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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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TROOPER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL TROOPERS COALITION
Vol. 17, No. 1 • May 1996

THE FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL TROOPER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



On March 4, 1996, Pat Santangelo, James Rhinebarger and Johnny Hughes attended the First Annual Trooper Of The Year Awards in Leesburg, VA. The awards program was developed by AT&T Criminal Justice Division, Mr. John Cohen, The National Troopers Coalition, and the I.A.C.P. (State and Provincial Police). Left to right: Chairman James Rhinebarger; Trooper Rose A. Edgren, Alaska State Troopers; Trooper Peter Rahm, Michigan State Police; Detective Corporal Steven G. O'Donnell, Rhode Island State Police; Trooper Carlos Velasquez, Florida Highway Patrol; and John Cohen, AT&T Director Criminal Justice Division. National recognition of the National Troopers Coalition was given as well as remarks by Chairman James Rhinebarger and all trooper nominees and winners.

Jose - FYI
This is my
son's case.
Johnny

Police Suspect Shooting of Trooper Is Linked to Drug Case

By Brooke A. Masters
and Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writers

Four Washington area men have been charged with a drug conspiracy that investigators believe is connected to the attempted slaying of a Maryland state trooper last August, according to court documents.

Trooper Michael T. Hughes was shot in a nighttime ambush Aug. 27 as he was coming off duty near his home in Abingdon, north of Baltimore, police said. An armed man stepped from behind a tree and fired several times with a handgun as Hughes slowed to examine a suspicious stopped vehicle. Hughes was struck once in the upper left arm, investigators said. No one has been charged in the shooting.

Now an affidavit filed by police and unsealed last week in U.S. District Court in Alexandria suggests that the gunman may have mistaken Michael Hughes for Hughes's brother,

David. David Hughes, also a Maryland state trooper, had arrested Gregory McCorkle on cocaine charges while doing drug interdiction work on Interstate 95 in Cecil County, the affidavit said. McCorkle was scheduled to go on trial six days after the ambush.

McCorkle, 32, and three other men have been charged with conspiring to bring cocaine to this area from New York and cut, repackage and distribute it in Northern Virginia and elsewhere, according to the affidavit.

The men have not been charged in the shooting, but the affidavit filed by Arlington Detective Thomas J. Wise said the Maryland "State Police believe [McCorkle's case] is related to the attempted murder of . . . Michael Hughes."

Maryland State Police spokesman Greg Shipley acknowledged that state investigators have been looking at the possibility that the shooter mistook Michael Hughes for his

brother. "That's certainly one of the theories we're working on," Shipley said.

Investigators are sifting through records of suspects the brothers arrested to see if any might have tried to shoot them to block a trial, Maryland officials said.

According to Wise's affidavit, David Hughes used to live in the same house as Michael Hughes, and the brothers had swapped patrol cars on the night of the ambush.

An informant told investigators that McCorkle offered him \$5,000 in December to kill a Maryland State Police officer, the affidavit said.

The informant said McCorkle and Sergio Barrios, 25, who also was arrested in the conspiracy, told him that "they had tried to use their 'home boys' but they had been too loud and messy," the affidavit said.

McCorkle's Maryland cocaine case has been postponed indefinitely, according to the Cecil County state's attorney's office.

Barrios also has been charged with five state drug charges in Fairfax and is being held without bond there, police said. McCorkle and the others face federal drug conspiracy charges. James Abston, of Fairfax, and Brian Baldwin, of Washington—also are being held without bond.

Abston's attorney, G. Allen Dal and Baldwin's attorney, Alan Yanamoto, said their clients knew nothing about Hughes's shooting.

According to the affidavit, McCorkle got cocaine in New York and Barrios served as a middleman selling the drugs to Abston and other street-level dealers. Abston also allegedly sold illegal weapons, including sawed-off shotguns and a bomb. Barrios bought the bomb from Abston but lost the detonator, so he never used it, the affidavit said.

Shipley said Michael Hughes, 31, the son of recently retired state police Maj. Johnny L. Hughes, is still recuperating from the shooting and has been unable to return to work.

5/22/97 morning sun Shooting of trooper linked to drug case

Affidavit says 1996 attack may have been retaliation

By KRIS ANTONELLI
SUN STAFF

Police have linked two of four Washington-area men charged in a federal drug case to the shooting and stalking of a Maryland state trooper last year in Abingdon, which may have been retaliation for drug seizures by the officer or his brother, also a state trooper, according to a court document.

