



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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“DATE RAPE” DRUG SOLD OVER THE INTERNET

More than 80 U.S. Cities Targeted by International Operation

Attorney General John Ashcroft joined DEA Director Asa Hutchinson to unveil an unprecedented takedown of Internet-based drug-trafficking operations. Operation Webslinger, a multi-jurisdictional investigation, targeted the illegal internet trafficking of “date rape” drugs such as GHB and its derivatives, GBL and 1,4 Butanediol (1,4 BD).

The Drug Enforcement Administration, together with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs Service, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Ontario Police Department, announced the arrest of 115 individuals in 84 cities across the United States and Canada.

The Louisiana cities that were targeted for package delivery included Lafayette, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans.

GHB, GBL, and 1,4 Butanediol (1,4 BD) are abused to produce euphoria, intoxication, and hallucinogenic states, and for their alleged role as a muscle growth hormone. They are also used as “date rape” drugs, acting as central nervous system depressants. Odorless and colorless, the drugs cause drowsiness, dizziness, loss of consciousness, and loss of inhibition, as well as memory impairment—which can make the prosecution of rape cases difficult when victims are given these drugs. Higher doses of these sub-

stances will cause unconsciousness, seizures, severe respiratory depression, coma, and even death.

“This takedown is a dose of harsh reality for drug traffickers who seek to exploit the vast markets and anonymity of cyberspace,” said Attorney General Ashcroft. “Our campuses, our neighborhoods, and our communities are safer places for young women today because cyberspace just got more dangerous for drug traffickers.”

DEA Director Asa Hutchinson added, “With millions of people having quick and easy access to the internet, the buying and selling of deadly drugs and chemicals from the web should not, and will not, be as simple as point-and-click. E-traffickers can expect to face the same justice the old-fashioned drug dealers face.”

This two-year investigation began as a result of increasing seizures of GBL and 1,4 BD. It represents law enforcement’s most significant national operation targeting organizations trafficking in GHB, GBL, and 1,4 BD. Operation Webslinger is also the most significant enforcement effort targeting drug traffickers using the internet to buy and sell dangerous drugs and chemicals.

The investigations targeted individuals and organizations supplying

large quantities of GHB, GBL, and/or 1,4 BD ordered over the internet and delivered by the mail. From these four investigations, agents developed leads that led to the identification and arrest of individuals across the country involved in buying and selling these drugs. All totaled, agents conducted enforcement operations in over 80 U.S. cities with drug seizures that could have yielded more than 25 million dosage units.

FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III stated, “This investigation strikes a blow to those who deal these drugs, which pose a danger to young people across the nation. Like any illicit drug, a consequence of use is death, and we will continue to work together with our law enforcement partners to combat this problem.”

Operation Webslinger was coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Administration’s joint law enforcement program called the Special Operations Division, which is comprised of agents and analysts from the DEA, FBI, USCS, and IRS, as well as attorneys from the Department of Justice’s Criminal Division. Additionally, numerous state and local agencies across the United States provided invaluable service leading to the successful outcome of this operation.

Tech Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot, 159th Fighter Wing supports USCS in Lafayette

Guard Matters

The Counter Drug Task Force would like to welcome back Staff Sgt Walter Castillo and congratulate him on a job well done. After being activated for nearly a year he has been returned to us safe and sound. Thanks Walter and to everyone who has answered the call since 9/11.

DEA Probe Links Illegal Drug Profits to Terrorists Federal authorities have amassed evidence for the first time that an illegal drug operation in the U.S. was funneling proceeds to Middle East terrorist groups like Hezbollah. Evidence gathered by the DEA since a series of raids in January indicates that a methamphetamine drug operation in the Midwest involving men of Middle Eastern descent has been shipping money back to terrorist groups. The men, most of whom were indicted on drug charges were smuggling large quantities of the chemical pseudoephedrine from Canada into the Midwest and reselling it to Mexican-based drug operations in the Western United States that used it to produce methamphetamine.

Exercise your writes

Send stories and information to Tech Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot for publication in the Louisiana Drug Guard

Task force busts drug ring

Agents say 4 New Orleans men, Californian arrested

They made it their business to supply eastern New Orleans and the Gulf Coast with ecstasy, crack and powdered cocaine, according to a federally financed drug task force.

For the past year, the Greater New Orleans Organized Crime Task Force gathered evidence as five leaders of what authorities say is a drug ring allegedly transported large quantities of drugs among Santa Ana, Calif.; Houston; New Orleans; and the Mississippi and Florida gulf coasts.

The investigation yielded four federal warrants, one state warrant and three search warrants. Federal search warrants also netted a car, one semi-automatic weapon, and an undisclosed amount of cash, ec-

stasy and crack cocaine, authorities said.

Citing an ongoing investigation, authorities declined to disclose how they discovered the organization and how much money the men were making from allegedly trafficking and dealing drugs in the New Orleans area.

The task force that gathered evidence against the alleged drug-trafficking organization includes members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, the New Orleans Police Department and Louisiana State Police. The task force is part of an initiative by the FBI to work in tandem with local law enforcement organizations to conduct investigations of organized crime involving drugs.

Judge sentences 2 for drug convictions

AMITE - Two Hammond men have been sentenced to serve time in the Department of Corrections for dealing drugs within 1,000 feet of a school, according to 21st Judicial District Court officials. One was ordered to serve 30 years for distributing a controlled dangerous substance. He was arrested on May 2 and charged with 10 counts of distributing a controlled dangerous sub-

stance within 1,000 feet of a school, according to a news release from the office of District Attorney . Another man was sentenced to 15 years for distributing a controlled dangerous substance within 1,000 feet of a school. Two other men were sentenced for distributing drugs. *Staff Sgt Ron Mays, 236th Combat Communications Squadron supports Hammond PD*

"The war on drugs. It is perhaps not as intriguing as the war on terrorism—but as we know—drug trafficking and terrorism are two evils that exist in the same jungle. They make a deadly combination like wind and fire that threatens our societies. For that reason, we cannot abandon nor weaken our resolve in this ongoing struggle."

-Asa Hutchinson Director Drug Enforcement Administration