



Oregon-Idaho
HIDTA
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Medford Area
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HIDTA TIMES

Director's Message ~

2024 National HIDTA Award

Each year the Office of National Drug Control Policy accepts award nominations for outstanding performance in drug enforcement. This year the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA submitted 10 of the more than 140 nominations that were sent nationwide. I am proud to announce that on April 4th members of the the Metro Safe Streets Task Force, which is based in Multnomah County, will receive the HIDTA award for Outstanding Investigation Involving a Violent Organization during an awards ceremony in the Washington, D.C area. Below is a summary of the nomination that resulted in the award:

“The Metro Safe Streets Task Force conducted a racketeering investigation into the Hoover Criminal Gang which resulted in the seizure of 44 firearms, controlled substances, and approximately 38 indictments for the Hoovers or Hoover associates for charges including RICO Conspiracy, VICAR Murder, Drug Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm. In September 2022, two defendants went to trial with three charges of VICAR murder and RICO Conspiracy which alleged 17 acts involving murder, six robberies, and seven drug trafficking incidents over a 30-year span. Both defendants were convicted and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.”

This case was the result of outstanding interagency cooperation between the Portland FBI, Portland Police Bureau, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, Gresham Police Department, Multnomah County Parole and Probation, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office District of Oregon, Eugene Police Department and Oregon State Police. Congratulations to all involved for a job well done!

2023 Performance

As is the case every year at this time, HIDTA staff members are hard at work pouring through the HIDTA Performance management Process (PMP) database to reconcile performance numbers that quantify the outcomes of the hard work put in by Oregon-Idaho HIDTA initiatives. During 2023, Oregon-Idaho HIDTA initiatives which were staffed by 360 full-time and 130 part-time members from 87 agencies:

- Disrupted or dismantled a total of 78 international, multi-state and local drug trafficking (DTO) and money laundering organizations (MLO),
- Seized from drug traffickers over 3.6 million counterfeit fentanyl pills and 395 pounds of powdered fentanyl, 2,000 pounds of methamphetamine, 80 pounds of heroin, 350 pounds of cocaine, 185,000 unlawfully produced marijuana plants and, 122,685 pounds of unlawfully possessed marijuana all with a total wholesale value of over \$1.07 billion plus nearly \$9.3 million in ill-gotten assets,
- Arrested 2,644 drug traffickers and apprehended 1,111 fugitives; 131 of which faced drug related charges,
- Seized 1,085 unlawfully possessed weapons,
- Provided 15,647 hours of training to 1,709 criminal justice professionals,
- Provided analytical support to 743 cases, and
- Deconflicted over 1,836 law enforcement events through the Regional Information System's RISSafe database.

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Directors message continued ...

Overdose Response Strategy Felony Arrest Notification Success Story

In February 2024, Oregon HIDTA Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO) Joe DelGreco, received a Felony Arrest Notification (FAN) from Wyoming DIO Casey Patterson concerning two Portland residents who had been arrested during a traffic stop in Wyoming. At the time of their arrest the subjects were in possession of cocaine, marijuana and 3 firearms, one of which was stolen.

DIO DelGreco, utilizing the Regional Information Sharing System Intelligence (RISSIntel) database, deconflicted the names of the subjects who had been arrested and determined that one of them had a drug trafficking encounter with an Oregon law enforcement agency in 2019 and that other person was the subject of an ongoing drug trafficking and firearms investigation.

DIOs DelGreco and Patterson facilitated further information exchanges between the Oregon and Wyoming law enforcement investigators. That information exchange subsequently resulted in the exploitation of the evidence seized in Wyoming to aid in the ongoing Oregon investigation.

This incident illustrates the value of contributing criminal intelligence information into RISS and deconflicting cases and events in RISS. This case further highlights the utility of the HIDTA program's Overdose Strategy Initiative's DIO FAN process. If not for the work of DIOs DelGreco and Patterson, connecting the arrest in Wyoming with the ongoing case in Oregon would not have happened as quickly as it did.