The wounded officer, Trooper Michael T. Hughes, was shot in the arm Aug. 27 during an apparent ambush near his home on Long Bar Harbor Road in Harford County. A man stepped from behind a tree and fired several times with a handgun.

Hughes suffered an arm wound in the shooting. Yesterday, Hughes said he could not comment on the case.

The investigation centers on four men arrested on drug charges April 30 to May 8 and being held without bond in separate jails in Northern Virginia, said Assistant U.S. Attorney James L. Trump.

Although the four have not been charged in the shooting, links between the cases came to light in an affidavit filed April 30 by Arlington Detective Thomas J. Wise and unsealed last week in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va.

According to that affidavit, an informant told investigators that one of the suspects — Gregory McCorkle, 32, whose last known address was the 900 block of M St. N.W. in Washington — offered him \$5,000 to kill a Maryland trooper. The informant declined, the document said.

The affidavit also says the gunman may have mistaken Hughes for his brother, Trooper David Hughes, also a state trooper who once lived in the house.

According to the affidavit, David Hughes arrested McCorkle on Dec. 11, 1995, while McCorkle was driving a 1996 Nissan Ultima with temporary Virginia tags on Interstate 95 in Cecil County. Hughes seized 1 kilogram of alleged cocaine hidden in a bag under the driver's seat.

McCorkle said he bought the substance in New York and was delivering it to Washington, the affidavit said. He told police that if he gave additional information, "the Colombians" would kill him. McCorkle was to go on trial in

the drug case six days after Hughes was shot. The case since has been delayed.

The affidavit says McCorkle and another man charged in the drug conspiracy — Sergio Barrios, whose last known address also was the 900 block of M St. N.W. in Washington — told a police informant they had tried to use "home boys" — local acquaintances — in the shooting, but they had been too "loud and messy."

The affidavit also notes that the Hughes brothers had swapped patrol cars the night of the shooting. Michael Hughes' home also was burglarized before the shooting

and after, police have said.

Also charged in the drug conspiracy that has become linked to the shooting investigation are James Abston, 29, of the 6300 block of Pioneer Drive in Springfield, Va.; and Brian Baldwin, 34, of the 900 block of M St. N.W. in Washington.

G. Allen Dale, Abston's attorney, said his client was not involved in the shooting and is "looking forward to his day in court." A court date on the drug charges has not been scheduled.

Lawyers for the other suspects could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Wednesday, May 28, 1997

5/28/97

Mistaken identity

2 men linked to shooting of state trooper

By Allan Vought

Aegis staff

Two Washington, D.C., men who have been charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Northern Virginia also have been linked to the shooting last summer of a Maryland state trooper in the Long Bar Harbor area near Abingdon.

Court records in Virginia indicate investigators with the Maryland state police suspect the men were involved in arranging the trooper's shooting, probably in retaliation for an earlier drug arrest in Maryland of one of the men. However, investigators also have come to view the shooting as a probable case of mistaken identity in which the trooper's brother actually was the intended target.

Trooper Michael Hughes, 30, was wounded in the arm late in the evening of Aug. 27. Hughes was ambushed in a hail of 9 mm gunfire on Long Bar Harbor Road as he drove toward his home at the end of his shift.

State police have exhaustively investigated the shooting of Hughes, a three-year veteran of the state police who is assigned to the JFK Barrack in Cecil County. Rewards totaling \$50,000 have been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Hughes' assailant.

Hughes remains on administrative leave, according to state police spokesman Sgt. Laura Lu Herman, who said Tuesday, "we are not at liberty to discuss details or facts of this case" because it remains under investigation.

From the beginning, state police investigators had concentrated on retaliation as a motive for the shooting because Hughes was actively involved in drug interdiction efforts along I-95. A few weeks after the shooting, the investigators said they were reviewing drug arrests made by both Hughes and his brother, David, who is also a

Please see TROOPER, A9

Mistaken identity: *Brother thought to be target* Abingdon trooper's shooting linked to drug-related arrest

TROOPER, from A1

trooper assigned to the JFK Barrack.

An affidavit filed under seal on April 30 in the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., quotes one of the investigators in the Hughes case as saying the drug trial of a man arrested Dec. 11, 1995, in Cecil County by David Hughes has not come to trial yet because state police believe the case is related to the attempted murder of Michael Hughes.

The affidavit of Thomas J. Wise, a detective with the Arlington County (Va.) Police Department who also serves on an interjurisdictional drug task force in Northern Virginia, was unsealed May 14, after the four men whom it charges with federal conspiracy to distribute cocaine were in police custody.

