

Office of the
Special Narcotics Prosecutor
for the
City of New York



2009
Annual Report

Contents

Message from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor	1
About the Office	2
New Laws... New Challenges	3
OSNP Outreach	5
Narcotics Trends.....	6
Investigation Division	7
Special Investigations Bureau	
Narcotics Gang Unit	
Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit	
Forfeiture Investigations	
\$30 Million in Heroin Seized: Concealed in Build-A-Bear Toys	
Operation Brick Slayer Takes Down Heroin Ring	
Heroin Mill Dismantled: 14,000 Glassines and One Turtle Seized	
Murder Conspirator Apprehended	
Drug and Robbery Crew Apprehended	
New York Traffickers Run Dominican Murder Ring	
Million-Dollar Cocaine Delivery Service Stopped in its Tracks	
Special Delivery: Cocaine Traffickers Arrested for Mailing Drugs	
Sauna Stash: \$1 Million and Cocaine Seized in Williamsburg	
Correction Officer Plotted to Distribute Drugs at Sing Sing	
Cocaine to Go, Bronx Pizza Parlor Delivers Narcotics	
175 Pounds of Cocaine and \$1.2 Million Seized in Yonkers	
Bounty Hunter Caught With More Than 6 Pounds of Cocaine	
Cocaine Ring in Stamford, Connecticut Dismantled	
Trial Division	13
Bronx Heroin Ring Stomped	
Rx Drug Trafficker Teams Up With Hamptons Doctor	
Family-Run Group Dealt Heroin in NYC and Long Island	
Major Staten Island Drug Ring Dismantled	
Drugs and Four Loaded Guns Seized From Bronx Apartment	
City Correction Officer Arrested in Plot With Inmate	
Medicaid Recipients Cash in On Oxycontin at Bronx Boutique	
Wall Street's T.G.I. Friday's Padlocked	
Dealers Cash In: 171 Crack Sales, Suits Against City	
Fugitive Drug Dealer Presumed Dead Arrested	
Liquid Marijuana Seized in Brooklyn	
Investigators Slam the Brakes on a Truck Driver	
Coney Island Drug Gang Dismantled in Operation Cyclone	
Operation Tidal Wave Sweeps Up Three Drug Crews	
Alternative Sentencing Division.....	18
Investigators Unit.....	19
Craigslist Responds to Calls for Change	
Heroin Focus	
Legal Training Unit	21
NYPD Special Narcotics Team.....	22
Support Services Units.....	23
Around the Office.....	25
Executive & Legal Staff	26
Managerial & Support Staff.....	27

Message from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor



*Special Narcotics Prosecutor
Bridget G. Brennan
announces indictment
against a violent narcotics
group that carried out
murders in the Dominican
Republic.*

This year's cover highlights a growing concern – the burgeoning supply of heroin in New York City. Pictured is a pile containing thousands of glassine envelopes of heroin recovered during a July 3rd search warrant in The Bronx. Each envelope is stamped with a “brand” – intended to capture the loyalty of a growing base of young customers. The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor seized hundreds of thousands glassine envelopes of heroin in 2009 - more heroin in user-ready form than during any single year in recent memory. Narcotics traffickers are making a calculated effort to cultivate users in their teens and early twenties who have ready access to money. Studies have already confirmed that this age group is abusing prescription drugs and suffering a surging rate of opiate addiction.

My office has worked tirelessly to cut off the supply of heroin, most of which originates in Colombia. We have run complex investigations with the Drug Enforcement Administration, New York City Police Department, New York State Police and other agencies. At the same time, we are meeting with local and federal officials to alert them to the huge influx of heroin, and our fear that it will result in rising numbers of young heroin addicts. Many of our investigations are described here.

This year's annual report also summarizes the Drug Law Reform legislation passed in 2009 which effectively eliminated every vestige of the Rockefeller Drug Laws. The law eradicated mandatory jail sentences for many drug dealers and reduced potential sentences for almost every level of drug trafficker. At the same time, a judicial diversion program was set up, similar to the diversion programs run by the Office of Special Narcotics for the past two decades. However, now judges alone decide who may be put into treatment programs and what to do if they fail. Previously, the prosecutor made that determination with the consent of the defendant and approval of the judge.

Although the laws affecting narcotics trafficking have undergone a sea change, the primary attraction for those in the business has not. The hundreds of heroin glassines pictured on our front cover, together with 33 pounds of heroin seized on July 3rd, was worth \$30 million on the street. Our Annual Report chronicles similar investigations into sophisticated organizations netting millions of dollars and causing immeasurable human tragedy in New York City.

Bridget G. Brennan

Special Narcotics Prosecutor

About the Office

The Office of the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor (OSNP) was created by the New York State Legislature in 1971. Fully-operational since 1972, OSNP is the only agency in the United States devoted solely to the investigation and prosecution of narcotics felonies. The office works with city, state, and federal law enforcement to address narcotics trafficking and related crime. Through the years, OSNP investigations have dismantled narcotics networks, money laundering enterprises and entrenched local drug gangs in neighborhoods across the city.

Assistant District Attorneys assigned to the office by the city's five District Attorneys are placed in the Investigation Division, the Trial Division or the Alternative Sentencing Division. Investigation Division assistants oversee multifaceted, long-term investigations into large-scale narcotics trafficking in the city and across the United States. Trial Division assistants prosecute local trafficking cases and direct investigations into mid-level drug operations. Alternative Sentencing Division assistants oversee the diversion of addicted narcotics offenders to treatment programs instead of prison.

Appointed in January, 1972, Frank Rogers, the first Special Narcotics Prosecutor was succeeded by Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr., who headed OSNP for 16 years. Robert H. Silbering was named the Special Narcotics Prosecutor in 1992.

On May 1, 1998, Bridget G. Brennan was appointed Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York by the five District Attorneys. Ms. Brennan established the Narcotics Gang Unit, re-organized the Alternative Sentencing Division, expanded money laundering and financial investigations, and targeted emerging problems including Internet drug sales.



District Attorneys from across the State gather to honor Robert M. Morgenthau on the creation of the Morgenthau Award by the New York State District Attorneys Association.

New Laws...

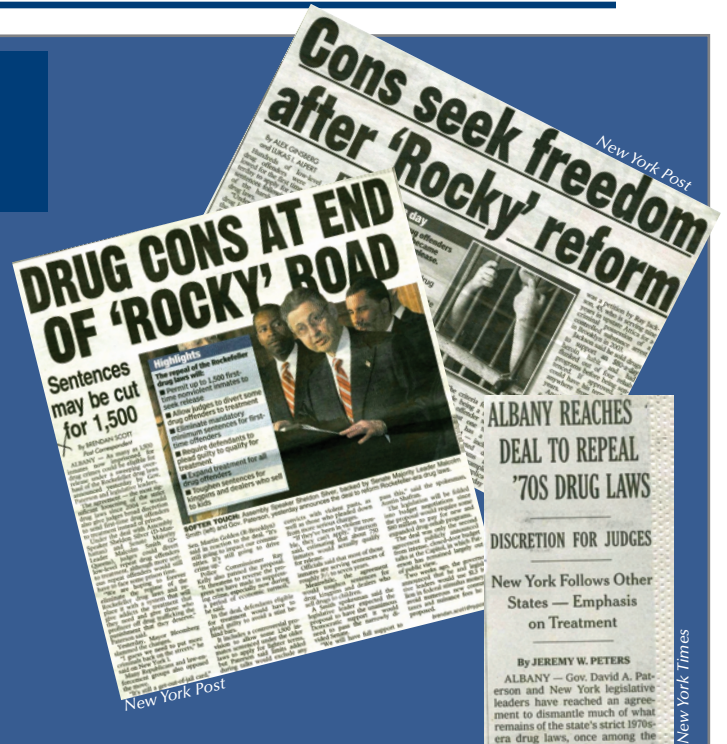
In 2009 the State enacted wholesale revisions to the Drug Laws that have changed the way the Office of Special Narcotics prosecutes felony drug crimes and fulfills our mandate to protect the People of the State of New York.

