



"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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Miss Tennessee Teams up with Tennessee Guard

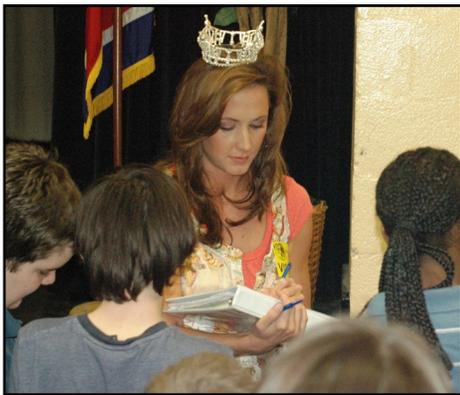
Miss Tennessee Talks to Students About the Dangers of Drug Abuse

By Staff Sgt. Terry Winnette

Every year, our Drug Demand Reduction Team supports the Yes2Kids Conference. During this years conference, I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Tennessee, Grace Gore. I told her about our Drug Demand Reduction Team and how we are implementing the STAY ON TRACK program in middle schools across Tennessee. I went on to explain how successful the program had been with the students.



Miss Tennessee, Grace Gore, speaks to middle school students on the dangers of drug abuse



Before parting, I invited Miss Gore to visit an inner city school where SOT was being taught. Being the official spokesperson for the Governor's Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, she was very excited at the opportunity to talk to the students about drug abuse and learn more about the SOT program.

Miss Gore spoke to over 800 students during her visit and discussed many of the same topics covered in the SOT workbook. Afterwards, she answered questions and signed autographs. Ms. Gore said she enjoyed the experience and would love to do it again in the future.

Stay On Track Instructor Meets NASCAR Drivers



By Captain David Roberts

One of our STAY ON TRACK instructors recently got the opportunity to meet with some of NASCAR's finest at the Nashville Super Speedway. During his brief visit, Staff Sgt. Winnette talked to Dale Earnhart, Jr., Jeff Gordon (pictured above), Casey Mears and Jimmy Johnson about the STAY ON TRACK program and how its racing theme was a big hit with middle school students.



Staff Sgt. Winnette and Miss Tennessee pose with students

Photos by Officer Candidate Ramirez

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DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

Task Force Helps to Make Y2K Conference a Success



Sergeant Patrick Falkenburg talks to conference attendees about some of the harmful effects of drugs.

By Captain Linda Williams
DDR Administrator

Yes2Kids is an annual professional development and networking conference for adults who serve youth. The conference is held every year at the Marriott in Cool Springs and features educational sessions, training workshops and keynote speakers. It's a great opportunity for people to network and share ideas in problem solving that ultimately benefit Tennessee's youth.

Our Drug Demand Reduction Team has been supporting the Y2K Conference for the past eight years. We provide instructors for some of the training sessions, the Drug Awareness Trailer and assistance to other training sessions as well.

During the two-day conference, DDR personnel also have the opportunity to network with those in attendance. This networking allows us to educate agencies in other areas of the state on the support we can provide to them.

DDR Administrator



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Anti-Drug Message Reaches Race Fans in Bristol, Tenn.

By Sgt. Doug Edmisten

The Food City Family Race Night is a community event held before NASCAR races at the Bristol Motor Speedway. This event has many vendors, attendees and presented a great opportunity for us to bring out the Drug Awareness Trailer. Our plan was a success, for we reached a lot of people with our anti-drug message and had a good time doing it. Many came up to Specialist Braswell and myself with questions and concerns about drugs. Some even told us about their own experiences with drugs and how it affected their lives. We were also able to get on the radio and talk about the Counterdrug Task Force and the STAY ON TRACK program.

The Food City Family Race Night was about families and community and I think we showed many people how much the National Guard is concerned about their families and is very much a part of their community.



Specialist Mark Braswell and Sgt. Doug Edmisten stand ready by the Drug Awareness Trailer in Bristol,

Guardisman and Sheriff Create STAY ON TRACK Success in Henderson County



Sgt. Tommy Vaughn holds a thank you banner made by the students

By Sgt. Tommy Vaughn

Last month, 52 sixth graders from Westover Elementary School graduated from the STAY ON TRACK program. While this was not the first group to graduate from the program, it was definitely one of the most memorable. There was never a dull moment while teaching the SOT program to students at Westover. They put just as much energy and enthusiasm into the program as I did.

