



# ONDCP Update

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## Office of National Drug Control Policy

Phone: 1-800-666-3332  
Contact ONDCP:  
<http://www.ondcp.gov/utilities/contact.html>

### Women, Girls, & Substance Abuse

To learn more about women, girls, and substance abuse, please visit <http://www.WhiteHouseDrugpolicy.gov/females/index.html>

*ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.*

## ONDCP Expands Efforts to Address Substance Abuse Issues Among Women, Children, and Families

Recent results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health show increasing drug use among women and girls, particularly illicit use of prescription drugs.

ONDCP policies in this area are an effort to reach women and girls over the course of their lives – before substance use begins, to intervene early before substance use becomes chronic, while they are incarcerated, if applicable, and during the lifelong process of recovery.

Among other efforts, we are seeking to establish policies that help women obtain effective treatment that keeps them connected with their children whenever possible. In our collaboration with other agencies and non-profit organizations, we are working to raise awareness about women's needs for family-focused programs and to recognize the role such programs can play in preventing substance abuse among their children.

March 8, 2011, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day. The theme chosen by the United Nations for this year's observance: "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All." For the month of March, ONDCP's *Of Substance* blog will feature stories about women in treatment, including testimonials and information on prevention programs for girls. We will highlight the challenges faced by women with substance use disorders, the policies we are establishing to address these challenges, and the successes we are seeing when women find the right kinds of support.

For information and updates on ONDCP's women- and girl-focused activities, visit our *Of Substance* blog at [http://ofsubstance.gov/blogs/pushing\\_back/default.aspx](http://ofsubstance.gov/blogs/pushing_back/default.aspx)

## Director Kerlikowske Affirms ONDCP's Commitment to Support Military Families

On January 24, ONDCP Director Gil Kerlikowske joined President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and Dr. Jill Biden at an event to announce the Administration's commitment to supporting our Nation's military families.

The Presidential Study Directive makes support for military families a priority not only for the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, but across the Federal Government.

"Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment" is the first-ever Presidential Study Directive issued on behalf of military families.

See *FAMILIES*, page 2

## Volunteers From ONDCP Pitch In To Help Family Of Fallen Soldier

As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service initiative, a number of ONDCP staff members volunteered their time and energy in January to perform home maintenance projects for the family of a U.S. soldier who was killed while serving in Afghanistan.

The ONDCP team traveled to Darnestown, Maryland, where they installed shelves, repaired furniture, and helped with other home maintenance projects for the family of Captain Brian "Bubba" Bunting, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Kandahar on February 24, 2009.

Four days after being informed of her husband's death, Nicki Bunting learned she was pregnant with their second child. Captain Bunting's sons Conner and Cooper are now 1 and 3 years old.

Each year on their wedding anniversary, Mrs. Bunting organizes "Bubba's Belly Run," a 5K race, fun run, and maternity walk held in memory of her husband, to raise money for the families of fallen service members.

Her efforts have raised over \$100,000 for organizations that assist in the healing of families who have lost loved ones at war. For her work in support of military families, Mrs. Bunting was named *Military Spouse* magazine's Army 2010 Spouse of the Year.

More information about Bubba's Belly Run and charities that support the families of fallen service members can be found online at: <http://www.bubbabellyrun.com>.



**Captain Brian "Bubba" Bunting and his then-19-month-old son Conner, shortly before he deployed to Afghanistan.**

### *FAMILIES, continued from page 1*

It identifies four strategic priorities:

1. Enhance the well-being and psychological health of the military family;
2. Ensure excellence in the education and development of military children;
3. Develop career and educational opportunities for military spouses; and
4. Increase child care availability and quality for the Armed Forces.

Responding to the President's call to action, ONDCP is committed to ensuring the availability of critical substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services for veterans, military personnel, and their families. These resources come at a critical time, as results of a recent survey by the Department of Defense show one in eight active-duty military personnel reported past-month drug use. Within the past decade, overall drug use among the Armed Forces has risen, an increase driven primarily by misuse of prescription drugs.

