

The Counterdrug



Observer

THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

SEPTEMBER 2008



NATIONAL GUARD PLAYS VITAL ROLE AGAINST OKLAHOMA'S DRUG THREAT

Lieutenant Colonel R. Kevin Tackett
Commander, Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force

OKLAHOMA CITY - The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of the good things your National Guard is doing to combat the drug threat in Oklahoma. As you know, Oklahoma is the "Heartland" of America and a major crossroads for drug trafficking. Oklahoma ranks high in the nation for marijuana and for methamphetamine production. Our Soldiers and Airmen are committed to battling these and other illicit drugs through the support they provide on a daily basis. We provide support to law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, and school

systems throughout our great state at no cost. Many of these agencies lack the funding and personnel to make a real difference without our help. I believe, as do they, that we are making that difference. This newsletter will be published twice a year for your benefit to show you first hand what a difference the Citizen-Soldier can truly make.

Sincerely,

R. Kevin Tackett
Lieutenant Colonel

Oklahoma Guard Assists DEA

EDMOND — Two Edmond men made an initial appearance before a federal judge on a charge of conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute about four kilograms of opium gum. Opium gum when processed with hydrochloride makes heroine, a dangerous drug used in Oklahoma. On July 10, boxes containing opium gum were seized by a task force made up of the DEA, Oklahoma City Police, Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force.



The Counterdrug Task Force supported local law enforcement by conducting helicopter surveillance during the entire process.

If convicted, each defendant could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

DEA RECOGNIZES COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

Dec. 2007- The Director of the Oklahoma City DEA office formally recognized the soldiers of the Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. A special presentation was made at the Oklahoma Military Department. DEA special agents praised the maintenance crews and pilots that operate the National Guard Helicopters. The Director went on to say that the



DEA often conducts missions on short notice and the Oklahoma Task Force is always there to support the requests. The Director then handed out Certificate of Appreciations to the soldiers for "Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Drug Law Enforcement". The Counterdrug Task Force provides such services thanks to approved Congressional funds.

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

The Oklahoma National Guard Counter Drug Task Force is at the forefront of the effort to reduce drug use among young people. We provide instructors, mentors, advisors, and other resources that are vital to this effort.

There are 5 personnel that make up our Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program; these individuals are composed of both Army and Air Guard personnel. We reach over 17,000 Oklahomans about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse on a yearly basis. Our goal is to provide education assistance to different organizations in Oklahoma concerning drugs and alcohol.



This newsletter will highlight the variety of support we provide to Oklahoman's communities and schools. I encourage you to call our office for more information on our programs and upcoming drug awareness events at **405-228-5022**.

We are making a difference in [Oklahoma!!](#)

Sincerely,

Sergeant First Class Rebecca McGary
Drug Demand Reduction Administrator

2008 Statistics

Drug Demand Reduction Significant Accomplishments

OKLAHOMAN'S REACHED

Elementary School Students	7189
Middle School Students	5363
High School Students	1788
Adults/Colleges	3242

Est. 17,582 Oklahoman's reached through our Congressional funded programs

OVERHOLSER PRAISES GUARD



Overholser Elementary completed our "Expectations Course" last May and had a fun day with the Ropes Course and a helicopter landing. The Ropes Course is packed full of

fun activities that emphasize the importance of teamwork. Others such as the football toss, or basketball lane give the kids a chance to shoot/throw the ball normally, then again with the "drunk goggles." While this activity is fun and entertaining, it also brings the realization that alcohol impairs your judgment, vision, and ability to perform normal activities.

The helicopter pilots teach the children the importance of staying in school and staying off drugs. The kids climb inside and play with the controls. The children also talk with the pilots and learned what it takes to become an aviator.

The "Expectations Course" is a great program said the principal of Overholser Elementary School.



The Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force is making a positive impact on the lives of these children.

