



# The Coalition

A publication of the National  
Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition

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## NNOAC Delegates meet in Washington, D.C.



Pictured above are NNOAC delegates who attended the April meeting in Washington, D.C. Delegates were treated to several information-packed presentations from key drug enforcement officials and members of Congress. For more photos, please turn to page 11.

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# The Coalition

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## NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

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## ★ MEMBER STATES ★

**ALABAMA**  
**ARIZONA**  
**ARKANSAS**  
**CALIFORNIA**  
**CONNECTICUT**  
**FLORIDA**  
**GEORGIA**  
**IDAHO**  
**ILLINOIS**  
**INDIANA**

**KANSAS**  
**LOUISIANA**  
**MINNESOTA**  
**MISSISSIPPI**  
**NEVADA**  
**NEW ENGLAND NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT**  
**OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**  
**NEW JERSEY (1), NEW JERSEY (2)**  
**NEWYORK**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**

**OHIO**  
**OKLAHOMA**  
**OREGON**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**PUERTO RICO (Territory)**  
**TENNESSEE**  
**TEXAS**  
**UTAH**  
**WASHINGTON**  
**WISCONSIN**

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RISS-Regional Information Sharing Systems  
Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLN)  
Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)  
New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN)  
Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC)  
Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)  
Western States Information Network (WSIN)

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition

By **RON BROOKS**



**I** am finally getting around to writing my article for this newsletter after being begged, urged and threatened by Newsletter Chairman Bill Butka. I only tell you this because any of you who have published an association newsletter or magazine knows what a difficult and thankless job it is.

I want to publicly thank and commend Bill and the other members of the Executive Board along with Executive Director Dick Sloan for their hard work and dedication to the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition (NNOAC). Like many of our member associations, the NNOAC does not have a paid staff and would not exist if it were not for the dedication and hard work of its members.

Each of the NNOAC delegates have such busy professional and personal lives that I often ask myself why someone like Bill, or his fellow board members would dedicate so much of their valuable time to their own state narcotic officers associations and to the NNOAC. I think that the answer is simple. The 50,000 law enforcement professionals represented by the NNOAC, including our delegates, have witnessed firsthand the misery, death and destruction that drug abuse ravages upon their own communities and our great nation.

They are painfully aware of the threat that illegal drugs pose to the security of our nation and the role that drug sales play in funding domestic and international terrorism. And each of our members know that if we do not all work together to develop and maintain comprehensive drug policies and public support for drug enforcement, the safety of all Americans is at risk.

As I have warned before, the drug-legalization movement is capitalizing on the war on terrorism. The legalizers are working behind the scenes to convince our public officials and the voting public that tax dollars would be better spent

on the war on terrorism than the so-called war on drugs (which has never really been a war).

While many citizens are focusing their concerns on the defense of our homeland, the legalizers are working on initiatives and other legislation to authorize medicinal marijuana, relax drug laws and take vital funding away from drug enforcement and prevention programs.

Those of us who understand this threat must work harder than ever before to educate the public and our elected officials that not only do the profits from drug sales support terrorism, the 19,000 drug-related deaths and \$160 billion cost to society each year *is* terrorism. We must mobilize our members, educate them on the facts and ask them to work tirelessly to educate the public and to help fight any efforts to erode the success that we have had in combatting drug abuse.

We must educate the public that a comprehensive drug policy, including enforcement, treatment, and prevention, works and that when supported with funding and resources it will reduce drug use. We must cite as an example, the 50 percent decrease in drug use that occurred in America from 1979 to 1992 when our country was focused on the fight against illegal drugs.

The time to stop this insidious legalization movement that threatens the health and safety of our children is now. It is critical that each of us mobilize our friends, neighbors and colleagues to support our efforts at maintaining a comprehensive drug policy. If we fail in our fight to continue drug enforcement and treatment programs, they will be rendered ineffective and we will be at risk of losing a whole

**continued on page 4**

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## President's Report (continuation)

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generation of our nation's young people to unchecked drug use.

I recently had the privilege of representing the NNOAC at a meeting with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director John Walters and members of his staff. Director Walters spoke about the threat posed by relaxing attitudes regarding marijuana use and the public health danger that marijuana use poses.

We must all take Director Walter's message to heart and realize that there is nothing benign about marijuana use. In addition to its potential as a gateway drug, marijuana is a highly addicting and harmful drug that has ruined many lives and resulted in untold deaths and injuries as a result of impaired drivers and industrial accidents. Even worse, many people will never live up to their potential because they were hampered in their achievements by marijuana use.

Unfortunately, the pro-drug lobby, through a strategy of harm reduction and medicalization, has been deceiving the public into believing that marijuana is not dangerous and that it is beneficial as a medicine for many different illnesses. It is time that we stop allowing the pro-drug lobby to use sick and dying people as pawns in their strategy to legalize drugs.

To date, the FDA, the Institute of Medicine, the American Medical Association and the other groups that help decide which drugs should be approved as safe medicines, have all decided that there is no benefit to using smoked, crude marijuana as a therapeutic medicine. And if the medical community were to decide that they needed marijuana as an approved drug, then that approval should follow the same guidelines for approval as any other drug.

Since the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed in 1906, Americans have enjoyed protection from unsafe drugs by laws requiring that drugs be approved for medical use based upon a protocol of scientific testing. It seems ridiculous that anyone would think that drugs should be regulated at the ballot box or in our state legislative bodies. If we allowed drug approval based on public sentiment, there would have been widespread use of Laetrile and other potentially harmful drugs.

I would urge each of you to do what you can to fight against drug legalization and to support strong drug laws and adequate funding for narcotic enforcement, including the Byrne Grant Program, National Guard Counterdrug Program, and the vital services provided by the RISS program.

To do this, we must stay educated on the issues, active in our state narcotic officers' associations, supportive of the NNOAC and most importantly, we must be ready to speak out against drug abuse at any place and time that we have the opportunity.

On behalf of the NNOAC and our member associations, I want to offer thanks to ONDCP Director John Walters and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Director Asa Hutchinson for their courageous stance against drug legalization and for their untiring efforts to fight against the growing legalization movement. They are truly American heroes and they deserve the respect and admiration of an entire nation.

I want to thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meeting in Nashville.

## DEA responds to national household survey on drug abuse

"The results from the new national household survey on drug abuse call all Americans to action in the fight against drugs," said DEA Director Asa Hutchinson. "The survey shows we have work to do. This is an opportunity for communities across America to become more engaged to lessen the grasp of drugs in America. I challenge communities – parents, families, schools, businesses, churches and community leaders – to join in finding neighborhood solutions to this worldwide problem."

Despite the results that indicate some drug use is up, Director Hutchinson emphasized we must keep our perspective. Overall, this country has had tremendous success in reducing drug use and helping young people make the right

decisions. We've reduced drug use by 50 percent in the last 20 years and cocaine use by 75 percent in the last 15 years.

The household statistics show that some of the drugs being abused more frequently are those that are falsely believed to be safe. We are facing a tremendous knowledge gap about the very real dangers of drugs, like Ecstasy and marijuana. The DEA is joining our prevention and treatment partners to close that gap and ensure that every teen understands the painful consequences of drug use.

"More than ever, the study demonstrates that we need to help those caught in the grip of addiction. Treatment works, and by helping addicts heal, we can reduce the demand for drugs and build a drug-free America," Hutchinson concluded.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition

By **RICHARD M. SLOAN**

As your executive director, I would like to share one of my observations. As I have grown older and gained more experience in my profession, one would expect I would be getting better at what I do. This year I turned 70 years of age and my golf scores went from the low 90's to the high 100's.

