



**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA**

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**MICHAEL S. CARONA
SHERIFF-CORONER**

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PRESS RELEASE

**ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO BE HONORED
BY THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICY**

Sheriff Michael Carona today announced the Orange County Sheriff's Department was selected by the Office of National Drug Policy (ONDCP) to receive the National Marijuana Eradication Award for the department's efforts to remove 23,000 marijuana plants in 2006.

During the 2006 marijuana harvest season the Orange County Sheriff's North and South Narcotics Units investigated three large marijuana grows. The first two grows totaling 3,725 plants were located in the Cleveland National Forest. The last and largest grow, which totaled 20,000 plants, was located outside O'Neil Regional park in a green belt belonging to a gate-guarded community with multimillion dollar homes. Conservatively, each plant yields about one pound of marijuana which currently sells for about \$1,000 a pound. The 23,725 plants for this season had a total value of \$23,725,000.

"We are extremely proud of the extraordinary work done by the men and women of the Orange County Sheriff's Department," said Sheriff Carona. "The efforts being recognized by the Office of National Drug Policy reach across many divisions of the organization and highlight the commitment and expertise of all involved. This is truly an honor."

The award will be presented today in Washington D.C. during the National Marijuana Eradication Initiative Conference. Four representatives from the Orange County Sheriff's Department will accept the award.

For more information, please contact Media Relations at (714) 647-7042.