***Chris Gibson, Executive Director
Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Program***



2024 OREGON-IDAHO HIDTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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 Ken Wolters – Drug Enforcement Administration Assistant Special Agent in Charge
 Bill Morgan – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Assistant Special Agent in Charge
 Adam Sully – Bureau of Land Management Assistant Special Agent in Charge
 Matthew Schlegel – Federal Bureau of Investigation Assistant Special Agent in Charge
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 Russ Wheatley – Idaho State Police
 Travis Lee – Oregon National Guard Colonel
 Josh Brooks – Oregon State Police Deputy Superintendent

EX-OFFICIO AGENCIES / DRUG PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MEMBERS

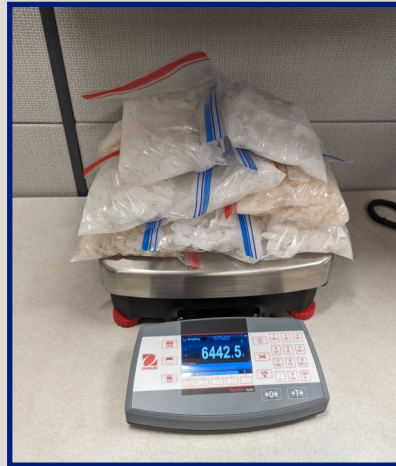
Jerry Drum – Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association President
 Alison Noice – CODA Inc. Executive Director
 Dwight Holton – Lines for Life Chief Executive Officer

CITY COUNTY NARCOTICS UNIT FBI METRO TASK FORCE

4th Quarter Update

- ◆ The FBI Treasure Valley Metro Violent Crime Task Force (TVMVCTF) received information in regards to a residence in Canyon County, Idaho that allegedly had firearms and large quantities of narcotics buried in bunkers on the property. With the assistance of Probation and Parole, the Canyon County Sheriff's Office CID, and City County Narcotics Unit (CCNU) (consisting of Canyon County Sheriff's Office and Caldwell PD), approximately 14.5 pounds of methamphetamine that was buried in the ground, two firearms, and \$26,100 was located and seized on the property.

Pictured below and right: methamphetamine, firearms, and cash seized in Canyon County



SPECIAL ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY - IDAHO

- ◆ On November 9, 2023 Brendan Manzon, 50, of Boise, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge David C. Nyeto 78 months in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release for distribution of methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced today.

According to court records, in October 2021, in Boise, Manzon sold a quarter pound of methamphetamine to another person in exchange for \$1,000. Manzon has an extensive criminal history, including convictions for aggravated battery, trafficking in methamphetamine, and possession of a controlled substance. Manzon pleaded guilty to the charge on September 15, 2022.

U.S. Attorney Hurwit commended the work of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Idaho State Police, the Boise Police Department, and the Nampa Police Department, which led to the charges. Assistant U.S. Attorney David Morse, who was the HIDTA SAUSA at the time of charging, prosecuted the case.

This case was prosecuted by the Special Assistant U.S. Attorney hired by the Ada County Prosecuting Attorney's Office with funds provided by the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. HIDTA is an Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) sponsored counterdrug grant program that coordinates with and provides funding resources to multi-agency drug enforcement initiatives, including the Special Assistant U.S. Attorney position.

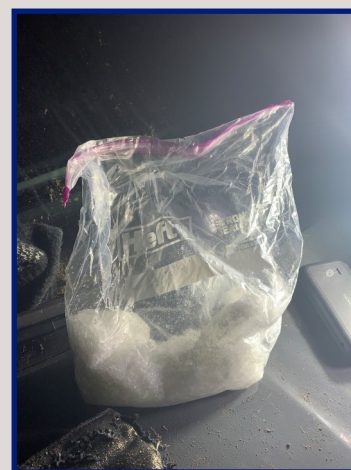
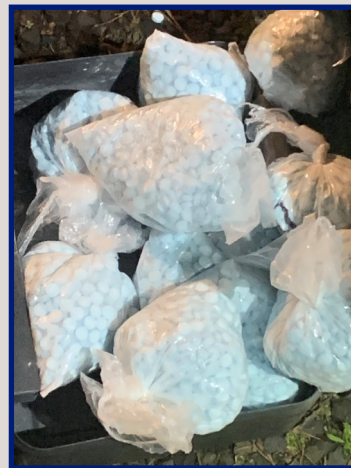
CENTRAL OREGON DRUG ENFORCEMENT

- ◆ On December 28, 2023, the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team, in collaboration with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, attempted to make a traffic stop on a gray Volkswagen Taos in the area of Smith Rock Way and NE 33rd St. in Redmond, OR. The vehicle did not yield to police officers and attempted to elude police. A short pursuit occurred, and the eluding vehicle appeared to hit a bump in the road, going off the roadway in the area of NE 33rd St. and Oneil Hwy, striking some rocks and debris and getting stuck. There were two people in the vehicle. The driver, Andrew Scott Giordano, and passenger Eric Wayne Reinwald, who were both taken into custody. Neither was injured in the crash.

