

**STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE MICHELE LEONHART, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE  
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**March 26, 2009**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Good afternoon, and thank you for inviting me to testify on behalf of the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Budget request for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). I welcome this opportunity to represent DEA and I look forward to working closely with you over the coming months. DEA greatly appreciates the support you have shown for our agency in prior budget years, and we look forward to continuing that relationship as we work together in the future.

DEA is the world's leading drug enforcement agency with more than 9,000 employees working in 227 domestic offices and 63 foreign countries. As the only single-mission federal agency dedicated to drug law enforcement, DEA is an organization of individuals who are committed to this nation's fight against drug trafficking, money laundering, and narcoterrorism. The President has proposed a FY 2010 budget request that will provide the critical resources necessary to reduce the availability of illegal drugs and the diversion of licit drugs and precursor chemicals in America.

DEA's enforcement efforts extend from beginning to end – from the time and place the illegal drugs are cultivated or manufactured, through their transportation routes, and on to their final distribution in our nation's communities. Drug crimes are far reaching – the battle extends well beyond our borders into foreign lands, and even into cyberspace. And the work is dangerous – drug traffickers can be ruthless, as demonstrated by the shocking display of drug-related violence in Mexico and narco-trafficking in Afghanistan. But DEA is making great strides against these criminals and by doing so we are also supporting the war against global terrorism.

I will discuss some of our major accomplishments from the past year – operational successes that are the result of hard work and dedication. I will also talk about our strong domestic and international partnerships that bring us great pride, briefly discuss the Southwest Border, and highlight some performance statistics that demonstrate our impact. I will conclude with a summary of the road that lies ahead for DEA.

## Operational Successes

DEA's mission is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States. To this end, DEA Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, and Diversion Investigators build cases that target the individuals and organizations involved in growing, manufacturing, and distributing controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States. DEA's accomplishments over the past year are many. For the sake of time, I will highlight just a few of them.

DEA achieved several major victories against the Mexican drug cartels this year. For example, in February 2009, DEA concluded *Operation Xcellerator*, a 21-month multi-agency investigation targeting the Sinaloa Cartel. The Sinaloa Cartel dominates much of the drug smuggling on the Southwest Border and is responsible for bringing multi-ton quantities of cocaine and marijuana from Mexico into the United States through an enterprise of distribution cells in the United States and Canada. Furthermore, the Sinaloa Cartel is responsible for laundering hundreds of millions of dollars in criminal proceeds from illegal drug trafficking activities. As of February 25, 2009, *Operation Xcellerator* has led to the arrest of 781 individuals and the seizure of approximately \$61 million in U.S. currency and \$10 million in drug related assets. Additional seizures include more than 12.5 metric tons of cocaine, more than 8 metric tons of marijuana, more than 1,200 pounds of methamphetamine, approximately 1.5 million pills of Ecstasy, and 191 weapons. As DEA's most focused attack against the Sinaloa Cartel to date, *Operation Xcellerator* demonstrates DEA's relentless efforts to disrupt and dismantle major drug cartels.

**Project Reckoning** is an ongoing multi-operational initiative targeting the Gulf Cartel. The Gulf Cartel and its former enforcement arm, known as the Zetas, are responsible for a large proportion of the drug-related violence in Mexico and, like the rival Sinaloa Cartel, are responsible for bringing multi-ton quantities of cocaine and marijuana from Mexico into the United States. To date, Project Reckoning has led to the arrest of 632 individuals, the indictment of the entire upper echelon of the Gulf Cartel, including Jaime Gonzalez Duran, aka "Hummer", and the seizure of over \$71.8 million in U.S. currency, with an additional \$17 million in other assets seized. Drug seizures include more than 17 metric tons of cocaine, more than 64,000 pounds of marijuana, more than 1,300 pounds of methamphetamine and 19 kilograms of heroin. Two hundred and twenty-five weapons were also seized, which included explosive devices and weapons capable of fully automatic fire. Additionally, approximately two days prior to his arrest, a personal weapons cache belonging to Duran was seized in Mexico in November 2008. The cache consisted of 540 assault rifles, more than 500,000 rounds of ammunition, 150 grenades, 14 cartridges of dynamite, 98 fragmentation grenades, 67 bulletproof vests, seven Barrett .50-caliber sniper rifles, and a Light Anti-Tank rocket.

