

Message from Executive Director John Kanig

HIDTA is, at its core, a coalition. Guided by this mandate, the Puerto Rico-U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA continues to strengthen its impact, partnerships, and mission by creating valuable opportunities for continued growth. Hosting the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) Regional Executive Committee meetings, along with supporting emerging initiatives such as the PRPD Firearms and Gang Efforts within HIDTA, represents just a portion of this ongoing commitment.

In collaboration with our law enforcement partners, we are also increasing our engagement with local government officials to advance public safety efforts. In April, PR-USVI HIDTA and Executive Board members were invited to participate in a security roundtable hosted by Governor Jenniffer González, followed by an invitation to take part in a law enforcement forum at the Puerto Rico Senate.

In May, PR-USVI HIDTA hosted ONDCP Director Sara Carter, along with US Postal Inspection Service Director Gary Barksdale, alongside federal and state law enforcement agencies, for a round table discussion on drug trafficking in the region. HIDTA then hosted a press conference highlighting OPERATION Path to Zero, an initiative focused on combating drug trafficking in the Caribbean and advancing the HIDTA mission. The event brought together federal, state, and local agency leadership from across the territory for this meaningful dialogue.

These engagements put an emphasis on the importance of building strong, collaborative relationships. The PR-USVI HIDTA remains committed to serving as a unifying force—connecting partners, strengthening coordination, and advancing our shared public safety mission.







PR-USVI HIDTA 2nd Quarter 2026 Newsletter

PARTNER PROFILE



SAC Michael Mayer
Drug Enforcement Administration
Caribbean Division

Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Michael C. Mayer joined the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in October 2004. Upon completion of the DEA Academy, SAC Mayer was assigned to the Dayton Resident Office, Detroit Division. In the Dayton RO, SAC Mayer conducted complex conspiracy investigations focused on transnational criminal organizations with distribution cells in the Midwest. In September 2009, SAC Mayer was reassigned as a Special Agent to the Operations Division's Foreign-deployed Advisory Support Team (FAST) in Stafford, VA. FAST was a deployable enforcement element that supported DEA foreign offices and their counterparts. Deployments involved training and mentoring of host-nation partners, operational and logistical planning, as well as conducting high-risk search and arrest operations.

In March 2014, SAC Mayer was promoted to Team Leader/Group Supervisor within the FAST program. In March 2017, SAC Mayer was assigned as a Group Supervisor in the Miami Field Division's, Jacksonville District Office. In this role, he was designated the Initiative Commander for the North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force. SAC Mayer oversaw task force members as they performed their investigative and operational functions within northeast Florida. In March 2022, SAC Mayer was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge in the Atlanta Division and assigned oversight of enforcement and administrative personnel in the Division Office. In March 2026, DEA Administrator Terrance C. Cole selected SAC Mayer to become the Special Agent in Charge of the Caribbean Field Division. He officially assumed the role in June 2026. SAC Mayer began his law enforcement career in October 1998 as a Narcotics Agent employed by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General's, Bureau of Narcotics Investigation.

PUERTO RICO-US VIRGIN ISLANDS HIDTA WELCOMES PUBLIC HEALTH ANALYST TALISA GRIFFITH-SIMMONDS, MBA, TO THE USVI ORS TEAM

Talisa Griffith-Simmonds joined the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) as the U.S. Virgin Islands Public Health Analyst in June 2026. She brings more than a decade of experience in project management, public health initiatives, emergency preparedness, stakeholder engagement, and community outreach. Prior to joining ORS, Talisa served as a Healthcare Project Manager and Acting Director of the Project Management Office for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health, where she led complex healthcare infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and public health improvement projects. She also served as a Safety Administrator with the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, where she supported occupational safety programs, regulatory compliance, emergency response planning, and organizational preparedness and hurricane restoration initiatives. Talisa was born and raised on St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands.

She is passionate about strengthening public health systems, fostering community partnerships, and improving outcomes for individuals and families throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands. Talisa is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Mu Gamma Omega Chapter, and has served on both regional and national committees supporting leadership development, community service, and global initiatives. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children mentoring others, and volunteering within her community.