April, 2009

- Reduced and eliminated sentences for some felony drug crimes

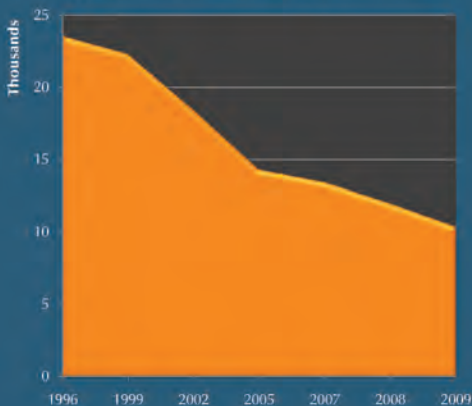
October, 2009

- Resentencing of convicted offenders
- Judges given discretion to divert to treatment instead of prison.



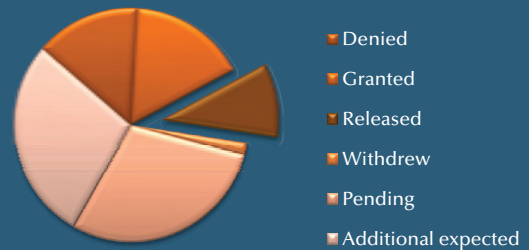
Several hundred inmates statewide were eligible for resentencing. Every application is carefully reviewed and an appropriate recommendation is made. Judges decide when to resentence.

Drug Offenders in State Prison

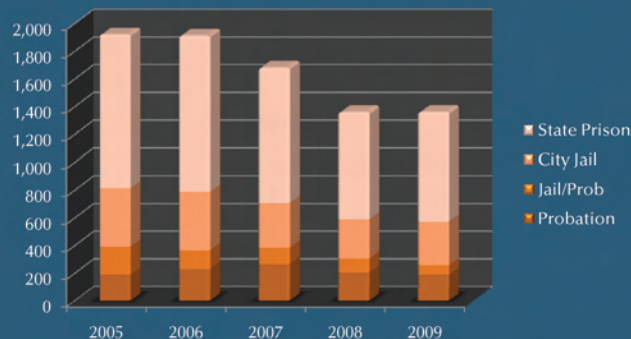


Overall fewer drug felons are going to state prison, and those that do are released earlier.

B Felony Resentencing Applications



SNP Defendants Sentenced

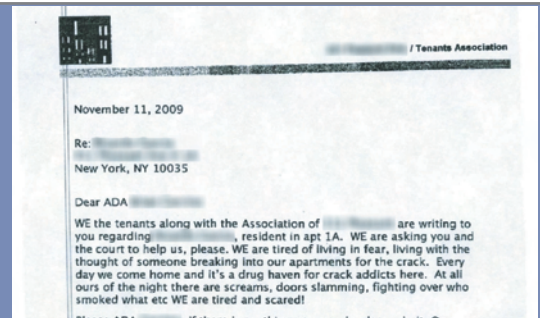


...New Challenges

SNP works to ensure that addicts who do not pose a public safety risk can receive treatment if they choose....

Case Study #1:

- 69-year-old man indicted on 2 counts of sale of crack cocaine.
- History of 8 arrests over 10 year period.
- Letter from tenants of defendant's building pleading for long-term treatment or prison.
- Defendant offered in-patient treatment program.
- Declines treatment, pleads guilty.
- *Sentenced to time served and released.*



WE the tenants along with the Association of [REDACTED] are writing to you regarding [REDACTED], resident in apt 1A. WE are asking you and the court to help us, please. WE are tired of living in fear, living with the thought of someone breaking into our apartments for the crack. Every day we come home and it's a drug haven for crack addicts here. At all ours of the night there are screams, doors slamming, fighting over who smoked what etc WE are tired and scared!

Please help remove this individual and place him somewhere where he will get help. He is not going to get help living here. Our only hope (along with his) the court, the Judge ordering [REDACTED] a long-term treatment, or prison. We do not want him back here to terrorize us as he has for the last 10 years.

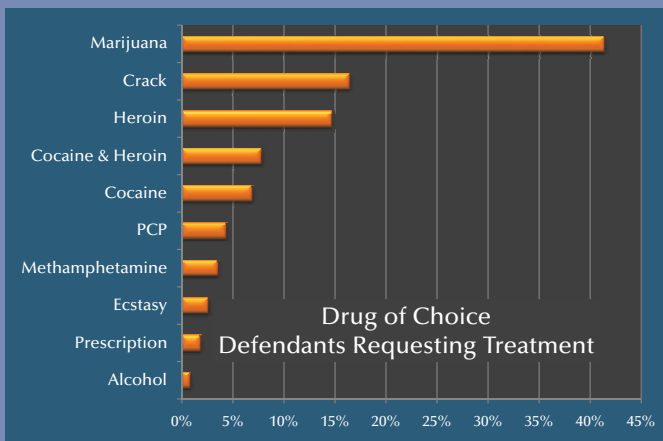
...and that businessmen dealers who prey on them for profit receive the penalty they deserve.

Case Study #2:

- Defendant offers to sell cocaine to Undercover officer
 - Searches officer
 - Instructs officer to ingest cocaine
 - After arrest, requests treatment for marihuana dependency
 - Hearing held, SNP opposes treatment.
 - Treatment denied
- *Pleads guilty to sale of cocaine, promised sentence of 1 year jail & 1 year probation.*

14 THE COURT: It's trivial. It's not a lot of use.
 15 It's a relatively small amount of marihuana and a
 16 relatively small amount of drugs, and I think what's
 17 driving this is he doesn't want to get deported. He's a
 18 businessman who got caught selling mari -- selling cocaine.
 19 He graduated.

4 THE COURT: I'm denying diversion. There's an
 5 insufficient nexus between the alleged marihuana use and
 6 the criminal activity that took place in this case. This
 7 case involves a relatively sophisticated sale of cocaine in
 8 a businesslike way, with the goal of earning money, not
 9 sustaining a drug habit.



Discerning who merits treatment poses significant challenges to our efforts to protect the public.

OSNP Outreach

Local Law Enforcement Training and Collaboration



Narcotics Chiefs from the five District Attorney's Offices discuss citywide law enforcement strategies with Special Narcotics



Treatment provider HELP/PSI, Inc. recognized SNP's commitment to helping addicted persons living with HIV/AIDS.