Drug agents applied for and were granted search warrants for the vehicle, items from the vehicle, and Giordano's residence located in the 20000 block of Kirstin Ct. in Bend, OR. Agents served the search warrants and located commercial quantities of fentanyl and methamphetamine in and around the vehicle, as well as packaging material, cash and items related to the distribution of illegal narcotics at Giordano's residence.

Giordano and Reinwald were allegedly transporting commercial quantities of both fentanyl and methamphetamine in the Central Oregon area.

The Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force supported by the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program and the following Central Oregon law enforcement agencies: Bend Police Department, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Redmond Police Department, Prineville Police Department, Crook County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Madras Police Department, Oregon State Police, Sunriver Police Department, Black Butte Police Department, United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Warm Springs Tribal Police Department, Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson County District Attorney's, and the Oregon National Guard.



Pictured above: methamphetamine and fentanyl seized by CODE

LINN INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

- ◆ A case of note from the 4th quarter ~ A Linn Interagency Narcotics Enforcement (LINE) investigator, while off duty, observed a male flashing large amounts of cash in a public social setting. The investigator asked the suspect how he could get that kind of money and the suspect told him he could sell drugs. The suspect took the investigator's phone, entered his information, and stated "Now you're in the game."

LINE began making undercover (UC) buys from the suspect who lived in the Portland area. LINE made a total of three UC buys during which investigators identified the suspect's residence, his girlfriend's residence, involved vehicles and a stash house location. Warrants were served with the assistance of Portland SERT. Dealer quantities of cocaine, user amounts of fentanyl, packaging, scales, currency to include buy money from all three UC buys and several firearms were seized.

This drug trafficking organization (DTO) was identified and dismantled.

Pictured right: LINE DTO seizure



DOUGLAS INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS TEAM

◆ On December 18, 2023, detectives with the Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (DINT) arrested a Roseburg man after observing a suspected drug deal in progress. Detectives observed as two persons met at an unusual location on the side of the road in the 1400 block of Roberts Mountain Road in Green, OR. Aided by a deputy with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, detectives contacted the individuals to investigate the suspicious activity.

One of the persons contacted was 43 year old Jeremy Ray Hawkins, of Roseburg. Hawkins was found to be in possession of a small amount of suspected methamphetamine. A subsequent search of Hawkins' vehicle revealed approximately a half pound of suspected methamphetamine, 8.2 grams of suspected heroin, a small amount of suspected fentanyl, scales, packaging, and other drug paraphernalia. Two handguns were also found hidden inside the vehicle with the controlled substances.

Hawkins is a prior convicted felon, and it is illegal for him to possess firearms. Hawkins was arrested and lodged at the Douglas County Jail.

◆ On December 31, 2023, DINT detectives arrested two California individuals traveling to Douglas County with the intent to deliver a large load of methamphetamine.

At approximately 4:00 AM detectives initiated a traffic stop on a 2020 GMC Sierra pickup at the intersection of Main Street and Chief Miwaleta Lane in Canyonville, OR. The vehicle was occupied by 46 year old Marcus Fuentes and 39 year old Stela Vigue, both of Bakersfield, California.

DINT detectives suspected the vehicle contained a large load of methamphetamine being delivered to Douglas County from California. Detectives quickly obtained a search warrant for the vehicle and inside the passenger compartment they found approximately 21 pounds of suspected methamphetamine packaged in one pound bundles, along with a semi-automatic handgun.



Pictured above: approximately 21 lbs. methamphetamine seizure

Marcus Fuentes is a previously convicted felon. Both Fuentes and Vigue were transported to the Douglas County Jail where they were lodged on charges of Unlawful Possession, Manufacture, and Delivery of Methamphetamine. Fuentes was additionally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The DINT team is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force that identifies, disrupts, and dismantles local, multi-state, and international drug trafficking organizations using an intelligence-driven, multi-agency, prosecutor-supported approach. DINT is supported by the Oregon-Idaho High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and is composed of members from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Roseburg Police Department, Oregon State Police, Bureau of Land Management, and the Douglas County District Attorney's Office. The Oregon-Idaho HIDTA program is an Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) sponsored counterdrug grant program that coordinates with and provides funding resources to multi-agency drug enforcement initiatives, including DINT.