HIDTA LIAISON

On May 20, 2026, the PR-USVI HIDTA hosted a meeting between ONDCP Director Sara Carter, US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) Director Gary Barksdale, and HIDTA Executive Board partners. Chief Barksdale discussed the success of OPERATION PATH TO ZERO, a USPIS enforcement initiative designed to fight drug trafficking in the Caribbean in partnership with HSTF. Since January 2026, OPERATION PATH TO ZERO has netted 556 kilograms of cocaine in the mail, heading to CONUS. Director Barksdale stated that this operation denies trafficking organizations the comfort of shipping contraband through the mail. HIDTA hosted a press conference after the meeting where Director Sara Carter talked about the negative effects of drug use in our communities. Director Carter stated that under the President's National Drug Control Strategy, the United States continues to wage a relentless offensive against illicit drugs.



Left: (L to R) HSI SAC Rebecca, ONDCP Director Sara Carter, USPIS Director Gary Barksdale, USA District of Puerto Rico Stephen Muldrow, PRVI Executive Director John Kanig; Right: Director Carter speaking to the group at the meeting.



PREVENTION

ALIANZA PARA UN PUERTO RICO SIN DROGAS

Prevention in Action: 311 Students Develop Prevention Messages

A total of 311 students in grades 8 through 11 from schools in Bayamón and San Juan participated in the closing event of the Prevention in Action project. The initiative, coordinated by Alianza para un Puerto Rico sin Drogas and sponsored by the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program as part of its commitment to promoting evidence-based prevention strategies and strengthening youth personal and social competencies, provided six prevention workshops focused on developing life skills that help students navigate everyday challenges and avoid risk behaviors such as violence and the use of alcohol and other drugs.

Throughout the workshops, students explored topics including self-esteem, decision-making, critical thinking, creativity, social responsibility, emotional regulation, and interpersonal communication skills, among others.



As part of the project, participants also attended a media production workshop and subsequently created a public service announcement (PSA), producing a 30-second prevention video aimed at their peers and the broader community. The PSA served as the culminating communication product of the project. Participating schools this year included Agustín Stahl School, Ernesto Ramos Antonini School, Jesús Sánchez Erazo School, Francisco Gaztambide School, Pachín Marín School, and Pedro P. Casablanca School. The event featured former Chief Deputy US Marshal Antonio Torres, who addressed students on the importance of leadership, goal setting, and making positive life choices. He encouraged attendees to pursue their aspirations while avoiding risky behaviors. Also in attendance were John Kanig, Executive Director of PR-USVI HIDTA; José Carlos Colón-De Jesús representative from the Department of the Treasury of Puerto Rico; Manuel A. Rodríguez, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); PR ORS team DIO José Betancourt and PHA Francisco Torres-Cardona.

Above: Prevention in Action attendees and presenters posing for a picture; Below: Attendees listening to a presentation at the Prevention in Action closing event.



OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

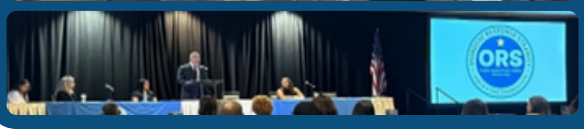
ANNUAL OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY CONFERENCE IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Puerto Rico-US Virgin Islands HIDTA Public Health Analyst (PHA) Francisco Torres-Cardona, and Drug Intelligence Officers (DIO) José Betancourt and Rodney F. Querrard attended the Annual Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Conference which was held in St. Louis, Missouri on May 12th through the 14th. These conferences are held to bring PHA and DIO teams, along with CDC and ORS leadership together so face-to-face interactions can be made. Conference calls are good, but face to face interactions are always better.

Breakout meetings and regional breakouts held throughout the conference were informative, and information presented was current and useful. There were numerous presentations on a variety of topics related to the DIO's and PHA's mission, ORS goals, and updates. Each presenter was well versed and knowledgeable on the topics of their discussion.

On the last day of the conference, Dr. Stephen Loyd, an Internal and Addiction Medicine physician, Director of West Virginia's Office of Drug Control Policy, and Chief Medical Officer at Cedar Recovery in Tennessee, delivered an intense presentation in which he spoke about his own life challenges involving addiction to benzodiazepine, and how he overcame it two decades ago. It started after a dental procedure resulting in him being given hydrocodone as a painkiller. Over time, he started using other opioids. (Dr. Loyd was an inspiration for the character played by Michael Keaton in the Hulu series "Dopesick") His personal story is his driving force to treat patients with substance use disorder. His life challenges and how he overcame them are a perfect example that with the right assistance and opportunity, challenges such as addiction can be overcome. He did state though, that being a doctor played a role in what assistance was available to him, and that not everyone is fortunate to have that. He said that addiction is exactly that, an addiction, and should be treated as such.





