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NEWS RELEASE SCSO dismantles drug trafficking organization

Seminole Co. (December 14 2018) - The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), in conjunction with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), today announced the arrest of nine individuals involved in a drug trafficking organization.

Agents with the City County Investigative Bureau (CCIB) began investigating in July 2017 and conducted a series of undercover operations. The investigation determined that the suspects were trafficking large amounts of cocaine and heroin in Seminole and Orange County. Agents estimate that the organization was responsible for importing approximately 25 –30 kilograms of cocaine and one kilogram of heroin into Central Florida per month.

In Seminole County, there has been a steady increase in overdose deaths related to heroin and fentanyl. In 2015, there were 51 overdoses and four documented deaths. In 2016, there were 116 overdoses and 12 documented deaths. From January 2017 through November of 2017, there have been 213 overdoses and 34 documented deaths. Narcan was administered 103 times this year by law enforcement and fire rescue saving many lives.

"We as an agency are committed to fighting the opioid, heroin and fentanyl epidemic and the affect it has on our community. I am extremely proud of the work conducted by the members of our agency and the assisting agencies to dismantle an organization of this magnitude. Their actions are admirable and consistent with our agency's mission to enhance the quality of life by reducing crime and the fear of crime in Seminole County," said Sheriff Dennis Lemma.

On Tuesday morning, CCIB and HSI agents, with the assistance of the Sanford Police Department's Neighborhood Response Unit (NRU) and the Altamonte Springs Police Department's Street Crimes Unit, executed search warrants and arrest warrants in Seminole and Orange County. As a result, the following suspects believed to be the primary members of the organization were arrested:

- Alicea-Mota, Carlos, 05/04/1990
- Montanez-Concepcion, Juan Rafael, 02/05/1984
- Nieves-Ortiz, Osvaldo, 06/09/19991
- Perez-Diaz, Kennya, 04/16/1988
- Perez-Diaz, Mar, 06/06/1992
- Perez-Guadalupe, Roberto, 01/06/1993
- Rumph, Quinton, 02/21/83
- Tillman, Terry, 06/01/1987
- Wilson, Quentin Terrill, 11/21/1977

In addition, agents seized:

- 1,400 grams of suspected heroin
- 4,026 grams of suspected cocaine
- 176 grams marijuana
- 26 grams of suspected fentanyl
- Oxycodone and Hydrocodone

- Seven firearms including two assault rifles, and five handguns, one of which was reported stolen out of Orange County
- Approximately \$500,000 in assets, including cash, vehicles used to facilitate the drug enterprise, and other property.

This case will be prosecuted by the State Attorney's Office of the Eighteenth Judical Circuit.

CCIB is a multi-agency task force working in conjunction with the State Attorney's Office and comprised of Seminole County Sheriff's deputies, officers from all seven police departments within Seminole County and Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents who investigate vice, narcotics and organized crime.

A digital press packet which includes video of some of the items seized, mug shots, arrest reports and booking reports are available <u>here</u>.

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