

THE CATALYST

Official magazine of the National Guard Counterdrug Program
fall / winter 2010

National Rx Take Back Day





**Air National Guard
Col. William Carle,
Chief, National Guard Bureau,
J32 Counterdrug Division**

CHIEF'S CORNER

Since its inception in 1989, the National Guard Counterdrug Program (NGCDP) has evolved to be a vital and dynamic contributor to a drug-free America. The harm to individuals, families, communities and society as a whole from alcohol, tobacco, illegal and other drugs are well known. NGCDP is collectively working through our State Counterdrug Programs with law enforcement agencies (LEAs), and community-based coalitions (CBOs) at the local, state, tribal and federal level in support of the overall mission of making a positive impact on reducing drug use through deterrence, interdiction and education.

'The Catalyst' is used as an avenue to tell Americans who we are and what we do, which is critical to ensuring we achieve our objectives. In these lean economic times, it is important that we promote and expand programs like these that represent government working for its citizens through programs that are cost effective, and produce results. Our reputation and success is attributed to the outstanding and collective efforts of the men and women of the NGCDP and the community's vigilance and cooperation.

LEAs, with our assistance, have seized record amounts of drugs, cash, and assets, which has had tremendous impact—from fewer drugs on the street, to millions of dollars kept out of the hands of criminals and terrorists, to fewer dangerous drugs in the hands of our children, and less violence in our communities. More must be done but with some new focus – scarce resources will dictate that it is imperative to use a sourcing model (the method of distributing funding to states and support missions) that best takes into account the greatest threats matched with the best results. In the very near future, we will unveil a new resource model and the revised methodology in which we measure and report our success in accomplishing our missions. Please support this effort as it is vital in getting this program positioned for continued success.

I am proud of the NGCDP and our many accomplishments. As I reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going, there is much to celebrate yet more to accomplish. As we address the threats and challenges that lie ahead, Counterdrug will continue to contribute to the well-being of our nation.

On behalf of the dedicated members of the NGCDP, I welcome you to enjoy the quarterly publication of *'The Catalyst'* Fall / Winter edition, as it highlights our work as we remain vigilant in our mission, focused on our targets, and continue to work with our partners to achieve success.

As we move ahead into the New Year, we will continue on the path of excellence as we constantly address the needs of our nation's communities with professionalism and determination.

It is my honor and privilege to work with all of you dedicated to making our country safe and drug-free for our citizens now and in the future.

Will S. Carle



NATIONAL GUARD
COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

THE CATALYST

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Submissions

Articles:

- Include first and last names, rank and/or title, and verify spelling of all names of personnel in the story.
- Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations.
- If there is a public affairs officer assigned to your unit or at state level, ensure it is reviewed prior to sending.
- Send article and accompanying photo(s) separately.

Photographs:

- Make sure photo has been reviewed and approved for release (OPSEC).
- Highest resolution possible.
- NO retouched photos.
- Cutline (caption): must include who is pictured, what is happening and date of the photo. Be sure to include rank, title, unit.
- Byline: who took the photo.

Email submissions to:

NGGBJ32CDPAO@ng.army.mil



Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr, CANG

Spc. Martin Argomaniz, 649th Military Police (MP) Company, Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. watches students navigate an obstacle during a drug prevention course conducted by the MP soldiers and Joint Domestic Task Force Counterdrug during Operation Trident in July.

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Cover photo:

Soldiers of the Virginia Army National Guard and officers of the Drug Enforcement Agency transported thousands of pounds of prescription drugs to an incinerator in Northern Virginia for destruction Sept. 29.

The partnership between the two agencies during National Take Back, an initiative for people to turn over their unused prescription drugs, helped inform citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia of the dangers of prescription drugs with the help of the State Police and local law enforcement agencies, and properly disposed of over 5,000 pounds of the drugs from across the state.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew H. Owen, Virginia Guard Public Affairs.

CA Stanislaus Military Academy teaches leadership through military discipline and mentorship

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Kara Siepmann, CANG
Joint Task Force Domestic Support - Counterdrug

“Front leaning rest position... MOVE!” shouts a drill instructor. Eighty young men and women drop down and begin doing pushups on a concrete slab as a drill instructor walks through the rows of cadets. Sweat forms quickly on their foreheads in the August afternoon sun.

When the ‘smoke’ session ends, the cadets snap into formation and one of their own stands in front.

“See what happens when we waste time?!” he yells out at his peers. From patrol cap to boots, these young souls look like new recruits in basic training.

As the cadets disperse, they don’t adjust their helmets or pick up their rifles. They quietly and quickly file into classrooms with white walls and blue trim. It’s thirteen hundred hours at the Stanislaus Military Academy (SMA) in Stanislaus, Calif. Lunchtime is over.

When students are expelled from traditional school, they begin attending a continuation school. If expelled from there, a community school is the last stop before juvenile hall or jail depending on age. John B. Allard Community School in Denair, Calif., serves grades 4-12 in the Stanislaus County Office of Education School District.



Master Sgt. Ron Biggs is passed around in a circle by cadets while his eyes are closed and body is limp. Students participated in this exercise to develop trust in each other.

“Fifteen years ago when I first came here, this school was a gang haven,” explained Doug Ash, school counselor.

During the 2008-09 school year, the SMA, a military style program, was created. Originally a senior high program with 20 students, the program has grown to nearly 120. This year, a junior academy was created for grades 6-8.

Like any school, the program features academic studies, physical

conditioning, character training and extra-curricular activities. Unique to John B. Allard Community School is the emphasis on strict military discipline. The goal of the SMA’s rigorous requirements is to produce a high school graduate who is proud of their accomplishments.

