



COMMANDERS MONTHLY

A MONTHLY REPORT OF OHIO'S TASK FORCE ACTIVITY

March 2010

Commanders Monthly serves as a vehicle for the Ohio Drug Task Force Commanders to share drug prevalence, monthly task force highlights, and trends in criminal activity within their jurisdictions. It is the hope that in sharing this information on investigations and arrests, task forces will be able to better determine trends and target the flow of illegal drugs and other criminal activity. The Ohio Task Force Commanders Association is funded in part with a federal Justice Assistance Grant.

March Narratives: Drug Prevalence and Monthly Criminal Activity

CENTRAL OHIO DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE (CODE)

The Central Ohio Drug Enforcement (CODE) Task Force dominant narcotics have been crack cocaine, prescription drugs and marijuana. The Task agents were able to recover a delivery of four ounces of cocaine that came into Licking County from Muskingum. This investigation continued with a purchase of nine ounces of cocaine in Muskingum County.

Agents also investigated a marijuana grow room where 39 plants were recovered. This investigation led to five other subjects being arrested for trafficking and possession of methamphetamine and assembly charges. Ten grams of methamphetamine were recovered and two vehicles were seized.

CLERMONT COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

The unit continues to see a substantial amount of heroin, pharmaceuticals, cocaine and marijuana throughout the county. We continue to see an increase in the number of individuals securing products for manufacturing of meth. Recently we have seen the introduction of Mexican manufactured Xanax into the county.

COLUMBIANA COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

We are dealing with the following drugs in our county: heroin, crack, cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine.

A male suspect was found passed out behind the wheel of a vehicle, as a result of using crystal meth. A search of the suspect's house revealed a "one pot" meth lab in the kitchen.

Two subjects were arrested for trafficking cocaine and prescription medication (Roxicodone) after a month long investigation.

DELAWARE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PUSHERS (LEAP)

Current illegal drugs in our county include: marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin and pharmaceutical drugs.

A Delaware County couple was indicted in March by the Delaware County Grand Jury for F-1 Illegal Cultivation of Marijuana, F-1 Trafficking in Marijuana, F-2 Possession of Marijuana, F-2 Illegal Assembly of Chemicals for Manufacturing Drugs, F-3 Endangering Children, and M-4 Illegal Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The indictment stemmed from a search warrant executed in January where 95 active plants were located and over 112 pounds of marijuana and four firearms were removed from the residence.

The Drug Task Force continues to see an overwhelming influx of heroin and overdose cases are a concern.

FAIRFIELD-HOCKING MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

The drugs most prevalent within our jurisdiction are heroin, methamphetamines and marijuana. The Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit, along with the Hocking County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Marshals Service Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (SOFAST) conducted a joint operation involving the arrest of 39 individuals on narcotics and theft-related charges. Fifty three officers from Central and Southeastern Ohio participated in this effort. Narcotics related charges stemmed from trafficking in heroin, methamphetamine, and opiate-based pharmaceuticals.

We also encountered five additional meth labs in March. This brings the total of labs within our jurisdiction to 12 for the year.

GRAND LAKE TASK FORCE

Grand Lake Task Force has seen an increase in marijuana sales while heroin use continues to be high.



GREENE COUNTY (ACE) TASK FORCE

The primary drugs of choice in Greene County are crack cocaine and marijuana followed closely by heroin and powder cocaine. Methamphetamine, Ecstasy, Oxycontin, pharmaceutical drugs, psilocybin mushrooms, and LSD are encountered frequently during street level undercover purchases of drugs.

On March 2, the Greene County Agencies for Combined Enforcement (ACE Task Force), assisted by the Dayton Police Department, conducted a search warrant service at an address in Dayton. The search warrant service resulted after a lengthy investigation involving several undercover purchases of illicit drugs from the main suspect. Evidence found during the search included, but was not limited to: approximately two pounds of marijuana, a quantity of cocaine, one 40 caliber handgun, two sets of scales, one vehicle and documentary evidence. Evidence will be submitted to the crime lab for analysis and all information will be forwarded to the Greene County Prosecutor's Office for additional charges on all defendants.

On March 16, 2009, ACE Task Force, assisted by the Montgomery County Tactical Crime Suppression Unit and Miamisburg Police Department, conducted a controlled delivery of 26 pounds of marijuana to a location in Beavercreek. Immediately following the delivery, warrant services were conducted. Evidence recovered from the location included, but was not limited to: a package containing 26 pounds of marijuana, approximately 2 pounds of marijuana packaged to sell, one 45 caliber Browning handgun, one 40 caliber Ruger, scales and documentary evidence. Evidence recovered from another location included but was not limited to: a five gallon bucket of marijuana, scales, one 12 gauge shotgun, one 357 caliber Taurus Revolver and documentary evidence. One suspect was arrested for trafficking marijuana and other drug related charges. All evidence will be submitted to the crime lab for analysis and all information will be forwarded to the Greene County Prosecutor's Office for additional charges on all defendants.

LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY

The predominant street drugs in Lake County this month have been crack cocaine, MDMA and marijuana. Lake County Narcotics has conducted two search warrants and assisted another local department on a third. One search warrant may be brought under the nuisance abatement in the future as the investigation continues. Several interdiction stops and buy/bust operations were conducted this month in conjunction with controlled buys.

The Pharmacy Diversion Unit has arrested three individuals involved in doctor shopping for either Illegal Processing or Deception to Obtain. Direct buys of Oxycodone and Suboxone have also been made. The drugs investigated include Oxycodone, Oxycontin, Suboxone and Vicodin.

LAWRENCE DRUG AND MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE

Prevalent drugs Lawrence County are crack cocaine, marijuana and prescription narcotics. The source for the prescription narcotics are Florida pain management clinics in neighboring

Scioto County. The most common prescriptions available for street sales are Oxycontin, Percocet, Xanax, and Vicodin.

During March indictments were returned against eight separate defendants. Seven of eight were identified as part of an organized group traveling to Florida, obtaining narcotics and returning to sell in Lawrence County. At times 4-5, were going at once and returning with over 1,000 pills each trip. The "sponsor," under indictment and arrest, provided cash for lodging, office visit, and prescriptions. The "sponsor" would receive half of each persons' pills upon their return.

An active investigation for buying Oxycodone from a paroled murderer is near completion. The next buy may involve an agent in place of the CI with 100 pills to be purchased.

Two Task Force members assisted the Marshal's Service serving arrest warrants for sexual offenders out of compliance. During this effort, one offender was also charged with new sexual abuse charges. The charges are a result of a child victim, aged 9, reporting to arresting officers that was engaging in sexual conduct with the victim. The mother had allowed offender into the home after she picked him up hitch-hiking weeks earlier.

LORAIN COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

We still see heroin as our number one problem as it is available in our larger communities. Pharmaceutical drugs, cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana also continue to be problems.

Below are a list of events for the Lorain County Drug Task Force for March:

- We made one arrest for heroin trafficking and opened three new heroin cases.
- We executed a search warrant and shut down an indoor marijuana grow.
- We arrested a suspect and seized 27 grams of crack cocaine, along with a handgun
- The force indicted a nurse for stealing injectable pain management drugs from a local hospital.
- We indicted a pharmacist whom we suspect was involved in 49 thefts of drugs from a drug store.
- We are currently investigating the theft of Roxinol from a local nursing home.
- A woman was arrested for attempting to pick up a fraudulent prescription at the pharmacy. She was on probation for a similar offense. She pled guilty and was sent to prison.
- The force will soon resume Lake Erie boat patrols as part of the Northern Border Initiative.

MAHONING VALLEY LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

The Sheriff's department will use the recently awarded grant money for job creation and hire two deputies, returning two investigators to the task force. YPD will use the money for the job retention, avoiding lay-offs that would result in reassignment of officers on the task force.

Task force performance was down approximately 30 percent

last year and can be attributed to the decrease in staffing. Returning the task force to past staffing will increase performance to previous levels.

MEDINA COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

The Medina County Drug Task Force made several purchases of marijuana, MDMA and various prescription narcotics this month. While marijuana continues to be the primary drug of abuse, the sale and abuse of Oxycontin is rapidly increasing.

MEDWAY DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

The MEDWAY Drug Enforcement Agency has seen another very busy month. The drug of choice for this period was prescription drugs followed by marijuana and crack cocaine. During this period Oxycontin was purchased the most, followed by Percocet. We continue to see an increase in intelligence we are receiving regarding suspected methamphetamine labs.

The Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit continues to open up new doors with local health officials and pharmacies. The amount of intelligence continues to increase almost on a weekly basis. Our recent JAG Grant Award will allow us to promote our two part-time investigators to full-time status and hire an additional part-time investigator.

METRICH ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The Metrich Task Force continues to primarily see cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin (both tar and powder), marijuana, diverted pharmaceuticals, and ecstasy.

Preliminary analysis of a substance recovered during a recent car stop in Mansfield has yielded suspected DMT, which presented as a yellow powder. Dimethyltryptamine or N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is a naturally-occurring tryptamine and psychedelic drug, found not only in many plants, but also in trace amounts in the human body where its natural function is undetermined. DMT is a strong hallucinogenic drug and may appear yellow, orange, or salmon in color.

MULTI-AREA NARCOTICS TASK FORCE (MAN)

Here is a list of the current illegal drugs prevalent in our jurisdiction: marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, Oxycotin, Percocet, Soma, Xanax, and Vicodin.

