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**OPERATION SWEET TOOTH**

MR. SEAN FERNS: Good morning. And welcome, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Sean Ferns. I'm the Director of the DEA Museum on behalf of Mary Irene Cooper, the Chief of Congressional and Public Affairs for DEA who couldn't be here this morning. Let us welcome you as we continue our fall lecture series.

This fall, we're looking at the history of cooperative drug law enforcement efforts between the United States and Canada. And we are delighted to be working with the Canadian Embassy here in Washington, D.C. to present this program. In particular in addition to the Canadian Embassy, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

This morning, we're going to spend some time looking at a critical and extensive twenty-four month case, worked on both sides of our northern border. Initiated in 2003, it shows the success that can be achieved when two countries work closely together to fight cross border drug smuggling. Culminating in 2005, DEA's Operation Sweet Tooth and its Canadian counterpart Project O'Skillet, were multinational crackdowns that targeted international Ecstasy and marijuana trafficking rings, their drug smuggling and money

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laundering. Operations ranged from the back alleys of the Far East to the neighborhood streets of Canadian and the United States.

Sweet Tooth and O'Skillet resulted in some pretty significant accomplishments. The dismantlement of two major drug transportation rings with ties to sixty-one separate investigations here in the U.S. It was an operation coordinated by DEA's Special Operations Division or SOD.

Last month, we had a presentation in the series that focused on Operation Candy Box and the RCMP version Project Cody. The leaders of the criminal organization targeted in Operation Sweet Tooth, today's presentation, refined and improved on the methods used by those in Operation Candy Box. The Candy Box operation disrupted an organization that was responsible for supplying one million tablets of MDMA on a monthly basis here in the U.S. Compare that to Operation Sweet Tooth, what we're talking about this morning, they were responsible for distributing 1.5 million tablets of MDMA per month. And, of course, our speakers will talk to that in more detail now.

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These joint investigations featured the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the RCMP, the Canadian Border Services and the Vietnam Ministry of Public Security. It is important to note that Operation Sweet Tooth featured the first instance of cooperation between DEA and the Vietnam Ministry of Public Security.

Let me introduce our two guest speakers as we get started this morning. Representing first the DEA side, retired Special Agent Thomas Slavinkay, otherwise known as Tom. Special Agent Slavinkay retired from DEA just about a year and a half ago in July of 2007 after a 24 year career with DEA. During his career, he served in New York, Frankfurt, Germany, Reno, Nevada, Vienna, Austria, Jacksonville, Florida and DEA headquarters in our Special Operations Division as the Staff Coordinator for Europe, Africa, Middle East and Canada.

Special Agent Slavinkay began his law enforcement career with eight years in the Tallahassee, Florida police department. He is a graduate of Florida State University. Go Gators. In his semiretirement, Special Agent Slavinkay

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is employed by MPRI and is assigned to the Army Provost Marshall General here in the District area. We will be leaving time for questions, by the way, at the end. So please hold them until that time.

Let me also introduce representing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Constable Sandra Basso. Constable Basso joined the RCMP in 1992. She began her service in Newfoundland, Canada's eastern most province. For the last decade, she has been an investigator with the drug section located in Toronto, Ontario where she has worked on several major drug cases. She is currently the acting corporal in the RCMP's Toronto drug section. Please, ladies and gentlemen, welcome Constable Basso and Special Agent Slavinkay. [applause]

SPECIAL AGENT SLAVINKAY: Thank you, Sean. Before I begin, I'd like to thank Sean and his staff, the DEA Museum and Congressional Affairs for the invitation to come speak to you today. This is certainly was a labor of love back when we did this investigation. And it certainly gives an opportunity to relive those old days.

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Aside from the fact that it also brings back the opportunity to be with colleagues that you've worked with before in the past and certainly provides me the opportunity to expand upon some of those situations where ... and it probably is a good idea maybe to have vetted these retired guys when they come back and talk to the DEA. Because we have a tendency sometimes to get off the reservation and get off message a little bit. But we recognize somebody in the back there that maybe done us wrong back in the old days, we can bring to justice maybe.

Anyway, Sean mentioned the fact that Alex Dominguez did a presentation on Candy Box last month. If you're fortunate enough to have seen that presentation, I think it's one of the best ones that have come down the pike. Alex Dominguez can do these things in his sleep. He's got that kind of a talent. Of course, when I found out that I was going to be following Alex, it was a situation where I felt like I'm following Jerry Seinfeld standup routine. I wasn't just going to measure up to him. But Alex did call and give his regrets that he couldn't be here and sit in the front row and make faces and signs and everything else to me.

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But anyway, for those of you that did see the Candy Box presentation, let me sort of pick up from what happened from the time that Candy Box came down. Again, that was the end of March, 2004. At that time, those of us that had worked on Candy Box, we were feeling pretty good about ourselves. We were sort of an afterglow at that point. We were slapping five and swapping spit on a regular basis.

This is, of course, the first two or three months after the takedown. We weren't getting the usual ASAC comments of what have you done for us lately? A GS asking what are you doing spending so much time in the U.S. Attorney's Office and that sort of thing. So we felt at that point that we'd made a serious impact on the MDMA trafficking and certainly our Canadian counterparts, we were proud of ourselves. And I think we had reason to be that way. It was an intense investigation, a lot of time and effort, a lot of good people working on the investigation.

But soon after we ... and this was I think within the three month period after Candy Box came down, it seemed like things happened all at once. There was a situation where proffers from defendants, cooperating defendants'

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statements, witness statements, started to filter back to us at SOD and to several of the other officers that gave clear indication that there was a lot more out there that either we missed, didn't know about, had reinstated themselves.

And again, maybe just for clarification purposes, when you talk about Operation Sweet Tooth, it really was a combination of Operation Root Canal and exactly what it was. We need root canal because we'd just gone through Candy Box. And that's what we sort of figured was going to happen. This was, again, a labor of love. But at the same time, it was fraught with issues and so forth just like any other investigation.

Roughly about the same time, Operation Frying Pan started. Frying Pan was run by Staff Coordinator Jay Erickson. And since we sat right next to each other at SOD and could see the influx of information coming about that clearly indicated that there was going to be another operation, another round of MDMA ethnic Chinese, ethnic Vietnamese traffickers operating between Canada and the U.S.

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So Operation Sweet Tooth actually came about later on after these two investigations had pretty much progressed well into their own selves so to speak. And the reason ... and this was sort of important to us to combine these operations under one initiative, the Sweet Tooth initiative. And Jay and I found out that when we'd attend our coordination meetings with the officers that were progressing their investigation, we found that members of the guys were operation under the Frying Pan operation initiative, they were saying, well, what are the guys over in Root Canal doing?