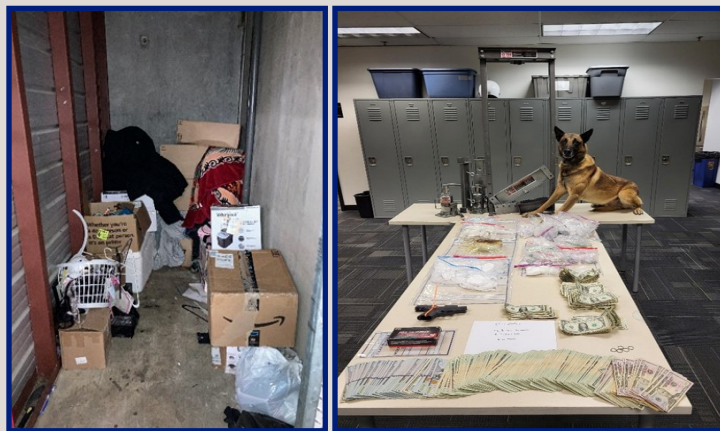
HIDTA INTERDICTION TEAM

◆ In October of 2023 members of the HIDTA Interdiction Team (HIT) began working a drug investigation in Portland. A fentanyl source of supply (SOS) in Portland was identified by an Oregon State Police (OSP) detective out of Ontario, Oregon. The investigation into the SOS resulted in the subsequent identification of that subject's source of fentanyl. From October to December HIT identified and surveilled three female fentanyl dealers living in Portland. The females were subsequently arrested and warrants were served on a residence, multiple vehicles and a storage unit. In total 6,033 grams of fentanyl powder, 1 handgun, a kilo press and \$13,257 United States currency was seized. The case is being prosecuted by the AUSA's office.

Pictured below: fentanyl, handgun, kilo press, currency seizure

◆ Members of HIT conducted follow up on a fentanyl overdose death of a 15-year-old high school student. HIT identified Nasir Overton DOB 06/08/2003 as the level 1 supplier to the deceased. HIT conducted surveillance and identified Overton's apartment and vehicles in the Portland metropolitan area. HIT learned Overton had been supplying fentanyl and marijuana to several high school students.

On 11/30/23, HIT arrested Overton and executed search warrants on his apartment and vehicles. HIT recovered a small amount of counterfeit M30 pills and 3 firearms. Overton admitted to delivering fentanyl to the deceased victim and her friend. The Assistant United States Attorney's Office (AUSA) is prosecuting the case.



Pictured above and below: firearms seized from Overton



◆ On December 11, 2023, Henry Konah Koffie, who completed more than 7,800 individual darknet fentanyl sales in less than two years and was linked by investigators to dozens of fatal overdoses across the United States, was sentenced to life in federal prison for distributing a fentanyl analogue on AlphaBay, a former darknet marketplace, that caused the overdoses of three people in Oregon, two of whom died.

While investigating two overdose deaths in May 2017, HIT investigators conducted five controlled buys of powdered fentanyl on the AlphaBay darknet market from the vendor "NARCOBOSS". The parcels all originated from Philadelphia, PA. HIT investigators travelled to Philadelphia and identified Koffie as the person operating as NARCOBOSS. HIT worked with Mid -Liberty HIDTA, HSI, USPIS and FBI to serve search warrants and arrest Koffie. The HIT investigation identified that in just under two years, Koffie used AlphaBay to sell approximately 43 pounds of furanyl fentanyl in 7,849 individual transactions to customers in all 50 states. In addition to the three overdoses Koffie was convicted of causing in Oregon, investigators identified at least 27 other people who ordered furanyl fentanyl from Koffie and, shortly after, overdosed and died. Koffie was also linked to 27 other non-fatal overdoses.



Koffie

IDAHO STATE POLICE - DOMESTIC HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT

- ◆ During the 4th quarter, the Idaho State Police (ISP) Domestic Highway Enforcement Team conducted 22 operations in Ada, Bannock, Bingham, Bonneville, Canyon, Cassia, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Oneida, Power, Shoshone, and Twin Falls counties. The following agencies supported their operations:

Idaho Department of Corrections (Felony Probation and Parole)
 Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office
 Twin Falls Police Department
 Bannock County Sheriff's Office
 Pocatello Police Department
 Chubbuck Police Department
 Canyon County Sheriff's Office
 Rathdrum Police Department
 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
 US Customs and Border Patrol
 ISP's Investigative units

- ◆ In November 2023, the ISP DHE team along with ISP Investigations, US Customs and Border Patrol, Rathdrum Police Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Idaho Department of Corrections Probation and Parole conducted an operation in Kootenai County. Results from the operation include 14 felony drug charges, 50 misdemeanor drug charges, 4 fentanyl cases, 8 methamphetamine cases, 2 felony child endangerment charges, 5 undocumented illegal aliens deported, 1 resist and obstruct charge, 2 false identity charges, and 2 warrant arrests.

