

Minnesota River Valley Drug Task Force

Serving the citizens of Blue
Earth, Martin, Nicollet and
Watonwan Counties

9 Law Enforcement Agencies

- Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office
- Madelia Police Department
- Mankato Department of Public Safety
- Martin County Sheriff's Office
- Nicollet County Sheriff's Office
- North Mankato Police Department
- Saint James Police Department
- Saint Peter Police Department
- Watonwan County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement Agencies DTF Coordinates With (not all inclusive):

- Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Southwest Metro DTF
- South East Minnesota DTF
- South Central Minnesota DTF
- BLR DTF
- South Dakota DCI
- Minnesota State Patrol
- DEA
- ATF
- Customs

Overview

- MRVDTF is a cooperative investigative unit made up of investigators from our four county area, co-located to investigate narcotics crimes on both a street and mid level. The team functions because the expense to each member agency would be too great to combat alone. By cooperating and sharing the expense all jurisdictions benefit.

Board of Directors

- The Board of Directors consists of the Sheriff or Chief of Police of each of the Nine participating governmental units, **plus** one prosecuting attorney
- Each Board member has one vote
- We meet with our board the first Thursday of every month to discuss active investigations.

FISCAL AGENT

- The City of North Mankato is the fiscal agent.
- The Chief of Police of North Mankato is the authorized signatory for any official documents, financial records, grants, etc., as approved by the Board of Directors.
- The finance director for the City of North Mankato receives and disburses funds and keeps financial records.

Current Task Force Agents

- Commander Dan Davidson
- Agent Ginger Peterson
- Agent Aaron Petersen
- Agent John Judd
- Agent Jeremy Brennan
- Agent Mark Slater

Case Load

- MRVDTF averages between 150-200 cases per year. MRVDTF only counts our case statistics on cases which we originate, that number does not include cases where DTF assists other Law Enforcement Agencies which occurs regularly.

2008 STATS

- Searches: Consent – 9; Warrant: 44
- Arrests: Drug – 179; Non-Drug: 8
- Weapons Seized: Handgun – 3; Long Gun: 14
- Meth Lab Seizures: Labs – 2; Dump Sites - 0

2008 STATS

- Arrests Filed As Follows: State: 179
Federal: 0
- Felony: 172
- Non-Felony: 7



Drug Type

- Powder Cocaine: 37
- Crack Cocaine: 48
- LSD: 2
- Marijuana: 65
- MDMA (Ecstasy): 10
- Meth: 25
- Mushrooms: 5
- Prescription: 2



Drug Act Leading to Arrest

- Sale: 106
- Possession: 61
- Manufacture: 5
- Cultivation: 7



Marijuana

- Our most commonly abused drug is marijuana. It is easily our most profitable and the least penalized of narcotics cases. For instance last year a fourth year 21 year old MSU business student was arrested. He admitted to making at least \$250,000 a year tax free for the past three years which he spent in Vegas and online gambling.

Methamphetamine

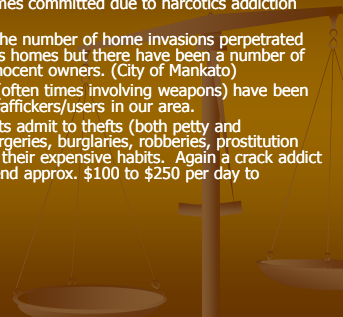
- Methamphetamine cases are currently down in our task force area. We feel the price of methamphetamine has risen so drastically it has curbed its demand. Several years ago we were paying \$80 a gram (a nickel weighs five grams) now we are paying close to \$180 a gram.

Crack Cocaine

- Crack cocaine sales are up in our area. But again the price has been steadily increasing on rock prices (.3 to .2 grams) from \$20 to \$30 now it is \$50.
- Street level crack cocaine cases are expensive to investigate and it is difficult to get to a higher prosecutable case due to the expenses, which is why a majority of our mid-level dealers keep their couriers and dealers at the smaller rock levels insulating themselves from prosecution. For instance a mid level ¼ pound crack cocaine dealer can purchase ¼ lb for approx. \$3,200. Breaking that down to the street level at less than 1 gram level increases their profit from \$28 per gram wholesale to \$120 per gram retail. \$13,400 return on a \$3,200 investment.


Impact of drug dealing.

- We see a number of crimes committed due to narcotics addiction and trafficking.
- We have seen a rise in the number of home invasions perpetrated primarily on drug dealers homes but there have been a number of "mistaken entries" or innocent owners. (City of Mankato)
- A number of burglaries (often times involving weapons) have been attributed to narcotics traffickers/users in our area.
- A large number of addicts admit to thefts (both petty and misdemeanor), check forgeries, burglaries, robberies, prostitution and swindles to support their expensive habits. Again a crack addict in our area needs to spend approx. \$100 to \$250 per day to maintain their habit.



Prevention

- Presentations: 8
- Total Attendance: 314



Street value of Drugs Seized in 2008

- \$ 1,112,895.00



The almighty dollar.

- Our task force is not unique. We fully expect to see cuts in our grants we receive. Currently half our Agents are grant funded (two state and one federal). Agencies in our task force area are currently unable to dedicate the manpower to work undercover investigations safely. The preceding statistics we feel speak for themselves. Further undermining local task forces will make it even easier for drug criminals to prosper and degrade our communities.
- Thank you very much.
