

National Alliance Of State Drug Enforcement Agencies

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Continued Funding for the National Guard Counterdrug Schools

The National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies has been in existence since 1975. Its member agencies are State Level Drug Enforcement Agencies from the nation's state police, highway patrol departments, or from each state's agency responsible for statewide criminal investigations. The working members of NASDEA come from Command Level staff. All fifty states are represented within NASDEA.

Summary of NASDEA Position

NASDEA members wholeheartedly agree in a multi-faceted approach in combating illegal drugs. A strategy that encompasses early education, innovative treatment, and vigorous enforcement has long been recognized as the proper approach to attacking this threat to our citizens, from both external and internal forces involved in the illegal distribution of controlled substances. As a professional law enforcement organization, with nationwide membership, we recognize that drug abuse, and the related crimes that go hand in hand with drug abuse; constitute a very real threat to our nation and its people. To combat these crimes effectively and efficiently, law enforcement relies on the competency and professionalism displayed by its most important asset, personnel. Along with that recognition, we also realize that the successes we at the state level have had to date, have been largely due to the extent of training that is provided to our law enforcement personnel. This training is required to continuously update police officers on the latest aspects of counterdrug technology possible. Many state and local agencies turn to the four National Guard Counterdrug Schools for this training. These schools are strategically located at San Luis Obispo, California; Meridian, Mississippi; Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; and St. Petersburg, Florida. **NASDEA strongly supports the continued funding of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools.**

The National Interagency Civil-Military Institute (NICI) in Camp San Luis Obispo, California began as the National Interagency Counterdrug Institute in 1989. NICI provides tremendous assistance to law enforcement by offering training in multi-agency Counterdrug operations involving the military in a support role. NICI also exports numerous classes and uses distance learning technology to expand its training capabilities.

The Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA) located in Meridian, Mississippi began as the Gulf States Counterdrug Initiative in 1992 “to identify resources, services, and support that can be legitimately provided by Department of Defense components and agencies to support Counterdrug activities along the U.S. southern coastal region.” The RCTA training philosophy emphasizes hands-on training for state, county, and municipal uniformed officers and conventional narcotics investigators, with the primary focus on street level narcotics.

The Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCTC) was formed in 1998 by a congressional line item at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania. Its mission is to provide a Counterdrug training and education center supporting the eighteen northeastern states and the District of Columbia. NCTC provides tactical training for law enforcement and demand reduction training for coalition professionals at both onsite and satellite locations at no cost.

The Multi-Jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training (MCTFT) center is located at St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Their mission is to provide task force training for police officers and agencies throughout the United States. Courses of instruction are taught at both onsite and remote locations, as well as satellite broadcasting.

We at NASDEA believe that Law Enforcement is in an untenable position of an ever increasing workload of drug enforcement, but now having less resources to complete the job, and unable to meet a level of service that our citizens have come to expect. With the current state of many law enforcement budgets today, reductions in equipment and training have become a necessity to fund other initiatives, such as Homeland Security. In other words, funding for training and equipment that are reduced will negatively impact the state level programs aimed at each of the state’s respective drug problems within their states. NASDEA supports the need for Homeland Security programs, but not at the risk of negatively impacting upon our drug training programs that are so successful.

Therefore, the membership of NASDEA strongly urges the United States Congress and the present administration to maintain current level funding for all National Guard Counterdrug Schools.