

**2005 ANNUAL REPORT** 

# NORTH FLORIDA HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA



## NORTH FLORIDA HIDTA 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

#### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The production, transportation and distribution of illicit drugs and related drug assets serve as continuous threats within the North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NFHIDTA), affecting nearly every component of our region. From the local manufacture of methamphetamine and marijuana to the importation of crystal methamphetamine and MDMA, the NFHIDTA suffers from the innumerable devastating effects caused by drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and their related money laundering activities. The situation has become exacerbated by the increasing and more violent, drug-related criminal/gang activity, to include a rapidly increasing murder rate in certain areas of Jacksonville. The ongoing efforts of the NFHIDTA and its multi-agency task force initiatives impact the drug trafficking and money laundering organizations (MLOs) responsible for these activities by disrupting or dismantling their illicit operations. Through arrests of high level DTO and MLO members and the seizure of drugs and related assets, NFHIDTA task forces disrupt the drug supply chains, particularly at the multi-state and international levels.

Fundamental to the continuation of these successful operations, the NFHIDTA initiatives require the ongoing financial and analytical support provided through the NFHIDTA Program. To better determine how to allocate this support, the National HIDTA Program Office (NHPO) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) implemented a standardized method to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of each initiative and ultimately each HIDTA, known as the HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP). Although the NFHIDTA previously employed an Executive Board approved method to measure each initiative's effectiveness, the PMP model, now in its second year of use, allows for a standard method of measurement across all HIDTAs.

The following is the NFHIDTA's 2005 Annual Report, which reflects the PMP model. The data will show that the NFHIDTA initiatives were effective in disrupting and dismantling DTOs affecting the region, in reducing the amount of illicit drugs in the region and in impacting the organizations' abilities to operate by seizing large amounts of related drug assets. In addition, these operations were conducted in a highly cost effective manner.

✓ To maximize results, the NFHIDTA promotes and enhances cooperation and joint efforts between various law enforcement organizations, including numerous federal, state and local agencies. Over 25 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies participated in NFHIDTA task force initiatives. With support from the Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center (NeFISC), the intelligence component of the NFHIDTA, regional initiatives continue to make

- significant progress in identifying, investigating, disrupting and dismantling the region's dangerous and prolific DTOs, drug dealers, money launderers, weapons traffickers and violent criminals.
- ✓ Illicit drugs are extremely profitable for the illegal organizations that traffic them. Removing such profits through asset forfeiture, wholesale drug seizures and related drug asset seizures renders organizations inoperable. During CY 2005, over \$53M in drugs and drug-related assets were removed from the region's market, which created a significant impact on illegal drug trafficking operations, coupled with a marked reduction in illicit drug availability.
- ✓ Fighting the ongoing battle against drug trafficking and illicit finance is a costly endeavor. As determined through the use of the HIDTA PMP, every NFHIDTA dollar spent on law enforcement and investigative support activities contributed to removing over \$47.5M in illicit drugs and almost \$6M in drug-related assets from the region's market. The NFHIDTA initiatives achieved a remarkable combined Return-on-Investment (RoI) of \$43 for every \$1 of HIDTA funds invested.
- ✓ One of HIDTA's missions is to disrupt and dismantle DTOs. At the close of 2005, NFHIDTA initiatives had identified 47 new DTOs and targeted 100% of those identified. Further, NFHIDTA was also targeting 41 other DTOs that had been identified and were operating at the beginning of 2005. Of this total (88), 68%, or 60, were disrupted or dismantled during 2005.
- ✓ The NFHIDTA initiatives strive to identify and subsequently disrupt or dismantle mid- and wholesale level, multi-state and international DTOs. Disrupting or dismantling such DTOs is an onerous and complex task, which generally leads to the expenditure of more time and resources than eliminating a local street level DTO. As illustrated by the statistical measures contained throughout this Annual Report, during CY 2005, the NFHIDTA initiatives targeted more complex DTOs. Of the 88 DTOs being targeted by the NFHIDTA initiatives, 55%, or 48, were multi-state or international in scope. Of these 48, 9 were designated as OCDETF cases and 2 as CPOTs, which directly supported the Department of Justice (DoJ) drug strategy. The number of OCDETF cases would likely have been higher; however, funds for OCDETF cases in the Florida–Caribbean Region were depleted by July 2005 and no additional cases could be targeted.
- ✓ An effective method to dismantle or significantly disrupt an organization is through crippling its financial infrastructure. To eliminate or drastically reduce profit potential, NFHIDTA initiatives seize illicit drugs and related drug assets. In 2005, NFHIDTA initiatives targeted four (4) MLOs, including one (1) international organization, one (1) multi-state organization and two (2) local organizations. Of these, one (1) MLO that was international in scope has been disrupted. The NFHIDTA fosters a neutral environment and brings all levels of government together, enhancing cooperative law enforcement efforts. In addition, the NFHIDTA continues to play a fundamental role in promoting and assisting law enforcement and investigative support initiatives with information sharing and training needs.

#### II. INTRODUCTION

#### 2005 NFHIDTA Annual Report

The NFHIDTA is providing this Annual Report to document its activities and achievements during 2005. To fully appreciate NFHIDTA's achievements, it is important to understand how each HIDTA is structured and why it exists. The Director of ONDCP designates regions with critical drug trafficking problems adversely impacting the United States. By design, HIDTA offices are located in these areas. Thus, the national HIDTA Program, composed of 28 individual HIDTAs spread throughout the nation, is uniquely situated to counteract this illicit activity. HIDTAs play a significant role in addressing real world drug and drug-related problems, and offer real world solutions. The NFHIDTA is no exception.

The NFHIDTA has fostered cooperative and effective working relationships with over 25 federal, state and local agencies in its quest to disrupt or dismantle DTOs. These working relationships are embodied in NFHIDTA initiatives. A detailed description of each initiative can be found in the <u>NFHIDTA 2006 Strategy</u>, which is available from the NFHIDTA office.

NFHIDTA law enforcement initiatives have established priorities that focus on immobilizing DTOs, especially those involved with drug-related violent crime, as well as targeting those DTOs that have the greatest adverse impact on the quality of life in regional neighborhoods and communities. There is a determined effort to counter drug movement into and through the region, and to arrest those who conceal the proceeds from illegal drug sales. This is exemplified by the continuing enhancements to regional interdiction initiatives. These priorities are supported by a strong commitment from federal and state prosecutors to provide timely and sound legal advice.

