

**DEA MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
OPERATION CANDY BOX**

MS. MARY IRENE COOPER: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Mary Irene Cooper. And I'm the Chief of Congressional Public Affairs for DEA. I would like to welcome you to the start of our fall 2008 monthly lecture series. This season, we look at the history of cooperative drug law enforcement efforts between the U.S. and Canada. We are delighted to be working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and representatives of the Canadian Embassy here in Washington, D.C.

Today, we're going to spend some time looking at a great investigation. It's one that clearly shows the success of two countries working together. Some of the highlights of this investigation. Twenty-five separate investigations involved into this one operation. It resulted in the arrest of over 220 individuals. It disrupted 15 percent of Ecstasy imported into the United States. It was an organization that was responsible for distributing up to one million tablets per month. It's an operation that identified some of the most sophisticated money laundering methods.

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They seized \$8.9 million in cash and \$3 million in other assets. The cash alone seized stopped the production and importation of 17 to 35 million tablets of Ecstasy.

Representing the DEA side of the operation is Special Agent Alex Dominguez. He is the Assistant Special Agent in charge of our special operations division. Since joining DEA, he has served in Miami, Dallas and Milan, Italy. He holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in International Finance from the University of Miami and has spent six years in corporate banking and lending. And I think when you see as I'm introducing these people, there's a common theme of money laundering background. And I think that's why we were so successful.

He has conducted and supervised several complex operations in his career with DEA. And I can tell you before we start introducing these people, I had the privilege of being the Special Agent in Charge of our Special Operations Division when this operation happened. And it was amazing how it unfolded. And it is amazing the cooperation. And without the two countries working together, you would have never

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seen the operation that you are going to see right now.
Ladies and gentlemen, Alex Dominguez.

MR. ALEX DOMINGUEZ: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to come and talk about this. Before I start, it's important that I give a little bit of background on who I am and how we get to this point. And the interesting thing is that my agency, DEA, has a very interesting career pathing sort of a concept to make you a veteran employee. I was once just a regular investigator or a regular agent doing regular things, chasing bad guys, driving cars and seizing drugs and guns and money and doing all kinds of fun things. And then I've come here and I've spent several years. And I've become a fully authorized, licensed and trained bureaucrat. I have mastered the ability to take seemingly important things and make them seem terribly mundane and very boring.

So one of the things that I say when I come and I'm asked to do these types of things is that it cannot only be informative, it must also be somewhat entertaining. Because if not, then it doesn't achieve its purposes. It's probably a little bit of payback to all those professors and teachers that we've all had that put us through so much

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agony. And even here, I guess having sat through so many meetings and debriefings and strategy sessions, they have all kinds of fancy names for them. But they're just meetings. And there's times where I've sat through these meetings and I've said how can this person be allowed to speak to a group of people about the subject? Because they're dying in here.

And in fact what I want to do when it's through is that no one actually get hurt. Because you can get hurt in one of these things. And there have been times throughout the day where I hope you can distinguish between what is the joke and what is the fact. But this is true. I actually saw. And it happened when I was very young. I was a banker. And my boss got hurt at a meeting from boredom. And he actually went to the hospital. And I'm sitting there all of the ripe age of twenty-two. And I was like a bond hearing.

And there was some analyst from one of the bond companies. And he's giving this presentation on, you know, returns, rates of returns, payout ratios and things. And I'm seeing my boss. And he's over there doing like this. But he's

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really now like whiplashing. And I'm sitting there. And I swear to you one time it was so bad that he goes like this. And he gets up and he walks out, you know. And then he stands at the door for like a few minutes. And he calls me over. And he goes, listen. I think I'm messed up. I'm going to go to the hospital. I mean, he actually was falling asleep by whiplash. So we don't want anyone here to do that. So I will endeavor to do that.

And like I said, what I try to do with the PowerPoints that I do, you'll see mine have very few, actually very little text. I bring a lot of photos. I have a lot of video. I realize that many of you are probably forced to be here. If I could, I would have handed out like the coloring books and crayons. Because when I go to meetings a lot of times, I say if you would have just given us some crayons and coloring books, we'd have all been much happier. But I can't do that. Because it takes away from the air of professionalism.

And again, what I don't want to take away from any of this is the fact that despite that I have become a very skilled bureaucrat, this operation was one of these things where I

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felt very, very impressed with the effort that we made, not only as an agency, as a law enforcement official, basically as an American citizen and as a taxpayer. Because I do believe that what we did is give the biggest bang for the buck to everybody involved. And what I do is just throughout the briefing oftentimes I will refer to my Canadian colleagues which they alluded to, Greg and Mike.

And even though I'll refer to them as the Canadians, it's not meant in anyway derogatory. It's actually very affectionate. It was a very interesting three years. Because the Canadians, you know, I found them to be compared to us, actually maybe just compared to me, far more like formal and proper people. And I know that there were times where there were probably meetings. And they probably said I don't know about this Cuban guy. He's talking fast.

And to give you an idea of what I mean, we just call our lawyers, lawyers. You know, they work like in the Department of Justice. I remember going to a meeting there once, and I forget. It was not you guys. It was one of

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the colleagues. I thought I probably did something wrong. Which I probably had, but nobody had figured it out yet.

But they said the Representative of the Crown would like to speak with you. And I'm thinking, oh, it's that Cuban immigration thing that came up. And I'm in Canada. And I just wanted to get back across the border. And I said what's happening? And he said, well, the crown, the lawyers, they were called barristers. So think how cool that is, the Crown, you know.

So you guys are wonderful. So I think it was a nice mixture to do that. So what I want to try to do is as I go through this thing and as I'll have my Canadian colleagues please do jump in at anytime. Because they are probably far more familiar with the facts than was I. But nonetheless, do not let some specific detail or real thing or fact get away from what is otherwise a good story. So if I'm going good, don't, you know, let a fact interrupt.

What we did is ... and if anyone's been here a long time, you get old school SOD logo. And where I'm very fortunate is I work at a multiagency coordination center that is

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really charged with gathering a lot of data and taking that data and trying to coordinate it with all the other agencies that participate in there. And in turn give useful leads to the field to do what they do. And again, I've been very fortunate because the last several years leading up to even today, I had dedicated a lot of my time here in Washington to working on the fusing of databases and something that we have realized is very important for the long-term success of what we're trying to do to not only do, of course, the law enforcement work, but more importantly to keep our nations safe. So this was the old logo from SOD.

