

Nationwide eradication efforts, such as Wipe Out, put so much pressure on growers that many abandoned their outdoor cultivation on public and private land for the safety of indoor cultivation. Indoor cultivated marijuana created new concerns for law enforcement; it was of such high quality and potency that American marijuana became the most sought-after cannabis in the world.

One of the most important enforcement tools that had developed during the late 1980s was thermal imagery, which was used to identify indoor marijuana operations. With the availability of this new heat-seeking technology, seizure records for indoor grows jumped from 951 in 1985 to 3,849 in 1992.

Throughout the early 1990s, the DEA closed down thousands of indoor marijuana grows. For example, in August 1993 at the Advance Mine site in northern California, investigators found sinsemilla plants, which ounce for ounce, could produce extremely high-grade marijuana. The mine, which had been an operational gold mine during the late 1800s and the early 1900s, contained everything needed to grow more than 3,000 marijuana plants. The 8-section complex included five rooms for growing plants, and a pumping system that continually supplied water and nutrients to the marijuana plants.

The total value of the plants found inside the mine was estimated to be between \$6 and \$9 million. Four people were arrested. It took 40 DEA, U.S. Forest Service, and county law enforcement personnel two days to remove more than 5 tons of marijuana cultivation equipment from inside the mine.

1993: The Advance Mine was one of the largest marijuana growing operations discovered in California. Special agents removed 2,394 cannabis plants from the former gold mine.

Steroids

In the 1980s and 1990s, abuse of steroids, particularly by young athletes, became a problem. Trafficking in steroids had become increasingly common, and as the market expanded, use of steroids was seen in younger and younger populations. Steroid sources included doctors, trainers, and foreign suppliers. A Government Accounting Office (GAO) study of the problem, published in 1989, reviewed 15 separate studies and reported one which showed that more than six percent of male high school seniors, mostly athletes, used or had used steroids. Another survey indicated that 20 percent of athletes in five colleges surveyed used steroids. It also reported on the significant side effects of steroid use. The GAO supported federal and state efforts to exercise greater control over steroid distribution and use. A 1990 study by the Inspector General of Health and Human Services reported that over a quarter of a million adolescents used steroids.

Congress responded to the steroid problem by passing The Anabolic Steroid Enforcement Act of 1990, which placed certain anabolic steroids in Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). Previously, steroids had been unscheduled and controlled only by state and local laws. The Anabolic Steroid Enforcement Act brought anabolic steroids under the record-keeping, reporting, security, prescribing, import and export controls of the CSA. Because steroids were now classified as a Schedule III substance, all manufacturers and distributors of steroids were required to register with the DEA.

This legislation, combined with an aggressive enforcement effort, virtually eliminated domestic sources of illicit steroid use and provided the legal authority to attack the smuggling of steroids from foreign sources. In order to heighten international awareness of the steroid problem, the DEA sponsored an international conference which was attended by nations where steroids were produced, as well as nations concerned with steroid abuse. This conference was also attended by scientific experts in the field of steroids and representatives of the U.S. and the International Olympic Committees.



Operation Man (1990)

Through the 1980s and early 1990s, the forfeiture of traffickers' assets became an important and effective tool for law enforcement. In 1991, President Bush signed a bill expanding the the DEA's authority to administratively forfeit assets from \$100,000 to an unlimited amount with respect to financial instruments, including cash, CD's and bonds; and \$100,000 to \$500,000 on all other items except real estate. One of the DEA's most successful financial cases was Operation Man, where agents tracked and forfeited drug assets laundered through banks based in the British Isle of Man, off the West Coast of England. Assets seized from this operation included a \$9.5 million bank account and the Bicycle Club, a gambling establishment in Bell Gardens, California, valued at \$150 million. In April 1990, after a club partner was convicted of smuggling marijuana, the U.S. Government seized the club, believed to be the world's largest card casino, assumed 30 percent ownership in the club, and received almost \$600,000 a month in profits.



After Hurricane Andrew struck Florida in August 1991, nearly 200 employees of the DEA's Miami regional office assisted employees and other Florida residents whose homes had been damaged by the hurricane. The DEA employees pictured above helped repair damaged roofs to protect employees' homes. From left, are: SA Pete Sarron, SA Tom Golden, Mrs. Margarita Milan, homeowner; Jorge Milan, homeowner and DEA seized asset specialist; SA Brad Brown; SA Milo Grasman; and, kneeling, SA Mike Stokes.

Operation REDRUM (1991)

The REDRUM (*murder spelled backwards*) program had been established in 1985 to create a multi-agency operational force to pursue investigations that demonstrated an association between drug trafficking and the violence that it fostered. The primary goals of the program were the identification of major drug traffick-

ers and organizations; the seizure of drugs and assets; and the analysis of strategic intelligence provided by informants.

On January 1, 1991, a Metropolitan Area Drug Enforcement Task Force (MATF), was formed as a pilot project under Operation REDRUM and addressed the influx of illegal drugs and accompanying violence associated with drug trafficking in Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and the contiguous suburban Maryland counties. The MATF was divided into several operational units designed to focus on different aspects of the drug problem. This 90-day project investigated individuals based in New York City who were responsible for drug-related homicides in the Washington, D.C., area. In addition to 15 state and local agencies working to reduce violent drug-related crime, participating federal agencies included the DEA, FBI, INS, and the Marshals Service. According to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in April 1991, "The urgency of the nation's war on drugs has intensified the need for information on innovative programs and approaches to counter illicit drug trafficking and its related violence. This project will test and evaluate a promising cooperative enforcement initiative that can be replicated by state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide."

Because of the success of this operation and other REDRUM pilot projects, Administrator Bonner in April 1992 expanded Operation REDRUM to include drug-related homicide investigative units or task forces in Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, and New Orleans. REDRUM, based in DEA headquarters, provided the divisional task forces with the funding for their investigations. In 1990, the program was initially funded with \$48,000, and during the ensuing years the funds increased to a high in 1993 of \$189,000.

DEA agents are shown making an arrest during Operation REDRUM.



LSD Conference (1991)

The early 1990s saw a resurgence of the popular 1960s and 1970s drug, LSD. While the use of most other illegal drugs had declined, LSD use was on the rise and was particularly popular among teenagers, as evidenced by rising emergency-room mentions for LSD as well as LSD-related arrests and violence. For example in 1991, LSD led to violence in Fairfax County, Virginia, where a high school student who allegedly had taken six or more hits of LSD shot a police officer, wounding her seriously. In San Marcos, Texas, a college student used a rifle to kill two acquaintances and wound his girlfriend after taking several hits of LSD.

To call attention to increasing abuse of the drug and to emphasize the need for stronger cooperative law enforcement and a commitment to reduce demand, Administrator Bonner held an LSD Conference in San Francisco in December 1991. This conference was held in California because it was a major source for LSD production and was attended by demand reduction experts from across the nation as well as law enforcement representatives from local, state, and federal levels.



In May 1992, Philadelphia Division ASAC Lewis Rice (left) briefed President George Bush and Philadelphia Police Commissioner Willie L. Williams (center) on the division's strategy to dismantle neighborhood drug gangs and street organizations.

Medical Use of Marijuana Denied (1992)

In 1989, former Administrator Lawn had officially denied the petition of the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) to reschedule marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act. When NORML appealed that decision,

Administrator Bonner had to review the issue and assess whether or not marijuana had any medicinal value. In order to develop a concrete, objective means of determining if marijuana should be rescheduled, Administrator Bonner relied on a five-point test, based somewhat on the criteria Congress had used to decide if certain drugs should be rescheduled. If the drug failed to meet just one of the five criteria, it could not be rescheduled, asserted Administrator Bonner. Marijuana failed to meet all five. The criteria consisted of:

1. The drug's chemistry must be known and reproducible.
2. Adequate safety studies must have been performed on the drug.
3. There must have been adequate and well-controlled studies proving the drug's efficacy.
4. The drug's medicinal value must be accepted by qualified experts.
5. The scientific evidence of the drug's safety and efficacy must be widely available.

Administrator Bonner ruled that marijuana had no currently accepted medical use on March 26, 1992.

DEA Special Agent Promotion Program

In 1992, the DEA implemented the Special Agent Promotion Program (SAP), a bias-free system for testing and promoting its special agents. It was based upon an objective identification of the most qualified candidates, regardless of their race or gender. The SAP resulted in important gains for female employees, in addition to African-American and Hispanic employees.

Operation Green Ice (1992)

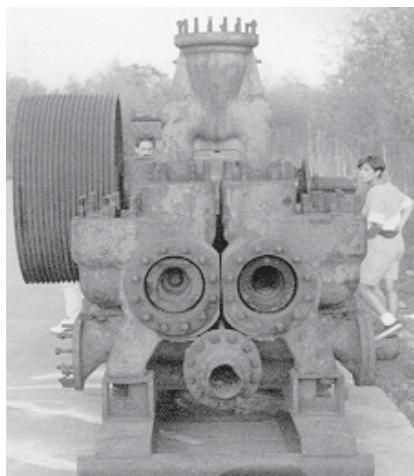
By the late 1980s, the DEA's financial investigative skills had evolved to such a high degree that the agency set up its own bank to lure drug traffickers looking to launder their profits. In 1989, the investigative team created Trans America Ventures Associates (TARA) and established its credentials in the financial community. The result was so convincing that *Hispanic Business Weekly* listed TARA as one of the top 500 Hispanic Corporations in America. Undercover agents then posed as money launderers and offered to pick up funds

anywhere in the world. They used informants to identify drug money brokers from Colombia who acted as middlemen between Cali mafia kingpins and money laundering operations in the United States.

Beginning in San Diego and Los Angeles, the investigations took undercover agents to Houston, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Chicago, and New York to pick up money and to establish “fronts,” such as leather goods shops, in these cities. During the course of the investigation, DEA agents laundered more than \$20 million for the Colombia-based cartels. As the investigation developed, cartel operatives asked the undercover agents to provide money laundering services in Europe, Canada, and the Caribbean. Consequently, Operation Green Ice was expanded into a coordinated international law enforcement effort involving Canada, the Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In September 1992, undercover agents finally arranged a meeting with top-ranking Cali financial managers at locations in the United States, Italy, Spain, and Costa Rica. The drug lords arrived, expecting to discuss plans for their criminal business, but instead were arrested. Operation Green Ice was an unprecedented collaboration of talent and financial expertise that successfully formed the first international task force to attack the monetary networks of the Cali mafia. Operation Green Ice led to the arrest of seven of the Cali mafia’s top financial managers, the seizure of more than \$50 million in assets worldwide, and the arrest of 177 persons, including 44 in the United States.

Major Cocaine Seizure (1992)



In 1992, 500 pounds of cocaine belonging to the Cali mafia were found by DEA agents in a Texas oil field mud pump.



A welder used a high-tech torch to cut through the bottom plate of the pump to remove cocaine packages.



The packages had been covered in red grease to conceal the scent from drug-sniffing dogs.

Creation of the Intelligence Division(1992)

For most of its first 20 years, the DEA's headquarters intelligence function and responsibility for managing DEA's intelligence program was located in the Operations Division. The DEA was responsible for managing a National Narcotics Intelligence System with federal, state, local, and foreign officials, and coordinating the collection, analysis, and dissemination of drug intelligence. However, as drug trafficking around the world increased and more law enforcement, intelligence, and military entities joined in the anti-drug effort, it became clear that the DEA had to focus additional resources and attention on drug intelligence. In August 1992, the Office of Intelligence became the Intelligence Division. The primary purposes of the change in status was to bring together all intelligence functions within the DEA, enhance the profile of the DEA's entire intelligence program, place increased emphasis on the DEA's intelligence mission, and improve the span of control of senior management.

Federal drug efforts and the demands of the law enforcement, intelligence, and defense communities were growing at a rapid and sometimes uncoordinated manner. Their demands on the DEA intelligence program were increasing dramatically at a time when the DEA was barely able to meet its own intelligence needs. The information collected by DEA special agents around the world constitutes one of the richest sources of federal drug information. Programs needed to be established to ensure that the information was properly shared and that other agencies dedicated and focused resources to add to that information for law enforcement purposes. More and better analysis had to be conducted in order to provide the details that could link apparently unrelated cases and support the development of successful prosecutions.

By establishing the Intelligence Division, the DEA sought to achieve a uniformity of purpose among federal drug intelligence efforts, establish intelligence program and policy functions, and provide a more proactive direction for DEA's intelligence program. Intelligence management resources were expanded to ensure that the intelligence programs of the interagency drug community were addressing the tactical, operational, and strategic needs of the DEA.

The Intelligence Division included three entities: the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), the Office of Investigative Support, and the Office of Intelligence Policy and Liaison. EPIC continued to expand its support to law enforcement officers across the country with its Pipeline and Jetway Programs, and the timely provision of information from the Watch. The Office of Investigative Support, collocated with its enforcement counterparts, provided intelligence support to the Kingpin Strategy. Functions of the Office of Intelligence Policy and Liaison included: establishing programs and policies to

ensure support from the interagency community; strategic intelligence; planning, policy analysis, and program development; and, the Special Field Intelligence Program (SFIP). Although a separate entity, the functions and programs of the Intelligence Division remained focused on supporting DEA's enforcement mission.

The Kingpin Strategy (1992)

In 1992, the DEA instituted the Kingpin Strategy that focused investigative and enforcement efforts on specific drug trafficking organizations. The DEA planned to disable major organizations by attacking their most vulnerable areas—the chemicals needed to process the drugs, their finances, communications, transportation, and leadership structure.

The Kingpin Strategy held that the greatest impact on the drug trade took place when major drug organizations were disrupted, weakened, and destroyed. This strategy focused enforcement efforts and resources against the highest-level traffickers and their organizations, and provided a systematic way of attacking the various vulnerabilities of the organizations. By systematically attacking each of these vulnerabilities, the strategy aimed to destroy the entire organization, and with it, the organization's capacity to finance, produce, and distribute massive amounts of illegal drugs. Each blow weakened the organization and improved the prospects for arresting and prosecuting the leaders and managers of the organizations.

The Kingpin Strategy evolved from the DEA's domestic and overseas intelligence gathering and investigations. It was a strategy that encompassed the DEA's enforcement actions in the United States, in the transit nations of the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America, and in the source countries of the Andes. The DEA also expanded Operation BAT in the Caribbean to include Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and the Lesser Antilles.

Eventually, the Kingpin Strategy would be revised, although the DEA retained the emphasis on going after the top level of the international drug trade. When Mr. Constantine became the Administrator, the SACs of DEA field divisions requested greater flexibility within their areas of command to target the major drug trafficking figures who were having a significant impact in their regions. Under the original Kingpin Strategy, DEA headquarters often dictated the selection of Kingpin targets. In response to the SACs' concerns, Administrator Constantine agreed to allow them more latitude in target selection. In conjunction with this decision, he established the Special Operations Division at Newington, Virginia, in 1994 to coordinate multi-jurisdictional investigations against major drug trafficking organizations responsible for the flow of drugs into the United States.

In November 1991, the DEA destroyed two major distribution cells of Cali Kingpin Helmer “Pacho” Herrera in New York City. Herrera was the primary supplier of cocaine to the New York market, and his organization was shut down through a massive wiretap effort, using as many as 100 simultaneous, court-authorized wiretaps on cellular phones. Almost 100 traffickers were arrested, more than \$20 million in cash and assets were seized, and 2.7 tons of cocaine were taken off the streets. In addition, computerized records of transactions and personnel were seized, providing valuable insight into the Cali distribution cell operations and was an indication that the Cali drug lords were becoming more dependent on computer systems.

In November and December 1991, the DEA teamed up with the CNP to carry out the first major raids ever against Cali mafia in Cali, Colombia. As a result, the DEA seized important financial records that permitted it to freeze trafficker bank accounts in Colombia, Miami, and London. In addition, during one of these successful raids, the CNP arrested Ivan Urdinola, one of the most violent of the Cali kingpins.

At the close of 1991, collective law enforcement efforts against the cartels resulted in the seizure of more than 300 metric tons of cocaine worldwide. Almost two-thirds of this amount was seized in the Andes and the transit nations, such as Mexico and Guatemala.

In another investigation, the DEA, working with the U.S. Customs Service, exposed one of the Cali mafia’s principal means of smuggling cocaine into the United States. In December of 1991, more than 15 tons of cocaine hidden in cement fence posts were seized in Miami and Texas and five Cali distributors based in the U.S. were arrested. The posts were shipped from Venezuela.

As a follow-up to that investigation, the DEA and the U.S. Customs Service seized 7.5 tons of cocaine concealed in shipments of broccoli and okra. Ten members of the organization were arrested in Miami, Florida, including one of the Cali mafia’s top managers in the United States. Federal agents also seized \$1.6 million in cartel bank accounts located in Florida, California, New York, and New Jersey.

Finally, in July 1992, Panamanian police and the DEA raided a warehouse in Panama and seized 5.3 tons of cocaine concealed in boxes of hollowed-out ceramic tiles.

Brooklyn Clandestine Cocaine Lab Seizures (1992)

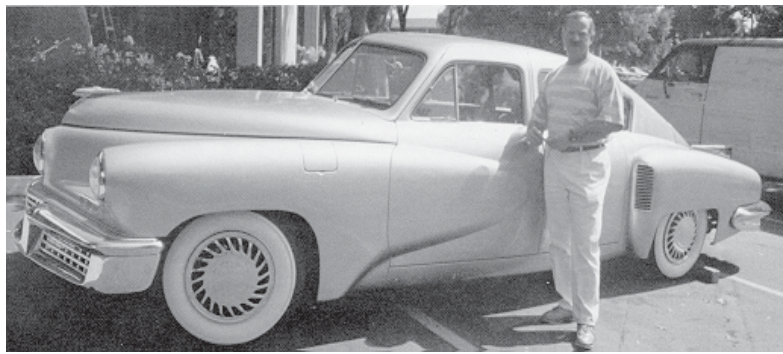
The Mid-Hudson Drug Enforcement Task Force, which consisted of three DEA special agents, six New York state troopers, and seven local police officers, conducted an intensive investigation of the Jose Santa Cruz- Londono

trafficking organization. The cooperative, year-long operation required multiple wiretaps and sophisticated video surveillance, which was installed inside the warehouse lab and captured several individuals actually going through the cocaine processing procedures. These efforts came to fruition on June 15, 1992, when the Task Force seized two major clandestine cocaine laboratories in Brooklyn, New York. Agents found 100 pounds of cocaine base chemically altered into ceramic floor tiles for smuggling into the United States. It was believed that each lab was capable of producing 50 to 100 kilograms of cocaine HCl a day, making them two of the largest labs seized during that time period. Unique to these labs was the use of Dupont gun-cleaning solvent in the extraction process as well as the use of an “extractor,” a piece of equipment that used dry ice to condense vapors in the laboratory. This device enabled the lab to function in a densely populated area without the presence of strong chemical odors usually associated with clandestine labs. The other lab had been abandoned following an unrelated New York City Police raid of a nearby building. As a result of these seizures, an additional 70 pounds of cocaine were seized on March 3, 1993, when one of the cooperating Brooklyn lab defendants led the task force to a crack cocaine laboratory located in Liberty, New York. In addition, the chemist responsible for the tile method of smuggling was arrested, and one of the Brooklyn arrestees was later charged in the conspiracy to kill an editor of *El Diario*, a Spanish-language newspaper published in New York City. The drug lords from Colombia had threatened the editor’s life when the newspaper ran several articles condemning their activities. At the conclusion of these investigations, the labs were traced to the Jose Santa Cruz-Londono trafficking organization and 30 of its members were brought to justice.

Hudson Task Force officers display some of the crushed cocaine “tiles” recovered from the clandestine lab in Liberty, New York.



The Tucker



Special Agent Claude Powers of the San Diego Division Narcotics Task Force posed with the 1948 Tucker automobile seized from a major methamphetamine trafficker in 1992.

Rules of the Game (1993)

For years after the DEA first began operating in Mexico in the early 1970s, special agents worked there, as in most countries of the world, without formal regulations other than their own agency's guidelines. This changed in April 1990, when a physician, Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain, was kidnaped in Guadalajara by four men who identified themselves as members of the Mexican Judicial Police. Machain was then driven to a neighboring state, held overnight in a hotel, and forced to board a plane that took him to United States.

U.S. authorities maintained that the Guadalajara gynecologist had injected DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena with stimulants to keep him conscious during the final interrogation before his murder in 1985, and they were frustrated by Mexico's failure to arrest Machain after his earlier indictment in Los Angeles. As a result, American officials paid Mexican bounty hunters to kidnap Machain and take him to El Paso, Texas. This fact aroused Mexican furor, and even more so when the United States Supreme Court ruled in June 1992 that the abduction did not violate American law. In 1992, the Government of Mexico imposed the first written regulations that the DEA had faced anywhere in the world. The rules capped the number of DEA agents in Mexico, designated a half-dozen cities in which they must live, prohibited them from traveling without written Government of Mexico permission, denied them diplomatic immunity from prosecution, and stipulated that all useful intelligence information "must be immediately transmitted to the competent Mexican authorities." They also prohibited weapons. Dr. Machain was ultimately released in December 1992 due to a directed verdict of acquittal.

Aviation

In late 1991, the Chief Pilot position was moved out of headquarters and sent to Addison to run operations. By this time, the DEA's Aviation Section had grown to 115 special agent/pilots, 110 DEA-owned aircraft, 152 contractor maintenance technicians, and an operating budget of \$23 million. In the 1990s, about 85 percent of the air fleet was from asset forfeiture and the remainder was from military surplus and newly-purchased aircraft.

In June 1992, ground was broken for the new Aviation Operation Center at the Alliance Airport, which was four times larger than the facility at Addison. The three-story hanger included large bays with an overhead crane for working on every kind of aircraft from small fixed-wing, single-engine planes, to large turbine-powered transports and helicopters. The facilities provided for machine repairs, engine shops, avionics, spare parts, modification work, metal work, and hydraulic repairs.

Air intelligence, photo labs, maintenance, and the operations center and office space were also housed in the new facility. In the connected two-story office building were workstations, training rooms, conference areas, and computer systems.



Training

When Administrator Robert C. Bonner began his tenure in August 1990, one of the first challenges facing him was the issue of overcrowding at the FBI Training Center at Quantico, Virginia. The training needs of the FBI had grown to such an extent that there was literally no space to accommodate the DEA training functions that were likewise expanding. As a result, the DEA was given notice to find another place to conduct its training.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, offered to provide the DEA some space, but after evaluating a number of facilities in other states, Administrator Bonner determined that it was in the DEA's interest to retain a training facility at Quantico, Virginia. Mr. Bonner confirmed the U.S. Marine Corps' offer of land to the DEA, and set about to acquire the funding for a DEA training center.

In 1992, with the approval of Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, Administrator Bonner was successful in obtaining \$7 million for architectural plans and an engineering study. However, it was not until FY 1997 that sufficient funds were appropriated to build and complete the DEA Training Center at Quantico.

Office of Investigative Agency Policies (1993)

On November 18, 1993, the Attorney General established the Office of Investigative Agency Policies (OIAP) at the Department of Justice. This new office, reporting directly to the Attorney General, was created to increase efficiency within the Department of Justice by coordinating specified activities of the department's criminal investigative components that warrant uniform treatment or coordination. Agencies that fell under this program included the DEA, FBI, U.S. Marshals Service, and Immigration and Naturalization Service. Some resolutions/issues addressed by this office that affected the DEA included drug intelligence (February 1994), wireless communications (April 1994), criminal investigations overseas (May 1994), aviation policy (September 1994), armor piercing ammunition (October 1994), Interagency Laboratory Working Group (June 1995), post-shooting incidents (October 1995), law enforcement training (December 1995), and confidential informants and cooperating witnesses (May 1996).

Technology

Given the evolving sophistication of criminal drug organizations around the world in the 1990s, the DEA was challenged to keep pace, particularly technologically. With the cartels' extensive wealth, these international criminal organizations purchased the latest and most sophisticated state-of-the-art technological equipment, and used this equipment to control every phase of their drug business—production, transportation, financing and communications. Technology provided them with the vital link to their managers and dealers here in the United States and around the world, allowing the mafia leaders to maintain total control over every detail of the drug business from their safe havens abroad.

Cellular Phones: Mafia leader surrogates who controlled operations in the United States engaged in complicated efforts to avoid having their telephone communications vulnerable to legal wiretaps. These criminal surrogates within the United States bought cell phones in lots of 10-20, which were used for a few weeks or even days and then quickly discarded and replaced. This was done in order to evade wiretaps by moving from phone to phone more quickly than law enforcement could keep up.

Digital Pagers: The use of digital pagers also created new problems. Traffickers sent messages, often in code, to set up deliveries, cancel meetings, or warn of problems. But law enforcement's ability to intercept these transmissions was limited. The DEA's primary method was to use a clone of a pager used by a suspected trafficker. However in order to set up the clone, specific information was needed from the company providing the paging service, and the suspect was often tipped by the paging service that he was under investigation. In response and with the cooperation of the cellular and paging industries, the DEA developed equipment to intercept cellular and paging services.

Debit Telephone Cards: Traffickers also used debit cards to avoid detection by law enforcement. From stores, such as the 7-11, traffickers bought telephone debit cards similar to telephone credit cards that are not billed to any specific person or telephone number and are difficult to trace.

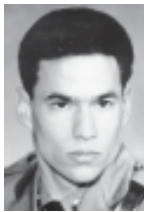
Encryption: Encrypted communications became a major problem for law enforcement in the 1990s. To help counter the threat of criminal organizations exchanging encrypted messages with impunity, Congress approved the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act in 1994. It required telephone companies to ensure that their systems and networks had the capability to accommodate federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies' court-approved intercepts as new technology was developed.

Laboratories

Digital Communications: Another important technological development occurred in the 1990s when new carriers, such as cable television companies and electric companies, entered the “telephone business.” Where once a pair of wires carried only one analogue signal conversation, today’s communications were sent in pulses of digital information over wires or fiber optic cables, allowing for multiple, simultaneous voice and data transmissions, known as multiplexing. This meant that telephone calls were forwarded to a different location without detection by law enforcement intercept equipment.

The laboratory system marked its 25th anniversary in August 1993. From the original staff of 6 chemists at the Washington, D.C., BNDD laboratory, the authorized staff had grown to a nationwide staff of 159 bench chemists, 12 latent fingerprint specialists, 36 laboratory managers and supervisors, 4 headquarters upper managers, 12 headquarters program managers, 2 hazardous waste specialists, 2 diversion investigators, and numerous support personnel.

Killed in the Line of Duty



Joseph T. Aversa
Died on March 5, 1990

Criminal Investigator Aversa of the New York State Police was shot to death on March 5, 1990, while serving on the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force.



George D. Althouse
Died on May 28, 1992

DEA Special Agent Althouse was killed during an attempted car theft in Shelby County, Alabama.



Wallie Howard, Jr.
Died on October 30, 1990

Police Investigator Howard of the New York Police Department was shot and killed during an undercover operation with the Central New York Drug Enforcement Task Force.



Becky L. Dwojeski
Died on October 21, 1993

DEA Special Agent Dwojeski, who was assigned to the Office of Training, was killed in an automobile accident on the Quantico Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia.



Eugene T. McCarthy
Died on February 2, 1991

DEA Special Agent Pilot McCarthy was on a second Snowcap tour in November 1990 when he was called to active duty in the Persian Gulf War. He was killed in a helicopter accident in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War.



Stephen J. Strehl
Died on November 19, 1993

Detective Strehl, a St. Louis, Missouri Police Officer, was killed in a helicopter crash during a surveillance mission. He was assigned to a DEA task force.



Alan H. Winn
Died on August 13, 1991

DEA Special Agent Pilot Winn was killed in a helicopter crash during an operations flight over the island of Hawaii.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The drug trade had evolved into a well-organized, highly structured enterprise that spanned the world.



1994-1998



DEA

Thomas A. Constantine
April 15, 1994 - 1999

Thomas A. Constantine was appointed Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) by President William J. Clinton on March 11, 1994. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Constantine had been serving as the Superintendent of the New York State Police and was a veteran law enforcement officer with over 34 years of service with that agency.

When Mr. Constantine was selected by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1986 to be Superintendent of the New York State Police, it was the first time in 30 years that a member of that agency had risen through the ranks from Trooper to Superintendent. During his tenure as Superintendent, the 4,800-member New York State Police received numerous awards, including the Governor's Excelsior Award as the best quality agency in state government.

Upon assuming the leadership of the DEA, Administrator Constantine said that the agency would play a leading role in changing attitudes about drugs and reducing violence. However, he emphasized that "DEA cannot do it alone." He explained, "The key is cooperation with state and local police departments...and federal agencies, which leaves no room for turf wars or jurisdictional conflicts."

Mr. Constantine now serves as a Public Service Professor at the State University of New York in Albany, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

Two of the most significant features of the drug trade in the mid-1990s were its scope and sophistication. The drug trade had expanded into a global problem, and the unprecedented power and wealth of the traffickers allowed them to manage their worldwide business with the most sophisticated technology and communications equipment that money could buy. The drug trade had evolved into a well-organized, highly structured enterprise that spanned the world. Drug trafficking activities were conducted in a seamless continuum, with individual organizations controlling all aspects of the drug trade, from cultivating or manufacturing drugs in source countries to transporting them through international zones and eventually selling them on the streets of American communities.

The DEA adjusted its strategy to address the unprecedented influence and power of the international drug mafias while working to reduce violent drug-related crime in American communities. Initially hampered by budget cutbacks in the late 1980s, by the mid-to-late 1990s, the agency had increased its budget, its staffing, and its cooperation with law enforcement counterparts in the United States and abroad.

During this time period, violent drug gangs proliferated around the country. Violence and drug trafficking went hand-in-hand. More than 1.5 million Americans were arrested for drug law violations in 1996. Many crimes (e.g., assault, prostitution, and robbery) were committed under the influence of drugs or motivated by a need to get money for drugs. Competition and disputes contributed to violence as did the location of drug markets in areas where legal and social controls on violence tended to be ineffective.

The availability of automatic weapons also made drug violence more deadly. In addition to the rampant violence and denigration of neighborhoods, child abuse, crack babies, AIDS, homelessness, and a host of other drug-related afflictions also degraded the quality of life in many communities. Some influential intellectuals in America, in their frustration, began to advocate the wholesale legalization of drugs as a solution to the drug problem.

Another challenge facing drug law enforcement was the fact that heroin, which previously had been smuggled mostly from Asia, was being smuggled into the United States from a new source—South America.

Year Foreign Office Opened

- 1997 Moscow, Russia
 - 1997 Pretoria, South Africa
 - 1998 Trinidad, Bolivia
 - 1998 Sao Paulo, Brazil
 - 1998 Beijing, China
 - 1998 Vietiane, Laos
 - 1998 Ciudad Juarez, Mexico
 - 1998 Tijuana, Mexico
 - 1998 Managua, Nicaragua
 - 1998 Port of Spain, Trinidad/Tobago
-

DEA Special Agents

- 1994.....3,418
- 1998.....4,261

DEA Budget

- 1994.....\$1,050 million
 - 1998.....\$1,349.4million
-

Operation Snowcap is Concluded (1994)

Operation Snowcap was one of the major issues of concern that the SACs brought to the attention of incoming Administrator Constantine. The program was originally instituted to eliminate the flow of cocaine by building up internal law enforcement resources in the source countries and by teaching enforcement techniques to foreign counterparts. However, it had evolved to the point that DEA agents were also participating in drug law enforcement activities.

