



**Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council's (GSSAC)
Prevention Center**
(509) 922-8383 * www.gssacpreventioncenter.com



Law & Justice



Working Together Toward
Safe Communities
Free From Substance Abuse

THE INFORMANT

Meth Watch Member e-Letter

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**Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council's (GSSAC) Prevention Center
Spokane County Meth Action Team (MAT)**

This is you. This is you on meth.

Face2Face Software

If there's one thing universal about teenagers – it's their high obsessive concern about appearance. That's one reason why Face2Face is making such an impact on preventing young people from getting involved with methamphetamines.

Face2Face is a software program that is able to show people what their faces would look like subject to the ravages of methamphetamine abuse. It is able to show a visual prediction of the effects of meth after 6 months, 1 year, and 3 years of abuse. The visuals – especially to youth – can be astonishing.



“We just started to use Face2Face recently, but the response is overwhelming,” said Mendocino community services officer Maureen Wattenburger, “Juveniles, for example, are very concerned about their appearance and seem to be shocked when observing the ‘before’ and ‘after’ 3D images.”

The hope is the very visceral experience of watching your face become emaciated and scarred with the telltale signs of addiction will provide an effective deterrent to drug use.

The software was developed when Mendocino, Calif., sheriff Tom Altman approached Abalone LLC software to assist the county's Methamphetamine Awareness Program, a joint venture between the County and the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. The program is now able to tour local schools demonstrating to students the very real visual impacts of meth use.

Face2Face employs two 12 megapixel Pentax Option S12 cameras on tripods take pictures of a subject seated in front of back paper to create a three-dimensional image of the person's face. The actual software can be run on a Windows XP or Vista machine, and after a brief moment of identifying features, then begins to molds the original face into a startling methamphetamine caricature. The results can be startling.

Face2Face has been adopted by several police departments in California including Santa Cruz, Los Angeles and Orange County as well as in Alabama and Texas. Recently, the U.S. Air Force ordered the software as part of their drug reduction program at the Okinawa Airbase.

However, this newly designed program may not be feasible for every organization because of it's high cost. It can be purchased for \$3,795.

Troops Trying to Cope

Combat stress, trauma and the unimaginable ravages of war have driven some of our heroic troops to self medicate.

Misuse of prescription drugs occurs at a much higher rate among U.S. troops than the general population, with 22 percent of soldiers and 20 percent of Marines reporting prescription-drug abuse within the past year, *USA Today* reported Dec. 17.

The Department of Defense survey of service members found that prescription painkillers were the most commonly misused drugs.

The survey also found that 11 percent of soldiers exhibited signs of post-traumatic stress disorder in 2008 -- notably in the Army and Marine Corps -- and that 60 percent of Marines admitted to binge drinking.

Two percent of service members acknowledged that they had thought about committing suicide during the past year.

(Join Together)



Support the troops, especially when they come back home

By Tony Newman, Drug Policy Alliance Network

What is it like to be shot at during war and know that any day may be your last? How does one deal with the pain of having friends killed in your arms? What does killing other human beings do to your emotional stability?

It is not hard to imagine how such experiences lead to self-medication and drug addiction.

Seeing many Vietnam veterans with mental problems who are often self-medicating with drugs, I have hypothesized that veterans from the Iraq war, many of whom are going through similar horrors, will also have similar problems with drug abuse.

Many of us struggle with dependency on cigarettes, marijuana and alcohol, while attempting to cope with the pressures of hectic lives. It's obvious that our problems are nothing compared with those of people coming back from Iraq missing a limb.

According to the military publication *Stars and Stripes*, my hunches are correct. A July 25 story reported that alcohol and other drug-use problems are common throughout the forces in Iraq. "Some of the young soldiers just can't handle the stress and turn to alcohol or drugs to self-medicate," said military defense lawyer Capt. Chris Krafchek.

The Army's surgeon general recently told *The Associated Press* that a survey of troops returning from Iraq found 30 percent had developed mental health problems three to four months after coming home.

What is going to happen to all of the people who are suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts? Many will end up using drugs, as many of us civilians do.

Now on top of everything else going on, many of the vets are going to have to worry about getting caught with drugs and being arrested.

U.S. prisons are already filled with non-violent drug offenders, many serving mandatory sentences of 15 years to life for small amounts of drugs. Service members being incarcerated and separated from their families because of a drug addiction that is a result of fighting in Iraq will be yet more "collateral damage" of this war.

It is easy for people to buy a bumper sticker and demand that we "Support our Troops," but if we are going to walk the talk, we better be ready to offer compassion and treatment -- not just a jail cell -- when it comes to helping our brothers and sisters heal from the damages of war. Let's hope that we support our current troops better than we supported the veterans who fought in Vietnam.

Prescription Drug Abuse

Fastest Growing Drug Threat to the U.S.

(National Drug Intelligence Center)

SANDPOINT, Idaho -- Authorities in Bonner County are looking for two people who broke into the home of a disabled woman at 3:49 Wednesday morning.

The victim says she was sleeping on her couch, and woke up when two suspects forced her into her wheelchair, and tied her up. The woman says the men broke into her home through a doggy door and searched her house for **prescription drugs**.

The woman was not hurt in the attack. She says deputies did find footprints in the snow outside her home.

According to Bonner County deputies, a K-9 unit from U.S. Border Patrol was brought in to try to track the pair, but the dog lost the scent at a nearby road, leading authorities to believe they had a vehicle waiting for them. *(KREM.com)*



Join GSSAC's Community Coalition

WHAT: A community-wide effort to reduce substance abuse and violence

WHO: Open to the public—community agencies, treatment professionals, law enforcement, prevention, concerned citizens, policy makers

WHEN: Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at noon in the Spokane Regional Health District's Auditorium

****Please call GSSAC at (509) 922-8383 to verify meeting dates & times****



Washington State
Crime Prevention
Association

Washington State Crime Prevention Association
Spring Conference 2010

April 28th—30th

Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center
1100 North Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley

Registration Information:
www.wscpaonline.org/training