What was interesting about this is I didn't get involved until I think it was actually closer to the end of 2002. This begins, interestingly enough, the way a lot of cases would have begun and might have actually ended was there was a bad guy that had some Ecstasy. And essentially, he just wanted to make a sale. And the Canadians were gentlemen enough to say, look. There's nothing we can do here. So they sent a source of information that we were able to use in New York to make a buy and then something

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that is pretty common. And then after that, we would have probably arrested him.

One of the things that I can't go too much further without emphasizing is interesting enough, the FBI, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was one of the original partners in this. And it would be remiss to exclude them. The interesting thing was just to show from the very beginning how there was that sense of partnership, it was a DEA agent who did the undercover work in that operation or in that investigation. Even though it was an FBI case.

And what happened from that point was rather than it just end there, the will of people, the will of a lot of investigators and analysts and attorneys and the management to be honest of all the different agencies, parked and checked their egos and the short-term benefit to see the long-term. So every time we thought, well, you know, it's run its course, it continued to grow.

So from what ended up being essentially a hand-to-hand buy in 2001, this thing hit a crescendo in March of 2004, specifically the day, as my boss, who was so kind to

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introduce me, remembers, March 31st. We were waiting for it for quite awhile. One of the things I have to say while she's here. And not that it's kissing up to the boss because she's here ... which I would have done anyway. But in this particular instance, she was very supportive throughout the entire process. and there was never an invoice or a bill that I slipped to her that she didn't sign.

There were a few times that I think we were starting to get, you know, out on a limb there. Because we were trying to see that the investment that we were making, and I presume maybe you had your own bosses say a few times how much exactly have you spent? And I would try to price it sometimes. No, but it's actually a bargain. Because it's not really dollars. It's Canadian dollars. But they didn't buy that. The checks were going out in U.S. dollars.

But the boss was very supportive. We would have to come up here to the big house on the fourth floor and do briefings every once in awhile. And she thought are we going to get this thing done? I would say we need three more months.

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And then we need three more months. And we need another million dollars. What? You know, we need ... and again, I appreciate that. And I thought there were a few times we were doubling down. But it did pan out.

But what I want to do is show this one slide. As you can see, there's limited text. It's just a lot of photos. But what we were able to do because of that one buy is to do ... there's a saying peel back the onion. Which has become almost one of those catch phrases. But it was true. And identified an entire infrastructure. At the time, we didn't know, we didn't realize, the way that Ecstasy was being trafficked. And I want to point out that what was very critical in having worked overseas, I've seen this happen in certain countries with things that maybe not positive or popular. There's times that the political will will just kind of act like it's not there. Well, let's not recognize it and make it go away.

And I give the Canadians a lot of credit. Because it was a change that they could have maybe handled differently. But I thought it took a lot of courage when they recognized that, listen. We are having not bulk amounts of NDMA

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powder being shipped into Canada. We in turn in the United States had to recognize that we had the consumers right here. The dollars that were buying all these drugs made us unfortunately an equal partner. But it was a critical thing that we were able to do this.

Because heretofore, we believed that Ecstasy was coming primarily from the Benalux region. That's a fancy word my partner Tom Selinky knows. That's the Belgium and Luxemburg and Harlem. And 50,000 pills at a time in little coffee cans and in different manners. But we came to realize that the dynamic had change. We also came to suddenly realize that, you know, these people were exploiting the border. They were doing a very good job of moving the drugs north and south and the money. Which later I'll show you some of the examples of how they did that.

Now, when we were thinking we had identified several of these key guys in these organizations and we thought that, okay. We're going to wrap this up. All of a sudden, we start to see the money. The money starts to appear which gave us this whole other several month almost to another

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year perspective that we were able to identify how they were doing this. So you could see that there was a very sophisticated operation going on. And the fact that several agencies, offices within agencies, and like I said even specifically the countries were able to set short-term and immediate gratification aside for the greater good. So this is basically what happened. And it was a very daunting task on that day. I believe it was exactly or close to it 156 people were arrested within an almost two hour period. But 18 U.S. cities on that day alone or actually a handful more, several Canadian cities that my colleagues here were doing.

That was sort of the pictorial of how this whole thing happened that we were able to address. These are just some photos as I promised. You know, these again were packaged in ways that went beyond anything we'd seen before. These people were bulk trafficking in Ecstasy. There was no more this is just one seizure. And I believe this one was ... it says here 40,000 tablets. But it was a component of a multi-seizure that had gone on.

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I like to show this photo. And this is something that the Canadians did an outstanding job. This is a tableting lab that you can run out of an operation. You take the bulk powder. And if you look at this thing, you say how much damage can that do? Actually, if you just slow down to fill the powder, those things can actually churn out about 50,000 to 60,000 tablets a day. So it doesn't seem like something obviously that Pfizer or Merck would have, but it would work.

This is another one of these examples where I like to tell this story. Again, a great piece of investigative work. One of the Canadian officials kept hearing this sound. And they were trying to figure out what was that? Because they didn't know that this was happening. They didn't realize the extent of the processing that was going on. And it was finally when one of the investigators ... and his name escapes me right now. It doesn't really so much matter ... is that he said, you know, that sounds like a pill press. I've heard those before.

And sure enough, they were able to do a certain amount of investigative activity to not compromise what was going on.

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And they in fact confirmed that that's what it was. It was a pill press. So this was again one example of several that occurred throughout the way of very good pieces of investigative work and breaks, you know. These are the dyes, the stamps. As you can see, very creative. They would use all sorts of different and popular signs. This is an example of one that we had during one of the undercover meetings exactly of how it was packaged. This was in one of the United States investigations. Millions of tablets were literally being moved.

And one of the things that I like to show in this particular operation, there was not one investigative technique that did not get used. I've never seen an opportunity where we were able to use every single asset that is at our disposal. This I want to interrupt here for a second. Concealing contraband in gas tanks is not anything that's a new technique. But these guys had it to a new level. You can see you could probably fit I understand it was anywhere from thirty to thirty-five thousand tablets in one of those packages that they would conceal in the gas tanks.

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And again, had it not been for the extensive amount of cooperation between the different offices and there were several times where there was an office, we said, look. I don't think I can wait any longer. My boss, my prosecutor, my situation, our defendants, they all at different times made the effort to stand back for the greater good and came up with some ruse, some idea, some treachery to somehow keep this thing going, always within the law, to make sure that anything they did did not compromise what somebody else might have been doing. So that was an example of one of the seizures that I like to show.

This is an interesting thing. Because when we got the financial records, this here, interestingly enough, is the international corporate headquarters of U.S. Tour and Travel, which was a money remittance business that was registered in the United States. The only problem was from the international headquarters right there, they had actually moved somewhere in the neighborhood ... we could track back to doing a lot of CTR and a lot of SAR review ... somewhere in the neighborhood of like \$300 to \$400 million U.S. dollars over like a five year period

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through this little network of small ... they had about seven or eight of them throughout a handful of cities.

