

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE April 4, 2008
TIME 10:30 AM

Drug Task Force Arrest 21 People In Connection with 3 Drug Trafficking Operations

Stanislaus County, CA- Local, state, and federal drug task force agents conclude an 8-month-long investigation by searching 23 homes and arresting 21 people. Officials were investigating 3 different drug trafficking operations in Stanislaus County. Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency (SDEA), California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (Cal-MMET), and High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) led the investigation.

On Tuesday and Wednesday April 1st and 2nd, drug agents searched 16 homes in Turlock, 4 in Modesto, 1 in Ceres, 1 in Patterson, and 1 in Stevenson in Merced County. During the searches drug agents arrested 21 people, found over 100 pound of methamphetamine, seized \$60,000 in cash, 3 vehicles, and 5 guns. Charges on the people arrested ranged from drug sales, drug manufacturing, drug trafficking, child endangerment, and immigration holds. Agents are still looking for 4 suspects. They are:

- 1) Jesse Padilla 09/19/1986 (thought to be in the Modesto area)
- 2) Jose Lopez 04/05/1982 (thought to be in the Modesto area)
- 3) Juan Navarro 05/15/1980 (thought to be in the Turlock area)
- 4) Jesus Hernandez-Martinez 08/04/1980 (thought to be in the Patterson area)

Modesto Police Department, Turlock Police Department, Merced County Sheriff's Department, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and Marin County Cal-MMET assisted the drug units during to two-day operation.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency at (209) 558-6300. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.