



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
KCSO news release #06-034 / 125

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

WestNET honored as 2005 agency of the year

Port Orchard, Wash. -- It was their dedication to the mission: their strength and focus as they conducted high risk search warrants, the many sleepless nights on surveillance and their attention to detail that has all added up, as the West Sound Narcotics Enforcement Team (WestNET) was recently selected as the **2005 Agency of the Year** for Region 1 (Western Washington) of the Western States Information Network (WSIN).

“This selection for WestNET demonstrates the value of a multi-agency approach to combat illegal narcotics which, in turn, further reduces other crime,” said Sheriff Steve Boyer. “I am immensely proud of every detective and support specialist in WestNET. They are directly responsible for the dramatic reduction in the number of methamphetamine labs in this county.”

WestNET is a multi-jurisdictional task force staffed with law enforcement officers from county, state, local municipalities and federal agencies. Its mission is to disrupt and reduce mid-to-upper level drug traffickers and manufacturers in the region, support counter-drug efforts of other law enforcement agencies, and aggressively prosecute those persons responsible for controlled substance violations.

During 2005 WestNET confiscated more than 4,700 marijuana plants and investigated 19 methamphetamine labs, down 49% from 2004. WestNET arrested more than 220 persons for various illegal narcotics activities, including manufacturing and distribution of controlled substances, possession of illegal drugs and for illegal firearms violations. More than 130 search warrants were served for narcotics violations.

WSIN is one of six multi-state centers that assist law enforcement agencies with support services tailored to the investigative and prosecution needs of member agencies, as a part of the national coordinating entity known as RISS (Regional Information Sharing Systems). WSIN consists of law enforcement agencies from Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington along with a number of agencies in Canada and Guam.

Administered by the U. S. Department of Justice, RISS provides criminal intelligence information sharing, crime analysis, training and technical assistance. The RISS program allows law enforcement agencies to coordinate their efforts against criminal networks that operate in many locations across jurisdictional lines. Typical targets of RISS activities are terrorism, drug trafficking, violent crime, cyber crime, gang activity and organized crime.

###