

US LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES: DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration was created by President Richard Nixon through an Executive Order in July 1973 in order to establish a single unified command to combat "an all-out global war on the drug menace." At its outset, DEA had 1,470 Special Agents and a budget of less than \$75 million. Today, the DEA has nearly 5,000 Special Agents and a budget of \$2.02 billion.

The budget is directed toward following major goals of U.S. drug eradication:

- demand reduction (anti-legalization education, training for law enforcement personnel, youth programs, support for sports drug awareness programs;
- reduction of drug-related crime and violence funding state and local teams and mobile enforcement teams;
- breaking foreign and domestic sources of supply via domestic cannabis eradication/suppression; domestic enforcement; research, engineering, and technical operations; the Foreign Cooperative Investigations Program; intelligence operations and drug and chemical diversion control. [1]

The mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of organizations, involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States; and to recommend and support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.

In carrying out its mission the DEA's primary responsibilities include:

- investigation and preparation for the prosecution of major violators of controlled substance laws operating at interstate and international levels;
- investigation and preparation for prosecution of criminals and drug gangs who perpetrate violence in communities and terrorize citizens through fear and intimidation;
- management of a national drug intelligence program in cooperation with federal, state, local, and foreign officials to collect, analyze, and disseminate strategic and operational drug intelligence information;
- seizure and forfeiture of assets derived from, traceable to, or intended to be used for illicit drug trafficking;
- enforcement of the provisions of the Controlled Substances Act as they pertain to the manufacture, distribution, and dispensing of legally produced controlled substances;
- coordination and cooperation with federal, state and local law enforcement officials on mutual drug enforcement efforts and enhancement of such efforts through exploitation of potential interstate and international investigations beyond local or limited federal jurisdictions and resources;
- coordination and cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies, and with foreign governments, in programs designed to reduce the availability of illicit abuse-type drugs on the United States market through non-enforcement methods such as crop eradication, crop substitution, and training of foreign officials;
- responsibility, under the policy guidance of the Secretary of State and U.S. Ambassadors, for all programs associated with drug law enforcement counterparts in foreign countries;
- Liaison with the United Nations, Interpol, and other organizations on matters relating to international drug control programs.[2]

DEA officially created and standardized its Special Response Team (SRT) program in 2016 to address higher risk tactical operations in the field. DEA mandates that each major domestic office maintains an operational Special Response Team. Some of the SRT missions consist of High-risk arrests, Vehicle assault, Specialized Surveillance, Custody of High-Profile Individuals, Dignitary and Witness Protection, Tactical Surveillance and Interdiction, Advance Breaching, Tactical Training to other police units, Urban and Rural Fugitive Searches.

Foreign-deployed Advisory and Support Teams is the enforcement arm of the DEA's Drug Flow Attack Strategy. Their stated mission is to plan and conduct special enforcement operations; train, mentor, and advice foreign narcotics law enforcement units; collect and assess evidence and intelligence in support of U.S. and bilateral investigations.[3]

As of January 2010, FAST fields five teams. One team is always stationed in Afghanistan conducting CounterNarcotics (CN), Counter Terrorism (CT), Direct Action (DA) missions. The remaining four teams are stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. FAST originally was created to solely conduct missions in Afghanistan to disrupt the Afghan opium trade but has evolved into a global action arm for the U.S. Department of Justice and DEA.

The DEA Special Operations Division (SOD) is a division within the DEA, which forwards information from wiretaps, intercepts and databases from various sources to federal agents and local law enforcement officials.

List of references

1. <http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/jmd/legacy/2014/05/26/ba.pdf>
2. Drug Enforcement Administration: Drug Abuse Prevention Service Award"(PDF).Learning for Life. Retrieved October 9, 2016.

3. History of the DEA: 1970 – 1975". Deamuseum.org DEA museum. Archived from the original on September 28, 2007. Retrieved April 30, 2015.

4. The DEA: Four Decades of Impeding And Rejecting Science. DPA, MAPS. Retrieved 14 June 2014.