I hope this is not an indication of things to come. I am proud of the direction the National Coalition has taken and the success it has achieved in the last eight years. It has become a recognized organization throughout the United States and, most importantly, in Washington, D.C. President Ron Brooks was recently invited to represent NNOAC at a marijuana focus group meeting at the Office of National Drug Control Policy for a discussion on marijuana policy.

This could not have been accomplished without the experience and expertise our delegates and their associations bring to the Coalition. NNOAC President Ron Brooks has taken our Coalition to the next step. We have built momentum

**A second focus for the regional directors will be to provide assistance and support to states in forming their own Narcotic Officers' Association where none currently exists. As a Coalition, our goal is to involve all 50 states.**

by creating the position of Regional Director, which will assist member states in rapidly disseminating information on important issues.

A second focus for the regional directors will be to provide assistance and support to states in forming their own narcotic officers' association where none currently exists. As a Coalition, our goal is to involve all 50 states.

The following is a list of the states where narcotic officers' associations do not exist: Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Michigan, Nebraska, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

If you have information or contacts in these States, please contact one of the regional directors. Hopefully, I will get an opportunity to see all of you in Nashville, Tenn. in October. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Tennessee Narcotic Officers' Association in putting together a wonderful program. Thanks for all your support!

## National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Foundation Report

### Law enforcement deaths lowest in 30 years

The number of law enforcement officers killed nationwide during the first half of 2002 dropped to its lowest level in more than 30 years.

Sixty-eight federal, state and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty during the first six months this year. This represents roughly a 10 percent decrease from the 76 officers who lost their lives during the same period a year ago. The last time police fatality figures for the first half of the year dipped this low was in 1966 when 67 officers were killed. Over the last 10 years,

an average of 163 law officers have died in the performance of duty annually, including 230 last year.

Of the 68 officers who were killed through June of this year, 30 were shot to death, 21 died in automobile accidents, four succumbed to job-related illnesses, three officers were killed in aircraft accidents, two were struck by automobiles while outside of their own vehicles, two died in motorcycle accidents, two were stabbed to death, two officers drowned, one officer was beaten to death.



## HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition (NNOAC) was created in July 1994, in Chicago, IL, as part of an effort to re-establish the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund. The Byrne Fund, which has been responsible for aiding our nation's war on drugs, was eliminated in 1994. However, as a direct result of NNOAC's efforts, the Byrne Fund was re-established by Congress the same year.

In addition to monitoring the narcotics section of the Byrne Fund, NNOAC focuses on domestic drug-related crime issues. NNOAC, which is comprised of 33 individual state narcotic associations, representing more than 50,000 narcotic law enforcement officers, serves as an umbrella organization coordinating the efforts of these associations.

NNOAC allows the state and local narcotic officers' associations to work through their individual state associations, thus allowing for an additional voice at the nation's capital. Each state is responsible for appealing to their state congressmen and legislature to attain support for their issues. The Coalition actively researches, monitors and supports legislative initiatives designed to increase the effectiveness of narcotic enforcement and law enforcement in general. Below is a list of NNOAC's goals and objectives:

- To ensure that the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund is fully funded in order to maintain the multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, which are the backbone of narcotic enforcement.
- To maintain, increase and intensify drug asset revenue sharing — the most important tool that narcotic law enforcement has today.
- To assist in the preparation of the National Drug Strategy.
- To place more emphasis on the domestic side of the drug strategy by increasing state and local level involvement on the direction taken in the fight against drugs.
- To increase unification, networking and act as a liaison for the exchange of information.
- To have an impact on legislation affecting narcotic officers and narcotic enforcement in the United States.
- To act as a conduit for the exchange of information intelligence and training guidelines affecting narcotic enforcement.
- To identify and refer members to quality training for narcotic law enforcement officers to ensure their safety and effectiveness.
- To act as a resource for states that want to establish a narcotics officers association.

Over the past four years, NNOAC has been responsible for re-establishing the formulation of the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Fund, and has assisted in passing legislation associated with the assault weapon ban and the crime bill. We have participated in policy meetings with other law enforcement organizations on asset forfeiture, the national drug control strategy, national methamphetamine strategy, and national heroin strategy.

NNOAC has also been responsible for increasing the President's awareness and focus more towards local and state law enforcement participation. NNOAC has testified on Capitol Hill on a variety of drug issues, including the Byrne hearings, asset forfeiture, crack cocaine sentencing, and certification of Mexico hearings. In addition,

a member of NNOAC was part of the President's Law Enforcement Steering Committee, which consists of national law enforcement groups. This committee is responsible for advising the President on key law enforcement issues.

Since the inception of NNOAC, all of the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) projects have been a valuable and essential tool for the Coalition, and for the law enforcement community in general, in identifying and detecting narcotic violators.



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# The Legalization Debate: Some Forgotten Facts

By **ROBERT B. CHARLES**  
President, Direct Impact, LLC

*Theme: Anyone with energy to devote to drug policy should be dedicating it to helping educate kids, not to get into the nightmare of drug use and addiction – full stop. To advocate for legalizing dangerous and addictive substances, whether they are more addictive or less addictive, damage the brain in one hit or two or five uses, is not just irresponsible. It is a betrayal of responsible parenting, teaching and community leadership. It is letting down the kids we love and who depend on us for the wisdom to make healthy choices, not unhealthy ones.*

These 12 facts offer all the proof needed that legalization for any purpose is a dead-end street and really a trick of those who seek to indulge their own dabbling in addiction. The sad fact is that you cannot dabble in addiction – addiction ends free choice and controls your life.

**Forgotten Fact 1: Economics of legalization are internally contradictory.**

• **Black Market** — Until we give away 100 percent pure drugs in unlimited quantities, there will always be a black market. Legalization only traps more kids and sets them on the course for addiction. Like it or not, until we educate people to avoid drugs – including all the disincentives that come with making use and distribution illegal — there will always be crime and drug dealers.

• **Price Elasticity Fluctuates** — Addictive substances do not behave in the market the way non-addictive substances do. For example, the price elasticity of demand for a highly addictive drug fluctuates – that is, it goes from a perceived luxury with first-time use to an inescapable necessity a few uses later. Legalization advocate Gary Johnson himself admits that addictive substances like cocaine carry a powerful magnetic pull. Sadly, people without his will – and especially kids – often find that pull deadly and inescapable.

**Forgotten Fact 2: Health-care costs would soar.**


• **Health-care costs would soar** – More availability means more casual users. More casual users mean more addiction nationwide – and addiction is far more costly than prevention and deterrence. That is not only morally wrong, it is prohibitively costly. The costs are measured in treatment required, medical care required for addicts not willing to receive treatment, more chronic diseases, lower immunity, more organ damage, more traffic accidents, more workplace accidents, more violence associated with drugs like meth and crack cocaine, more AIDS and HIV contraction both through increased sexual promiscuity with lower inhibitions and needle sharing, more crack baby costs, more absenteeism and more long-term care.

• **Cost to society** — If less addictive drugs like alcohol and cigarettes teach us anything, it is that more addictive drugs will cost the society incalculable sums...in lost worker productivity, accidents, health care, lost opportunities and early and avoidable death.

**Forgotten Fact 3: Crime would rise, not fall.**

• Most crime in America is state-level crime and roughly 80 percent of state crime nationwide is based on three categories – crime committed by those on drugs, by those with insatiable appetites who want more drugs than they can afford, and those who distribute large quantities of highly pure drugs.