SNP provides instruction on search and seizure law to the NYPD Narcotics Division's Canine Unit.

Sharing Expertise With International Partners



Romanian Police learned from SNP's interdiction and enforcement initiatives.

International narcotics control perspectives was the topic at the Institute for Democracy and Cooperation in New York.



Professional Recognition



Rhonda Ferdinand receives The Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association.

Special Narcotics ADA Terence O'Leary and members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force's Group T-33 receive an award from the Federal Drug Agents' Foundation for "Operation Jacket Racket."



Bridget G. Brennan received the Future of America Award from D.A.R.E. in October.

Narcotics Trends

OPIATE USE

An alarming trend has emerged across New York City as the number of people using illegal prescription drugs and heroin escalates. Opiate addiction often begins in the medicine cabinet with abuse of painkillers, sedatives and tranquilizers. Increasingly, opiate users are turning from pills to heroin. High purity levels of between 50 and 80 percent have made the drug “snortable” – a method that lacks the stigma of intravenous use. Heroin’s new popularity is reflected in movies and headlines about celebrity arrests and overdoses.

INCREASING SUPPLY

Since July of 2009, the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor has seized over a million user-ready glassines of heroin from mills around the city. The mills, where heroin is processed and packaged for sale, are typically located in apartment buildings in quiet residential areas, with a high concentration of locations in The Bronx. Ring leaders take elaborate precautions to avoid detection as mill workers mass-produce glassines on round-the-clock shifts.



Heroin mills are found in apartments in residential neighborhoods, where workers’ round-the-clock shifts are less likely to draw attention by robbers or law enforcement.

TARGETING YOUNG PEOPLE

As the supply of heroin explodes, the use of heroin among young people has also skyrocketed. Teens and college students are choosing to experiment with heroin distributed in New York City and many young people in the metropolitan area are overdosing from the drug. Opiate addiction often begins with raiding the medicine cabinet for pills and then switching to heroin for a cheaper alternative. In one recent OSNP case, a fine arts student came to New York to pursue his college education, only to develop a heroin addiction. His fall was fast and he was arrested selling heroin in a city park to pay for his habit. Also this year, a heroin mill was located so close to a local college that members of the drug ring wore college sweatshirts to blend in. Treatment providers have advised that students from varied New York City colleges and universities are seeking help with heroin addiction.



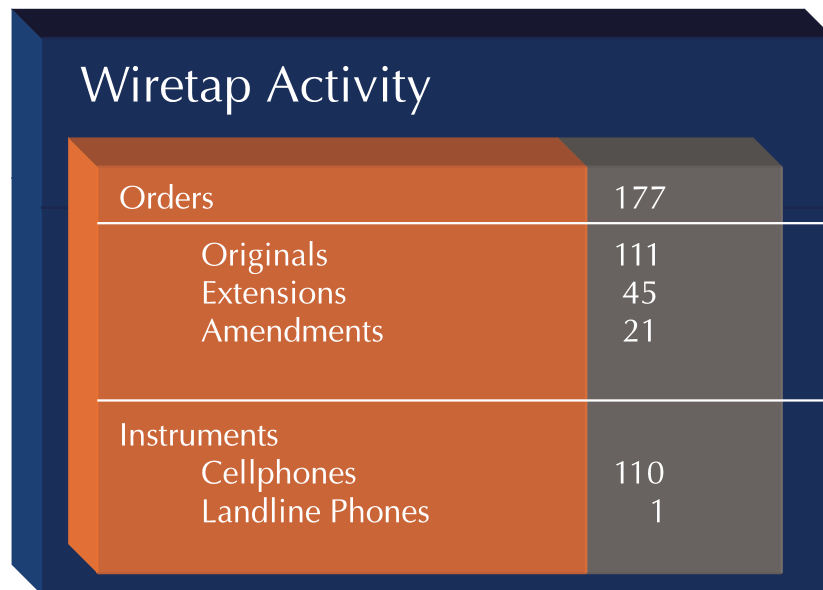
The heroin is packaged in envelopes called “glassines,” which are stamped with different brand names to appeal to a variety of customers.

Investigation Division

Special Investigations Bureau

The Special Investigations Bureau, (SIB) targets major narcotics trafficking organizations importing and distributing multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin. The activities of the criminal enterprises extend beyond county, state, and international borders. In 2009, SIB prosecutors worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New York City Police Department, the New York State Police, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force and other local, state federal and foreign law enforcement. The division launched 140 investigations, which targeted a wide range of criminal activity including drug trafficking, push-in robberies, weapons trafficking and money laundering. SIB also commenced civil actions to forfeit narcotics proceeds.

In 2009, senior staff supervised 177 wiretap investigations, including 111 original eavesdropping applications, 45 extensions and 21 amendments. Narcotics investigations resulted in the seizure of 814 pounds of cocaine, 116 pounds of heroin, 135 pounds of marijuana and various other drugs.



Narcotics Gang Unit

The Narcotics Gang Unit was established in 2002. It concentrates on violent neighborhood groups, robbery crews, and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit works closely with detectives from the NYPD's Narcotics Division and members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force's REDRUM Unit. In 2009, the unit prosecuted armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, weapons possession, illegal firearms sales, and narcotics trafficking.

Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit

The Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit was initiated in 2001, and reconfigured in 2005 and 2008. It investigates narcotics-related money laundering and other financial criminal activity. Cases are generated from multiple sources, including intelligence developed during narcotics investigations. The unit aims to prevent foreign drug trafficking organizations from repatriating drug proceeds through smuggling and use of the financial system, and local drug organizations from benefiting from illicit profits.

Forfeiture Investigations

Established 25 years ago, the Forfeiture Investigations Unit evaluates felony drug prosecutions for potential civil litigation to recover proceeds of narcotics crimes. The unit works closely with law enforcement on the federal, state and local levels in identifying criminal assets to deprive narcotics traffickers and money-laundering groups of the profits of criminality. The unit has in place a comprehensive set of systems to track office participation in investigations resulting in forfeiture actions. In 2009, 287 federal forfeiture actions were entered and 194 were completed. At the state level, 376 actions were initiated and 353 were completed.

	Opened	Closed
Federal	287	194
State	376	353

2009 Case Highlights

\$30 Million in Heroin Seized: Concealed in Build-A-Bear Toys

Investigators seized 33 pounds of heroin worth \$30 million and \$900,000 in cash from wholesale drug packaging operations in The Bronx. Organizations are estimated to have sold hundreds of thousands of glassines of heroin per week. Nearly three-dozen defendants were arrested at seven mills and stash houses around The Bronx between July and December. In one mill at 1540 Pelham Parkway, heroin-filled glassines had been stuffed inside build-a-bear toys. In total more than 200,000 glassines, stamped with dozens of brand names, including "Obama," were seized from the mills. The probe by OSNP and the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force revealed the drugs were slated for distribution in New York City and surrounding suburbs.

A major heroin trafficking ring smuggled drugs inside Build-A-Bear Toys.



A search of a Bronx heroin mill yielded 350,000 "glassines," which were wrapped in glossy magazine paper and packaged into "bricks."

