

The Pueblo Chieftain

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Police narc unit honored by peers

Pueblo team named best by Colorado Drug Investigators Association.



Frank Holderman

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THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The narcotics unit of the Pueblo Police Department has been named best in the state for 2008 by the Colorado Drug Investigators Association.

Led by Capt. Frank Holderman, the drug unit was honored for its 15-month undercover operation dubbed "Family Tradition," which had ties to California, Wyoming, Utah and Illinois.

With the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Postal Inspectors, the investigation dismantled a large drug trafficking organization which yielded the following results:

- Almost \$1.2 million worth of drugs confiscated, including almost 3,000 grams of methamphetamine, 89 grams of crack cocaine and almost 7 grams of powder cocaine.
- Federal indictments filed against seven suspects, 17 suspects arrested on state charges and 11 others who were referred to the District Attorney for prosecution.
- More than \$148,000 worth of assets seized, including more than \$69,000 in currency, seven vehicles and 17 firearms.

"It was a very successful operation that affected a lot of individuals in the narcotics trade," Holderman said Saturday. He is a 34-year veteran of the force, the last seven of which he has served in narcotics. "There were a lot of seizures, federal indictments, a lot of illegal narcotics taken off the

streets. It was a real successful operation and it's quite an honor to be selected by our fellow officers for that."

The narcotics unit was given a plaque by the CDIA, a nonprofit organization that was formed by a group of narcotics officers in 2002.

The organization is designed to help law enforcement throughout the state with training, sharing information and supporting effective drug legislation, according to its Web site.