

# **METHAMPHETAMINE BACKGROUNDER**

**Mark E. Souder, Chairman**  
**Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources**  
**Committee on Government Reform**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
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**INCREASED FUNDING TO COMBAT METHAMPHETAMINE**

- This Administration has devoted \$79.2 million for methamphetamine cleanup, interdiction and enforcement for the past three years (FY02-04). The President's FY 2005 Budget includes \$26.4 million for support. This funding is arrayed across three agencies: COPS (\$20.0 million); Drug Enforcement Administration (\$3.9 million); and ONDCP's Central Valley California HIDTA (\$2.5 million).

\$ in millions	FY 2003 Final	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Request	FY 2006 Request
COPS	56.8	20.0	53.5	20.0	20.0
DEA	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Central Valley, Ca HIDTA	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	TBD
Total Meth Funding	\$ 63.9	\$26.4	\$59.9	\$26.4	

**EFFORTS TO COMBAT METHAMPHETAMINE**

**Community Oriented Policing Services**

- In 1998 the COPS Methamphetamine Initiative was established by the Republican Congress to help alleviate methamphetamine problems. Since then, COPS has invested more than \$300 million nationwide to combat the spread of methamphetamine.
- Funding provided to COPS assists state and local agencies with methamphetamine laboratory clean up activities. The FY 2005 COPS budget proposes \$20 million for clean up efforts overseen by DEA.
- The President's FY 2005 proposal eliminates more than \$30 million in “pork-barrel” spending and unnecessary training costs. (Note: In FY 2004, Congress supported the Administration’s \$20 million request to reimburse the DEA for methamphetamine laboratory clean up activities. However, Congress appropriated an additional \$5 million in funding for state/local training and the balance \$28.5 million was congressional earmarks for local law enforcement efforts to crack down on methamphetamine.)

**Drug Enforcement Administration**

- DEA’s base budget includes \$3.9 million in direct appropriations to assist state and local agencies in hazardous waste cleanup.
- DEA’s Diversion Control efforts (requested under the Diversion Control Fee Account—\$154.2 million in FY 2005) support regulatory protocols that mandate

reporting and accounting practices that stringently track and monitor the transport, production and distribution of meth precursor chemicals. Diversion Control prevents, detects, and eliminates the diversion of chemicals into the illicit market.

### **ONDCP's Central Valley California HIDTA**

- The Central Valley California HIDTA funding primarily supports methamphetamine enforcement efforts against “superlabs” that supply huge quantities of meth to the entire U.S. Of particular note is the Fresno Area Surveillance Team (FAST), which consists of 7 full-time, collocated DEA members and 1 part-time, non-collocated DEA secretary. The group also includes 6 non-collocated, on-call personnel from BNE, Fresno PD, Fresno SD, Merced PD, Tulare County INET and Tulare SD. This initiative concentrates on intelligence development for multiple purposes, including investigations, interdiction, and post-seizure analysis. It provides a structure for developing taskforces on an as-needed basis. The mission is to disrupt and dismantle the flow of precursor and essential chemicals supplied by domestic and foreign drug trafficking groups, organizations and individuals that traffic in chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine. FAST is led by DEA and was reorganized as a team of the Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force for 2004.

### **SUCCESSSES**

#### **Combating drug use**

- Teen drug use increased dramatically after 1992, following a steep decline in the 1980's and early 1990's. There were some who said that “nothing can be done” about this problem.
- By deploying a balanced strategy focusing on prevention, treatment, and supply control, we have reduced teen drug use by 11 percent over the past two years. That is the biggest drop in over a decade, and it means that there are 400,000 fewer American teens using drugs today than two years ago.
- Between 2001 and 2003, lifetime methamphetamine use by teens declined 13.6 percent.

#### **Combating methamphetamine**

- The Administration has employed a comprehensive program of interdiction, enforcement and voluntary controls to reduce the scourge of methamphetamine.
- Through Operation Mountain Express III and Operation Northern Star, two investigations involving DEA and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, DEA disrupted the Canadian supply of pseudoephedrine to domestic clandestine methamphetamine laboratories controlled by Mexican organizations.

- Anti-meth operations on the Northern border are having a major impact. Operation Northern Star significantly reduced the amount of Canadian pseudoephedrine entering the U.S. illicit market. This shift is evidenced by an 85 percent reduction in Canadian border seizure events between CY 2001 and CY 2003 (from 419 in 2001 to 61 in 2003), and a 37 percent reduction in Canadian pseudoephedrine and ephedrine seizures along the U.S.-Canadian Border (from 13.6 metric tons in 2001 to 8.5 metric tons in 2003).
- At the same time, the federal government is stepping up its efforts on the Southern border to counter increasing meth smuggling there. Southwest Border methamphetamine seizures increased by 37 percent between CY 2001 and CY 2003 (from 1.2 metric tons in 2001 to 1.6 metric tons in 2003).
- We are making significant progress in fighting the domestic production of meth. The number of methamphetamine "super-labs" seized in California decreased 41 percent, from 224 in CY 2001 to 132 in CY 2003.
- The Central Valley California HIDTA funding primarily supports methamphetamine enforcement efforts. This mission is to disrupt and dismantle the flow of precursor and essential chemicals supplied by domestic and foreign drug trafficking groups, organizations and individuals that traffic chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine.
- Within the whole High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, among initiatives that focused on a single drug, more focused on methamphetamine than on any other single drug in both FY 03 and 04.
- Through "Meth-Watch" programs, retailers in affected areas have voluntarily restricted sales of pseudoephedrine and other precursors to disrupt the small meth labs that cause so much harm to children and the environment.
- Over the last two years, the President's Administration has initiated the Drug Endangered Children program, which helps children who have been poisoned, burned, or otherwise hurt by methamphetamine labs. It has taken root in fifteen states and is growing.