

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING
AREA

SOUTH TEXAS
HIDTA
2006
ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared By:
SWB STX HIDTA
Intelligence Support Center

Vernon P. Parker, Director ♦ Gilbert Navarro, Chairman ♦ Jerry Robinette, Vice Chairman

SOUTHWEST BORDER SOUTH TEXAS HIDTA 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. The Southwest Border South Texas HIDTA (SWB STX HIDTA) may be described as a fast growing, lightly populated, highly agricultural area with developing medical research and treatment centers intermingled with growing technological and manufacturing businesses. It may also be described as a region with a strong tourism focus. However, regional newspaper headlines decry these publicly voiced comments. Samplings of major headlines in the region reflect the sordid story of drug related violence and seizures within the region. Drug cartels and their associated security organizations, are extremely active on each side of the international border between Texas and Mexico.

McAllen, Texas - City police seized 695 pounds of cocaine from a McAllen residence Wednesday, the largest amount ever for the department. Police charged two people in connection with the drugs, which they said could fetch \$10 million on the street. (*McAllen Monitor Staff Writer 09/22/2006*)

Webb County, Texas - Sheriff's officials said the man arrested for possessing about \$250,000 in unclaimed cash Wednesday afternoon was a Mexican federal highway policeman in 1998 who was fired from the force and fighting to get his job back. The circumstances surrounding his termination are unknown. (*Laredo Morning Times 09/08/2006*)

Valley Woman Busted With Meth - A 21-year-old Alamo woman was arrested after inspectors discovered 32 pounds of methamphetamine in the fender area of the vehicle she was driving, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said Friday. (*Alamo 08/11/2006*)

Donna, Texas - Hidalgo County Sheriff's deputies seized more than 3,000 pounds of marijuana and arrested one man Monday night after they scared away home invaders at a stash house. (*McAllen Monitor Staff Writer 08/11/2006*)

Del Rio, Texas – Border Patrol agents of U. S. Customs and Border Protection's Del Rio Sector and a Texas National Guardsman assigned to Operation Jump Start operating a remote video surveillance system worked together to seize more than 287 pounds of cocaine valued at \$9.2 million. (*CBP News Release 08/22/2006*)

Nuevo Laredo, Mexico - State police found two bodies and two injured men in a house on the city's west side early Tuesday during a sweep of the neighborhood as a result of a failed ambush on federal police two hours earlier. The injured men were taken to Hospital General at about 4:30 a.m., and less than 30 minutes later, an armed group of men charged into the emergency room and demanded to know where the wounded men were. (*Laredo Morning News 06/14/2006*)

These headlines strongly state the region's day-to-day environment, to which South Texas Law Enforcement Officers are subjected. Historically, the region accounts for roughly 30 to 55 percent of the illegal drugs seized in the SWB¹. Of growing concern is the amount of chemicals and the number of laboratories seized, which are associated with illicit methamphetamine smuggling. Methamphetamine production, sale, use, transportation, and distribution continue to impact the SWB STX HIDTA and destination cities.

The SWB STX HIDTA also acknowledges the financial and economic environment associated with illicit smuggling activity. The region connects with major highways from the interior of Mexico to the gateway cities of Texas and the United States. With the advent of the North American Free Trade agreement, NAFTA, the region is virtually flooded with an economy supporting the increased trade between Mexico, the United States of America, and Canada. Though the region has exponentially grown in financial resources associated with the trade, the region continues to maintain its status as having some of the poorest counties within the United States. Starr County continues to be ranked in the top ten with more than 50 percent of the population in poverty.

B. The SWB STX HIDTA covers a pivotal area responsible for a significant amount of the illicit drugs destined for illegal markets across the United States. There are only 627 Federal, State, and Local law enforcement and support personnel working on the SWB STX HIDTA task forces. The SWB STX HIDTA and counter drug task forces face a truly formidable task policing the roughly 700 miles of border.

C. The 43 Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) participating in the STX HIDTA, give a tremendous return on investment for the monies provided by Congress to the National HIDTA Program, and subsequently the SWB STX HIDTA. The participating LEA within the region are extremely appreciative of the funds provided. As the majority of the counties within the SWB STX HIDTA are rural in nature with little or no major industrial business located in the region, there are few tax dollars to address the soaring drug problems. International, regional, and or local Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) capitalize on the poverty in the region as they recruit 'coyotes' or 'smugglers' to accomplish their illicit business activities.

- Illicit drug proceeds provide a large capital return for DTO smuggling operations. This money is smuggled via bulk cash, licensed currency exchangers along the Texas-Mexico border, and correspondent bank accounts. Removing those profits hits home where it counts. During CY 2006, more than \$321 million dollars in illicit drug profits and assets were permanently eliminated from the balance sheets of international, regional, and local DTO. This is a serious financial blow to even the largest legitimate corporation. Its impact on an illegal DTO is greater, and represents a sizeable reduction in illicit drug availability across the nation.
- Though the SWB STX HIDTA consists of large but mainly rural and unpopulated areas, the costs of the counterdrug efforts return high success rates for a nominal amount of money. The task forces of the SWB STX HIDTA provide the ability for local law enforcement officers and associated agencies to have the needed resources, cooperation and multi-agency support afforded by the National HIDTA Program. Without the program, local LEA could not achieve the counterdrug successes they achieve.

¹ SWB STX 2005, *ibid.*

- Disrupting and/or dismantling DTOs is the reason HIDTAs exist. During CY 2006, the STX HIDTA identified 158 and disrupted or dismantled 30 DTOs operating within the region.
- Arrests reported for CY 2006 was 2,446. These arrests resulted from the concerted efforts of the SWB STX HIDTA multi-agency, collocated and commingled LEA officers working together on their common targets.
- Striving to achieve international results, the SWB STX HIDTA provided assistance in the investigative and intelligence support of more than 2,738 designated cases.
- Training LEA officers and support personnel in safety and successful operations, the SWB STX HIDTA provided education opportunities for more than 581 Federal, State, and local personnel in CY 2006.
- Coordinating between multiple LEA, the SWB STX HIDTA plays a leading role giving an ‘umbrella’ of support to participating LEA as well as reaching out to non-participating agencies. The non-participating agencies receive intelligence, investigative, and associated support to reach their counterdrug and criminal achievements.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. The SWB STX HIDTA is pleased to present this Annual Report documenting its activities during the 2006 calendar year. To fully appreciate the SWB STX HIDTA achievements, it is important to understand how each HIDTA is structured, and why it exists. The Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), designates regions with critical drug trafficking problems adversely impacting the United States as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) and by design; HIDTA is located in these areas. Thus, the National HIDTA Program spreads its ‘web’ throughout the nation and is uniquely situated to counteract area specific counterdrug efforts. HIDTA plays a significant role in addressing real world drug and drug-related problems while offering real world solutions. The SWB STX HIDTA is no exception. The SWB STX HIDTA fosters cooperation and efficient working relationships with over 43 Federal, State and Local agencies in its quest to disrupt and or dismantle DTOs. These relationships embody the SWB STX HIDTA cooperative efforts within its initiatives. A detailed description of each initiative can be found in the *SWB STX HIDTA 2008 Threat Assessment and Strategy*, which is available from the SWB STX HIDTA office.

B. SWB STX HIDTA law enforcement task forces and initiatives established priorities focusing on disrupting and or dismantling DTOs in the region. Those DTOs impacting areas across the nation receive major attention of the SWB STX HIDTA. Home invasions, violent drug-related gang crimes, and international violent crimes associated with the border increased dramatically. Criminal activities in certain regions along the Texas/Mexico border prevent residents from continuing and or maintaining acceptable quality of life levels. The volatile nature of the Texas/Mexico border prevents numerous local agricultural related activities from continuing. Many landowners moved their families to cities away from the border to prevent possible bodily harm to family members. Coupled with continuing illegal alien smuggling, and possible terrorist related activities, the overall quality of life in the

region is decreasing rapidly. Supporting prosecutors in the region continue to aide in efforts to improve regional quality of life for all residents.

