

-OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF-

# THE COALITION D O C BUSINESS

THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

The cover art features a close-up of cannabis buds in the center, with a vaporizer pen in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this background.

**Marijuana & Mental Illness**  
**Pg. 36**

**Time for Some Straight Talk**  
**Pg. 3**

SPRING, 2020 VOL. 22, NO. 1

[mnoac.com](http://mnoac.com)

2019/20 NNOAC EXECUTIVE BOARD



Ron Brooks
Executive Director
California Narcotics Officers' Association (Retired)
rbrooks@nnoac.com



Bob Bushman
President
Minnesota State Association of Narcotics Investigators
(202) 664-9244
bbushman@nnoac.com



Eric Brown
Vice President
Ohio HIDTA
(614) 255-4195 - Office
(740) 808-4189 - Cell
ebrown@nnoac.com



Phil Little
Treasurer
North Carolina Narcotic Officers Association
(910) 876-7871
plittle@nnoac.com



Tony Kestner
Secretary
Illinois Drug Enforcement Officers Association
tkestner@nnoac.com



Ernie Martinez
Member At Large
Colorado Drug Investigators Association
(303) 471-8100
emartinez@nnoac.com



Peter F. Boyce
General Counsel
NNOAC
(770) 921-7048
pboyce@nnoac.com

Volume 22, No. 1 - Spring, 2020

Editor-in-Chief
William Butka
wbutka@nnoac.com

Front Cover:
ID 139960586 © Shannon Price:
CBD oil with MJ leaf + ID 121000447
© Dmitry Tishchenko: Big Business | Dreamstime.com

Article editor
Patricia Kohl

Publication Design
jessica.manley@jmpublishing.us

United
We
Stand!

Engage
in the
dialog.

Inside this Issue

Brooks, Bawden, Moore ..... 5
10th Circuit ..... 7
What's Next? ..... 9
Regulate CBD Products ..... 11
Tim Lane Hall of Fame ..... 12
Three New Exec. Directors ..... 13, 29
Regional News ..... 14
Failing Drug Policy ..... 30
Marijuana Use in Adolescence ..... 31
Marijuana Use & Mental Illness ... 32
Wall Street Journal Article ..... 34
ThermoFisher Scientific ..... 35
Articles by the Swedish NOA ..... 39
CLEAR: Uncovering Truth ..... 44



The Coalition is published twice per year. Submit articles, photos, region reports, kudos, busts and other items of interest to: wbutka@nnoac.com

ARCHIVES
of past issues are available online
www.nnoac.com

# President's Message

By Bob Bushman



January, 2020

## *It's time for some straight talk.*

In America, we have allowed the drug epidemic to be turned into a political issue. It is anything but that. While our politicians are mired in the impeachment frenzy and trying to curry favor for votes, and as so-called social justice groups are scrutinizing, criticizing, and exploiting law enforcement tactics and officer-involved shootings to advance their agendas with facts often disregarded, the tragic consequences of our national drug crisis have become lost in the mix.

Our national drug problem was once labeled the "War on Drugs," was later rebranded as "Just Say No," and is now defined as a "Public Health Crisis". And, as its urgency has diminished, its place in the public eye has been upstaged by initiatives to legalize and de-

criminalize drugs – designed to replace the negative stigma of drug use by normalizing it and trying to convince people that it should be acceptable. Meanwhile, thousands of Americans are dying from drug abuse. Millions more are suffering from addiction.

In response to the current crisis, millions of dollars are being pumped into treatment and diversion programs. While I agree that we must make treatment programs more accessible for those with drug addictions, the fact is that current treatment and diversion programs achieve low levels of success. Relapse and recidivism rates are high.

*One of the reasons the NNOAC opposes drug legalization and decriminalization is that they limit the ability of law enforcement to get addicts into the treatment and drug court programs that are designed to give them the help they would not otherwise willingly seek for themselves. Just as the experts have said that we cannot incarcerate our way out of the drug problem, we have learned that we cannot treat our way out of it, either.*

When widespread drug use and violent crime erupted in the 1980s and 1990s, tougher sentencing and laws aimed at increasing drug enforcement efforts resulted in dramatic reductions in drug abuse and violent crime. Drug traffickers, violent gang members, and repeat offenders were given sentences

that ensured that they could not continue to victimize and terrorize our communities. Offenders were held accountable for their crimes. Communities were much safer.

Now there is a sense of criminal entitlement emerging in America, reinforcing some peoples' beliefs that it is their right to just disregard and violate laws they don't like, especially drug laws. Drug legalization and decriminalization initiatives, including marijuana legalization, only serve to increase drug use; and legalizers aggressively condemn any facts, any person, or any organization that opposes them. They also know that simply branding opponents as racists or bigots will end the conversation, and there are candidates who are campaigning to get the support of those who believe that. I wonder what laws they will want to disregard next.

Getting serious about reducing drug abuse and crime in our country has been sacrificed for the sake of appeasing special interests. Recent sentencing reform legislation has led to the release of many criminals who were responsible for much of the violent crime and misery brought upon countless communities. That was an attempt to satisfy a vocal minority that believe it is wrong to hold violent offenders and career criminals fully accountable. And, while those criminals and their sympathizers are celebrating those early releases, their victims are suffering



President Bob Bushman

## Straight Talk, cont.

lifelong misery for which there will never be any release. Criminals are getting the second (sometimes third, fourth, fifth...) chances that their victims never got.

Our national drug crisis is preventable. Stopping the flow of drugs into our country and keeping them out of the hands of users – that alone will lower drug use and significantly reduce drug deaths. We must enhance and increase our border inspections and enforcement and get serious about dismantling the drug cartels and international crime organizations that are flooding our country with dangerous drugs. And, we must aggressively investigate and prosecute the drug traffickers, violent criminals, and gangs in our own country that are responsible for so much crime. We have the personnel, the expertise, and the equipment and technology to do it. What is missing is the encouragement and support from our leaders.

*We need to take off the kid gloves, stop enabling offenders, and hold them accountable, too. It is time to admit that there are some offenders that are just not amenable to treatment or rehabilitation. Our jails and prisons serve a purpose, and instead of abandoning the punitive component of criminal justice, as many espouse, we must revive and institute serious consequences for those who break the laws that are fueling drug deaths, addiction, and violent crime.*

Looking through the arguments and often-repeated claims of a racially biased criminal justice system, I fail to see how anybody can honestly defend the actions of anyone – from any race, culture, or social status – who commits violent crimes that are killing and ruining the lives of so many people. Drug trafficking and violent crimes are intentional acts, not mistakes, that cost our society dearly, both in terms of lives lost and what it takes to repair the carnage. Our communities are safer when those offenders are locked away.

*What is missing is the will* to decisively address our national drug crisis. The public has been given mixed messages about the drug problem, and we have allowed political correctness and misguided social agendas to get in the way of doing what is needed to effectively reverse it. And, I invite the social justice advocates to take an honest look at how the drug trade and drug abuse are driving violent crime and homicides in our country – vicious crimes for which there is no excuse. I also remind them that justice works both ways, that offenders aren't the only ones deserving of justice. The law-abiding people in our communities, many of them the victims of crime whose voices are often neglected, deserve their fair share of justice, too.

Our citizens and the law enforcement community *need* leaders who have the courage to face the hard facts about what must be done to end this national tragedy. The purpose of good national drug policy is not to tell our citizens what they want to hear, nor simply look the other way, but to do what is necessary to keep them and their families safe. It is time to begin dealing with reality. We cannot afford to sacrifice the future of another generation of Americans to social experiments that are failing miserably.

The courageous ones in this story are our law enforcement officers, including our NNOAC members and our partners. They work tirelessly every day to protect our communities from dangerous drug traffickers and violent criminals who are addicting and killing so many of our neighbors. Furthermore, they are working in a dangerous environment that is increasingly hostile to their profession and often less than appreciative of their hard-fought efforts to protect all of our citizens from this deadly scourge.

They are my heroes. They should be yours, too. ☆

---

## *Just a few of the many outstanding NNOAC Member Organizations*



NNOAC Legislative Update

January- 2020



[www.bbm-dc.com](http://www.bbm-dc.com)

---

# BROOKS BAWDEN MOORE

---

## LLC

---

The 116th Congress has transitioned to its 2nd Session in 2020. While the 2020 presidential campaign will likely result in gridlock on major legislative issues, we expect congressional committees to be busy conducting oversight on issues impacting America’s narcotic officers and law enforcement in general.

Congress finished 2019 by coming to a last-minute agreement on a slew of bills, including passage of all twelve of the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills. Funding priorities for key programs such as the Byrne JAG program, RISS, and HIDTA continues to be an advocacy focus for NNOAC, and we saw some slight increases in funding. Byrne JAG received a 5.8 percent increase after carveouts, settling at \$348.8 million. RISS received a \$1 million increase, and the HIDTA program received a \$5 million increase over FY 2019 levels. Most significantly, Congress continues to recognize the importance of keeping the HIDTA program within ONDCP, staving off yet another attempt to move the program to the Department of Justice.

Marijuana policy continues to be a hot topic on the hill, gaining more and more bipartisan interest for changes to current laws. We wrote in the summer edition of The Coalition about hearings in both chambers focusing on all aspects of marijuana policy reforms. Since then, the House approved the SAFE Banking Act, which would permit marijuana industry access to banking services. This de facto legalized money laundering is seen as the greatest threat for movement in the Senate, despite pushback by some key

Senate leaders including the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. NNOAC has weighed in on this legislation and will continue to push back should the Senate take it up for consideration.

Additionally, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would remove marijuana from the federal Controlled Substances Act and provide for the expungement of certain marijuana-related offenses. The legislation would also establish an “Office of Cannabis Justice” within the Department of Justice which would administer grants to those communities that have been adversely impacted by the “War on Drugs.” As pressure for action on marijuana reform at the Federal level grows, and as additional states move to legalize or decriminalize medicinal or recreational marijuana, we expect more action in Congress.

Law enforcement use of certain investigative technologies, particularly facial recognition, has moved into the spotlight in Congress. There have been multiple hearings on the law enforcement use of facial recognition technology, with calls for increased restrictions on its use. We have noticed throughout the debate a general misunderstanding of how the technology is actually being used by law enforcement. To counter the disconnect, the NNOAC, along with thirteen other national law enforcement groups, sent a letter to Congress expressing opposition to proposed moratoriums and bans. Additionally, the letter detailed how the technology is used by law enforcement to solve crimes. Aside from hearings and attempts to place



restrictive measures on appropriations bills, we continue to see legislative proposals introduced, and anticipate these efforts will only grow. It will be critical for the NNOAC to work with its partners to educate policymakers on this many other technologies that help narcotic officers do their job safely and efficiently in order to prevent bad policy from being implemented.

In October, the Department of Justice held a summit on law enforcement access to digital evidence, emphasizing the growing difficulty law enforcement encounters with encrypted devices and applications. This has jumpstarted the discussion among Federal, state, and local law enforcement to push for a solution to this continuing challenge. In December, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the issue, with Senators from both sides of the aisle excoriating tech company representatives on their decision to implement warrant-proof encryption. Senators also threatened to move forward with a legislative solution should they fail to find a solution for lawful access to digital evidence. NNOAC will continue to work with Congress to push for legislative support on the lawful access issue, and also for enhanced federal support for digital evidence capacity building among state and local law enforcement.

As an offshoot of the passage of the bipartisan First Step

Act at the end of the previous Congress, President Trump issued an Executive Order in October 2019 to establish a Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. Throughout 2020 the commission will examine a whole host of topics on policing including mental health, recruitment, technology, and policing practices. The NNOAC will play an active role by working with commission members to shape the policy recommendations affecting our members.

The 1st Session of the 116th Congress was consumed with intense infighting among Congress and the Administration, with little hope for it relenting as 2020 gets underway. With the 2020 election season ramping up, very little major policymaking is expected to occur outside of the traditional must pass legislation. Despite this, NNOAC will continue to be active supporting funding for our priority programs, pushing back on drug legalization, seeking solutions to access to digital evidence, and addressing privacy concerns with regards to investigative technologies. It will be critical for NNOAC members to be actively engaged with members of Congress in Washington, DC and back at home as often as possible to make sure drug law enforcement programs and policies get the attention they deserve so that you and your colleagues can protect your communities. ☆



[www.WSNIA.org](http://www.WSNIA.org)

**2020 Washington State Narcotic  
Investigators Association, Training  
Summit and Vendor Show**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Coeur d' Alene Resort, Coeur d' Alene  
Idaho**





## The Objectively Reasonable Officer

By John M. "Mike" Callahan, Jr.

Originally published on *Policeone.com*  
& reprinted with permission



# TENTH CIRCUIT: Officers can be constitutionally liable for creating the need to use lethal force

*Some federal circuit courts appear ready and willing to rule against officers and their municipalities when deadly force is used quickly in matters involving mentally ill subjects*

July 17, 2019

**O**n 8/30/13 at 7:30 p.m., the wife of Jaime Ceballos called 911 and reported her husband was in their driveway with two baseball bats and “acting crazy.” She expressed fear and stated she was with her 17-month-old daughter. She stated Ceballos was drunk, probably on drugs and two of his friends were with him.

The Thornton (Colorado) police dispatcher informed responding officers that Ceballos was armed with one or more bats, drunk and “is known to have knives.” Dispatch also stated that he was a “walkaway” from a nearby medical center the previous night.

Dispatch sent written information to responders indicating that Ceballos threatened his wife with a knife several months earlier and was not taking his anti-depression medication. However, Officer Husk, the lead officer on the scene, did not read the written communication.

The Ninth and Tenth Circuits in particular, appear ready and willing to rule against officers when deadly force is used quickly in matters involving mentally ill subjects.

Husk and Officer Ward parked several houses away from the Ceballos driveway and spoke to the wife who was with her daughter, a safe distance away from the Ceballos home. Both officers began walking toward Ceballos. During their approach, they were met by Ceballos’ two male friends who

told them that Ceballos was not acting right and might be on drugs. Meanwhile two other officers arrived. One of them parked behind Husk and Ward and the other (Officer Snook) parked in the opposite direction from the approaching officers. Snook recognized Ceballos from the “walkaway” incident of the previous night and thought that he “didn’t seem right.” He returned to his vehicle and grabbed his beanbag shotgun.

Husk and Ward reached a distance of about 100 yards from Ceballos. He was pacing in his driveway, swinging a bat, yelling and throwing his arms in the air. No one else was nearby or in apparent danger.

Both officers shouted repeated commands for Ceballos to drop the bat. He ignored them and walked inside his garage. Husk drew his firearm and Ward drew his TASER. Ceballos emerged from the garage still carrying the bat and walked toward Husk and Ward. He refused to honor their commands and responded with foul language. Husk told him to stop and drop the bat or he would be shot. <sup>[1]</sup> Officer Husk fired his pistol and Ward fired the TASER at Ceballos. Ceballos was killed. The District Court opinion indicates that Husk stated Ceballos was 15 to 20 feet away when he shot him.

The Ceballos Estate sued Husk in federal court pursuant to 42 U.S. C. § 1983 (federal civil rights statute) alleging excessive force against Husk in violation of the Fourth Amendment. <sup>[2]</sup> The Federal District Court Judge refused to dismiss the lawsuit against Husk and rejected his claim of qualified immunity. He filed an appeal with the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Tenth Circuit ruled against Officer Husk on his qualified immunity claim and agreed with the lower court that the excessive force allegation should be set for jury trial.

### EXCESSIVE FORCE AND QUALIFIED IMMUNITY

Husk argued on appeal that the law in the Tenth Circuit was not sufficiently explicit for him to have violated clearly established constitutional law for the actions that he took regarding the Ceballos incident.

The court disagreed and pointed to a prior case decided by the Tenth Circuit, *Allen v. Muskogee*, 119 F.3d 837, 839-841 (10th Cir. 1997). *Allen* had an altercation with his

continued on next page

### Tenth Circuit, cont.

family, took several guns and ammunition with him, drove to his sister's home and parked outside. The sister called police and said Allen was threatening suicide. Officers arrived and observed Allen sitting in his car with a gun in his hand. Officers repeatedly commanded Allen to drop the gun without effect. Officers approached his vehicle on both sides and attempted to disarm him from the driver's side. The attempt failed and Allen pointed his gun at the officers. Two officers fired and Allen was killed.

The Tenth Circuit ruled in favor of Allen's Estate and held that a jury could find that excessive force was used in that case. The court in Allen explained that the "reasonableness of [an officer's] actions depends both on whether the officers were in danger at the precise moment that they used force and on whether [their] own reckless or deliberate conduct during the seizure unreasonably created the need to use such force." The court explained further that they will consider an "officers conduct prior to the suspect's threat of force if the conduct is 'immediately connected' to the suspect's threat of force." The court observed in Allen, that the officers' arrival, approach and shooting of Allen took only 90 seconds and that a jury could conclude that their actions "were reckless and precipitated the need to use deadly force."

The court in Ceballos observed that the circumstances in Allen were closely analogous to the Ceballos situation. The court explained that "Officer Husk shot and killed an emotionally distraught Ceballos within a minute of arriving on scene. Under the Estate's version of the facts, which Husk accepts as true for purposes of this appeal <sup>[3]</sup>, Husk approached Ceballos quickly, screaming at Ceballos to drop the bat and refusing to give ground as Ceballos approached."