Operation Brick Slayer Takes Down Heroin Ring

Nearly 20 pounds of heroin, including 350,000 user-ready glassine bags packed in "bricks," were seized from a heroin trafficking ring that operated in New York and New Jersey. Malagros Jimenez, who ran the organization from the Dominican Republic, was among 17 defendants arrested. Jimenez was apprehended at a stash house in Washington Heights in October after she traveled to New York. Jimenez made the trip to post bail for her daughter, who had been arrested in July at a Bronx heroin packaging spot.



Other relatives and Jimenez's boyfriend were also charged. Searches of the Bronx mill, a second mill in Guttenberg, N.J., and the stash house yielded the nearly 20 pounds of heroin over a three-month time span. The probe also led to a major supplier of heroin for Philadelphia and Boston.

Heroin Mill Dismantled: 14,000 Glassines and One Turtle Seized

A Bronx heroin mill that churned out approximately 300,000 glassines in a year was shut down in May. Osiris "Brazos" Castillo, the leader of a multi-million dollar drug organization, and nine other defendants were arrested. In a search of the mill inside an apartment at 3235 Grand Concourse, investigators seized 13,900 glassines of heroin worth approximately \$140,000 and over 45 stamps for branding the envelopes. Castillo, a paraplegic, ran the lucrative drug ring from a wheelchair. Investigators also arrested seven mill workers who had just finished a 12-hour shift and an eighth defendant. The sparse apartment contained only what the group needed to package heroin, so investigators were shocked to discover a pet turtle in an aquarium there. They obtained an emergency search warrant to rescue the ring's mascot and delivered it to the ASPCA, which placed it in an animal sanctuary.



Thousands of glassines of heroin, cash and packing supplies were seized from a mill in The Bronx. A pet turtle from the apartment was removed and taken to animal rescue.

Murder Conspirator Apprehended

In October, a wiretap investigation led to the arrest of three members of a narcotics organization operating in Queens, New York. The investigation was concluded following the interception of phone calls that indicated a member of the conspiracy was plotting murders in Mexico. The suspect was seeking to avenge the kidnapping and possible murder of his father. At the time of the arrests, approximately six ounces of cocaine, four grams of heroin, scales, strainers, baggies, and \$35,000 was recovered from the three individuals and their stash house.

The defendant accused of plotting the murders had a previous drug case pending at the time he was apprehended. On the wiretap, investigators heard him talk about his efforts to avoid deportation on the prior crime by pretending to be an addict and asking for a drug treatment program rather than prison time, but the new arrest derailed that bid for leniency.

Drug and Robbery Crew Apprehended

A wiretap investigation led to the arrest of six members of a street-level narcotics organization who also robbed nightclub patrons. Intercepted phone calls showed members of the ring prowled Manhattan clubs looking for people wearing jewelry they could steal. A search warrant executed at an apartment used by the organization yielded a small number of Ziploc baggies of cocaine, 31 ecstasy pills, numerous empty baggies and two handguns. Members of the organization were indicted for narcotics felonies, as well as weapons charges and two counts of robbery.

New York Traffickers Run Dominican Murder Ring

The head of a Washington Heights drug gang was charged with ordering the deaths of four rivals in the Dominican Republic. Rafael Alvarez and three accomplices were named in a 25-count indictment that includes murder, attempted murder and drug charges. In an 11-day bloodbath in the Dominican Republic in February 2008, directed by Alvarez from Mahnattan, armed assassins shot three rivals dead and seriously wounded two unintended victims. In another botched hit a few months earlier, Alvarez' gunmen tried to fire on a competitor, but gunned down his companion instead. The violence in the Dominican Republic was intended to protect Alvarez' lucrative cocaine business in New York.

Alavares was originally arrested for drug trafficking and one murder conspiracy in February 2008. After his arrest, he attempted to continue running his drug operation from behind bars. A grand jury returned a new indictment charging the four murders in May 2009.

Million-Dollar Cocaine Delivery Service Stopped in its Tracks

Nine members of a cocaine delivery service that raked in \$1 million per year were indicted in July. Since at least 2006, ringleader Coss Marte gave customers "business cards" printed with his phone number and sent text messages to customers to announce weekly cocaine specials. It was one of these cards that led investigators to Marte and enabled them to track his phone. Eight defendants were apprehended on one night in May, including four delivery people who had just made sales to undercover officers. Marte was arrested outside his house in The Bronx and had the target cell phone with him. A search of his residence yielded approximately 2 pounds of cocaine. Investigators also seized approximately \$5,000 in cash and paraphernalia. A ninth ring member was arrested several months later.

Special Delivery: Cocaine Traffickers Arrested for Mailing Drugs

Five dozen members of a drug trafficking ring that used the U.S. Postal Service to mail over 485 pounds of cocaine and cash were arrested. Initially the group concealed the cocaine in bags of dry dog food, and changed methods each time shipments were intercepted by law enforcement. During the course of the three-year investigation, the drug ring hid cocaine inside children's toys and puzzles and packed it into computer router boxes. Cash from the organization's drug sales was mailed to Puerto Rico or smuggled onto flights from New York by couriers. More than 485 pounds of cocaine were seized along with approximately \$100,000, 6 vehicles, a motorcycle, and 4 firearms.



Rafael Alveraez was indicted for four murders in May, 2009.



Members of a cocaine delivery service passed out business cards to advertise.



A sauna served as a place to hide drugs and cash for a cocaine trafficking ring in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Sauna Stash: \$1 Million and Cocaine Seized in Williamsburg

Three people were arrested for peddling more than 61 pounds of cocaine worth millions of dollars out of an apartment in trendy Williamsburg, Brooklyn. In a search of the second-floor apartment at 113 North 7th Street in November, investigators found 40 pounds of cocaine and over \$1 million in cash stashed under the seat of a portable sauna. Defendant Ronald Lugo was arrested as he crossed the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge into The Bronx with 22 pounds of cocaine in the trunk of his car. Johanny Olmedo, the building superintendent, and Christine Ladeveze, an assistant teacher employed by the Department of Education, were nabbed at the apartment. They face multiple charges, including criminal possession of a controlled substance, as a result of the joint investigation with the New York State Police.

Correction Officer Plotted to Distribute Drugs at Sing Sing

A correction officer assigned to the Sing Sing Correctional Facility was arrested after he arranged to pick nearly 3 pounds of cocaine, some of which was set to be sold to prisoners at the maximum security state prison in Ossining, NY. Ashley Harris agreed to distribute the drugs to inmates in exchange for a \$1,000 fee. The three-year veteran was carrying his gun and badge when he was arrested while meeting with an undercover officer posing as a drug dealer in February. Harris pleaded guilty to a criminal possession of a controlled substance in the third degree in exchange for a sentence of 2 ½ years behind bars.

