



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

May 2nd, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: NPD Officer Receives Recognition from National Association of Police Organizations

On Sunday, May 13th, 2013 Newark Police Sergeant Michael Van Campen was recognized at the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Twentieth Annual Top Cops Awards[®] held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Sergeant Michael Van Campen, Detective Randolph Pfaff of the Wilmington Police Department, Special Agent David B. Hughes of the DEA, Special Agent Thomas Anastasia of the U.S. Treasury Department and Special Agent Tony Salvemini of Homeland Security Investigations were nominated for their part in stopping drugs from coming into Delaware and the surrounding area. This task force began an investigation into a Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) responsible for bringing multiple shipments of heroin and cocaine from the Republic of Panama to Delaware and the surrounding States. Members of this DTO were distributing approximately 20 kilograms of cocaine and 5 kilograms of heroin on a monthly basis through the U.S. communities. They were also responsible for several homicides, numerous drug related shootings, and witness tampering. The investigation led to another drug source coming out of the Republic of Afghanistan. This DTO was headed by Saleem Sharif, a former West Point Graduate and U.S. Army Captain, who served as a U.S. contractor in Afghanistan.

The task force used surveillance teams, wire taps, and undercover agents during the investigation which ultimately led to the dismantling of the DTO which had operated with impunity for ten years. To date, the investigation has resulted in 48 arrests, including Sharif, and the seizure of approximately 11 kilograms of cocaine, 5 kilograms of heroin, 8 ounces of crack cocaine, \$267,641 in U.S. currency, \$375,485 in drug related proceeds, 12 firearms and the closure of 2 homicides.

From NAPO:

“Each year since 1994 NAPO has presented the TOP COPS Awards[®] Ceremony. The purpose of the TOP COPS Awards[®] is to educate the American public about our nation’s heroes and to pay tribute to law enforcement officers in federal, state, county, and local agencies from across the country for actions above and beyond the call of duty during the preceding year. Our TOP COPS[®] are nominated by fellow officers. An independent Awards Selection Committee comprised of national law enforcement representatives select, from hundreds of nominations, one TOP COP[®] case from each of the 50 States and U.S. territories. Officers from the top ten cases have been selected as the 2012 TOP COPS[®]. In each remaining state, one case has been selected for which the officer(s) will receive an Honorable Mention award.”

Sergeant Michael Van Campen and his teammates were presented with an Honorable Mention award at the ceremony.

Media Contact: Lt. Mark A. Farrall, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or mark.farrall@cj.state.de.us.