

FACT SHEET - GAO REPORTS: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **ORGANIZED CRIME: Issues Concerning Strike Forces, released April 1989**

FINDINGS: Federal initiatives against organized crime, including Strike Forces, have led to many prosecutions and convictions of traditional organized crime leaders. However, all of the mechanisms required by the Attorney General for planning and coordinating a unified Federal effort against organized crime are not being fully used.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

2. **DRUG CONTROL: Anti-Drug Efforts in the Bahamas, released March 1990**

FINDINGS: U.S. anti-drug efforts in the Bahamas have evolved from bilateral agreements in the early '70s that allowed U.S. Customs Service aircraft to fly over the Bahamas, to extensive and costly drug interdiction operations in the '80s that involve several U.S. and Bahamian agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

3. **DEVELOPING A FEDERAL DRUG BUDGET: Implementing the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, released August 1990**

FINDINGS: Although ONDCP has issued guidelines to implement the legislation and prepare the drug budget, ONDCP officials said they will refine the guidelines and expect that it may take 2-3 years before the process is running smoothly.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Director would ensure that in his efforts to improve the drug budget process, sufficient emphasis is given to improving the government's capacity to identify and track drug expenditure data. Also, drug control agencies should explore options to provide better data with which to evaluate the effectiveness of their drug program expenditures.

4. **RURAL DRUG ABUSE: Prevalence, Relation to Crime, and Programs, released September 1990**

FINDINGS: GAO's review of survey, arrest, and treatment data produced several findings concerning the nature and extent of drug use in rural places. The report included survey data for high school seniors and treatment data.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

5. **DRUG INTERDICTION: Funding Continues to Increase but Program Effectiveness is Unknown, released December 1990**

FINDINGS: Although the Federal agencies and ONDCP monitor drug interdiction program accomplishments and costs, they have not yet identified a good way to measure and compare the performance of different programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO's sample results showed that most drug seizures were due to routine interdiction, but that the relationship between seizures and the use of prior intelligence varies according to the particular interdiction program. Only Coast Guard used prior intel in a majority of the seizures included in their sample.

6. **TEENAGE DRUG USE: Uncertain Linkages with Either Pregnancy or School Dropout, released January 1991**

FINDINGS: Teens self-reported slightly less drug use in 1988 than in 1979, but technical problems with the two major national surveys make interpretation difficult. It was suggested that willingness to report using drugs may have declined rather than the actual use of drugs. However, it's unlikely that this would account for all of the decrease. The data that GAO reviewed showed little evidence that trends in the three youth problems -- drugs, pregnancy, and dropping out of school -- are increasing.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None. Federal agencies were not asked to comment formally on this report.

7. **EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING: A single Agency is Needed to Manage Federal Employee Drug Testing, released January 1991**

FINDINGS: Currently, there is no single drug-free workplace agency responsible for overseeing the implementation of Federal efforts. (ODR is ready to negotiate with HHS, ED and this decision).

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that the Director of OMB take the action necessary to assign responsibility for overseeing Federal drug testing efforts to a single Federal agency. This agency would ensure that employees are being treated equitably and determine which agencies are not in compliance with existing program guidelines. It could ensure that needed modifications to the drug testing program are identified and implemented.

8. **DRUG ABUSE: The Crack Cocaine Epidemic: Health Consequences and Treatment, released January 1991**

FINDINGS: GAO reviewed the changes in past-year cocaine use between 1985 and 1990 as reported in the National Household Survey. Although adequate information on the socioeconomic characteristics of crack users is unavailable, researchers have suggested that crack, unlike heroin, is particularly popular among women and youth.

RESULTS: There are multiple approaches for treating crack addicts. Several relapse-prevention strategies are under study that may help addicts who have undergone treatment from returning to drug use. Researchers are also pursuing two approaches to treatment: pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic or drug-free treatment. This includes residential treatment programs, such as therapeutic communities, as well as short-term inpatient chemical dependency programs that follow the 12 steps of the AA program. Acupuncture therapy is used to promote relaxation and elimination of the drug from the user's body, but it is not considered a treatment by itself, but rather than an adjunct to treatment.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

9. **MONEY LAUNDERING: Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, released March 1991**

FINDINGS: This report discusses why FINCEN was established and describes its functions, organizations, and staffing. Because FINCEN was only established in April 1990, and is still not fully operational, GAO did not assess its impact on law enforcement.

