

LECC Cooperative Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony

September 19, 2012



LECC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Matthew Allen, ICE
Thomas Atteberry, ATF
Joe Arpaio, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Karl G. Auerbach, Salt River Police Dept.
Richard Barlow, Customs & Border Protection
John Blackburn Jr., ACJC
Kelly C. Clark, Navajo County Sheriff's Office
Douglas Coleman, DEA
Robert DeVries, Kingman Police Dept.
Clarence Dupnik, Pima County Sheriff's Office
Daniel V. Garcia, Phoenix Police Dept.
David Gonzales, U.S. Marshals Service
Bobby Halliday, AZ Dept. of Public Safety
Tom Horne, Arizona Attorney General
Elizabeth Kempshall, AZ HIDTA
Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney's Office
John S. Leonardo, U.S. Attorney's Office

Lyle Mann, AZPOST
Scott Mascher, ACASA
Dawn Mertz, IRS
Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney's Off.
Michael Morgan, AZ National Guard
Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force
Ralph Ogden, Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Elizabeth Ortiz, APAAC
Matthew Pryor, BIA
Edward Rheinheimer, Cochise County Attorney's Off.
Kevin Rice, U.S. Secret Service
David Rozema, Coconino County Attorney's Off:
Charles Ryan, AZ Dept. of Corrections
George Silva, Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office
Jan Strauss, AACOP
James L. Turgal Jr., FBI
Roberto Villasenor, Tucson Police Dept.

The Mission Statement of the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee

The Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee was established to foster a comprehensive cooperative atmosphere among all law enforcement agencies within the State of Arizona and to aid these agencies in the delivery of the most effective law enforcement services to all persons in the State of Arizona.

Excellence in Cooperative Law Enforcement Group or Task Force

HIDTA Metro Intelligence Support & Technical Investigation/Arizona Financial Crimes Task Force — In 2011, the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area's MISTIC Initiative partnered with the Arizona Financial Crimes Task Force and conducted an OCDETF investigation targeting the Phoenix, Ariz. based money laundering activities of Consolidated Priority Organization Target Gonzalo Inzunza and his principal Culiacan, a Mexico-based drug load coordinator Regional Priority Organization Target Benito Castro-Barraza. Successfully compiling a complex financial conspiracy, MISTIC and AFCTF demonstrated that Javier Granda and Rosario Perez-Osuna, the heads of Inzunza, used more than 240 U.S. and Mexican bank accounts to launder more than \$50 million. Through various technical and legal methods of investigation, a federal seizure warrant targeting 60 active bank accounts was executed on multiple valley banks resulting in the seizure of \$1,550,000 of Castro-Barraza's drug proceeds. In total, MISTIC and AFCTF personnel have seized approximately \$3.75 million in bulk U.S. currency and U.S. currency from bank accounts belonging to Castro-Barraza DTO members. In addition, nine individuals have been indicted and 18 kilograms of heroin were seized.

The East Side Los Guada Bloods Case — Arizona's State Gang Task Force in partnership with the Mesa, Scottsdale and Salt River Pima-Maricopa police departments, ATF and prosecutors from the Maricopa County Attorneys Office and the United States Attorney's Office combined efforts to dismantle one of the most violent street gangs which have been operating with impunity from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. This gang not only affected the quality of life on the reservation but also exported their violence to the surrounding communities. The partnership succeeded by exhibiting extraordinary inter-agency collaboration and coordination. Their cooperative efforts have resulted in 84 arrests, the service of 50 search warrants, E-Traced 138 guns, 41 of which were linked to separate crimes, documented 279 gang members, and cleared 36 arrest warrants. Their service was exemplary and the citizens of Arizona were beneficiaries enjoying safer communities, a significant contribution to the lifestyle of Arizona.

Arizona Electronic Crimes Task Force — Operation Orange Crush and Operation Reload were the first two investigations for the Scottsdale Police Department and the Arizona Electronic Crimes Task Force. Both investigations targeted criminal organizations that utilized electronic transactions to disguise the crime and the individuals involved. The task force utilized traditional investigative techniques including undercover operations, surveillance and search warrants. Innovative and nontraditional investigative techniques were also used such as, the first real time electronic data interceptions from Verizon through a wire tap. The group also used surreptitious warrants to view and image computers. Both investigations revealed the importance and value of a cooperative relationship with private entities and incorporated those resources into the investigation. These combined efforts and assets resulted in the dismantling of two very complex and sophisticated criminal enterprises.

Operation "OG Style" — DEA Group 3, Phoenix Police Department South Mountain Precinct 43-X and 42-X squads, and the Arizona Attorney General's Office combined investigative efforts in an investigation dubbed Operation OG Style targeting a Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) from top to bottom, which had been distributing multiple kilograms of crack and powder cocaine in the Phoenix Metropolitan area. The investigation successfully dismantled a distribution network, from the sources of supply to the distributors, and removed numerous violent gang members from the streets of Phoenix. In the course of this investigation, 16 wire intercepts were conducted and 26 search warrants were executed resulting in the indictment of 71 members of the DTO and the seizure of 80 vehicles, 18 firearms, 3.4 pounds of crack cocaine, 30 pounds of cocaine, 311 pounds of marijuana, small quantities of methamphetamine and heroin, and over \$650,000 in drug proceeds. The Arizona Attorney General's Office is also seeking the forfeiture of two residential properties utilized by members of the DTO.

Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety

Arizona Mobile Wireless Investigations Team — With the use of specialized training and equipment, the Mobile Wireless Investigations Team successfully aids local law enforcement in the apprehension of dangerous and serious offenders and subjects. The assigned agents have assisted countless law enforcement agencies with cellular data analysis and the eventual apprehension of criminal suspects. Through their hard work and dedication, this team and its partners has been able to remove violent criminals from the streets and out of communities, resulting in the decrease of the serious threat they posed. Since its inception in 2011, these agents have assisted in 24 apprehensions from a total of 35 separate requests from various law enforcement agencies. The Mobile Wireless Investigations Team established within the Arizona Electronic Crimes Task Force continues to be an effective and reliable investigative tool for all law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Arizona.

Regional Wireless Cooperative & Topaz Regional Wireless Cooperative — The Regional Wireless Cooperative (RWC) and Topaz Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC) are state-of-the-art radio systems that were established through a partnership of 23 cities and other governmental agencies, to provide region-wide, seamless effective radio communications for public safety first responders and support personnel across the Phoenix and Mesa metropolitan regions. The RWC and TRWC are excellent local, county, state, tribal and national examples for community partnerships that have resulted in higher levels of service at less cost for their 23 member agencies. The RWC and TRWC are model systems in terms of innovative, cost savings, and operational efficiencies and effectiveness. In addition, the RWC and TRWC deliver exceptional interoperable radio communications service impacting a mission critical public safety necessity.

Anthony D. Farinacci — In 1998, the FBI designated InfraGard, a partnership between the FBI and an association of businesses, academic institutions, state and local law enforcement agencies, and others dedicated to sharing information to prevent hostile attacks against the United States, as the primary program for outreach to the private sector. Since 2008, Special Agent Farinacci has been the Coordinator of the Arizona Chapter of InfraGard. Under him, the membership has increased from 500 to 1200 members. Farinacci works daily with members of the public and private sectors including the DHS Protective Security Advisor for Arizona and the Arizona Counterterrorism Information Center Community Liaison Program Officer, in an effort to increase public awareness and protection measures. In coordination with the InfraGard's Board of Directors, Farinacci plans and executes quarterly meetings focusing on relevant topics. These meetings provide a vital and singular means for providing critical FBI information to the private sector. With his Arizona InfraGard newsletter, Farinacci is able to communicate topical and relevant FBI information to the private sector on a frequent basis by working with FBI headquarters and analysts to coordinate the dissemination of timely and accurate information. As InfraGard Coordinator, Farinacci is the FBI's primary point of contact and liaison officer to the general public of Arizona. Farinacci's dutiful efforts as the Arizona InfraGard Coordinator have served to enhance the overall public safety of Arizona and the national security of the United States. In recognition for his exceptional service, Farinacci was named the InfraGard Coordinator of the Year in 2011.

LECC Executive Committee Individual Award

Sheriff Ralph Ogden — Sheriff Ogden entered law enforcement in 1970 as a dispatcher and jailer for the Yuma County Sheriff's Office in Parker, Ariz. He was promoted to deputy just a year later and transferred to Wellton, Ariz., as the area sergeant. In November 1980, he was promoted to Chief Deputy for YCSO and served in that position until December 1992. In that year, he successfully campaigned for the office of Sheriff of Yuma County and took the oath of office in January 1993. He has been the Sheriff for the last 19 years, currently serving the community in his fifth term of office. He will retire from office at the end of 2012, after 20 years as Sheriff of Yuma County. Throughout his career at YCSO, Sheriff Ogden has been a good and faithful servant to the people of Yuma County. Further, his spirit of cooperation has been a tremendous asset to the Yuma Border Patrol Sector. Through a succession of Chief Patrol Agents, the sheriff's support and dedication have been steadfast. He has enjoyed a partnership in the truest sense of the word with the Border Patrol and city, state and federal law enforcement organizations. As part of his effort to establish and maintain cooperative ventures throughout federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement, the 42-year YCSO veteran is a member of the Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats Arizona – Unified Command, Arizona Joint Border Security Advisory Committee, Arizona Homeland Security Advisory Committee, Homeland Security Coordinating Council, Homeland Security Institute, and the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Committee, to name just a few. All of these organizations have as their priority missions protecting the border from encroachment and protecting the United States against the threats of terrorism, as well as those of human and narcotics smuggling. This list of law enforcement, fraternal and community organizations goes on and on. They are indicative of the depth of Sheriff Ogden's involvement in his work and the communities he serves.

Honorable Mentions

- ◆ Nogales Police Department Canine Program
- ◆ DEA Westside Task Force
- ◆ Arizona Department of Corrections Border Clean Up Task Force
- ◆ Border Anti-Narcotics Network Initiative
- ◆ Casa Grande Border Patrol Station, Border Community Liaison Group
- ◆ Sonoita Station Community Relations Team
- ◆ Alex Almaguer, Border Patrol Officer, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol
- ◆ Jerald L. Monahan, Chief of Police, Apache Junction Police Department
- ◆ Derek Freiwald, Detective, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ John Vidal Zuniga, Senior Patrol Officer, Nogales Police Department
- ◆ Thomas Stevenson, Lead Border Patrol Agent, Sonoita Border Patrol
- ◆ Kelly S. McLaughlin, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent, Sonoita Border Patrol
- ◆ James Nunley, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent, Sonoita Border Patrol
- ◆ Michael J. Pizzi, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent, Sonoita Border Patrol