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Press Release

Norfolk DA Michael Morrissey's Drug Task Force earns two regional awards

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The New England Narcotics Enforcement Officers' Association conferred two separate awards to Massachusetts State Police Detectives working in District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey's drug task force at the organization's spring conference.

"The sergeant and four troopers assigned to this unit have built productive relationships with our local police departments and with federal law enforcement, and that coordination is paying off the way I hoped it would," District Attorney Morrissey said after the May 23rd awards ceremony, held in Portsmouth, NH. "They are a dedicated group, and they are being effective in regional investigations and coordination across jurisdictions."

Morrissey said that although the awards named specific officers, the sergeant in command of the unit said the officers preferred that individual names be omitted from press coverage. "They work as a unit and they succeed as a unit," Morrissey said. The awards are given for operations completed in the previous calendar year.

The Norfolk DA's Drug Task Force joined with the US Postal Inspection Service in receiving the John "Sonny" Carbone Memorial Award for an operation resulting in five arrests, the seizure of six kilograms of cocaine, two motor vehicles used in drug transportation, and \$60,000 in cash used to fuel drug transactions. "We are also thankful for the support and assistance of the Randolph Police Department in that investigation and in executing search warrants at the suspect residence in that community," Morrissey said.

The Perry H. Henderson Memorial Award was awarded to several agencies participating in "Operation Tito," an investigation led by the Drug Enforcement Agency into a large-scale heroin and cocaine distribution organization in both Norfolk and Suffolk counties. That investigation resulted in nine arrests and the seizure of roughly 50 kilograms of cocaine and 30 kilograms of heroin. Authorities also seized five vehicles used for conducting drug transactions and more than \$1 million in suspected illegal narcotics profits.

"I think it is telling that both of these awards arise from operations where our Drug Task Force is working in partnership with other agencies having local, state or federal jurisdiction," District Attorney Morrissey said. "That is our business model. It is clear to me that law enforcement works most effectively when we work together across levels and jurisdictions." Criminal charges are only accusations; all defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty.