



Supply Reduction Strategy



Narcotics Law Enforcement

Methamphetamine situations remain a threatening trend in Thai society. Methamphetamines are largely produced in the neighboring countries; however, there is some domestic illicit methamphetamine production that have also been found, especially in Bangkok and its surrounding provinces. Utilizing integrated infrastructures of the metropolitan, domestic methamphetamine syndicates have broadened their distribution channels and markets throughout the country. At the same time, there is illicit distribution and abuse of heroin in some areas, as well as illicit heroin trafficking from abroad. In addition, there is illicit marijuana trafficking from the neighboring countries which is carried out to third countries as well. The abuse of ecstasy, cocaine, and ketamine also exists in the same areas and target groups. Furthermore, there is also an increasing trend of precursor chemicals and producing machines smuggling.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine has been increasingly produced. The main methamphetamine producing areas deployed over Thai-Myanmar borderlines next to Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, and Tak Province. Ephedrine, a major methamphetamine precursor, was delivered directly from main land China and India to ethnic minority groups' territories. While producing machines, equipment and other precursor chemicals have been smuggled from Thailand, under the sponsorship of drug racketeers in

Bangkok. Being shipped by vehicles, methamphetamine material supplies have been brought to Mae Sai District in Chiang Rai Province, finally, to the clandestine laboratories. From 1998 to March 2001, Thai authorities had seized 6 rotary-tableting machines, 1 powder mixing machine, 137 stamping heads, 33.4 tons of caffeine, 400 litres of acetic anhydride, 1,600 litres of ether, and 15 tons of other chemical precursors. Furthermore, it has been discovered that there are methamphetamine smuggling from the neighboring country along Thai-Cambodian borders.

Narcotics Law Enforcement





4 million tablets of methamphetamine had been seized by the Royal Thai Army.

Statistics on destroyed methamphetamine refinery in Thailand

Year	Demolished methamphetamine refineries
1996	14
1997	18
1998	15
1999	16
2000	10

The largest smuggling point is in the North, especially, in Mae Sai District in Chiang Rai Province. Other points are Mae Ai District in Chiang Mai Province, Pai District, Pang Mapa District, Khun Yuam District, and Muang District in Mae Hong Son Province, Mae Sot District, and Phop Phra District in Tak Province. In

addition, the Myanmar minority groups' methamphetamine has also been brought to Lao PDR and smuggled into Thailand through the northeastern border. Furthermore, it has been detected that there has been a sea-route for trafficking from Myanmar to the South of Thailand since the beginning of 2000.





Statistics on methamphetamine seizures in Thailand

Year	Cases	Kgs.	Tablets
1996	52,394	817	9
1997	79,500	1,916	21
1998	130,689	3,013	33
1999	147,789	4,518	50.2
2000	149,827	7,422	82.4
2001 (JAN - MAR)	29,150	2,407	26.7



Methamphetamine stamping heads / rotary tableting machine

Transnational methamphetamine

Being major methamphetamine abusers, Thai labour workers who migrated abroad were the main consumers of drug syndicates. Methamphetamine export has been detected since 1995. There were 12 cases with 100,000 methamphetamine tablets

during 1995 - 1999. Moreover, in 2000, there were 8 seizures of 37,824 methamphetamine tablets in Thailand and 10 overseas seizures of 50,103 methamphetamine tablets being bound for Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Germany, Switzerland, and U.S.A..

