

The Counterdrug



Observer

THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

FEBRUARY 2009

CRYSTAL METH INVADES OKLAHOMA

*** Make no mistake, Oklahoma is under attack! ***
Methamphetamine, a highly addictive and destructive drug is becoming Oklahoma's number one threat.

Oklahoma's First Lady Kim Henry and the former Oklahoma County District Attorney, Wes Lane, both Co-chair Crystal Darkness Oklahoma. This organization is responsible for a major campaign to combat the invasion of meth in our communities. On Jan. 13th they sponsored the airing of a half-hour documentary which appeared on every Oklahoma television station. Crystal Darkness Oklahoma kicked off the documentary with a community watch party. The documentary was filmed in Oklahoma and tells the story of various individuals affected by meth abuse. The Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force was also invited to take part in this historic event.



Above: Dallas Cowboy Roy Williams promotes meth awareness with Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force



Above: Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry discusses the importance of the war on Methamphetamines

Governor Brad Henry, First Lady Kim Henry, NFL star Roy Williams and approximately 500 others were in attendance. The Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force set up tables with literature and information about how to combat the meth threat. A number of Soldiers also answered phone calls at the 211 call center.

More than 750 calls were received and between 1.5 to 2 million people viewed the Crystal Darkness Oklahoma documentary. Also, the day before the watch party two other NFL Football stars, Curtis Lofton and former Sooner Adrian Peterson contributed to the fundraiser. The Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force continues to support such efforts to keep our State safe.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5: TASK FORCE DERAILS NARCO-TERRORISM CELL IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The Drug Enforcement Administration reports that terrorist cells are currently using drug trafficking organizations to fund attacks against America. Drugs are sold in the United States through international drug cells. The profits from these organizations are then sent to terrorist cells in order to fund attacks. In July, boxes containing opium gum were seized by members of the DEA and the Oklahoma Counterdrug



Task Force. The opium gum was being imported monthly by an international group located here in Oklahoma City. Upon further investigation by the DEA, FBI and CIA, it has been determined that the profits from this Oklahoma City drug ring were being funneled back to an actual terrorist cell attacking our Soldiers in Iraq.

These federal agencies praised the aviators from the Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force for assisting agents in the apprehension of this Narco-Terrorism cell.

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5: SOLDIER LENDS HEALING HAND

Hurricane Katrina did more than ravage the southern coast of the United States; it left a lasting impression on the lives of millions. This is a story about one of those families. The Smith's relocated from New Orleans to Oklahoma City. This story is about their young son, Adam.

In the days after Katrina, the Smith family witnessed a surreal scene. Louisiana did not look anything like the United States. The family described a scene where everything they had known was either twisted or gone. Helicopters circled every day and into all hours of the night. The days and nights that slowly passed had an immeasurable affect on their young son Adam.

When the family relocated to Oklahoma City, they noticed Adam had become simply terrified of helicopters. Every time a helicopter would fly over Adam would cry, "Mommy they are coming to take me away," and go jump into his mothers arms and cry. Adam's mother, counselors and teachers tried everything they could to help Adam overcome his fears. Then came Chief Warrant Officer Chase Rutledge and the Drug Demand Reduction Team (DDRT).

The DDRT from the Oklahoma Army National Guard Counter Drug Task Force conducted a special presentation at Hawthorne Elementary in Oklahoma City. As a special surprise, the Soldiers coordinated an OH-58 helicopter to land at Hawthorne Elementary. Needless to say Mrs. Andrea Shellem, Adam's Third grade teacher was very anxious about this event. Shellem talked with Rutledge and they came up with a special surprise for Adam.



The helicopter landed and Rutledge came out of the helicopter wearing his survival vest and helmet. He walked to the hundreds of students and gave Adam his helmet and vest to wear. Rutledge spoke to the students about the importance of staying in school and staying away from drugs. Rutledge then took Adam's hand and escorted him to the helicopter and put Adam in the front seat. Adam was overcome with joy and excitement. Rutledge let Adam stay with him the entire day and Adam was the only child that was allowed to wear the "pilots flight gear".

A few weeks passed and Rutledge received a letter from the teacher and Adam.

The DDRT is pleased to represent the Oklahoma National Guard. The team visits an estimated 10,000 Oklahoma students every year. The letter from Adam and Shellem is proof that our program is making a significant difference in the lives of teachers, families and the young children in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma National Guard Counter Drug Task Force is at the forefront of the effort to reduce drug use among young people.

Dear Mr. Rutledge,

We all wanted to give you our most heartfelt thank you for helping Adam overcome his fear. He has been through so much in his young life and it was wonderful of you to show him a positive experience. He is no longer afraid of helicopters and his mother couldn't be more excited! Thank you for taking the time to make a difference in one of our kids lives.