The court ruled that its prior decision in Allen gave Officer Husk clear notice that reckless officer conduct prior to but immediately connected to the use of deadly force can result in a finding of excessive force.

### LESSONS LEARNED

Some federal circuit courts have adopted a narrow view and limit the scope of the lethal force examination to facts that occur only at the moment deadly force was used by the law enforcement officer. <sup>[4]</sup> Others have adopted a broad view that will include facts deemed relevant leading up to the shooting as well. <sup>[5]</sup>

It is clear from the Allen and Ceballos decisions that the Tenth Circuit, which covers the states of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming, falls into the category of circuits that take a broad view of the scope of the deadly force inquiry.

Ceballos demonstrates that the Tenth Circuit will analyze and examine officer conduct leading up to and directly connected to the use of deadly force. Moreover, this Circuit appears ready to label questionable pre-shooting officer conduct as "reckless" and rule that the officers caused the confrontation that resulted in the death of the suspect. <sup>[6]</sup>

The Tenth Circuit's approach is not officer friendly and requires law enforcement managers to ensure that officers receive crisis intervention training for their interaction with potentially dangerous mentally ill and emotionally disturbed subjects.

At a minimum, all officers should be trained to attempt to de-escalate potentially dangerous interactions with emotionally disturbed persons if safe to do so. This would include learning to recognize the obvious signs of mental illness; maintaining a safe distance from the suspect with appropriate cover; communicating in a calm and non-aggressive manner; avoiding close quarter confrontation and harsh commands; seeking time to enable supervisory personnel, perimeter assistance and other more extensively trained crisis intervention officers and mental health professionals to arrive and assist.

### CONCLUSION

In Ceballos, failure to train allegations were made against the City regarding the handling of mentally ill and emotionally disturbed individuals. The Tenth Circuit declined to address those issues and left them for initial resolution by the lower court. Nonetheless, the proper response and handling of mentally ill/potentially dangerous subjects is clearly a significant problem in law enforcement today.

Some federal circuit courts, the Ninth <sup>[7]</sup> and Tenth Circuits in particular, appear ready and willing to rule against officers and their municipalities when deadly force is used quickly in matters involving mentally ill subjects. ☆

### REFERENCES

1. Husk claimed that he also saw a knife in Ceballos' hand before the shooting but admitted that his only commands were to drop the bat. No other officer saw a knife during the suspect's approach and a firefighter reported seeing a closed pocketknife fall from Ceballos' pocket after he was shot.

2. Ceballos v. Husk; City of Thornton, (No. 17-1216) (10th Cir. 2019).

3. Federal appellate cases construing a claim of qualified immunity by an officer must accept the plaintiff's version of disputed facts as correct for purposes of the appeal. If the officer's appeal is rejected and the case results in a jury trial, it will be up to the jury to decide which version of disputed facts is correct.

4. See for example, Plakas v. Drinski, 19 F.3d 1143 (7th Cir. 1994); Rockwell v. Brown, 664 F.3d 985 (5th Cir. 2011) and Cass v. City of Abilene, 814 F.3d 721 (5th Cir. 2016).

*The NNOAC is proud to partner with [www.policeone.com](http://www.policeone.com)  
in the timely dissemination of relevant news to the law enforcement community.  
This article is reprinted with permission.*



5. See for example, *Young v City of Providence Napolitano*, 404 F.3d 4 (1st Cir. 2005) and *Abraham v. Raso*, 183 F.3d 279 (3d Cir. 1999).

6. The United States Supreme Court recently reversed a Ninth Circuit decision that was based upon the Circuit's "provocation rule," which held that police officers could be held liable for an otherwise lawful use of deadly force because they intentionally or recklessly provoked the situation that resulted in the shooting and their conduct violated the Fourth Amendment in a related but separate manner. See *County of Los Angeles v. Mendez*, 137 S. Ct. 1539 (2017). Upon remand from the Supreme Court the Ninth Circuit reinstated the ruling against the officers involved in the Mendez shooting. The Ninth Circuit ruled in *Mendez v County of Los Angeles*, 897 F.3d 1067 (9th Cir 2018) that "the judgement shall be amended to award all damages arising from the shooting in the Mendez's favor as proximately caused by the unconstitutional entry, and proximately caused by the failure to get a warrant."

7. The Ninth Circuit covers the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and the U.S. Territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

### About the author

*John Michael Callahan served in law enforcement for 44 years. His career began as a special agent with NCIS. He became an FBI agent and served in the FBI for 30 years, retiring in the position of supervisory special agent/chief division counsel. He taught criminal law/procedure at the FBI Academy. After the FBI, he served as a Massachusetts Deputy Inspector General and is currently a deputy sheriff for Plymouth County, Massachusetts. He is the author of two published books on deadly force and an upcoming book on supervisory and municipal liability in law enforcement.*

### RELATED ARTICLES

What mentally ill subjects want cops to know  
How to build an LE mental health community response model



*The Ninth and Tenth Circuits in particular, appear ready and willing to rule against officers when deadly force is used quickly in matters involving mentally ill subjects.  
(Photo/Tenth Circuit)*

## WHATS NEXT?

*Ernie Martinez, NNOAC Director At-Large  
Past President, Colorado Drug Investigators Association  
(2005-2015)*

One of the most moving movies I've seen in my life ... *Hacksaw Ridge* – a true story about a man named Desmond Doss, who served in the Army in WWII. Doss, a devout Christian, enlisted in the Army with the intention of becoming a medic. Because of his faith, he wouldn't take up a gun, for he realized that deep within himself he had the capacity for evil; and he reconciled this to not wanting to carry a gun, but to be a medic – to rescue, to save.

Because of his belief, Doss endured much abuse from his fellow soldiers in his company – they looked at him as weak, a coward, someone of no account. At a certain point, they were shipped overseas to Okinawa, where they were assigned to fight up a cliff – a rigging net, 150 vertical feet, where many other battalions were decimated – and they went into a fierce battle.

When his battalion took on the same fate as the others – many lives lost, many wounded – the rest of them retreated like the others, except for the wounded and one other – Desmond Doss. He wasn't left behind; he stayed behind, because this was why he came, to rescue and to save.

This true story is analogous to the plight of us in local law enforcement, not only drug enforcement, but working at its most basic level. The streets of today are not the streets of old; many contacts are made that require dealing with drug-induced psychosis, and people living in the boundaries are carrying illnesses that were eradicated in this country decades ago. Offers of mental health services only go so far, and the tools that officers and deputies have at their disposal are very limited for any gainful sustainment. The dynamics of the social environment include much social harm, and at the foundational level of this are the breakdown of the family, as well as open access to street drugs and the glut of pharmaceuticals. We are simply losing a generation of kids to dependency and addiction, while implicitly encouraging use by the normalization of drugs and no accountability.

continued on next page

### HOW FAR WE HAVE COME IN COLORADO AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES THIS PAST DECADE.

In Colorado, we have experienced the bad fruit of a very well-organized, well-oiled campaign machine, with marijuana legalizers spewing all their false claims to tug at the heartstrings of a very ill-informed voting public. This 'fruit' led to the foundation of legal state sales of "medical" marijuana; that was followed by a second attempt – which was successful: a statewide ballot initiative legalizing marijuana for personal use and grows for recreational use.

Using the same misinformation campaign template, legalizers of psilocybin hallucinogenic mushrooms were successful in enhancing their goal of legalization by a Denver vote to establish policy on the Denver Police Department to make enforcement of mushrooms their lowest-level enforcement priority. Of course, policy isn't dictated to the DPD by this ordinance, but the perception of this legislation obfuscates the truth.

Then the Denver City Council eventually dropped the safe injection site goal, after much grassroots response against the lack of clarity and non-scientific push to allow for them. Then our State Legislature took the baton and attempted this, to no avail. But where there is a will, there is a way; they will attempt this push again in 2020, all based on useless data and non-facts of injection site success on addictions.

Now, couple this with the facets of judicial reform in this state -- mirroring many other states in our union – that holds no accountability of narcotic dealers and distributors, as well as those who have had many arrests for simple possession. They receive get-out-of-jail-free cards each time they are arrested after a call for service by our dedicated officers and sheriffs' deputies.

We have limited resources, cops and deputies are going call-to-call, and jails are releasing non-adjudicated suspects left and right – even those in possession of firearms! So, where do we go from here? Back to Desmond Doss. Without any weapons, just his body and brotherly love for the same brothers who abused him and considered him of no account, he runs into the battle again – through gunfire, mortar shells, bombs – and searches for the wounded; and like the Good Shepherd, he

puts them on his shoulders and carries them through all the gunfire, all the fighting.

He gets them to the edge of the cliff they came up, makes a rigging with rope and, with the help of a tree – like that tree of the cross – he lowers them down to safety and saves their lives. Singlehandedly, Doss saves more than 70 men. Over and over again, he prays, "let me get one more Lord, please, let me get one more."

War, as veterans know is ugly, messy, bloody, and violent. Life, as all of us in law enforcement know, is ugly, messy, bloody, and yes, sometimes violent. Jesus Christ entered into all of this. Like Doss, He ran into it. Jesus wasn't born, He was sent to fight – for you, and for me – not with a weapon, but with love, His body, His blood. On the wood of the tree, He came to save us (you and me), to rescue us from meaninglessness, from emptiness, from despair, from sin, from death, from hell. Why?

We know why, because you matter. Indeed, you matter. You are worth the trouble; to God, you're worth fighting for! Brothers & Sisters, Scripture (Is 9:2) says that people who walk through darkness have seen a great light.

For a person who doesn't know God, that darkness is where life seems like an unsolved riddle, like a closed circle. Maybe some of us live in that darkness, and we find ourselves reading this today for some unknown reason; we welcome you. I continue to pray that God's light illumines your minds, so that you may come to know the Lord – and His great love – in your hearts, despite the negative experiences we collectively share and continue to fight on.

Maybe some of us here find ourselves like the wounded in battle, shot at by all sorts of things in life – the breakdown of society; officers and deputies killed in the line of duty; officers taking their own lives by suicide; addicted citizens; troubles at work, at home, in our marriages; and troubles with our community that we police. Maybe we are here

grieving at the loss of loved ones – if that's us, may we simply let the Lord come and pick us up and place us on His shoulders and carry us to the loving, safe hands of God our Father, knowing that our lives and the lives of those we love are in those same hands. Godspeed. ☆



# REGULATE CBD PRODUCTS

## to Ensure Consumer Protection and Clear Guidance for Law Enforcement

*By Geoff Freeman, Consumer Brands Association*

Cannabidiol, or CBD, has gone mainstream. Almost overnight, CBD products seem to be for sale everywhere — from gas stations and strip malls to grocery stores and online retailers. The problem: consumers don't really know what CBD is, law enforcement gets conflicting guidance about which products are legal, and regulators don't have the research they need to make sure CBD products, other than those approved by FDA as human drugs, are safe.

*This puts local law enforcement in an impossible position. Lacking clear federal regulatory guidance, states and cities put their own policies in place. Colorado allows CBD-infused food products to be sold. Missouri says CBD can be added to alcoholic beverages. Meanwhile, California, Georgia and New York City ban adding CBD to food. According to a [New York Times report](#), local officials have confiscated CBD cookies.*

In some states, there's even more confusion. In Texas, a CBD product can be legal in Austin, but illegal 200 miles away in Fort Worth.

Consumers are just as puzzled. Our research shows half of Americans think CBD can get you high. Three-in-four believe federal regulators oversee the CBD market. They're wrong on both counts.

Perhaps this is understandable. While the FDA does ban companies from marketing CBD by adding it to food and beverages in interstate commerce, this is currently difficult to enforce. Of note is the online retailers that continue to peddle CBD-infused gummies as one of the "most powerful and versatile natural remedies in existence" featuring "truly miraculous" benefits and available in peach, apple, blue raspberry and watermelon, despite FDA's ban.

Given the Wild West atmosphere around CBD, it's difficult to separate good actors from bad. It doesn't help that CBD products are being sold with dubious, unverified claims — from treating cancer and Alzheimer's to Parkinson's and AIDS.

That's why we are calling for a two-pronged approach to clarifying the CBD marketplace.

First, we need to fund federal research on the safety of CBD products. Consumers should better understand how CBD can be used and what claims can be legitimately made about the benefits it provides.

As Dr. Peter Grinspoon of the Harvard Medical School [explained](#), "without sufficient high-quality evidence in human studies we can't pinpoint effective doses, and because CBD is currently mostly available as an unregulated supplement, it's difficult to know exactly what you are getting."

Second, the federal government must establish a clear, consistent regulatory framework that provides the guidance law enforcement needs to root out bad actors and protect citizens, while not wasting limited time and resources going after law-abiding retailers and manufacturers.

Americans support this approach. Our research indicates nearly eight-in-ten Americans believe CBD should be regulated at the federal level or federally in concert with the states.

The FDA has pledged to act. But the agency estimates it could take five years to establish federal CBD regulations. That's too long. Consumers need science-based information to make smart choices about CBD products. Law enforcement deserves clear guidelines about what's legal and illegal. And America's most trusted brands require clear rules of the road before jumping into the CBD market — if they choose — which would help everyone separate the good actors from the bad.

Our hope is that members of the National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition will partner with us to demand federal regulators move as quickly as the booming CBD market. ☆

*Geoff Freeman is president  
and CEO of the Consumer Brands Association.*



# Tim Lane Inducted into United States Army Criminal Investigation Command Hall of Fame



By Bill Butka

Thirty years ago, I met Tim Lane while co-hosting an Army CID training program for Connecticut narcotic investigations and technical procedures. That training session resulted in a lifelong friendship. In addition, Tim was a member of the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association. Tim's career progressed to his being Director of the Tennessee 17th Judicial District Drug & Violent Crime Task Force.

As a member of the Tennessee Narcotics Officers Association, Tim has served as a 5-year Past President and as the training director for the last 11 years. While working with his association, Tim was selected by the National Narcotics Officers Associations Coalition (NNOAC) to serve as the Southeast Regional Director. While the President of the TNOA, Tim graciously invited and hosted two special NNOAC meetings in Nashville, Tennessee. Tim is recognized throughout the United States in the field of narcotic officer training, and he was a contract trainer for ten years with the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training out of St. Petersburg College in Florida.

On November 20, 2019, Tim received a great tribute: he was inducted into the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command Hall of Fame. Timothy R. Lane, Chief Warrant Officer Three, was recognized for his honorable work with the United States Army CID.

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Command Hall of Fame was established in 1995 by order of the Commanding General. Its purpose is both to honor former members of the command and to inspire current members during their service in the command.

A Hall of Fame selection committee, appointed by the Commanding General, annually solicits nominations for the Hall of Fame consideration. Nominees must be former members of the command who have made significant and long-term contributions to CID. Those inducted into the Hall of Fame are recognized in a permanent display in CID Headquarters. In 2019, Tim was one of two exceptional

individuals inducted into this prestigious membership.

The induction ceremony was held on November 20, 2019, at the Officers Club at Quantico, Virginia. In the photo below, Tim Lane (2nd from left) is flanked by Brigadier General Duane Miller, the Deputy Commander of the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command (far left), and Command Chief Warrant Officer, CW5 Joel Fitz (2nd from right) and Command Sergeant Major Brian Flom, from the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command staff (far right).



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy Lane had an exemplary, 14-year career in CID, establishing himself as the premier expert in drug suppression and associated criminal investigations. His innovative approach to detecting and apprehending drug offenders resulted in the successful completion of an unprecedented number of Reports of Investigation and led to his selection to attend the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Officers Academy. His later work in drug suppression activities while assigned to Germany earned him the nickname "The Shadow", due to his in-depth knowledge of drug trafficker activities. In one case alone, he titled 64 subjects for their involvement in a hashish distribution conspiracy. CW3 Lane also became very adept at working with his host-nation counterparts throughout Europe, resulting in joint efforts which seized nearly \$100 million of illegal narcotics ranging from marijuana to heroin and put dozens of conspirators behind bars in Europe and South America. Upon completion of these assignments, CW3 Lane was tasked to impart all his knowledge to future agents at the CID Basic Agent and Apprentice Special Agent Courses at Fort McClellan and later as the Chief instructor of the Police Counter-Drug Training at the MP School. It was here that he oversaw the complete

---

## The Coalition

---



**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE (RET)**  
**TIMOTHY R. LANE**  
**Year of Induction: 2019**  
**Served: 1974-1993**

Course Manager and Chief Instructor Counter Drug Division,  
U.S. Army Military Police School, Ft. McClellan, AL (1991-1993)  
Chief Instructor, Testimonial Evidence Branch,  
U.S. Army Military Police School, Ft. McClellan, AL (1989-1991)  
Level 1 Drug Suppression Team, 2nd Region, Germany 1986-1988  
Team Chief, General Crimes, Fort Campbell, KY (1984-1985)  
Level 1 Drug Suppression Team, 2nd Region, Germany 1983-1984  
Chief, Drug Suppression Unit, Goeppingen, Germany (1982-1983)  
Chief, Drug Suppression Unit, Fort Leavenworth, KS (1980-1981)

revision of all drug-related training at the school and was awarded the TRADOC “Warrant Officer Instructor of the Year” in 1992. At the culmination of his career, he was also selected as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association for five years. His selfless service and dedication to the US Army Criminal Investigation Command and the Military Police Regiment continue to this day to inspire those with whom he served.

