The distribution network extended as far northeast as the Washington, DC-Baltimore area.

Three major drug transportation rings based in Greensboro, North Carolina; Phoenix, Arizona; and Los Angeles, California, were also dismantled. Operation Northern Impact resulted in 53 arrests on charges that included drug conspiracy and money laundering. Operation seizures totaled 341 kilograms of cocaine, 2,258 pounds of marijuana, and \$1.4 million in U.S. assets.

Operation High Step (2005)

November 2005 was a busy month for DEA. In addition to Operations Sweet Tooth and Northern Impact, the agency concluded Operation High Step, a year-long DEA-led multijurisdictional, multinational investigation. It targeted 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 paintings' porcelain frames. Drug dealers would shatter the frames to retrieve their product for sale. The traffickers also concealed heroin in shipments of furniture and shoes, even sewing it into clothing. The organization smuggled 25 kilograms of heroin monthly into the United States. 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 organizations' two leaders.

Prevention of Hostile Acts in Afghanistan (2005)

In the early 2000s, DEA provided actionable intelligence that deterred hostile acts, including rocket and IED attacks, against U.S. and Coalition personnel and interests in Afghanistan on more than 19 occasions. Additionally, DEA intelligence led to the apprehension of high-value targets and the seizure of Taliban weapons caches. The agency's investigative efforts were vital to capturing Afghanistan's top drug barons, stabilizing the country, and contributing to the security of all Coalition forces there.

First Afghan Drug Trafficker Successfully Brought to Justice in the United States (2005)

In October 2005, Haji Baz Mohammad became the first Afghan heroin kingpin under Afghanistan President Hamid Karzaie's authority subjected to the U.S. justice system. Since 1990, Mohammad had led an international heroin-trafficking organization that provided financial support to the Taliban in Afghanistan. In exchange, the Taliban provided protection for his 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 was even sold in the United States. Baz Mohammad believed selling heroin in America was a jihad, interpreted by him as religious warfare, because Americans were paying his associates for a deadly drug.

Mohammad and Bashir Noorzai (arrested by DEA in April 2005 on heroin-importation charges) are the only Afghan narcotics traffickers 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 October 5, 2007. DEA

Administrator Tandy summed up the significance of the arrest, extradition, and sentencing: "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."

Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (2005)

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 manufacturing. The CMEA's retail provisions included daily sales limits, 30-day purchase limits, product placement out of direct customer access, recordkeeping requirements on most sales, customer ID verification, employee training, and self-certification of regulated sellers.

Ultimately the act curtailed the chemicals' availability for diversion to the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine or amphetamine. The CMEA required individuals to show identification and sign a log book at pharmacies when purchasing products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine. DEA, along with state and local law enforcement, monitored the books to identify customers purchasing more than 9 grams within a month's time. Additional provisions mandated DEA to 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 mixtures containing these chemicals regardless of concentration or form.

U.S./Mexico Methamphetamine Partnership (2006)

U.S. Attorney General Gonzales and Mexican Attorney General Daniel Cabeza De Vaca announced new anti-methamphetamine initiatives and partnerships between their two countries at a National Methamphetamine and Chemicals Initiative Strategy Conference in Dallas held May 17 and 18, 2006. The renewed relationship's goals 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 both sides 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 operating in Mexico and the United States;
- establishing a Bi-National Law Enforcement Working Group focused 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, centered on the biggest threats;
- and exchanges of DEA/Mexican chemical regulatory personnel to enable both sides to observe, learn best practices for, and implement joint strategies.

Additionally, DEA offered training on investigative, enforcement, and regulatory methods related to meth

trafficking for nearly 1,000 Mexican police officials. Domestic efforts redirected DEA clan lab enforcement teams toward identifying and dismantling U.S.-based transportation and distribution cells. DEA also established a national meth registry on its website identifying locations of U.S. properties where meth labs or chemical dumpsites were found. Moreover, the agency planned a new, state-of-the-art clan lab training facility for its academy at Quantico.

Puppies Used to Smuggle Heroin (2006)

DEA concluded a two-year multiagency investigation on February 1, 2006, that identified an organization based in Medellín, Colombia, using varied and unique concealment methods to smuggle drugs. Most shockingly, the traffickers surgically implanted heroin packets into pure-bred puppies. The international round-up included 18 search warrants in 6 different Colombian cities, and the arrest of 22 Colombian nationals.

During the investigation, there were 14 separate seizures of heroin totaling 24 kilograms and a seizure of 6 kilograms of cocaine. The organization's distribution network stretched from Miami to New York City. National and international media widely covered the puppies, many of which survived the cruel surgery and were adopted by Colombian families. The story became one of DEA's most well-known to date. DEA and CNP received a certificate of thanks from 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 February 3, 2006, Mexican drug kingpin Oscar Arturo Arriola-Marquez, head of an international drug distribution network extending from Mexico across the United States, was arrested in Mexico during a joint operation between DEA and Mexican authorities. The Arriola-Marquez cartel was a violent criminal organization that trafficked

thousands of kilograms of cocaine and marijuana into the United States and laundered the illegal proceeds. As part of this investigation, Mexican government officials seized approximately \$32 million in assets. The cartel's drug money laundering made it a prime target for DEA's Money Trail Initiative.

50 Leaders of Narco-Terrorist FARC Indicted (2006)

On March 1, 2006, 50 FARC leaders were indicted on U.S. charges of importing more than \$25 billion worth of cocaine into the United States and other countries. The U.S. Department of State also announced more than \$75 million worth of rewards for information leading to the capture of remaining FARC leaders.

FARC, designated by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization, was supplying more than 50 percent of the world's cocaine and more than 60 percent of cocaine entering the United States. The group initially taxed other narcotics traffickers manufacturing and distributing cocaine in areas it controlled. Recognizing immense profit potential, FARC directly involved its members in cocaine production and distribution as early as the 1990s. Among other criminal and violent activities, FARC set prices paid to farmers across Colombia for cocaine paste, the raw material used to produce cocaine, and transported it to jungle laboratories where it was converted into ton quantities of finished cocaine and shipped to the United States and elsewhere. Recognizing cocaine sales as the group's lifeblood, FARC leaders collected millions of dollars in drug proceeds and used the money to purchase weapons for terrorist activities against the government and people of Colombia.

Ecstasy Trafficker Extradited from Israel (2006)

Israeli national and notorious criminal Ze'ev Rosenstein was extradited to the United States on March 6, 2006. He appeared in federal court in the Southern District of Florida to face charges of conspiracy to smuggle hundreds of thousands of ecstasy tablets into the United States for illegal

sale. The case against Rosenstein, worked with assistance from Israeli authorities and local U.S. authorities in Florida and New York, was largely based on the seizure of 700,000 ecstasy pills in July 2001.

