# Over 9,000 Fentanyl pills and hundreds of pounds of other drugs seized

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**WASHINGTON** - From May 15, 2018 through May 26, 2018, the Department of the Interior (DOI) Opioid Reduction Task Force conducted a Criminal Interdiction Operation in and around Tribal reservations in Arizona, seizing 9,050 Fentanyl pills, 48.2 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.2 pounds of heroin, 863 pounds of marijuana, one-half pound of cocaine, and $30,000 in cash. In total, the drug bust yielded a seizure of 913.5 pounds of illegal narcotics, with a street value of approximately $4,791,417.00, and led to 86 total arrests. The operation in Arizona is the second led by Interior's Joint Task Force, which Secretary Zinke established to help achieve President Donald Trump's mission to end the opioid epidemic.

"Our task force on opioids continues to distinguish itself as one of the finest operations in law enforcement today; I could not be more proud of these professionals," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "It's heartbreaking to see the scale of the problem, and rather than further stigmatizing victims, we are cracking down on the dealers who are selling out our children, selling out our communities, and selling out our nation. I thank our partners in Indian Country, along with state and local law enforcement, for their dedication to this mission. These brave men and women are keeping the opioid dealers up at night, and with good reason; if you are trafficking these drugs, we will find you, arrest you, and bring you to justice."

"A drug-free Indian Country is a healthy Indian Country. I commend the efforts of our BIA Division of Drug Enforcement agents, along with federal, tribal and state partners for successfully conducting this operation to eradicate drugs in tribal communities," **said John Tahsuda, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs**. "Only together can we protect our loved ones from the harmful effects of these devastating substances."

Significant Seizures

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| **Methamphetamine** | 33.2 pounds located in a vehicle tire with estimated street value of **$1,754,212.00**. (Tohono O'odham Reservation) |
| **Methamphetamine** | 15 pounds located in a natural void of a Toyota Scion with a street value of **$790,952.00**. (Gila River Reservation) |
| **Heroin** | 1.2 pounds located in a natural void of a Toyota Scion with a street value of **$55,501.00**. (Gila River Reservation) |
| **Cocaine** | 0.5 pounds located in a natural void of a Toyota Scion with a street value of **$22,680.00**. (Gila River Reservation) |
| **Marijuana** | 863.588 pounds (four separate seizures) with an estimated street value of **$1,802,072.00**. (Tohono O'odham Reservation) |

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| **Fentanyl** | Approximately 9,050 pills with an estimated street value of **$366,000.00**. (Gila River Reservation) |
| **Total Seizure:** | 913.5 pounds of illegal narcotics and approximately 9,050 fentanyl pills with a total street value of approximately **$4,791,417.00**. |

Secretary Zinke has worked with tribes to carry out President Trump's directive to stop the opioid crisis, conducting dozens of tribal visits to see the affected communities, while listening and learning about how to fight the crisis. In starting new initiatives to fight the epidemic, such as the creation of the Joint Task Force, the Department of the Interior is committed to giving all resources required to fight drug abuse.

The DOI Task Force for the Interdiction Operation consisted of Special Agents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Division of Drug Enforcement (DDE) and BIA K-9 uniformed officers, along with the Tohono O'odham Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI-Sells, Arizona), US Border Patrol (USBP), Pascua Yaqui Tribal Police Department, San Carlos Apache Tribal Police Department, Gila River Tribal Police Department, Native American Targeted Investigations of Violent Enterprises (NATIVE) Task Force, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS). The Criminal Interdiction Operation focused on highways known for being high drug trafficking routes into and through Indian Country. This collaboration focused efforts on conducting high visibility enforcement operations with specialized drug interdiction teams.

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