C. Each HIDTA receives clear goals from the National HIDTA Program. To achieve these goals, clear Threat Assessment identifying problems faced, a Strategy clearly delineating a plan to address the Threat, and an Annual Report documenting how the Strategy achieved success identified in the Threat Assessment are provided by each HIDTA. The National Program Mission Statement embodies the overall HIDTA mission:

**National HIDTA
Program Mission Statement**

The mission of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in the United States by assisting federal, state, and local law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA program to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations, with particular emphasis on drug trafficking regions that have harmful effects on other parts of the United States.

D. The SWB STX HIDTA Executive Committee developed, in concert with HIDTA staff and through coordination with Federal, State, and Local LEA, a 3-5 year vision for the SWB STX HIDTA. This vision, which receives review and updating as necessary, reflects a HIDTA outcome, which task forces and initiatives in the area may look to as a 'light at the end of the tunnel.' Task Force commanders continue to reach out to local and state LEA to increase the effectiveness and information gathering and exchange ability within the region. Reviews of methods the SWB STX HIDTA can measure success continue to be an evolving process. Efficiency, effectiveness, and associated cooperation between and among participating and external LEA is a major facet of the vision, which will receive much focus over the coming years. The growth of the SWB STX HIDTA does not receive additional funds or higher budget resources. As a result, smarter distribution of limited resources while gaining participation from LEA within the SWB STX HIDTA is needed. Increased participation can benefit participants through decreased crime rates, higher quality of life for citizens, and more cooperation. Information sharing between all LEA within the region allows for more informed operations and successes in the illicit drug trafficking in the area. Overall, the goal the SWB STX HIDTA wants to *achieve is the complete and comprehensive information exchange and cooperation between LEA and citizens to counter the illegal drug threat* and associated crime.

**SWB STX HIDTA
Vision Statement**

Maintain effective counterdrug task forces, which successfully coordinate and establish working relationships and liaisons with all Law Enforcement Agencies within the region through the exchange of intelligence to support the reduction and elimination of illicit counterdrug operations and related criminal activities.

E. The SWB STX HIDTA recognizes a clear mission is needed for a successful battle against the illicit drug trafficking in the region. The law enforcement, intelligence and prosecution communities cannot work in concert toward any mutual objectives and success without quantified or measured outputs. The SWB STX HIDTA fully embraces the following mission in conjunction with the national program objectives.

**SWB STX HIDTA
Mission Statement**

Reduce drug availability by creating intelligence-driven drug task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences through enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking control efforts among Federal, State and local Law Enforcement Agencies.

F. Reporting Period: This Annual Report covers the reporting period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

G. Budget Allocation: During this reporting period, ONDCP allocated an \$8,770,865 budget for SWB STX HIDTA operations. SWB STX HIDTA strives to minimize any expenditure not directly addressing the achievement of their primary objectives. Accordingly, the SWB STX HIDTA allocates 91.9 percent of its allocation directly to task forces, initiatives and their operational support costs. Throughout this Annual Report, the SWB STX HIDTA is pleased to report significant success in achieving its mission, and its performance is trending positive for the future. HIDTA dollars are well spent inasmuch as they are yielding precisely the desired effects.

H. Geographic Area of Responsibility:

1) Texas- Bexar County, Cameron County, Dimmit County, Hidalgo County, Jim Hogg County, Kinney County, La Salle County, Maverick County, Starr County, Val Verde County, Webb County, Willacy County, Zapata County, and Zavala County.

2) The SWB STX HIDTA region covers two distinct population regions, the County of Bexar, which contains approximately 60 percent of the population within the region, and the rest of the region. The 'rest of the region' is generally remote, rural country with terrain varying from lush, vegetated farmlands to dry, desert like country. There are five major cities, Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, Eagle Pass, and Del Rio, within the region. These cities provide border residents availability to major transportation routes to the interior of the United States. Some of the border counties, specifically Hidalgo, Starr,

Zapata, and Zavala, are four of the fifty counties in the United States with the highest poverty rates. Though the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) generates a significant amount of earning potential across the counties included, the SWB STX HIDTA continues to be among the poorest on the nation. Therefore, the opportunities to earn money and generate income in the area continue to make illicit drug trafficking a major problem. The poverty rate, coupled with a historical smuggling history in the region, makes the task of the SWB STX HIDTA task forces mission difficult

III. HIDTA Goals

A. The National HIDTA Program developed two specific goals to focus on to meet the continuing drug challenge. These two national goals guide all HIDTA initiatives in the United States. The SWB STX HIDTA proudly adheres to these national goals. An annual Threat Assessment Summary for fiscal year 2006 and an associated Strategy, developed to address the Threat while following the goals, are included in this section. The SWB STX HIDTA developed a strategy addressing local and regional needs while addressing the national objectives covered by the National HIDTA Goals.

NATIONAL HIDTA GOALS

Goal 1: Disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations; and

Goal 2: Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives.

B. All the SWB STX HIDTA initiatives and task forces address the National HIDTA Goals. Through planning methods to specifically close various DTOs active within the region, task forces improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their operation and those of participating Federal, State, and Local LEA. Based on their planning efforts, the task forces are able to measure, through realistic outcome measures, their successes in the counterdrug arena. Budgets for task forces, as evaluated by management within the task forces and at the Executive Committee level within the SWB STX HIDTA, are equitably distributed based on needs and demonstrated results. The SWB STX HIDTA initiatives are developed within clear national guidelines governing all HIDTA activities and expenditures.

C. The SWB STX HIDTA Executive Committee involves itself in all aspects of the SWB STX HIDTA pillars of operation, i.e., Intelligence, Investigation, Interdiction, and Prosecution activities. The Executive Committee exchanges valuable information between participating agencies to better succeed in the counterdrug operations in the region. Evaluation of each task force and initiative give task force commanders direct feedback. Sub-committees developed by the Executive Committee assist in providing important insight to the performance and planning of the task forces, as they follow the Strategy to impact on the National HIDTA goals. Subcommittees created include Operational, Fiscal, and Intelligence.

IV. Summary of Threat Assessment for Budget Year 2006

The Southwest Border, South Texas HIDTA Threat Assessment is a comprehensive overview of the drug threat posed to the fourteen counties in the SWB STX HIDTA. The SWB STX HIDTA is a high transit area for illicit drugs and illegal aliens coming from Mexico and other countries. The region consists of fourteen counties; thirteen are along the United States/Mexico border. These counties represent 50 percent of the Texas/Mexico border and 31 percent of the shared United States/Mexico border.

The SWB STX HIDTA is one of the primary smuggling corridors for illicit drugs destined for cities and towns throughout the United States. Smuggling networks operating in South Texas consists of both Mexican and Texas based Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and cells. Drug smuggling activities include border crossings, temporary storage, brokering and staging operations for transportation and transshipment of illicit drugs, and an assortment of diverted pharmaceuticals.

The Threats

Mexican-produced methamphetamine is the most significant threat to the STR and is increasingly available in the metropolitan and rural areas of South Texas. Mexican DTOs produce large scale methamphetamine in Super Labs located in Mexico. Mexican methamphetamine is saturating the streets of South Texas and the nation. Street-level gangs and independents are typically the primary distributors involved in street-level distribution and sales. Mexican methamphetamine continues to replace domestic manufactured methamphetamine sold on the streets.

Law enforcement agencies throughout South Texas reported record increases in the number of methamphetamine seizures and a decrease in laboratories and/or precursors seized during 2006.

Mexican drug traffickers are typically commissioned to smuggle Colombian cocaine into South Texas, while local U.S. cell organizations control storage and transportation on the Texas side of the border. Cocaine is readily available for consumption in this region and seizures continue to rise.

Marijuana remains the most available illicit drug in the area and seizures continue to rise. The close proximity to the border makes Mexican marijuana readily available and inexpensive. Mexican DTOs control smuggling and wholesale distribution in and through South Texas for distribution across the nation.