Cocaine to Go, Bronx Pizza Parlor Delivers Narcotics

A popular Bronx pizza parlor that dished up cocaine orders along with its slices was at the center of an 8-month wiretap investigation. Benigno Burgos, the manager of John's Pizza at 1788 Westchester Avenue in The Bronx, and seven other defendants were indicted in May. Restaurant employees doubling as drug dealers prepared narcotics orders, met with customers and restocked the pizzeria's cocaine supply. The ring also operated four stash houses within walking distance of the restaurant and distributed drugs to dealers and customers in the New York metropolitan area and Connecticut. The pizzeria owner was not implicated in the case. Nearly 20 pounds of cocaine, \$15,000 cash and four guns were seized during searches of five locations in March, including the pizzeria and Burgos's apartment in The Bronx. Another \$50,000 was seized in an earlier search.

175 Pounds of Cocaine and \$1.2 Million Seized in Yonkers

A wiretap investigation led to the seizure of approximately 175 pounds of cocaine and over \$1.2 million in cash in May. Recorded phone conversations between members of a major drug ring led investigators working with the Drug Enforcement Strike Force to the location of a drug



Court authorized searches of the locations used by the drug ring yielded nearly 20 pounds of cocaine, \$65,000 and four guns.

stash house on Sprain Road in Yonkers, New York. The area was placed under surveillance and the investigators waited for signs of activity. On May 14, four member of the drug crew were arrested at the stash house, where the cocaine and cash were found inside. A total of four court authorized search warrants were executed in the case. Two additional members of the drug ring were arrested in June and July.

Bounty Hunter Caught With More Than 6 Pounds of Cocaine

A New York bail enforcement agent who had 6 ½ pounds of cocaine worth at least \$400,000 in his car faces drug and weapon possession charges. Shortly before his arrest in June, bounty hunter Chris Morel, who worked for the Elsa Fugitive Recovery Agency in The Bronx, was seen putting on a bullet-proof vest and a uniform marked “Fugitive Apprehension Unit”, even though he was off-duty. OSNP investigators and DEA agents stopped his car near his home on Seaman Avenue in Upper Manhattan. A search of the vehicle yielded the cocaine and law enforcement gear, including a stun gun and a dagger.



A bounty hunter was dressed in official clothing marked “Fugitive Apprehension Unit” as he was arrested with more than six pounds of cocaine in his car.

Cocaine Ring in Stamford, Connecticut Dismantled

More than 80 pounds of cocaine and \$1 million were seized from a Stamford, Connecticut-based organization that funneled drugs into New York City. Eduardo Tavez and a second member of the drug ring were arrested in November following a six-month joint investigation with the DEA and Stamford police. The cocaine and cash were seized from a Stamford apartment. Tavez, who has ties to a major Dominican drug ring that distributed hundreds of pounds of cocaine and heroin in the city, was stopped in the parking lot of the condominium complex as he got out of his Porsche carrying a large duffle bag stuffed with \$750,000. Another defendant was arrested nearby in a Mercedes, which also contained cash.



Currency and over 80 pounds of cocaine seized in Stamford, Connecticut during a cross jurisdictional SIB investigation.

Trial Division

Trial Division Assistant District Attorneys handle the bulk of the drug felony arrests referred to the office for prosecution. They are assigned to one of the three bureaus that comprise the Trial Division. Each bureau is headed by a Chief and a Deputy Chief who supervise assistants as they provide legal advice and draw up court orders including search and arrest warrants on a 24-hour basis.

Assistants work closely with the NYPD's Narcotics Division, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Port Authority Police, the New York State Police and the OSNP Investigators Unit. In 2009, the Division launched 107 new investigations. A total of 2,457 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 1,580 defendants were indicted. Search warrants drafted numbered 1,303.

Heroin trafficking organization hid drugs inside the soles of shoes.



Bronx Heroin Ring Stomped

Eight pounds of heroin hidden in the soles of shoes and \$100,000 in cash were seized from a Bronx heroin trafficking organization in June. Eight members of the group were arrested in the probe, which uncovered three locations they used: the stash house, the mill where heroin was packaged, and the apartment where the drugs were sold. Inside the mill at 2840 Bailey Ave., investigators found heroin inside the sole of a shoe and in glassines stamped with "The Swine" (a reference the H1N1 epidemic). There were also cakes of heroin shaped like shoe soles and several recently emptied shoes in the stash house. A search of a 2004 Ford Explorer fitted with a console "trap" yielded 5,000 glassines.

Rx Drug Trafficker Teams Up With Hamptons Doctor

A prescription drug trafficker was convicted of selling millions of dollars in narcotic pills on the black market. Ronald Godbold, who carried out the scam with help from an Amagansett doctor, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for criminal possession of a controlled substance in July. Godbold would send groups of Medicaid recipients from Manhattan and The Bronx to obtain prescriptions for OxyContin and other narcotic medications from Dr. Michael Chait. The drugs were sold on the black market for huge mark-ups of up to \$30 per pill. A Bronx pharmacist alerted authorities after he noticed an unusually high number of narcotic drug prescriptions coming from Amagansett-based Chait. Godbold's drug ring was one of several that used the doctor, who lost his license and was sentenced to prison time in a related prosecution by the Attorney General's Office.

Family-Run Group Dealt Heroin in NYC and Long Island

A family-run heroin network that distributed 10,000 glassines for \$70,000 per month in New York City and Long Island was dismantled. Christopher Roman, head of the Queens-based ring, was tracked to Florida, where he was hiding out in an expensive hotel near Miami Beach. Roman's two

brothers, a sister-in-law and a fifth defendant were apprehended weeks earlier in New York. In addition to heroin trafficking, the group had a MySpace page dedicated to their automobile club, "Above Da Rest." The ring sold "sleeves" of 100 glassines for between \$600 and \$1,000. Undercover NYPD officers made 19 buys over eight months. Nassau County police also identified the group as a source of heroin on Long Island. Approximately 2,750 glassines of heroin, quantities of cocaine and ecstasy, \$36,500 and 7 cars were seized at the time of the arrests.

Members the ring also belonged to an automobile club called "Above Da Rest" and posted group photographs on MySpace.

Major Staten Island Drug Ring Dismantled

A major drug supplier on Staten Island and three of his accomplices were arrested in February. Ringleader David Pinero and his crew sold drugs to undercover detectives on 11 occasions during the eight-month investigation by the NYPD's Brooklyn South Narcotics Squad. In the final transaction, a detective paid \$7,500 for 640 bags of crack-cocaine. Pinero controlled one of the main drug trafficking routes in the borough. The sales typically took place in Pinero's car after he picked up the detective at an agreed upon meeting spot near the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. Police seized large quantities of crack and marijuana and over \$9,000 in cash during the investigation.



Drugs and Four Loaded Guns Seized From Bronx Apartment

Police seized nearly five pounds of heroin and cocaine and four loaded semi-automatic guns from a Bronx drug dealer's apartment. Erick Veloz, of 1755 Eastburn Ave., was arrested for criminal possession of a controlled substance and other charges. Drugs, cash and weapons had been hidden around the apartment. Two firearms were stashed in the stove, while another pair had been stuck in the grill of an air conditioner. A kilo of heroin, a kilo of cocaine, paraphernalia and \$12,000 were inside a closet.



A drug dealer stashed narcotics, cash and guns in home appliances in his Bronx apartment.