The defendant in the Cecil County drug case, Gregory Allen McCorkle, 32, of Washington, D.C., is among the four men being held in Virginia jails on the federal conspiracy charges.

Another defendant in the federal case, Sergio Barrios, 25, also of Washington, D.C., who court documents allege was a mid-level cocaine distributor and an associate of McCorkle's, is also linked to the Hughes shooting by the Wise affidavit. Barrios, who has been jailed since April 17 on state drug distribution charges, had a preliminary hearing on the federal conspiracy charges in Alexandria on Tuesday afternoon.

James Trump, the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting the conspiracy case, said McCorkle, Barrios and their co-defendants, James Abston, 29, of Springfield, Va., and Brian Baldwin, 34, of Washington, D.C., will remain in jail until a federal grand jury has reviewed the charges and decides whether or not to indict them. Trump, who said he could not discuss the details of the case, explained that under federal rules, the grand jury has 30 days from the filing of the of the charging documents against the four men (on April 30) to take action.

According to the Wise affidavit, the drug conspiracy charges grew from an investigation that began this February and used confidential informants and undercover police officers. In the course of the probe, one of the informants alleged that last December McCorkle offered him \$5,000 to kill an unnamed Maryland state trooper, an offer which the informant claims he refused.

The same informant also alleged that McCorkle and Barrios asked him a second time in late December if he would make the hit but the informant again refused. During this conversation, the informant said he was told by McCorkle and Barrios that they would take him to the trooper's home and that the killing must occur before a court date scheduled after the New Year. It was also during this conversation that the informant said Barrios and McCorkle told him they had tried to use their "home boys" [acquaintances living nearby] to kill the trooper but the locals had been "too loud and too messy."

The affidavit filed in Virginia and court documents in Cecil County say McCorkle initially was stopped for speeding on southbound I-95 by David Hughes. McCorkle was driving a 1996 Nissan Ultima with Virginia temporary tags that was registered to Barrios. He displayed an Illinois driver's license.

During the stop, a drug sniffing dog reacted positively to the vehicle which was subsequently searched and a kilogram of cocaine was found in a black bag under the driver's seat. Questioned by police two days later, McCorkle allegedly said he bought the cocaine in New York and was taking it to Washington. He also allegedly said he if provided any more information "he would be killed by Columbians."

On Feb. 28, 1996, McCorkle was indicted by a Cecil County grand jury on four counts of drug smuggling, possession and intent to distribute and on two minor traffic offenses, failing to wear a seatbelt and failing to notify the motor vehicle agency of an address change. He posted a \$50,000 bond March 1, 1996. The docket entries in the case show several requests for continuances from early last August through Feb. 7 when McCorkle's trial was postponed indefinitely by Cecil County Circuit Judge Dexter Thompson Jr.

According to the affidavit filed in the Virginia case, state police Det. Sgt. Thomas Coppinger told Wise that McCorkle had not been tried on the Maryland charges because state police "believe [the case] is related to the attempted murder of Maryland State Trooper Michael Hughes, Trooper David Hughes' brother." Coppinger said McCorkle's original trial date in Cecil County was Sept. 3, 1996, a week after Michael Hughes was shot.

Coppinger, who could not be reached for comment Tuesday, also furnished information to Wise that Michael Hughes' house had been burglarized Aug. 20, 1996, a week before the trooper was shot, and that David Hughes had once lived in the same house. The state

police investigator also told Wise the Hughes brothers had switched their marked patrol cruisers on the day Michael was shot, so Michael was driving David's car when the shooting occurred.

State police investigators have said Michael Hughes told them that on the night of the shooting, he had just turned the patrol car into Long Bar Harbor Road from Route 40 when he noticed a red

sport utility vehicle "suspiciously parked" with its high headlight beams on. As Hughes slowed his cruiser to investigate, a man stepped out from a line of trees along side the road and opened fire, striking the trooper once in the upper left arm.

Hughes, upon realizing he was shot, continued driving eastbound on Long Bar Harbor Road, as he summoned help. He was later

taken from the scene by a Medevac helicopter.

A body of searchers found no traces of the gunman, whom Hughes described as a stocky built black man between 5 feet 8 and 5 feet 10 inches tall, or the vehicle observed by the trooper. Police later said they were also looking for a second vehicle with four doors and a light colored, two-tone paint scheme.

BALTO. Sun May 3, 1997

Shooting of trooper unsolved



NANINE HARTZENBUSCH: SUN STAFF

Target of attack: Trooper Michael Hughes was ambushed by a gunman who hid in the trees at left on Long Bar Harbor Road as Hughes was heading home to Abingdon.