**Seizures of transnational methamphetamine
during 2000 - March 2001**

Seizure date	Tablets	Intercepted country	Intended destination
6 JAN 2000	1,300	Thailand	Japan
11 JAN 2000	15,500	Thailand	Germany
20 JAN 2000	9,105	Thailand	Switzerland
8 FEB 2000	148	Malaysia	Malaysia
8 APR 2000	7,600	Thailand	Switzerland
9 APR 2000	1,990	Thailand	Korea
28 APR 2000	1,000	Malaysia	Malaysia
20 MAY 2000	11,867	Thailand	Switzerland
26 MAY 2000	1,964	Thailand	Singapore
3 JUN 2000	5,182	Singapore	Singapore
5 JUL 2000	3,840	Thailand	Singapore
5 AUG 2000	3,000	Thailand	Hong Kong
26 SEP 2000	2,889	Thailand	Singapore
28 SEP 2000	2,900	Thailand	Singapore
1 OCT 2000	4,948	Thailand	Singapore
5 OCT 2000	14,000	Thailand	Cambodia
12 OCT 2000	100	Thailand	N.A.

3 JAN 2001	5,500	Germany	Germany
6 JAN 2001	7,800	Thailand	U.S.A.
7 JAN 2001	10,000	Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
20 MAR 2001	4,980	Singapore	Singapore



Heroin

Since 1999 - 2000, no heroin refinery has been found in Thailand. Most heroin refineries are scattered along the Thai-Myanmar border opposite to Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, and Tak Province.

Statistics on destroyed heroin refinery in Thailand

Year	Refinery(s)	Location
1996	4	Mae Hong Son & Chiang Rai
1997	3	Mae Hong Son
1998	1	Chiang Rai
1999	-	-
2000	-	-

In spite of, Chang Chi Fu (or Khun Sa), so called, Drug War Lord, surrendering to the Myanmar Government in 1996, his cartel, Thai, African and Chinese syndicates, remained active. Even though, the heroin smuggling to Thailand was considerably lower than Chang Chi Fu era. However, heroin trafficking is becoming threatened again, due to more severe law enforcement suppression of the Chinese Government. The heroin cartels are turning back to Thailand. In 2000, 126 kgs. of heroin was seized in Bangkok. Recently, in January, 2001, 116 kgs. of heroin together with 7.9 million tablets of methamphetamine, destined for Thailand, Australia, and the U.S.A. from

Myanmar, has also been seized in the Andaman Sea.

Golden Crescent heroin

Currently, it has been found that there is heroin smuggling from the Golden Crescent area; jointed the boundary among Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, into Thailand, since 1996. Smuggling of Golden Crescent heroin into Thailand is now becoming an increasingly threatening trend; because, the Golden Crescent heroin price is lower than the Golden Triangle heroin. West African syndicate is the major Golden Crescent heroin gang in Thailand. Typically, Golden Triangle heroin has more pure heroin ingredients with the



average of 80 - 91% while the Golden Crescent heroin is around 66 - 90 % pure.

In 1996, the Royal Thai Customs made 2 seizures of Golden Crescent heroin. Pakistani authorities captured 13 heroin concealment mails that had a delivery address in Thailand in 1997, 15 heroin concealment mails and 24 drug couriers in 1999. In 2000, Thai authorities, altogether, made 21 cases with 22 offenders and seized 46,426 kgs. of Golden Crescent heroin. Their

trafficking routes started from Karachi airport, to Lahore airport to Islamabad airport. After circling around those three Pakistani airports, their final destination will end at Bangkok airport. There were many nationalities of these syndicate couriers, i.e., Nepalese, Pakistani, Filipino, Zimbabwean, and Thai. Concealment in the passenger's baggage and body, such as, wrapping around the body, as well as swallowing into the stomach, were some of the smuggling methods that had been used.