Left, Above: Attendees on the first day of the ORS Conference listening to the opening remarks by CDC, ORS and HIDTA leadership; Left, Below: ORS National HIDTA Coordinator Chris Jakim speaking at the ORS Conference. Right: PR-USVI HIDTA's Puerto Rico Drug Intelligence Officer Jose Betancourt giving a presentation at Region 3 DIO's and PHA's meeting.



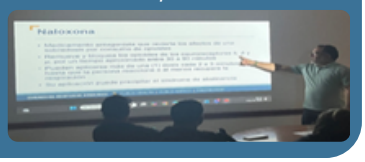
PUERTO RICO TEAM

Caguas, Puerto Rico – May 20, 2026: As part of a collaborative public health and public safety initiative, the Puerto Rico Overdose Response Strategy (PR ORS) team delivered specialized opioid overdose recognition and response training to officers from the Caguas Municipal Police Department. During the initiative, a total of 36 officers received instruction on overdose identification, naloxone administration, and essential intervention protocols for opioid-related emergencies.

As a notable outcome of the training, an officer approached the PR ORS team at the conclusion of the afternoon session requesting an additional naloxone kit. The officer explained that after completing the morning training session and returning to his regular patrol duties, he encountered an individual experiencing an apparent overdose. Applying the knowledge and techniques learned during the training, the officer immediately administered naloxone, successfully stabilizing the individual until paramedics arrived on scene. The individual was subsequently transported to a hospital for further medical treatment. This incident highlights the direct impact of the PR USVI HIDTA Training Initiative and the PR ORS team by enhancing first responder preparedness, strengthening interagency collaboration, and supporting timely interventions that contribute to saving lives throughout Puerto Rico.



Above: Overdose reversal with naloxone after an apparent overdose events, emphasizing the importance of opioid overdose response training for all First Responders; Below: PHA Francisco facilitating the Opioid Overdose Response training to the Caguas Municipal Police.



PUERTO RICO ORS ON X61 RADIO PATILLAS



Aired on May 1, 2026, DIO José and PHA Francisco participated in another Salud y Bienestar radio broadcast. Along with host Carmen "Socky" Rivera-González and Professional counselor Ana Martínez-San, both from the Centro de Servicios Primarios de Salud de Patillas, the PR ORS team shared information about the opioid crisis in the US and its effects in Puerto Rico. Panelist recounted on the drastic increases in opioid overdose death and the challenges to tackle the epidemy over the past 26 years. Remarks on the particularities of the opioid crisis in Puerto Rico, along with evidence-based, informed and promising strategies implemented by public safety and health agencies to reduce and prevent overdose deaths.

Salud y Bienestar goes live at 10:00am AST on X61 Radio WEXS, 610am, Patillas.

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE AND OVERDOSE DATA BULLETINS

The Overdose Data Bulletin #3 and Interagency Intelligence Bulletin #1 & 2 were disseminated in June 2026 and are available for consultation through the following links:

Boletín de datos de sobredosis, #3-2026.pdf (Spanish version)

Overdose data bulletin, #3-2026.pdf (English version)

HIDTA PR Interagency Intelligence Brief dated 1st Qt 2026.pdf

HIDTA PR Interagency Intelligence Bulletin 2do Qt 2026.pdf

US VIRGIN ISLANDS TEAM

USVI HIDTA PREVENTION INITIATIVE DIO SPEAKS AT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES (NOBLE) 2026 INTERNATIONAL TRAINING SUMMIT



DIO Querrard with NOBLE Special Assistant to the President of International Affairs Ms. Trebor Randle.

Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO) Rodney F. Querrard was invited by the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) to conduct a presentation at their 2026 International Training Summit which was being held on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands at the Westin Frenchman's Reef Resort and Spa on June 3rd through June 5th. The theme of the summit was "Justice Without Borders: Global Practices Protecting the Vulnerable". The requested topic for DIO Querrard's presentation was "Opioids Threat to the People of the United States, its Territories, and the Caribbean".