Note that only a fraction of a percentage point are imprisoned for possession – and these are almost all in prison because they accepted a plea bargain of possession to avoid longer terms for distribution. Legalization would only increase the number of Americans on drugs and crimes committed by those who are on drugs and could never stem the insatiable appetite for addictive substances or black-market distributors. Note also that in states which have decriminalized marijuana on so-called compassionate grounds, crime and drug use are actually up. Who is there showing compassion now to – and taking blame for – these new victims of drug-induced, drug-legalization-triggered crimes? Note that, recently, even the



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**Dr. J. Elleryn Rocke**  
**Absolute Telecommunications**  
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**De Geatano Enterprises Inc.**  
**Del Monte Foods Plant #199**  
**DePaul Reality Company**  
**DGI Contracting**

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## The Legalization Debate (continuation)

college-aged Midwestern pipe-bomber was a habitual marijuana user. Use common sense – drug availability spurs increased use and increased use spurs increases in the number of crimes committed by those whose brains are being affected by the drugs.

**Forgotten Fact 4: *Crime of any kind goes down when the damage done is legalized – that is no solution.***

• Of course, as a society, we could make any crime legal – and that is where the logic of legalization ends in a smoking train wreck. If we know these drugs hurt the individual and the families around that individual – and hurt them far more than use of other legal substances – we are advocating for something we know damages young lives. That is unconscionable and is like setting a trap for those we most love – that is not what America is about and it never has been. Would legalizing rape or child pornography give us less rape and less child abuse? Of course not.

Legalizing drugs that destroy both the lives of users and their families will only bring added heartache to addicted users and their families.

**Forgotten Fact 5: *Freedom requires a free will – and drugs steal away free will.***

• Free will is required for freedom — and be clear of one thing: If nothing else, addictive drugs steal free will. The idea that drugs – ranging from the new high levels of THC- and PCP-laced joints to meth and cocaine, from heroin to ecstasy – are a free choice for long is utterly false.

They are a trap for the uneducated, and the miseducated. Too often, they catch those who underestimate their power to inflict damage unaware – and they inflict incalculable harm on the user and all those around him.

**Forgotten Fact 6: *Drug abuse and***

***domestic abuse are closely linked – and always will be.***

• According to the Department of Justice numbers, 80 percent of domestic abuse is based on substance abuse. Is that what we want to encourage? More child abuse and more abuse of women close on the heels of more drug abuse? One need only read any of the hundreds of books that detail the impact of drug use on the family – it is devastating and leaves scars that last for generations. Who in their right mind would advocate for increased addictive substance use? Answer: Only someone who is patently anti-child, anti-woman and anti-family.

**Forgotten Fact 7: *Failing to warn kids about the dangers of drug abuse and to prevent it where ever possible is utterly irresponsible – even criminal.***

• Leaders (adults) in a civil society who care about the generations that will follow... are expected to teach better life choices, not life choices that push the nation's youth into regret, lost opportunities, diminished hope and lost ambition, or worse – emergency damage to heart, lungs, brain or death. Where are the adults who are willing to serve as examples? That is the aim of the culture – to pass on the best choices and to ward off and warn our loved ones on how to avoid the worst choices. To do the reverse is heartlessly irresponsible. In some cases, as in a case I know too well recently... it can even be criminal (cite any number of cases of criminal negligence at raves, drug-related violence and preventable accidents).

• Parents and teens that do not look out for the younger among them do not understand their roles as parents and friends, and the process begins young. LSD, for example, is marketed with the Lion King on it these days. Do you think

the traffickers are marketing that to 16 year olds? No – they are targeting your kids and kid sister or brother beginning at about 8 years old.

• Parents are the guardians of the truth, of their children's health and of healthy choices for generations to come. If they walk away from that responsibility, or teach irresponsible and unhealthy choices, they are betraying the trust that their children place in them and inviting danger into the lives of innocents. That is unconscionable as a moral matter.

**Forgotten Fact 8: *Pot speeds death for the terminally ill – it does not help them live anything like a better or more fulfilled set of final days.***

• The studies are clear now. THC use through marijuana smoking actually doubles the speed of death among AIDS patients – so there is nothing compassionate about it. It further damages the immune system in control studies and thus accelerates death. It hardly prolongs or makes easier the life that is already suffering.

Studies collected by reputable medical authorities are now making it clear that pot smoking accelerates HIV into AIDS and speeds death for AIDS patients using it by further weakening their immune system.

**Forgotten Fact 9: *The whole false medical argument for pot is a known fiction, one of the most cynical acts in modern politics and a bold attempt to take Americans for fools.***

• One of the most cynical acts in modern politics is the foil that legalizers use the old and tired, the terminally ill and the suffering to wage a battle for nothing more indulgent and self-serving than the chance to get high on pot. If you are a pot head, say so – if you are a caring person, help the suffering through **continued on page 10**

## The Legalization Debate (continuation)

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legal, moral and honest means, but don't take Americans for fools. One position is darkly cynical, the other noble and selfless, and never the two should meet. The big lie is that there is anything compassionate about using another's suffering for your indulgence; and that of course discounts the suffering that your indulgence will likely one day cost others.

**Forgotten Fact 10:** *There is nothing all-American or healthy about putting destructive chemicals in your body.*

- Those who claim that this is as old as the hills, or that there is something harmless in using today's highly pure and highly dangerous narcotics are deceiving you and themselves – and I can tell you, because I have seen the purity numbers. Heroin was 4 percent pure a few years ago; now it is between 70 and 90 percent pure.

Pot is also up to 25 times as pure as it once was, and is often laced with PCP. Emergency-room incidents are at record highs and cocaine and methamphetamine, oxycontin, GHB and ecstasy are killing kids fast and quietly. Only the parents and peers who have lost friends without the slightest real warning know how pure these drugs are.

Only the stupid would try something they have no idea the potency of. It is like Russian roulette – purely stupid. Testing the drugs would never do more than offer a more predictable route to organ and brain damage – and one that is even more morally corrupt than not arresting all those who prey on the unwitting.

**Forgotten Fact 11:** *Brain damage, organ damage, reproductive system damage and death are final.*

- There is no replacing a friend, sister, brother or cousin who you knew was using drugs and did not stop. If drugs take them out – and they take out the strongest as fast as the weak – look at John Belushi and River Phoenix – the road is at a dead end. Only tears can follow, and that is the kind of regret that lasts a lifetime.

**Forgotten Fact 12:** *Overdoses are deadly and painful.*

- A drug may trick your mind or body into a brief surge of suspended reality, but an overdose is sudden and without predictability – no matter what the drug.

The picture is sobering and graphic. A heroin overdose will cause bleeding from every orifice of the body – it is painful

and ugly, no field of poppies or falling asleep – as in “The Wizard of Oz.” It is agonizing and revolting and usually your friends are so high they will let you die, or not notice until you are dead.

**Forgotten Fact 13:** *Sweden experimented with legalization from 1966 to 1968 and recounted in horror after two years. Switzerland is today killing its whole culture through legalization, and its youth with it.*

- Switzerland is a place that is trying legalization – and you can see the posters – if death occurs while injecting, try to resuscitate until no longer possible – and you can see the baby carriages around the injection projects.

It is social policy out of control. It is a scene out of George Orwell's 1984. The government is killing its own people and the effect is 14,000 in methadone clinics and a steady increase in heroin addicts with a record of virtually none who ever get off the drug. They began with giving away free needles – all for good purposes. They are headed for a nation of sick and addicted youth.

In the end – choose a path with me that celebrates self-respect, healthy life choices, families that care about each other, and common sense. If you live by common sense, love of family and self-respect, you will not go wrong and will not use illegal drugs.