When do they plan on taking their guys off? What links do we have with them? We naturally assumed there were going to be links. But we weren't seeing them necessarily at that point. In the lower echelons, we saw occasional overlap. But the upper, we did not. And again, this concern about what each other was going to do in their operations. Because there was an express concern that if Frying Pan went down, guys in Root Canal would say, all right. We're going to lose phones.

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Because we constantly fought the phone battle. Guys dropping phones, the quick availability, ease of use, with the cellular phones. The fear was that if one operation went down before the other, targets would disappear. These guys had a bad habit of going back to Vietnam a lot, disappearing from ... all of a sudden they were here one day and gone the next. So there was concern on both parts. And the Root Canal guys felt the same way about Frying Pan. So largely took the force there and we essentially put these two operations together.

When you talk about the areas of operation and the cities that were involved in this, if you took a map of the cities that were involved in Candy Box, with the exception of four or five officers, could virtually overlap it on this thing and show the same cities. These organizations reconstituted themselves incredibly fast. And Sandra and I were talking about it this morning. We actually saw video or we were told of a video that recorded an undercover conversation that none of the lower ranking members of a particular organization was seen rubbing his hands like this. And this is a twenty-two year old kid. Rubbing his hands together like this saying it's too bad those guys got

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nabbed by the cops. This affords an opportunity for me to rise up in the organization. And in fact he did. This happened in several different locations.

Again, the targets that were initially identified in this operation, when we looked at the result of Candy Box, two outstanding members of this organization were still running loose. Larry Lee out of Houston and Dijong Mi out of Oakland. Both having extensive histories of drug trafficking, particularly Mi. It gave a clear indication this guy's one of the top guys on the West Coast. The San Francisco Office and Oakland, both worked with the investigation at great length on this individual.

With Larry Lee ... and this is when the requests first started coming in from the field to SOD. And one of our responsibilities is to fund wire intercepts and pen registers. And with the first initial ones coming in on Larry Lee, we saw it was almost like a chain reaction going from Houston right across New Orleans, Mobile, Gulf Port, Panama City, Tallahassee. The connections we saw clearly indicated that there was an extensive organization running through that area.

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And we found the first instance of gang activity amongst these Vietnamese kids. A 211 gang, the royal family. These were well known organizations within their communities, but not necessarily known throughout the ... outside their area.

And one of the things that we differentiated with was trying to identify and classify these targets. It followed pretty much other organizations as well. The older members of the organization usually called the shots. They were the command and patrol individuals. And the younger kids and these twenty-two year olds, these twenty somethings that we ran into, were usually the risk takers, the guys who were running dope and money in all parts of the country and so forth. Essentially following pretty much a structured organization.

Canadian targets obviously identified. But initially, it didn't go as smoothly as we thought it was. When request from the field started and we mentioned, Sean had mentioned, the fact that sixty-one investigations blossomed out of this two operations. We started seeing requests for

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medical pen registers. And then for phones. And we saw the links that started happening, started outside the United States. And everything was going north.

And I mentioned to Stan earlier today that everyone remembers the fact that as far as Operation Candy Box was concerned, that migrated north to south. In other words, the RCMP's investigation was well underway when they moved their operation or moved their request for assistance in a case in New York which ended up blossoming into Candy Box. So the fact that no good deed goes unpunished, we did the reverse to the Canadian counterparts and started channeling everything back up north. Because that's where we believed at that point plan and control structures were located.

Money laundering methods I'll talk about in a minute. This is what we ended up within total. On the wire, pen registrars and the foreign investigation. Now, I may sound like my wife when my wife goes shopping and she tells me when she comes home look how much I saved you by buying this. I saved you all this kind of money. With this SOD funding here, we were sending money at a rate that raised a few eyebrows in my organization.

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If you know Derek Maltz, Maltz has a tendency to be interested in what you're spending and what you're doing. And he dropped by one time and he had a piece of paper. And he showed it to me. And he said is this true what you guys are spending on this thing? I looked at it and it was a little bit off. It was a little under what we had really spent. But that looks accurate to me, of course.

And he says, well, I don't know how much longer we're going to be able to fund this. Because we're running to the end of your money, the end of your situation, and so forth. Well, I pointed out at that time that the fact that Candy Box had hit so many different cities throughout the United States. And, of course, we were well into a number of our T3s at this point. It was like a cottage industry had developed in these major cities of kids that had started little companies. And we guided these people through the process of being essentially interpreters.

So what I tried to explain at that point is that we're no longer paying per diem for these guys. We just cut the per diem out because there are so many new cottage industry,

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little shops and little concerns that have started these major cities that supplied the interpreters, drastically reducing our spending on such things as per diem. But he didn't buy that at all.

Some of the statistics, and we certainly we always talked about the statistics really told the game, told of your success. We would certainly point these out as smashing success. And I know you would be hard pressed I guess at some point to say you could have done better. Of course, you could have. But these were something I think the rank and file of the agents themselves, the bosses and everything else with the seizures and so forth that were to come later were strikingly good I thought.

Then if you just take note of the last four, the cathonone, cocaine precursors and ephedrine in comparison to what we did in Candy Box, those don't show up. And this gave us the first indication that we're dealing ... and I'll hit on the individual in a minute. The first indication that we were dealing with Mexico, that these organizations that had reconstituted themselves were now dealing directly with

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Mexican traffickers and the idea of precursors, you had cocaine and synthetic drugs.

So clearly, an indication that this investigation had expanded the boundaries of what Candy Box started. Either we didn't know about it or it didn't surface. This individual here, I've got to tell you. When we ended up doing this and we started counting all these investigations, I think we had eight investigations with individuals with the last name of Win. It was like Smith or Williams I think in the Vietnamese community. Tran I think was second. Phan was third. It gave us the impression they may have had eleven family names in the entire Vietnamese population. Surprisingly, very few of them were actually related.

This individual ... and Sandra will hit on this individual in her presentation. But this guy ended up really the top command control individual. I mean, first identified under the frying pan operation. Keeping track of this individual was somewhat difficult by the fact that he appeared in one city. Two days later, he'd show up somewhere else. When he was arrested, I think the agents recovered nine

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telephones off of him, five of which they knew about. The other four, they had no idea he had. Which made his association links and everything else, of course, that much more difficult.

And Win's contacts that he had made ... and something that we discovered when we were putting ... this came up somewhat afterwards. And I think a few of the guys actually thought about this before we did. But when we started debriefing some of these individuals, you can see that we got ethnic Chinese. We've got Laotians, Cambodians, Thais, the Chinese again, Vietnamese obviously. But what we found was that these kids a lot of them had associations going back to their days in the refugee camps prior to coming to the United States.

