



"THE CARE OF HUMAN LIFE AND HAPPINESS, AND NOT THEIR DESTRUCTION, IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE OBJECT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT."

-THOMAS JEFFERSON

# The Informer

The Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Task Force



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Making a Difference in Tennessee

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## Tennessee Task Force Receives National Recognition

### CADCA Selects Tennessee Drug Demand Reduction Program as Best in Nation

By Capt. David Roberts  
Counterdrug Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - This February marked the 18th National Leadership Forum for Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). In attendance were Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, and 30 of his Guard men and women of the Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program. Maj. Gen. Hargett would be receiving the award for the Outstanding National Guard DDR Program on their behalf.



(Front Row) Col. Carle (NGB-CD-J3 Chief), Lt. Col. Deel (with trophy), Maj. Gen. Hargett (Tenn. TAG), Chief Bob Murphy (Coalition Coordinator), Capt. Williams (DDRA) stand with Tennessee's DDR soldiers and airmen.

Tennessee's DDR program was nominated by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions Across Tennessee (CADCAT) Director Pam White and selected by CADCA for its drug prevention work with organizations across Tennessee. This was a tremendous honor for all of those in attendance and the third time the Counterdrug Task Force has received the award since 2002.

During their visit to Washington, DDR personnel were able to tour the capitol and even spend some time with Tennessee Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker. Both Senator Alexander and Corker congratulated the Tennessee Guardsmen for receiving the CADCA award and were equally appreciative of their drug prevention efforts across the state. (Cont. on Page 2)

### Tenn. Guardsmen Receive National Eradication Award from ONDCP

By Capt. David Roberts  
Counterdrug Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - Two members of the Tennessee National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force were recipients last month of the 2007 National Marijuana Eradication Initiative Award. The award was presented during ceremonies in Washington hosted by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Representing the Army and Air National Guard, the soldier and airman were recognized for providing critical support to law enforcement in their individual duties as marijuana reconnaissance pilot and criminal analyst.

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US Senators Alexander and Corker meet with members of Tennessee's DDR Program during their DC visit.

Photos by Capt. David Roberts

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Lt. Col. Byron Deel (left) poses with the award recipients and Dave Morris, Dep. Dir. of the Appalachia HIDTA (right)

### “Tenn. Guardsmen”

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The ceremony highlighted the third annual National Marijuana Eradication Conference and Awards Ceremony sponsored by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Each year that organization acknowledges the sacrifice, service, and dedication of law enforcement and military personnel with awards and certificates. The items are personally presented to individuals, task force members, and operation staff dedicated to the National Marijuana Initiative.

The Tennessee National Guard has been involved with the marijuana initiative since 2001 and has been a member of the Governor’s Task Force on Marijuana Eradication since 1989.

“These officers put their lives on the line in order to protect us from the dangers of harmful illegal drugs,” said John P. Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy. “Teenage drug use rates have been declining over recent years, with marijuana use down 25 percent from 2001, and law enforcement operations are making a decisive difference. But drug addiction and trafficking represent a serious threat to all of our communities, and that is why it is so important to highlight the dedication, service, and commitment of law enforcement personnel and military officers who are committed to the public’s safety and security.”

In 2001, the national organization established the national marijuana initiative using funding from the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program. The purpose of the initiative is to detect, deter, and disrupt marijuana production on public lands controlled by federal and state governments.

The national organization coordinates investigations and interdiction operations combining federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. It also provides guidance, education, coordinated information and intelligence sharing.

Year 2007 saw the eradication of a record number of marijuana plants both outdoors and indoors. More than 6.4 million marijuana plants were eradicated in outdoor operations, including 3.2 million plants on federal public lands. Another 354,000 were eradicated in indoor operations. In addition to the eradication efforts, investigations funded by the National Marijuana Initiative have identified drug trafficking organizations that operate marijuana growing operations in several western states. In 2006, 86 of these operations, primarily responsible for growing marijuana on public lands, were disrupted and dismantled.

### “CADCA Selects Tenn.”



Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett accepts the CADCA Award from CADCA CEO, Maj. Gen. (Ret) Arthur Dean.

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Tennessee’s DDR program is the largest National Guard program of its kind in the nation. Thirty-four soldiers and airmen make up the drug education and prevention effort from Memphis to Johnson City.

Currently, six of those Guardsmen throughout the state have the sole function of supporting new and existing community anti-drug coalitions.

Support to coalitions began in 2001 with a partnership between the Tennessee National Guard, the Nashville Prevention Partnership and two other existing coalitions within the state. The Tennessee National Guard has been instrumental in recruiting and training new coalitions to reach the current number of fifty-four registered member organizations.



All three CADCA Awards are displayed at Counterdrug Headquarters in Smyrna, Tennessee.



# DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION



Tennessee Counterdrug Task Force soldiers share a once in a lifetime experience

## Tennessee Guardsmen get to "Stay on Track" at Daytona 500

By Capt. David Roberts  
Counterdrug Public Affairs

Four soldiers from our Task Force recently got the chance to experience the Daytona 500 up-close and personal. These Tennessee Guardsmen along with four Florida soldiers were able to ride around the track in a 2 and a half ton

truck before the race. A "Stay on Track" banner was hung on both sides of the truck to raise public awareness and support for the anti-drug program. Approximately 300,000 people were at the event.