To achieve meaningful results, each HIDTA needs clear goals (the HIDTA Program Goals); a recognition of the challenges faced (a Threat Assessment); a plan to identify these threats (a Strategy with quantifiable performance targets); and a way to document achievements (an Annual Report). The overall HIDTA mission is embodied by the National HIDTA Program Mission Statement:

### **National HIDTA Program Mission Statement**

The mission of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in the United States by assisting federal, state and local law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA program to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations, with particular emphasis on drug trafficking regions that have harmful effects on other parts of the United States.

During 2004, the NFHIDTA Director, working closely with law enforcement and local NFHIDTA staff, developed a vision of the future which clearly reflects what outcomes NFHIDTA initiatives seek to achieve. This was reviewed and unanimously approved by NFHIDTA's Executive Board and forwarded to ONDCP. This Vision Statement continues to embody NFHIDTA's goals and objectives.

#### NFHIDTA Vision Statement

To be recognized as one of the most effective HIDTAs in the nation that is characterized as a balanced and open partnership with a demonstrated success, based on clearly defined outputs and outcomes, that continually impacts major drug trafficking organizations through the sharing of intelligence and investigative information.

NFHIDTA's success is measured in part by its ability to facilitate greater efficiency, effectiveness and cooperation among and between external participating agencies at the local, state and federal level, thus yielding tangible and

measurable results. Collocation of different law enforcement agencies to facilitate and enhance resource sharing is a key strategy. The extent of information sharing and interagency cooperation fostered by the NFHIDTA approach proves that collocated law enforcement initiatives can work together effectively and efficiently. The HIDTA Program is the only Program that has successfully achieved this type of partnership between the three levels of law enforcement.

The NFHIDTA recognizes that without a clear mission, the law enforcement, intelligence and prosecution communities cannot work in concert toward any mutual objectives, and success cannot be quantified or measured. The NFHIDTA fully embraces the following mission in conjunction with the national program objectives.

#### **NFHIDTA Mission Statement**

To measurably reduce drug trafficking, related money laundering and violent crime through a balanced partnership of federal, state and local law enforcement leaders directing intelligence-driven initiatives that are performance-oriented and aimed at eliminating or reducing drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in north Florida and the United States.

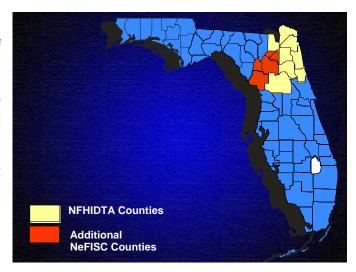
<u>Reporting Period:</u> This Annual Report covers the period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005.

<u>Budget Allocation:</u> The initial FY 2005 funding allocated by ONDCP was \$1.4M, \$1.1M below the NHPO recommended minimum level for HIDTA funding. In mid-2005, it also received an additional \$232,000 to enhance domestic highway interdiction (\$120,000) and address two identified DTOs operating within NFHIDTA (\$112,000). Even with this minimal funding, NFHIDTA has made significant strides in countering the drug problems in the region. However, unless NFHIDTA's funding level is increased to at least \$2.5M, one or more of these successful initiatives will be terminated. Throughout this Annual Report, the NFHIDTA is pleased to report significant success in achieving its mission, and its performance is positive for the future. HIDTA dollars are well spent inasmuch as they are yielding the desired results.

#### Geographic Area of Responsibility:

North Florida HIDTA is comprised of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Marion, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties. The NeFISC Initiative covers the additional 5 Counties of Alachua, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Union.

The NFHIDTA region covers three distinct population centers: Jacksonville, Ocala



and St. Augustine. The area is 6,007 square miles of both rural and urban land. In 2005, the total state population was estimated at 17,789,864 by the US Census Bureau. The US Census Bureau also reported that in comparison to all other states, Florida experienced the largest population increase between 2004 and 2005, as its population rose 404,000. Estimates indicate that by 2010, Florida will have a population of 19.7 million, for an average increase of 1000 new residents per day. In excess of 10% reside in the NFHIDTA. A recent study conducted by the University of Florida indicated that Duval County is the 7th fastest growing county in the State. Further, St. Johns and Flagler Counties are two of the top ten fastest growing counties. As you know, this kind of dramatic growth brings with it a concomitant rise in crime, including illegal drug trafficking and use.

#### III. NATIONAL HIDTA GOALS

HIDTAs have adopted two specific national goals to be achieved in meeting the drug challenge. These two national goals guide all HIDTA initiatives and activities throughout the United States. The NFHIDTA is proud to present these national HIDTA Program goals, plus concise summaries of its Threat Assessment for Budget Year 2005 and resultant Strategy in the following sections. The NFHIDTA has fashioned an individual strategy to meet local drug threats according to its individual needs, in conjunction with the national objectives:

#### **NATIONAL HIDTA GOALS**

<u>Goal 1:</u> Disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations; and

<u>Goal 2:</u> Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives.

The HIDTA Goals represent clear targets for NFHIDTA initiatives. They also provide the foundation upon which performance planning and outcome measurements are based. As the NFHIDTA develops budget submissions, each NFHIDTA initiative must present programmatic and fiscal justifications that are based on the Threat Assessment, articulate how the initiative's funding request directly addresses the threat, set realistic performance measures and provide specific information on how the funding has allowed the NFHIDTA to meet its desired outcomes. NFHIDTA initiatives are developed within clear national guidelines governing all HIDTA activities and expenditures.

The NFHIDTA Executive Board is heavily involved in all aspects of the NFHIDTA's intelligence, investigation, interdiction and prosecution activities. The Board provides a forum to share important trends in drug trafficking, share information on which drugs are being distributed throughout the region and discuss ways to achieve NFHIDTA's goals and objectives. The Board also addresses important administrative issues in its oversight capacity. The Board has established an Intelligence Committee that supports NFHIDTA initiatives and its participating agencies on a wide variety of intelligence issues, training, computer technology and other matters. NFHIDTA's success is measured by results, and each initiative is fully accountable for its success or failure in meeting its objectives.

#### IV. SUMMARY of THREAT ASSESSMENT for BUDGET YEAR 2005

The NFHIDTA serves primarily as a transportation and distribution site, although drugs are also converted, cultivated and produced in the region. Powdered cocaine is primarily converted into crack, often within private residences in the urban sections of the region primarily by African American and Hispanic DTOs and criminal groups, for further distribution. Caucasian, African American and Hispanic DTOs and criminal groups cultivate marijuana in the region, primarily indoors through hydroponic and soil grows, as well as outdoors in rural areas of the region. Caucasian based criminal groups and individuals are the primary producers of methamphetamine in the region, primarily within private residences in urban areas.