***The NNOAC is proud of Tim Lane’s accomplishments. Tim Lane’s Inductee plaque states as follows:***



### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Infiltrated drug trafficking organizations from European theater to South America which were supplying dangerous drugs to U.S. Soldiers and their dependents:
- Between August of 1983 and November 1984, responsible for apprehension and successful prosecution of 46 high level drug traffickers and the seizure of \$75M worth of drugs in Germany and Denmark.
- Between January 1986-December 1988, responsible for 39 investigations resulting in the arrest of 73 major drug traffickers and the seizure of \$12M worth of drugs in Germany and Belgium.
- Completely revised the Interview and Interrogations module of the CID Apprentice Special Agent Course, tailoring it to the workplace job requirements of a CID Special Agent ensuring agents learned the basic skills essential to success in the field.
- Developed the Army’s first Counter Drug Investigation Course. His zeal to provide the very best training led to the complete revision of all drug-related training at the U.S. Army Military Police School. The Counter Drug Training Program was recognized as the Army’s best drug enforcement effort.
- In 1992, was selected as the Warrant Officer Instructor of the Year by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command.



*Tim’s undercover photo*



***★ His legacy is not only measured by his success in the field of counter-drug operations but in the sharing of the skills he learned with future generations. ★***

## THREE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

### JEFF L. PIERCE

*Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)*

Mr. Jeff L. Pierce serves as the Executive Director for RMIN, with responsibility for implementing policies and directives from the RMIN Policy Board and directing daily center operational activities. Prior to his selection as the Executive Director, Mr. Pierce served as the RMIN Deputy Director and Chief of Staff for many years managing all RMIN intelligence related services provided to over 1000 law enforcement agencies located throughout eight Rocky Mountain states and three provinces in Canada. He also assisted the RMIN Director on RISS (Regional Information Sharing Systems) national programs/initiatives.

Prior to joining RMIN, Mr. Pierce served for 23 years in the U.S. Army as a Counterintelligence (CI) Officer. He commanded CI units in the U.S. & Europe; and served in senior joint-duty assignments with U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Space Command, and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. Pierce's education includes an Executive Juris Doctorate (law) degree, Master of Science degree (criminal justice), and a Bachelor of Science degree (law enforcement). He was a distinguished military graduate from the ROTC program at UCLA; and a graduate of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College (Fort Leavenworth, KS).



### DAVID A. HALL

*Executive Director, Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)*

David A. Hall is the Executive Director of Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC), one of the six Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Centers serving law enforcement officers and criminal justice professionals in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Canada, England and New Zealand.

MOCIC serves law enforcement in a nine-state region, which includes Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Manitoba. For more than 30 years, MOCIC has successfully blended nationwide information-sharing and officer safety resources with specialized, regionally focused investigative support services to help Midwestern law enforcement agencies and criminal justice professionals successfully resolve criminal investigations against organized and violent crime, gang activity, drug activity, terrorism and other regional priorities.

December 3, 2018, Mr. Hall became the Executive Director of MOCIC after he retired as a captain from the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) after almost 26 years of service. He began his career with the MSHP on January 1, 1993. After his initial assignment to Troop B, Executive Director Hall was



*Continued on page 29*

## 2019 NNOAC REGIONAL DIRECTORS

### Northwest Region - Rich Wiley

Alaska, Washington, Montana, Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming

509/342-0427

[rwiley@nnoac.com](mailto:rwiley@nnoac.com)



### Great Lakes Region - Gary Ashenfelter

Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York

800/558-6620

[gashenfelter@nnoac.com](mailto:gashenfelter@nnoac.com)



### Southwest Region - Bob Cooke

California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Hawaii

408/472-8409

[bcooke@nnoac.com](mailto:bcooke@nnoac.com)



### Northeast Region - William Butka

Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts

203/627-2644

[wbutka@nnoac.com](mailto:wbutka@nnoac.com)



### Midwest Region - Brian Marquart

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois

651/201-7338

[bmarquart@nnoac.com](mailto:bmarquart@nnoac.com)



### East Central Region - Tommy Loving

Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey

270/843-5343

[tloving@nnoac.com](mailto:tloving@nnoac.com)



### South Central Region - Leland Sykes

Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana

225/268-4360

[lwsykes@nnoac.com](mailto:lwsykes@nnoac.com)

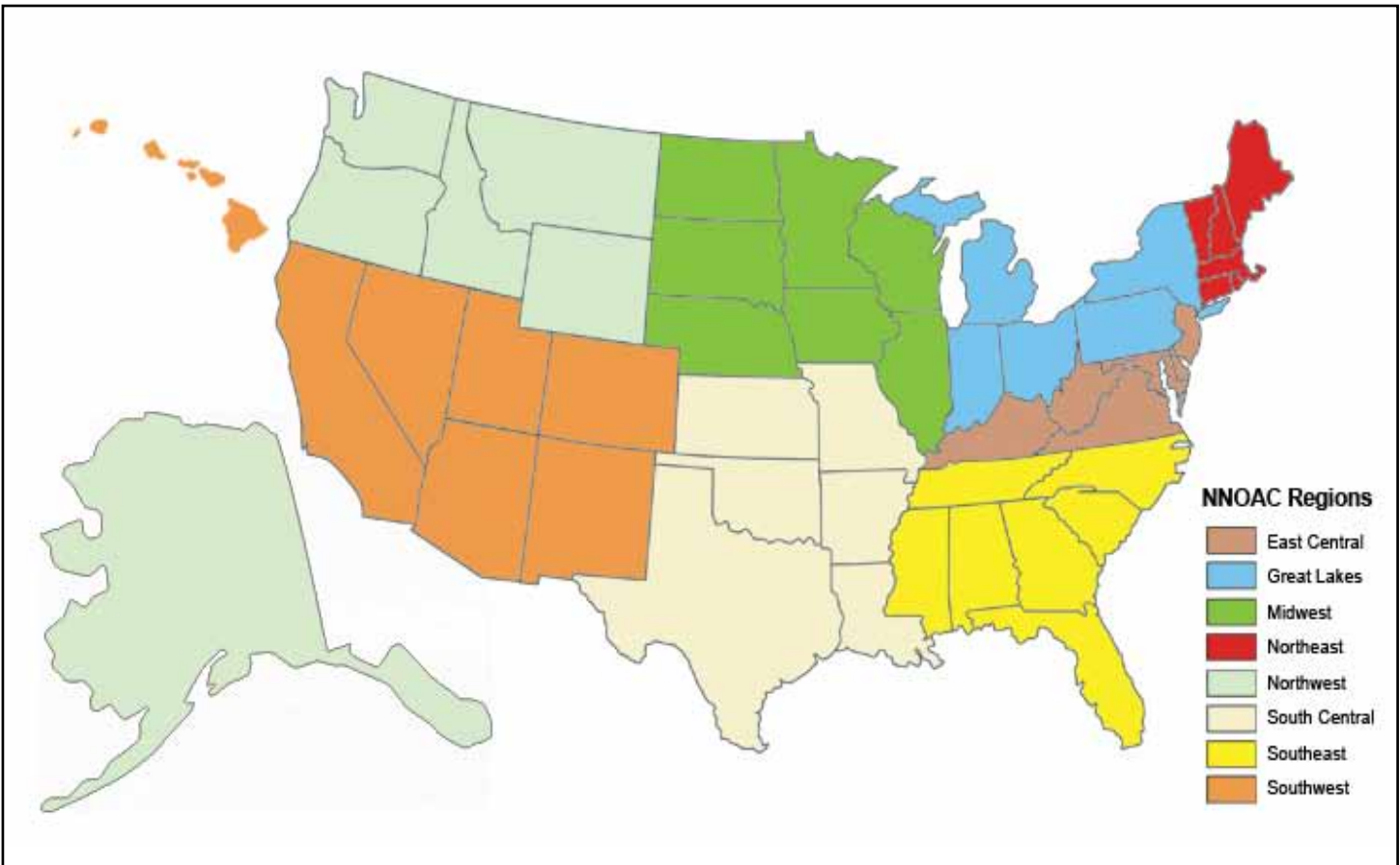


### Southeast Region - T. Gene Donegan

Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida

615/509-3738

[tdonegan@nnoac.com](mailto:tdonegan@nnoac.com)





# NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

NORTHEAST REGIONAL REPORT  
& Editorial Opinion  
By William E. Butka

**Northeast Region - William Butka, Jr.**  
Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont,  
Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts  
203/671-9841  
wbutka@nnoac.com

The Northeast continues to have the same drug problems as the rest of the country. The drugs of abuse are fentanyl and its derivatives, opioid medication, heroin, cocaine, meth, and (of course) marijuana. Widely publicized in the Northeast was a meeting of the governors of New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island to discuss coordinating legislation to legalize marijuana. Connecticut's governor called this meeting despite Connecticut's citizens having defeated an attempt in the legislature to legalize recreational marijuana.

Vaping-related hospitalizations continue to be a problem in the Northeast. Politicians and the majority of the media are ignoring the fact that most of the medical problems come from THC and CBD vaping oil (as reported by the CDC and FDA). A December 20, 2019, CDC report indicated that vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) hospitalizations are closely associated with vitamin E acetate, an additive in some THC-containing e-cigarette, or vaping, products. [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html)

The NNOAC received permission to republish an editorial from the Wall Street Journal published on December 26, 2019, outlining the problem on this issue (that editorial is republished in its entirety on page 34 of this issue). Once again, facts do not matter – votes and political perceptions have greater importance than public health and welfare.

For years, law enforcement sounded the alarm regarding the opioid problem. Because of the nationwide opioid crisis, the NNOAC refused sponsorship from certain pharmaceutical companies. In the past several years, it has been revealed that Congress interfered with the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration to check the growing opiate problem. Opiate prescriptions were the direct causation to the fentanyl crisis

with the resulting loss of hundreds of thousands of lives.

A new problem – the bankruptcy of marijuana companies – is arising from the legalization of marijuana. Articles report that marijuana stock prices are losing two-thirds or more of their value since March of 2019, as reported by Bloomberg on December 17, 2019. (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/pot-firms-grim-reality-cash-crunch-no-us-bankruptcy-access/ar-BBY55m4?ocid=spartandhp>) I had saved an article referring to the bankruptcy problem in 2014. The problem is not isolated to the United States; it is a Canadian problem, too, since Canada nationally legalized marijuana in 2018.

I find this interesting, as states continue to legalize marijuana and ignore the fact that marijuana companies are going bankrupt – leaving investors holding the proverbial bag. If legalizing marijuana is so profitable, why are they going bankrupt? Is it due to sales projections falling short of expected revenue? If so, that means reduced state tax revenue. Could marijuana bankruptcies be from the inability to recognize the illegal sales compared to legal sales? Illegal sales do not have to comply with the many state regulations and licensing costs, and they are not subject to sales tax.

Legalized marijuana – both medical and recreational – has resulted in other problems. Since Massachusetts legalized marijuana, some marijuana sites have been closed, at least temporarily, for a variety of reasons including health and safety violations. There are also concerns about corruption relating to the marijuana industry in Massachusetts. In September 2019, the mayor of Fall River, MA, was arrested on federal charges that he received under-the-table cash payments, campaign donations, and even a Rolex watch in a “pay-to-play” shakedown scheme involving approvals for opening dispensaries in Fall River.

Another problem could be from states reducing law enforcement resources that combat the illegal drug sales and by-passing legislation that reduces or eliminates penalties of state drug laws.

For example: In 2012, in a California Department of Law Enforcement restructuring, there were significant cuts and many California Department of Justice Special Agents were laid off, and law enforcement capabilities of the Department of Law Enforcement were drastically reduced or eliminated. The Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement was disbanded, with





a few of its remaining functions and personnel transferred.

And let's not forget the trend of states reducing their prison populations under the false premise of "second chance" programs as was done in Illinois. According to an Associated Press story by Kathleen Foody (12/31/19), the Illinois governor granted 11,017 pardons for low-level marijuana convictions. Illinois state officials estimate 116,000 convictions for possession of 30 grams or less of marijuana are eligible for pardons under the new law. Illinois became the 11th state to legalize marijuana.

Connecticut is among the states that have enacted a "second chance" law or other prison reforms. And, in December 2018 President Trump signed into law the federal First Step Act, the aim of which is to reduce federal prison populations.

The current trends I have described have resulted in

---

---

#### NORTHWEST REGIONAL REPORT

*By Richard Wiley, President*

*Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association*

#### Northwest Region - Rich Wiley

Alaska, Washington, Montana, Oregon,  
Idaho and Wyoming

509/342-0427

[rwiley@nnoac.com](mailto:rwiley@nnoac.com)

**O**regon Narcotics Enforcement Association (ONEA): Oregon continues to see methamphetamine as its number one threat, followed by heroin. Law enforcement in the northern part of the state has made a couple of seizures of fentanyl pressed into counterfeit pills disguised as oxys. Although we have seen pills shipped from China, law enforcement was able to confirm these pills where trafficked from Mexico.

The over-production of marijuana continues to be a problem. Compounding this problem is the production of hemp, which has taken Oregon by storm. Illegal growers are using the hemp production as a way to hide their over-production and trafficking of marijuana. Due to the similarities between the two plants, the Oregon State Police crime lab has been unable to receive and test leafy substances for confirmation of the substance. In an effort to relieve the marijuana stockpile, the Oregon legislature passed, and the governor signed into law, SB 582, The Import and Export of Marijuana. This will allow the governor to enter into an agreement with another state to export and import marijuana

financial impact to the states and will continue to contribute to an increase in crime (currently reflected in statistics).

On December 31, 2019, The Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., released a post by Dr. Sharif Mohr, MPH, PhD. Dr. Mohr's post states: "As marijuana use becomes increasingly normalized and liberalized, more and more adolescents are initiated into using the drug with serious implications for the healthcare system and public health. Confirming what those of us in the prevention community have long known, a systematic review and meta-analysis published in JAMA Psychiatry found that marijuana use in adolescence was associated with increased risk of depression and suicide in young adulthood (18-32 years of age). After pooling data from 11 studies of over 23,300 individuals, researchers found that compared to non-users, adolescents who used marijuana were 40% more likely to suffer from depression, 50% more likely to experience suicidal ideation, and 250% more likely to attempt suicide in young adulthood." (See article on page 31.)

with federal approval. This law is currently inactive and contingent on federal approval. It's unclear in what form or level the federal approval would be given.

Idaho Narcotics Officers Association (INOA): Methamphetamine continues to be the greatest threat facing Idaho. Meth prices are at an all-time low across the state, resulting in higher use rates and associated crime.

Opioid pills, both prescription and counterfeit, are readily available throughout Idaho. Heroin and fentanyl-based pill use is on the uptick across the state. Idaho was behind some of the other states initially, but it is now in the full throes of the opioid threat that the rest of the nation is experiencing.

Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association (WSNIA): Washington continues to see an uptick in counterfeit prescription pills made with fentanyl analogs. These pills are commonly disguised as Xanax (zany bars), Oxycontin 30mg, or Percocet 30mg pills. The quality of the pills' appearance has improved, making it more and more difficult to differentiate them from the prescription drugs. However, the quality control of these illicit pills is lacking, making them very dangerous and leading to numerous overdose issues, most notably with our youth. We have had mass overdoses occur in relatively small geographic areas when a bad batch of pills hits the street.

There is reason to believe that large-scale tableting labs are operating within the Puget Sound Region. It's common for one county to only have one type of pill and the next county over to have another. We are also finding pills that are manufactured in Mexico. The fentanyl is generally going to Mexico, where it is tableted up for smuggling directly into the state.



# NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS



The offices of the Governor, State Attorney General, and US Attorney are fully on board with the fact that we have a problem. Unfortunately, this has not led to any additional resources for law enforcement to respond to the problem. Recently, it was estimated that Washington State spends between 800 million and one billion dollars annually on treatment. The State has not provided any funding to the state's multi-jurisdictional task forces since 2009. The fight between the State and Trump administration over immigration has resulted in the Byrne Grant funds being withheld, which has devastated our state's task forces.

Methamphetamine is arguably the great threat facing the state, resulting in more overdose deaths than any other drug. The price of methamphetamine from Mexico is at an all-time low, while purity levels are very high. This is largely due to a lack of capacity to work cartel cases within the state. DEA does great work; however, neither DEA nor the task forces have the staffing necessary. Unfortunately, task forces are on the verge of closing across the state due to funding issues and struggles to maintain staffing.

Our streets are full of homeless people who are struggling with addiction and profound mental health issues, largely resulting from long-term drug abuse. If these issues were to be looked at holistically, government would spend more resources on the front end to limit the supply of the dangerous drugs that are devastating our communities. I hope that someday we can get back to the three-legged stool analogy – Treatment, Prevention, and Enforcement being co-equal partners working collaboratively. There is virtually no collaboration between treatment and enforcement in Washington State.

Montana Narcotics Officers Association: In Montana, methamphetamine is still the predominant drug of choice and poses the biggest threat. Potency is at an all-time high while wholesale prices are low, making it more accessible. Patrol units typically deal with low-level users and the associated crimes. Most task forces in Montana primarily deal with the mid-level sources of meth. Mid-level sources of supply travel to Spokane, Denver, Las Vegas, and/or Salt Lake City and return to Montana to sell user-level quantities. Meth is

also being added to many other drugs, such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and MDMA on our college campuses.

