



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Dec. 12, 2017

Contact: Deputy US Marshal Andy Wong

Eastern District of Virginia, 703-537-5528

USMS Office of Public Affairs, 703-740-1699

U.S. Marshals participate Operation Tin Panda, targeting drugs and guns

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Over 300 law enforcement agents and officers executed a coordinated takedown Dec. 6, resulting in the arrest of more than 30 individuals for their respective roles in selling drugs while armed or other firearm related criminal acts.

Operation Tin Panda resulted in the recovery of close to 100 firearms and approximately 1,292 grams of cocaine base, 4,408 grams of cocaine, 23,838 grams of marijuana, 2,152 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 815 grams of heroin, and 36,075 grams of THC. Search warrants executed over the course of the operation resulted in law enforcement seizing more firearms, heroin, and other controlled substances.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Explosives and the FBI began Operation Tin Panda in the Spring of 2017. In collaboration with the DEA, U.S. Postal Inspector's Service, U.S. Marshal's Service, the Prince William County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Fairfax County Police Department, Alexandria Police Department, Stafford County Sheriff's Office, Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office, King George County Sheriff's Office, Prince George's County Police Department, Maryland, Metropolitan Police Department, and the District of Columbia, law enforcement investigators and prosecutors from this office began jointly investigating area Blood gangs involved in violent crime and other criminal activity in Northern Virginia. U.S. Marshals from the Eastern District of Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, and Special Operations Group participated in the take down of these dangerous criminals.

Multiple criminal acts were tied to gang and drug activity, including homicide, malicious wounding, robbery, shootings, and drug and firearms distribution. During the course of this investigation, more than 30 individuals throughout Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and California, who were illegally selling firearms and controlled substances or were involved in other criminal acts, were arrested.

The case was investigated as part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Operation Tin Panda. The OCDETF program is a federal multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional task force that supplies supplemental funding to federal and state agencies involved in the identification, investigation, and prosecution of major drug trafficking organizations. The principal mission of the OCDETF program is to identify, disrupt and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking, weapons trafficking and money laundering organizations, and those primarily responsible for the nation's illegal drug supply.

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