

## Executive Summary

The DEA Domestic Marijuana Eradication/Suppression Program was established to ensure a coordinated effort between Federal state and local agencies involving the eradication of domestically cultivated cannabis in the United States. DEA's role in this cooperative venture is to encourage state and local eradication efforts and to contribute, within limitations, funding, training, equipment, investigative and aircraft resources to support such efforts. Forty states participated in the program during 1983.

A total of \$2.4 million was allocated in DEA's FY-83 budget for the Domestic Marijuana Eradication/Suppression Program. A summary of expenditures is contained in the Funding section of this report.

The program sponsored 17 training schools during 1983. This represented a substantial increase over 1982 when only four such sessions were conducted. These schools trained a total of 624 state and local officers.

DEA committed 12 aircraft to complement state and local air surveillance efforts during the year. DEA's Aviation Unit flew 684 missions for a total of 1,780 flying hours in this endeavor.

Eradication efforts resulted in the destruction of 3,793,943 plants in 70,572 plots. This resulted in the arrest of 4,318 individuals and the seizure of 984 weapons. Twenty-six percent of the plants were reported to have been of the normally high potency sinsemilla. Ninety-nine percent of the plants eradicated were in states participating in the program.

The herbicide paraquat was utilized for the first time to eradicate cannabis plants on Federal lands in Georgia and Kentucky during August 1983. This action resulted in the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and the Sierra Club filing suit in Federal Court to enjoin DEA from further utilizing herbicides to eradicate cannabis plants. As a result of the court proceeding DEA agreed to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to any continued use of herbicides. DEA has undertaken the preparation of the EIS to ensure that the Federal Government has every means at its disposal to eradicate domestically cultivated cannabis in the future.

✓ By all measures, the 1983 eradication program was, as in prior years, very successful. Eradication statistics exceeded prior year's accomplishments in almost every category. The 1984 program will continue on a solid footing with additional states joining the program and existing states committing more resources to eradication efforts.

## Program Management and Coordination

DEA's Domestic Marijuana Eradication/Suppression Program is managed by the Cannabis Investigations Section at DEA Headquarters. Three Staff Coordinators are assigned full-time to coordinate the many aspects of the program with other headquarters elements, DEA division and resident field offices, and to represent headquarters at meetings with state/local and other Federal officials.

In each participating state, a Special Agent from the appropriate DEA field office serves as Field Program Coordinator. His function is to develop, in conjunction with his state and local counterpart, an operational plan for the state eradication program and serve as coordinator and conduit for DEA support to the state program. A program coordinator in the division office assists field management in monitoring the program and compiles program statistics and intelligence within the division.

DEA's Office of Training at Glynco has also assigned a coordinator full-time to the program. This individual, in cooperation with DEA training officers in the field, is responsible for presiding over the various scheduled state and local police officer eradication schools and prosecutor seminars. DEA's Aviation Unit has also identified a program coordinator at headquarters and several in the field to provide assistance and expertise to DEA state coordinators involving aviation matters.

## Eradication Statistics and Trend Analysis

The 1983 Domestic Marijuana Eradication Statistics (see page 6) are presented for 50 states, whether or not the state was part of the program, to present a complete picture of eradication accomplishments in the United States.

A total of 3,793,943 plants were seized during 1983 in the United States. Every state experienced some marijuana cultivation during the year.

The increase in the number of plants eradicated during 1983 compared to 1982 is attributable to an increase in eradication efforts (manpower/financial) and refined reporting procedures.

Of the 3,793,943 plants eradicated in 1983, 979,802 or 26 percent of the total were identified as sinsemilla. The production of sinsemilla, with its normally high THC content, is significant in that it represents a greater degree of sophistication relative to cultivation techniques.

Several states encountered sizeable cultivation plots. Georgia seized a 32 acre plot containing in excess of 500,000 plants. Three additional large seizures were recorded, the first of which in Glenn County, California was in excess of 63,000 plants, the second in Green County, Mississippi which was in excess of 13,000 plants and the third in Hart County, Kentucky which was in excess of 39,000 plants. Both the California and Mississippi seizures were located in corn fields and the cannabis was intermingled with the corn in an attempt to camouflage its existence. These four large seizures should not however, be considered a trend involving the plot size of domestic cultivation.

