



Department of Justice

VP
Mexico
Bensinger
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Attorney General William French Smith today issued the following statement:

"I want to thank Peter Bensinger for his long and dedicated efforts to reduce narcotics traffic in this country.

"He has worked diligently in the cause of law enforcement and can leave DEA confident of many contributions.

"He played a major role in developing cooperative law enforcement efforts with the government of Mexico that have been remarkably successful.

"During his years as head of DEA, the EPIC intelligence center was greatly expanded.

"In addition, a number of major narcotics rings have been broken up in the past few years.

"I also want to thank Peter for his willingness to remain in the Justice Department for a time to advise us on plans that have been drafted for new drug enforcement strategies, including the possibility for a larger role for the FBI."

The Associate Attorney General, Rudolph W. Giuliani, said that "Peter Bensinger can be justly proud of the contribution he has made to the Drug Enforcement Administration and to the Nation. After he leaves as Administrator, the Attorney General has asked him to continue to serve as a member of a Department of Justice committee to study and to report on coordination of the Federal drug enforcement effort. Both in that capacity and generally, I certainly will be calling upon Mr. Bensinger often for advice and counseling in dealing with the difficult and complex problems raised by drug abuse."