Snowcap was envisioned as a temporary program, but after seven years of operation it became a serious drain on DEA domestic field division resources. The constant rotation of individuals from domestic field investigations made it difficult for the agents to initiate and follow through on casework and follow-up court testimony. In addition, because of the dangerous terrain the agents worked in, many agents who volunteered for Snowcap tours underwent intensive jungle training to prepare for the adversity that their tours of duty to the Latin American jungles created. This training, although a necessity to the agents, further depleted the domestic field divisions of badly needed special agents.

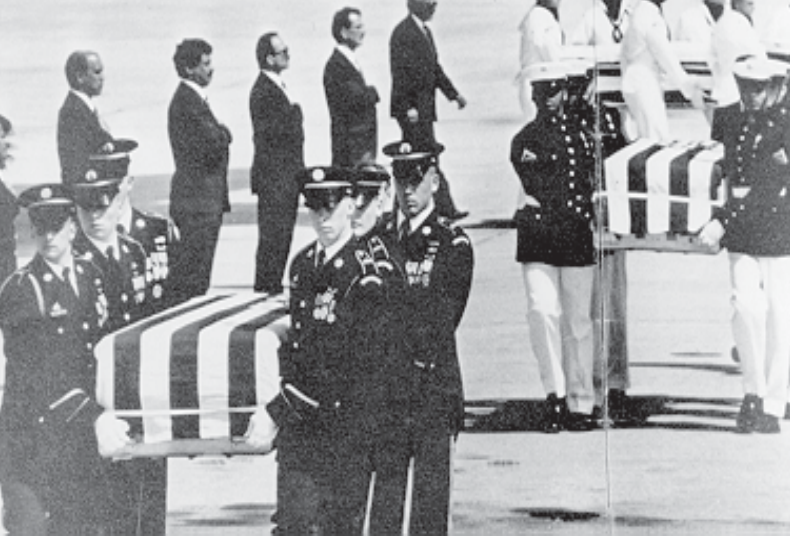
These personnel limitations made it increasingly difficult for the domestic field divisions to combat the rising tide of drug-related violent crime in their regions. In order to address the SACs concerns, and because Operation Snowcap had achieved its goal of helping other countries' drug law enforcement agencies become more self-sufficient, a decision was made to phase out Snowcap and refocus the DEA's role in overseas operations. As a result, Snowcap's temporary positions were gradually eliminated. Nevertheless, the DEA continued to support permanent positions in Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia. The agents in these positions provided support and training assistance and served as liaison officers and advisors. The phase-out of Operation Snowcap marked a significant change in the role of DEA agents in certain overseas posts.



1995: Special Agent Jake Carter (far right) helped with an enforcement operation against the Northwest Raiders in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Conviction of Dandeny Munoz- Mosquera (1994)

Dandeny Munoz-Mosquera, the Medellin cartel's chief assassin, was arrested in Queens, New York, on September 25, 1991, for making false statements to a DEA special agent. Following Munoz's trial, conviction, and subsequent six-year sentence under the false statement charge, Munoz was then tried for his involvement in the 1989 midair bombing of Avianca flight-203, in which 107 people died when the cartel wanted to kill one informant on the plane. Because two American citizens were on board, the United States was able to charge Munoz with homicide in that case. Munoz was also linked to hundreds of other murders that he committed while serving as the cartel's most prolific assassin. In December 1994, Munoz was convicted in New York and sentenced to 10 life terms for the Avianca homicide charges, as well as two 20-year terms and one 5-year term on a variety of drug trafficking and RICO charges, all to be served consecutively.



Peru Airplane Crash (1994)

On August 27, 1994, during a routine reconnaissance mission near Santa Lucia, Peru, a DEA airplane carrying five special agents crashed, killing all aboard. The DEA special agents were assigned to Operation Snowcap [see page 72], which had provided support and training for Peruvian and Bolivian law enforcement personnel between 1987 and 1994. The crash site was 15 miles west of Santa Lucia, an airstrip in the foothills of the Andes Mountains of western Peru in the Upper Huallaga River Valley, where much of the world's coca leaves for cocaine were grown. They were searching for clandestine drug operations in an area that is known for its multitude of laboratories and airstrips. The DEA transport plane had been traveling from Santa Lucia when it lost contact with air traffic control.

The DEA, the Peruvian Air Force, the Peruvian Police, and U.S. Special Forces teams assigned to Peru joined in the search for the lost aircraft. On August 28 they were scouring the area around Puerto Piana, about 285 miles northeast of Lima, when they spotted the wreckage of the twin-engine cargo aircraft. A six-man search team began hacking through the jungle but was slowed by heavy rains and nightfall. The search team, which included two DEA agents, reached the site on Monday, August 29, and discovered the bodies of the two pilots and the three agents amid the wreckage of the Casa aircraft.

The special agents were: Frank Fernandez, Jr., stationed at DEA headquarters; Jay W. Seale, stationed in Los Angeles; Meredith Thompson, stationed at the Miami office; Juan C. Vars, stationed at the San Antonio office; and Frank S. Wallace, Jr., stationed at the Houston office. Their bodies arrived back in the United States on September 3, 1994, on a C-141 transport jet that landed in front of hundreds of family members, friends, and DEA agents, each of whom wore black ribbons over their badges.

"This is just so tragic. They were fine special agents and fine young people," DEA Administrator Thomas Constantine said. "For those people who say there is no price to pay for casual drug use, tell that to the families and friends going through this tragic time." In May 1995, the families of the five special agents received the Administrator's Award of Honor. This posthumous award recognized the bravery of Special Agents Wallace, Vars, Thompson, Seale, and Fernandez.

Operation Dinero (1994)

Operation Dinero, a joint DEA/IRS (Internal Revenue Service) operation, was launched by the DEA's Atlanta Division in 1992. In this investigation, the U.S. Government successfully operated a financial institution in Anguilla for the purpose of targeting the financial networks of international drug organizations. In addition, a number of undercover corporations were established in different jurisdictions as multi-service "front" businesses designed to supply "money laundering" services such as loans, cashier's checks, wire transfers, and peso exchanges, or to establish holding companies or shell corporations for the trafficking groups. Believing these services were legitimate, the Cali mafia engaged the bank to sell three paintings, a Picasso, a Rubens, and a Reynolds. These paintings, estimated to have a combined value of \$15 million, were seized by the DEA and IRS in 1994. The operation resulted in 116 arrests in the United States, Spain, Italy, and Canada and the seizure of nine tons of cocaine, and the seizure of more than \$90 million in cash and other property. The two-year joint enforcement operation was coordinated by the DEA, IRS, INS, FBI, and international law enforcement counterparts in the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, and Spain.



Charlestown, Massachusetts

Between 1975 and 1992, Charlestown, a small community in North Boston, Massachusetts, experienced 49 murders, 33 of which were unsolved. The difficulty in finding information about the murders was caused by the unspoken “Code of Silence” that the Charlestown citizens had adopted. The community was unwilling to share information that would facilitate homicide investigations, possibly because of fear of retaliation by criminals, anti-police sentiment, or reliance on vigilante justice. Charlestown was a major PCP and cocaine distribution center that was run by the “Irish Mob,” a group of career criminals. Because drugs were a large part of Charlestown’s crime problem, the DEA got involved and joined forces with the Massachusetts State Police, Boston Police Department, and Boston Housing Police Department. DEA agents and local officers worked together to establish a comprehensive case against the criminals in the neighborhood and found informants and other intelligence critical to solving both drug and murder cases. Agents arranged to protect any witnesses who agreed to testify against the Charlestown criminals. As a result of three years of extensive investigations in Charlestown, by July 1994, 40 defendants

were indicted on charges that included racketeering, murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, and armed robbery. Once the violent criminals were taken from Charlestown community, the threat of retaliation was removed and the code of silence was broken. A hotline set up by the DEA yielded hundreds of calls from community residents that resulted in valuable leads and more significant arrests. The cooperative efforts by the DEA and local law enforcement agencies greatly diminished Charlestown’s violence problem.



Creation of the 20th Field Division: Special Operations (1994)

In a decision to elevate the level of attention given to targeting the highest levels of the international drug traffic, Administrator Constantine approved the creation of a new division called Special Operations (SOD) which became fully functional in 1994. Its mission was to target the command and control capabilities of major drug trafficking organizations from Mexico, Colombia, and elsewhere. Originally, the division was exclu-

sively operated by the DEA. In 1995, the FBI became full partners in the division, followed by the U.S. Customs Service in 1996. SOD was given the ability to collect, collate, analyze, evaluate, and disseminate intelligence derived from worldwide multi-agency elements. This information was then passed to domestic field divisions and foreign country offices for real-time or near real-time support to programmed investigative and enforcement activity directed against major trafficking organizations that operated on a regional, national, or international basis. With regard to domestic enforcement, the division’s foremost function was to help field divisions build national conspiracy cases derived from multi-jurisdictional wiretap investigations.

New Wall of Honor (1995)

In order to pay a fitting tribute to the men and women of the DEA and state and local task forces who have given their lives in the line of duty, Administrator Constantine directed that a new, more visible Memorial Wall of Honor be erected in the lobby of DEA headquarters. The 20-foot memorial displayed a picture of each DEA agent and state and local task force member who died in the line of duty.



Operation Tiger Trap (1994)

Operation Tiger Trap was conceived at DEA's Bangkok Office during June of 1994 with the goal of identifying and targeting the major heroin traffickers in the region. Operation Tiger Trap was the first of its kind, a multi-agency international operation designed to dismantle or disrupt the trafficking activities of the world's largest heroin trafficking organization, the Shan United Army (SUA). Also known as the Mong Tai Army, it was located primarily in the areas of Burma adjacent to the northern border provinces of Thailand. The SUA Warlord Khun Sa claimed that his army, which was financed primarily through heroin trafficking, was fighting the Burmese for the independence for the Shan people.

The SUA controlled the cultivation, production, and transportation of heroin from the Shan State. Although other insurgent groups in Burma also trafficked heroin, the SUA had been the dominant force in worldwide distribution. Prior to Operation Tiger Trap, the percentage of southeast Asian heroin from the DEA's Heroin Signature Program rose from 9 percent in 1977 to 58 percent in 1991.

Tiger Trap was divided into phases which would all target key Shan United Army (SUA) functionaries. On November 27, 1994, the operation culminated when teams of Royal Thai Police, Office of Narcotics Control Board Officers, and Royal Thai Army Special Forces Soldiers working with DEA agents lured targets in Burma into Thailand where they were then arrested. This action significantly damaged the ability of the SUA to distribute heroin. The Royal Thai Army then worked with the Thai Border Patrol Police to close the Burma border to "commercial quantities" of goods entering the Shan State.

When law enforcement authorities had completed their operations, 13 senior SUA traffickers were arrested, and all were pursued for extradition/expulsion to the United States. These 13 principal defendants in Operation Tiger Trap included some of the most persistent and high-level heroin traffickers operating out of Thailand. They were all subjects of U.S. indictments in the Eastern District of New York (EDNY). The defendants were a mixture of three distinct categories: those who were eligible for expulsion (illegal aliens in Thailand); those who possessed fraudulent identification; and authentic Thai citizens.



Operation Tiger Trap toppled SUA Warlord and heroin trafficker Khun Sa.



On December 3, 1993, law enforcement authorities seize 315 kilos of heroin in Pae, Thailand.



Khun Sa's men. From left to right, Chang Tetsa, Liu Fangte, Meedian Pathummee, Kuo Fa Mou, Ma Tsai Kuei, Chao Fusheng.

MET

Mobile Enforcement Teams (1995)

Many communities across America were suffering the devastating effects of drug-related crime and violence. Numerous drug-related homicides were unsolved, and, in too many cases, witnesses were afraid to come forward with information. Administrator Constantine believed that the DEA had a great deal of expertise and the resources necessary to assist state and local law enforcement agencies address drug-related problems in their communities. He established the Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) program in April 1995 to overcome two major challenges that faced state and local agencies in drug enforcement: limited resources—equipment, funding, and diversification of personnel—that were needed to effectively perform drug enforcement; and the fact that local law enforcement personnel were often recognizable to local drug users and sellers, making undercover buys and penetration of local distribution rings difficult and dangerous.

The MET teams, composed of specially trained and equipped DEA special agents, were strategically located across the country to facilitate rapid deployment to communities where police chiefs or sheriffs requested their assistance. MET investigations were immediately successful in reducing the impact of drug-related violence.

One of the DEA's first MET deployments was in Galveston County, Texas, in May 1995. In a single week, Galveston County had experienced five drive-by shootings, and the Sheriff of Galveston County requested assistance from the DEA's Houston Division to combat the increasing violence. The Galveston Narcotics Task Force, working with the Houston MET, launched an investigation of the drug gang believed to be connected to the shootings. Only days later, five adults were arrested on charges of attempted homicide and deadly conduct. Two juveniles were also arrested and charged with the theft of the firearms used in the shootings. On June 12, 1995, three additional suspects were arrested; one was believed to be responsible for multiple homicides in the area.

In another example of a DEA MET success, a MET team dispatched to Opa-Locka, Florida, worked to dismantle a dangerous crack cocaine organization. This group was headed by Rickey Brownlee, a violent trafficker who had intimidated the citizens of Opa-Locka for years and was alleged to have been involved in 13 murders since 1993. In a letter to the Attorney General, Mayor of Opa-Locka Robert B. Ingram, thanked the DEA for its expertise in the January 1998 dismantling of one of South Florida's most notorious criminal enterprises. To further show his appreciation, Mayor Ingram issued an official proclamation declaring March 19, 1998, "Drug Enforcement Administration/Mobile Enforcement Team Day."

Similar MET success stories were recorded all across the country as state and local law enforcement requested assistance from the DEA. From their 1995 inception through September 1998, the Mobile Enforcement Teams arrested over 6,800 violent drug traffickers across the country, seized vast quantities of drugs, and helped many state and local police departments restore peace to their communities.



This highway billboard proclaimed public appreciation of DEA efforts.



(To Left) 1995: DEA Special Agent Michael Moser and Galveston County Narcotics Task Force Agent Hugh Hawkins arrest a member of one of Galveston's violent drug dealing gangs.

Oklahoma City Bombing (1995)

The DEA was again touched by tragedy on April 19, 1995, when a bomb exploded at the Alfred E. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and killed 168 people, including 19 children. Five DEA employees were killed and three additional DEA personnel sustained injuries in the explosion. DEA offices on the seventh and ninth floors were completely destroyed. Twenty-seven employees had been assigned to the DEA's Oklahoma City Resident Office, including ten DEA special agents, four DEA diversion investigators, three secretaries, and several task force personnel.

Within minutes of the blast, DEA agents were assisting the fire and rescue workers in evacuating the federal building. The DEA sent personnel from the Tulsa, McAlester, Dallas, Tyler, Lubbock, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Ft. Lauderdale, and San Antonio Offices to assist in rescue and investigative efforts. By the first afternoon, the DEA had a command post set up at the scene and a DEA trauma team was providing counseling for the survivors. The rescue efforts were extremely difficult and time consuming, and DEA employees joined in the search for lost personnel. The first priority was to locate the bodies of the employees that were unaccounted for and to take care of their families.

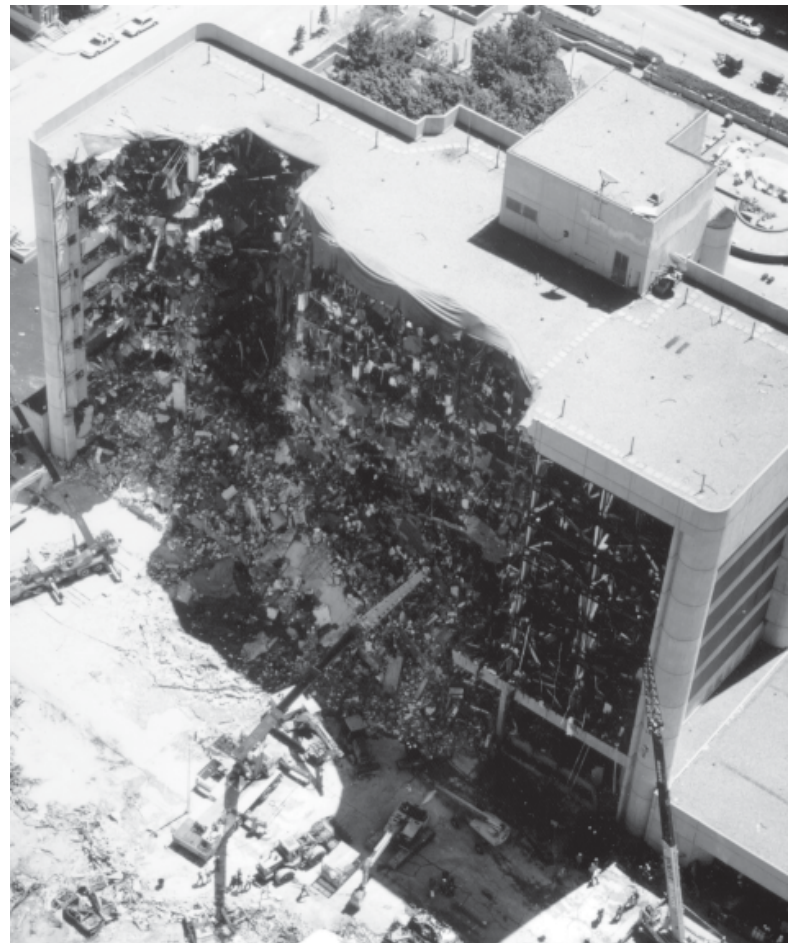
On April 21, 1995, the DEA confirmed the deaths of two employees assigned to the Oklahoma City Resident Office, Kenneth G. McCullough and Carrie Ann Lenz and her unborn son, Michael James Lenz, III. Mrs. Lenz was six months pregnant with her first child. Rescue workers next recovered the bodies of DEA employee Rona L. Chafey and DynCorp Legal Technician Shelly Bland. During the early morning hours of April 24, 1995, workers recovered the body of office assistant Carrol Fields from the ruins.

Upon learning of the deaths, DEA Administrator Constantine flew to Oklahoma City to offer support to the grieving families. He stated that "Our condolences go out to the families of these...good people, and to all the families who have lost loved ones in this cowardly and inhumane attack. The entire DEA family mourns their loss." Administrator Constantine then pledged to commit the DEA's "resources and professional expertise, in collaboration with other agencies, to bring all of the perpetrators of this crime to justice."

On June 2, 1997, Timothy McVeigh was convicted of 11 counts of conspiracy and first-degree murder after a jury trial. The same panel later recommended the death penalty for the murders of 168 people, including eight federal law enforcement agents, in the April 19, 1995, bombing.

For their heroic actions in response to the Oklahoma City Bombing, Midwest City Police Corporal Regina Bonny and DEA Special Agent David Schickedanz were recipients of the 1996 Police Officer of the year Award given by Parade and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Regina Bonny was an undercover narcotics officer on assignment with the DEA at the time of the explosion. After initially being knocked unconscious by the blast, she assisted an ATF officer before exiting the collapsed building. Although she was injured (and was later diagnosed with irreparable nerve damage, brain injury, and hand and shoulder wounds), she returned to the building, sprinted up the stairs to the ninth floor, and searched for other DEA employees. David Schickedanz was in an elevator with ATF supervisor Alex McCauley when the explosion dropped the elevator six floors. After he escaped from the elevator through a trap door, he returned to the destroyed DEA office to look for survivors. He suffered from smoke inhalation and a partial loss of hearing.

After the bombing, the DEA Oklahoma City Resident Office made efforts to recover some of the law enforcement resources lost in the explosion. The office rebuilt its record file by obtaining copies of any records available at headquarters. As all evidence at the office was destroyed, the evidence collection had to be completely rebuilt. The DEA relocated the office to 990 Broadway Extension, Oklahoma City, approximately 10 miles from the former Murrah Building.



April 19, 1995: The Alfred Murrah Federal Building

Operation Green Ice II (1995)

Green Ice II, a spin-off of the successful 1992 Green Ice investigation, culminated in April 1995 with the arrest of 109 individuals and the seizure of 13,882 pounds of cocaine, 16 pounds of heroin, and \$15.6 million in cash. This second phase operation concentrated on the Cali mafia's money brokers and cocaine distribution networks from Mexico to the United States. Once again, the DEA established storefront operations and bank accounts throughout the world, then convinced drug traffickers that undercover DEA agents had connections to launder their drug proceeds. Most of the individuals arrested were high-ranking Cali cell leaders or money brokers in the United States. Green Ice II had three distinct phases. The first targeted certain *Casas de Cambio* and check cashing institutions along the Southwest border. *Casas de Cambio* are legal, unregulated money exchange houses that operated much like banks. These organizations wire-transferred large sums of money and did not keep records of the source or owner of the funds. Second, the DEA agents working on this case created their own money exchange houses and also infiltrated existing *Casas de Cambio* to identify major narcotic traffickers, money launderers, and the financial institutions used by the traffickers. The third portion of the investigation followed the money into Colombia and linked specific cartel members with the narcotics proceeds. Ultimately, more than 200 federal agents from 27 federal, state, and foreign law enforcement agencies contributed to the indictment of over 80 individuals. In addition, Operation Green Ice II enabled the DEA to gain a wealth of knowledge on wire transfer information, bank accounts, and identification of money couriers/brokers. It also proved that corrupt businessmen, bankers, and attorneys had created an alliance with drug dealers to funnel their drug profits back to them.

Agents counted money seized during Operation Green Ice II.



Operation Global Sea (1995)

In 1994, Southeast Asian heroin, which was smuggled by ethnic China and Nigeria-based traffickers, was one of the greatest drug threats to the United States. Almost 60 percent of the heroin that came to the United States at that time originated in Southeast Asia's "Golden Triangle"—Burma, Laos, and Thailand. Those mainly responsible were ethnic Chinese traffickers who controlled sophisticated international networks that smuggled hundreds of kilograms of heroin in commercial cargo on a regular basis. In addition to the China, Nigeria and West Africa-based trafficking organizations helped smuggle the heroin, typically using the "shotgun" approach to smuggling by recruiting third party couriers to travel aboard commercial airlines and smuggle from one to 10 kilograms of heroin per trip. In response to this facet of the drug trade, Operation Global Sea targeted a Nigerian, female-led, drug trafficking organization that was responsible for smuggling into the United States \$26 million worth of high-purity Southeast Asian heroin. Global Sea, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force operation, was comprised of the DEA, the U.S. Customs Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and law enforcement authorities in Thailand, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Mexico, and the Netherlands. By the end of this 18-month investigation, Operation Global Sea had immobilized the Chicago-based drug organization by seizing 55.5 kilograms of heroin with an average purity of 80 percent and arresting 44 defendants in Bangkok, Chicago, New York City, Detroit, and Pakistan.

The heroin distribution operation targeted in Operation Global Sea was directed by Ms. Kafayat Majekodunmi, shown after her arrest by DEA special agents.



Arrest of Cali Leaders (1995)



CNP Gen. Rosso Serrano (right) is pictured with Miguel Rodriguez-Orejuela (center) shortly after his 1995 arrest.

During the summer of 1995, six top leaders of the Cali mafia surrendered or were arrested by Colombian authorities under the leadership of CNP Director General Rosso Serrano, and the Cali mafia began to collapse. The arrest of the entire hierarchy of the wealthiest and most powerful international criminal organization was the most significant enforcement action taken against organized crime leaders since the Apalachin Gangster Raid in 1957 that exposed the existence and power of organized crime syndicates in the United States.

On June 9, 1995, Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela was arrested by the Colombian National Police (CNP) during a house raid in Cali. When the police searched the home several days earlier, Rodriguez-Orejuela hid in a hollowed-out bathroom cabinet with an oxygen tank. The CNP's excellent police work led to his arrest. After he was taken into custody, police discovered that he had a copy of an unclassified DEA report titled "The Kings of Cocaine" that had been translated into Spanish. He was sentenced to a prison term of 13 years.

On June 19, 1995, Henry Loiaza-Ceballos, who had overseen the mafia's military infrastructure, surrendered to police. He was considered one of the most violent members of the Cali drug mafia and was linked to at least three massacres in Colombia.

On June 24, 1995, Victor Julio Patino-Fomeque, who was responsible for ensuring the security and effectiveness of the mafia's maritime operations, also surrendered and was sentenced to 12 years behind bars.

"No one has sacrificed more than the Colombian National Police."

On July 4, 1995, Jose Santacruz-Londono, the number three leader in the Cali mafia, was arrested by the CNP as he dined with associates at a Bogota steak house. He was never sentenced because he escaped from prison and was killed in March 1996 during a confrontation with the CNP.

Finally, on August 6, 1995, Miguel Rodriguez-Orejuela, the brother of Gilberto, was arrested when the CNP broke down the door of his apartment and found him hiding in a secret closet during another house raid. He was sentenced to 21 years.

Less than one year later, there were two more arrests of major Cali mafia leaders. In March 1996, Juan Carlos "Chupeta" Ramirez-Abadia, surrendered to Colombian authorities and was later sentenced to 24 years in prison.

On September 1, 1996, Helmer "Pacho" Herrera-Buitrago surrendered to Colombian authorities. He was one of the charter members of the Cali mafia and was the remaining "Kingpin" being sought by Colombian authorities. He was sentenced to six years in prison.

These arrests marked the beginning of the decline of the Cali mafia and were the results of extensive investigation by the DEA. However, the investigations of the Cali mafia would not have been as successful if not for the outstanding efforts of the CNP. Remarking on the CNP's contributions to combatting the drug problem in Colombia, Administrator Constantine remarked in 1998, "No one has sacrificed more than the Colom

bian National Police. At great sacrifice to themselves, and in the face of extraordinary temptations for corruption, General Rosso Serrano and his brave law enforcement officers have fought the powerful drug traffickers in Colombia.”



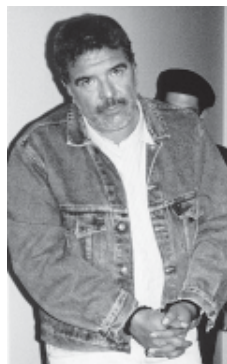
Henry Loiaza-Ceballos



Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela was fingerprinted following his arrest.



Victor Patino-Fomeque



Jose Santacruz-Londono was arrested while meeting with associates in Colombia on July 4, 1995.



Helmer "Pacho" Herrera-Buitrago

Rise of Traffickers in Mexico

When enforcement efforts intensified in South Florida and the Caribbean, the Colombian organizations formed partnerships with the Mexico-based traffickers to transport cocaine through Mexico into the United States. This was easily accomplished because Mexico had long been a major source of heroin and marijuana, and drug traffickers from Mexico had already established an infrastructure that stood ready to serve the Colombia-based traffickers.

Mexican cocaine trafficking had been pioneered by Juan Ramon Matta-Ballesteros, a Honduran who, from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s, was actively involved with the Mexican Guadalajara cartel. This was the group largely responsible for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena in 1985. By the mid-1980s, the organizations from Mexico were well-established and reliable transporters of Colombian cocaine.

Throughout the 1990s, the United States was faced with trafficking organizations from Mexico that worked with the Cali drug organizations to smuggle more and more cocaine into the United States. By the 1990s, traffickers from Colombia were buying large cargo and passenger jets similar to 727s, gutting them, and using them to transport multi-ton loads of cocaine to Mexico. The planes were then refueled and returned to Colombia loaded with millions of dollars in cash. At first, the Mexican gangs were paid in cash for their transportation services. But in the late 1980s, the Mexican transport organizations and the Colombian drug traffickers settled on a payment-in-product arrangement. Transporters from Mexico usually were given 35 to 50 percent of each cocaine shipment. This arrangement meant that organizations from Mexico became involved in the distribution, as well as the transportation, of cocaine, and became formidable traffickers in their own right.

The criminal organizations based in Mexico demonstrated an ability to corrupt officials serving in high-level positions. Drug-related corruption was probably the single greatest obstacle that law enforcement faced in its battle against drug traffickers from Mexico. Ernesto Zedillo, the President of Mexico, recognized drug-related corruption as a threat to Mexican national security and, in 1998, announced a national initiative to fight, crime, violence, and corruption. In another attempt to overcome the problem of widespread corruption in law enforcement, the Mexican Government replaced civilian authorities with military officers. The following describes the most powerful drug traffickers and their status as of 1998.

The Amado Carrillo-Fuentes Organization

When Amado Carrillo-Fuentes died in Mexico City on July 4, 1997, after undergoing plastic surgery, he was considered the most powerful trafficker in Mexico. In 1999, the Carrillo-Fuentes organization, based in Juarez, is still involved in

the trafficking of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Its regional bases are in Juarez, Hermosillo, and Reynosa, where the organization stores drugs for eventual shipment into the United States. Amado Carrillo-Fuentes' organization has been associated with the Cali-based Rodriguez-Orejuela organization and the Ochoa brothers of Medellin.



Amado
Carrillo-Fuentes

The Arellano-Felix Brothers Organization

This Tijuana-based organization is one of the most powerful, violent, and aggressive trafficking groups in the world. The Arellano-Felix Organization has high-level contacts within the Mexican law enforcement and judicial systems and is directly involved in street-level trafficking within the United States. This criminal organization is responsible for the transportation, importation, and distribution of multi-ton quantities of cocaine and marijuana, as well as large quantities of heroin and methamphetamine. The Arellano family, composed of seven brothers and four sisters, inherited the organization from Miguel Angel Felix-Gallardo upon his incarceration in Mexico in 1989 for his complicity in the murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena. Alberto Benjamin Arellano-Felix assumed leadership of the family enterprise and provides a businessman's approach to the management of their drug empire which operates in Tijuana, Baja California, and parts of the States of Sinaloa, Sonora, Jalisco, and Tamaulipas. Benjamin coordinates the activities of the organization through his brothers Ramon, Eduardo, and Francisco.



Benjamin



Francisco



Ramon



Eduardo

The Juan Garcia-Abrego Organization

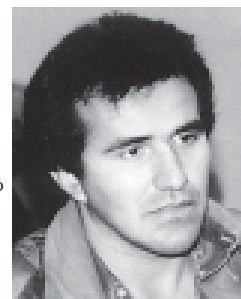
The Juan Garcia-Abrego organization was involved in smuggling drugs from the Yucatan area in Mexico to South Texas and north to New York. This organization transported large quantities of cocaine for the Cali mafia, as well as marijuana and heroin for other traffickers. Garcia-Abrego pioneered deals in which Mexican traffickers were compensated in cocaine. This substantially raised their profits and allowed them to distribute, as well as smuggle, cocaine. He and his organization were notorious for their violence. In 1996, Juan Garcia-Abrego was added to the FBI's top ten most wanted fugitives, with a \$2 million reward for his capture. This was the first time an international drug trafficker had been included on the FBI list. In January 1996, he was arrested in Mexico and brought to the United States for trial. He was sentenced to 11 life terms and fined \$128 million.



Juan Garcia-Abrego

The Miguel Caro-Quintero Organization

The Miguel Caro-Quintero organization is based in Sonora, Mexico. It is involved in cultivating, processing, smuggling, and distributing heroin and marijuana, and in transporting methamphetamine and Colombian cocaine into the United States. It was led by Rafael Caro-Quintero, known as the "Mexican Rhinestone Cowboy," until he was arrested and placed in a Mexican maximum security prison for his involvement in the kidnapping, torture, and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena. Rafael Caro-Quintero was also convicted on marijuana and cocaine trafficking charges. His brothers, Miguel, Jorge, and Genaro, assumed control of the organization. Miguel was arrested in 1992, but was able to use a combination of threats and bribes to have the charges dismissed by a federal judge in Hermosillo, Mexico, under questionable circumstances.