Significant seizures of transnational heroin in 2000

Seizure date	Grams	Seizure scene	Intended destination
5 JAN 2000	680	Lak Si Postal Centre, Bangkok	Cameroon
10 JAN 2000	126,000	Bangkok	Australia
5 MAR 2000	3,300	Bangkok International Airport	France
6 MAR 2000	1,300	Bangkok International Airport	Bangladesh
13 MAR 2000	310	Bangkok International Airport	Cambodia
27 MAY 2000	1,000	Bangkok International Airport	Hong Kong
16 JUN 2000	3,500	Bangkok International Airport	France
29 JUN 2000	2,100	Bangkok International Airport	Gabon
4 JUL 2000	306	Chiang Rai Airport	Taiwan
18 AUG 2000	3,500	Bangkok International Airport	Malaysia
24 AUG 2000	4,500	Bangkok International Airport	Indonesia
7 SEP 2000	1,000	Bangkok International Airport	Indonesia
28 SEP 2000	1,326	Offender's apartment, Bangkok	N.A.
21 OCT 2000	810	Bangkok International Airport	New Zealand
26 OCT 2000	3,500	Bangkok International Airport	Europe
5 DEC 2000	2,500	Bangkok International Airport	Taiwan



Statistics on heroin seizures in Thailand

Year	Cases	Seizure amount (kgs.)
1996	25,347	405
1997	17,080	325
1998	13,858	541
1999	7,538	405
2000	4,184	386
2001 (JAN-MAR)	688	211

Opium¹

On February 29, 2000, ONCB officers and Chiang Mai Provincial Police seized 22 kgs. of 258 cooked opium bars concealed in a cat wood carving preparing to send it to Oakland, California, U.S.A. by DHL; an international private express mail service company.

over in the North, Central, and South of Thailand. Most cultivation in Thailand is for domestic consumption. There are very few of the original Thai Sticks exporting. As a result, Thai marijuana cartels smuggle marijuana from Cambodia and Laos, consequently, trafficking to Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, and Netherlands.

On March 1, 2000, Prachuap Khiri Khan Provincial Police seized 30 kgs. of 30 plastic bags of cooked opium and 579 kgs. of 579 marijuana sticks on Phet Kasem Road in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province heading to Malaysia.

Most of the domestic trafficking involves concealment in hidden spaces in motor vehicles. On the other hand, air route is the favorite of overseas trafficking. Using the passenger baggage concealment, marijuana is usually covered by Thai traditional salted fish, which has a very strong odor, or by any strong smell vegetable or frozen meat.

Marijuana

Marijuana cultivation areas are mostly found in the Northeast scattering

¹More details in *Narcotic Crop Control* section.

Statistics on marijuana eradication in Thailand

Year	Area (hectares)	Seized amount (kgs.)	
		Fresh marijuana	Dry marijuana
1995	20.07	156,765.0	27.0
1996	19.65	59,871.0	-
1997	15.43	113,446.2	11.6
1998	12.01	56,192.0	-
1999	25.43	107,280.6	2,990.0
2000	12.35	46,306.7	9,803.0

Significant seizures of transnational cannabis resin in 2000

Seizure date	Kgs.	Arrested scene	Origin	Destination
25 JAN 2001	0.90	Bangkok International Airport	Thailand	U.K.
4 MAR 2000	8	Bangkok International Airport	Nepal	Thailand
6 MAR 2000	4	Bangkok International Airport	Thailand	Japan
10 MAR 2000	13.5	Bangkok International Airport	Nepal	Thailand
14 MAR 2000	4	Bangkok International Airport	Nepal	Thailand
28 MAR 2000	14	Bangkok International Airport	Nepal	Thailand
1 APR 2000	3.8	Bangkok International Airport	Nepal	Thailand
20 AUG 2000	4	Bangkok International Airport	Nepal	Thailand
16 OCT 2000	2.2	Bangkok International Airport	Nepal	Thailand
13 NOV 2000	4.8	Bangkok International Airport	Thailand	Switzerland



Statistics on dry marijuana seizures during 1995 - 2000 in Thailand

Year	Cases	Seizure amount (tons)
1995	44,170	16.72
1996	33,815	9.10
1997	25,714	5.88
1998	22,156	14.68
1999	17,033	9.80
2000	3,181	0.92

Significant marijuana seizures in 2000

Seizure Date	Kgs.	Arrested scene	Intended destination
15 JAN 2000	580	Pathum Thani	Netherlands
19 JAN 2000	42	Bangkok International Airport	U.K.
17 FEB 2000	2	DHL office, Bangkok	Hong Kong
1 MAR 2000	579	Prachuapkirikhan	Malaysia
4 OCT 2000	482	Trang & Songkla	Malaysia

Ecstasy

Ecstasy has been a problem in Thailand since 1992. All ecstasy that was found in Thailand has been smuggled from abroad. Most of it came from Europe, especially, the Netherlands, by the joint-syndicate among foreign drug cartels and local drug gangs. Ecstasy is not only smuggled sent directly from the Netherlands, but also transited through a third country, such as, Malaysia,

Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Indonesia before entering Thailand.