Trooper's work combating drug traffic believed to be motive in ambush attack

[Trooper, from Page 1a]

system," said Craig Floyd, chairman of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. "But today there is no fear of that."

Even so, the Hughes shooting — in which the officer appears to have been followed in the period before the shooting — "is the most blatant case of a police officer being stalked because he is a police officer that I have ever heard of," Floyd said.

Michael Hughes and his brother probably generated more than their fair share of enemies during the year they patrolled I-95 — a notorious north-south drug trafficking route.

The brothers estimate that, between them, they made at least 200 drug trafficking arrests during the year before the shooting — including a New York City officer who has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for drug trafficking.

"Usually the people who we catch are small-time mules, and their bosses consider the loss the cost of doing business," Michael Hughes said. "But maybe this person was a small-time dealer who

ran his own drugs, and getting caught ended up costing him a lot."

The bizarre events involving Michael Hughes began about 3 a.m. Aug. 20 when the brothers' father, Johnny Hughes, a retired state police major, woke in his bed to find a man shining a flashlight on his face.

The intruder ran through the house and down the hall to the stairs leading to an outside door. The elder Hughes, armed with a handgun, tried to catch up with the man, who escaped through a basement door.

"There was a heavy dew that night, and I saw two sets of footprints in the grass that led to the woods," Johnny Hughes said. "So I think there were two of them."

The intruder apparently entered the house through a lower-floor window to the room where Michael Hughes normally slept. But Michael was working the overnight shift.

Outside, the elder Hughes found smoldering Newport cigarette butts. The house was not ransacked, and the intruder left apparently as soon as he saw that Michael Hughes was not home, the father said.

"If [Michael] had been in the bed that night, they probably would have killed him," the elder Hughes said. "That's my hunch."

A week later, Michael Hughes was on his way home from his 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift and had turned onto Long Bar Harbor Road from U.S. 40 when he saw a red sports utility vehicle in a vacant lot at the corner of that road and U.S. 40 with its lights on.

"I couldn't see inside it because of the bright lights," Hughes said. "But it drew my attention, and I almost stopped to talk to the driver, but it was the end of my shift and I was tired."

"Sometimes I think that was the plan, to get me to stop there. It would have been a lot easier for them to shoot me that way."

As Hughes continued down the

road, branches on a cluster of pine trees to his right began to move.

"Then the guy just jumped right out in front of me and started shooting," he said.

The gunman, who had begun firing into the windshield of Hughes' cruiser, dropped to a kneeling position and continued to fire as Hughes passed. A bullet that had come through the passenger window hit Hughes in the left arm.

"I could hear the shots still coming as I drove away," he said. "I drove a little further and radioed for help."

In minutes, state troopers blanketed the area. The gunman had vanished, but detectives found cigarette butts behind the pine trees where the gunman had been hiding — Newport brand.

"I think the driver of that vehicle signaled the gunman with his headlights," Hughes said. "He could have flashed them on and off and still be seen from where the gunman was hiding."

One complication for investigators is the fact that a few days before the shooting, the brothers had switched cruisers. Michael Hughes had been driving David's unmarked cruiser and traded back just hours before the shooting, Coppinger said.

The gunman is described as a black male, about 5 foot 8 to 5 foot 10 inches tall with a stocky build. He was wearing gold-framed glasses, a light T-shirt and dark pants. He is believed to have been armed with a 9 mm handgun.

In hopes of generating leads, the Hugheses appeared on an episode of "America's Most Wanted," which aired April 19. And there is a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the gunman.

Meanwhile, Michael Hughes, who has been on injury leave since the shooting, said he expects to be back at work this month. He will not be working drug interdiction on I-95.

Excess of suspects
hinders investigators
of ambush attack

Drug work may be motive

People with grudges
against officers now seem
more apt to retaliate

By KRIS ANTONELLI
SUN STAFF

More than eight months after state Trooper Michael Hughes was ambushed and shot a few hundred yards from his Abingdon home, investigators face an unusual predicament — too many suspects.

Dozens of people, they say, might have had a reason to attack the 31-year-old trooper who, with his brother and fellow trooper David, was known for aggressive drug interdiction work on the Interstate 95 corridor in Harford and Cecil counties.

"In most cases, the problem is that there is a lack of suspects," said Detective Sgt. Tom Coppinger of the Special Investigative Support Unit. In this case, there are "too many ... It complicates things even further."

Coppinger said investigators are convinced the attack was related to Hughes work as a trooper.