"The support the Army National Guard received from the fans was at most times overwhelming" said Sgt. 1st. Class Michael Winchester, "It was a once in a lifetime experience."

### DDR Administrator



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### FY 2008 STATS

Tennesseans Reached  
From Oct 07 to Feb 08

Elementary School.....	12,493
Middle School.....	56,159
High School.....	13,554
College/University.....	2,833
Adults.....	11,389
Total.....	96,428



Sgt. Johnson (left) and Spec. Geisman demonstrate the harmful effects smoking have on a lung.

## Newport Students Learn Dangers of Tobacco, Drugs

By Capt. David Roberts  
Counterdrug Public Affairs

Sgt. Ken Johnson and Spec. David Geisman have been instructing Middle School students at Newport Grammar School, devoting one day for each grade, 6th, 7th and 8th. At the request of School Health Coordinator Michelle Black, the curriculum for the 6th and 7th grade students was focused on alcohol and tobacco awareness, while the 8th grade students were focused on

methamphetamine awareness. Students were given instruction followed by a tour of the Drug Awareness Trailer. Mrs. Jones of the Tennessee Meth Task Force also visited the school to teach the students about the hazardous materials found in meth labs and what precautions local law enforcement officers take in their community. By the end of their mission, Sgt. Johnson and Spec. Geisman reached over 300 students, parents and teachers with their anti-drug message.

# DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION

*Names of personnel and locations are withheld for operational security*

## City Wide Sweep in Middle Tennessee Town

By Capt. David Roberts  
Counterdrug Public Affairs

Recently, the Counterdrug Task Force's Ground Reconnaissance Team has been providing support to law enforcement in a small middle Tennessee town. Team members photographed undercover officers conducting several controlled buys in an ongoing city wide sweep. The drug problem encompasses local businesses as well as residential areas. The Reconnaissance Team also assisted the LEA'S in cataloging evidence and processing drug intelligence to further the case. The current results of this ongoing case have resulted in the seizure of 2.3 pounds of marijuana, 65 ounces of cocaine and 40 Xanax pills.



Some of the drugs seized during the operations

## FY 2008 SEIZURES

*From Oct 2007 to Feb 2008*

\*\* Seizure information is from drug cases that were supported by the Counterdrug Task Force through Criminal Analysis, Ground or Aerial Reconnaissance.

Cocaine (lbs.).....	477.97
Crack Cocaine (lbs.) .....	305.7
Meth (lbs.).....	26.26
Meth Labs.....	149
Heroin (lbs.).....	91.15
Khat (lbs.).....	2,204.8
PCP(lbs.).....	899
Vehicles.....	42
Weapons.....	60
Proc. Marijuana (lbs.).....	3,697.49
Pills(Assorted Drugs).....	1,261
Currency.....	\$7,137,670
Property (\$value).....	\$1,010,466
Arrests.....	356



## Analyst Plays Part in Major Drug Trafficking Case

By Capt. David Roberts  
Counterdrug Public Affairs

The Counterdrug Task Force currently has 18 Criminal Analysts from Johnson City to Memphis supporting law enforcement agencies full time. The analytical support they provide is often crucial to a successful prosecution. These cases sometimes drag out for months or even years, so it is not often they get to see the fruits of their labor. Recently, one of our Analysts did get to see that fruit, with the capture and prosecution of a major drug trafficker and his organization. Specifics about the trafficker are withheld to protect our Analyst. The rest of the story is told in his words.

The investigation and pursuant prosecution began last year when a new prosecutor was brought in to introduce new facts to a Grand Jury and prepare superseding indictments on new suspects. The Assistant US Attorney (AUSA) and I worked closely on a case in 2004 and 2005. He found my style of case organization to be thorough and easy to present to persons not familiar with the case. When he was tasked with taking the lead on this case, which was initiated in 2001, he felt I could help him get 'up to speed' and assist with presentations to both Grand Juries and OCDTF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force)/RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) committees. I started by collecting the case facts and organizing them in a way to allow the AUSA to quickly and fully understand the dynamics of the case, who the major players were, and who best (most knowledgeable) to present as witnesses to the Grand Jury.

Phase Two of my involvement has been working as an 'informational funnel' in that all documents (witness statements, evidence) come to me to be cataloged in a database I created. By cataloging bits of information with multiple query points, I can pull out the information based on varying purposes. For instance, I can recall a report based on who wrote it, when it was written, who is being interviewed, what/who they are talking about, and which defendant(s) is most damaged by the statements/evidence. This is useful when interviewing other witnesses or defendants. It allows agents to go into a room and know what this person should have information about and essentially what they should be telling us. I like to think of it as a way to 'script' interviews. Most suspects or defendants come into an interview reluctant to disclose any facts they think agents don't know because it could further incriminate them. When we sit down and get right to the point of what we want to know, they feel we already know it all and want to get credit for cooperating. This method is also used when putting individuals before the Grand Jury, so they can know in advance what the AUSA is going to ask and he knows how they are going to respond.

I am also categorizing all information by defendant so that the prosecution will be ready to produce packets to defense attorneys for discovery and criminal packets to probation for use in their recommendations to the judges.