

From the Office of the Sheriff:

Soon after my election to office in 2003, I created the Dodge County Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force. I saw the need for a more aggressive and robust counter-drug effort in the county and efforts at that time were less than stellar. The Sheriffs' Department serves as the lead agency for the task force while the local police departments provide staff to augment the task forces efforts. Currently, the active participants are Beaver Dam, Waupun, Juneau and the Horicon PD's. Other smaller departments are supporters and co-signers but do not have the staff to provide the level of commitment it takes to be as active as the current unit is. They include Brownsville, Iron Ridge, and Mayville. The role of these departments is to direct intelligence to the unit.

In the beginning, I dedicated one full-time investigator to the cause. The program since expanded by an additional full-time deputy as well as several part-time employees. We budget in excess of \$100k annually to combat the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and use of both illegal drugs and prescription medications. This goes a long way but is well short of what is needed to truly have a significant impact on the drug problem.

Dodge County has no more of a drug problem than any other county. It may seem that we may, but that is only a perception because of the number of arrests we make. To date, the team has experienced tremendous success. This can be contributed to the teamwork between all the cooperating agencies as well as the degree of training and experience of the team members. The law enforcement teamwork and cooperation is essential. It includes the use of K9 units from Horicon or Waupun, to hundreds of man-hours provided by Beaver Dam Police Department.

This mutual cooperation has ensured that dozens of drug dealers are no longer walking our streets distributing their wares. The unit has seized a fleet of vehicles, real estate, personal property, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in U.S. currency. The seized vehicles are either put into use by law enforcement or sold at auction. Today, I know of at least 14 vehicles that were taken from drug dealers that are being used by local police departments. That's 14 fewer vehicles that taxpayers need to buy. We meet with the local Police Chief's on a regular basis and distribute the fruits of the task forces labor on proportionate basis.

Other vehicles and real estate are sold and proceeds are shared by the investigating jurisdictions and state school fund. Cash is retained by the drug unit and is can only be used for drug operations, equipment purchases and buy money. Recently, we provided several thousand dollars each to support of the Horicon and Waupun PD K9 units.

The men and women who work this unit seldom receive the thanks and appreciation they deserve. Our drug unit members need to remain as anonymous as possible so we don't publicize their photo's with the bundles of cash and drugs they seize. I appreciate their tireless efforts, the long days, the overnight pages and calls, and the difficulty and dangers they place themselves in. The members are a truly, unique and specialized group of law enforcement professionals.

These are the hero's you read about but never see. They are the warriors who are winning the war on drugs but seldom are recognized publicly. These are the guys that place themselves in high risk situations and undercover operations. These are the guys that go above and beyond, and deal with the most undesirable in our society. These are the guys whom are overworked and under

appreciated but never complain. They work for you, and are doing a phenomenal job, thanks for listening tnehs@co.dodge.wi.us.