

Alaska Dispatch News

Published on *Alaska Dispatch News* (<http://www.adn.com>)

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[Laurel Andrews](#) ^[1]

April 21, 2014

Main Image:

[Kodiak Alaska Coast Guard 3](#) ^[2]

The Kodiak Police Department seized more than \$2 million worth of methamphetamine and high-grade heroin on Saturday, the largest drug bust in the police department's history, according to a press release sent out by chief of police Ronda Wallace on Monday.

Eric R. McDaniel, 44, of Washington state, was arrested Saturday and charged with two felony counts of misconduct involving a controlled substance after police found 25.3 ounces of methamphetamine and 1.8 ounces of high-grade heroin in his hotel room, along with drug paraphernalia.

McDaniel had been living in Kodiak since December 2013. He was first contacted by law enforcement officers in January 2014, when he was at a residence in Kodiak associated with narcotics activity. After receiving numerous tips via Crime Stoppers and community members, officers began investigating McDaniel's activity in January. McDaniel had a long criminal history in Washington state including convictions for dealing and possessing drugs, and was a fugitive from justice in Washington when he arrived in Kodiak to begin distributing drugs, the release said.

Search warrants were obtained for McDaniel's hotel room and person following months of surveillance and investigation. In the early morning of April 19, police "were able to lure McDaniel from his room" and apprehend him, the release states. His 32-year-old girlfriend, Tina Bettrof, reportedly fled when she saw the officers.

Officers found a large amount of methamphetamine, heroin, a digital scale, packaging material and drug paraphernalia in the hotel room. Based on the current street price in Kodiak, the seized drugs were worth roughly \$2.2 million.

The weekend's drug investigations follow two other drug investigations this year where the police department seized large quantities of methamphetamine and heroin. During one of the busts, in January, police seized roughly \$120,000 worth ^[3] of heroin, methamphetamine, crack and cocaine, and at the time was the largest drug seizure which Kodiak Police Chief Ronda Wallace said she had seen in her 15 years working for the Kodiak police department.

Another seizure in late January amount to a roughly \$30,000 seizure in illegal drugs, Wallace said on Monday. In January, she said that the island has long struggled with sales of methamphetamine, and that there was a rising trend of heroin use in Kodiak.

Saturday's drug bust "affirms that belief, that (illegal drug use) is just an increasingly growing problem," Wallace said.

She urged community members to send information to the police department, or send tips to [Kodiak Crime Stoppers](#) ^[4].

Source URL: <http://www.adn.com/article/20140421/kodiak-police-seize-22-million-meth-heroin>

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