City Correction Officer Arrested in Plot With Inmate

A correction officer assigned to the Riker's Island Correctional Facility was sentenced to three years in prison for conspiring to transport 33 pounds of cocaine for an inmate in exchange for \$15,000. Edinson Rosales, a four-year veteran, agreed to drive the load of cocaine from New York to Michigan in March. Rosales also planned to bring back \$400,000 in drug money for an additional \$5,000. The correction officer pleaded guilty to criminal possession of a controlled substance and in exchange for a three-year sentence.

Medicaid Recipients Cash in On Oxycontin at Bronx Boutique

A Bronx clothing boutique served as a front for a prescription drug resale operation that stole half a million dollars from Medicaid. Elvis Almonte,



A Bronx boutique turned a quick profit reselling drugs obtained through illegal prescriptions or purchased from Medicaid recipients.

owner of Unique Fashion at 194th St., and an employee were arrested in July as investigators seized over a dozen pill bottles, including OxyContin and Xanax, and \$3,000. Tavares purchased large quantities of prescription drugs from Medicaid recipients at below market rates, stashed the pills at Unique Fashion and distributed them wholesale to other drug dealers for profit. A flyer listed the prices Almonte was willing to pay for pills. The scam unraveled in mid-2008 when Nassau County officials detected a rash of forged prescriptions at area pharmacies. Investigators learned Medicaid recipients were using stolen prescription pads from doctors in New York City and on Long Island and then selling the pills for cash.

Wall Street's T.G.I. Friday's Padlocked

Six defendants were arrested at a busy T.G.I. Friday's that served as a hub of drug activity in Wall Street's Financial District. Tony Younge, a regular patron at the restaurant at 47 Broadway, was arrested for selling cocaine from a barstool in March. During the four-month investigation, Younge made 12 sales to undercover officers, ranging from \$20 to \$180, and supplied four other customers. The T.G.I. Friday's location was shuttered for several days under the nuisance abatement law after police seized 15 zip-lock bags of cocaine and marijuana. Marijuana dealer Alvin James and four drug customers were also arrested by the NYPD's Manhattan South Major Case Squad.



NY Daily News, October 9, 2009

Dealers Cash In: 171 Crack Sales, Suits Against City

Twelve members of a violent drug gang were arrested in September for flooding East Flatbush, Brooklyn with crack cocaine. During a two-year investigation, the "East 21st Street Crew" made 171 sales to undercover officers. Many of the sales took place inside Star USA, a variety store at 1216 Flatbush Ave. The NYPD's Brooklyn South Narcotics Squad targeted the sales after complaints of violence, including four shootings, one an apparent robbery attempt of a gang member after he collected a civil judgment against the city. An investigation into shootings and at least one murder is ongoing. Members of the crew have a history of suing the city for false arrests and have collected more than \$500,000 in legal settlements.

Fugitive Drug Dealer Presumed Dead Arrested

A fugitive who was believed to have drowned in the Bronx River as he fled cops in December 2007 was captured in August. Alyce Rosario had been wanted since he and two accomplices were spotted removing over 110 pounds of cocaine from a car at 1223 Bronx River Ave. Police arrested the two other men, but Rosario bolted. At the time, cops thought he had escaped by running through a building and jumping into the nearby Bronx River. A helicopter search failed to locate him. Rosario was arrested last summer when police stopped him as he filled an ATV with gas at a service

station across from Van Cortland Park, where the vehicles are prohibited. A driver's license check showed the outstanding arrest warrant.

Liquid Marijuana Seized in Brooklyn

A Brooklyn man was arrested for selling liquid marijuana in the first case of its kind in the city. The brownish-green mixture, known as "Green Dragon" on the street, is made from marijuana and alcohol and sells for \$120 for a 15-to-20-ounce shot. Anthony Briordy ran a delivery service that supplied customers in Manhattan with cocaine, ecstasy and an array of prescription drugs, including OxyContin and Xanax. Investigators seized eight mason jars of liquid THC, marijuana and pills during a search of Briordy's apartment in Bensonhurst in November following a three-month probe.

Jars of liquefied marijuana mixed with alcohol, known as "Green Dragon," and a variety of pills were seized from a Brooklyn apartment.



Investigators Slam the Brakes on a Truck Driver

A truck driver from California was sentenced to 4 ½ years in prison after he drove more than 22 pounds of cocaine cross-country to New York. Investigators stopped Gerardo Gonzalez's tractor trailer near the Cross County Mall in Yonkers after he had driven through Manhattan and The Bronx. The cocaine, worth \$400,000 wholesale, had been packed in "bricks" and stuffed inside a duffel bag. Gonzalez later admitted that he'd planned to deliver the cocaine at the mall. He was arrested in October 2008 following a joint investigation with the DEA and pleaded guilty to criminal possession of a controlled substance in November 2009.



A truck driver transported 22 pounds of cocaine from California to New York.

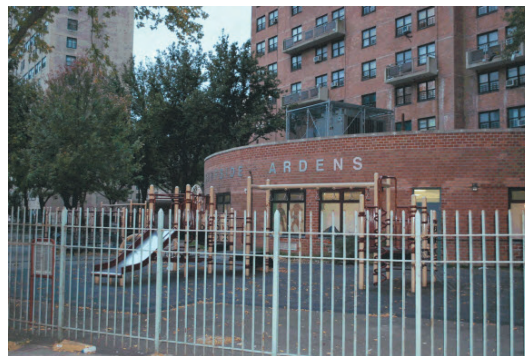
2009 Workload	
Arrests	2,457
Indictments & Superior Court Informations	1,580
Trials Completed	42
Felony Dispositions	
Convictions	1,426
Acquittals	11
Treatment Dismissals	100
Dismissed	230
Conviction Rate	86%
Felony Sentences	
State Prison	788
Jail	315
Jail & Probation	70
Probation	189
Seizures	
Cocaine	1,281 pounds
Heroin	258 pounds
Weapons Seized	28

Coney Island Drug Gang Dismantled in Operation Cyclone

In February, 30 people from the Gravesend Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development in Brooklyn, were arrested on narcotics sale and possession charges. Undercover police officers made 24 purchases of heroin and crack cocaine during the investigation. Detectives from Brooklyn South Narcotics executed 10 search warrants at apartments inside the complex and recovered heroin, crack cocaine, a loaded pistol, a .22 caliber rifle and over \$3,500 in cash.

Operation Tidal Wave Sweeps Up Three Drug Crews

Police took down three Coney Island drug crews and apprehended 50 people in Operation Tidal Wave in October. The arrests came two months after a tragic shooting drew intense law enforcement scrutiny to the area. An 87-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet as she sat in the courtyard of the Surfside Gardens housing complex. During a three-month sting, undercover officers made 68 buys of cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin. A top supplier within the development was indicted on an A-1 felony sale and possession, while 17 other defendants were charged with B felonies. One drug crew counted eight members of the Bloods gang among its ranks. Investigators executed 19 searches and seized a loaded handgun, heroin, cocaine, crack, marijuana, and over \$8,000.



An 87-year-old woman's murder sparked an investigation that dismantled three drug crews at the Surfside Gardens housing complex in Coney Island.



Alternative Sentencing Division

For addicted criminal offenders, it is not enough to simply conquer addiction. To live a law abiding life, they require the skills that only academic and vocational training can provide, and supportive counseling once in the community.