The shooting Aug. 27 illustrates what law enforcement experts say is a rare but growing boldness on the part of those who have had run-ins with the law or carry grudges against police officers.

In 1994, 383 officers nationwide were injured in ambush-style assaults, accord-

ing to the most recent FBI statistics.

In February of this year, an officer in Washington, D.C., was shot to death in his patrol car, apparently in retaliation for ousting a patron from a nearby nightclub. And in May 1984 a Maryland state trooper was shot in the arm and chest outside his Catonsville home by a man whom he had ticketed for drunken driving.

"There used to be this stereotype that no matter how brutal the criminals were, they would not kill a police officer because they knew the wrath of the criminal justice [See Trooper, 5b]

Tose - Can you
please take care of
this for me

Letter should be
mailed to my home
address - Johnny Hughes
804 Long bar harbor
Road —

Abington, MD. 21009
Thanks J.H.



Maryland State Police Deputy Superintendent's Office

FAX Number: (410) 653-4630
1201 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, Maryland 21208-3899
Phone: (410) 653-4423

FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

DATE: June 10, 1997

TO: Mr. Johnny Hughes, Baltimore/Washington HIDTA

FAX NO.: 301-489-1660

FROM: Chester Miller

SUBJECT: White House/Presidential Letter for Steve Geppi

You should receive 1 page(s) INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET. If you do not receive all pages, please call (410) 653-4219.

COMMENTS:

Here is the information you requested:

Steven Francis Geppi
Maryland State Police

Joined → July 1, 1973 - July 1, 1997 ← Retired

Thanks!

Chester

*Please note
PARTY IS
Notified
July 26th,
1997*



SERVING THE NATION'S HIDTA REGIONS

June 19, 1997

Dore - Welcome back I am glad
to hear you are back at the
White House. It will be good
to work with you again. Dore
I have enclosed some things I
thought you would be interested in.
I would like to invite you up
for a tour of the W/B HIDTA
please call me to schedule a
convenient time. I still handle the
Congressional Office work for the
Trooper however I retired from
the MSP & took a position
at O.N.D.C.P. Take care and
please give me a call.

Wanda Hight
Johns

7500 GREENWAY CENTER
SUITE 900
GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
TELEPHONE 301.489.1700
FAX 301.489.1660

PC Computer Software for Drug Investigators, Intelligence Analysts, and Case Managers

Administration

System administrators can

- Add users
- Edit users
- Delete users
- Customize user privileges

-
- SPIN is provided FREE of charge to all law enforcement/criminal justice agencies
 - A Help Desk is available during normal business hours
 - Customized features are available for a nominal fee

(301) 489-1744

May 1997

• • • • •
**Washington/Baltimore HIDTA
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**
7500 Greenway Center Drive
Suite 900
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Suspect Pointer Index Network

S P I N

Washington / Baltimore



Suspect Pointer Index Network

**A Pointer Index and Case
Management Software
Package designed for
Criminal Investigators,
Analysts, and
Case Managers**

**(301) 489-1744
SPIN HELP DESK
[Monday through Friday]
(8:30 - 4:30 EST)**

SPIN is computer software designed by and for criminal investigators and intelligence analysts focused on drug and firearms trafficking and money laundering. It provides for electronic data storage and facilitates the exchange of sensitive case information among investigative units. As investigators enter data, they instantly discover if others have entered similar information. A powerful search feature enables investigators, analysts and managers to piece together critical information and produce better case results. SPIN also allows data from remote sites to be sent to a central database. SPIN is completely customizable and absolutely FREE!

SPIN Features

- Comes in standalone or network versions
- Entry and search conducted in a variety of fields:

Case Number
Investigator
Names and Aliases
Addresses and Phone Numbers
Organizations, Groups and Gangs
Vehicles and Firearms

- Imaging System Included
- Key Word Text Search
- Adaptive to All Investigations
- Audit Trail Automatically Created
- Password Protected

Entering Case Information

Pull down menus standardize the entry of data.

Existing data is brought up easily. New data can be entered in the following areas:

- Persons
 - Addresses
 - Groups
 - Vehicles
 - Aliases
-

Automatic Searches

SPIN automatically searches for similar information upon completion of data entry. It will display and print similar information for the appropriate operator (selective privileges).

Centralized Data

This option allows a supervisor to send data from a remote site to a central, searchable database. The transfer can be done by Wide Area Network, modem, or diskette. Agencies can select which cases they wish to transfer.