After studying problems that Treasury and other agencies were having with investigating and prosecuting money laundering schemes, Treasury was concerned that law enforcement efforts were fragmented and uncoordinated and that intelligence analysis was inadequate. To remedy this situation, Treasury established FINCEN to support Federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement offices.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

10. **THE WAR ON DRUGS: Arrests Burdening Local Criminal Justice Systems, released April 1991**

FINDINGS: Criminal justice officials in the eight cities by GAO surveyed expressed concern with what they considered to be a significant increase in drug and drug-related crimes during the '80s. Most of the cities had substantially increased local law enforcement efforts against illegal drugs, resulting in more arrests for drug crimes. These arrests greatly increased the burden on courts, correctional facilities, probation and parole offices, and drug use treatment centers.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

11. WAR ON DRUGS: Information Management Poses Formidable Challenges, released May 1991

FINDINGS: Through its interagency working groups, ONDCP is assessing the information needs and capabilities of Federal agencies involved in drug control to formulate a master plan for promoting better use and sharing of drug-related information.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommended ONDCP set clear, measurable objectives and timeframes for resolving the issues listed in their report: 1. Info resources mgmt -- currently, no one entity has authority to carry it out; 2. incompatibilities among agencies' systems pose interoperability problems; 3. data integrity problems; 4. system needs to do a better job of protecting sensitive data; and, 5. proliferation of intel centers complicates the management of this information.

FOLLOW-UP: On March 19, 1992, GAO informed ONDCP that they will be performing a follow-up to this study to conduct actions taken in response to recommendations made in the May 1991 report.

12. ASSET FORFEITURE: Need for Stronger Marshals Service Oversight of Commercial Real Property, released May 1991

FINDINGS: Commercial properties are extremely vulnerable to fraud, waste, and mismanagement. Critical management and internal control responsibilities related to such assets must be effectively carried out nationwide.

RECOMMENDATIONS: To improve operations of the asset forfeiture program and better ensure USMS district office compliance with policies and procedures, GAO recommends that the Attorney General direct the Exec. Office for Asset Forfeiture to meet with officials of all components participating in the Justice asset forfeiture program to update and expand the '84 MOU to clarify roles of the investigative agencies, USMS, and AUSAS in pre seizure planning.

13. EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING: Status of Federal Agencies' Programs, released May 1991

FINDINGS: Several Federal agencies had a role in helping executive agencies design their drug testing programs. The E.O. required the head of each executive agency to establish

a program for testing employees in sensitive positions and for voluntary employee drug testing.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

14. ADMS BLOCK GRANT: Women's Set-Aside Does Not Assure Drug Treatment for Pregnant Women, released May 1991

FINDINGS: Recent national attention on the effects of maternal drug use on infants and dependent children, many pregnant women and women with children do not receive drug treatment services that meet their needs. Many require unique services, such as prenatal care, child care, and parenting skills in conjunction with drug treatment.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that HHS direct the Director of ADAMHA and Director of OTI to specify annual reporting requirements for the States in a manner that allows for the national aggregation of reported data. States should be required to report on treatment programs, and the number of drug-abusing pregnant women and women with dependent children.

15. DRUG CONTROL: National Guard Counter-Drug Support to Law Enforcement Agencies, May 1991

FINDINGS: GAO reviewed how \$150 million appropriated in FYs '89 and '90 to support an increased National Guard role in the counter-drug activities of States, territories, and D.C. was allocated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that the Sec. of Defense direct the Asst. Sec. of Defense for Reserve Affairs to implement the OSD plan to require each State to prioritize the NG counter-drug missions for which it requests funding and delay approval of the NG Bureau's FY 91 equipment procurement plan until the Bureau can determine how much to spend on equipment and what types of equipment are most needed by States' NG orgs for counter-drug activities.

16. DRUG CONTROL: Status Report on DoD Support to Counternarcotics Activities, released 1991

FINDINGS: DoD has undertaken two major initiatives to establish an integrated communications network. First, with funds appropriated for the counternarcotics mission, it purchases telecommunications equipment for loan to LEAs to facilitate interoperable and secure communications. Second, it established an automated telecommunications information network to link DoD and LEA drug interdiction operations and intelligence organizations and to provide tracking data on drug smugglers.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

17. ASSET FORFEITURE: Noncash Property Should Be Consolidated Under the Marshals Service, released June 1991

FINDINGS: Discusses Justice's and Treasury's compliance with the requirement in the ADAA that they develop and maintain a joint plan to coordinate and consolidate the post-seizure administration of properties seized for drug-related violations and the potential cost savings that could be realized if all drug- and nondrug-related seizures were included in a consolidated program.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Congress amend the consolidation requirement in 21 U.S.C. 887 to also include all noncash properties seized by Justice and Customs for nondrug-related violations.