Rosenstein's indictment covered a two-year period when he headed a sophisticated drug trafficking network whose operations spanned four continents and involved the shipment of over one million ecstasy pills to the United States. At the time, Administrator Tandy called him "the most infamous criminal in Israel." The July 2001 seizure occurred after one of Rosenstein's co-conspirators sold an ecstasy sample 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 marijuana distribution. From searches conducted in the San Francisco Bay area 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 semiautomatic weapons, one revolver, and hundreds of pot-laced candy packets and soft drinks. The investigation began in October 2005, when DEA obtained information that Beyond Bomb, a manufacturer of marijuana candy in Oakland, California, 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 multijurisdictional and multinational investigation that targeted the cocaine trafficking organization of Colombian national and CPOT target Pablo Rayo-Montano. He was responsible for smuggling more than 15 tons of cocaine per month from Colombia to the United States 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 with a vast array of marine vessels, such as fast boats, fishing boats, submersibles, and containerized cargo vessels. The group associated with AUC, FARC, and the North Valley Cartel. An international coalition spearheaded by the Brazilian Federal Police, Panamanian Judicial Police, CNP, 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. When describing the organization, Administrator Tandy explained that it "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" (2006)

On June 8, 2006, the first-ever candlelight vigil took place at Headquarters to bring together those involved in drug use prevention, treatment, and education as well as those who lost loved ones—and their promise—to drug use. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, NIDA, and the Courage to Speak Foundation cosponsored the vigil. It was attended by about 500 people, including 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 lost loved ones. The Memorial Wall became part of the *Target America* exhibit, which now travels the country as *Drugs: Costs and Consequences*.

Francisco Javier Arellano-Félix Arrested (2006)

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

The youngest of four Arellano-Félix brothers controlling the cartel since the late 1980s, Javier was put in charge of daily AFO Tijuana/Mexicali operations in 2000. He assumed full control of the cartel in March 2002 following the incapacitation of his older brothers Benjamin (arrested in Mexico that same month) and Ramón (killed in Mexico in February 2002).

At a press conference announcing Javier's arrest, DEA Chief of Operations Michael Braun said, "For over a decade, the Arellano-Félix 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-Félix 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-Félix 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)

DEA completed its first ever clandestine methamphetamine laboratory safety training class for Mexican law enforcement officers on September 7, 2006, at the DEA Training Academy. Forty-nine officers from the Mexican-based Federal Preventive Police and six prosecutors from the Federal Organized Crime Division Prosecutors received a month-long course.

The training was part of a larger agreement between DEA and Mexico's government to establish specialized methamphetamine enforcement teams on both sides of the border. In Mexico, teams focused on investigating and targeting the most wanted Mexican methamphetamine drug trafficking organizations across five meth hot spots in Sinaloa, Michoacán, Jalisco, Sonora, and Baja California Norte. Training covered the latest techniques in clandestine lab detection, enforcement, and chemical identification, including an opportunity for certification in clandestine laboratory investigations—a first for Mexican officers. From 2006 through 2007, DEA trained more than 3,300 Mexican law enforcement officers to improve their methamphetamine trafficking law enforcement skills.

Rodríguez-Orejuela Brothers Extradited and Pled Guilty (2006)

Gilberto and Miguel Rodríguez-Orejuela, brothers who ran the infamous Cali Cartel in Colombia, pled guilty on September 26, 2006, to a charge of conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States. Each had been extradited to the United States in December 2004 and March 2005, respectively. They also pled guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering by hiding the proceeds of narcotics trafficking. Per their plea deal's terms, the 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 Gonzales.

The brothers were arrested by Colombian authorities in 1995 and sentenced to 30 years in prison based on their illegal conduct after 1997, when Colombia lifted the prohibition against extraditing its nationals. While imprisoned in Colombia, they continued running their cartel by working through Miguel's son, William Rodríguez-Abadía, and others who oversaw various operational aspects using new routes and new methods (like 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). Meanwhile, DEA's investigation of their activities persisted. On March 8, 2006, Rodríguez-Abadía pled guilty in Miami to his involvement and was sentenced to more than 21 years in prison.

Although the brothers were imprisoned at the time, the money laundering conspiracy charges against them, to which they pled guilty, alleged that they laundered the Cali Cartel's illicit fortune through a pharmaceutical drug empire that included more than 400 retail drug stores across Colombia and pharmaceutical drug manufacturing laboratories. By investing millions of cocaine trafficking dollars in these ostensibly legitimate companies, the Rodríguez-Orejuela brothers successfully laundered the Cali Cartel's illicit proceeds. Consequently, 28 of their family members entered into an agreement with the United States to forfeit their right, title, and interest in all Rodríguez-Orejuela business entities and other assets worldwide, as well as all assets of any nature in the United States.

The convictions of the Rodríguez-Orejuela brothers resulted from OCDETF 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 United States, eclipsing the dying

Medellín Cartel. Operation Cornerstone yielded several major seizures of cocaine, including 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 kilograms of cocaine being smuggled into the United States, representing \$2.1 billion in drug proceeds.

DEA Policy on Pain Treatment (2006)

DEA unveiled a proposed rule on September 6, 2006, making 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.

The agency also launched a new page on its website called “Cases Against Doctors.” DEA’s guiding principle was to prevent the misuse and diversion of prescription-controlled substances, which had become increasingly popular and deadly, without affecting the ability of patients with legitimate needs to fully access pain relief prescribed by their physicians. The new policy statement outlined longstanding legal requirements on dispensing controlled substances for pain treatment. It addressed the requirement that controlled substances be prescribed only for a legitimate medical purpose, examined issues surrounding pain treatment, and elaborated on DEA’s policy for taking appropriate legal action against those very few physicians who illegally prescribed 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 November 19, 2007, DEA finalized its proposed rule. Accordingly, 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. Only then would physicians be permitted 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 September 28, 2006, culmination of Operation Triple Play, DEA announced the unsealing of charges in Manhattan federal court against 22 members of a massive drug trafficking organization that smuggled more than \$5 million worth of ecstasy from Canada into the United States for resale. Nineteen defendants were arrested in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and one 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 United States for distribution. The organization was supplied by Jung Chao and Chung My Huong Nguyen, who were based in Canada and occasionally traveled to the United States to oversee the pills’ distribution.

The indictment charged that Thuong Tri Tang, AKA “Tang,” was the criminal organization’s primary distributor of ecstasy in the United States. Tang had direct dealings with supply sources in Canada, receiving tens of thousands of ecstasy pills at a time for U.S. distribution. After the pills were smuggled across the Canada-U.S. border, Tang arranged for them to be split among East Coast distribution cells. The cells then sold the ecstasy to retail drug dealers for resale to people on streets, in clubs, and in brothels. The organization’s members arranged for resulting drug proceeds to be collected and laundered back to their supply sources in Canada. The criminal organization stowed the

pills at self-storage facilities in New Jersey. The drugs were labeled with many different stamps or markings, including, among others, a cherry, the Versace and Louis Vuitton logos, and a 6-point star.

While most arrested during Operation Triple Play faced justice in the United States, Chao and Nguyen were prosecuted in Canada. Tang pled guilty to several charges in 2008. He was sentenced to 72 months in prison.