And these were again essentially money remitter businesses that there's limited regulation or regulated differently from state-to-state I presume. I haven't followed it up. I'm sure that the laws have changed. And they tend to fall under the radar. And what was happening is that they would have records indicating that these stores would have probably hundreds of people coming through everyday sending anywhere from \$50 to \$100 to \$500 wire remittances back to different countries where a lot of the folks came from.

But as you can see, this is one that ... let me show you the video here. You look at the guy's bags. He had two bags there. This one I specifically remember was \$350,000 in cash in those two bags. This was a pole camera that we had at that business. What was interesting about that business is that it was showing that it was doing millions and millions of dollars a month in money remitter business. But the good thing is after having a camera up for several months, there was very little traffic.

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So we had done the math and worked it backwards. And I forget, I kind of sat there during my ample time as a very important boss to do the calculation. And I figured that somebody had to go through that door ... one person every minute with like \$2,000 to come up with the money. Because what they were doing is obviously making deposits in the banks with one set of books. And what was actually happening was separate.

Again, falling very much under the radar. This is again more video that we were able to get of how they were doing. These folks were heat sealing everything. They would heat seal money. They would heat seal the Ecstasy. Again, because it could be put into the fuel tanks. And it could be concealed very well. This was again several examples of where the Canadian counterparts and ourselves, we had to make a lot of very tough decisions sometimes between the border when people were coming back and forth to make sure that we had an obligation to develop evidence by making a certain amount of seizures.

But we were very judicious and we were very careful that it would not effect at this point now probably twenty-five

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independent investigations that were getting very sensitive. And as you can imagine, as time went on, we were taking our shots very selectively here and there. So the bad guys, they started to figure this thing out. So they're starting to hear everything from I'm not sure about this thing that happened in Cleveland. Or I'm not sure about this thing that happened in New York. And they were talking. And we were always talking to the Canadians. And a few of these people, they had their finger on the eject button and they were ready to go.

So it was again very tense leading up to that March 31st. Because it was a very choreographed thing which turned out to actually work well. And there were a few instances where, and I'll show you that in a minute. This is sort of like ... I should have done it the other way around. It's kind of like the riddle of the joke. How much money fits in the gas tank of a Ford Arrow Star van? Anyone? How much? Exactly. That's exactly what happened. We didn't know at the time. We knew that this van had an undetermined amount of money. In that it was going to be a large amount.

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But this is the van that I think was in New England heading for the Canadian border. And we were making the decision that this was one that we needed to do and we had to do that. I know that privately, the Canadians ... they didn't say it to me. But they were hoping that the Yankees lose this thing. Because they'll just have to oblige us and make the seizure for us. But no, we'll take it. Right before it got to. But that's okay. It's the thought that counted that we were going to let you have it.

But what's funny about this, guys, is this guy's rolling down the street. And I remember surveillance saying the guy keeps getting gas like what seemed to be like every five miles. Like what's this guy doing? He's getting cheap gas. He doesn't want to pay that expensive. He's got Canadian dollars. So he's loading up. And finally, again ... it wasn't me. I would tell you if it was me. But it wasn't me. Somebody said, you know, there's probably ... and at the time, we weren't really that into detail about the concealment.

In fact, there had been a story once before. That's one of those where there was a few like, oh no. You. But, no.

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You. And then there was a few heated words where there was a vehicle that was going across the border that evidence had indicated that it had something in it. And, of course, you know, the border agents, I don't ... to be honest at this point don't remember honestly whether it was on the Canadian side or the U.S. side. But we always said, look. You have to be discrete. Do it like in a very surreptitious manner. Don't let them think that you know exactly what you're looking for.

I've seen how those guys work. They do that for about like five minutes. Then they get frustrated. Then they're just sitting there banging right away. And they couldn't find it. And they swore up and down that there was nothing in that car, that they did everything short of sawing it in half. Turns out, like I said, it was in the gas tank. But in this particular case, these guys had this thing all heat sealed in the gasoline tank of a Ford Arrow Star van. So I was very impressed. Not the fact that we found it, but that they would think of doing that.

This is just a list again of the agencies. I can't say enough how critical it was that virtually every significant

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U.S. law enforcement, federal law enforcement agency, cooperated. And it was actually a great opportunity to see how when there is the will of man, things can get past the regulations and the barriers and the typical obstacles that confront us oftentimes. I can't say enough in this particular case too about the local cops. We use a lot of local cops in a lot of our investigations in the United States. And the things that they did was incredible as far as being able to support us.

And again, this is where it sounds like a paid advertisement, but it's not. Intelligence analysts from both countries, attorneys. There can't be enough said. God knows, we make enough jokes sometimes, the attorneys on both sides, the prosecutors, were fabulous. Everyone really did quite a bit. And what was fascinating is every time we thought we were going to have a problem, we anticipated that this is not going to work. At some point, one of these things is going to happen. Because you know it happens. Some agency's going to do this to another one. And then the Canadian would never trust us again. But you know what? It actually never happened. A couple of times

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I think the FBI was going to do that to me. But no, they didn't. I'm only kidding.

But then what we would do is whenever we thought something was going to happen, then we have a sit down. And we would bring them up here to Washington. And then the boss would yell at them. And then a fate worse than anything is we would tell them, look. If you want to come here, you go up here to the twelfth floor and you can tell the bosses up there. And like I said, they'd rather have their teeth drilled than come up here and tell the twelfth floor that it was my fault because I wanted to seize like \$22,000 on my case in some small town. So they'd bring them up for the sit-down. And it actually worked. I know it's making a little bit of fun. But it actually did resolve it.

Fascinating is the Canadians ... is that the correct list? I don't have the crown there. But don't tell them. Don't tell them that. But they were there. Because I put the Department of Justice. We actually had a wonderful perspective from the media coverage. And I think what helps with this is it isn't just media coverage for the sake of media coverage. The whole point of it is that it

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sends a signal to the bad guys. When you can do this in this coordinated effort, the bad guys lose their hope. They lose their momentum. They become more concerned that we can actually get past some of the barriers that oftentimes confront us. And that's why the media was so important. And it was extremely positive for both countries.

VIDEO: We're here to announce this afternoon the completion of a major international drug investigation that has worked and worked hard for the last two years. Operation Candy Box, as we have called it, culminated this morning in a massive sweep by law enforcement across this country and Canada. Operation Candy Box successfully dismantled an international Ecstasy trafficking and money laundering ring responsible for importing large quantities of Ecstasy into the United States and laundering more than 100 million in drug proceeds back to the organization's leadership in Canada, among other places, over the last two years.

