



FEDERAL NOTES

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CHINESE DRUG FIRM FORFEITS \$7.2 MILLION IN HGH PROBE



A multi-agency investigation headed by the Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation into the smuggling of human growth hormone resulted in the forfeiture of \$7.2 million. The FDA-OIC Task Force developed evidence that Genescience Pharmaceuticals Company (Gensci), which is based in China, used the Internet to market HGH under the brand name, Jintropin. Distributors, known as “remailers,” sold HGH to users in Rhode Island and elsewhere. One remailer in Rhode Island netted more than \$100,000 from HGH sales.

Agents pored through thousands of electronic transactions to develop evidence that resulted in the indictment of the company and its CEO, Lei Jin. Related charges were brought in Rhode Island against distributors throughout the country.

Gensci and Jin pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, Providence to illegally introducing an unapproved drug into the U.S. They forfeited \$4.5 million in criminal assets, which is in addition to \$2.7 million forfeited civilly after federal agents seized that amount from Chinese banks in New York.

Jin and Gensci will also pay \$3,000,000 towards an anti-sports doping program to be administered by the Rhode Island Foundation.

United States Attorney Peter F. Neronha said, “HGH, when distributed and used unlawfully, poses a serious health threat, particularly to young people who ignore the risks of such substances in an effort to enhance athletic performance.”

In addition to FDA-OCI, the task force included the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. East Providence, North Providence, and the Rhode Island State Police participated, as did the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration provided assistance. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Adi Goldstein, Stephanie S. Browne, Michael P. Iannotti, and Milind M. Shah.*



ANTI-TERRORISM:

A CASE FOR CONTAINMENT

BRIAN J. PIRES, NATIONAL SECURITY SPECIALIST

Almost eighteen years have passed since the Global Salafi Jihadist Movement took the offensive against the 'far enemy' by attacking the World Trade Center in 1993. That attack, employing explosives in a rental van in the parking garage below WTC, killed six people and damaged Tower One. Omar Abdel-Rahman, known as the Blind Sheikh, instigated that attack with co-planner Ramsi Yusef, a nephew of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 al Qaeda attack that destroyed the towers. Yusef had told his federal captors after the 1993 attack that the enemy was patient and would return to finish the job.



Terrorism attacks on American soil have evolved since, from the 1993 attack to 9/11 to what we refer to as the "new threat," the so-called lone wolf attacks. Lone wolf attacks signal a change in tactics but not strategy. Since its inception, al Qaeda has viewed its role as



inspirational. AQ will continue to employ tactics empowering self selecting, Internet inspired jihadists to strike against the West when and where they find us most vulnerable.

The strategic objective of the salafi jihadist movement remains the same: to economically bleed the U.S. and engage us on multiple fronts until our will is broken, we cease to support our allies, and a pan Arab and ultimately global caliphate is ushered in with Sharia law as its guiding principle.

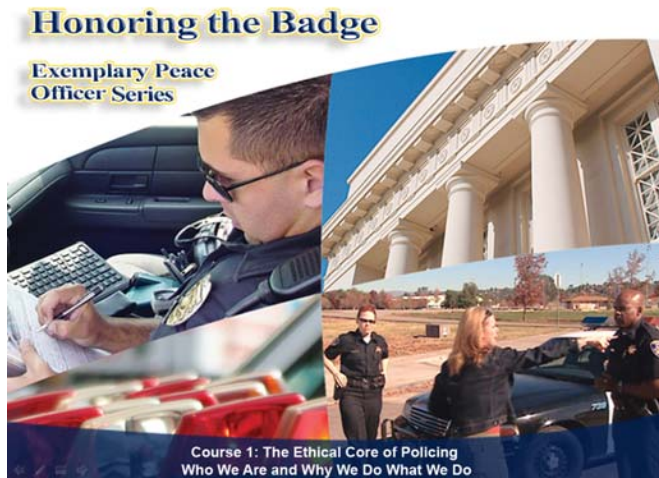
A global ideology, such as Salafi Jihadism is best dealt with by *containment*, rather than tactical responses by individual agencies to each incident. *Containment does not preclude military intervention when it is the correct tool but has always and will continue to require a whole-of-government approach.* You can't kill an ideology

in the short term but you can starve it to death. You deny it a cadre of young through education and engagement, you expose and denounce its propagandists with a well designed information campaign. You marginalize U.S. converts by exposing their weak character rather than lionize them through placement on a public hit list. You do not harden every soft target but you develop and train contacts at every mall, hotel, transportation hub and major restaurant. You don't stop cargo and passengers but employ expert interviewers at every major airport and secure the supply chain and travel industry with solid industry partnerships, utilizing the ideas and talents of those that know the system.

