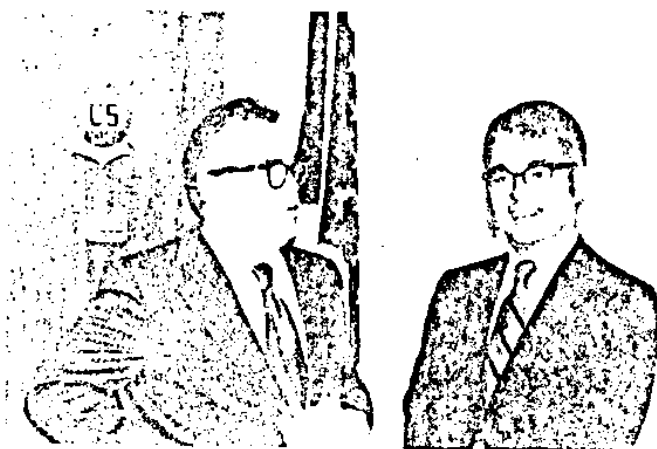


James P. Hunt (left) with DEA Administrator John R. Bartels, Jr.



For Distinguished Service

James P. Hunt, Assistant Director of the New York Regional Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, was recently awarded one of the highest honors of the U.S. Department of Justice—the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.

The veteran criminal investigator, who has more than 23 years of experience in federal drug law enforcement, was nominated for the award as a result of "leadership which has inspired his division to initiate an extraordinary number of high-level cases."

In an award ceremony on December 12, Administrator Bartels cited his units as responsible for the arrest of more major violators than any other division in the entire Drug Enforcement Administration.

On the same day a number of others received the DEA Award of Honor. Among them was Rogelio L. Guevara, Special Agent from the Los Angeles Regional Office, who was ambushed by 20 Mexican traffickers and seriously wounded while on duty with "Operation SEAM," a joint U.S.-Mexican task force to control the transborder drug traffic. (Shortly after Christmas, Guevara entered a Los Angeles hospital for surgery on his right eye, which suffered impaired vision as a result of a bullet wound in the head.)

John Moseley, Director of the Miami Regional Office, accepted an Award of Honor on behalf of his entire staff, whose actions in the wake of the disastrous collapse of their office building on August 5, 1974, "exemplified the highest tradition of professionalism and exhibited countless acts of valor." (The accident resulted in the death of eight DEA employees and injury to 14 others.)

For his superior leadership at the scene of the disaster in safeguarding the lives of fellow employees and maintaining the security of the area, the Award of Honor was given to Special Agent Inspector Luke P. Benson.

DEA's highest awards also went to five members of the New York Joint Task Force. New York City Detectives John Copeland and Kevin Daly were honored together with DEA Special Agents John E. Gartland, Peter C. Nies, and Harold A. Rudell.

"On November 8, 1974," said Mr. Bartels, "while conducting a narcotics surveillance, these men observed an armed robbery in progress in New York. One defendant was firing a revolver into the front window of a restaurant. His two accomplices had commandeered an automobile parked at the curb and were holding the driver at gunpoint. The three robbery defendants, after a struggle, were disarmed and placed under arrest—without any of these officers discharging their revolvers."