U.S. Department of Justice

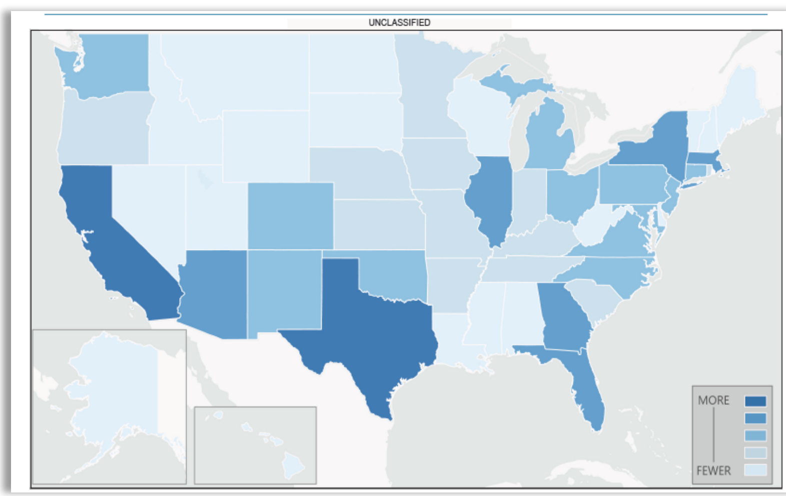
Drug Enforcement Administration

FY 2027
Performance Budget
Congressional Submission

I. Overview of the Drug Enforcement Administration

Introduction

Since its establishment through an Executive Order in July 1973 to create a single, unified command to combat "an all-out global war on the drug menace," the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has evolved from a small, domestic-oriented law enforcement agency to a globally recognized organization. The DEA works to ensure the safety and health of American communities by combating criminal drug networks bringing harm, violence, overdoses, and poisonings to the United States. Accordingly, the DEA is advancing its core "North Star" mission priorities—strengthening enforcement; dismantling the Mexican cartels; disrupting chemical supply chains; targeting illicit finance; leading the fight on the cyber and dark web frontlines; building strategic domestic and foreign partnerships; reducing violence and protecting communities; and prioritizing employee wellness. To accomplish this mission, approximately 10,000 personnel—Special Agents, Diversion Investigators, Intelligence Research Specialists, Forensic Chemists, and professional staff, are assigned to over 300 DEA offices across the globe. The DEA brings to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of organizations, involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States; and to recommend and support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.



Concentration of Jalisco New Generation Cartel and Sinaloa Cartel Affiliates in the U.S. (October 2024)

Since 2021, synthetic opioids have claimed nearly 325,000 American lives; however, there has been a recent downward trend in overdose deaths for the first time in years. In May 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that drug overdose deaths had fallen 27%, from roughly 110,000 in 2023 to about 80,000 in 2024[1]. Provisional data through late 2025 projects a further drop to around 72,000. The DEA's lab testing now shows 29 percent of fentanyl pills analyzed during Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 contained a potentially lethal dose – a dramatic reduction from the 76 percent of pills tested just two years ago. Fentanyl powder purity has also dropped to 10.3 percent, down from 19.5 percent during the same period. These reductions in potency and purity correlate with a decline in synthetic opioid deaths to levels not seen since April 2020.

[1] U.S. Overdose Deaths Decrease Almost 27% in 2024 | NCHS Pressroom | CDC

Calendar Year (CY) 2025 was a pivotal year for the DEA marked by record-breaking enforcement actions and significant policy shifts. In total, during 2025, the DEA seized more than 9,800 pounds of fentanyl and 47.2 million fentanyl pills, removing an estimated 369 million potentially deadly doses of fentanyl[2] from communities across the U.S. The DEA also seized over 78,000 kilograms of methamphetamine, 4.2 million methamphetamine pills, over 260,000 kilograms of cocaine, nearly 2,000 kilograms of heroin, over 3,000 guns, and over $600 million in total assets.

Notably, in May 2025, the Department of Justice announced the "largest fentanyl bust in DEA history," revealing that a DEA-led operation had dismantled one of the most prolific fentanyl trafficking organizations in the U.S. In coordinated pre-dawn raids across five states (New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada), agents arrested 16 suspects linked to the Sinaloa Cartel (Cartel de Sinaloa) and seized an unprecedented cache of drugs and weapons. In Albuquerque, New Mexico alone, officers seized approximately 3 million fentanyl pills and 11.5 kilograms of fentanyl powder. This "record-shattering" takedown was a significant blow to the Sinaloa Cartel and a major victory in protecting Americans from the fentanyl scourge.

Recent U.S. Government policy shifts have allowed the DEA to aggressively target every part of the Mexican cartels' global supply chain, including the thousands of individuals across the United States who work for the cartels and distribute fentanyl over social media and in communities. The Trump Administration has adopted an increasingly aggressive stance against major cartels, exemplified by the early-2025 designation of specific cartels, including the Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco New Generation Cartel (Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion or CJNG), as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). The DEA has identified tens of thousands of Sinaloa Cartel members, associates, and facilitators operating worldwide – in at least 40 countries. Jalisco New Generation Cartel also operates globally in at least 40 countries.

Designation of six Mexican Cartels and two Violent International Gangs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs)

On February 20, 2025, the State Department officially designated eight transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) as foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) and specially designated global terrorists (SDGTs): the Sinaloa Cartel (CDS), Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), Northeast Cartel (CDN), The New Michoacán Family (LNFM), Gulf Cartel (CDG), United Cartels (CU), Tren de Aragua (TdA), and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).

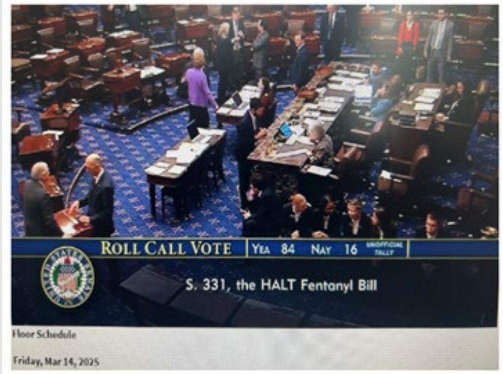
Some of the world's most violent and powerful transnational criminal organizations, who are engaged in activities ranging from drug trafficking, kidnapping, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and weapons trafficking to extortion, bribery, murder, and resource theft, carry these designations. The newly-designated TCOs constitute not only a law enforcement threat but also a national security threat due to their ongoing campaigns of violence and supply of deadly drugs throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Source: U.S. Department of State, February 2025

In Mexico, the cartels produce fentanyl and methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories. Most fentanyl is pressed into pills resembling legitimate medication and sold to customers in the U.S. through social media platforms and messaging applications. To relentlessly attack the Mexican cartels specifically, the DEA is developing a strategic approach that applies simultaneous, threat-based, data and intelligence-driven pressure across cartel leadership, logistics, finance, and infrastructure. Investigations and operations are focused to leverage cross-regional enforcement actions that are sequenced and synchronized across U.S. agencies and with international partners to prevent cartels from reforming and reconstitution, while enabling Mexican partners to sustain long-term pressure within Mexico.

[2] 2 mg of fentanyl equals one potentially deadly dose.

Congress has also moved to reinforce the DEA's fight against synthetic opioids by passing the HALT Fentanyl Act, a bipartisan bill to permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I controlled substances. Enacted in July 2025, this law removed legal ambiguities that traffickers had exploited and imposed tougher federal penalties – for example, possessing 100 grams of any fentanyl analog now carries a 10-year minimum prison sentence. Additionally, the designation of illicit fentanyl and its core precursor chemicals as a Weapon of Mass Destruction through an Executive Order signed by President Trump on December 15, 2025, will further strengthen the DEA's ability to pursue the criminal organizations responsible for manufacturing, trafficking, and financing the synthetic poison coming into the United States. These criminal networks present an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. The Executive Order ensures the full weight of the federal government is focused and coordinated to confront fentanyl as a deadly chemical weapon.



Senate Roll Call vote from March 2025.

Presidential Priorities- Eliminate Cartels and Immigration Enforcement

As the Department's single-mission agency, the DEA enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States as set forth in Title 21 U.S. Code, including its provision regarding narco-terrorism (Title 21 U.S.C. Section 960a). Therefore, the DEA plays a key role in advancing the Trump Administration's current priorities, including the total elimination of cartels identified as FTOs through enhanced law enforcement measures to disrupt their activities. From February through September 2025, the Department of State has identified 14 entities as both FTOs and Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs), including six Mexican cartels, two transnational gangs, two Haitian gangs, and two Ecuadorian criminal groups.

The DEA is also supporting the Administration's immigration enforcement priorities. The Department of Homeland Security Memorandum from January 2025 granted DEA Special Agents immigration enforcement authority, consistent with Executive Order 14159: *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*. The DEA participates in immigration enforcement arrests and devotes resources to immigration enforcement efforts, particularly those with a drug-related nexus. Between January 20, 2025, and March 13, 2026, the DEA has devoted more than 660,000 workhours to Title 8 enforcement actions.

Also, in 2025, Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) were established via Executive Order 14159, Section 6, to end the presence of criminal cartels, foreign gangs, and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) throughout the United States. TCOs typically engage in multiple forms of organized criminal activity, including drug trafficking, violence, terrorism, corruption, human smuggling, human trafficking, weapons trafficking, and money laundering. This whole of government approach includes federal law enforcement partners, United States Attorney's Offices, and representation from relevant state, territorial, and local law enforcement agencies, among others. Currently, the DEA shares a leadership role with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 26 of the 30 HSTF Core Cities throughout the United States and has initiated the majority of active HSTF investigations – this includes legacy investigations from the former Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF). The DEA has 1,968 active HSTF investigations. Since August 4, 2025, DEA's HSTF investigations have led to a total of 2,290 arrests and the seizure/encounter of over 900 firearms, over 460 kilograms of fentanyl powder, over 4.8 million fentanyl pills, $25 million in cash, and $180 million in assets.

The DEA's North Star Mission Priorities

The DEA is focused its core "North Star" mission priorities—strengthening enforcement; dismantling the Mexican cartels; disrupting chemical supply chains; targeting illicit finance; leading the fight on the cyber and dark web frontlines; building strategic domestic and foreign partnerships; reducing violence and protecting communities; and prioritizing employee wellness. Each engagement, operation, and modernization initiative reflect the agency's commitment to unified, result-driven action against the organizations driving drug-related harm. The DEA must continue to adapt organizationally to combat a threat that is faster, better networked, and more violent than anything encountered in the agency's past fifty-two years.

Fentanyl Free America

The DEA is intensifying its fight against the deadly threat of synthetic opioids with the launch of Fentanyl Free America on December 3, 2025, an enforcement initiative and public awareness campaign aimed at reducing both the supply and demand for fentanyl. The DEA remains at the forefront of the fight to disrupt trafficking networks and strengthen the government's response to this epidemic. Fentanyl Free America represents the DEA's heightened focus on enforcement, education, public awareness, and strategic partnerships. The goal of the campaign is clear—to eliminate the fentanyl supply fueling the nation's deadliest drug crisis.

The Fentanyl Free America campaign also emphasizes the importance of public engagement. The DEA encourages everyone from community leaders, clergy, educators, parents, physicians, pharmacists, and law enforcement to take an active role in raising awareness by protecting others through education; preventing fentanyl poisonings by understanding the dangers; and supporting those impacted. To date, these efforts have resulted in 4,965 arrests and the seizure of 1,867 kilograms of fentanyl, 102,352 kilograms of cocaine, 28,832 kilograms of methamphetamine, more than 8.4 million fentanyl pills, and over 35.7 million methamphetamine pills. These results are not just statistics. They represent lives saved, violence prevented, and communities protected.

Western Hemisphere Focus and Sensitive Investigative Unit (SIU) Program

The DEA's primary enforcement focus is on the Western Hemisphere since the most lethal drugs threatening the United States are produced, financed, and distributed to major consumer markets from this region. Mexican-based drug cartels and other transnational criminal organizations dominate the global supply chains for these substances, making the Western Hemisphere the epicenter of the drug crisis impacting American communities. To combat and confront these threats, the DEA manages and supports Sensitive Investigative Units (SIUs) in 14 countries worldwide comprised of over 1,100 active members with an average annual direct-funded budget of $20 million - 10 SIUs with 1,000 members are located in Western Hemisphere countries. The SIU program is one of the DEA's most effective counterdrug programs that provides vetted host nation law enforcement counterparts with specialized training and operational expertise in the effort to disrupt and dismantle the world's most notorious drug trafficking organizations known for producing and transporting hundreds of metric tons of illicit drugs each year.

