

## National Guard Counterdrug (CD) Program

### What is it?

Since 1989, the National Guard, working with law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and community based organizations (CBOs), has performed interdiction and anti-drug activities in the fight against illicit drugs. Approximately 2,600 Soldiers and Airmen in the 54 States and Territories support more than 5,000 LEAs at the local, state, and federal levels preventing illicit drugs from being imported, manufactured, or distributed.

### What has the CD Program done?

The CD program is executed by the governors of each of the 54 States and Territories and supports the strategic goals of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). In FY10, approximately 2,600 National Guard personnel in Title 32 status provided counterdrug support to LEAs and seized drugs with an estimated street value of \$45.5 billion.

National Guard CD program accomplishments include:

- **Drug Demand Reduction:**  
Serving as mentors, Soldiers and Airmen teach a variety of anti-drug and positive decision making programs including the primary *Stay on Track* curriculum. During the 2009-10 school year, *Stay on Track* reached more than 115,200 middle-school students. Part of the counterdrug (CD) program includes assisting LEAs by sharing information and providing additional assets. The National Guard continues to expand training programs at CD schools and, working with the Department of Defense and other interagency partners, produces actionable intelligence that supports the homeland defense and security missions.
- **Counterdrug Aviation:**  
The NG supports the CD effort with both rotary and fixed wing aircraft. Currently, 144 Army National Guard (ARNG) OH-58A Kiowa helicopters are assigned to CD missions. Of these, 116 are fully outfitted and specially equipped for CD missions. The Air National Guard provides 11 specially equipped RC-26B fixed wing aircraft in support of the CD mission. Both platforms have supported the Southwest border mission as well as overseas missions. During FY10, CD aviation assets flew 28,112 hours supporting federal, state, and LEAs in CD missions. In FY10, the National Guard efforts led to 57,065 arrests and assisted law enforcement in seizing hundreds of thousands of pounds of drugs; nearly thirty-two thousand weapons; almost thirty-two thousand vehicles; more than \$28 million in property; and nearly \$570 million in cash.

### **What continued efforts does the NG CD Program have planned for the future?**

The National Guard CD program will continue to focus on drug demand reduction, information sharing, and training. Reenergizing its support with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America and forming new partnerships with organizations such as the National Foundation of Women Legislators demonstrates increased emphasis on community involvement. Improved information sharing continues to move forward ensuring the National Guard CD programs remain a critical force-multiplier. The training component is also expanding. Annually, the five National Guard CD locations across the United States (FL, MS, WA, IA, and PA) train more than 110,840 military, law enforcement, and CBO members. Additionally, three of the courses offer additional skill identifiers (ASIs for the Army) and special experience identifiers (SEIs for the Air Force).

For the foreseeable future, the National Guard expects to provide aviation support both overseas and stateside. Several of the RC-26B aircraft will continue to support combatant commanders while the remaining aircraft undergo software and equipment modifications to provide better support here at home.

### **Why is this important to the National Guard?**

As the CD mission continues to expand, the nexus between drugs and terrorism has become more evident. The unique training and specialized equipment, and the corresponding capabilities, make the National Guard CD program an increasingly important part of the overall homeland defense and security missions.