



NEWS

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Chicago Crime Commission and DEA conduct Counter Narcotics Seminar for north suburban law enforcement

Officials provide detail of investigations to thwart drug trafficking by cartels in the suburbs

For Immediate Release

Chicago, IL – Thursday, September 5, 2013 –The Chicago Crime Commission in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is conducting a series of seminars designed to brief local law enforcement on the influence of Mexican drug cartels in trafficking narcotics in the Chicago area and is soliciting their assistance in putting the distribution hub out of business. The latest seminar was conducted in north suburban Schaumburg at a meeting of the North Suburban Chiefs of Police Association.

“The seminar featured presentations about the nature of Chicago area drug trafficking operations including the following topics: the primary means of transportation and distribution, the types of drugs being distributed, and the areas most affected,” according to Art Bilek, Executive Vice President of the Chicago Crime Commission. “A highlight of the seminar was a presentation given by DEA Special Agent in Charge Jack Riley about a new Chicago Strike Force and their ongoing efforts to dismantle the extensive narcotics trafficking ring operating in the Chicago area,” he added.

“As head of the DEA Chicago Field Division, Riley spearheads the Chicago Strike Force,” according to Joe Ways, Executive Director of the Chicago Crime Commission. “The Chicago Strike Force, comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement is pushing hard against the violent gang and drug-related crime in Chicago by implementing a strategy of focusing on the choke point where drug cartel and gang members interact to exchange drugs and money,” he said.

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“Because of cultural and language barriers, the choke point is the Achilles heel where the criminals and their enterprise are most vulnerable,” said Jack Riley. “If we can successfully exploit these choke points, we can arrest cartel and gang leaders, disrupt and stress cartel operations, and ultimately capture their leaders and dismantle operations,” he continued.

Riley also provided a brief overview of the investigation that resulted in 31 arrests made last week in an extensive heroin trafficking ring operating in Chicago and DuPage County. “The investigation began in February when police recovered heroin during the search of a Carol Stream home and then gathered information about an ongoing drug trafficking operation. During the investigation law enforcement tapped 17 phone lines and spent thousands of hours listening to phone calls and conducting surveillance, all of which ultimately led to the arrests,” Riley said. Riley concluded by characterizing the arrests as a great day for the good guys in this country.

Earlier this year, the Chicago Crime Commission and the DEA joined together to name Joaquin “Chapo” Guzman Loera as Chicago’s new *Public Enemy Number One*. Guzman heads the Sinaloa cartel in Mexico which allegedly smuggles heroin, cocaine, marijuana and other narcotics between Mexico and United States, with Chicago as a major distribution hub.

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