“Parents see this as the one way to save their kids,” said Ash. “One parent told me last year, ‘This is the first thing he’s ever finished in his life.’”

With that kind of pressure on their shoulders, the teachers at SMA, all credentialed through California, rely on help from drill instructors and mentors with some military experience.

But to make it all real, said Ash, an active military presence is key.

Air Force Master Sgt. Ron Biggs with the CA National Guard’s Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug (JTFDS-CD) program meets with students once a week, but is considering being on campus twice a week this year. He feels his involvement is that important.

“All our alternative education students are at-risk youth who are in dire need of structure, discipline, and normalcy in their lives,” Biggs said. “I offer examples of leadership and mentorship to the students.”

“Biggs has become a mentor to students and has taken the lead in teaching leadership,” said Alberto Velarde, school principal.

Biggs follows the National Center for Prevention and Research Solutions’ ‘Stay on Track’ curriculum.

Like many service members on the JTFDS-CD Prevention Team, Biggs has ties to Stanislaus County. His oldest child is a freshman at California State University, Stanislaus.

“My engagement with the students opens doors for them,” Biggs said. “When these students come back and tell me they’ve done everything I’ve recommended and they get into college or



Master Sgt. Ron Biggs talked to Stanislaus Military Academy cadets about leadership after conducting a trust-building exercise with the teens.

get a good job, it means so much to me. When they realize everything we’ve been telling them is true, the light bulb goes on in their minds that they can accomplish their goals—that’s more than any ‘thank you’ I could receive.”

“This is the best program I’ve ever been in,” said Ash. “This is the best I’ve seen in education.”

According to James Arnold, an instructor at the school, attendance rates are 96 percent compared to traditional alternative education schools that lag near 69 percent. Last year, 100 percent of eligible seniors graduated.

While overall statistics bode well for SMA, the school also achieves results not easily captured by testing metrics. Students gain self esteem and worth.

“When I went to regular high school, I didn’t go. When I went, I didn’t pay attention,” admitted Cadet Anna Dos Reis. Reis is one of the original 20 students continuing from last year. She said she is on track to graduate this year.

“They aren’t against you. They are here to help you,” said Reis.

“Before I was disrespectful and I

OPERATION TRIDENT

CA Counterdrug vital partner in..

Story by Sgt. David J. Loeffler, CANG

The California National Guard's (CANG) Joint Task Force Domestic Support - Counterdrug (JTFDS-CD) joined with more than 21 federal, state and local agencies in July for an operation focusing on the eradication of illegally grown marijuana on public land, restoration of the grow sites and educating local youth about making positive life choices and living a



Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr, CANG

Two California National Guard Soldiers prepare to hoist directly into a grow site during Operation Trident.

drug-free lifestyle in Central California. Drug growing and trafficking operations in Fresno, Tulare and Madera counties were the focus of Operation Trident.

“Drug traffickers who operate large

marijuana grows on public lands in the Sierra foothills despoil the environment and pose a safety threat to hikers, campers, and other persons who use our parks and national forests,” said U.S. Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner.

“The water is often stolen from local streams and diverted to the gardens through miles of black irrigation line. At many sites, large water reservoirs are dug in and sealed with tarps,” said a Fresno County Sheriff on the reclamation team.

The drug trafficking organizations cultivate the marijuana plants using growth stimulants, insecticides and concentrated fertilizer.

“The growers clear cut the underbrush and dug large holes for the plants. They surrounded the gardens with barbed wire to keep the animals

out. We’ve seen large amounts of fertilizer, pesticides and evidence of poaching. In today’s eradication, we even rescued an emaciated dog.”

“It’s necessary to tear down the

“Any day we can accomplish a mission like this... it’s a success.”

*- JTFDS-CD
ground tactical team member*

illegal grower’s infrastructure to deter drug trafficking organizations from re-establishing their operations. The process also restores the land to its natural state,” said a JTFDS - CD ground tactical team member.

The multi-agency teams work to clear the marijuana plants, remove thousands of pounds of toxic fertilizers, trash, and miles of makeshift irrigation systems. But the danger posed is not only to California’s watershed and wildlife.

“The growers are dangerous,” said the ground tactical team member. “Any day we can accomplish a mission like this for the people of California it’s a success.”

“Operation Trident is focused on armed drug smugglers who bring with them the dangers and violence associated with drug trafficking,” said Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims. “We must work with our state and federal partners because these organized crime organizations don’t just grow marijuana on our public lands; they continue their criminal conduct during the off season with other illegal drug and violent activities in our local communities.”

To combat the pervasive effect illegal drugs have on Californians, the CANG’s role extends beyond the mountain terrain and reaches to the nearby communities. A primary focus of the CANG’s JTFDS-CD is the prevention of illicit drug use.

“I am proud of the men and women of the California National Guard,” said Brig. Gen. Mary J. Knight, California National Guard Adjutant General. “The efforts they have made during Operation Trident have proven again, the ability of the California National Guard to work hand-in-hand with other agencies throughout the State, to rid our National Forest of illegal marijuana, restore the damaged forestland and perhaps, most importantly, to educate and positively influence the youth of our great state.”

STATISTICS:

Operation Trident has resulted in seizure of:

Marijuana plants eradicated	663,896
Processed marijuana (lbs)	5,983
Cocaine (oz)	74
Methamphetamine (oz)	49
U.S. Currency	\$84,506
Weapons	60
Vehicles	7

INTERDICTION:

Warrants	22
Arrests	126

RECLAMATION:

Trash (tons)	42
Miles of irrigation line	93
Propane tanks	124
Propane bottles	382
12-volt style car batteries	24
Fertilizer (tons)	5.4
Pesticides (lbs)	239

Public land affected by illegal marijuana cultivation (acres) Approx. 393

IA training how to clean up the meth mess

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Sara Robinson, IANG Counterdrug

Clandestine is defined as 'something kept or done in secret, often in order to conceal an illicit or improper purpose'. A **laboratory** is 'a place where drugs and chemicals are manufactured'. Mix these together and you have a recipe for disaster.