18. THE WAR ON DRUGS: Narcotics Control Efforts in Panama, released July 1991

FINDINGS: Panama has taken measures to help identify potential money laundering activities, and the governments of Panama and the U.S. have signed agreements to promote cooperation in reducing drug trafficking and money laundering.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

19. STATEMENT -- DRUG ENFORCEMENT: Improving Management of Assistance to High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, released July 25, 1991

FINDINGS: This is a statement for the record which presents the results of GAO's review of ONDCP's administration of Federal assistance to localities with severe drug trafficking problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Although various means for assisting areas with severe drug trafficking problems have been presented to Congress, the contemplated changes do not eliminate the need for ONDCP to act on the two problem areas discussed in this statement: 1) ONDCP needs to establish a framework for assessing HIDTA effectiveness, and 2) suggest proposed changes for providing HIDTA assistance.

FOLLOW-UP: ONDCP was notified on March 17, 1992, that GAO is initiating further study of HIDAAs, at the request of the House Select Cmte. on Narcotics Abuse and Control. Their objective is to update work they did last July and provide the subcommittee with information on the results of HIDTA funded operations.

20. **DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION: Federal Efforts to Identify Exemplary Programs Need Stronger Design, released August 1991**

FINDINGS: The Departments of Education and HHS will not be implementing the recommendations of this report because to do so would sanction prevention programs that use "responsible use" messages -- a concept the Administration opposes. As of February 1992, some drug treatment is available in virtually all BOP prisons and over 15,000 Federal prisoners received drug treatment service of some kind in 1991.

Comprehensive residential treatment programs have already been established in 15 prisons. A total of 31 such programs will have been established by the end of 1992. The existing 15 programs are operating at about 80% capacity; however, many prisoners still refuse to participate in available treatment. To overcome inmate reluctance to participate in treatment, BOP has established achievement awards to recognize inmate progress; offered more time (120-180 days) in half-way houses for successful inmates, at the end of their sentences; and provided other incentives for individual programs (t-shirts, caps, etc.).

Overall, the GAO report reflects a grasp of neither the steps and time required for program development nor the obstacles to implementation of such a program in a very large, thoroughly decentralized agency. There is no apparent grasp of the prison environment and limited recognition of what has been accomplished to date. The report recounts implementation problems that BOP is making substantial progress on and probably alerted GAO to in the first place.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

21. **DRUG TREATMENT: Despite New Strategy, Few Federal Inmates Receive Treatment, released September 1991**

FINDINGS: Drug treatment in the Federal prisons is reaching only a small fraction of the inmates with serious drug use problems. BOP's new strategy to provide treatment seems generally well-designed, but implementation falls far short of meeting the needs of Federal inmates. For inmates who complete the intensive programs, aftercare services to help inmates from returning to drug use are not in place. BOP did not undertake an aggressive outreach effort to encourage more inmates to participate in these programs and did not hire an aftercare coordinator until recently.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommend that the AG direct the Director of BOP to undertake an aggressive outreach effort to encourage inmates with moderate to severe drug problems to enroll in BOP's intensive treatment programs, and to assure that provision is made for both aftercare treatment services

for released inmates who participated in the intensive programs as well as for education and counseling services in all prisons.

22. DRUG CONTROL: Impact of DoD's Detection and Monitoring on Cocaine Flow, released September 1991

FINDINGS: DoD has significantly expanded, but not fully integrated detection and monitoring (D&M). DOD has been less successful at integrating its D&M operations, especially air operations, with those of the civilian agencies. The FY 1989 authorization did not define DoD's "lead agency" role for D&M and conveyed no clear authority to allow DoD to control the resources or direct the operations of civilian agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommend that higher quality technology be developed in order to put a stop to smugglers.