Operation Cyber-Roid (2006)

On October 26, 2006, five defendants were arrested in two separate criminal cases involving illegal, online distribution of prescription drugs and anabolic steroids. DEA, 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 from PMeds.com. Six defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances through the website.

Beginning in January 2003, PMeds took orders from a residence in Massachusetts, forwarded them to a site in Metepec, Mexico, and smuggled anabolic steroids and other controlled substances into the United States for shipment to customers. PMeds also used commercial carriers to ship steroids concealed in electronic equipment and women's shoes. Another defendant located in Georgia supplied PMeds with steroids and other controlled substances from his business in Belize.

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

The extradition on January 29, 2005, from Mexico of Agustín Vásquez-Mendoza, the murderer of Special Agent Richard E. Fass, culminated a long and arduous investigation led by the Phoenix Field Division with assistance from the Mexico City Country Office. On November 14, 2006, Vásquez-Mendoza was sentenced to life in prison for first-degree murder. His was the fourth sentencing stemming from Fass' June 1994 murder during an undercover operation in Glendale, Arizona.



Agustín Vásquez-Mendoza is escorted to a police vehicle while being extradited to the United States.

Vásquez-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 that he and three associates planned to rob 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 November 30, 2006, National Methamphetamine Awareness Day—the largest single nationwide educational effort warning against the dangers of methamphetamine use. It was part of a nationwide campaign to spotlight different initiatives across the country 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 levels; in the government; and private and nonprofit 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 December 5, 2006, DEA announced that its webpage would post the locations of known methamphetamine clandestine labs or dumpsites in each state. The information could raise awareness of possible meth-contaminated sites within 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 designed to provide information regarding the nature of domestic heroin use in U.S. communities. New York's large heroin market and strategic location as a gateway city for domestic heroin distribution served as the impetus for instituting the program. HDMP provides federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement authorities; drug policymakers; and drug-use researchers information on the price, purity, and geographic origin of retail-level heroin available in major U.S. metropolitan areas. Since its inception, 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 had expanded to 28 U.S. cities.

In 2006, DEA initiated the Cocaine and Methamphetamine Domestic Monitor Programs, modeled after HDMP. Due to the threat posed by cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking, these programs were instituted to provide data on the prices and purity of cocaine and methamphetamine at the retail level to the same audience as HDMP. Cocaine DMP was first initiated in 11 cities and the Methamphetamine DMP in 12. The pilot programs revealed wide variations in drug purity

even within the same city, possibly indicating shifts in distribution and/or corroborating investigative intelligence regarding changes in availability.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Fusion Center (2006)

Under DEA leadership, the OCDETF Fusion Center (OFC) became fully operational in 2006 with the mission to fuse together 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 self-generated intelligence analysis. It provides a permanent, collective body of knowledge developed over time that features continually updated intelligence fused with new reporting.

Through human analysis and sophisticated link analysis tools, the center conducts comprehensive analyses of available information, produces investigative leads for personnel in the field, and supports the coordination of multiagency, multijurisdictional investigations targeting the most significant drug trafficking organizations threatening the United States. At OFC's heart is a powerful computer with access to a massive database that applies advanced analytics to queries, plus one of the most potent free text search engines available.

Support to the Diversion Control Program

The Intelligence Program expanded its support of DEA's Diversion Control Program with the addition of 73 intelligence analysts in the mid-2000s. The new employees contributed much-needed intelligence analytical support to criminal and regulatory investigations and conducted strategic intelligence projects. For example, they participated in an investigation of the third largest pharmaceutical distributor in the country (ranked 19 on the Fortune 500 list of major corporations). Their analysis indicated that the company disregarded DEA compliance requirements and sold millions of dosage units of hydrocodone to rogue internet pharmacies. The company

agreed to pay a \$34 million settlement for failure to report suspicious sales.

Intelligence support to Diversion also led to the designation of the first chemical 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 rejoined the Intelligence Community (IC) through the designation of the agency's Office of National Security Intelligence as the Community's 16th member. 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 leveraged expertise.

DEA's 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 the agency's resources are responsive to national security requirements and leveraging the institutions, diversity, and capabilities of the IC to strengthen and support law enforcement efforts. The office disseminates DEA intelligence products—operational and strategic—through cables and in finished intelligence format directly to partner agencies. Through its IC membership, the office also represents DEA and its interests by ensuring that issues related to drug trafficking are brought to the attention of the IC's highest levels.

El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)

EPIC made a significant advancement in information collection and sharing by adding foreign government

liaison officers to its staff. Representatives from CNP and Mexico's government (specifically the Attorney General's Office) joined. The benefit of their presence was realized almost immediately with the facilitation of an information exchange regarding Mexican authorities' interdiction 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 from the captured SPSS and examined the seized vessel. The Colombian representative provided valuable information on SPSS activities. The Colombian and Mexican representatives provide weekly briefings to EPIC, which increased the depth and significance of the shared information. Regular briefings and daily contact with the liaison officers proved to be a significant opportunity for the exchange of valuable information applied in law enforcement operations.

To further support the law enforcement community, EPIC launched a concerted effort in 2006 to make its information more available through internet technology. By launching the EPIC Open Connectivity Project, DEA provided web-based access to the center's data, connecting users to information in their offices and squad cars. Initially, available data included 34 years of drug information collected from state and local federal agencies. Because of its ease of use, timely responses, and diversity of valuable, usable information for law enforcement, EPIC's Open Connectivity has proven very successful.

As part of the project, EPIC and its partners developed a National Seizure System (NSS), which captures via internet communication drug seizures from around the world (with particular focus on those in the United States). Available information includes type and amount of drug, circumstances leading to the seizure, organizations associated with the seizure, information on arrestees, and post seizure/event information comprised of detainee and seizure photos, diagrams, charts, and maps. Users and contributors also can manipulate and analyze the data for strategic purposes within their areas of responsibility or beyond, or request that EPIC provide analysis of the data set.

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

EPIC receives information from many law enforcement, military, and IC agencies. A perfect example of the center's collection, analytical, and coordination capabilities is its analysis of intelligence received on possible maritime drug movement in the Pacific Ocean. In one case, investigators did not know if a drug operation involved surface transfer using go-fast or SPSS vessels. After several days of critical intelligence analysis, EPIC located the suspect vessel. 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, which interdicted the vessel and seized 5.8 metric tons of cocaine.

Operation Click-4-Drugs (2007)

On January 29, 2007, Operation Click-4-Drugs launched, targeting a Puerto Rico-based organization that distributed large quantities of Schedule III and Schedule IV controlled substances via the internet. Participating doctors issued thousands of illegal prescriptions online for drugs such as hydrocodone, phentermine, and diazepam. The physicians were involved with Internet Facilitation Centers and online pharmacies that solicited customers throughout the United States who were seeking controlled substances. The centers referred customers to these physicians using numerous

websites and email addresses. The doctors reviewed online questionnaires and electronically approved prescriptions with no legitimate medical examination. U.S. pharmacies 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 January 19, 2007, Osiel Cárdenas-Guillén, head of Mexico's Gulf Cartel, was extradited to the United States along with 14 other violent and ruthless criminals. The cartel controlled large-scale marijuana and cocaine trafficking from Mexico to the United States. Cárdenas-Guillén was captured on March 14, 2003, by law enforcement in Mexico, with the assistance of DEA, FBI, and U.S. Customs.