Clandestine laboratories (clan labs) manufacture illegal drugs such as ecstasy, LSD, PCP and other scheduled drugs. However, 98 percent of clan labs manufacture methamphetamine (meth). Meth is volatile to produce and many producers do not work in the proper



Jerry Podorski, Senior Forensic Chemist, DEA, shows a class of MCTC students a jar of Lithium stored in mineral oil for safety. This highly reactive and flammable substance is sometimes collected from batteries and used in methamphetamine production. A very small amount can cause a serious explosion.

conditions for safety.

Law enforcement officers attending the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center's (MCTC) 'Clandestine Laboratory Safety Certification' in Camp Dodge, Iowa, focus on the hazards posed by meth production and learn how to protect themselves against chemical exposure. Clan Lab is a 40-hour course and meets the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements for certification of investigators to enter and dismantle this type of lab.

"What drives the program is that it is mandated by federal law, but what motivates people to take Clan Lab is it will help protect them from suffering some type of occupational exposure," explained Jerry

Bucklin, CEO, Network Environmental Systems (NES).

"It's amazing. I've learned more here in a week than I have in the past four years of just working for the police department," said Andrew Marr, Riverside, Mo. police department.

This intensive week-long course is instructed by NES, Inc. NES is instrumental in developing the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)/Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Clandestine Laboratory Safety Training Program. The DEA Clan Lab unit in Quantico, Va. partners with MCTC to provide supplies, instructors and chemists to conduct the course's meth cook.

Though MCTC's training is free, many departments with little to no training budgets still cannot afford the travel expense to send their officers to Camp Dodge. So MCTC takes the show on the road to requesting agencies throughout the U.S. with Mobile Training Teams (MTTs).

"MCTC provides a lot of logistical support. When we do a class anywhere, they bring all of the equipment to us. This program is very equipment intensive. We need self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), protective clothing, monitoring instruments, masks, and more. Logistical support makes the program what it is, because without it, you couldn't do the exercises and you couldn't have people actually practice what they are being taught," said Bucklin.

During one practical exercise, students test how well they can decontaminate someone wearing a protective suit. One student 'suits up' and is sprayed with a florescent liquid that represents chemical contamination. The rest of the team gently washes away the visible liquid. Once completely 'decontaminated', a black light is turned on to reveal how much of the substance still remained in trace amounts.

The culmination of learning for the week is a hands-on meth cook. During this portion of the class, students are instructed by a highly qualified and



Clan Lab students attempt to decontaminate their teammate during an exercise designed to show the difficulty to remove every trace of contamination.

experienced DEA chemist and use only chemistry grade chemicals for the cook in a safe, ventilated laboratory.

They cover two popular procedures for cooking meth; red phosphorous and iodine method and the 'Birch Method' also called the 'Nazi Method'. This gives officers a good idea of what each stage of production looks and smells like.

"Doing a meth cook is important because it actually gives them a hands-on experience with the dangers of cooking methamphetamine," said Jerry Podorski, Senior Forensic Chemist, DEA. "When they go into a laboratory it is important to know how to dismantle it properly and recognize the dangers that might be present."

Having a good knowledge of the ins and outs of meth production also gives officers credibility in the court room.

"If an officer testifies in court, they generally have to have the credential of being an expert. Going through this class gives people a platform to describe themselves as an expert in the hazards associated with manufacturing," explained Bucklin.

Officers attend MCTC's Clan Lab course for many reasons. Some like the convenient locations, others want to meet OSHA requirements, and for many, it is a concern for personal safety. Regardless, they gain the knowledge and experience needed to safely and successfully dismantle clan labs and testify knowledgeably about what they saw.

These MCTC students are helping clean up the meth mess one lab at a time.

"It's amazing. I've learned more here in a week than I have in the past four years of just working for the police department."

- Andrew Marr
Riverside, Mo. police department

VA ADJUTANT GENERAL, NGB SENIOR LEADERS VISIT COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Coyne, VANG Public Affairs

A group of senior leaders from the National Guard Bureau (NGB) visited Sandston, VA., Nov. 4, for an up-close look at the VA Counterdrug Program.

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, joined Brig. Gen Mark R. Johnson, deputy director of Domestic Operations and Force Development at NGB, Brig. Gen. Deborah S. Rose, General Officer Advisor to the Counterdrug Advisory Council, and Col. Bill Carle, chief of the Counterdrug Division at NGB, as they visited with VA Guard troops, examined equipment and heard from education, community based organization, and law enforcement officials about how valuable the VA Guard Counterdrug Program is to each organization.

“Gen. (Craig R.) McKinley [Chief, National Guard Bureau] said he wanted more general officers to see what this program is doing,” Carle said. “To do that, you can sit through briefings but there are times you need to get them out from their desks, out in the field, to see first-hand what exactly the folks are doing. That way they get a common understanding of the scope and specialty of this program and the relationships we’re building between the National Guard and these agencies. That’s critical and that’s what this program is really about.”

There were several reasons for the daylong visit, according to Lt. Col Charlton Dunn, VA Counterdrug Program Coordinator.

“First, we wanted to provide NGB senior leadership an understanding of the multifaceted nature of Counterdrug, its value to the community, and the unique state-level challenges in implementing the program,” said Dunn.