To the contrary, a definite trend involving the shift towards smaller cultivated plots was again noted during 1983. Hawaii, Indiana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington and Virginia averaged less than 100 plants per plot. This shift is viewed as a further attempt to deter aerial detection as eradication pressures increase. In 1983, the median plot size was computed to be 177 plants per plot.

A total of 714 greenhouses were also seized during 1983. Greenhouses accounted for 3.9% of the cultivation in the 48 contiguous states and Alaska. Further increases in the utilization of greenhouses are anticipated as producers seek new means to deter detection. A hydroponic greenhouse operation was seized in Cleveland, Ohio in late August. In a

hydroponic operation cannabis seedlings are transplanted into plastic pipes through which a solution of water and fertilizer flows. The plants are nourished by the solution and are subjected to artificial lighting 24 hours a day thereby maturing into eight to ten foot plants in less time than conventional open field operations.

Eradication efforts resulted in the sightings of 13,936 plots in the 48 contiguous states and Alaska. Of the 13,936 plots sighted, 11,169 were eradicated, resulting in a 80% eradication rate. Of the 13,936 plots, 5,648 were on land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. Hawaii reported sighting 62,652 plots. This large number of sightings in Hawaii is attributable to marijuana producers again resorting to and expanding their practice of cultivating only several plants per plot during 1983 on the islands.

The total figure for sightings was derived from the various state reports and information provided by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. It should be noted that the total figure for sightings in this report by no means represents the total number of plots under cultivation in the United States and no attempt should be made to correlate the two.

As noted earlier, 80% of what was sighted was eradicated in the United States during 1983. Several states experienced difficulty in eradicating all that was sighted and in almost every instance a lack of manpower was the primary contributing factor. Several of the less successful states plan to devote more manpower to 1984 eradication efforts.

Eradication activities also resulted in the arrest of 4,318 individuals and the seizure of 984 weapons. Almost all the arrests were prosecuted at the state level with the exception of eight cases, which due to the size of the cultivation or significance of violator, were prosecuted in federal court. To date, these cases have resulted in 12 individuals pending indictment; 15 pending trial; 2 pending sentencing; 13 being sentenced and 4 dismissals. Of the subjects sentenced, all but one was sentenced to time in prison, with one individual receiving an eight year prison term.