The **Drug Flow Attack Strategy (DFAS)** is a multifaceted initiative that has contributed to the DEA's international success. This innovative, multi-agency strategy is designed to significantly disrupt the flow of drugs, money, and precursor chemicals between the source zones and the United States. DFAS attacks vulnerabilities in the

supply chains, transportation systems, and financial infrastructure of major drug trafficking organizations. The strategy also calls for aggressive and thoroughly coordinated enforcement operations with host-nation counterparts in source and transit zones around the world.

*Operation All Inclusive (OAI)* is the primary DFAS enforcement operation in the Western Hemisphere transit zones. *OAI* is a combination of sequential and simultaneous land, air, maritime, and financial attacks, guided by intelligence and synchronized with other agencies to disrupt the illicit trafficking patterns and the drug trafficking organizations themselves. Iterations of *OAI* have been staged annually since 2005, and the results have been significant.

*OAI 2008* ran from January 15 to October 20, 2008, and involved DEA, the Joint Interagency Task Force-South, Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency's Crime and Narcotics Center, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and a number of host nation counterparts. *OAI 2008* focused on disrupting the flow of drugs, chemicals and money from the source zone in South America, through the transit zone of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, and into the United States. This iteration of *OAI* expanded the geographical coverage to include portions of the Southwest Border and the Andean Region, including Peru, Brazil and Bolivia.

The overwhelming success of *OAI 2008* can be measured by the seizure of 100 metric tons of cocaine; the seizure of more than \$92 million in U.S. currency/assets; and the arrest of Consolidated Priority Organization Targets Jorge Mario Paredes-Cordova and Eduardo Arellano-Felix, and Priority Targets Luis Urbina-Amaya, Lester Marina-Pastor, and Juan Rivera-Perez. Additional highlights include the seizure of an underground weapons training facility in Tijuana, Mexico controlled by the Arellano-Felix drug trafficking organization; a single seizure of almost \$12 million in U.S. currency from a containerized cargo shipment seized at the Port of Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico; and the first-ever seizure by the Mexican Navy of a self-propelled semi-submersible smuggling vessel off the Pacific Coast of Mexico. From this vessel, a total of 5.8 metric tons of cocaine was seized and four Colombian nationals were arrested.

As mentioned previously, DEA's enforcement initiatives support and augment U.S. efforts against terrorism by denying drug trafficking and money laundering routes to foreign terrorist organizations, and by preventing the barter of drugs for munitions destined to support terrorism. DEA's global alliances and broad intelligence network also put us in a unique position to share valuable law enforcement information with members of the Intelligence Community. Let me cite just a few recent examples in which DEA investigations led to the arrest of major **narco-terrorists** and **international arms traffickers**:

- Khan Mohammed was captured for drug trafficking in October 2006 by the National Interdiction Unit of the Counter Narcotics Police – Afghanistan and

DEA's Foreign-deployed Advisory and Support Team (FAST) in Nangarhar Province. On May 15, 2008, Khan Mohammed was convicted on charges in violation of 21 USC 959 and 960a. Mohammed was sentenced to two life sentences. This represented the first instance in which a defendant was convicted in U.S. federal district court of narco-terrorism since the statute was enacted in 2005.