This coordinated offensive that we refer to as Operation Candy Box, DEA and our phenomenal partners with us on the stage today accomplished what is believed to be the largest

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single United States/Canadian enforcement action ever taken against Ecstasy traffickers. The Wong Lee organization smuggled huge quantities of Ecstasy powder from the Netherlands into Canada where they then turned out millions of MDMA tablets for distribution on our streets in America. In eighteen cities across the United States and in Canada.

Today, we have collectively arrested more than 170 members of the Wong Lee cartel today, we unmasked the lie and showed Ecstasy for what it truly is, not the candy of Operation Candy Box, not the ticket to a harmless high, but a very dangerous drug with serious physical and psychological consequences.

The Canadian component of these investigations were concentrated in the Ottawa and Toronto area and were done to Operation Cody and Ohappy respectively. I'd like to emphasize that this morning's activities could not have occurred without the active participation of several partners in law enforcement from both sides of the border. I believe the most significant aspect of today's operation is that in a single wave of coordinated arrests, Canadian

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and U.S. law enforcement have wiped out a whole network of criminal organizations.

MR. ALEX DOMINGUEZ: The importance of it that we were able to get ... he was actually Acting Attorney General at the time, Jim Comey ... to sort of do that for us. At a time when if you think back, one of the things that both countries were going through was still the effects of 9/11. There was a lot of energies and focus being torn in other ways. Which again spoke a lot for the fact that both countries were able to continue to do this to the cooperation.

One of the things that I would like to sort of in closing, because I often make a lot of jokes about working up here and being a bureaucrat and sort of being in this business of information, sort of sharing. And having come from the street in the sense ... because I did. Despite what you see here before you now, I was a real guy at one point. I was very fortunate to have been hired in Miami, Florida during the '80s. You can imagine a Cuban guy in Miami in DEA in 1980. I was having more fun than I thought was possible.

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So I feel that I am equally as qualified or it is people like that that need to come here and do what it is that we do here in places like headquarters or in Washington or even in places like Ottawa. The notion, I've often found that when you stay long enough, and I've spent so much time, especially in the last four years, really three, working with the fusing of data to make sure that that information or anything we have can be used and can be provided to people who need it is something that I have grown, despite the short-term frustration, to take very seriously.

I oftentimes say that the reason they don't open windows or there's windows that can't open ... do you ever sit there in your building and say, boy. It'd be nice to open the window and have some fresh air. Here in Washington, they don't have windows that open. Because you would jump out. So they don't want you flying out the window from frustration from being in headquarters for all of this time.

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I kind of like to sort of digress. Because what happened is, I kept saying, here I was before coming here in South Florida where I had like a big house with a pool where it was warm where I lived near my mom, not near my mother-in-law. And my mom would still cook food that, I was kind of embarrassed. Even though I was in my forties, I'd stop by with that Tupperware sometimes on the way home and it would get filled miraculously. And my kids were happy in school there.

And like I said, I was a supervisor of a great group. I'm driving down the causeway, Miami Vice. And then I get that call. It's time for you for your career pathing. You must come to headquarters to become a better manager. So then you go from that. And then you come here where you buy a smaller house which is more expensive. And I get charged five percent state income tax which I never had before. I moved the angry eighth grade daughter who will never have friends again. Because if you're an eighth grader and you're a girl and you move, you'll never have friends again. Because it's like picking teams. Once they pick the team, you'll never have one.

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And my wife was pretty good. But then she was pretty kind of bummed out too. Because this is like her fourth teaching job in like seven years. And then the train. We came on the Autotrain which is bad. And then we came in December. I came on December 27th. Don't move the family after Christmas. I've learned that. And then the train pulls into Lorton. I don't know if anybody knows that. Have you ever seen what that train at Autotrack looks at Lorton? Not good.

There isn't even snow on the ground. So we can go whoo, whoo. There was like these ice things. It was about ten degrees. I didn't know that it's not really normally not even that cold here. But it must have been like ten degrees and there was no sun. We had just left here, the big Christmas party.

So we're here. So you can see now my fun meter is getting up to here. Then my first day at work, I go from having like twelve, thirteen guys in the group. Raise your hand, Kevin. He was one of the guys that helped me. Kevin Hartman and his lovely wife Angeline. So I come here and they take me to a pod. You know, you get to this pod.

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In this windowless room. And really, there's no windows. It was a warehouse. And then I remember like my first week all these guys bringing me papers that you have to sign. And they're stamped top secret, confidential and I'm seeing if you don't do this right, at best you're going to get fired and lose your clearance. At worst, a couple of years. I'm thinking how did this happen?

Then I go home. By like April, I didn't know that there was this thing here. Everyone's got the green stuff. Everyone's looking at me with the allergies. It was terrible. Then I had my ten year old son. Because I didn't tell you about him. I told you about the wife. And the ten year old son. The daughter, of course, it's been like three months and she has no friends. So it was one of those rough weeks. And we're sitting there at the dinner table. And, you know, all this kid does is sit there and kick the soccer ball for the thousandth time in this past hour everywhere in the house. So he sits there and he says, so have you met any friends yet? You know, whoo. Still no friends. So like this is my whole thing with the move.

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So it was very difficult for me. And I stayed here longer. Because, of course, after three years, then they tell you now that you have improved your management skills, it is now time for you to possibly go out to the field. Dude, you already killed me. I'm a dead guy. Where am I going to go? So then, of course, I go back home and I announced, thinking that I would be embraced as a wiseman, you know, family, my tour of duty is now complete here. We can start to whatever.

And I'm not kidding. This is the truth. My daughter goes, see you. We'll miss you. Write often, dad. So it's like, no. You have to go. The sad is like they'd leave probably my daughter, but they'd send the kid with the soccer ball. He's now in college actually. He plays soccer. Thank God, in college. But that's all he did. I mean, for ten years, is kick a ball up against the wall. You know, with the angry daughter and the depressed wife. But they're all actually very good. So it actually has worked out.

But then the years went on. So I figured, okay. Now I'm a bureaucrat. You know, I've got these PowerPoints. Because

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you have to do these things. I've got PowerPoints that I swear to you there could be stampeding range of buffalo and I could do this PowerPoint that would kill them. Not this one. I've got other ones. And then there's days where I say how am I going to get through this week? Because it's another like fifty page paper on why are we fusing this data? We already have this data fused here. but then we're doing this and we're doing that.