On Thursday, June 4th, DIO Querrard and DEA Special Agent Thad Reid did a presentation for Law Enforcement officials present from the US Virgin Islands, CONUS, and the Caribbean on the drug threats not only to the CONUS, but also to the Caribbean and the US Virgin Islands. Overdose statistics as it relates to deaths between 2020 to 2025 in the United States, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands were shared with those in attendance. The numbers from Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands showed that no one is exempt or immune from this crisis. Some of the topics covered were; The Three Waves of the Opioid Crises, fentanyl, DEA's "One Pill Can Kill" campaign, oxycodone, xylazine, carfentanil, ketamine, nitazene, heroin and naloxone, among others. Also, briefly touched on was marijuana and edibles due to the increase of school aged children in the US Virgin Islands being affected. There were also videos shown of law enforcement personnel being affected because of mishandling various drugs. There were approximately 45 people in attendance.



DIO Rodney F. Querrard speaking with Law Enforcment personnel attending NOBLE International Training Summit on St. Thomas

PR-USVI HIDTA'S U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS PREVENTION INITIATIVE AWARDED THE PUBLIC HEALTH/PUBLIC SAFETY COLLABORATION NATIONAL HIDTA AWARD

PR-USVI HIDTA launched the US Virgin Islands HIDTA Prevention Initiative in 2021. The Initiative was designed to educate students from the 3rd through 12th grade on the dangers of drug use/misuse (including opioids), managing peer pressure, violence, bullying, and making positive life choices. In addition, the Initiative sought to educate school counselors, teachers, and education administrators of the same, thus raising awareness throughout the educational system of the US Virgin Islands. DIO Rodney F. Querrard and former PHA Amulen Wirsiy have built an interagency coalition which includes the US Virgin Islands Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, Virgin Islands National Guard, US Attorney's Office, US Virgin Islands Department of Education, and the US Virgin Islands Department of Health.

DIO Querrard and PHA Wirsiy worked with USVI Department of Education officials to develop and implement a strategy to determine the needs of the students through surveys. These surveys were distributed throughout the public schools in St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. Based on the survey results, the Initiative found that school age children had been exposed to, and had access to marijuana (including edibles), fake pills, vaping devices, alcohol and opioids. DIO Querrard and PHA Wirsiy developed a series of PowerPoint presentations, along with organized classroom discussions designed to educate and mentor students about these threats. DIO Querrard and PHA Wirsiy worked closely with school administrators to schedule class participation for students in the 3rd through 12th grades territory wide. At times, DIO Querrard would invite guest lecturers to participate in the classroom discussions. At the conclusion of each presentation, additional surveys are distributed to each student so feedback on the topics discussed could be received and analyzed. These surveys assist in determining if any area of discussion needs to be strengthened. At the end of each presentation, DIO Querrard distributes DEA/HIDTA trinkets to each participating student.

While supporting this initiative, the US Virgin Islands Police Department recognized the wealth of knowledge that DIO Querrard and PHA Wirsiy had in counterdrug and requested the support of HIDTA to provide Naloxone Training for their First Responders. DIO Querrard, with the assistance of the US Virgin Islands Police Department and US Virgin Islands Department of Health leadership scheduled numerous trainings on Fentanyl, CPR and First Aid for First Responders, which is ongoing. The naloxone kits are being procured by the US Virgin Islands Department of Health, and they provide Instructors to assist. DIO Querrard provides an in-depth presentation on what Fentanyl is, what to look for, how to handle any type of suspected drugs and what to do in the event of a possible exposure by a First Responder or community member. First Responders who successfully complete the class receive a pack of NARCAN at the end of the session. It is the goal of the US Virgin Islands HIDTA Prevention Initiative to train as many First Responders as possible territory wide. *(Continues on page 7.)*





Top Left: Former US Virgin Islands PHA Amulen Wirsiy, ONDCP Director Sara Carter, PR-USVI HIDTA Director John Kanig, National HIDTA Program Director and Assistant Director ONDCP Shannon L. Kelly, DIO Rodney F. Querrard, and PR-US Virgin Islands HIDTA Deputy Director James Doby accepting award at the National HIDTA Awards Ceremony; Right: Director John Kanig, DIO Querrard, former PHA Wirsiy and Deputy Director James Doby.

(Continuation from page 6.)

The Virgin Islands Prevention Initiative Prescription Drug Drop Box Program, led by DIO Querrard, was officially launched on February 12, 2025. Agencies involved were the US Virgin Islands Police Department, US Virgin Islands Department of Health, US Postal Service, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. DIO Querrard negotiated with VIPD to purchase the five secure drop boxes that were installed at five (5) post offices territory wide. Between February 12, 2025, and September 19, 2025, a total weight of 66.89 kilograms (147.47 Pounds) of prescription drugs have been collected. This is a great collaboration between agencies with a goal of saving lives.