Two young children were put into a better home through Child Protective Services (CPS) after troopers discovered both fentanyl addicted parents had put their children into horrible living conditions. The parents had pulled their 1st and 3rd grade kids out of school in Montana to go to Spokane, Washington to obtain fentanyl. The mom was going through withdrawals and the kids were being severely neglected by their parents. The kids hadn't eaten in at least 24 hours and smelled strongly of urine. 92 fentanyl pills were located inside the vehicle, including some in close proximity to the children.

Other notable seizures during this operation include 1.4 pounds of methamphetamine, 300 fentanyl pills along with a smaller amount of methamphetamine, nearly 2 ounces of methamphetamine located inside the air filter of a vehicle and several baggies of methamphetamine portioned for delivery in Shoshone County.

- ◆ On November 8, 2023, an ISP Trooper conducted a traffic stop in Kootenai County on a black 2021 Nissan Altima with Montana plates, for lane change violation. During the encounter, the trooper observed nervous behavior from the occupants. Occupants also admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle.

While conducting a search of the vehicle, the trooper located 1.4 pounds of methamphetamine inside a locked bag in the trunk.



Pictured above: methamphetamine seized from Nissan



- ◆ On December 5, 2023, an ISP Trooper conducted a traffic stop in Kootenai County on a white 2003 Cadillac Deville with Montana plates for lane change violation. During the stop, the trooper observed signs of recent drug use in the occupants of the vehicle, along with displaying nervous behavior when asked about drugs in the vehicle.

While conducting the search of the vehicle, the trooper located 4,655 dose units of fentanyl, 14.5 grams of methamphetamine, \$3,956 in cash.

Pictured left: seizure from Cadillac

ISP DHE continued

- On December 7, 2023, an ISP Trooper conducted a traffic stop in Gooding County on a white 2023 Toyota Camry rental car with Colorado plates for lane change violations. During the stop, the trooper observed nervous behavior from both occupants inside the vehicle, occupants also had inconsistent travel plans.

While conducting the search of the vehicle, the trooper located 438.4 grams (nearly 1 pound) of methamphetamine hidden underneath the center console.

Pictured right: methamphetamine seized from Toyota



- On December 12, 2023, an ISP Trooper conducted a traffic stop in Bonneville County on a 2012 white Mercedes Benz C300 with Montana plates for window tint violation. During the stop, the trooper observed drug paraphernalia in plain sight, as well as signs of recent drug use and nervous behavior.

While conducting a search of the vehicle, the trooper located 5,144 dose units of fentanyl, 2.98 pounds of methamphetamine, and 2.83 pounds of cocaine.

Pictured right: methamphetamine seized from Mercedes



OREGON STATE POLICE DOMESTIC HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT

- On December 12, 2023, an Oregon State Police (OSP) K9 Trooper stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on I-5 north in Linn County, OR. During initial contact the driver opened his center console, and the trooper observed a concealed handgun, for which he did not have a permit. Throughout the remainder of the contact, numerous factors led the trooper to believe the driver was involved in additional criminal activity.

The driver admitted there was a large amount of narcotics in the trunk of the vehicle and granted consent to search. During the search the Trooper recovered approximately 41.4 pounds of methamphetamine and 7.8 pounds of heroin from a suitcase in the trunk. The narcotics and firearm were seized.



Pictured above: methamphetamine, heroin, and firearm seizure

- On December 21, 2023, an OSP K9 Trooper stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation on I-5 north in Linn County, OR. During the contact, PC was developed that there was contraband in the vehicle.

The vehicle was searched under exigent circumstances and 50 lbs. of methamphetamine was discovered and seized.



Pictured right: 50 pound methamphetamine seizure

MEDFORD AREA DRUG AND GANG ENFORCEMENT

4th Quarter Update ~

- ◆ In October 2023, the Medford Area Drug and Gang Enforcement (MADGE) team executed a search warrant that resulted in the seizure of 6.20 pounds of cocaine and 22.50 pounds of processed marijuana.

The suspect claimed ownership of the drugs and admitted he had been actively selling cocaine. He was arrested and lodged on possession, manufacturing, and distribution of cocaine and his probation officer issued a detainer.

- ◆ In November 2023, detectives with MADGE, elements of the Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Team (IMET), a special agent with Homeland Security Investigations, and a detective with the Oregon State Police (OSP) assisted in locating a vehicle believed to be transporting a large quantity of fentanyl.

The vehicle was located outside of Chiloquin, OR and a traffic stop was conducted for numerous traffic violations. Contact was made with the 20-year-old driver who was driving without a license. MADGE received additional assistance from OSP and Klamath County Sheriff's Office. Medford Police Department's K-9 Bodie alerted to the vehicle. Detectives searched the vehicle and located a total of 117.10 pounds of fentanyl. The fentanyl was broken out as: 99.50 pounds of fentanyl pills and 17.60 pounds of fentanyl powder.