According to a survey from the Department of Justice, 61 percent of the 140,000 veterans in Federal and state prisons are struggling with a substance use disorder, and 25 percent reported being under the influence of drugs at the time of their offense.

"Every American benefits from the profound sacrifices made by our military men and women," Director Kerlikowske said. "When service members who have dedicated their lives to protecting this country suffer from physical, mental health, or substance abuse problems, they do not suffer alone. We owe these patriots and their families more than gratitude – we owe them our support."

The Director affirmed ONDCP's commitment to providing needed support through expanded access to drug treatment

for active duty service members and veterans, extended support for Veterans Treatment Courts, and comprehensive efforts to reduce drug use and its consequences.

ONDCP has been looking closely at issues involving substance abuse in the military since April 2009, when we convened a Demand Reduction Interagency Working Group to help formulate long-term goals for increasing the Nation's effort to prevent and treat substance abuse.

A subgroup focusing on the Military, Veterans, and Their Families (MVF) seeks to identify and address substance abuse issues in the Armed Forces. The group has made the following recommendations:

- ❖ Expand treatment and recovery support service availability and access for MVF populations;
- ❖ Inform service members of the current treatment and recovery services available to them;
- ❖ Increase prevention and treatment provider competency around MVF populations;
- ❖ Educate service leadership about substance use disorders and effective prevention and treatment practices;
- ❖ Promote and expand research into substance use disorders in MVF populations; and
- ❖ Partner with and promote MVF tracks in the criminal justice system, including Veterans Drug Courts.

We as a Nation have an obligation to provide the best possible care for our military men and women, and this means increasing their access to urgently needed prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

The President and ONDCP's commitment to this endeavor will be reflected throughout the 2011 *National Drug Control Strategy*, currently in development. Virtually every chapter will feature the Administration's efforts to make sure military families get all the treatment and support they need.





**Director Kerlikowske (center, left) discusses Colombian-U.S. counternarcotics issues with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, center, and government officials during a meeting January 18 at the Casa de Nariño in Bogotá, Colombia.**

## Director's Trip to South America Strengthens Vital Ties

Director Kerlikowske traveled to Colombia and Peru in January to meet with government officials and discuss a number of important issues, including the United States' valued relationships with those countries, ongoing counternarcotics cooperation and support for hemispheric drug prevention, and treatment and alternative development programs.

In Colombia, the Director met with President Juan Manuel Santos and members of the Santos Administration, as well as with P. Michael McKinley, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, and members of the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá.

***"Colombia's progress in improving security, reducing the influence of drug cartels, improving the economic situation for its people, and stabilizing the country is nothing short of astonishing."***

– Director Kerlikowske

Director Kerlikowske traveled to the La Macarena region, a former stronghold of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a terrorist organization, to see Colombian programs that transition former coca growers to licit crops.

Former coca growers explained that although coca may pay

more than other crops, it was not worth the effort due to the associated violence, threats to their families, and other problems that resulted from its cultivation. The visit to La Macarena showed what can be achieved through closely coordinated security, eradication, and alternative development programs.

During their meeting, President Santos and Director Kerlikowske discussed recent indicators that point to improved security and stability throughout Colombia, including increased seizures of cocaine, historic decreases in coca cultivation and cocaine production in Colombia, and dramatic declines in terrorist attacks, kidnappings, and murders, as well as how these gains can be sustained over time.

The two also discussed how increased efforts to reduce the consumption of drugs in the United States supports regional drug supply-reduction efforts,

underscoring the point that less consumption means reduced profits for traffickers.

"Colombia's progress in improving security, reducing the influence of drug cartels, improving the economic situation for its people, and stabilizing the country is nothing short of astonishing," said Director Kerlikowske, "and serves as a beacon of hope for other nations struggling with the threat to democracy posed by drug trafficking and related crime."

In Peru, Director Kerlikowske met with members of President Alan Garcia's administration and the U.S. Embassy. Topics included the valuable U.S.-Peru partnership, U.S. efforts to increase drug prevention and treatment programs, and the successes and challenges of hemispheric counternarcotics efforts.