Mexican black tar and brown powdered heroin are the most common type of heroin encountered in South Texas. However, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officials indicate a large percentage of Colombian heroin smuggled into the United States enters along the Southwest borders.

DEA Stride lab reports outline the purity levels in the drugs seized. Other drugs such as MDMA, better known as Ecstasy or XTC 3-4; LSD, GHB, GHB analogs and PCP are increasingly attractive to adults and young users in South Texas. Many of these drugs are associated with young party groups and rave crowds.

With the influx of international trade, commerce and transportation activities along the border and the drug threat is increased. Money is the common denominator for narcotic traffickers and international traders. The surge in international trade and transportation allows drug traffickers to effectively commingle illegal drugs with legitimate shipments coming north. The recovery of the funds going south makes the drug and financial trails difficult to uncover. To combat this threat, the SWB STX HIDTA continues to focus on money related investigations which necessitate both financial recovery and drug investigations. Statutory criminal and civil asset forfeiture laws provide opportunities for the seizure of the trafficker's assets acquired from illegal drug activities.

Alien smuggling is an equally serious threat to the region, especially the imminent threat of terrorists using Mexican alien smuggling groups to enter the country. Intelligence reports indicate Middle Eastern terrorist factions have negotiated deals with smuggling organizations to assist in their illegal entry across our borders and have also used illegal aliens to cross their contraband.

V. HIDTA Strategy Summary

The SWB STX HIDTA consists of ten enforcement initiatives with 15 task forces and a investigative support center with five intelligence support centers targeting DTOs. These initiatives are formed to seize the drugs and assets the DTOs traffic. The efforts of these initiatives are supported by the HIDTA training and administrative support initiatives. These support initiatives provide training and other services such as strategic planning and performance management, financial guidance, information technology, logistical support, and administrative oversight. To ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of these efforts, SWB STX HIDTA administrators and staff stress a comprehensive approach involving equal partnerships among law enforcement agencies. This is accomplished through collocation of staff and the consolidation of strategic, operational and tactical information through participation in the Performance Management Process (PMP), deconfliction services, and case management programs.

The strategy operationalizes the data developed during the strategic planning process, and as presented in the HIDTA Matrix and Threat Assessment, by setting targets in concert with the SWB STX HIDTA initiatives. These targets encompass the production, distribution, and interdiction of drugs directly connected to the two HIDTA Program goals. It is the SWB STX HIDTA Executive Committee's plan for reducing identified drug threats in the SWB STX HIDTA region.

The strategy section of this report lists each initiative in the SWB STX HIDTA and how they support the Program goals as well as methods in achieving them. Law enforcement performance targets for Goal 1 include the number of DTOs and Money Laundering Organizations (MLOs) targeted, return on investment targets for drug and drug asset seizures, prosecutorial performance, and clandestine lab and lab activities targeted.

The performance targets for Goal 2 assess the SWB STX HIDTA's effectiveness and efficiency in providing access to advanced technology and training opportunities, establishing a system for the exchange of information and coordination of law enforcement efforts. This involves monitoring the HIDTA's ability to provide analytical support for initiative cases; training for law

enforcement officers; deconfliction services for cases, events, and subjects; and referring cases to other HIDTAs and other agencies.

VI. HIDTA Performance Measures

As mentioned earlier in this report, HIDTAs across the country have instituted new procedures aimed at ensuring HIDTA sponsored initiatives work both hard and smart. HIDTA developed performance measures (PMP) which introduced a new perspective to quantify and track HIDTA targets and monitor results. With the application of the new PMP, the SWB STX HIDTA Annual Report functions as a report card, a barometer of HIDTA efficiency and effectiveness, a source for comparison with previous year efforts, and most importantly, a beacon for future action. The following series of tables and charts present specific outputs and efficiency measures organized in SWB STX HIDTA Goal order. These measurable results reflect a continuing increase in efficiency and effectiveness at lower programmatic costs.

A. Performance Measures for Goal 1

As identified in Charts 1 – 4, the SWB STX HIDTA is inundated with drug smuggling activity. Through a comprehensive and united effort, the task forces identified 158 DTOs and disrupted and/or dismantled 30 operating in and/or through the Region, one of which was a money-laundering DTO. The impact of the money-laundering capabilities, coupled with the loss of illegal drugs removed from the market by the task forces, had more than a \$321 million dollar impact compared to \$282 million dollar in calendar year 2005 on the DTO through the combined loss of drug proceeds and assets.

Table 1 – Percentage of Expected DTOs and MLOs Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006

| Table 1: Percentage of Expected DTOs and MLOs Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006, at SWB - South Texas [ALL DTOs; MLOs included] | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Scope | #DTOs & MLOs Identified | # DTOs & MLOs to be Disrupted or Dismantled | # DTOs & MLOs Disrupted | % Disrupted | # DTOs & MLOs Dismantled | % Dismantled | Total Disrupted or Dismantled | Total % Disrupted or Dismantled |
| International | 136 | 52 | 18 | 35% | 6 | 12% | 24 | 46% |
| Multi-state | 8 | 13 | 3 | 23% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 23% |
| Local | 14 | 11 | 1 | 9% | 2 | 18% | 3 | 27% |
| Total | 158 | 76 | 22 | 29% | 8 | 11% | 30 | 39% |

Table 2 - Percentage of Under Investigation DTOs and MLOs Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006

| Table 2: Percentage of Under Investigation DTOs and MLOs Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006, at SWB - South Texas [ALL DTOs; MLOs included] | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Scope | #DTOs & MLOs Identified | # DTOs & MLOs Under Investigation | # DTOs & MLOs Disrupted | % Disrupted | # DTOs & MLOs Dismantled | % Dismantled | Total Disrupted or Dismantled | Total % Disrupted or Dismantled |
| International | 136 | 127 | 18 | 14% | 6 | 5% | 24 | 19% |
| Multi-state | 8 | 7 | 3 | 43% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 43% |
| Local | 14 | 10 | 1 | 10% | 2 | 20% | 3 | 30% |
| Total | 158 | 144 | 22 | 15% | 8 | 6% | 30 | 21% |

Table 3 - Percentage of Expected Money Laundering Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006

| Table 3: Percentage of Expected Money Laundering Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006, at SWB - South Texas | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Scope | # MLOs Identified | # MLOs to be Disrupted or Dismantled | # MLOs Disrupted | % Disrupted | # MLOs Dismantled | % Dismantled | Total Disrupted or Dismantled | Total % Disrupted or Dismantled |
| International | 7 | 12 | 1 | 8% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 8% |
| Multi-state | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 7 | 12 | 1 | 8% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 8% |

Table 3a – Percentage of Under Investigation Money Laundering Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006

| Table 3a: Percentage of Under Investigation Money Laundering Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope for Year 2006, at SWB - South Texas | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Scope | # MLOs Identified | # MLOs Under Investigation | # MLOs Disrupted | % Disrupted | # MLOs Dismantled | % Dismantled | Total Disrupted or Dismantled | Total % Disrupted or Dismantled |
| International | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 17% |
| Multi-state | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 17% |

Table 4 – CPOT, RPOT, and OCDEF Cases (by Operational Scope)

Initiated in 2006

| Table 4: CPOT, RPOT, and OCDETF Cases (by Operational Scope) Initiated in 2006, at SWB - South Texas | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Scope | # CPOT Cases | # RPOT Cases | # OCDETF Cases |
| International | 10 | 2 | 10 |
| Multi-state | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Local | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 11 | 3 | 10 |

Table 4a – All Active CPOT, RPOT, and OCDETF Cases (by Operational Scope) in 2006

| Table 4a: All Active CPOT, RPOT, and OCDETF Cases (by Operational Scope) in 2006, at SWB - South Texas | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Scope | # CPOT Cases | # RPOT Cases | # OCDETF Cases |
| International | 41 | 11 | 48 |
| Multi-state | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Local | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 46 | 12 | 49 |

