

2007 BUDGET BOONDOGGLE AWARD WINNER #2

THE NDIC 'JOBS PROGRAM' (\$39 Million)

- The National Drug Intelligence Center [NDIC] was established in 1993 to collect and coordinate intelligence from law enforcement agencies, providing a strategic look on the war on drugs. Its role duplicates the efforts of other agencies, such as the El Paso Intelligence Center. But despite this, it has continued to receive funding for the past 15 years.
- An administration official recently described the NDIC as “slow to delineate a unique or useful role within the drug intelligence community.” Last year, the House Government Reform Committee described the center’s budget as “an expensive and duplicative use of scarce Federal drug enforcement resources.”
- Due to the problems with the NDIC, the President – since at least 2005 – has proposed shutting down the facility; and his fiscal year 2008 budget again proposed to do so.
- But instead of eliminating the center, this congressional earmark directs \$39 million to *expand* NDIC operations in 2008.
- Not only is this bad policy, but *the earmark is in the wrong bill*: the NDIC falls within the Justice Department’s Drug Enforcement Administration, not under the jurisdiction of the DOD. Perhaps coincidentally, the earmark was requested by the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman.
- The Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman added an additional 43 earmarks to the DOD Appropriations bill at a cost of \$80 million more in taxpayer dollars.