Pictured right: Fentanyl seizure near Chiloquin, OR



- ◆ MADGE worked a case that resulted in the seizure of 1.25 pounds of methamphetamine, .11 pounds of heroin, and 20 pills that tested positive for fentanyl. This was a lengthy investigation into a suspect who was transporting drugs from California and selling them in the Medford area. The 71-year-old suspect admitted he had just purchased the drugs in California.

The suspect was cited and released on possession, manufacturing, and distribution of both methamphetamine and heroin. The case is under review at the District Attorney's Office.

- ◆ MADGE contacted a suspect they had been investigating for a period of time. Detectives seized just over 3 pounds of fentanyl, a small amount of methamphetamine, drug scales, and unused packaging. Additional work is being done on this case.

Pictured right: approximately 3 pound fentanyl seizure



October seizure



Pictured above: methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl seizure

*MADGE / IMET continued***Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Team - IMET**

◆ The Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Team (IMET) investigated a case involving suspects crossing state lines with the intent to sell black market marijuana that was grown illegally in Jackson County, Oregon. IMET seized 13,655 illegal marijuana plants, 7,700 pounds of processed marijuana, 3.60 pounds of marijuana edibles, eleven firearms, and \$39,262. Five subjects have been arrested and charged with crimes to include possession, manufacturing, distribution of marijuana and unlawful import and export of marijuana. Additional work is being done on this case.

◆ In October 2023, IMET executed two search warrants simultaneously on Rogue River Highway outside of Gold Hill, OR with assistance from Medford Police Department patrol, MADGE, and Jackson County Sheriff Office's detectives and deputies.

A destruction order was granted by a judge and IMET destroyed more than 1,200 illegal marijuana plants and 1,800 pounds of processed marijuana. There was a clandestine butane honey oil laboratory on site that was dismantled. Detectives seized .80 pounds of psilocybin mushrooms, 24 pounds of butane honey oil and \$17,900.

Jackson County Sheriff Office's Code Enforcement issued the property owner \$887,710 in fines. The property owner is also facing civil and criminal Notices of Violation from the Oregon Water Resources Department for using domestic well water for commercial purposes.



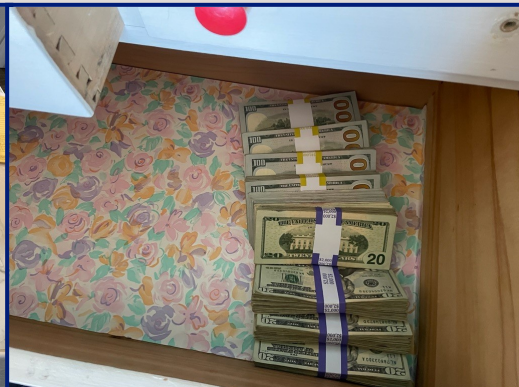
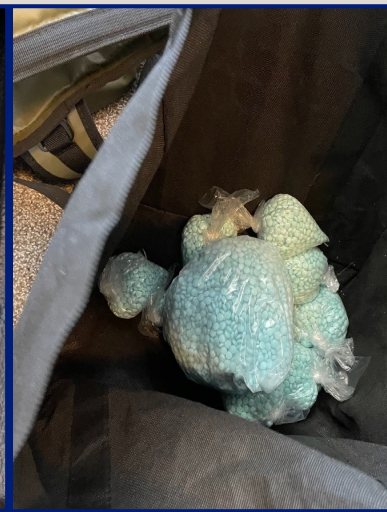
*Pictured left and below:
Illegal marijuana grow destroyed by IMET*



MULTNOMAH CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE DANGEROUS DRUG TEAM

- ◆ On October 5, 2023, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Dangerous Drug Team (MCSO DDT) served a search warrant which resulted in the seizure of 20,000 fentanyl pills, over 350 grams of fentanyl powder, over 250 grams of cocaine, and \$58,225 in drug trafficking currency.
- ◆ On December 7, 2023, MCSO DDT executed a search warrant at multiple locations resulting in one of the biggest fentanyl seizures in Multnomah County history. MCSO DDT seized over 52 lbs. of powdered fentanyl (which equates to over 11 million doses), over \$30,000 in cash, multiple firearms (including fully automatic), over 8,000 fentanyl pills, and made three arrests.
- ◆ On December 21, 2023, MCSO DDT served a search warrant resulting in seizing over \$28,000 in fentanyl drug trafficking money.