Since the SIU program's inception in 1996, operational outcomes have resulted in major asset seizures, arrests, and extraditions of high-level traffickers, money launderers, and individuals involved in supporting violent extremist organizations. More recently, on February 26, 2026, members of the Colombia SIU (Colombian National Police, Directorate of Judicial Investigations), in coordination with the DEA's Cartagena, Colombia Resident Office, executed a search warrant at a warehouse located in south Bogota, Colombia with assistance from the Colombian Army. The operation resulted in the arrest of two explosive experts who previously built bombs for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

Targeted Surge Initiatives and Key Enforcement Milestones

U.S. Operation Leading to the Arrest of Nicolás Maduro Moros

On January 3, 2026, a combined U.S. operation resulted in the arrest of Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of Venezuela, and his wife, Cilia Flores in Caracas, Venezuela. Both are now in U.S. custody to face justice on serious allegations tied to corruption, violence, and large-scale narcotics trafficking. Maduro was integral to the Cartel de los Soles, a state-embedded trafficking enterprise that has operated in close coordination with the ELN, which remains a designated FTO. Maduro's network enabled and supported violent criminal and insurgent expansion, including Tren de Aragua and the FARC dissident elements. This investigation was spearheaded by the Special Operations Division's Bilateral Investigative Unit in close coordination with interagency partners including the FBI, HSI, CBP and the Department of War. The DEA's Special Agents, Task Force Officers, Intelligence Analysts, and professional staff worked long hours to develop and validate the intelligence that enabled operational success.

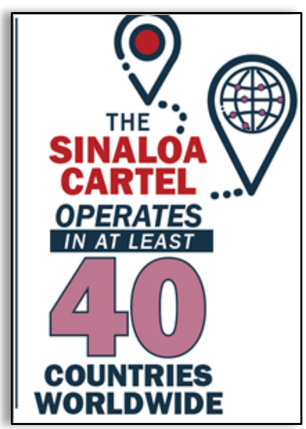
Washington, D.C., and Memphis Federal Law Enforcement Surge

The DEA has deployed Special Agents to Washington D.C., and to Memphis, Tennessee, to assist with reducing and preventing violent crime. These enforcement actions are resulting in arrests, weapons seizures, and narcotics recoveries, while also providing vital community assistance, such as overdose reversals and recovering missing children. In Washington, D.C., expanded joint operations have resulted in significant arrests and seizures targeting drivers of violence and narcotics-related criminal activity. Since the inception in August 2025, the DEA and 24 participating agencies have arrested 10,626 individuals, seized 1,127 firearms, located 16 missing children, and executed 114 search warrants. These combined efforts have contributed to a decrease in overall crime. In Memphis, sustained federal surge efforts, including multi-agency task forces, have enabled more effective targeting and removal of violent offenders from the streets. Since the Task Force began in September 2025, the DEA and 31 participating agencies have arrested 5,602 individuals, seized 915 firearms, located 148 missing children, and executed 135 search warrants. Data continues to reflect a downward trend in serious crime during these coordinated efforts.

Jalisco New Generation Cartel Enforcement Surge

In September 2025, the DEA conducted a week-long operational surge aimed at dismantling the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (or CJNG). From September 22 through September 26, 2025, DEA agents across 26 domestic field divisions and seven foreign divisions carried out coordinated enforcement actions that resulted in 670 arrests, and seizures of 92.4 kilograms of fentanyl powder, 1.2 million counterfeit pills, 6,062 kilograms of methamphetamine, 22,842 kilograms of cocaine, 33 kilograms of heroin, $18.6 million in currency, $29.7 million in assets, and 244 firearms.

Sinaloa Cartel Enforcement Surge



In late August 2025, in one of the most sweeping operations of the year, the DEA conducted a week-long surge (Aug 25–29) targeting the Sinaloa Cartel's networks worldwide. This synchronized crackdown spanned 26 DEA domestic field divisions and seven foreign divisions, all executing arrests and seizures in their areas of responsibility as part of a concerted push to fragment the cartel's global operations. The results, announced on September 8, 2025, were staggering: authorities arrested 617 suspects in the sweep and confiscated 480 kilograms of fentanyl powder, 714,707 counterfeit fentanyl pills, 2,209 kilograms of methamphetamine, 7,469 kilograms of cocaine, 16.5 kilograms of heroin, as well as over $11.1 million in cash, $1.7 million in other assets, and 420 firearms.

Vape Enforcement Surge

In late September 2025, the DEA participated in a week-long operational surge with HSI, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), targeting vape shops and importers of synthetics to include: Kratom, Delta 8, Synthetic Marijuana (K2, Spice), Synthetic Cathinones (Bath Salts), etc. This was a whole-of-government approach to a dangerous situation negatively impacting the health of Americans, especially teenagers, college-aged students, and members of the military. During this enforcement surge, more than 2.3 million vape devices and cartridges, more than $8.7 million in currency and assets, and more than 100 weapons were seized.

In September 2025, the DEA discovered a 25-foot tunnel under a Laredo, Texas vape shop that appeared to be under construction for smuggling.

Extraditions and International Cooperation

From January through the end of FY 2025, the DEA's international impact is best reflected in a sustained cadence of completed extraditions and partner-enabled transfers that moved high-value defendants into U.S. courts. The year opened with Mexico extraditing alleged Sinaloa Cartel cell leader Octavio Leal-Hernandez to San Diego, removing an operational coordinator from the border region and enabling enterprise-level prosecution in a U.S. venue. Honduras followed with the extradition of Abner Estrada Cruz to the Eastern District of California to face fentanyl trafficking charges, reinforcing that U.S.-bound networks operating from abroad remain reachable through persistent bilateral law-enforcement cooperation.

Late February brought a major inflection point when Mexico executed a large-scale transfer of 29 fugitives into U.S. custody, including multiple high-consequence cartel defendants. Beyond individual cases, the operational significance was structural: extradition as a repeatable mechanism that weakens safe haven practices, strengthens prosecutorial leverage, and supports intelligence exploitation once defendants enter U.S. judicial processes.

That pattern continued in August with Mexico transferring an additional 26 fugitives to U.S. custody, including Abigael González Valencia ("El Cuini"), publicly described as a senior Los Cuinis figure and a close familial associate of CJNG leadership. His transfer was strategically significant because it targeted a facilitator tied to cartel finance and network enablement, not only drug movement, reinforcing a whole-of-government emphasis on dismantling enterprise infrastructure. The DEA's partner-enabled outcomes extended beyond North America, as well; in April, Colombia extradited Adrian Alberto Cano Gomez to Houston to face charges, including narco-terrorism and international cocaine distribution, and near fiscal year-end Honduras extradited Teodoro Rodas Dubon and Erick Yojan Lopez Miralda to Oregon to face fentanyl conspiracy charges.

In January 2026, Mexico expelled another 37 high-ranking figures from the Sinoloa, Beltran-Leyva, and CJNG cartels. This brought the total number of senior cartel figures expelled from Mexico to face the U.S. justice system to 92. Overall, these transfers have been characterized by the Government of Mexico as a public safety necessity to break up criminal networks.

Project Portero

Project Portero is the DEA's flagship operation aimed at dismantling cartel "gatekeepers," operatives who control the smuggling corridors along the Southwest Border. Gatekeepers are essential to cartel operations, directing the flow of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine into the United States while ensuring the movement of firearms and bulk cash back into Mexico. By specifically targeting them, the DEA and its partners are striking at the heart of cartel command-and-control. To advance this effort, the DEA has launched a multi-week training and collaboration program at one of its intelligence centers on the Southwest Border. The program brings together Mexican investigators with U.S. law enforcement, prosecutors, defense officials, and members of the intelligence community.

Strategies and Partnerships

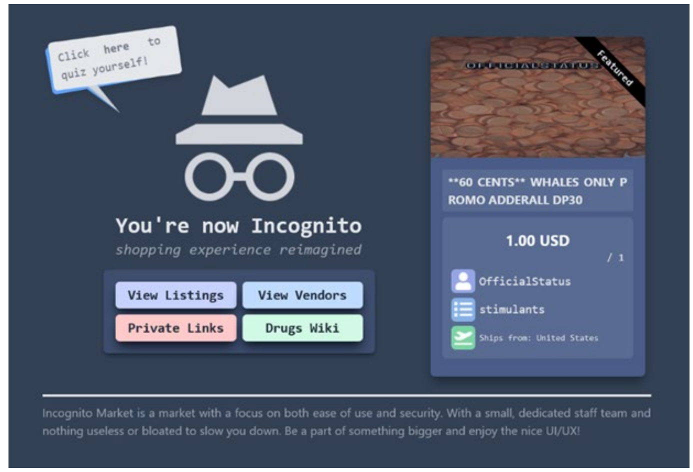
Modernizing the DEA's Field Structure and New Agent Hiring Initiatives

The DEA is modernizing and strengthening its structure in the field through new regions and the regionalization of several key leadership positions. This effort entails placing more authority and coordination into the hands of leaders who are directly involved in the day-to-day efforts to accomplish the DEA's mission, while maintaining clear alignment with the DEA's national priorities. It is a transformative step in how the DEA will do business going forward. These new regions are built around operational continuity, business and human capital efficiency, shared trafficking corridors/operating pictures, and the need for mutual support among the DEA's Field Divisions dealing with similar threats. Regional leadership will translate headquarters strategy into regional priorities, coordinate operations that cross division lines, and ensure intelligence, enforcement, and resources are synchronized across the region.

Beyond rebuilding the agent workforce from the ground up with brand new junior agents, the DEA is also working to stay ahead and plan for a wave of mandatory retirements by implementing three hiring initiatives. Through Mid-Career Lateral Hiring, the DEA has solicited for experienced agents from other Federal law enforcement agencies into the ranks of the DEA. Secondly, the new Experienced Task Force Officers (TFO) Conversion Program will provide a route for experienced State and local TFOs who have already worked on DEA task forces for years and only need a condensed course to become DEA Special Agents. Thirdly, the DEA posted several solicitations on USAJobs to rehire retired annuitants who are former federal agents, and in initial recruitment efforts, most applicants are retired DEA personnel.

Lead the Fight on the Cyber and Dark Web Frontlines

Each year, illicit drug sales generate billions of dollars in profits for cartels. Cartels use money laundering organizations (MLOs), independent from the cartels, to funnel profits back to the cartels using various methods to include trade based money laundering (TBML), cryptocurrency, bulk cash, and Chinese Underground Banking Systems (CUBS). Recently, Chinese MLOs (CMLOs) have become a dominant force and have taken over a major portion of the money laundering activity by becoming the cartels' preferred money laundering providers. Various types of cryptocurrencies (Bitcoin, and stablecoins like Tether (USDT) and Ether (ETH)) are also utilized by Chinese MLOs to move money, even though most crypto trading, transactions, and mining are banned in China. Cryptocurrency is also the preferred method for the purchase of illicit opioids on the dark web.



The Incognito Market was an online narcotics bazaar that started on the dark web in October 2020. Until it shut down in March 2024, Incognito Market sold more than $100 million of narcotics.

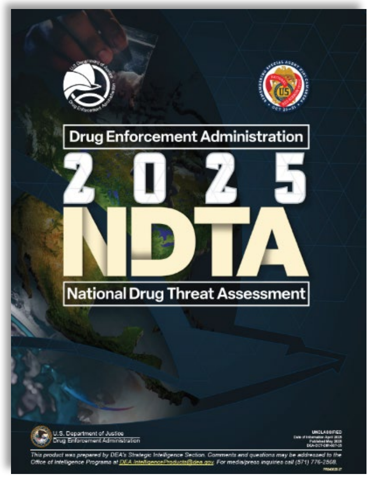
In response to this threat, the DEA will invest in cyber expertise, increase dark web investigations, and work to become the U.S. government's lead agency for online drug enforcement. The DEA's evolving posture against illicit finance is illustrated by a recent publicly reported seizure of more than $10 million in cryptocurrency linked to cartel activity. Additionally, a massive global law enforcement sweep, dubbed "Operation RapTor" announced in May 2025, was partly initiated by critical investigative work from the DEA. This major crackdown, coordinated by the U.S. Joint Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement (JCODE) resulted the arrests of 270 dark web vendors, buyers, and administrators in Austria, Brazil, France, Germany, the Netherlands, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Operation RapTor resulted in the highest number of seizures of any JCODE operation, including more than $200 million in currency and digital assets, over two metric tons of drugs, 144 kilograms of fentanyl or fentanyl-laced narcotics, and over 180 firearms.

