

PRESSRELEASE

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For Release 2/21/04

Date: February 19, 2004

More than \$125,000 in drugs removed from our streets

Michigan City, IN (February 19, 2004) – Michigan City Police Chief Gene Simmons announced that the Michigan City Division of the LaPorte County Metro Operations was very successful in removing drugs and those who deal in them from our streets in 2003.

“Concerted efforts have resulted in exceptional results,” said Chief Simmons, “and there are fewer drugs and dealers on our streets as a result of these efforts. Cpl. Mark Swistek has done an excellent job of supervising this task force, and each of the professionals on the team has gone far above and beyond the call of duty to achieve these results.”

In 2003, Michigan City police officers purchased (from dealers) and/or seized 669 grams of cocaine, nearly 18 pounds of marijuana, 80 Oxycontin pills, and 31 firearms. The estimated street value of the drugs is \$125,962.00.

The statistics from the Michigan City Division of the LaPorte County Metro Operations Group are compelling:

- Total cases made – 347
- Drug buys made – 102 cocaine, 13 marijuana and/or pills
- Raids – 20 including two SWAT raids
- Arrest warrants – 71
- Search warrants – 16
- Class A Felony arrests – 24
- Class B Felony arrests – 46
- Class C Felony arrests – 13
- Class D Felony arrests – 48
- Misdemeanor arrests – 105
- Juvenile arrests – 11
- Adult arrests – 225

Four Year Comparison Regarding Drug Investigations by MCPD Tactical Narcotic's Team

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | Total |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Cases Assigned | 189 | 186 | 327 | 347 | 1049 |
| Total Arrests | 165 | 122 | 224 | 236 | 747 |
| Operating Cost | \$ 20,891.26 | \$ 24,774.34 | \$ 28,652.40 | \$ 33,757.22 | \$ 108,075.22 |
| Guns Seized | 15 | 48 | 57 | 31 | 151 |
| Street Value of Drugs Seized | \$165,000.00 | \$230,609.00 | \$289,849.00 | \$125,962.00 | \$ 811,420.00 |
| Currency Seized by Narcotics Division over past four years. | | | | | \$345,737.47 |

Chief Simmons said, "You can't help but realize how the task force's results have impacted over-all crime in Michigan City."

Simmons praised the LaPorte County Prosecutor's Office for their strong support and participation in the task force. "Our officers work closely with Chief Deputy Prosecutor Atley Price. He goes out with the officers...he's right there with them, shoulder to shoulder. He's played a major role in the success of this task force."

Cpl. Mark Swistek said, "Since reforming the task force in 1999, I feel that the LaPorte County Metro Operations Unit, which works so closely with Chief Deputy Prosecutor Atley Price, has changed the quality of life in Michigan City. We're seeing the arrests made are impacting the neighborhoods as well as the individuals. Counseling and rehabilitation are making it possible for some of these drug abusers to return to the community and restart their lives."

"Obviously the individuals responsible for dealing narcotics are receiving longer jail terms as a result of our efforts," Cpl. Swistek concluded, "and the quality of cases that we are developing as a team."

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