Heroin is on the rise in Montana, which mirrors the national trend. Overdoses were on the rise earlier in 2019 but have tapered off in the third quarter of the year. Mexico continues to be the primary supplier of heroin found in Montana.

Fentanyl, in the form of imitation pills, seems to be on the uptick. More often than not, Xanax and Oxycontin pills seized are imitation pills comprised of caffeine and fentanyl analogs. In 2017, the Bozeman office had a carfentanil case of imitation blue oxy 30 pills, which caused multiple overdoses before the source was apprehended.

---

**Midwest Region - Brian Marquart**  
North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska,  
Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois  
**651/201-7338**  
[bmarquart@nnoac.com](mailto:bmarquart@nnoac.com)

### Methamphetamine

The Midwest region continues to see record increases in methamphetamine seizures, arrests, and admissions to treatment. The availability of methamphetamine in the Midwest Region mirrors the seizures seen on the Southwest border, where seizures have more than doubled since 2012. We are seizing larger loads – in excess of 75 pounds at a time – and some that have involved methamphetamine mixed in liquid solution in order to conceal it. Meth is often transported in passenger vehicles; however, there has been an increasing use of packages shipped in parcels via mail service. We continue to see only a handful of small methamphetamine labs – which are capable of producing small amounts in “one pot” containers – in contrast to the hundreds of such labs discovered in the early 2000's. Mexican DTO's control a majority of the delivery and distribution of meth that arrives in the region, and wholesale methamphetamine is readily available at very cheap prices and at very high quality. Partnerships and cross-state investigations by federal, state, and local law enforcement continue to identify and investigate mid- to upper-level dealers and importers of methamphetamine coming into the region.



### Heroin, Fentanyl and Prescription Opioids

We have seen a small decrease in the overdose death rates from heroin, but an increasing number involving synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Law enforcement agencies throughout the region have seized synthetically produced fentanyl in liquid, powder and counterfeit prescription pills. Multi-state investigations have been conducted to identify the distribution chains of this deadly drug. Often the retail sellers and unsuspecting users are not aware that the substance contains fentanyl. Some states in the region that had seen little to no heroin or fentanyl are now seeing dramatic increases. Much of the fentanyl seen in our region is produced in China and is ordered over the “dark web”. Law Enforcement is continuing to encounter these dark web purchases from overseas, which are time-consuming and require additional law enforcement resources and expertise to investigate.

### Cocaine

After several years of decreases both in the amounts of cocaine being seized and the number of people entering treatment, over the past three years there has been an alarming trend of increases in the availability and seizures of cocaine that are occurring in the region. As cocaine availability and use increases, we are seeing a rise in the number of overdose deaths related to cocaine, as well. Laboratory analyses of samples of cocaine are also showing that some of the cocaine is being laced with fentanyl. This makes it even more dangerous to the unsuspecting user and to law enforcement personnel who encounter it.

### Marijuana

The region has seen large seizures of marijuana and marijuana concentrates being sourced from states that have legalized recreational marijuana. The region is being inundated with edibles, wax, oils, and high-content THC coming from states that have chosen to disregard federal law. Many of these products – such as gummy bears and “pot tarts” – are aimed at attracting young people to try them. This should not be a surprise, because many of us grew up with Big Tobacco trying to entice the next generation to become addicted – and the marijuana industry is following in those footsteps. Not everyone who smokes marijuana will become addicted; but, until 2017, the number one drug of choice – after alcohol – for people entering treatment was marijuana. Protecting our children and our next generation from harms due to drugs and violence should be a top priority.

---

---

### South Central Region - Leland Sykes

Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma,  
Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana

225/268-4360

lwsykes@nnoac.com

The majority of the region is encountering similar illicit drug issues. The large cities and suburban areas are continuing to see significant amounts of heroin mixed with fentanyl, which is continuing to contribute to drug overdose deaths. Crack cocaine continues to retreat in most areas, but a resurgence of powder cocaine is occurring. Some areas are experiencing powder cocaine mixed with fentanyl, which is an exceptionally dangerous combination to unsuspecting abusers. In most cases, the buyer has no idea that the product contains fentanyl, and in many cases the seller is also unaware that the cocaine is being cut with fentanyl. After making small strides with the regulation of fentanyl from China, the Mexican DTO’s are more than willing to step up to supply this deadly synthetic opioid.

Methamphetamine that is being shipped by Mexican DTO’s is at epidemic proportions in many areas. Coming across the porous Mexican border, the methamphetamine is being shipped in powder as well as liquid form, then being converted back to powder in the region. We are seeing a significant uptick in methamphetamine drug overdose deaths. The price of methamphetamine is so low that one senior drug investigator described it as “pennies on the dollar”.

The rural areas of the South-Central region are also seeing tremendous increases in the amounts of methamphetamine and powder cocaine. The region continues to see large amounts of high-grade marijuana being trafficked in the region. This marijuana comes from the usual suspects of states such as Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, that have legalized marijuana. I am happy to report that, in this region this year, there have been no new initiatives for legalization of marijuana.

The unsecured United States-Mexico border, along with the ability of Mexican DTO’s to traffic illicit drugs at will, is perhaps of greater concern than ever. Their ability to flood the illicit drug market in the United States with heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl – at cheap prices – should be of grave concern to all Americans.

I would like to invite everyone to attend our 2020 National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition Meeting



# NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS



in Washington, DC, from February 2-5, 2020. We anticipate having an aggressive training agenda, and then we'll go to Capitol Hill to deliver a unified message to our members of Congress.

---

### Southeast Region - T. Gene Donegan

Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida

615/509-3738

[tdonegan@nnoac.com](mailto:tdonegan@nnoac.com)

The majority of the areas are being plagued with the same drug issues although some areas are being hit harder with specific drugs problems that other areas. We continue to see a large increase in methamphetamine in rural areas of the Southeast and a steady increase in heroin in larger cities.

#### Crystal Methamphetamine

The Southeastern region continues to see a steady drop in the homegrown/one pot methamphetamine labs that have previously plagued the area. This area has seen as much as an eighty five percent drop in homegrown/ one pot methamphetamine labs. When the labs are discovered, they are usually being run by defendants that have been recently released from prison or jail. After being released from incarceration, they quickly realize that purchasing the higher grade, much cheaper crystal methamphetamine is easier to get, and considerably safer to obtain. The cheaper price has led to groups selling crystal methamphetamine that have never dealt in this type of drug. So it goes without saying we are seeing more crystal methamphetamine than ever. As I mentioned in the fall report, we continue to see an increase in the methamphetamine conversion labs. These labs are large labs that are not designed for production but for converting liquefied methamphetamine back to crystal methamphetamine. These conversion labs have been seized in several states in the Southeastern region. This form of smuggling by the cartels is growing and will continue to



grow crossing our southern border, necessitating the need for conversion labs. Crystal methamphetamine can be mixed with many different liquids and this form will convert 10 gallons into approximately 65 pounds of methamphetamine. Law enforcement has seized these conversion labs in several states in the southeastern region. Due to the nature of flammable agents involved, these labs will continue to create a serious threat to the public and law enforcement.

#### Hemp vs. Marijuana

Most of the Southeastern region is dealing with hemp, CBD hemp, hemp being sold on the streets in marijuana type joints ( pre-rolls) and many other hemp products. I know in the Tennessee region we are constitutently bombarded by calls to law enforcement about shipments of hemp being transported and not wanting to be stopped by the police, thinking it is marijuana. Or issues like this email that I received:

#### Subject: stolen CBD

Axxxxx, who works for a hemp distributor called with concern over 7 kilos of stolen CBD industrial hemp. This past weekend there was a hemp expo at the fairgrounds and a group of people toured a hemp farm in a neighboring county. After the tour it was discovered that some of the product had been stolen. Axxxxx is worried that if someone tries to sell it for high grade marijuana it could lead to violence,

especially in the Hispanic community as they might not be as well informed about the theft (per Axxxxx). Axxxxx wanted to pass this information on to law enforcement and she left her boss' number if anyone has any questions.

Last year the state of Tennessee had 226 growers, this year we have grown to 3,769 growers on over 51,000 acres. We have state legislature to control several aspects of hemp use, but most are very vague and easy to work around. For example: "Smoking hemp" means hemp that is offered for sale to the public with the intention that it is consumed by smoking and that does not meet the definition of a vapor product.

The sale or distribution of smoking hemp to, or purchase smoking hemp on behalf of, persons under eighteen years of age is prohibited.

But anyone under the age of 18 may buy loose hemp flower as a tea, which can be smoked.

We have seen the results from vaping CBD and or marijuana. Unfortunately there aren't enough regulations for these types of products.

Then we deal with hemp being used as animal feed, any effect on humans?

#### **PC 673 –Hemp Animal Feed**

Amends the definition of "commercial feed" in TCA §44-6-103

Industrial Hemp (less than 0.3% THC) is now authorized to be fed to livestock. What happens to the meat or milk of an animal that consumes hundreds of pounds of hemp over the course of his or her life? Good question. No idea.

#### **Effective April 12, 2018**

There are many questions that remain unanswered:

Is it mandated that hemp grown for human consumption be tested for pesticides? No

Herbicides? No

Rodenticides? No

Fungicides? No

•Who regulates the processors of hemp? No one. Can processor use butane to extract hemp resin in Tennessee? Sure can.

•Once a farmer sales his/her hemp, who regulates the transportation of hemp flower? No one.

Do you need a moving permit? Nope.

What if I conduct a traffic stop on someone pulling a horse trailer full of "hemp?" Good luck, and don't forget about the forfeiture law changes.

If CBD is the beneficial, non-psychoactive ingredient of hemp, are there testing standards to measure CBD? Of course not. It can have zero CBD.



•How will a consumer know if the packaging is accurate? You won't, buyer beware.

•I thought hemp was used to make rope and textiles, why are they selling gummies and joints? Good question.

•Can hemp be given to livestock as commercial feed? Absolutely. What happens to the meat or milk of an animal that consumes hundreds of pounds of hemp over the course of his or life? No idea.

Here are just a few of the challenges facing Law Enforcement.

#### **Hemp vs. Marijuana**

Hemp and Marijuana are both the same plant Cannabis Sativa. Generally, they look the same . . . Even under a microscope. They smell the same. Hemp will fail a color test like marijuana. The difference comes down to one factor... the THC content, Hemp -0.3% THC or below

Marijuana –more than 0.3% THC

#### **Cannabis Trends** (Marijuana and Hemp)

Significant increase use in Cannabis products Vaping (Not Recommended by FDA, CDC and numerous Health Journals) –According to CDC and FDA approximately 80% of vaping illnesses and deaths are related to products containing THC. Of those involving THC, there are 2 primary categories: chemical related burn (pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, etc) or air related fungus

- Food /Edibles & Dietary supplement
- (Not Approved by FDA)
- Medicinal\*\* (FDA approved Prescription ONLY)
- Levels of Marijuana use are higher than those of any other drug, particularly among adults
- Domestic production is increasing nationally

\*\*\*CDC, *National Drug Intelligence Center, DOJ, National Drug Threat Assessment 2016*

#### **Challenges for Law Enforcement**

There is widespread confusion about how to positively identify legal hemp to differentiate it from illegal marijuana.



# NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS



In March 2019, Station WKRN reported that an officer with the St. Joseph Police Department stopped a driver who had a container in his possession. The container was labeled "Green Lyfe," CBD hemp flower.

The officer noted that the plant looked and smelled like marijuana.

The driver finally admitted that it was illegal marijuana that he put in the jar to pass off as hemp.

### **Metro Nashville PD Press Release (Jan. 2019) –**

Today West CSU Detectives with the assistance of West S.N.T. executed a search warrant in order to arrest a suspect on multiple outstanding warrants for money laundering and conspiracy to distribute marijuana. During the arrest detectives found evidence that led to them obtaining a second search warrant to look for narcotics including marijuana. During the investigation detectives seized approximately 57 pounds of marijuana, 12 vials of marijuana oil, one handgun and various items of drug paraphernalia.

The suspect claimed all of the cannabis located in the search warrant was hemp. Small packages were located that had stickers on them stating the contents were hemp, however officers also located a concealed box in another room that contained multiple large bags of a green plant substance that had a different appearance and a much more pungent odor than the other plant material located. The suspect has not been charged with the cannabis, as MNPD is awaiting test results from the TBI Crime Lab.

These are just a few examples of issues law enforcement is dealing with when it comes to hemp vs. marijuana.

I understand with all the obviously more pressing issues going on in Congress, we have either forgotten or decided it was the norm to lose 70,000 to 80,000 people each year to overdose deaths. Although we did see a slight decrease in overdose deaths in opiates, we are beginning to see an increase in methamphetamine related deaths, many of those mixing cocaine or methamphetamine with fentanyl. So as law enforcement we need to remain aware that trends are constantly changing.

### **Southwest Region - Bob Cooke**

California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Hawaii

408/472-8409

[bcooke@nnoac.com](mailto:bcooke@nnoac.com)

Property Crimes Impact Businesses. On November 26, 2019, the San Francisco Police Officer's Association Facebook page reported that property crime jeopardizes local businesses. In 2018, San Francisco's per capita burglary rate was 43% higher than the overall rate for California. It was also higher than the rates for Los Angeles, San Jose, San Diego, and Oakland. ABC News reported that downtown businesses and restaurants want the police to crack down on burglaries. One of the many problems in San Francisco is that the police don't have access to privately owned security cameras. These business owners want to work on a program to allow officers access, but are challenged by objections from government officials due to concerns with privacy issues.

This isn't the only area affected by a loss of accountability for illegal and dangerous acts. This is getting progressively worse across the country. On December 1, 2019, KRON News Channel 4 in San Francisco reported on the US cities with the most "porch pirates." San Francisco tops the list, followed by Salt Lake City, Baltimore, Seattle and Los Angeles. So, when you see information about the decline in crime rates, it does not reflect these crimes. Although our law enforcement officers are expected to prevent crime, we can't do it if offenders aren't held accountable and don't face consequences. Decriminalizing harmful behavior is leading us in the wrong direction. This adds to the dangers and stress of the job as a law enforcement officer.

This has been a tough year for law enforcement families. Police suicides lead the list of causes of police officer deaths. As such, we must be better trained to recognize symptoms, issues, and actions and lead the way for prevention in unseen deadly consequences of our profession. The National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide, a program of the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance's National Officer Safety Initiatives, was established in 2018. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Action Alliance for Suicide

Prevention, as the lead grantees, are leading the Consortium. The purpose of the group is to provide a voice to the mental health needs of law enforcement and to raise awareness of and prevent law enforcement suicide by bringing together experts from law enforcement agencies and families, mental health and suicide prevention services.

Over the next year, the Consortium will lead a national conversation around the issue of law enforcement suicide. The result will be a comprehensive report with recommendations on consistent definitions and terminology relating to officer suicide; policy and procedure updates; research and data collection improvements; suicide awareness and prevention tools; and resources for law enforcement officers, agencies, and family members. The Consortium will also work on creating an anonymous online platform for law enforcement to report officer suicides to help identify trends and work towards solutions.

Recently a longtime friend of mine (Mike Robinson, DEA Special Agent, Ret.) spoke at a city council meeting where they were considering allowing marijuana dispensaries deliveries of MJ products. This is what he told the city council, mayor and city manager regarding marijuana's impact on the Morgan Hill School District:

*"Chief (of police) and City Manager Turner,*

*I appreciated the opportunity to speak with all of you last night concerning marijuana's negative impact on our school community.*

*I would like to highlight an important fact about the Marijuana delivery services. No one can control the final destination of any MJ. Often the MJ in the schools are brought to campus by students that obtain the MJ from their parents that obtained the marijuana from San Jose (CA) dispensaries. We should help the schools with the MJ already entering the campus and not add to it. It's NOT just a school problem, it's a community problem. It's okay to say no to more MJ. The schools and students are already greatly suffering.*

*It is the responsibility of everyone in our community to include the elected officials to help our schools. We should all work together. You heard from the schools last night. They clearly stated the reality of the crisis they are dealing with. The dispensaries and delivery services create profits for themselves. The schools create our next generation".*

The city leaders saw the light and rejected the marijuana permit. This is a fine example of law enforcement officers continuing to serve their communities after retirement.

Mr. Robinson also makes presentations throughout schools for the City of Santa Clara and wherever else he is requested. On November 15, 2019, students received information on the dangers of vaping at their all-school assembly. The presentation has been shared with you, in order to provide you with information and opportunity to have a meaningful discussion with your children regarding the associated risks and long-term health concerns related to vaping.

<https://www.presentationhs.org/parentupdates/parent-details/~board/weekly-updates/post/the-dangers-of-vaping>

Members of the National Narcotic Officer's Association Coalition (NNOAC) are only able to meet once a year. All our members are volunteers and operate on shoestring budgets. However, the California Narcotic Officers' Association (CNOA) was able to host an Out-of-State reception during their/our 55th annual Training Institute on November 22-26, 2019, in Reno, Nevada.



