

# COUNTY OF OAKLAND OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

**MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD**



## **SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM!**

*Oakland County Sheriff's Office Donates  
1000+ Cigars to Michigan Troops*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mandy Andrews, (248) 343-0129

March 13, 2008 (Oakland County)- While the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) does not endorse the use of tobacco products, it does support our military troops and understands that sometimes, smoking a stogie is a nice reprieve when in a stressful situation.

In early January, 2008, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Team Interdiction Unit seized 1500 high quality cigars from a narcotic trafficker. A significant portion of these were allegedly Cuban cigars, but ultimately, it was concluded that they were, in fact, counterfeited Cubans and not an embargoed item. The cigars were administratively forfeited under narcotic statutes and are now property of the NET Unit.

When confronted with a decision on how to dispose of the cigars, only two options presented themselves, either incinerate them with other contraband, or donate them.

"I am pleased to be able to donate these high quality cigars to our Michigan troops, who daily sacrifice their lives and have given up the simplest of pleasures to protect our freedoms," said Sheriff Bouchard.

The OCSO is looking for help in sending the 1000+ cigars to four Michigan National Guard Units serving overseas. If any individual or corporation would like to help with shipping these items to our troops, please contact the Sheriff's Office at (248) 858-1947.