Bilateral Investigative Units and Operational Support Teams

The DEA is modernizing and expanding its Bilateral Investigative Units (BIUs) to ensure the agency is positioned to meet today's transnational threats. Historically concentrated in the Special Operations Division, BIUs are being retooled and expanded into a geographically distributed, field-based model. This shift will allow the DEA to respond more rapidly to regional threats, deepen collaboration with U.S. Attorney's Offices, and fully leverage its statutory extraterritorial enforcement authorities. By decentralizing these capabilities, the DEA is building a force that is more responsive, agile, and effective against transnational criminal organizations. During FY 2025, three new BIUs were established in Los Angeles, California; Dallas, Texas; and, Richmond, Virginia, field offices.

The DEA must also expand and synchronize its resources with key national security, defense, diplomatic, and intelligence partners. Accordingly, the DEA is establishing three Operational Support Teams, each comprised of experienced and specially trained DEA Special Agents, that will be readily applied to narco-terror-related national security priorities. The partnership between Special Operations Forces within the U.S. Military and the DEA's Operational Support Teams will effectively combine the requisite capabilities, resources, and authorities to aggressively identify, disrupt, and dismantle FTOs presenting the gravest threats to the security of the U.S., while enabling host nation partner forces in both the military and law enforcement.

National Drug Threat Assessment



In May 2025, the DEA released the 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA), the DEA's comprehensive review of the threats posed to the United States by deadly illicit drugs and the violent domestic and international drug trafficking organizations responsible for producing and trafficking the drugs poisoning communities across the U.S. For more than a decade, the DEA's NDTA has been an integral resource for informing drug policies and laws. It remains a trusted resource for law enforcement agencies, policy makers, community leaders, and prevention and treatment specialists, while also serving as a critical tool to inform and educate the public.

Special Operations Division

The Special Operations Division (SOD) is a DEA-led, multi-agency operational coordination center with participation from over 30 law enforcement agencies, including foreign participation from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. SOD leverages the authorities and resources of participating agencies to strengthen joint operations and intelligence sharing. This is accomplished via full integration with imbeds from all agencies throughout various sections, all co-located, allowing for immediate sharing, de-confliction, and access to other agency systems.

SOD's Counter-Narcoterrorism Operations Center (CNTOC) is uniquely positioned to serve as a unified operational center with oversight of the DEA's narcoterrorism investigations targeting FTOs. CNTOC serves as the primary hub for integrating and analyzing leads from the Department of War and the Intelligence Community, ensuring the intake of actionable intelligence on matters related to counter narcotics. The CNTOC and its underlying sections will illuminate key threat actors and networks throughout the opioid supply chain and seek all opportunities to disrupt, degrade, and destroy the FTOs by way of prosecution, disruptive actions, and alternative means.

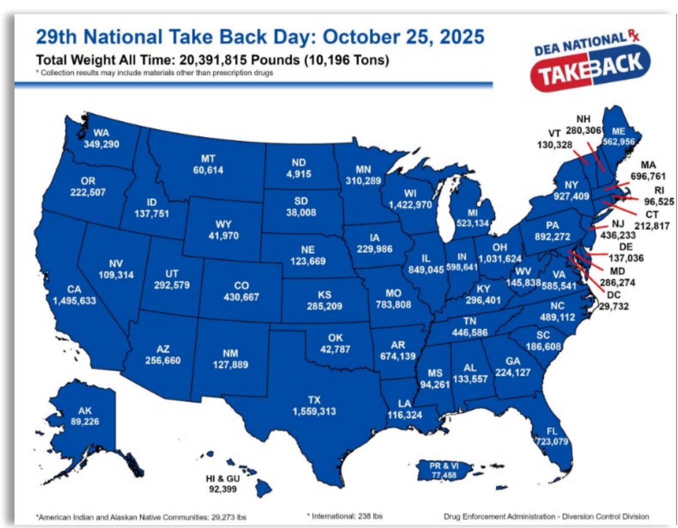
The DEA also recently created a comprehensive Illicit Finance Team within SOD that identifies and targets high-level money launderers responsible for the command and control of money laundering within the respective cartels, including those designated as FTOs. The Illicit Finance team is also coordinating a DEA-wide strategic effort to target cartels through their money laundering structures, both domestically and internationally. The DEA coordinates with its federal law enforcement partners and the intelligence community to further combat illicit finance, including through cyber-enabled and cryptocurrency investigations.

Office of National Security Intelligence

The DEA is represented in the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) through the Intelligence Division's Office of National Security Intelligence (ONSI), which facilitates intelligence integration, coordination, and information sharing with other members of the IC and national security elements. ONSI ensures national security information obtained by the DEA during the execution of its law enforcement mission is shared with both the national security and intelligence communities. On average, ONSI shares approximately 10,000 intelligence information reports (IIRs) a year. These reports contain information on topics such as foreign intelligence, transnational organized crime, international drug trafficking organizations, and terrorism.

The ONSI strengthens and enhances the DEA's participation in the IC by managing embedded DEA analysts in key IC agencies; overseeing IC agency representatives embedded within ONSI; promoting DEA-IC analytic outreach efforts, particularly joint-seal products, such as Presidential Daily Briefings (PDBs); and, directing ONSI's Request for Information (RFI) program, which includes the receipt and response to IC information requests. In addition to these core functions, ONSI is responsible for managing the DEA's SCI Program and IC badge issuance, as well as managing and accrediting the DEA's Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) and access to Top Secret IT systems.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



The DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day reflects the DEA's commitment to Americans' safety and health, encouraging the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting.

The 29th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was conducted on October 25, 2025. The DEA collected over 570,000 pounds of medications from over 4,300 collection sites. The DEA and over 4,200 State, local, and Tribal partners worked together to assist the public with disposing of unneeded medications that too often become a gateway to addiction. To date, the DEA, working with its law enforcement partners, has removed 20.4 million pounds of unused medication from circulation.

Engaging the Public

Fentanyl Free America

Fentanyl Free America is the DEA's unwavering commitment to protect the United States from synthetic opioids by disrupting the fentanyl supply chain, reducing its availability, and saving American lives. The DEA commits to "Protect, Prevent, and Support" by encouraging every American to help protect communities, prevent misuse, and support those impacted – because every step taken together brings this nation closer to a safer, stronger America, and securing a brighter future for generations to come. The DEA has continued advancing Fentanyl Free America and One Pill Can Kill through recent engagements at the Super Bowl Radio Row, reaching millions of Americans and reinforcing a clear message: prevention starts with awareness, education, and direct conversations about the lethal danger of fentanyl and counterfeit pills.

Together for Families

Families play a key role in preventing and responding to substance use. Too many families are grieving the death of a loved one due to substance use or coping with the stress that comes from loving a person affected by substance use or misuse. Fortunately, there are thousands of professionals and volunteers involved in all types of organizations who are in positions to help families help their loved ones. The DEA is honored to partner with these organizations at the state, national and local level.

One Pill Can Kill

In 2021, the DEA launched the One Pill Can Kill enforcement effort and public awareness campaign. Since its inception, the DEA's One Pill Can Kill website, offering data and science-based resources for teens, parents, teachers, and communities has received over 1.4 million visitors. Through its awareness campaign, the DEA has warned Americans about the dangers of fentanyl and fake pills and how to stay safe. The DEA's public health-focused awareness campaign encourages the use of social media and website resources to help raise public awareness of a significant nationwide surge in fake pills containing fentanyl that are mass-produced by criminal drug networks. These pills are deceptively marketed as legitimate prescription pills and are killing unsuspecting Americans at an unprecedented rate.

Justice for Kiki and Red Ribbon Week

On February 27, 2025, the United States secured custody of 29 defendants from Mexico who are facing charges in districts around the country relating to racketeering, drug-trafficking, murder, illegal use of firearms, money laundering, and other crimes. One of these defendants is Rafael Caro Quintero, the man who is charged in the United States with the 1985 torture and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena and with many other crimes. Law enforcement officers of the DEA, FBI, U.S. Marshals Service, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office made significant and valuable contributions to these investigations.

Kiki was more than an agent - he was a husband, a father, and a man who fought to keep deadly drugs off American streets. His sacrifice became the foundation of the DEA's fight against transnational drug trafficking organizations. His name is spoken with honor in every class of recruits who take their oath to uphold justice. National Red Ribbon Week also honors Kiki as the news of his death touched the nation, and today, millions of young people sign pledges to remain drug-free. Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the nation - approximately 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon events each year. The DEA helps drive participation locally in Red Ribbon Week, which is celebrated nationally from October 23rd – 31st, and throughout October (National Prevention Month).

Operation Prevention

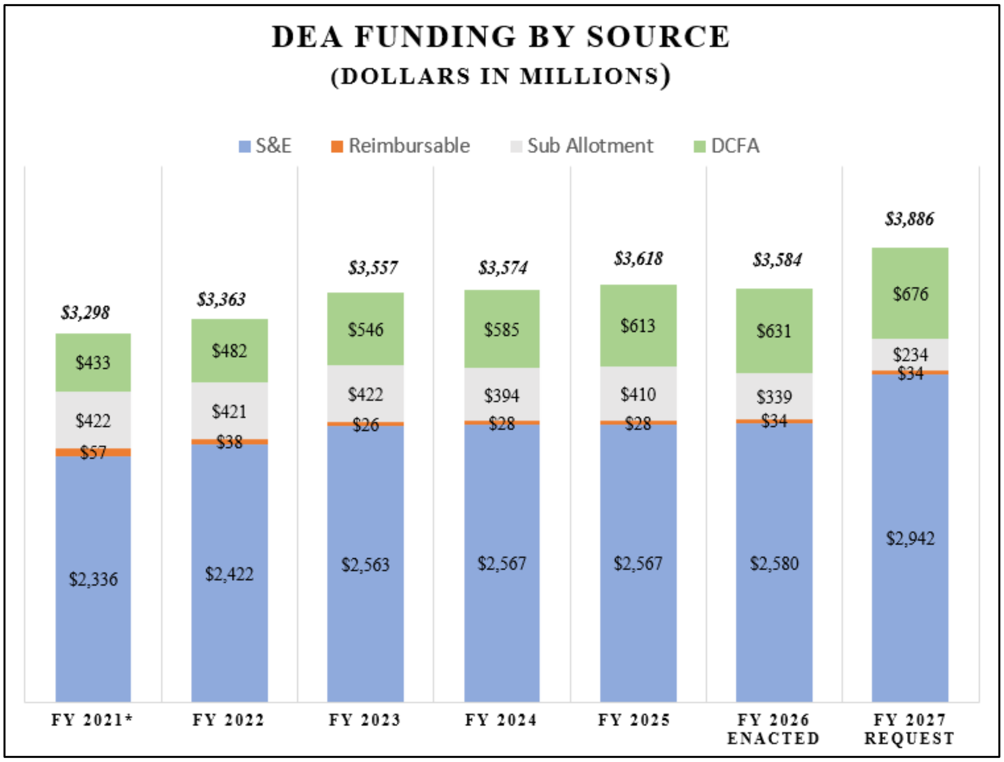
The DEA has joined forces with Discovery Education to provide free online tools to combat a growing epidemic of prescription opioid misuse and heroin use nationwide. Operation Prevention's mission is to educate students about the true impacts of opioids and kick-start lifesaving conversations in the home and in the classroom. English and Spanish-language resources for students in grades 3-12, as well as additional resources designed for educators, families, and professionals, are offered online. Since its launch in 2016, the education curriculum has been downloaded over 991,000 times, reaching over 18.7 million students.