Marijuana, cocaine, and crack cocaine remain consistent. Heroin has increased. Prescription drugs also remain consistent with officers purchasing Oxycontin and other prescription medications. There is a definite connection between heroin, Oxycontin and Morphine users, with injection being the most popular choice of use. Meth labs also are consistent with officers recovering three this month, as well as one dump site.

Arrests for March totaled seven individuals. MAN Unit officers initiated 45 news cases this month. Six searches were executed. Three meth labs and one dump site were encountered.

Officers had information that a 60-year-old woman was selling her Oxycodone. Undercover officer made arrangements with the woman to purchase 50 of her Endocet pills. She receives 180 per month. The buy was made and she was arrested directly thereafter. She had additional pills in her possession. She claims she was selling the pills to pay bills. She is now facing a Felony of the Third Degree Trafficking charge.

NORTHERN OHIO ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

During the month of March, the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force, which consists of local, state, and federal law enforcement, has initiated several investigations into traditional and gang-related narcotic trafficking organizations. These multi-state trafficking organizations are operating in the Cleveland metropolitan area and are distributing cocaine, marijuana and heroin.

NOLETF has infiltrated these organizations utilizing traditional investigative methods which include, but are not limited to the following: surveillance, informants, undercover agents and Title III telephonic wire intercepts.

NOLETF has initiated and is currently monitoring two Title III telephonic wire intercept investigations. These investigations are targeting drug trafficking networks that are distributing heroin, cocaine and marijuana.

Additionally, a wire intercept targeting a Mexican marijuana trafficking organization initiated arrest warrants, which resulted in the arrest of 15 individuals. These defendants are awaiting their initial judicial appearances.

OTTAWA COUNTY TASK FORCE

The predominant street drugs in Ottawa County this month have been cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, heroin, Fentanyl patches and prescription drugs.

Drug Task Force agents assisted Ottawa County Adult Probation with the search of a probationer's residence. Agents confiscated marijuana packaged for distribution, several anti-anxiety prescription medications, associated intravenous drug paraphernalia items, and a loaded 25-caliber Raven handgun. The probationer was violated and incarcerated. The probationer's son will be facing drug charges as a result of the search.

Agents continued to assist several law enforcement agencies in Ottawa County with various criminal investigations. Drug Task Force agents assisted with follow-up on a home invasion investigation in Clay Township. Agents also assisted the Oak Harbor Police Department with a search warrant at a village residence regarding an ongoing investigation into several recent daytime burglaries in the village. As a result of the search warrant, officers seized tennis shoes that may link the suspect to some of the recent burglaries.

The Task Force opened several new Prescription Profile and/or Deception to Obtain Dangerous Drug investigations. Two were immediately unfounded and the other will more than likely result in several felony charges being filed on a suspect.

The Task Force continues to provide support to Ohio BCI & I and Toledo DEA on a federal drug conspiracy investigation and on a state conspiracy drug investigation with ties to Ottawa County. Agents continue to put in extra hours conducting surveillance on suspects.

SOUTHEAST AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE (SEALE)

SEALE continues to find heroin leading the list of illegal drugs in the surrounding communities. However, after making several controlled buys of liquid PCP, the task force executed a residential search warrant resulting in the recovery of nearly 40 ounces of liquid PCP.

Several controlled buys of Percocet were also conducted resulting in the arrest of a well known mid-level pill trafficker in the area. A small indoor marijuana grow operation was discovered in the basement of a suspect's home.

Approximately 28 plants were confiscated as was a collection of grow lights, ballasts, fertilizers, timers, and other assorted items related to the grow operation.

SOUTHEASTERN NARCOTICS TEAM TASK FORCE (SENT)

Drugs prevalent in this jurisdiction are: cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, marijuana, Percocet, Suboxon, Xanax and Oxycontin.

One new file was opened in March. Fourteen investigations are ongoing and five drug-related arrests were made. We are gathering intelligence on a large prescription drug connection from Florida to Cambridge involving several local dealers.

SENT has been involved in little enforcement activity since January due to lack of fiscal resources during the first quarter. Few drugs have been purchased and the department has been unable to compensate freelance operatives.

STARK COUNTY METROPOLITAN NARCOTICS UNIT

A search warrant resulted in the arrest of one individual who was charged with F-1 Trafficking in ecstasy, F-4 Trafficking in Marijuana, and F-4 Possession of LSD. 300 ecstasy pills were seized along with marijuana.

In a joint investigation into cocaine trafficking, a local chiropractor was arrested for F-3 Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, F-4 Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, F-4 Trafficking in Cocaine, and F-5 Trafficking in Cocaine. Another individual was arrested in this case and charged with F-4 Possession of Cocaine, F-2 Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, 2 counts of F-4 and 2 counts of F-5 Trafficking in Cocaine.