Table 5 – Drugs removed from the Market Place for Year 2006

| Table 5: Drugs Removed from the Marketplace for Year 2006, at SWB - South Texas | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Drugs Seized (kg or D.U.) | Amount Seized (kg or D.U.) | Wholesale Value |
| Heroin kg | 68.893 | \$1,515,646 |
| Cocaine HCL kg | 7,223.456 | \$101,128,384 |
| Crack cocaine kg | 0.906 | \$22,650 |
| Marijuana kg | 215,448.773 | \$183,131,457 |
| Marijuana plants and grows | 0 | \$0 |
| Methamphetamine kg | 293.175 | \$2,052,225 |
| Methamphetamine ice kg | 15.968 | \$351,296 |
| Ecstasy(MDMA)(D.U.s) | 406.000 | \$4,585 |
| Anabolic steroids | 993.000 | \$9,930 |
| Heroin, Mexican Black Tar | 0.006 | \$336 |
| Prescription Drugs | 38,566.002 | \$192,830 |
| Rohypnol | 529.000 | \$2,645 |
| Other | 0 | \$0 |
| Total Wholesale Value | | \$288,411,984 |

The success of the task forces may be measured in a Return On Investment (ROI). This ROI is based on funds received through the National HIDTA Program and how much is returned, in terms of illicit drug proceeds, assets, and wholesale values of the drug seized, for each dollar received in the SWB STX HIDTA. As Tables 6 – 8 reflect, a total return of \$41 is removed from the illegal DTO operating in the region for each HIDTA dollar received. If compared to a national business, the impact is phenomenal if the return is viewed as the removal of assets from a business warehouse and also from the bank accounts of the business. No business can continue to operate on losses that high. Note, the value of the drugs reflect regional prices and do not reflect the value of the drugs if purchased in major metropolitan areas of the United States.

Table 6 - Return on Investment (ROI) for Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives By Year

| SWB - South Texas Table 6: Return on Investment (ROI) for Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives by Year | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| Year | Budget | Baseline Drug Wholesale Value | Expected Drug ROI | Drug Wholesale Value Removed From Market | Actual Drug ROI |
| 2004 | \$7,598,887 | \$242,209,107 | \$32.00 | \$242,209,107 | \$31.87 |
| 2005 | \$8,328,905 | \$242,209,107 | \$35.00 | \$281,645,746 | \$33.81 |
| 2006 | \$7,810,315 | \$242,209,107 | \$35.00 | \$288,411,984 | \$36.92 |

Table 7 – Return on Investment (ROI) for Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives by Year

| SWB - South Texas Table 7: Return on Investment (ROI) for Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives by Year | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Year | Budget | Baseline Value of Drug Assets | Expected Asset ROI | Value of Drug Assets Removed from Market | | | Actual Asset ROI |
| | | | | Cash | Other Assets | Total | |
| 2004 | \$7,598,887 | \$22,194,584 | \$3.00 | \$0 | \$22,194,584 | \$22,194,584 | \$2.92 |
| 2005 | \$8,328,905 | \$22,194,584 | \$5.00 | \$24,450,329 | \$19,623,952 | \$44,074,282 | \$5.29 |
| 2006 | \$7,810,315 | \$22,194,584 | \$5.00 | \$20,114,094 | \$13,433,492 | \$33,547,587 | \$4.29 |

Table 8 - Total Return on Investment (ROI) for Drugs and Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives by Year

| SWB - South Texas Table 8: Total Return on Investment (ROI) for Drugs and Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives by Year | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Year | Budget | Drugs and Assets Baseline | Expected Total ROI | Drugs and Assets Removed from Market | Actual Total ROI |
| 2004 | \$7,598,887 | \$264,403,691 | \$35.00 | \$264,403,691 | \$34.79 |
| 2005 | \$8,328,905 | \$264,403,691 | \$40.00 | \$325,720,029 | \$39.10 |
| 2006 | \$7,810,315 | \$264,403,691 | \$40.00 | \$321,959,571 | \$41.22 |

Methamphetamine, a growing problem across the nation as well as the SWB STX HIDTA, receives a special focus by the task forces. Though not historically a major problem, the region is becoming infected with illegal laboratories and an increase in smuggling efforts. The laboratories found and dismantled were in the highly populated Bexar County region.

Table 9 - Value of Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories Dismantled by Size for Year 2006

| Table 9: Value of Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories Dismantled by Size for Year 2006, at SWB - South Texas | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Meth Cost Per Ounce | | \$1,000.00 | |
| Lab Size | ID/Targeted | Dismantled | Value of Labs Dismantled |
| A. Less than 2 Oz | 9 | 10 | \$20,000.00 |
| B. 2 - 8 Oz | 0 | 5 | \$25,000.00 |
| C. 9 - 31 Oz | 0 | 1 | \$20,000.00 |
| D. 32 - 159 Oz | 0 | 0 | \$0.00 |
| E. 10 - 20 Lbs | 0 | 0 | \$0.00 |
| F. Over 20 Lbs | 0 | 0 | \$0.00 |
| Total | 9 | 16 | \$65,000.00 |

Table 10 – HIDTA Clandestine Laboratory Activities for Year 2006

| Table 10: HIDTA Clandestine Laboratory Activities for Year SWB - South Texas, in 2006 | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Baseline | # Projected | # Identified | % Identified |
| Laboratory Dump Sites Seized | 4 | 9 | 16 | 177% |
| Chemical/Glassware Equipment Seizures | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0% |
| Children Affected | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0% |

B. Performance Measures for Goal 2

Federal, State, and local LEA officers and support personnel could not achieve the level or participation as in previous years due to budget cuts in certain schools. However, the cost per hour continues to be low given the quality of training received. Focus continues to be on intelligence services where training lets investigators save time and energy with well-trained analysts with appropriate computer and automation support.

Table 11 –HIDTA Training Efficiency by Type of Training for Year 2006

| Table 11: HIDTA Training Efficiency by Type of Training for Year 2006, at SWB - South Texas | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------|------------------------------------|------------|---|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Type of Training | # Students Expected for Training | | # Students Actually Trained | | # Training Hours Actually Provided | | Total Training Cost | | Training Cost Per Hour | | |
| | 2004 | 2006 | 2004 | 2006 | 2004 | 2006 | 2004 | 2006 | 2004 | 2006 | % Change 2004-2006 |
| Analytical/Computer | 117 | 100 | 117 | 70 | 10,120 | 1,713 | \$94,775 | \$14,495 | \$9.37 | \$8.46 | -10% |
| Investigative/Interdiction | 67 | 72 | 67 | 226 | 2,682 | 5,064 | \$49,868 | \$26,743 | \$18.59 | \$5.28 | -72% |
| Managment/Administrative | 2 | 30 | 2 | 71 | 220 | 337 | \$4,961 | \$5,798 | \$22.55 | \$17.21 | -24% |
| Meeting / Conference | 0 | 200 | 0 | 214 | 0 | 1,868 | \$0 | \$21,494 | \$0.00 | \$11.51 | 0% |
| Total | 186 | 402 | 186 | 581 | 13,022 | 8,982 | \$149,604 | \$68,530 | \$11.48 | \$7.62 | -34% |

Officer safety can't be highlighted enough. Through the SWB STX HIDTA Deconfliction system, all LEA within the region receive, at no cost to their agencies, timely and accurate deconfliction services for all their operations. Further, through case and subject deconfliction, duplication of effort is reduced and the results are returned in increased cooperation and unity of effort.

Table 12 - Percentage of Event and Case Deconflictions Submitted by Year

| Table 12: Percentage of Event and Case Deconflictions Submitted for Year at SWB - South Texas | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Year | Baseline # Deconflictions Submitted | # Deconfliction Submissions Expected | # Event Deconflictions Submitted | # Case/Subject Deconflictions Submitted | Total Deconflictions Submitted | % Deconflictions Submitted |
| 2004 | 5000 | 9,675 | 5,361 | 4,357 | 9,718 | 100% |
| 2005 | 5000 | 10,688 | 5,705 | 5,920 | 11,625 | 109% |
| 2006 | 5000 | 24,650 | 5,600 | 10,475 | 16,075 | 65% |
| 2007 | 5000 | 22,114 | 1,499 | 3,369 | 4,868 | 22% |
| 2008 | 5000 | 16,425 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |

Good analytical support cannot be left out. An investigation, with good analysts, is an exercise in time conservation. Investigations with properly trained analyst results in a shorter-term investigation. A major percentage of the investigations opened in CY 2006 had analyst assigned.