After the graduation, the school counselor, Mr. Powers, presented me with a six foot thank you banner signed by all the students and teachers. I was speechless and really moved by their thoughtfulness.

The graduation also had several special visitors; Sheriff Brian Duke and Joran Lee of WBBJ Channel 7 News.

Sheriff Duke is really pushing the STAY ON TRACK program in Henderson County and is buying the SOT workbooks out of his drug fund for next school year.

We have built a great relationship with Sheriff Duke and his department to help keep middle school students drug free. Sheriff Duke took part in the graduation ceremony to congratulate the students on their achievement.

Channel 7 recorded part of the graduation and aired it four times over the following two days. This was in an effort to educate West Tennessee communities and schools on the anti-drug support the National Guard can provide.



Sheriff Brian Duke and Sgt. Tommy Vaughn present SOT diplomas to students during a ceremony

Joint Substance Abuse Team Receives Two National Guard Bureau Awards

By Captain David Roberts
Counterdrug Public Affairs

Tennessee's Joint Substance Abuse Program was the recipient of two awards at the National Substance Abuse Conference in New Orleans last month. The Outstanding Achievement Award was given for exceeding the national testing goal for Army National Guard soldiers for FY 07. The Most Improved Award was given for the most improved Army National Guard Testing Program in the Nation for FY 07. Sgt. Maj. Debbie Rose-Spangler and Sgt. 1st. Class Tim Sutton were present to accept the awards.



The Joint Substance Abuse Team: (L to R) Sgt. Candice Frazier, Sgt. Maj. Debbie Rose-Spangler, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Sutton, and Staff Sgt. Robert Attkisson (Staff Sgt. Robert Tuggle not pictured)

FY 2008 STATS

Tennesseans Reached From Oct 07 to Apr 08

Elementary School.....	16,651
Middle School.....	79,908
High School.....	22,211
College/University.....	2,964
Adults.....	15,571
Total.....	137,305

DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION

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

Guardsmen Use High-Tech Equipment to Help Find Drugs

New MX-2 Thermal Imagers From National Guard Bureau Come in Handy during Search

Captain David Roberts
Counterdrug Public Affairs

Recently, the Tennessee National Guard Ground Reconnaissance Team assisted two local law enforcement agencies serving a drug related search warrant.

A confidential informant indicated to the law enforcement investigators that the suspect was growing marijuana inside a residence and that drugs and money were concealed in hidden compartments in the floor and walls. The local law enforcement agency requested assistance from the Counterdrug Task Force in finding the hidden drugs.



Pictured above are some of the marijuana plants that were seized during the search warrant

After receiving the request for support, the Ground Reconnaissance Team deployed to the search warrant location with their MX-2 thermal imager in hand. National Guard Bureau had recently provided 14 MX-2s to Tennessee's Counterdrug Task Force to assist law enforcement with drug investigations such as this one.

With the use of the thermal imager, one of the National Guard soldiers began searching for differences in heat signatures in the floor and walls that would indicate a hidden compartment. It wasn't long before she found something not quite right on the kitchen floor. The MX-2 had discovered a hidden compartment covered in drug residue. The search continued and was very successful. In all, 56 Marijuana plants were recovered from the residence along with over 19 pounds of processed marijuana.



The MX-2 Thermal Imager (pictured above) was used to search for hidden compartments. Bags of processed marijuana (below) were seized as a result of the successful search warrant.



FY 2008 SEIZURES

From Oct 2007 to Apr 2008

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

Cocaine (lbs.).....	684.4
Crack Cocaine (lbs.)	305.9
Meth (lbs.).....	278.3
Meth Labs.....	191
Heroin (lbs.).....	106.8
Khat (lbs.).....	3,065.7
PCP(lbs.).....	1,177
Vehicles.....	50
Weapons.....	76
Proc. Marijuana (lbs.).....	3,890.2
Prescription Drugs.....	2,977
Currency.....	\$8,298,945
Property (\$value).....	\$1,010,466
Arrests.....	548