And that's why like I said, I make the joke. But what I do is I quite frankly often times come back to this as a reminder for myself, it's the way I tried to raise my kids, is you can't be at any aspect of your life, professionally, personally, morally, spiritually, to be the weak link. And what helps me to be very frank is not the bosses that are here. Even though we need the bosses here across the river in Washington to give us leadership and guidance. But what helps me and what I call the tip of the spear is because I know that today there's a DEA agent somewhere. He's on surveillance.

Last night when I was having my Merlot, some kid was sitting in his car somewhere watching a house. This

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morning some intelligence analyst somewhere is looking at a ton of paper. And she is trying to do the right thing. I can't fail her. There's going to be a customs Canadian border agent, tonight at some point, having to stop cars coming through. What if there was something that I could have put in her stupid computer? What if there was something that I could have gone to my bosses and say we should share this information with another agency? Even though maybe today they're not doing it with me. I have to do it for her, for him. And that's why I kind of make sure that I'm not the weak link.

And to take it to the next step, today there's going to be a [break in tape] head in a cave. And he's doing that for me. And he's doing that for you. And there's probably a flying mission where only he and God knows. And there's a diver going into some water where only he and God knows for me, for us, to keep us safe.

So when I feel like I want to jump out the window, and I made a lot of jokes, I cannot be the weak link for them. You cannot be the weak link for them. And when you're doing just mundane paperwork, whether you're the boss and

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everything in between, you have to always say it's something to help those people that are on the tip of the spear that need us.

So with that being said, I'm very proud of Candy Box. I'm very proud of what I do. Despite the fact, like I said, that I am a bureaucrat. Because there are those people that I can't fail them. And we can't fail them. Thank you. [applause]

MS. MARY IRENE COOPER: As you can see, it was quite entertaining with Alex and Candy Box. He was right. I think every three months, he would come in and say I need. I'd say, yes, I know. Three months. And we just kept that investigation going. And if we didn't go to the lengths that we did, it wouldn't have been as successful as it was.

I'd like to now introduce our partners in this. We have representing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Sergeant Craig Sory, a member of RCMP for nearly three decades. He has served in Newfoundland, Toronto and Curly and Ottawa. For more than twenty years, he has specialized in the area of drugs, money laundering and proceeds of crime

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investigations. He is a frequent lecturer at the Canadian Police College on drug issues.

We also have from the Ontario Provincial Police, Detective Sergeant Mike Bremmer. He joins us this morning. He's also a long serving law enforcement officer. He has been part of the organized crime section for the last ten of his thirty years in the police business. Sergeant Bremmer leads the Eastern Ontario Region of the Asset Forfeiture Unit for the Ontario Provincial Police and has been involved in a variety of money laundering cases involving drug smugglers and traditional organized crime groups. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to our partners. [applause]

SERGEANT CRAIG SORY: Good day. Now everybody should put on one of those collars for the boredom thing. So you don't break your neck that Alex was going to talk about. Myself and Mike Bremmer are going to start and talk about our project Cody which is the part of the large investigation that Alex already alluded to. And this is our crime group that we were dealing with. Most times when people talk about organized crime, you think of traditional Italian organized

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crime, Hells Angels, bikers. This is a family. There are sisters, brothers, cousins. And they were phenomenal money launderers. And they also produced marijuana. They possess lots of money. They traffic marijuana across the border. And as a whole, they made a large criminal organization right across North America and into Vietnam.

Again, this is Candy Box which Alex already alluded to. The way this thing started up was more frustration on the part of Mike with the OCP, the Ottawa City Police. Where they were finding these marijuana houses. Neighbors would advise them of them. They'd kick in the door. They'd find the person found in a gardener. Or they might lease the proper. The owner was ... yeah, they didn't know anything was going on. It was a frustration. We weren't getting to the head of the organization.

And then some people started, in surveillance, started noticing a lot of these people that were found the gardeners were going to a sweatshop or a clothing manufacturer. Or the owner of the house would be found in the parking lot of this place. Then informants come around and start talking with us. This woman had this money

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services business. And she seemed to be running a lot of the organization around Ottawa.

So we started our Project Cody. And Mai Lee, who ended up being the leader of this group, she was a phenomenal person. I interviewed a guy in Montreal that she was starting to do business with, legitimate business in Vietnam, opening up a resort. And first of all, couldn't believe that she was involved in this. He said she's such a wonderful organizer. And that again, it's organized crime. And she was able to bring different groups and different people together very efficiently.

Also in Toronto was a corresponding investigation called OCAPI which was the Ecstasy part of this investigation. And Mai Lee was doing money laundering for that group. Mike, you're going to ...

SERGEANT MIKE BREMMER: [OFF MIKE, DIFFICULT TO HEAR] For those of you who don't understand the whole (inaudible) situation everybody calls PC Bud (inaudible)marijuana (inaudible). Most of the marijuana comes out of Canada now, it's pretty well (inaudible). And in the (inaudible) we estimate there

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were 500 homes being used. Now, just to give you a little scope of this. Can everybody here me?

FS: No.

SERGEANT MIKE BREMMER: I was hoping I could do this without this. Getting back to Ottawa itself, we estimated there was 500 homes being used in Ottawa. And just to give you a scope of what happens is they'll buy a \$400,000 house. They'll totally turn it into a hydrogrow and modify the basements, modify their rooms as clone rooms and full basement, electrical being bypassed. They'll cut into the electrical system before the meters.

They'll get about 500 plants at any one particular time. And it's an assembly line type thing. Where once they harvest the first 500 plants, they'll go to the next ones in the clone rooms and bring them down to the harvest area in the basement. And you average \$1,000 a plant at 500 plants, three crops a year. Mai Lee had approximately 25-30 of these houses operating at any one given time. And so you're talking \$1.5 million in cash. They were getting up to \$4,000 a pound for this marijuana in Atlanta.

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So what had happened was during Project Ohappy, we got information through intercepts that somebody in Ottawa is laundering money for the Ecstasy dealers. And it turned out to be Mai Lee. So we started our investigation. Uniformed ... I can't stress enough Alex talked about this spear. The uniformed guys on the road, the individual stops with Intel being passed over to the Canadians and to the U.S. These uniformed guys deserve a lot of credit. And we were kept on getting tips and we kept on getting information.

We started sharing information with the liaison at the DA at the Embassy in Ottawa. And the next thing you know, we started getting all these people calling up and saying, wow. We've got an Ecstasy problem in Oakland. We've got a money remitter in Houston. We've got a money remitter in Atlanta. And so, all of a sudden, we started getting our analysts on all this. And lo and behold, we've got money remitters shipping money offshore. We've got money coming back concealed in cars. There will be a chart down the road, we'll talk real briefly on how she moved all this money.