Community Outreach Websites

- www.campusdrugprevention.gov is for college campuses and surrounding communities.
- www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov is for parents, educators, and caregivers.
- www.justthinktwice.gov is for teens.
- www.operationprevention.com is for teachers and businesses.

FY 2027 Budget Request

The following chart summarizes the DEA's funding levels by source from FY 2021 through FY 2027.



*$50 million in Construction funding is included in the DEA's FY 2021 funding level.

The DEA's FY 2027 budget includes $2,942,000,000 for the Salaries and Expenses Account, and $676,426,000 derived from the Diversion Control Fee Account (DCFA). The DEA anticipates receiving an estimated $267,971,000 from other agencies through reimbursable agreements and sub-allotment from the Asset Forfeiture Fund (AFF). In sum, the DEA anticipates approximately $3.9 billion will support 10,180 positions and 8,995 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel during FY 2027.

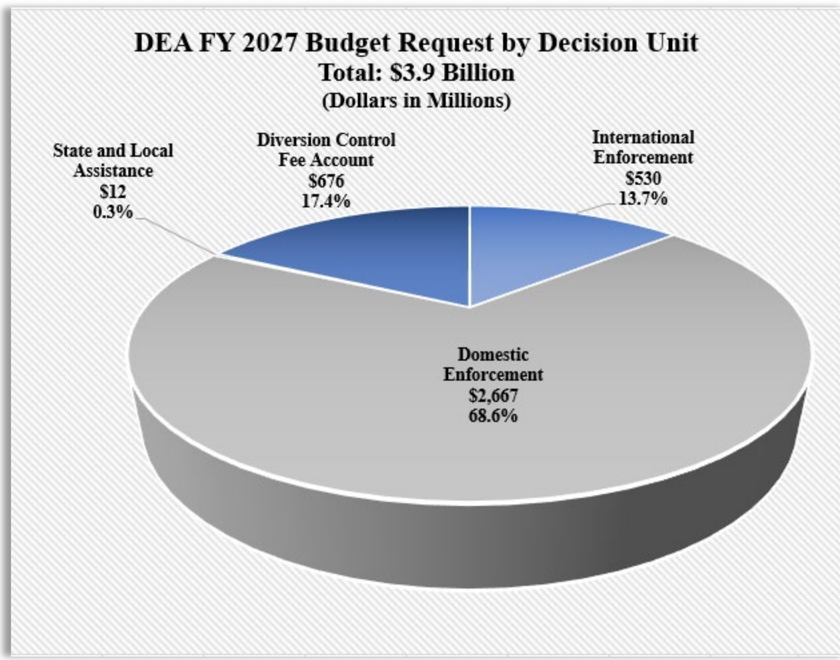
Maintaining Current Services

Salaries and Expenses (S&E) Account: The $223,016,000 in base and technical adjustments includes the annualization of the FY 2026 pay raise, Spectrum Relocation resources, the employee compensation fund, health insurance, retirement costs, rent and facilities costs, and expenses and charges for positions stationed outside of the U.S. Of the $223,016,000 requested in base and technical adjustments, $178,387,000 is requested for Interagency Law Enforcement (ILE) funds to be appropriated in S&E. This funding level will maintain current services.

Diversion Control Fee Account (DCFA): The $38,341,000 in base and technical adjustments includes restoration of the FY 2026 Sequester.

Full Program Costs

The chart below reflects all requested and anticipated FY 2027 DEA resources, including the S&E Account, the DCFA, reimbursable resources and sub-allotment.



The activities and initiatives in each of the DEA's programs play a crucial role in accomplishing the DEA's overall enforcement strategy. Some programs, as well as management and administrative costs, cross decision units.

Performance Challenges

The challenges that impede progress towards the DEA achieving its goals are complex and ever changing. Marketplace dynamics, global politics, technological developments, and criminal behaviors are only a few factors that can impact law enforcement practices and pose challenges that demand attention. The criminal networks that engage in drug trafficking fuel the epidemic of drug abuse and addiction in the U.S. — and profit from it — while feeding the violence that plagues many communities. Availability and use of cheap and highly potent fentanyl have increased, and methamphetamine has flooded across the southern border into the U.S. Mexican transnational criminal organizations continue to supply most of the cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl smuggled into the country, while violent street gangs dominate the retail sale, manufacture, and distribution of these illicit drugs at the local level.

The DEA has acted with urgency to set a new vision, target the global criminal networks most responsible for the influx of fentanyl into the United States, and raise public awareness about how just one pill can kill. However, the threats facing the U.S. are evolving and these challenges have impacted the DEA's enforcement, training, and outreach activities:

Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations

- The Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco New Generation Cartel, now designated along with six other transnational criminal organizations as foreign terrorist organizations, are the primary groups producing the illicit synthetic drugs driving U.S. drug poisoning deaths and trafficking these drugs into the United States.
  - The DEA will prioritize cartel takedowns and direct every resource the agency has toward breaking their command, control, and distribution networks.

Preventing Overdoses and Saving American Lives

- Fentanyl and other synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine, are the primary drivers of fatal drug overdose deaths nationwide, while other illicit drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, and diverted prescription opioids still contribute meaningfully to the drug threat landscape in the United States.
  - The DEA's identity is built on action: targeting traffickers, removing poison from communities across the U.S., and protecting the vulnerable. The DEA is doubling down on this mission with energy and focus.

Global Supply Chain

- The cartels produce fentanyl and methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories in Mexico using precursor chemicals and pill presses sourced from companies in China. Much of the fentanyl is pressed into pills resembling legitimate medication and sold to customers in the United States through social media platforms and messaging applications. They rely on business relationships with drug trafficking organizations in the United States who handle the distribution and sale of drugs, and with Chinese money laundering networks to move drug money quickly and consistently from the United States to Mexico.
  - Through a combination of enforcement, intelligence, sanctions, and international collaboration to shut down supply routes, the DEA is targeting the networks—many of them based in China—that supply the chemical ingredients used in the illicit manufacture of fentanyl.

Violent Crime

- Cartels are also engaged in a multitude of violent crimes across U.S. communities, and the illicit proceeds of drug trafficking are also spent to procure many of the weapons used by these organizations to commit acts of violence.
  - The DEA is standing shoulder to shoulder with its state and local partners to drive down violent crime fueled by drug trafficking and is working relentlessly to dismantle these criminal networks and protect our communities.

Illicit Finance and Cryptocurrency

- Cryptocurrency has emerged as another tool that is increasingly being adopted by cartels to swiftly and securely transfer funds internationally through an encrypted blockchain, significantly limiting access to transaction information. Mexican cartels trade bulk cash for cryptocurrency that can quickly be transferred internationally and converted to local currency or other financial instruments.

o The DEA is strengthening its financial crimes capability to lead the federal effort to dismantle cryptocurrency-enabled money laundering networks. The DEA will treat every dollar seized as a blow to organized crime.

Cyber

- Almost all DEA investigations touch the internet in some form – from basic communication and social media – to more complex issues such as crypto-currencies and the Dark Web. The Dark Web is often used to conceal criminal activities. Drugs are estimated to account for approximately two-thirds of Dark Net Market (DNM) activity. Within a few clicks, any buyer can access almost any type of drug.

o The DEA is investing in cyber expertise, surging dark web investigations, and working to become the U.S. government's lead agency for online drug enforcement.

II. Summary of Program Changes

Item Name	Description	Pos.	FTE	Dollars ($000)	Page
Special Agent Hiring	To enable the DEA to fill authorized Special Agent positions and maintain mission readiness, especially as the DEA turns to more innovative hiring strategies to onboard mid-career agents, in addition to building out unique strategic targeting efforts to combat the Mexican cartels, Chinese precursor chemical traffickers and money laundering organizations, as well as private companies driving diversion.	250	198	$124,887	42
Classified Program Enhancement	To support intelligence priorities with new resources. Additional program details are classified but can be shared in the appropriate venue.	3	2	$13,757	47

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

Appropriations Language

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Drug Enforcement Administration, including not to exceed $70,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character pursuant to Section 530C of title 28 USC; and expenses for conducting drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs, $2,942,000,000, of which not to exceed $75,000,000, shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and not to exceed $90,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

Analysis of Appropriations Language

The DEA's FY 2027 budget submission funds priority program increases for the DEA within its Salaries and Expenses account. Language providing the DEA authority to continue funding state and local law enforcement clandestine lab cleanups is not included due to limited need. The DEA will continue to provide clandestine lab cleanup training to state and local law enforcement. The language also adjusts the period of availability of carryover funds from no-year to two-year to support more efficient and timely obligation of resources.

IV. Program Activity Justification

A. International Enforcement

International Enforcement	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	817	723	$477,514
2026 Enacted	808	704	$485,291
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	$19,500
2027 Current Services	808	704	$504,791
2027 Program Increases	0	0	$0
2027 Program Offsets	0	0	$0
2027 Request	808	704	$504,791
Total Change 2026-2027	**0**	**0**	**$19,500**

This table only displays DEA's S&E resources. Dollars are in thousands.

International Enforcement **Information Technology Breakout (of Decision Unit Total)**	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	17	$44,082
2026 Enacted	18	$46,138
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	$202
2027 Current Services	18	$46,340
2027 Program Increases	0	$0
2027 Program Offsets	0	$0
2027 Request	18	$46,340
Total Change 2026-2027	**0**	**$202**

1. Program Description

The DEA has the primary responsibility of enforcing the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States. Fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and other illicit substances are produced in source countries and smuggled into the U.S. Additionally, most of the chemicals used to produce fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other synthetic drugs are manufactured overseas in countries such as China, and transported to drug producing countries, like Mexico. For that reason, reducing illicit drug availability requires an aggressive international strategy prioritizing the Western Hemisphere. The DEA maintains one of the largest U.S. Federal law enforcement overseas footprints, and DEA personnel collaborate with host nation counterparts while conducting bilateral investigations for the purpose of sharing valuable information. The DEA cannot unilaterally investigate and arrest high-level drug traffickers operating overseas; therefore, foreign law enforcement cooperation is critical to the DEA's overall success. Institution building by way of liaison activities is also a critical component of the DEA's international enforcement mission. DEA personnel meet frequently with foreign counterparts to assist in the development of new policies, legislation, treaties, and agreements designed to combat drug trafficking, money laundering, and the diversion of precursor chemicals.

The DEA continuously monitors new drug threats emanating from a particular country or region, and the direct or indirect impacts on the United States. The DEA's history abroad demonstrates the dynamic nature of this evaluation process as offices are established, closed and sometimes reopened in response to the ever-changing international narcotics environment. The DEA strives to deploy its resources to the highest priority overseas locations to maximize the agency's impact on the global narcotics trade. As of late February 2026, the DEA's global footprint was organized into seven DEA foreign divisions, which included 82 offices in 62 countries (*Figure 1 on page 25*).

Key programs and activities funded by the International Enforcement Decision Unit, as well as relevant performance measures, are discussed below:

International Training Program

The DEA's International Training Program is supported by reimbursable funding from the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and the Department of War serves as a model for a variety of international law enforcement training efforts. The DEA's International Training Program offers both in-country and regional training programs conducted by mobile training teams. In-country programs are conducted for participants from a specific country, whereas regional training is offered for participants from several countries sharing common drug trafficking challenges. Since many countries where illicit drugs are sourced and manufactured are developing nations that lack necessary counter-narcotics resources, the DEA continually develops new curricula and modifies courses in response to evolving international narcotics trafficking routes, new technologies, and requests from host nation governments.

Sensitive Investigative Unit Program

The DEA's Sensitive Investigative Unit (SIU) program began in 1996 with approximately 600 host nation participants in Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru. The SIU program is one of the DEA's most effective tools to provide host nation counterparts with vetting, training, expertise, and capacity in the effort to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations that threaten the U.S. This program allows the DEA to effectively identify, investigate, arrest, and extradite members of the criminal networks and cartels that traffic fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and other illicit drugs into the U.S.

The DEA manages 14 SIUs with over 1,000 onboard active host nation law enforcement officials. For nearly 30 years, the program has successfully vetted, trained, and mentored foreign law enforcement units capable of conducting investigations, and developing networks of confidential sources. The benefits of the SIU program are long-lasting as SIU graduates continue in their careers to hold positions of influence within their respective police forces and governments.