Miguel
Caro-Quintero

Creation of 21st Field Division: The Caribbean (1995)

While it is true that the majority of cocaine that entered the United States came across the United States-Mexican border, traffickers were beginning to reactivate their trafficking routes in the Caribbean. Many trafficking groups from Colombia, particularly those who had risen to power since the Cali syndicate's fall, returned to traditional Caribbean routes to transport their product to market. As these groups from Colombia reestablished their ties with their Caribbean confederates, increasingly larger shipments of cocaine and heroin were shipped through the Caribbean. The resulting drug activity in Puerto Rico led to a tremendous increase in violence on the island, and Puerto Rico became the nation's 7th major High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

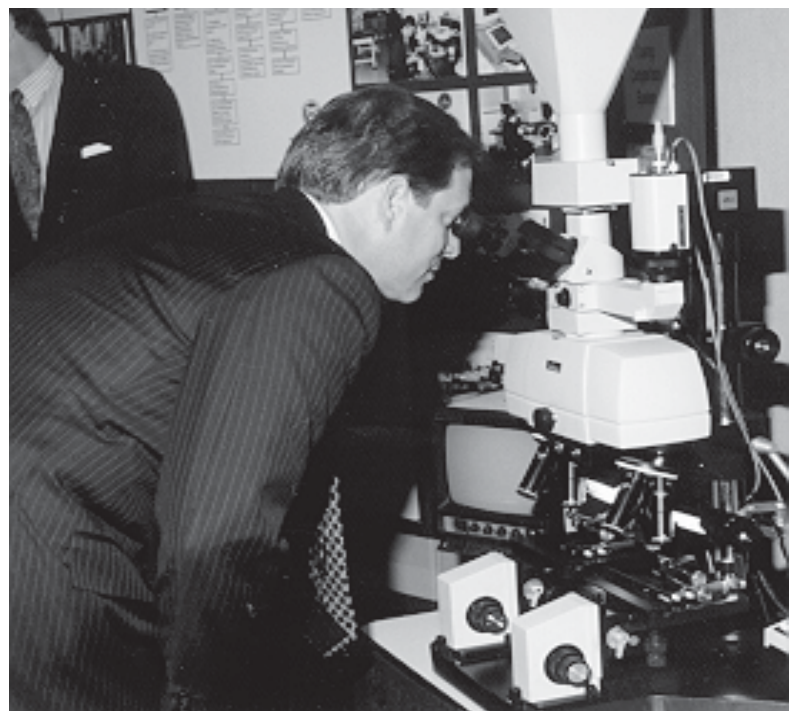
In response to this escalating problem, in 1995, the DEA established the Caribbean Division based in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as its 21st Field Division. The division was responsible for five country offices that had previously reported to the Miami regional office: Netherlands Antilles, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic, in addition to the St. Thomas Resident Office and the St. Croix Post of Duty in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Ponce Resident Office in Ponce, Puerto Rico.



Automated Booking System (1995)

1995: An agent checked data stored in the Automated Booking System.. The program can retrieve images of evidence and surveillance photos (weapons, crime scenes, license plate numbers), mug shots, and fingerprints.

Vice President Al Gore looked through a device at DEA headquarters that magnified and compared ballistic markings on evidence to prove that two bullets were fired from the same weapon.



Atlanta Olympics (1996)

The White House requested that the DEA and other federal law enforcement agencies assist with security during the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, Georgia. As a result, over 200 men and women from the DEA were detailed to Atlanta. Security was an important issue because national leaders from some 197 participating nations, athletes, coaches, and visitors from all over the world attended the event. The DEA had previously provided assistance at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 and at the 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis, Indiana. When a bomb exploded in Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta on the ninth day of the Olympic games, DEA agents were instrumental in preserving the safety of hundreds of spectators. They had been on hand when FBI and Defense Department experts identified a suspicious-looking knapsack as a bomb just minutes before it exploded. DEA agents, along with Georgia State patrol and other law enforcement officers, hurriedly began evacuating the few hundred people in the park. The agents risked their own safety by attempting to evacuate nearby civilians and, after the explosion, administering first aid. The agents' ability to



remain calm and focused during this chaotic situation undoubtedly saved many lives. One DEA agent, Craig Wiles, was injured in the blast. He was stationed just 25 to 30 feet from the explosion and was struck in the back of the head by a piece of wood. Despite his injuries, Special Agent Wiles continued to help fellow agents and wounded civilians. He was later taken to nearby Georgia Baptist Medical Center where doctors removed wood splinters from his head. Wiles fully recovered within a few days and was the first agent to receive the DEA's Purple Heart Award. All of the DEA agents who helped evacuate Centennial Olympic Park were honored for their courage when that group, Atlanta Olympic Division Squad 23, was given the Administrator's Award for Outstanding Group Achievement in 1997.



Left: Honoring Heroism: During an August 1998 visit to Colombia, Administrator Constantine and General Serrano met with a wounded Colombian National Police officer who survived an attack by a rebel group against Colombian anti-narcotics headquarters. (Photo courtesy Semana Publicaciones.)

Below: March 1997, DEA Ft. Worth and DEA Midland, Texas offices jointly investigated a large-scale drug smuggling operation and seized 2,175 pounds of marijuana in Odessa, Texas.



The Methamphetamine Problem

In the mid-nineties, trafficking groups from Mexico became deeply involved in the methamphetamine trade, replacing domestic outlaw motorcycle gangs as the predominant methamphetamine producers, traffickers, and distributors. Their involvement was made tragically clear when, during an undercover operation, DEA Special Agent Richard Fass was shot and killed in Tucson, Arizona, on June 30, 1994, by a methamphetamine trafficker from Mexico.

By the late 1990s, these trafficking organizations had virtually saturated the western United States market with high-purity methamphetamine, known also as “speed” or “crank.” In some areas of California, methamphetamine replaced cocaine as the drug of choice. With a saturated West Coast market, the traffickers then began to expand their markets to the East Coast, South, and the Mid-West.

As supplies increased, prices fell, making it a cheap alternative to cocaine. Some called it the “poor man’s cocaine.” In 1991, for example, the lowest price nationwide for a pound of methamphetamine was \$6,000. By 1995, in California, methamphetamine sold for between \$2,500 and \$3,600 per pound.

With increased availability, methamphetamine use increased. According to the Drug Abuse Warning Network, the number of emergency room episodes involving methamphetamine increased steadily after 1991, particularly in the West. From 1991 to 1993, episodes more than doubled in both Los Angeles and Phoenix.

The sophistication of the organizations from Mexico was also clear. Their long-standing expertise in polydrug smuggling and the smuggling skills developed while transporting cocaine for the Cali mafia had enabled these organizations to branch out into other contraband, such as the precursor chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine that are used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

They also established international connections in Europe, Asia, and the Far East to have tons of precursor chemicals, particularly ephedrine, shipped to addresses in both the United States and Mexico. During 1993 and 1994, the majority of ephedrine shipments destined for Mexico were supplied by such diverse countries as China, India, the Czech Republic, and Switzerland. From mid-1993 to early 1995, the DEA documented the diversion of almost 170 tons of ephedrine used in illicit methamphetamine production.

Unlike other drugs, methamphetamine is one that these criminal organizations from Mexico controlled entirely from beginning to end. They had the international contacts to obtain the necessary precursor chemicals to make the drug.

They also had the clandestine labs to process the chemicals into methamphetamine on both sides of the border. They expanded their distribution networks across the nation by the use and intimidation of illegal aliens. Also, unlike when they served as middlemen moving cocaine and heroin, they kept 100 percent of the profits from their methamphetamine sales.

In late 1994, state and local authorities in California requested a meeting with Administrator Constantine to express their growing concerns about escalating methamphetamine abuse and the increasing number of clandestine meth labs being encountered in that state. Their concerns and the information they provided mirrored intelligence the DEA was receiving about a scourge of meth abuse cases in many areas of the country. Working closely with California law enforcement, the DEA hosted a National Methamphetamine Conference in February 1996.

The conference brought together experts from around the United States to examine enforcement and policy options. It was structured to incorporate not only the input of knowledgeable DEA personnel, but also the experience of the state and local law enforcement agencies that had been encountering the problem. Conferees heard reports from state, local, and other federal agencies about the methamphetamine situation and exchanged ideas on a number of strategies to address the problem in the United States.

In his opening remarks, Administrator Constantine stated that the benefit of holding the conference was that it allowed those with extensive experience in drug law enforcement “to help identify the scope of the methamphetamine problem and to ensure that [there would be] a coordinated response.” Participants offered their input by filling out surveys and taking part in group discussions.

Billion Dollar Budget (1997)

In 1997, the DEA achieved its first-ever billion dollar direct appropriation budget. This \$1.054 billion budget was approximately \$200 million, or 23 percent, greater than the DEA’s 1996 budget, which had been the previous all-time high budget. That the DEA’s funding would increase in a time of fiscal belt-tightening was a tribute to the outstanding work that DEA personnel were performing worldwide and to the DEA’s many achievements in 1996. The DEA’s fiscal year (FY) 1997 appropriation contained significant resources aimed at restoring the agency’s source country drug trafficking programs to FY 1992 funding levels. The DEA also received \$29 million in the 1997 appropriations for construction of a DEA Training Center at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996

The Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996 was passed unanimously in Congress and signed into law by President Clinton on October 3, 1996. This act augmented the DEA's effort to control precursor chemicals and lab equipment used to produce methamphetamine. Several provisions of this Act had an impact on DEA operations:

1. Restricting access to precursor chemicals such as iodine, red phosphorous, and hydrochloric gas used to make methamphetamine, and tightening controls on the sale of pseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, and ephedrine combination products, all common ingredients found in over-the-counter diet pills and cold medicines.
2. Tracking mail-order purchases of precursor chemicals.
3. Establishing civil penalties of up to \$250,000 for firms that distribute laboratory supplies with "reckless disregard" for the illegal purposes for which the supplies might be used.
4. Doubling the maximum criminal penalty to 20 years in jail for possession of chemicals or equipment used to make methamphetamine.
5. Increasing penalties for trafficking and manufacturing methamphetamine or its precursor chemicals.
6. Directing the Attorney General to coordinate international drug enforcement efforts to reduce trafficking in methamphetamine and its precursor chemicals.
7. Making it a crime to manufacture precursor chemicals outside the United States with the intent to smuggle them into the country.
8. Allowing courts to order restitution for the extensive costs (often as much as \$8,000) associated with the clean-up of methamphetamine labs and for any person injured as a result of the lab's operation.
9. Creating the Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force to design and implement methamphetamine education, prevention, and treatment strategies and establishing an advisory board to educate chemical companies to identify suspicious transactions.



Purple Heart Awards

The Hispanic Advisory Committee suggested to the Administrator the establishment of an award to honor the "thousands of men and women sworn to enforce the drug laws of the United States...who deserve the full benefit of our recognition of the inherent dangers of our profession."

In response to that suggestion, the DEA Purple Heart Award was instituted.

As of January 1, 1996, any DEA Agent wounded in the line of duty became eligible to receive the DEA's new Purple Heart Award. Based on the design of the military's Purple Heart Award presented for battle injuries, the DEA emblem honors agents who suffered injuries that required medical treatment or caused death and were incurred during the performance of official duties as the direct result of a hostile or criminal action.

The heart-shaped pendant, with a DEA Special Agent's badge embossed on a purple background, is suspended from a red, white, and blue ribbon. The award is presented in a glass-front shadowbox and was accompanied by a lapel pin in a smaller version of the pendant. With the creation of this award, the DEA established an appropriate and significant way to recognize those employees who were injured while confronting the everyday dangers faced by those in drug law enforcement.

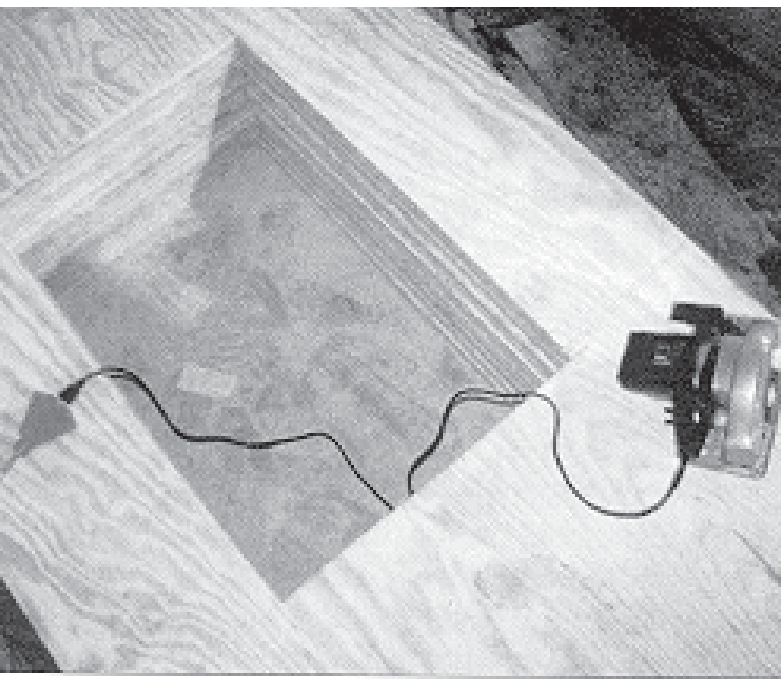
In 1998, the DEA's SAC Advisory Committee expanded the awarding of Purple Hearts to state and local law enforcement officers killed or wounded in the line of duty while working with the DEA.

Operations Reciprocity and Limelight (1996)

Two investigations in the late 1990s demonstrated that Mexico-based drug traffickers had displaced some of the Colombia-based cocaine organizations that had traditionally dominated the New York City cocaine traffic.

During a highway interdiction stop on October 30, 1996, near Tyler, Texas, two state troopers discovered over \$2 million in cash concealed in a van heading south. This stop was the first seizure linked to Operation Reciprocity. On December 3, investigators seized 5.3 tons of cocaine from a Tucson, Arizona, warehouse. Evidence linked the warehouse operation to a Los Angeles investigation, a New York operation, a Michigan transportation group, and a trafficking cell connected to the Carrillo-Fuentes organization. On December 13, the same state troopers stopped a tractor trailer truck in Tyler, Texas, and seized 2,700 pounds of marijuana from a hidden compartment in the ceiling of the vehicle. The investigation revealed that traffickers were smuggling cocaine to the New York City area in concealed compartments in the roofs of tractor trailer trucks and in hollowed-out five-foot tall stacks of plywood. The same trucks were being used to transport the cash in kilo-sized packages of \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills, back to Mexico.

On April 9, 1997, the U.S. Customs Service found \$5.6 million in street cash hidden in a tractor trailer truck ceiling compartment in an Operation Reciprocity seizure in El Paso, Texas.



Operation Reciprocity investigators discovered packages of cocaine hidden in this compartment cut out of a five-foot tall stack of 4x8 sheets of plywood.

This operation resulted in 41 arrests, as well as the seizure of 7 tons of cocaine, 2,800 pounds of marijuana, and more than \$11 million. Meanwhile, an investigation initiated by the DEA's Imperial County, California Resident Office in August 1996 developed into Operation Limelight, which involved several state, local, and U.S. Treasury agencies, including the IRS and the U.S. Customs Service. The investigation focused on the Alberto Beltran transportation and distribution cell, which was part of the Carrillo-Fuentes organization.

Operation Limelight resulted in the arrest of 48 people and the seizure of over 4,000 kilos of cocaine, over 10,800 pounds of marijuana, and over \$7.3 million. State and federal investigators believed this Beltran cell was responsible for the monthly smuggling of at least 1.5 tons of cocaine, typically concealed in crates of vegetables and fruits and trucked across the United States by Mexican nationals.

In March 1996, the head of the Beltran organization in the United States, Gerardo Gonzalez, was arrested by Operation Limelight investigators. The arrest was the result of the "carrot case," which also led to the New York seizure of 1,630 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a 30-ton shipment of chopped up carrots used for horse feed. At that time, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force also seized \$1.3 million and arrested nine organization members. Eight more members of the organization, including Gonzalez's wife, were arrested on August 1, 1997, in the second phase of this investigation.



Operation Reciprocity investigators found \$5.6 million in street money hidden in this ceiling compartment of a truck during the El Paso seizure on April 9, 1997.

Legalization in California and Arizona (1996)

In the early 1990s, as many communities were overrun by crime and violence, a small, but vocal group of people believed that the legalization of drugs would reduce drug abuse, lessen the violence, and restore peace to our cities. Because the DEA believed that legalization would exacerbate the drug problem, not solve it, the agency sponsored a forum in 1994 on the issue of how police chiefs and others could address arguments calling for the legalization of drugs [see Anti-Legalization Forum on page 109]. The findings of that conference were published in a manual that police chiefs and others used to speak out against the legalization issue.

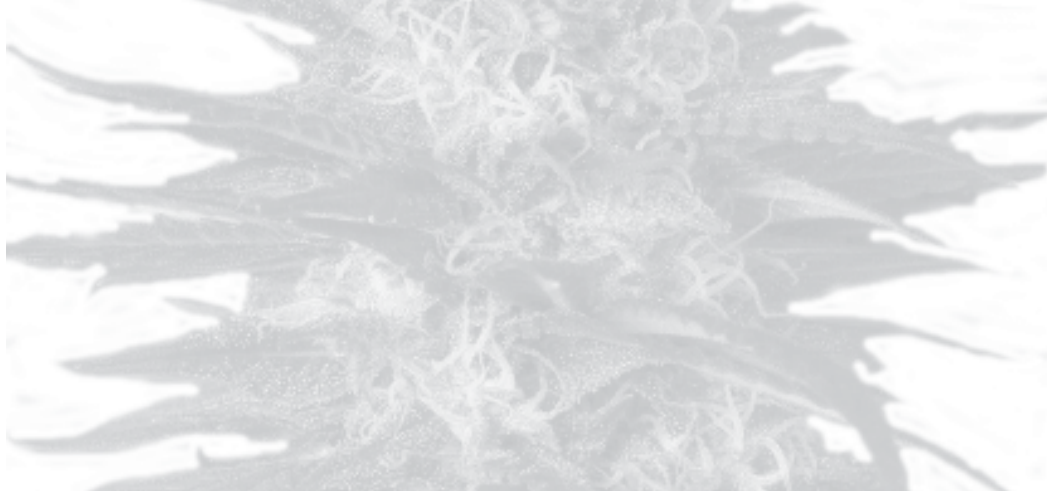
In 1996, powerful, wealthy special interest organizations pushed for the legalization of marijuana, and in California and Arizona, they were successful in putting the issue before the voters. Through slick advertising media campaigns, voters were led to believe that the initiative would simply allow medical doctors to treat terminally ill and suffering patients with marijuana for the relief of pain symptoms. In Arizona, voters were led to believe that this proposition included provisions to toughen criminal justice systems.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) released resolutions that officially expressed the group's opposition to the propositions in Arizona and California to legalize marijuana. In these resolutions the IACP stated the grounds for its objections: marijuana is more carcinogenic than tobacco and other Schedule I drugs; it compromises brain functions, the immune system, the lungs, and hormonal responses to stress and metabolic changes; and makes diseases such as tuberculosis, asthma, and multiple sclerosis worse. The IACP also maintained that marijuana did not prevent blindness due to glaucoma and that no national health organization had accepted marijuana as medicine. In addition, the resolutions contained a list of organizations that asserted that marijuana had not been scientifically proven to be safe or effective as a medicine. These organizations included: the American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, National Multiple Sclerosis Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology, National Eye Institute, National Cancer Institute, National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Strokes, National Institute of Dental Research, and the National Institute on Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Unfortunately, despite such widespread objections, the propositions passed in both states. California's Proposition 215 allowed anyone who received a doctor's recommendation to possess and use marijuana for cancer, AIDS, glaucoma and "any other illness for which marijuana provides relief." It allowed doctors to verbally "recommend" marijuana use to minors, prisoners, individuals in sensitive positions, or anyone who claimed to have a medical condition. The proposition, by extension, also allowed individuals to smoke and cultivate marijuana openly, on the premise that marijuana had been recommended for the individual's medical condition.

The Arizona proposition was more restrictive than the California version in that a physician had to cite a study confirming the proven medical benefits of the Schedule I drug and provide a written prescription which was kept in the patient's medical file, and the patient was required to obtain a written opinion from a second physician confirming that the prescription for the Schedule I substance was "appropriate to treat a disease or to relieve the pain and suffering of a seriously ill patient or terminally ill patient." The Arizona proposition, however, also provided for other actions that erode effective, tough drug policies, including the release of prisoners previously convicted of personal possession or use of a controlled substance.

Despite the differences between the two ballot initiatives, there was an indisputable similarity: both states allowed individuals to possess substances that have no legitimate medical use. Both California and Arizona, despite what the proponents claimed, had taken the first steps toward the proponents' ultimate goal of legalizing drugs. Based on the success of legalization proponents in California and Arizona, campaigns for legalization began to organize in other states.



Operation Zorro II

As part of the Southwest Border Initiative that was launched in 1994, the Zorro II investigation targeted Mexico-based cocaine smuggling and distribution organizations, as well as the partnership groups based in Colombia. Working together, these organizations were responsible for importing and distributing almost six metric tons of cocaine throughout the United States.

Zorro II illustrated the close and efficient partnership that existed between the drug organizations from Mexico and Colombia. More importantly, this case showed that the international drug trade was a seamless continuum, a criminal enterprise that stretched, without interruption, from the jungles of South America—across transit zones, such as Mexico—to the cities and communities of the United States.

Zorro II was particularly important because, for the first time, law enforcement dismantled not only a Colombian organization that produced the cocaine, but also the organization in Mexico that provided the transportation. During the course of the 8-month investigation, law enforcement officers coordinated and shared information gleaned from more than 90 court-authorized wiretaps. The operation involved 10 federal agencies, 42 state and local agencies, and 14 DEA field divisions across the country. As a result of the investigation, over \$17 million and almost 5,600 kilos of cocaine were seized, and 156 people were arrested. Zorro II confirmed that Mexico-based traffickers were not just transporters, but had their own distribution networks throughout the United States.

Jose Ivan Duarte (1997)

In 1982, Jose Ivan Duarte and his conspirator Rene Benitez were hired by Colombian drug traffickers to plan and execute the kidnaping of DEA Special Agents Charles Martinez and Kelly McCullough. The agents were taken from their hotel in Cartagena, Colombia, and were transported by car to a secluded area 15 miles away. Agent Martinez was shot for the first time while still within city limits. Then Duarte and Benitez stopped the car and shot Martinez again. At that point Agent McCullough fled. He was shot as he ran into the jungle. SA Martinez escaped when his captors' gun jammed as they attempted to shoot him for a third time. Both SA Martinez and SA McCullough managed to escape despite their wounds. They reached Cartagena the next day and phoned the U.S. Embassy for assistance. They were airlifted out of the country by a U.S. Air Force plane from Panama.

Both Duarte and Benitez eluded capture. Warrants for their arrests were issued in June 1982. Benitez was eventually captured in Colombia, extradited, and imprisoned in Miami in 1995. Duarte continued to evade authorities until August

1997, when he was detained in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian government expelled the fugitive and he was then transported to the United States to stand trial. His capture marked the end of a 15 year investigation and search. According to Administrator Constantine, "Duarte's expulsion by the Ecuadorian government shows great courage and commitment to battling drugs.

DEA/Wal-Mart Partnership (1997)

As part of the nation's continuing efforts against the production of methamphetamine, on April 9, 1997, the DEA and Wal-Mart formed a partnership to control large-scale purchases of three over-the-counter products—pseudoephedrine, ephedrine, and phenyl- propanolamine—used in clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine and amphetamine. Wal-Mart, one of the nation's largest employers, implemented a chain-wide policy limiting sales of these allergy, cold, and diet products. The cash registers of Wal-Mart stores across the country were programmed to limit sales to 3-6 packages of these items per customer. In addition, they discontinued the 100-count bottle of their brand of pseudoephedrine tablets that had been found at illegal labs and replaced them with small-count blister packs. Wal-Mart's initiative also limited the sale of blister packs, which were generally exempt from federal regulations. Wal-Mart's initiative dovetailed with federal regulations stipulated under the second phase of the Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996.



Wal-Mart's counter-diversion display informed customers about the store's partnership with the DEA.

DEA Heroin Conference (1997)

The use of heroin increased significantly in the United States in the mid-1990s. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) statistics for 1995 reported heroin to be second only to cocaine in terms of hospital incidents. DAWN statistics showed the annual number of heroin-related emergency room mentions increased from 33,384 in 1990 to 76,023 in 1995. In addition, the number of heroin overdose deaths nationally rose from 4,188 in 1994, to 4,625 in 1995. Purity levels also rose from 7 percent in 1985 to 40 percent in 1995. In some areas, particularly the Northeast, 80-90 percent purity was reported.

The heroin problem grew worse as South America began to play a bigger role in heroin trafficking. Soon, heroin from South America dominated the East Coast and accounted for the majority of heroin seized by the DEA. Another reason why heroin use increased was that drug dealers were actively marketing their product. In order to increase demand for heroin, drug traffickers began to include free samples of heroin in shipments of cocaine. This marketing scheme introduced heroin to cocaine dealers and abusers.

In response to this growing problem, Administrator Constantine held a National Heroin Conference in February 1997 in Reston, Virginia. In attendance were more than 300 federal, state, local, and international law enforcement officials, as well as demand reduction/prevention experts. The conferees gathered to assess the heroin threat to the United States and share effective strategies for addressing the problem.

Included in the submitted 26 recommendations were the following:

1. Develop a national media campaign against heroin use;
2. Support the development of community-based educational/awareness drug campaigns;
3. Increase law enforcement and interdiction training regarding heroin concealment and transportation;
4. Enhance the Heroin Signature Program and Domestic Monitor Program;
5. Bolster interagency intelligence sharing; and
6. Identify a national heroin strategy.

National Drug Pointer Index (1997)

For many years, state and local law enforcement envisioned a drug pointer system that would allow them to determine if other law enforcement organizations were investigating the same drug suspect. Despite the existence of some statewide and regional drug pointer systems, none extended to national participation. At the direction of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the DEA took the lead in the development of a national drug pointer system to assist federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in investigating drug trafficking organizations.

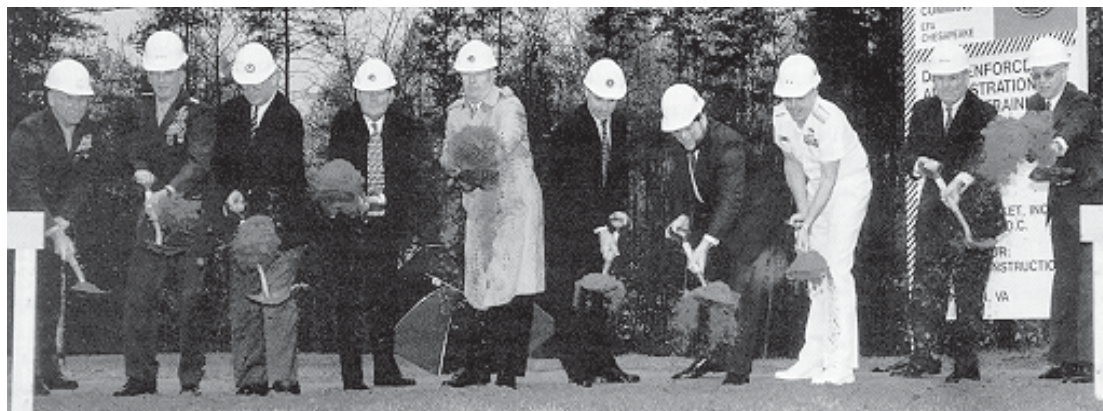
The DEA Survivors' Benefit Fund (1998)

In April 1998, Administrator Constantine announced the creation of the DEA Survivors' Benefit Fund. The fund was established to assist the surviving family members of DEA employees and task force officers killed in the line of duty. The fund also supported programs that preserved the memory of those killed in the line of duty. In addition, the benefit fund provided financial assistance for family members of employees who died as a result of non-job-related causes. The Survivors' Benefit Fund was created by combining existing organizations, namely, the Enrique Camarena Fund in Miami; the Seema/Montoya Fund in Los Angeles; the Rick Finley Memorial Foundation in Detroit, the Richard Fass Foundation in Phoenix; and the New York Drug Enforcement Agents Scholarship Foundation. Respectively, these foundations had been established to honor Enrique Camarena, who was kidnapped and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico in 1985; Special Agents Paul S. Seema and George M. Montoya, who were both killed while performing an undercover operation in Los Angeles in 1988; Special Agent Rick Finley, who was killed in a plane crash in 1989 while returning from a DEA operation in Peru; and Special Agent Richard Fass, who was killed while performing an undercover methamphetamine investigation in 1994. Many of these organizations held annual events to raise funds to support the families of DEA agents killed in the line of duty. Representatives of these various funds agreed to come together to support one national fund, realizing that this would enable them to assist more people. Each fund was also able to maintain a separate identity by continuing to hold individual annual fund raisers. Financial support for the Survivors' Benefit Fund came from donations by the general public, as well as profits from the various fund raising events held across the country.

Justice Training Center

Since 1985, the DEA and FBI had shared training facilities at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. With the expansion of both agencies and with increasingly complex training requirements for DEA special agents, the need for additional space became critical. In May 1991, a study was completed by the Department of Justice that indicated that the best and most efficient way to satisfy the training needs of both the DEA and FBI was to pursue an expansion at Quantico. The securing of necessary funding to construct a new training center became a major priority of Mr. Constantine when he was appointed Administrator. Congress provided funding for a new training academy in the FY 1997 appropriations. The \$29 million academy, called the Justice Training Center, was constructed on land made available to the DEA by the Marine Corps and located within the FBI complex. The new center will enable the DEA to provide state-of-the-art training for DEA basic agents, state and local law enforcement officials, and international law enforcement counterparts. It was designed to house a 250-bed, double occupancy dormitory, classrooms, office space for staff, a cafeteria, and an international training room equipped for simultaneous translations. Adjacent to the new academy is a special facility for clandestine laboratory training. Special purpose facilities—ranges, a driver training course, a swimming pool, a gymnasium, and an auditorium—will continue to be shared with the FBI. Construction on the new center began in April 1997 and was completed in April 1999.

A new curriculum was planned for all training courses. In March 1998, Administrator Constantine commissioned the Office of Training to conduct a review of all DEA training programs, from entry-level basic agent training to specialized and supervisory/management training. This review was requested in anticipation of the completion and subsequent opening of the Justice Training Center in order to ensure that each training program was current and state-of-the-art. This review was conducted by a team of selected supervisory and special agents from the field, diversion investigators, chemists, DEA headquarters personnel, and members of the training staff. This team completed the training review and offered its suggestions in June 1998.



Digging the first shovelful of earth on April 21, 1997, for DEA's new training academy were, from left: Brig. Gen. Edwin C. Kelley, Lt. Gen. Paul K. Van Riper, Mr. Benjamin F. Burrell, SAC David Westrate, Administrator Thomas A. Constantine, FBI Director Louis J. Freeh, Mr. Steven S. Honigman, Rear Adm. David J. Nash, Mr. Harold J. Parmelee, and Mr. Everett Medling.

