

## **Southeast Area Drug Operations Group**

The **Wisconsin** counties of **Racine** (189,000), **Kenosha** (150,000), **Walworth** (94,000), **Jefferson** (74,000), and **Dodge** (86,000) recently joined forces to form the Southeast Area Drug Operations Group (SEADOG). By serving as a regional antidrug task force, SEADOG is increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of each county's drug unit activities.

### **Leadership/staffing**

SEADOG is led by a regional task force comprising the counties' sheriffs or drug board directors. The task force meets quarterly to oversee administrative issues. Task force supervisors for each county have discussions by teleconference or electronically at least once a week. The supervisor of Kenosha County's drug task force is responsible for operational and administrative oversight, and the supervisor of another county is the project coordinator and holds fiscal responsibility for the program.

### **Timeline**

The initial letter of intent to formally establish SEADOG was signed on April 1, 2005.

### **Budget/funding**

The counties do not contribute any funds toward SEADOG. The antidrug task forces of all of the counties are funded by a single federal grant that the state administers. A single check is sent to the joint task force and is then divided among the participating counties. Each county receives slightly more than it would have without regionalization.

### **Program description**

Each county continues to operate its own antidrug task force, and these task forces continue to be overseen by each county's drug task force board of directors. The counties had a history of sharing information and resources even before the

formation of the regional task force, but the new system has significantly increased the amount of communication among all of the counties and, thus, has increased coordination.

Although the task force supervisors of each county had coordinated well with each other in the past, they are now setting aside time every week for a teleconference. SEADOG is collecting lists of resources in each county so that all members know what can be used when needed. The counties now call on each other for undercover agents and special pieces of equipment. Some of the equipment would not otherwise be used on a regular basis, so sharing this equipment increases efficiency. For example, when an undercover car becomes too familiar in one county, it can be traded to another county where the car is not known.

## **Results**

The counties that belong to SEADOG always knew that help was available from neighboring jurisdictions when needed, but that help can now come more quickly. The state is now considering a statewide database that would enhance intelligence sharing and case management. This will improve local jurisdictions' ability to send inquiries to all law enforcement agencies and drug units throughout the state.

## **Contact**

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