North Florida continues to serve as a major transportation hub for illegal drug trafficking. Passenger vehicles are the primary method used to transport illegal drugs and drug proceeds into, through and from the region. Package delivery services are frequently used by DTOs and criminal groups to transport significant quantities of marijuana, cocaine, illicitly obtained pharmaceuticals, MDMA and to a lesser extent, crack into the region from distribution hubs in the western United States, including San Diego, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tucson, Houston and south Florida. Jamaican DTOs and criminal groups based in the region use package delivery services to transport drugs, particularly marijuana, into the area. Tractor trailers are used to transport significant quantities of cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine into the region. Drugs and drug proceeds are transported into and through the region by couriers traveling aboard commercial buses. A majority of the drugs and currency seized at the Jacksonville bus terminal were intended to be transshipped through the region and destined for markets throughout the U.S., including New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Drugs and drug proceeds are transported into and through the region by couriers traveling aboard passenger trains. Like buses, drugs and currency seized from couriers aboard passenger trains are usually destined for other markets, generally those along the eastern seaboard, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City. Drugs are transported into the region directly from source and transit countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean and Europe via the Port of Jacksonville.

Members of local, regional, national and international DTOs and criminal groups, as well as independent dealers, engage in wholesale, mid and retail level drug

distribution in the region. These organizations are comprised of members of varying ethnicities and nationalities, including Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics and Asians. Furthermore, many of the senior members of some of these organizations, especially those with international ties, are citizens of other countries, including Mexico, Jamaica and Vietnam, and continue to collaborate with other drug traffickers in these countries.

DTOs in the region are commonly using wire transfers to facilitate payment for drug shipments. Many of these transfers are sent to individuals and organizations in source areas of the United States, particularly in southwestern states such as Arizona, Texas, and California. Locally based DTOs are also routinely using wire transfer services to transfer drug proceeds to collaborating individuals and businesses in other states and sometimes other countries in an effort to preserve and enhance their illegal financial gains. In addition, DTO members transport bulk currency via privately owned and rented vehicles. The currency is often concealed in hidden compartments in the vehicles. Most of these vehicles are destined for source areas of the United States, particularly the southwestern border area, and are likely delivering payment for wholesale level shipments of narcotics.

Firearms have become more common among DTOs and distributors in the north Florida region. More specifically, a current trend among organizations is to supplement traditionally carried firearms, such as pistols, with military style weapons, such as AK-47 assault rifles.

#### V. HIDTA STRATEGY SUMMARY

The reader is referred to <u>The NFHIDTA 2005 Strategy</u> for details on NFHIDTA's initiatives. The following summary is presented for your convenience.

The NFHIDTA approach is to collocate law enforcement personnel in order to foster enhanced information and resource sharing. Through collocation, interagency cooperation and consolidation of strategic and tactical information, the NFHIDTA fosters a comprehensive response to illicit drug activity by bringing together all available law enforcement resources in a united front. NFHIDTA's law enforcement initiatives focus on DTOs, MLOs, violent drug offenders, open-air drug markets, firearms trafficking and domestic drug movement. Newly emerging narco-terrorism trends are also carefully considered. NFHIDTA law enforcement initiatives are directed through the respective lead agency's management policies and the challenges identified in the NFHIDTA Threat Assessment. Law enforcement initiatives actively pursue the outcomes sought by the strictures of HIDTA Goal 1. All NFHIDTA sites enter data into the NFHIDTA computer system, thereby facilitating information sharing, deconfliction, enhanced officer safety, and an ability to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort during investigations where there may be common elements or subjects. Enhanced communication, collaboration and information sharing are key law enforcement components designed to promote maximum efficiency and effectiveness as prescribed by HIDTA Goal 2. Logically, Goal 1 and Goal 2 are

closely intertwined, with Goal 2 providing the integration support services that enhance the ability for all initiatives to meet their goals.

In an increasingly competitive policy and budget environment, it is critical for the NFHIDTA to develop strategies and resource requests that will produce positive regional outcomes consistent with the two HIDTA goals. The NFHIDTA funded ten initiatives in CY 2005 that focused on the following (A detailed description of each initiative can be found in Appendix E.):

- ✓ 5 Investigative DTO focus
- ✓ 1 Interdiction focus
- ✓ 1 Intelligence focus
- ✓ 1 Management and Coordination focus
- ✓ 1 Training focus

#### VI. HIDTA PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In 2004, ONDCP mandated all HIDTAs implement a new system of performance measures. These measures, known as the HIDTA Performance Management Process, or PMP, were embraced by the NFHIDTA and immediately implemented as a new system of performance measurement for all initiatives. This new system has allowed management and coordination staff to more accurately gauge the efficiency and effectiveness of the NFHIDTA and to better and more uniformly compare the NFHIDTA to other HIDTAs across the nation. This system is comprehensive in nature, and measures a variety of drug enforcement activities, including, but not limited to, the percentage and average costs of DTOs and MLOs dismantled, the return on investment of drugs and assets seized from the marketplace, the operational scope of drug trafficking and money laundering number relative organizations, the and production methamphetamine labs targeted and dismantled, training efficiency, event and case deconfliction, analytical support and case referrals.

In addition to measuring and assessing the performance and effectiveness of the NFHIDTA, management and coordination staff has also utilized the PMP system to measure the performance of individual initiatives within the NFHIDTA. By utilizing this system, the efficiency and effectiveness of the initiatives can be rated in the same manner the individual HIDTAs are measured on a national level. Through the application of the performance management system, the overall performance of the NFHIDTA can be rated and reviewed on a national level with other HIDTAs, and individual initiatives can be reviewed on a regional level by coordination staff, initiative commanders, executive board members and senior law enforcement executives. This comprehensive process will better illustrate to the local, regional, and national law enforcement communities the true effectiveness and efficiency of the HIDTA program and the tremendous impact the HIDTA program has on drug trafficking.

#### A. Performance Measures for Goal 1

Table 1 - Percentage of DTO Disrupted or Dismantled, 2005

Table 1: Percentage of DTOs and MLOs Disrupted or Dismantled for Year 2005 at North Florida									
Year	DTOs Identified	Total Targeted	# Disrupted	% of Targeted Disrupted	# Dismantled	% of Targeted Dismantled			
Begin 2005	41	41	16	39%	10	24%			
During 2005	47	47	19	40%	15	32%			
Total 2005	88	88	35	40%	25	28%			

Table 1: According to ONDCP, a DTO is defined as an organization consisting of five or more persons that (1) has a clearly defined hierarchy or chain of command and (2) whose principal activity is to generate income or acquire assets through a continuing series of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation or distribution activities. In north Florida, as in other areas of the United States, DTOs are characterized as highly organized groups of criminals who acquire, transport and distribute millions of dollars in illegal narcotics such as cocaine, marijuana, diverted pharmaceuticals, heroin. MDMA. methamphetamine into and through the north Florida region. DTOs often threaten the safety of the communities where they operate, and usually are associated with increased levels of violence and other illicit activities. According to law enforcement officials in the north Florida region, members of several area DTOs are well armed and violence-prone. Increasingly, drug traffickers are better armed and more violent and preliminary data suggests that the overall level of drug related violence is increasing.

