

# NOT FOUND IN ANY BLUE BOOK!

While booking a suspect for possession of cocaine, the suspect's cell phone rang. Detectives from WEMET recognized the name on the caller ID as a dealer who was known to be selling large amounts of cocaine in the Muskegon area.

A WEMET officer went outside to make contact with the caller. The caller was desperate to get his hands on 18 oz of cocaine. The only problem was he only had \$2,000 to buy the dope; but he could offer his antique 1970 Buick Riviera as collateral until he could get more money later that week.

The officer questioned him on the condition and value of his car, and was assured that the car was in excellent condition, worth \$18,000, and was no piece of junk!

The next day the suspect arrived at the usual location in his antique 1970 Buick to pick up the cocaine. The WEMET officer inspected the car and agreed it was in good shape. Unfortunately, the suspect indicated he didn't have the \$2,000 as promised, so the car would have to do. They both got into the car to complete the deal. While the suspect looked through the McDonald's food sack to check on the condition of the cocaine, WEMET officers moved in and arrested him. The car was seized as well.

## FIRST TIME ALMOST THE LAST TIME

The Otsego Fire Department responded to a house fire at 103rd Avenue in Otsego Township just about the same time as the occupant was checking himself into a local hospital with severe burns.

Entering the house, fire fighters found the kitchen heavily damaged by fire. They also found punctured cans of starting fluid, several gallons of Coleman fuel, a hot plate, empty nasal decongestant packs, propane tanks and several lithium battery casings.

Authorities quickly realized they had a methamphetamine fire on their hands as the result of someone trying to cook methamphetamine in the kitchen.

When WEMET officers interviewed the suspect at the hospital, he claimed it was the very first time he had ever tried to cook meth. He also said his 2-year old son, who was in the house at the time of the explosion/fire, was not injured.

# COMMANDER'S COLUMN

**D/F/Lt. John Porter**  
Michigan State Police



**WEST MICHIGAN  
ENFORCEMENT TEAM**

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 Allegan, Muskegon and Ottawa counties partnered with the Michigan State Police and federal agencies to establish the West Michigan Enforcement Team (WEMET). WEMET 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 WEMET 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 Allegan, Muskegon or Ottawa County, you stand to benefit greatly by the collective efforts of

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



WEMET. 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, WEMET 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 Allegan County, 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

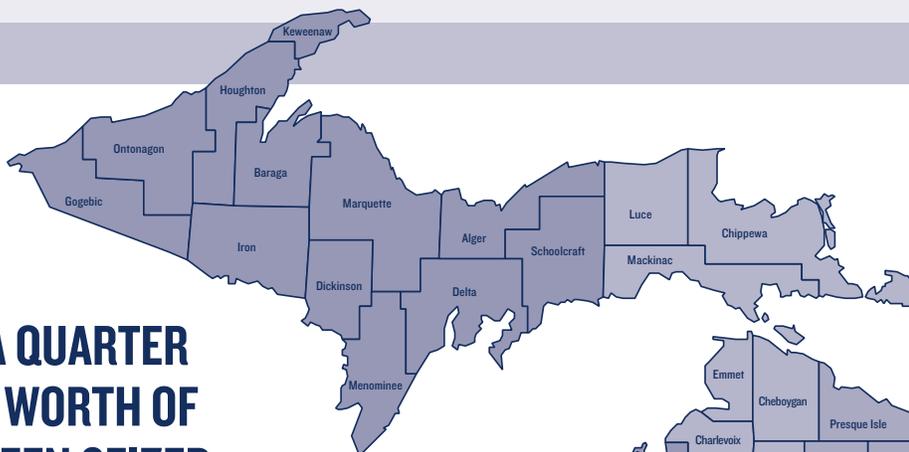
(cooked) right here in our community and not imported as is the case with other illegal drugs. As you read about methamphetamine in this newsletter, you will see how deadly and dangerous this drug really is. I encourage you to become aware of the dangers associated with methamphetamine, to report any suspicious activities, and to help WEMET officers in their efforts to keep this devastating drug from taking over our community.

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

As Commander of WEMET 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 792 cases, made 642 arrests and took 642 criminals off our streets. In addition, we stopped the dissemination of more than \$3,399,078.00 worth of drugs directed toward the children, family and friends in our communities.