Cárdenas-Guillén was one of the most wanted, feared, and violent drug traffickers in the world. The Gulf Cartel transported thousands of kilograms of drugs into the United States from Colombia through northeastern Mexico. On the historic extraditions, Administrator Tandy said, "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 Juárez cartel; two top echelon lieutenants of the Tijuana cartel; the kingpin of the Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cárdenas-Guillén; 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, yielded more than 400 arrests nationwide and the seizure of \$45 million and 18 tons of drugs. The operation, which concluded on February 28, 2007, targeted the Mexico-based Victor Emilio Cazares-Gastellum (AKA Cazares-Salazar) drug trafficking organization, which supplied multi-ton quantities of cocaine, as well as large amounts of methamphetamine and marijuana, monthly to

distribution cells throughout the United States. The organization also laundered millions of dollars generated from its 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, primarily in U.S. currency, was seized in Mexico, the largest single drug cash seizure the world had ever seen. This record-setting feat resulted from tremendous police work by Mexican law enforcement in collaboration with DEA. The money was seized from chemical brokers who were supplying Mexican cartels to manufacture huge quantities of methamphetamine—most destined for the United States. 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 United States. Administrator Karen Tandy explained the significance of the arrest. “With the arrest of Zhenli Ye Gon, we’ve apprehended not only the man behind the money, but the man behind the meth,” she said. “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, 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 *Gatun*’s 14 Panamanian and Mexican crewmembers were arrested and transferred to the United States and Panama for prosecution.

The cocaine seizure denied Mexican drug lords an estimated \$300 million. Previously, the Coast Guard’s largest cocaine seizures 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. Mexican authorities, based upon DEA-supplied evidence, had also seized 23.5 metric tons of cocaine before the *Gatun*.

DEA Declared a Great Place to Work (2007)

In the 2000s, DEA continued to distinguish itself as one of the highest performers among government agencies. Employees rated the agency 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. DEA ranked in the top 20, 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 several measures of performance culture. The survey, released on May 3, 2007, revealed that the majority of DEA employees trusted their supervisor, believed 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 charged with conspiring to import \$25 million worth of heroin from

Afghanistan and Pakistan into the United States and other countries. Essa, previously in custody in Afghanistan, consented to his removal 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 alleged to have managed the organization's operatives' distribution of heroin in the United States and elsewhere. From 1994 through 2000, Essa and his coconspirators collected heroin proceeds in the United States for the Taliban.

International Drug Enforcement Conference (2007)

On May 8, 2007, DEA sponsored the 25th IDEC 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 United States, and Venezuela. Between 2004 and 2008, IDECs 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 charged with conspiring to sell millions of dollars' worth of

weapons to FARC. The designated foreign terrorist organization used the weapons to kill Americans in Colombia. Kassar 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. He provided weapons and military equipment to groups in Nicaragua, Brazil, Cyprus, Bosnia, Croatia, Somalia, Iran, and Iraq, among other countries. Some factions included known terrorist organizations, such as the Palestinian Liberation Front, the goals of which included attacking U.S. interests and nationals.

Between February 2006 and May 2007, Kassar and his associates agreed to sell FARC many 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 them for FARC—with the specific understanding that the weapons would be used to attack U.S. helicopters in Colombia. Kassar also promised to provide FARC with ton-quantities of C-4 explosives, as well as expert trainers from Lebanon to teach FARC how to effectively use C-4 and improvised explosive devices. Additionally, Kassar offered to send a thousand men to fight with 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



The extradition of Manuel “Hoover” Salazar-Espinosa.

money laundering charges. He was a CPOT that conspired with notorious Mexican cocaine cartel leaders Armando Valencia-Cornelio and Oscar Navavalencia to import ton-quantities of Colombian cocaine through Mexico to New York City on a weekly basis. Salazar-Espinosa had also assisted in the laundering of \$14 million in narcotics proceeds per week from 2002 to 2005 and was responsible for a 1.3-ton cocaine shipment destined for the United States 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 United States, 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 16 million hydrocodone tablets was stolen from a truck stop in Troy, Illinois. The tablets were being transported from the manufacturer in California to a pharmaceutical distribution facility in Gurnee, Illinois. Several days later, local law enforcement discovered the stolen cab 10 miles north of Troy, 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, including descriptions of two suspects and the missing trailer. That same day a witness contacted the Troy Police Department, informing them that a trailer matching the televised description was located at a vacant lot near Troy. Troy Police and DEA St. Louis responded and located the trailer. It was unlocked and appeared 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 hydrocodone. Follow-up investigations by DEA’s St Louis Tactical Diversion Squad led to the hijackers’ identification, indictment, and conviction in U.S. District Court.



Stolen hydrocodone tablets.

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

On November 13, 2007, a new DEA Museum exhibit opened: “Good Medicine, Bad Behavior: Drug Diversion in America.” Its displays delved into rising levels of prescription drug misuse in the United States. The exhibit explored the history of prescription drug misuse and diversion in the United

States as well as historical and persisting efforts to combat the problem. The exhibit included re-creations of period pharmacies, depictions of significant cases, and displays that illustrated these substances' effects on the human body. The rise of rogue internet pharmacies was also highlighted. The exhibit presented the science behind these medicines' therapeutic effects when taken properly but detrimental effects when misused. A resource area encouraged visitors to read more about the issues surrounding prescription drug misuse, interact with key antidrug use websites, and take-home literature with more detailed information.

Colombian Police Officers and Airline Employees Arrested (2007)

On November 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 United States. 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 United States from Colombia through the José María Córdova International Airport in Medellín, Colombia. The organization included law enforcement officials and airport and airline personnel who facilitated the export of heroin through the airport. Couriers smuggled heroin 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. They traveled at least once a month from the Medellín 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)

DEA announced the culmination of Operation Funk 49 on December 6, 2007. The operation 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. It began in April 2004 following a tip to law enforcement from someone who used the organization's drugs. 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 and into the United States. 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 December 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. He was extradited on charges relating to the importation of heroin into the United States from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since 1998, Karimi led an international heroin trafficking organization (the Rikabadi Organization) responsible for worldwide distribution of thousands of kilograms of Southwest Asian heroin. The Rikabadi Organization purchased heroin from suppliers in Afghanistan and Pakistan, arranging for the heroin to be transported through various countries, including Iran and Turkey. The Rikabadi Organization imported heroin into the United States, Canada, and Western European countries and sold for hundreds of millions of dollars. Karimi controlled his organization's heroin trafficking activities from locations in Romania. He 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, in the 2000s, 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. Government policy makers with new insights critical to the creation of strategies for coca eradication, essential chemical control, and alternative development.