- On October 23, 2008, Haji Juma Khan (HJK) was arrested in Indonesia based on an international arrest warrant stemming from a narco-terrorism (21 USC 960a) indictment in the Southern District of New York. HJK was placed into DEA custody and transported to New York where he awaits trial. HJK is one of the world's most significant heroin and opium traffickers, who provided direct support to the Taliban from his drug trafficking revenue.
- Since the early 1970s, Monzer Al Kassar has supplied weapons and military equipment to armed factions engaged in violent conflicts in Nicaragua, Brazil, Cyprus, Bosnia, Croatia, Somalia, Iran, and Iraq. Some of these factions have included known terrorist organizations, such as the Palestinian Liberation Front. In June 2007, based on a multinational DEA investigation coordinated by DEA's Special Operations Division, Al Kassar was arrested in Madrid, Spain on U.S. charges of conspiring to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC). Al Kassar was extradited from Spain to the U.S. in June 2008 and his November 2008 trial concluded with his conviction on all counts. Of note, Al Kassar financed and supplied the weapons that were used in the 1985 Achille Lauro cruise ship high-jacking. These weapons were used to shoot wheelchair bound U.S. citizen, Leon Klinghoffer, in the head. His body was then dumped overboard. Until Al Kassar's conviction on November 2008, none of the terrorists involved in Mr. Klinghoffer's murder had been brought to justice in the United States. On February 24, 2009, Al Kassar was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Furthermore, Al Kassar was ordered to forfeit all foreign and domestic assets, including his mansion in Marbella, Spain.
- Viktor Bout first became known in the 1990s as a major weapons trafficker to a number of wars and armed conflicts in Africa. More recently, he was suspected of supplying weapons to the Taliban and Al Qaeda. In March 2008, Bout, also known as the "Merchant of Death", met with DEA cooperating sources in Bangkok, Thailand and agreed to a multi-million dollar deal that involved the sale of weapons to the Colombian narco-terrorist group, the FARC. Thai authorities, in cooperation with DEA, arrested Bout without incident. DEA's nine-month investigation into Bout spanned multiple countries, including Curacao, Copenhagen, Romania, Russia, and Thailand, and led to his May 2008 indictment in the Southern District of New York on charges of conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals and U.S. officers or employees, to acquire and use an anti-aircraft missile, and to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign

terrorist organization. The United States is actively pursuing Bout's extradition from Thailand.

DEA's presence in Afghanistan is also making a major contribution to our country's efforts to stabilize that nascent democracy. In May and June 2008, DEA directed a two-phase investigation that involved DEA's FAST personnel working in coordination with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. *Operation Albatross* was also supported by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force (NATO-ISAF), the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of State. On June 9, 2008, search warrants were executed on five narcotics super-labs and numerous underground drug-bunkers in Spin Boldak, a Taliban-controlled area located in Kandahar Province. The operation resulted in the dismantlement of a super-lab complex and numerous drug bunkers, and the seizure of 238 tons of hashish. This is the largest hashish seizure the world has ever seen and was valued at approximately \$600 million. Twelve suspects were also arrested as a result of *Operation Albatross*. In September 2008, six individuals involved in the case were convicted on narcotics charges in Afghanistan and sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

### International and Domestic Partnerships

None of our operational successes would be possible without the valuable partnerships that DEA has cultivated with our foreign and domestic counterparts. The following are just a few examples of the ways in which the United States benefits from DEA's strong working relationships with countries around the world and agencies across the country:

In FY 2008, DEA expanded its international presence in **Southwest Asia** to better attack drug trafficking and narcoterrorism by creating DEA's eighth foreign region. This new region, which covers Afghanistan and Pakistan, will enhance our ability to target and investigate the most significant and notorious drug trafficking organizations operating in that part of the world. DEA operations in Afghanistan serve a dual purpose: preventing the country from once again becoming a major supplier of heroin to the United States, as it was in the 1970s and 1980s, and helping stabilize the Afghanistan government as it battles the powerful drug warlords for control of portions of the country.

DEA's presence in Afghanistan reduces the amount of illicit drugs that are trafficked from the country, helps develop the capacity of the Afghans to conduct counterdrug operations themselves and supports and augments U.S. efforts against insurgents and terrorism, all of which aid in the long-term stabilization of the country and the region.

Fear of **extradition** to the U.S. is a powerful tool in combating international drug traffickers. Our country has excellent extradition relationships with many nations, and DEA makes use of these arrangements whenever possible. As examples, Colombia continues to remain the number one extradition partner of the United States, and Mexico is now extraditing drug criminals at record rates:

- Since December 17, 1997, when the Colombian Constitution was amended to allow extradition of Colombian nationals, through December 2008, the Government of Colombia has extradited 815 fugitives to the United States.
- Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Velez has taken on the FARC and the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC) at unprecedented levels, expelling AUC leaders, and taking the fight to the FARC. In particular, Colombia extradited 14 alleged members the AUC, a former paramilitary and drug-trafficking group, to the U.S. on May 13, 2008.
- Mexican President Felipe Calderon has taken on corruption and drug trafficking at every level, and has ordered the extradition of unprecedented numbers of drug criminals to the United States from each of the four major cartels, including the leader of the notorious Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cardenas-Guillen. Since taking office in December of 2006, President Calderon has extradited more than 190 criminal defendants to the U.S. In 2008, Mexican authorities extradited 95 individuals to the United States, a record number for the seventh consecutive year.
- In February 2009, Mexico extradited Miguel Caro-Quintero, a high-level leader of the Sonora cartel and younger brother and associate of Rafael Caro-Quintero, the mastermind behind the kidnapping and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena in March 1985.

