



June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## **Breaking the Drug Trade/Money Laundering by Utilizing Proactive Currency Infiltration Tracking**

By Nicholas Ashton, Police Best Practice

The roadways and highways of all nations, especially the United States, are transporting illegal cash, nefarious human trafficking, child abductions, and criminality beyond belief.

It is the convergence of illicit networks, which are a threat to our national security in this age of expanded globalization.

It is all about cash and how these networks cannot succeed without the mobility of paper money. Cash mules are transporting their ill-gotten paper gains across the infrastructure of all roadways. Even on your local crossroads right in front of your eyes as you drive back and forth to work or taking your children to school or soccer practice.

Only one organization (**Network Sharing Solution**) with a **Global Currency Tracking Solution**, can track all currencies via the likes of **Homeland Security, HIDTA (High Impact Drug Task Force Agency), DEA** and immensely **Proactive Local Drug Task Forces** in each state. Available now as a global action to remove their cash, which is necessary for all of their criminal activities.

You must understand how significant the issues are and why we have developed and implemented this solution in individual states over the last three years. We must look at the historical facts so we can move forward as we have!

***CA\$H is the corruption factor!***

Illicit networks affect everyone in our contemporary, globalized world. From human trafficking in Eastern Europe to drug smuggling in East Asia, to the illegal arms trade in Africa, to terrorist cells in East Asia and insurgents in the Caucasus, transnational illicit networks have tentacles that reach everywhere.

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In the USA, the trade in illegal narcotics is perhaps most worrisome, but of growing concern is the illicit trafficking of counterfeit items, weapons, natural resources, money/cash, cultural property, and even people by shrewd, well-resourced, and reprehensible adversaries.

***All of these are also trackable with our unique Network Sharing Solution.***

These networks have taken advantage of current advances in communications and transportation to globalize. Narcotraffickers have expanded operations as far as their markets in the United States and Europe. Illegal arms merchants have expanded their services around the world. Human smugglers have moved their slaves from underdeveloped countries to sex operations throughout the developed world. And, of course, we have all seen the global reach of modern transnational terrorism. No one is immune from this insidious threat.

It will take an amalgamation of advanced initiatives to defeat the threats created by illicit criminal networks. These transnational organizations are a large part of the hybrid threat that forms the nexus of illegal drug trafficking—including routes, profits, and corruptive influences—and terrorism, both homegrown as well as imported Islamic terrorism.

With the latest wave of globalization, allowing for even more movement of people, goods, and information, these *actors* have spread their tentacles broader and more profound, breaking new ground. At the same time, they have demonstrated an ability to adapt, diversify, and converge. All this has allowed them to obtain vast resources and to continuously reorganize themselves to stay ahead of efforts to combat them. They have achieved a degree of globalized outreach and collaboration via networks, as well as horizontal diversification.

Criminal networks have the advantage of three primary enablers. First, are the enormous profits realized by transnational illegal operations. Second is the ability of these organizations to recruit talent and reorganize along lines historically limited to corporations and militaries. The third is their newly developed ability to operate in milieus customarily considered the preserve of the state, and often referred to as the diplomatic, informational, military, and economic elements of national power. Transnational criminal elements have recently been able to generate these state-like capabilities. Through resource development and reorganization, they now rival the capabilities of many states and overwhelm the abilities of others.

Access to large-scale resources is made possible by the incredible amount of money that transnational crime generates.

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In turn, this enables other criminal activities. Criminals suborn the rule of law actors within countries and can operate across borders. The result is corruption. They can often use these resources to train and equip themselves better than those who seek to halt them. For example, the narcoterrorists in Mexico are often better armed than the government forces that they face. Their communications networks are also world class because they can afford the best equipment.

These organizations have also adapted their recruiting and organizing. Drug cartels have been recruiting trained special operations forces and educating lawyers and accountants. Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) has also adopted a technique of telling its more promising new members to avoid getting tattooed so that they can better blend into the societies they operate within. These organizations adapt to take advantage of the emerging situations that they find themselves in.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, for instance, started by guarding airfields for the cartels and quickly realized that they could take over the trade themselves. Over the space of a few years, al Qaeda has discovered franchising, enabling them to reach into areas that they previously could not organize in. For example, Hizballah has created connections with the drug-trafficking organization in the Tri-Border Area of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. This ability to change approach to both recruiting and organizing helps make these organizations extremely dangerous. And as these organizations spread out horizontally and meet fellow criminals, they form into new networks, mimicking healthy societies.

Although the fields of diplomacy, information, military, and economic power have generally belonged to states since the 1700s, new illicit transnational networks have expanded their operations into these areas. Modern unlawful criminal systems communicate regularly with countries, using the information to communicate subtle messages to those that may want to face them down. They also use the information to recruit vulnerable persons, transforming them into sex slaves or suicide bombers. As mentioned above, some of these networks have developed a military capability, which allows them to go toe-to-toe with national security forces in places like Mexico and Afghanistan—and their economic strength will enable them to operate with impunity.

We have examined the history of the issues, and we have taken the criminal bulls by the horns with the answers, not just in words but by our proactive actions.

**Call, discuss, know that we are ready to assist in the fight.**

**WE ARE IN THE NOW & KEEP YOU; IN THE KNOW...** [www.policebestpractice.com](http://www.policebestpractice.com)

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