When they would come to the states in virtually so many cases were hard working, fourteen, sixteen hours a day kind of people, putting in an honest day's living. And these kids, these punked outs, would watch a little bit of American television ... and this actually came back to us. They envied the lifestyle they saw on TV. They envied the

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lifestyle that some of the kids in their high schools that they presented.

So the associations that have long developed, whether it was in refugee camps or when they came to the United States and they had a tendency to stay in their own communities, that's how these relationships were founded. And it wasn't long before they became well entrenched. And again, they stayed under the radar. The fact that they were relatively non-violent. We only saw a few occasions along the Gulf Coast between New Orleans and Panama City I think we saw the gang activity, were there actually indications or any sign of the fact that they were really into guns, actual incidents of violence against each other. But they stayed pretty much within their own organizations, not straying outside too far.

But for the most part stayed under the radar. Because there was no notoriety drawn to them, the fact that they were violent. They armed themselves to the teeth because they were scared to the death of each other. But we didn't see that many instances where they actually took it out on each other.

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Root Canal targets. Again, starting with Larry Lee. Moving up on the West Coast. Now, these individuals over here really represented a level above many of the organizations that we actually dealt with. They were structured, long in existence, very, very difficult to crack. They were eventually taken after the Sweet Tooth Operation which actually came down in November 17<sup>th</sup> of 2005. Investigations continued. But they finally got these guys. And these guys were good. I mean, they were well schooled.

Minimal use on the phones, multiple use of phones, meeting in person a lot, going out of the state, out of the country. In fact, I think one of them was a big circle boy, a gang that was actually on the West Coast of Canada. I believe that's where they ... correct me if I'm wrong. But anyway, certainly international links.

Interesting story about how MDMA production distribution initially started. Back in I guess the '90s, early 1980s, when MDMA started becoming ... renewed itself essentially. Because it wasn't the first time that MDMA had entered in the states. It hadn't been a problem here. But it was

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very easy to see that our main problems was coming from the Benelux countries. Our main problem is coming from the Benelux countries, primarily the Netherlands and Belgium where the countries in both these countries found their way to the United States, primarily by body carrier, by courier. You didn't see a law sale ... an exception probably here and there. But for the most part, this stuff was couriered into the United States.

Chemicals from primarily China. There's some indication that India was involved in it as well. But primarily China coming into the Netherlands for production. It stayed pretty much in those two countries, the Netherlands much more than Belgium at that time. But after ... and what Candy Box found was ... and this is the first instance that it was actually shown, production had changed. We started seeing large scale shipments of chemicals, precursor chemicals going into Canada. And production being made in Canada, finding its way down into the United States.

There was an interesting sidelight. About two months after Sweet Tooth came down, there was a synthetic drug conference in Maastricht, Netherlands. And these were

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yearly meetings that they had in Europe, East and West Europe. They bring their law enforcement people together and talk about synthetic drug issues and where it stood at that point. People would get up, give presentations statistically and so forth and how they're dealing with the problem, joint ventures and so forth. And they had several breakout sections. And I was part of a breakout section where I was asked if I could give an update on what the MDMA situation was in the United States. And they were certainly very prepared to hear that the Netherlands is still an issue with being a source country for MDMA.

Well, it just happened to be that at that point I could honestly say during the entire operation of Sweet Tooth, both in Root Canal and in Frying Pan, we did not see one instance where a reference was made to the Netherlands or Belgium, an MDMA production. And you would have thought that I had told them that the Netherlands had just won the World Cup or something. I couldn't buy a drink that night. These guys were all over me. Tom, great job. Excellent presentation.

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Essentially, we told them the truth. It was just the simple fact that production ... and I think me personally in my career in law enforcement, I had never seen a change in production location the way it took place at this time. Everything had stopped coming ... with the exception of occasional couriers coming through the DR up to South Florida. Other than that, we saw nothing as far as implicated the Netherlands or Belgium in MDMA production transport to the United States. And they felt that that was significant fact they felt they were off the hook somewhat in that production.

Financial. I think most of you are aware, the agent personnel certainly, are aware of the Administrator Tandy's policy directive regarding the establishment of a financial investigation to be paired with and to run parallel to a criminal drug investigation. This is something that we harped on, Jay and our, with our domestic officers constantly. Our biggest fear, Jay and our biggest fear, knowing that we're going to end up having to present this to the administrator at some point in time right before or right after the takedown.

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We did not want to let happen to us what happened to some unfortunate staff coordinator at SOD who will remain nameless. But he's still doesn't sit in a chair right after the complete ass chewing he got from the administrator. Because he couldn't answer the question of explain to me what your financial investigation looks like. And he had that ten or eleven word phrase I'll have to get back with you on that, ma'am. And that went over like a lead balloon. Many of you probably realize that.

So in an abundance of caution, Jay and I harped on this issue constantly. Unfortunately, well, not unfortunately, I mean, it's just a matter of circumstances that the progress of the drug part of the investigation went much faster, of course, than the financial. This slide shows essentially nail shops, jewelry stores, that sort of thing. They ended up being fronts for money laundering, places where these people would meet.

It was interesting to see in a Jacksonville investigation, for example, some of these nail shops were identified in these strip malls. If you drive your car around in the back during certain times of day, particularly in the

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afternoon, 4:00, 4:30-ish, right before the banks ... right before they close business, you can see these high end cars, tricked out Mercedes, BMWs, all these kids drive these things. You setup surveillance on them and get up there.

And they'll be walking out to their cars with a bag, driving straight to two or three banks at a time making night deposits, after work hour deposits. Which aided the investigation significantly in the fact that it was simple to identify where the banking institutions. Of course, there some guys that missed that class and didn't get the message and all. But eventually, we found it out. We got the word out that that's one of their MOs.

This one in Atlanta is interesting. If you're familiar with Atlanta, I think it's on the Buford Highway is what they call it, just outside of Atlanta. Anybody from Atlanta? Anyway, you can drive along Buford Highway and it's literally dozens of these Vietnamese agencies, money remitters. Dozens and dozens and dozens of those things which comes up prominently in one of the slides I'll show you in a minute.

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Essentially carrying on business as if ... I mean, the amount of traffic in and out of these places is phenomenal. And I think at one point, we were asked, and we hooked up with the guys in financial operations at headquarters. Because we were asked what percentage of these money remitters were actually ... of the money that was coming from the United States going to Vietnam was or could be described as or identified as drug proceeds? And after some hemming and hawing, we came up with a very, very rough estimate. And this is for I think a eleven or thirteen month period. I can't remember which. For a select period of time, we estimated that almost 40 percent of all remittances going to Vietnam was drug related, drug purses.