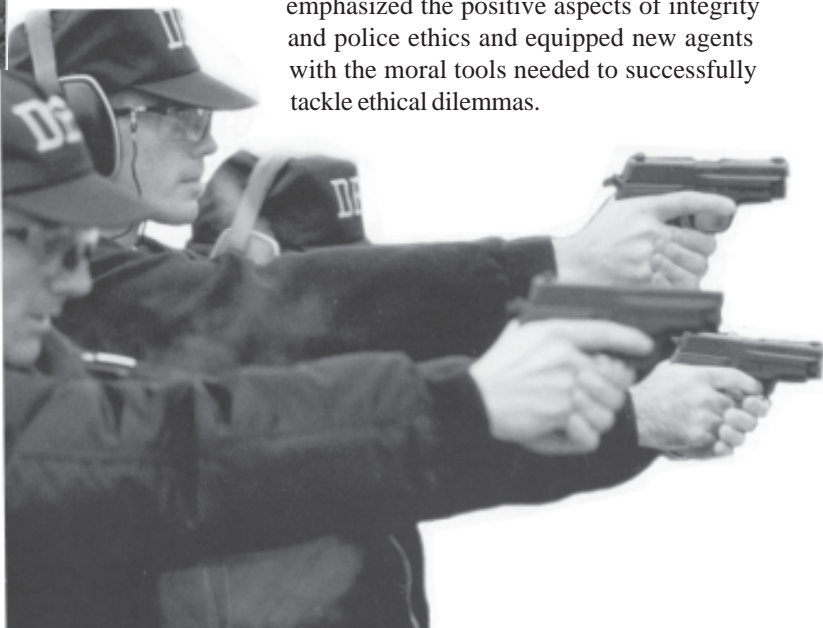
Training



Upon taking office in 1994, DEA Administrator Constantine requested a review of DEA's training curriculum to ensure that state-of-the-art procedures and techniques were being provided in all DEA training. The goal was to have every DEA employee fully trained and prepared to operate successfully in the ever-changing environment of drug law enforcement. As a result of the re-evaluation of training procedures, a number of significant changes were instituted:

- Training programs for basic agents, diversion investigators, intelligence analysts, and chemists were required to devote more time to legal issues, integrity, and personal responsibility.
- Basic agent training was extended to 16 weeks. Also, in order to support the increased emphasis on personal responsibility, the DEA structured 25 hours of formal ethics and integrity sessions into the basic agent training program. These "life training" sessions emphasized the positive aspects of integrity and police ethics and equipped new agents with the moral tools needed to successfully tackle ethical dilemmas.
- The Field Training Agent Program was instituted to provide continuous training and direction to probationary agents after completing basic agent training.
- An in-service training course, to be held every 18 months, was developed for all core series employees. The program stressed reviews of internal regulations, oral and written communication skills, legal issues, case law, operational and tactical procedures, integrity, and personnel issues, such as sexual harassment. The course also included an ethics curriculum similar to that used for basic agent training.
- A Training Advisory Committee, which met twice a year, was established to assess the training curriculum and increase field input into specific training programs.

From 1995 to September 1998, the DEA trained 1,586 basic agents, and from 1994 to September 1998, over 110,000 state and local law enforcement officers.



Aviation

Compared with its 1971 aviation budget of \$58,000, the Air Wing's 1998 operating budget of \$24,400,000 covered a fleet of 98 aircraft and 108 special agents/pilots. On a daily basis, Air Wing personnel work in close support of domestic offices and provide sophisticated electronic, air-based surveillance.



Creation of the 22nd Field Division: El Paso (1998)

Because of its proximity to the Southwest Border, the El Paso, Texas, region was an area that experienced a great deal of drug trafficking. For this reason, The FBI and the U.S. Customs Service established field divisions in the El Paso region. In order to focus on the drug problem on the U.S.-Mexican border and to better cooperate with other federal law enforcement efforts in that area, Administrator Constantine requested the creation of an El Paso Field Division. This request became a reality in June 1998, and the El Paso Field Division became the DEA's 22nd field division. The reorganization realigned the former El Paso District Office from the Houston Division; the Alpine, Texas, Resident Office from the Dallas Division; the Albuquerque, New Mexico, District Office from the Denver Division. It also realigned the Las Cruces, New Mexico, Resident Office from the Denver Division to the new El Paso Division. In addition, the reorganization transferred the responsibility for the Billings, Montana, Resident Office from the Seattle Division to the Denver Division. By establishing the El Paso Division, adjoining geographical areas facing a common drug threat were combined under a single authority. With a separate field division to manage the El Paso region, the DEA focused directly on the significant drug threat facing the West Texas and New Mexico areas, thereby enhancing the agency's effectiveness along the entire Southwest Border.

Technology

In late 1995, the DEA replaced its aging office automation system (UNISYS BTOS) with a network of Pentium-grade personal computers. This system, known as "Firebird," represented a major effort to improve the DEA's automated infrastructure (\$150 million) through establishment of a secure, centralized computer network that standardized the DEA's investigative reporting system, case file inventories, administrative functions, and electronic communications. Firebird was made available at DEA headquarters and all 22 division offices, and allowed access to the electronic headquarters file-room, easy access to the DEA community through electronic mail and bulletin boards, and use of a common suite of office automation functions. These capabilities increased user productivity and provided improved access to many automated tools essential to investigative activities. Plans were also made to install Firebird in the 180 DEA field offices, El Paso Intelligence Center, Air Wing, Laboratories, and several overseas offices.

Two of the major on-line resources available to DEA employees were Webster and IMPACT. Webster was the familiar name for the DEA Electronic Library project. As the core of the DEA's "intranet," its objectives included building an electronic library for distributing official, up-to-date documents and news, providing secure access to DEA users worldwide via Firebird and Department of Justice mainframe/Televue that allowed full-text search and retrieval and assisted DEA in expanding its presence on the public internet. The second on-line resource was the Investigative Management Program and Case Tracking (IMPACT) system, which was initiated in 1996. This program was a mission-oriented, field-led initiative that focused on the collection, use, and dissemination of case-related information at the field level with the emphasis on the group supervisor and agent.

In 1988, the DEA awarded a contract to investigate and evaluate a preliminary Intelligence Analyst Workstation that would assist intelligence analysts in developing their reports. This project evolved into the third on-line resource, Merlin—a system that supports the classified processing needs of intelligence analysts and special agents. Merlin was deployed to DEA headquarters, the Special Operations Division, and the Houston, San Diego, and the Los Angeles Field Divisions. The Merlin project plan calls for seven additional divisions and one foreign office to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2000.

Laboratories

DEA laboratories continued to use the latest in forensic science technology to aid DEA investigations. Beginning in the 1980s, technology used by the DEA saw a quantum leap in microprocessor and computer technology. DEA laboratories engaged in extensive programs to convert to state-of-the-art instrumentation. For example, the outdated vacuum sweep apparatus that was used to collect traces of material for later laboratory analysis was replaced by the Ionscan. The Ionscan unit was a portable instrument that was used to both collect trace materials and provided preliminary on-the-spot identification. In 1994 alone, the Ionscan unit was used to develop evidence in cases that led to the seizure of 22 vehicles, 19 buildings, two aircraft, and over \$350,000 in cash.

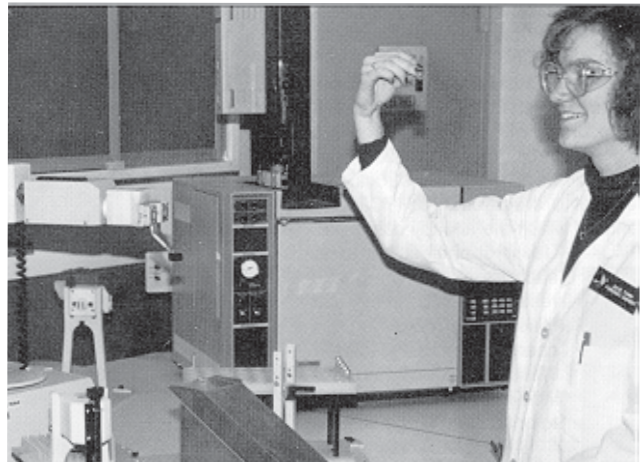
In 1995, the Department of Justice Inspector General conducted a study of the DEA Laboratory System. In a survey of all DEA and FBI field offices, U.S. Attorney's Offices, and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, 96 percent of the respondents expressed their overall satisfaction with the DEA's laboratory services. "The DEA is justifiably proud of the contributions made by all laboratory system employees to maintain such a high level of accomplishment," stated Aaron Hatcher, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Forensic Science.

The DEA continued to upgrade and expand its laboratory facilities. In 1994, a new lab, the North Central Laboratory, was built in Chicago. In 1998, the DEA planned to build new replacement labs to update the Mid-Atlantic Lab in Washington, D.C., the Southeast Lab in Miami, the Southwest Lab in San Diego, the Western Lab in San Francisco, and the Special Testing and Research Lab in McLean, Virginia. These expansions were necessary to accommodate staffing increases. The new Special Testing and Research, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast labs were scheduled to begin operation during the last quarter of 2000; while a schedule for the openings of the new Western, Southwest, and South Central labs had not yet been established. Funding for such expansions was provided by Congress.

The DEA further expanded its laboratory capabilities by developing mobile labs. Mobile labs, small laboratories that were driven from site to site, enabled DEA forensic chemists to conduct on-the-spot analysis of seized drugs. Analyzing drugs at the scene of the seizure accelerated the prosecution of drug traffickers and provided intelligence that identified other drug activity in the local area.



Pictured above is Chicago's North Central Lab, which opened in 1994. Senior forensic chemist Robert Krefft is shown in the state-of-the-art facility among various instruments used in the analysis of drug evidence.



Julie Town, a forensic chemist at the Mid-Atlantic laboratory in Washington, D.C. is pictured above examining a vial containing material that had been processed by a lab robotics workstation.

Killed in the Line of Duty



Richard E. Fass
Died on June 30, 1994

DEA Special Agent Fass was fatally shot during an undercover methamphetamine investigation in Glendale, Arizona.



Kenneth G. McCullough
Died on April 19, 1995

DEA Special Agent McCullough was killed when a car bomb exploded outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Juan C. Vars
Died on August 27, 1994

Juan C. Vars was one of five DEA special agents killed in a plane crash during a reconnaissance mission near Santa Lucia, Peru, as part of Operation Snowcap.



Carrol June Fields
Died on April 19, 1995

Carrol June Fields, a DEA Office Assistant, was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing.



Jay W. Seale
Died on August 27, 1994

Jay W. Seale was one of five DEA Special Agents killed in a plane crash during a reconnaissance mission near Santa Lucia, Peru, as part of Operation Snowcap.



Rona L. Chafey
Died on April 19, 1995

Cleveland County Sheriff's Office Secretary Rona L. Chafey, who worked in a DEA, State, and Local Task Force, was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing.



Meredith Thompson
Died on August 27, 1994

Meredith Thompson was one of five DEA Special Agents killed in a plane crash during a reconnaissance mission near Santa Lucia, Peru, as part of Operation Snowcap.



Shelly D. Bland
Died on April 19, 1995

DynCorp Legal Technician Shelly D. Bland, who was working under contract to the DEA, was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing.



Frank S. Wallace, Jr.
Died on August 27, 1994

Frank S. Wallace, Jr. was one of five DEA Special Agents killed in a plane crash during a reconnaissance mission near Santa Lucia, Peru, as part of Operation Snowcap.



Carrie A. Lenz
Died on April 19, 1995

DynCorp Legal Technician Carrie A. Lenz and her unborn son, Michael James Lenz III, were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing.



Frank Fernandez, Jr.
Died on August 27, 1994

Frank Fernandez, Jr. was one of five DEA Special Agents killed in a plane crash during a reconnaissance mission near Santa Lucia, Peru, as part of Operation Snowcap.



Shaun E. Curl
Died on December 12, 1997

Special Agent Curl was killed in the line of duty while assigned to the Miami Division.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION



Seized motorcycle gas tanks depicting the death of DEA Agents

1999-2003



DEA

**Donnie R. Marshall
Administrator
2000-2001**

Following Administrator Thomas A. Constantine's retirement on July 2, 1999, Mr. Donnie R. Marshall was named DEA Acting Administrator. Marshall was formally nominated by President Clinton to serve as DEA Administrator on February 9, 2000, and was sworn in on June 19, 2000, by Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr., the U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and a former DEA Executive Liaison Officer. During Administrator Marshall's swearing in, Attorney General Janet Reno described him as a strong, yet personable leader. "I have watched him. He gets very firm and very quiet when he needs to and he acts with great strength." Mr. Marshall was the first DEA Special Agent ever to be named as Administrator.

Donnie Marshall's career in law enforcement began in 1969 when he became a Special Agent for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. Mr. Marshall served DEA as a Resident Agent in Charge in Texas, Country Attache in Brazil, Deputy Regional Director of the Latin America Region, Senior Inspector of the Office of Professional Responsibility, Chief of the Statistical Services Section, ASAC of the Dallas Division, SAC of the Aviation Division, Chief of Domestic Operations, and Chief of Operations. Mr. Marshall served as Acting Deputy Administrator from February 23, 1998, to September 24, 1998, when President Clinton nominated him as Deputy Administrator.

Mr. Marshall's confidence in DEA's future was evident in a statement he released the day of his swearing in ceremony, "As DEA Administrator, I plan to direct all of our resources against those criminal groups degrading the quality of life in our country...the DEA remains committed to bringing to justice those who violate our nation's drug laws. We accept this challenge and pledge to promote a safer and drug-free country for all citizens."

Mr. Marshall retired on June 30, 2001, and became the Executive Vice President for Homeland Defense at SAIC, one of the world's leading providers of information technology services.

The most significant development in U.S. drug trafficking and abuse in the period 1999-2003 was the array of synthetic drugs that became popular, particularly among young people.

The most significant development in U.S. drug trafficking and abuse in the period 1999-2003 was the array of synthetic drugs that became popular, particularly among young people. Foremost among these laboratory-produced drugs was Ecstasy, a combination stimulant and hallucinogen sold in tablet form. It was touted as a "feel good" drug with an undeserved reputation for safety. In 2000, it was estimated that about two million tablets were smuggled into the United States every week. Other synthetic drugs like methamphetamine remained popular and continued to hit small-town, rural America particularly hard. Still other synthetic drugs with chemical sounding names like GHB, Rohypnol, GBL, and 1,4 BD were used both voluntarily as a way to get high, but even more tragically, concentrated doses of the drugs were slipped into the drinks of unsuspecting people, who then became victims of sexual assault.

Another challenge drug law enforcement faced in the late 1990s was the growing diversion of legal prescription drugs into the illegal market. In 1998, 2.5 million Americans admitted abuse of prescription drugs. By 2001, that had almost doubled to 4.8 million. OxyContin, a powerful prescription analgesic, became heavily abused. DEA implemented a National Action Plan to combat diversion and abuse of that drug.

More traditional drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, which are produced from agricultural products, continued on the drug scene as well. Marijuana remained the

DEA Special Agents

1999..... 4,535
2003..... 4,841

DEA Budget

1999..... \$1,477.0 million
2003..... \$1,897.3

most popular drug of choice across the country, and cocaine—while use was down significantly since its peak in the mid-1980s—was the second most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Heroin saw a surge in trafficking and use, particularly on the East Coast, where high-purity Colombian heroin dominated the market. According to the 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, during the 1990s heroin incidence rates rose to a level not reached since the 1970s. By 2000, there were 146,000 new heroin users in the country.

DEA worked in partnership with its international counterparts to target the most significant drug trafficking organizations to disrupt supply. Colombian drug trafficking organizations continued to dominate the international cocaine trade. However, unlike their cartel predecessors, the Colombian cocaine trafficking groups of the late 1990s and early 2000s typically specialized in one aspect of the cocaine industry, with no one group of traffickers dominating all aspects of the illicit trade. DEA continued its productive working relationship with the Colombian National Police and dismantled several major cocaine and heroin trafficking groups based in Colombia.

In Mexico, with the election of President Vicente Fox in 2000 and his administration's unprecedented commitment to ending the unchallenged reign of drug trafficking cartels there, DEA's relationship improved greatly with its Mexican counterparts, and inroads were made into Mexico-based cartels. Likewise, DEA forged productive relationships with European law enforcement to deal with the smuggling of Ecstasy since that drug was produced almost exclusively in Europe.

DEA took on additional responsibilities in the aftermath of the September 11th, 2001, terrorist attacks on America. The FBI reassigned hundreds of agents from narcotics investigations to counterterrorism activities. As a result, DEA reallocated resources to meet changing needs.

DEA joined the fight against terror by continuing conspiracy drug investigations and cutting off a funding source for terrorists through drug profits. The Office of National Drug Control Policy launched a major ad campaign to make Americans aware of the connection between drugs and terror.

In addition to its drug interdiction activities, DEA strengthened prevention, education, and treatment initiatives at the local level through DEA's Demand Reduction program and other initiatives. DEA instituted a number of programs like the Mobile Enforcement Team II (MET) program and the Integrated Drug Enforcement Assistance (IDEA) program to offer comprehensive help to local communities in establishing strong, coordinated anti-drug strategies.

While the vast majority of Americans supported DEA's efforts and the national anti-drug strategy, a well-financed and vocal legalization lobby spent huge amounts of money to

encourage a greater tolerance for drug use. A number of states passed referendums to permit their residents to use drugs for a variety of reasons, particularly the use of marijuana for supposed medicinal purposes. The citizens who voted in these referenda often relied on the misinformation presented by the sponsors of expensive campaigns to legalize drugs. DEA initiated an anti-legalization campaign as a way to counter that information and publicize the many successes of current drug policy.

National Conference on Drugs, Crime, and Violence in Mid-Sized Communities (1999)

DEA hosted the National Conference on Drugs, Crime, and Violence in Mid-Sized Communities on February 23, 1999. The focus of the Conference was to seek solutions and draw attention to the drug crisis that had rapidly permeated mid-sized communities nationwide. Survey results from delegates showed that cocaine and marijuana were the two most prevalent drugs affecting small cities and rural areas. However, one quarter of the participants noted that methamphetamine was a major concern. The conference allowed participants to share information and learn from the experiences of other cities and communities that had faced the problems of drug trafficking and drug-related violence.

DEA Opens New Justice Training Center (1999)

First envisioned in the mid-1970s, the new Justice Training Center (JTC) opened on April 28, 1999, at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The JTC is a 185,000 square foot building that contains a 250-bed, double occupancy dormitory, an assortment of classrooms (including practical training areas for fingerprinting, interviewing, and wiretap capabilities) and offices, a cafeteria, and an international training room equipped with simultaneous translation equipment. Prior to the opening of the JTC, DEA shared facilities with FBI. (See 1998 JTC entry for full history of the center.)

The JTC is used for DEA Basic Agent training, Basic Diversion Investigator training, Basic Intelligence Research Specialist training, Basic Forensic Chemist training, In-Service training, Certification training, specialized training, and supervisory, management, and executive level training. The JTC is also used to conduct drug training seminars for state and local law enforcement personnel, and through the use of specially equipped classrooms, conduct international drug training seminars for foreign law enforcement officials.



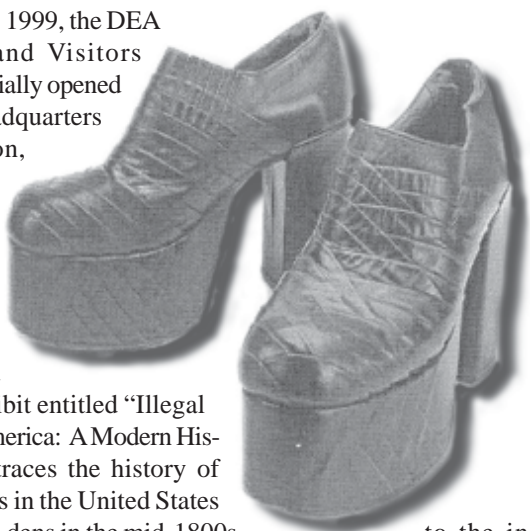
The Jay Leno Show honors Members from the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association Annual Conference

Opening of the DEA Museum (1999)

On May 11, 1999, the DEA Museum and Visitors Center officially opened at DEA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

Occupying 2,200 square feet, the museum features a

unique exhibit entitled “Illegal Drugs in America: A Modern History” that traces the history of illegal drugs in the United States from opium dens in the mid-1800s to the international drug mafias of the late 20th century. The exhibit includes historical photos, artifacts, text, and interactive computer displays that show the effects of drugs on American society and the efforts by federal law enforcement to combat the drug problem. The exhibit highlights major trends in illegal drug use as well as milestones and accomplishments of DEA and its predecessor agencies.



Many of the museum’s

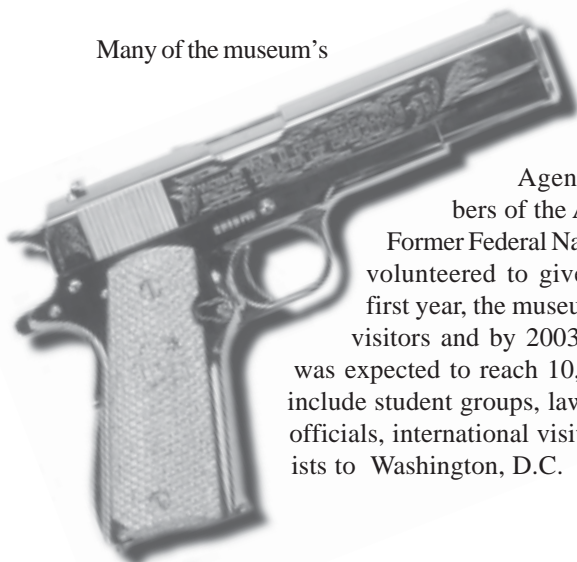
artifacts were donated by former and active Special

Agents, and members of the Association of

Former Federal Narcotics Agents volunteered to give tours. In its

first year, the museum drew 5,000 visitors and by 2003, that number was expected to reach 10,000. Visitors

include student groups, law enforcement officials, international visitors, and tourists to Washington, D.C.



Regional Enforcement Teams

Early in 1999, DEA created the Regional Enforcement Team (RET) program to address the threat of drug trafficking groups using established networks of compartmentalized cells to facilitate their illegal activity. While in the past these organizations had typically maintained their operations in larger cities, pressure from law enforcement led to their movement into smaller locations throughout the United States. The RET Program consists of four teams of agents, analysts, and support staff that are responsible for addressing increased rates of drug abuse, trafficking, and violent crime in these smaller locations.

There were 18 RET deployments from 1999 to early 2003. In that time, 36 drug trafficking organizations were dismantled, more than 500 people were arrested and more than 22,000 pounds of drugs were seized.



Mobile Enforcement Teams

Since its inception in 1995, the Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) program continued to fight drug-related violent crime in communities throughout the United States. The MET Program consists of 21 Teams based in 20 DEA Field Divisions across the country. Working with local law enforcement organizations who lack manpower and resources, DEA’s MET Teams combat violent drug organizations in specific neighborhoods and restore safer environments for the residents.

From 1999 to 2003, DEA deployed MET Teams to 380 locations nationwide. Communities across the country felt a significant impact in areas where MET Teams were deployed. As of 2003, MET Teams arrested more than 15,000 people and took more than 10,000 pounds of illegal drugs off the streets.

In Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley, the MET Team targeted two trafficking organizations. One group was responsible bringing wholesale quantities of methamphetamine from Mexico for delivery to distributors throughout the Shenandoah Valley for distribution, while the other brought in crack cocaine from New York City. Both organizations were dismantled, and the work of the MET Team is likely to impede future drug trafficking in the area.

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Mobile Enforcement Team II Program (1999)

In 1999, DEA initiated the Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) II program as a follow-up program to communities where DEA's MET teams had deployed. MET teams were groups of specially trained DEA agents sent to communities at the request of law enforcement to help remove violent drug trafficking organizations. The MET II program's goal was to ensure that successful law enforcement operations were reinforced by a vigorous community effort to prevent the reemergence of drug-related violent crime.

DEA, with financial assistance from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and technical support from the National Crime Prevention Council, provided cutting-edge regional training to communities where MET teams had been deployed. Each community sent a team of up to five members that included local and state elected officials; judicial and law enforcement officers; city, school, and program administrators; community activists; representatives of the business and faith communities; and other key decision makers. In 1999, the program was piloted in three regional sessions to leaders of 40 MET communities. In 2000, DEA held four regional sessions to 42 community teams and another four sessions to 37 MET communities in 2001.

The program's goals were met by community leaders committing to developing and employing broad-based strategies for improving citizen safety and equipping these leaders to plan and implement prevention programs. A majority of communities trained through the MET II program conducted far more prevention activities than prior to the training. By 2001, the MET II program evolved into the Integrated Drug Enforcement Assistance (IDEA) program.

Operation Ramp Rats I and II (1999)

In August and September 1999, DEA's Miami Division concluded two successful airport-based investigations of ramp workers ("ramp rats") who used their positions relating to baggage handling, cleaning, fueling and servicing airplanes

to smuggle drugs. The investigations disrupted large-scale smuggling of heroin and cocaine into the United States along with the distribution of drugs, weapons, and explosives throughout the country. In addition, Miami Dade County instituted immediate security measures at Miami International Airport, making it more difficult to smuggle contraband through the area.

Operation Juno (1999)

Operation Juno was a significant and innovative investigation targeting money laundering operations. It began after the seizure of approximately 386 kilograms of liquid cocaine, which had been found concealed and shipped in frozen fish from Cartagena, Colombia in July 1995. It had been shipped under the name of Colapia S.A., a Colombian company whose U.S. distribution center was based in Atlanta. During the investigation of Colapia, it was revealed that the Atlanta owner was a partner with a prominent Cali, Colombia, narcotics trafficker. In 1996, DEA and the Internal Revenue Service began a pro-active undercover money laundering "sting" investigation named Operation Juno. Based in suburban Atlanta, with a company called "Airmark", DEA and the IRS gained permission from the Attorney General to open a legitimate stockbrokerage firm that served to validate the undercover money laundering operation.

The owner of Colapia S.A. referred the Operation Juno stockbrokerage firm to other drug trafficking organizations in need of financial and money laundering services. Operation Juno targeted those drug trafficking organizations by offering financial services to launder their drug proceeds. Those proceeds, which were in U.S. dollars, were sold on the Colombian black market peso exchange market via a third-party money exchanger in Colombia. Once the Colombian pesos were deposited into the designated bank accounts, the money laundering contract with the narcotics traffickers was fulfilled. A total of 55 arrests were made in the U. S. during the investigation. Civil seizure warrants were also brought against 59 domestic bank accounts worldwide and approximately \$26 million in drug proceeds were targeted for seizure. Additionally five Colombian nationals were indicted.

Attempted Cop Murder-Drug Ring Investigation (1999)

In 1999, DEA, Fairfax County, Virginia Police, and the Maryland State Police completed a 3-year investigation of a drug trafficking, money laundering, and "cop killing" criminal group. Since at least 1994, Sergio Barrios and Gregory McCorkle were involved in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in the Washington, D.C. area. In December 1995, McCorkle was driving his frequent route from New York to DC, when Maryland State Police Trooper David Hughes arrested him for possession of one kilogram of cocaine.

Shortly after his arrest, McCorkle plotted to kill Trooper Hughes in an attempt to have the case dismissed. On August 27, 1996, an

associate of McCorkle's shot a trooper as he drove his car into the Hughes' family driveway. The person he shot and wounded was Trooper Michael Hughes, the brother of the trooper who arrested McCorkle, who was also a Maryland State Trooper. Through a complex investigation supported by the DEA-supervised Intelligence Group of the Washington-Baltimore HIDTA, the task force was able to successfully link Barrios and McCorkle to the attempted murder. In May 1997, they and nearly twenty others were incarcerated for a variety of drug charges, and several were convicted of attempted murder. The investigation continued until the arrest of McCorkle's drug supplier in 1999. The task force that investigated the murder-drug ring, including three DEA agents, later received the nation's prestigious Top Cop award and were recognized at a White House ceremony with President Clinton and Attorney General Reno. David Hughes later became a DEA Special Agent.

Mexico

Between 1999 and 2003, Mexico remained the key transit country for cocaine en route to U.S. markets, as well as a significant source country for heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine destined for the United States.

Among the most important changes that occurred in Mexico between 1999 and 2003 was the July 2000 election of President Vicente Fox-Quesada, ending the 70-year rule of a single political party in Mexico. President Fox ran on a platform of restoring public security and putting an end to corruption. The Fox administration made some significant progress towards those extremely ambitious goals by restructuring the Attorney General's office to reduce corruption and taking action against leaders of significant drug trafficking organizations. Mexican police and the military had effected the arrests of significant drug traffickers within virtually every major drug trafficking organization operating in Mexico.

As a result of this renewed dedication to fight drug trafficking, the level of cooperation in the counterdrug area reached unprecedented levels. Information sharing between DEA and the Government of Mexico was extremely productive and brought about very positive results in joint enforcement operations. By 2003, DEA's relationship with its counterparts in the Government of Mexico was better than ever.

Operation Impunity I and II (1999-2000)

In September 1999, the Amado Carrillo-Fuentes drug trafficking organization suffered a big hit when DEA and its counterparts arrested three of its major cell heads and 90 of its members. The arrests disabled all facets of their organization—the group's headquarters in Mexico, the U.S. cell heads, the drug and money transportation systems, and the local distribution groups. As a result of Operation Impunity, 12,434 kilos of cocaine and more than 4,800 pounds of marijuana were seized, along with \$19 million in U.S. currency and another \$7 million in assets. The Amado Carrillo-Fuentes organization had operated without fear of capture or prosecution in the United States, believing that only their low-level operatives were at risk. Operation Impunity effectively demonstrated that even the highest level drug traffickers based in foreign countries could not conduct drug operations inside the U.S. with impunity.

Operation Impunity II continued to target the Amado Carrillo-Fuentes organization and concluded in December 2000 with the arrest of 155 individuals, the seizure of 5,490 kilograms of cocaine, 9,526 pounds of marijuana, and \$11 million in U.S. currency. Those arrested faced a variety of federal charges for their involvement in smuggling thousands of pounds of cocaine and marijuana from Mexico across the Southwest Border into Texas. Some of the defendants arrested during Operation Impunity II were organization leaders who replaced those arrested in the previous investigations. The three phases (Operation Limelight in 1996 was the first phase) clearly demonstrate the tenacity of some trafficking organizations and the need for law enforcement to continuously investigate groups that are large and well-established.

Colombia

By the mid-1990s, Colombian law enforcement began targeting leaders of the Cali cartel based on extensive investigation by DEA. The arrests or surrenders of six top Cali leaders during the summer of 1995 marked the beginning of the decline of the Cali cartel.

Although some elements of the Cali cartel continued to play an important role in the world's wholesale cocaine market, they no longer dominated the international cocaine trade.

Following the dismantling of the Cali cartel, experienced traffickers who had been active for years, but who worked in the shadow of the Cali drug lords, seized the opportunity and increased their role in the drug trade. However, unlike their cartel predecessors, the Colombian cocaine trafficking groups of the late 1990s and early 2000s were decentralized and typically specialized in one aspect of the cocaine industry. No one group of

traffickers dominated all aspects of the trade because, with the reintroduction of extradition in Colombia in December 1997, the major Colombian traffickers were increasingly willing to allow their foreign criminal associates (in particular, Mexican and Dominican transportation groups) to play an expanded international role in the cocaine trade. The strategic objective of these Colombian drug lords was to further conceal their own overt criminal acts in the United States or Europe that would be the basis for extradition.

The main Colombian trafficking groups primarily were based in two regions in Colombia. One was the Northern Valle del Cauca region located near Colombia's west coast. The second area was Colombia's north coast. While traffickers in these regions operated more independently than the Medellin and Cali cartels, they nevertheless remained very powerful. By working with their counterparts in Mexico, these drug traffickers were responsible for most of the world's cocaine production and wholesale distribution.