The United States' Southwest Border is the primary arrival zone for most illicit drugs smuggled into our country and it is a region where violence from the warring Mexican drug cartels is rampant. For these reasons, DEA has identified the Southwest Border as a major focus area and also because the possibility exists for terrorist organizations to use established drug smuggling routes to transport dangerous individuals or weapons of mass destruction into the United States. Given this triple threat of illegal drugs, violence, and terrorism, DEA's efforts along the Southwest Border are now more critical than ever to maintaining national security.

The **El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)** is a national tactical intelligence center that supports law enforcement efforts throughout the Western Hemisphere and it is DEA's long-standing and most important intelligence sharing organization focusing on the Southwest Border. Much of EPIC's success can be attributed to the strong partnerships forged among the more than 20 agencies represented at the Center, including representatives from foreign police organizations in Mexico and Colombia. DEA also has information sharing agreements with police agencies in all 50 states. Through its 24-hour Watch function, EPIC provides immediate access to participating agencies' databases to law enforcement agents, investigators, and analysts at all levels of government, throughout the United States and with some foreign nations.

DEA further leverages **interagency partnerships** with agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, by participating in several joint initiatives including the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF), Border Enforcement

Security Task Force and the Tunnel Task Force. These task forces target human smuggling and violent drug trafficking organizations that fuel the violence along the Southwest Border. Participating in these initiatives also increases the flow of information between participating agencies regarding violent criminal organizations and gangs operating on both sides of the border. In addition, DEA participates in the OCDETF Fusion Center, a multi-agency intelligence center that provides operational intelligence in drug investigations. Through the Fusion Center, DEA shares information with other federal law enforcement agencies involved in drug enforcement, and helps to build large-scale operations targeting these violent Mexican drug trafficking organizations.

DEA also continues to build strong partnerships with **state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies** in conjunction with OCDETF and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA Program). DEA currently operates 220 task forces consisting of 1,763 DEA Special Agents and 2,181 state and local task force officers. Our agents work hand-in-hand with these state and local officers, conducting highly effective investigations that prove beneficial to all participants. DEA is able to draw on the expertise and local knowledge of the state and local law enforcement officers and the officers are able to extend their jurisdiction and investigative possibilities as a result of being deputized federal drug agents. Such task force partnerships allow us to focus on the domestic cells of the Mexican cartels, such as in Operation Xcellerator and Operation Reckoning, which allow for strategic and surgical multi-jurisdictional enforcement operations to do the most damage to the cartels. Thanks to these partnerships, DEA is able to share investigative and other resources with state and local officers and provide them with drug law enforcement training. State and local participating agencies are also eligible to receive an equitable share of forfeited drug proceeds. In FY 2008, DEA shared \$346 million in seized assets with state and local law enforcement, a 6.1 percent increase over the \$326 million we shared in FY 2007.

DEA's commitment to assisting and partnering with state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies is clearly demonstrated in our successful **Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) Program**. The MET program attacks violent drug trafficking organizations through long-term MET deployments (averaging 6 months per deployment) to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement in disrupting or dismantling violent drug trafficking organizations and gangs. In FY 2008, there were 11 MET deployments in 10 DEA divisions resulting in the arrest of 310 criminal street gang members and violent criminals and the disruption and dismantlement of 11 drug trafficking organizations. I would like to take the opportunity now to thank the Committee for providing DEA with a \$10 million enhancement in our FY 2009 appropriation for the MET Program. We truly appreciate your support of this very important program. With this enhancement, we will be able to reinstitute four additional MET teams and ensure that all the teams have sufficient funding for the necessary deployments to those communities most in need of assistance.