Public Health Analyst Anna Gasinski and Drug Intelligence Officer Robert Lawlor (4th and 5th from left), recipients of the "Overdose Reduction National Award" (New England HIDTA), DIO Querrard and PHA Wirsiy, ORS National HIDTA Coordinator Chris Jakim, along with other HIDTA/ORS/CDC officials at the National HIDTA Awards ceremony.

On April 2, 2026, PR-US Virgin Islands HIDTA was presented with the Public Health-Public Safety Collaboration National HIDTA Award by ONDCP Director Sara Carter, and National HIDTA Program Director and Assistant Director of ONDCP Shannon L. Kelly at the National HIDTA Awards Ceremony held in Washington, DC.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOX PROGRAM

The U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA Prevention Initiative Prescription Drug Drop Box program once again exceeded expectations for the second quarter of 2026. This was the most collected in one quarter since its launch in February of 2025. ***The St. Thomas/St. John district collected 28.73 kilograms (63.4 Pounds), and the St. Croix district collected 10.43 kilograms (23 pounds) for a total of 39.19 kilograms (86.4 pounds) collected territory-wide. This brings the program to a total of 137.23 kilograms (302.54 Pounds) since its launch in February 12, 2025.*** "This program is far exceeding its expectation. Our residents realize the importance of properly disposing of these potentially lethal prescriptions, keeping them out of the wrong hands, and our water table", DIO Rodney F. Querrard. Our campaign to inform our community is working, along with people sharing the information with their family and friends. "The US Virgin Islands HIDTA Prevention Initiative along with PR-US Virgin Islands HIDTA, the Virgin Islands Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, US Postal Service, and the VI Department of Health are doing our part in keeping our Virgin Islands safe by collecting, and properly disposing of expired, unneeded prescriptions drugs".







Above, Left: Full Prescription Drug Drop Box at one of the Post Offices on St. Thomas.; Above, Middle: Drop Box container filled to capacity and what couldn't fit is in the plastic bag; Above, Right: Drop Box on St. John with deposited prescriptions.

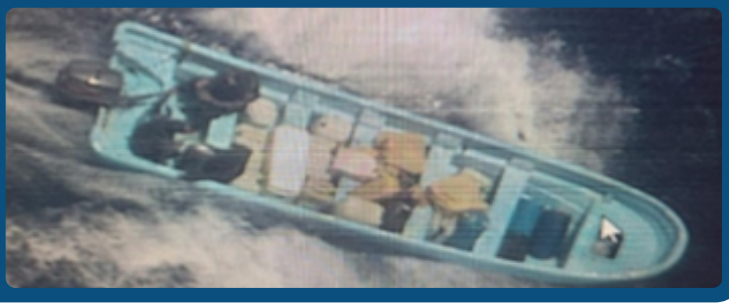
HSTF-BEST SEIZURE OF 178 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE AND 3 ARRESTS

On May 13, 2026, the Santo Domingo Country Office, in coordination with the San Juan HSTF BEST group, successfully infiltrated a maritime Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) operating out of Sabana de la Mar, DR. The targeted DTO specializes in smuggling multi-kilogram narcotics shipments to Puerto Rico utilizing high-speed, low-profile "yola" vessels. The DTO recruit local fishermen from Sabana de la Mar to navigate vessels heavily laden with cocaine and large fuel reserves. Leveraging critical support from the DR Sensitive Investigative Unit (SIU), DR agents executed a covert technical operation that allowed agents to monitor the DTOs operations.

With continuous support from the DR country office and the DR SIU, Caribbean Division agents were able to pre-position and coordinate air and maritime interdiction assets along the expected smuggling corridor. On May 15, 2026, HSTF BEST located the vessel to a location approximately 55 nautical miles of the coast of Puerto Rico and directed partner agencies to interdict the vessel. Air and marine assets spotted the vessel and conducted an interdiction within 24 nautical miles that led to the arrest of three Dominican nationals and the seizure of 174 kilograms of cocaine. The District of Puerto Rico accepted prosecution of the three individuals, this investigation is ongoing.



Left: Cocaine seized during the interdiction resulting in arrests; Below: Boat used to transport the seized cocaine and 3 people arrested.