And I'll describe later on in meetings that we had with the Vietnamese, the reason we weren't seeing a whole lot of cooperation is the fact that this was currency, hard currency, they needed. And Vietnam has one of the fastest growing economies in Asia if not at that time, it might have been one of the fastest, more advanced than China's at the time. So it was difficult getting anything out of them.

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This slide shows essentially what we confirmed through wire intercepts of how money was actually transferred. And when we had heard in one of the undercover conversations initially in the Frying Pan investigation, one of the top female targets in that ... and by the way, that was another thing we found out. There were a lot of females that were in leadership roles in this thing that surprised us. All of them seemed to have the same first name of Mi. But it was unusual I think for us to recognize the fact that females actually had a large role in many of these organizations.

In this particular scenario, we actually confronted us with wire intercept conversation. These three money remitters at the top and the first two left and center, were Candy Box targets that essentially during Candy Box one was named On Chow after the operations over just renamed itself. There were all these properties. So none of these things were seized. And just carry on this essentially the next day.

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The fellow on the left, Jim Mach, was an object of investigation on the Atlanta DA office. Did I think one of the most outstanding jobs. That was a group that was actually a fit team unit that just worked ... well, they worked hard. Mach was already identified. His wife Mi Hun who was residing in Canada. Agents there picked up both sides of the conversation and actually laid this scenario out.

What it would essentially do, Mach would take shopping bags full of cash, walk into one of these three. These are the three that he used the most often, money remitters. Deposit the money there, go home. Make a phone call to his wife in Canada saying, okay. I dropped the money off. This is a little bit before 10:00. Call me when things are right. A day, day and a half, two days later, she would call back and say, okay. The money has been received. She had received the money in Canada. And they would talk about how much it was less the commission to do the transfer.

What essentially we had, and this is what we attributed to this Vietnamese underground baking system. And I think

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today we still don't have a full realization of what it actually constitutes. But I think the best thing we can say is it's something like a hollowist[?] that the Middle Easterners use. Some variation of that form.

But anyway, with the money going into Vietnam, again, I'll get to this point in a minute. That's where the black hole is. It went in there. It came back out somehow, some way. There was one individual identified in Vietnam. But we couldn't do anything because the Vietnamese would do anything with it. That was another story. But anyway, we sort of closed the loop on exactly how in this particular case with this organization how money was moved.

This individual, Po Doc Tran, was the primary money remitter for Hip Win, the guy that I said was pretty much the command and control individual in the United States. This guy was his primary money transfer individual. He ran a shop in Chicago identified early on. And we decided at that point that this maybe an effort that we can employ some of the high wire monies that headquarters manages that we get some high wire money, wash it through, run it through one of these ... through this individual's business

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to Vietnam and see if we can't get the Vietnamese ginned up on this thing. Get them involved looking at the fact ... not with the expectation that we were going to arrest anybody in Vietnam. But at least give the Vietnamese maybe a little evidence to play with, facts to deal with, that they could open up their own investigations and maybe eventually get this information back to them.

What they did through August and September '05 is put two transactions totaling \$70,000, wire that through Tran's business to I think a corresponding bank in Hanoi and one in Ho Chi Minh City that used to be Saigon. An undercover agent from the Vietnamese Ministry of Economy I guess is what they call it ... Finance. Was the undercover agent, secured the money and then eventually turned it ... less the 3.5 percent commission ... returned the money to our agents in Hanoi.

The only problem was it's crushing evidence on Tran. I mean, he's dead in the water with the way ... because he was informed right at the get-go that these are drug proceeds that we want sent back home. So he was under no

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uncertain terms, he knew that this was drug money that it was drug money that he was wire transferring.

The problem was, and this was a sticky issue that we had that we went round and round with the Vietnamese. There is a law in Vietnam in their code that prohibits Vietnamese law enforcement from cooperating ... as difficult as this may sound ... from cooperating with outside agencies in a drug investigation or any kind of criminal investigation. So when we went back expecting can we get surveillance photographs? Can we get reports from the undercover agents? Can we get all matter of evidence that's collected, receipts, paperwork, names and identities and information of individuals that were contacted?

Not a thing. We got nothing from them. Whether or not that was really the way it was, we'll probably never know. But I know the guys, our two agents, Jeff Warner, was the CA. I don't know if he still is or not. But he worked his tail off trying to get this thing done, but couldn't get them to cooperate.

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The three methods of getting money back to Canada. Bulk currency seemed to us the most popular way of doing it. At least we got a lot of seizures out of their effort. Again, the remitter, travel agencies, a lot of times they were one and the same thing. They were under the same roof. Of course, the underground banking system that I alluded to before.

Just some of the pictures that were sent in from various offices in the course of the investigations, something that we found unusual was the crystallized MDMA that actually crossed the border I think in Blaine in a seizure that was made subsequent to that a few days later in California. The first and only instance we ever saw crystallized MDMA. The 81s, I think that was a situation where undercover agents in the Northeast, I think it was the Boston area, were representing themselves as Hells Angels. And they were into a ... I think it was a part Vietnamese/Laotian group.

And essentially, they made an offer to the Vietnamese kids we want you guys to produce a special pill. And 81s meaning eight was the eighth letter in the alphabet, H.

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The first letter in the alphabet A, Hells Angels. They wanted 81s as their signature MDMA tablet for this organization. They were successful eventually. But we did hear reports back that some of the undercover representing themselves and looking like Hells Angels when they're dealing with these 5'6", 125 pound soaking wet kids scared the bejeebies out of them occasionally. And they were somewhat reluctant to deal with them. I guess undercover playing the role a little bit too much.

Gas tanks. We saw an incredible number of instances where drugs and money were concealed in the gas tanks going north and south. Alex noted this in the Candy Box presentation. We saw it again in both Root Canal and Frying Pan. These kids they liked Japanese produced cars. The Acura was I think one of the most popular. Because it had easy access to the fuel pump and the gas tank right behind the backseat.

So these kids would drive fifty miles, pull into a gas station, gas up again. Get back out on the highway. And surveillance would notice 40, 50, 60 miles, they'd pull in a gas station and gas up again. It didn't take long to

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figure out our gas tank's loaded. These guys are loaded. Quite often we arranged traffic stops in other states as far as I know Jacksonville picked South Carolina all the time because they had good cooperation with the troopers there. They never miss. But gas tanks again were quite popular.

Weapons again. We did see instances where in the latter stages of Sweet Tooth of guns. And this sort of carried onto the follow-up investigation Northern Exposure which came after Sweet Tooth. Again, looking at the same common denominators essentially. But we did see guns started coming out of Texas, going up to Canada which obviously is of great concern to the Canadian counterparts.