This initiative has profoundly affected the government's understanding of threats posed by South American cocaine and heroin production. For example, in September 2008, the U.S. government decreased its previous estimate of Colombia's potential cocaine production by 155 metric tons over two years (2006-2007). The revised estimates were a direct result of DEA's coca yield studies in Colombia. Agency experts determined that the decrease was largely due to CNP'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's Rome Country Office initiated Special Field Intelligence Program (SFIP) African Frontier, which addressed various 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 enabled DEA to understand drug threats in Africa, which led to DEA's principal role in the development of U.S. Government counternarcotics and aid strategies across the continent. Target-specific data collected under SFIP allowed DEA to prioritize enforcement goals in Africa. The strategic-level intelligence was briefed to senior DEA

management, as well as to policy decision makers within the IC, 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 the department'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 partners with one access point for DOJ law enforcement information. DEA took a significant collaborative role in developing system policies and providing input to the department on practical issues regarding its use. DEA also assumed a leadership role pertaining to data inclusion within the system, making over 2.5 million records available within the One-DOJ System at one time. 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 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 affecting 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.

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

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 2000s, the program conducted several important reports and projects to support DEA's work around the world. For example, *The Alternative Chemicals Sought to Produce Methamphetamine Precursors* report revealed that some drug trafficking organizations were manufacturing their own meth precursors that were not on domestic or international watch lists, often going undetected by law enforcement. The many reports published on drug money laundering and flow highlighted vulnerabilities of undeveloped economies, the types of businesses used to launder drug proceeds, and the most prevalent business beneficiaries of trafficker-directed funds. They further 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 IC strategic intelligence projects. During this period, DEA led an interagency effort that produced an assessment identifying crucial relationships between major Mexican and Colombian drug traffickers. The assessment focused on eight cocaine transporters determined to play key roles in coordinating activity between Mexican and Colombian drug traffickers. Subsequently, these transporters became

targets of joint U.S. Government and Government of Mexico intelligence collection and enforcement efforts. Three of the targets were arrested by Colombian and Mexican authorities.

Additionally, the agency 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 provided the basis for an assessment of cocaine shortages in the United States. DEA's Intelligence Program, in cooperation with many U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, produced *The U.S.-Canada Border Drug Threat Assessment 2007*, which provided U.S. and Canadian ministers an up-to-date picture of the drug trafficking situation between the two countries 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 Juárez trafficking corridor. This initiative collected valuable intelligence on the primary Mexican drug traffickers and assassination squads operating in Ciudad Juárez. The Houston Field Division expanded Tigres del Norte's aims 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 to forecast where hot spots of drug-related violence may surface and who may be targeted. EPIC has devoted considerable intelligence resources to the problem of drug-related violence, focusing on the near-daily changes in the structure and leadership of dominant drug trafficking organizations. Information provided by EPIC is tactical in nature and concerned with the real-time tracking and targeting of drug traffickers in Mexico.

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

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

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

Another analyst traveled to a Chinese prison to debrief a well-known drug trafficker who worked for a Colombian trafficking organization that transported multi-kilo quantities of cocaine to China. This was the first time the Chinese government allowed DEA to participate in the debriefing of a Chinese criminal defendant.

The intelligence analyst 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 United States.

In 1988, DEA Special Agents Paul Seema and George Montoya were murdered in California. When a retrial of the defendant was granted, preparation required the reexamination of evidence and reconstruction of testimony dating back 17 years. Analysts' tremendous efforts in evaluating documents, identifying pertinent non-drug evidence, aiding the District Attorney's Office, and liaison abilities were vital to another guilty verdict of the defendant, who was sentenced to 61 years to life imprisonment.

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 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.

As previously noted, in early 2007, the Mexican government seized over \$207 million, the largest drug-related cash seizure in history from Zhenli Ye Gon. DEA intelligence analysts were collecting, researching, and analyzing data for months and were actually tracking his movements just before arrest. From 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 several factors, including: legislation adopted by 43 states that curtailed availability of three meth precursor chemicals; the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005; and strong enforcement efforts by both the United States 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, particularly partnership efforts with Mexico's government 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 United States 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.

Proliferation of Cannabis-Derived Hemp Products

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 such products sold were food and beverage products, personal care items (such as soaps and shampoos), and industrial products (like rope, textiles, and paper products). Those who marketed the food and beverage products, as well as the personal care items, claimed they contained oil from cannabis seeds. Since marijuana and THC are Schedule I controlled substances, questions arose whether these cannabis-derived products should be similarly scheduled.

DEA received questions from various sources, including 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 requesting guidance on the legal status of so-called hemp products being presented for importation into the United States. After carefully reviewing the matter, DEA issued a series of rules and regulations in 2001 and 2003 designed to definitively address the products' legal status. DEA took the position that it would follow the CSA's plain language, which expressly states that anything containing "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 them in the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Despite the plain language of the statute supporting DEA's position, the court ruled in 2004 that DEA's 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, determining, as DEA had said originally, "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]). Thus, the federal courts have expressed conflicting views regarding the legal status of cannabis derivatives.

Cultivation of Marijuana for Industrial Purposes

Coincident with increased marketing of cannabis-derived hemp products, interest rose among some in the United States to grow marijuana and 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 people in the 2000s claimed that growing marijuana to produce so-called hemp (which purportedly contained a relatively low percentage of THC) was not subject to CSA control, thus not requiring a DEA registration. From 2003 through 2008, all such claims failed as every federal court that addressed the issue ruled that any person who sought to grow any form of marijuana (no matter the THC content or the purpose for which it is grown) had to obtain a DEA registration. See *New Hampshire Hemp Council, Inc. v. Marshall*, 203 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2000); *U.S. v. White Plume*, supra; and *Monson v. DEA*, 522 F.Supp.2d 1188 (D. N.D. 2007), appeal docketed, No. 07-3837 (8th Cir. 2007).

During this period, several states 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



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

CSA, which does not differentiate, for control purposes, between marijuana of relatively low or greater THC content. Because of this conflict with federal law, California's governor twice vetoed (in 2006 and 2007) bills that would have decontrolled cannabis with relatively low THC content. Nonetheless, hemp advocates 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 the IRS involved the Norton brothers, who operated the for-profit Compassionate Patients' Cooperative, a large-scale marijuana distribution center in Hayward, California. The distribution center's sales in the first six months of 2007 allegedly totaled more than \$26 million. From 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 money laundering and possession with intent to distribute marijuana. In one Los Angeles case, the indictment of the owner and the manager of a chain of marijuana stores located in seven different California cities alleged 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 United States. The number of cannabis plants destroyed at domestic outdoor cultivation sites increased since 2004. Most 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. In California alone, 4.7 million cannabis plants were eradicated on public and private lands—over 3.9 million of them on the former.

In September 2007, DEA led a multiagency 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 224 arrests. In July 2007, over 38,000 cannabis plants were removed from 14 cultivated fields located inside the Crabtree Nature Preserve in Barrington, Illinois—the largest such removal in a single state outside 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 misuse of prescription-controlled substances by investigating and acting against

wholesale drug distributors. Many wholesalers were distributing unusually large amounts of narcotics to pharmacies participating in internet diversion schemes. Dozens of pharmacies were filling online controlled substances orders for individuals who did not have legitimate prescriptions.

