Cooperation (continued from cover)

The bed of the truck. Contact with the residents was made and a search warrant was obtained. Search of the residence found more meth related materials, marijuana and firearms. Two subjects were arrested on methamphetamine related charges.

Missing a Key Ingredient Results in Two Arrests

A subject who had found what he believed to be a meth dumpsite located on his property in Montcalm County recently contacted CMET officers. CMET officers responded to the scene and discovered a discarded boxed meth lab. Based on additional information, CMET officers contacted a nearby residence and obtained consent to search the house. Inside they found marijuana plants and other meth related materials. The suspect confessed the he and a friend had attempted to manufacture meth the previous night, however they were unsuccessful because they did not steal enough anhydrous ammonia and the batch became ruined. Based on information from this suspect, a knock and talk was conducted at a second residence in the City of Greenville. Consent to search was obtained and officers found the second suspect in possession of methamphetamine components. The Greenville suspect also had a marijuana grow operation at the residence. Both suspects were arrested on possession of methamphetamine lab components and manufacturing marijuana.

College Doesn’t Always Equal Intelligence

Acting on a tip, CMET officers recently executed a search warrant on house belonging to a Ferris State University student in Big Rapids. The student was trafficking marijuana and reportedly giving away free marijuana to his roommates to keep them happy and, of course, so they wouldn’t rat on him.

During the raid, CMET officers found more than ten half-pound bags of marijuana and $14,000 in cash. The value of the marijuana was estimated at more than $2,000 a bag. When making the arrest, CMET officers also arrested another suspect who was very familiar to them—the second suspect was currently out on bond for an earlier drug arrest by CMET officers.

Talk about not being real intelligent, the suspect tried to post bail using money-enclosed in a McDonald’s bag—that included some of the buy money used by CMET undercover officers.

Commander’s Column

D/Sgt. Joel Abendroth
Michigan State Police

We are all well aware that there is a direct correlation between drugs and crime in our community. We also know that criminals do more than destroy lives, they also steal the sense of safety, well-being and freedom in our community.

Armed with this knowledge, community leaders and law enforcement agencies in Mecosta, Newaygo, Ionia, Montcalm and Osceola counties partnered with the Michigan State Police and federal agencies to establish the Central Michigan Enforcement Team (CMET). CMET is a multijurisdictional team with one common goal in mind, removing drug dealers from our community’s streets and neighborhoods, so you can live your life with a sense of peace and tranquility.

The concept of CMET is based on the simple premise that no one agency has the ability or resources to respond single-handedly to the drug problems in our area. Therefore, we had to look at combining our talent and resources into a strong specialized drug enforcement team, aimed specifically at removing drug criminals from our streets.

As a citizen of Mecosta, Newaygo, Ionia, Montcalm or Osceola County, you stand to benefit greatly by the collective efforts of CMET. Whether using local street enforcement efforts, interdiction, education/prevention, or taking full advantage of the highly specialized crime fighting tools offered by state and federal agencies, CMET officers are committed to making a difference in our community.

While cocaine and marijuana still seem to be the drugs of choice found in many of our communities, now on the scene, and positioned to spread like a brush fire, is methamphetamine. Many counties, especially counties in southwest Michigan, have seen an alarming increase in methamphetamine clandestine labs (cooking sites), and the state is seeing an increase in meth reported cases as well.

Methamphetamine is like no other drug we have seen before in Western Michigan, especially due in part to the fact that it is manufactured (cooked) right here in our community and not imported as is the case with other illegal drugs.

As Commander of CMET, I am convinced that by combining the talent, resources and technology of our local agencies with those of state and federal agencies, we are more successful in our drug fighting efforts. As you can see by the 2003 numbers, we investigated 145 cases, made 80 arrests and stopped the dissemination of more than $1,676,418 worth of drugs directed toward the children, family and friends in our communities.

As you read about methamphetamine in this newsletter, you will see how deadly and dangerous this drug really is. I encourage you to become aware of the dangers associated with methamphetamine, to report any suspicious activities, and to help CMET officers in their efforts to keep this devastating drug from taking over our community.

To Report Drugs and Drug Dealers Call 1 (800) 342-0406
All Calls Remain Confidential
In the Spring of 1977, the Michigan State Police joined with local and county law enforcement agencies to begin a new concept in fighting drugs and drug related crimes in local communities. The concept was simple - no one agency had all the manpower or resources to adequately deal with the increase in drugs and drug related crimes finding its way into Michigan communities and neighborhoods. By combining local resources with the resources of the Michigan State Police, Criminal Investigation Division, along with state police and federal drug information identification and tracking systems, Michigan took a major step in bringing the fight against drug dealers and drug related crimes to the local level. And, it has worked!

Currently, multijurisdictional teams service 81 of 83 counties in the State of Michigan. Local officers from approximately 550 city and township law enforcement agencies, county deputies from 81 counties and troopers from the Michigan State Police are assigned to these task forces. The teams are funded in part through the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Drug Control Policy, Michigan State Police, and local governing bodies.

Just in the past four years, the multijurisdictional task forces have been responsible for arresting and removing approximately 14,450 drug criminals from our neighborhoods, streets and schools. In four years, the local task forces have also removed more than $274,478,398 in street-drugs from local communities—drugs intended for our children and loved ones. As a result of the dedicated efforts of the multijurisdictional teams, tens of millions of dollars in assets and property that would have been used to continue drug trafficking in our communities has been seized and removed from drug dealers.
TAKING DRUGS & DRUG CRIMINALS

COOKER TEACHES LAST CLASS

CMET received information that subjects in Newaygo County were manufacturing methamphetamine. CMET opened an investigation and obtained a search warrant. CMET officers found 10 people living in the house, the garage and a camper trailer located on the property. A search by the officers uncovered methamphetamine lab components in all three locations. Also located in the camper trailer was a substantial amount of marijuana and prescription drugs. Two suspects living in the residence were arrested on outstanding warrants; the homeowner and the owner and occupant of the camper trailer were arrested on methamphetamine lab charges. The owner of the camper trailer was currently on bond for meth lab charges out of Kent County. In all, nine suspects were arrested and transported to the Newaygo County Jail. It was evident that both the garage and trailer were being used to teach the individual suspects how to cook meth.

COOPERATION NETS METH LAB

CMET detectives received information from the Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad in Lansing that a suspect from the CMET area had purchased a quantity of ephedrine at a pharmacy in the Lansing area. CMET officers located the suspect residence in Ionia County and observed a pick-up truck parked in the driveway. Approaching the residence, CMET officers observed methamphetamine lab components in

(continued inside)