In the beginning of 2005, NFHIDTA task forces had identified and targeted forty-one (41) DTOs in the north Florida area. While continuing to investigate these organizations throughout the year, an additional forty-seven (47) DTOs were identified and targeted for a total of eighty-eight (88) DTOs identified and targeted in 2005. By the end of the year, NFHIDTA task forces had disrupted thirty-five (35) of the organizations, impeding their normal and effective operation. Furthermore, NFHIDTA task forces dismantled twenty-five (25) DTOs, destroying each organization's leadership and supply networks and rendering them incapable of further operation. In summary, 68% of the DTOs targeted in the NFHIDTA were disrupted or dismantled.

Table 2 - Percentage of DTOs Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope, 2005

Ta	Table 2: Percentage of DTOs and MLOs Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2005, at North Florida [ALL DTOs; MLOs included]									
Scope	# Identified # Targeted # Disrupted		% of Targeted Disrupted # Dismantled		% of Targeted Dismantled	Total Disrupted or Dismantled	Total % Disrupted or Dismantled			
International	14	14	7	50%	4	29%	11	79%		
Multi-state	34	34	16	47%	8	24%	24	71%		
Local	40	40	12	30%	13	32%	25	62%		
Total	88	88	35	40%	25	28%	60	68%		

**Table 2:** DTOs are often complex, profit oriented criminal enterprises that are not required to respect state lines or international borders. As stated previously, law enforcement task forces had identified and targeted a total eighty-eight (88) DTOs operating in the north Florida area. The extent of drug trafficking and related criminal activities of these organizations varied in operational scope, ranging from local, multi-state and international. Of the eighty-eight (88) DTOs identified in 2005, fourteen (14) were international in scope, thirty-four (34) were multi-state and forty (40) limited their operations to within the local north Florida area. Task forces disrupted or dismantled eleven (11) of the international organizations, or 79% in 2005. They also disrupted or dismantled twenty-four (24), or 71%, multi-state DTOs and twenty-five (25), or 62%, local DTOs for a cumulative total of sixty (60) organizations, or 68% of all DTOs targeted were disrupted or dismantled in 2005.

Table 3 - Percentage of Money Laundering Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope, 2005

	Table 3: Percentage of Money Laundering Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2005, at North Florida										
Scope	# Identified MLOs	# Targeted	#Disrupted	% of Targeted Disrupted	# Dismantled	% of Targeted Dismantled	Total Disrupted or Dismantled	Total % Disrupted or Dismantled			
International	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	ĵ	100%			
Multi-state	1	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%			
Local	2	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%			
Total	4	4	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%			

**Table 3:** DTOs typically are engaged in a variety of associated illicit financial and money laundering activities that accompany the drug trade. In the NFHIDTA, almost all drug investigations include ongoing parallel financial investigations in which DTOs are financially immobilized in the course of each investigation. Although most drug investigations in the region incorporate associated money laundering and asset identification investigations, North Florida HIDTA investigative initiatives targeted four (4) MLOs in 2005, including one international organization, one multi-state organization, and two local organizations. Of these, task forces disrupted one, or 25%, of these organizations, which was international in scope.

Table 4 - Operational Scope of All DTO Cases Initiated, 2005

Table 4: Ope	rational Scope of Al	I DTO and MLO Cas Florida	ses Initiated for Year	r 2005, at North
Scope	# CPOT Cases	#RPOT Cases	# OCDETF Cases	% OCDETF of Total DTOs Targeted
International	2	1	4	29%
Multi-state	0	0	2	6%
Local	0	0	3	8%
Total	2	1	9	10%

**TTable 4:** While the HIDTA task forces in north Florida are identifying and targeting DTOs in accordance with the regional HIDTA drug strategy, they are simultaneously supporting other national drug enforcement initiatives. As enumerated in Table 4, throughout 2005, NFHIDTA task forces participated in nine (9) investigations involving DTOs that were approved and designated by the DoJ

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). NFHIDTA Task Forces also participated in two (2) investigations involving Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOTs) and one (1) organization involving a Regional Priority Organization Target (RPOT). These organizations are responsible for trafficking large volumes of illicit drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and diverted pharmaceuticals.

Summaries of several notable cases are provided below:

- Operation California Rolls was an investigation conducted in north Florida that commenced in May 2005 and designated a Regional Priority Organization Target (RPOT). Law enforcement officials determined that the local primary targets of the investigation, which were comprised of three Vietnamese males and ten distributors, were responsible for the distribution of MDMA and hydroponic marijuana. The illegal drugs were obtained from a source in Canada and were originally shipped across the US border in garbage trucks to Michigan where there is a landfill for Toronto, Canada. The transportation methods evolved as the drugs were concealed in semi-trucks amongst regular cargo and in passenger vehicles. The drugs were then transported into Jacksonville, Florida, for distribution approximately every two weeks. The organization
  - was responsible for importing approximately 300-500 pounds of marijuana and multi-thousand dosage units of MDMA. The marijuana was vacuum packed in one pound bags imprinted with a red dragon. The MDMA packages had either Canadian leaves or a butterfly insignia on them.
- A six month OCDETF investigation dubbed Operation Trap Door and initiated and led by the NFHIDTA DEA Task Force, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and US Secret Service, resulted in the following: the execution of five federal and five state search warrants, the seizure of five rifles and five handguns, eight arrests and fifteen undercover drug purchases netting 257.9 grams of crack cocaine and 1,234.4 grams of cocaine HCL. In addition, counterfeit currency was recovered during the investigation. The drug trafficking organization conducted their drug trafficking activities in Jacksonville, Florida, and it was estimated that the defendants were responsible for the sale of an estimated 50 kilograms of cocaine per month within north Florida. Further investigation revealed that these individuals were violent, were responsible for at least two homicides in the area and were dealing in stolen weapons.
- Participating agencies in the FDLE Tri-county Initiative executed a search warrant at a residence located in Flagler County that was found to contain a functional MDMA lab. This two month, multi-agency investigation resulted in the discovery of a sophisticated MDMA lab located in a back bedroom. The members of the international MDMA manufacturing and distribution DTO had been producing 100% pure MDMA capsules for over six months. The average yield of the lab was 2,000 capsules per month. These capsules had a street value of \$20 \$25 each and were being sold in the central and north Florida areas. It is estimated that the DTO made over \$250K. The investigation

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culminated in the arrest of four individuals and the seizure of lab equipment, precursor chemicals and 850 capsules.

