

SGT JASON MITCHELL

18 years with GFPD

- 6 years patrol
- 1 year BRIC/Downtown Officer
- 4 years School Resource Officer
- 4 years General Case/Major Crimes Detective
- 1 year Investigations Detective Sgt.
- 2 years Narcotics Supervisor
- Lived in Great Falls for 30 years
- Married with two adult children
- Juvenile Treatment Court
- Veterans Treatment Court
- GFPD Liaison to APS
- Crime Stoppers
- Served in different youth community programs
- Coached youth athletics

RCDTF

- RCDTF is funded by a grant made available by the ONDCP
- GFPD oversees the grant locally
- The grant provides different levels of funding for the RCDTF
- RCDTF is part of the HIDTA program (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas)
- RCDTF falls under the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region

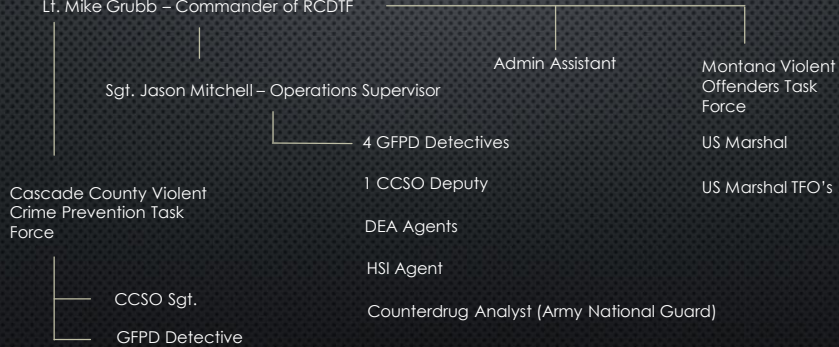


RUSSELL COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE (RCDTF)

Chief Jeff Newton - GFPD

Capt. Rob Moccasin - Investigations

Lt. Mike Grubb - Commander of RCDTF



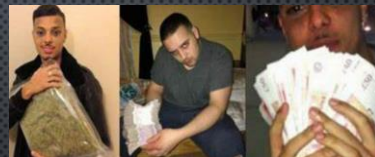
RCDTF GOALS

- To STOP the flow of illegal narcotics to our community
- Identify drug trafficking organizations
- Dismantle, disrupt drug trafficking organizations
- Cooperate with other agencies to combat the effect of narcotics in the community



CURRENT RISKS

- Methamphetamine is still the most common drug encountered in our community
- We're encountering more firearms carried by traffickers and users (for protection)
- Demand for Heroin & Fentanyl is increasing
- OVERDOSES are increasing



METHAMPHETAMINE

- Stimulant
- "Ice, crystal, clear"
- Commonly dissolved and injected or inhaled
- Often sold in grams, half grams, "zips" (ounces) and "elbows" (pounds).
- Grams cost about \$60 - \$80
- Made in Mexican super labs and smuggled into U.S.
- Rarely see local meth labs



HEROIN

- Opiate (depressant)
- "H, Dark, Horse, China"
- Commonly dissolved and injected or inhaled
- Often sold in points, 1 point is 1/10 gram
- Points cost \$40 - \$60
- Made in labs and smuggled to U.S.
- Three types seen in Great Falls (gunpowder, black tar, China white)
- Fentanyl compounds more often



FENTANYL PILLS

- Opiate, depressant
- Seeing more common in community
- "meds, oxy's, percs, hyros, dros"
- Sold by the unit (pill)
- Heavy user's increase amounts (1 to 4 pills each use)
- Pills are about \$30 - \$40 a pill
- Made in makeshift/crude labs and pressed (usually Mexico)
- HIGH RISK OF OVERDOSE



HOW NARCOTICS GET HERE

- Most common – trafficker travels to source
- Through parcel services (FedEx, UPS, USPS)
- Source brings drugs to distributors
- Money is moved through phone apps (Venmo, Cash App) & MoneyGram, Walmart to Walmart cash services



HOW INVESTIGATIONS BEGIN

- Confidential Sources/Informants
- Tips from public, ex-girlfriends, Crime Stoppers, people with "an ax to grind"
- Traffic stops
- Intelligence gathering



HOW INVESTIGATIONS BEGIN

- Determine risk to public to identify resources necessary (i.e., drug endangered children, federal case vs. state or local, guns, etc.)
- Limited resources, so focus is put to cases with most potential
- Some investigations take a year to complete



HOW INVESTIGATIONS END

- Investigators use tradecraft methods to gather evidence
- Identify sources of supply
- Obtain and serve warrants
- Request arrest warrants/coordinate the arrest
- Debrief subjects to gather more intel
- Submit case for prosecution

SEARCH WARRANT AND AFFIDAVIT (AFFIDAVIT)

Sergeant Joseph O'Neil #2328 swears under oath that the facts expressed by her in the attached and incorporated Statement of Probable Cause, and that based thereon he has probable cause to believe and does believe the person(s), property, and/or thing(s) described below were lawfully seizable pursuant to Penal Code Section 1524. Warrant to be issued.

Signature of Affiant: _____

HOBBS SEALING REQUESTED: YES (XX) NO ()
 HIGH SERVICE REQUESTED: YES () NO (XX)

(SEARCH WARRANT)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ANY SHERIFF, POLICE OFFICER OR PEACE OFFICER IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA; prior to affidavit having been made before him and heard at the instance and both herein and that it is lawfully seizable pursuant to Penal Code Section 1524 as indicated below by 2) in that it:

POS: 16833 to show the property was stolen or embezzled



SOURCE STATES FOR NARCOTICS TO MONTANA



I15 Corridor

- Southern California
- Nevada (Las Vegas Area)
- Southern Arizona (Phoenix Area)

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Denver Report from RMHIDTA

- Impaired Driver up 135% since 2013
- Ages 12 & older use up 76% since 2013 (3rd in the nation)
- Public health issues
“quadrupled” in the seven year average.
- 278 investigations into “black market marijuana”



Source: Legalization of Marijuana, Volume 7; September 2020, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

CURRENT DIFFICULTIES

- Current demand for drugs has increased significantly
- Ease of getting narcotics through parcel services
- Lack of manpower/Resources
- Increase in guns related to drug crimes
- Lack of jail space, low bonds, released OR
- No jail time for many drug offenders



NARCOTICS

- Major problem in Great Falls
- Catalyst to large portion of crime (thefts, robbery, assaults)
- Creates large numbers of problem houses
- Lowers values of homes
- Causes neighborhood decline
- Suppliers will continuously provide for the demand as demand increases



THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!

Questions?