



## **Fayette County Sheriff's Office**

**Wayne Hannah, Sheriff**

**April 27, 2011**

### **Press Information**

**Investigator Brent Rowan – Public Information Officer**  
[brentr@fayettecountyga.gov](mailto:brentr@fayettecountyga.gov) **770-716-4755**

On April 27, 2011 at 2:00 PM the Fayette County Sheriff's Office will be presenting checks to the City of Fayetteville Police Department, the Peachtree City Police Department, and the Town of Tyrone Police Department for their participation in drug monies seized stemming from a joint investigation. Each of these agencies will receive \$19,351.65 for their participation in this investigation and their contribution to the Fayette County Sheriff's Office Tactical Narcotics Team (TNT).

The investigation took place when members of TNT working with the David G. Willingham OCEETF-Atlanta Strike Force Group 1 of the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) seized \$1,364,669.00 stemming from an investigation known as "Operation Next Star". This was a two year investigative effort where five (5) suspects were arrested; nearly 1,000 pounds of marijuana were seized along with the large amount of United States currency.

"Operation Next Star" was a joint investigation which spanned over several south metro Atlanta counties. Members of David G. Willingham OCEETF-Atlanta Strike Force Group 1 focused their efforts on the La Familia Mexican drug cartel based in Michoacan, Mexico. The investigation concluded when a commercial truck driver based in Texas, drove his 18-wheel tractor trailer carrying the large amount of marijuana to a secluded multi-acre residence located at 230 Anglin Road in Griffin, Georgia which was being used as a drug off-loading site. Investigators used the information they gathered from this incident to make the arrest and large seizure.

The investigation of "Operation Next Star" was led by DEA agents from the David G. Wilhelm OCEETF-Atlanta Strike Force, which consists of federal, state, and local drug officers and focuses on dismantling international drug organizations operating in the United States. The investigation also included participation from the Strike Force members: the United States Marshal's Service, the Fayette County Sheriff's Office, the Henry County Police Department, and the Georgia State Patrol.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jeffrey W. Davis and G. Scott Hulsey.