**Pot is also up to 25 times as pure as it once was, and is often laced with PCP. Emergency-room incidents are at record highs and cocaine and methamphetamine, oxycontin, GHB and ecstasy are killing kids fast and quietly.**

*(ABOUT THE AUTHOR – Robert B. Charles served as chief counsel and staff director (1995-99) to the U.S. House National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, chief staffer to the U.S. House Speaker's Task Force on a Drug Free America (1997-99).*

*He was a U.S. Court of Appeals clerk, Ninth Circuit (1987-88), served on the Domestic Policy Staffs of Presidents Reagan and Bush (1980-83 and 1991-92, respectively), taught government and law at Harvard University Extension School (1997-2001), and holds an AB from Dartmouth College, JD from Columbia Law School and MA in economics from Oxford University. He is presently president of a consulting company in Maryland called Direct Impact.*

# Photostory

## NNOAC Executive Board meets in Washington, D.C.

*In April, members of the NNOAC Executive Board met in Washington, D.C., where they got an opportunity to meet with members of Congress and here presentations from key federal drug enforcement officials. Printed below and on the next few pages are some scenes from the meetings and presentations.*

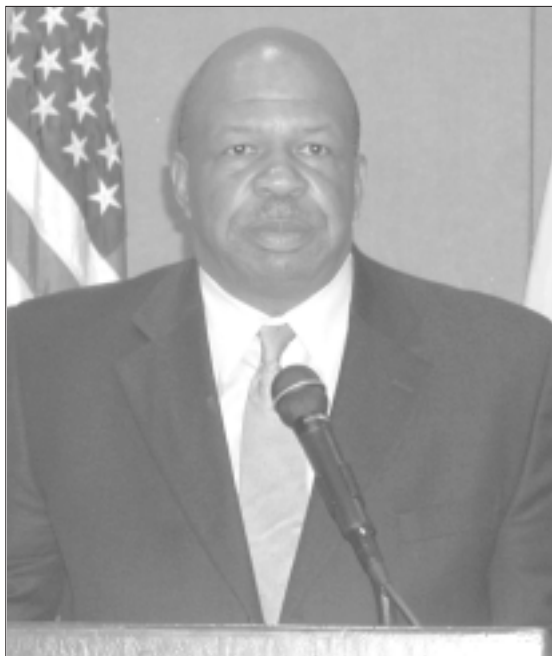


Ron Brooks (right) is pictured with Asa Hutchinson, the administrator for the Drug Enforcement Administration.



LEFT: Steven Casteel, the assistant administrator for Intelligence for the DEA, gave a presentation on the connection between terrorism and drugs. Casteel reported that during the year 2000, the Taliban produced 71 percent of the world's opium and 6 percent came to the United States. England received 99 percent of its heroin from Afghanistan. Bin Laden was developing a highly potent liquid heroin called "Tears of Allah." Luckily, that heroin never reached the United States.

RIGHT: The Honorable Elijah Cummings, member of the House of Representatives (7th District - Md.) and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, presented the critical drug policy issues facing the subcommittee.



Robert "Bobby" Charles, president of Direct Impact, LLC and former staff director and chief counsel for the subcommittee on Drug Policy, spoke about the 12 points to use when arguing against drug legalization.



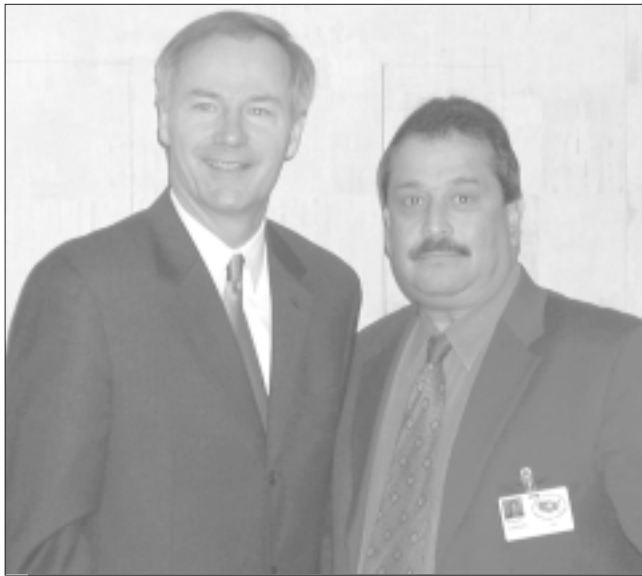
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## The Coalition

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Emory Williams, CEO for the Institute for Intergovernmental Research, discussed his agency's assistance maintaining the Coalition website.



Robert Almonte (right) from the Texas NEOA is pictured with Administrator Hutchinson. Almonte is the Southwest Regional Director of the Coalition.



Pictured above is Col. Doug Mosely of the Air National Guard. He addressed the delegates on the merits of the Counterdrug Program.



Newsletter Editor William Butka from the Connecticut NEOA is pictured with Administrator Hutchinson.



Doc Tomassetti of the Connecticut NEOA is pictured talking with Roy Hudson from the Florida NOA.

**RIGHT:** Charlie Diaz, a congressional fellow and drug policy advisor to the Sepaker of the House, delivered an update of congressional matters to delegates.



**LEFT:** Pictured is the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.



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## The Coalition

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President Ron Brooks received the Institute for Intergovernmental Research Law Enforcement Leadership Award. It was presented for Ron's work in representing the NNOAC on drug policy issues with Congress and the Administration. Ron is only the 30th recipient of this award since it was established 28 years ago. Congratulations, Ron.



Lisa Gibson, J.D., State Operations for the "Fight Crime, Invest in Kids" website, is pictured above. The website's address is [www.fightcrime.org](http://www.fightcrime.org).



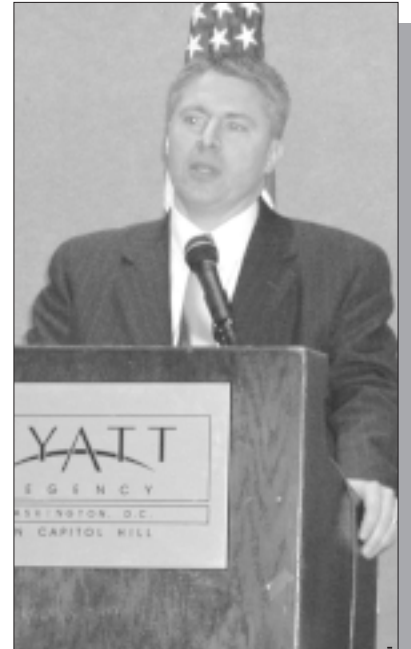
Pictured above is the Honorable Daniel E. Lungren, former member of Congress and a partner in the Nevable Law Firm. Lungren spoke of the strategies to use in advocating for stronger drug laws and the legalization efforts in the United States. Lungren, while a member of Congress, introduced the bill authorizing the eviction of drug sellers from public housing.



The Honorable John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, addressed the delegates.



Pictured above is George Marsh, Lt. Col. of the Pennsylvania State Police (Ret.). He demonstrated the current RISS technology.



Pictured above is Lt. Col. Michael Snyder of the Illinois State Police, who addressed delegates.

# The Coalition



Pictured above are members of the New England NEOA.



Pictured above are Lt. Michael Rinaldi of the Connecticut NEOA and Jim Mavromatis, director of EPIC.

**RIGHT:** Pictured is a panel discussion on bias-based policing. The panel consisted of David Luitweiller, first deputy superintendent of the New York State Police (ret.) and DEA Headquarters; Gene Voegtlin, legislative counsel for the IACP; Jim Mavromatis, director of EPIC; and Lt. Col. Michael Snyder, Illinois State Police.



**ABOVE:** Delegates salute the flag. **LEFT:** Members of the National Guard posted the colors at the start of the NNOAC Delegates Meeting.

Pictured above are Sal and Tom Green from the New England NEOA speaking with Tim Lane from the Tennessee NEOA. Tim is the new Southeast Regional Director of the Coalition.