To fill illicit orders, the pharmacies ordered amounts of controlled substances that far exceeded legitimate demand. Despite written and oral warnings DEA gave to the wholesale distributors, many continued to distribute large amounts of controlled substances to rogue pharmacies. The agency took administrative action to revoke the DEA registrations of several distributors, including McKesson and Cardinal, the two largest distributors of controlled substances in the United States. Beyond administrative action, DEA pursued civil penalties against distributors who failed to detect and report to DEA suspicious orders of controlled substances as required by agency regulations.

In May 2008, McKesson paid \$13,250,000 to the United States for failing to report suspicious orders of controlled substances. The civil penalty against the distributor was the largest civil penalty in the CSA's history. Five months later, McKesson's record-setting penalty was eclipsed by the \$34 million civil penalty paid by Cardinal for failing to report suspicious controlled substances orders. 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 the two companies operated. DEA's actions against McKesson, Cardinal, and other distributors significantly reduced the availability of pharmaceutical controlled substances to pharmacies that diverted these drugs into illegitimate channels.

Transportation Security Administration and Delta Employees Indicted in Drug Sting (2008)

On February 20, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted two employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and one from Delta Air Lines on charges relating to a drug smuggling operation at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (HJIA). Beginning in December 2007,

DEA on three occasions across three months brokered deals with the TSA employees for the transportation of what they believed were illicit drugs through HJIA to New York. One haul was purportedly cocaine and the other two heroin, but all were actually fake drug substitutes. Their transportation fees were \$5,000 for the first kilogram and \$3,000 for each subsequent kilogram. The Delta employee transported the "drugs" on Delta flights. Upon negotiating the third and final transaction, the Delta and TSA employees were arrested.

FARC Associate Extradited to the United States (2008)

Juan Jose Martinez Vega, AKA Gentil Alvis Patino, AKA Chiguiro, was extradited from Colombia to the United States on April 22, 2008, to face cocaine importation conspiracy charges. As a FARC associate who worked closely with its 16th Front, Martinez Vega helped the group procure weapons, ammunition, money, and other materials in exchange for cocaine and cocaine paste. Over several years, he made dozens of deliveries, including one 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 members suspected of stealing arms the group 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. It was the first time a defendant had been convicted in U.S. federal court of narco-terrorism since the statute was enacted in March 2006. DEA had investigated Mohammed for weapons and narcotics offenses, revealing his participation in a Taliban plan to obtain rockets to attack U.S. military and Afghan civilian personnel at Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan. Meetings with Mohammed were held 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 intended for importation into the United States.

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 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. He had been in custody in Thailand since March 6, 2008.

An international weapons trafficker since the 1990s, Bout conducted 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, due to his weapons trafficking activities in Liberia, the U.S. Department of Treasury placed Bout on the Specially Designated Nationals list, which prohibited any transactions between him and U.S. nationals and froze his assets within U.S. jurisdiction. Between November 2007 and March 2008, Bout agreed to sell to two DEA confidential sources, who purportedly represented FARC, weapons, with the specific understanding they were to be used to attack U.S. helicopters in Colombia. The promised weapons included surface-to-air missile systems, armor piercing rocket launchers, AK-47 firearms, millions of rounds of ammunition, Russian spare parts for rifles, anti-personnel 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 told the sources that he could arrange to airdrop the arms to FARC in Colombia and offered to sell two cargo planes to the group that could be used for arms deliveries. Bout also provided a map of South America, and

asked the sources to show him American radar locations in Colombia. Bout said he understood why the sources wanted the arms and explained the United States was also his enemy. FARC's fight against the United States, he assured, was also his fight. During the meeting, Bout offered to provide people to train FARC in the use of the arms.

Spike TV Launches Original Series *DEA* (2008)

In spring 2008, Spike TV aired six one-hour weekly episodes of a new original narrative series *DEA*, which offered viewers a never-before-seen look at the agency's inner workings. 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 Detroit Field Division as they risked their lives daily in the ongoing battle against illegal drugs. The series followed the law enforcement personnel as they worked cases ranging from street level dealers all the way up to international drug traffickers.

DEA underscored the daily danger special agents experience. Viewers witnessed first-hand agents going undercover and posing as drug dealers. The series also examined the complex relationship between DEA special agents and informants, revealing the strange kinship they share with these criminals who see themselves not as arch-enemies but opponents in "the game" of the illegal drug trade. Roker became interested in airing a series featuring *DEA* following a 2006 visit to the agency's training facility in Quantico to tape a show concerning the U.S. meth epidemic.

DEA's premiere on Spike TV was the network's highest rated non-scripted premiere in over two years and it ranked second in its time slot for men 18 to 49 years old among all basic cable networks. The show boosted 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 reflected increased interest in *DEA* beyond pure entertainment. Following the April 2 debut, statistics revealed that *DEA*'s 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 carefully considered the hazards of disclosing its inner workings, and an agreement was reached among all parties involved, including the state prosecutor, on the show's "rules of engagement." One stipulation required cases highlighted in the series to be ones that would be swiftly adjudicated in state court. Federally prosecuted cases were not included because of how long they take to be adjudicated. Additionally, care was taken to ensure that 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. A *New York Times* review explained, "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)

"Target America: Drug Traffickers, Terrorists, and You," developed in the months after the 9/11 attacks and illustrating the high price Americans pay for illicit drug use, traveled the nation between 2003 and 2008. The exhibit, viewed by more than 8 million people, 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 modern-day Colombian cocaine trade. Guests also discovered the many intricate ways different drugs are produced throughout the world. Displays illustrating drug production recreated a jungle cocaine lab, an Afghan heroin factory, and a toxic methamphetamine hotel cook room. Sections 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 it. The exhibit also explained where drug money goes and how it is secretly laundered, 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 interrelationships between drugs and terrorism. "Target America" also included a memorial containing wreckage and artifacts from the 9/11 attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The exhibit touched upon the damage drug production deals to the environment, which is not often addressed. Clear cutting rain forests in Central and South America to plant coca fields; destroying natural forests in the United States to grow marijuana; and dumping hazardous waste products into the water table after manufacturing methamphetamine all affect the environment. At the end of the exhibit, guests encountered its "Discovery Corner," an area that offered many resources on how the cycle of illicit drug use 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 high ways, 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 drug use and drug-related violence.

The exhibit was developed in partnership with the AFNA DEA Museum Foundation, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, National Guard, NIDA, ONDCP, and the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Its first destinations included:

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



Target America ribbon-cutting at the New Detroit Science Center, 2005.

- 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 machines has allowed DEA to operate one of the most modern fleet of aircraft of any federal agency.

The division systematically replaced aging Cessna 206 surveillance aircraft that were the fleet's workhorses. 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. It proved to be one of the fleet's most used aircraft. To further this strategy, four Bell 412 twin-engine helicopters were added to support Caribbean operations and to provide logistical transport capabilities for DEA's developing FAST program.