Table 5 - Drugs Removed from the Marketplace, 2005

Drugs Seized (kg or D.U.)	Amount Seized (kg or D.U.)	Wholesale Value
heroin kg	1.519	\$136,710
cocaine HCL kg	1,824.549	\$38,315,529
crack cocaine kg	3.873	\$124,489
marijuana kg	2,766.062	\$5,331,058
marijuana plants and grows	1,446.453	\$2,787,763
methamphetamine kg	2.378	\$47,141
methamphetamine ice kg	3.043	\$119,546
ecstasy(MDMA)(D.U.s)	18,348.400	\$220,180
Diazepam	2.000	\$9
Hydrocodone	773.000	\$3,865
Lortab	12.500	\$62
Marijuana (Hydroponic)	62.465	\$474,679
OxyContin	2,562.000	\$70,455
Xanax	4891.000	\$22,009
Total Wholesale Value		\$47,653,499

Table 5: The eight (8) counties that comprise the NFHIDTA are geographically and economically diverse, plagued by a variety of different drug related problems. Due to the variety of urban, suburban and rural areas within the NFHIDTA, drug trafficking and abuse in the area varies greatly, and the region cannot be characterized by a single specific drug problem as in many parts of the United States. As enumerated in Table 5, NFHIDTA task forces seized \$47,653,499 in illicit drugs including 1824.55 kilograms of cocaine, 3.873 kilograms of crack cocaine, 1.519 kilograms of heroin, 4274.98 kilograms (9404.956 pounds) of marijuana, 5.421 kilograms of methamphetamine, 18,348 dosage units of MDMA and 8240.5 dosage units of diverted pharmaceuticals including Hydrocodone, OxyContin, and Xanax. Many of the DTOs identified and targeted in the NFHIDTA are complex and diverse, and are actively engaged in poly-drug activity.

Table 6 - Return on Investment (RoI) for Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives, 2005

Noi			stment (ROI) for nforcement Initia	Drugs Removed fro tives by Year	om the
Year	Budget	Baseline Drug Wholesale Value	Targeted Drug ROI	Drug Wholesale Value Removed From Market	Actual Drug ROI
2004	\$943,282	\$14,375,467	\$15	\$14,375,467	\$15
2005	\$1,233,802	\$14,375,467	\$12	\$47,653,499	\$39

Note: Table automatically rounds Rol to the nearest dollar.

**Table 6:** In an effort to accurately and uniformly gauge the return on the financial investment that the national HIDTA program has made in each of the individual HIDTAs, a series of Rol tables are utilized that are components of the HIDTA PMP model. The NFHIDTA embraced this concept as one of many tools to gauge individual initiative performance and to measure the productivity of the NFHIDTA as a whole. As illustrated in table 6, NFHIDTA task forces removed \$47,653,499 in illicit narcotics from the marketplace in 2005, and did so with a combined investigative and intelligence support budget of \$1,233,802 for six (6) law enforcement task forces and one (1) intelligence support component. Upon calculating the Rol, it was determined that for every dollar provided by the national HIDTA program to the NFHIDTA, task forces removed \$39 in drugs off the streets of NFHIDTA counties.

Table 7 - Return on Investment (RoI) for Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives, 2005

North F	lorida Table 7: Retu	rn on Investment (F	ROI) for Assets Rem Yea		larketplace by Lav	w Enforcement I	nitiatives by
Year	Budget	Baseline Value of Drug Assets	Targeted Asset ROI	Value of Drug A	Actual Asset ROI		
				Cash	Other Assets	Total	
2004	\$943,282	\$3,001,777	\$3	\$0	\$3,001,777	\$3,001,777	\$3
2005	\$1,233,802	\$3,001,777	\$3	\$3,227,888	\$2,758,635	\$5,986,523	\$5

Note: Table automatically rounds Rol to the nearest dollar.

**Table 7:** DTOs, like normal businesses, require money and resources to operate. Oftentimes, DTOs and their members possess a significant amount of assets, including vehicles, property and currency. In many cases, these assets enhance

a criminal organization's ability to operate, distribute and transport drugs throughout the region. In 2005, NFHIDTA task forces seized \$5,986,523 in drug related assets from the marketplace in north Florida. Upon calculating the RoI, it was determined that for every dollar provided by the national HIDTA program to the NFHIDTA, task forces removed \$5 in drug related assets from DTOs, further weakening the organizations' ability to operate.

Table 8 - Total Return on Investment (RoI) for Drugs and Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives, 2005

North F		ni Return on investm ketplace by Law En			ved from the	
Year Budget	Budget	Drugs and Assets Baseline	Targeted Total ROI	Drugs and Assets Removed from Market	Actual Total ROI	
2004	\$943,282	\$17,377,244	\$18	\$17,377,244	\$18	
2005	\$1,233,802	\$17,377,244	\$15	\$53,640,022	\$43	

Note: Table automatically rounds Rol to the nearest dollar.

**Table 8:** As evidenced in tables 6 and 7, NFHIDTA task forces have aggressively pursued drug traffickers in the region, removing millions of dollars in drugs from the streets and weakening the organizations by seizing their assets and currency. Furthermore, they have carried out this endeavor in an efficient and cost effective manner, with a drug Rol of \$39 and an asset Rol of \$5. When reviewing the total return on the modest \$1,233,802 investment that the national HIDTA program has provided to the NFHIDTA task forces, the overall Rol is \$43, which is highly competitive with other HIDTAs with much larger budgets. While this figure does not include the related costs that local, state, and federal agencies invest in the program in personnel salaries, equipment and resources, it illustrates the high level of commitment the regional law enforcement participants have to the program.

