

Special Agent Vaughn M. Bradley Criminal Investigations Department Naval Investigative Service

The Naval Investigative Service (NIS) has been charged by the Secretary of the Navy to perform investigations of felony-level crimes within the Naval establishment. This mission includes the investigation of narcotics violations involving the unauthorized use, possession, sale and transfer of narcotics, marihuana, and dangerous drugs. There are more than 140 NIS resident agencies and units located around the world under the direction of ten regional offices. The NIS Headquarters is in Suitland, Maryland. NIS has over 700 civilian Special Agents who are federal law enforcement officers in the

GS-1811 series and perform criminal and counter intelligence investigations. The U.S. Navy has recognized the need to expand its focus regarding the supervision of drug abuse and NIS is playing an important role.

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Thomas W. Hayward, indicated the U.S. Navy has performed its mission around the world in every area except one. Drug abuse! In July 1982 the CNO launched an alcohol and drug abuse program with specific attention to deterrence, detection, treatment, rehabilitation, education, training assessment and enforcement of discipline. A tough new program was established. That hard-hitting program is referred to as the Navy Drug Abuse Control Program. The Commandant of the Marine Corps has initiated a similar "get tough" program.

The new program promulgates a multi-faceted approach to detect and punish/rehabilitate drug offenders. As stated by the CNO, "There is no room for drug abuse in the United States Navy." Commanding Officers may order compulsory urinalysis for purposes of detecting service members who have recently used narcotics. U.S. Navy personnel who receive positive urinalysis tests can be subjected to disciplinary action or administrative dismissal from active duty in the U.S. Navy. The number of U.S. Navy drug detector dogs has been increased. As part of the program, NIS has established four Regional Forensic Laboratories to test evidence for its narcotic content.

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NIS special agents in Memphis, Tennessee, together with officers of the Metro Narcotics Unit and Shelby County Sheriff's Office, conduct a search of a handcuffed suspect's car and trailer home. The defendant's appearance has been altered to prevent identification.

NIS Regional Forensic Laboratories are located at Norfolk, Virginia; San Diego, California; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Naples, Italy. As part of the new program, NIS Special Agents participate in local command council meetings and render current information regarding the local drug scene and techniques to suppress the flow of illegal drugs.

The Naval Investigative Service (NIS) conducts Initiative Criminal Intelligence Operations (ICIO's) directed toward interdicting and suppressing the flow of illegal substances to Navy and Marine Corps members. These operations conducted throughout the world are coordinated with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and local authorities. In January 1982, 40 narcotics suppression ICIO's were in progress, which is more than twice the number for the same month the previous year.

From September 30, 1981, to March 21, 1982, NIS conducted 1,302 narcotics investigations. That represents a 16 percent increase over the number of narcotics investigations conducted during the same six-month period in 1980 and 1981. NIS has almost doubled the number of confidential sources in the narcotics area in the past six months.

In various cities in the United States, NIS has worked closely with local authorities in coordinated efforts to identify and apprehend distributors of narcotic substances. There are ongoing operations in Norfolk, Virginia; San Diego, California; Jacksonville, North Carolina; Jacksonville, Florida; and many other cities having concentrations of Navy and Marine Corps personnel, where NIS agents, working alongside local authorities and utilizing NIS sources and fiscal and technical resources, are attempting to stem the flow of drugs to the Navy and Marine Corps.

In other more exotic cities like Hong Kong, Singapore, Mombassa, Pattaya Beach, Sydney, Athens, and Gibraltar, NIS agents, coordinating with the DEA representatives, conduct operations with local national police authorities. Significant drops in the availability of drugs to sailors and marines from U.S. ships visiting these and many other ports has resulted. These drops in availability are directly attributable to the aggressive suppression operations based on criminal intelligence information passed to NIS by the local foreign national police authorites and DEA.

