



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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Counterdrug Task Force critical in significant Cleveland drug bust

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force supported a criminal drug case recently that took 8 kilograms of cocaine, 1 kilogram of heroin, and 10 grams of fentanyl off the streets in Cleveland and resulted in the arrests of five people and the seizure of more than \$1 million.

An analyst with the CDTF, assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration's Cleveland office, supported the case by conducting a significant amount of communications analysis and target research that contributed to identifying the trafficking network. The CDTF analyst provided countless hours of support to the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation, which began in early 2019, and directly contributed to the arrest of the five suspects and the seizure.

"The analytical support provided by our analyst was crucial for all stages of this investigation and was an integral component to the disruption and dismantling of the drug trafficking organization," said Maj. Ryan McMaster, Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force coordinator. "I am continually in awe of what our National Guard members are doing for their communities without the need for recognition. They do it because they are passionate about getting illegal drugs off the street and believe in the mission."

CDTF analysts bring unique skills and provide crucial information to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies during criminal investigations with an illegal drug nexus. Analysts assist these cases by performing analysis, document exploitation, link analysis, and case support, allowing task forces and agencies to achieve their mission objectives.

Since the beginning of fiscal year 2019, CDTF members have supported drug cases resulting in the removal of nearly 6,000 pounds of illegal drugs and asset seizures valued at nearly \$98 million. The CDTF provides support to law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations, enhancing their efforts to counter the illicit drug threat and anticipate, deter, and defeat the threat of illegal substances, trafficking, and violence in Ohio.

The CDTF mission supports efforts being made by Gov. Mike DeWine, the commander in chief of the Ohio National Guard. In his first official act as governor, DeWine signed an executive order creating the RecoveryOhio initiative to support his priority of holding drug traffickers

accountable. RecoveryOhio also works to address other critical issues surrounding mental health and substance use recovery, treatment, and prevention.

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To learn more about the Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, visit:

<https://www.ong.ohio.gov/counterdrug.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

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