



# MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

## 2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award



### Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force

*Austintown Township Police District, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Beaver Township Police Department, Canfield Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Liberty Township Police Department, Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office, Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Ohio Board of Pharmacy, Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Poland Township Police Department, Springfield Township Police Department, Struthers Police Department, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio, Youngstown Police Department, Youngstown State University Police Department*

The Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Force is a multi-jurisdictional group made up of agents and officers from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. It targets drug trafficking organizations in northeastern Ohio. In one recent case, the task force investigated a drug trafficking organization that was suspected of bringing vast quantities of heroin into Youngstown and western Pennsylvania.

During a two-year investigation, the task force employed a variety of techniques that ultimately resulted in the indictment of 18 people in U.S. District Court on 129 counts. In addition, 37 others were indicted in Mahoning County Common Pleas Court on charges including possession of heroin, conspiracy to traffic in heroin and possession of criminal tools.

The investigation resulted in the seizure of more than 1,700 grams of heroin as well as crack cocaine, marijuana, prescription pills, guns and money.

“While the accomplishments of the Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force on this one case are impressive and have had an immeasurable impact on the area they serve, the task force initiated 458 other investigations during this same time period,” said Chief Robert Gavalier of the Austintown Township Police District.