

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHERIFF BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS WITH
COLUMBIAN COUNTERPARTS IN ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS**

April 24, 2008 (Oakland County) – Spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and paid for by the State Department, Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard joined a small delegation of law enforcement officials on an intensive counter narcotic and terrorism trip to Columbia. The trip was designed to grow relationships with Columbian officials who engage in daily, dangerous counter drug and counter terrorism efforts and to exchange information on methods and training.

Upon his return, Bouchard said he found the trip very useful and advocated for further strengthening of relationships with Columbia to deepen joint anti-drug efforts.

“The partnership we were able to cement on this trip is vital on many levels, not the least of which is that over 50 percent of the heroin that destroys lives in this region comes from Columbia,” Bouchard said. “Understanding the nuances of the flow of drug trafficking and money exchange outside of our borders is critical to the war on drugs right here at home. Furthermore, it is also critical to the fight against terrorism.”

Bouchard went on to explain that countless dollars that come from drug consumers are funneled into the pockets of terrorists and narcotic peddlers.

“Drugs and terror do not have geographical boundaries. If we want to make a sizeable dent in the war on drugs and curb the threat of terrorism, those with a vested interest need to stay unified, trained and active together,” Bouchard concluded. “I am excited to have taken the steps necessary to build our partnership with counter-narcotic Columbian Officials.”

Please see photo attached.

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