# In defense of DARE

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*(EDITOR'S NOTE – The Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) program, a popular and effective tool in fighting drug abuse with students for the past several years, has been under attack recently. Following are a series of articles defending DARE and its goals.)*

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## *Defending DARE...and apple pie*

By **ROBERT CHARLES**

Apple pie, motherhood, baseball and DARE — quite frankly, all deserve defending. Drug prevention in general, and DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) in particular, have recently become targets of choice for those who doubt prevention, doubt DARE and propose, ever so subtly, to edge the nation toward the legalization of dangerous Schedule I narcotics. No course would be more morally, physically and spiritually destructive to America's next generation than choosing drug legalization over common-sense, fact-based education, such as that promoted by the revised DARE America curriculum.

While drug use rose markedly between 1992 and 1997, the causes for this were complex. Drug-prevention funding — and its defense before Congress — often took a back seat; supply-reduction efforts were cut by hundreds of millions of dollars, effectively increasing the load borne by law enforcement, teachers, parents, treatment professionals and those fighting illegal drugs domestically; and dangerous new drugs arrived on the scene, including Colombian heroin (smokable and 10 times more pure than in the 1980s), Californian methamphetamine (which began to appear in young bodies across hospital emergency rooms and morgues), GHB, high-purity cocaine and marijuana, LSD and ecstasy. None of this was DARE's doing.

In fact, DARE and drug-prevention efforts that have followed the DARE model have been responsible for the turn around in "new initiation rates" that materialized in 1998 and 1999. Specifically, while the 18-to-25 age cohort (no longer in

contact with fact-laden DARE officers, dedicated teachers and patients) has suffered a 28 percent increase in current use between 1997 and 1999, youth users of marijuana fell by 2.3 million between 1997 and 1998 (11 percent overall), and the average age of first use rose for the fifth straight year in 1998. At the same time, for kids ages 12 to 17, not only did overall illicit use fall by more than 20 percent between 1997 and 1999, but current use of marijuana fell by 26 percent in the same period. According to White House Drug Control

Policy Director Barry McCaffrey, this "remarkable success" is due, in no small measure, to "the DARE program." Congress, too, understands this lesson.

Objective indicators of success for drug prevention (broadly) and DARE (specifically) are mounting. DARE works increasingly with parents and middle-school students. Hard numbers show these strategies are bearing fruit. In 1999, 45 percent of teens who reported no discussions with their parents about the dangers of drug use ended up using drugs. At the same time,

parents who spoke to their teens a little about these dangers created sufficient reflection in their teens that only 33 percent used. Of those teens who learned a lot from parents about drug use, only 26 percent used. DARE now offers a panoply of information to parents.

This year, DARE, which boasts an in-school curriculum updated six times since 1997, to reflect society-wide changes in youth violence and available drugs, has innovated at the middle school and parent levels, expanded training of law officers at five regional centers, created a web presence, **continued on page 16**

In 1999, 45 percent of teens who reported no discussions with their parents about the dangers of drug use ended up using drugs. At the same time, parents who spoke to their teens a little about these dangers created sufficient reflection in their teens that only 33 percent used.



## In defense of DARE (continuation)

**continued from page 15**

and will train – if fully funded — more than 1,000 new law officers (for more than 80 hours each) to deliver no-nonsense facts and resistance skills, and to serve as living role models in every middle school in America, or so far as funding reaches. Extensive research — with scientifically sound control groups — strongly supports the drug-prevention efforts of groups like DARE.

One recent study cited to criticize DARE (the so-called Kentucky study) was subsequently condemned for having no real control group and turning on an out-of-date curriculum. At the same time, studies in two other states involving 3,200 subjects in 33 schools (Ohio) and 2,500 students from 14 communities (Pennsylvania), both conducted by Ohio State, produced overwhelmingly positive findings as to DARE's impact on kids' attitudes and behavior they were more resistant to both drug use and violence.

While no study is flawless, the bulk of research strongly indicates teaching these lessons is far smarter than not

teaching them. In combination with parent and role model reinforcement, DARE may be the best hope against the current trend toward disinformation and indifference.

Speaking bluntly, efforts to indict DARE are shorthand for minimizing drug prevention. This is the stated mission of many who wish to run down DARE's efforts and the entire drug-prevention renaissance. In fact, no need is greater than to teach our children the basic dangers of these increasingly available drugs.

That responsibility lies with parents, teachers, young people and members of Congress who should step up to rebut the legalization of dangerous Schedule I narcotics and unabashedly support such sound programs as DARE.

Contrary to the well-founded detractors from right-wrong no-use anti-drug education, there is plenty of danger in not teaching the lessons DARE has effectively brought to kids and parents.

Today, DARE is taught in more than

80 percent of all school districts, and it reaches 26 million students in more than 300,000 class rooms each year. This is a blessing worth counting. Like motherhood, apple pie and baseball, nothing good is without some controversy, but let's be clear: As a sage once noted, all it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to be silent. And that is why there should be a chorus of voices rebutting the detractors of sound drug prevention, defending DARE and stopping the deceivers who recklessly promote narcotics legalization.

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**(ABOUT THE AUTHOR —**  
*Robert Charles was chief staffer to the Speaker's Task Force on A Drug-Free America (1997-1999), and chief counsel and chief of staff to the U.S. House National Security Subcommittee of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee (1995-1999). He is currently a professor at the Harvard University Extension School.*)

## Letters to editor support DARE's effectiveness

*(EDITOR'S NOTE – The following letters to the editor were sent to the Washington Times in support of an article that defended DARE.)*

### Setting straight misinformation about DARE anti-drug efforts

Bobby Charles' Sept. 8 article "Defending DARE...and apple pie" is right on target.

Your readers also need to know that the pattern of destruction used by proponents of drug legalization is well-documented even in the courts.

Effective anti-drug programs are not helpful to drug legalizers' goals. Their misinformation campaigns frequently make headlines and, we believe, they have done immeasurable harm to America's efforts to prevent drug use, especially among teens.

Attempts to destroy Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) have been particularly vicious, leading DARE to file a \$10 million lawsuit against writer Stephen Glass, the author of some anti-DARE articles published in the New

Republic (March 3, 1997) and Rolling Stone (March 3, 1998).

The New Republic fired Stephen Glass when the scandal became public. In a review of his work, the New Republic discovered that at least 27 of his 41 published articles were entirely or partially made up. This was described by Vanity Fair magazine as "a breathtaking web of deception that emerged as the most sustained fraud in modern journalism."

As part of the agreement to dismiss the libel suit, Glass wrote a letter of apology, agreed to a substantial monetary settlement and also agreed to an extensive interview by DARE America to answer questions about the origins, preparation and editing of his work on DARE.

**continued on page 17**



## In defense of DARE (continuation)

continued from page 16

His January 25, 1999, letter of apology states, "I want to express my regret and apology for falsely disparaging DARE in the above-referenced articles by willfully fabricating several incidents and quotes about DARE and its supporters in the articles, mostly attributed to anonymous sources. I did this in order to sensationalize the stories without regard to the harm and detriment my fabrications and falsehoods would cause to DARE and people affiliated with DARE.

"As the articles reflect, I communicated frequently with people and organizations whom I knew to support, and who (in some cases) told me they supported legalization of illegal drugs and were anti-DARE.

"In preparing the articles, I gave credence to what I heard from the anti-DARE people and did not credit the information DARE supplied me. Officials at DARE provided me with information such as copies of evaluations of the program's effectiveness, most of which I discounted and was not ever published in the articles.