“Second, we wanted to provide the Adjutant General with an opportunity

to gain an understanding of how his Counterdrug program operates, to meet supported and host agency leadership, and to foster a closer relationship between the VA National Guard and NGB with regards to the Counterdrug program.

“Third, we wanted to provide the broad array of agencies and organizations we support the opportunity to voice their perspective on National Guard Counterdrug support to senior leadership at the state and national level.”

The visit was important to the VA National Guard Counterdrug program on many levels, according to Dunn. While the NGB J3 involvement will contribute to a more-informed senior leadership, the NGB Counterdrug involvement further strengthened the VA Guard program’s relationship with them.

Meanwhile, the visit from Long was not only a boost for morale, but it demonstrated his commitment to supporting the day-to-day Counterdrug mission in the Commonwealth, Dunn said. Long presented nine individual awards to Counterdrug program members and took advantage of the opportunity to speak with

them to learn more about the program and the people who make it work.

“We are a supporting effort at the local, state, and federal levels working both supply and demand sides of the drug crisis,” said Dunn. “We are a collaborative member of the Governor’s Office for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Governor’s Initiative Against Narcotics Trafficking, as well as the Attorney General’s Gang Reduction and Intervention Program and Prescription Drug Work Group.”

Last year VA DDR personnel reached more than 11,000 children supporting activities in

75 schools, civic agencies, and community-based organizations.

“We also supported multiple civilian, military, and high-risk youth summer camp programs,” said Dunn, “and provided operational, logistical, and marketing planning support to the DEA National Take Back Day, removing two and a half tons of excess pharmaceuticals from homes across the Commonwealth.”

The Counterdrug Program’s Aviation Section utilizes helicopters to provide critical support to local, state, or federal drug investigations.

“We typically fly between 650 to 750 hours annually at no cost to the requesting agency,” said Dunn. “Last year our aviation section trained and certified 111 law enforcement officials as spotters to increase inter-agency effectiveness.”

The aviation section supports the “Green Harvest” marijuana eradication program, which resulted in over 34,000 plants being confiscated in last year.

“Last year, our criminal analysts and Aviation Section supported over 581 arrests and the seizure of over \$125 million of narcotics, currency, and weapons,” Dunn said.



Brig. Gen. Deborah S. Rose, General Officer Advisor to the Counterdrug Advisory Council, learns of the capabilities of the Virginia Guard Counterdrug Program’s new UH-72 Lakota helicopter Nov. 4 in Sandston, Va. The Counterdrug Program’s Aviation Section utilizes helicopters to provide optical and infrared surveillance, body wire signal retransmission, and video downlink support to local, state, or federal drug investigations.

MT CD SUPPORTS

"Big Sky" country Counterdrug program appreciated

Story by Master Sgt. Megan Hunter, NGB Counterdrug
Photos provided by MTNG Counterdrug Program

Along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains in northwestern Montana, the sound of a Blackhawk helicopter excited a small crowd of school kids at Heart Butte elementary school located on the Blackfeet Reservation in the town of Heart Butte on Aug. 11.

No one has been lost or injured. This isn't a medical evacuation or search and rescue mission. Emergency transportation has not been called for either. On this sunny day in "Big Sky" country, the Montana National Guard (MTNG) Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) teams delivered an important message to the Blackfeet Reservation children: "Stay Drug Free!"

The MTNG Counterdrug (CD) program began in 1989 with a handful of part-time personnel who primarily assisted local law enforcement agencies by performing border observation duties.

As recently as this past summer, the program had 32 personnel working throughout the state to teach school-aged children and teens the negative effects of using illegal drugs.

In addition to visiting schools and other groups, the MTNG CD Aviation program assists with patrolling nearly 70 miles of Blackfeet Reservation land which is the most rugged, mountainous regions in the state, that would otherwise go unchecked.

"We support border operations to include the Blackfeet Nation in reconnaissance and security patrols scouting for illegal crossing traffic by vehicles, snowmobiles, horseback, backpackers and anything that might look out of place," said Lt. Col. Garth Scott, MTNG CD Coordinator.

The terrain is challenging for the two Blackfeet Nation community members that are assigned by the Department of Homeland Security to help protect and survey the land.

"We absolutely could not do what we need to do without

"If we can help even one kid remember the drug-free message, it makes the job worth it."

***- Spc. Jenilee Hayes
MTNG DDR Specialist***

the support of National Guard aviation for our surveillance and reconnaissance missions," said Robert DeRosier, Director of Disaster and Emergency Services for the Blackfeet Nation.

Since illegal border crossing usually entails drug trafficking also, MTNG CD aviation assets team up to aid DeRosier and other tribal law enforcement members to help patrol their land.

The MTNG CD teams work with all members of the Blackfeet Nation in drug prevention and education.

For community events like the one held in Heart Butte, the teams don't always show up in helicopters; but when they do, it makes the message a little more memorable for the audiences.

"These kids rarely get to see anything like this," said Scott.

Gail Emerson, of Global Volunteers, a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization, was at Heart Butte also helping with the event. She had never worked a community event before

that involved the National Guard flying in on a helicopter. "The kids loved seeing the helicopter, and I think it's a really good influence for them to have you (the National Guard) here," said Emerson.

Following the excitement of the helicopter landing on the school grounds, DDR specialists then gathered the children for a variety of activities to encourage healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

The DDR teams facilitate teambuilding drills as a means for the kids to get to know each other better.

"They (children) need constant reminders of living a healthy life that revolves around education and fitness and the MTNG CD Joint Task Force provides a portion of that message to meet a community's needs," said Scott.