Washington / Baltimore



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HIDTA [High Intensity Drug Trafficking
Area] Brochure (



*For more information
call or write:*
Washington/Baltimore HIDTA
7500 Greenway Center Drive
Suite 900
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
301/489-1700
Fax 301/489-1660



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A Multi-Indicator Analysis of the Drug Threat to the Washington/Baltimore Region

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA
1996-97 Threat Assessment

"Enough is Enough"



Peter Luongo, Ph.D., Executive Committee Chairperson
Commissioner Thomas Frazier, Vice-Chairperson
Thomas H. Carr, Director

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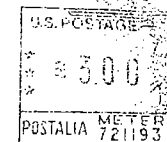
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J. Hughes
WASHINGTON / BALTIMORE

HIDTA

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA

7500 Greenway Center Drive, Suite 900
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770



PRIORITY

PRIORITY

MR. JOSE CERDA (PERSONAL)
DOMESTIC Policy Council
White House
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500



NATIONAL
HIDTA
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA
INFORMATION UNIT

SERVING THE NATION'S HIDTA REGIONS

Johnny L. Hughes
Director

7500 Greenway Center Drive
Suite 900
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

(301) 489-1795
Fax (301) 489-1660



JOHNNY L. HUGHES

5-29-98

Case - I have enclosed some things
that I thought that you would
be interested in: An update
on my sons Mike and David
Case, etc. newsletters, linkings of
Baltimore HIDTA newsletters, and
request for Providence photo. Hope
all is well with you. LET
ME KNOW IF YOU COULD COME UP
TO GREENBELT, MD, ONE DAY FOR
A TOUR OF THE N/3 HIDTA.
I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU COME
UP FOR A TOUR AND TAKE YOU
TO LUNCH.

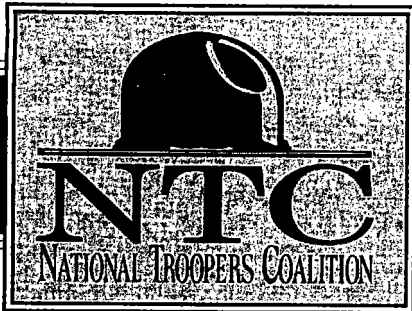
Warm Regards
Johnny

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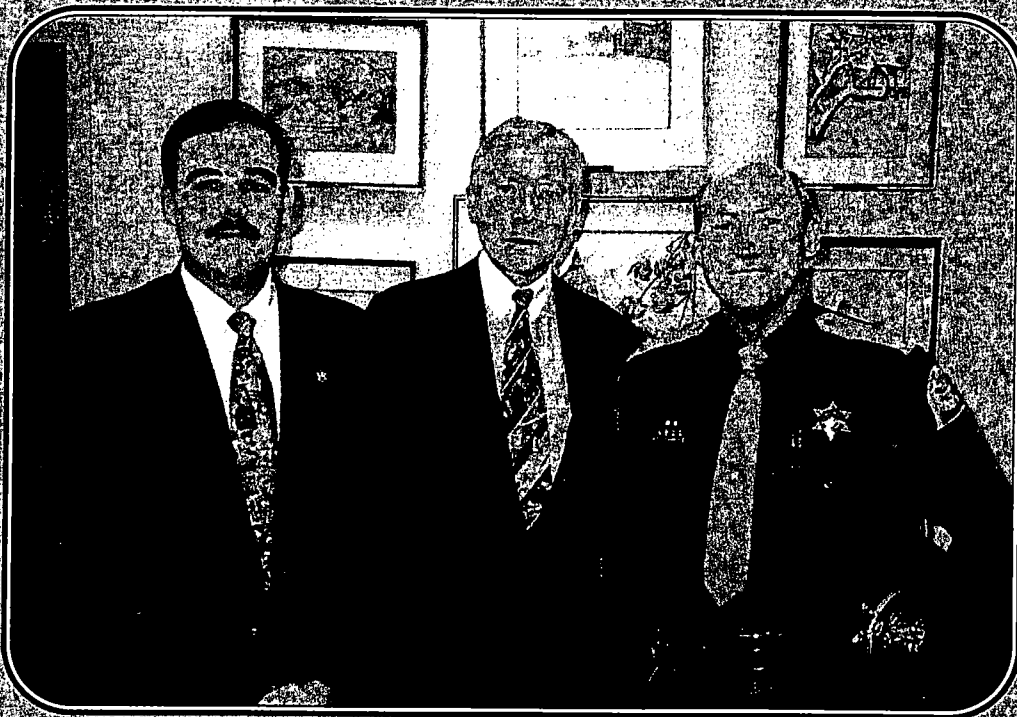


TROOPER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL TROOPERS COALITION

Vol. 18, No. 1 • May 1998

FEDERAL LEGISLATION DEALING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT NATIONWIDE



Left to right: Utah Highway Patrol Association President Lee Perry, U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch, and Utah Highway Patrol Association President and NTC Treasurer John J. Jones recently discussed federal legislation dealing with law enforcement nationwide.