The Alternative Sentencing Division has successfully worked with thousands of addicted criminal defendants for the past 20 years to provide them with the tools they need to permanently close the door on crime. The Division oversees addicted felony narcotics offenders who face enhanced state prison sentences because of prior felony convictions, as well as first-time felony offenders.

Most offenders are placed into long-term residential treatment programs, which last at least one year. After completion of the residential phase, monitoring continues for at least an additional six months. Offenders who are employed and have strong community ties may be placed into short-term residential programs or, in rare cases, directly into intensive outpatient treatment programs. When offenders enter treatment, their sentences are deferred. Upon successful completion, charges are dismissed. If an offender fails to abide by the rules of a program, they face a sanction. If they commit a new crime, their original prison sentence may be imposed.

Beginning in October of 2009, new legislation allowed judges to supplement the programs we have traditionally run and, without the approval of the prosecutor, directly place defendants in court sponsored diversion programs. Although a judge determines which addicted felony offenders may be placed in these programs, and court staff supervises them, the Alternative Sentence Division lends it expertise in screening and monitoring these defendants.

Special Narcotics continues to run Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison programs for second felony offenders facing state prison.

2009 Drug Treatment Activity	
Offenders placed	96
Successfully Completed	53
Sentenced	26
Since Inception Offenders placed	2,000 +
Completed	1,000 +

Investigators Unit

The Special Narcotics Investigators Unit works with assistant district attorneys and federal and state law enforcement agencies in combating drug activity throughout the five boroughs of New York City. During 2009, the unit opened 32 new investigations, which resulted in the arrests of 188 offenders. Of that total, 135 were charged with top felony counts and 27 were charged with violations of money laundering laws.

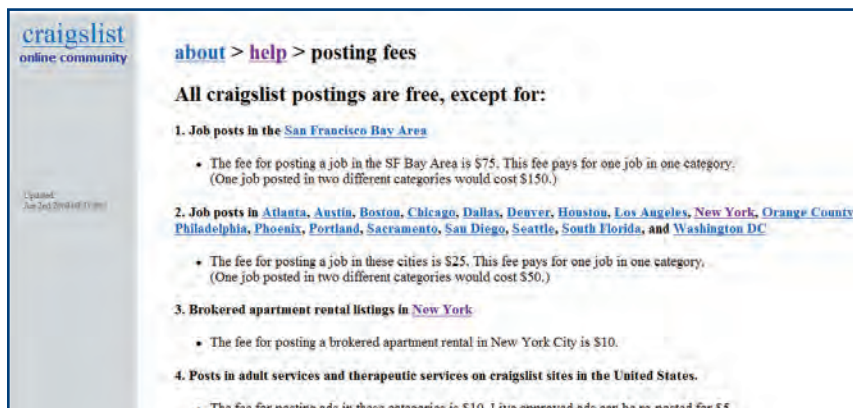
During the year, the unit and its DEA and NYPD partners were involved in a total of 47 cash seizures totaling more than \$17 million in narcotics trafficking proceeds. In one significant case, the unit collaborated with DEA Boston in an investigation that led to the apprehension of a major cartel figure in Colombia, additional arrests in Miami and Puerto Rico and the seizure of millions of dollars in drug money. The investigators tracked a cartel leader to a meeting in Aruba, where he struck a deal to supply hundreds of kilograms of cocaine. He was apprehended after providing a 10-kilogram sample.

Created in 1992, the unit fulfills two primary areas of responsibility: investigations and enforcement support. The majority of the investigators are law enforcement veterans from the NYPD's Narcotics Division and the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force. They develop their own cases or work jointly with law enforcement agencies in large-scale narcotics and money laundering investigations.

With the emergence of narcotics trafficking over the Internet, specially assigned investigators have developed an expertise in this area. The unit also assists the Alternative Sentencing Division by investigating defendants targeted for treatment and locating individuals who abscond from treatment facilities.

A Chief Investigator oversees activities of the investigators, monitors all investigation-related expenditures and acts as the liaison with the squad of NYPD detectives assigned to OSNP.

Craigslist began charging for certain ads to prevent anonymous posting like those used to advertise illegal drugs.



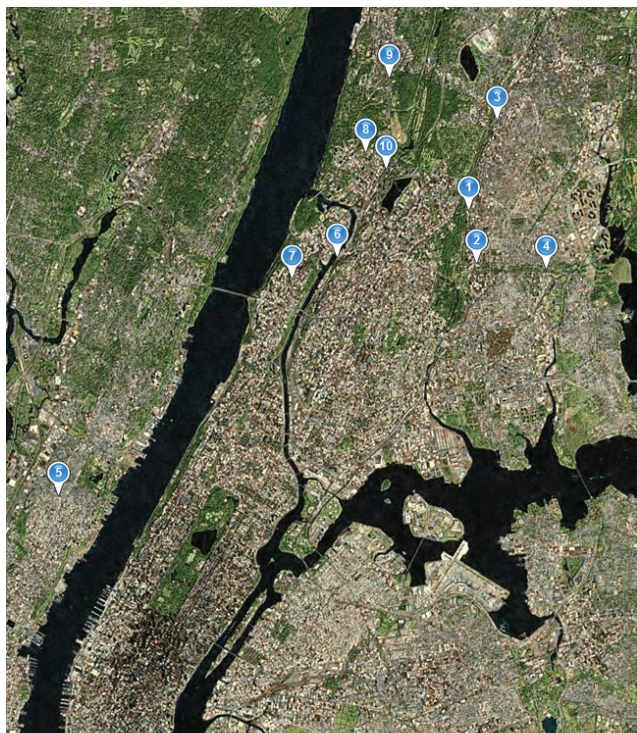
Craigslist Responds to Calls for Change

Once a magnet for drug dealers, Craigslist saw a dramatic drop in the number of narcotics transactions taking place on the site in 2009. OSNP has led the way in apprehending drug traffickers who use Craigslist. In April, the unit's supervising investigator accompanied Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan and an Assistant District

Attorney to San Francisco, where the team shared its expertise with Craigslist CEO Jim Buckmaster. At the meeting, hosted by San Francisco District Attorney Kamala D. Harris, the team called for patrolling of the site and additional security measures. They also suggested flagging for key words that narcotics traffickers commonly use in advertisements, such as “snow” for cocaine and “crystal” for methamphetamine. Following the meeting, Craigslist implemented many of these recommendations. OSNP cases related to the site dropped to just six in 2009.

Heroin Focus

As drug trafficking rings flood the city with a burgeoning supply of heroin, the Special Narcotics Investigators Unit have joined members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force, the New York City Police Department and other law enforcement agencies on the front line in battling this disturbing trend. Using every available investigative technique, including cutting-edge technology and dogged surveillance work, the unit participated in identifying and dismantling nearly a dozen heroin mill locations in 2009 and seizing more than a million glassines of the drug. The highly experienced Special Narcotics investigators also draw from a wealth of historical knowledge in addressing the resurgence of a dangerous drug that plagued the city throughout the 1970s and 1980s.