Table 13 – Percentage of Cases Provided Analytical Support for Year

| Table 13: Percentage of Cases Provided Analytical Support for Year at SWB - South Texas | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Year | Baseline # Cases Receiving Analytical Support | # Cases Expected for Analytical Support | # Cases Provided Analytical Support | % Expected Cases Supported |
| 2004 | 1378 | 676 | 1378 | 203% |
| 2005 | 1378 | 892 | 1322 | 148% |
| 2006 | 1378 | 2263 | 2534 | 111% |
| 2007 | 1378 | 2300 | 1071 | 46% |
| 2008 | 1378 | 2829 | 0 | 0% |

Table 14- Percentage of HIDTA Initiative Cases Referred to Other HIDTAs and Other Agencies for Year

| Table 14: Percentage of HIDTA Initiative Cases Referred to Other HIDTAs and Other Agencies for Year at SWB - South Texas | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Year | Total HIDTA Initiative Cases | # Initiative Cases Expected for Referral | # HIDTA Initiative Cases Referred to Other HIDTAs | # HIDTA Initiative Cases Referred to Other Agencies | Total Initiative Cases Referred | % Expected Initiative Cases Referred |
| 2004 | 1156 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 27 | 0% |
| 2005 | 1397 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 14% |
| 2006 | 2059 | 35 | 58 | 36 | 94 | 268% |
| 2007 | 396 | 47 | 79 | 7 | 86 | 182% |
| 2008 | 0 | 61 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |

VII. Conclusions

The SWB STX HIDTA and its initiatives/task forces are pleased to announce it adheres to the National HIDTA Goals. It is making dramatic strides in removing illicit drugs from the market place. The SWB STX HIDTA is continuing to identify, targets, and remove illegal drugs and associated DTOs from the region. This activity facilitates the disruption and/or dismantlement of DTOs and/or money-laundering organizations from the area. Through careful budgeting and continued evaluation of costs involved with the DTO investigations, analysts, trainers, and managers can make their LEA more efficient and effective.

As the SWB STX HIDTA continues its semi-annual Threat Assessment, coupled with the results of the Annual Report and associated tables and Matrix, the Executive Committee, and the leadership of the SWB STX HIDTA provides a streamlined and effective organization continuing to improve on its successes and plan for a better tomorrow for its regional citizens.

Targeting data, coupled with the results displayed in disrupted and or dismantled information, will give analysts a more informed scope of the illegal drug trade in the region. Delineating the difference between drug trafficking DTOs and money laundering DTOs will allow better results on the impact of the HIDTA Program against international, multi-state, and local DTO operations.

Evaluating the ROI for drugs seized as well as assets and proceeds associated with DTOs, allows the HIDTA to better evaluate the impact on the DTOs in the region. Keeping the cost down for local populations aids in preventing a national problem from being an ‘albatross’ around the necks of local prosecuting attorneys.

In short, this evaluation method, when coupled with the Matrix for each HIDTA, performance may be measured in a timely manner. The HIDTA Executive Committee, in concert with the Management and Coordination element, may use the performance charts to determine performing task forces or to refocus a region’s direction based on developing or measured trends.

VIII. Appendices

- A. Organization Chart for the HIDTA
- B. Executive Board Composition showing local, state and federal affiliation
- C. List of Participating Agencies
- D. HIDTA PMP Matrix
- E. HIDTA Initiatives

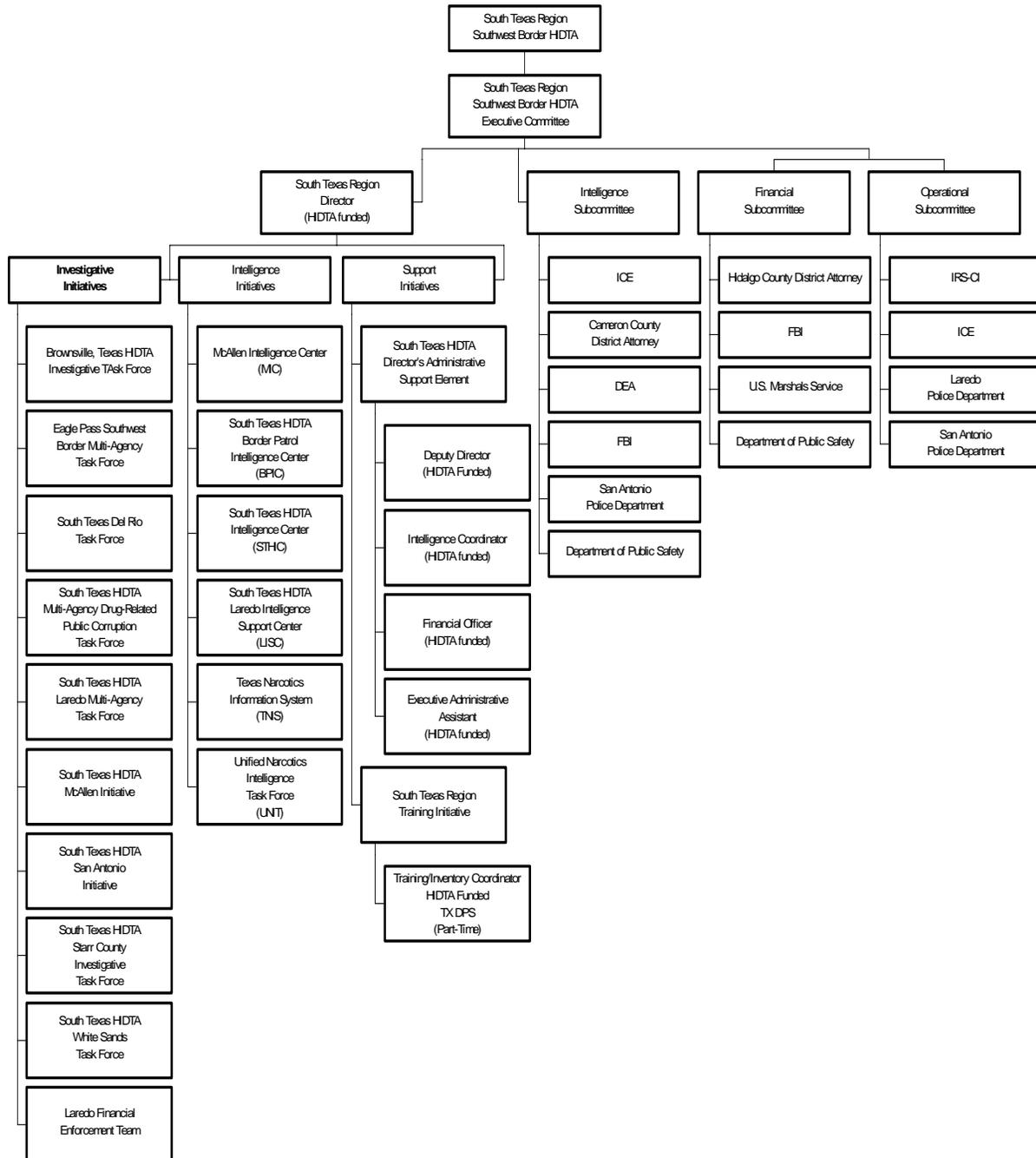
IX. List of Tables and Charts

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1 - Cost per DTO Disrupted or Dismantled, 2006..... | 10 |
| Table 2 - Percentage of DTOs Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope, 2006..... | 11 |
| Table 3 - Percentage of Money Laundering Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled by Scope, 2006..... | 11 |
| Table 4 - Operational Scope of All DTO Cases Initiated, 2006..... | 12 |
| Table 5 - Drugs Removed from the Marketplace, 2006..... | 13 |
| Table 6 - Return on Investment (ROI) for Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives, 2006..... | 13 |
| Table 7 – Return on Investment (ROI) for Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives by Year..... | 14 |
| Table 8 - Total Return on Investment (ROI) for Drugs and Assets Removed from the Marketplace by Law Enforcement Initiatives, 2006..... | 14 |
| Table 9 - Value of Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs Dismantled in 2006, by Size..... | 15 |
| Table 10 - Clandestine Laboratory Activities, 2006..... | 14 |
| Table 11 - HIDTA Training Efficiency by Year and Type of Training..... | 16 |
| Table 12 - Percentage of Event and Case Deconflictions Submitted for Year..... | 16 |
| Table 13 - Percentage of Investigations Provided Analytical Support, 2006..... | 17 |
| Table 14 - Percentage of HIDTA Initiative Investigations Referred to Other HIDTAs and Other Agencies, 2006..... | 17 |