Vetted Unit Program

The DEA also works closely with other foreign vetted units in key regions of the world. The DEA Vetted Unit (VU) program was established in 2017 and, like the SIU program, the VU program develops host nation law enforcement capacities with the goal of dismantling Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs). All foreign national VU candidates must pass stringent background requirements before participating in the program. A VU has the potential of being converted to a SIU contingent upon its operational success and support from a host nation government. The DEA has nine fully operational VUs in the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and in South Asia.

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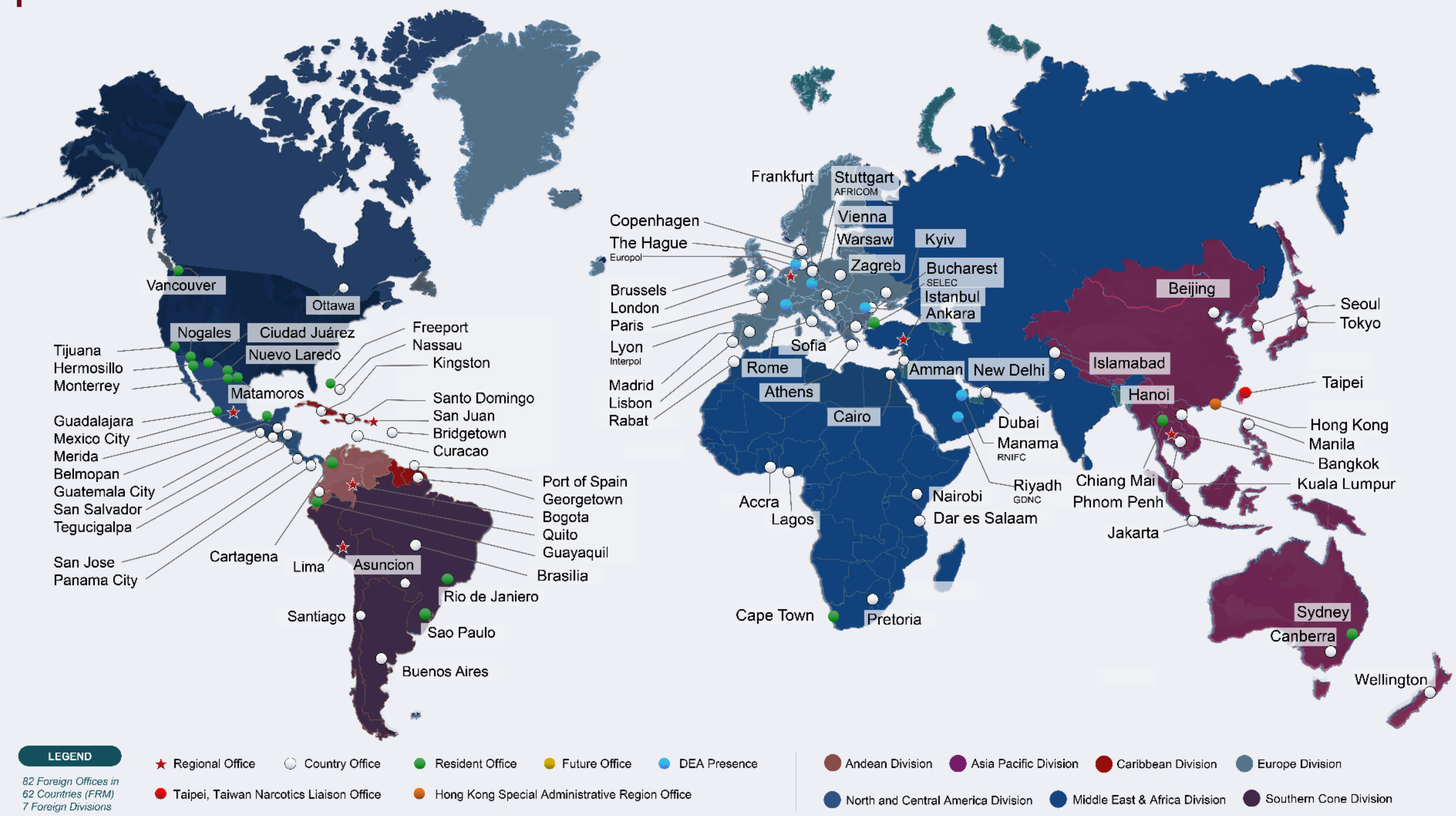
DEA Foreign Divisions

AS OF FEBRUARY 2026



B. Domestic Enforcement

Domestic Enforcement	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	5,993	5,623	$2,076,567
2026 Enacted	5,815	5,410	$2,083,622
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	825	843	$203,465
2027 Current Services	6,640	6,253	$2,287,087
2027 Program Increases	253	200	$138,644
2027 Program Offsets	0	0	$0
2027 Request	6,893	6,453	$2,425,731
Total Change 2026-2027	**1,078**	**1,043**	**$342,109**

This table only displays DEA's S&E resources. Dollars are in thousands.

Domestic Enforcement **Information Technology Breakout (of Decision Unit Total)***	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	257	$360,671
2026 Enacted	272	$377,493
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	5	$1,656
2027 Current Services	277	$379,149
2027 Program Increases	0	$0
2027 Program Offsets	0	$0
2027 Request	277	$379,149
Total Change 2026-2027	**5**	**$1,656**

1. Program Description

The DEA's Domestic Field Divisions and offices in coordination with the DEA's foreign offices, create a seamless intelligence and investigative approach to disrupt and dismantle the drug trafficking organizations that pose the greatest threat to the U.S. The DEA uses an aggressive, multi-jurisdictional approach designed to focus federal resources to disrupt, dismantle, and destroy networks that control the illegal drug trade, as well as the seizure of drug revenue associated with their criminal enterprises.

The DEA's Domestic Enforcement Decision Unit comprises most of the DEA's investigative and support resources. The DEA has 26 Field Divisions, 59 District Offices, 101 Resident Offices, and 56 Posts of Duty throughout the United States, and in FY 2026, DEA is implementing a regional field management structure to most effectively coordinate and resource enforcement activities (*Figure 2 on page 31*).

State and Local Task Force Program

The DEA uses its task forces as a force multiplier to carry out the DEA's mission through coordination and cooperation with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the U.S. The DEA assigns Task Force Officers (TFOs) to task force groups within Domestic Field Divisions, and their support has been invaluable with respect to serving warrants and assisting with the identification and seizure of assets. In FY 2025, the DEA led approximately 600 State and local task forces. These task forces consisted of an onboard strength of approximately 2,800 Special Agents and 3,000 TFOs, all are deputized with Title 21 authority and dedicated full-time to investigate major Transnational Criminal Organizations and address local trafficking issues.

DEA Training Academy

DEA Training Academy, Quantico, VA

The DEA's Office of Training develops and delivers pre-eminent law and non-law enforcement training to DEA Personnel, as well as to appropriate federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement counterparts. The goal of this training is to improve students' individual and organizational performance and assist them in achieving either DEA's mission and operational performance, or those of their assigned organization. The Office of Training offers specialized training in a variety of program areas:

- *Drug Task Force Officers School* – supports and supplies updated managerial training to supervisors and commanders assigned to multi-agency drug task forces.
- *Drug Unit Commanders Academy* – provides training in areas including tactical aspects of drug enforcement, operational planning, confidential source management, illicit hazardous environment operations, and legal issues for management.
- *Illicit Hazardous Environment Training* – assists Federal, State, and local law enforcement in the areas of investigating, dismantling, and disposal of clandestine laboratories and other types of illicit hazardous environments (IHEs). The training provides instruction in the safe dismantling and disposal of clandestine laboratories, OSHA compliance, current trends in the manufacturing of illicit controlled substances, as well as clandestine laboratory tactical training.

Intelligence Program

The DEA Intelligence Program utilizes innovative, data-informed tradecraft to efficiently collect, curate, analyze, and disseminate all source intelligence to drive DEA's law enforcement operations worldwide. The DEA's professional Intelligence workforce performs the full spectrum of tactical, investigative, and strategic functions and is held to the highest analytic tradecraft standards. The program's area of expertise includes network development and targeting, geospatial intelligence analysis, communications patterns analysis, open-source intelligence analysis, and document and media exploitation. The Intelligence Program publishes several different types of finished intelligence products that address operational and strategic trends and inform policymakers on the DEA, the DOJ, and national threat priorities. In addition, the Intelligence Program also provides intelligence and support for the President's Daily Briefings (PDBs) and other Intelligence Community products.

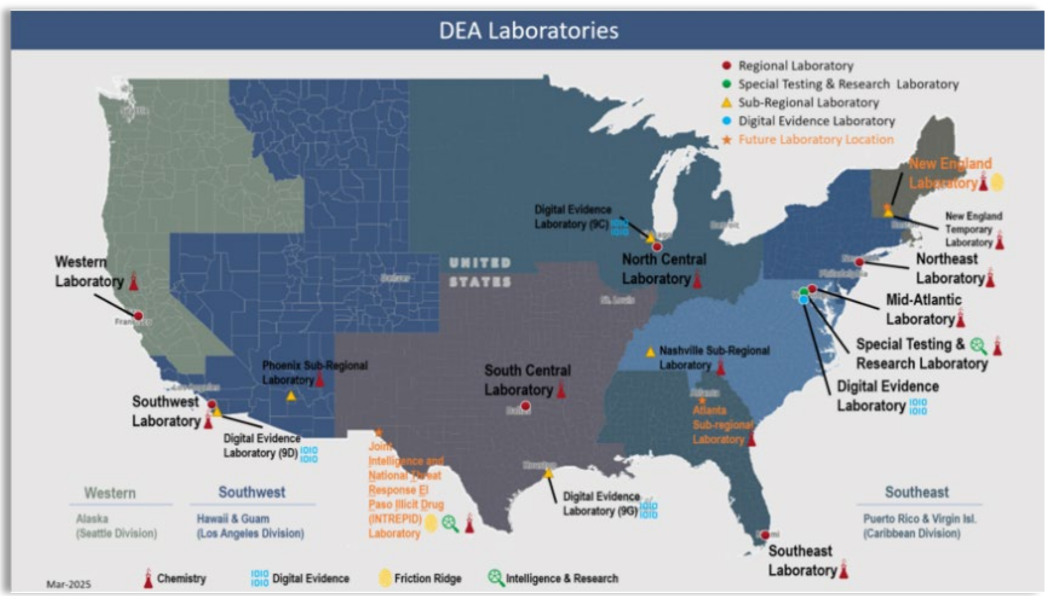
The Intelligence Program manages and maintains the premier deconfliction applications for Federal, State, and local law enforcement. The DEA Analysis and Response Tracking System (DARTS) and the Deconfliction & Information Coordination Endeavor (DICE) are designed to identify investigative overlaps, enhance interagency information sharing, and mitigate situations that would put law enforcement personnel in harm's way by avoiding operational conflicts that could result in blue-on-blue incidents. The DEA's Intelligence Program includes the following components:

- The Office of National Security Intelligence (ONSI) disseminates Intelligence Information Reports (IIRs) to the Intelligence Community and shares information that involves a foreign nexus or may have foreign intelligence value. ONSI strengthens and enhances DEA's participation in the IC through the management of embedded DEA analysts in key IC agencies and oversight of IC agency representatives embedded within ONSI.
- The Office of Special Intelligence (NS) provides advanced analytic support to DEA operations through the identification of investigative overlaps, and the fusing of electronic transactional data, investigative data, and all-source information. NS acquires, manages, and maintains electronic transactional data and leverages this data for use in constructing intelligence products. NS also provides direct analytic support to the SOD by merging all available DEA data with cutting-edge analytic techniques to allow for criminal network mapping and the strategic targeting of DEA priority threats.
- The Office of Intelligence Programs advances DEA's understanding of emerging and persistent drug threats, and associated criminal activities, in the United States and globally. This Office annually produces the National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA) and routinely publishes topically focused finished intelligence analysis products answering key intelligence questions, which are disseminated to law enforcement partners and shared with the Intelligence Community. Emphasis has recently been placed on ensuring that data collected through the DEA's unique forensic chemistry expertise is fully exploited and integrated into the intelligence cycle.

