

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: December 16th, 2010

A QUIET CRACK DOWN ON DRUG SMUGGLERS

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SEIZES TONS OF DRUGS, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND MAKES NUMEROUS ARRESTS IN 2010

Majority of Drug Trafficking Arrests are Illegal Aliens

(Phoenix, AZ.) For the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, 2010 was a banner year for the fight against drug trafficking. According to Sheriff Joe Arpaio, his deputies quietly seized tons of drugs and millions of dollars in cash and have made hundreds of arrests including numerous illegal immigrants who were involved in drug trafficking

On Thursday, December 16th, 2010, Sheriff Arpaio will display a large percentage of the drugs seized this year before it is sent for destruction as part of a press briefing on the 2010 statistical recap.

Arpaio, who served as the regional director for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Mexico City and also served as the head of DEA in Arizona, points to the increased amount of violence associated with human and drug trafficking combined. In the Vekol Valley portion of Maricopa County south and east of Phoenix, Arpaio says the problem of drug trafficking is at fever pitch.

“That area alone is where the vast majority of our seized drugs and drug related

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arrests came from this year,” Sheriff Arpaio says. “We’ve had a concentrated effort in that area that has proved to be very productive.”

Arpaio says in the Vekol Valley area of Maricopa County this year, his deputies, assisted by other law enforcement officials, arrested 129 drug traffickers, 113 of whom were illegal aliens. Over 19,000 pounds of marijuana were seized in the area, as well as 4.4 pounds of methamphetamine and numerous weapons.

Sheriff Arpaio today reported that overall the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office in 2010 seized:

359 grams of Heroin (about .79 lbs) with a street value of \$393,800
68 pounds of Cocaine, street value - \$866,727
4.6 pounds of Ecstasy, street value- \$11,572
6.4 pounds of methamphetamine, street value- \$124,800
19,465 pounds of marijuana, street value- \$10,219,125
Total street drug value - \$11,619,624

Total number of drug traffickers arrested – 270

Cash seized – \$1.491 million
Vehicles seized – 13
Weapons seized – 120

“Obviously we must continue our efforts to curtail the amount of illegal drugs being smuggled into this county,” Arpaio says. “To that end, I intend to increase efforts in 2011 by utilizing other law enforcement techniques including my newly formed illegal immigration posse and illegal immigration and crime suppression operations throughout the valley.”

The Sheriff’s press conference on this topic will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 3:30PM. Interested media should meet a PIO at the driveway entrance into the Sheriff’s Training Center at 2627 South 35th Avenue. Entrance into the secured area where the drugs will be on display will be allowed to media only.

END

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