



September 15, 2023

The Honorable Jon Tester, Chair
Appropriations Defense CMTE
311 Hart Senate Office Building.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins,
Ranking Member
Appropriations Defense CMTE
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Dear Chair Tester and Ranking Member Collins

I am writing to you today on behalf of the National HIDTA Director's Association (NHDA) to solicit your support for the National Guard Counterdrug Program. The National Guard Counterdrug Program (NG CDP) has been an integral partner of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program for over 30 years. Your support of the NG CDP will help the 33 HIDTAs across the country, covering all 50 States, address this nation's overdose crisis.

NHDA supports fully funding the National Guard Counterdrug Program's (NG CDP) to its authorized number of 4,000 personnel under 32 USC 112 to provide domestic support to civilian authorities. The U.S. is facing unprecedented national security threats that pose great risk to our communities. These threats include 1) Mexican Cartels human and drug trafficking operations, 2) China providing fentanyl precursors and money laundering channels to the Mexican Cartels, and 3) a record number of overdose deaths related to fentanyl poisoning. The NG CDP personnel provides essential support to law enforcement agencies that can be quickly trained and deployed in support of drug interdiction and drug demand reduction missions. In addition, we support full funding for the National Guard Counterdrug Schools (NGCS) to support drug interdiction and drug demand reduction training efforts across the nation to law enforcement and drug prevention coalitions.

We rely on the professional capability of the NG CDP personnel to provide five major support services. The services include 1) case analytics, 2) aviation observation and reconnaissance, 3) ground observation and reconnaissance, 4) drug demand reduction operations, and 5) linguist support. Furthermore, the five schoolhouses provide critical training for law enforcement officers and community organizations involved in drug enforcement and prevention efforts. In FY22 alone, the five NGCS trained over 68,000 federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers at no cost to their supported agencies.

Fentanyl and other illicit drugs manufactured by Mexico-based cartels are killing record numbers of Americans each year. These poisons are manufactured in criminal controlled regions within Mexico using Chinese sourced precursor chemicals. The trafficking of fentanyl is responsible for over 100,000 poisoning deaths of Americans each year.

The NG CDP is needed now more than ever to defend the homeland against this clear and present danger to the collective safety and security of our citizens. The NG CDP stands ready to answer the nation's call, **but it must be fully funded in order to do so.** Please fully fund the NG CDP and NGCS. Our nation needs their help to address this crisis.

Sincerely,

F. Mike McDaniel

President, National HIDTA Director's Association

Houston HIDTA Director

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281-203-2283

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. Mike McDaniel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.