Forensic Sciences Program

The DEA's drug laboratory system spans the entire United States comprised of eight fully operational regional drug analysis laboratories, one digital evidence laboratory, and six sub-regional digital evidence laboratories. The New England Regional Laboratory is moving into a newly constructed laboratory space in Londonderry, New Hampshire and will resume normal operations by the end of April 2026.

The DEA's laboratories process drug, fingerprint, and digital evidence for use in criminal prosecutions, and to obtain actionable information needed to further criminal investigations or drug intelligence. The DEA's laboratories examine and process evidence for the DEA's domestic and foreign offices and non-DEA partners, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). Notably, an intelligence-focused, collaborative venture with CBP and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was initiated to develop and provide scientifically derived information on the origins of fentanyl and fentanyl-related samples of high intelligence value obtained from seizures made at the border and throughout the United States.



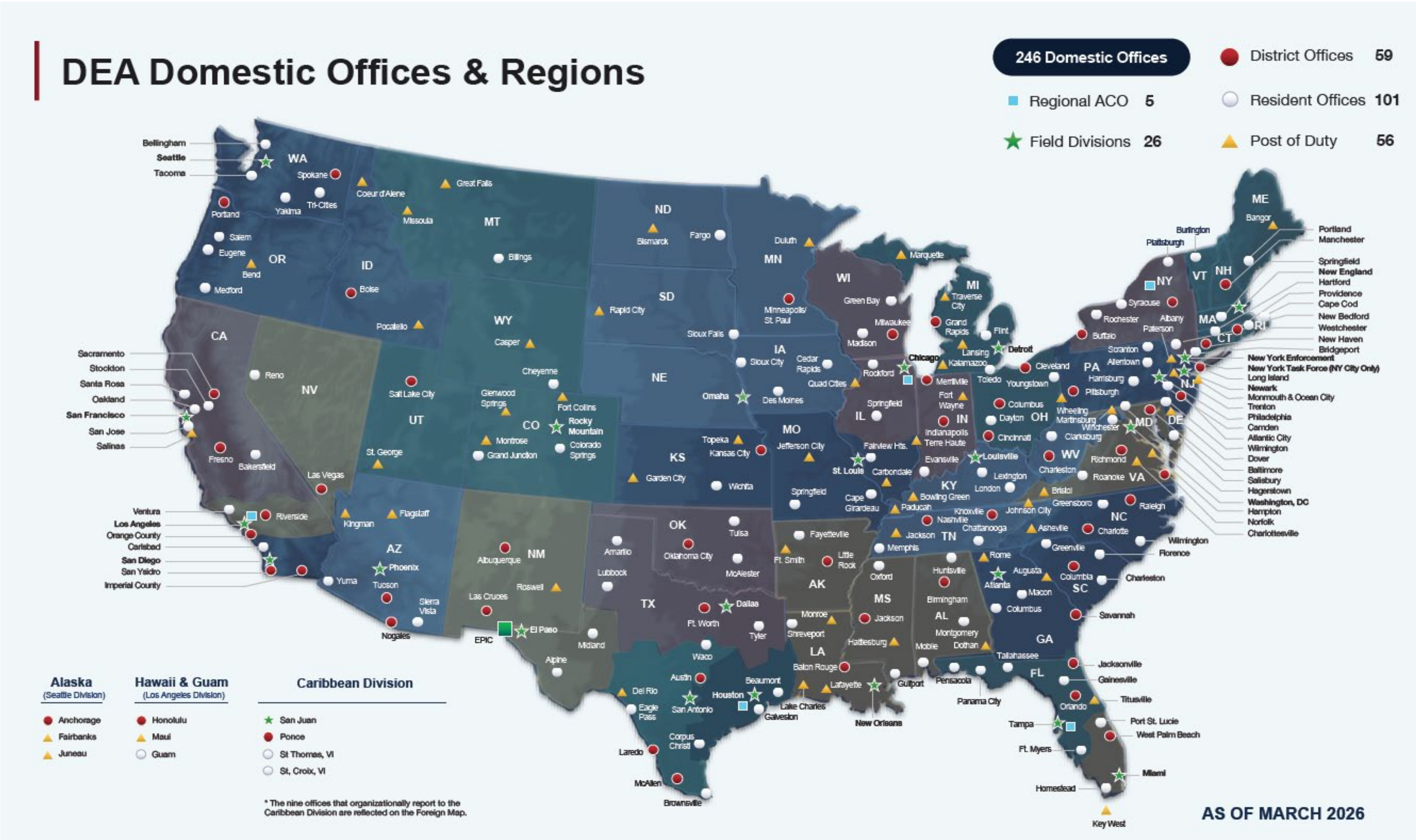
Aviation Program

The DEA Aviation Division maintains and operates a fleet of approximately 100 aircraft, including fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and passenger platforms. This fleet provides essential aviation support to the DEA's domestic and global enforcement mission. Single-engine aircraft, including airplanes and helicopters, serve as the backbone of surveillance operations and account for most the division's more than 11,000 annual missions, totaling approximately 22,000 flight hours each year. The DEA's aviation assets support a wide range of complex law enforcement and national security operations. These include air-to-ground and maritime surveillance, electronic surveillance, extraditions, controlled deliveries, bulk drug transport, Special Response

Teams operations, undercover operations, OCONUS missions, tactical helicopter operations, foreign equipment transport, immigration enforcement, and assistance to other law enforcement agencies.

Aviation capabilities enhance operational reach while increasing the safety of personnel and the public during high-risk operations. In FY 2025, the Aviation Division supported the United States Marshals Service in a high-risk fugitive apprehension operation in Denver, Colorado, of a violent fugitive. Internationally, DEA aviation assets conduct sustained overseas operations using twin-engine aircraft in support of extraditions, sensitive personnel movements, and interagency coordination, as well as moving personnel and equipment in support of complex foreign operations. The division also supported other U.S. government agencies by transporting personnel into and out of Venezuela to facilitate interagency coordination related to the release of ten United States citizens in July 2025.

Figure 2



DEA Domestic Offices & Regions
246 Domestic Offices
Regional ACO 5
Field Divisions 26
District Offices 59
Resident Offices 101
Post of Duty 56
Alaska
(Seattle Division)
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Juneau
Hawaii & Guam
(Los Angeles Division)
Honolulu
Maui
Guam
Caribbean Division
San Juan
Ponce
St Thomas, VI
St, Croix, VI
* The nine offices that organizationally report to the Caribbean Division are reflected on the Foreign Map.
AS OF MARCH 2026
WA
OR
CA
NV
ID
MT
WY
UT
CO
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OH
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NC
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WV
PA
NY
VT
NH
ME
MA
CT
RI
NJ
DE
MD
Bellingham
Seattle
Tacoma
Spokane
Yakima
Tri-Cities
Portland
Salem
Eugene
Bend
Medford
Coeur d'Alene
Great Falls
Missoula
Billings
Boise
Pocatello
Casper
Sacramento
Stockton
Santa Rosa
Oakland
San Francisco
San Jose
Salinas
Fresno
Bakersfield
Reno
Las Vegas
Salt Lake City
St. George
Glenwood Springs
Cheyenne
Fort Collins
Rocky Mountain
Colorado Springs
Montrose
Grand Junction
Ventura
Los Angeles
Orange County
Carlsbad
San Diego
San Ysidro
Imperial County
Riverside
Kingman
Flagstaff
Phoenix
Yuma
Tucson
Sierra Vista
Nogales
Albuquerque
Roswell
Las Cruces
EPIC
El Paso
Alpine
Midland
Bismarck
Fargo
Rapid City
Sioux Falls
Omaha
Sioux City
Des Moines
Cedar Rapids
Quad Cities
Duluth
Minneapolis/ St Paul
Topeka
Kansas City
Garden City
Wichita
Jefferson City
Springfield
St. Louis
Cape Girardeau
Carbondale
Fairview Hts.
Amarillo
Lubbock
Oklahoma City
Tulsa
McAlester
Ft. Smith
Fayetteville
Little Rock
Dallas
Ft. Worth
Tyler
Waco
Austin
Del Rio
Eagle Pass
San Antonio
Houston
Beaumont
Galveston
Corpus Christi
Laredo
McAllen
Brownsville
Monroe
Shreveport
Baton Rouge
Lafayette
Lake Charles
New Orleans
Jackson
Oxford
Hattiesburg
Gulfport
Memphis
Green Bay
Milwaukee
Madison
Rockford
Chicago
Marquette
Traverse City
Grand Rapids
Flint
Lansing
Kalamazoo
Detroit
Merrillville
Fort Wayne
Indianapolis
Terre Haute
Evansville
Toledo
Cleveland
Youngstown
Columbus
Dayton
Cincinnati
Louisville
Lexington
London
Bowling Green
Paducah
Knoxville
Nashville
Chattanooga
Johnson City
Huntsville
Birmingham
Montgomery
Mobile
Dothan
Rome
Atlanta
Augusta
Macon
Savannah
Tallahassee
Pensacola
Panama City
Jacksonville
Gainesville
Orlando
Titusville
Tampa
Ft. Myers
Port St. Lucie
West Palm Beach
Miami
Homestead
Key West
Asheville
Greenville
Columbia
Charleston
Charlotte
Greensboro
Raleigh
Wilmington
Florence
Bristol
Roanoke
Richmond
Wheeling
Martinsburg
Winchester
Clarksburg
Pittsburgh
Harrisburg
Allentown
Scranton
Philadelphia
Buffalo
Rochester
Syracuse
Albany
Burlington
Plattsburgh
Bangor
Portland
Manchester
Springfield
New England
Hartford
Providence
Cape Cod
New Bedford
Westchester
New Haven
Bridgeport
New York Enforcement
New York Task Force (NY City Only)
Long Island
Newark
Monmouth & Ocean City
Trenton
Philadelphia
Camden
Atlantic City
Wilmington
Dover
Baltimore
Salisbury
Hagerstown
Washington, DC
Hampton
Norfolk
Charlottesville

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C. State and Local Assistance

State and Local Assistance	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	22	20	$12,919
2026 Enacted	22	20	$11,427
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	$51
2027 Current Services	22	20	$11,478
2027 Program Increases	0	0	$0
2027 Program Offsets	0	0	$0
2027 Request	22	20	$11,478
Total Change 2026-2027	**0**	**0**	**$51**

This table only displays DEA's S&E resources. Dollars are in thousands.

State and Local Assistance **Information Technology Breakout (of Decision Unit Total)**	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	0	$40
2026 Enacted	0	$42
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	$0
2027 Current Services	0	$43
2027 Program Increases	0	$0
2027 Program Offsets	0	$0
2027 Request	0	$43
Total Change 2026-2027	**0**	**$0**

1. Program Description

The DEA assists State and local law enforcement agencies through its State and Local Illicit Hazardous Environment Training and Illicit Hazardous Environment Cleanup Programs, including the Authorized Central Storage Program. The DEA's Salaries and Expenses Account funds the authorized positions associated with these programs.

<u>State and Local Illicit Hazardous Environment Training</u>

The DEA consistently responds to the training needs of the U.S. law enforcement community and recognizes the value of sharing drug law enforcement techniques. The DEA Office of Training's Illicit Hazardous Environments Training Unit develops and conducts training programs to assist Federal, State, and local officers in the investigation, dismantling, and disposal of illicit hazardous environments. These training programs provide instruction in the safe dismantling and disposal of illicit hazardous environments, Authorized Central Storage Program, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance, current trends in the manufacturing of illicit controlled substances, and illicit hazardous environment tactical training. In addition to training special agents and State and local law enforcement personnel domestically, the Illicit Hazardous Environments Training Unit also provides First Responder/Awareness training and a First Responder/Awareness Train-the-Trainer Program to international law enforcement agencies.

D. Diversion Control Fee Account

Diversion Control Fee Account	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted with Sequester	2,407	1,747	$612,954
2026 Enacted with Sequester	2,441	1,807	$631,489
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	$38,341
2027 Current Services	2,441	1,807	$669,831
2027 Program Increases	0	0	$6,595
2027 Program Offsets	0	0	$0
2027 Request	2,441	1,807	$676,426
Total Change 2026-2027	**0**	**0**	**$44,937**

Dollars are in thousands.