Table 9 - Prosecution Initiative Cost per Investigation, 2005

Pr	osecution Outputs a	nd Outcomes by Y	'ear at North Florida	HIDTA
Year	Investigations Baseline	Investigations Projected	Investigations Handled	% Handled
2004	0	0	0	0%
2005	0	0	0	0%

**Table 9:** The NFHIDTA, like several HIDTAs across the country, does not currently have a dedicated prosecution initiative. Although an initiative is currently not in existence, the NFHIDTA task forces enjoy an excellent relationship with the State Attorney's and United States Attorney's Offices in north Florida. NFHIDTA task forces referred 760 arrests into the state criminal justice system and 210 arrests into the federal criminal justice system, for a combined total of 970 arrests referred for criminal prosecution in 2005. While it is difficult to measure the total impact the prosecution of the arrested drug traffickers will have on the region, it can be surmised that many of these offenders will not be operating in north Florida communities in the near future.

Table 10 - Value of Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs Dismantled in 2005, by Size

Meth	Cost Per Ounce	\$1,275.00	
Lab Size	ID/Targeted	Dismantled	Value of Labs Dismantled
A. Less than 2 Oz	0	15	\$38,250.00
B. 2 - 8 Oz	0	3	\$19,125.00
C. 9 - 31 Oz	0	1	\$15,300.00
D. 32 - 159 Oz	0	0	\$0.00
E. 10 - 20 Lbs	0	0	\$0.00
F. Over 20 Lbs	0	O	\$0.00
Total	0	19	\$72,675.00

Table 11 - Clandestine Laboratory Activities, 2005

Table 11: HIDTA Cland	Table 11: HIDTA Clandestine Laboratory Activities for Year North Florida, in 2005									
	Baseline	# Projected	# Identified	% Identified						
Laboratory Dump Sites Seized	0	1	1	100%						
Chemical/Glassware Equipment Seizures	0	0	0	0%						
Children Affected	0	0	0	0%						

Tables 10 & 11: Methamphetamine has quickly become a significant threat in the NFHIDTA. According to NFHIDTA threat assessment survey data, it is the third largest drug threat identified in the 2005 North Florida HIDTA Annual Drug Threat preceded by cocaine and marijuana. Assessment, only methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine are trafficked into the region, it is also produced, or "cooked" in the region in clandestine labs. While the NFHIDTA does not have a dedicated methamphetamine initiative that tracks precursor sales, dumpsites or glassware seizures, NFHIDTA task forces have seized \$166,687 worth of methamphetamine in north Florida in 2005. NFHIDTA task forces also dismantled fifteen (15) clandestine labs with a production capacity of less than two (2) ounces, three (3) clandestine methamphetamine labs with a two to eight (2 - 8) ounce production capacity, and one (1) clandestine lab with a 9 - 31 ounce production capacity. Furthermore, as recorded in Table 11, one methamphetamine laboratory dumpsite was seized in the NFHIDTA region. As illustrated in Table 10, these nineteen (19) labs had a combined value of approximately \$72,675 in immediate methamphetamine production potential, and were undoubtedly capable of continuously producing more methamphetamine if not identified and dismantled. In an effort to better and more safely address the growing methamphetamine problem in the NFHIDTA, many of the region's law enforcement personnel have completed specialized courses in clan lab seizure procedures, and personnel assigned to the HIDTA intelligence initiative regularly review clan lab trends in the region via the EPIC Clan Lab Seizure System. While the labs dismantled in the region were not high production "superlabs" sometimes found in the western United States, their mere existence in the region is indicative of a rapidly emerging threat to north Florida communities that was only a marginal threat several years ago.

#### B. Performance Measures for Goal 2

Table 12 - NFHIDTA Training Efficiency by Year and Type of Training

Table 12	: HIDTA Tra	ining Effi	ciency by	/ Type of	Training	g for Ye	ar 2005, at	North Flor	ida		
Type of Training	# Stur Expect Trair	ted for	# Stu Actu Trai	ially	Ho Acti	ining urs ially ided	Total Trair	ning Cost	Trainin	g Cost Per	Hour
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	% Change 2004- 2005
Analytical/Computer	0	24	0	42	0	1,056	\$0	\$13,500	\$0.00	\$12.78	0%
Investigative/Interdiction	214	96	475	517	7,407	12,217	\$36,832	\$10,684	\$4.97	\$0.87	-82%
Managment/Administrative	0	24	0	49	0	187	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0	0	0	0%
Total	214	144	475	608	7,407	13,460	\$36,832	\$24,184	\$4.97	\$1.79	-64%

**Table 12:** Training is an essential component in the overall NFHIDTA mission. Courses are provided to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of NFHIDTA operations. The NFHIDTA provided training to 608 students in 2005 for a total of 13,460 classroom hours. The training courses were designed to enhance their knowledge of analytical methods, improve their computer, investigative and interdiction skills and develop their managerial abilities. This training, which cost the NFHIDTA an average of \$1.79 per classroom hour, was provided free of charge to NFHIDTA assigned and participating agency members. These training courses would not have been available without NFHIDTA funding and support.

Table 13 - Percentage of HIDTA Initiatives Using Event and Case Deconfliction Services, 2005

Table	13: Percentage of H Sen	IDTA Initiatives Usir vices for Year at No		Deconfliction	
Year	Total HIDTA Initiatives	# Initiatives Targeted to Use Services	# Initiatives Using Services	% Initiatives Using Services	
2004	6	6	6	100%	
2005	6	6	6	100%	
2006	6	0	0	0%	

Table 14 - Percentage of Event and Case Deconflictions Submitted, 2005

Tat	ole 14: Percentage	of Event and Ca	ase Deconfliction	ns Submitted fo	or Year at North	Florida
Year	Baseline # Deconflictions Submitted	# Deconfliction Submissions Targeted	# Event Deconflictions Submitted	# Case/Subject Deconflictions Submitted	Total Deconflictions Submitted	% Deconflictions Submitted
2004	1786	1,585	788	797	1,585	100%
2005	1786	1,820	1,047	1,876	2,923	161%
2006	1786	1,585	0	0	0	0%

Tables 13 & 14: Law enforcement officers in the NFHIDTA investigate drug traffickers and other criminals. As investigations become more complex and intricate, it has been discovered that these investigations often overlap as the targeted individuals operate within multiple jurisdictions and have ties with other criminal groups or DTOs. The NFHIDTA has mandated that task force initiatives deconflict their subjects through the NeFISC to prevent duplication of law enforcement efforts and promote information sharing. Other agencies not part of the NFHIDTA have also discovered the usefulness of subject deconfliction. Overall, the NFHIDTA NeFISC was responsible for the deconfliction of 10,114 subjects in 2005. The NFHIDTA task force initiatives submitted 1,876 subjects for deconfliction in 2005.

