

The National Guard Counterdrug Program



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The opioid epidemic is wreaking havoc across the United States. Over 100,000 Americans die from overdose and cost the United States nearly \$1.5 trillion.¹ This is projected to increase given the growing availability of illicit fentanyl. Last year alone, more than fifty million fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills were seized.² This crisis must end and to do so will require all sectors to play a role.

Since 1989, the National Guard has been combating the crisis in every state, territory, and zip code through the National Guard Counterdrug Program (CDP). This program provides trained professionals from the National Guard to work alongside local law enforcement and help get drugs off the street. In 2022, the program seized the following:



- \$202.2M in illicit U.S. Currency
- \$74.5M in Property
- 95,446 kg of Marijuana
- 139,620 kg of Cocaine
- 111,823 kg of methamphetamines
- 2,867 kg of Heroin
- 28,717 kg of synthetic opioids

The National Guard is a true force multiplier. Each CDP analyst supports 10-15 agents already on the ground. Additionally, there are five CDP regional schools which train 68,000 active law enforcement officers per year on region-specific threats and proven techniques from the field.

Counterdrug Schools

- Camp Blanding, FL
- Johnston, IA
- Meridian, MS
- Fort Indianatown Gap, PA
- Camp Murray, WA

Counterdrug Mission Sets

- Criminal Analysts
- Drug Demand Reduction Outreach
- Aviation
- Ground Reconnaissance

Recommendation

We request the Senate and House provide \$460M in funding to support the full 4,000 guardsmen IAW 32 USC 1123, with an additional \$30M for the schools, IAW public law 109-469.

Despite proven success and the growing fentanyl crisis, CDP funding has remained stagnant since the early 1990s, at roughly \$200M annually. Stagnant funding has resulted in the loss of over 100 full-time personnel annually since 2018. Between much-needed salary increases and inflation, the CDP is continually asked to do more with less. We request the Senate and House provide funding to support the full 4,000 guardsmen IAW 32 USC 112, with an additional \$30M for the schools, IAW public law 109-469.

1. U.S. Overdose Deaths In 2021 Increased Half as Much as in 2020 - But Are Still Up 15% (cdc.gov)
2. Drug Enforcement Administration Announces the Seizure of Over 379 million Deadly Doses of Fentanyl in 2022



Learn more at
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