



## STING

Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group  
496 E Houghton Ave  
West Branch MI 48661  
TX: 989.345.2304 FAX: 989.345.5666  
[www.stingnarcotics.com](http://www.stingnarcotics.com)

October 5, 2012

With the new fiscal year starting, it is time for an update. There have been some changes with the team for this year, some good, and some bad.

For the past several years we have had reductions in the Federal grant that we use to help pay for staffing. When I first arrived in 2003 the grant paid for just over 50% of personnel costs; we received somewhere in the area of \$240,000. This amount is now \$119,000 for FY 12/13. We have asked our local partners to make up these shortfalls. Until this year, we have been successful in retaining all of our partners. However, with the latest cuts, Crawford County wasn't able to find any extra funding and withdrew from the Team. This was a big loss, as Crawford County was one of the original founding members of STING and has had a presence for over 20 years. This was purely a financial decision based on falling revenues and nothing more.

Oscoda County passed a "drug officer" millage this year. The funds will supply a Deputy who will fill a dual role of school liaison/task force investigator. This is exciting news, as it will be the first time that Oscoda County has had their own Officer on the Team. The Deputy will begin working with the Team sometime around January 1, 2013.

We lost a stimulus funded position on September 30, 2012. This was a 3 year assignment and proved to be a very successful relationship between Ogemaw County and STING. I hope that the future gives us an opportunity to revive this partnership.

We are partnering again with the State Police to assign a Trooper to the Team. Late in October 2012, a Trooper from the Houghton Lake Post will come to work with us. We reached out to the MSP 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander with a request for a Trooper. You may be familiar with Captain Robert Lesneski, also known as "Bronco" to many on the Sunrise side. Captain Lesneski is a supporter of our mission; although police resources are spread thin throughout northern Michigan, Captain Lesneski feels strongly enough about the drug problem to assign a Trooper. We are grateful for his support.

We go into 2013 with a guarded outlook for the Team. As local revenues have been reduced across our area, we know that any more grant reductions could be disastrous for the Team. As always, we keep our "eye on the prize" and continue to fight drugs in our communities.

Sincerely,

D/Lt. Jeff Keister, Unit Commander, STING