The tire concealment. Quite often money was going north, particularly in the Gulf Coast region of Texas, going up to a particular gas station, service station, in Buffalo, New York. Where the vehicles would go in, garage door would go down. An hour or two later, the car would come out and start heading back south again. Cars with Canadian plates would come in, go into the bay. The door would come down, pack up. Take the money back. But unload the pills that

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were coming in. So it was essentially a one stop shop there in this particular gas station.

I think it was after the Candy Box takedown that headquarters wanted to look seriously ... and the name of the section escapes me at the moment. I can't remember. But what they essentially did is headquarters decided let's take a closer look at the results or the effect of this operation Candy Box. So they went out and they interviewed the agents and as many informants, cooperating defendants and witnesses as they could in the cities of Jacksonville, Houston ... New Orleans, Jacksonville, Houston and LA. And tried to get a handle on exactly what was the impact of this investigation?

And we wanted to take a look at it as well. And if you look at the map of the United States and you look at the upper northwest quadrant, there's about a 530, 540 mile section of the U.S./Canadian border that's covered by what they call the Pacific Ibit. It's an interdiction team that integrated border interdiction team I think staffed by U.S. and Canadian officials.

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So we wanted to look ... and again, this represents April, June of '04, the first three months after Candy Box ... at what seizures looked at this particular section of the U.S./Canada border. So we went by quarter and saw obviously by the January/March timeframe, things were well underway. Groups had reconstituted themselves essentially worse than it ever was as far as coming across the seizures, in other words coming across the border.

So I give this indication that they prove obviously that we are (inaudible). As quickly as these groups reconstitute themselves, they can do this with relative ease. Because we saw this after Candy Box, after Root Canal, Frying Pan or the Sweet Tooth Operation, they were back at it in months. The only time that we actually saw pauses in any of this activity was during the lunar new year. I think that's in the January/February timeframe. When these kids in just massive numbers head back home to Vietnam, Cambodia, China. And they'd be out of the picture for awhile. But they'd come back full of vim and vigor and ready to run again. Organizations would start. And again, they had essentially their own organizations, the familiarity with the individuals they have, the

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associations that they had during the course of their younger lives, it made it easy for them.

This is just another statistical grab that we put together, incorporating a little bit more time. The recommendations ... and this sort of struck at the question what do we do now? We found that we couldn't make any headway with the Vietnamese. The Chinese were hit and miss. Laotians, forget about it. Anything that we tried to go outside the U.S. with the exception of our Canadian counterparts. We were both swimming in the same water. I mean, we both were coming up short on anything outside to enhance investigations, enhance prosecutions, further identify these units, these organizations.

We knew at this point we had to go beyond the scope of just another round of investigations, another round of another Sweet Tooth, another Root Canal, another Candy Box. At that point, SOD or myself, Jay, we hooked up members of the financial ... Tommy Ma who's staff coordinator up in financial operations. We went and got whole issues that we wanted to look at with the Hanoi country office, Jeff Warner. And we sat down and essentially put together a

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game plan of all right. This is what we need to do. These are the next steps that we have to at least take a proactive effort in this thing. Because none of us really felt like doing another series of operations like this. When we know we're going to be limited in the scope of where we can expand.

The other memorandum of understanding that the DEA and the Ministry of Public Security. We actually had pushed this thing for a number of years. President Bush actually went to Vietnam. And I can't remember the timeframe. But it was for another conference, another series of meetings where it actually signed this thing. So it was at least officially recognized that there would be some level of cooperation in writing to the degree whether they were actually going to comply with us with the tenants of the MOU left a lot for interpretation. I'll put it that way.

We had some money laundering legislation. We had told these guys repeatedly, and Jeff Warner was sort of the (inaudible) in this thing. If you don't do something about this Vietnam turning in the narco state. Because of the fact that we had identified so much money, drug proceeds

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coming into the country, a lack of will, a lack of legislation, to deal with it effectively, we tried to get them to understand that you're heading the same way as some of these South American countries are back in the day.

Coupled with that, we wanted with the MOU, the law enforcement cooperation. And if it's not only just with the U.S. The concerns we had with the Canadian commons. Australia has a heck of a problem with MDMA coming into their country from this area and Vietnamese involvement. Along the Pacific Rim. Again, several of these locations effected by lack of effective law enforcement. The asset sharing. We've dangled that aspect in front of them. Listen, if we can identify proceeds in your country, we can seize this money. We can share the amounts with you proportionately.

This 981. This was somewhat (inaudible). We actually had to debrief, not debrief. We actually had to give a presentation to the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. This is something that we had actually planned on doing with the Ambassador to China and we did with the U.S. Ambassador to Canada. Sit down with Ambassador Mike Maureen. No

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kidding. This guy's name was Mike Maureen. He was an ex-Marine, fought in the Vietnam War. A very sympathetic ear. Plus the fact that he was retiring a few months. So he was willing to do what needed to be done.

This is what we call sort of the nuclear option on this one. This was something that we discussed with him, members of his staff, State Department, ethanol attorneys which we had Lewis at the time. Describing essentially and putting it in very, very simple terms. If we identified proceeds in Vietnam, drug proceeds, that if we can't get them through legitimate exchanges of (inaudible) or whatever that if that particular institution has a corresponding account in the United States, if that amount of money that we've identified in that account can be seized in the United States. And that account essentially being frozen.

When we were explaining this to Ambassador Maureen was all for this idea. How many time has this been? Years. And our ethanol attorney Linda Samuels said it's been done fifteen times and it's remarkable how quickly the country comes to the table when they know that international trade

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is going to be effected by the closing of an account. They need that account open to affect trade.

So that was something that we put in our back pocket. The only problems is on the reverse side of that, it's going to absolutely crush ... if we actually employed that thing, it was going to crush the working relationship at that point with our DEA office and Hanoi and our counterparts. Because it actually was such a high profile issue. And again, that's a tenant in the Patriot Act.

We did make a trip to Vietnam. Unfortunately, our Canadian counterparts weren't able to make it, scheduling difficulties and it couldn't. And our window was very short. Because I was getting ready to retire. And I wanted to get in there and do this before we did. We did meet with the Vietnamese. And I found it interesting. Because in attending these meetings, I've worked as an attaché in Vienna and we have a lot of experience in working with former communist governments. Because we had essentially eleven countries in the former East bloc that we covered.

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And I was interested to see how they would approach this and who would they bring to these meetings and how the information flow would take place. And we sat across the delegation of Vietnamese, the Minister of Public Security, the Economic Police, their version of the State Department. They actually had a Minister there. And exchanged information, gave the song and dance and essentially a litany of issues that we had come across in these investigations that we wanted direct action being done. In light of the fact that MOU had been signed.