1983 DOMESTIC MARIJUANA ERADICATION STATISTICS

STATES	PLOTS SIGHTED	PLOTS ERADICATED	PERCENTAGE ERADICATED	NUMBER OF PLANTS		NUMBER SINSEMILLA		PERCENTAGE SINSEMILLA	AVERAGE PLANTS PER PLOT		NUMBER OF GREEN HOUSES	NUMBER OF ARRESTS	NUMBER OF WEAPONS SEIZED
				ERADICATED	ERADICATED	ERADICATED	ERADICATED		ERADICATED	ERADICATED			
ALABAMA	488	484	99	61,497	100	-0-	.2	127	141	-0-	5	99	4
ALASKA	1	1	100	141	-0-	-0-	-0-	141	141	-0-	0	0	0
ARIZONA	132	60	45	13,902	1,725	12	12	231	231	4	4	90	51
ARKANSAS	709	702	99	153,616	25,795	17	17	218	218	2	2	171	23
CALIFORNIA	2,473	860	35	193,281	75,449	40	40	624	624	62	62	434	201
COLORADO	87	47	54	11,847	368	3	3	252	252	4	4	38	1
CONNECTICUT	2	2	100	78	-0-	-0-	-0-	39	39	-0-	0	0	0
DELAWARE	23	23	100	642	89	14	14	28	28	-0-	0	9	14
FLORIDA	608	605	99	60,060	295	.5	.5	99	99	3	3	179	12
GEORGIA	902	872	97	666,433	25,188	4	4	764	764	2	2	149	11
HAWAII	62,652	59,403	95	579,082	238,886	41	41	10	10	193	193	660	61
IDAHO	236	93	39	9,265	4,583	49	49	100	100	22	22	95	17
ILLINOIS	260	86	33	99,916	8,747	9	9	29	29	2	2	32	3
INDIANA	254	249	98	7,156	1,192	17	17	1,162	1,162	2	2	30	0
IOWA	50	25	50	18,276	2,030	11	11	731	731	-0-	0	24	0
KANSAS	132	57	43	235,914	30,009	13	13	4,139	4,139	1	1	30	3
KENTUCKY	553	505	91	174,752	109,220	63	63	346	346	9	9	159	21
LOUISIANA	47	47	100	3,778	-0-	-0-	-0-	80	80	-0-	0	14	0
MAINE	103	103	100	20,973	11,535	55	55	204	204	7	7	42	10
MARYLAND	36	36	100	1,568	45	3	3	44	44	-0-	0	25	1
MASSACHUSETTS	3	3	100	1,450	-0-	-0-	-0-	483	483	-0-	0	4	UNK
MICHIGAN	21	17	81	2,550	-0-	-0-	-0-	150	150	-0-	0	4	UNK
MINNESOTA	12	8	66	120,538	618	.5	.5	15,067	15,067	1	1	6	4
MISSISSIPPI	954	954	100	60,368	1,358	2	2	63	63	1	1	125	26
MISSOURI	410	276	67	61,617	13,545	22	22	223	223	6	6	187	41
MONTANA	38	14	37	2,925	2,925	100	100	209	209	11	11	20	0
NEBRASKA	9	5	55	842	610	72	72	168	168	1	1	7	0
NEVADA	1	1	100	144	-0-	-0-	-0-	144	144	-0-	0	0	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6	6	100	1,108	-0-	-0-	-0-	185	185	-0-	0	8	0
NEW JERSEY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	0	0	0
NEW MEXICO	89	33	37	6,898	1,285	19	19	209	209	4	4	32	8
NORTH CAROLINA	21	21	100	2,881	2,000	69	69	137	137	1	1	20	UNK
NORTH DAKOTA	716	691	97	100,466	16,554	16	16	145	145	3	3	124	10
	3	1	33	1,000	-0-	-0-	-0-	1,000	1,000	-0-	0	2	0

1983 DOMESTIC MARIJUANA ERADICATION STATISTICS

STATES	PLOTS SIGHTED	PLOTS ERADICATED	PERCENTAGE ERADICATED	NUMBER OF PLANTS ERADICATED	NUMBER SINSEMILLA	PERCENTAGE SINSEMILLA	AVERAGE PLANTS PER PLOT	NUMBER OF GREEN HOUSES	NUMBER OF ARRESTS	NUMBER OF WEAPONS SEIZED
OHIO	204	190	93	4,720	1,964	42	25	-0-	18	10
OKLAHOMA	267	267	100	442,426	110,561	25	1,657	-0-	97	33
OREGON	839	712	85	47,775	41,275	86	67	198	526	179
PENNSYLVANIA	273	273	100	19,053	-0-	-0-	70	-0-	68	26
RHODE ISLAND	7	7	100	520	-0-	-0-	74	-0-	21	UNK
SOUTH CAROLINA	78	78	100	21,546	-0-	-0-	276	-0-	49	-0-
SOUTH DAKOTA	6	3	50	2,800	-0-	-0-	933	-0-	2	-0-
TENNESSEE	1,393	1,386	99	428,022	217,903	51	309	1	172	-0-
TEXAS	63	60	95	21,991	1,678	8	367	4	61	14
UTAH	25	13	52	3,433	209	6	264	2	19	16
VERMONT	74	54	73	2,987	1,943	65	55	-0-	60	UNK
VIRGINIA	592	570	96	40,255	460	1	71	1	42	19
WASHINGTON	572	511	89	26,575	19,400	73	52	160	295	153
WEST VIRGINIA	139	139	100	12,199	10,258	84	88	2	54	11
WISCONSIN	18	18	100	44,659	-0-	-0-	2,481	-0-	16	-0-
WYOMING	7	1	14	18	-0-	-0-	18	-0-	3	1
TOTALS	76,588	70,572	92%	3,793,943	979,802	26%	177*	714	4,318	984

