

Statement from Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal on Gov. Gavin Newsom's announcement that 150 National Guard troops will deploy to Northern California to "go after illegal cannabis farms":

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has had a long standing relationship with the state and CA National Guard.

They have been providing manpower and resources to the County for several years to combat illegal trespass grows on public and private lands.

This is a carryover of the "CAMP" program.

We have worked alongside our state and federal partners on combatting cartels and Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) growing marijuana on public lands.

Due to this partnership we have seen a significant decrease in these DTO growing operations in our County. Humboldt County only identified a handful of trespass grows last year. We believe this is due to our enforcement efforts and the significant increase in Marijuana Supply and the rock bottom price MJ is getting on the black market. At least in Humboldt County we are not seeing DTO grows like we used to.

However, we welcome the Governor's proposal to send more public safety resources to the rural areas of CA to combat the few DTOs that still exist. I believe resources need to be shifted to combatting the trafficking of Heroin and Methamphetamine into our State from Mexico.

Right now California is being flooded with Meth and heroin from Mexico. County Law Enforcement has seen a steady increase in the amount of hard drugs that are in the streets of Humboldt County. The top priority for our County Drug Task Force is to stop the drug trafficking of these killer drugs into our county.

The DTF is working with DEA and state DOJ to try put the maximum amount of resources into stopping the flow of drugs into our county. We would welcome more assistance from the State and the Department of Justice to help combat the growing meth and heroin problem in our rural county.