

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Law Enforcement Programs
OCJP Priority – Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces

Tennessee’s strategy is to enhance the ability of federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies using jointly controlled operations to remove specifically targeted mid and upper-level narcotics trafficking through investigation, arrest, prosecution, and conviction. The possession, sale, and cultivation of illegal drugs have impacted communities in all areas of the state. The drug problem has exacerbated violent crime activity. Individual law enforcement agencies in Tennessee do not have the personnel or funding to combat the problem alone. As drug distribution activities spread over larger regions – ignoring the artificial boundaries of individual jurisdictions – law enforcement and prosecutors are forced to explore the need for task forces that can meld the talents of individual agencies into an effective whole. Undercover work is made more difficult, if not impossible, in smaller communities where police officers are well known to the locals. For these and other reasons, the multi-jurisdictional drug and violent crime task forces fill the gaps between traditional law enforcement organization and the need for responding to these new demands.

Program Description

Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) 8-7-110 created the Judicial District Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces in order to improve collaboration, produce written inter-agency agreements, encourage the pooling of resources including personnel and equipment, and to build a better system for addressing drug issues using a team concept. These task forces are formed under each Judicial District Attorney General and include a Board of Directors or Advisory Board that represents each participating agency. The Board of Directors, with the approval of the District Attorney General, appoints a Director, develops by-laws and written Inter-Agency agreements, adheres to a budget, and conducts other related business. Each local agency that elects to join the task force must provide personnel, equipment, or funding. The T.C.A. provides that each task force special agent will have the same jurisdiction throughout the Judicial District as he/she would have within his or her respective city or county.

Activities

Judicial District Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces, along with state departments and local law enforcement agencies, conduct covert and overt operations to reduce violent crime and disrupt drug trafficking. Covert drug operations target upper level drug dealers; overt operations involving the Department of Safety and the Task Forces intercept the drugs while in transport. Intercepting these shipments increases law enforcement control over deliveries in Tennessee, and collaboration with other states assists in identifying drug routes.

Program Goal, Outputs, and Outcomes

Goal 1: To disrupt criminal enterprise through the arrest of individuals involved in the sale of illegal drugs and violent crime.

Objective 1: Investigate Drug Crimes with the focus on mid and upper-level offenders whose activities involve the commission of felonies and the construction of organized criminal enterprises.

Outputs:

- Number of investigations initiated.
- Number of investigations that are drug related.
- Number of cases closed.

Objective 2: Arrest drug and violent crime offenders.

Outputs:

- Number of individuals arrested based on task force activity.
- Number of individuals arrested on a misdemeanor charge.
- Number of misdemeanor arrests that were drug related.
- Number of individuals arrested on a felony charge.
- Number of felony arrests that were drug related.
- Number of *gang members only* arrested.

Objective 3: Seize firearms held illegally, or used in the commission of crimes.

Outputs:

- Number of firearms seized.
- Number of seized firearm serial numbers that were put into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).
- Number of seized firearms traced through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Objective 4: Seize assets directly related to drug and violent crime.

Outputs:

- Number of **Federal forfeiture cases** filed.
- The value of assets seized (in dollars) under federal cases.
- Value of seized assets in federal cases that were drug related.

- Number of **State forfeiture cases** filed.
- The value of assets seized (in dollars) under state cases.
- Value of seized assets in state cases that were drug related.

Outcome 1: Disrupt and Dismantle Organized Crime.

- Number of gangs disrupted.
- Number of gangs dismantled.
- Number of drug-trafficking and money-laundering organizations disrupted.
- Number of drug-trafficking and money-laundering organizations dismantled.

Goal 2: Eliminate the availability of illegal drugs by seizing illicit stores of narcotics and dismantling clandestine production facilities.

Objective 1: Seize illegal narcotics.

Outputs:

- Amount of Cocaine (crack) seized.
- Amount of Cocaine (powder) seized.
- Amount of Ecstasy (MDMA) seized.
- Amount of Heroin seized.
- Amount of Marijuana (commercial grade, hydroponic, synthetic/spice) seized.
- Amount of Methamphetamine seized.
- Amount of Methamphetamine (ice) seized.
- Amount of Pseudoephedrine seized.
- Amount of Psilocybin seized.
- Amount of Prescription Pills seized.
- Amount of Salvia seized.

- Amount of Steroids seized.
- Amount of “other” seized
 - If other, please specify

Objective 2: Shut down clandestine drug labs.

Outputs:

- Amount of Cocaine (crack) seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Cocaine (powder) seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Ecstasy (MDMA) seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Heroin seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Marijuana (commercial grade, hydroponic, synthetic/spice) seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Methamphetamine seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Methamphetamine (ice) seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Pseudoephedrine seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Psilocybin seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Prescription Pills seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Salvia seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of Steroids seized from clandestine labs.
- Amount of “other” seized from clandestine labs
 - If other, please specify

Outcome 1: Shut down drug manufacturing or processing locations.

- The numbers of Marijuana grow sites destroyed.
- The number of drug labs shut down.
- The number of drug processing locations shut down.

Goal 3: Foster good-relations with the public through the use of community meetings in order to educate citizens and raise public awareness of potential criminal activities that might be occurring in the area so-as to encourage the reporting of criminal activity which may then be investigated.

Objective 1: Educate the public on drug crime in Tennessee.

Outputs:

- Number of community meetings held during the reporting period.
- Number of community meetings that were drug or related.

Data Collection

Arrest and offense data is generated by DTF agents through case reporting. Arrest and offense data will be collected using the in house task force records management systems in conjunction with offense reports that are entered into the TNCops for upload to TIBRS.

Drug weights will first be determined by DTF agents following the seizure of any substance which is believed to be a narcotic and will then be updated based upon the findings of any forensic laboratory tests.