

**HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA)
DOMESTIC HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY
“All Crimes, All Threats, All Hazards”**

Purpose – Provide a coordinated Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) Strategy for implementation by federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies working with the HIDTA Program.

Mission – Promote collaborative, intelligence-led, unbiased policing in coordinated and mutually supportive multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts on the Nation’s Highways. The DHE strategy both improves the investigative efforts of the HIDTAs in attacking drug trafficking organizations and has significant impact on traffic safety, homeland security and other crimes.

Background – HIDTAs are regions designated by the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) “...in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland Security, heads of the National Drug Control Program agencies and the Governor of each applicable state...” as stated in the ONDCP Reauthorization Bill of 2006 (PL 109-469).

The HIDTA Program’s mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in the United States by assisting federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA Program. Goal 1 is to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) with a particular emphasis on drug trafficking regions that have harmful effects on other parts of the United States.

Though the HIDTA’s program goal is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs, the DHE Strategy, by supporting coordinated/shared operational planning (highly visible patrol activity) and intelligence on an interstate/regional basis will achieve an “All Crimes, All Threats, All Hazards” approach.

DHE Coordination – Given the wide footprint of the HIDTA Program, a coordinated nationwide highway enforcement strategy should contribute significantly to reducing criminal activity and enhancing public safety on the nation’s major transportation corridors. Such an approach would build on the strengths of both the HIDTA Program and state and local LEAs which have historically provided resources to ensure the Nation’s highways are safe for citizens and not used for illegal activities, such as drug trafficking.

The Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership started an enforcement coordination effort in 1998 called “COBIJA” (Blanket). By 2005, representatives from numerous states across the nation were attending the annual planning/ information sharing meetings.

Based on the success of COBIJA, the Arizona Partnership proposed that the concept be adopted by ONDCP and expanded nationally and directed regionally.

Subsequently, the HIDTA Program's Intelligence Committee requested a subcommittee be formed to review and provide recommendations regarding the proposal. The results of the subcommittee's review were discussed at the HIDTA Directors meeting in Washington, DC, in December 2005 and led to the following concept:

Regionalization – The Regional DHE strategy is a valuable drug enforcement concept for the HIDTA Program, with broader public safety and security impact for federal, state and local partners and is a nationwide strategy rather than a national initiative. This strategy focuses on highway enforcement through the use of HIDTA baseline and supplemental funding to enhance the coordination/sharing of information between federal, state, local and tribal agencies. The HIDTA Program's DHE strategy is comprised of a Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC), regional operational planning meeting (ROPM) with continuous data collection, reporting, analysis and dissemination relating to operations.

The DHE strategy has been implemented within nine (9) designated DHE regions. These regions are designated by ONDCP in consultation with HIDTA Directors. The DHE Regional Coordinators are currently the HIDTA Directors in the following HIDTAs:

Region I – SWB HIDTA –South Texas HIDTA

Region VI – Michigan HIDTA

Region II – Northwest HIDTA Region VII – New England HIDTA

Region III – Rocky Mountain HIDTA Region VIII – Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA

Region IV – Midwest HIDTA Region IX – Atlanta HIDTA

Region V – Chicago HIDTA

Regional Coordinating Committee – Each HIDTA Director, as the Regional Coordinator, will establish a Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) to oversee the DHE strategy in his/her area. Committee membership should be limited to two representatives from each state in a region. Regional HIDTA Coordinators will Chairperson the RCC and committee members must be from agencies that are participating in the DHE strategy. The RCC will determine the dates for the ROPM and operational period.

The Regional Operational Planning Meeting –

- Provides a designated venue within the region for key law enforcement stakeholders to meet
- Identifies and reviews illegal drug, criminal, and public safety activity information and intelligence relating to the regional highway systems Identifies available law enforcement resources
- Identifies appropriate training requirements
- Promotes sharing of operational plans to enhance regional coordination
- Identifies procedures for exploitation of actionable intelligence

The Operational Model –

- Provides a system for coordinating enforcement operations
- Encourages the gathering, reporting, analysis and sharing of new information/intelligence regarding illegal activity and safety threats

The Data Collection, Analysis and Dissemination Cycle –

- Provides a continuous cycle of seizure data and intelligence collection by participating agencies
- Each DHE region monitors its regional enforcement data and will ensure the data is reported/shared within his/her region as determined by the RCC. The seizure data is reported to the RCC designated Investigative Support Center (ISC)
- The RCC will establish the mechanism that ensures the data is submitted the El Paso Intelligence Center's (EPIC) National Seizure System (NSS). The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) should be encouraged to conduct an annual Strategic Impact Assessment reviewing seizure data and traffic safety statistics

Inter-Regional Coordination –

- Regional Coordinators for the nine regions should meet semi/annually to:
- Discuss conducting coordinated nationwide operations
- Review and analyze results from previous operations
- Discuss lessons learned and best practices

DHE Chairperson - The DHE Chairperson will be one of the HIDTA Director Regional Coordinators. The Chairperson will report to the HIDTA Director's Committee and will provide guidance to the DHE Regional Coordinator. The DHE Chairperson has no operational authority.

The DHE Coordinator (s) - The DHE Coordinator(s) will support the nine (9) Regional Coordinators (HIDTA Directors) and DHE Chairperson with implementing the DHE strategy, as requested, within their respective regions. The DHE Coordinator(s) report to the DHE Chairperson. The DHE Coordinator(s) has no operational authority, and is primarily responsible for developing strategies to enhance the DHE effort and promoting networking, trust building, and intelligence sharing activities.

Goals:

1. To enhance investigations leading to the disruption and dismantlement of the drug trafficking and money laundering organizations that use the nation's highways as a means of transporting illegal drugs, currency and other contraband and illicit commodities from one location to another.
2. To cultivate and share intelligence information pertaining to individuals and organizations who use the nation's highways as a means of transporting illegal drugs, currency and other illicit commodities or create other threats and hazards on those highways

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3. To promote shared operational planning, intelligence and coordination among federal, state and local law enforcement to improve their ability to effectively address all crimes, threats and hazards relating to our nation's highways.