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She inadvertently sent money down to a Central American country. And it turned out to be a covert account run by the DEA. And she was pumping at least \$2.5 million into this account. And that was for cocaine coming back to Canada, 1,000 kilos of cocaine. So the whole marijuana thing, the marijuana soft drug, cocaine coming right back. And that's really, really important to us.

We started dealing with cooperating witnesses in the state, cooperating witnesses in Canada. And basically like Alex said, we had a lot of meetings. And there were a lot of people involved trying to figure out how and when to do this. And we met several times here. They came up. And we had several meetings at the Embassy in Ottawa.

Uniformed stop in Laurel, Mississippi. A trooper made this stop and basically went the extra mile. Gave the guys a ticket. But then started looking at what was in the car. They might have been smoking a marijuana joint at the time. But then saw a little bit of paperwork. And saw the paperwork saying \$500,000 going to U.S. tours in Houston. And he did a lot of work. And this was one of the key issues to tie everything together. So again, we seized

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approximately \$2 million in cash and property after takedown.

Next slide. These were the road stops. Most of these seizures were done during the investigation where money was being delivered. And we had to be very careful. Alex talked about the \$754,000 in the gas tank. Well, this was the fourth time that this guy made a pickup in about two months. We didn't want to burn the project by taking it down too early. So there's always an issue. Is this the right thing to do at the right time? And we felt at that time we'd take one down just to see what was in it? And lo and behold, it was the \$754,000.

This is really key. Because this is in with the money. And at the time we were doing this, of course, we had Title IIIs in the state and Part VIs which is our interception authority in Canada. We were intercepting emails, phone calls, faxes. There's an email corresponding to this. And I want to talk about the good old days of money laundering. When the term money laundering came up in Al Capone where it'd be like 30, 40 cents on the dollar to launder dirty money.

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Well, here the whole seizure's broken down. And in our email that we intercepted corresponding, \$199,000 was supposed to go to our buddy Mr. Via in Toronto. And \$194,980 was supposed to go to Koon in Montreal. And then Mai Li obviously figured out her percentage or her take to launder this money. And it wasn't thirty cents on the dollar. It was ... you can't see it because there's a line through it ... it was 1.25 percent. That's what she was charging to move this money. She charged \$9,546.87 to move this money and convert this money. 1.25 percent. By the way, at the bottom, 500 bucks for the driver.

Conversations with regards to the driver. You know, we're getting stopped at the border a lot. Make sure you have a wife and child. Make it look like a family trip. So he gets some lady who's a friend of the guy in Boston. And he loads up a little baby in the car. And they go down. And we laughed about the gas, the person being stopped every five minutes to get gas. And we laughed about that. But this trooper in Vermont, he really went the extra mile. Because we didn't want things to go bad.

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He did a really good job of searching the car. And there was no luggage. And they said they were gone for four days. And things didn't make a whole lot of sense. So he established a lot of grounds to go into the gas tank to search. The bolts had been tampered with. The carpet was sticking up a little bit in the back of the van. So he really did a great job.

This is a confusing mess to anybody who sees this. But I'm going to tell you the left hand side of this is money laundering offshore. The right hand side is money laundering through cross border FedEx expresses. And we'll just go from here. A lot of the money that was sent to remittent places in the United States went to these small little places like U.S. tours and it was shipped offshore. It was shipped offshore to Vietnam, Cambodia.

We had at one point in time I think received information from you folks that there was a rickshaw driver who had \$2.5 million in his account at one point in time in Cambodia. Of course, by the time we get there, there's nothing left and/or the Cambodian government took it. I don't know what. But he didn't have any money left. And

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it was very hard for us to follow the money. And that's our job is to follow the money. And once you get over into some of these places, it became really difficult.

So they were wiring money from these remittance places over to Vietnam, Cambodia. And then we were starting to see intercepted faxes come back. And the faxes were from companies created in Delaware. All these companies on the left hand side were all created either in Delaware or Oregon. And one guy created 1,300 companies. And he charged like 300 bucks to do it. And you can put your name as Mickey Mouse being the president of that company. So in order to find out what this company was all about, we didn't have a clue. But he had all these wire transfers were coming back \$1,000 at a time. And they were coming back into bank accounts so people could buy more grow houses. Or they were coming back in relation to somebody who was producing the Ecstasy.

So it was tough. And when I spoke to Mai Lee after, we had a four day debrief after she decided to cooperate, she didn't know anything about these companies. But what we saw was a wire transfer from Vietnam, to Latvia, to France,

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to New York City and to Canada. And you try following that when you don't know anything about the company or where it started from in Vietnam. It was really tough. And we banged our head around this for a long time.

At the same time, she's got a bunch of students. One of the people in her outfit was a ... and he's now in jail here serving his time here in Washington. He was the son of an Embassy official here. And he got a bunch of students from local universities. And he'd get them to go on a train to places like Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, pick up garbage bags of money and come back into Washington, go to individual banks and get cashier's checks for the money. And they would say they would be student loans and they have to pay back people in Canada.

And then we intercepted an email between the two of them saying, okay. Glue these three checks in the magazine. But don't put more than three checks. And send it by FedEx. So we got special warrants to get into the FedEx, retrieve it, open up the magazines, photocopy the checks, close them back up and send them on their way. This poor kid, I mean, he got 100 bucks a crack, one of these kids to

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do this type of work. He got sentenced to sixteen years for doing this here in Washington. So needless to say, he wanted to be a cooperating witness in a hurry. So we got to come down here to interview him. And it was quite the story. And, you know, again, you look a money laundering in the good old days and you look at what's happening now and for the price of what these people are doing it, to risk this type of jail.

They then ... money was wired back into Canada. Or it was sent through FedEx. And it was made out to a bunch of dummy fabric companies in Montreal. And these companies were all controlled by in the centers, they're check cashers, they're for check cashing businesses in Montreal. They had total control of these businesses. And for that, they gave them five percent of what the total checks were. And that was their profit.

MS: Actually, Mike and I interviewed one of the owners of one of these fabric stores. It was a legitimate company. And they were so pressured by companies like Wal-Mart and other people to provide clothing to deliver on time that their cashflow was next to nil. So in order to avoid losing a

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contract with one of these big companies it was supplying the goods to, these check cashing businesses, who ended up being money launderers, to go over the books and records of these fashion industry companies. And they made sure that all their payments went out on time.