During the opening session, approximately 1,700 attendees heard from 4-Star General Barry McCaffery, United States Army (Retired) and former Drug Czar in the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). General McCaffery really struck a home run when he reminded us that illegal drug consumption is the number one threat to this great country. Imagine someone, other than a cop, who understands that illegal drug use is such an issue. He also spoke about our involvement in national strategies



# NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS



and public policy-making to hold people accountable for illegal acts, drug courts and treatment for addiction.

Although we couldn't get all our NNOAC member state organizations together in Reno,

we did manage to attract association representatives from the following organizations: California, Nevada, Hawaii, Colorado, New Zealand, Utah, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Norway, Oklahoma, Washington State, Oregon, Midwest Counterdrug Training Center, Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center, Arizona, Iceland, National Narcotic Officers' Association Coalition, and Norway. This reception was sponsored by ThermoFisher Scientific.

This training institute gave us the opportunity to discuss using these trainers at other training events in other states and countries, exchange drug policy and enforcement strategies, and network. This helps to expand our understanding of the drug and safety issues and to address training, resources, and lawmaker policy changes and suggestions.

*The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it. – Albert Einstein*

---

### East Central Region - Tommy Loving

Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey

270/843-5343

[tloving@nnoac.com](mailto:tloving@nnoac.com)

#### KENTUCKY:

The Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association Annual Training Conference was held in Louisville at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from September 4-6, 2019, with over 400 officers attending.

The conference began on Wednesday with an opening ceremony that included agency heads and two United States Attorneys. The award for Narcotic Officer of the Year for the Western District of Kentucky was presented to Detective Eric Williamson, of the Bardstown Police Department, who was assigned to the Greater Hardin County Drug Task Force. The award for the Eastern District of Kentucky was

presented to Detective Brian Greene, who is a 16-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police and assigned to Post 10 in Harlan. Det. Greene is also assigned to Appalachia Narcotics Investigations.

Following the opening, **Alex Berenson, the author of "Tell Your Children: The Truth About Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence", provided an eye-opening report on the link between teenage marijuana use and mental illness, and a hidden epidemic of violence caused by the drug. Mr. Berenson is an award-winning author and a former New York Times reporter. This presentation was excellent and reenergized our opposition to so called "medical" marijuana and recreational marijuana.**

We closed the day with a statewide intelligence-sharing meeting facilitated by Mike Brackett (JCSO), Matt Gelhausen (LMPD), and Steve Wright (ROCIC). Participation in this event was high and found to be very useful to all.

The second day of the conference was an 8-hour block of training presented Trooper **Robby Robertson**, who has been in law enforcement for 21 years, and has 14 years with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. He is currently assigned to the Training Academy with the Officer Survival, Defense Tactics, and Taser section. His block of training is "Surviving the First Three Seconds," a class designed to take the reactionary gap off the officer and place it back onto the suspect. This is done through a six-step system.

Closing out the Conference on Friday morning was Lieutenant Eric Lloyd of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. His presentation regarding the October 1, 2017, Mass Casualty Shooting was so well attended that it was standing room only. More than 22,000 festival-goers had come together to enjoy "Route 91 Harvest," an open-air music festival in Las Vegas, NV. During the main event performance on the final night of the festival, a lone gunman rained gunfire down into the crowd from the elevated position of the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. The gunman actively targeted concert attendees and workers for over ten minutes, resulting in the deaths of 58 innocent people and injuring approximately 887 others. With law enforcement closing in on his location, the gunman killed himself.







### **Kentucky's New Attorney General:**

The Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association congratulates our KNOA member Daniel Cameron (left), who is the new Attorney General of Kentucky. He is the first Republican elected to the office since World War II and is the first African-American

Attorney General of Kentucky.

Daniel has stated, "We are putting emphasis on the priorities that resonated with the people of the Commonwealth. My greatest interest in these early months will be a singular devotion to renewing the promise of this office as the chief law enforcement office here in Kentucky.

As part of this effort, this office will be fully dedicated to working with federal, state, and local law enforcement to ensure that we are a unified voice for the voiceless."

Appalachia HIDTA was able to add an additional County in Kentucky during 2019. The new initiative in Ashland-Boyd County, Kentucky, is the Northeast Kentucky Drug Task Force. Detective Ryan McDavid has been assigned as the Task Force Commander by the Ashland Police Department.

Kentucky has been inundated with crystal meth, and there has been a strong uptick in marijuana-related products (vapes, etc.) The crystal meth is originating from Mexico, and the marijuana products are coming from Colorado, California, and Washington.

Some task forces are able to work with the Postal Inspection Service and have been successful in interdicting drugs being shipped to Kentucky. The joint operations are also helping with controlled deliveries and making arrests.

### **NEW JERSEY:**

Under the leadership of President Wayne Canastra and Conference Chairman Al Camisa and Bob Mazur, June 2019 Annual Conference in Atlantic City had a variety of speakers who presented on the topics of Criminal Interdiction, Undercover Operations, Strict Liability for Drug-Induced Deaths, Human Trafficking, Mexican Drug Cartels, Cell Phone Support in Investigations, and Amtrak Interdiction and Support. Speakers came from California, Florida,

Georgia, Oklahoma and New Jersey.

The year 2019 closed with the sad news of Detective Joseph Seals' unnecessary death. Detective Seals was shot and killed at 12:30 pm in Bayview Cemetery after encountering two subjects, a man and woman, in a van that was linked to a homicide in Bayonne, New Jersey. Both subjects were eventually shot and killed by officers during the shootout. A live pipe bomb was later found inside of the van the two had abandoned before entering the store.

Jersey City Police Department and the New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers' Association lost a great officer. Detective Seals was assigned to the "Ceasefire Unit", where he recovered many weapons and was a great asset to the community of Jersey City.

### **WEST VIRGINIA:**

The West Virginia Narcotic Officers' Association (WVNOA) held its annual conference from September 23rd-25th, 2019, at the Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport, WV. The conference was attended by approximately 125 officers from throughout the state. The training included Police Ethics, Mental Health in Policing, Gangs & Drug Investigations, and Social Media/Drug Investigations. The 2020 WVNOA Conference will be held in the southern portion of the state.

West Virginia has experienced a huge increase in the number of crystal methamphetamine cases worked by drug task forces throughout the state. Task forces are buying and seizing large amounts of crystal methamphetamine from drug trafficking organizations. Large amounts are being shipped through parcel transportation originating from California.





## NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

### REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

# METH: IT NEVER REALLY WENT AWAY

By Curtis Hill, Indiana Attorney General for the Great Lakes Region

**Great Lakes Region - Gary Ashenfelter**

Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania,  
New York

800/558-6620

gashenfelter@nnoac.com

In 2004, I testified before members of Congress about the horrific effects of methamphetamine upon the American heartland. Back then, I was serving as prosecutor in Elkhart County, Indiana — and my community was an anomaly. Whereas much of Indiana's meth came from makeshift drug labs in people's homes and garages, Elkhart County was besieged with meth imported from Mexico through networks of criminal gangs. Little did we realize the extent to which our local experience was a harbinger of the future.

Throughout the first decade of the 2000s, law enforcement performed quite efficiently in shutting down homegrown labs — so much so that nowadays the typical source of meth in the United States is a Mexican supplier.

And make no mistake: While other drugs such as opioids have stolen the national substance-abuse spotlight in recent years, the nemesis of methamphetamine continues to destroy lives. In fact, the use of meth and resulting fatalities have skyrocketed in recent years.

From 2012 to 2017, according to a recent USA Today story, meth overdose deaths in the United States increased fourfold — from 2,600 to 10,300. The appetite for this devastating drug has ensured a continued demand, and new methods of manufacturing meth have resulted in a more potent and dangerous drug.

"Philosophically," I said in 2004, "I recognize that education and treatment programs that work are vital to decreasing the phenomenal demand that fuels the methamphetamine monster. However, interdiction combined with swift and effective law enforcement is the best hope for destroying the organized networks that pump these poisons through our communities."

*The 1983 movie "War Games" best summarizes the battle against meth addiction: "The only winning move is not to play."*

The task for law enforcement remains as clear today as it was then: We must put greater emphasis on stopping the flow of meth both at the U.S.-Mexico border and throughout the United States.

An official with U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement recently told a Desert Sun reporter that "old-school police work" is the key to reducing the flow of drugs. "That's where I think our best money is spent," said David Shaw, ICE Homeland Special Agent in Charge for San Diego. He cited wiretaps and paid informants as effective investigative tools for identifying and apprehending drug smugglers.

The individual U.S. states must focus greater resources on intercepting drug traffickers traveling through and within their boundaries.

As Indiana's attorney general, I have valued the opportunity to partner with law enforcement to facilitate grants aimed at strengthening interdiction efforts. My office provides resources to help fund and equip 13 regional highway interdiction teams — or HIT teams, as we call them. This year, these teams reported making 2,654 stops and 667 arrests through Sept. 30. During this time, these teams confiscated 60 pounds of meth — second only to marijuana (283 pounds) in the quantity of any type of drug recovered during stops.

Back in 2004, I told members of Congress: "(A) growing percentage of other crimes indirectly related to methamphetamine activity continue to increase as well. The corrosive effects of domestic violence, child abuse, robberies, burglaries and identity thefts are indirect consequences of methamphetamine activity and are devastating our communities. . . . I believe that it is incumbent upon every

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS



productive citizen to take a part in saving our communities from this spiraling decline brought on by illegal drug use.”

When I look at the statements I made in 2004, I realize the same truths I was addressing at that time remain self-evident today. We must bring fresh purpose and vigor to our fight against meth just as we must do in terms of the drug crisis overall.

Treating meth addiction remains a daunting challenge. “Crystal meth accelerates the reward circuits in the brain more powerfully than any other drug we have,” said Dr. Paul Earley, an addiction physician and board president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. “There’s no doubt that it causes the most rapid downhill course of any drug.” Further, “no medications have been clinically proven to be effective in the treatment of meth addiction,” according to the same USA Today story quoting Dr. Earley.

A line from the 1983 movie “War Games” best summarizes the battle against meth addiction: “The only winning move is not to play.” Aggressive police interdiction that cuts off supply chains and locks up meth traffickers for long stretches is necessary to tame this beast. Starving the demand for meth will have addicts looking elsewhere for their fix. Hopefully we can meet them there and offer them help. In the meantime, the men and women of law enforcement stand ready to protect our families, neighborhoods and communities from meth. We must make sure they have not only the resources to do so but our continuing appreciation for the job they must do. ☆



***"Crystal meth accelerates the reward circuits in the brain more powerfully than any other drug we have, said Dr. Paul Earley."***

*Curtis Hill is Indiana's Attorney General*

The screenshot shows the IOMGIA website. The logo is in the top left, and navigation links for Home, News, and Public Options are in the top right. The main content area features a large image of a crowd and the text "MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION" with a "Click Here" button. Below the button, it says "International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association - Founded in 1974".

Lilly W.  
Actual Patient



### YESTERDAY

A legacy rooted in unlocking the potential of cannabinoid medicines to address rare conditions with limited treatment options.

### TODAY

An enduring commitment to scientific rigor and bringing forward plant-derived cannabinoid prescription medicines for patients.

### TOMORROW

A promise to continue advancing cannabinoid science and providing medications that have the potential to address the unmet needs of patients.

**GREENWICH Biosciences** is proud to support the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition in their efforts to protect and advance public health and safety.

To learn more, visit [www.GreenwichBiosciences.com](http://www.GreenwichBiosciences.com).

©2019 Greenwich Biosciences, Inc. All rights reserved. GBS-04360-0119

## THREE NEW EDS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

### DAVID A. HALL, *Cont.*

transferred to the Division of Drug and Crime Control, where he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 2007, he was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to Troop F Headquarters. He was appointed to serve as the director of the Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) in April 2009. While in the fusion center, he was selected as the central region co-chair where he represented the central region fusion centers. He was a member of the National Fusion Center Association Board for over four years, supporting the nationwide fusion center network. At the time of his retirement from the MSHP, he was the director of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division.

In addition to his experience and expertise in both information sharing and criminal investigation, Executive Director Hall is an experienced trainer and educator. He

served as an adjunct instructor at Westminster College (MO) in the Security Studies Degree Program and at Columbia College (MO) in the Criminal Justice Program.

Executive Director Hall has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of La Verne (CA) and a master's degree in criminal justice from Columbia College. Prior to his tenure with MSHP, Executive Director Hall served in the United States Air Force and was a senior airman assigned to Vandenberg AFB in California. ☆



---

### CURTIS M. MCKENZIE

#### *Executive Director, New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN)*



Curtis McKenzie is the Executive Director of the New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN), one of the six Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Centers. RISS is a congressionally funded program and receives its funding through grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. RISS provides secure information and intelligence sharing, investigative support services, and officer safety deconfliction to thousands of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies across the country.

As the NESPIN Executive Director, he is responsible for the overall operations and management of the center, strategic development, regional partnerships, staff development, policy board relationships and coordination, and a host of other center-specific, regional, and nationwide responsibilities.

Mr. McKenzie has been with NESPIN since June 2006. Prior to being named the Executive Director, he was NESPIN's Deputy Director.

Prior to being employed at NESPIN, Mr. McKenzie began his career in 1982 at the Springfield, Massachusetts, Police Department (SMPD) where he attained the rank of sergeant. After 20 years of service at the SMPD, he was appointed chief of police of the Monson, Massachusetts, Police Department (MMPD) and then the Granville, Massachusetts, Police Department (GMPD). Mr. McKenzie also served as Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee's Western Massachusetts Regional Police Academy (MA MPTC WMRPA). He has more than 35 years of law enforcement experience.

Mr. McKenzie has a master's degree in criminal justice from Anna Maria College, and since 2008, has been an associate professor of criminal justice at Post University. He is also a member of the Post University Criminal Justice Advisory Board. ☆



# FAILING DRUG POLICY IN THE U.S.

By Thomas J. Gorman

Director, Rocky Mountain HIDTA

This article expresses my frustration with the current U.S. drug policy based on over 50 years in drug law enforcement. Our country's drug use rate has doubled since the 1990s. This disturbing trend follows approximately a 20-year period (1980s and 1990s) when drug use was cut in half. There are always a variety of contributing factors impacting human behavior. Many of our "drug experts" cite the economy, global conflict, war, recession, pharmaceutical industry, cartels, etc. Seldom do you hear them make reference to our country's drug policy as having impact on the rate of drug use. That, of course, would run counter to the pro-drug lobby and politically correct harm reduction proponents' message that the "War on Drugs" has been an abject failure. Unfortunately, because of the lack of effective leadership from many of our government's drug policy makers, the pro-drug lobby seemingly owns the message.

*We might want to examine this nation's history of drug abuse to determine if there are any lessons we can learn. Isn't there a saying something like "failure to examine history will condemn you to repeat the same mistakes?"*

In the late 1890s and early 1900s drug experts estimated that we had as many people using cocaine and opiates as there are today but with only one third of today's population. Drug use was legal, but the government determined that use and addiction was getting out of hand. In 1909 the Smoking Opium Exclusion Act banned the possession and use of opium. In 1914, The Harrison Act regulated and taxed the sale of opiates and cocaine. Over the next 30 years, drug prevention, treatment and enforcement became the country's multi-disciplinary approach to drug policy. No, it was not perfect, but it was a start in the right direction. Although at that time there were no credible statistics on the amount of drug use in the country, most health experts and law enforcement professionals agreed that use plummeted. In fact, the Federal Bureau of Narcotics estimated that there were only 50,000 addicts across the entire U.S. By the 1950s drug use among our general population and youth was almost non-existent. Drug use quite simply was not accepted. I personally was a

product of the 1950s and a member of a black leather jacket street gang familiar with the southwest and east coast. No one in our gang used drugs nor did we know anyone who used them. Drug use was stigmatized, and availability was limited to certain sub-cultures.

That lasted until the mid-sixties, when the counterculture, often referred to as hippies, discovered drugs. During that time drug use clearly became more acceptable, normalized and romanticized. Many in the entertainment industry helped set the norm by using and producing music romanticizing drugs. The common phrase was "turn on and tune out". It was "cool" to use drugs and our government was generally silent on the issue. There was marijuana, LSD, peyote, "shrooms," "reds," "yellows," cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, "mini-beans" and more. Drugs became readily available and use skyrocketed. By 1979, 24.3 million (about 14%) of our country were considered current drug users.

