



**Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**  
**613 Abbott Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Detroit, MI 48226**

COMMITTEE on GOVERNMENT REFORM  
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Drug Policy  
and Human Resources

Hearings of April 20, 2004  
Detroit, Michigan

TESTIMONY  
MICHIGAN HIDTA Director  
ABRAHAM L. AZZAM

The MICHIGAN HIDTA was authorized by the US Congress, and began in July of 1997. The Michigan HIDTA Executive Board is the Governing Body. The Executive Board has designed a strategy and crafted initiatives to implement the strategy. All Michigan HIDTA operations are approved by the Executive Board, and we function within the Policy Guidelines provided by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

The voting members of the Executive Board consists of Eight (8) Federal Agencies represented, they are The United States Attorney, FBI, DEA, ICE, IRS, TSA, ATF and the US Marshal. The Eight (8) State and Local Agencies represented are Michigan State Police, Detroit Police, Representative of the Michigan Association of Prosecutors, Two Eastern Michigan Sheriffs, One Western Michigan Sheriff, an Eastern and Western Michigan Chief of Police. These are the Voting Members. We also have Ex Officio members, The Michigan National Guard, Michigan ODCP, Michigan Attorney General and a Community Group, MOSES. I have provided the Subcommittee with a written description of our HIDTA's structure and activity.

The most unique aspect of the Michigan HIDTA, as well as 32 other HIDTAs, is the Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISC). The Michigan HIDTA ISC is a collective of DEA, FBI, ICE, CBP, US Coast Guard, IRS, Michigan State Police, Detroit Police, Wayne County Sheriff and the Michigan National Guard. Canada Customs has two Analysts who are present two days each week. All these Agencies provide significant Intelligence Resources; all are collocated in the Investigative Support Center (ISC). Also, there are frequent visits from Canada Immigration and the Ontario Provincial Police.

These resources gather, process and disseminate information and intelligence between Federal, State and Local Agencies, as well as Canadian Authorities, within existing Treaties and Protocol. Specifically, HIDTA Hosts the IBET and ICAT meetings. Analysts focus on information for the seizure of Drug and Precursor contraband, and are available for post seizure follow-up. Pseudo-Ephedrine has been a primary target of the ICE, CBP and Canadian Analysts for several years. I believe that the International effort of the last two years has had a dramatic impact upon the smuggling of Pseudo-Ephedrine in our area. It has not stopped, but it has ceased to be so blatant.

The Michigan HIDTA also has some 19 Initiative Task Forces, several deal with mid and high level investigations involving Psuedo, Methamphetamine, Party and Rave Drugs between the USA and Canada. DEA Group 2 deals with follow up investigations of precursors as well as Rave Drugs and BC Bud Marihuana Investigations. Pseudo-Ephedrine continues to be a primary target.

The Michigan State Police with HIDTA assistance has Uniform Division, Motor Carrier operations and training for interdiction of Drug Contraband, including Psuedo and other precursors. The Criminal Investigation Division of the Michigan State Police has two HIDTA supported Task Forces dealing with Metamphetamine and its pre-cursors. The Michigan State Police and DEA, with HIDTA support, has trained 140 Local Officers to be Clandestine Laboratory Certified and 60 Certified Site Safety Officers to deal with Methamphtamine Labs and the precursors associated with them.

The Michigan HIDTA support is in many forms such as funding for overtime, equipment, training, investigative travel and expenses. The Investigative Support Center, with its uniquely collocated Intelligence Assets has proven to be a valuable coordinating aid to the numerous Agencies involved in the effort.

I understand that you will receive testimony from DEA, ICE and CBP regarding their excellent efforts against the illegal smuggling of Pseudo-Ephedrine and other drugs. Operation North Star

I wish to thank the Subcommittee for this opportunity.

Abraham L. Azzam  
Executive Director  
Michigan HIDTA

Attachments: Description of the Michigan HIDTA