Recently, ecstasy has been drastically used by teenagers as a new trend of fashion. Ecstasy is spreading to tourist attractions in the provinces throughout the country. It is usually found on teenagers' going out to night places, i.e., nightclubs, discotheques, public or party houses.



Statistics on ecstasy seizures during 1996 - 2001 in Thailand

Year	Cases	Seizure amount (tablets)
1996	25	9,687
1997	128	80,047
1998	113	5,914
1999	181	21,790
2000	279	71,807
2001 (JAN-MAR)	65	19,787

Significant ecstasy seizures in 2000

Seizure date	Kgs.	Arrested scene	Intended destination
21 JUN 2000	12,000	Bangkok International Airport	Thailand
4 AUG 2000	17,010	Offender's residence, Bangkok	Thailand
12 DEC 2000	30,000	Bangkok International Airport	Thailand

Cocaine

Cocaine drug abuse is a small problem in Thailand. The main abusers are limited to rich teenagers and tourists. Cocaine active areas are found around tourist attractions where most overseas tourists frequent, i.e., Bangkok, Phuket, and Chonburi.

Cocaine trafficking groups are Singaporean, African, and Thai. They smuggle the cocaine from Columbia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, and the United States to Thailand via Bangkok International Airport by human carriers and international mail.



Significant cocaine seizures in 2000

Seizure date	Grams	Co-seizure	Arrested scene	Offenders/Source
25 MAY 2000	350	Heroin 1 kg. Bangkok	Offender's apartment, 1 New Zealander	1 Ghanaian 1 New Zealander
20 JUN 2000	22.5	Heroin 50 grams	Offender's apartment, Bangkok	1 Zimbabwean
21 JUL 2000	350	-	Bang Bon Postal Office, Bangkok	Mail from Columbia
4 AUG 2000	24	Heroin 4 kgs. Ecstasy 17,010 tablets Marijuana 1.6 grams	Offender's residence, Bangkok	2 Thais 1 Netherlander

Statistics on cocaine seizures during 1996 - 2000 in Thailand

Year	Cases	Seizure amount (kgs.)
1996	7	2.264
1997	13	3.230
1998	22	3.560
1999	16	0.619
2000	16	4.003

Ketamine/Ketava

Ketamine is categorized as a type-2 psychotropic substance, used in medical treatment as a tranquilizer. Initially, it had been abused in Thailand by the foreigners, since 1989. In the past

year, ketamine was increasingly found especially, in entertainment venues. Most of it was smuggled from Pakistan and India.



Significant ketamine seizures in 2000

Seizure date	Seizure amount	Arrested scene	Charge
23 FEB 2000	555 bottles*	Bangkok	Drug dealer
19 APR 2000	760 bottles	Bangkok International Airport	Smuggle from Pakistan
22 JUN 2000	31 tablets	Bangkok	Drug dealer
15 JUL 2000	54 bottles	Bangkok	Drug dealer

* 1 bottle = 10 c.c.

Volatile substances

Currently, volatile substances ranked in the following order: The that have been abused are bionic glue, Northeast is the most volatile area for thinner, and lacquer. Most volatile substance abuse, the second being the substances are abused by youths and South. Bangkok is the third largest area teenagers. Areas in which volatile followed by the Central areas and the substances are being abused can be North, respectively.