Pictured below: drugs, firearms, and cash seized by MCSO DDT during 4th quarter 2023



U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE FUGITIVE TASK FORCE/ PACIFIC NORTHWEST VIOLENT OFFENDER TASK FORCE

- ◆ On October 11, 2023, Jose Esquena-Hinojosa was indicted on federal charges of possession with the intent to distribute fentanyl and heroin, and an arrest was issued the following day. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agents assigned to the investigation believed Esquena-Hinojosa had fled the state and delegated arrest authority to the USMS Pacific Northwest Violent Offender Task Force (PNVOTF) on October 16, 2023 .

On November 8, 2023, deputies assigned to the case developed information that Esquena-Hinojosa was likely residing in the Riverside, California area and a collateral lead was sent to the Central California (C/CA) District Office. On the morning of November 15, 2023, deputies from the C/CA office located a subject matching the description of Esquena-Hinojosa working as part of a roofing crew on an apartment complex in Colton, California. Deputies contacted the subject, who identified himself as Esquena-Hinojosa, and he was subsequently taken into custody without incident.



Esquena-Hinojosa

- ◆ On December 19, 2023 a collateral lead request was received from the District of Colorado for Cain Lerma-Flores. Lerma-Flores was indicted by the DEA in Colorado for his role in the Leo RIOS-LUCERO drug trafficking organization (DTO) which was responsible for trafficking methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and cocaine in the Wyoming and Colorado areas. Per the lead it was determined that Lerma-Flores was in the Oregon City area in Clackamas County, Oregon.

Later that day PNVOTF members from the District of Oregon located Lerma-Flores in a vehicle in Clackamas County. PNVOTF members conducted a vehicle pin and took Lerma-Flores into custody without incident.

During the search incident to arrest, Lerma-Flore admitted that he was in possession of methamphetamine and gave consent for investigators to search his vehicle. Investigators located 4.7ounces of methamphetamine, a scale and packaging material.



Lerma-Flores



Methamphetamine seized from Lerma-Flores

WESTSIDE INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS

- ◆ In 2022, the Westside Interagency Narcotics team (WIN) conducted a long term investigation into the Francisco Morazan Drug Trafficking Organization (FMDTO) operating in the Portland metro area. In October of that year WIN, with the assistance of another area narcotics team, dismantled the large DTO.

In August of 2023, WIN began an investigation into an individual who was trafficking narcotics, specifically fentanyl, in the Portland area. WIN conducted controlled purchases and physical and electronic surveillance of the suspect. During the course of those operations WIN was able to identify the suspect as an individual captured during the dismantling of the October of 2022 operation. That suspect had been returned to Honduras in January of 2023 and seemingly had returned to the Portland area by August of 2023 to continue their drug trafficking.

In November of 2023, WIN along with their partners at the FBI executed search warrants and arrested the FMDTO member operating in Portland. WIN/FBI seized 230.5 grams of fentanyl powder, 438.6 grams of M30 fentanyl pills, 1.2 grams of methamphetamine, 1.3 grams of cocaine, \$113,368 in cash, and a handgun.

Pictured below: drugs, cash and firearm seizure



- ◆ In November 2023, the WIN team was called to assist with an ongoing investigation conducted by the Clackamas County Interagency Task Force (CCITF) and the FBI. CCITF and the FBI were working a case involving a DTO operating in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Additionally, this DTO was tied to an ongoing overdose death investigation

WIN received information from the FBI/CCITF that the main suspect of the DTO had left Portland to travel to the Oakland area. Oakland has been identified as a common area where Portland DTO members will travel to source fentanyl.

In mid-November, FBI/CCITF notified WIN of the suspect's likely return to the Portland area. Due to circumstances outside of their control FBI/CCITF were not able to intercept the suspect and the vehicle which were traveling north from Oakland. It was believed the suspect had driven to Oakland to source fentanyl and was enroute to Portland to distribute it.

The WIN team along with their partners at the FBI located the vehicle traveling north along I-5 and eventually stopped the vehicle, occupied by five DTO members. The vehicle also contained 1001.g of fentanyl powder hidden within compartments of the vehicle, as well as 392.8 grams of marijuana and \$7,570.00 in cash.