As important as subject deconfliction, the deconfliction of events or operations performed by law enforcement personnel is critical to officer safety. Law enforcement officers conduct numerous events, such as surveillance, serving search warrants and undercover drug buys throughout the day in an effort to reduce drug trafficking and related crimes. The NFHIDTA has mandated that all NFHIDTA operational initiatives submit their events for deconfliction through the NFHIDTA NeFISC. The deconfliction of events has prevented untold incidents of operational overlap and ultimately contributed to the safety of these law enforcement officers. In 2005, the NFHIDTA NeFISC was responsible for the deconfliction of 1,047 events that occurred in North Florida, of which 263 of these events were submitted by NFHIDTA task forces.

Table 15 - Percentage of Investigations Provided Analytical Support, 2005

Tabl	e 15: Percentage of Ca	nses Provided Analy Florida	tical Support for	Year at North
Year	Baseline # Cases Receiving Analytical Support	# Cases Targeted for Analytical Support	# Cases Provided Analytical Support	% Targeted Cases Supported
2004	620	620	620	100%
2005	620	680	729	107%
2006	620	620	0	0%

**Table 15:** The NFHIDTA is committed to the concept of intelligence driven investigations. Access to a variety of analytical resources and tools allows law enforcement officials to focus on high level, complex investigations, ultimately leading to the effective and efficient dissolution of DTOs. The analytical support provided through the NFHIDTA NeFISC has proven invaluable to the NFHIDTA task forces. In 2005, the NFHIDTA NeFISC supported 729 cases submitted by the NFHIDTA task force initiatives through telephone toll analyses, document analyses, post-seizure and post-arrest analyses, link analyses and other technical analyses.

Table 16 - Percentage of NFHIDTA Initiative Investigations Referred to Other HIDTAs and Other Agencies, 2005

Table 1	6: Percentage of I	HIDTA Initiative C	ases Referred to at North Florid		and Other Agenc	es for Year
Year	Total HIDTA Initiative Cases	# Initiative Cases Targeted for Referral	# HIDTA Initiative Cases Referred to Other HIDTAs	# HIDTA Initiative Cases Referred to Other Agencies	Total Initiative Cases Referred	% Targeted Initiative Cases Referred
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0%
2005	729	45	7	51	58	128%
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0%

**Table 16:** The NFHIDTA is a law enforcement partnership that promotes information sharing and investigative collaboration. As a result, it is not uncommon for NFHIDTA investigative task forces to refer investigative information and case leads to other investigative initiatives and other law enforcement agencies for further action. In 2005, NFHIDTA task forces referred seven (7) cases to other HIDTAs and fifty-one (51) cases to other agencies for further investigation in their jurisdictions or law enforcement purview. In summary, a total of fifty eight (58) cases were referred to other agencies or initiatives for further investigation as a cooperative measure promoting law enforcement teamwork.

#### VII. CONCLUSIONS

CY 2005 marks the second year that the NFHIDTA has reported initiative operational targets and subsequent outcomes using the new PMP model outlined in this Annual Report. These statistical representations illustrate how the NFHIDTA has successfully addressed the two national HIDTA goals. With support from the NFHIDTA NeFISC, law enforcement initiatives in north Florida continue to make significant progress in identifying, investigating and dismantling highly complex and prolific drug trafficking and money laundering organizations operating in the region. As the tables and charts presented throughout this report clearly attest, NFHIDTA initiatives have achieved their primary objectives. Clear evidence of successful initiative productivity is present throughout the report, allowing one to draw the only conceivable conclusion – drug availability is being reduced and DTOs are being disrupted or dismantled (Goal 1) efficiently and effectively through HIDTA sponsored training and information sharing (Goal 2) with a seriously reduced overall budget of \$1.4M, 56% less than the minimum funding level of other HIDTAs.

Illicit drug availability has been significantly reduced. Some highlights include seizing over 18,300 dosage units of MDMA, 3,500 kilograms of marijuana, 1.5 kilograms of heroin, 1,820 kilograms of cocaine HCL, 3.8 kilograms of crack cocaine, approximately 5 kilograms of methamphetamine/methamphetamine ice, plus almost 20,000 dosage units of diverted pharmaceuticals and miscellaneous other drugs. These seizures equated to just over a \$47.6M street value, which is a tremendous amount removed from the market. These seizures, coupled with drug asset seizures exceeding \$5M, have put a major crimp in DTO activities.

As the PMP model clearly illustrates, the NFHIDTA initiatives have produced tremendous results with a critically low overall budget. However, such successful results absent increased or even minimum funding do not prove the overall NFHIDTA's efficiency or effectiveness alone. It can also be concluded that to have achieved such success, the NFHIDTA program must have been not only instrumental, but fundamental in fostering, promoting and maintaining cohesion between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Historically, it was uncommon for diverse law enforcement entities to share strategic or operational information. Many agencies feared a breach of security or confidentiality if they shared their information. Naturally, this precluded innumerable opportunities to avoid duplication of effort and ultimately maximum efficiency and effectiveness in law enforcement operations. Fortunately, since the NFHIDTA has been in existence, there has been a steady positive increase in the number of initiatives, number of participating agencies, number of queries or data elements shared through the NFHIDTA computer infrastructure, number of interactions between law enforcement and intelligence activities, and a significant increase in cooperative, efficient and effective interagency effort. This successful cooperation spanning across all levels of government, which is unprecedented in the region, is also facilitated by way of enhanced technology

offered through the NFHIDTA. This technology provided the necessary infrastructure to consolidate available resources and provided a platform for intelligence gathering and information sharing. Disparate database files that could not be connected in the past now communicate over high-speed computer networks to share data and facilitate joint law enforcement and intelligence initiatives. Since its inception, the NFHIDTA has successfully given rise to a working multi-agency system, where every initiative has a clear set of objectives and where the cumulative product can be measured, evaluated and fine-tuned as needed.

In addition to creating and maintaining cooperation and cohesion between federal, state and local agencies, the NFHIDTA program has successfully integrated the law enforcement efforts of over 25 agencies that supply over 70 participating full-time members. Furthermore, these participating agencies contribute over \$9.6M that is not reimbursed by the NFHIDTA, equating to approximately \$6.86 for every NFHIDTA dollar spent.

The NeFISC is also expanding its database collection capabilities through the addition of LinX and SIPRNET. Both systems will be fully operational by early 2006 and should dramatically enhance NFHIDTA's efforts with respect to Goals 1 and 2.

