

More sports, law, and military news...

Operation TriStar Hammer targets drug trafficking in West Tennessee leading to 61 arrests with more to come

April 6, 2026 -“To the law-abiding citizens, law enforcement recognizes the scourge that is drug dealing, particularly methamphetamine and fentanyl, and we are working in a collaborative fashion, across jurisdictional lines to combat it,” said District Attorney General Jody Pickens at a joint press conference. “Drug dealers do not recognize county lines and neither will we in pursuit of holding them accountable. This is the end of the beginning, not the end. This operation will continue and you can expect to see other action in the coming weeks and months.”

“If you are a person involved in the sale and delivery of controlled substances, change your



ways. Stop destroying families, stop destroying lives, and stop destroying your community,” added Gen. Pickens. “Remember, you have to be lucky every day. Law enforcement only has to be lucky once. The amount of time in prison you face is not worth it to you, or those who love you.”

District Attorney General Jody Pickens announced alongside members of the 26th Judicial

District Drug Task Force, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement leaders that 61 arrests have been made during Operation TriStar Hammer, a joint effort to keep illegal drugs off our local streets and protect families living in West Tennessee. On March 30, 2026, grand juries in Chester, Henderson, and Madison Counties returned 141 separate indictments against approximately 75 people. On April 2, 2026, more than 130 special agents, investigators, troopers, patrolmen and deputies fanned out across West Tennessee to serve warrants. As of this date, 53 individuals have had grand jury warrants served on them. Three others who were encountered during this operation were found

to have active warrants. One individual was charged with new drug offenses. Additionally, four federal indictments were also served. Overall, 61 individuals have been arrested so far as a result of Operation TriStar Hammer.

The participating agencies in Operation TriStar Hammer include:

**Jackson Police Department
Lexington Police Department
Henderson Police Department
Scotts Hill Police Department
Medina Police Department
Huntingdon Police Department
Madison County Sheriff’s Department
Henderson County Sheriff’s Department
Chester County Sheriff’s Department
McNairy County Sheriff’s De-**

partment Decatur County Sheriff’s Department Tennessee Highway Patrol Federal Drug Enforcement Administration Federal Department of Homeland Security 25th Judicial District Drug Task Force (Tipton, Lauderdale, Fayette) 26th Judicial District Drug Task Force Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

“I am very appreciative of all of our law enforcement partners,” said Gen. Pickens. “We have not yet apprehended all that were indicted. To those folks, consider turning yourself in.”

The 26th Judicial District of Tennessee consists of Chester, Henderson and Madison Counties.

Blackburn and Duckworth bill to improve care for vets passes committee

An Update

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 2, 2026 – The Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee (SVAC) passed bipartisan legislation introduced by U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) that would make it easier for veterans who live in rural areas to access the care they’ve earned. The Senators’ Improving Access to Care for Rural Veterans Act would require the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish agreements between its own medical centers and civilian medical facilities in rural areas, thereby strengthening available resources to make VA care more widely accessible for the nearly 3 million veterans who live in those communities and face unique challenges to readily access the care they need.

“Our rural veterans should not have to drive hours for quality care they’ve earned,” said Senator Blackburn. “The Improving Access to Care for Rural Veterans Act would put veterans first by ensuring they have access to high-quality and timely treatment closer to home. I’m thrilled to see this pass through committee, and I’m looking forward to its passage in the Senate, which will better support veterans in Tennessee by making the care they’ve earned more accessible.”

“Far too many rural Veterans—including in Illinois—don’t have adequate access to VA care in their communities, which forces them to travel unacceptably long distances or wait prolonged periods of time to see providers to receive the care they need and have earned through their service,” said Senator Duckworth. “The VA must ensure it’s doing everything possible to fulfill its core mission of providing timely, high-quality care to our heroes—regardless of where they live. Our bill would help ensure Veterans who live in rural communities can more easily access VA care, while reinforcing VA as the medical center home, and I’m proud it passed through committee. Now the Senate should expeditiously pass our commonsense, bipartisan bill that would enhance access to VA care for millions of rural Veterans.”

Blackburn, Hagerty, and DesJarlais Take on McMinnville VA Clinic Closure.
See sports-Military 2

Pres. Trump, Sec. Hegseth, and Gen. Caine laud successful miracle rescue of downed airmen in Iran... from sports-military 2

Caine explained that shortly after the F-15's downing in the early morning, April 3, the joint personnel recovery center operating in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility

declared an isolated personnel event after both the pilot and the weapons system officer had successfully ejected from the aircraft behind enemy lines. Shortly thereafter, a rescue force

composed of 21 aircraft, including A-10 Thunderbolt attack planes, KC-130 search and rescue aircraft, HH-60W Jolly Green IIs and a package of Air Force special warfare combat

rescue officers and pararescue operators, went into enemy territory to locate and recover the downed airmen.

"Over the next hours, the search and rescue task force crossed the beach, entered into Iranian airspace — protected by a fighter strike package — and moved into the objective area, all under [enemy] fire," Caine explained. Trump said the first wave of search and rescue forces was able to locate and extract the pilot in an HH-60W while taking on heavy fire, but without casualties. "It's amazing that, when you look at the [damage to the] machinery ... that nobody was even injured," Trump said. Meanwhile, Trump said, the second crew member had landed at a significant distance from the F-15's pilot. He found himself badly injured and, in an area teeming with members of the enemy Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, besieged by Iranian military militia and Iranian citizens who were incentivized by the regime to try to

locate the downed airman. Still, the airman managed to evade capture by scaling treacherous mountain terrain, ascending in altitude and scaling cliffs until he was in an adequate spot to contact rescue forces and transmit his location, Trump said. The president added that the second rescue mission involved 155 aircraft, many of which were involved in subterfuge to trick regime forces into thinking the rescue personnel were looking for the downed airman at various decoy sites. "We wanted to have them think he was in a different location, because [the regime] had a vast military force out there; thousands of people were looking," Trump said. The president also noted that the downed F-15 was the U.S. military's only manned aircraft to be downed by enemy fire since Epic Fury began Feb. 28. "It was a lucky hit; [Iran] got lucky," Trump said. "But we got lucky, too, because we got both [of the airmen] back," he added.



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