Operation Millennium (1999)

In October 1999, a major joint DEA-Colombian National Police (CNP) investigation called Operation Millennium resulted in the arrest of two of the most powerful drug traffickers in the world—Alejandro Bernal-Madriral, also known as Juvenal, and Fabio Ochoa. Bernal-Madriral was the head of the most significant Colombian narcotics transportation organization and had taken the cocaine transportation function to unprecedented heights. Evidence obtained during this investigation demonstrated that Bernal-Madriral's organization was responsible for transporting between 20-30 tons of cocaine per month from Colombia to the United States via Mexico, primarily in containerized cargo. Fabio Ochoa was one of the top leaders of the Medellin cartel. He was imprisoned in 1991, released in 1996, and continued his trafficking operations with Bernal-Madriral and others after his release.

Beginning in May 1998, DEA worked with CNP to investigate the drug trafficking activities of Bernal-Madriral. The investigation focused on authorized electronic intercepts of Bernal-Madriral and the leaders of other Colombian drug trafficking organizations. At one point during the investigation, CNP in conjunction with DEA was managing 66 simultaneous authorized electronic intercepts on principal targets. These intercepts revealed the inner workings of the cocaine industry and focused on the most significant drug traffickers and their respective organizations in both Colombia and Mexico.

In Operation Millennium, Bernal-Madriral and 30 of his top criminal associates, including Ochoa, were arrested. In September 2001, Ochoa was extradited to the United States after

a long battle to remain in Colombia. He was the 30th Colombian national and 13th Operation Millennium defendant to be extradited to the United States since the reintroduction of extradition in 1997. More than 1,500 Colombian prosecutors and CNP officials participated in Operation Millennium, which, according to the CNP, was one of the largest law enforcement actions undertaken by the Government of Colombia against drug trafficking.

Extradition of Caracol (2000)



Alberto Orlandez-Gamboia, aka Caracol (the Snail), headed a major cocaine trafficking organization based in Barranquilla, Colombia. The organization transhipped significant amounts of cocaine to the United States and Europe via the smuggling routes it controlled from Colombia's North Coast through the Caribbean. As head of the organization, Caracol depended on his close associates to conduct the organization's

operations and to insulate himself. As is typical with many Colombia-based organizations, Caracol compartmentalized his business dealings. In addition, the success of Caracol's Barranquilla-based drug trafficking organization was attributed, in part, to the respect the drug organization received from other traffickers operating on Colombia's North Coast. Intelligence indicated that traffickers paid taxes to Caracol's organization in order to be allowed to ship drugs out of the North Coast. His influence in this region was so strong that traffickers even asked him for permission before conducting assassinations.

On June 6, 1998, Caracol was arrested in Barranquilla, as a result of an ongoing joint investigation between DEA's Barranquilla Resident Office and the CNP. After his arrest, Caracol immediately was flown to Bogota, Colombia, where he was held on murder, kidnapping, and terrorism charges. He was extradited to the United States in August 2000.

On March 13, 2003, Caracol pleaded guilty to participating in a narcotics trafficking conspiracy that smuggled tens of thousands of kilograms of cocaine into New York and other cities. His plea was announced on the morning he was to go on trial in Federal District Court in Manhattan after losing a crucial appellate ruling.

Retiring CNP Director Serrano Honored (2000)

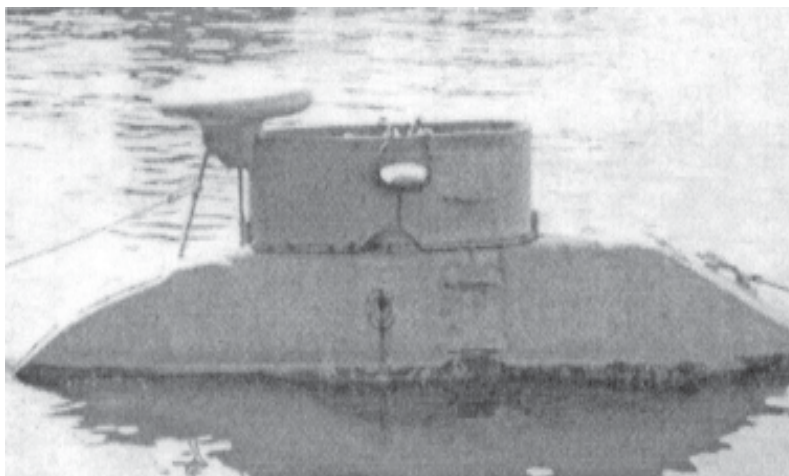
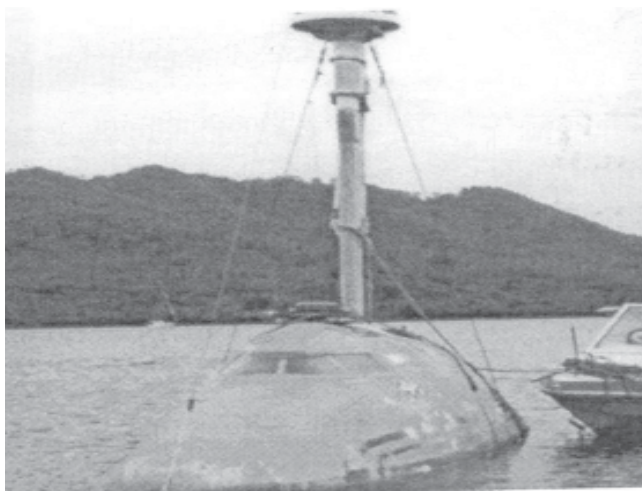
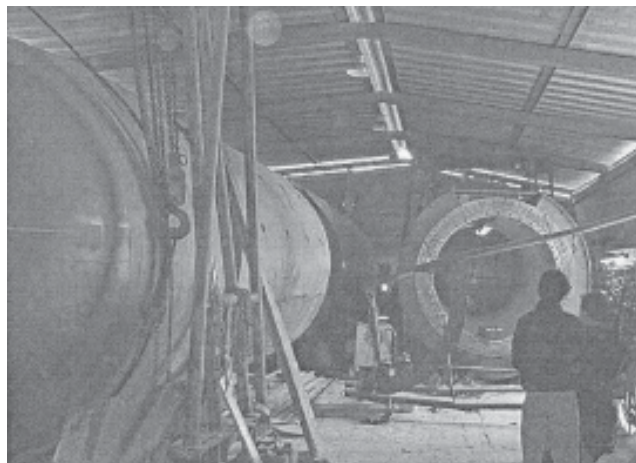


DEA presented retired Colombian National Police (CNP) Director General Rosso Serrano with the first-ever honorary Special Agent badge at a ceremony at DEA headquarters on July 19, 2000. It is the DEA's highest award, and is presented only in exceptional cases to individuals outside DEA who have had a monumental impact on drug law enforcement nationally or internationally. "I can think of no one who so embodies the spirit of this award but General Serrano. He has put service to his country, his people, and the world before his personal safety," stated Administrator Donnie Marshall at the ceremony.

General Serrano joined the CNP in 1963 as a second lieutenant and advanced steadily through the ranks until becoming Director in 1995. The accomplishments of CNP under General Serrano debilitated major international drug traffickers and affected the drug trade worldwide. Under his command, the CNP declared war on drug cartels and joined forces with the DEA in dismantling the infamous Cali organization. Other CNP accomplishments under Serrano include the arrests of Jose Santacruz-Londono, Pacho Herrera, Henry Loaiza-Ceballos, and Juan Carlos Ramirez-Abadia. Cooperation between DEA and CNP continued as new independent drug organizations were created. One of the most significant was Operation Millennium, in October 1999, that dismantled the "Juvenal" transportation organization, which had been supplying between 20 and 30 tons of cocaine per month to the United States and Europe.

Drug Submarine Seized in Colombia (2000)

On September 7, 2000, the CNP seized a partially constructed, steel double-hulled submarine from a warehouse outside Bogota, Colombia. Once assembled, it would have been nearly 100 feet long. All information suggested the submarine could have been used to transport up to 10 metric tons of illicit drugs from Colombia to remote off-load sites in Latin America and the Caribbean. The seizure of this high-tech submarine demonstrated the vast resources and ingenuity of Colombian drug traffickers and the lengths they were willing to go to transport their product.





Operations Odessa/ Atlantico/Journey (2000)

Maritime illicit drug smuggling organizations were the target of Operations Odessa, Atlantico and Journey. Operation Odessa/Atlantico involved multiple cocaine and money seizures from organized maritime Greek drug smugglers who worked closely with Colombian traffickers. These operations took place from 1998-2000. Operation Odessa was an investigation of many initiatives launched by the Hellenic Republic. Thanks to cooperation from the Greek Government, assets worth \$7 million were seized, as was the M/V Bulk Princess.

Operation Journey also targeted maritime smuggling operations in Colombia that moved their operations to Venezuela as a result of Operation Odessa. Thanks to the sharing of information between various law enforcement authorities, Operation Journey seized more than nine tons of cocaine hidden by the De La Vega drug trafficking organization.



DEA Support to United States Government Drug Production Estimates

Any reality-based illicit drug production estimate must start with the most accurate information available on crop yields and clandestine laboratory operations. Accordingly, since 1993, DEA intelligence analysts and forensic chemists have collected and analyzed unique science-based data on coca

and opium poppy cultivation as well as cocaine and heroin production in the Andean Region of South America. This research revolutionized U.S. Government cocaine and heroin production estimates. In 1999, for example, the U.S. Government more than doubled the previous estimates of Colombia's potential cocaine base production due to DEA's coca yield and cocaine laboratory studies. Likewise, in 2002, again as a result of new data from DEA, the U.S. Government slashed by more than fifty percent the previous estimates of Colombia's potential heroin production. As of 2003, this program had conducted crop yield and clandestine laboratory efficiency studies only in the Andean Region.

Operation New Generation (2000)

A significant international drug trafficking and money laundering organization was dismantled in November 2000. Since November 1998, DEA had been investigating the drug trafficking and money laundering activities of the Colombia-based Carlos Mario Castro-Arias cocaine transportation organization. Castro-Arias was a significant drug trafficker responsible for smuggling large quantities of cocaine concealed in

Although Castro-Arias evaded authorities, the investigation yielded 102 arrests, 2,110 kilograms of cocaine, 1,400 grams of heroin, six tons of miscellaneous chemicals, and \$2.3 million in U.S. currency.

DEA Special Agent Richard Fass's Killer Apprehended (2000)

On June 30, 1994, DEA Special Agent Richard Fass and his partner Special Agent Michael Pelonero were working an undercover investigation targeting a large-scale methamphetamine trafficking organization in the Phoenix area. The organization was headed by Agustin Vasquez-Mendoza, a Mexican national, with whom Special Agent Fass had been arranging the sale of ten kilograms of methamphetamine. At the time of the sale, however, Vasquez-Mendoza's colleagues, Rafael Rubio-Mendez and Juan Vasquez-Rubio, shot and killed Special Agent Fass in an apparent robbery attempt. Both men were arrested near the scene while attempting to flee and later received life sentences for the murder. Vasquez-Mendoza—the leader and mastermind of Fass' killing—fled to Mexico, and the manhunt for him became one of the most intense in recent U.S.-Mexico history, lasting more than six years.

A Fass Task Force was formed in the Phoenix Division, dedicated to locating Vasquez-Mendoza. The task force worked closely with U.S. and Mexico law enforcement entities, including the Mexican Military. For several years, the pursuit of the fugitive concentrated in a remote mountainous region in Michoacan where residents lived in wooden shacks with

out telephones or electricity. Mexican law enforcement was reluctant to enter the region because of the dangerous drug traffickers who protected these areas. The FASS Task Force used more than 30 confidential sources to infiltrate these areas.

The task force also conducted a media blitz, participating in three “America’s Most Wanted” shows, two “Unsolved Mystery” programs, and one Latin television show called “*Placas*.” By 1998, the reward for Vasquez-Mendoza had reached \$2.25 million, and he had been placed on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list. In addition, the task force created a tip hotline, which was manned around the clock to follow leads. DEA’s Mexico office also conducted a media blitz in Mexico, and Mexican law enforcement conducted road blocks of highways leaving the mountainous area where Vasquez-Mendoza was believed to be hiding. The FASS Task Force eventually arrested more than 40 fugitives wanted by other jurisdictions.

By 2000, investigators narrowed their search to the town of Puebla, Mexico. Mexican law enforcement led the search there and learned that Vasquez-Mendoza had married and assumed a new identity. Investigators located a pay phone his wife frequently used to call her parents, and on July 9, 2000, the Mexican police surrounded Vasquez-Mendoza walking away from the phone and arrested him without incident. Phoenix SAC Tom Raffanello stated that, “This investigation has helped strengthen and build a stronger relationship with Mexican law enforcement officials. During this entire operation, they were constantly amazed that DEA was so relentless in tracking this fugitive.” As of 2003, Vasquez-Mendoza remained in custody in Mexican prison pending extradition to the United States.

Operation Green Air (2000)

In April of 2000, DEA’s Special Operations Division successfully concluded an 18-month investigation of a Jamaican-based marijuana trafficking organization that used Federal Express (FedEx) as its exclusive method of transportation. FedEx cooperated with DEA to uncover drivers, a security official, and several customer service representatives who were receiving substantial bribes from the traffickers. It is estimated that more than 4,000 packages of marijuana, supplied by the Mexico-based Arellano Felix organization, were smuggled into FedEx hubs including Atlanta, New York, Boston, Connecticut, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Philadelphia and Newark. Operation Green Air resulted in the arrests of more than 100 individuals including 25 FedEx employees.

LSD Laboratory Seizure (2000)

When DEA seized an LSD manufacturing laboratory in November 2000 in an abandoned nuclear missile silo in Wamego, Kansas, containing approximately 3.9 million dosage units of LSD, it had a huge impact on LSD manufacturing in the United

States. According to DEA’s Special Testing and Research Laboratory, the Wamego lab had the capacity to produce 258 million dosage units of LSD. In Fiscal Year 2000, DEA projected that the worldwide LSD demand was 100 million dosage units. Following the Wamego lab seizure, there was a tremendous 98% decline in LSD submissions for source determination analysis during FY 2001. In FY 2002, there were no LSD exhibits submitted to DEA laboratories for analysis. In March 2003, the two men arrested for operating the LSD lab were convicted on charges of conspiracy and possession of LSD with intent to distribute.

Operation Tar Pit (2000)

In March 2000, a concluded Operation Tar Pit, an investigation targeting black tar heroin trafficking group based in Mexico. This joint DEA/FBI investigation, conducted exclusively within the United States, linked the Nayarit, Mexico, based organization to transportation and distribution cells throughout the United States from San Diego, California to Steubenville, Ohio. Further, the investigation linked the high-purity black tar heroin to numerous heroin overdose deaths in the small town of Chimayo, New Mexico. DEA, FBI, and state and local law enforcement agents arrested nearly 200 individuals in 12 cities.

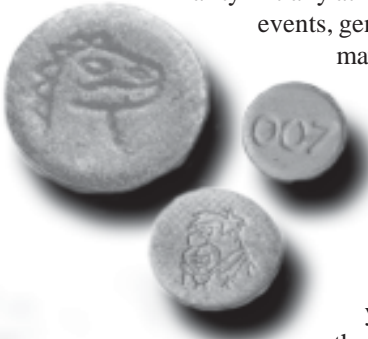
DEA Participation in Making of Award-Winning Movie Traffic (2000)

In December 2000, the movie *Traffic* opened to critical acclaim and was a box office hit across the country. Featuring Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Benicio del Toro, Michael Cheadle, Erika Christensen, and Dennis Quaid and directed by Steven Soderbergh, the movie showed intertwining vignettes to tell the modern day story of fighting drugs. The winner of four Academy Awards, the movie focused a great deal of media and public attention on DEA and the problems of illicit drugs in America. Parts of the movie were filmed on location at DEA’s El Paso Intelligence Center, and several DEA agents had small roles in the film. DEA offered considerable input into the movie’s portrayals of the drug situation, and most believed it accurately depicted the challenges law enforcement faced.



Ecstasy and Predatory Drugs

By the late 1990s, a drug called MDMA (3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine)—more often known as Ecstasy—emerged in full force in American youth culture. A hallucinogen sold in a small ingestible pill form, often imprinted with colorful logos and designs, Ecstasy gained popularity initially at raves. Raves are all-night dance events, generally operating from approximately 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the following morning and characterized by loud, rapid, tempo (“techno music”), light and laser shows, smoke or fog, and psychedelic screen images. Ecstasy use by 12th graders nearly doubled in 5 years from 1996 to 2001. By 2002, there was a slight decrease in that usage, possibly signaling a leveling off.



Other drugs like Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid (GHB) and Ketamine are also used at raves, and they all came to be known as club drugs. However, by 2002, DEA began calling this subset of drugs “predatory drugs” because many of them, particularly GHB and Rohypnol, could be slipped into a victim’s drink. The drugs are odorless and tasteless and render the victim unconscious. Criminal predators use these drugs to commit rape and sexual assault.

Another measure of these drugs’ popularity is emergency room mention of the drugs. In 1998, there were 1,282 mentions of GHB in hospital emergency rooms. That number rose almost three-fold to 3,340 in 2001. DEA seizures are also a good indicator of the level of abuse. For instance, in 1999 DEA seized 4,552 dosage units of Ketamine, and by 2001, that had risen to 7,020,317. DEA took a number of enforcement, prevention, and legislative measures to combat Ecstasy and predatory drugs.

DEA’s Legislative Response to the Problem of Club Drugs

GHB is a central nervous system depressant that was originally marketed as a releasing agent for growth hormones that stimulates muscle growth. It generates feelings of euphoria and intoxication and is often used with alcohol, which enhances its effect and increases the potential for respiratory distress. GHB is also used in the commission of sexual assaults because it renders the victim incapable of resisting and causes memory problems that complicate case prosecution.

In response to the increasing abuse of GHB, DEA’s Office of Diversion Control initiated a scheduling review incorporating data on the abuse, diversion, and trafficking of GHB sent

to the Department of Health and Human Services for its review in 1997. In the late 1990s, DEA provided abuse, diversion, and trafficking data to Congress in support of legislative action. In early 2000, the “Hillary Farias and Samantha Reed Date-Rape Prohibition Act of 1999” (Public Law 106-172) became law, placing GHB in Schedule I, as well as the related chemical GBL. GHB is now subject to Federal regulatory controls and the criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions specified in the Controlled Substance Act.

Ecstasy-like substances, touted as “legal” substitutes, had been found in clubs and advertised over the Internet. In September 2002, DEA published a final rule in the Federal Register temporarily placing pharmacologically related and chemically similarly structured chemicals like BZP, TFMPP, and 2C-T-7 in Schedule I pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act emergency scheduling provision, due to imminent hazard to public safety. In early 2003, DEA’s Diversion Control office continued to gather information regarding the abuse, diversion, and trafficking of these substances to place them permanently in Schedule I. In January 2003, DEA published a proposal in the Federal Register temporarily placing AMT and 5-MeO-DIPT as well into Schedule I, pursuant to the emergency scheduling provision of the Controlled Substances Act. Finalization of this order was expected later in 2003.

DEA’s Ecstasy & Club Drugs Conferences (2000-2001)

To focus national attention on the Ecstasy threat, DEA hosted the International Conference on Ecstasy and Club Drugs in partnership with about 300 officials from the domestic and foreign law enforcement, judicial, chemical, prevention, and treatment communities. The conference was held in Arlington, Virginia, from July 31 to August 2, 2000, and centered on the growing threat of Ecstasy, GHB, Rohypnol, and Ketamine. By hosting this conference, DEA took the lead on identifying the gravity of the issue and the efforts to combat the club drugs problem in the country. Medical experts provided information on the harmful physical effects of club drug abuse, and media representatives offered their perspectives on the club drug epidemic. During the conference, a working group developed several objectives that were adapted into DEA’s Demand Reduction plan. These goals included advancing drug education and prevention, enhancing parental knowledge of raves and club drugs, and educating high school and college students about the realities of raves and the dangers of club drugs.

As a follow-up to the International Club Drugs Conference, DEA held three regional club drugs conferences during 2001. These were held in Atlantic City, New Jersey; Oak Brook, Illinois; and San Diego, California. All three gathered 200-250 participants from regional law enforcement, education, pre

vention, treatment, medical, and the health areas to develop area-wide plans to address the problem. In addition, each domestic DEA division held numerous club drug seminars and training in their areas.

Arrest of Salvatore Gravano (2000)

In December 1999, DEA's Phoenix Division and the Phoenix Police Department initiated a joint Title III investigation of a major international Ecstasy organization headed by former mob underboss Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano and his son. This three-month investigation resulted in the arrest of Gravano, his son, and 38 co-defendants, the confiscation of tens of thousands of Ecstasy pills, and approximately \$500,000 in asset seizures. The Gravano organization was importing large quantities of Ecstasy directly from Europe and is believed to be the largest Ecstasy organization ever dismantled in Arizona.



In the 1990s, the former underboss of the New York Gambino crime family had admitted killing 19 people but received leniency in exchange for his testimony against mob boss John Gotti and others. He served five years in prison, then moved to Phoenix under the witness protection program. He pled guilty to both Arizona and New York federal drug charges and is currently serving a 20-year concurrent sentence.

Operation Rave Review (2000)

DEA's New Orleans Field Division Office initiated OCDETF Operation "Rave Review" in January 2000, in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the New Orleans Police Department. The investigation centered on raves held at the State Palace Theater in New Orleans and was prompted by the large number of drug overdose incidents among clubgoers reported by local emergency rooms. More than 500 teenagers and young adults had been treated in a two-



year period, and all had attended raves at the State Palace Theater. A 17-year-old girl had also died after overdosing at a rave event at the State Palace Theater. The investigation further determined that most of the Ecstasy distribution in the city of New Orleans was being conducted at the raves, which were attended by as many as 4,000 teenagers and young adults. DEA agents worked in an undercover capacity at these raves and made numerous purchases of illegal drugs. Undercover agents observed that 50% to 60% of the rave patrons were under the influence of club drugs.

Based on DEA's investigation, a federal grand jury returned indictments against the three managers of the rave promotion company for federal narcotics violations in January 2001. The indictment marked the first time a rave promoter and/or manager had ever been charged in violation of Title 21 United States Code, Section 856(a)(2) establishment of manufacturing operations, otherwise known as the "crackhouse statute."

The impact of this investigation was observed immediately in New Orleans as the number of club drug related overdoses dropped by a phenomenal 90%. In addition, the State Palace Theater Corporation, "Barbecue of New Orleans," pled guilty to all charges in the indictment and was fined \$100,000.00. Furthermore, this case inspired Senator Joe Biden, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and author of the 1980's federal "crack house" laws, to expand the "crack house" statutes to include any businessman, club owner, or promoter on whose premises or at whose events illicit drugs are used or sold. Under the legislation's provisions, property owners, promoters, and event managers could be fined up to \$250,000 and face up to 20 years in prison on Federal criminal charges.

Operation Red Tide (2001)

Operation Red Tide began as a result of the largest single seizure of Ecstasy—2.1 million tablets in July 2000 in Los Angeles. An 18-month investigation ensued that targeted a multi-ethnic, transnational Ecstasy and cocaine distribution organization. It came to a climax when Dutch National Police arrested seven co-conspirators, executed search warrants at 17 locations, and seized several hundred thousand U.S. dol-

lars, as well as several hundred thousand Dutch guilders. More than 22 suspects in four U.S. cities and four European countries were arrested.

Approximately 3.3 million tablets linked to the syndicate were seized during this effort. Administrator Marshall stated, "The success of Operation Red Tide has ensured that a large volume of Ecstasy that would have made it into the hands of our youth never hit the streets."

Would-Be Killers of Special Agents Charles Martinez and Kelly McCullough Convicted and Sentenced (2001)

In February and March 2001, Jose Ivan Duarte Acero and Rene Benitez were each convicted in Southern Florida courts in separate trials for the 1982 kidnapping and attempted murder of DEA Special Agents Charles Martinez and Kelly McCullough. On June 8, 2001, Duarte and Benitez received life sentences.

The sentencing marked the end of DEA's longest-running investigation—a 19-year effort to track, capture, try, and convict in American courts the men who kidnapped and nearly killed Martinez and McCullough in Colombia. "This case, once again, sends a clear message to violent drug traffickers who attempt to harm DEA agents: DEA will never waiver, not for a second, in its efforts to commitment to bring you to justice," said Administrator Marshall at the time.

In 1982, Duarte and his conspirator Benitez were hired by Colombian drug traffickers to kidnap the DEA Special Agents. The two agents, who were assigned on temporary duty to Colombia as pilots, were abducted from their hotel in Cartagena and transported by car to a secluded area 15 miles away. Agent Martinez was shot while they were still within city limits. Then Duarte and Benitez stopped the car and shot Martinez again. At that point, McCullough fled. He was shot as he ran into the jungle. Martinez escaped when his captor's gun jammed as they attempted to shoot him for the third time.

Even though Martinez and McCullough each suffered multiple gunshot wounds, both had the courage and the presence of mind to elude their captors and escape into the night. They separately reached Cartagena the next day and phoned the U.S. Embassy for assistance. The physician who examined them after the shootings were amazed that the bullets had not struck any vital organs. Shortly thereafter, both agents were airlifted out of the country by a U.S. Air Force plane from Panama. Meanwhile, Duarte and Benitez became fugitives, with warrants issued for their arrest in June 1982.

Benitez was eventually captured in Colombia, extradited, and imprisoned in Miami in 1995. Duarte continued to evade authorities until August 1997, when he was detained in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian Government ultimately expelled the fugitive, and he was then transported to the United States to stand trial. Agents Martinez and McCullough both returned to duty after recovering from their wounds and continued to serve with DEA until retiring in the late 1990s.

Operation White Horse (2001)

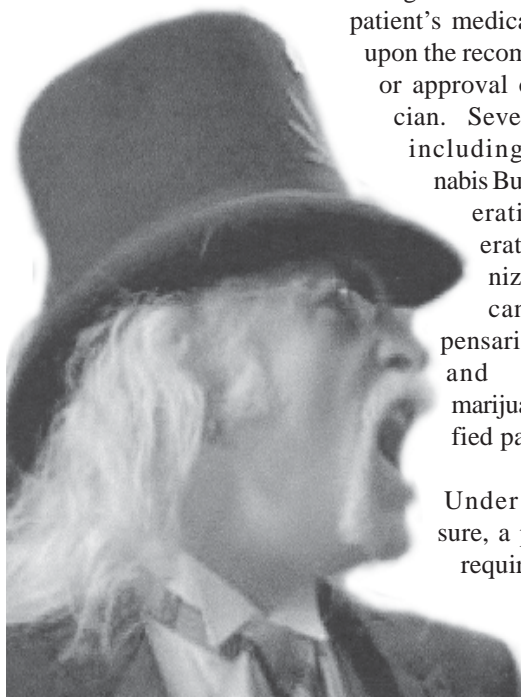
In January 2001, DEA, along with FBI, IRS, and the US Customs Service, concluded a 10-month investigation to dismantle an organization responsible for placing high-purity Colombian heroin on America's streets. Operation Whitehorse, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) operation, brought together the previously mentioned federal agencies, the Colombian National Police (CNP), and state and local law enforcement in an effort that netted 96 arrests and the seizure of approximately \$1.3 million in U.S. Currency. In essence, Operation Whitehorse wiped out an entire international heroin trafficking organization from its headquarters in Colombia to its street-level dealers in Philadelphia.

U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Marijuana as Medicine (2001)

In November 1996, California voters enacted a medical marijuana initiative measure entitled the Compassionate Use Act of 1996. The measure provided Californians with the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes. The measure created an exception to California laws prohibiting the possession and growing of marijuana by a patient or his primary

care giver who for the patient's medical purposes upon the recommendation or approval of a physician. Several groups, including the Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative (Cooperative), organized medical cannabis dispensaries to grow and distribute marijuana to qualified patients.

Under the measure, a person was required to pro-





vide a written statement from a treating physician assenting to marijuana therapy and submitting to a screening interview. If accepted by the Cooperative, the patient received an identification card entitling him to obtain marijuana from the Cooperative. In January 1998, the United States sued the Cooperative in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California to prevent it from distributing and manufacturing marijuana. The United States argued that, while the Cooperative's activities were legal under California law, they violated the Federal Controlled Substances Act. The District Court issued an order that prohibited the Cooperative from possessing, manufacturing, and distributing marijuana. The Cooperative continued to distribute marijuana and claimed that the distributions were medically necessary. The District Court held the Cooperative in contempt and authorized the U.S. Marshal to seize the Cooperative's premises. The Cooperative appealed to the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The Court of Appeals held that medical necessity is a legally cognizable defense to violations of the Controlled Substances Act.

The Government appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The Cooperative claimed that it was entitled to a medical necessity defense. On May 4, 2001, the Supreme Court rejected the medical necessity defense and held that marijuana has no accepted medical use under Federal law and stated that the Controlled Substances Act reflects a determination that marijuana has no medical benefits worthy of an exception outside the confines of a Government-approved research project.

Operation Marquis (2001)

Operation Marquis, an 18-month nationwide investigation, brought together agents from DEA, FBI, and the U.S. Customs Service, as well as state and local law enforcement officers. The operation targeted a Mexico-based drug trafficking organization responsible for putting tens of millions of dol-

lars worth of cocaine and marijuana on the streets of at least a dozen U.S. cities. The organization was alleged to have brought the drugs into the United States from Mexico into Southern Texas where they were warehoused before being transported to established distribution cells throughout the United States. Operation Marquis brought about the arrest of more than 300 individuals and the seizure of over \$13 million U.S. currency, 8,645 kilograms of cocaine, 23,096 pounds of marijuana, and 50 pounds of methamphetamine.

Operations Caribe and Wirecutter (2001)

These two related investigations, which took place in 2001, focused on money laundering and the Colombian black market peso exchange. Caribe, spearheaded by DEA's Caribbean Division, led to the seizure of more than a million dollars in cash, 347 kilograms of cocaine, 3.8 kilos of heroin, and 15 arrests. Wirecutter, a joint US Customs and DEA Bogota case, also targeted both drug traffickers and the black market peso exchange in Bogota. Wirecutter resulted in 10 arrests, the seizure of approximately 4000 kilos of cocaine, 5.5 kilos of heroin, and \$2,304,843 in currency.

The Cancun Case (2001)

DEA's Merida, Mexico, office played a significant role in arresting Mario Ernesto Villanueva, Mexico's most wanted fugitive for more than two years. As the former Governor of Quintana Roo, one of the wealthiest states in Mexico, Villanueva had created Mexico's first "narco-state," a government that worked for, and with, some of the world's largest drug traffickers. The television show *60 Minutes* dedicated an entire episode to his corruption and his belief that he was untouchable.

For three years, DEA's Merida office conducted an intense, focused investigation that eventually put an end to the narco-state of Quintana Roo and the men who ran it. The two main goals of the investigation were to arrest Villanueva and dismantle the cell of the Juarez Cartel operating in the Yucatan Peninsula and being run by Alcides Ramon, aka El Metro.

Ramon corrupted Mexican officials at all levels throughout the Yucatan peninsula to include Quintana Roo Governor Villanueva. Ramon paid the Governor \$400,000 to \$500,000 for each shipment of cocaine that was smuggled through the state of Quintana Roo. Between 1994 and 1997, the Juarez Cartel allegedly transported between 17 and 27 tons of cocaine monthly through Quintana Roo.

In 1998, after a number of failed attempts to significantly disrupt the Ramon organization, the dedication and determi-

nation of Mexican law enforcement and DEA agents began to pay off. Between October 31 and November 11, 1998, more than 300 million dollars worth of luxurious water front properties, yachts, jet skis, boats, cars and motorcycles were seized by the Mexican Government. In addition, over 115 arrests and/or indictments took place during the course of this investigation. eral law enforcement between the Governments of Mexico and the United States.