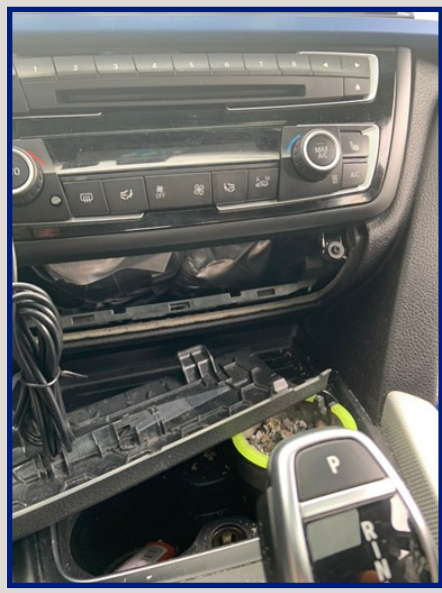
The vehicle stop ultimately led to the FBI and WIN executing a search warrant at the DTO's residence where an additional DTO member was located along with 668.8 grams of fentanyl powder, 466.7 grams of M30 fentanyl pills, fentanyl manufacturing items, 12 firearms, and \$16,703.00 in cash.



Pictured right: hidden compartment in vehicle

WIN continued

Pictured below: drugs and cash seized from DTO



Hidden compartment in vehicle



Firearms seized from DTO



Pictured left: fentanyl manufacturing device seized from DTO



OREGON-IDAHO HIDTA TRAINING INITIATIVE

2023 4th Quarter Training Initiative Update -

The Training Initiative's goal is to host at least one training per quarter in our region for HIDTA members in addition to providing funding assistance to attend additional narcotic related trainings.

During the 4th quarter of 2023, the Training Initiative provided funding for the following trainings:

- *Numerous Virtual Fentanyl Safety and Awareness trainings in conjunction with WRCTC*
- *Several Illicit Drug Manufacturing classes in conjunction with WRCTC*
- *Mexican Cartels & Gangs International Summit*
- *California Narcotic Officers' Association Annual Training Institute*

Classes supported during the 1st quarter of 2024 include:

- *Basic Narcotic/Specialized Unit Investigator Course*
- *Enhanced Tactical Medicine*

Future courses scheduled:

- *Law Enforcement on the Stand, Virtual Class - May 8, 2024*
- *Basic Narcotic Investigations - date TBD (end of April/beginning of May)*
- *Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association Training Summit - April 7-11, 2024*
- *Idaho Narcotics Officers' Association Annual Training - June 5-7, 2024*
- *Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association Training Institute - July 9-11, 2024*

Details and registration information for future training events can be found on the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA website: <http://oridhidta.org/training-events>. When attending training(s) that you would like Oregon-Idaho HIDTA reimbursement for, a HIDTA Training Funds request form must be submitted and approved prior to the training. Training reimbursement requests should be submitted no later than 30 days from the conclusion of the training.

For any training for multiple attendees where you are asking HIDTA for reimbursement, please use the "[Multiple Attendee or Out of State](#)" request form.

Feel free to contact Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Deputy Director/Training Coordinator Ned Walls with any questions or suggestions.

Contact Information:

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ANALYTICAL SUPPORT

Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Information Sharing and Analytical Coordination Center (ISACC)

ISACC Manager Cam Strahm
503.310.4411
cam.strahm@dpsst.oregon.gov

Strategic Threat Analyst Terra Duncan
503.881.5092
terra.duncan@dpsst.oregon.gov

Oregon DOJ Analytical & Criminal Investigative Services Section (ACISS)

Watch Center: 800.442.6248 or
oregonwatch@wsin.riss.net

OREGON-IDAHO HIDTA LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE ACTIVITY

(YTD = End of 4th Quarter)

	2022	Qtr	2023 YTD
DTO-MLOs Dismantled/Disrupted <i>(Projected - 72)</i>	80	33	77
Cases Opened <i>(Average - 3,313)</i>	3,488	895	3,354
Cases Designated RPOT/CPOT	0	0	0
Cases Qualified as OCDEF	11	2	9
Kg of Drugs Seized			
Cocaine	162.6	15.1	66.6
Fentanyl	59	68.3	179.5
Heroin	67.1	8.3	37.7
Marijuana	422,519	13,854	133,608
Methamphetamine/Ice	783.2	309.1	909.5
DU of Drugs Seized			
Fentanyl	3,020,802	1,372,990	3,671,379
Other Illicit Drugs	363,086	9,344	24,057
Assets Seized			
Cash	\$10,216,341	\$864,793	\$5,168,149
Value of Non-Cash Assets Seized	\$18,985,748	\$209,352	\$4,053,194
Other Law Enforcement Outputs			
Arrests	2,697	713	2,626
Firearms Seized	851	197	1049
Wire Taps	46	16	58
Vaping Cartridges Seized	13,134	296	5,595

Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program

Chris Gibson - Director

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