"I further acknowledge that the March 1997 article in The

New Republic, which contains many of the same fabrications as are in my March 1998 article for Rolling Stone, played a significant role in attracting the interest of Rolling Stone and its editors. In editing the Rolling Stone article, I referred Rolling Stone's fact-checkers to my prior articles in The New Republic, or to sources cited therein."

Unfortunately, most whom read or hear the pro-drug side of these issues never hear the corrections or, in some cases, the corrections are never made. We applaud Mr. Charles for his outspoken article and The Washington Times for its candid, unbiased reporting on these issues.

Joyce Nalepka

President, America Cares. Inc.

Silver Spring

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*(EDITOR'S NOTE — Joyce Nalepka is also a founder and president of Drug-Free Youth — America's Challenge, and was president of the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth, all organizations chaired by Nancy Reagan during her tenure as first lady.*

## Good news

### Study shows rise in the number of drug-free schools

Almost two-thirds of teens say their schools are drug-free, according to a new survey of teen drug use conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University.

This is the first time in the seven-year history of the study that a majority of public school students report drug-free schools.

The same study for the year 2000 found that only 42 percent of the 12- to 17-year-olds in public schools reported that their schools were drug free.

In this year's study, the figure rose to 62 percent.

## Critics are wrong about DARE's effectiveness

*(EDITOR'S NOTE — Following is an editorial that first appeared in the Arizona Republic.)*

Critics of DARE don't ask for much; only that a program that teaches fifth- and sixth-graders about the dangers of drugs inoculate these youths from using illegal substances through high school for...oh...the next eight years or so.

That the program, called Drug Abuse Resistance Education, which lasts only 17 weeks in many schools, protect youths from peer pressure, from music and videos that glorify many drugs, and from movies that practically celebrate the use of alcohol, marijuana and cocaine.

Simple task.

The wonder is that the program, taught by police officers in many Phoenix-area schools and in about 40 percent of schools in the state, is as effective as it is. Name another program taught once a week for four months that is expected to work for eight years or more.

A recent report by the State Office of the Auditor General critical of DARE suggested that DARE is ineffective in preventing or reducing adolescent substance-abuse behavior. The audit drew heavily on other studies around the country that show DARE wears off by the time students enter their senior year of high school or head off to college.

If that's the best critics can come up with, it sounds like a pretty good return to us on an investment made years ago.

continued on page 18

## In defense of DARE (continuation)

continued from page 17

Many of the audit's findings are rejected by the Arizona Department of Public Safety and a drug expert who dismisses the audit as "academic gossip."

Supporters cite dozens of other studies that show DARE reduces drug use, boosts peer resistance and has a positive effect on kids' views of the police.

DARE's biggest weakness is that in many schools it is a single-shot program of 17 weeks. Studies suggest DARE is more effective when coupled with other health programs or when its anti-drug message is reinforced in later grades.

DARE's curriculum has evolved over the years and officials are now testing a program that shifts more emphasis to seventh grade and adds a booster shot in ninth grade.

DARE is seeking to add more activities based on real-world problems with less lecturing by police officers, and getting students to learn on their own.

Finally, DARE is stressing that most students don't use drugs — a message that is often lost in the haze of warnings and other information presented to students.

Parents overwhelmingly support DARE. The police put their own money

into it.

Most students are gung-ho about it and proud of the certificates they receive for completing the program. Parents and society need every tool they can muster in protecting children and young adults from drugs.

As Arizona's State Police point out: "The problem is not DARE. The problem is the void the children are walking into when they leave that DARE classroom."

The key to ensuring a drug-free future for children is drug-education programs like DARE, strong community involvement and parents who are involved in their kids' lives.

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# DARE files a \$50 million libel suit vs. Rolling Stone magazine

*(EDITOR'S NOTE – The following article was reprinted from the Feb. 4, 1999 issue of the Boston Herald.)*

By PAUL SULLIVAN  
Boston Herald

There's trouble in La-La Land as the local DARE program is rocking Rolling Stone maggie with a \$50 million suit, claiming it was libeled by a freelance writer who admitted he – blush! – made up part of the story.

DARE President Glenn Levant fired off, "We are taking action against Rolling Stone to defend our reputation and recoup the damages incurred by these libels."

But the maggie's managing editor, Robert Love, retorted: "We view this libel action as little more than an attempt to intimidate and discourage legitimate debate on the viability of the DARE program."

DARE is suing the Stone for \$50 million and

the freelancer Stephen Glass for another \$10 million.

The March 1998 article said the Culver City-based DARE program tried to "silence critics, suppress scientific research and punish non-believers."

The federal lawsuit alleges Love requested a derogatory article about DARE to further editor-publisher Jann Wenner's "ongoing efforts to discredit anti-drug organizations."

Love and Wenner also are named in the lawsuit as defendants.

Love countered that his magazine acted responsibly. "We are confident that the magazine will be vindicated," he said.

Glass has, ah, a Mike Barnicle-like track record.

He was a writer for the New Republic when he confessed to making up stories for that magazine and others where he free-lanced, including Rolling Stone.

The federal lawsuit alleges Love requested a derogatory article about DARE to further editor-publisher Jann Wenner's "ongoing efforts to discredit anti-drug organizations."

**Johnson's Corner**  
**Jr. Motorsports**  
**Keep It Cool Refrigeration Serv.**  
**Kencor Enterprises, Ltd.**  
**King's Inn**  
**L&S Grocery Inc.**  
**Laface & McGovern Associates**  
**Lance McFarren**  
**Las Flores**  
**Las Mananitas Inc.**  
**LBG Enterprises, Ltd.**  
**Lincoln Liquor Mart**  
**Litchfield Community Savings**  
**Logixsystems Inc.**  
**Lone Wolf Lumber & Logging**  
**MK Construction**  
**M.G. Lund Trucking, Inc.**  
**Main Street Lending Inc.**  
**Mantei's Transport, Ltd.**  
**Mark Michaels Seamless Gutters**  
**Mary Kay**  
**McGrath Homes**  
**Melton & Associate P.C.**  
**Michael E. Wurtz Company**  
**Mr. Heath Music Inc.**  
**Mr. Peter Rogers**  
**Ms. Kelly Sterling**  
**Murphysboro Citgo**  
**Nazareth Speedway**  
**Network Title Inc.**  
**Orthopedic Center of the Rockies**  
**Out of This World**  
**Pentastar Transportation, Ltd.**  
**Phillippi Roofing & Cnstr.**  
**Plumb Crazy Plumbing**  
**Pork's Place**  
**Prairie Pride Enterprises, Inc.**  
**Pries Bros. Home Bldg.**  
**Prime Roofing & Siding**  
**R. Buxton Transport, Inc.**  
**Rainbow Jewelers Inc.**  
**Re Bath of Central Illinois**  
**Reiche Construction Inc.**  
**Resthaven Central**  
**Rich's Plastering**  
**Richard Ball Accounting Svcs.**  
**Ritchie Brothers Studios**