\*Median of Plots/Plants

Totals Excluding Hawaii 13,936 11,169 80%

## Funding

A total of \$2.4 million was allocated in DEA's FY-83 budget for the Domestic Marijuana Eradication/Suppression Program. Inasmuch as a primary objective of DEA's program is to support state and local eradication activities, a total of \$1,750,270 was allocated to state and local agencies (see page 9) to help offset the expenses of their eradication efforts. The expenditure of these funds helped pay for overtime and per diem for local officers, vehicle/aircraft rental, and operating expenses, as well as the purchase of equipment where necessary. It should be noted that what was allocated to each state may not have been actually expended. Actual expenditure figures will not be known until the end of March 1984 as each state has 90 days from year's end, to account for their expenditures and return any unexpended funds to DEA.

The funding process initially commenced in April with the submission of operation plans along with funding requirements for each state wishing to participate in the program. The plans were prepared jointly by DEA and state/local field program coordinators. Upon receipt, the plans were reviewed by a Headquarters Staff Coordinator in the Cannabis Investigations Section. Any changes involving requested funding were coordinated with the field and were predicated upon the amount of cultivation anticipated in the jurisdiction involved based upon prior experience, if any, and/or any available intelligence involving the subject state. Funding was subsequently provided pursuant to formal Letters of Agreement with the state/local agency participating in the program. Adjustments in funding were effected during the course of the program as deemed necessary.

Approximately \$83,500 was expended to conduct the 17 training schools sponsored by DEA throughout the country. DEA's Aviation Unit was also provided with \$100,000 to augment its own budget in the support of state and local air surveillance efforts involving the location and destruction of cannabis. Approximately \$261,130 in operating monies was allocated to sixty-one (61) DEA coordinators in the field and headquarters in direct support of state and local eradication efforts. DEA Field Program Coordinators were also allocated \$55,100 for the purchase of evidence and payment to informants involving eradication cases. An additional \$150,000 of program funds was provided to NASA to test a high altitude detection system to pinpoint cultivation areas for ground personnel. DEA's Office of Science and Technology contributed an additional \$50,000 in support of the NASA project.

ALLOCATION OF PROGRAM FUNDS - FY-83

<u>STATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Alabama	\$ 41,000
Arizona	20,000
Arkansas	72,000
California	233,000
Colorado	44,500
Delaware	10,000
Florida	71,000
Georgia	103,000
Hawaii	112,470
Idaho	32,750
Illinois	25,000
Indiana	32,000
Iowa	7,500
Kansas	10,000
Kentucky	137,000
Louisiana	28,000
Maryland	17,000
Minnesota	17,000
Mississippi	51,000
Missouri	33,000
Montana	4,300
Nebraska	9,000
New Mexico	23,000
North Carolina	60,000
Ohio	15,500
Oklahoma	50,100
Oregon	94,450
Pennsylvania	15,500
South Carolina	30,000
Tennessee	65,000
Texas	38,000
Utah	16,500
Virginia	53,000
Washington	96,700
West Virginia	65,500
Wisconsin	<u>18,500</u>
Subtotal	\$1,750,270



Other:

Travel and Per Diem Expenses for Headquarters/Field Coordinators (61)	261,130
PE/PI Expenditures by DEA Coordinators	55,100
Programs Portion of High Altitude NASA Project*	150,000
Program's Portion of DEA Aviation Unit Operations	100,000
Training Schools (17) Sponsored by Program	<u>83,500</u>
Total	\$2,400,000

\* Office of Science & Technology  
Contributed an Additional \$50,000  
to the Program

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

### U.S. Forest Service

In 1983, the U.S. Forest Service cooperated very closely with DEA and other agencies to minimize duplication of effort and achieve maximum effect from the \$1,950,000 they committed to state and local eradication efforts on National Forest lands. In those areas where a large percentage of the growing area was on U.S. Forest Service lands, an effort was made to apply more resource support from the Forest Service, as opposed to the areas with greater private lands involved, where DEA provided a greater share of the support. Additionally, a number of Forest Service personnel attended DEA's Marijuana Detection and Eradication Schools and orientation seminars, better preparing them for their field duties.