Appendix A

SWB STX HIDTA

Table of Organization



Appendix B

SWB STX HIDTA

Executive Committee Agencies/Members*

Laredo Police Department – Chief Gilbert Navarro (Chair)

Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement – Special Agent in Charge Jerry Robinette (Vice Chair)

San Antonio Police Department – Captain Vidal Resendez for Chief William McManus

Cameron County District Attorney – District Attorney Armando Villalobos

Hidalgo County District Attorney – District Attorney Rene Guerra

Starr County District Attorney – District Attorney Heriberto Silva

Texas Department of Public Safety (Narcotics) – Deputy Commander J. Patrick O’Burke for Commander James Brubaker

Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (United States Border Patrol) – Chief Randy Hill

Drug Enforcement Administration – Associate Special Agent in Charge Luis R. Saldana for James D. Craig

Federal Bureau of Investigation – Assistant Special Agent in Charge John Johnson

Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations Division – Special Agent in Charge Harlan Carter

United States Attorney - Southern District of Texas – Assistant United States Attorney Jose Angel Moreno for United States Attorney Donald J. DeGabrielle Jr.

United States Attorney – Western District of Texas – Assistant United States Attorney Greg Surovic for United States Attorney Johnny Sutton

United States Marshals Service – Southern District of Texas – Marshal Ruben Monzon

*Note: To maintain a balanced voting board, the USMS, IRS, and two USAO each have ½ vote each.

Appendix C

SWB STX HIDTA

Participating Agencies

Local Agencies

63rd Judicial District of Texas
293rd Judicial District of Texas
Bexar County Constable's Office, Precinct #1
Brownsville Police Department
Cameron County District Attorney
Cameron County Sheriff's Office
Del Rio Police Department
City of Eagle Pass
Eagle Pass Police Department
Harlingen Police Department
Hidalgo County Auditor's Office
Hidalgo County District Attorney
Kinney County Sheriff's Office
Laredo Police Department
LaSalle County Sheriff's Department
Leon Valley Police Department
McAllen Police Department
Mission Police Department
Pharr Police Department
Port Isabel Police Department
Rio Grande City Police Department
San Antonio Police Department
San Benito Police Department
Starr County District Attorney
Starr County Sheriff's Office
Val Verde Sheriff's Office
Webb County District Attorney
Webb County Sheriff's Office
Weslaco Police Department
Zapata County District Attorney
Zapata County Sheriff's Office

State Agencies

Texas National Guard
Texas Attorney General's Office
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Texas Department of Public Safety

Federal Agencies

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
Drug Enforcement Administration
Department of Homeland Security-Office of the Inspector General
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation
National Park Service
United States Border Patrol
United States Coast Guard
United States Marshals Service
Criminal Justice Department
Union Pacific Railroad
U.S. Department of Treasury – Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
U.S. Attorney's Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Appendix D

HIDTA PMP Matrix – Goal 1

(Attachment under Separate Cover)

HIDTA PMP Matrix – Goal 2

(Attachment under Separate Cover)

Appendix E

SWB STX HIDTA

Initiatives

- A. Brownsville, Texas, HIDTA Investigative Task Force** – This is a collocated, multi-agency joint investigative task force targeting Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cardenas-Guillen, and related transportation DTOs, some of which may include Juarez Cartel ties. The targeted organizations are international, national, and supporting regional DTOs within the task force’s AOR. Public officials associated with DTO bribery efforts have been removed from their positions of public trust and convicted of drug-related charges as a result of the joint investigations the task force worked. The task force targets DTOs and directs investigative efforts based on interdiction results and/or intelligence developments. The task force targets core methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin trafficking organizations. The task force performs interdiction efforts at the regional airports in Harlingen, and Brownsville, Texas as well as domestic highway enforcement at various bus stations and or package delivery points throughout the region. A significant number of the task forces investigations begin with enforcement stops at or near these locations. Several investigations result from referrals by the US Border Patrol. Illicit drugs transiting the region are reduced through the task forces’ concerted efforts. Investigators coordinate targets and cases through the Intelligence Subsystem.
- B. Eagle Pass Southwest Border Multi-Agency Task Force** – This multi-agency, joint task force conducts long-term investigations on significant CPOT and RPOT DTOs operating in the region. Targeted illegal drugs include methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. The task force also targets drug-related assets and associated money-laundering activities. The assigned LEA use established investigative methods and associated skills, with interdiction referrals and information obtained and developed into useable intelligence, to reduce available illicit narcotics entering and transiting the region. Intelligence is shared across the region and the nation via the SWB STX HIDTA Intelligence Subsystem. The task force conducts investigations and supports prosecution efforts within the South Texas counties of Maverick, Val Verde, Dimmit, Zavala, and Kinney. Operations are coordinated with the ISC Deconfliction Center. The initiative works closely with the Western District of Texas US Attorney's Office and their OCDETF.
- C. South Texas HIDTA Del Rio Task Force** – This multi-agency, collocated, joint task force performs counterdrug investigations and associated interdiction efforts. The task force targets CPOT and RPOT transportation DTOs. Money-laundering and associated illegally obtained assets are also targeted with investigations. This SWB STX HIDTA element brings to prosecution illicit DTOs operating in and or through the Del Rio AOR. The task force disrupts and or dismantles those DTOs identified and targeted by capitalizing on proven investigative methods. The task force uses intelligence-driven interdiction efforts to support investigative needs. Operations are coordinated through the ISC Deconfliction Center. Information obtained during operations is shared with the South Texas HIDTA Border Patrol Intelligence Center, the SWB STX HIDTA ISC, and LEA nationwide. The target rich environment allows strong OCDETF support.