TRAINING

Exemplary Police Officer Series

About 35 officers from two-dozen Rhode Island Police Departments attended a three-session training



on police ethics. Sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy, the training sessions featured Mark Wittenburg, of the Josephson Institute, a 20-year development professional and a certified California Peace Officer's Standards (POST) presenter. The three sessions, held at the Academy's home at the CCRI Flanagan Campus, touched on the Ethical Core of Policing, Becoming an Exemplary Peace Officer, and Getting the Best Possible Result. The objective — making good

ethical decisions in police work. As one officer noted in the course evaluations, "One bad police officer can make years of damage control for a department." The Coventry Police Department also brought Mr. Wittenburg in for an in-house training on police ethics.

STATE PROSECUTOR CROSS-DESIGNATED



Assistant RI Attorney General Jim Dube and U.S. Attorney Peter Neronha at Dube's swearing in as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney.

State prosecutor and former police officer James Dube has been cross-designated as a special federal prosecutor to help advance the continued cross-fertilization between the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Mr. Dube became an Assistant Attorney General after a 21-year career with the East Providence Police Department. He has prosecuted firearms and drug cases and currently heads the A.G.'s Medicaid Fraud and Patient Abuse Unit, which often works with the U.S. Attorney's Office on health care fraud prosecutions.

Three state prosecutors have been cross-designated as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys to prosecute cases of mutual jurisdiction. And two Assistant U.S. Attorneys have been cross designated as state prosecutors.

FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CASES

Would-be bank robber convicted on firearms charges in scuffle with trooper

Arjusz Roszkowski arranged a meeting in a parking lot at Lincoln Woods to buy a gun and ammunition for a bank robbery that he was planning. His contact was an undercover State Police detective, Christopher Zarella. When they met, Detective Zarella saw what appeared to be a firearm in the defendant's waistband. Zarella identified himself and a struggle began, during which Roszkowski drew his weapon and fired it, wounding himself. Troopers arrested Roszkowski. A federal jury convicted him of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Roszkowski, who has prior robbery convictions in New Hampshire, also faces state charges related to the Lincoln Woods incident. Federal and state prosecutors have been cross-designated to work together on a joint prosecution (*see related article, p. 3*). *Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch, Assistant RI Attorney General Pamela Chin.*



Nine years in federal prison for carjacker

Alfredo Hernandez approached a couple who had just gotten out of their car with their 13-month old baby near the Dutemple School in Cranston. He pointed a pistol at them and demanded their car keys, which the young woman retrieved from her baby's diaper bag and tossed to the ground. Hernandez drove off in their car. The victims contacted the police, and about a half-hour later a Providence Police officer saw a vehicle matching the description of the stolen one traveling on Wickendon Street. The officer stopped the vehicle and saw the handle of a gun sticking out of a backpack on the front passenger seat. The officer arrested Hernandez and retrieved a 9 millimeter pistol and a box of ammunition. Hernandez later told police that he'd wanted to steal a car so he could drive to New Orleans, and targeted the young family because they appeared to be easy victims. Hernandez pleaded guilty to carjacking and a federal judge sentenced him to nine years in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan.*



Guilty plea in attempt to buy 50 kilograms of cocaine

Jose Astacio met with an undercover FBI agent and two other individuals and told them he had \$1,000,000 with which to buy cocaine. Astacio followed two individuals, one an undercover agent, to another location where the FBI had placed more than 50 kilos of cocaine. When Astacio started to load the packages into a hidden compartment in his vehicle, a team of agents arrested him and seized \$499,470. Astacio pleaded guilty to conspiracy with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie S. Browne.*



FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CASES

87-month sentence for 4.4 kilos of cocaine

Providence Police watched **Brayanth Fernandez** handle a large chunk of cocaine and count cash in his apartment. He put the cocaine into a plastic bag and left the apartment. After he got into a vehicle, police converged on it and seized a plastic bag containing 299 grams of coke. They also found a cutting agent and packaging material in the trunk and seized \$2,486 from Fernandez’s pockets. Police later seized four kilograms of cocaine in a grocery bag, additional cocaine, and about \$93,000 in cash from Fernandez’s apartment. Fernandez pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking and a federal judge sentenced him to 87 months in prison. The cash and Fernandez’s vehicle, a Mercedes-Benz, were forfeited. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein.*



Marijuana grower, heroin trafficker sentenced to five years in prison

Providence Police saw **Mark McNaught** enter a vehicle, hand the driver a package, and exit the vehicle a few blocks later. Police stopped the vehicle and seized heroin from the driver. McNaught subsequently admitted that he’d sold heroin to the driver and told police he had more, plus some marijuana, at his apartment. In his third floor apartment on Carpenter Street, police found 125 marijuana plants in various stages of growth. A jury convicted McNaught of manufacturing 100 or more marijuana plants and trafficking in heroin. A federal judge sentenced him to five years prison — the statutory minimum for that number of marijuana plants. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Milind M. Shah and Sandra Hebert.*