A high altitude photography pilot project for detection of cannabis fields was cooperatively conducted between May and October 1983 by the Departments of Agriculture, Interior and Justice.

### Department of Interior

In 1983, several bureaus within the Department of the Interior became involved to a greater extent in the detection and eradication of cannabis cultivation on Federal public lands. Both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service were especially active in cooperating with DEA and other agencies on lands under their purview.

Additionally, in Arkansas, the BLM experimented with the use of a dye marker and odorant to destroy growing cannabis. The experiments continue under controlled conditions to determine the efficiency and cost effectiveness of that technique.

### National Guard

The National Guard Bureau has recognized the significant contribution they can provide to the domestic eradication effort in the areas of intelligence production and sharing. Additionally, under state activation, the insertion of law enforcement personnel into raid sites and the extraction of personnel and drugs using helicopters can be of critical importance to the success of the campaign. During 1983 definitive guidance was provided to all Guard units clarifying

the terms and conditions under which they can properly support the eradication campaign. This resulted in a number of states executing Letters of Agreement for intelligence sharing. Additionally, the Guard units in Hawaii and California directly supported the program through the commitment of helicopter and other resources.

## Training

In 1983 the reservoir of training expertise in the area of marijuana detection and eradication was relatively small, while the need for such expertise was great. Accordingly, the program had to rely on assistance from Special Agent personnel from DEA field offices and the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement to provide the necessary training. Seventeen DEA sponsored training schools were held, in which 624 state and local officers were in attendance. The 17 training sessions represent a significant increase over 1982 when only four schools were held. The schools were held in 15 states and participants came from 30 of the states participating in the program.

Included in the training curriculum was a general explanation of the program and its objectives. Some of the main topics which were addressed included: cannabis identification and pharmacology, air safety, aerodynamics and navigational aids, aerial detection techniques, booby traps and alarms, field first aid, aerial photography and eradication techniques. Upon completion of the formalized training, attendees were afforded the opportunity to participate as observers in aircraft actually involved in locating areas of cannabis cultivation.

The Office of Training has recognized the training needs generated by the program and this has established a full-time training coordinator position at Glynco. The position was filled during December 1983 and the individual selected will be in place during February 1984. The availability of a full time training coordinator should greatly enhance the program's training capabilities during 1984.

## DEA Aviation Unit Support

The experience obtained during 1982 and the increased emphasis involving the eradication/suppression program for 1983 prompted DEA's Aviation Unit to assign a Special Agent pilot full-time to the Cannabis Investigations Section to provide in-house expertise and liaison. Two Special Agent pilots were also assigned full-time to the program's training schools, which ran from April through August. Nationwide, eight DEA pilots and 12 aircraft were assigned domestic cannabis eradication as their first priority.

DEA's Aviation Unit flew 684 missions for a total of 1,780 hours in support of the eradication program. Additionally, the Aviation Unit received requests for 227 missions which could not be accomplished because of several factors, specifically: adverse weather conditions, the unavailability of equipment and/or pilot personnel or a commitment to other enforcement activities. The missions flown represent a 42% increase over those flown (481) during 1982. This effort accounted for 10% of the Aviation Unit's total missions flown during 1983.

All but 5% of the missions flown were in DEA single engine highwing aircraft. DEA rotary-wing equipment was normally not available because of daily domestic operational enforcement activities and Caribbean interdiction operations. Accordingly, the program had to prevail upon the military and state/local agencies for air support to detect cultivation. The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington also personally appealed to pilots within Washington to assist in eradication efforts by reporting any cultivation observed during their normal flying activities. These combined efforts were very successful as documented by the number of plots sighted during 1983, which exceeded those for 1982. The Cannabis Investigations Section is evaluating several possible alternatives, i.e., privately owned helicopter services, for increased air support during the 1984 program.