The Aviation Division continued to seek out innovative technologies, pioneering the use of high-definition camera systems for the federal government. The systems were installed by mid-2008 in four of DEA's largest divisions: Houston, New York, Newark, and Los Angeles. At that time, the Aviation Division was also working to acquire



Bell 412 twin-engine helicopters.

additional systems for use on the Southwest border and in other DEA divisions.

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

On October 1, 2007, the Aviation Division assumed a support role for Operation Bahamas, Turks in Georgetown, Bahamas. The 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 it over. 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, DEA's 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 fentanyl's source and eliminate it. (DEA Chicago HIDTA Group 43's Operation Snakebite took down the organization responsible for trafficking the deadly mixture in the United States.) 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 the lab, U.S. and Mexican law enforcement, DEA forensic chemists from the Northeast Laboratory, North Central Laboratory, and the Special Testing and Research Laboratory (STRL) worked in conjunction with the Mexican Police and numerous DEA special agents and diversion investigators from the DEA-Mexico City Country Office to collect evidence during two visits to the laboratory site.

In the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, 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. DEA's Office of Forensic Sciences coordinated the agency'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 specialists helped, working grueling seven-day rotations fingerprinting the bodies of victims lost in the catastrophe. The assignment's difficulty rose as the weeks advanced due to the remains' progressive deterioration.

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 investigations. One such case was Operation CYBERx, involving 23 rogue pharmacies and more than 4,600 rogue pharmaceutical websites that yielded more than 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 STRL 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 around the globe, from Indonesia to the United Kingdom 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. For this study, staff conducted controlled methamphetamine cooks in a condemned home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and in two abandoned homes in Corsicana, Texas, using common appliances and household chemicals. The results informed 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 an HQ panel to begin developing the agency's EMS structure for all facilities as a tool to incorporate environmental stewardship into daily operations, therefore reducing federal agency environmental impacts while simultaneously increasing 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.

Active EMSs at all DEA laboratories and several 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 systems throughout DEA reduced energy usage, lowered electricity rates, reduced potential for hazardous spills, improved green purchasing, and implemented comprehensive recycling programs.

Many facilities with EMS 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, aircraft 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 lab cleanups peaked in 2004 at approximately 9,800; the 2005 Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act significantly curbed 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 had established container storage programs and entered into a Letter of Agreement with DEA to provide the service. ACSs provided safe, temporary storage pending removal of waste by DEA contractors who consolidated and transported it 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. From 2007 through 2008, the program lowered the clandestine laboratory disposal cost in those states from an average of approximately \$3,500 to \$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 employed solid technology to support operations, and DEA remained diligently engaged in protection against cybersecurity attacks and disaster recovery.

The agency's use of technology continuously evolved as it strove to employ increasingly complex and sophisticated technologies in executing its mission. Building on the unique and secure DEA Firebird computer network, the Office of Information Systems expanded it into more of DEA's foreign locations, and the addition of outside email traffic capabilities further improved communication.

Wireless technologies were central to the everyday work of DEA special agents and staff. Pagers were replaced with cell phones and personal digital assistants to enable easy communication. The Office of Information Systems worked to keep pace with the growing array of wireless tools that assisted 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 multi-year project's culmination 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 in Quantico, Virginia. DEA trained, equipped, and certified thousands of state and local officers each year in compliance of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards that govern hazardous waste operations. The multimillion-dollar project included two modern, 50-seat classrooms that could be reconfigured into a single, large room; and an administrative portion with 26 work stations and a conference room. All venues specific to clandestine laboratory training and certification would now be under one roof, including equipment and dressing rooms, a mat room, a smoke house, equipment storage, an 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, were integrated into the building.

From 2003 through 2008, TR continued its mission to ensure that DEA employees were provided the technical and professional competencies and leadership skills training necessary to accomplish the agency's mission. The office provided expanded basic agent training to over 1,300 new trainees; diversion leadership training to DEA diversion employees at the GS-12 and GS-13 levels; basic intelligence research specialist training to more than 200 trainees; and training for 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 also continued partnering with other federal, state, and local counterparts and provided federal law enforcement analysts training to over 1,000 law enforcement and

intelligence personnel to enhance critical thinking abilities; computer, 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 led the law enforcement community in the delivery of international law enforcement training. The office 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 DEA's International Training Section (TRI) bilateral courses.

TRI participated in the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA) program, developing foreign police managers' abilities to handle a broad spectrum of contemporary law enforcement issues and increase their capacity to investigate crime and criminal organizations. At the time, ILEAs operated 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 SIU training cooperatively trained, equipped, and supported specialized units within host nation police forces to develop and share intelligence that targeted, disrupted, dismantled, and prosecuted 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 participated in TRI's SIU Program.

DEA's Learning Management System (DEALs) began in 2008, an enterprise-wide system solution to the delivery of online training courses developed in conjunction with the Department of Justice. DEALs runs employee training at Firebird terminals. Hundreds of online courses and tools are 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 its overall ability to provide precise yet comprehensive onsite inspections, reviews, and guidance to the field. IN's staff analogized their actions as the "guard rail" allowing DEA to move forward in a positive direction, maintaining the agency's integrity. IN conducted honest, fair, thorough, and consistent assessments of all DEA operations to meet this mandate.

The Program Analysis Team's establishment ensured that sufficient analytical resources and institutional knowledge were available to address specific projects and reviews within a cohesive team effort. This resulted in a more efficient coordination for in-depth analytical assignments and streamlined the entire IN review process, enabling DEA to economically manage its mission while reducing operating costs.

Along similar lines, IN created a separate team of accountants/auditors and coordinated with the Office of Financial Operations (FO) to conduct joint program reviews of DEA's Attorney General Exempt Operations (AGEOs) and SIUs. While reviews of these programs are mandated by statute, IN noted that it was conducting separate reviews from FO, often duplicating efforts and wasting manhours and resources. IN jointly and thoroughly reviewed the programs with FO, which reduced costs and disruption to field office activities.

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.

Beyond the agency's internal inspection and evaluation practices, its programs were subjected to external audits and reviews to maintain the public's trust in DEA's ability to manage resources in fulfillment of its mission. The Department of Justice's 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.

From December 2006 through 2008, the Audit Liaison Team effectively oversaw and coordinated 57 external audits and reviews of DEA program areas. During this timeframe, GAO initiated 29 audits, OIG initiated 25, and other agencies initiated three. 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 OIG to formulate new policies and procedures that streamlined the process for sharing 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 it to assess specific functions of domestic, foreign, and Headquarters offices to obtain more uniform and useful reports. The entire self-inspection program was scrutinized and all checklists and reporting procedures were standardized. The new internal review period covered fiscal year to fiscal year; 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 to complete corrective actions, and provide for certification that the actions had been completed. IN intended to use 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 risks were addressed.

From 2003 through 2008, IN conducted 55 onsite inspections worldwide. The locations of these inspections

consisted of 27 domestic divisions/lab offices, 7 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 these investigations were thorough, factual, objective, and completed in a timely fashion.