Diversion Control Fee Account **Information Technology Breakout (of Decision Unit Total)**	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted with Sequester	69	$102,133
2026 Enacted with Sequester	73	$106,897
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	1	$469
2027 Current Services	75	$107,366
2027 Program Increases	0	$0
2027 Program Offsets	0	$0
2027 Request	75	$107,366
Total Change 2026-2027	**1**	**$469**

Budget Strategy for the DEA's Diversion Control Division

The DEA's Diversion Control Division (DC) has five high-priority programmatic development areas to enhance the DEA's Drug and Chemical Diversion Control efforts that contribute to preventing overdoses and saving American lives. These priority areas are outlined in greater detail below:

1. Reduce Diversion by Detecting and Investigating

The identification, investigation, and enforcement of actions against individuals and entities engaged in diversion remains integral to DC's mission and is critical to maintaining the safety of communities across the United States. In FY 2025, DC conducted 1,827 scheduled investigations. DC's data analytics capabilities, combined with field-level intelligence obtained from cyclic regulatory investigations, are leveraged to identify emerging threats, inform future cyclic regulatory schedules, ensure compliance with the Control Substance Act (CSA), and to support the DEA's stakeholders in combating diversion.

Accordingly, DC strategically utilizes data to prioritize and synchronize scheduled investigations to ensure registrant compliance of over 2.2 million registrants. This population continues to grow at an approximate rate of 3% annually, a trend expected to remain steady through FY 2026 and FY 2027.

In FY 2025, DC set a record by initiating 176 administrative actions against registrants, including 135 Orders to Show Cause and 41 Immediate Suspension Orders. DC is integrating numerous internal and external data repositories with advanced analytical, targeting, and risk assessment tools to strengthen its efforts to identify registrants who flagrantly violate the CSA.

These enhanced capabilities support DEA's broader enforcement priorities. On November 20, 2025, the DEA and its law enforcement partners announced that the co-founder, CEO, and clinical president of the Digital Health company Done Health was convicted for participation in a $100 million, years-long scheme to illegally distribute Adderall over the internet and conspiracy to commit health care fraud in connection with the submission of false and fraudulent claims for reimbursement of Adderall and other stimulants. The DEA remains laser-focused on targeting health care providers who exploit vulnerable Americans and prioritize profits over public health.

In March 2025, DC, working in coordination with the Special Operations Division and the Intelligence Division, leveraged transactional data associated with Amazon excipient sales to identify and disrupt illicit activity. As a result of these actions, agents conducted approximately 30 arrests and seized 104 kilograms of fentanyl, 128 kilograms of methamphetamine, 17 kilograms of cocaine, 100 firearms, 27 pill press machines, 200,000 counterfeit pills, and $350,000 in narcotics proceeds.

2. Rebuild and strengthen partnerships to prevent diversion and enhance compliance through outreach, education and training

DC's overarching objective is to maintain a compliant registrant population. One of the primary ways DC advances this objective is through outreach and education efforts that communicate the laws, regulations, and policies for the registrant community, as well as to state and local counterparts, and associations representing various registrant groups. These engagements provide a key venue for registrants, their stakeholders, and DEA personnel to engage in candid discussions regarding emerging diversion trends, interpretations of regulations, matters requiring regulatory change, and clarifications of DEA policy.

Since 2010, the DEA has coordinated nation-wide "Take Back Day" events in support of the National Take Back Initiative (NTBI). These campaigns educate the public and registrant population on the importance of getting rid of unwanted, unused medications out of the medicine cabinet to prevent drug misuse before it starts, saving American lives. Through these events, the DEA has collected more than 20 million pounds (10,196 tons) tons of unused, expired, and unwanted medications from American households. Since the inception of NTBI, the number of year-round authorized collectors has expanded to over 16,500 locations, significantly increasing disposal opportunities for the public

3. Ensure Availability of Needed Medications and Regulated Chemicals for Legitimate Need

In addition to preventing, detecting, and investigating diversion, DC is responsible for ensuring an adequate and uninterrupted supply of pharmaceutical controlled substances and list chemicals to meet legitimate medical, commercial and scientific needs. DEA works in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine and maintain adequate supply levels.

Each year, DC establishes a United States production ceiling for each Schedule I and Schedule II-controlled substance, as well as for the three (3) Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA) List 1 chemicals – ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine. Through the Aggregate Production Quota (APQ) and Annual Assessment of Needs (AAN), DC evaluates over 350 Schedule I and II controlled substances and List 1 chemicals to determine quantities necessary to meet the nation's estimated medical, scientific, research, and industrial requirements, for lawful export needs, and reserve stocks. DC also provides dosage from manufacturers with individual procurement quotas, which authorizes the manufacturer to procure (e.g. purchase) a controlled substance from another manufacturer. In doing so, DC establishes over 3,600 controlled substance quotas annually and monitors imports of narcotic raw materials.

In 2025, the DEA published three chemical listing actions and 21 scheduling actions in the Federal Register. The use of regulatory chemical controls supports investigations and strengthens cases involving procurement, suspicious orders, and illicit chemical sourcing pathways used by Foreign Terrorist Organizations harming U.S. citizens. These actions play an important role in further protecting communities and saving lives.

4. Revise Hiring Processes to Achieve Allocated Staffing in Support of Public Health and Safety

In FY 2025, DC implemented significant updates to its multi-hurdle hiring assessment process to strengthen recruitment efforts and attract top talent. The updated assessment process is designed to streamline and improve efficiency, positively impacting the overall timeline for hiring new candidates. The introduction of the "Live Interview Platform" for structured interviews centralizes scheduling and documentation, eliminating the need for multiple email exchanges and expediting the interview process. Further, the removal of outdated assessments, and the implementation of competency-based assessments tailored to job requirements ensure a focused and efficient evaluation of candidates. Collectively, these changes aim to reduce bottlenecks, improve applicant flow, and accelerate the hiring process while maintaining the integrity and quality of candidate selection.

Additionally, in conjunction with broader agency-wide initiatives, DC has adopted a new regional model to modernize and strengthen our field structure. This approach formalizes the collaboration among neighboring divisions already rely on each other for operational support, creating a clearly defined network structure The restructuring also accounts for the DC registrant population and positions the organization adapt effectively to emerging diversion challenges.

5. Enhancement of Diversion Control's Technology Systems

In addition to updating existing systems, DC is exploring a technology-assisted approach that incorporates Artificial Intelligence (AI) to process comments in the Federal Register for all posted scheduling and regulatory actions, including Notice of Proposed Rule Makings and Final Rules. This approach would apply a combination of data engineering, data science, and AI techniques to significantly assist in the processing and analysis review phases. Advances in AI and related technologies present a significant opportunity to improve the speed and quality of DC's review and regulatory guidance drafting process.

Legislative Priorities

DC's operational and enforcement capabilities could be furthered with legislative assistance from Congress, specifically, as it relates to regulated machines (pill presses) and the scheduling of xylazine.

In 2024, law enforcement seized an estimated 56.1 million fentanyl-laced fake pills, marketed as another substance but containing illicit fentanyl. The threat from illicitly manufactured fentanyl could be minimized through legislation requiring those who manufacture, import, export or distribute regulated machines (pill tableting or encapsulating machines) and their critical parts to register with the DEA and serialize their machinery, maintain records of all relevant transactions, and report those transactions to the Attorney General. These measures would create a partially closed system of distribution for regulated machines and critical parts by requiring manufacturers, importers, exporters, and dealers of regulated machines to register with the DEA, creating a partially closed system of distribution for regulated machines and critical parts by requiring manufacturers, importers, exporters, and dealers of regulated machines to register with the DEA. Such a system would enable law enforcement to better track the machines used to manufacture fake pills. It also creates a national registry of pill tableting, encapsulating machines and their critical parts. Those who violate the registration, serialization, record keeping, reporting, or registry requirements will be subject to penalties.

Making xylazine a Schedule III drug – a non-opiate sedative that is currently approved for veterinary use in the United States – is also a DEA priority. The DEA has seen a rise in illicit fentanyl mixed with xylazine, which makes an already deadly drug even deadlier. The Administration has called on Congress to pass the core elements of the bipartisan Combating Illicit Xylazine Act, which would make xylazine a schedule III drug subject to additional reporting requirements, enhanced tracking and reporting requirements on the sale and distribution of xylazine, and subject those who unlawfully distribute xylazine to enhanced penalties.

Diversion Control Program Expense Descriptions

Planned obligations for FY 2027 will support the following program expenses if anticipated collections are achieved or exceeded:

Diversion Control Fee Account Obligations by Type of Expense
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate	2026-2027 Total Change
Staffing				
Payroll	$ 339,191	$ 322,839	$ 345,813	$ 22,973
Subtotal, Staffing	**$ 339,191**	**$ 322,839**	**$ 345,813**	**$ 22,973**
Field Operations				
Enforcement Operations	$ 127,139	$ 121,010	$ 129,621	$ 8,611
Other Field Operations Expenses	$ 16,975	$ 16,157	$ 17,306	$ 1,150
Subtotal, Field Operations	**$ 144,114**	**$ 137,167**	**$ 146,928**	**$ 9,761**
Overhead and Support				
Rent	$ 65,271	$ 62,124	$ 66,545	$ 4,421
Training	$ 8,645	$ 8,228	$ 8,813	$ 585
IT	$ 46,724	$ 44,471	$ 47,636	$ 3,165
Administrative	$ 37,819	$ 35,996	$ 38,558	$ 2,561
Overhead	$ 21,710	$ 20,663	$ 22,134	$ 1,470
Subtotal, Overhead and Support	**$ 180,168**	**$ 171,483**	**$ 183,685**	**$ 12,203**
Total Expenses				
Total Obligations	**$ 663,474**	**$ 631,489**	**$ 676,426**	**$ 44,937**

1. Staffing

FY 2025 Actuals ($000)	FY 2026 Estimate ($000)	FY 2027 Estimate ($000)	Change FY 2026-FY 2027 ($000)
$339,191	$322,839	$345,813	$22,973

Diversion Control (DC) is the only Division that encompasses all of the DEA's core series (Special Agent, Diversion Investigator (DI), Intelligence Research Specialist, and Forensic Chemists). The estimates above include funding for an increase of 124 new personnel across several labor categories, including DIs, Business Operations, and Attorney positions (see Table 2). DIs are primarily responsible for conducting regulatory, complaint, and criminal investigations and other activities carried out pursuant to the CSA and implementing regulations. These estimates reflect projected funding requirements for staffing positions within anticipated collections.

Table 2 – Actual and /Projected Staffing Growth

New Positions	FY 2025	FY 2026**	FY 2027**
Special Agent	-*	-	12
Diversion Investigator		60	59
Intelligence Research Specialist	-	-	2
Forensic Chemist	3	4	1
Attorney	6	6	-
Investigative Technology	-	-	-
Professional/Administrative	80	50	50
Total	**89**	**120**	**124**

*Reserve Positions: Two Special Agents and 18 Professional/Administrative positions are pending placement on DPA's Table of Organization for future use (FY 2022 allocations); numbers not included in FY 2024.
**Positions may need to increase if additional scheduling is approved and based on the registrant growth.

2. Field Operations

FY 2025 Actuals ($000)	FY 2026 Estimate ($000)	FY 2027 Estimate ($000)	Change FY 2026-FY 2027 ($000)
$144,114	$137,167	$146,928	$9,761

Requested resources are primarily for field investigative activities, registration activities, and to support the DEA's National Take-Back Day Initiative (NTBI), Every Day is Take Back Day initiative, and registrant conferences. DC develops and maintains policies and guidance documents including internal manuals and registrant guides; organizes and conducts national conferences on current issues, policies, and initiatives; and provides instruction and guidance to registrants. DC also hosts trainings designed to educate practitioners about the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical controlled substances, as well as DEA regulations applicable to their practices.

3. Overhead and Support

FY 2025 Actuals ($000)	FY 2026 Estimate ($000)	FY 2027 Estimate ($000)	Change FY 2026-FY 2027 ($000)
$180,168	$171,483	$183,685	$12,203

The DEA utilizes overhead and support resources for various expenses, including but not limited to: Information Technology (IT) transformation/modernization, support and maintenance of IT systems, direct operational and administration costs, Permanent Change of Station (PCS) costs, and other overhead and support expenses. Funds support the registration hardware and software infrastructure (including the Registrant Support Network (RSN)), addressing IT vacancies, and funding outsourced support positions. The transformation and modernization of critical registration systems and applications are necessary to minimize the risk of diversion and system downtime or failure. The DEA seeks to operationalize data through a comprehensive data strategy, which includes proper data management, hiring of data experts, leveraging current relationships and building new partnerships and data sharing agreements.