- D. South Texas HIDTA Drug-Related Public Corruption Task Force** – This task force with components located in Brownsville, McAllen and Laredo, Texas, conducts OCDEF investigations that target CPOT or RPOT linked DTOs that operate along the South Texas border with Mexico. The investigative emphasis of this initiative is placed on those DTOs whose drug and money laundering activities are facilitated by corrupt law enforcement officers (LEOs) or public officials. This initiative targets the threat posed by DTOs who utilize corrupt LEOs or public officials in furtherance of their criminal enterprise, within the SWB STX HIDTA area. This multi-agency task force incorporates the investigative skills and intelligence base of the respective agencies in support of long term, complex investigations that utilize Title III wire intercepts and other sensitive investigative techniques. Investigative efforts of this task force are coordinated and intelligence shared with other South Texas HIDTA initiatives and with the South Texas ISC.
- E. South Texas Laredo Multi-Agency Border Task Force** – This task force identifies, disrupts and or dismantles, through intelligence, interdiction and investigation, the area transportation and money-laundering DTOs affiliated with CPOT and RPOT organizations. Numerous international narcotic trafficking and money laundering organizations operating within or through the South Texas AOR and Laredo have direct ties to CPOT and RPOT. This task force is supported by the SWB STX HIDTA ISC regional Intelligence Subsystem element and coordinates counterdrug operations in the SWB STX HIDTA Laredo, Texas AOR. The task force coordinates its specific area of investigation efforts with other HIDTA LEA to identify and seize illicit funds illegally obtained through the illicit trafficking of narcotics. The ISC Deconfliction Center is used on all operations. It participates directly and indirectly during Domestic Highway Enforcement operations. The participating agencies use available ISC databases to support HIDTA and LEA with case support and actionable intelligence information. The task force focuses on methamphetamine smuggling and follow-up investigation on drug seizure referrals, plus international money laundering and narco-terrorism within the region. The DEA, state, and local officers are federally deputized, considerably enhancing the initiative's jurisdiction. Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force cases receive significant support.
- F. South Texas Laredo Financial Narcotics Enforcement Task Force** – This task force is a multi-agency, joint task force with participants collocated in the same building as the South Texas Laredo Multi-Agency Border Task force. It focuses on those CPOT and RPOT DTO active in money laundering and associated illegal drug related activities. Targets include Gulf, Sinaloa, and Zeta gang related marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine DTO. It participates with Domestic highway enforcement activities during those periods of emphasis. It conducts long term investigations which result in significant monetary impacts on the targeted DTO. The task force performs a significant number of controlled deliveries across the United States in support of its investigations. It exchanges all information obtained with the Laredo Investigative Support Center on its operations. It uses the SWB, STX HIDTA Deconfliction Center for subject, case, and event activities. It supports OCDEF investigations as they are developed.
- G. South Texas HIDTA McAllen Initiative** – The initiative, through its three task forces, shares information for intelligence development and interdicts, investigates, and prosecutes identified CPOT and RPOT DTOs operating in and through the McAllen,

Texas area. Targets include Gulf Cartel members and those CPOT and RPOT trafficking organizations smuggling ecstasy, cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine. The McAllen initiative focuses on international money laundering and narco-terrorism, performing poly-drug and follow-up investigations on drug seizure referrals, seizure of illegally obtained drug-related assets, and the apprehension of drug-related fugitives within region. The initiative works with the US Marshal's Service in support of their Drug-Related Fugitive Apprehension Program. An initiative goal is to identify and classify all AOR DTO. Following the identification and classification of the DTO, the initiative uses the specific skills associated with the participating agencies to disrupt and dismantle the targeted organization. All intelligence developed by this initiative concerning drug importation, transportation, and distribution is shared through the ISC. All operations are coordinated with the SWB STX HIDTA ISC Deconfliction Center. The task force also supports, directly and indirectly, Domestic Highway Enforcement operations during those targeted enforcement dates. In keeping with the National Drug Control Strategy, the Hidalgo County HIDTA Task Force maintains, at no costs, a drug abuse awareness education program within the area.

H. South Texas HIDTA San Antonio Initiative –This initiative consists of four squads. Each squad is a collocated, multi-agency joint task force. The collective mission is to disrupt and or dismantle regional, national, and international CPOT or RPOT, which include money laundering and drug trafficking organizations operating within or through the South Texas area. The initiative uses interdiction, intelligence, and investigative techniques. The initiative conducts drug investigations with a strategic, organizational approach. The initiative's focuses on San Antonio-based criminal organizations with ties to Mexican and International drug transportation organizations, violent street and prison gangs assisting DTOs in distribution of illicit drugs, narco-terrorism, international and national money-laundering organizations with San Antonio ties, movement of drugs and associated illegally obtained assets through airports, bus terminals, hotels, motels, and associated transportation methods and areas, seizure of illegally obtained drug-related assets, and the movement or placement of currency into US or international commerce channels. The initiative shares intelligence obtained with the SWB STX HIDTA ISC and all associated local, state, and federal intelligence centers. All operations are coordinated through the ISC Deconfliction Center. The task force's controlled delivery successes across the nation multiply the initiatives counterdrug efforts at removing dangerous and illegal drugs from the streets of the country. The controlled deliveries also increase the arrest and removal of drug-related criminals from the streets of the nation's cities.

I. South Texas HIDTA Starr County Investigative Task Force – This task force addresses an area of significant interest across South Texas and the Southwest Border. This STR task force is a multi-agency, collocated joint task force operating in a major, illegal drug transportation area of Texas on the Mexican border. The task force targets those CPOT, RPOT, and, specifically, Gulf Cartel elements, active within the Zapata and Starr County, Texas area. Targeted drugs include ecstasy, cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine. The task force performs limited Domestic Highway Enforcement and investigative operations through some of the least populated areas of the South Texas HIDTA. All intelligence and investigative information is exchanged with the STR ISC. All operations are coordinated with the STR ISC Deconfliction Center. Limited Domestic Highway Enforcement efforts are used to develop intelligence for more significant illegal drug seizures and seizure of associated monetary assets. Though many arrestees are local, most have international ties with significant CPOT. Arrestees from

this task force face aggressive prosecutors from Federal, State or local offices. Asset forfeitures gained, as a result of investigations, significantly helps in improving and continuing counterdrug and law enforcement activities within this economically disadvantaged region of the state and nation. The task force performs a significant number of controlled deliveries. Though a new, rudimentary small task force, the successes achieved reflects the early SWB STX HIDTA recognition in achieving National HIDTA Program goal attainment.

- J. White Sands Task Force** – This task force identifies, dismantles and/or disrupts, through intelligence, investigation, and interdiction, the most significant international, national, and regional CPOT related DTOs, operating within the jurisdiction and venue of the task force. The members of the task force are multi-agency, collocated joint participants on all investigations. The task force is in the same building as two other SWB STX HIDTA Brownsville Task Forces. Targets include the Gulf Cartel and associated drug transportation cells within the Brownsville, Texas AOR. Targeted drugs include ecstasy, cocaine, marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine and other illegal or dangerous drugs. Investigations into the illegal drug trafficking and associated money-laundering activities are pursued through strong OCDETF support. Various LEA within the region, though not direct participants of the SWB STX HIDTA, unify and participate with the task force in its regional counterdrug efforts. The task force uses extensive undercover operations. All intelligence is shared and exchanged with the STR ISC and associated local, state, and federal LEA. Domestic Highway Enforcement operations are supported indirectly during those periods of Enforcement operations. The SWB STX HIDTA ISC Deconfliction Center facilitates deconfliction on all operations. The task force brings to prosecution those persons active in the illicit DTOs.
- K. McAllen Intelligence Center (MIC)** – The MIC provides a wide range of support to Federal, state, and local LEA within the region and across the nation. The MIC focuses on prioritizing intelligence support to joint investigative matters targeting the most significant criminal enterprise groups impacting the South Texas region and the nation. Intelligence support is geared to assist in the identification, disruption and or dismantlement of these CPOT and RPOT groups having local, national, and or international impact through the region. Specifically, the MIC provides a full spectrum of intelligence support to the South Texas Law enforcement community, thereby enabling a more effective and efficient use of limited intelligence and investigative resources. Its proximity to the Port of Hidalgo, a major South Texas POE, insures the development of intelligence resulting from interdiction operations associated with illegal drugs and money seized at the Port. Located in the building with the South Texas HIDTA Drug-Public Corruption Task Force, the MIC also provides significant intelligence support for narco-terrorism related events across the Rio Grande Valley. Domestic Highway Enforcement operations are supported during those periods of operations. The MIC provides electronic interaction with intelligence elements across the region and nation with its connectivity with RISSNET and other federal, state, and local communications systems.
- L. South Texas HIDTA Border Patrol Intelligence Center (BPIC)** – Located in Del Rio, Texas, this intelligence agency supports intelligence centers existing in an area rich in counter narcotics, narco-terrorism, and alien smuggling activity. The area is a target of smuggling by the Gulf and Juarez Cartels. Specifically, targets include the CPOT/RPOT Carrillo-Fuentes, Menera Sierra (Michoacanos Smuggling Organization), Calderilla

smuggling and Torres marijuana distribution organization, Luis Trevino smuggling organization, Omar Rubio, Sanchez, Gonzalez-Copado, and Osiel Cardenas organizations. The OCDETF cases supported include Hermano Grande, Lucky Charm, Golden Eagle, and Gravehaulers. Annually, the Del Rio area continues to improve in its effort to stem the flow of illegal narcotics trafficking and related activities. This multi-agency, collocated joint task force provides a needed source for an area low in population but high in illegal activities. The BPIC participants include the Eagle Pass Drug Enforcement Task Force, National Park Service, 63rd Judicial District Narcotics Task, and the USBP. The BPIC staffing consists of Federal, State and local LEA focused on a critical need. The BPIC is electronically connected to all SWB STX HIDTA ISC and national HIDTA databases, as well as numerous Federal, State, and local LEA. The BPIC provides education to regional LEA on the assets available through the SWB STX HIDTA ISC and its associated elements. Further, it enhances the use of the SWB STX HIDTA ISC Deconfliction Center in an area active with field operations.