Marijuana plants growing in heroin dealer’s apartment

140-month prison sentence for international heroin smuggler, money launderer

DEA agents monitored phone calls indicating that **Manuel Vasquez** anticipated a multi-kilo delivery of heroin to his Central Falls home. Agents then monitored the travel of the heroin into Rhode Island and between apartments, including Vasquez’s residence. Agents also monitored phone calls of individuals discussing the purchase heroin. Federal search warrants turned up more than three kilos of heroin in an apartment and \$188,670 in Vasquez’s apartment. Agents also seized \$311,000 hidden in furniture that Vasquez had shipped to the Dominican Republic. Vasquez pleaded guilty to heroin trafficking and money laundering, and a federal judge sentenced him to 140 months in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers.*



CRIMINAL DOCKET SHEET

Check casher sentenced for concealing \$1.9 million in transactions

Vincent Aiello owned North Pro Services, a check cashing company in North Providence. In 2007, an Internal Revenue Service agent, posing as a customer, asked Aiello about cashing checks at North Pro. Aiello advised him to split large amounts into multiple checks of less than \$10,000, a process known as “structuring,” designed to evade federal requirements that transactions of \$10,000 or more be reported to the government. He helped the agent split \$18,700 into smaller transactions. A subsequent audit determined that Aiello had assisted customers in structuring dozens of transactions totaling more than \$1.9 million. Aiello pleaded guilty to failing to report currency transactions, and a federal judge fined him \$30,000 and ordered him to serve the first eight weekends of a five-year probation in jail. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich.*



Guilty plea in \$21,000 of bogus bills

Amy Flowers obtained counterfeit \$100 bills from a person in Nigeria whom she'd contacted over the Internet. The bills were shipped to her in several packages containing books, the bills hidden inside book covers. Over the course of 16 months, Flowers passed bogus bills at Western Union offices, a bank, and several retail businesses in Rhode Island. When Secret Service agents arrested her, they seized 52 counterfeit bills from her vehicle. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie S. Browne.*



Woonsocket Police officer sentenced to prison for assault on the job

Woonsocket Police Officer **John Douglas** was angry at a juvenile, believing that he had injured another Woonsocket officer. Douglas repeatedly punched the juvenile in a stairwell at the Woonsocket Police station, causing blunt force trauma and facial bone fractures. Douglas pleaded guilty to abusing the juvenile's civil rights under “color of law,” and a federal judge sentenced him to a year in prison plus six months home confinement.



“Most police officers strive to serve their community every day with dedication and distinction, often making split-second decisions that put their lives on the line to protect others,” U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said. “But when an officer chooses to abuse his authority and violates the civil rights of a person, that conduct will not be tolerated and will be justly punished.” *Assistant U.S. Attorneys John P. McAdams and Terrence P. Donnelly; Trial Attorney Avner Shapiro of Civil Rights Division.*

CRIMINAL DOCKET SHEET

Serial bank robbers plead guilty

Robert Ferguson drove interstate buses — and sometimes his own car — to bank robberies throughout New England and New York. Over the course of four months, he forced tellers to give him money at banks in Rhode Island, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine. During the robberies he either made reference to a gun or showed a gun. Bangor Police arrested Ferguson the day of a bank robbery in Bangor, Maine, and a subsequent multi-state investigation coordinated by the FBI in Maine developed evidence linking him to other robberies, including one at a Warwick branch of the



Pawtucket Federal Credit Union. Ferguson pleaded guilty in Maine to eleven bank robberies. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan, Assistant U.S. Attorney Nancy Torreson, U.S. Attorney's Office, Maine.*



Tarik Metts committed robberies at three Providence banks in six days. He presented notes demanding money to tellers at a Sovereign Bank branch on Elmgrove Avenue, the Turks Head branch of Bank Rhode Island on Westminster Street, and at a Citizens Bank branch on Hartford Avenue, obtaining a total of



about \$6,000. Providence Police arrested Metts in a restaurant parking lot shortly after the Hartford Avenue robbery. They found a robbery note on him. He pleaded guilty to all three robberies, and a federal judge sentenced him to 46 months in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie S. Browne.*

After 30 arrests, career offender is sentenced to 14 years in prison for bank robbery

Darrin Gray's first adult arrest was in 1985, when he was 20. After some 30 additional arrests and convictions for robbery, assault, larceny, and other offenses, Gray used a threatening note to rob a bank teller in Cumberland of \$7,450.



The Statewide Fugitive Task Force tracked him a few days later to a gas station parking lot in Providence, where he drove his vehicle straight at an officer in an attempt to flee. The officer fired two pistol shots at the approaching vehicle, but Gray fled, speeding through local streets before abandoning the vehicle and being arrested.



He pleaded guilty to bank robbery and a federal judge sentenced him to 14 years in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee.*

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