At this time, I would also like to thank the Committee for approving DEA's reprogramming request last year to convert 108 Diversion Investigator positions to Special Agent positions. This reprogramming has made it possible for DEA to realign

certain Office of Diversion Control field components to more efficiently and effectively carry-out the regulatory control and enforcement functions of the **Diversion Control Program (DCP)**. Through a redeployment of Diversion Investigators and the infusion of Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, and Task Force personnel, this realignment will ensure that the proper attention is given to both the regulatory control and the enforcement mission of DEA.

DEA will establish groups dedicated to performing the regulatory and compliance aspects of the DCP. The goal is to increase the frequency of scheduled investigations/audits of registrants and improve our regulatory oversight to include previously excluded registrant groups. This renewed focus on regulatory control will help the regulated industry (pharmaceutical controlled substance and chemical registrants) better comply with the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and its implementing regulations and identify those that continue to violate these laws. The DEA groups are primarily responsible for the prevention of diversion through regulatory compliance and controls which may include administrative, civil or criminal action against a registrant.

Between FY 2006 and FY 2009, DEA has added 161 Special Agent positions (including 108 in last year's reprogramming) to the DCP to provide additional law enforcement support during diversion investigations. DEA is using these Special Agent positions to create new **Tactical Diversion Squads**. In addition to the 5 TDS groups currently operational, DEA will deploy approximately 32 of these groups over the next 3 years under this realignment plan. These TDS groups allow for the unification of separate and sometimes disparate Federal, State, and local investigations, authorities, and enforcement programs. They work as a force-multiplier, combining Special Agents and Diversion Investigators with state and local law enforcement and regulatory counterparts to investigate controlled substance and chemical diversion in a particular jurisdiction.

### Southwest Border Violence

I am aware that just a couple of days ago this Subcommittee held a hearing concerning the violence along the Southwest Border and your panel of witnesses included Mr. Joseph Arabit, DEA's Special Agent in Charge of the El Paso Field Division. I have read Mr. Arabit's testimony and believe that it captures very well the underlying causes of the violence and offers a road map to success.

I will not attempt to summarize what Mr. Arabit presented so well in his testimony but I do wish to restate DEA's commitment to continue doing what we have been doing for so many years: working with our counterparts -- on both sides of the border -- to inflict the most damage possible on the drug cartels responsible for this violence. Under the leadership of President Calderon, we have at last a very willing partner nation with whom we can work closely. And our joint efforts are paying off. The Cartels are feeling the pinch and they are reacting as you expect them to: they are fighting back. Our response must be to stay the course, to keep up the pressure and never give in. As every child learns, if you give in to a bully, it only gets worse. The transformation that we have seen



in Colombia is possible in Mexico if we give them the sustained support they need. . DEA's largest international presence is in Mexico. We will be there with them, standing shoulder to shoulder in this critical fight. We will never give up.

### Demonstrated Results

DEA's operational successes and strong partnerships are resulting in measurable impacts on the domestic illicit drug market and quantifiable results in terms of revenue denied and asset seizures.

According to DEA's analysis of cocaine seizures, the **price** of cocaine in the United States has risen significantly over the past two years, while **purity** of the drug has decreased. From January 2007 to December 2008, the price per pure gram of cocaine has increased 104.5 percent, from \$97.62 to \$199.60, while purity decreased 34.8 percent, from 67.2 to 43.9 percent purity. Factors contributing to these favorable results include, but are not limited to:

- DEA's Drug Flow Attack Strategy
- DEA-led operations such as *Operation All Inclusive*
- Extraditions from Mexico and Colombia
- Building coalitions with host nation counterparts
- More than \$9 billion of revenue denied to drug traffickers from FY 2005 through FY 2008
- Combined efforts of DEA and its Federal, State, and local law enforcement partners.