Less than a month later on June 12, 2001, Alcides Ramon was arrested by elements of the Mexican military in Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico. The two bosses of Cancun, Ramon and Villanueva, remained in custody at the maximum-security prison "La Palma" in Almoleya, Mexico, as of early 2003.

Caribbean Initiative/UNICORN

The transit of illegal drugs throughout the Caribbean created unique challenges to law enforcement. One of those was an intelligence void about trafficking organizations operating out of the region and a lack of cooperation among law enforcement agencies. As a result, DEA's Caribbean Field Division created the UNICORN system (Unified Caribbean On-Line Regional Network) in 1998 to establish a communications network among Caribbean law enforcement agencies to share information and establish better cooperation and communication regarding drug trafficking activity in the area. This operation was the first step in developing a systematic regional strategy in narcotics investigations. Operation UNICORN led to the development of Regional Intelligence Centers throughout Mexico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. This concept and the global exchange of information eventually spread to 36 countries, including those in Eastern and Western Europe. Using the groundwork laid in UNICORN, at least four major drug trafficking organizations targeted by the international law enforcement community were dismantled.

The first operation to employ the UNICORN system was Operation Genesis, a bi-national initiative to foster and maintain cooperation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Conducted in late 1998, Genesis resulted in 126 arrests throughout Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Prior to this, these two countries had never before coordinated their anti-drug efforts. DEA assisted the exchange of information through the UNICORN system.

Operations Conquistador and Columbus

Operation Conquistador and its preceding operation, Columbus, both used UNICORN to facilitate the exchange of information among counterdrug agencies in the Caribbean area and source countries. Conquistador combined the efforts of 26 countries and embodied the overall objective of developing effective regional strategies to disrupt drug trafficking organizations and criminal organizations. Executed by the DEA's Caribbean Field Division with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard and ATF in March 2000, the operation resulted in the arrest of over 2,000 people and the seizure of almost 5,000 kilograms of cocaine, 362 metric tons of marijuana, and 3,370 dosage units of dangerous drugs.

Operation Columbus, was a multi-national regional enforcement effort focused on air, land and maritime interdiction; eradication; and airstrip denial. The operation, targeting the operations of Caribbean-based drug trafficking groups, had unprecedented arrest and seizure statistics for the region. Involving Colombia, Venezuela, Panama and the island nations of the Caribbean, the investigation brought about over 1,000 arrests and the seizure of 900 kilograms of cocaine and nine kilograms of heroin.



A press conference of recent maritime seizure where 15 countries, DEA, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs participated.

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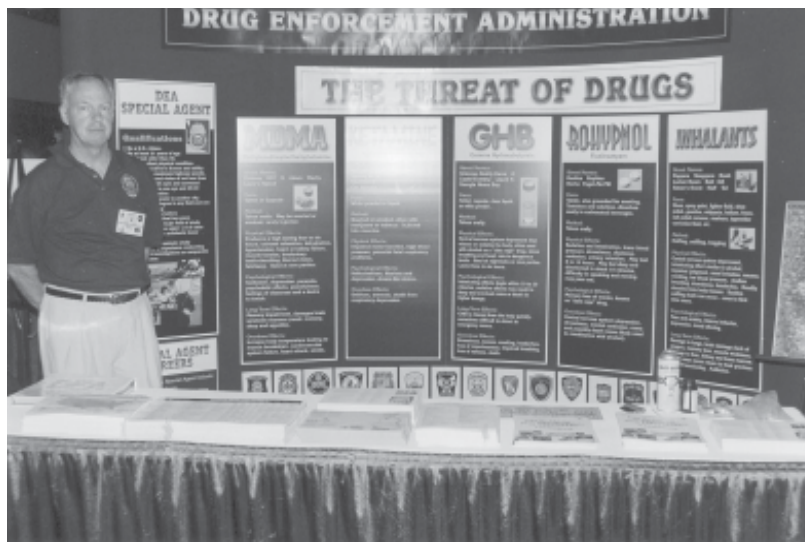
A press conference to announce the successes of joint operations with the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America.

Operation Liberator

In November 2000, DEA concluded Operation Liberator, a multinational regional operation focused in the Caribbean and South America that also achieved success due to UNICORN. The operation, consisting of three weeks of raids, was intended to disrupt trafficking in the Caribbean and South America region, consolidate counterdrug efforts in the Caribbean transit zone, continue development of a regional strategy, and develop a cohesive environment among source and transit countries in the area. The effort, which was led by DEA with the collaboration of 36 countries, brought about the arrest of several leaders of drug trafficking organizations, one of whom was thought to ship two tons of Colombian cocaine into the United States each month.

DEA and Explorers

Since 1980, DEA Demand Reduction Coordinators (DRCs) have worked with Law Enforcement Explorers throughout the country to assist youth interested in “exploring” law enforcement as a profession. This partnership continued through the late 1990s and early 2000s. In some cases, DEA sponsored the Explorer Post. DRCs provided training in the area of narcotics enforcement, community involvement, and general drug abuse issues. The Demand Reduction Section participated in the bi-annual Law Enforcement Explorer Conference as well as in Explorer Leadership Training sessions held at both the DEA and FBI Academies during the summer. The Law Enforcement Explorer Program was additionally a recruitment program, since many Explorers become either police officers or federal agents.



Above: Patrick Hurley mans exhibit at Georgia Tech in Atlanta explaining DEA careers and efforts to reduce the demand for drugs.

Below: DEA Explorer Post 9910 sponsored by the New York Division shows off t-shirts designed for the event.





DEA

Asa Hutchinson August 2001- January 2003

When Donnie Marshall retired on June 30, 2001, William Simpkins, a career DEA agent, was named Acting Administrator. In June 2001, President George W. Bush nominated Asa Hutchinson, a 3rd term Congressman and former U.S. Attorney from Arkansas, as Administrator. He was confirmed by the Senate on August 1 and sworn in as the DEA's eighth Administrator on August 8, 2001.

Before coming to DEA, Mr. Hutchinson represented the third district of Arkansas in Congress. As a Congressman, he was a stalwart supporter of the fight against drugs. He was a member of the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug-Free America; supported tougher penalties for trafficking in illegal drugs, particularly methamphetamine; voted to increase penalties for possessing club drugs, such as Ecstasy and GHB; supported Plan Colombia; and championed drug courts. He gained national recognition as one of the House managers during the Senate impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. From 1982 to 1985, Mr. Hutchinson served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas. He was, at age 31, the youngest federal prosecutor in the country at the time.

At his swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Hutchinson explained his dedication to the fight against drugs. He said, "I have seen the drug war from all sides—as a member of Congress, as a federal prosecutor, and as a parent—and I know the importance of fighting this battle on all fronts...[but] More than experience, I will bring my heart to this great crusade. My heart will reflect a passion for the law; a compassion for those families struggling with this nightmare; and a devotion to helping young people act upon the strength and not the weaknesses of their character."

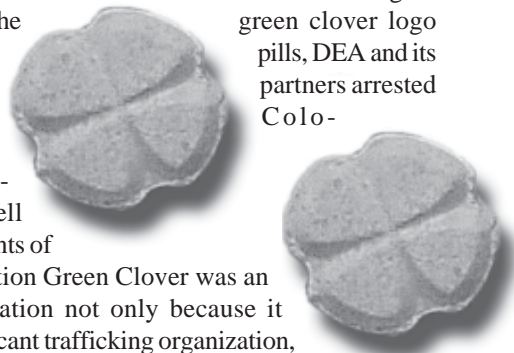
In January 2003, Mr. Hutchinson left DEA to serve as Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security at the new Department of Homeland Security.

Foreign Offices Opened 1999-2003

- Beijing, China—1999
- Hanoi, Vietnam—2000
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan—2002
- Kabul, Afghanistan—2003

Operation Green Clover (2001)

Operation Green Clover was a one-year investigation of an Ecstasy trafficking organization that was a primary source of the drug in Colorado that concluded in August 2001. Named after the green clover logo on their Ecstasy pills, DEA and its law enforcement partners arrested 55 individuals in Colorado and California and seized 85,000 Ecstasy tablets as well as significant amounts of other drugs. Operation Green Clover was an important investigation not only because it dismantled a significant trafficking organization, but also because it was one of the first to call public attention to the dangers of Ecstasy use. The investigation had been sparked by the death of Brittney Chambers, who died on her 16th birthday in Colorado after taking one Ecstasy pill that had been distributed by the organization. Brittney's mother participated in the Operation Green Clover press conference and later opened a teen center to promote drug awareness and alternatives to drug use for teens in Colorado.



Operation Triple X (2001)

In October 2001, DEA dismantled a major methamphetamine and Ecstasy drug laboratory in Escondido, California. This takedown, dubbed Operation Triple X for the logo on the organization's Ecstasy tablets, resulted in 20 arrests and seizures of 48,000 Ecstasy tablets, 1 pound of methamphetamine, 48 kilos of 3,4-Propene (which produce 500,000 Ecstasy tablets) 700 pounds of Camphor oil (which produce one million Ecstasy tablets), 45 gallons of GBL (used to produce GHB), other precursor chemicals and laboratory equipment, and \$429,000 in U.S. currency. This case was important because the vast majority of Ecstasy in the United States was produced in labs in Europe; the lab seized in Operation Triple X was one of the most significant Ecstasy labs ever dismantled in this country.

Operation Landslide (2001)

Operation Landslide, an organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation, resulted in 38 U.S. arrests and five Mexican arrests in November, 2001. Drug seizures from this operation totaled over 770 pounds of heroin, 34 pounds of methamphetamine and three kilograms of cocaine. Thanks to Operation Landslide, U.S.-based drug trafficking cells operating in San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles were revealed.

September 11th Terrorist Attack and DEA (2001)

On Tuesday, September 11th, 2001, America was attacked by terrorists who hijacked commercial airplanes and crashed them into both towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. A third hijacked plane—believed to be headed for either the White House or the Capitol—crashed in rural Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 Americans died in the attack. The terrorists were part of Osama bin Laden’s al Qaeda terrorist network, based in Afghanistan.

The DEA Headquarters building—which directly overlooks the Pentagon—was immediately impacted. Many employees witnessed the plane hitting the Pentagon, and the headquarters building shook from the impact. The building was secured, and employees were immediately evacuated. The Washington Division office maintained a command center. Agents and Intelligence Research Specialists were detailed to the FBI to assist in following up on investigative leads, and other agents were detailed to support the FBI’s efforts at the Pentagon crash site and help with evidence collection. Testing was also conducted to verify the safety of the headquarters building.

In New York, DEA’s office, approximately 40 blocks from the World Trade Center, was secured, and it was determined that all employees were safe. Some agents were immediately deployed to the FBI Command Center, and the enforcement group located at conjunction with Customs, established perimeter security at the airport’s Building 75, which housed various Federal agencies. The New York office also helped with the apprehension and detainment of five individuals suspected to have participated in the attack as they attempted to travel outbound from JFK. The office also supplied technical equipment to help in the search and rescue operation as well as telephone lines to assist in Title III interceptions. DEA further assisted in intelligence gathering, translation of

Operation Perfect Storm (2001)

Initially targeted toward lower distribution cells in the greater Boston area, Operation Perfect Storm identified sources of supply for the Boston trafficking cells. These groups were operating out of New York, New Jersey, and Florida and were already being targeted by federal authorities on unrelated investigations. This multi-agency law enforcement effort resulted in the arrests of at least 144 defendants, the seizure of over 2,700 kilograms of cocaine, 17 kilograms of heroin, and \$3 million in cash.



foreign documents, execution of search warrants, and provision of temporary office space.

DEA's Aviation Division also significantly contributed to rescue and recovery efforts. From September through January, the Aviation Division completed a variety of missions, which included transporting personnel, equipment, and critical blood supplies, as well as providing airborne video and Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera systems. This equipment included technology to detect signals given off by electronic devices such as cell phones. The FLIR camera systems were used to assist the New York City Fire Department by providing thermal imaging technology to determine "hot spots" within the World Trade Center buildings so they could determine where to deploy fire fighting equipment and extinguish underground fires located near subterranean fuel storage tanks.

When Attorney General Ashcroft asked for volunteers from Department of Justice agencies to serve as Air Marshals, over 1,000 DEA Special Agents offered their help within hours of the request. More than 250 DEA Special Agents served as Air Marshals. For 7 months following the attack to increase in-flight security.

As a result of the terrorist attacks, increased security measures were put into place at DEA facilities, such as x-ray screening of visitors, restrictions on vehicles entering the property, and revised occupant emergency plans. Overseas, DEA's office in Peshawar, Pakistan, was evacuated, and DEA's Islamabad, Pakistan, office was reduced to essential staff. Security measures at all overseas DEA facilities were upgraded.

Shortly following the 9/11 attacks, there were anthrax exposures throughout the country, which prompted more security measures in DEA, particularly with mail handling operations. Fortunately, no DEA facilities tested positive for anthrax exposure.

Narco-Terrorism

The drug trade and terrorists have been connected for centuries as various rulers and terrorist organizations have used the vast profits from the drug trade to arm, equip, and train members of their violent groups. However, it was the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, that brought that connection to the attention of the American public. Drug money contributed in part to the ability of the al Qaeda organization to carry out the 9/11 attacks.

DEA defines narco-terrorism as a subset of terrorism, in which terrorist groups participated directly or indirectly in the cultivation, manufacture, transportation, or distribution of controlled substances and the monies derived from these activities. A third of the international terrorist organizations identi-

fied by the State Department are linked to illicit drug activities. For example, in South America, Colombia's two major insurgent groups—the FARC and the ELN—as well as the right wing AUC, are linked to drug trafficking. In Peru, the Shining Path—a terrorist organization—most likely extracts a revolutionary tax from the cocaine base operators.

While DEA does not specifically target terrorists, the agency targets and tracks down drug traffickers and drug trafficking organizations involved in terrorist acts. For example, in January 2002, DEA announced the successful conclusion of Operation Mountain Express III, which targeted suppliers of pseudoephedrine, the chemical essential to making methamphetamine. The operation yielded the seizure of more than 30 tons of pseudoephedrine and arrests of more than 370 people in 12 cities. Many arrested were citizens of Middle Eastern countries who were sending their sizable drug profits back to the Middle East. The DEA investigated the flow of money, and there were indications that some of the money funded terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

Drugs and Osama bin Laden

In Afghanistan, the former ruling Taliban built its financial base from heroin trafficking. They used it as a major source of funding by taxing opium production, lab operations, and the movement of drugs. U.S. intelligence confirmed a connection between the Taliban and international terrorist Osama bin Laden and the al Qaeda organization. In addition, DEA's intelligence indicated that bin Laden was involved in the financing and facilitation of heroin trafficking activities. Afghanistan was a major source country for the cultivation, processing, and trafficking of opiate products, producing over 70 percent of the world's supply of illicit opium in 2000.

Narco-Terrorism Symposium (2001)

On December 4, 2001, DEA hosted a ground-breaking symposium entitled "Target America: Traffickers, Terrorists, and Your Kids" to call attention to the link between drug trafficking and terrorism. The symposium, held at DEA Headquarters, was moderated by Robert Novak, the long-time syndicated columnist and TV political commentator. Hosted by the AFFNA DEA Museum Foundation, a 6-member panel of experts discussed the significant and complex relationships between terrorism and drug trafficking before a full house of invited guests—including Members of Congress and their staff representatives—and DEA employees. Following the event, Mr. Novak wrote a column featuring the event and DEA's important role in the war against terrorism.

Operation Containment

Operation Containment is an intensive, multi-national, law enforcement initiative that was congressionally mandated and is led by DEA. It began in 2002 and was ongoing in 2003. It involves 19 countries from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, and Russia. The goal is to implement a coordinated post-Taliban heroin counternarcotics strategy to deprive international terrorist groups of some of their financial basis for their activities. While each country had unilaterally or jointly conducted similar interdiction operations in the past targeting Afghanistan heroin transporters, Operation Containment is the first coordinated, large-scale operation.

Working to diminish the availability of heroin and morphine base along the Balkan and Silk Road trafficking routes, the operation focuses on interdiction at specific land, air, and sea border checkpoints, intelligence sharing, database connectivity, and collective targeting of drug traffickers and organizations. The operation eliminates duplication of efforts and effectively allocates limited counterdrug law enforcement resources throughout the region. The operation also targets other illicit commodities such as precursor chemicals, weapons, ammunitions, and currency that could be used by terrorist organizations to finance their operations.

Operation Containment also included re-opening the DEA office in Kabul, Afghanistan (which had been closed for security reasons in 1980) and expanding existing offices in Asian and European cities. DEA's communications intercept and intelligence capabilities also grew in support of agencies conducting counterterrorism investigations in the United States.

Operation Containment continued into 2003, and has proven to be one of the most successful drug interdiction initiatives to be undertaken on a multi-regional basis. During a mid-2002 blitz operation, 1,705 kilos of heroin were seized, with an estimated value between US \$28 million and US \$51 million. Also seized were 5,329 kilos of marijuana, 355 kilos of opium, 2,013 poppy plants, as well as significant amounts of cocaine, weapons, cigarettes, and amphetamines. The operation was responsible for collecting much information on terrorist activities in the region.

Just as important, Operation Containment laid the groundwork for closer cooperation among the countries for future operations—the mutual participation of 19 countries in a common operational and intelligence sharing action had not been undertaken before. It is significant that the Russians and Chinese traveled to Turkey for operational planning, the Pakistanis and Indians who were at conflict with one another put their differences aside, as did the Turks, Macedonians, and Greeks to achieve the common goal of depriving violent terrorists of drug-derived funds.



*Left: Destruction of seized drugs
Above right: Concealed Heroin
Above left: Concealed marijuana
Below: Kyrgyz Customs checkpoint*



New Museum Exhibit on Narco-Terrorism (2002)

As a continuation of the effort to educate Americans about the historic and strong link between terrorists and drug trafficking, DEA opened a new exhibit at the Headquarters Museum called “Target America: Traffickers, Terrorists, and You.” The exhibit is housed in a new 1,500 square foot addition to the DEA Museum. Administrator Hutchinson opened the exhibit at a ceremony on September 3, 2002, and was joined by former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and ONDCP Director John Walters.

The exhibit opens with a sculpture composed of rubble and artifacts from the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and it uses the events of September 11th as a starting point for the historic story of the connection between the violent drug trade and terror from the Silk Road in the 11th century to the present. Interactive kiosks allow visitors to follow the trafficking of drugs, the movement of money, and the use of terrorism worldwide. Photo essays and artifacts detail the impact of drugs and terrorism, show individuals and groups responsible for terrorist acts, examine America’s response to drugs and terrorism, and present visitors information on getting active with an anti-drug message in their communities to allow them to deny funding to terrorists.



The exhibit stayed at the DEA Museum through August 2003, then began a nationwide tour with planned stops in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Dallas, and Los Angeles.



Sean Fearn, DEA Museum Director, envisioned the exhibit as one that will travel to museums all over the United States. The first stop will be the Dallas Science Museum, with an opening in September 2003, then to Chicago, Detroit, and New York with other cities to follow.



DEA Turkey Seizes Worldwide Record 7.4 Tons of Morphine Base (2002)

On March 31, 2002, Turkish Jandarma officials, accompanied by Istanbul Resident Office personnel, arrested 15 individuals and seized 7.4 tons of morphine base. The morphine base was discovered beneath piles of hay during the search of a warehouse located in Hendick, Turkey, approximately 120 miles east of Istanbul. This seizure marked the culmination of five days of arrests and searches executed by the Jandarma in conjunction with DEA, targeting a multifaceted organization led by Attila Ozyildirim. This organization was involved in the production, transportation, and distribution of multi-hundred

kilograms quantities of morphine base and heroin. Intelligence indicated that Ozyildirim and his associates maintained strong connections with other significant Turkish traffickers as well as sources of supply in Afghanistan and Iran.

Although large shipments of morphine base and heroin are common in Turkey, according to the Jandarma, this was the largest seizure of morphine base ever in the country. In addition, it was one of the largest seizures of opiates in Europe. During all of 2000, according to the U.S. Department of State, Turkish authorities seized approximately 1.7 metric tons of morphine base. This single seizure is almost six metric tons larger than the annual total for 2000. Given the 1:1 ratio for the conversion of heroin from morphine base, this amount of morphine base would have provided a significant amount of heroin to the European market.

FARC Indictments and Arrest (2002)

In March 2002, the Department of Justice indicted for the first time members of a known terrorist organization on drug trafficking charges. Three members of the Colombian narco-terrorist group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarios de Colombia (FARC), were indicted on charges of conspiracy to manufacture cocaine, then transport and distribute it in the United States. The FARC is a Colombian Marxist terrorist organization whose stated goal is to overthrow the Colombian Government. The U.S. State Department called the FARC the most dangerous international terrorist group based in the Western hemisphere. The organization is heavily engaged in drug trafficking.

In December 2000, DEA's Bogota office opened an investigation of Tomas Molina-Caracas, the commander of the FARC's 16th Front. He was using territory in a sparsely populated area in eastern Colombia controlled by the 16th Front to manufacture and export multi-ton quantities of cocaine. Molina and the 16th Front completely controlled a small village and its airstrip as a center for the collection and exportation of cocaine. By 2000, Molina was manufacturing and exporting between one and three tons of cocaine per month, the majority of which was shipped to the United States and Europe.

During 1999 and 2000, Molina began purchasing large quantities of weapons and military equipment for the FARC. Some

of the transactions were direct trades of weapons for cocaine, and at other times, arms were purchased with cash derived from the sale of drugs. By early 2002, DEA had enough evidence to seek an indictment against key members of the Molina organization. In March 2002, the indictment was unsealed charging Molina, two other members of the FARC, a Colombian cocaine lab operator, and three Brazilian traffickers with conspiracy to produce and export cocaine knowing and intending that it be smuggled into the United States.

In June 2002, Carlos Bolas—one of those FARC members indicted in March on drug charges—was arrested by Surinamese authorities using a false Peruvian passport. Bolas appeared before a magistrate in Suriname, and knowing that he was wanted in the U.S. on drug trafficking charges, Surinamese authorities expelled him and turned him over to U.S. authorities. On June 19, Bolas was transported to the Washington D.C. area where he was arraigned in U.S. District Court.

Administrator Hutchinson explained the significance of Bolas' arrest by saying, "This arrest takes our fight against narco-terrorism to a new level. For the first time we have not only indicted a member of a terrorist organization involved in drug trafficking, but we have also arrested him. This means that narco-terrorists will be held accountable to the justice system and to the rule of law in both United States and Colombia."

AUC Indictments and Arrests (2002)

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the indictment of leaders of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC), also known as the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, on Sept 24, 2002, on charges of trafficking over 17 tons of cocaine into the United States and Europe beginning in early 1997. The indictment was based on a 2 ½-year DEA investigation that gathered witness testimony as well as evidence from Colombia, Spain, Portugal, Chile, and Puerto Rico.

The AUC is a right-wing paramilitary group in Colombia listed on the State Department's Foreign Terrorist Organization List. The AUC operates in most regions of Colombia and is principally funded by drug trafficking. The organization is estimated to have more than 8,000 paramilitary fighters with operations that vary from multi-ton cocaine distributions to the U.S. and Europe, to assassinations, and involvement in guerrilla combat units. According to the Colombian authorities, in 2002, the AUC was responsible for 2,601 deaths and 182 kidnappings and is considered by international human rights groups and the U.S. Department of State to be responsible for 70 percent of the human rights violations in Colombia.

Carlos Castano-Gil was Commander in Chief of the AUC until he resigned in May 2001 to become a member of the AUC's Political and Military Directorate. However, he retained the title of Commandante of the Autodefensas Campesinas de Cordoba and Uraba (ACCU), the largest paramilitary group that fell under the AUC umbrella. For several years, multiple sources of information cited Castano as one of the most powerful drug traffickers in Colombia.

During an interview broadcast on September 8, 2002, Castano expressed his willingness to surrender to Colombian and United States authorities should he be indicted on narco-trafficking charges by the United States. After the announcement of the indictment on September 24, Castano reiterated this stance and said that he planned to surrender to authorities pending the further review of the charges by his lawyer in the United States. Castano also stated that he could no longer remain in a position of authority in the AUC and the ACCU because of the damage that these charges would do to the organization's credibility. As of early 2003, Castano had neither surrendered to authorities nor given up his leadership position.

In a separate DEA/FBI investigation, two other commanders of the AUC were arrested in Costa Rica on November 6, 2002, for their involvement in a multi-million dollar cocaine-for-arms deal. In March 2003, DEA and Colombian authorities conducted the takedown of Operation Pegasus II. This case targeted a large drug trafficking organization with close ties to the AUC Bloque Libertadores del Sur.

Legalization

The small, but vocal minority of drug legalization advocates who had been pushing for decriminalization and outright legalization of drugs for a number of years continued unabated in the late 1990s and early 2000s. These groups, such as the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, focused on the state ballot initiative process as a way to achieve their goals. These organizations are financially backed by several multi-millionaire sponsors and have the means to launch all-out, ill-informed publicity campaigns. While they were successful in a number of states, by 2002, community coalitions across the country were beginning to make marked gains in opposing these legalization initiatives.

Administrator Hutchinson Debates Legalization Advocates (2001-2002)

During his tenure at DEA, Administrator Hutchinson engaged in three public debates about drug legalization. He viewed them as important opportunities to deliver a positive, anti-drug message and help educate Americans about the dangers of drug legalization and drug use. His first debate was one month after taking office when he was pitted against New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson—a proponent of legalized drugs. It was the first time a DEA Administrator formally debated the issue of drug legalization in a public forum. National Public Radio (NPR) hosted the event entitled “Directing America’s Drug War: Which Way to a Safer Society” on September 10, 2001, at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

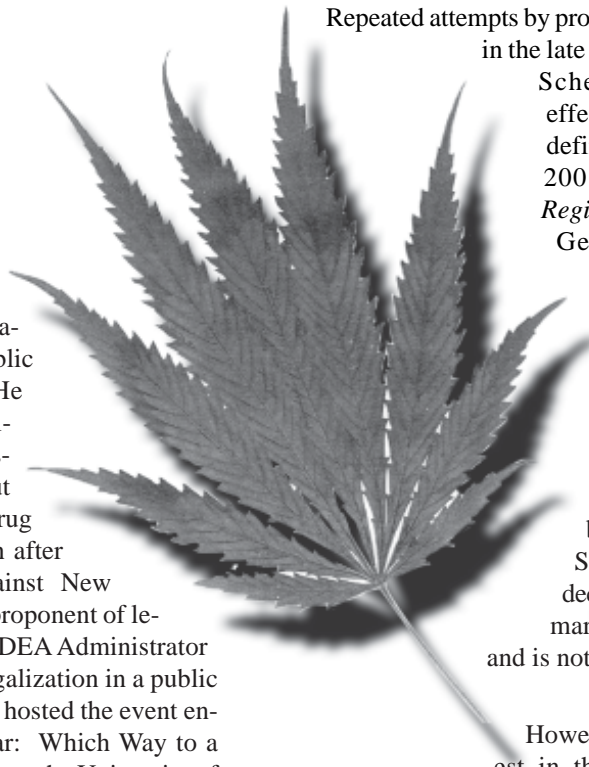
Before a packed house of hundreds of students and citizens as well as numerous protesters, Administrator Hutchinson and Governor Johnson debated the issue and took questions from the audience for 2 hours. Mr. Hutchinson emphasized a balanced anti-drug strategy that encompasses education and treatment in addition to law enforcement. He pointed out the many successes in the

fight against drugs and offered areas where the country could do better. The debate was broadcast at a later date on NPR.

Administrator Hutchinson and Governor Johnson continued the debate in November 2001 at Yale University’s Law School. Mr. Hutchinson discussed the history of illegal drugs, pointing out that the country had legalization in the 19th century, and it was a failure. He also discussed the connection between drugs and terrorism.

In April 2002, Fordham University’s School of Law hosted a debate entitled “America’s Oldest War: The Efficacy of United States Drug Policy.” This time, Administrator Hutchinson debated Graham Boyd, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union. The debate focused largely on the issue of marijuana as medicine, with Mr. Hutchinson arguing that safe and effective medicines must be determined by science and the regulatory process, not by referenda sponsored by the legalization lobby.

Marijuana Research



Repeated attempts by proponents of marijuana legalization in the late 1990s to remove marijuana from Schedule I of the CSA, thereby effectively legalizing the drug, were definitively curtailed with the April 2001 publication in the *Federal Register* of DEA’s denial of the Jon Gettman/*High Times* magazine petition to reschedule marijuana. In January 2001, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) returned a scientific and medical evaluation on this petition and recommended that marijuana and THC continue to be subject to control under Schedule I of the CSA. In its decision, HHS clearly reaffirmed that marijuana has a high abuse potential and is not approved for medical use.

However, in response to national interest in the potential therapeutic use of marijuana for treating the symptoms of a variety of illnesses, DEA registered eight researchers to study the effects of smoked marijuana. These registrations were granted upon close and thorough review of study protocols by an independent review board and panels from HHS and the Food and Drug Administration. By early 2003, neither the medical community nor the scientific community had found sufficient data to conclude that smoked marijuana was the best approach to dealing with these important medical issues. The most comprehensive, scientific-



Above: Special Agent Lowell J. Maxey and Special Agent/Pilot Brian D. Winnell.

cally rigorous review of studies of smoked marijuana was conducted by the Institute of Medicine, an organization chartered by the National Academy of Sciences. In a report released in 1999, the Institute did not recommend the use of smoked marijuana, but did conclude that active ingredients in marijuana could be isolated and developed into a variety of pharmaceuticals.

One of those was Marinol, which was brought to market in the 1980s after DEA granted researchers authorization to work with marijuana. Marinol is a prescription drug containing synthetic THC, which has been found to relieve the nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy for cancer patients and to assist with loss of appetite with AIDS patients. Unlike smoked marijuana—which contains more than 400 different chemicals, including most of the hazardous chemicals found in tobacco smoke—Marinol was proven safe, and its therapeutic value was supported by clinical evidence.

San Francisco Marijuana Raids/Protests (2002)

On February 12th, 2002, DEA Agents confiscated more than 8,000 marijuana plants and made several arrests at a San Francisco cannabis club, known as the Harm Reduction Center. The operator, Kenneth Hayes, was cultivating large quantities of marijuana in San Francisco and Sonoma County and was also participating in smuggling of high-grade Canadian marijuana into the Bay Area.

The arrests received considerable publicity and press coverage in relation to California’s medical marijuana law. The cannabis club was affiliated with the City and County of San

Francisco to provide “medical” marijuana to “patients.” Additionally, one of the arrestees was Edward Rosenthal, longtime contributing editor of *High Times* and *Cannabis Culture* magazines and the author of several “how to” books on marijuana cultivation.

The investigation determined that the cannabis club was engaged in marijuana trafficking in violation of federal law. While the club claimed to distribute marijuana to sick people, it was in fact selling marijuana to anyone. Four operators were charged federally with cultivation, conspiracy, and maintaining a location for drug manufacturing.

Two pled guilty, and as of early 2003, are awaiting sentencing. The third defendant, Rosenthal, went to trial, and his case resulted in a guilty conviction. The fourth, Hayes, sought asylum in Canada.

Coincidentally, on the same day of the cannabis club raids, Administrator Hutchinson spoke before a sold-out audience at San Francisco’s Commonwealth Club, a prestigious public affairs speech forum. San Francisco, caught between conflicting state and federal laws concerning medical marijuana had long been home to intense debate regarding drug laws. Mr. Hutchinson’s visit and the cannabis club arrests prompted public protests from San Francisco residents and elected officials.



