

CASE STUDY: Bulk Cash Seizure

Presented by: Reno A. Lewis
Financial Investigator
Financial Crime Investigations
Branch
Nassau, The Bahamas



CASE OVERVIEW

In March 2018 Drug Enforcement Unit officers executed two search warrants on homes in a small residential community in Grand Bahama, The Bahamas.

The officers based on intelligence had reasonable suspicion that a large shipment of dangerous drugs and/or firearms were being held at the mentioned residence/s.

During the early morning hours, tactical teams proceeded to residence. During the search they discovered over 100 lbs of Hydroponic Marijuana and 10 lbs of Hashish Oil.

The team then moved to a adjacent property that based on intelligence also belonged to the criminal organization.

CASE OVERVIEW

Upon clearing the structure officers realized that the structure was unoccupied. However, they discovered large amounts of United States currency in the kitchen area.

A further search revealed duffle bags in the attic of the structure containing more United States currency.



CASE OVERVIEW

- Scene was cleared. The suspects were arrested and cautioned in reference to the offences of Possession of Dangerous Drugs and Money Laundering.
- The cash was transported to a secured location for further processing
- Total seized: \$1,350,887.00



INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

- Detention Orders under POCA 2018
- Central Bank of the Bahamas: Exchange Control
- Financial Intelligence Unit
- Government Town Planning
- Production Orders:- Utility Companies
- Criminal History Search locally via Criminal Records Office
- Criminal History Search through Drug Enforcement Administration

Case Results

Subjects were criminally charged with Money Laundering according to sections 9, 10, and 11 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2018.

A civil forfeiture application for the seized cash was made Attorney General's public Prosecution

Subjects were charged criminally under the Dangerous Drugs Act Chapter 228