The results for methamphetamine price and purity, while not as impressive as they were a year ago, are still favorable. From January 2007 to December 2008, the price per pure gram of methamphetamine increased 20.4 percent, from \$148.03 to \$178.30 while the purity increased slightly from 56.9 percent to 59.9 percent purity. However, at the end of 2007, the price per pure gram of methamphetamine was \$267.74 while the purity was 40.9 percent. Much of the methamphetamine trend that was observed at this time last year could be attributed to the success of our enforcement efforts, state legislation and the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA), which made it difficult for producers of domestic methamphetamine to obtain the needed precursor chemicals. The partial reversal of this trend in the past 12 months is a result of drug traffickers adapting to the CMEA and changing their production and trafficking patterns. Small toxic lab seizures in the U.S. are beginning to rise again as the traffickers adapt to various forms of legislation. Domestic production is now being fueled by varying forms of "smurfing", numerous individuals going from store to store purchasing the maximum limit at each store and then pooling their purchases. Additionally, Mexican drug trafficking organizations are producing and distributing much of the methamphetamine consumed in our country. DEA is adapting to this production shift as we focus on methamphetamine produced in Mexico and transported across the Southwest Border.

DEA will continue to perform additional assessments and monitor these price and purity indicators. We are also analyzing other positive law enforcement outputs to identify additional, meaningful trends to measure our impact on the drug market.

In FY 2005, DEA established a five-year plan with annual milestones through FY 2009 with the goal of denying traffickers \$10 billion in **drug and asset seizures**. I'm pleased to report that the men and women of DEA have exceeded our expectations. In the first four years of the plan, DEA surpassed its goal for each fiscal year. More than \$9 billion in revenue has already been stripped from drug trafficking organizations, including \$2.6 billion in bulk cash seizures. That is \$2.6 billion in hard currency that would have gone back to the traffickers, fueling their ability to produce and transport more drugs to the U.S. In FY 2008 alone, DEA seized \$740 million in bulk cash and denied drug traffickers \$2.9 billion in overall revenue, exceeding its goal of \$2.5 billion for the year. As part of this effort, DEA has increased asset seizures by 152 percent, from \$857.1 million in FY 2004 to \$2.16 billion in FY 2008.

Switching briefly to a discussion of drug use in America, I am happy to report that **illicit drug use** by American teens continues to decline. According to the 2008 Monitoring the Future Survey, current illicit drug use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders declined by 25 percent from 2001 to 2008, meaning there were approximately 900,000 fewer teens using drugs in 2008 than in 2001. Most notably, methamphetamine use among high school seniors dropped from 2.5 percent in 2005 to 1.2 percent in 2008 and cocaine use among high school seniors decreased from 5.1 percent in 2005 to 4.4 percent in 2008. In addition, drug use among workers is at its lowest level in 19 years. Since 1988, positive workplace drug tests have fallen by 72 percent, from 13.6 percent in 1988 to 3.8 percent in 2007. DEA is proud to be a key partner in reducing drug abuse in America by reducing the supply of drugs that are available. Effective drug prevention and treatment programs are less likely to succeed if Americans are surrounded by cheap and plentiful drugs.

### **The Road Ahead**

The road ahead for DEA is full of complex challenges; however, with your continued support, I am certain we can turn these obstacles into opportunities. While building on the successes of years past and learning important lessons from the present, DEA is well positioned to address the future. We are proud of all that we have accomplished in the past year, and we believe even greater victories will be ours in the year ahead:

- To further attack the flow of drugs, chemicals and money, DEA will expand the Drug Flow Attack Strategy to the Bahamas and the Eastern Caribbean; the Far East Region (including Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia); and the Middle East region.
- We will continue to indict, arrest, and extradite Consolidated Priority Organization Targets, the Department of Justice's "most wanted" drug trafficking organizations.

- DEA will target cartels and continue to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations around the globe, from Mexico and Colombia to Afghanistan.
- DEA has opened a new office in Accra, Ghana and will soon open a new office in Nairobi, Kenya. These new offices will enable us to extend our reach into new areas of the world that are engaging in transnational crime and terrorism and assist our partner nations as they struggle against the challenges of ungoverned spaces.
- DEA will work hard in FY 2009 to reach or exceed our \$3 billion goal for revenue denied. After denying \$2.9 billion in FY 2008 when our goal was \$2.5 billion, prospects are very good that we will surpass our annual goal yet again.
- DEA looks forward to continue expanding its work with and support to the Intelligence Community.
- And finally, DEA will continue to look for ways to reduce the demand for illegal drugs through demand reduction efforts, including the promotion of websites like [www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com) and [www.JustThinkTwice.com](http://www.JustThinkTwice.com).

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my formal remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.