When Administrator Hutchinson arrived to deliver his speech, over 200 protestors had gathered outside the Commonwealth Club. Chanting “DEA, go away,” and waving banners, protestors expressed their disapproval of the marijuana arrests. Simultaneously, protest groups launched a “web attack” against the DEA website. They attempted to shut down the DEA site by visiting it repeatedly. The site received 30,000 hits at once, but service was not disrupted. “In many ways, this debate is a good thing,” said Administrator Hutchinson of his not-so-warm welcome. “If nothing else, it shows everyone how important this issue is and it helps the DEA get our message across. DEA must follow the law—we don’t judge what is use and what is abuse. We judge what is legal and what is illegal.”

Speaking Out Booklet and Grass Roots Movement

To get DEA’s message out about why drug legalization would be a catastrophic failure and why marijuana should not be legalized for medicinal or recreational use, DEA’s Public Affairs office initiated an informational campaign. An entire section on anti-legalization was created on the website, which included many materials about the subject. One of the most comprehensive was “Speaking Out Against Drug Legalization,” a 25-page booklet that logically laid out the top ten facts on legalization. It detailed national, international, and local statistics and examples of failed prior legalization experiments and also discussed the many successes of current drug policy.

DEA’s Demand Reduction section also began a new, proactive emphasis on outreach and coalition-building. The agency reached out to other anti-drug and pro-law enforcement organizations already organized and on the ground—those who interacted with the media and public on a regular basis and those who were intimately involved in their communities. The Demand Reduction section’s mission was to pro-actively engage the support of these coalitions. The number of neighborhood anti-drug coalitions in this country was huge, but largely unorganized. DEA made it a goal to help those groups develop a better network of communication to both build local, state, and national support for the fight against drugs, and build local, state, and national support for the DEA.

2002 Election Results on Legalization Initiatives

The results of the grass roots movement supporting current drug policy paid immediate dividends. In the fall of 2002, drug decriminalization or legalization initiatives were on the ballot in several states. The legalization lobby was behind

these initiatives and had greatly assisted with funding, signatures, and wording of the initiatives. Widespread passage was expected, but because of a strong grass roots movement by parents, anti-drug coalitions, and law enforcement, four of the six initiatives failed—showing the American public’s support for drug enforcement. The results were:

- Arizona: 57% of voters killed a plan (Proposition 203) that would have made state law enforcement the broker for medicinal marijuana.
- Nevada: 61% of voters opposed a proposal that would have allowed anyone to possess up to 3 ounces of marijuana.
- Ohio: 67% opposed a proposal (Issue 1) that would have allowed nonviolent drug offenders to seek treatment instead of serve jail time.
- South Dakota: 62% of voters defeated an industrial hemp initiative.
- Washington DC: 78% of voters approved an initiative that would offer drug rehabilitation instead of prison for some nonviolent offenders.
- San Francisco: 63% approved a measure to have the city study growing and dispensing marijuana for medical purposes.

Methamphetamine

From 1999 to 2003, methamphetamine abuse had become a national problem as this drug epidemic spread eastward. Its use was initially mainly confined to the West and Midwest, but has now surfaced in other areas, especially the Southeast. Florida in particular has seen an increase in abuse and clandestine laboratory production. In 1999, law enforcement seized 22 methamphetamine labs in Florida, but by 2002, that had increased to 109. Similarly, 30 meth labs were seized in Alabama in 1999; by 2002, that had risen to 198.

In last five years, there has been a dramatic increase in then number of small, toxic methamphetamine labs in rural communities. While the meth trade is still dominated by Mexico-based traffickers producing the drug in larger “super labs” on the West Coast, the increase in small labs has been significant. The growing numbers of small, dangerous clandestine laboratories has strained communities and state and local police forces. Effective and safe clean-up of these labs is very costly and drains community resources and manpower. In response to this new pressure on local law enforcement, DEA is working with the COPS program to provide state and local law enforcement training to increasing numbers of police officers.

Traffickers' methods of producing methamphetamine and obtaining pseudoephedrine, a chemical necessary to make meth, have changed in recent years. The growing numbers of small labs led to an increase in the use of the over-the-counter "blister packs" of cold and allergy medication as a source of pseudoephedrine. The medications are packaged in such a way that they would be impractical as a source of supply for a super labs where massive quantities of the drug are made. But they have been used more and more by small lab operators.

Canada emerged as a source of supply for pseudoephedrine after DEA's Operation Mountain Express I & II effectively stopped the illegal pseudo trade within the United States. Discussions between the United States and Canada led to

tighter restrictions on pseudo production and transportation in Canada.

In 2002, a new meth threat began to emerge – meth in tablet form, called "yaba," that comes from Southeast Asia. Yaba accounted for only a small percentage of meth used in the United States by 2003, but law enforcement is concerned about its increasing potential for abuse since its appearance is similar to the popular drug Ecstasy.



Operation Mountain Express I, II, and III (2000-2002)

In August 2000, DEA Special Agents stunned the methamphetamine production underworld, arresting more than 140 individuals in eight cities with a promise of more arrests to follow. The arrests marked the first of three phases of Operation Mountain Express. The operation combated the production of methamphetamine by targeting those who produced and illegally distributed pseudoephedrine, a chemical essential to the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Phase One of the operation yielded arrests in Los Angeles, Denver, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, San Diego, Portland, Houston, and Lodi, California. In addition, DEA suspended chemical

registrations of 10 companies, 770 chemical registrations were surrendered, and 29 wholesale chemical companies closed. The arrested defendants faced federal charges for their involvement in a loosely structured national network that trafficked in pseudoephedrine. In the late 1990s, pseudoephedrine (pseudo) had become widely used in the production of methamphetamine because of its ready availability in over-the-counter cold and allergy medications. The operation focused on the transfer of pseudo produced for legal purposes to those who used it illegally to produce meth.



IA Melissa Conway and SA Sean Stephen King examine more of the Mt. Express seizures.



SA Efren G. Lapuz and INS Pat Comey at the Carlesbad Resident Office.

Operation Mountain Express continued with phase two, using information gained in phase one of the operation to identify registrants (physicians or pharmacists who are authorized to handle controlled substances) who were involved in the illegal diversion of pseudo and to cancel their registrations. The rogue registrants were not subject to criminal prosecution, but were prohibited from working with controlled substances.

Operations Mountain Express I & II effectively shut down the illegal pseudo trade within the United States. Traffickers began to look for sources of supply in Canada and the illegal trade and transport between Canada, and the U.S. grew. Operation Mountain Express III was created when DEA pursued this new pseudo trafficking market in Canada. Intelligence indicated that traffickers were purchasing large amounts of pseudo in Canada and then returning to the U.S. with the product, often via the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit. As a result, Detroit and nearby Chicago became hubs of pseudo distribution. From these points, pseudo was transported to California and distributed to meth “super labs” where it was converted to methamphetamine by Mexico-based drug traffickers.

The successful conclusion of Operation Express III was announced by DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson, U.S. Customs Commissioner (and former DEA Administrator) Robert Bonner, and IRS Deputy Commissioner Bob Wenzel. Operation Mountain Express III ended on January 10, 2002, when DEA Special Agents, assisted by the U.S. Customs Service, Internal Revenue Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested 54 traffickers, in addition to the 67 previously arrested as part of the investigations.

Operation Mountain Express did unprecedented damage to the methamphetamine trade. In 2001, there were a total of 6,000 pounds of meth seized by the DEA; the three phases of Operation Mountain Express resulted in the seizure of nearly 30 tons of pseudoephedrine, which could produce 37,000 pounds of meth. The operations also yielded 371 arrests and the seizure of 269 pounds of meth, 151 vehicles, 13 weapons, and nearly \$17.5 million. DEA also tightened regulatory controls over DEA-registered chemical handlers. Legislative initiatives were also undertaken to address weaknesses in the regulatory framework. Additionally, the investigation traced large amounts of profit being sent to individuals in the Middle East, who had possible ties to terrorist organizations.

Methamphetamine Summits (2000-2002)

In the early 2000s, DEA co-sponsored methamphetamine summits across the country in partnership with the National Crime Prevention Council and local communities. These summits were training conferences at which a state, county, or city developed a strategic plan for reducing methamphetamine use and trafficking in the area. The summits brought together hundreds of people from the community who were involved in different aspects of the methamphetamine problem: law enforcement, social workers, school officials, local officials, prevention experts, treatment providers, parents, and environmental firms. The goal was to coordinate these various groups and mobilize resources to prevent and reduce the proliferation of meth and meth labs. Meth summits were held in Sacramento, California in 2000; in Bellevue, Washington in 2001; and in Indianapolis, Indiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; Lexington, Kentucky; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Hawaii County, Hawaii in 2002.

Meth in America Tour (2002)

In the spring of 2002, Administrator Hutchinson launched a nationwide tour to call attention to the country's growing methamphetamine problem. The campaign, called "Meth in America: Not in Our Town" began in May and continued through July 2002. DEA took the tour to 32 states over the course of the 3 months. Many of the stops were smaller states that were struggling with the social and financial impact of the drug.

At each site, Administrator Hutchinson held press conferences in conjunction with state and local officials, and often the tour was combined with scheduled meth summits. The focus was the meth problem in that community and the resources and options available to help combat the problem. Administrator Hutchinson emphasized the federal response to methamphetamine trafficking, but also cited the many innovative actions communities were taking to combat the problem. He also cited the many community coalitions that were impacting the meth problem. The tour received much national and local attention and raised overall awareness of the meth problem and sparked discussions on solutions.

Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program

Since 1980, the Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous waste regulations have required generators of hazardous waste to properly manage their waste. DEA along with state and local law enforcement agencies, become the "generator" of hazardous waste when clandestine drug laboratories—which are generally methamphetamine labs—are seized. As the generator, law enforcement bears the responsibility for ensuring that the wastes from clandestine laboratories are managed in compliance with all applicable health, safety, transportation, and environmental requirements.

The DEA Laboratory System established a program in 1990 to address environmental concerns from the clean up of clandestine drug laboratories. The amount of waste material and chemicals from a clandestine drug laboratory varies from a few pounds to several tons, depending on the size of the laboratory and its manufacturing capabilities. Wastes can be highly toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive and, in some cases, radioactive. These wastes can cause injury and death to laboratory operators, and can cause fires and explosions that can contaminate the interior of homes, apartments, motels, etc.



In some instances, these wastes have been indiscriminately dumped into pits, streams, lakes, septic tanks, and along the roadside.

Cleaning up a seized clandestine drug laboratory can be a complex, dangerous, and expensive undertaking. The DEA hazardous waste program has been successful, however, in promoting the safety of law enforcement personnel and the public, protecting the environment, and minimizing the agency's liability. Through the use of nation-wide contracts, DEA's program promoted the safety of law enforcement personnel and the public by using highly qualified companies with specialized training and equipment to perform the removal of the wastes at the seized laboratory. Using these contractors reduces the risk of injury to law enforcement personnel and the public from the clean up of the seized laboratory.

The program has become increasingly more efficient as DEA gained more experience in cleaning up clandestine drug laboratories. The average cost per cleanup in the FY1991-1992 time frame was \$17,000. While the number of clandestine drug laboratory cleanups rose, the average cost per cleanup continued to go down. Through contract improvements and DEA's contract management experience, the costs of a removal were subsequently reduced to approximately \$4,000 in FY2000 and to less than \$3,300 in FY2002.

New hazardous waste contracts became effective in FY2003. The new contracts include many time and cost saving tools to help address the field's concerns and the dramatic increase in workload. The new contracts are expected to significantly improve the response time by increasing the number of Contract Areas from 29 to 44 and requiring response facilities in each. The greater competition created by smaller Contract Areas and new cost reduction factors should result in additional cost savings for the government, while maintaining strict environmental compliance standards. In addition, the new contracts contain provisions for weekly pickups from containers in states that establish a container storage program and have entered into a Letter of Agreement with DEA to provide this service. DEA began discussions regarding a pilot container program with several states in FY2002 to determine the feasibility and degree of cost savings associated with the approach.



Targeting the Arellano-Felix Trafficking Organization (2000-2002)

The Arellano Felix Organization (AFO), often referred to as the Tijuana Cartel, was considered one of the most powerful and violent drug trafficking organizations in Mexico. At the height of its power, the AFO was responsible for the transportation, importation, and distribution of multi-ton quantities of cocaine, marijuana, and large quantities of heroin and methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico—primarily from Tijuana into San Diego and Los Angeles.

DEA offices in Mexico and the United States, most notably Tijuana, San Diego, and Los Angeles, relentlessly pursued the principal members of this organization in an effort to bring about their downfall. The most prominent members of the AFO were brothers Benjamin, Eduardo, Ramon, and Francisco Javier Arellano Felix; Ismael Higuera Guerrero; Jesus Labra Aviles; Manuel Aguirre Galindo; and Ismael Higuera-Guerrero. Jesus Labra Aviles, long considered the financial mastermind of the organization, was arrested in Mexico City in March 2000 by the Government of Mexico with the support of DEA's Tijuana office. This was followed by the arrest of major AFO Lieutenant Ismael Higuera-Guerrero two months later in May 2000. He, too, was arrested by the Mexican Government in coordination with DEA's Tijuana office.



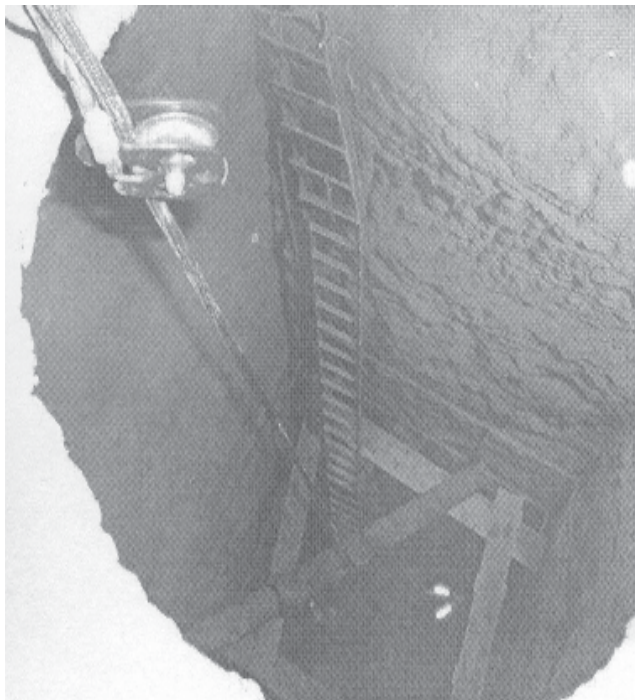
Higuero-Guerrero had been the most blatant member of the AFO directing operations in Tijuana for years.

At the beginning of 2002, AFO was dealt two huge blows: First, its infamous and brutal enforcer and assassin Ramon Arellano Felix was killed in a street fight with drug trafficking competitors and Mexican police, then, a month later, the AFO's overall Chief of Operations, Benjamin Arellano-Felix, was arrested in Puebla, Mexico, by the Mexican Military.

Operation Crossfire (2002)

On April 10, 2002, Operation Crossfire, a bi-lateral anti-corruption investigation conducted in collaboration with federal Mexican Government officials, resulted in the arrest of 42 active federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from Mexicali, Tijuana, and Ensenada. These arrests included the Tijuana Chief of Police, heads of the State Judicial Police in Tijuana, Tecate, and Mexicali; and the Assistant State Attorney General. All of them were assisting the Arellano-Felix Organization.

Drug Smuggling Tunnels



Reports of drug smuggling tunnels increased significantly in late 2002 and early 2003. Traffickers may have increased their use of subterranean smuggling in light of increased border security, either real or perceived. Mexican drug trafficking organizations had used tunnels as a smuggling method since at least 1990. All of the narco-tunnels seized were in California (in the San Diego-Tijuana area) and Arizona (Douglas, Naco, and Nogales). At least 13 tunnels were discovered. Narco-tunnels ranged in sophistication from a 16-inch PVC pipe; to tunnels dug off of drainage systems; to well-engineered tunnels equipped with electricity, ventilation, and rails.

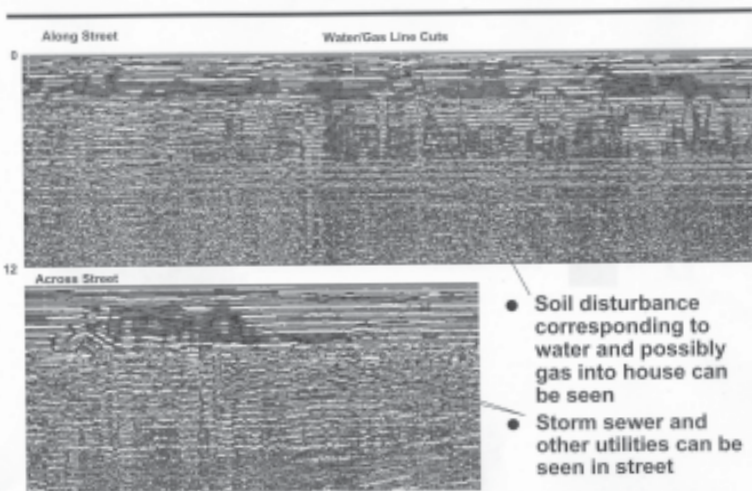
DEA, in cooperation with Mexico's Policia Federal Preventiva, discovered one of the most significant drug smuggling tunnels on February 27, 2002. It was approximately 4 feet by 4 feet, more than 800 feet long, and 20 feet underground. It was equipped with its own ventilation system, lighting, and rails on which an electronic cart moved drugs. The Mexican entrance was hidden behind a fireplace in a home near Tecate, Mexico, and the U.S. exit was concealed under a stairway in a home in Boulevard, California. About 300 pounds of marijuana were seized from inside the tunnel. Ownership of the tunnel was attributed to the Jose Albino Quintero-Meraz organization.



San Ysidro U.S. Border Patrol agents investigating a lead found a cargo truck with 3,3337.7 pounds of marijuana which led to the discovery of a tunnel leading to a manhole and a storm drain located behind the parked truck. The tunnel was one foot underground and led to a small window on the side wall of the manhole. The window was sealed with the cement block that braced a 2 X 4 stud from inside to prevent discovery. The 20-30 foot tunnel led to a wood structure where the direction changed and headed toward Mexico.

DEA S/A Darren Lee, DEA G/S Pedro Pena, U.S.B.P. Agent Greg Torres, and U.S. Customs Agent Taekuk Cho.

95 East Bungalow – GPR Data



Technology has created new methods to locate tunnels.

Integrated Drug Enforcement Assistance program (2001)

In late 2001, Administrator Hutchinson launched a new initiative that grew out of the MET II program called the Integrated Drug Enforcement Assistance (IDEA) program. IDEA combined law enforcement action with strong community efforts to find solutions to the problems that often cause drug abuse and create a welcoming environment for drug traffickers. IDEA was considered innovative because, while many programs focused only on law enforcement or only on treatment, IDEA brought diverse community groups together to work out problems. Instead of MET II's regional approach, it focused on one community at a time. IDEA addressed not only drug problems, but also the underlying issues that are the root of drug use and trafficking.

DEA and state and local law enforcement identified drug trafficking targets and executed enforcement operations. Concurrent to drug enforcement action in a community, the IDEA program provided communities with long-term support in developing and implementing prevention and treatment programs. The goal was to partner law enforcement with community coalitions. Summits were held at each site to bring together large numbers of community-based organizations, businesses, faith-based organizations, parks and recreation departments, schools, drug courts, law enforcement, and community leaders to form new and lasting partnerships and identify problems and long-term solutions. Once enforcement efforts were complete, IDEA encouraged that 15% of law enforcement seized assets be directed to community prevention, education, and treatment programs.

In 2001 and 2002, three sites piloted the program. They were: North Charleston, South Carolina, Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Portsmouth, Virginia. Three additional sites were added later in 2002 and 2003: Springfield, Missouri, Mobile/Prichard, Alabama, and Pueblo, Colorado. DEA provided a full-time Special Agent to each site to work with experts in crime prevention, alternative judicial systems such as drug courts, restorative justice initiatives, drug testing, and law enforcement training. Administrator Hutchinson established an IDEA National Advisory Council comprising law enforcement, judiciary, government officials, substance abuse, and crime prevention experts to consult with DEA on program design, implementation, and evaluation. To support the IDEA program and emphasize demand reduction activities on the whole, Administrator Hutchinson committed to doubling the number of Demand Reduction Coordinators across the country.

The IDEA program was ongoing at all six sites in 2003, and all reported significant arrests and seizures from law enforcement efforts and encouraging results in the prevention, education, and treatment areas. IDEA communities reported increased participation in community drug programs, better

identification of funding sources for anti-drug efforts, stronger and better organized community coalitions, greater awareness of the community's drug problems, and more enthusiasm in solving the drug problems. While IDEA's funding was eliminated in DEA's 2003 budget due to tightening fiscal concerns relating to national security, DEA continued to provide non-monetary support to IDEA communities through its Demand Reduction Coordinators and local offices so that successes could continue.

Drug Treatment Courts

Drug treatment courts are specialized community courts designed to help stop the abuse of drugs, alcohol, and related criminal activity. Non-violent offenders who have been charged with simple possession of drugs are given the option to receive treatment instead of a jail sentence. A judge oversees each case from the beginning and traces progressions and lapses through random drug testing and monitoring attendance to treatment sessions. If a participant fails to meet the minimum requirements set forth by the court, immediate sanctions are imposed. For determined individuals, completion of the program might bring about dismissal of charges, a reduced sentence, a lesser penalty, or a combination of these.

Drug courts have seen rapid growth since their inception in 1989—by 2003, there were about 700 nationwide. Administrator Hutchinson was a champion of drug courts during his tenure at DEA. He visited several drug courts across the country to encourage and support participants and spoke at many graduation ceremonies. Drug courts were a centerpiece of his message that, to make progress in the fight against drugs, it was necessary to heal the addicted—to restore their lives and make them productive citizens again and help reduce the demand for drugs in this country.

Israeli Ecstasy Traffickers Extradited (2002)

Two Israeli Ecstasy traffickers were extradited to Miami in August 2002, marking the first time that Israeli citizens were extradited to the United States on drug charges. The two men, Meir Ben David and Josef Levi, were indicted in October 2000 in Miami for conspiracy to import Ecstasy and possession with intent to distribute Ecstasy into the Southern District of Florida. The investigation, initiated by DEA's Fort Lauderdale office in 1998, revealed that Ben David and Levi were part of an Israeli organized crime syndicate responsible for smuggling large quantities of Ecstasy from Europe into the United States. Ben David coordinated shipments of Ecstasy from Europe into the United States using body couriers and parcel couriers. Levi assisted the organization by distributing Ecstasy at various nightclubs throughout South Florida as well as to other Israeli

Ecstasy traffickers. During the course of the investigation, hundreds of kilograms of Ecstasy were documented as being imported into the United States by this organization.

Operation X-Out (2002-2003)

In late 2002, DEA began Operation X-Out, a multi-faceted, 12-month initiative that focused on identifying and dismantling organizations that were producing and distributing Ecstasy and predatory drugs in the United States and abroad. DEA committed to invest more resources in Ecstasy and predatory drug investigations and increase these kind of investigations from 5% of DEA's total cases to at least 10%. Airport interdiction task forces were increased at certain airports and new task forces were created in cities like New York and Miami that were primary entryways for the drugs. Also created within DEA was a task force that focused on Internet drug trafficking.

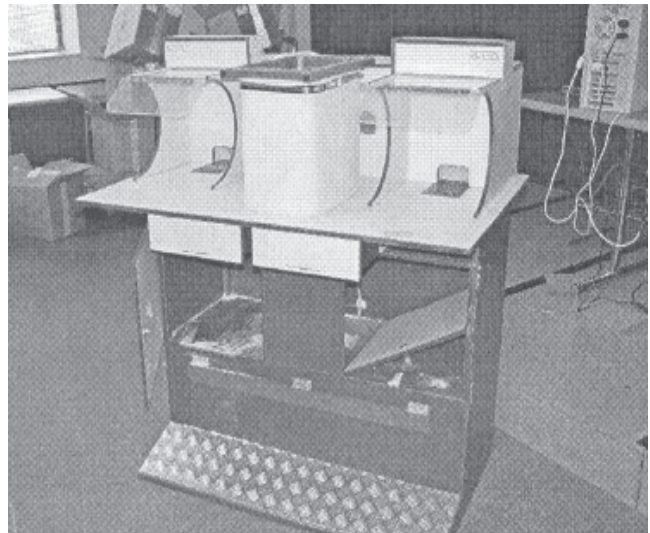
Operation X-Out also included an awareness campaign to educate students, parents, educators, and the health and law enforcement communities about the dangers of Ecstasy and predatory drugs. DEA held press conferences and town hall meetings across the country that focused on enforcement and prevention efforts at the local level. The first was held in November 2002 in San Diego, where Administrator Hutchinson launched Operation X-Out and called attention to the growing problem of Ecstasy and predatory drug abuse. The press conference was followed by a town hall meeting attended by about 300 educators, health experts, students, rape crisis centers, and concerned citizens who discussed solutions to the problem in their community. Similar events were held during 2003 throughout the country, with a particular emphasis on college campuses.

Three Largest Ecstasy Seizures

As of early 2003, the following seizures were the largest made in the country. The millions of tablets involved showed the huge extent to which Ecstasy was being smuggled into the country by international drug trafficking organizations and the drug's tremendous popularity in the United States.

1. In July 2000, DEA and the U.S. Customs Service seized approximately 2.1 million Ecstasy tablets at the Los Angeles International Airport. The tablets, labeled as clothing, arrived on an Air France flight from Paris concealed in an airfreight shipment. Several individuals, who were responsible for overseeing and coordinating this shipment, were arrested. DEA later connected these individuals to a significant Israeli trafficking organization that was responsible for importing multi-kilogram quantities of Ecstasy into the United States. (see Operation Red Tide)

2. The second largest seizure was made by the New York Police Department when they seized 1.6 million Ecstasy tablets from two Israeli nationals at a Manhattan apartment. The pills had an estimated street value of \$40 million and were sold in 100,000 tablet quantities to mid-level distributors in the area.
3. The third largest Ecstasy seizure occurred in conjunction with arrests made in October 2002 by DEA New York. DEA arrested three Israeli nationals in connection with a seizure of 1.4 million Ecstasy tablets with an estimated value of \$42 million. The investigation began by DEA's Belgium office where they received information from Belgian law enforcement about the tablets, which were bound for New York. It was the second largest seizure in Europe.



1.2 million ecstasy tablets seized in New York inside a diamond cutting apparatus.

DEA Website Reaches Millions

In DEA's early years, the concept of internet communications would have seemed like a sci-fi fantasy. But by 2003, in an age when websites are the main sources for finding or providing information, DEA kept up with the demand for a thorough and informative webpage. When DEA's website, www.dea.gov first went on-line in 1996, it contained just a few web files of information—in 2003, the website contained 2,500 files that addressed every aspect of the agency and its mission. The website featured: recent news stories that changed almost daily, current drug facts and statistics, recruiting and training information, and photos of major fugitives. In late 2002, the website expanded to include webpages for each of DEA's divisions. Individual divisions used their sites to promote local drug news and reach out to their communities.

DEA became adept at using the DEA.gov as a way to reach out to the public, to community, schools, the media, and our law enforcement partners. When the site was first created, it had one million visitors. By 1998, the number of visitors had grown to 18 million. In 2002, after a major over-haul of the site and increased efforts to publicize it, the DEA.gov received 100 million visitors. This staggering growth represented continued increase in public interest in the DEA and the agency's improved capability to provide important information to the American people.

DEA World Goes Hi-Tech (2001)

In September 2001, the popular DEA in-house publication, *DEA World*, was distributed electronically for the first time. Switching to an electronic format allowed for quicker and much more frequent publication of the news-magazine and ensured that everyone in DEA would have easy access to it.

The new publication featured many of the same types of stories as the older print version but was much more timely and current. *DEA World* was published on Webster, the internal computer network, and each issue had the appearance of a miniature website. Soon after the first electronic newsletter was released, entries for the new publication poured in from all over the field. Employees were eager to share their local news with the global DEA community. Stories in a typical issue featured successful cases, awards won by employees, community service events, and information about employee services.

This new communication tool serves as a way for employees around the world to stay in touch with each other and to share the agency's news and accomplishments.

Operation Webslinger (2002)

In a first-of-its kind investigation, Operation Webslinger targeted predatory drugs such as GHB and its derivatives, GBL and 1,4 Butanediol (1,4 BD), sold over the Internet. This operation was also groundbreaking because e-mail addresses and web page communications of Internet drug traffickers were identified for Title III interceptions. While not the first time this method of intercept was used, Operation Webslinger was one of the earliest to use Internet intercepts on a national and international scale. These Internet intercepts revealed key information about the traffickers' operations, including their sources of supply and the amount of drugs they were selling. Perhaps most important was these intercepted Internet communications proved the sites were selling the chemicals not as the industrial solvent as advertised, but for human consumption—which is key to prosecuting traffickers under the drug analog statutes.

In September 2002, DEA successfully concluded this operation with the eventual arrest of 175 individuals in more than 100 cities across the United States and Canada. Those arrested were sources of supply, midlevel brokers, and users. DEA and law enforcement partners dismantled four nationwide distribution rings of these drugs, which are used both to induce a high and in the commission of sexual assault. DEA seized approximately 25 million dosage units of predatory drugs and more than \$1 million in assets. The operation had an immediate impact on Internet drug sales, with users complaining in chat rooms they were no longer able to purchase these drugs.

Operation Arctic Heat (2002)

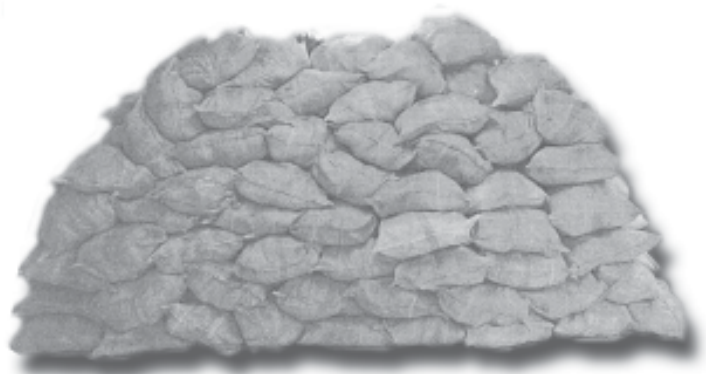
A savvy, flexible drug operation involving Alaskan traffickers was the target of Operation Arctic Heat. These traffickers did business all over the United States, including New York and Los Angeles. In November 2002, DEA Agents arrested more than 60 individuals and seized more than 160 kilograms of cocaine, \$2 million in cash, and \$35,000 in counterfeit money. Seizures also took place in Anchorage, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Salt Lake City, Chicago, and Grand Junction. This drug operation also targeted money laundering and movement of drug proceeds and worked on an extensive embezzlement scheme designed to "smurf" money out of the United States and into the Dominican Republic.

Lebanese Opium and Marijuana Eradication Program Resumes (2002)

With urging and support from DEA and other international drug liaison officers, Lebanon re-engaged their opium poppy and cannabis eradication initiatives in 2002. In February 2002,



the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, assisted by the Lebanese military and the Syrian military, eradicated approximately 7 million square meters of opium poppy in the Bekaa Valley. In August 2002, approximately 9 million square meters of cannabis were eradicated in the Bekaa. DEA Specials Agents, along with other drug enforcement liaison officers, were in-



vited to witness the eradication initiatives. Being in the Bekaa Valley for a DEA Agent was likened to finding the Holy Grail for an archeologist. This eradication initiative was expected to have a significant impact on the availability of heroin and marijuana in Western Europe in 2003.