During his visit to Peru, Director Kerlikowske met with former coca growers from San Martín, who highlighted eradication or the threat of eradication as a critical element in their accepting alternative development assistance and switching to growing licit crops. He also met with local youth, who detailed their experiences organizing their communities against drug use.



**In Peru, Director Kerlikowske (in white cap) meets with former coca growers who have transitioned to licit crops, such as the banana and cacao plants in the background.**

## President's FY 2012 Budget Request Includes \$26.2 Billion To Help Reduce Substance Abuse and its Consequences

On February 14, President Obama released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Budget, including the National Drug Control Budget request of \$26.2 billion to reduce drug use and its consequences. This represents an increase of \$322.6 million (1.2 percent) over the FY 2010 enacted level of \$25.9 billion.

The FY 2012 request demonstrates a continued commitment to the *National Drug Control Strategy* and its comprehensive approach to drug policy. It includes funding in these critical areas:

- **Prevention** – Spearheaded by the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education, Federal resources totaling \$1.7 billion support education and outreach programs aimed at preventing the initiation of drug use.
- **Treatment** – \$8.9 billion in Federal funds for early intervention and treatment services for substance abusers.
- **Domestic Law Enforcement** – More than \$9.5 billion in Federal resources are requested to support domestic law enforcement efforts (including facilitating partnerships among Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors) to

identify, dismantle, and disrupt sophisticated national and international drug-trafficking and money-laundering organizations.

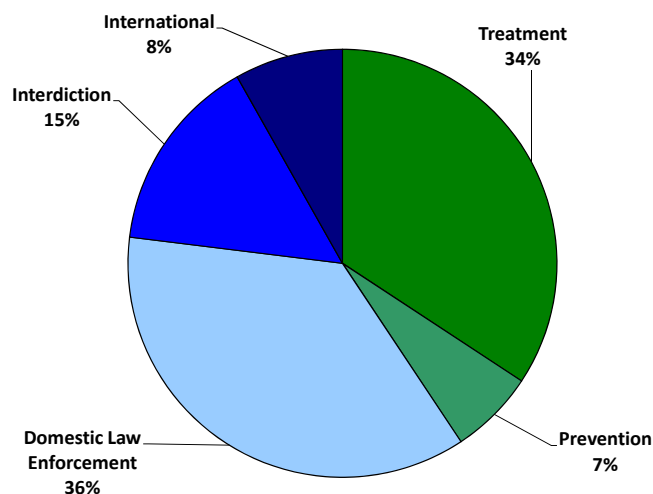
- **Interdiction** – \$3.9 billion for interdiction activities designed to interrupt the trafficking of illicit drugs into the United States.
- **International Activities** – More than \$2.1 billion to provide international support for the disruption or dismantlement of significant international drug organizations.

The FY 2012 Budget request also includes funding to support programs to reduce prescription drug abuse and drugged driving.

The requested funding will continue to strengthen nationwide efforts to detect, prevent, and treat drug use in our communities, thereby helping to break the cycle of illicit drug use, crime, and incarceration while supporting those who are in recovery from addiction.

For more information about the National Drug Control Budget, including recent changes in the Budget and FY 2012 Funding Highlights, visit online: [www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov/policy/budget.html](http://www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov/policy/budget.html)

**Allocation of Drug Control Resources in President's FY 2012 Budget Request**



The Administration's FY 2012 Drug Control Budget request of \$26.2 billion allocates resources in five major functional areas:

- Substance Abuse Prevention (7%);
- Substance Abuse Treatment (34%);
- Domestic Law Enforcement (36%);
- Interdiction (15%); and
- International Support (8%).

**President's FY 2012 Drug Budget Request Exceeds FY 2010 Level by \$322.6 Million**

	FY 2012 Request	FY10-12 Change	Percent Change
Prevention	1,682.8	123.0	7.9%
Treatment	8,982.1	98.7	1.1%
Domestic Law Enforcement	9,505.4	314.6	3.4%
Interdiction	3,901.0	243.0	6.6%
International	2,138.4	-456.6	-17.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,209.7</b>	<b>\$322.6</b>	<b>1.2%</b>