"They look forward to seeing us and we look forward to seeing them," said Spec. Jenilee Hayes, a DDR specialist. "If we can help even one kid remember the drug-free message, it makes the job worth it," added Hayes.

"The DDR teams present themselves as role models, let the kids know they have opportunities available and relay important drug-free lifestyle messages," said Chief Warrant Officer III Keith Banning, Director of the MTNG CD Aviation program and OH-58 pilot.

Since the beginning of the MTNG CD Program, tens of thousands of students have heard the MT CD Joint Task Force's (MTCDJTF) anti-drug message. Sometimes that information has been taught during classroom instruction and other times in the form of helicopters with flight crews serving as role models.

In Fiscal Year 2010 alone, the DDR Section reached more than 13,900 students involving 75 schools. MTCDJTF received additional funding from Congress and were able to double their Counterdrug program.

With a dual role of both drug education and patrolling the land from an aerial platform supporting federal, local, state and tribal law enforcement, communities throughout Montana appreciate the ongoing presence of the MTNG CD program.

"The National Guard has always been here for the Blackfeet Nation," said Robert Madplume, Blackfeet tribal forestry development director. Madplume expressed concerns about the safety and security of their tribal lands and the rugged area around the sacred chief mountain.

The MTNG CD aviation assets are needed for aerial observation of the border with Canada because the terrain is so rugged that no vehicles can access the area.



Spc. Anthony Michaelson takes Heart Butte school children on a tour of the Blackhawk helicopter that landed on their football field Aug. 11.

BLACKFEET NATION

by Blackfeet Nation members

“We have a good working relationship with the National Guard, we look forward to working with them to secure our land. We appreciate them and welcome them on our land,” added Madplume.

The tribal leaders of the Blackfeet Nation gathered for a meeting prior to the helicopter trip to Heart Butte. One of the elders said a prayer in their native language and National Guard Counterdrug members ate lunch that was prepared for them by the Blackfeet people.

Col. William Carle, National Guard Counterdrug Program Director, began the meeting by complimenting the beautiful land that was surveyed when flying to the reservation and expressed his appreciation of the MTNG CD program.

“As the director of the National Guard’s Counterdrug program in all 50 states and four territories, we have a very large program, I see the Montana National Guard (counterdrug) program as one of our gems,” said Carle.

“The potential of our Counterdrug program is great and the future is based on funding. Montana has some of the greatest geographical and weather challenges in the lower 48 states and we need every bit of our personnel and equipment to reach communities that desperately need our support--to include support to our Native Tribes which usually receive very little support otherwise,” said Scott. “But we cannot forget our future...and that is our youth.”



Two girls from the Blackfeet Nation held hands with Pfc. Auttem Osborne, a DDR Specialist in the MTNG Counterdrug program.



Heart Butte school children and community members from the reservation gather with the MTNG members in front of the **Blackhawk helicopter that landed on their football field. The MTNG Counterdrug program utilizes aviation assets to help tribal law enforcement survey the vast expanse of land that the Blackfeet Reservation covers to include their border with Canada.**

STATE SPOTLIGHT... MICHIGAN

MI Analysts assist DEA with convictions in high level U.S. Attorney case



Left to Right: Craig M. Wiles, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DEA Detroit Division, Donald A. Davis, U.S. Attorney, Michigan, Tech. Sgt. Karla Van Rhee, Michigan Counterdrug Task Force, Criminal Analyst, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Isom, Michigan Counterdrug Task Force, Criminal Analyst, and Michael Yasenchak, Resident Agent in Charge, DEA Grand Rapids, Mich. (courtesy photo)

Two Michigan Counterdrug Task Force criminal analysts were honored on Oct. 20 at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Michigan, Criminal Agencies Seminar and Awards Dinner. Sgt. 1st Class Michael Isom, and Tech. Sgt. Karla Van Rhee, both Analysts with the DEA Grand Rapids, Mich. were instrumental in the successful Federal conviction of 18 suspects, the seizure of more than 5.5 kilos of cocaine, 671 grams of crack cocaine, 11 automobiles (valued at over \$92,000) and one luxury boat (valued at \$70,000). This was all a part of a crack cocaine organization operating in western Michigan. Their hard work and dedication to duty while performing as Counterdrug Criminal Analysts for the DEA resulted in them being awarded a certificate of appreciation from Donald A. Davis, U.S. Attorney.

Information provided by Cpt. Rick Fritz, MING Counterdrug Task Force Commander

MICHIGAN NOTES -

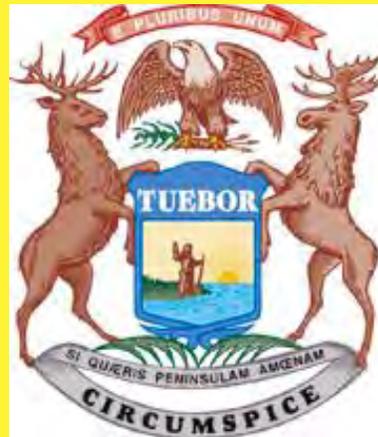
DDR Detroit

The Michigan National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (MICDTF) – Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) team has successfully established a relationship with Detroit Public Schools. By supporting a request for Community in Schools (CIS) Detroit, MICDTF-DDR has begun implementing *Stay on Track* and other DDR programs for 10 schools in the Detroit area representing over 3,000 students. Sgt. 1st Class Roberta Williams and Tech. Sgt. Gordon Starks are leading the charge to make a difference in Detroit. DDR is Michigan's top priority for FY11 and Detroit represents over half of the state's total population.

