

Det. Garrison...

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During the investigation, dubbed Operation "Up in Smoke," Garrison learned from the Department of Justice his investigation was related to numerous other Vietnamese cells operating in the United States (18) and Canada (4). What made the Jacksonville case stand out was the use of confidential informants for real-time intelligence in the nationwide investigation known as "Operation Candy Box."

In December 2003, a Federal Title III wire intercept order was obtained for the phone lines of the cell leader and his top assistant. Garrison, who wrote the Federal Affidavit for one of the two intercept orders, spent the next three months working 12- to 18-hour days with no days off. These intercepts provided valuable information on shipments of drugs and cash, Canadian contacts, and methods of operation.

On March 31, 2004, more than 100 JSO, DEA, and CCSO officers served six federal search warrants and 18 federal arrest warrants simultaneously, without incident, and all but one of the targets was arrested that day. The outstanding suspect was located by U. S. Marshalls in Philadelphia several months later.

Garrison immediately began conducting proffers with the defendants to obtain more intelligence on other subjects and/or cells that were operating in conjunction with the

defendants. These proffers led to several undercover deals resulting in 12 more federal indictments for trafficking MDMA, the most significant being a deal with members of a California cell to supply 50,000 MDMA tablets to Jacksonville every two weeks.

Four cell members arrived in Jacksonville and agreed to sell 10,000 MDMA tablets as a sample. After flying to Atlanta to pick up the pills, the cell members were arrested and transported back to Jacksonville for a federal arraignment.

Detective Garrison continued conducting proffers with the defendants for several months and gained valuable information about other cells operating in Philadelphia, as well as here in Jacksonville. This information was a huge break for investigators in Pennsylvania, as a top supplier from Canada to their jurisdiction was identified. Locally, the information gained has led to a spin-off case that appears to be as large, if not larger, in scope than "Up in Smoke" and is already designated as a federal OCDEF case.

Operation "Up in Smoke" was concluded in April 2005; however, seizures of assets and properties are continuing during plea agreements with defendants. The results of the investigation have netted the following statistics and seizures to date:

- 35 federal Indictments for Trafficking MDMA
- 100,000 MDMA pills (\$2,000,000 street value)
- 106 pounds of hydroponics marijuana (\$530,000 street value)
- 19 firearms (including assault rifles)
- 2 bulletproof vests
- \$396,000 U.S. currency
- 19 premium vehicles (\$450,900 blue book value)
- Jewelry, gold and silver bars, and coins (\$69,000 appraised value)
- Electronic equipment (\$97,100 appraised value)

During this investigation, Garrison dedicated himself to the case, working long hours and going weeks at a time with no days off. He did whatever it took to accomplish the mission, putting his personal life on hold. Although the investigation was a team effort and other team members' performances have been commended, Garrison stood out as a leader and an example for others to follow.

The result was the dismantling of a major drug trafficking organization that supplied thousands of pounds of marijuana and hundreds of thousands of MDMA pills to the North Florida area. It is for these reasons that the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is proud to recognize Detective Robert Garrison as the Officer of the Month in recognition of his accomplishments and dedication to duty.



...to Philip Jacob Seidenstricker, a 16-year-old resident of Arlington who was recently honored by the Jacksonville City Council for his activism and contributions to the community.

Philip's father, Paul W. Seidenstricker, was murdered in 1994, so the young boy had many challenges growing up – but his mother, Patricia O'Rourke, was a great influence in his life and he made good choices. A Boy Scout in the

troop at Christ the King Catholic Church, he held several leadership positions and has nearly completed the requirements for advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Philip attended a school for children with learning disabilities before being admitted to Bishop John Snyder High School, a college prep school on the Westside. He is an active athlete, participating on the wrestling and basketball teams at his school and earning a black belt in karate.

After several incidents of crime occurred in his neighborhood, Philip went door-to-door collecting more than 100 signatures of interested citizens, which led to the organization of a Neighborhood Watch for the benefit and safety of friends and neighbors in his area.

Our hats are off to this young man who, while overcoming personal challenges and difficulties, presents a shining example of the good that can be accomplished in one's community by positive, active, involved youth.



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5773 Normandy Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32205
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