HIDTA TF-3 SAN JUAN, SEIZURE OF 494 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE, 4 ARRESTS



Above: Seized boat used to transport cocaine; Below: Duffle bags containing 494 kilograms of cocaine.



On May 08, 2026, agents from HSTF BEST received actionable intelligence from a confidential source regarding a drug shipment originating from Tortola, BVI destined for Puerto Rico. Per the CS, a DTO was planning to use a 24-foot Hydra Sports Vessel equipped with two 175 horsepower motors with hidden compartments to blend in with civilian traffic.

On May 11, 2026, CBP marine units in conjunction with PRPB maritime units began monitoring civilian vessels leaving Tortola, BVI. At approximately 7:00 A.M. CBP maritime units observed a vessel matching the description provided by the CS approaching a public boat ramp in Las Croabas, Fajardo, PR. Quickly, CBP assets maneuvered to towards the vessel and coordinated with PRPB land assets to intercept the vessel at the boat ramp. As the CBP marine unit approached the vessel, CBP officers observed 4 individuals onboard. CBP and PRPB officers detained the 4 individuals onboard without incident.

Upon inspection, CBP officers discovered several black duffle bags concealed in a hidden compartment underneath the center console. Further inspection revealed 494 kilograms of cocaine inside the black bags. In addition to the cocaine, HSTF BEST agents seized the 24-foot Hydra Sports Vessel and a 2020 Dodge Ram Longhorn for forfeiture proceedings.

HSTF-BEST: ARREST OF 6 INDIVIDUALS AND THE SEIZURE OF 62.4 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE

On April 28, 2026, HSTF, BEST San Juan agents coordinated the interdiction of a "yola" style go-fast boat on the northern coast of Puerto Rico. Multiple foreign nationals were aboard the vessel from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. HSTF Agents conducted interviews after their arrests. During the interviews, agents were able to ascertain the locations of two stash houses located in Puerto Nuevo, PR. Per statements made by the individuals arrested, agents determined that the stash houses in Puerto Nuevo were being used to stash not only drugs but also house illegal migrants from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. Based on the information obtained, HSTF agents were able to link the stash houses to an existing case HSTF case "MANTA RAYA". Based on information gained through interviews and prior case knowledge, HSTF agents were able to obtain two federal search warrants for two addresses suspected of being stash houses.

On the same date, HSTF agents executed simultaneously the two arrest warrants in Puerto Nuevo. During the search, agents seized 62.4 kilograms of cocaine, 2 pistols, arrested five foreign nationals from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic as well as one U.S citizen from Puerto Rico.





Top Left: PRPD Canine waiting to participate in search of house during search warrant; Right: Agents discover cocaine in the house.

DEA Enforcement Group E-1 and HSTF

The DEA San Juan Enforcement Group 1 (E-1), in concert with HSTF, has been conducting a joint HSTF investigation named "LA FIGUE", targeting drug trafficking activities in the Figueroa Ward located in Santurce, San Juan, PR and the surrounding areas. Intelligence collected, along with the corroboration of DEA cooperating witnesses and SOIs, have linked at least 30 murders to the DTO, including the death of a 4-year-old child in Catano, PR. In February of 2023, gunmen opened fire at a birthday party at a Public Housing Project in Catano, PR. Three people were killed including the child. Two other children aged 9 and 10 were also injured in the attack. On March 17, 2026, agents were able to secure a 52-target indictment for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine & fentanyl, possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug crime, as well as possession of a machine gun in furtherance of a drug crime.





Above: Pictures taken by co-defendants on their way to the shooting attack at the Public Housing Project in February; Below: HSTF Agents escorting arrestee into detention facility



March 31, 2026, Agents initiated a simultaneous takedown operation island wide as well as in New York, Florida, Georgia and Texas. This take down resulted in the arrest and/or arraignment of 35 subjects under this indictment in a single day. During the arrests, agents seized 4 firearms modified to fire as machine guns, and one vehicle. Furthermore, during the arrest of one of the subjects in San Juan, PR, the subject attempted to flee resulting in a high-speed chase through the metro area. PRPB agents using air assets were able to locate and arrest the individual without injuries or property damage.

HIDTA TRAINING



FLETC Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence (BIRDE) May 2026.