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HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA

Fighting Drug Crime Treating Addicted Offenders

A Report to Residents of the Washington-Baltimore Area

The Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area has a continuing federal program to help coordinate and fund the fight against drug crime and firearms traffickers and to treat drug-addicted criminal offenders.

The program is called the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). It is among 22 regional HIDTAs funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

This report to the residents of the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area describes the operations of your HIDTA and its achievements in partnership with 41 local departments, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and key parts of the criminal justice system.

Targeting Critical Resources



The director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which funds the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA, is General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.). The HIDTA program "has enormous value because it targets critical resources that synchronize

initiatives to develop and implement more effective anti-drug strategies," according to General McCaffrey.

The principal purpose of his office is to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the nation's drug control programs. The goals of that program are to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking; drug-related crime and violence; and drug-related health consequences.

HIDTA's Achievements

In brief, HIDTA-supported efforts during the 1996-97 fiscal year:

- developed evidence that tough, sanctions-based drug treatment programs for nonviolent addicted offenders cut their rate of arrest for new crimes by 75 percent
- targeted and dismantled 186 drug distribution organizations, seven money laundering operations, and 12 firearms organizations
- seized a total of \$11.3 million in assets and cash including \$2 million from money launderers, a 53 percent increase in asset and currency seizures over the last fiscal year
- targeted and dismantled 12 open-air drug markets
- doubled to 61 the number of major drug crime investigations that HIDTA's Investigative Intelligence Unit supported
- accounted for 1,616 drug crime-related arrests, a 13 percent increase over the last fiscal year.

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Law Enforcement 1997

Drug Organizations Dismantled	186
Total Arrests	1,616
Firearms Organizations Dismantled	12
Weapons Seized	466
Assets Seized	\$11,364,428

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Gang Leaders Get Life in Shooting of Trooper

By Brooke A. Masters

Washington Post Staff Writer

The leaders of a drug gang that hired a hit man to shoot a Maryland state trooper were sentenced to life in prison yesterday after federal prosecutors told the judge that they are investigating the same group in a 1996 slaying on Capitol Hill.

Gregory McCorkle, 33, testified during his October trial that his co-conspirators had killed before. Assistant U.S. Attorney James Trump told the court yesterday that investigators now believe McCorkle was telling the truth.

They are investigating links between the drug conspiracy and the Dec. 16, 1996, shooting of makeup artist Manuel A.J. "Jose" Cintron, who was walking two pug dogs when he was fatally shot on 10th Street NE near Massachusetts Avenue.

"McCorkle is simply an evil man. He doesn't deserve any sympathy," Trump told U.S. District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema at the hearing in Alexandria. "He should never be allowed to walk the streets again."

Brinkema agreed, sentencing McCorkle to life plus 45 years for the attempted murder of Trooper Michael Hughes, 31; several gun charges; and running a continuing crim-

inal enterprise. Co-conspirator Sergio Barrios, 25, received life plus 25 years, and Kevin Tinsley, 26, received 45 years because he played a lesser role. All three got the maximum possible under federal law.

Sixteen other people also have pleaded guilty to participating in the drug gang. Twelve of them have been sentenced to terms ranging from 10 months to 16 years.

McCorkle, a District resident, set in motion the conspiracy to kill the trooper after being pulled over for speeding in 1995 by Hughes's brother, David Hughes, also a state trooper. David Hughes found a kilo of cocaine in McCorkle's car and was scheduled to testify against him.

McCorkle's gang then tracked David Hughes to his parents' home in Abingdon, Va. David Hughes had just moved out, but Michael Hughes still lived there. Michael Hughes was shot in the left arm Aug. 27, 1996, when he slowed to investigate a suspicious vehicle near his parents' home. The injury has caused him to retire from the state police.

Investigators are still seeking the shooter, but witnesses testified during the trial that McCorkle had offered \$20,000 to get rid of David Hughes and that other members of the gang helped scope out the Hughes's home.

"The Hughes family went through extreme agony. . . . That whole family's life has been dislocated," Brinkema said, as the Hughes brothers and their father, Johnny Hughes, a retired state police major, looked on. "It's always a shame to see someone spend the rest of his life in prison. But it is an appropriate sentence."