Statistics on volatile substance seizures during 1996 - 2001 in Thailand

Year	Cases	Seizure amount (kgs.)
1996	25,994	987
1997	23,106	830
1998	17,983	599
1999	16,929	4,141
2000	12,450	453
2001 (JAN-MAR)	1,878	68



Significant Operations

Mr. Chairatana Sae Ton's syndicate

Mr. Chairatana (or Mui Heng) Sae Ton's syndicate is one of the biggest transnational organized crime groups in Thailand. His syndicate's network are deployed over the North, in Bangkok, and through the South. His main dealers are in Malaysia, who then smuggle to Australia and the United States.

Since 1982-1998, ONCB has arrested 43 members of his gang syndicate, seized 144 kgs. of heroin, 151 kgs. of morphine, 921 kgs. of raw opium, 37,000 tablets of methamphetamine, 400 litres of acetic anhydride and 5,000 kgs. of ephedrine. Unfortunately, there was not enough hard evidence to file a lawsuit on this gang masterminds.





The ONCB targeted this syndicate with the joint-cooperation and intelligence of the D.E.A. of America, Malaysian Police Department, and C.C.D.A.C. of Myanmar. During January 1 - 6, 2001, New Year long weekend, the Andaman Sea Joint-operation of Royal Thai Navy, Royal Thai Army, and ONCB aware of this groups movements. The gang was smuggling drugs from Myanmar to Malaysia via the Andaman Sea route. H.R.M.S. Bang Pakong, H.R.M.S. Khamronsinthu, Coast Guard ship number 214 and 225 from the Royal Thai Navy had been deployed to monitor the gang's activities. In addition, airplanes from Naval Aerial Patrol and Royal Thai Army Aviation were monitoring from the sky. On January 7, 2001, 13.00 hrs., Chok-tawatchai-V fishing trawler had received drugs from Myanmar fishing trawler. While Chok-tawatchai-V fishing trawler remained in position, Chok-tawatchai-IV fishing trawler, which was deported from Khura Buri Pier in Phangnga Province, had come to transfer the drugs from Chok-tawatchai -V. The joint-operation Royal Thai Navy ships had surrounded and charged them during their drug loading. The

joint-operation team had seized 116 kgs. of 254 white compressed heroin bars and 779 kgs. of 7.79 million methamphetamine tablets, the largest amount ever been captured in a single methamphetamine case in Thailand, on board. Mr. Sombat Pinthong, Chok-tawatchai-IV Captain, and Mr. Raksitthi Winijkul, Chok-tawatchai-V Captain, had been arrested at the scene. Consequently, 4 more gang masterminds, Mr. Prateep (or Sewlew) Tawee-apiradee-roj and Mr. Chairatana Sae Ton, gang leader, had been arrested in Bangkok as well as Mr. Suppachai Krajaawchan and Mr. Chunchung Sae Yaw had also been arrested in Ranong and Chiang Mai, respectively.

Transnational heroin syndicate

ONCB and CNB (Central Narcotics Bureau) of Singapore have exchanged mutual cooperation in targeting Singaporean heroin syndicate. The syndicate came to Thailand to get heroin from the Golden Triangle area, and then, smuggled to Singapore or Taiwan. Consequently, then trafficked to Europe, especially, to the Netherlands. After targeting this gang for 6 months in Thailand, law enforcement officers have





captured 11.5 kgs. of heroin at Bangkok and Taiwan as details below:

- On October 26, 2000, ONCB officers had arrested 2 Singaporeans with the possession of 3.5 kgs. of heroin at Bangkok International Airport and at The Mall Department Store, Bang Krapi Branch in Bangkok.
- On October 3, 2000, Taiwan police officers had arrested a Singaporean and 2 Taiwanese with possession of 4.4 kgs. of heroin in a Taiwanese Hotel.
- On June 16, 2000, ONCB officers and Customs officers had arrested a Singaporean with possession of 3.5 kgs. of heroin at Bangkok International Airport.