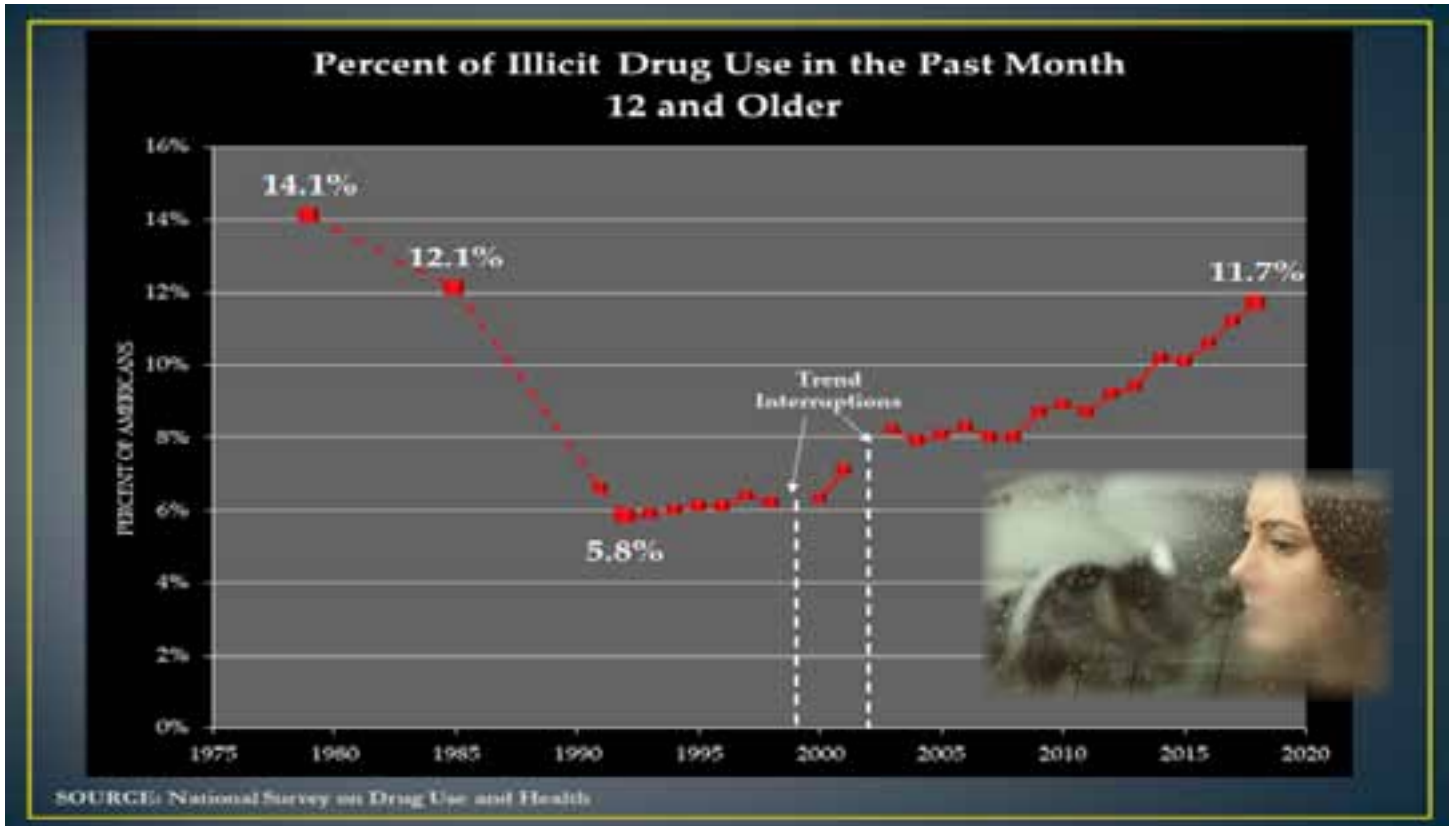
In the 1980s and 1990s there was a significant change in US drug policy. Drug prevention took hold in this country with Nancy Reagan's "just say no" campaign and the DARE program where teenagers proudly wore their DARE shirts. During that time the Drug Czar's office was created within the White House, with Bill Bennett becoming its first leader. Washington, D.C. began successfully using the "bully pulpit" to change attitude toward drug use. In fact, in the late 1980s the majority of people in this county felt that drug use was the number one problem in the nation. Drug laws were toughened and there was an increase in drug enforcement resources to combat trafficking. This country basically adopted a zero-tolerance attitude toward drug abuse and by the 1990s drug use was, not coincidentally, cut in half.

Beginning in about 2000 drug policy shifted with a significant swing in the wrong direction. Marijuana legalization took hold through the efforts to legalize the drug for "medical" use. Harm reduction became the mantra, the needle exchange program became more common as was the push for "safe injection sites." During this time 40 states had softened their drug laws and the pro-marijuana and pro-drug organizations took control of the messaging away from Washington DC. They helped set a new tone for drug policy. The general public became more accepting of drug use as the effort to eliminate "stigma" led to normalized drug use in this country. Not surprisingly, drug use almost doubled with this nation's "enlightened" change in policy.

You have just been presented a simple synopsis of drug history 101 in this country. You draw your own conclusion.

My own assessment, based on over fifty years of experience, is that government has dropped the ball on drug policy and have allowed pro-drug groups to set the tone and control the message. National drug prevention messages have basically become nonexistent. In fact, a former drug czar was quoted in 2015 as saying that the drug war had been a failure. We

are currently paying the price with drug use climbing back toward the levels of the late 70's. Policy matters! Leadership matters! Unless our government takes back control of this issue, we will continue to lose the minds, souls and lives of too many Americans. ☆



## MARIJUANA USE IN ADOLESCENCE

*increases risk of depression and suicidality in young adulthood*

CREDIT Drug Free America Foundation

By Sharif Mohr, MPH, PhD in Current Research

As marijuana use becomes increasingly normalized and liberalized, more and more adolescents are initiated into using the drug with serious implications for the healthcare system and public health. Confirming what those of us in the prevention community have long known, a systematic review and meta-analysis published in JAMA Psychiatry found that marijuana use in adolescence was associated with increased risk of depression and suicide in young adulthood (18-32 years of age). After pooling data from 11 studies of over 23,300 individuals, researchers found that compared to non-users, adolescents who used marijuana were 40% more likely to suffer from depression, 50% more likely to experience suicidal ideation, and 250% more likely to attempt suicide in young adulthood.

Proponents of legalization often argue that alcohol and tobacco are legal even though they are responsible for far more deaths than marijuana. That is true. However, it is precisely because they are legal and widely accessible that they are so deadly. Do we want to add yet another legal intoxicant that has been linked to a number of negative health and social consequences at the individual and population levels? Two wrongs never make a right. Adolescent use of marijuana increases risk of suicidality by 250%. If the nation's entire population of approximately 25,000,000 adolescents had access to recreational marijuana in the context of legalization, we could expect to see big increases in future suicides among young adults that are directly attributable to marijuana use. That is far too high a price to pay ☆

# COVER STORY: MARIJUANA USE & MENTAL ILLNESS

by Peter F. Boyce

**M**edical marijuana, marijuana legalization, and the associated social ills, violence and mental illness that result from the use of dangerously potent pot seem to be totally ignored by the well-funded legalization lobby and the politicians that advocate for legalization. Law enforcement has fought hard to convince state and federal leaders, politicians and the public of the crime that is a direct result of pot consumption. This effort by law enforcement has had only minimal effect on curtailing the pot legalization effort. Maybe now is the time to form a coalition with the medical and scientific community to work together to stop full legalization.

Vaping by adults and minors has increased dramatically since 2016 according to the CDC. The FDA charged with regulating tobacco products has targeted one large vaping company, JUUL Labs, for marketing its products to young people. Many states have united to sue Opioid manufacturers to recover funds allowing states to pay some of the medical and social costs they incur that emanate directly from the Opioid crisis.

Why are politicians suing Opioid manufacturers, targeting vaping companies and ignoring the devastating effects of pot use? The simple answer is MONEY!

The pro pot advocates are pouring millions of dollars into the campaign war chests of politicians. States seek additional tax revenue to help cover the medical and social costs that occur from drug abuse and rising violent crime rates. Advocates of pot legalization are making millions as the stock prices of legal pot growers and distributors rise and the demand for pot surges, for both medical and legalized marijuana. Medical marijuana is the first step in pushing public attitudes towards full legalization. According to Rob



Kampia, the co-founder of the Marijuana Policy Project, “the simple truth is that medical marijuana laws are primarily used to protect recreational users.”

A large number of studies over many years in the U.S. and other countries have shown that marijuana has few if any medical uses. Any reliable doctor or scientist will assert that THC works only in a few, if any, cases to relieve pain or abate seizure disorders and certainly does not work to assist opioid users to kick their addiction. THC is not a substitute for opioids or other addictive drugs; it is too weak to provide pain relief and often is a precursor to other addictive drugs, mental illness, and criminality.

The American Journal of Psychiatry said in an article that people who use pot are three times more likely to use opioids. Pot usage also can and does lead to or worsen mental illness; those who use marijuana regularly are almost three times more likely to develop psychosis and schizophrenia according to the same journal article.

The National Academy of Medicine found in 2017 that “cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing schizophrenia and other psychoses.” They also found that

An advertisement for the IMGIA EUROPE 2020 conference. At the top, it reads "International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association". Below this is a logo featuring a globe with a motorcycle silhouette. The main text "IMGIA EUROPE" is in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, it says "February 17 -20, 2020 | Frankfurt Germany" and "GPEC General Police Equipment Exhibition &amp; Conference" in white and yellow text on a dark red background.



regular pot use has an increased risk for developing social anxiety disorders.

A survey in 2018 done by the federal government found a rise in serious mental illness, including psychosis as a significant factor for violence. A study done by Dr. Sarna Fazel, an Oxford University psychiatrist, found that people with schizophrenia are five times more likely to commit violent crimes and twenty times more likely to commit homicide.

According to many psychiatrists, the drug that psychotic people use more than any other is cannabis. In support of legalization, advocates assert that pot makes users mellow. The studies suggest that at least in psychiatric individuals, it makes them more prone to violence. A study in an Italian journal examined almost 1600 psychiatric patients and found that pot use was associated with a 10-fold increase in violence.

Before some states moved from medical marijuana to full legalization, advocates for the pro pot lobby stated that pot legalization would allow police to focus their efforts on serious criminals rather than pot smokers. No lobbyist for the pro pot advocates talked about the rise in serious crimes committed by regular pot usage. The facts supporting these assertions were wrong. Just look at Colorado, Washington, Alaska and Oregon where there has been a 37% increase in murders and a 25% increase in aggravated assaults since pot legalization.

Leading scientists have asserted for years that pot use can and does cause mental illness which leads to increased crime and societal issues. These same scientists asserted many years ago that opioids would cause a severe addiction crisis. Because of the staggering number of opioid deaths associated with that crisis, opioid addiction has become the more imminent crisis. Will it be long before mental illness and violent crime that follows cannabis use become the next crisis? Is it too late?

This country strictly enforces laws against drinking and driving and we now seriously restrict the prescribing of legal opioid products. We have made great strides in cutting cigarette use due to its link with cancer and heart disease. Yet we have politicians, lawyers, Hollywood icons and well-known media talking heads actively supporting full legalization of cannabis. We do not put warnings on pot products like we do on cigarettes.

Law enforcement needs to re-examine its efforts to combat full pot legalization. The science against using marijuana for medical purpose is bogus. The scientific community has shown that regular pot use leads to significant increase in mental illness and a sharp increase on serious crime. Just as the National Academy of Medicine found in a 2017 study “Cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing

schizophrenia and other psychoses; the higher the use, the greater the risk”.

Just as the medical and scientific arguments against cigarettes and opioid abuse worked to convince the public that those products needed to be highly regulated, law enforcement today needs to partner with the medical and scientific community to highlight the significant rise in mental health, medical, social ills, and criminality that are caused by marijuana legalization.

A unified effort by law enforcement with the scientific and medical organizations can develop an all-out campaign to educate and inform the public about the significant dangers associated with pot legalization. We need to motivate politicians to rethink the issue of legalization and work to curtail some of the state laws that allow medical marijuana. If we fail to act decisively now with a unified front, then the well-financed effort to full legalization of pot will be successful throughout the country and the numerous negative effects of marijuana will escalate. ☆

*Why are politicians  
suing Opioid manufacturers,  
targeting vaping companies  
and ignoring  
the devastating effects of pot use?*

*The simple answer is*

***MONEY***



*ID 139960586 © Shannon Price:*

*CBD oil with MJ leaf + ID 121000447*

*© Dmitry Tishchenko: Big Business | Dreamstime.com*

# THE VAPING-MARIJUANA NEXUS

## Another unintended consequence of celebrating pot use

*Editor's Note: The following editorial was published in the Wall Street Journal on December 26, 2019. It is republished here in its entirety with permission.*

A surge in vaping related lung illnesses this year caught the medical community by surprise, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting more than 2,500 lung illnesses and 54 deaths. Politicians are targeting e-cigarettes, but the CDC reported last week that marijuana is so far the greatest common denominator.

This is another reminder that America is undertaking a risky social experiment by legalizing and especially destigmatizing cannabis, and the potential effects are hard to foresee or control. The same political culture that is in a fury over legal opioids, and is trying to bankrupt drug companies as compensation, seems to have no problem celebrating a drug that may be damaging young brains for a lifetime.

In October the CDC reported that 86% of 867 patients with available data had used products containing THC shortly before the onset of their symptoms while 64% reported using nicotine products. Only 11% reported using exclusively nicotine e-cigarettes. The CDC has also found that Vitamin E acetate, which is often added as a thickener to marijuana vaping fluids, is a “very strong culprit.”

Democratic Governors such as New York’s Andrew Cuomo and California’s Gavin Newsom, who have supported legalizing marijuana, are attacking nicotine e-cigarettes while ignoring the striking links to marijuana. Yet pot products unlike those with nicotine are only lightly regulated by the 11 states where cannabis has been legalized for recreational use.

One vaping-related death last month was linked to a device purchased from a legal pot shop in Oregon. A state audit this year found only 3% of recreational marijuana retailers had been inspected, and state marijuana production is seven times higher than consumption. The implication is that most pot grown in Oregon is exported to states where it is illegal.

One argument for legalizing and regulating pot is that it would shrink the black market, but there’s little evidence that it has. The California Department of Food and Agriculture found that only 16% of the 15.5 million pounds of marijuana produced in the state each year is also consumed in the state.

An audit by the United Cannabis Business Association this year turned up 2,835 unlicensed dispensaries in California – more than three times the number that are

licensed. The California Department of Public Health since June has linked more than 120 cases of lung illness to recently purchased vape-pens including many bought at unlicensed shops.

Teens can’t legally purchase pot in any state, but a survey by Monitoring the Future this month found that youth marijuana vaping has nearly tripled since 2017. While overall pot use has remained flat for the past two years, daily use has increased by two-thirds. This is especially troubling since chronic use of marijuana in adolescents has been linked to cognitive impairment, anxiety and psychosis later in life.

About 95% of heroin and cocaine users report first using pot, and studies show that marijuana users require more opioid medication to cope with pain than non-users. Like all drugs, marijuana has different effects on different users that are still not well understood. While some say pot helps them relax, it can cause paranoid tendencies in others.

Older generations don’t realize that the pot grown and sold today is on average four to five times more potent than what they smoked in college. There’s also a misconception that pot is no more addictive than alcohol. About 40% of people who used pot in the last month used it daily compared to 10% of alcohol drinkers. ☆

Political leaders and cultural trend-setters have removed the social stigma around pot use, so it is socially acceptable even where it remains illegal. Rarely can you take a walk in New York City without marijuana smoke wafting into your nostrils.

While tobacco and e-cigarettes are denounced, smoking a joint is chill, man, and young people get the message. A mere 30.3% of 12th graders this year said smoking pot regularly was risky, down from 77.8% in 1990 and 52.4% a decade ago, according to the Monitoring the Future study. Teens say pot is less risky than e-cigarettes (38%) and easier to obtain (78.4%) than regular cigarettes (72.4%).

A large business lobby is now pushing for pot legalization. The rash of vaping deaths and illnesses shows that pot is more dangerous than people realize, and Americans should pause on the rush to legalize until we understand how much medical and social harm it is doing.

*Reprinted with permission.*



Got a drug problem?

TruNarc it!

As law enforcement officers operating in the field, you need rapid analysis of suspected illicit drugs. The Thermo Scientific™ TruNarc™ handheld narcotics analyzer accurately identifies hundreds of substances, including 40 fentanyl compounds among them carfentanil, common street fentanyl analogs, and fentanyl precursors. Library updates enable ID of the latest threats, improving intelligence and protecting the lives of officers and the public.

*Thermo Scientific is a preferred advertiser fully endorsed by the Executive Board members of the NNOAC.*

Find out more at [thermofisher.com/trunarc](http://thermofisher.com/trunarc)

**ThermoFisher**  
SCIENTIFIC

# USING TRUNARC TECHNOLOGY

## AS PRESUMPTIVE EVIDENCE IN INVESTIGATIONS AND COURT

*By Monte Stiles, Legal Consultant, Counter Narcotics*

As a state and federal drug prosecutor for almost 30 years, I dealt with every imaginable type of illegal drug and drug trafficking organization – from multi-ton smugglers of Thai marijuana in the late 1980s to LA street gangs selling crack cocaine; biker gangs; black tar heroin dealers; meth cooks; and drug cartels that sold everything at once.

I spent 24 years of my law enforcement career as the lead Assistant United States Attorney over the federal Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force for the District of Idaho. The mission of our team of agents, analysts, and prosecutors was to identify, investigate, and prosecute large-scale drug trafficking organizations.

Although our task force investigated every kind of serious case, methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution consumed most of our resources for many years. In those cases, chemical testing was tedious, dangerous, time-consuming, and expensive; and some of the tools that were available (such as chemical wet tests) were far from ideal.

In most investigations however, the identification of drug evidence was rarely a problem in establishing probable cause for arrests, search warrants, and early court proceedings such as preliminary hearings and grand juries. Drug identity was typically established by officer testimony alone (which usually included results from a standard drug testing kit). In other cases, the exact identity of the drug wasn't even contested during early stages of court proceedings.