M. South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center (STHIC) - The STHIC is a full service Investigative Support Center (ISC), which also provides a case, subject and event Deconfliction Center. The STHIC provides near real-time interaction with intelligence elements across the region and nation through RISSNET and other Federal, state, and local systems. The STHIC consists of three elements: a Deconfliction Center; an investigative, operational and threat team, and a strategic, counter terrorism and tactical operations team. The ISC provides near real-time criminal and open source database query checks and case support, analytical case support including telephone toll, link, and event/flow analysis and charting, and forecasting, reporting, and assessing drug trends, events, and enforcement. With multi-agency, joint task force personnel, the STHIC strives to give near real time responses to LEA queries regarding information within its available databases. The center furnishes analytical support by collecting, analyzing, reporting, and processing information received into useable intelligence relevant to customer needs. Domestic Highway Enforcement operations receive support during scheduled events. The STHIC meets the deconfliction not only for the region, but also counties across the state. The Deconfliction Center responded to LEA in 72 counties across Texas in CY 2006. The SWB STX HIDTA partnerships and LEA across the nation may access the STHIC and its associated databases. Access for the SWB HIDTA is via the RISSNET and TNIS. The STHIC performs its mission 14 hours a day, five days a week. Coverage 24-hours a day is maintained seven days a week. The STHIC is collocated and commingles with other HIDTA elements in the same building.

N. South Texas HIDTA Laredo Intelligence Support Center (LISC) - The Laredo Intelligence Support Center provides intelligence support for Federal, state, and local LEA within the Laredo, Texas area of operations. With analysts provided by the DHS BCBP/USBP and BICE, Laredo Police Department, and Texas National Guard, the task force supports tactical and strategic needs primarily for HIDTA but other LEA within the region are also supported. The LISC maximizes use of the SWB STX HIDTA ISC Deconfliction Center through actively educating regional LEA of its existence. The LISC closely coordinates and shares its resources with numerous LEA within the Laredo, Texas region. Through its active participation in the multiple regional LEA coordinating conferences and seminars, the LISC maximizes the assets available through their assets. Further, narco-terrorism and alien smuggling investigations performed by associated LEA often aid in developing on-going investigations. Intelligences is shared, in particularly with the DHS BICE and BCBP agencies, due to narco-terrorism concerns.

As a major intelligence asset in the Laredo, Texas POE location, information obtained from the seizure of illegal drugs and money-laundering related activities is developed into useable intelligence. As the largest land POE within the United States, the Laredo region and its intelligence sources greatly add to the SWB STX HIDTA ISC informational sources. Investigative support provided by the LISC ensures maximum effort is provided in pursuing illegally obtained assets.

- O. Texas Narcotics Information System (TNIS)** –The TNIS provides a Narcotics Analysis Team (NAT) for case development and assistance; a Post Seizure Analysis Team; Support Service Center for training and technical support of HIDTA, Criminal Law Enforcement Reporting and Information System (CLERIS), connectivity to the Southwest Border States Anti-Drug Information System (SWBSADIS); and the Texas Narcotics Information Network (TNIN) to facilitate rapid sharing of information via CLERIS, and state or national databases. Objectives of TNIS include encouraging and facilitating the rapid exchange and sharing of information pertaining to known or suspected criminals and related activity. Special projects provided by TNIS analysts include, but are not limited to, a Crime Bulletin publication and tools to flag certain data on targets in existing databases. The TNIS provides analytical case support, strategic studies, connectivity to other databases, input for the Drug Threats of Texas HIDTA, and post seizure analysis. These services are available for all HIDTA and appropriate local, state, and federal LEA. The TNIS uses commingled and collocated analysts across the state working with the HIDTA associated elements in Houston, West Texas, South Texas, and Dallas, as well as the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) to enhance its analytical support abilities. The TNIS services all Federal, State, and local agencies within the ST area and the SWBSADIS. Jointly, all Texas HIDTA elements fund the TNIS effort. The initiative works numerous OCDETF cases annually.
- P. Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task Force (UNIT)** - The UNIT provides near real-time regional local, state, and Federal case support from its multi-agency intelligence center. It is linked with the STHIC and other intelligence units across the region and the SWB HIDTA via RISSNET. It accesses local, state, and federal criminal justice database systems. It collects, analyzes, links, and supports OCDETF cases. Organic local prosecution supports appropriate drug cases in the area and provides for increased asset sharing information in the area. The UNIT distributes timely narcotic intelligence to support LEA in new target identification, the dismantling of targeted organizations, and or the seizure of drug trafficker assets. The UNIT collects counterdrug intelligence and adds to its databases for dissemination. It provides tactical and operational narcotics intelligence for LEA. Domestic Highway Enforcement is supported during periods of surge operations. The UNIT gives direct tactical support, such as audio and visual recordings of covert undercover operations and operational intelligence. The information provided identifies suspects, vehicles, associates, relatives, criminal history, property ownership, etc. The intelligence enables agents to conduct safer operations through case preparation. Arrests, asset seizures, and forfeitures increase with accurate information. UNIT personnel analyze and link narcotic case information for client agencies and provide a finished product for a more effective prosecution of violators.
- Q. South Texas HIDTA Director’s Administrative Support Element** – As implemented and managed by the Regional Director, under the guidance of the SWB HIDTA Executive Committee and various sub-committees, this task force is responsible for the day-to-day functions of the STR Partnership. The National HIDTA Program funds all

positions of this task force. The Director, with staff, provides support to all elements of the South Texas Strategy in its support to the SWB and National HIDTA Program. As such, the task force is directly involved in the reduction of illicit drug availability across the nation, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of LEA within the HIDTA, and reducing the harmful consequences of drug trafficking. It develops, supports, and maintains automation plus joint programmatic and fiscal administration requirements necessary for the budgetary, intelligence, operational, and logistical needs for all task forces and initiatives in the region oversight through the on-site inspections required by the HIDTA Program. Further, the task force performs those necessary liaison and coordination actions needed to support the SWB HIDTA and National HIDTA Program effort across the Southwest Border of the United States. Equipment needs identified during on-site reviews are researched to determine applicability and availability between and across HIDTA lines. More than 120 local LEA exist within the region. Briefings identifying resources available to LEA within the region are provided to better inform LEA of ONDCP programs. The HIDTA Program within the region strives to make itself available, with appropriate assets, to all LEA within the region. The HIDTA Program Policy and Budget Guidance mandate the Management and Coordination task forces. It directly supports each operational task force or initiative in reaching their goals.

R. South Texas Region Training Initiative – The South Texas Region Training initiative strives to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of LEA within the HIDTA region through enhanced education opportunities. Under the guidance and direction of the HIDTA Region Director, as supported by the SWB STX HIDTA Executive Committee, the Training Coordinator, provided by the Texas DPS, facilitates training and coordinates multiple agencies training opportunities across the region. The Training Coordinator ensures training assessments are executed with appropriate follow-up planning performed to make training needs available. Liaison with training coordinators from the ICE, BCBP, DEA, FBI, TX DPS, and other Federal, State, and local agencies ensures maximum class availability, training is advertised, provided as scheduled, and attended by the maximum number of students possible.