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

SOLDIERS MENTOR STUDENTS; SUPPORT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



Congress provides funding through the National Guard to support local communities and schools. The National Guard Counterdrug Task Force uses these funds to support education and special programs to keep children and adults off drugs. The Drug Demand Reduction team from Oklahoma continues to receive tremendous accolades for the many presentations and mentorship programs. Pictured on the top left is Specialist Brown conducting a class about the

Below, Chief Warrant Officer Chase Rutledge takes time to talk with the students about staying in school, listening to teachers and staying away from drugs.



problems drug abuse causes. His hard work has a direct impact on the students. Mr. Darren Dry, stated “Specialist Brown is a great mentor and my students really look up to him.” Specialist Brown empowers students to do their best and stay away from drugs.

These programs are available *FREE TO OKLAHOMA SCHOOLS* thanks to Congressional appropriated funds. Such funds allow our Citizen-Soldiers the ability to mentor young children and keep our communities free of drugs.

Top: *A Counter Drug Soldier from the Oklahoma Army National Guard leads a discussion about the dangers of drugs*

Bottom: *Students take control of helicopter and learn what it takes to be a pilot.*

YOUTH DIRECTOR PRAISES GUARD FOR EFFORTS



Darren Dry, program director of the Cherokee Nation Youth Program praises the Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. Dry said, “The National Guard plays a very important role as mentors to these kids. Our children look up to these Soldiers and we consider them heros. The Soldiers and pilots are an important part of keeping our kids off drugs.” This is just another program supported by the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.

OPERATIONS & DRUG INTERDICTION



OPERATIONS SECTION

The Oklahoma National Guard Counter Drug Task Force (OKNG CD) provides significant help to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). We support the DEA in many ways, through various programs. One of the most important programs we offer is the analytical support team. This team provides intelligence analysis/case support to law enforcement agencies to enhance their operations. This reinforcement directly results in eliminating drugs and drug trafficking organizations in Oklahoma. OKNG CD criminal analysts are assigned directly to the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) they support, and are used on a daily basis. This is very rewarding for the analyst, as they see the direct fruit of their labor: drugs taken off the streets and drug traffickers imprisoned. This valuable support contributes to protecting families and the future of our communities. Our analysts have expertise in criminal and information databases, specialized communications and electronics equipment, and analytical specific software used to identify, track and illustrate the many facets of drug related actions. The agencies we support rely on us to help with their workload by integrating the analyst's specialized skills with their law enforcement sensitive resources and networks.

Currently, OKNG CD criminal analysts are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration at both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Resident Offices, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, Oklahoma City, Norman and Tulsa Police Department, and the Oklahoma Fusion Center. Our criminal analyst teams are just a small part of a greater program that helps Oklahoma stay crime and drug free. With the help of the OKNG CD analysts the DEA is better able to focus on and bring down criminal organizations conducting operations in our state.

2007 Statistics

Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force Accomplishments

532 arrests
Supported more than 8 agencies
\$9,991,797 in seizures
\$4,604,556 of Marijuana
\$2,681,557 of Cocaine
\$1,515,887 of currency
\$970,336 of Methamphetamine
\$86,125 of seized vehicles
\$25,575 of Ecstasy
\$17,700 in weapons
\$10,061 of other illegal narcotics

COUNTERDRUG HELICOPTER PROVIDES AN EYE IN THE SKY

The Counterdrug Aviation Detachment is composed of four OH-58 helicopters. These aircraft support law enforcement conducting reconnaissance, security, and command and control operations.

In fiscal year 2008, we have supported more than 8 major law enforcement agencies such as the DEA office Tulsa, DEA office Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Police Department, Norman Police Department, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, McCurtain County Sheriff office and a host of others. We provide these agencies with an aerial surveillance platform that is available at a moments notice.



We have flown over 900 hours since October in support of such agencies. Thanks to our direct efforts approximately 30 outstanding drug warrants were cleared.

During the summer months we dedicate half our resources to support the Governor's Task Force for Marijuana Eradication. We are a key asset for the Governor and have been part of the Task Force since 1989. Our program continues to receive high praise from the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and the DEA.

The Counterdrug Aviation helicopter assets are *FREE TO OKLAHOMA LAW ENFORCEMENT* thanks to the Congressional war on drugs fund. We take great pride in keeping our communities safe and free of drugs.