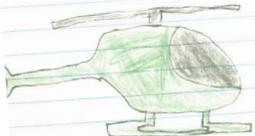
Thankfully,

Mrs. Shellem
3rd grade teacher
Hawthorne Elementary

Dear Chase,

Thank you for letting me wear your helmet and vest. And next time can I take a ride please.

your friend,
Adam



DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5: KAISER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PRAISE THE COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE



Top: A Soldier refuels a Counterdrug Task Force Helicopter during an urgent recon mission.

Bottom: Task Force Soldiers proudly hold up the thank you banner from Kaiser Elementary students.

The Oklahoma Counterdrug Task Force conducted a special presentation to the students and faculty of Kaiser Elementary in Oklahoma City. Soldiers from the task force talked and mentored the young students about staying away from drugs. The presentation ended with a helicopter landing where the students were allowed to climb in the chopper and see first hand what it is like to sit in the front seat.

The Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force uses funds from Congress to support education and special programs to keep



A few weeks later the Kaiser staff surprised the Counterdrug Task Force with a large banner thanking them. The banner was hand painted by all the students and reads: "Kaiser says: Drugs don't fly with me."

children away from drugs. These programs are available **free to Oklahoma Schools** thanks to the Congressional appropriated funds. Such funds allow our Citizen-Soldiers the ability to mentor young children and keep our communities free of drugs.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4: NORMAN POLICE PRAISE GUARD



Norman Police recently teamed up with the Counterdrug Aviation pilots to eradicate a plot of cultivated marijuana. Pilots

spotted the patch of marijuana just east of Norman. The police dispatched a ground team to work with the National Guard pilots to pull the cultivated plants. The pilots in the air were able to safely direct the policemen on the ground to the patch. The agents then pulled the plants. Once the area was secure the pilots departed.

Suddenly on the return trip the pilots spotted a bushy bright green object.....TALLY!! another large patch of marijuana less than 2 miles away. The Norman agents followed the helicopter to this new patch. While directing the agents onto the newly found patch, the pilots hit a



"gold mine". The large field contained numerous well cultivated marijuana plants.

The Norman agents were extremely grateful for the efforts in locating and assisting in the eradication of these plants.

THREAT

- Significant Meth invasion
- Drug trafficking gangs
- Negative influence on communities
- Affects Oklahoma's youth
- Drugs funding terrorist cells
- Drugs lead to violent crimes

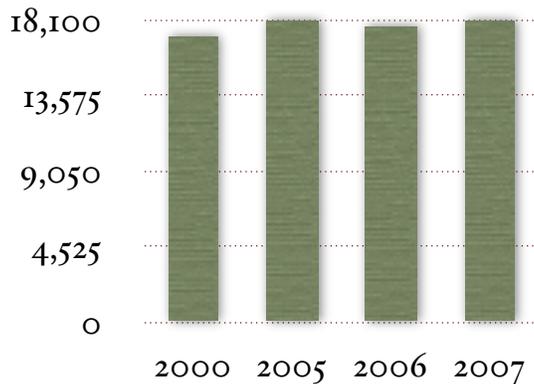
PROBLEM

- Limited task force assets
- Increased threats
- Funding shortfalls
- Presidential budget not adequate
- Waning DOD support & reliance on Congressional adds

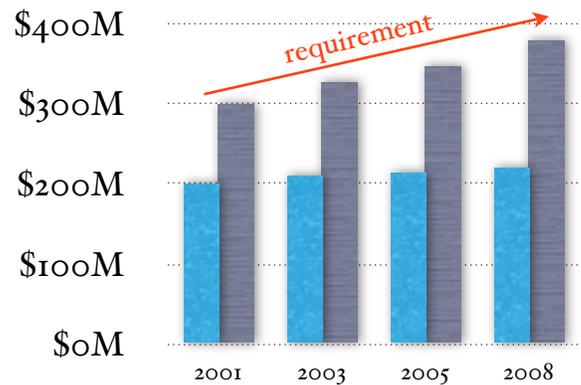
SOLUTION

- Manpower funding for 4,000 personnel Nationally
- Presidential budget set at required amount
- Increase National Guard assets
- Unique military skills used to combat the threat

■ Violent Crimes in OK



■ Congressional Funding
■ Requirement



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Every state utilizes the the National Guard in a number of different ways. During an emergency, the Governor may call upon the National Guard to assist first responders.

DID YOU KNOW that every Governor also uses the National Guard to assist communities in combating the drug threat? In Oklahoma we have a very proud counterdrug program that continues to receive accolades.

We talk with young children about the dangers of drug use. We visit middle and high school students and conduct programs that focus on the destructive lifestyle of drug abuse.

DID YOU KNOW that an Oklahoma City drug ring has direct ties to an Iraqi terrorist cell?

DID YOU KNOW that our communities are under attack from a significant meth invasion?

DID YOU KNOW that we have reached out to over 17,000 Oklahoman's in 2008?

The Oklahoma National Guard Counterdrug Task Force is making a difference. Our Drug Demand Reduction Team is proud to help community leaders and teachers reduce these threats.

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

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

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