

HIDING BEHIND DISCLAIMER DOES LITTLE GOOD FOR SHOP OWNER

Acting on numerous complaints from West Branch citizens, STING and the West Branch Police Department began an undercover investigation into the illegal sale of drug paraphernalia at a local tattoo parlor and head shop.

Upon entering the business, officers observed a display of more than 50 miscellaneous smoking pipes, water bongs, and vehicle safes.

When questioned as to how to best use the pipes and which end the "weed" went into it, the owner was quick to explain he could not sell the pipe because the buyer had mentioned the word "dope." This was a disclaimer he was told to use from his good friend, a local attorney!

He would, however, sell the pipe to the second undercover officer because he never mentioned the "d" word. As he was wrapping the pipe, he explained in more detail the differences in the pipes and how they were used. STING officers concluded that the owner knew exactly what the pipes were being used for. The shop owner was arrested for the sale of drug paraphernalia and his inventory seized.

INMATES SPILL BEANS ON MISSAUKEE COUNTY METH LAB

Three inmates lodged in the Missaukee County Jail led STING officers to an active meth lab located near Merritt in Missaukee County.

STING officers found evidence of an active methamphetamine lab in the residence itself, in the garage, and a barn. They also found a meth component refuse pile located to the rear of the property near a tree line.

During the search of the residence, STING officers also discovered, through tax records and other financial information, that the suspect's reported income was much lower - - very low - - compared to his current standard of living.

The suspect was charged with being a habitual offender plus six counts ranging from possession of methamphetamine, to operating a meth lab. The suspect's girlfriend was charged with six counts ranging from receiving and concealing stolen property, operating a meth lab, and possession of methamphetamine.

COMMANDER'S COLUMN



D/Lt. Jeffrey D. Keister

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.

130 arrests and stopped the dissemination of more than \$727,000 dollars worth of drugs directed toward the children, family and friends in our area.

Armed with this knowledge, community leaders and law enforcement agencies in Arenac, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda and Roscommon Counties

partnered with the Michigan State Police and federal agencies to establish the Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group (STING) in the early 90's. Currently, STING covers Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda and Roscommon Counties, as well as the City of Au Gres.

STING 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 STING is based on the simple premise that no one agency has the ability or resources to respond single-handedly to the drug problems in

"I am convinced that by combining our talent, resources and technology, we are more successful in our efforts."

As a citizen of Au Gres, or Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda or Roscommon County, you stand to benefit greatly by the collective efforts of STING. 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, STING 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. Counties across the state have seen an alarming increase in

methamphetamine clandestine labs (cooking sites) and meth related activities as well.

Methamphetamine is like no other drug we have seen before in this

**STING's Goal:
Removing drug dealers from streets and neighborhoods, and restoring a sense of peace and tranquility in our community.**

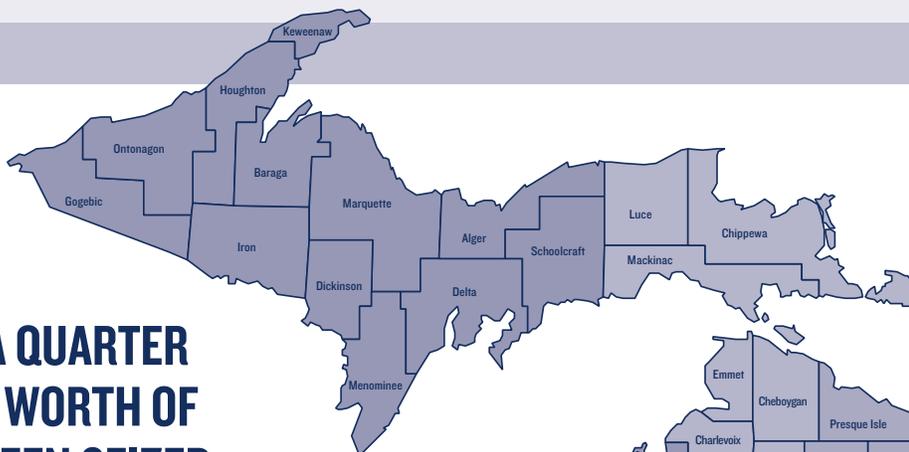
our area. Therefore, we had to look at combining our talent and resources into a strong specialized drug enforcement team, aimed specifically at removing drug criminals from our streets.

As Commander of STING, 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 146 cases, made

area, 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 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 STING officers in their efforts to keep this devastating drug from taking over our community.