A joint investigation with the Canton Vice Unit and US Postal Service resulted in an interdiction of six pounds of marijuana. A controlled delivery was conducted at a storage unit and one individual was charged with F-3 possession of marijuana.

We assisted the Canton Police Department at a known crack house that resulted in the arrest of two individuals on felony trafficking charges. We have two active meth lab investigations at this time.

SUMMIT COUNTY DRUG UNIT

The following drugs are prevalent in Summit County: cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine, crystal methamphetamine ("Glass"), MDMA ("Ecstasy"), GHB, Ketamine, Oxycontin and other pharmaceuticals.

During March, interdiction efforts resulted in the seizure of 59 pounds of marijuana and 140 dose units of Oxycontin with a street value in excess of \$82,000. Three illicit methamphetamine sites were located and dismantled.

Investigations are underway targeting pharmaceutical and MDMA trafficking.

U.S. 23 PIPELINE MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE

Drugs prevalent in the area continue to be crack cocaine, heroin, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and prescription drugs. Percocet is the main prescription drug being seen and purchased by task force agents. The main source of Percocet continues to be doctors in Florida.

On March 8 the task force served a search warrant at a location where an indoor grow operation netted a seizure of 227 marijuana plants and 1.5 pounds of processed marijuana.

On March 14, road officers stopped a suspect and recovered 30 Percocet and 60 Alprazolam from the vehicle. The suspect was a task force target traveling to Florida to the doctor.

WARREN COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

Marijuana, cocaine, prescription drugs and heroin are prevalent in the Warren County Drug Task Force jurisdiction. The force has purchased ounces of cocaine and heroin from Dayton. These middlemen come from Dayton into our county to sell to dealers.

Prescription drugs such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, and Oxycontin continue to be popular in our county. An arrest will soon be made in the case of a suspect buying large amounts of Carisoprodol (Soma) from the internet. The packages are being shipped via Fed Ex.

WEST CENTRAL OHIO CRIME TASK FORCE

During the month of March, the West Central Ohio Crime Task Force continued to purchase crack, marijuana, Oxycontin, Xanax, ecstasy, heroin, Dilaudid and Vicodin. The Task Force executed six search warrants seizing marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, cash and firearms. One subject was arrested and charged with Possession of Ecstasy. Two investigators attended a HIDTA seminar.

A subject was convicted during a jury trial of several drug charges including a MDO conviction for Possession of Cocaine. The suspect received a 25-year prison sentence.

WESTSHORE ENFORCEMENT BUREAU (WEB)

Street drug cases in our area continue to be crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana. The pharmaceutical diversion efforts involved the investigation of Oxycontin, Alprazolam, Percocet, methadone, Zoloft, Subutex, Vicodin, Darvocet and Soma.

A non-drug related case involved the arrest of a man involved in the sale of stolen Western Union money orders. WEB's undercover agent purchased a 100 count box of these money orders for \$7,500 on a buy/bust operation.



OTFCA Members Reporting in March 2010

Central Ohio Drug Enforcement (CODE) Task Force

Lieutenant Tom Brown

Clermont County Drug Task Force

Coordinator Bill Williams

Columbiana County Drug Task Force

Director Dan Downard

Delaware Law Enforcement Against Pushers (LEAP)

Sergeant Randy Pohl

Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit

Commander Eric Brown

Grand Lake Task Force

Lieutenant Steve Stienecker

Greene County (ACE) Task Force

Director Bruce May

Lake County Narcotics Agency

Director John A. Germ

Lawrence Drug and Major Crimes Task Force

Commander Timothy W. Sexton

Lorain County Drug Task Force

Captain Dennis E. Cavanaugh

Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force

Lieutenant Robin Lees

Medina County Drug Task Force

Director Gary Hubbard

Medway County Drug Task Force

Director David Smith

METRICH Enforcement Unit

Lieutenant Dino Sgambellone

Multi-Area Narcotics (MAN) Unit

Chief Deputy Doug Engel

Northern Ohio Enforcement Task Force

Lieutenant Patrick Stephens

Ottawa County Task Force

Detective Doug St. Clair

Southeast Area Law Enforcement Task Force (SEALE)

Detective Brian Byard

Southeastern Narcotics Team (SENT) Task Force

Commander Bernie Beltz

Stark County Metropolitan Narcotics Unit

Sergeant John Oliver

Summit County Drug Unit

Captain Hylton E. Baker

U.S. 23 Pipeline Major Crimes Task Force

Major Randy Bliss

Warren County Drug Task Force

Commander John Burke

West Central Ohio Crime Task Force

Sergeant Matt Treglia

Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB)

Special Agent in Charge Jeff Capretto