V. Program Increases by Item

Item Name: **Special Agent Hiring**

Budget Decision Unit(s): Domestic Enforcement
Organizational Program: Operations Division

Program Increase: Positions 250 Agt/Atty 250 FTE 198 Dollars $124,887,000

Description, Justification, and Impact on Performance

The DEA requests $124,887,000 in personnel funding and 250 new Special Agent authorized positions for critical enforcement operations workforce investments to support the DEA's global investigations and strategic efforts targeting and dismantling international drug cartels designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). These 250 new Special Agent positions will be allocated to high drug trafficking locations experiencing the most violent crime, in addition to building out unique strategic border targeting efforts to combat the Sinaloa Cartel, Jalisco Cartel, Mexican and Chinese precursor chemical traffickers, Chinese money laundering organizations, and private companies driving diversion. The requested funding also allows for the deployment of Special Agents on a temporary basis to assist federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement in the disruption or dismantlement of violent drug trafficking organizations and gangs, providing the DEA with the operational flexibility to rapidly mobilize and surge significant resources against high level criminal networks operating at the regional, national and international levels.

The DEA's relentless pressure on the cartels has made it harder for them to operate. The DEA has successfully targeted every part of their illicit global supply chain, including the leaders, money launderers, transporters, and the cartel enforcers; the thousands of individuals across the United States who work for the cartels and distribute fentanyl over social media within our communities; and the money launderers moving billions of dollars across the globe. Additionally, since the DEA is playing a primary role in executing the Administration's priorities to defeat FTOs and eradicate the national security threat posed by traditional organized crime networks, hiring to fill Special Agent positions remains one of the DEA's highest agency priorities. DEA's North Star is enforcement. That means taking the fight directly to those who profit from violence, corruption, and addiction, and holding ourselves accountable for results. The recent successful operation against El Mencho, the leader of Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG), exemplifies this commitment and resulted from sustained pressure on CJNG's leadership and infrastructure, enabled by close coordination, intelligence-sharing, and long-standing cooperation between the DEA and its Mexican counterparts.

Over the past 20 years, the DEA has experienced a net decrease of 730 onboard Special Agents. To reverse this trend, the agency has worked to streamline recruitment and hiring pipelines, reduce time-to-hire, and address retention via incentives. Additionally, the DEA implemented an innovative program to recruit experienced Special Agents from other Federal agencies and, after a brief orientation, immediately deployed them toward the threat. The DEA originally scheduled three mid-career Special Agent transfer (SATP) classes in FY 2025, then added a fourth class to the schedule in July. The first three SATP classes in FY 2025 netted the DEA 74 new, experienced Special Agents, with an additional 12 new Special Agents from the July class, totaling 86 new mid-career transfers. The DEA also plans to hold four mid-career SATP classes in FY 2026, with the first two classes amounting to 35 new Special Agents, in addition to six Basic Agent Training classes. So far in FY 2026, 103 agents have completed Basic Agent Training. Finally, the DEA is also pursuing an innovative program to recruit experienced Task Force Officers (TFO) who have already worked as an integral part of the agency's investigative work force. As these investigators are already sworn law enforcement officers and have deep experience working on DEA's investigations, they will also go through an abbreviated training program, much the same as the individuals in the SATP program. While this program is still new, the agency anticipates a sizeable number of TFO will convert to become full Special Agents.

While these initiatives have taken some time to implement, the DEA firmly believes these actions now will serve a much more effective mechanism in blunting the net decline in onboard Special Agents through FY 2026 into FY 2027, and thereafter.

Impact on Performance

This request supports the Presidential Action of January 20, 2025, *Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists*, underscoring the nation's vital interests in defeating international drug cartels. As the Department's premier agency in the enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act, including narco-terrorism (21 U.S.C. § 960a), the DEA plays a key role in advancing Presidential priorities as demonstrated by the DEA's enforcement efforts along the Southwest border where the cartels actively introduce fentanyl and other illicit substances into the United States.

CY 2025 was a pivotal year for the DEA marked by record-breaking enforcement actions, including the Department of Justice announcing the "largest fentanyl bust in DEA history." The DEA-led operation dismantled one of the most prolific fentanyl trafficking organizations in the U.S. In coordinated pre-dawn raids across five states (New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada), agents arrested 16 suspects linked to the Sinaloa Cartel (Cartel de Sinaloa) and seized an unprecedented cache of drugs and weapons. In Albuquerque, New Mexico alone, officers seized approximately 3 million fentanyl pills and 11.5 kg of fentanyl powder. This "record-shattering" takedown was a significant blow to the Sinaloa Cartel and a major victory in protecting Americans from the fentanyl scourge.

In total, during 2025, the DEA seized more than 9,800 pounds of fentanyl, and 47.2 million fentanyl pills, removing an estimated 369 million potentially deadly doses of fentanyl from communities across the U.S. The DEA also seized over 78,000 kg of methamphetamine, 4.2 million methamphetamine pills, over 260,000 kg of cocaine, nearly 2,000 kg of heroin, over 3,000 guns, and over $600 million in total assets. DEA operations led to successful high-profile arrests and targeted surge initiatives including the following:

U.S. Operation Leading to the Arrest of Nicolás Maduro Moros

On January 3, 2026, a combined U.S. operation resulted in the arrest of Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of Venezuela, and his wife, Cilia Flores, in Caracas, Venezuela. Both are now in U.S. custody to face justice on serious allegations tied to corruption, violence, and large-scale narcotics trafficking. Maduro was integral to the Cartel de los Soles, a state-embedded trafficking enterprise that has operated in close coordination with the National Liberation Army (ELN), which remains a designated FTO. Maduro's network enabled and supported violent criminal and insurgent expansion, including Tren de Aragua and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) dissident elements. This investigation was spearheaded by the Special Operations Division's Bilateral Investigative Unit in close coordination with interagency partners including the FBI, HSI, CBP and the Department of War. The DEA's Special Agents, Task Force Officers, Intelligence Analysts, and professional staff worked long hours to develop and validate the intelligence that enabled operational success.

Washington D.C. and Memphis Federal Law Enforcement Surge

The DEA has deployed Special Agents to Washington, D.C., and Memphis, Tennessee, to assist with reducing and preventing violent crime. These enforcement actions are resulting in arrests, weapons seizures, and narcotics recoveries, while also providing vital community assistance such as overdose reversals and recovering missing children. In Washington, D.C., expanded joint operations have resulted in significant arrests and seizures targeting drivers of violence and narcotics-related criminal activity. Since the inception in August 2025, the DEA and 24 participating agencies have arrested 10,626 individuals, seized 1,127 firearms, located 16 missing children, and executed 114 search warrants. These combined efforts have contributed to a decrease in overall crime. In Memphis, sustained federal surge efforts, including multi-agency task forces, have enabled more effective targeting and removal of violent offenders from the streets. Since the Task Force began in September 2025, the DEA and 31 participating agencies have arrested 5,602 individuals, seized 915 firearms, located 148 missing children, and executed 135 search warrants. Data continues to reflect a downward trend in serious crime during these coordinated efforts.

Jalisco New Generation Cartel Enforcement Surge

In September 2025, the DEA conducted a week-long operational surge aimed at dismantling the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. From September 22 through September 26, 2025, DEA agents across 23 domestic field divisions and seven foreign divisions carried out coordinated enforcement actions that resulted in 670 arrests, and seizures of 92.4 kg of fentanyl powder, 1.2 million counterfeit pills, 6,062 kg of methamphetamine, 22,842 kg of cocaine, 33 kg of heroin, $18.6 million in currency, $29.7 million in assets, and 244 firearms. Demonstrative of the DEA's successful, collaborative efforts, as previously noted, the Mexican Government successfully eliminated its leader in late February 2026.

Sinaloa Cartel Enforcement Surge

In late August 2025, in one of the most sweeping operations of the year, the DEA conducted a week-long surge (Aug 25–29) targeting the Sinaloa Cartel's networks worldwide. This synchronized crackdown spanned 23 DEA domestic field divisions and seven foreign divisions, all executing arrests and seizures in their areas as part of a concerted push to fragment the cartel's global operations. The results, announced on September 8, 2025, were staggering: authorities arrested 617 suspects in the sweep and confiscated 480 kg of fentanyl powder, 714,707 counterfeit fentanyl pills, 2,209 kg of methamphetamine, 7,469 kg of cocaine, 16.5 kg of heroin, as well as over $11.1 million in cash, $1.7 million in other assets, and 420 firearms.

Fentanyl Free America

The DEA is intensifying its fight against the deadly threat of synthetic opioids with the launch of Fentanyl Free America in December 2025, an enforcement initiative and public awareness campaign aimed at reducing both the supply and demand for fentanyl. The goal of the campaign is clear and that is to eliminate the fentanyl supply fueling the nation's deadliest drug crisis. To date, these efforts have resulted in 4,965 arrests and the seizure of 1,867 kilograms of fentanyl, 102,352 kilograms of cocaine, 28,832 kilograms of methamphetamine, more than 8.4 million fentanyl pills, over 35.7 million methamphetamine pills, and over $250 million in seized assets and currency. These results are not just statistics. They represent lives saved, violence prevented, and communities protected.

Vape Enforcement Surge

In late September 2025, the DEA participated in a week-long operational surge with HSI, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) targeting vape shops and importers of synthetics to include: Kratom, Delta 8, Synthetic Marijuana (K2, Spice), Synthetic Cathinones (Bath Salts), etc. This was a whole-of-government approach to a dangerous situation negatively impacting the health of Americans, especially teenagers, college-aged students, and members of the military. During this enforcement surge, more than 2.3 million vape devices and cartridges, more than $8.7 million in currency and assets, and more than 100 weapons were seized.

These achievements highlight the DEA's recent successes tackling the work aligned to our priority strategic objectives — enforcement, partnerships, and results — and demonstrate the strength of our collective efforts. Based on the impact of these efforts, the DEA is planning additional surge enforcement activities, including the Southwest Border region to target high-volume trafficking routes, illicit drugs, illegal aliens, and other contraband. These efforts will bolster the DEA's efforts in targeting designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations and other transnational criminal organizations utilizing these corridors. With these newly requested resources, the DEA will be better positioned to expand on recent enforcement efforts going forward through FY 2026 and into FY 2027. Additionally, these resources will provide the DEA the funding and resources to begin addressing the net decline in onboard Special Agents the DEA has experienced since FY 2013.

Funding

Base Funding

FY 2025 Enacted				FY 2026 Enacted				FY 2027 Current Services			
Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount ($000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount ($000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount ($000)
3,712	3,712	3,712	$902,706	3,712	3,712	3,712	$955,693	3,712	3,712	3,712	$955,693

Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Type of Position/Series	FY 2027 Request ($000)*	Positions	Full Year Cost per Position ($000)	Annualizations ($000)			
				2nd Year	3rd Year	FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Criminal Investigative (1811)	$124,887	250	$445	-$52	$104	-$13,176	$26,086
Total Personnel	**$124,887**	**250**				**-$13,176**	**26,086**

*Included in the FY 2027 Request is $33,531,000 and 73 FTE to fill existing authorized Special Agent positions through hiring strategies such as the mid-career Special Agent transfer (SATP) program.

Total Request for this Item

Category	Positions			Amount Requested ($000)			Annualizations ($000)	
	Count	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Total	FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Current Services	3,712	3,712	3,712	$955,693	-	$955,693	-	-
Increases	250	250	198	$124,887	-	$124,887	-$13,176	$26,086
Grand Total	**3,962**	**3,962**	**3,910**	**$1,080,580**	**-**	**$1,080,580**	**-$13,176**	**$26,086**

Item Name: Classified Program Enhancement

Organizational Program: Operations Division

Program Increase: Positions 3 Agt/Atty 0 FTE 2 Dollars $13,757,000

Description

Please refer to the classified addendum for details on this request.