

NOMINATION
Corporal David McDougall
Harford County Sheriff's Office, Maryland

Between April 2015 and November 2017 Detective / Corporal David McDougall established the bar for narcotics investigation and case management by performing his duties at an unprecedented level as a member and supervisor of the Harford County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Task Force. His investigative tenacity and leadership by example are not only commendable but worthy of nomination for this prestigious award.

In April, 2015 then Detective McDougall began an investigation into a drug trafficking organization, later named the Shropshire Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO). Through exhaustive investigation, he determined the DTO to be responsible for numerous fatal and non-fatal heroin overdoses in Harford County, Baltimore County, and Baltimore City. As the investigation grew, Detective McDougall found this drug trafficking organization's reach spanned through Harford County, Baltimore County, Northern Virginia, and Southern Pennsylvania and was responsible for hundreds of heroin overdoses in those areas. As the investigation developed, Detective McDougall partnered with the Baltimore County Narcotics Division, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the United States Attorney's Office to take this case to a federal wiretap. McDougall's goals were to identify the tentacles of the DTO and their reach, then to dismantle it and put its members in Federal prison for multi decade long sentences.

The Title III portion of the investigation lasted several months, during which time a total of nine individuals were identified as holding key positions within the organization. All nine were indicted on numerous federal and state drug trafficking crimes, as well as, weapon offenses. In all, 1,303 grams of heroin, 193 grams of cocaine, 4 handguns, and \$18,810 in currency were recovered during the course of the investigation.

Detective McDougall also uncovered a potential police corruption connection with this organization and turned that information over to the FBI's Public Corruption Division. This lead yielded a separate yet parallel federal investigation. The investigation is still on going, and to date has resulted in eight Baltimore City Police detectives and sergeants, along with two Philadelphia Police Officers being federally indicted for racketeering amongst numerous other offenses. In November of 2017, after a three week trial at the Baltimore Federal Court House, all the individuals Detective McDougall indicted were found guilty on all counts and are expected to receive substantial federal sentences ranging from multiyear to multi decade incarceration.

During this nearly three year investigation, McDougall also managed to study and test for the position of Corporal with the Sheriff's Office finishing number one on the promotion list. He was promoted in January of 2017 to Corporal. As a new Corporal assigned to the Harford County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Task Force, McDougall has been an exemplary first line supervisor. He continues to respond to and investigate all

assigned fatal and non-fatal heroin overdoses in Harford County while simultaneously performing his supervisory duties.

Corporal McDougall deserves to be recognized for the Charles "Bud" Meeks Award for Deputy Sheriff of the Year for merit. His continued tenacity and outstanding performance are exemplary. During this investigation, Corporal McDougall's fairness and integrity were clearly evident in his pursuit of justice.

For example, Deputy/Corporal McDougall spent countless hours listening to jail calls not only of targets but of people he knew would be talking about his targets. According to the prosecuting US Attorney Derek Hines, these calls were critical to link the defendants as members of the conspiracy.

Corporal McDougall was also able to identify heroin customers of the defendants based on their phone numbers. He secured their testimony through the grand jury and against the defendants at trial. This was logistically very challenging given the significant number of heroin users that were identified. The safety issues and challenges became clear when the defendants appeared to take action on the jail phones which could have resulted in harm to witnesses during the trial. One witness even received a call where the caller said, "Testify and Die".

Corporal McDougall not only managed to maintain the safety of the witnesses during the trial, but also was able to procure their timely attendance at trial, which is quite a difficult task for former drug addict witnesses. According to the prosecuting US Attorney Derek Hines, Corporal McDougall developed these witnesses and it was their testimony that implicated the defendants during the T-III investigation. This connected the defendants in the conspiracy, and attributed significantly greater amounts of drugs trafficked than were overheard on the wire which was only up for few months. The witnesses in the trial alone testified that they purchased over 17 kilograms of heroin from the defendants during the conspiracy. This was a very large quantity and their arrests and subsequent convictions have had an impact on the heroin epidemic in the community.

Prosecuting US Attorney Derek Hines sent correspondence to the Sheriff's Office praising Corporal McDougall's efforts and initiative during the investigation and subsequent indictments and trial for this case. AUSA Hines advised the facts could not have been proven at trial and the entire FBI corruption probe would not have happened without the great work of Corporal McDougall.