23. DRUG WAR: Observations on Counternarcotics Aid to Colombia, released September 1991

FINDINGS: U.S. legislation and drug policy allow flexibility in using counternarcotics aid. The executive branch's Andean Drug Strategy permits Colombia to use U.S. aid against both drug traffickers and insurgents involved in the drug trade. Although U.S. officials are taking action to improve program management, GAO found that the necessary management oversight of U.S. aid was not in place. Without such oversight, there is no assurance that the aid is being used effectively and as intended.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

24. DRUG TREATMENT: State Prisons Face Challenges in Providing Services, released September 1991

FINDINGS: GAO wanted to determine whether State prisons are providing drug treatment and arranging for aftercare services once inmates are released. States face the challenge of providing drug treatment to the large numbers of prisoners with drug use problems. State prisons have the capacity to provide treatment to fewer than 20% of the estimated 500,000 inmates in need. States acknowledge this problem and recognize the need to expand and improve their prison drug treatment service. However, their efforts are challenged by funding constraints, limited prison space, and a need for improved coordination between prison treatment programs and community-based aftercare treatment providers and parole officers. Despite challenges, the States are expanding and improving their prison drug treatment services.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The States need more guidance on how to develop and implement effective treatment strategies in prison. More Federal assistance and leadership from both DOJ and HHS is needed in this regard. The cognizant Federal agencies are beginning to address this need.

25. DRUG TREATMENT: Despite New Strategy, Few Federal Inmates Receive Treatment, released September 1991

FINDINGS: Drug treatment in the Federal prisons is reaching only a small fraction of the inmates with serious drug use problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that the AG direct the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to undertake an aggressive outreach effort to encourage inmates with moderate to severe drug problems to enroll in BOP's intensive treatment programs, and assure that provision is made for both aftercare treatment services for released inmates who participated in the intensive programs as well as for education and counseling services in all prisons.

26. THE DRUG WAR: U.S. Programs in Peru Face Serious Obstacles, released October 1991

FINDINGS: Peru's government has been unable to create a climate that is conducive to effective anti-drug operations. U.S. anti-drug efforts in Peru have not had a major impact on drug trafficking activities, even though the U.S., under the strategy, increased the available amount of law enforcement aid from \$10 million originally approved for FY 90 to \$19 million. The State Department reported to Congress its determination that Peru had met the legislative requirements for receiving military and economic aid in FY91. To support the decision, State provided examples of recent progress in each area but acknowledged that more progress was needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that the Sec. of State ensure that plans are developed and approved by U.S. agencies and their Peruvian counterparts on methods that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. anti-drug programs in Peru.

27. THE DRUG WAR: Observations on Counternarcotics Programs in Colombia and Peru, testimony, statement by Frank Conahan, Asst. Comptroller General, released October 23, 1991

RESULTS IN BRIEF: GAO believes that the U.S. is further along in implementing the Andean Strategy in Colombia than in Peru because of the Colombian government's commitment to combat drug trafficking. Peru must overcome serious difficulties in fighting the drug war before the strategy can be effective.

In addition, the U.S. needs to strengthen its oversight in both countries to ensure that military and law enforcement aid is used efficiently, effectively, and as intended. Finally, human rights abuses remain a major concern concerning Colombia and Peru.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

28. ADMS BLOCK GRANT: Drug Treatment Services Could be Improved by New Accountability Programs, released October 1991

FINDINGS: Much of the information HHS requires of the States receiving ADMS Block Grant funds relates to compliance with the grant's requirements. HHS has not required and most States have not provided information necessary to judge the impact of the Federal investment in drug abuse treatment services.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that the Secretary of HHS establish reporting requirements for the States that will provide HHS with information to determine whether States are providing drug treatment programs and services that are effective. They also recommend that HHS report to Congress by 1995 on the progress of OTI's State Systems Development Program to report on: which States have implemented HHS's Treatment Improvement Protocols; which States have participated in a Federal technical performance review and the type of problems identified by the review; the extent to which States have implemented OTI Developmental Action Plans to correct identified weaknesses; and reasons why States have not participated or implemented each aspect of State Systems Development Program (SSDP). SSDP is intended to assist States in assuring HHS and Congress that services supported by ADMS funds are used to provide drug treatment that is effective in reducing drug use.

29. STATE IG REPORT: Drug Control Activities in Bolivia

This report is an evaluation of the State Department's coordination and oversight of U.S. assistance for the Bolivian Government's drug control program. Martinez sent a letter to Sherman Funk saying that he's troubled by the ambitious nature of this report.

The report's general finding is that "there is fragmentation and a lack of coordination among U.S. agencies in Washington, at the embassy, and at the tactical level where the programs are implemented in the field." The report includes fifteen recommendations, which, according to the IG, "if properly implemented could have a significant impact on the effectiveness of the bilateral programs."