The U.S. Court of Military Appeals has ruled that "almost every involve-





ment of service personnel with the commerce of drugs is service connected." This statement is important because it expands the jurisdiction of Commanding Officers regarding narcotics offenses. Basically, this ruling allows Commanding Officers to administer disciplinary action against service members even if the offense occurs away from the geographical limits of command or even if the service member is off duty. Since NIS has a liaison responsibility to coordinate investigative efforts between the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps and law enforcement agencies, NIS has increased the number of initiative narcotics operations.

In order to understand the way NIS works with the other law enforcement agencies, several types of joint efforts may be noted:

1. Frequently, NIS sources surface information concerning civilian drug traffickers or Naval personnel who deal drugs outside Naval installations. That information is released to appropriate local, county, state or federal authorities.

- 2. NIS informants often introduce undercover law enforcement officers to unsuspecting drug dealers. Subsequent drug transactions are prosecuted in nonmilitary courts.
- 3. Appropriate law enforcement agencies are apprised when NIS informants observe caches of illegal drugs. Armed with definitive information, search warrants can be obtained by police.
- 4. NIS also provides "buy money" and informants for joint narcotics operations.

Understanding the NIS role has enhanced cooperation between NIS and other law enforcement organizations. The following cases exemplify cooperative operations:

- An NIS source observed one pound of marihuana in the home of a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps at Hanahan, South Carolina. The Hanahan Police Department detectives obtained a search warrant and seized a large quantity of marihuana and other paraphernalia before arresting the offender.
- Two NIS sources made undercover purchases of marihuana from a person who lived at Kinston, North Carolina. They observed additional marihuana in the dealer's residence. Subsequent contact with the Kinston Police Department Narcotics Division led to the acquisition of a search warrant and marihuana seizure.
- DEA special agents from

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The search shown on the preceding pages resulted in the seizure of weapons and an assortment of drugs, including marihuana, cocaine, LSD, Quaaludes and amphetamines. Nine defendants were arrested.

Chicago, and Louisville, Kentucky, and NIS special agents ioined detectives from the Kentucky State Police, the Louisville Police Department, and the Waukegan Police Department in an operation which resulted in a seizure of 113 pounds of sinsemilla worth over \$180.000 on the street.

- Italian National Police authorities joined NIS special agents in a cooperative effort to suppress the flow of narcotics to Naval personnel at Naples, Italy. Four narcotics dealers have been incarcerated in local prisons as a result of the operation. Approximately \$9,000 worth of amphetamines, hashish, and Valium was seized.
- The NIS Resident Agency in Memphis, Tennessee, participated in a narcotics operation with the Metro Narcotics Unit, which is staffed by law enforce-

ment officers from the City of Memphis, and deputies from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. Nine drug traffickers were arrested and an assortment of illicit drugs were confiscated. The seized drugs included marihuana, quaaludes, cocaine, amphetamines and LSD. (Photographs depicting the execution of a search warrant and one arrest appear on these pages.)

- Korean National Police and a Pusan Government official collaborated with NIS Special Agents in a narcotics suppression operation which led to the discovery of a major methamphetamine laboratory in Korea and the arrest of numerous drug traffickers.
- The Philippine Constabulary worked a joint operation with NIS Resident Agency Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines, special agents. Twenty-four Philippine

Nationals and one U.S. sailor were arrested and charged with narcotics violations, including possession of approximately \$20,000 worth of illegal drugs.

• NIS special agents on Guam and narcotics agents from the Guam Department of Public Safety conducted a joint narcotics suppression operation which resulted in the seizure of marihuana. hashish, LSD, and cocaine. Eight civilian drug dealers, six U.S. Navy drug dealers, and two U.S. Coast Guard drug dealers were arrested.

NIS plans to increase its efforts regarding narcotics ICIO's in the U.S. and overseas. More joint operations are planned. NIS is steadily increasing its resources in the battle against narcotic and dangerous drug abuse. The use of NIS undercover sources to thwart drug trafficking around Naval installations should benefit both the civilian and military communities.

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