And pretty much par for the course in that information will be channeled to the top and filtered its way down instead of what we do and our interaction with our own agencies. We'd sit down and we'd meet with our counterparts across the table who essentially do the same thing we do. We all had the same interests. This was another one of those instances where ... and this is again a communist government. But the information will be filtered from the top down. So by the time it gets down to the working stiff, the working guy that you're interacting with or trying to interact with, he knows about maybe an eighth of

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the information that he needs. So we're not too successful in that aspect.

The use of a regional legal adviser. We've asked the State Department if there was possibly one of their RLAs and its regional legal adviser, actually the State Department ... I'm sorry, a DOJ attorney who essentially provides advice to struggling governments, new emerging democracies, certainly very successful in the former East bloc countries, Rumania, of course. But in this case, we couldn't get the cooperation from the State Department on this one. It was just too sensitive of an issue. The foundation essentially hadn't been laid for us to do that.

So I retired and the rest is history. But anyway, I think we made progress to a certain degree. But there were a lot of, you know, we felt like we came up short and had a tendency to beat ourselves up a little bit. Because of the fact that, you know, if we'd have done this, maybe this would have happened. If we'd have done this, we'd have gotten these people involved. So hindsight is always 20/20. But that pretty much wraps up the U.S. portion of Sweet Tooth. I guess we're going to do questions after

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Sandra's presentation. But again, just by way of introduction, in thirty-two years of law enforcement, I never found a more agreeable, easy to work with counterpart than Sandra Basso with RCMP. And I've worked overseas for ten and a half years. And I never came across anybody ... other than the fact that I understand what she was saying all the time because she spoke English. But it's been a pleasure to work with her. She was just the best.

(inaudible) money later. Please welcome Sandra. [applause]

MS. SANDRA BASSO: Good morning. I know you all have a burning question actually before we even get started. I always get this question as a Royal Canadian Mounted Police. No, I don't ride a horse to work. I actually ride a police car. So let's get that out of your head right now. For us, Project O'Skillet was a project of Operation Frying Pan and Root Canal. Root Canal was again on the East Coast station in Atlanta. And Frying Pan was on the West Coast. Actually, they had started off actually in Chicago.

I'm going to tell the story of how we brought it together as one project for the RCMP. And it's a story actually that is actually of cooperation, communication and success.

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Its investigation highlights how real-time sharing of information between both agencies, investigators and analysts can make the difference between actually just doing a couple of local arrests and actually doing an international takedown.

I will speak on some of the undercover operations we conducted in Canada and some of the legal requirements. I will also speak in very layman terms on the extradition process and how it relates to or how it related to the Canadian subjects that were actually arrested and finally extradited to the United States to face criminal charges.

In March, 2004, the Drug Enforcement Administration had actively been investigating a marijuana and MDMA and money laundering organization operating between the United States, Canada and Vietnam. In August of 2004, the RCMP entered a cooperative investigation, identifying several Canadians in the distribution of Canadian marijuana and MDMA.

One of the main targets that originated was Hip Van Win. An interesting aspect actually on both of these

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investigations, meaning Root Canal and Frying Pan, the main targets on both of those investigations were actually Canadians that had decided to actually move to the U.S. to operate their own distribution network which was really a controlling factor. Because generally a lot of the Canadian's targets stay out of the U.S. thinking that by staying out of the actual country, they can actually avoid being charged in U.S. charges. So it's interesting that these two fellows actually decided to move down there.

Hip Van Win, when he left Canada, it appeared that he had actually started to setup shop in Chicago. And originally, we were dealing with the DEA in the Chicago area. And they were getting prepared to go up on a Title III. And then all of a sudden, he ended up moving to the Los Angeles area. He had an extensive Canadian criminal record, but did not have any drug related offenses. Hip Van Win, as far as we could figure out actually ... and those are mainly from the intercepts from the Los Angeles areas, that he had three main Canadian sources of supply. One female in the Vancouver area, Kuk, and then two males in the greater Toronto area. Both of which were identified at a later date.

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In May of 2005, the Chicago office was orchestrating MDMA exchange in the Chicago area. By the way, Hip Van Win used Canadian source of supply Nan Viet Nuin to provide 10,000 MDMA tablets. When the Chicago deal happened actually, Nan was not identified. He was solely referred to as Tom on the line. We thought perhaps through that UC operation in Chicago that he may actually be identified. But the only person that was identified was the actual courier that delivered the 10,000 MDMA tablets. And then in return, he brought up the \$35,000 U.S. that was for payment. So he was the only one that was identified during that.

Nan Viet Nuin. Nan Viet Nuin was Tom, was the gentleman that Hip Van Win was using as one of his Canadian sources of supply. Nan was not known to police. He did not have any Canadian record. Again, came from Vietnam in 1985, lived in Toronto, Ontario with his wife. His wife actually operated Polly's Nails which you saw a photograph in Tom's presentation there. Historically, Asian organized crime groups have used nail salons or hair salons operated by the Vietnamese community as a money laundering. The RCMP was not on a Title III wiretap investigation on Nan. So we

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actually could not confirm that. Although, we had taken him and heard on surveillance many times to Polly's Nail's, we could never actually come out and say that it was involved.

The courier that was identified was Chester Norman Armstrong. Chester Norman Armstrong is a First Nation's person. And historically, the First Nation people have been tied to the Vietnamese. And we think that originally a lot of those relationships were formed in the tobacco days when they were transporting tobacco between Canada and the U.S. It appears now in an investigation that we just took down in the summertime that as well in Canada a lot of the First Nations people operate, unofficial we'll say, cigarette stands on the native reserves. And there has been an indication that the Vietnamese will actually travel to those reserves and start buying these cigarettes, low cost cigarettes and then start actually forging their relationships and using them actually to transport the product across the border.

The other theory as to why the Vietnamese are using them is First Nations people, of course, have a lot easier time

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crossing the border. A lot of them will have dual residency. They'll have an address in the United States and have an address in Canada as well. So their frequency for traveling is actually much more and a lot more convenient than some other couriers that are used.

The MDMA purchase ... during that Chicago deal actually or after that Chicago deal, Hip Van Win, who was still on a wiretap investigation or Title III in the Los Angeles area, kept up his conversations or negotiations with the gentleman or the Canadian source of supply known as Tom. We knew that at that point in August, there was pressure on in terms of identifying these people. And we knew that we'd have to bring this file to an end prior to ... or having to identify them priorily.

So it was decided that the best way to identify some of the Canadian sources of supply was to actually conduct an undercover operation. And the undercover operation we did with Nan ... sorry, with Hip Van Win was to draw out ... we decided to sort of do the plan that there was a gentleman in the Toronto area that needed to purchase 20,000 MDMA tablets. So negotiations started with the cooperating

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defendant and Hip Van Win. And that cooperating defendant was given the phone number or the name for Tom to start setting up these deals.