Barrios and McCorkle both plan to appeal their convictions. Barrios, a native of Chile, said in court, "I was convicted because I am a South American native and for no other reason."

And McCorkle complained that he was denied a chance to plead guilty, because prosecutors didn't believe his protestations that he had been convinced by others to go after David Hughes.

"My testimony wasn't lies. It was how it happened," McCorkle said. "They weren't interested in the truth."

Brinkema rejected both arguments summarily, saying McCorkle had committed perjury during the trial.

To Barrios she said, "Your comment that you were convicted because of prejudice is totally undermined by the great amount of evidence."

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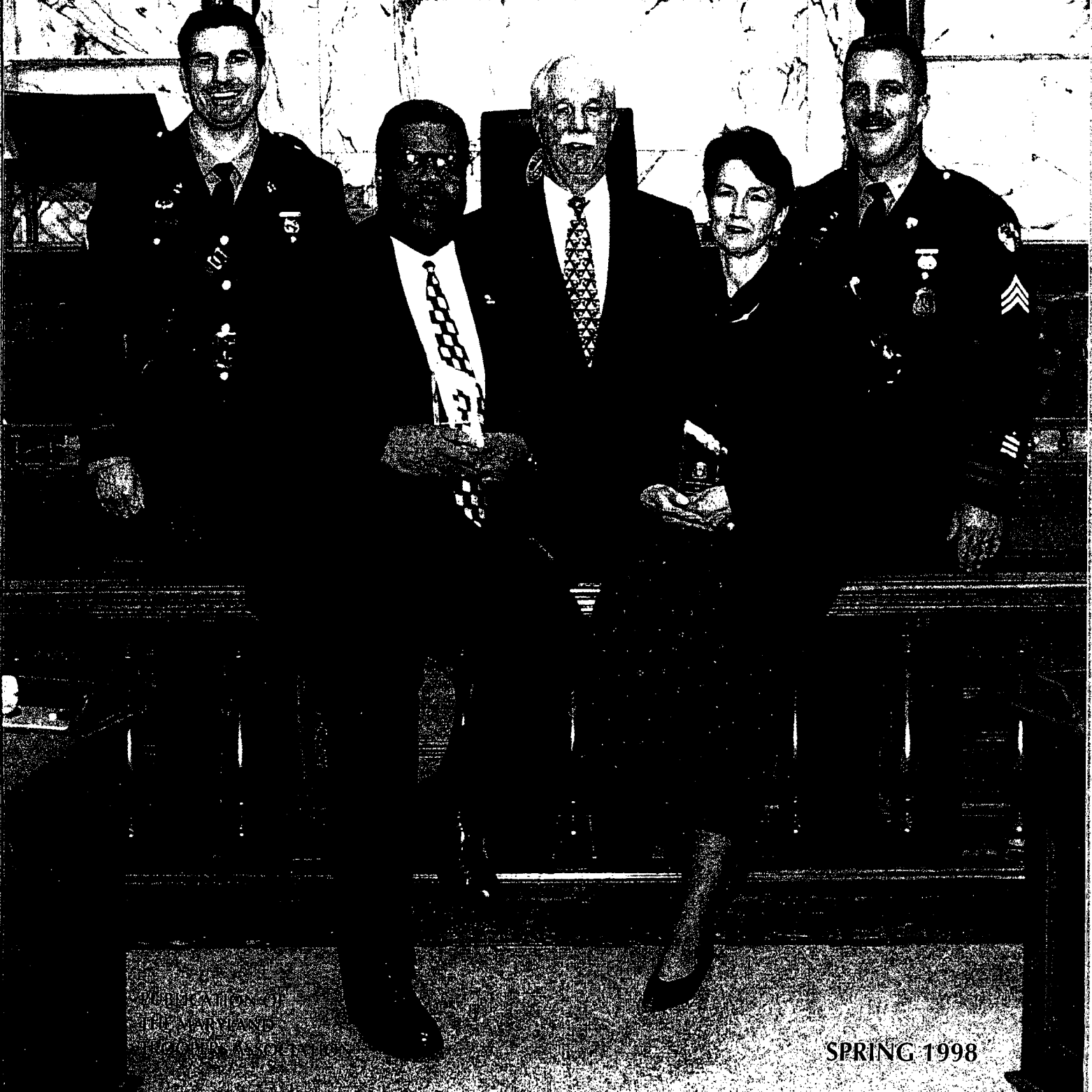
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