



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Police Department

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DATE: 05/31/2012

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Lake Superior Drug & Violent Crime Task Force receives "Outstanding Achievement Award"

CASE NO.:

INCIDENT DATE :05/24/2012

INCIDENT TIME:

INCIDENT LOCATION: Nisswa, MN

SUBJECT: Lake Superior Drug & Violent Crime Task Force receives "Outstanding Achievement Award"

BY: DPD Public Information Officer Jim Hansen (218) 390-2232

Lake Superior Drug & Violent Crime Task Force receives "Outstanding Achievement Award"

On Thursday, May 24th, 2012, the Lake Superior Drug & Violent Crime Task Force along with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, received an award from the Minnesota State Association of Narcotics Investigators in recognition and appreciation of their outstanding contributions to Minnesota law enforcement. This award was presented during the M.S.A.N.I. Spring Conference in Nisswa, MN.

The nomination for this award was based on the hard work and ultimate success of the task force's recent investigation specifically targeting the prescription pain killer Opana as well as Oxycodone, heroin, and marijuana trafficking in the Twin Ports. The communities in and around the Twin Ports area were experiencing increases in overdose reports in addition to increased violent crime and property crime as a result of the trafficking of these drugs. The 18 month investigation included over 70 controlled purchases as well as the execution of multiple State and Federal search warrants.

On September 20th, 2011, twenty-seven individuals were indicted for violations of Federal narcotics and firearms laws as a result of this action. To date, twenty-five of the Federal defendants have pled guilty to charges. In addition, several individuals were charged and have pled guilty to State charges. As a result of this investigation, law enforcement has noticed a severe decline in the supply of Opana pills to the Twin Ports. This has led to a major decline in the illegal sales and abuse of Opana pills within the communities served by the Lake Superior Drug & Violent Crime Task Force.

The LSDVCTF is a multi-jurisdictional task force comprised of staff from the Duluth Police Department, Lake Superior Police Department, Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Hersey Police Department. This investigation was completed in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.



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