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**Riverside Health Equipment**  
**R.J.'s Sports Bar & Grill Inc.**  
**Robert Bury**  
**Roos Bar & Grill**  
**Rose Mallon**  
**Starliner Transport, 1981 Ltd.**  
**Sanborn Colorado**  
**Schneider's Trucking, Ltd.**  
**Screeners Landscape**  
**Sean Obrien**  
**Select Classic Carriers, Inc.**  
**Sensational Wood Products Inc.**  
**Sessions Lawn Care**  
**Sewickley Valley Medical Group**  
**Shear Art Inc.**  
**Sierra Renovation Cnstr. Co.**  
**Spearing Service, Ltd.**  
**St. Mary's Healthcare Center**  
**Steven Pearce**  
**Sun Valley Terrace**  
**Sunset Truck Brokers Inc.**  
**Swedish American Medical Fnd.**  
**T&W Valve and Machine Co. Inc.**  
**T-Bone Willy's**  
**Taylor Constructors**  
**Teamsters #726**  
**The Mark**  
**The Spirits House Inc.**  
**The Western Pump Inc.**  
**Theater Cafe**  
**Thomas Kellogg**  
**Tony's Service**  
**Transborder Logistics Int.**  
**Travelodge of Longmont**  
**Trax Two**  
**Tri-County Title Svc. Inc.**  
**Vancouver Airline Cartage, Ltd.**  
**Vanderkooi Trucking**  
**Vermilion Co. Airport Authority**  
**Vernof Schwartz & Co.**  
**W.C. Hooper Inc.**  
**W.W. Decorating Inc.**  
**WBT Consulting Inc.**  
**White Shadow Enterprises, Inc.**  
**Williams Moving & Storage**  
**Zenith Transport, Ltd.**  
**Zion Benton Moose Lodge #667**

## Drug enforcement training

# Investigators need to look for these methods of concealment

By **DAVID L. SPAKOWICZ**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**Wisconsin Department of Justice**  
**Division of Narcotics Enforcement**  
**Milwaukee HIDTA – Heroin Initiative**

This article is authored to advise other Narcotics Enforcement investigators that we (Wisconsin Narcotics Investigators), have seen an increase in the utilization of methods of concealment for heroin that we really haven't seen in the past. All narcotics investigators are all familiar with the hidden compartments in cars, semi-trucks, etc. But recent enforcement activity has identified some new and rather ingenious methods of concealment.

To cite a couple of instances that have occurred as a result of recent search warrants and/or arrests, the Milwaukee HIDTA-Heroin Initiative (HI) have seen individuals that have actually buried their heroin, scales, false identification cards and driver's licenses in the ground. In one instance; the heroin, a scale and 4 false identification cards were located inside a plastic Tupperware type container wrapped in plastic wrap and buried in the window well under approximately 6 to 8 inches of dirt. In another instance, the HI removed bricks from a basement floor next to a furnace, removed some dirt and then some fiberglass insulation and found false identification cards and additional quantities of heroin concealed underneath the insulation.

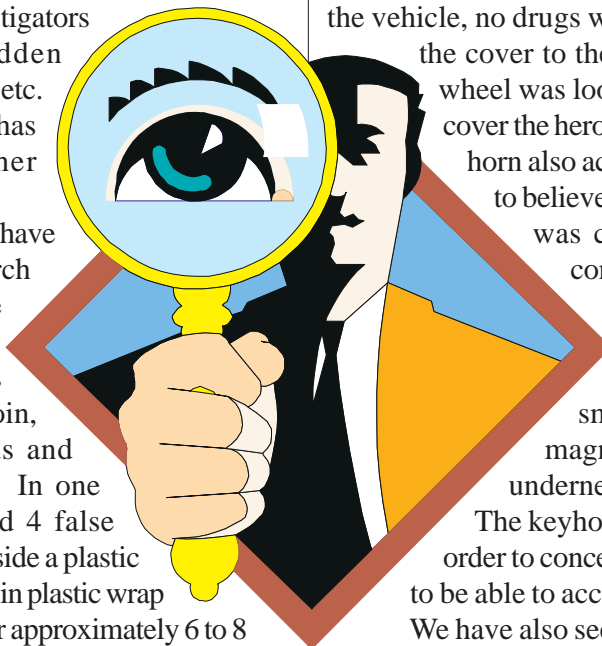
Other types of concealments that the HI has seen in the past have been in a smoke detector that was affixed to the wall and behind the baseboard moulding in a bedroom. The moulding was not secured against the wall and upon removing the baseboard, there was a hollowed out area in the drywall behind the moulding for placement of the drugs. Another concealment that we found was a large sum (\$29,000) of currency that was concealed behind a paneled wall in a basement. We had to remove all of the moulding around the

window and then reach down between the studs between the paneling and cement basement wall. We would never of found the money (we had searched the basement) if the defendant hadn't told us how to retrieve it. In a case like that, maybe a drug detecting canine would show some attention to the wall and we would of looked at little harder, but absent a canine alert or any other info, we would of never found it.

During a recent traffic stop, upon pulling the vehicle over we heard the horn sound. Upon receiving consent to search the vehicle, no drugs were located. We then observed that the cover to the horn in the center of the steering wheel was loose. Upon pulling back on the horn cover the heroin was located behind the cover. The horn also activated when we did this, leading us to believe that as we were pulling him over, he was concealing the heroin. We have consistently seen an increase in the use of small magnetic keyholders that frequently hold a spare key. The traffickers are frequently placing small quantities of heroin into these magnetic keyholders and securing them underneath the dashboard of their vehicle. The keyholder is always within easy access in order to conceal the keyholder if being stopped, or to be able to access the product if needed.

We have also seen an increase in the use of trap cars and concealed compartments in vehicles. The majority of these concealed compartments are becoming increasingly complex and without good informant information, are very difficult to detect.

So, on the next occasion in which you make that traffic stop and you get to search the vehicle (for whatever reason, i.e. custodial search, consensual search, etc...) take an extra minute and look at the places that you might not initially think the controlled substances could be. Look way underneath the dashboard; check the headliner and the armrests of the vehicle. When you are in a house or apartment, take a second and look at the room before you just start searching the "normal" areas, like drawers and closets. We have found



**continued on page 21**



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## The Coalition

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that with a number of our Dominican trafficking groups, there is frequently a tool located next to the concealment area which is a good indicator. In the aforementioned instances, there was a small pick located next to the window well, there was a small shovel located next to the furnace and there was a hammer located underneath the bed adjacent to the baseboard moulding.

If you step back and look, and ask yourself, "Why would that be there," and then start examining the immediate area for any signs tampering, that may help you find something that you would normally overlooked.

In addition, question the informant on how long it takes the target to retrieve the quantity of drugs ordered? Does the

target go into another room, the basement, the attic, etc.? Does the informant hear any noises when the target is getting the drugs, i.e. hammering, prying, cordless screwdrivers, etc... During one recent controlled purchase, the unwitting told the informant that he needed to order the drugs in advance because it "takes a while to get it out". After the execution of the search warrant, the heroin was located in the locked attic in between layers of fiberglass insulation.

There's nothing worse than hearing from an informant after the fact that you, "missed the dope." Remember that the bad guys have nothing better to do than to think of ways to try and beat us.

Good luck and stay safe!

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# NNOAC Memorandum

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**Date:** 6/14/02  
**To:** Delegates, National Narcotic Officers Association Coalition  
**From:** Ronald E. Brooks, President  
**RE:** Regional Directors Positions

As most of you know, the Delegates of the National Narcotic Officers Association's Coalition (NNOAC) voted at our last meeting in Washington, D.C. to add five Regional Directors to the NNOAC's Executive Board. Executive Director Dick Sloan sent an e-mail to each of our Delegates and requested volunteers for this critical position.

My decision has been difficult because each of the persons who expressed an interest in the Directors' positions are outstanding law enforcement professionals, who have demonstrated a strong commitment to their own state association and to the NNOAC. Each candidate for this position would make an excellent addition to the NNOAC's Executive Board. In making my final decision, I have tried to weigh the desire of our Delegates that the Regional Directors represent the geographic diversity of the Coalition and that it provide a balance with the other elected members of the Executive Board.

I will be using the Regional Directors to assist Membership Committee Chairman Keith Kelly with recruiting and retaining associations, to represent the NNOAC at meetings and other events, and to assist me with other projects as needed. With the recent challenge to the Byrne Funding and a proposal by New Mexico Governor Johnson to work on a national drug legalization initiative, the newly appointed Directors, assisted by everyone in the NNOAC will be busy representing the interests of America's narcotic officers.