**TO REPORT DRUGS AND DRUG DEALERS CALL (800) 362-6272
ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL**

LOCAL MULTIJURISDICTIONAL DRUG TEAMS HAVING IMPACT ON MICHIGAN DRUG EFFORTS

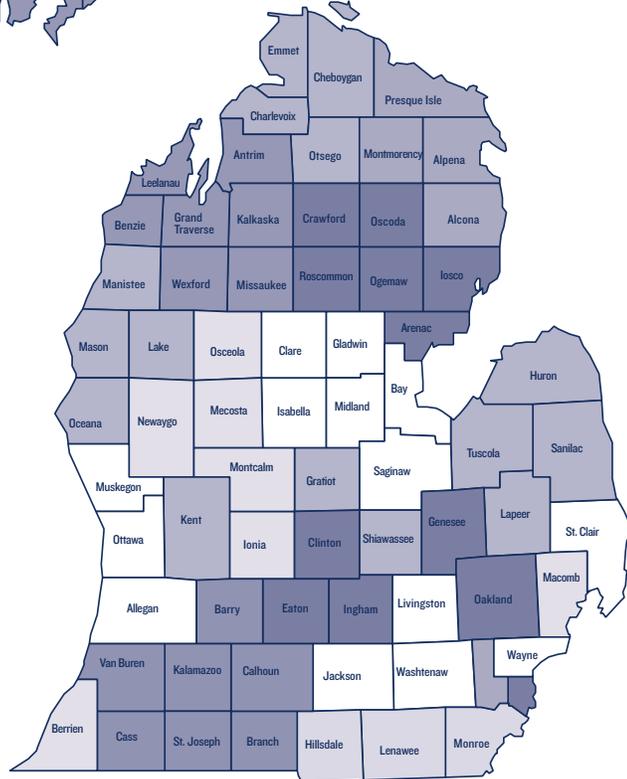


SINCE 2000, ALMOST A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF STREET DRUGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN MICHIGAN BY DRUG TEAMS

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.



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| B.A.Y.A.N.E.T. | Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team | 989/790-6581 |
| C.M.E.T. | Central Michigan Enforcement Team | 989/352-6738 |
| F.A.N.G. | Flint Area Narcotics Group | 810/233-3689 |
| H.U.N.T. | Huron Undercover Narcotics Team | 989/356-3395 |
| J.N.E.T. | Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team | 517/784-2990 |
| M.A.G.N.E.T. | Mid-Michigan Area Narcotics Enforcement Team | 989/725-7254 |
| M.E.T. | Metropolitan Enforcement Team | 616/456-4801 |
| S.A.N.E. | Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement | 231/238-8692 |
| S.S.C.E.N.T. | State, Sheriffs, Chiefs Enforcement Team | 231/843-7045 |
| S.T.I.N.G. | Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group | 989/345-2304 |
| S.W.E.T. | South-West Enforcement Team | 269/962-1225 |
| T.N.T. | Traverse Narcotics Team | 231/922-0993 |
| T.N.U. | Thumb Narcotics Unit | 989/673-8600 |
| T.C.M. | Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad | 517/394-5588 |
| U.P.S.E.T. | Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team | 906/346-9289 |
| W.E.M.E.T. | West Michigan Enforcement Team | 616/994-6520 |
| C.O.M.E.T. | County of Macomb Enforcement Team | 586/790-3990 |
| W.W.N. | Western Wayne Narcotics | 734/397-9811 |
| D.R.A.N.O. | Down River Area Narcotics Organization | 734/479-1710 |
| L.A.W.N.E.T. | Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team | 810/227-7897 |
| O.M.N.I. | Office of Monroe Narcotics Investigations | 734/848-3445 |

STRIKE TEAM INVESTIGATIVE NARCOTICS GROUP

TAKING DRUGS & DRUG CRIMINALS

Off our streets



BLOWING SMOKE!

A West Branch resident is in custody following several controlled buys by STING officers. STING officers arrested the Ogemaw County resident for possessing and selling marijuana from his Clear Lake house trailer. STING officers found a pistol under the mattress of a baby's bed in the trailer. During the buy, the husband bragged about blowing marijuana smoke in his baby's face because the baby loved it.

The children were removed from the parents by the Family Independence Agency.

TIP LEADS TO LARGE MARIJUANA GROW OPERATION IN HOUGHTON LAKE

Acting on a tip received by the Gladwin City Police Department, STING officers secured a search warrant for the house located on Harrison Road in Roscommon Township. STING officers found marijuana grow paraphernalia in the bedroom, along with a complete marijuana drying area in the attic. More than 53 lbs. of marijuana was seized from the house. The husband was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and manufacturing of marijuana with intent to deliver.

STING "STINGS" METH COOKERS!

Conducting a sting operation, STING officers uncovered two methamphetamine labs in a matter of two weeks. STING officers recently arrested a Tawas City husband and wife for operating a fully-equipped methamphetamine lab in their Iosco County home. The lab was seized after a two-month investigation that started in neighboring Ogemaw County, where STING officers started buying meth.

Authorities say the lab was capable of producing one to two ounces of finished meth per cook. With a street level value of \$100 per gram, the couple was netting approximately \$3,000 dollars an hour for their work. Unfortunately



for them, they now face methamphetamine and firearm possession charges.

STING officers also seized a second methamphetamine lab a week later in Roscommon County's Denton Township.

STING 2004 DRUG FIGHTING STATS

TOTAL CASES

130

TOTAL ARREST COUNTS

130

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED

79

DRUG SEIZED / PURCHASED

\$333,347

(STREET VALUE)



REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY (800) 362-6272

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