International Arms Dealer Viktor Bout

Following his arrest in Thailand, Viktor Bout spent two and one-half years in a local 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 appealed to a higher Thai court to gain Bout's extradition. The Thai Criminal Court initially denied the appeal, citing the case's political nature. 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 lower court's decision, concluding there was enough evidence to extradite Bout to the United States. Representatives from the DEA Bangkok Country Office attended the pivotal ruling announcement. The court order authorizing Bout's extradition 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.



Viktor Bout.

The accompanying agents had worked 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. He 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. He was sentenced on April 5, 2012, to 25 years in prison.

This DEA SOD-supported investigation was conducted with assistance from the DEA Bangkok Country Office, DEA's New York Field Division, DEA's 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 reelected as Bolivia's president. Morales had previously headed a coca growers union, and his reelection signaled the continuation of legalized coca leaf cultivation in the 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 should exit 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 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 exit from Bolivia was the largest evacuation of DEA personnel in the agency's history.

After DEA's expulsion, cocaine production increased tremendously and cocaine traffickers flocked to Bolivia 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 antidrug police chief, General Rene Sanabria. Sanabria entered a guilty plea after being arrested by DEA agents in Panama in February 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.

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 counterintelligence office in Bolivia's interior ministry that he used to protect drug shipments and international drug cartels. In September 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



Med-Turn Investigation, Dallas, Texas.

Field Division's Financial Investigations Group, resulted in the forfeiture of \$15 million from the Sigie Corporation, a remitter company. Based on information gleaned from 45 previous DEA investigations, drug trafficking organizations had been increasingly using Sigie to wire drug proceeds to Mexico.

During the investigation, 86 undercover reverse money laundering transactions were conducted at 59 Sigie 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 Sigie and were retrieved by vetted undercover agents of the Mexican government, working in conjunction with DEA. Audits and interviews of current and former employees revealed inadequate training of remitter agents and insufficient compliance procedures at Sigie.

Sigie forfeited the \$15 million on January 28, 2008. The company was also required to infuse \$9.7 million into its compliance program. According to a report published by Financial Crime Enforcement Network in 2010, the investigation reformed the compliance practices of money service businesses. Operation Peso Connection was conducted in cooperation with 36 DEA field offices, 63 state/local agencies, and the Government of Mexico.

Med-Turn Investigation

The Med-Turn investigation was initiated in August 2008 when a methamphetamine trafficker arrested by DEA's 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. The informant reported that a man named Billy Heath had a source connected to a facility in Fort Worth, Texas, that could remove expired drugs from a warehouse licensed to destroy them.

In November 2008, the DEA Dallas Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS) coordinated with the Lafayette, Louisiana, Metro Narcotics Unit to target Heath, who was interdicted in Lafayette. Law enforcement seized 7,011 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 Dallas TDS, assisted by DEA's 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 and was later indicted by a federal 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 were found guilty and sentenced to prison.

Colombian AUC Members Extradited to the United States

In May 2008, one of the most significant extradition missions in DEA's history occurred when the Colombian Government extradited 16 AUC leaders to the United States. Collectively, they headed the 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 law. Its provisions entitled AUC members to lenient prison terms of 5 to 8 years and the suspension of any extradition requests in exchange for: disarming and demobilizing, the full public admission of their crimes, the surrender of illegally gained assets, the reparation to families of the murdered victims, and the cessation of all criminal activity.

By May 2008, DEA, working with 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 detainees 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 leadership's extradition.

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

Of the 16 extradited defendants, three were 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 U.S. federal districts.

It was the most complex extradition mission ever performed by DEA, and one of the most important extradition missions in the agency's storied foreign operations. It was a historic event for Colombia and a judicial gamechanger. The next morning, Colombia's newspaper of record, *El*

Tiempo, ran a front-page bold print headline which read, “End of a Para [Paramilitary] Era” with a large picture of seven AUC leaders sitting in an airplane hangar moments before their one-way flight to the United States.

Operation Seoul Coughing

An investigation initiated in 2007 with DEA’s Portland District Office, the Clark Skamania Task Force, and ICE, this joint OCDETF effort targeted the drug trafficking activities of OPA Trade, a South Korea-based company. The investigation revealed that OPA Trade advertised the sale of pseudoephedrine on websites. Information was later uncovered that a Washington State resident had obtained a case of pseudoephedrine that was shipped from South Korea but documented as used school supplies on the shipping invoice. The pseudoephedrine was intended for methamphetamine manufacturing. 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 warrants’ execution, 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 was approximately 1,866.24 kilograms (over 4,105 pounds). Produced into methamphetamine, the amount 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 worked under a veil of secrecy by employing only family members in their daily illicit operations. For several years, organization members used arson, murder, gang affiliation, dog fighting events, and established drug cartels to protect and expand their criminal empire. The organization directly affiliated with 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, 6 state convictions, 22 pending indictments, and the identification of over 100 coconspirators. Group D-73 initiated this investigation with the arrest of two low-level drug couriers. Over the course of the investigation, Group D-73 used 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.

Consequently, DEA Laredo identified and prosecuted all significant family members of the Martinez Organization 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.

Operation Pale Rider

In September 2008, Dallas Field Division’s 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 Gulf Cartel’s command and control.



HPL tattoo.



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, 249 kilograms of cocaine, and 360 pounds of crystal methamphetamine.

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 cocaine's sale was collected, another tractor-trailer would be dispatched from Mexico to Dallas to transport the bulk cash.

Supporting 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 roundup's date, 16 of the 21 indicted defendants were arrested without incident. Investigators seized \$1.9 million 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's Miami Field Division initiated multiple investigations into various drug trafficking

organizations that used 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 U.S. currency, assets, and multikilogram quantities of narcotics. The organizations used various methods to conceal their drugs. Some of the narcotics intercepted 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 swallows 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 DEA's Training Academy. 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 complex provides 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 also offers classes for law enforcement officials to receive OSHA 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. The act, which addressed the problems of online prescription drug trafficking, misuse, and availability, was named after Haight, a California high school student who in 2001 tragically died from an overdose of a controlled prescription medication he obtained from a rogue online pharmacy. 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 a provision that

allows states to 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 the 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 investigation followed the May 2007 overdose death of a student in her bedroom. Undercover officers determined students and nonstudents 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 nonstudents were arrested for various drug offenses ranging from possession of marijuana and cocaine to cocaine sales. 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 also worked as a student community service officer reporting to the campus police. Another



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

student arrested for possession of 500 grams of cocaine and two guns was a criminal justice major. Items seized during this operation included 4 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, a shotgun, 3 semiautomatic pistols, 3 brass knuckles, and \$60,000 in cash.

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 multiagency law enforcement effort led by DEA, targeting the Gulf Cartel, which transported multi-ton quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and marijuana from Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, and Mexico to the United States, where it distributed the narcotics. The cartel was also believed to be responsible for laundering millions of dollars in criminal proceeds. Project Reckoning resulted in more than 500 arrests 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.