

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC  
APRIL 7 – 10, 2025**

**CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD COUNTER-DRUG TASK FORCE: DENYING TRANSNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FENTANYL PROLIFERATION**

**ISSUE:** In recent years, the California National Guard’s Counter-Drug Program has had more than two hundred unfilled annual requests from local, state, and federal partner agencies throughout the state for intelligence, analysis, and aerial operations. Funding will support these agency requests and assist with existing transnational threats. If funding is not approved, California will incur additional statewide risk related to cartel and transnational criminal organizations, and fentanyl fatalities. If this request is not met, California will lose a demonstrably successful program in the fight against narcotics at a particularly pivotal moment in this effort.

**ACTION:** The Monday Morning Group requests Administration and Congressional support for funding for the Department of Defense’s Counter-Drug Task Force (CDTF) program.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 1990, the California National Guard has carried out the federally funded Counter-Drug Program, combating the effects that drug cartel and violent transnational criminal organizations have had on communities. In partnership with local, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies, the Guard participates in a breadth of activities, from interdicting “Panga” drug boats as far north as the Bay Area, to removing largescale cartel-funded marijuana farms polluting our national forests and diverting water from California farmers.

For 2022-23, the Guard added approximately 150 Emergency State Active Duty (ESAD) personnel to boost the existing federal CDTF program. The additional resources increased the seizures of narcotics and other illegal drugs within California. The following are estimates of drug seizure totals attributed to support provided by CDTF ESAD personnel:

- Fentanyl: 18,825 lbs.
- Heroin: 472 lbs.
- Methamphetamine: 49,836 lbs.
- Cocaine: 8,590 lbs.
- Illegal Cannabis: 265,081 lbs.
- Other: 22,495 lbs.
- **Total: 365,301 lbs.**

In FY2024, the Guard—in partnership with 111 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies—assisted in denying more than \$8.1 billion in operating capital to transnational criminal organizations through the seizure of illicit narcotics, firearms, property, vehicles, and currency in support of the federal government’s national strategic objectives. Importantly, while the seizure dollar value is down from the previous year, this is a direct result of a refocus on “cheaper” yet more lethal narcotics, primarily fentanyl. Stopping the proliferation of fentanyl is a national number one priority. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of the program has been hindered by distracting politics and woefully underfunding the program.

The national total appropriation request is \$350 million. Of this appropriation, California has historically received a total of approximately 12%, equating to about \$40M in recent years.

Resource History (by Federal Fiscal Year)			
BUDGET	PRIOR YEAR (-2)	PRIOR YEAR	CURRENT YEAR
Requested	\$194,211,000	\$200,316,000	\$350,000,000
Enacted	\$194,211,000	\$200,316,000	\$305,000,000