



NNOAC *Insight*

The Official Position of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition

FUNDING FOR NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM AND THE GUARD CD SCHOOLS

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition (NNOAC) is comprised of 40 state narcotic officers associations representing more than 55,000 police officers nationwide. The NNOAC greatly appreciates the counter-drug (CD) assistance provided to law enforcement by the National Guard (NG). We strongly support long range congressional funding for the National Guard Bureau's Counter-Drug Program.

Cities across the United States are being ravaged by drugs that are smuggled into our country by air, land and sea. Some of our states have become "source countries" for illicitly manufactured methamphetamine and domestically grown high-grade marijuana. The Southwest Border is particularly vulnerable to the vast quantities of heroin, cocaine, marijuana and precursor drugs being smuggled into the U.S. across our very porous 2,000-mile border with Mexico. Also many of this nation's major drug manufacturing, or distribution groups are being operated from command and control centers in Mexico. The task of stemming the flow of drugs into our country exceeds the resources of our Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. If we are going to be successful in protecting our citizens from the threat of illicit drugs, the National Guard must continue to receive adequate funding to maintain their counter-drug partnership with civilian law enforcement.

Our mission, as narcotic officers, is to stop the flow of illicit drugs into our communities. We are mandated to improve the quality of life in our towns, and cities. Yet we live in a time where those of us in law enforcement face yearly budget cuts. We are frequently asked to do more with less. One of the ways that we have been able to continue our success in the daily fight against drugs is through the partnership that we have formed with the National Guard's Counterdrug Program. Narcotic officers across the nation have greatly benefited from the CD support provided by the Guard. On any given day, the NG has over 3,000 soldiers and airmen on full-time CD duty. These dedicated individuals possess unique skill that are used to support Federal, State and local law enforcement and community-based demand reduction organizations in every state and territory in the nation. The NG drug prevention and demand reduction

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programs, in partnership with organizations such as the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and the CNOA Narcotic Educational Foundation of America, reach almost 10 million young people in this country to help motivate them to reject the use of illegal drugs. We in law enforcement have embraced the fundamentals and principals of community based policing. For this same reason, we must support the NG. They are truly a community-based resource and solution. These “citizen solders” are on the front lines of their own communities in this war on drugs.

For the last five years, the NG “Governors’ CD State Plans” budget has been on a roller coaster. Every year the Congress has added money to the budget to attempt to stem the downward trend. In FY 99 the funding was adequate to support over 3,000 NG troops in the CD effort. The NNOAC recommends continued support to return the NG Governors CD State Plans funding to a level of effort similar to FY 99, requiring \$225M (a \$65M plus up over the President’s Budget) in FY 2004. The NNOAC requests that this level be maintained, with annual adjustments for inflation and pay raises, to support the ceiling that Congress has authorized for CD support through the fiscal years 2004-2008.

The NNOAC expresses our appreciation for the critical assistance provided by the members of Congress in adding \$52 million to the FY 2003 NG Governors’ State CD Plans. The original FY 2003 budget was grossly inadequate and would have severely reduced the ability of the NG to provide consistent, effective support to the National Drug Control Strategy. The supplemental funding has enhanced the NG ability to accomplish its Congressionally directed mission to support drug law enforcement agencies and community-based drug demand reduction organizations.

The NNOAC also supports the Western Region Counterdrug Training Team at San Louis Obispo, Ca. They offer training to law enforcement officers in the Northwest and Southwest regions and cover a variety of counterdrug program topics, to include money laundering, investigative techniques, and utilization of new technology. In addition, the WRCT is responsible for executing CD training required by NG CD personnel. Courses are conducted via Mobile Training teams, on a limited in-house basis, and distributive learning tools. Students attend from State, and local law enforcement agencies and the NG. We recommend they receive DoD CD funding of \$3.0 Million in FY 2004.

NNOAC is also strongly supported by the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA), which is located at Meridian Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS. The mission is to provide tactical level CD instruction for street level police officers, and military CD personnel. The primary customers of RCTA are law enforcement officers from the states of MS, AL, GA, TN and LA. RCTA provides no cost training, lodging and food with the classes taught by LEA personnel. RCTA projects a student population of 4,400 with a budget of \$4.2 Million for FY 2003. Presently the student waiting list is approximately 3,800 officers, with a waiting time for course attendance of 6 months to one year. Increasing RCTA’s budget in FY 2004 to \$6M would lower the waiting period and increase effectiveness.

Multi-Jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training (MCTFT) is located at the St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, FL. The mission is to provide Task-Force training for police officers and agencies throughout the U.S. The school presents courses, taught by LEA personnel, using instructors at both onsite and at remote locations as well as satellite broadcasting. Courses of instruction target both LEA and CBO personnel. MCTFT projects a student population of 26,000 classroom and 70,000 broadcast, operating with a budget of \$6.4M for FY2003. NNOAC recommends increasing their budget to \$8M which would allow them to increase classroom student training by 4,500 officers.

NNOAC is also strongly supported by the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCTC), which is located at Ft. Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA. The mission is to provide tactical level training for law enforcement and demand reduction training for coalition professionals to the eighteen Northeast States, and the District of Columbia. The school provides no cost lodging, food and training to LEA and CBO personnel, taught by subject matter experts. NCTC projects a student population of over 5,000, and operates with a Congressional line item budget of \$6.8 Million for FY 2003. NCTC has an extensive backlog of over 6,000 personnel, and is requesting funding of \$6M.

Congress, in the FY 03 Appropriations, directed a new National Guard Counterdrug school that is located in Camp Dodge, Iowa. This new training complex will utilize existing facilities and will provide counterdrug instruction for law enforcement agencies and community based organizations by certified civilian instructors, recognized for their expertise. This location is badly needed to support the thousands of law enforcement officers in the mid west, and northwest in their efforts to gain valuable training, that will result in increased drug seizures, and help ensure officers are safely able to perform their duties. With the \$3M that MCTC was allocated for FY 03 they will be able to train over a thousand officers. The National Narcotics Officers Association strongly supports funding at \$3M for FY 04.