At the time that we started to set them up, we actually didn't know who would be drawn out of the woodwork. Because we didn't know how many other Canadian sources of supply that Hip actually had. It was only by fluke that, of course, when the cooperating defendant was contacted by the Canadian source of supply, it actually turned out to be Tom. And Tom at that time was then identified as Nan Viet Nuin.

During that operation, we actually used a DEA undercover operator. Because he was Vietnamese. And he was also playing the role that he was an American, but was traveling into the Canadian area to get Canadian MDMA. The RCMP supplied the finances for that purchase. It was (inaudible) and supplied for a price of \$2.50 per tablet. The pills that were seized were blue in color, two types of blue and the dove symbol. The deals started on one day and actually came to fruition on the next. With Nan actually supplying directly. There was no other courier involved

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directly the DEAUC. And that's just a close up of the doves there.

Because of that successful deal, negotiations or conversations continued with Hip Van Nuin, the cooperating defendant in California and with Tom or Nan now. The undercover operation in Canada, even though it is an undercover agent or DEA agent, we actually have to get paper to actually start intercepting their phones. So it's like a mini wiretap. We call it a one party consent. That one party consent is in place on the UC's phone, on the undercover operator's phone. So any conversations that he had in Canada with Tom, with Nan Viet Nuin were actually recorded. Those recordings were actually then sent down to the prosecuting office. And they were used as evidence for the U.S. charges.

We attempted a second purchase actually from Tom to see if we can draw out any other Canadian sources of supply. And unfortunately, Tom met with the DEAUC. And then apparently must have picked out surveillance, got spooked and never returned. He did pick up the packaging, but never brought it to the UC. But after that, that in itself was not a bad

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thing actually. Because that spurred on a whole bunch of conversation between Hip in California, Tom, the Canadian source of supply, and, of course, the cooperating defendant. Because Tom was actually blaming the cooperating defendant, saying there was something wrong with him. So that evidence was used in the prosecution as well.

The Title IIIs continued on Hip Van Win after this. And even in the beginning, we knew that there was a Canadian source of supply that went by the name of Tony. And there was a multitude of Tony's. So we ended up calling him Tony number one. Tony number one had actually traveled to California to meet with Hip or the person that we thought was Tony number one. So in late August, he was actually identified meeting with Hip. The unfortunate thing is that we needed to actually confirm his role in the organization, and that being the Canadian source of supply, to actually make him prosecutorial. Because other than that, there was just somebody needing Hip, who turned out to be Canadian.

Again, we decided to do another undercover operation. Again, not knowing who Hip would provide the cooperating

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defendant with. Again, we were just lucky that at that time Hip provided Tony number one. And Tony was then confirmed to be Tuwan Nox Sam. And that was again another purchase of MDMA pills for \$2.50 a pill for 25,000.

Twan Nox Sam, again, is from Vietnam. He became a Canadian citizen in 1986, sponsored his wife. He again had no prior Canadian record and was not known to police. After he was identified, it was determined that Sam was actually spending a fair rate of time in Canadian casinos. And historically, casinos have been used for a multitude of reasons, some of them being to launder the proceeds. Some of them actually started off their business by loan sharking. And the other one is to actually just hold meetings because it's a public place.

In terms of Sam's case, it was actually just to hold meetings. There's a lot of background noise. Nobody's really paying attention to you. And actually because they hang out in the Pagout tables, which are Asian derived games, they actually don't stand out. So they can blend in quite easily. The good thing about using casinos is actually there's thousands and thousands of cameras. And

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we actually have access to all of those. So it actually works out very well for us if they do decide to do that.

These are the purchase from Sam. Again, it was a DAUC. And actually, it was the same UC that came up and orchestrated the deal with Sam. Again, it was the RMCP provided the \$25,000 for the purchase of the 10,000 pills. These ones were with the Nike symbol. It should be interesting that the analysis of these pills as well confirm not only them to the MDMA and to, of course, have a filler of caffeine. But both of these purchases also had a high level of meth in them. And we're thinking now that the reason for the meth is actually the repeat customers. People get addicted a lot faster. And therefore, they'll come back to purchase them all the time.

At the same time that the Frying Pan, Los Angeles I'll say, investigation was going on, Atlanta was doing its own investigation. And they had identified the Canadian who had moved down to the Atlanta area to setup his own MDMA distribution network. This individual used family members, relatives and others actually, to organize and transport large quantities of MDMA tablets from the Toronto area to

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the Atlanta area. And this individual was known as Kim Twan Mac. Kim Twan Mac has since died in jail. He actually had cancer upon his arrest. But he ended up having a heart attack in jail.

He as well had no prior Canadian criminal record and was not known to police either. When he lived up here, we think that the last ... he started spending a fair rate of time in the United States traveling back and forth in the early 2005. Atlanta DEA actually started intercepting him in August of 2005. And then he jumped onboard. The big difference between the Root Canal side, which was the Atlanta East Coast side, and the Frying Pan side is that we did not do any purchases or any buy walks on the Atlanta targets. Mainly because they were actually all identified through the intercepts, Special Agent Ken McCloud intercepts, wiretap, investigation on Kim, it was much easier to identify who he was talking to in the Canadian area. And some of those reasons are going to become very bold as to why.

One of the individuals that he used was his son Thomas. Thomas is an interesting character. Because he had been

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convicted of attempted murder on a police officer in Canada in 1992. Unfortunately, he entered a plea of guilty right away, plea bargaining and was sentenced to only twelve years. And in Canada, of course, you rarely serve your full sentence. So he was released in I think October, 2001. After that ... or he probably began his real estate license as he was in jail. And so when he came out, he actually served his father very well and started using that license to locate residential, commercial property suited for his father's indoor growth. Keep it all in the family.

He also then started aiding in the organization of the MDMA tablets going down to the U.S. He actually did not fight his extradition too hard. Because he knew that he was going down. It sounded like he actually had a fear of his father as well. He did not cooperate upon arrest at all. Actually, none of the Root Canal subjects cooperated upon arrest.

The other individual that Kim has used was his second wife, Mi Ka Huin. And these are some before and after pictures. This was the color pictures on the summertime there were pictures taken of her on surveillance in the Toronto area.

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So she fought extradition very hard. So she was not extradited until over two years after arrest. She spent two years in Canadian jail awaiting her extradition. And in terms of actual U.S. prosecution, that is dead time. That does not count towards their sentence at all. And that's how she looked on the day that she was extradited.