2009 Investigators Unit Activity	
New Investigations	32
Total Arrests	188
A- Felony Arrests	135
Money Laundering Arrests	27
Weapons Seized	12
DRUG SEIZURES	
Cocaine	242 Pounds
Heroin	69 Pounds
SEARCH WARRANTS	50

Heroin mills dismantled in two major investigations in Upper Manhattan and The Bronx

Legal Training Unit

The Legal Training Unit develops and implements the professional training curriculum offered to assistant district attorneys. The unit selects speakers, lectures and workshops that address topics that include investigatory and prosecutorial techniques, legal procedures, and changes in the law, and effective approaches in the prosecution of felony narcotic and related crimes.

In 2009, the Legal Training Unit offered workshops and lectures throughout the year to experienced and new assistant district attorneys. Presentations included: Investigations Division Lecture Series; Trial Division Advanced Narcotics Investigations Lecture Series; New Attorney Orientation Lecture Series; Overview of the New Attorney Rules of Professional Conduct; Disclosure Obligations.

OSNP hosted training sessions on the Drug Law Reform Act of 2009 for prosecutors representing District Attorneys' Offices throughout New York State. The office also update local law enforcement personnel and drug treatment providers on ramifications of the new laws.

The training curriculum complies with the regulations and guidelines of the New York State Mandatory Continuing Legal Education program. All courses are open to prosecutors from the city's District Attorneys' Offices and other offices in the state. The office has been an accredited provider of the State's Continuing Legal Education Program since 2000.

For over a decade, OSNP has provided training programs offered to hundreds of local and federal enforcement and criminal justice personnel in New York and other areas of the country. During the year, senior staff lectured on narcotics investigations and prosecutions at the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), New York Police Department's Organized Crime Control Division and Narcotics Division, and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA).

Each year Legal Training instructs new lawyers in Grand Jury presentation.



NYPD Special Narcotics Team

Since 1972, the New York City Police Department has assigned a team of detectives to the office from the Narcotics Division's Organized Crime Control Bureau. The Special Projects Unit, as it is known, is under the command of a senior lieutenant who serves as a liaison between both agencies. Within OSNP, the team's detectives are assigned to either the Search Warrant Unit or the Technical Unit.

The detectives are experts in the tracking, safekeeping and presentation of electronically recorded evidence. They also provide support on search warrant investigations and maintain citywide repositories for electronically recorded evidence and OSNP search warrants.

In 2009, the unit assumed the responsibility of tracking all seized illegal narcotics and marijuana shipped to New York City via the United States Postal Service and common carrier services such as UPS and FEDEX . The NYPD seized 194 packages in 2009, including 4,600 pounds of marijuana, 44 pounds of cocaine and various quantities of heroin, prescription medication and other drugs. The drugs were shipped to New York City from countries around the world, including India, Austria, Morocco, Belgium and Trinidad. Domestic shipments originated in 10 states, including 93 shipments from Arizona and 61 from California. The tracking of this information is used for prosecutions and to assist common carriers in the prevention of the shipment of contraband.

Search Warrant Unit

The Search Warrant Unit prepares search warrants and affidavits and expedites requests through the OSNP. The detectives keep track of all confiscated evidence and maintain a database on arrests and seizures resulting from the execution of search warrants. The unit also educates new investigators on search warrants procedures. In 2009, the unit processed 1,318 search warrants.

Technical Unit

The Technical Unit tracks and controls "chain of custody" for electronically recorded evidence and makes certain that all audio/video evidence is secure. The unit is responsible for the creation and testimony of grand jury/ trial wiretap composite recordings and processes digital photographic evidence as well as data evidence. In 2009, the "Tech Room" implemented a new Evidence Tracking System, introduced new software for all forms of video surveillance and underwent a full office renovation.

In the "Techroom", detectives process thousands of pieces of digital evidence each year.



Support Services Units

FISCAL

All agency fiscal activities including the production and submission of funding requests to federal, state and city funding agencies as well as the monitoring of expenditures fall under the responsibility of the Fiscal Unit. To that end, the unit assesses and approves purchases and payment vouchers, disbursement of funds such as petty cash and payroll coordination; enforces fiscal policy; conducts internal audits; and reviews and approves agency procurements.

Human Resources professionals administer payroll and benefits for agency staff.



PERSONNEL

The Personnel Unit oversees and implements procedures related to the assignment or transfer of assistant district attorneys from the office of the five county District Attorneys and the recruitment of managerial, administrative and clerical personnel. Unit staff participates in planning, developing and executing employee programs and policies for all staff. The unit disseminates information on mandatory programs and policies for all city agencies and monitors implementation of procedures; provides facts on citywide policies and labor relations issues; and maintains time and leave records for all staff. The unit is responsible for the bi-weekly distribution of paychecks and serves as liaison with the citywide payroll management system.



The public information director acts as a liaison between the office and the news media and the public.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Unit disseminates information about the office and responds to inquiries from members of the media, government agencies, advocacy groups, and individuals on the status of cases, legal decisions, legislative action, citywide drug trafficking trends and the results of joint enforcement efforts.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (IT)

Information Technologies develops, establishes and administers OSNP's computer and telecommunication systems. The unit identifies needs and puts in place systems that effectively merge technology with office processes. IT also provides a variety of case-related services including

Case Information: captures and tracks data pertaining to all cases prosecuted by the office, from arrest to disposition. The section prepares regular reports and ad hoc reports on narcotics activities, trends, and statistical analyses. Unit staff are assigned to each Trial Division bureau to coordinate data capture and provide additional support.

Litigation Support: provides pre-trial and in-court technology support including exhibit preparation and presentation.

Analyst Services: prepares and processes subpoenas, analyzes phone records and provides background searches using public records and law enforcement specific databases.

Records Management: files, registers and maintains a record of closed and bench warranted case files and processes parole requests.



IT staff provide records management and litigation support services.

TRIAL PREPARATION ASSISTANTS (TPAS)

Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N, and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Trial Division and Investigation Division TPAs track cases, maintain case records, gather reports and legal papers required by assistant district attorneys, handle arrangements when prisoners have to be produced in court, and help assistants prepare for grand jury and trial presentations. Alternative Sentencing Bureau TPAs interview defendants who are diverted to treatment and track their progress. Part N TPAs assist in tracking plea offers, grand jury actions and case dispositions that take place in the Part.



TPAs support the work of each legal division in the office.

EXTRADITIONS/DETAINERS

The unit administers the return of fugitives apprehended or in custody in other jurisdictions and in foreign countries that have extradition treaties with the United States.

GRAND JURY REPORTERS

Grand Jury Reporters record, produce and maintain transcripts of confidential testimony presented before the grand juries.



Extraditions arranges the return of fugitives from other jurisdictions.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES

The unit interprets and translates for non-English speaking witnesses in debriefings with investigators and assistant district attorneys and during testimony before the grand jury; provides written translation and transcription services for evidentiary consent and wiretap recordings that contain dialogue in a foreign language; and translation of foreign language documents.

OPERATIONS

The Operations Unit is responsible for office maintenance, reproduction of documents, mail delivery, messenger services, housekeeping requests, office supply inventory and disbursement.



The operation unit keeps the office running smoothly.

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