30. **U.S. - MEXICO TRADE: Survey of U.S. Border Infrastructure Needs, November 1991**

FINDINGS: An insufficient number of Customs and Immigration inspectors is the primary obstacle to the efficient operation of southwest border crossings, according to most officials interviewed along the border. Both agencies have models to assist in their assessment of broader staffing needs. The Customs and INS models are not adequate to accurately measure how many inspectors are currently needed or to reliably project how many would be needed in relation to trade increases. Therefore, the estimated needs are not precise; however, they are the best available and indicate the order of magnitude of the need.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

31. **DRUG CONTROL: Communications Network Funding and Requirements Uncertain, released December 1991**

FINDINGS: The report is not critical, but does point out that there is no specific implementation schedule or funding plan to carry the program to its completion.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The report makes two specific recommendations regarding ONDCP.

1. Finalize the satellite communications systems plan; and
2. Establish schedules for completing the interdiction network and obtain firm funding commitments from the agencies. This report highlights the need to focus on the implementation of both the telecommunications and ADP plans.

FOLLOWUP: A letter to agencies will be sent out which provides guidance to ensure interoperability among them when considering telecommunications equipment. (CTAC)

32. **DRUG ABUSE RESEARCH: Federal Funding and Future Needs, released January 14, 1992**

FINDINGS: Federal support from the two principal agencies for drug use research (DOJ and HHS) increased more than 200% between 1980 and 1990 (more than 400% if funding related to AIDS is included). Outlays for national defense research and development rose by 83% while nondefense research and development fell by 5% during that same period. Of the three categories of drug use research funding GAO studies -- causality, prevention, and treatment -- NIDA spent the most on treatment, followed by prevention and causality. Funding for studies on the causes of drug use has remained tiny, never

exceeding .01% of the nation's drug control budget. DOJ has spent as much on prevention studies as on causality and treatment studies combined. Expert researchers agree on the importance of more research on the psychological and social/environmental factors leading to drug use.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO is making two. The first is that Congress review the place of research in national drug control policy. Second, they recommend that Congress review whether evaluation research is being adequately conducted at ONDCP and major executive agencies responsible for segments of the National Drug Control Program.

33. COMPUTER SECURITY: DEA Is Not Adequately Protecting National Security Information, released February 1992

FINDINGS: GAO has identified problems in the handling and processing of classified information by DEA. These are described in a Limited Use Report which was sent to OR. GAO sent this report to us recommending that we give immediate attention to problems at DEA and make this a priority for us because they say that the mishandling of classified information by DEA could have adverse consequences for the nation's war on drugs.

RECOMMENDATIONS: They recommend immediate action on the part of the Attorney General and the DEA to correct deficiencies in the handling of classified information. OSR is responding to this request from Bob Wise of the House of Reps.

34. MILITARY AIRCRAFT: Travel by Selected Executive Branch Officials, released April 1992

FINDINGS: GAO reviewed 11 executive branch officials took on military. Most of the travel by officials GAO review was on aircraft assigned to the 89th Military Airlift Wing, located at Andrews AFB. GAO did not review travel on nonmilitary aircraft owned and operated by the government. This work was performed between May 1991 and February 1992. Ten of the 11 officials they reviewed were in compliance with travel policies required by travel authorizations and justifications. The White House has taken several actions in response to problems to strengthen controls over travel.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

35. DRUG CONTROL: Difficulties in Denying Federal Benefits to Convicted Drug Offenders, released April 1992

FINDINGS: Through June 1991, the first 9 months that the guidelines were in effect, less than 1% of all drug offenders

convicted during that period was given a sentence that included Federal benefit ineligibility. DOJ has funded demonstration grants and has undertaken other initiatives, such as coordinating with other Federal agencies, to establish procedures for denying benefits and notifying State judicial officers on how to use the procedures.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

36. ASSET FORFEITURE: U.S. Marshals Service Internal Control Weaknesses Over Cash Distributions, released May 1992

FINDINGS: Internal control weaknesses at the Marshals Service Central and Southern Districts of California make cash obtained from asset forfeitures vulnerable to loss and misuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS: To ensure that forfeited cash is adequately protected, GAO recommends that the AG direct EOAF to change its policy on routing sharing checks through Federal investigate agencies or the U.S.

Did not involve ONDCP input.

37. EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING: Estimated Cost to Test All Executive Branch Employees and New Hires, released June 1992

FINDINGS: Precise costs of drug testing all executive branch employees are not available. However, on the basis of the most recent drug testing cost information report in the survey (Federal Drug-Free Workplace Program Semi-Annual Survey prepared by HHS), GAO estimates that total costs could be around \$168,189,000 annually if ALL exec. branch employees were tested, if each applicant that was actually selected for a position was tested, and if administrative and other costs remained constant. GAO estimated that the average cost incurred by Federal agencies between October 1990 and March 1991 was \$73.46 per test.

GAO discussed results of their work with ONDCP, OMB, and HHS. ONDCP pointed out that an updated survey covering the period April 1991 through September 1991 is being prepared, and preliminary information indicates that drug testing costs were lower. We suggested that GAO recompute their estimates using this preliminary information; however, because the updated survey has not been finalized and therefore might be subject to change, GAO chose to not use it for their computation.

RECOMMENDATIONS: This study did not show any conclusions or recommendations -- it's just a factual piece. Even though ONDCP was designated as the lead agency in implementing the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Program, we did not take a hit

here. What's listed is HHS's data, not ONDCP's.

38. THE DRUG WAR: Extent of Problems in Brazil, Ecuador, and Venezuela, released June 1992

FINDINGS: Brazil, Ecuador, and Venezuela have limited counternarcotics programs and receive limited U.S. assistance.

The lack of effective coordination and cooperation among host country agencies and among U.S. agencies involved in counternarcotics assistance programs impedes the effectiveness of activities to combat narcotics production and trafficking.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

39. ASSET FORFEITURE: Improved Guidance Needed for Use of Shared Assets, released July 1992

FINDINGS: GAO visited 15 State and local law enforcement agencies who shared assets -- some agencies purchases weapons and vehicles, bought computer equipment, helicopters, and crime lab equipment. Other used shared cash to pay salaries of law enforcement personnel, such as narcotics enforcement teams and drug education officers.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that the AG and the Commissioner of Customs work together to develop mutually agreeable guidelines for asset sharing to better ensure that assets shared with S&L law enforcement are used in accordance with program goals.

ONDCP was not involved in this study. No follow-up necessary from us.

40. DRUG CONTROL: Oversight Needed to Prevent Acquisition of Unnecessary Equipment, released July 1992

FINDINGS: Each of the three interdiction agencies (DoD, Customs, and Coast Guard) identifies its own requirements and establishes its own acquisition plans for drug detection and monitoring equipment. There is no organization that routinely oversees and coordinates acquisitions to ensure that they respond to valid requirements and do not unnecessarily duplicate existing or planned equipment in the Federal inventory.

RECOMMENDATIONS: To prevent counterdrug funds from being spent unnecessarily on acquisition of detection and monitoring equipment, GAO recommends that the Director of ONDCP certify that budget requests to acquire D&M equipment are based on valid requirements derived from the national drug-threat assessment, and that the requirements cannot be met with

existing or planned resources in the Federal inventory.

41. EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING: Opportunities Exist to Lower Drug-Testing Program Costs, released November 1992

FINDINGS: Many agencies have come up with ways of saving money in the area of drug testing. GAO believes that the potential exists for cost savings without compromising program integrity if some guidelines and other aspects are modified. They've identified potential for cost savings.

RECOMMENDATIONS: GAO recommends that the Director of ONDCP and the Sec. of HHS consider the feasibility of eliminating from existing guidance the requirement that negative test results be submitted for medical review and reducing the required rate of blind proficiency testing. Also they recommend that ONDCP and HHS work with drug-testing agencies to consider the feasibility of collecting drug-testing samples with agency personnel rather than contracting out for this service. And finally, GAO recommends that ONDCP work with drug-testing agencies to consider modifications to their selected frequency levels of employee drug testing.

AWAITING GUIDANCE FROM NEW ADMINISTRATION.

42. DRUG CONTROL: Treatment Alternatives Program for Drug Offenders Needs Stronger Emphasis, released February 1993

FINDINGS: Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) appears promising as a way to help reduce offender drug use; however, several barriers impede program potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Director of ONDCP should take several actions to more strongly emphasize TASC by identifying additional cities that may benefit from TASC programs, and reach agreement on how TASC should be funded.

43. NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS: Research Suggests Promise as an AIDS Prevention Strategy, released March 1993

FINDINGS: This report includes little analysis. Many of the programs GAO studied, most of which are in Europe, did not collect sufficient information for GAO to form conclusions. The report concludes that needle exchange programs do not appear to increase injection, HHS has authority to conduct demo and research projects that could involve provision of needles, and the forecasting model used by New Haven is credible.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.