So a complete ... she started off I think helping Kim with her scene in marijuana. It appears that that's where he started, in the marijuana growth. And that's what she was doing. But as Ken McCloud went up on the intercepts on Kim Mach, they realized that she was actually involved in the day-to-day operations of the MDMA distribution. And the packaging, the secreting of the MDMA was at times done at their residence. And then, of course, organizing the couriers.

And then she was also involved in the proceeds. Tom touched a bit on the proceeds coming back into Canada. In terms of that organization, the only time that we actually witnessed or the handling of proceeds ... what we guessed to be the proceeds. Because, again, we were not on wiretap investigation in Canada. So we weren't privy to all their

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conversations. But she and the close associates that Kim Mach used, another Canadian, entered into a jewelry store in a completely Asian mall. And instead of going to the counter, they actually went behind the store and came out with a little baggy. And we had guessed that that would probably have been used in the laundering of their proceeds.

The third person in that Root Canal that was extradited was Trun Sun Tran. And Trun Sun Tran was a close associate of Kim Mach. He, on a daily basis during surveillance, was observed actually traveling with Kim's wife. He was an old time, you know, criminal activity. Although, he again did not have any drug related charges. But he did organize his own criminal group as well. It seemed that he actually had wanted to sort of depart from Kim Mach's organization and setup his own. The interesting thing about him, and it was backdoor information. I can't prove or disprove it. But while he was incarcerated, it appeared that he was setting up his own network while he was still incarcerated in Canada while waiting to be extradited.

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Antonio Travaris is the last Canadian that has been extradited. He was, as a result of lines on Hip Van Win in the Los Angeles area, they decided to take down Antonio. And Antonio was in his own vehicle. But when he was stopped, he had \$150,000 U.S. currency on the front seat of his vehicle in an envelope. Antonio is a truck driver. And it is assumed that that's what he was original used for was transporting product across the border. And that's perhaps what he was doing with that money as well is maybe that he had rented a vehicle and was going to drop it off into his trailer before crossing the border. But again, he had no prior criminal Canadian record and was not known to police.

The result is that the two major drug transportation rings were dismantled with ties in Canada, Vietnam and sixty-one U.S. distribution groups. Over 300 individuals were arrested. Fifty-eight search warrants were executed, both in Canada and the United States. We had only a mark down over just close to a million tablets and just over 600 kilos of marijuana seized. All the Canadians were extradited into the United States for prosecution. All of them have entered a guilty plea and are awaiting

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sentencing. And a side note on one of them. Actually, Sam, one of the Canadian sources of supply, is he has already applied in a prisoner exchange to come back up to Canada. So it happens a lot faster than we have.

But I just want to touch a little bit on the extradition process and why we went to extradition on this file. The extradition act is generally governed more so in politics than it is actually in the Department of Justice. It's the Minister that signs off on someone surrendering to be prosecuted into the United States. There is a lot of criteria that needs to be considered in terms of extradition. But in layman terms, in investigators terms, you look at where the bulk of the evidence lies. And would there have been successful prosecution in Canada should all the American information be taken away? And in this case, the answer always came up that the bulk of the evidence lied in the United States. And that would be the highest percentage of successful prosecution.

When you decide to go to extradition, it cannot be a last minute thing. It actually has to be planned with the Department of Justice, the AUSA and the investigators

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involved. Because it takes a lot of preplanning. The U.S. investigators must submit through the AUSA, that finally gets up to the Canadian Department of Justice, a package that establishes the records of the case, how the identity of this individual was known and why you believe this individual to be in the Canada area.

That package, how it is presented, will determine whether it will be provisional arrest warrants or whether it will be straight arrest warrants. If it's provisional arrest warrants, it means that you have just proven necessity. It means that this person must be arrested now because of. And in this case in terms of the Operation Sweet Tooth, O'Skillet, they were all arrested in the provisional arrest warrants. Because we proved a lot of things. One of them being that it was an international takedown that should the Canadians find out that the Americans were arrested that there was a risk of flight. And risk of flight includes not just the ability to travel, but the resources to get false documentation and the motivation actually to travel.

So once the American package comes up and it actually is sanctioned that we will be going extradition, then the

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Canadian investigators has to do up their own extradition package for each individual as well. So in this case, I think I did up nine affidavits presenting risk of flight identity on why I believe this person to be the same person that the Americans want and why I believe this person could be here in Canada. So it's a fairly extensive process. It only happens after both Departments of Justices actually agree that this is the best option. It again cannot happen overnight.

The extradition process itself, once the target gets arrested, he has the ability to surrender himself in the sense that he will not fight the extradition process. In that case, I've seen someone be extradited to the United States as fast as three months. And I say fast because the longest I've seen is actually five years. The old extradition process was the five year one. That took a lot more time. The new one actually is generally between a year to two years. And that's with a few appeals as well.

The main thing with extradition is proof of identity. That the person that you have on the lines is the person that you have here in Canada. And sometimes that can get fairly

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tricky unless you have the undercover operations that we had, that was an easy proof for us. And that successful prosecution would be best served in the other country. In this case, it was the United States.

So all these people now have been extradited. The last one went, I'm going to say was Mi Nach Hun. She went late last year or early this year actually. So she sat in a Canadian prison for a very long time. And that value's nothing. And that's it. I think I've gone through it all.

[applause]

MS: We have some time for questions. All I would ask is if anyone has a question if you would wait for Ms. Shanida with her microphone. Katie, if you wouldn't mind loaning yours so that he has a microphone. That way we can get the question and the answer both for the transcript. Questions please for either of our speakers. Don't everybody jump up at once. Far too much to take in in one session.

MS: I also have an advisory site (inaudible)

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MS: Always a good thing. No one has any questions. Both Constable Basso and Special Agent Slavinkay will be here following the conclusion of our program if you'd like to come up and say a few words. I would like to ask and thank, as a matter of fact, Katie Drew, our educator here on the staff for putting this session together. And she has both for Special Agent Slavinkay and Constable Basso a small token of appreciation from the museum staff. I want to publicly thank Pam Lambo from the Embassy of Canada for her efforts in putting this program together. Pam, thank you very, very much.

And, of course, we want to thank the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for their support in sending down our wonderful guest speakers, both for this session and for the one last month. We are grateful for the continuing cooperative effort between DEA and RCMP. And we look forward to that relationship continuing in the future. I should mention that I hope you don't regret anything you said today. Because you will be able to access a transcript of this session as well as all of the museum's monthly lecture series. They'll be available probably in a couple of weeks on our museum website.

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And a shameless plug. If you haven't visited the museum in awhile, please do so. There's some great exhibits and a gift shop with the holidays coming up, I'm sure there's plenty of opportunities for you there for stocking stuffers. Thank you all very much for coming Constable Basso, thank you. Special Agent Slavinkay, thank you. You all have a good day. [applause]

**(END OF TRANSCRIPT)**