
SACRAMENTO COUNTY



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

LOU BLANAS
Sheriff

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
CAPTAIN BILL KELLY**

JULY 18, 2003

Good Morning, I am Bill Kelly, a Captain with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department assigned as the Commander of the Narcotic Investigations Division. In this capacity, I also serve as the Program Director for the California Multi-jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Teams (Cal-MMET).

The Cal-MMET program was formed and funded in September 2001 to combat the production, distribution, and sales of methamphetamine within the Central Valley and the North State within California. Specifically, the program was designed to train, equip, and deploy local law enforcement officers to address the methamphetamine problem at the local government level utilizing regional task forces.

In addition to enforcement efforts, the program has an educational component focused on middle school and high school aged children.

ROLE OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Law enforcement is tasked with the enforcement of law and the protection of life and property. With respect to narcotic activity, the principles of education, enforcement and treatment must coexist and support the effort of each.

Local law enforcement narcotic investigations generally constitute a commitment of local funding to investigate and eradicate illicit narcotic activity within a community. Each community throughout the state requires an enforcement effort tailored to respond to that community's particular problem.

When the state recognizes a compelling and significant problem, establishes a policy to respond to that problem, and commits particular resources to the problem, local law enforcement's ability to address the problem is significantly enhanced.

California, and the Central Valley in particular, has an enormous problem with the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. It has been estimated that California produces approximately 75% of the methamphetamine distributed throughout the United States. The threat of methamphetamine lies in its availability and the severe physiological effects associated with its use. The violence and environmental damage

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associated with the production, distribution, and use of the drug, as well as the involvement of international drug trafficking organizations, further threaten the country.

The governor and the legislature declared war on those who manufacture and distribute methamphetamine in 2001 by designating \$60 million, over the next three years to the Cal-MMET program. This program, in effect since September 2001, has put nearly 120 additional narcotic investigators in the field, eradicating methamphetamine and dismantling drug trafficking organizations in the Central Valley and North State. Without the state's commitment of resources, local law enforcement's enforcement efforts would be severely restricted in the fight against methamphetamine.

GOALS AND MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS:

Certainly the laudable yet unrealistic goal is the systematic eradication of illegal narcotics in our community. Each local law enforcement agency measures its success on the community's perception of effective law enforcement efforts and an individual's perception of whether or not the quality of life in the community meets his/her expectations.

As stated, each law enforcement agency in each community will require a different enforcement approach. For instance, in areas plagued by street level drug dealers, the concentrated efforts of law enforcement will solve the immediate problem through apprehension and product seizure. However, these efforts will displace those who continue to deal narcotics to another area. The purchasers of these substances generally end up in the court system and the cases adjudicated in either diversion/treatment, or incarceration.

The Kern County CAL-MMET program is reflective of this type of concentrated enforcement effort. Since January of 2002, the twelve detectives assigned to the Kern CAL-MMET program have affected 332 arrests and removed 50 children from a drug-endangered environment.

In rural areas, manufacture and distribution routes may be the local problem. These types of investigations are very time consuming and will eventually result in the closure of a lab and closure of a distribution route. The Tulare County CAL-MMET program has been successful in locating 46 methamphetamine lab sites and 69 manufacturing dumpsites. Of the 46 labs, 11 were considered super labs capable of manufacturing more than 10 lbs of methamphetamine. Individuals arrested for manufacturing and distribution offenses generally incur lengthy sentences for incarceration.

Law enforcement is best served by attacking the drug trafficking organization itself. These investigations are even more time consuming than the latter, and convictions usually result in significant sentences for incarceration. Additionally, these investigations are costly and require significant resources. By shutting down an organization before it can acquire chemical components, precursor materials and hardware to manufacture, or by seizing the narcotic before it reaches distribution points, law enforcement has achieved considerable success.

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The Sacramento County CAL-MMET program has shut down 8 large-scale drug trafficking organizations, while the San Joaquin County CAL-MMET program has shut down an additional 3 large-scale drug trafficking organizations (DTO's).

Sacramento County and Fresno County alone have seized in excess of 234 pounds of methamphetamine since the inception of the CAL-MMET program. Additionally, these counties have removed remarkable amounts of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and ecstasy from circulation.

Let me take a moment to put this in perspective with respect to actually how much methamphetamine was then removed from street distribution. At 94% pure, the 234 lbs of methamphetamine would have been cut 3 times to about 25% purity. These 234 lbs of methamphetamine now equate to 702 lbs, or about 321,516 grams. A dosage of use is approximately .20 grams. You now have about 1,607,605 dosages of methamphetamine selling at approximately \$20 per does. This equates to approximately \$32,152,100 that was removed from a drug trafficking organization, along with approximately 1,607,605 does of methamphetamine removed from the narcotic users community.

PURITY/PRICE

Law Enforcement suppression efforts can be effectively measured by the reduction in availability of the product. Economic variables such as the price for the product and the purity of the product fluctuate with effective enforcement efforts.

Success of law enforcement efforts cannot be measured by arrest statistics alone. Subjective measurements of success can be found with increased quality of living in areas that have undergone concentrated enforcement action. Quality of life issues such as viable neighborhoods, parks, and schools are reflective of areas that are conducive to good economic investment such as businesses and recreational venues.

RELATED NARCOTICS

Investigations continue to reveal that large-scale methamphetamine organizations often traffic in more than one type of narcotic. In fact, in two separate methamphetamine investigations in Sacramento County alone, seizures of 115 pounds and 145 pounds of cocaine were seized in addition to remarkable amounts of methamphetamine.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND 1-866-METHLAB

Local law enforcement takes an interest in the community and the modern trend in law enforcement has been Community Oriented Policing strategies. When the state adopts policies that facilitate law enforcement efforts,

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law enforcement is able to directly go into the community and schools and educate adult, teenagers and children about the debilitating effects of narcotic use. The CAL-MMET program has made a commitment to this end.

Additionally, the CAL-MMET program has published and circulated a number of public service advertisements in an effort to inform the community about the evils, pitfalls, and downfalls of methamphetamine abuse.

By establishing tip lines that allow individuals to remain anonymous, individuals are encouraged to keep watch over their community and report suspected illegal narcotic activity.

CLOSING

On behalf of Sheriff Lou Blanas and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.