They always had money to pay their suppliers and stuff. Everything ran smoothly. But at the same time, they took over all the books and records and were able to launder the money. And it looked like legitimate checks coming in from across the border that were being delivered directly into the books of these companies. It was a good scam.

Just think in the back of your mind organized crime, okay? You don't see traditional organized crime or bikers. This is the ultimate organized crime. And the costs are next to nothing. I mean, we all know the costs of an Ecstasy tablet to make, it might be 50, 70 cents. And it's sold wholesale for \$1.80. Sold on the street for \$10 a tab or \$5 a tab. The rates change quite often. But there is just huge amounts of money to be made.

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And so we ended up on this day, the 31st of March, 2004. And you say that's a long time ago. It's four years ago. Well, I just finished court down in Houston with Mai Lee in July. And she was convicted on the 27th ... I think on the 27th of October of this year. Mai Lee was finally convicted in Houston and pled guilty. So it's not too long ago for us. That's for sure. And I still have dreams about all the stuff that was going on, the way they were laundering.

But we got to extradite our fellows here, Mr. Longsy Wai, Kitduka. They were the Ecstasy people behind the deals. Mai Lee and her brother Tu Won Lee were the marijuana money movers. And Twan Yan Win was the son of the Embassy official who's actually the kid who was stopped in Laurel, Mississippi making the money delivery. He was going to school here taking commerce. His father was in the Embassy. He got charged with the marijuana. Small amount. And they tried to interview him. Again, the troopers did a great job of interviewing him and the other person in the car. They gleaned a lot of information from this fellow. And the next thing you know, he comes up to Canada. And the Embassy official leaves the United States and was an Embassy official in Canada at the time.

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So they've all got some nice places to stay in the United States. And I love the fact that they get to stay in the United States. Because our marijuana laws in Canada are a little weaker than yours. And they're doing some serious time without parole I think for the most part.

MS: In Canada, when there's a cross border investigation, it becomes difficult. Because if there's going to be an extradition of a person across the border, it has to be determined by an independent counsel, Crown counsel, or prosecutor, whether or not it's better to do the ... justice is going to be done better by serving or doing the investigation and finishing the prosecution in Canada or is most of the evidence down in the U.S.? So they do a thing, a Controny assessment it's called. And Mr. Controny was an organized crime guy back in the '70s?

MR. ALEX DOMINGUEZ: Linked to the Bonano family in Montreal.

MS: Yeah. So they started doing these things called the Controny assessment to determine where is justice going to be best served? So in order to do that, if there's a

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duplicity of charges, if there's the same charges in Canada and the U.S., we have to withdraw our charges up in Canada. And that becomes an issue with our laws for seizing assets. Because if there's no charge in Canada, we can't restrain or keep or forfeit property.

So with Mai Lee and her group, we were lucky in one way. Because she was producing marijuana in Canada. So we were able to keep that charge on the books until the whole extradition was done. Because it wasn't a duplicity of charges. Because she wasn't producing drugs down in the U.S.

Law enforcements issues in Canada. When we were doing this, I mean, issues between ... in Canada the police lay charges. It's not the prosecutor like in the U.S. here. So we're the ones that lay the charges. But we have to have our Crown Counsel, our prosecutor, bring it forward to the courts. And we had a lot of ... we had a few growing pains and problems as it went along with, as Mike put it, everybody had their agendas on what was going to be done.

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And it required a lot of cooperation between ourselves and the prosecution to ensure that the best thing e done in this case. And the best cooperation between us and the U.S. And to make sure that everything went to the best end. And it was difficult. Because the Canadian prosecutors didn't want to get in the way of the American prosecution or seem like they were trying to push the prosecution across the border. The police just wanted to get the bad guys in jail.

So it took a lot of work between us all just trying to make sure it worked the right way. And I know Mike is sitting here with a smile on his face. Because Mike did some wonderful work in order to bring all of these people to the table at the same time. And he went beyond what most police officers would do in the case. He went past the pressures of management within ... he worked in an integrated unit, my unit, with the RSMP. There's pressures from prosecutors. There's pressures from management. Not just to let this case end its course. But Mike wanted to make sure that the best thing was done, the best justice being done. And he worked very hard to make sure that everybody got to the table on both sides of the border. So

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he did a lot of good work. I'll let Mike talk about his dealing with the USDA.

SERGEANT MIKE BREMMER: There's a lot of times when you're sitting there reading reports and all of a sudden you get a ... somebody hands you a wiretap, a piece of paper saying we're moving some money down to Atlanta. And it's not happening in two weeks. It's happening in a couple of hours. And there's rules and regulations that have to be looked at. And you have to go through all sorts of hoops. And there were several times when something like that happened. And I phoned the special agent in Atlanta. And I said, look Ken. I think there's \$400,000 coming down your way in the next couple of hours. Can you do something about it?

And they did some fantastic work in a lot of seizures like this. A lot of those road seizures were as a result of information being shared very, very quickly. With authorization through the embassies and stuff like that to get these things done. And lo and behold, Ken sent some of the local police officers. They setup a little checkpoint. And they're watching these people come into town. They

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came into town with a Mercedes Benz, stopped in at a jewelry store and nail shop. And they see a transaction go in and out of the nail shop. Then they go and stop both vehicles, the Mercedes Benz coming in and another Mercedes Benz leaving. And they seize \$419,000 plus the two Mercedes Benzes which I thought was pretty cool.

That kind of stuff was really ... that's a feel good thing for anybody who's looking at a case like this where you have to start taking some things down and arresting some people. And these money remitters in Atlanta moved a lot of money. The people in Houston, the U.S. tours. As Alex said, roughly \$300 million ... \$27 million of that was Mai Li's money going offshore. Now, it's not Mai Lee's money. She got the 1.25 percent to move it. But there were several money remitters around the U.S. that were moving a lot of movements in cash.

There was issues, no doubt about it. They wanted us to focus on this and get take down done quickly. I think LA wanted to take down things sooner than later. We had a lot of people bending over saying, okay. Just give us a couple more days, a couple more months. Because the money

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laundering is the part that you're ... it takes the longest. Even after takedown, money laundering investigations and the movement of money, that becomes the hard part for us. And really, how do you want to hurt these folks? They're not paying a whole lot for their product. It's the cash that you want to get. It's the cash. Cash is everything.

Six AUSAs all had their thoughts on how to prosecute, who to prosecute, when to prosecute. And our Crown attorneys had the same issue. So we had to really sit down and have meeting after meeting to keep on ironing things out. We've talked about that enough.