In recent years, however, a combination of factors has led to increased judicial scrutiny of presumptive test kits that have been used for years but are now having their accuracy and reliability challenged. Adverse court decisions, new discovery requirements, and the availability of superior technology has led many to question the value of pouches filled with chemicals contained in glass vials.

In addition, because of significant increases in the trafficking of fentanyl and similar dangerous opioids, law enforcement agencies are faced with inadequate field-testing equipment, as well as increased risks to officer safety. Consequently, some agencies have stopped field-testing suspicious substances altogether. The result is significant delays, as state labs face months of backlogs that impede the criminal justice system in many ways (including the forced release of drug suspects without arrest or their immediate release on bail pending lab certification). This often results in additional crimes being committed, the loss of evidence and witnesses, and scarce resources being used to re-locate and arrest suspects who do not want to be found.

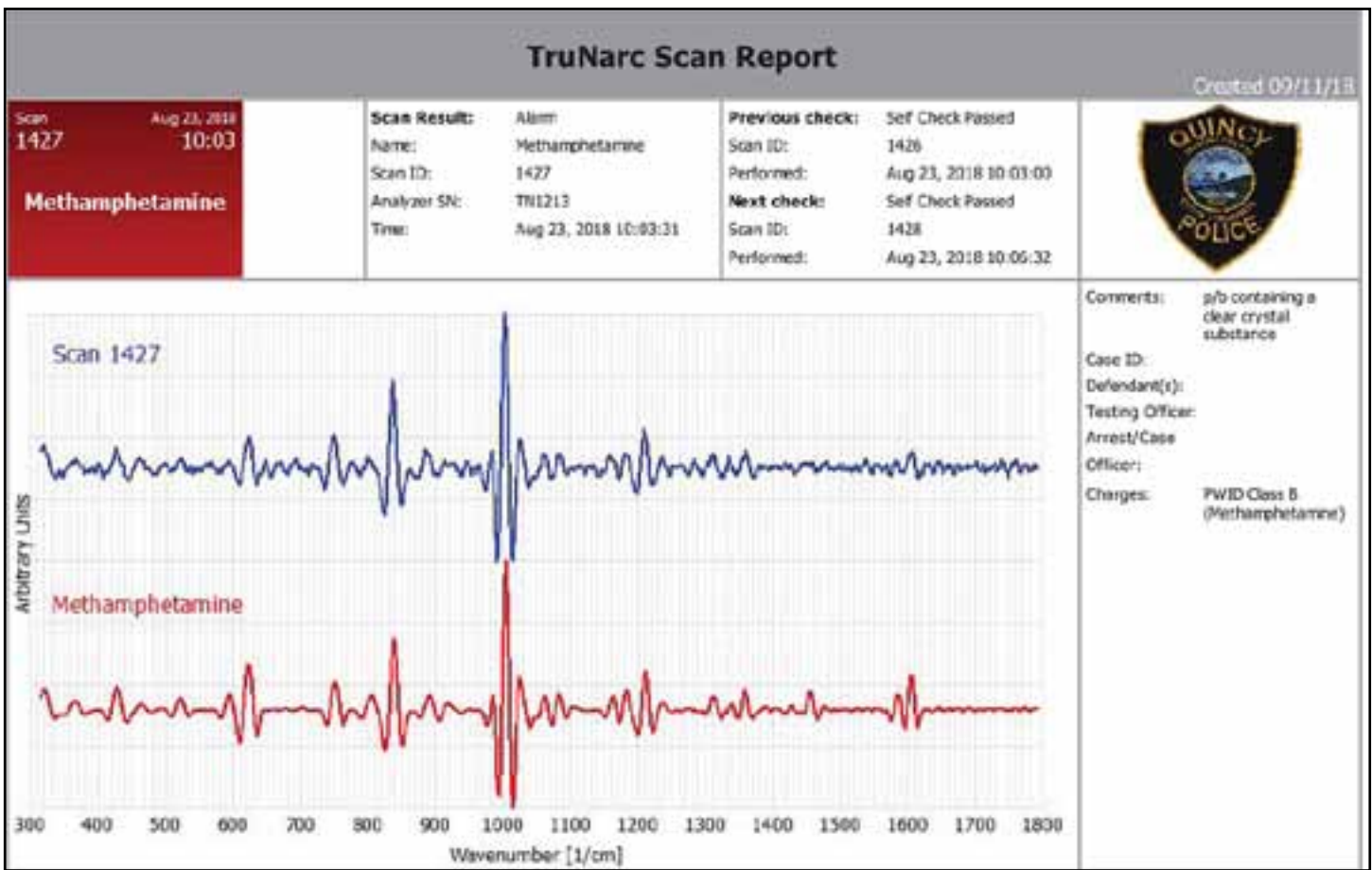
Drug testing backlogs also produce numerous court continuances and prevent the resolution of cases at an early stage through plea negotiations. All of these factors significantly increase costs associated with drug cases, and in the end, fewer cases are successfully prosecuted.

As a result of these challenges, new technology is crucial to the efficient administration of justice, as well as officer safety.

## ENTER TRUNARC

As a legal consultant for Thermo Scientific, I work with numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as prosecutors, in the effective use of new technology. The TruNarc™ analyzer (“TruNarc”) is a highly reliable and accurate handheld device that uses Raman spectroscopy to identify controlled substances, precursor chemicals, and cutting agents. The accuracy and overall performance of TruNarc was established by the National Forensic Science Technology Center (“NFSTC”) in 2012. Since that time, ongoing software updates have increased TruNarc’s capabilities to identify approximately 500 substances, including 40 fentanyl analogs.

To accurately identify these chemicals, TruNarc employs a laser to analyze wavelengths of spectral light from a suspect substance, which is then compared to an internal library of standards used in certified labs to identify chemicals. The resulting graphical display shows a spectral “fingerprint” of the unknown sample along, with the fingerprint of the known laboratory standard. This confirms the presumptive identity of the chemical (category and name) as well as the scan ID number and the date and time of each scan. Other items such as the case number, the location of the arrest/seizure, and the names of suspects and agents can also be manually added to the scan report.



## SAMPLE TRUNARC SCAN REPORT

Instead of physically transferring unknown substances into plastic pouches, the TruNarc laser can typically identify these drugs without removing the substance from its container, greatly increasing officer safety and providing results in approximately 30 seconds.

Every TruNarc scan is recorded in the TruNarc Administrative Software. This information can then be summarized in investigative reports and probable cause statements or printed and provided to prosecutors along with other case reports. The scan report itself provides powerful evidence of the identity of the drug and the circumstances under which it was seized and tested.

As a presumptive drug identification test, TruNarc results are used to establish probable cause by law enforcement officers in the field; the results are then used by prosecutors to establish probable cause in court. If a case goes to trial, then a forensic drug lab must provide a confirmatory chemical analysis of the suspected drug.

## ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES – PROVIDING TESTIMONY

As with all other evidence, the successful introduction of TruNarc test results requires laying a proper foundation for admission. This begins with investigative procedures that are carefully crafted and coordinated with prosecuting authorities to ensure the successful introduction of this evidence in court. Although the exact nature of these procedures will depend upon your jurisdiction’s rules regarding expert testimony, they should include the establishment of guidelines for operator training and certification, as well as procedures for using and documenting TruNarc results.

Proper foundation in court can be established through testimony regarding the officer’s training with the device and the officer’s experience with TruNarc, including the time period of use, the number of tests performed, procedures that were followed, specific findings of the TruNarc scan, and how the results were displayed, documented, and retained as evidence.

TruNarc results should always be supported through testimony regarding other evidence in the case, such as

*continued on next page*

statements of witnesses and suspects, surveillance, the appearance of the suspected substance (color, consistency, packaging, labeling), results of presumptive tests/lab reports of substances seized earlier in the investigation, and post-arrest admissions of the defendant.

Another key to success is the investigating officer's careful documentation of the reliability and accuracy of TruNarc results when compared with further laboratory testing, admissions of defendants, and, in many cases, prior vetting of the device by the investigative agency and certified state labs.

Obviously, the amount of detail provided will depend upon the specific investigation, how established the use of TruNarc is in your jurisdiction, and the procedures established by your agency and prosecutor's office.

## SUCCESSFUL USE OF TRUNARC IN COURT

Most prosecutors in the United States gain acceptance of TruNarc presumptive results in preliminary hearings through educating the courts and defense bar regarding the technology and how it is used in investigations. Often, this is done informally. In other instances, TruNarc results are presented in probable cause hearings in the same manner as any other presumptive field test.

Through education and standard courtroom testimony, TruNarc test results are widely accepted as presumptive proof for drug identification in court. In a growing number of jurisdictions, the simultaneous vetting of TruNarc technology as a presumptive test by local and state crime labs is accelerating the acceptance of these test results.

To date, TruNarc has never been challenged through a formal Daubert/Frye hearing. Given the widespread acceptance of Raman Spectroscopy and the history of accuracy and reliability shown by TruNarc in applying this technology in the field, prosecutors can be confident in the ongoing value of this important tool in efficiently charging and resolving drug cases.

## CONCLUSION

Over the last three decades, I have witnessed the increased sophistication of drug trafficking operations, as well as technical advances in law enforcement tools. These tools, along with other innovative investigative strategies, have greatly enhanced our ability to gather compelling evidence leading to convictions.

As law enforcement moves forward, we will encounter old and new obstacles in our efforts to protect children, families, and communities. With innovative law enforcement

techniques, renewed support from leaders and citizens, and the latest technology, we can productively and safely go about our duty to "Protect and Serve" -- both the public and our fellow officers.



## OTHER RESOURCES – “Using TruNarc Technology in Investigation and Court”

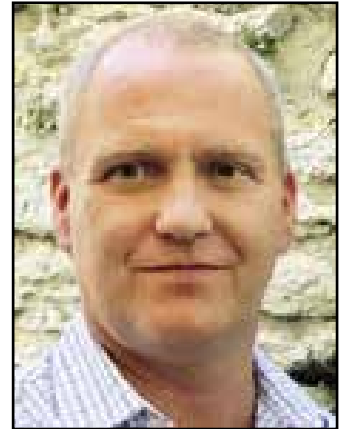
As an aid to investigators and prosecutors, I have prepared a six-page white paper that provides additional information on how TruNarc results can be used in investigations and in court. When I am contacted by agents or prosecutors, this is the first document that I provide. Other helpful information can also be accessed here: [www.thermoscientific.com/trunarc](http://www.thermoscientific.com/trunarc).

**Monte Stiles LLC**  
**Legal Consultant/Counter Narcotics**  
**Thermo Scientific Field and Safety**  
**Instruments, Inc.**  
**[monte@montestiles.com](mailto:monte@montestiles.com)**

*We thank the Swedish Narcotics Officers Association for the use of their articles in this issue.*

*Photo Lennart Karlsson  
Chair of the Swedish Narcotic Officers' Association (SNPF)*

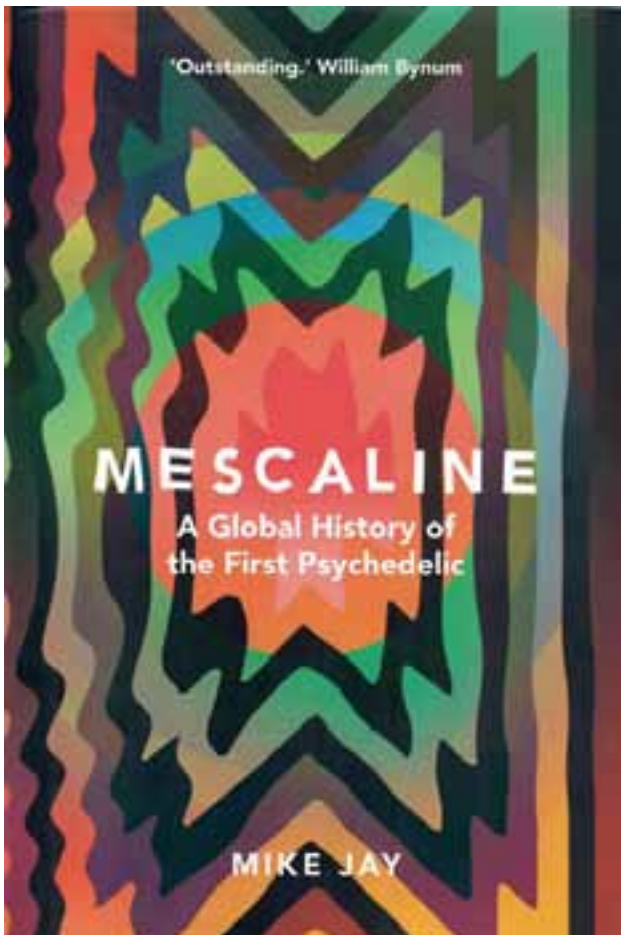
*Article and Translation by Jonas Hartelius,  
Member of the Swedish Narcotics Officers Association*



## Mescaline: From Native Drug to Authors' Cult

*Editor's Note: This article was submitted by our counterparts from the Swedish Narcotics Officers Association*

Mescaline is a hallucinogenic substance occurring in peyote (peyotl), which is a cactus growing naturally in the Southern USA, Central America, and parts of South America. For thousands of years, mescaline has been used in native cultures as an intoxicant at religious ceremonies.



Westerners made contact with mescaline during their explorative travels, starting in the 16th century. Over time, they got to know the religious use of the substance, but the finer details of its mechanisms of action were not mapped. Mescaline was isolated first in 1897. It was synthesized in 1918.

A new era dawned in 1953-1954. At that time, the British author Aldous Huxley published his book *Doors of Perception* (1954). Its title comes from the poet William Blake. In a collection of poems, he wrote, "If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is, infinite". Here is the central thought of religious use of mescaline and other hallucinogens. They have been called "psychedelic" or "consciousness expanding" (an expression coined 1953 by the psychiatrist Humphrey Osmond, who was cooperating with Huxley). Human sense organs are regarded as filters against unlimited reality, and the use of mescaline and other hallucinogens is seen as a way of breaking through the filters and achieving new levels of consciousness, which are then regarded as "expanded".

*Mike Jay has written a lengthy book about mescaline, which he calls the first "psychedelic drug", The book gives a detailed and living account of how mescaline has been tried in in various circumstances, ranging from early religion up to post-war authors' searching for new experiences.*

### New cult for authors

*Doors of Perception* created a cult for a new generation of authors. The most famous among them included Carlos Castaneda, Timothy Leary, and Hunter S. Thompson. Their primary message was that drugs could provide new religious experiences. That standpoint was, however, not new. They also stated that scientists ought to study the drug effects upon themselves or in the local cultures where the drugs occurred. That meant a breaking-up from an earlier, more distanced

attitude, where scientists would be satisfied by only observing coldly.

The American author Mike Jay has written a lengthy book on the history of mescaline. It is primarily a documentary and valuable collection of the history of mescaline up to the 2010's. Sections report how various scientists have been fighting over the proper ways to describe mescaline and its properties – if mescaline could be a key to the enigma of schizophrenia, if the drug could give spiritual experiences, if it ought to be controlled (effective by United Nations control in 1971), etc. The management of the experiments with intoxications was not as strict in those days as it is today. So, when Huxley, in his study, gave doubtful religion scholar R. C. Zaehner a dose of mescaline, Zaehner did not get any religious experience – only a long series of long bursts of laughter.

Jay corrects an important account carried by tradition. One well-known phrase from *Doors of Perception* is Huxley's description of his deep experience when he, during a mescaline intoxication, is watching his trousers: "Those folds in the trousers – what a labyrinth of endlessly significant complexity! And the texture of the grey flannel – how rich, how deeply, mysteriously sumptuous!" During the experiment, Huxley had worn jeans. His wife, Maria, however, thought that the author should come out more properly dressed in the eyes of the reader. She suggested a change to flannel trousers. Her suggestion was accepted, and the changed wording became legendary.

Jay's book is a valuable contribution to the history of a drug which influenced the perception of what an intoxication "is" and how it is to be described and assessed. ☆

Refrence: Jay, Mike: *Mescaline – A global History of the First Psychedelic*, Yale, 2019.

*This review was previously published in Swedish in the Journal of The Swedish Narcotic Officers' Journal (Svenska Narkotikapolisföreningens Tidning no. 4, 2019, www.snppf.org).*



14. The publication of Aldous Huxley's *The Doors of Perception* in 1954 made mescaline world famous. John Woodcock's cover design for the British edition reflected Huxley's marriage of science and mysticism and anticipated the psychedelic style of the decade to come.



15. After Huxley, mescaline became a subject of fascination in popular culture, as seen in this 1956 cover story of *Fate* magazine, which concluded: 'science is probing into a fabulous new universe of the mind'.

***Huxley's book *Doors of perception* made great impact in other media. The American futuristic magazine *FATE* in 1956 published an article titled "Magic Land of Mescaline".***

[https://snppf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/SNPF\\_4-19\\_low.pdf](https://snppf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/SNPF_4-19_low.pdf)



# THE MAN ON THE TRAIN

## – A SWEDISH DRUG CASE THAT STARTED WITH A FORGOTTEN COMPUTER CASE

*A computer case forgotten in a train resulted in a wide-ranging police inquiry and verdicts against several young people in the Dalecarlia district in Sweden.*

This drug inquiry started in February 2019, when a young man took the train from Borlänge through Gävle to Stockholm. He brought his computer case along on the trip. As he alighted the train in Stockholm, he was so intoxicated that he forgot the computer case in the train. Later, the case was handed in to the state railway's Lost & Found Office. There, staff got suspicious that the case may contain unlawful matter. They contacted the police. When the young man picked up his case, he was arrested by the Stockholm police.