Analysts and DDR participate in National Take Back Day

Two functional areas within the Michigan Counterdrug Task Force joined forces in an effort to keep drugs off the streets and out of the hands of Michigan youth. Criminal Analysts Sgt. 1st Class Michael Isom and Tech. Sgt. Karla Van Rhee, and DDR Administrator Sgt. 1st Class Roberta Williams, combined their efforts in participating in the DEA sponsored "National Drug Take Back" day. "Take Back" is a DEA initiative to collect unused or illicit prescription medications and get them off the streets. The efforts of Isom, Van Rhee, and Williams resulted in the DEA, Detroit Field Division placing third out of all 22 divisions in total drugs collected with 24,505 lbs. Of that, DEA, Grand Rapids Field Office collected 2,954 lbs* by themselves. Congratulations on a job well done!

*Total number includes the efforts of Williams in other parts of Michigan.



Fourth Quarter FY10 Operations Success

The Michigan Counterdrug Task Force (MICDTF) Aviation and Ground Operations sections had a very busy summer. As part of the Domestic Cannabis Eradication (DCE)/Suppression Program (SP), MICDTF members in aviation and ground operations supported more than 40 law enforcement agencies with their Soldier and Counterdrug unique skill sets. MICDTF Aviation Commander, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mark Snauko, and his team flew over 828 hours with more than 400 of those hours in the 4th quarter of FY10. While they were in the air, the MICDTF Ground Operations team was working on the ground. Sgt. Ryan Doyle (Ground Operations Team Chief), and Sgt. Danny Neelis (Reconnaissance Team Leader) led the charge in supporting the DCE/SP program, the DEA, and the U.S. Forest Service. The efforts of both sections resulted in 50 arrests and the eradication of 55,339 marijuana plants (indoor and outdoor grow sites combined).

MT Counterdrug partners with Helena Youth Connections

Local high school students selected to attend CADCA National Youth Leadership Institute in Washington, DC



Story and photo by Lt. Col. Garth Scott, MTNG Counterdrug Coordinator

Eight school students from Helena High, Broadwater High and Jefferson High will be going to Washington, DC on Feb. 7, to attend the National Youth Leadership Institute presented by the Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). The students were selected this summer through an essay process that was evaluated by Drenda Carlson, Youth Connections Director, and Lt. Col. Garth Scott, MT National Guard Counterdrug Coordinator. The conference will focus on leadership development, problem solving and coalition building to create and maintain healthy and drug-free communities.

The students hope to bring back strategies they can use in their schools and communities to help organize drug-free events and prevention activities.

This is the first time since CADCA began that any organized youth group from Montana will attend the national conference. The students will be networking with students from all over the U.S., developing ideas and concepts to tackle tough community issues that hinder success among youth.

Youth Connections and the Montana Counterdrug Joint Task Force (CDJTF) have organized this team, and will be helping the students with fund raising ideas, travel arrangements, and leadership development prior to departing for DC.

Since 1992, CADCA has been training local grassroots groups in effective community problem-solving strategies, teaching them how to assess their local substance abuse related problems and developing comprehensive plans to address them. Today, CADCA is the nation's leading national drug abuse prevention organization, representing the interest of more than 5,000 community anti-drug coalitions in the country.

Youth Connections is a local organization that is driven to empower youth and promote positive youth development.



Back Row (left to right): Amy Heldt, Magdilyn Rauser, Jessica Newman. Front Row (left to right): Daniela Rosales, Denver Pratt, Jessica Ward, Brandon Kosola. Not available for photo Jenna Senechal.

Youth Connections also engages all sectors of the community to create opportunities for youth to thrive and succeed, and reduce substance abuse and other risky behaviors among youth.

The Montana CDJTF supports Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). CDJTF has partnered with many coalitions to support communities to combat the dangers of illicit drug use.

NE Rx Drug Take Back



Student volunteers from the Creighton School of Pharmacy from Omaha, Neb. assisted during the Rx Community Takeback day in Omaha. More than 40 volunteers participated. Volunteers came from the Creighton School of Pharmacy, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Millard Public Schools, Walgreens and AARP.

Photos/cutlines submitted by Tech. Sgt. Sharon Okra-Goll, NENG Drug Demand Reduction Educator.



Staff Sgt. Jarell Roach, DDR Educator with the NE Counterdrug Program worked with volunteers from the Creighton School of Pharmacy on Sept. 25, during the two-day Rx Community Takeback day at the Hy-Vee Grocery store in Omaha, Neb. In two days, 500 pounds of raw medication were collected from approximately 450 participants.

REEL LIFE...



DC



VT



HI



OR



OR Got Drugs?

ORCDSP assisted in Nationwide Drug Take Back event

Story by Sgt. Amber Cordry, ORNG Counterdrug Support Program
Photos by Clair Brennan, DEA Portland District Office

In a combined effort to remove unused pharmaceuticals from the community, 40 law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon participated in the Nationwide Drug Take Back Event on Sept. 25. Among the agencies, the Oregon National Guard Counterdrug Support Program (ORCDSP) provided storage and

In northeast Portland, the ORCDSP assisted the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Portland Police Bureau in the collection of 280 pounds of unused medication, which contributed to the overall Oregon total of 6,760 pounds. The result of this event was twofold; the



Members of the Portland Police Bureau, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Oregon National Guard Counterdrug Support Program with a HUMVV loaded with unused medication.

first was to reduce the opportunity for youth to obtain narcotics from medicine cabinets for recreational use, and the second was to provide an opportunity for these unused medications to be properly disposed of to minimize the impact on the environment.