The New Regional Director Selections are:

- **Northwest Region:** Ron Nelson, Oregon Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association (ONEOA)
- **Southwest Region:** Robert Almonte, Texas Narcotic Officers Association (TNOA)
- **Central Region:** Michael Maley, Illinois Drug Enforcement Officers Association (IDEOA)
- **Northeast Region:** William Butka, Narcotic Enforcement Officers' Association of Connecticut (NEOA)
- **Southeast Region:** Tim Lane, Tennessee Narcotic Officers' Association (TNOA)

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## NNOAC Meeting in Tennessee was very productive

The recent National Narcotic Officers Association's Coalition's latest meeting in Tennessee was extremely successful. Details about the meeting will appear in the next issue of *The Coalition*. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Washington, D.C. in the spring of 2003.

—Bill Butka

## Drug enforcement training

# Discussing the issue of profiling in law enforcement

By CLAYTON SEARLE

Do we really want to surrender to the drug organizations the means of distributing their products?

This nation has recently been in an emotional discussion concerning the use of profiles by law enforcement officers. Unfortunately, this debate has been entitled, "racial profiling." There is a saying in debating, "If you can define the terms, you win the contest." Utilizing the term, "racial profiling," ensures that the debate will be negative in tone and divisive in nature. I propose that instead of inflaming emotions, we take a look at what actually is being done in this area of drug enforcement. This issue is so important to law enforcement and its efforts to interdict drugs that a dispassionate examination is essential.

No government agency or law enforcement association, in their interdiction training, teaches that race is a characteristic of drug couriers. Not the Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Customs, The International Association of Chiefs of Police or any national police association, period. Officers are taught to look at the individual for characteristics or indicators of drug courier activity. These characteristics, when seen in clusters by trained officers, have been recognized as a valid investigative tool by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Those who purport to be shocked that ethnic groups are over represented in the population arrested for drug courier activities must have been in a coma for the last twenty years. The fact is that ethnic groups control the majority of the drug trade in the United States. They also tend to hire as their underlings and couriers others of their same group. Why? Because these are the people they grew up with, feel comfortable

around and because it's human nature.

The truth is, if you work drug interdiction in this country, you will not arrest the same percentages of ethnic groups as represented in the U.S. general population. People may not like it but that is the reality.

The airport drug detail in Los Angeles compiled a breakdown of the percent of ethnic groups they arrested. The first list was based on the officers' observations of drug courier characteristics. They then compared that percentage to those arrested utilizing characteristics gleaned from airline computer information. The airline computers, as you can imagine, have no category for an individual's ethnic makeup. The percentages from both sources were almost identical.

What does this mean? It means they were arresting drug couriers by utilizing identifiable characteristics, not race. The idea that officers refuse to arrest any drug couriers unless they are members of a minority group is both insulting and ludicrous.

The recently retired Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.), Thomas Constantine, started a program to assist local police in the arrest of violent drug offenders. The mobile enforcement teams (MET) are in all the major cities. The Los Angeles MET team has had a number of successful deployments in the greater Los Angeles area.

They were so successful in the Rampart area that the citizens commissioned a billboard on Wilshire Boulevard thanking them for their work. In these deployments, 85 percent of the suspects arrested were minorities. Are these MET teams and their local counterpart racist? Was Clinton appointee, Constantine, a racist? Did

Janet Reno let a racist program run wild in L.A.?

If you work in a city where 99 percent of the crack is controlled by minorities, then inevitably the vast majority of couriers arrested will be minorities. It's called reality and it will still be true no matter how hard the apologists try to pretend it isn't. The hard truth in America today is that the minorities of any major city commit most of the street drug sales and get arrested disproportionately.

Are there a few officers foolishly taking race into account in their profiling? Yes. Are some people doing foolish things where you work? Of course. Are these officers racist? No. They usually are without formal training and struggling to do their job. Most untrained people tend to do their jobs poorly, stupidly and unevenly. No amount of cultural diversity and sensitivity training will help unless a person is adequately trained to do their job.

When they are exposed to a training program, they become aware that race is not a drug courier characteristic. If they perform as trained, end of problem. If they don't, they should be fired or, if civil service rules intervene, assigned to counting flash light batteries in the basement of the police station. Is the Department of Justice expanding their training in response to these allegations? No. They have cut D.E.A.'s training budget for interdiction training.

The Federal Government and some states reacted to these racial profiling allegations by requiring officers to record the race of citizens they contact. What will the reaction be when these numbers indicate that ethnic groups are interviewed and arrested in greater  
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## Profiling in law enforcement (continuation)

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frequency than their percentage in the U.S. general population? A variety of groups will demand that drug interdiction efforts be curtailed and abolished.

What is the actual agenda of these outraged critics of drug interdiction? Many of these groups are made up of the same people who advocate drug legalization. What better way to de-facto legalize narcotics than to cripple our nations interdiction efforts. Drug interdiction is our first line of defense against drugs entering our communities.

Those officers working our borders, airports, bus terminals and highways are our best chance of having an impact on this problem facing our nation. The vast majority of drugs confiscated in the United States are through our interdiction efforts.

Do we really want to surrender to the drug organizations the means of distributing their products?

One can only hope that this country will not jeopardize the health and future of our children because of the agenda of a few self-serving groups.

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# Courage to Speak Foundation: 'Saving lives by inspiring youths to be drug free

By GINGER KATZ

On Sept. 10, 1996, I lost my 20-year-old son, Ian, to a heroin overdose just before he was going into a rehabilitation program the next day. Ian had used marijuana, tobacco and other drugs in high school.

At one point, he was picked up by an officer at Cranbury Park in Norwalk, CT. He was scolded and told to go home.

The officers said, "If I ever find you in this town again with any drugs, I will arrest you, now go home." I insisted that Ian go into counseling at that point. I had such high hopes for Ian, I thought we had caught the addiction early. I thought it all went away, until I received the phone call from his biological dad stating he was snorting heroin in college.

My breath was taken away. My life changed. My friends knew there was something different about me.

At first, I was ashamed of his problem. I didn't want to tell anyone about his problem when he came home from college.

He was going to a day treatment program and we thought his problem

was being fixed. He didn't want me to tell his friends in Norwalk who did not know.

The ugly truth is, the problem wasn't fixed. I found him in the morning just before I was going to meet my friend at 6 a.m. for our morning run. Ian died in his sleep. Several years later, I realized I couldn't save him.

Addiction does not discriminate. It doesn't matter who you are, it doesn't matter what race you are, how financially sound you are, if you're homeless or if you have a family who loves you dearly.

It can happen to anyone. Drug addiction not only destroys the person who is using; it also destroys the family.

Addiction robs you of your money, it robs you of your spirit, and finally, when you have nothing else left to give...it robs you of your soul.

My son, Ian, was a good, kind person who suffered from a terrible disease and we miss him every day of our lives.

The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc., is a drug-prevention program we founded in 1997 to reduce the drug use

among young people in our communities.

We have given over 300 presentations in Connecticut and nationally, sharing our message with students and parents to prevent this tragedy from happening to another family.

Some people have expressed a desire to be part of a project that my husband and I started a year ago. We established a support group in Connecticut funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, which I call the Courage to Speak Group, which is for families that have lost a child to a drug-related death.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has lost a family member to substance abuse.

Please call toll-free (877) 431-3295 and visit [www.couragetospeak.org](http://www.couragetospeak.org). Go to "presentation schedule" and download the three-minute video and then check out the press articles.

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** – *Ginger Katz is founder of the Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc.*



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