Operations Pipedreams/HeadHunter (2003)

On February 24, 2003, DEA successfully completed Operations Pipedreams and Head Hunter, a nationwide sweep of major drug paraphernalia distributors and businesses. The coordinated operations netted 55 individuals across the country and seized \$150,000 cash. As a result of this operation, 11 Internet sites were taken offline and redirected. Targeted companies sold half of the nation's supply of drug paraphernalia and accounted for more than a quarter of a billion dollars in retail drug paraphernalia sales annually. Using both traditional retail stores and Internet websites, the distributors were one-stop shops for drug dealers and users, selling everything from miniature scales, pipes, bongs, cocaine freebase kits, and cutting agents to dilute processed drugs in their raw form. Approximately 115 tons of drug paraphernalia with an estimated wholesale value of \$15-20 million were removed from the sites as well.

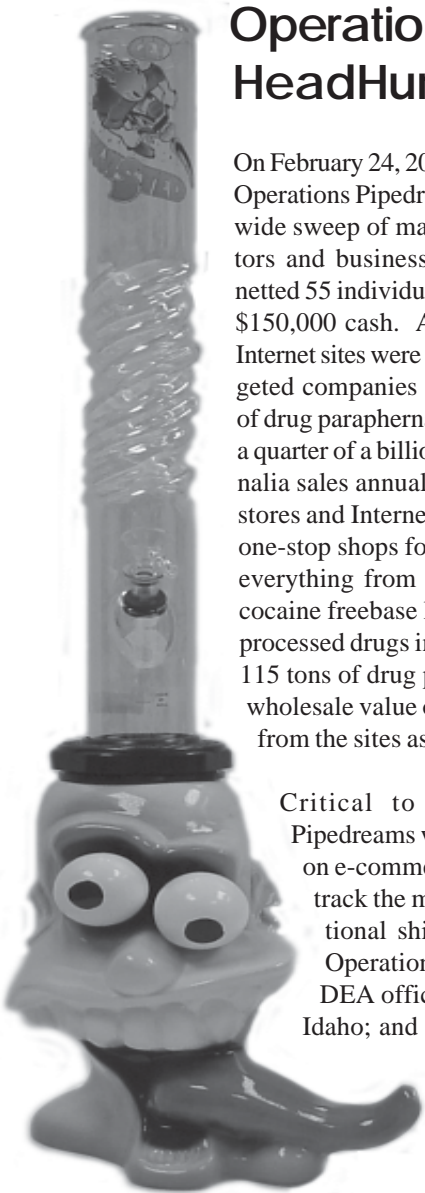
Critical to the success of Operation Pipedreams was the use of Internet intercepts on e-commerce sites and e-mail accounts to track the money and domestic and international shipments of drug paraphernalia. Operation Pipedreams was conducted by DEA offices in Des Moines, Iowa; Boise, Idaho; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Arrest of Osiel Cardenas-Guillen in Mexico (2003)

On March 14, 2003, Mexican officials brought the reign of Osiel Cardenas-Guillen to an end. He was arrested at a residence in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, following a fierce firefight with Mexican police. Before his arrest, Cardenas was the head of a drug trafficking organization that controlled large-scale marijuana and cocaine trafficking through the smuggling corridor between Matamoros, Mexico and Brownsville, Texas. Cardenas had numerous resources that enabled him to maintain 15 to 25 heavily armed bodyguards at all times, protection and support from all levels of Mexican law enforcement, and technical assistance from the Mexican phone company.

Through the combined efforts with the Government of Mexico, the DEA, FBI, and U.S. Customs, the Cardenas reign on the Northeastern Mexico corridor came to a halt. This investigation, called "Operation Golden Grips" was an important arrest because it sent a message to traffickers that violence and intimidation did not protect them from law enforcement.

The catalyst of this operation was the November 1999 assault and attempted kidnapping of 2 U.S. Federal agents and a confidential source. During the assault, Cardenas and 12 to 15 members of his organization, armed with assault rifles, surrounded a vehicle occupied by the agents and attempted to kidnap them and a confidential source who was in the car. Only after an extensive discussion between one of the agents and Cardenas were the agents allowed to leave the scene and travel directly to the border. The agents were followed to the border by members of the Cardenas organization.



Hemp rule (2003)

On March 21, 2003, DEA announced two final rules that address the legal status of products derived from the cannabis plant. These cannabis products, also known as “hemp” products, often contain the hallucinogenic substance tetrahydrocannabinols (THC). THC is the primary psychoactive chemical found in the cannabis (marijuana) plant.

These rules set forth what products may contain “hemp.” Under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), THC is a Schedule I controlled substance. Schedule I consists of those controlled substances that have not been approved as medicine by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The CSA provides that anything that contains “any quantity” of a Schedule I hallucinogenic controlled substance is, itself, a Schedule I controlled substance, unless it is an FDA-approved drug product. Thus, the CSA prohibits human consumption of any non-FDA-approved product that contains any amount of THC.

In some cases, a Schedule I controlled substance may have a legitimate industrial use. The CSA allows for industrial use of Schedule I controlled substances, but only under highly controlled circumstances. The rules announced by DEA create an exemption in the law that removes all CSA regulatory restrictions for legitimate industrial products made from cannabis plants. Exempted industrial products include paper, rope, and clothing (which contain fiber made from the cannabis plant), animal feed mixtures, soaps, and shampoos (which contain sterilized cannabis seeds or oils extracted from the seeds). DEA is exempting these types of industrial cannabis products from control because they are not intended for human consumption and do not cause THC to enter the human body.

The rules prohibit cannabis products containing THC that are intended or used for human consumption (foods and beverages). This approach is consistent with the long-standing rule under federal law disallowing human consumption of Schedule I controlled substances outside of FDA-approved research. The rules became effective April 21, 2003.

International Drug Enforcement Conference

The International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) was established in 1983 in an effort to institutionalize regional cooperation among executive-level drug law enforcement officials from South, Central, and North America, as well as the Caribbean. IDEC is an “operationally oriented conference.” In the earlier years, IDEC served as a forum to discuss country-specific enforcement problems and programs, and later to

topical- related issues. The principal purpose of the yearly conference was to share drug-related intelligence and develop an operational strategy to successfully attack trafficking organizations at every link in the drug chain. IDEC XX was the first conference that included new members as well as observers from Asia, Europe, and Russia.

IDEC XVII: 1999, Washington, D.C., United States “Identifying and Attacking Major Trafficking Organizations”

IDEC XVIII: 2000, Buenos Aires, Argentina “Multi-Regional Investigations and Operations Targeting Major Traffickers”

IDEC XIX: 2001, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic “Multi-Regional Investigations and Operations Targeting Major Traffickers and Their Organizations”

IDEC XX: 2002, Santa Cruz, Bolivia “Combating Major International Drug Trafficking Organizations Through Global Cooperation and Partnership”

IDEC XXI: 2003, Panama, Panama City “International Counternarcotics and Terrorism”

Diversion

Many problems associated with drug abuse are the result of legitimately manufactured controlled substances being diverted from their lawful purpose into illicit drug traffic. By 2003, the number of people who abuse prescription drugs each year roughly equals the number who abuse cocaine—about 2 to 4 percent of the population. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, abuse of prescription drugs was a growing problem.

In 1998, 2.5 million Americans admitted abuse of prescription drugs. By 2001, that had almost doubled to 4.8 million.



OxyContin Abuse

The problem of prescription drug diversion was brought to the attention of many Americans because of the abuse of OxyContin that began in the late 1990s. OxyContin is a twelve-hour controlled release formulation of the Schedule II drug oxycodone, a powerful analgesic. The drug was introduced in 1996 and experienced exponential growth, becoming the number one controlled pharmaceutical in terms of sales by the year 2000. This rapid growth was accompanied by similar increases in diversion and abuse. The number of people reporting use of OxyContin for non-medical purposes at least once in their lifetime increased from 221,000 in 1999 to 399,000 in 2000 to 957,000 in 2001.

OxyContin was being diverted through fraudulent prescriptions, over-prescribing, theft and illegal sales, and “doctor shopping”—the practice of going to different doctors until one prescribes the narcotic the patient seeks. The drug had become a target for diverters and abusers due to the large amounts of active ingredients and the ability of abusers to easily compromise the controlled release mechanism. Simply crushing a tablet negates the timed effect of the drug, enabling abusers to swallow, inhale or inject the drug for a powerful morphine-like high. The Drug Abuse Warning Network reported that emergency room mentions for oxycodone, the active ingredient in OxyContin, were more than 100 percent higher in 2000 than in 1998.

OxyContin abuse appears to have begun in rural areas of the eastern United States, then spread to suburban and urban areas in many parts of the country. Numerous communities experienced an upswing in crime as a direct result of the OxyContin problem. Additionally, medical examiners reported overdose deaths associated with the abuse of oxycodone, the active ingredient in OxyContin.

In response to this escalating abuse and diversion, DEA embarked on a comprehensive OxyContin Action Plan that was implemented in FY 2001. This was the first DEA plan to target a specific brand of controlled substance. It focused on enforcement and regulatory investigations targeting key points of diversion. This plan brought the problem of diversion and abuse of OxyContin to the attention of numerous federal, state and local agencies; advisory committees; and to the general public through meetings, presentations, interviews, Demand Reduction and Internet sites.

The Action Plan had a significant impact. There was a four-fold increase in DEA OxyContin cases opened in FY 2001 over FY 2000. Arrests made in conjunction with OxyContin investigations rose seven fold from FY 2000 to FY 2001. OxyContin cases opened in FY 2001 and 2002 totaled 305, and arrests for the same period totaled 351.

Pain Management Initiative

For years, the issue of adequate pain management was a source of controversy in the medical community. DEA’s role enforcing the Controlled Substances Act and regulating the most powerful narcotics used in the treatment of pain was viewed by some as inhibiting pain medication availability, when, in fact, both diversion control and pain management constitute health issues.

Recognizing the need to reconcile differences and work together to ensure optimum pain treatment as well as drug diversion control and drug abuse prevention, the Office of Diversion Control developed consensus on the issue with 21 prominent health organizations. The result was a joint statement entitled “Promoting Pain Relief and Preventing Abuse of Pain Medications: A Critical Balancing Act.” Emphasizing that patients’ ability to receive proper care, including pain management, should not be hindered by drug abuse prevention efforts, the statement pledges cooperation between the health care community and law enforcement, and states: “The roles of both health professionals and law enforcement personnel in maintaining this essential balance between patient care and diversion prevention are critical.”

The Office of Diversion Control continues with its efforts to strike a balance regarding the use of narcotics to effectively treat pain. On-going relationships have been developed with renowned pain specialists and medical groups to develop educational materials for physicians and investigators concerning both diversion and acceptable medical practices. These efforts were essential and continued into 2003 as DEA confronted complex drug policy issues.

On-line Investigations Project

By the late 1990s and early 2000s, the worldwide web had become a ready source of pharmaceuticals including controlled substances. Many of these sales are suspect because they circumvent the doctor/patient relationship that is necessary for the legitimate prescribing of controlled substances. Realizing that this easily accessible outlet greatly increased the potential for the abuse and diversion of controlled substances, DEA needed to combat this problem in its early stages of development. However, searching the Internet for possible diversion activities was beyond the reach of Diversion Investigators, so it was evident that an integrated, focused, data-mining activity was necessary to identify, collect, and analyze this data.

To meet this need the Office of Diversion Control initiated the On-line Investigations Project. The purpose of the project is to develop a state-of-the-art computer system, maintain a data warehouse to store data collected from the worldwide web, and develop an information management system to manage the collection of web site text, image, and other relevant data from the worldwide web. The project will correlate information, detect patterns through link analysis and uncover trends by sifting through large amounts of data stored in the warehouse to provide constant and timely leads to the field. The On-line Investigations Project is expected to advance the investigative tools available to Diversion Investigators and have a dramatic impact on the ability to conduct investigations on the worldwide web to detect the diversion of controlled substances.

Targeting International Precursor Chemical Diversion: Operations Purple and Topaz, and Project PRISM

Illicit drug production is dependent upon the availability of legally produced, internationally sourced and marketed precursor and/or essential chemicals that have widespread industrial applications. The responsibility for dealing with issues of drug/chemical trafficking is shared by all nations. The ability to prevent chemicals from being diverted from legitimate commerce to clandestine drug manufacture is a powerful weapon in the global struggle against the spread of illegal narcotics and synthetic drugs. As a result, and in response to a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session, the Office of Diversion Control, together with regulatory and enforcement counterparts world wide, embarked on several informal, multilateral chemical control and enforcement initiatives. These initiatives showed marked success in preventing and detecting diversion of key

chemicals used in the illicit production of cocaine, heroin, and amphetamine-type stimulant chemicals. These initiatives seek to identify, intercept, and prevent diversion attempts; identify criminals; gather intelligence on traffickers' diversion methods; take appropriate administrative, civil and/or criminal action; and obtain intelligence on chemical trafficking trends and shipping routes.

The first such initiative, Operation Purple, targets potassium permanganate, an oxidizing agent used in the clandestine cocaine process. Developed together with Germany, Operation Purple brought together the potassium permanganate producing, major importing, and illicit cocaine source countries. The operation tracked every shipment of potassium permanganate from the producing country through any transit countries, and ultimately, to the end-user. The success of this operation—the prevention of diversion of tons of the chemical, identification of “rogue” chemical companies and suspect individuals, gathering of intelligence on trafficker diversion methods, improved regulatory control of the chemical—led to two subsequent chemical targeting initiatives, Operation Topaz and Project PRISM.

Operation Topaz is an international initiative aimed at preventing the diversion of AA, a chemical utilized by traffickers in the illicit production of heroin. Topaz began on March 1, 2001, and is a cooperative effort by drug law enforcement and regulatory officials from 40 countries and regions, as well as the International Narcotics Control Board, ICPO/ Interpol, European Commission, and the World Customs Organization. Based on the premise that the prevention of the diversion of certain industrial chemicals to the clandestine production of illicit drugs is a critical element of any drug enforcement effort, Operation Topaz was developed as a long term monitoring program of AA.

Project PRISM aimed to assist Governments in developing and implementing operating procedures to more effectively control and monitor trade in amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) precursors in order to prevent their diversion. Project PRISM targets multiple chemicals used in the clandestine production of ATS, including ephedrine and pseudoephedrine for illicit production of amphetamine and methamphetamine, and safrole and methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone for production of MDMA and its analogs.

All of these initiatives have resulted in a broad level of international agreement regarding the actions that must be taken to prevent chemical diversion, thereby impacting clandestine, illicit drug production.

Bolivian/DEA Seizure



Dr. Eddie Sfeir-Byron, Bolivian Drug Czar and Vice Minister for Social Defense, along with Bolivian officials witnessing destruction of 344 pounds of cocaine and 17 metric tons of coca leaf seized by DEA and Bolivian authorities.

Aviation

During 1998 to 2003, the Aviation Division recognized the ever increasing role aviation support was in obtaining DEA enforcement objectives. The Division implemented long-term strategic plans in order to provide more effective and efficient service. A component of these plans was an effort to modernize and standardize the fleet.

Older, maintenance-intensive aircraft were replaced with new Cessna 206 surveillance aircraft, Pilatus PC-12 cargo aircraft, and Eurocopter A-Star helicopters. Standardization was reflected in the acquisition of Beech Super King Air cargo aircraft, which replaced other aging turboprops.

The Aviation Division applied the same upgrade policy to its technology by purchasing new day/night video surveillance cameras to replace less dependable, less capable equipment. In 2003, the Division created a state-of-the-art Aviation Communications Center capable of tracking and flight-following all OA assets through the use of high frequency radio, very high frequency radio, and satellite communications. The Center facilitates the maximization of Aviation asset usage and produces cost savings by eliminating the requirement for contractor-flight following.

The Division expanded its representation and support assets in the Caribbean and poised itself for future mission expansion worldwide with the acquisition of a Learjet 60 aircraft. This aircraft significantly increased mission profiles and represented an asset that is capable of global deployment.

National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS)

As the nation's primary agency charged with enforcing the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States, DEA invested in strategic and operational information sources at the Federal, State, local, and even foreign levels. The National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), a DEA program that systematically collects drug analyses results and other associated information from state and local forensic laboratories nationwide, is enhancing DEA resources for carrying out its core mission. NFLIS has proved to be an effective information source for better understanding and monitoring our nation's drug problems. It improves DEA's ability to track national, regional, and local drug abuse trends, including providing timely and geographically specific information on emerging drug problems. NFLIS can also be used to identify specific drug characteristics including commonly reported abused drug combinations.

One of the key advantages of NFLIS is that it collects forensic laboratory data verified by chemical analysis that has the highest degree of validity.

Sponsored by the Office of Diversion Control, NFLIS is the only database available in the U.S. that provides actual and estimate nationwide and regional scientifically validated data on drugs associated with law enforcement activity. Initiated in 1997 to provide reliable data for drug scheduling, NFLIS has grown into a fully operational system with interest from other DEA offices and government agencies. By 2003, 32 out of 50 state laboratory systems and 48 out of 72 local laboratories participated in the NFLIS; over 800,000 drug analyses results were collected during 2001. Participation in NFLIS was totally voluntary, but the ultimate goal is to enlist all of the approximately 300 forensic laboratories.

Training



From 1999 to 2003, DEA's Training Division continued its mission to ensure that DEA employees were provided the technical and professional competencies and ethical and leadership skills to accomplish the DEA mission. This training took place at DEA's new Justice Training Center, which opened in April of 1999 in Quantico, Virginia.

One of the most significant developments at the DEA Training Academy was the establishment of the new Clandestine Laboratory Tactical Training School in Fiscal Year 2000. The course is needed because of the increase in the number of clandestine laboratory seizures throughout the country, with the corresponding escalation of problems confronting state and local agencies that are called to the scene of these laboratories. Often referred to as "chemical time-bombs," these labs present unique dangers to users, neighbors, law enforcement, and the surrounding environment. Often, it is state or local police who first encounter these laboratories and must ensure that they are investigated, dismantled, and disposed of appropriately and safely.

The class is designed for Special Agents and narcotics officers who are involved in clandestine laboratory raids, but had limited tactical training and experience. Their training included the full use of issued equipment including air purifying respirators and self-contained breathing apparatus.

The DEA Basic Clandestine Laboratory Certification School is the most widely recognized law enforcement sponsored clandestine lab training course that met OSHA standards. The Unit also conducted an Advanced Site Safety Officer school for DEA and state and local officers. This school is designed to certify attendees as Clandestine laboratory Site Safety Officers, an OSHA requirement for every clandestine Laboratory site. Advanced assessment and investigative techniques are taught at this school.



From 1999 to 2003, DEA continued its mission to conduct and sponsor counternarcotics training to thousands of foreign law enforcement counterparts. Since 1969, DEA and its predecessor agencies trained officials in more than 243 countries. DEA continued its participation at the four International Law Enforcement Academies, including one in San Jose, Costa Rica, scheduled for opening later in 2003. These academies have been successful in increasing the professionalism of participants through the exchange of law enforcement techniques and investigative strategies and in strengthening transnational crime fighting.

Technology



DEA's secure, centralized computer network, Firebird, which standardizes investigative reporting, case file inventories, administrative functions, and electronic communications, was successfully deployed to approximately 97% of DEA's offices (domestic and foreign) by 2003. This was accomplished in part by the Small Firebird Initiative that provided full Firebird functionality to those DEA offices where the installation of the Firebird desktop was either cost prohibitive or a security issue. Only those offices with security or facilities related issues did not have Firebird connectivity. In addition, Firebird technical refreshment of all division network and shared servers was completed and the replacement of workstations was initiated.

DEA was the first component in the Department of Justice to electronically transmit information through the Department's Joint Automated Booking System (JABS) to the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) through the Firebird Booking Station (FBS). FBS provides rapid identification of individuals under arrest or detention through automation of the booking process and electronic access to IAFIS, with an average response time of 30 minutes; it minimizes duplication of data entry during booking; and it promotes data sharing of arrest records among Department law enforcement agencies and other authorized parties through an interface with the Nationwide JABS.

Investigative Management Process and Case Tracking (IMPACT), an automated case management system, was developed to support DEA Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, and Diversion Investigators in their daily case

management activities. IMPACT was designed to improve mission performance and achieve greater operational efficiency in the establishment, recording, accessibility, and analysis of information pertaining to DEA investigations. In 2003, IMPACT was deployed as a pilot to the Phoenix and Miami Divisions with over 800 field users.

DEA transitioned to a full, on-line Electronic File Room. All Investigative Reports from 2002 forward and millions of earlier records are available for full text search from the desktop of any DEA office with access to Firebird or SFI.

Communication capabilities were improved through the use of Internet technologies and new trusted dial-up communication capabilities. A Web Architecture was developed and used to publish the Administrator's Newsletter, providing improved access to information available on the DEA Website. In addition, by 2003, DEA was using the DOJ/FBI sponsored Law Enforcement Online (LEO) secure dial-up network to provide trusted access to and among federal and state law enforcement organizations.

DEA implemented a Centralized Call Data Delivery system for intercepted cellular pen register data for the field. This system enables each division to obtain cellular call data

without the need to establish a dedicated connection to individual cellular companies, thus generating substantial cost savings to DEA.

Laboratories

Reaccreditation (1999)

In 1999, the Office of Forensic Sciences' laboratory system was reaccredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). The first accreditation was completed in 1994. This accomplishment was significant because DEA laboratories were recognized as conforming to national and international technical and operational standards. The areas of forensic drug analysis, fingerprint examination and Source Determination Program analysis (tablet and capsules toolmark examinations) were the technical specialties accredited by ASCLD/LAB.

Strategic Planning Conference (2000)

In 2000, the Office of Forensic Sciences held a Strategic Planning Conference at the Justice Training Center in Quantico, Virginia. Attendees focused on analyzing the needs and expectations of the DEA Laboratory System's many customers and developing ways to meet them. Specific goals, objectives, and strategies to improve service, strengthen the organizational structure, utilize technology more effectively, and to obtain additional facilities and resources were identified. The resulting Strategic Plan helped the laboratory system position itself over the next five years to meet future expected, and unexpected, challenges in the coming decade.

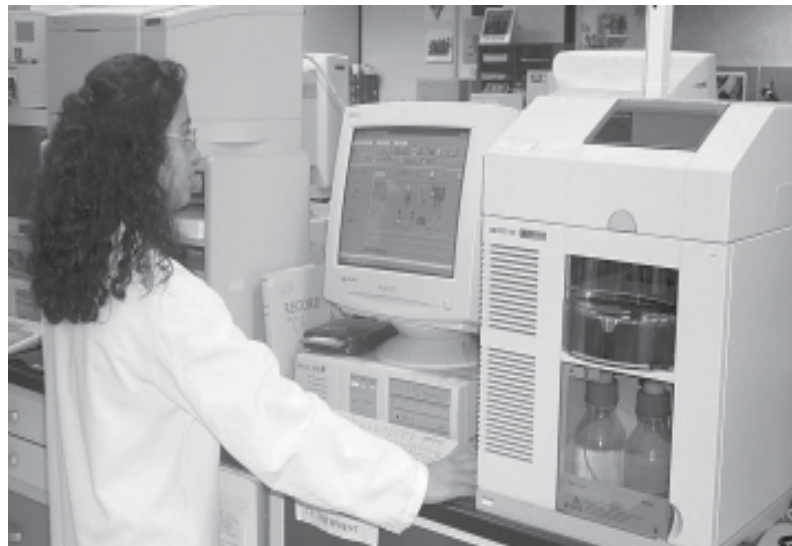
The International Drug Profiling Conference (2002)

The International Drug Profiling Conference (IDPC) convened in December 2002 and was the first-ever forensic science conference to bring delegates together to define and standardize "drug profiling" to meet the enforcement and intelligence requirements of international drug law enforcement. The IDPC was comprised of delegates from the United States, Australia, Great Britain, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Hong Kong, the United Nations Drug Control Program, and The Netherlands. The first IDPC ended with an agreement among delegates that they would set realistic and achievable goals that could be implemented internationally. By consensus, the first two goals the delegates chose to pursue were the development of drug profiling databases and the development of programs dealing with the profiling of heroin and Amphetamine Type Substances.



New DEA Laboratory Construction (2002 and 2003)

During 2002 and 2003, DEA replaced four of its aging laboratory facilities—three regional laboratories and the Special Testing and Research Laboratory. The four new state-of-the-art laboratories are located in Dallas, Texas; Dulles, Virginia; Largo, Maryland; and Vista, California. These newly constructed multimillion-dollar modern laboratories are capable of providing a full line of analytical support to drug law enforcement agents.



Laboratory System Reorganization (2003)

In 2003, through the support of DEA's Executive Management, several changes were implemented that were identified as critical needs in the Laboratory System's FY2000-2005 Strategic Plan. The changes included reorganizing the Office of Forensic Sciences to create a Quality Assurance Manager position and a second Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator position at Headquarters. The reorganization also affected the laboratories by creating an Associate Laboratory Director position in each laboratory and by creating a new Digital Evidence Laboratory for the forensic examination of digital evidence.

Creation of DEA's Digital Evidence Laboratory (2003)

DEA's commitment to supporting its drug investigations in the 21st Century achieved a major milestone with the February 2003 establishment of a Digital Evidence Laboratory within its Office of Forensic Sciences. In the short period of just nine years, DEA built a world class digital forensic program from what first started out as a small engineering pro-



gram, that is capable of handling the full range of digital evidence including computers, servers, Personal Digital Assistants, Global Positioning System navigational devices, satellite phones, two-way pager devices, and cell phones. This new laboratory provides needed forensic support at the field level to acquire digital evidence from drug investigations thereby leaving no stone unturned. The elevation of the digital evidence function to a laboratory status organizational level reflects the present and future importance that this relatively new forensic science plays in DEA investigations in the new millennium.



The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs

The mission of the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) is to recommend minimum standards for the forensic examination of seized drugs and seek their international acceptance. SWGDRUG is a cooperative effort between the DEA's Office of Forensic Sciences and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to address the following:

- Recommend minimum standards for forensic drug analysts' knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- Promote the professional development of forensic drug analysts.
- Provide a means of information exchange within the forensic drug analyst community.
- Promote the highest ethical standards of practitioners in all areas of forensic drug analysis.
- Recommend minimum standards for drug examinations and reporting.
- Establish quality assurance recommendations.
- Seek international acceptance of SWGDRUG minimum standards.

The SWGDRUG core committee is comprised of representatives from federal laboratories and regional forensic science associations in the United States, the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), the United Nations Drug Control Program, Australia, Great Britain, Japan, Canada and Germany. A forensic science educator and a representative from an internationally recognized standards writing organization also participate on the committee. The SWGDRUG process evolved since 1997 to be recognized as one of the most successful scientific working groups in the world.

Sub-Regional Laboratories and Mobile Operations

DEA's first sub-regional laboratory became operational in FY 1997 in support of the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). This laboratory was established to bring

analytical and support services closer to the source of illicit drug activity—clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine. In 1999, the laboratory was relocated from the Food and Drug Laboratory in Kansas City, Kansas, to the Kansas City Regional Crime Laboratory in Kansas City, Missouri.

In Fiscal Year 1999, DEA opened a second sub-regional laboratory in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This laboratory provides analytical and support services to the Caribbean Division as well as other federal agencies within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This laboratory is collocated with the Food and Drug Administration Laboratory.

In Fiscal Year 2000, DEA took delivery of a 38-foot mobile laboratory. Equipped with a fume hood, bench space, support infrastructure, and appropriate analytical instrumentation, the laboratory is capable of operation by either shore-power through a 100 amp, 200 volt shore line or an on-board diesel generator. In early 2001, the mobile laboratory was deployed to Tucson, Arizona, where two chemists provided additional forensic support along the Southwest Border of the United States. In late 2002, the mobile laboratory was moved to El Paso, Texas to provide much needed forensic laboratory support in that region.

Microgram

The 35th Anniversary Issue of *Microgram* was published in 2002. This periodical has progressed from a sporadically published "communication" from the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control and Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in the late 1960s to the dawn of electronic posting by the DEA in the 21st century. By 2003, over 1,400 offices around the world received *Microgram* each month.

In FY 2002, the Office of Forensic Sciences determined that there was a need to convert *Microgram* into two separate publications entitled *Microgram Bulletin* and *Microgram Journal*. *Microgram Bulletin* includes all the material previously included in *Microgram*, except scientific articles. Additional and/or expanded information was also incorporated into *Microgram Bulletin*. *Microgram Journal* is a quarterly journal dedicated solely to the publication of scientific articles on the detection and analysis of suspected controlled substances for forensic/law enforcement purposes. It was the intent of the Editor and the Office of Forensic Sciences that *Microgram Journal* become a premier scientific journal in this discipline.

Additionally, starting with the January 2003 issues, the *Bulletin* and the *Journal* moved from a law enforcement restricted status to an open, unclassified status, and both were posted on DEA's Internet website.

Inspections

DEA's Inspection Division is responsible for maintaining the integrity of DEA and providing security for its employees. DEA's integrity system is comprised of three primary components within the Inspection Division: the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), the Office of Inspections, and the Office of Security Programs.

Technological upgrades and resource enhancements were acquired, enabling the Inspection Division to more effectively and efficiently carry out its mandate. The vulnerability of our infrastructure was made evident by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The challenges posed by terrorism and new technology available to criminals were matched by DEA's security apparatus.

DEA remained committed to ensuring the integrity and professionalism of its employees and thoroughly investigated all credible allegations of employee misconduct. In October 2000, OPR opened a field office in Dallas, Texas. DEA's presence along the Southwest Border and the power and influence of drug trafficking organizations that operate in this area necessitated the expansion of OPR there.

The Office of Inspections, through the annual Division Inspection Program (DIP) and the three-year cyclical on-site inspection process, ensures that managers maintain the highest-level of operational, financial, and organizational integrity, as well as compliance with internal and external controls, policies and procedures, Federal laws, and sound auditing practices. IN investigates all shooting incidents related to DEA Special Agents and DEA-sponsored State and Local Task Force Law Enforcement personnel to determine the circumstances involved and accountability of an incident. Due to a major IN organizational realignment and the establishment of the DIP and cyclical on-site processes, IN assisted managers in identifying issues that improved operational and financial efficiency and effectiveness in all DEA program areas and offices.

The most dramatic changes in the Inspection Division were in the Office of Security Programs (IS). This office experienced significant growth in recent years. By the end of 1997, the office had a staff of 28 employees. As of spring 2003, the staff had expanded six-fold to 189 employees and contractors. The office is now divided into three sections: Information Security, Physical Security, and Personnel Security—each headed by a Supervisory Special Agent.

IS provides a wide variety of continuing security services and equipment to the entire agency and also inspects and issues compliance orders to headquarters, domestic and foreign offices with regard to security and safety. Furthermore, with the expansion, IS offers more specialized, technically forward services and operations.

As of 2003, IS has several initiatives in progress, including an aggressive reinvestigation program and intrusion detection system. This system has auditing capabilities to monitor the utilization of computer systems, which enhances early detection of integrity-related issues.

Killed in the Line of Duty



Royce D. Tramel
Died on August 28, 2000

DEA Special Agent Tramel was assigned to the Dallas Office. He was struck by a car and killed.



Alice Faye Hall-Walton
Died on March 1, 2001

Diversion Investigator Hall-Walton was assigned to the Dallas office. She was killed in an automobile accident.