In Canada, when we do a Part VI, we actually monitor the person. So if the person is talking on the phone or has a fax machine or is going to a place of business, we can actually get authorization to monitor the person. So that if they take a phone or they change a phone and a lot of people moved, changed phones into different ... they drop a phone after about a week and they pick up another phone. I understand in the States that it's a Title III. And you have to write a new Title III to get onto the new phone.

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We didn't have to do that. There are some nice differences in both rules and regulations on both sides of the border that you have to take advantage of. And for us it was being able to steadily stay on Mai Lee if she had four phones and was using different phones at different times, we could write a quick little addition and get authorization to monitor these phones.

Punishment and penalties is great. We talked about this before. I love the proffer. We don't have proffers in Canada. And to me, it was the be all and end all. Because you've got a kid who's going to get sixteen years for doing 100 buck pickups of \$30,000, \$40,000 at a time. He wants to cooperate. And the whole cooperating witness thing was of great benefit for us. And even right to the very end when we interviewed Mai Lee after she signed the proffer, it was quite fascinating to listen to how ... and to really get four days to talk to this person was something special. And we had DA agents from four different locations come up. And we spent four days with her in front of her lawyer. And they talked about how they moved all the stuff around.

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We have disclosure issues. And again, for you folks it doesn't really matter that much. But full frank disclosure. In other words, even if we're not going to use it in court, if we have it, their defense is allowed to have it. So we have to disclose everything. And that becomes an issue sometimes. And the whole mutual legal assistance treaty issue where we have to go through OIA and IAG, International Assistance Group, or for you folks is it OIA? Office of the International Assistance? You know, to try and get stuff done through them sometimes takes six weeks, eight weeks. Who knows how long it takes? A lot of times, we just pick up the phone and try and get directly with the police officers and say lookit. We want to use this for intelligence purposes. What have you got for us? And it was really important to be able to contact the guys right off.

MS: The mutual legal assistance treaty. I felt kind of bad about this. I had sent out some requests for banking records. And I think we had already finished our prosecution. The prosecution side was done in Canada. Everybody was in jail or extradited to the U.S. And all of a sudden, I get these two boxes of records on my desk from

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a bank in the U.S. And I went, oh, my God. I put somebody through this. So it took about a year and a half for things to go through. So it can be pretty frustrating for the people in the field, this mutual legal assistance treaty. But it's there for the right reasons, to ensure evidence is done properly and brought into the courts in Canada or vice versa, the right way.

I'll just go back to funding. There's one thing about funding. Like Alex said there before that we had the same issues in Canada with our wanting ... we'll have to push this a little bit farther. We're going to get our best evidence if we just another month. We're almost at that point. It was very good to have our management, like the management in the U.S., to look at the bigger picture and support us. And since this was a joint project with the Ottawa City Police, the OPP, the RCMP, we had more than one set of bosses to convince that we had to finish this off and get the best bang for the buck. And it was good to have the support. And I'm proud of everybody in this because of that, that we're able to take it to the end.

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MS: At the very end, we decided to put a package together and offer it to Mai Lee. And the package is pretty important. Because it all has to do with time served. She had family, a daughter, actually two children in Canada with whom we have to be sympathetic. She's going to go down to the States and she's going to serve some serious time. But she wanted to come back to Canada and do her jail sentence in Canada. A lot of the attorneys from the United States wanted to make sure she got her full sentence. And they wanted fifteen to twenty years hard time.

MS: In each jurisdiction.

MS: In each jurisdiction. And we're going, whoa. This is not going to happen. Don't forget. She's in Canada and she's facing extradition. We want her to cooperate. We want her to get certain things. So we basically called all the district attorneys up, representatives of the DEA, her defense counsel, our Crown attorneys had two series of meetings. And to propose a final conclusion to this. And the issue was that she would go and all the charges would be brought together in Houston. There was the people in U.S. courts were going to court there.

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The person on the U.S. tours was convicted in early October. Mai Lee pled guilty around the 27th of October. She's sentenced to fifteen years. And sooner or later, she's going to try and get back into Canada. We're not going to fight that. She's going to be able to come back to Canada. But she's agreed to plead guilty to criminal organization. And she's looking at a twenty-two years sentence in Canada.

Now, a twenty-two year sentence in Canada is not fifteen years in the United States. Because there's all sorts of parole issues, dead time. I think she's probably going to serve another nine years when she gets back. And everybody had to be okay with that. Because everybody had to sign on the dotted line, including their defense counsels. So that was important to us.

Again, like Alex said, this is done. These people no longer operate. Is there somebody covering their footsteps? Absolutely. And this is where everybody here can come into play and realize that this does not stop. The whole issue of organized crime, you got to see a face

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of organized crime that you probably didn't see before. We were intercepting her talking to people, a family, in Boston. The two brothers and the father were all caught with Ecstasy in gas tanks or crossing the border. And prior to them being caught, Mai Lee would say to them, yeah. We've got to just trust family. We just have to trust family and go with the family.

And for us, that was interesting. Because that was a new picture for us, this whole organized crime being a family integrated group. But to go one step beyond that and to go what we're seeing now in Canada and the U.S. is this is organized crime then, reorganized crime now. She was using different people to transport money across the border. We're doing investigations now where you have traditional organized crime using bikers. You have a Russian mob using truck drivers who have companies from other cultures. We have meth being produced and being shipped over by different people. It's all reorganized and it's very confusing.

So totally we need a team effort in this. The team effort, the sharing of information, the cross border information,

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our goal is to stop the producers and the transportation across the border. And I think the goal is similar to you folks.

MS: Okay. Thank you. Any questions? [applause]

MS: Alex, if I could ask you to come back up. You're going to have to share the microphone with ... you're not out of it yet. If I could just ask if you have questions if you could wait for either Diane or Katie to pass you the microphone. So we can get your question for the transcript. And if you'd like to introduce yourself and where you're from. Obviously, we need to thank our guest speakers here this morning. Questions, please. You had them enraptured obviously. No one has any questions they'd like to ask?

Katie, if I could ask you to bring up the bags. We have a small token on behalf of the DEA museum and the Office of Congressional Public Affairs for each of our speakers. I'd like to thank Katie Drew for putting the program together. Can't say enough kind words about Pam Lambo from the Canadian Embassy who actually first approached us last

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spring to put this program together. And Garrison Courtney in the Office of Public Affairs at DEA for the outreach.

Our next program continuing on this series in December, Tuesday, December 2nd, talking about DEA operation O'Skillet ... no, excuse me. DEA operation Sweet Tooth, RCMP operation O'Skillet back here at the DEA Museum. Gentlemen, thank you again very much.

(END OF TRANSCRIPT)