## Public and Media Awareness

In an effort to further educate various government officials and the public regarding the Domestic Marijuana Eradication/Suppression Program, DEA's Office of Training, in cooperation with the Cannabis Investigations Section, produced a videotape and film with Mr. Ricardo Montalban as a narrator. The videotape depicted federal and state eradication efforts during 1982 and was distributed to each state participating in the program along with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and DEA Training Center at Glynco, Georgia. The videotape/film was made available by local coordinators to various state agencies and citizen groups. The videotape was also aired on several public television stations throughout the country and was well received.

Several states (Missouri, Mississippi, Idaho, Washington, Oklahoma and Florida) established toll-free telephone numbers during the 1983 growing season to receive information from the general public involving the sighting of illicit cultivation. Numerous calls were received throughout the country, which resulted in several seizures.

An increase in general press coverage was noted throughout the country, especially in Hawaii, California, Washington, Oregon, Georgia and Kentucky. The California Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) operation and paraquat spraying operations in both Georgia and Kentucky received the greatest coverage. While CAMP coverage was mostly positive, the paraquat issue generated several negative articles. The 1983 program generated more press coverage than experienced in prior years. Media coverage is expected to increase in 1984 as more states join the program and CAMP increases its eradication efforts.

## Herbicides

DEA encourages state and local officials to eradicate cannabis utilizing the most effective and efficient means available, whether it be manual or through the use of herbicides. Paraquat has been identified as the fastest acting herbicide for utilization against heavy broad leaf weeds, which would encompass the cannabis plant. The agricultural community in the United States has utilized paraquat since 1962 and approximately four million pounds of paraquat are sprayed on over 10.7 million acres annually in the United States.

Since DEA is the lead Federal agency in domestic marijuana eradication/suppression, a decision was reached in August to utilize a herbicide to destroy marijuana on federal lands. Paraquat was selected as the herbicide to be utilized due to its fast acting properties and because of its wide acceptance in the agricultural community.

On August 13, 1983, seven plots were sprayed in the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia. Again on August 19, 1983, an additional three plots were sprayed in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky.

Subsequently, NORML and the Sierra Club filed suit in federal court to enjoin DEA from utilizing herbicides in the eradication of cannabis cultivation. Pursuant to the Court action, DEA agreed to undertake the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) involving the utilization of herbicides on Federal lands. An aggressive eradication program will continue during 1984 utilizing all available means at its disposal pending completion of the EIS.

## Incidents of Violence

Associated with the cultivation of cannabis is the propensity of growers to employ various methods of deterrence to protect their cannabis from discovery and eradication, or from theft.

One method utilized by marijuana producers to deter eradication efforts is the deployment of booby traps in the vicinity of their plots or along trails leading to these areas. Booby traps, which are either explosive or impaling devices, do not discriminate as to their victims and present a danger to all segments of society.

California's CAMP Program reported that at least 12 murders had been linked to cannabis cultivation during the last three years. According to California's Attorney General, John Van de Kamp, a recent survey disclosed that 80 percent of cannabis growers are armed during the growing season and nearly all carry guns at fall harvest time. Citizens who happen upon cannabis sites are, "often threatened by growers, and assaults among growers themselves are increasing", according to Mr. Van de Kamp. The incidents of violence will grow in proportion to increased eradication efforts, attempted theft of plants by non-growers and by accidental encounters with growers by the general public



### Congressional Concern and Support

The Congress has demonstrated an abiding concern about the illicit cultivation and trafficking of marijuana. Numerous investigative and legislative Congressional hearings have been held not only in Washington, D.C., but also in cities and communities throughout the United States.

In order to keep the Congress abreast of our domestic marijuana eradication/suppression efforts, the Administrator and other Drug Enforcement Administration officials have provided informal briefings and frequently participated in the formal presentation of testimony and evidence in Congressional hearings. The Congress has demonstrated its support for the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration by passing significant legislation.