**TO REPORT DRUGS AND DRUG DEALERS CALL (616) 944-6520  
ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL**

# LOCAL MULTIJURISDICTIONAL DRUG TEAMS HAVING IMPACT ON MICHIGAN DRUG EFFORTS

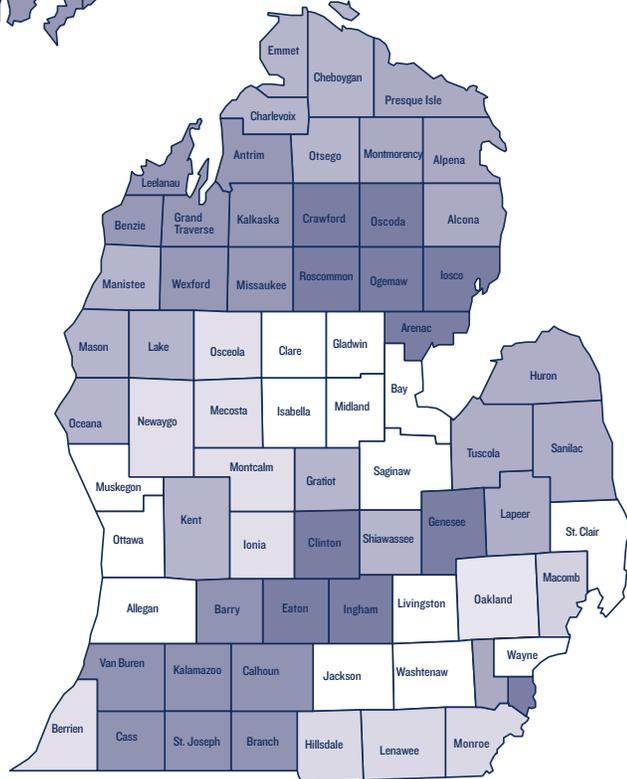


## SINCE 2000, ALMOST A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF STREET DRUGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN MICHIGAN BY DRUG TEAMS

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

TAKING DRUGS & DRUG CRIMINALS

# Off our streets



## AND BABY MAKES THREE

Make no mistake about it, these suspects intended on stealing anhydrous ammonia to cook more methamphetamine.

On a routine traffic stop by an Ottawa County Sheriff's deputy, the deputy found an adult male and female—each with outstanding warrants, a three-week old baby, a duffel bag containing methamphetamine, binoculars, two-way radios, gloves, flashlight, crescent wrench, piping, pipe fittings and a shut-off valve used to steal anhydrous ammonia.

When questioned, the suspects admitted to being hired to steal anhydrous ammonia for the owner of a local landscaping company. They simply drove around the area looking for, and easily finding, anhydrous ammonia to steal then sell. The meth in the duffel bag had come from another meth friend who gets it through the Hells Angels and OutRiders motorcycle gangs. Both suspects, who had been recently camping in Yankee Springs Recreational area (where they smoked methamphetamine) could not explain why they were also in possession of stolen credit cards and social security cards.

The female suspect indicated they had stolen anhydrous in the past. At one point she had stolen anhydrous and also stolen a check from another meth user to write a bad check that was used to raise money for her boyfriend's bond.

She said she smoked meth because her boyfriend liked her to smoke meth with him. She indicated they had just gotten her three-week old baby back from her boyfriend's mother, who had taken custody of the infant, because at the time they were living in a tent at a free campground near Fremont. The baby was returned to them because they were able to come up with some money to rent a motel room, which they had just checked out of.

## METH DIVERSION PROGRAM CHANGES THINKING TO IMPACT ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR

The Allegan County Sheriff's office, Allegan County Community Corrections and the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program have teamed together to create the state's first Methamphetamine Diversion Program for individuals arrested for methamphetamine addiction crimes.

The program is designed to teach offenders successful thinking and behavioral skills to combat their meth addiction and return to society as productive members of the community. Successful completion of the program also allows additional jail time to be waived and pending probation violation charges to be dismissed.

"We believe that by changing the offender's thought pattern and helping them to understand their addictive behavior, we can help them break their addictive cycle," states Allegan County Sheriff Blaine Koops.

Program participants are selected by Corrections staff and Probation Officers with approval from the presiding judge. Participants must be convicted non-violent



ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF BLAINE KOOPS

felons, have committed crimes related to methamphetamine use, and have a personal desire to discontinue the use of methamphetamine.

The five-phase program includes individual and group counseling, detoxification, drug testing, minimum schooling or employment, restitution to victims, community service and a co-payment for diversion program participation.

## SUMMARY 2003

TOTAL CASES  
**792**

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED  
**642**

DRUG SEIZED / PURCHASED  
**\$3,399,078**  
(STREET VALUE)



WEST MICHIGAN  
ENFORCEMENT TEAM

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY (616) 994-6520