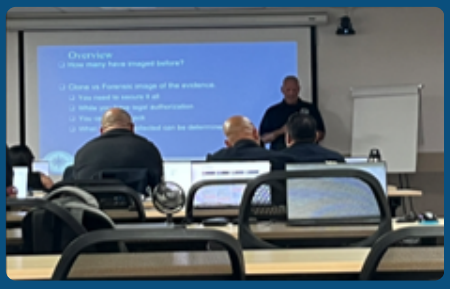
The PR-USVI HIDTA Training Initiative conducted in the second quarter of 2026, 5 different core courses, and three novel training sessions, consisting of 9 training sessions in Enforcement. Sessions took place at the PR-USVI HIDTA Training Room in Guaynabo, P.R. and in off sites locations. These sessions were attended by police officers from the PRPD FURA Air & Maritime Initiative, San Juan Municipal Police Officers, Guaynabo Municipal Police Officers, San Lorenzo, Cataño, and Humacao Municipal Police Officers.

Highlighted events for this quarter:

- Digital Evidence for instructors and coordinators from the Police Bureau of Puerto Rico Police Academy. The participants are championing a new undercover operations academy curriculum at the PRPD Police Academy, PR-USVI HIDTA provided a vetted instructor to support this new local initiative.
- PR-USVI HIDTA Assisted in the Training coordination of a Forensic Planimetry Training for the PRPD SWAT team.
- PR-USVI HIDTA Coordinated a: Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence (BIRDE) in conjunction with the PRPD cybercrimes unit and FLETC.

Our most requested training courses for the second quarter of 2026 are as follows:

- Understanding The Federal and Puerto Rico Court systems
- Police Sworn Statements in State's Drug Cases with Tabletop Exercises
- Court Testimony with Tabletop Exercises
- Digital Evidence
- State Search Warrant







Above, Left: PRPD Forensic Planimetry Training - April 2026.; Middle: Court Testimony with Tabletop Exercises class; Right: San Juan Police Academy Cadets - May 2026

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 2ND QUARTER 2026

Course Occurrence

From 4/1/2026 to 6/30/2026

Category: Enforcement

Title	HIDTA	Course Dates	Students Certified
A COMPARISON OF THE FEDERAL AND PUERTO RICO CRIMINAL JUDICIAL SYSTEMS	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	4/9/2026 - 4/9/2026	27
Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	5/19/2026 - 5/22/2026	16
Court Testimony with Tabletop Exercises	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	5/7/2026 - 5/7/2026	29
Digital Evidence for Admissibility in Court	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	4/30/2026 - 4/30/2026	18
Digital Evidence for Admissibility in Court	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	5/28/2026 - 5/28/2026	31
Forensic Planimetry	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	4/23/2026 - 4/23/2026	12
Liderazgo Saludable y el Ambiente Organizacional que Le Acompaña - Healthy Leadership and the Organizational Environment that Accompanies It	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	4/8/2026 - 4/8/2026	9
Opioids Overdose Response	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	4/14/2026 - 4/14/2026	22
Opioids Overdose Response	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	5/20/2026 - 5/20/2026	16
Opioids Overdose Response	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	5/20/2026 - 5/20/2026	15
Opioids Overdose Response	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	5/29/2026 - 5/29/2026	39
Police Sworn Statements in Drug Investigations with Tabletop Exercises	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	6/4/2026 - 6/4/2026	11
State Search Warrants with Tabletop Exercises	Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands	4/16/2026 - 4/16/2026	11

VITEMA
VIRGIN ISLANDS
FUSION CENTER



THE 4TH ANNUAL USVI EMERGING THREATS SYMPOSIUM

JOIN US AS WE HAVE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS ON CYBER THREATS, PUBLIC HEALTH, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

For Questions Email patricia.potter@vitema.vi.gov or shantelle.eddy@vitema.vi.gov

US VIRGIN ISLANDS PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOX PROGRAM

"A US VIRGIN ISLANDS HIDTA PREVENTION INITIATIVE"

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOXES ARE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AT "5" LOCATIONS IN THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS:



St. Thomas: ***Sugar Estate Post Office***
Frenchtown Post Office

St. Croix: ***Kingshill Post Office***
Gallows Bay Post Office

St. John: ***Cruz Bay Post Office***



Let's all do our part to keep our community safe by utilizing the drop boxes to dispose of expired or unwanted medications! TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND SAVE LIVES!





In partnership with the US Virgin Islands Police Department, PR-USVI High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Overdose Response Strategy/CDC, Department of Health, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the US Postal Service

Questions? Email us at VIHIDTA@GMAIL.COM