Although the NFHIDTA has made considerable progress over the past year, there is still a great deal of work left to do. An emergence of methamphetamine trafficking organizations in the region, persistent drug-related and violent crimes, continuing high levels of cocaine/crack, pharmaceutical and amphetamine addictions, the persistent importation of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana and MDMA and the enduring popularity of synthetic hallucinogens and other drugs with the region's youth, are all threats that the NFHIDTA must continue to address. By bringing together law enforcement professionals and developing innovative, effective solutions to the region's drug threats, the NFHIDTA will continue to excel in its efforts to thwart drug-related crimes and protect residents from the scourge of illegal drugs.

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- Α. Organizational Chart.
- Executive Board Showing Local, State and Federal Affiliation. Agencies Participating in NFHIDTA Initiatives. В.
- C.
- NFHIDTA Initiatives D.

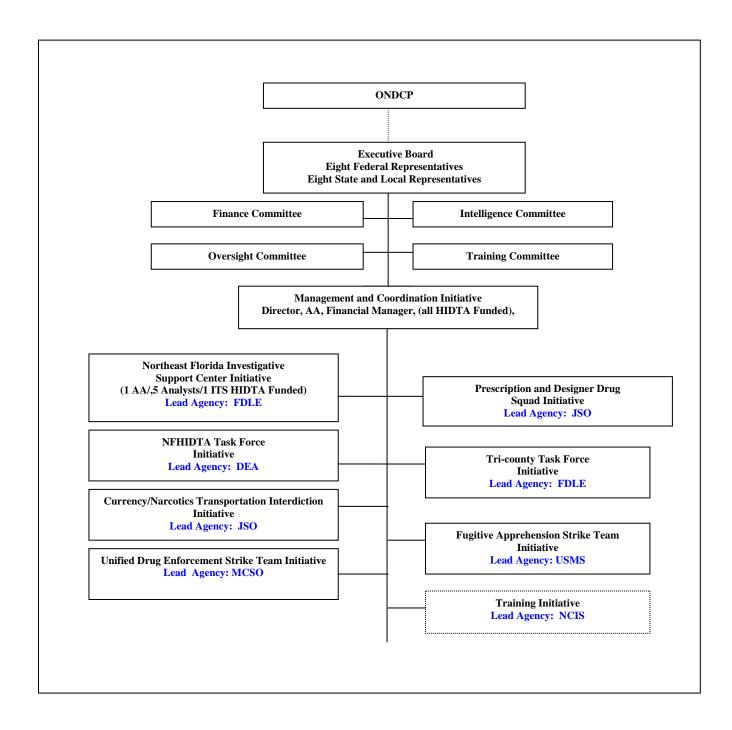
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#### APPENDIX A: ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

#### **NORTH FLORIDA HIDTA**



#### APPENDIX B: COMPOSITION OF NFHIDTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### **Federal Representation**

Drug Enforcement Administration Federal Bureau of Investigation (Chair) Immigration and Customs Enforcement Internal Revenue Service Naval Criminal Investigative Service US Attorney's Office US Coast Guard US Marshals Service

#### **State Representation**

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Florida Highway Patrol Florida National Guard Statewide Prosecutor's Office

### **Local Representation**

Baker County Sheriff's Office Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Marion County Sheriff's Office (Vice Chair) St. Augustine Beach Police Department

#### APPENDIX C: AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN NFHIDTA INITIATIVES

#### **Currency/Narcotics Transportation Interdiction Initiative**

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) Florida Highway Patrol Drug Enforcement Administration Immigration and Customs Enforcement

#### **Fugitive Apprehension Strike Force**

US Marshals Service (Lead Agency)
Clay County Sheriff's Office
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Naval Criminal Investigative Service

#### **NFHIDTA Task Force**

Drug Enforcement Administration (Lead Agency)
Baker County Sheriff's Office
Flagler Beach Police Department
Jacksonville Beach Police Department
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Nassau County Sheriff's Office
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Florida National Guard
Internal Revenue Service

#### Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (Lead Agency)
Clay County Sheriff's Office
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
Florida National Guard
Drug Enforcement Administration
US Coast Guard
Federal Aviation Administration

#### Prescription and Designer Drug Squad

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) Clay County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Administration

#### <u>Training (All part-time members)</u>

Naval Criminal Investigative Service (Lead Agency) Florida Highway Patrol Florida Department of Law Enforcement Drug Enforcement Administration

#### **Tri-county Task Force**

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (Lead Agency)
Flagler County Sheriff's Office
Palatka Police Department
Putnam County Sheriff's Office
St. Augustine Police Department
St. Augustine Beach Police Department
St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Drug Enforcement Administration

#### <u>Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team</u>

Marion County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency)
Ocala Police Department
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Drug Enforcement Administration

#### APPENDIX D: DESCRIPTIONS OF HIDTA INITIATIVES

#### <u>Currency/Narcotics Transportation Interdiction Initiative</u>

To interdict and disrupt the transshipment of currency and narcotics throughout the Jacksonville area by targeting public transportation facilities and routes.

#### **Fugitive Apprehension Strike Force**

Focus on the arrest of felony fugitives (narcotics and violent fugitives) at the state, national and international level. Fugitives with prior narcotics convictions who violate the conditions of their release program and are wanted again will be targeted.

#### **NFHIDTA Task Force**

Reduce violent crime by disrupting major drug traffickers and dismantling drug smuggling and distribution organizations operating in northeast Florida. Emphasis will be placed on regional, national and international drug trafficking organizations responsible for the smuggling, transportation and distribution of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, meth and MDMA into and throughout the area.

#### Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center

Support northeast Florida law enforcement efforts to dismantle high-level drug trafficking and related money laundering and violent crime organizations working in and throughout the area by collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on the scope and dynamics of criminal activity. NeFISC will also provide deconfliction services, case support, and intelligence and training facilities.

#### Prescription and Designer Drug Squad

Implement the NFHIDTA strategy through reduction of black market prescription drug trafficking and the trafficking of designer drugs. The primary focus will be to identify and dismantle the area's prescription and designer drug traffickers and to significantly reduce the availability of these drugs in the region.

#### <u>Tri-county Task Force</u>

To target mid and upper level narcotics violators within the tri-county area of St. Johns, Putnam and Flagler Counties in order to reduce overall distribution of narcotics. Emphasis is to be placed on identifying and targeting organizations that import powder cocaine, crack cocaine, meth, heroin, designer drugs and Tex-Mex marijuana.

#### <u>Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team</u>

Implement NFHIDTA strategy to pursue, disrupt and dismantle DTOs by identifying arresting and prosecuting individuals or networks responsible for the importation and distribution of drugs in Marion County. UDEST will conduct multi-jurisdictional investigations in which the primary focus is to achieve a significant reduction in both

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violent crime and the overall distribution of drugs through the implementation of a cooperative strategy with other HIDTA initiatives.