The case contained SEK 247,500 in cash (c. USD 25,000) as well as controlled substances in the form of cocaine, Ksalol (Alprazolam or brand name, Xanax) tablets, MDMA, and cannabis. The case, also containing the man's mobile phone, was seized. Examination of the phone and further inquiries made it clear that suspicions could be raised against four young men and two women from the Dalecarlia (Dalarna) district.



## Drug storage found in Borlänge

After a tip-off to the police and further searches of persons and addresses in the Borlänge area, the police made the following seizures:

- 168,900 tablets of Ksalol (alprazolam)
- 5,000 grams of cannabis resin
- 474 grams ketamine
- 931 grams of MDMA in powder form
- 186 tablets of MDMA
- 38 perforated paper slips containing LSD
- minor amounts of cocaine and pharmaceutical drugs scheduled as controlled substances, and
- 57,500 SEK (c. 6,000 USD) in cash.

The inquiry made clear that the suspects – all of them in their twenties – had, in various ways, packaged, transported, stored, or in some other way handled the drugs and/or the money.

The prosecutor stated that the drug preparations and the money belonged to the man in the train. This was also accepted by the district court.

## Verdicts raging from imprisonment to fines

The man on the train was convicted in the Falun district court of crimes involving aggravated narcotics, narcotics, and aggravated money laundering. He was sentenced to imprisonment for four years and three months. Actually, the district court estimated the “normal” sentencing practice to require six years of imprisonment for the convictions taken together; but, taking into consideration the man was only 20 years old at the time of the crimes, the time to be served was reduced.

The other six suspects from the Borlänge area had drug problems at various levels of seriousness. Three of them were sentenced on aggravated narcotics charges to protective supervision with a special treatment plan, and protective supervision with community service for assisting aggravated narcotic drugs crime.

Two were convicted for money laundering in addition to some other crimes and were sentenced to five months' imprisonment or fines, respectively. Neither of the young women had previous convictions.

The court summary in the written verdict presented readers with a clear picture of how the people involved described their personal problems at various levels – including drug abuse, social marginalization, and mental health problems – and how all of this caused them to end up handling narcotics preparations and cash in the middle of a fairly large drug operation.

## Magnus Sjödén, Narcotics Officer, Dalecarlia(Dalarna) Police District.

*The computer case which was left behind in the train contained 247,000 SEK (approximately 25,000 USD) in cash and some doses of controlled substances for the personal use of the owner of the case. Photo: Dalecarlia Police Department.*



---

# BIGGEST EU EFFORT EVER MADE AGAINST ILLICIT AAS TRADE

A massive police effort – with participation from 34 countries (including the U.S.) – was carried out in Europe during the first months of 2019. The purpose was to combat the illicit manufacture and trade in androgenic anabolic steroids (AAS), other doping agents, and also illegal medications in general. Operation Viribus, the biggest ever of its kind, was coordinated by Europol. It also involved Interpol and some other authorities and organizations fighting crime. Sweden was one of four EU countries not participating.

In Operation Viribus, police from 24 EU countries, along with ten other countries inside and outside Europe, participated. During a period of some months, 17 organizations were identified and prosecuted for being involved in the illicit trade with doping agents and illegal pharmaceutical preparations. One of the main objects of the efforts was to track and knock out illegal labs where anabolic steroids and other preparations were being manufactured. Nine such locations for manufacture were

closed down in Europe. In connection with the operations, seizures were made of 24 tons of AAS powder, i.e. pure substance.

## What is an AAS lab?

Europol, on its home page, describes an underground laboratory as a laboratory for the production of illicit drugs which can be set up with relatively small resources, even in a garage. The active medical substances can be ordered from Chinese chemical companies. Using manuals available on the Internet, no other skills are necessary for the criminals to manufacture extremely potent doping agents or other medicinal drugs, which are then sold on the black market.

## Increasing illicit market

Europol also writes that the international trade in anabolic steroids has increased markedly in the last 20 years. The trade in doping agents is normally decentralized and very flexible.

The market is open for anyone who wants to order on the net or travel to countries which have a legal production of the substances and there enjoy the opportunities of buying major quantities directly from the producers of pharmaceuticals.

They also describe that the AAS compounds are used by bodybuilders in order to stimulate muscular growth and reduce body fat. This can, however, be accompanied by high medical risks, such as cardiac problems and other serious conditions.



## Results and experiences from the effort

In addition to the 17 criminal groups identified and the nine labs discovered, seizures were made of 3.8 million units of doping compounds and false medications. A total of 234 people were arrested, and nearly 1,000 people were reported as having been involved in the illicit production and trade in the preparations.

Europol summarized the latest trends which had been observed during the effort:

- Wholesale traders are importing vast amounts of anabolic steroids in order to supply the illicit market.
- Amateur sports people, bikers, and bodybuilders order minor amounts, primarily from Asia and Eastern Europe, in order to sell them at gyms.
- Increased use of social media for the marketing and sale of anabolic steroids.
- Small organized criminal groups investing in illicit labs in order to sell the produced substances.
- An ever-increasing number of authorized and non-authorized online pharmacies, also on the darknet.
- Increased use of credit cards and crypto-currencies for carrying out the transactions.

## Why did the Swedish police not participate?

Sweden, Estonia, Slovakia, and Luxemburg were the four EU countries not participating in Operation Viribus. This may seem remarkable, as Sweden was the first country in Europe to identify substance abuse and illicit trade in

anabolic steroids as a problem of society. We were the first country to enact laws (in 1992). Together with Norway – which also did not participate in the Operation – Sweden has the most profound legislation in the area.

According to the desk at Europol, they really tried to get Sweden to participate in the operation. However, from the Swedish Police National Operations Unit, it was said that they did not prioritize doping crimes, and that they did not have any competent staff in the area and thus decided



not to participate in Operation Viribus. This, however, does not mean that the abuse, illicit trade, and manufacture of anabolic steroids and other preparations does not exist in Sweden. The situation is the opposite. If you lift the cover, you will see that the problem is of equal magnitude here, as well. During the last 15 years the Swedish Government and public authorities have underestimated the illicit AAS market and consequently have not added resources for enforcement.

It must however, be emphasized that in some parts of the country, local police officers and units have realized the importance of maintaining a certain level of vigilance on the local steroid market by keeping certain people closely under their eyes and cooperating with other sectors of society.

**Gunnar Hermansson,**  
*Editor,*  
*Swedish Narcotic Officers' Association Journal*



# UNCOVERING THE TRUTH

## How CLEAR broke open an investigation of child pornography and sexual exploitation

In November 2016, a cyber tip came in regarding activity on an open hospital Wi-Fi in Bountiful, Utah. This marked the beginning of a two-year investigation held by local law enforcement and an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Investigator. The events that followed exposed dark truths which shook the local area, but also revealed the Everyday Heroes who work tirelessly to keep their community safe.

A group of individuals was communicating online, their double lives hidden behind usernames and email addresses. Tens of thousands of chats demonstrated a disturbing mutual interest: the sexual exploitation of children and the production and distribution of child pornography.

With extensive backgrounds in investigating cases of child exploitation, Davis County Detective John Peirce and the ICAC investigator, whose name shall not be disclosed, recall the events that led to the identification and prosecution of two of the worst offenders they had seen in their careers.

The people of Bountiful watched in disbelief as a highly-regarded doctor, Nathan Ward, was sentenced for the heinous crimes he had committed. Ward's prosecution made it possible for another key figure in the case, Robert Francis, to be identified and sentenced as well. With further ongoing investigations, the task force continues to utilize CLEAR, the software responsible for cracking the first break in the case.

### The beginning of a lead

When internet service providers or companies suspect that child exploitation material is being uploaded or downloaded on their network, they will generate a cyber tip with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), providing some of the account information and the facts in question. NCMEC then attempts to geo-locate the IP address before sending the case out for investigation. In this instance, the cyber tip came from Yahoo, and made its way to the Salt Lake Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, before being assigned to Detective Peirce. The investigators faced their first challenge: identifying the suspect of the cyber tip.

With limited information to go by, Peirce turned to CLEAR, inputting a suspected first and last name derived from the Yahoo user ID, along with the location as Utah.



CLEAR provided Peirce with the name of Nathan Ward's son, and then also the doctor himself. "In the initial part of the investigation it was actually the son that was the primary suspect," Peirce explained. "He was eventually eliminated from being a suspect, but CLEAR is what gave us the starting point. All we really had was that email, an IP address, and an open Wi-Fi at the hospital which anybody could use." Ward had purposefully used his son's name to create his user ID. The investigators believed that Ward had attempted to cover his tracks by 'throwing it on his son', however after interviewing Ward's son and searching his devices, it became obvious that he wasn't the suspect. The team used a warrant to gain detailed information from Yahoo and were able to identify Dr. Nathan Ward as the true suspect, even down to the selfie he had provided.

With the correct suspect now under investigation, the floodgates opened, and Peirce began to target the network of people that Ward had been communicating with. Around this time, the ICAC investigator joined the investigation, as another member of the ICAC task force. It had become apparent that this investigation had the potential to be a higher profile case, with possible federal prosecution. What happened next was a stroke of luck.

### A criminal error

Many hours went into reviewing Ward's online chats with seemingly anonymous individuals. "It was the first time we had access to how some of these guys think and act; there were tens of thousands of chats and emails. They were dark and disturbing and really graphic," Peirce said. In a slip-up which would later cause a major unraveling of the case, one Yahoo user gave their phone number to Ward during their chat. "We knew we had him," Peirce said. "We knew we had both of them."

A search was run on the phone number. "CLEAR immediately came back with the information that was Robert Francis – the other individual who was producing and sharing images of child pornography with Ward," the

ICAC investigator explained. The investigators had his home address, and then a warrant within days.

“It was CLEAR that started us identifying who Francis was. From there, we also looked into his social media,” the ICAC investigator said. “We actually identified who the victims were before we were at the house, and then we found more evidence at the house.”

## Against the clock

As Ward’s arrest made the news, Detective Peirce believed that Francis must have anticipated that they would be coming for him next. Time was of the essence for the investigators. “Every day that was delayed, evidence could have been destroyed or removed,” Peirce said. “Maybe we never would have found the production. The longer we waited, the more time Francis had to think about it and get rid of it.” Without CLEAR, it would have taken significantly longer to identify and locate Francis, which would have increased the risk of evidence being destroyed.

When the investigators arrived at Francis’ property, they also found images of the primary victim in the Ward case. “This opened up the possibility of a major federal prosecution against Ward for production of child pornography,” Peirce said. “Without CLEAR, Ward might not be doing as much

time as he is now.” In cases such as these, efficiency means more than meeting a deadline on time. It can mean the difference in rescuing a child or delivering justice for the victims and their families.

While emotionally tolling, Detective Peirce and the ICAC investigator recall the satisfaction of ‘taking a bad guy off the board’. “It was a team of guys looking at each other, saying ‘Hey, we can go rescue these kids’, you can’t measure that,” said the ICAC investigator. “It was the most important thing I’ve done in law enforcement, to see the families and victims have closure,” Peirce added. “The amount of work that went into this, we may never repeat in our careers, but it was worth every single moment.”☆

*To learn more about Thomson Reuters  
Everyday Heroes, visit [hero.tr.com](http://hero.tr.com)*

*To request a demo of CLEAR, the  
solution used to aid this investigation, visit  
[tr.com/CLEAR](http://tr.com/CLEAR) + See their ad on the inside  
next page.*

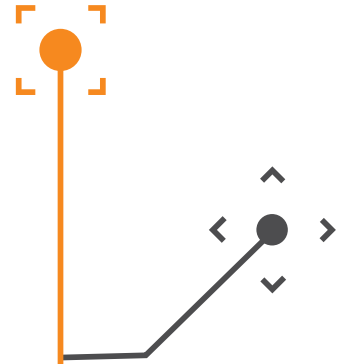


# Uncover critical details with CLEAR<sup>®</sup>.

When speed and accuracy count the most, identify persons of interest and make critical connections with investigative technology from Thomson Reuters.

Thomson Reuters is proud to be a 2020 Sponsor of the  
**National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition.**

Request a demo at [tr.com/clear](https://tr.com/clear)



The intelligence, technology and human expertise  
you need to find trusted answers.



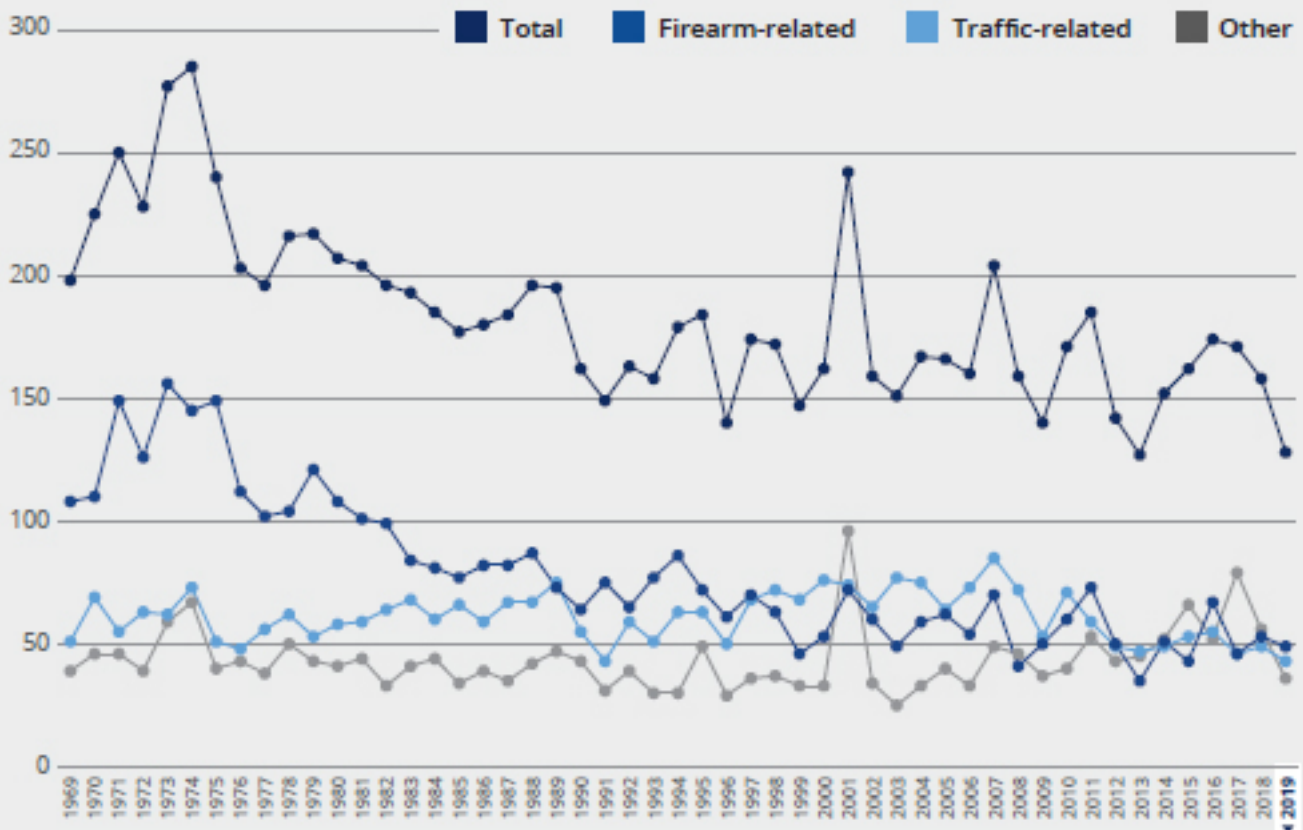
*Request a Demo Today*

# National Police Week

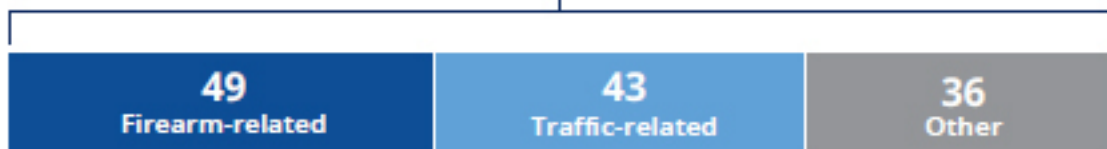
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 - Friday, May 15, 2020

## Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities 1969-2019

Through End of Year



**128**  
Total Fatalities



Note: End of Year is from January 1 through December 27 of each year.

The data and statistics contained in this report are preliminary and do not represent a final or complete list of individual officers who will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 2020.

Source: [nleomf.org](http://nleomf.org)



*“Upon the conduct of each  
depends the fate of all.”*

*You are attending the  
2020 D.C.*

**DELEGATE MEETING**

**@ Washington Court Hotel**

**Sunday, February 2, 2020**

*Hill visits Tuesday, February 4  
thru Wednesday, February 5, 2020*