Paul Schmidt, Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of the Oregon District of the DEA said this event is designed “to make a community effort

transportation for the drugs as they were turned in.

to resolve a growing problem that has been recognized by our law enforcement

community and our neighborhood communities. Our goal today was to make this the start of changing Title 21 Statutes to allow ‘drug-pharmaceuticals’ drop-off sites that are convenient and secure that allow our communities an avenue to properly dispose of unused medicines”.

Members of the community said that they had been waiting for a chance to rid their homes of these medications and were appreciative of the opportunity to dispose of them in a safe manner. Ten minutes after opening at one location, one box (approximately 50 pounds) was sealed up and prepared for transportation. There are already plans to have another Drug Take Back in the Spring.

This event was an opportunity for the citizens to witness the collaborative efforts between the National Guard CD Program and law enforcement agencies to combat the drug problems in the communities.

- STANISLAUS
from Page 4

didn't care about lots of things,” said Cadet Eriberto Barajas. Barajas said he was fired from his first job for leaving to spend time with his friends and smoke marijuana.

“If I was in a job interview I would say I'm responsible, respectful, always on time, and have leadership experience,” said Barajas after being in the program for more than a year.

Newer students still seem wary of the program's authoritarian format. “I chose to be here,” said Cadet Davi Mitchell proudly, as her voice wavered.

While the older students described themselves with positive, focused adjectives, Mitchell and fellow junior, Cadet Robert Fletcher, seem daunted by the question, “What words describe you and your personality?”

“I don't know who I am,” said Fletcher quietly. “I'd like to control my

anger more. I fight too much.”

Fletcher served as a squad leader during the four day, three night basic training two weeks earlier.

“If I was in a job interview I would say I'm responsible, respectful, always on time, and have leadership experience.”

- Cadet Eriberto Barajas

more than 100 students' heads are held high as they sit in class, walk around campus or participate in military style training. However, there are a handful of students who stand out wearing regular, civilian clothes.

“Those students just started,” Biggs explained. “They either adapt or leave the program.”

“They all have a chance to be here with us,” said Capt. James Arnold, a credentialed teacher, National Guard Soldier and the Junior Academy commander. If a student fails to adapt to the SMA's program, he is kicked out.

This day, Biggs is out on the grass teaching approximately 20 students about

“I had fun at basic camp,” said Fletcher. “I loved it. I'm an outdoor person.”

Most of the

trust toward their supervisors, peers and subordinates.

The small cluster of five students laugh as they wait. The single student in the middle of the circle crosses their arms across their chest, closes their eyes and lets their body go limp while they are passed around gently. Twice the student in the center is dropped, but quickly helped up by peers.

“You won't always like who you're working with, but you still have to give them respect,” Biggs reminds the group.

“The transformation of the majority of students' behavior is unbelievable. They turn themselves around,” said Velarde. He attributes the program's successes to the students' ability to self regulate.

But the teachers and administrative staff also deserve credit.

“This is my community,” Arnold said. “We (the teachers) do extra hours, extra everything for these kids. They have value and are worth something and I remind them of that every day.”

IN Operation Hoosier Thunder successful in marijuana eradication

Story and photo by Maj. Gordon Campbell, INNG Counterdrug Task Force

The successful eradication of more than 20,500 marijuana plants valuing over \$50 million in nine operational days of concentrated, collaborative effort by Indiana State Police, IN National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (INCDTF) and other state and federal law enforcement agencies stopped illegal drugs from hitting American streets.

Occurring from Aug. 23 through Sept. 2, Operation Hoosier Thunder materialized from law enforcement suspicion of drug trafficking organizations using public lands, including the Hoosier National Forest in southern Indiana, to grow and cultivate illegal



Photo by Sgt. Lorne Neff, INNG

drugs in Indiana.

“Operation Hoosier Thunder is a multi-agency marijuana eradication effort on Indiana public lands in southern Indiana and the Hoosier National Forrest,” said, Sgt. Lou Perras, Indiana State Police. “Our goal is to protect Indiana lands while taking as much marijuana off the streets as possible.”

Through the combined efforts of multiple agencies and resource sharing, 35 counties in southern Indiana were scoured by aircraft supported by mobile ground teams, making daily discoveries of marijuana grow operations. The team’s efforts lead to 22 arrests, more than 20,500 plants seized and the discovery of multiple camp sites on public land which were associated with illegal marijuana cultivation.

The INCDTF played a major role in the coordination, planning, equipping, training and execution of Operation Hoosier Thunder.

“With their unique capabilities in aircraft and personnel,

they bring a lot to the table in helping law enforcement locate and destroy marijuana, thereby taking drugs off the streets,” said Perras.

“The UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter’s ability to linger and transport law enforcement teams proved to be a valuable ingredient for overwhelming success.”

*- Sgt. Lou Perras
Indiana State Police*

Their expertise and knowledge also provided specific training to state and federal law enforcement agents ranging from team movement, rappelling, amphibious and air operations, and critical medical training for every member involved in the operation.

The INCDTF also contributed the aviation assets which became a vital addition to the operation.

“The UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter’s ability to linger and transport law enforcement teams proved to be a valuable ingredient for overwhelming success,” said Perras. “The aircraft allowed teams to quickly spot illegal marijuana grows, insert, eradicate, extract and move onto the next site.”

In addition to the UH-60 aircraft, the Indiana National Guard’s OH-58 Kiowa light utility aircraft was also used to assist in spotting marijuana and transporting eradication teams wherever needed. As part of its mission description, the OH-58 reconnaissance aircraft is well suited and equipped for the fight against drugs.



