



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

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Division of State Police

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MAJOR JOSEPH M. EBERT, NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE

Testimony

Good Morning, my name is Joseph Ebert and I am a Major with the New Hampshire State Police overseeing the Investigative Services Bureau, which encompasses the Detectives within the State Police. As part of my of my position I oversee both the Narcotics Investigations Unit (NIU) and the Terrorism and Intelligence Unit (TIU). Both of the aforementioned units are significantly involved in the challenge of stemming the tide of illegal drugs into New Hampshire and by proxy the rate of associated crime, injury and death that results from the presence those drugs in our communities. Members of the State Police NIU are tasked with complex undercover narcotics investigations, the management of confidential informants and the coordination of case investigations with numerous law enforcement partners. The TIU, via personnel assigned to the New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center (NHIAC) are tasked with among other things, the exchange of narcotics information and intelligence. The State of New Hampshire like many other states is faced with challenges resulting from its varied geography, limited law enforcement resources and the significant impacts that result from drug trafficking and drug use within the state. In short, the State Police has a lot of area to provide drug investigative services to and not a lot of Troopers with which to provide those services. These challenges have forced law enforcement in New Hampshire and specifically the State Police to strive to consistently do more with less. As a result, collectively law enforcement within the state have maximized collaboration between federal, state, county and local law enforcement, while also engaging non-law enforcement partners within the addiction and prevention communities.

The State of New Hampshire via the Information and Analysis Center has led the way in the exchange of drug information and intelligence both regionally and throughout the country. The center produces a monthly product that has been nationally recognized, known as the Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI), which provides data that is used across our societal spectrum for stakeholders dealing with the effects of illegal narcotics. This product has played a pivotal role in informing policy makers, guiding resources and identifying areas of dire concern. The DMI would not be possible without the collaboration of numerous law enforcement and civilian partners from all levels of government and civilian communities. The NHIAC also supports the needs of sworn law enforcement agencies who are tasked with the enforcement of narcotics laws. Specifically, the NHIAC provides strategic analysis, case support and intelligence exchange related to narcotics. The center is able to achieve the previously mentioned goals through a number of mediums; however partnerships and grant funding are perhaps the most pronounced. Within the center federal, state and local law enforcement and civilian employees work synergistically at the common goal of information and intelligence exchange. Much of these activities are supported through partnerships with federal allies and funding. Specifically, the center has employees from agencies including but not limited to the Federal Bureau of investigation, the Department of Homeland Security and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Program. The NHIAC also benefits from several federal grant programs including the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Emergency Management and Preparedness Grant Program (EMPG), which respectively, support the employment of local law enforcement and state analysts within the center. I want to highlight the value of HSGP program in particular because it funds the local police officers within the NHIAC who work as Intelligence Liaison Officers (ILO). The local relationships and knowledge that each ILO brings to the center is an invaluable resource to the intelligence collection and dissemination process.

The State Police Narcotics Investigations Unit has the incredibly dangerous and yet necessary job of enforcing narcotics laws in New Hampshire. However, they do not work unilaterally. Members of NIU are assigned to various state and federal task forces to include but not limited to the FBI's Major Offender Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration's HIDTA Task Force, The New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force and the United States Postal Inspectors Task Force. The State Police is involved with federal and state task forces because they act as a force

multiplier and because they increase communication and information exchange. As I previously mentioned, the State of New Hampshire has limited resources and as a result collaboration isn't just a concept, but a necessity. The State Police has forged tremendously strong relationships within the law enforcement community that are all directed toward increasing the safety of New Hampshire residents and those who visit our state.

Our state has suffered the effects of opiates, the devastating effects of the methamphetamine scourge and numerous other narcotics related criminal activities. The enforcement of laws related to these drugs is done through collaboration and countless hours of dedicated enforcement efforts. The State Police NIU has been incredibly privileged to be the recipient of numerous federal and state grants related to the enforcement of illegal narcotics. On the state level, the State Police receives funding through Operation Granite Shield, which not only funds drug enforcement, but also encourages joint enforcement operations. At the federal level that State Police NIU has received funding from the COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Grants, which have provided resources that would otherwise likely have be unattainable.

We believe that here in New Hampshire we have created a successful model for drug enforcement that consists of Collaboration, Dedication and Unity in the goal of protecting our communities and preserving life. Recently, this model for success was again exhibited by the New Hampshire law enforcement community, led by the Colonel of the New Hampshire State Police, with the creation of the statewide methamphetamine enforcement initiative. The same model used to combat opiates was applied to the emerging trend of methamphetamine and many similar gains have been seen. The State Police is proud of our enforcement and intelligence exchange efforts; however we know that the successes and gains we've made in protecting society from the ills of narcotics are in large part only possible because of our partners and the support we have received in the form of grant funding.

I have been honored to speak this morning about the many progressive and successful drug enforcement efforts that the New Hampshire State Police and New Hampshire law enforcement community currently participate in. It is truly important to my agency and I that each member of this committee, and anyone who hears this testimony understands that that the New Hampshire State Police will always strive to improve the safety of our residents and visitors. Further, we will continue to work toward carrying on the honorable traditions of the State Police that many Troopers in our history have sacrificed so much to uphold.

Respectfully Submitted
Major Joseph M. Ebert
NH State Police