

**DEA Acting Administrator Timothy Shea Delivers Remarks at the
Operation DisrupTor Press Conference
Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.
September 22, 2020**

(as prepared for delivery)

Thank you.

I am proud to stand with our federal partners here today to announce the results of *Operation DisrupTor*. This operation is an outstanding example of our commitment to attack drug trafficking organizations operating on the dark web, and further demonstrates what can be achieved when we employ a whole-of-government approach to address these emerging threats. This was a truly global operation, and a testament to the partnerships we have developed around the world.

The drug trade is constantly evolving, and DEA is evolving with it. While we are often known best for more traditional enforcement activity, over the years DEA has adjusted its tactics to stay ahead of traffickers who have endless time and money to find new ways to peddle their poison, even behind an endless maze of ones and zeros.

Each year DEA has enhanced its ability to investigate and prosecute drug crimes taking place online, from identifying traffickers attempting to operate anonymously; to gathering intelligence on traffickers in dark web marketplaces; to tracking the movement of drugs and money. Then, as the name of this operation suggests, we work together to disrupt, dismantle, and destroy these networks.

Operation DisrupTor began after the worldwide takedown of the Wall Street Market in *Operation SaboTor*. DEA's Special Operations Division, along with J-CODE and the National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force, helped coordinate these global enforcement operations with more than a dozen domestic and international law enforcement partners. Together, we identified these drug trafficking networks, made large-scale seizures, and arrested significant traffickers like Arden McCann.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested McCann – one of DEA's most-wanted targets – in Montreal in February. At his peak, he was shipping every month over 10 kilograms of deadly fentanyl and 300,000 counterfeit Xanax pills. McCann allegedly imported fentanyl and fentanyl analogues from China to Canada and the United States.

McCann and his associates allegedly used pill presses to manufacture counterfeit tablets containing highly potent drugs like fentanyl and carfentanil. In fact, more than a dozen pill presses were seized during this operation, each of which was capable of producing millions of counterfeit pills. We have increasingly found drug traffickers distributing counterfeit prescriptions, made to look like pills you receive from a doctor or pharmacy – with deadly results.

That's why, in addition to our enforcement actions during *Operation DisrupTor*, we've taken another step to reduce the flow of deadly drugs. Through our new e-commerce program, online retailers — including Amazon — have agreed to ban all online sales of pill presses, like those in this case, used to make dangerous counterfeit prescription drugs in pill form.

To all the drug traffickers operating online, this operation should serve as a warning: DEA, and the other law enforcement organizations here today and around the world, will never stop working to protect the American people. We will use all the information and tools at our disposal to find you and bring you to justice, no matter where you may try to hide.

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