“Operation Hoosier Thunder confirmed that drug trafficking organizations are in fact using public lands for illegal marijuana growing operations,” said Perras. “This confirmation follows a national trend of illegal marijuana grow operations tended and guarded by criminals in state and national public lands. These plots not only destroy our lands as forests are cut down to plant their illegal crop, but also pose a danger to those that might be caught ‘trespassing’ in the criminals’ crop. Often these criminals are armed and could pose a serious threat to someone stumbling into the wrong area.”

The future of the Indiana State Police’s marijuana eradication program will continue to have the support of the INCDTF.

“The months of planning with an emphasis on safety of our National Guardsmen and law enforcement agents certainly contributed to the successful execution of this historic operation,” said Lt. Col. Terry Mullins, commander of the INCDTF.

“Together with other law enforcement agencies, the Indiana State Police and the Counterdrug Task Force will continue to work to protect the citizens of Indiana and its public lands.”



DRUG FACTS

Women & Drugs

A three-year study on women and young girls (ages 8–22) from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University revealed that girls and young women use substances for reasons different than boys and young men. The study also found that the signals and situations of higher risk are different and that girls and young women are more vulnerable to abuse and addiction: they get hooked faster and suffer the consequences sooner than boys and young men.

* Drug facts come from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site at: www.ondep.gov

SD DDR Program recognized among the best



Accepting the award are (from left to right) Lt. Col. John Holter, SDARNG J3, Maj. Bob Dejong, SDNG Counterdrug Coordinator, Sgt. 1st Class Kristi "Cricket" Palmer, SDNG West River Drug Demand Reduction, Mr. John Morse, Chief Functional Officer TRICARE Management Activity, Staff Sgt. David Hughes, East River Drug Demand Reduction, Staff Sgt. Matt Hurney, East River Drug Demand Reduction. (Courtesy photo)

Story by OC Chad Carlson, SDNG Public Affairs

The SD National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program was awarded the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award at the Pentagon Hall of Heros in Washington, DC, Oct. 22.

The award recognized the best drug demand reduction program with each Service, the National Guard, and Defense Agencies in an effort to promote its support of outreach and prevention programs within its communities.

The SDNG Counterdrug DDR program started in 1996, as a one Soldier

operation, with the mission of teaching the negative effects of bad choices and the use of illegal drugs. The program has since grown to five Soldiers, placed throughout the state, to help focus on the rural population east of the Missouri River.

"This is a wonderful honor for the DDR," said Sgt. 1st Class Kristi Palmer, DDR Noncommissioned officer in charge. "We have a small staff that covers the entire state, and receiving this award is a

"I couldn't be more proud of our Drug Demand Reduction team."

*- Maj. Robert Dejong
SDNG Counterdrug Coordinator*

great way to validate that we are making a difference in South Dakota."

"I couldn't be more proud of our Drug Demand Reduction team," said Maj. Robert Dejong, SDNG Counterdrug Coordinator. "They've done a marvelous job of getting to as many schools as possible and spreading the drug-free lifestyle message."

In 2009, the DDR presented Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program Training (ADAPT) to 75 different schools which allowed the staff to reach more than 4,500 students in grades 5-9.

"It is clear that the South Dakota National Guard Counterdrug Program has implemented many activities that enable the program to help keep our young children drug free," said Dejong. "From the numerous activities during Red Ribbon Week, the awards given to our program for these efforts, the follow-up efforts of youth rallies and the coalition meetings that keep our unique leadership on the forefront.

"Although awards give some meaning for our efforts with the students, the lasting award comes from the smiles on the faces of the youth, showing that a Soldier or an Airmen made a difference."



- UP CLOSE
from Page 7

In 2010, overall, the VA National Guard Counterdrug Program provided support to the Virginia State Police, the Commonwealth's Fusion Center, the Office of the Attorney General, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the I-95 corridor High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, as well as multiple state and local task forces.

Meanwhile the Joint Substance Abuse Program (JSAP) office provides the necessary drug testing, training, and material resources to aid in the effort to deter and identify illegal drug use by Guardsmen. In Fiscal Year 2010, JSAP

tested more than 9,100 Guardsmen, helping to identify Guardsmen for treatment, remove Guardsmen not fit to serve, and to deter future substance abuse.

"Our Prevention, Treatment, and Outreach program provides treatment resources for substance abuse and other life challenges for both Guardsmen and family members," said Dunn. "This program improves individual, family, and unit readiness, having provided 10 training events and referred 60 service and family members for treatment in 2010."

Due to the program's small size, its members cross-train in order to maximize their flexibility and effectiveness. While headquarters staff provides surge support for DDR and criminal analyst missions,

criminal analysts serve as the ground component of our helicopter's video downlink capability and aviators provide DDR services at static helicopter displays.

According to Dunn, the program injects \$2 million dollars annually into the Commonwealth's economy, funding 24 full-time positions as well as providing multiple short-term opportunities for traditional Guardsmen to support specific events.

"The diversity of successful programs in the Virginia National Guard's Counterdrug program demonstrates the professionalism, flexibility, and community connectedness that are the hallmarks of our Commonwealth's Guardsmen," Dunn said.



- Mr. Munson - Srg. Spears - Srg. Nolan -

I just want to say thank you for every thing you have done. You may not no it but you all have helped alot. I do look at things diffently now and I have quit smoking weed! I have quit chillin with the "cool kids" around me & Im trying to help them. You guys have effected my life. My dad works 2pm till 1am and it sucks. My moms not around much and Im just staying at my neighbors. My dad almost O.Ded on pills and it scares me so much but you guys give me hope for him. I love you guys so much & I want to say thanks you guys!

Love -

Shelby 

THANK YOU! 

We are on the Web at:

www.facebook.com

www.flickr.com

and

<http://ngbcounterdrug.ng.mil>