

There are literally 14 pages of controlled substances that the DEA must monitor.²¹ Earlier in the book, we discussed the fact that a number of controlled substance painkillers have become the drug of choice on street corners. With such a small staff, it is of little wonder why emphasis is placed on the ordering, manufacturing, import and export permitting, and destruction monitoring activities of controlled substances.

The added Title II track and trace regulations from the Drug Quality and Security Act should help the DEA in its activities. This is especially true, given the right technology, for monitoring the movement and inventory locations of controlled substances from point of manufacturer through wholesale distributors to retail pharmacies. The ability to monitor controlled substances will allow special agents to diagnose when and where diversion occurs as controlled substances are discovered in locations they are not supposed to be at the time. It will also help these special agents determine who is responsible when controlled substances are diverted in the supply chain.

In Chapter 6, we discussed the key role the DEA played in shutting down a couple of big-time pill mills in Florida. With a bigger budget, enhanced supply chain real-time tracking technology, and track and trace help from the Drug Quality and Security Act, the DEA could do wonders in minimizing the availability of controlled substances to people without prescriptions from a doctor. This would certainly help minimize the crime associated with buying illegal drugs and, more importantly, minimize the number of overdose deaths associated with controlled substances.

The CBP and the DEA

The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has the responsibility to keep our borders secure. CBP agents must inspect everyone arriving at a U.S. port of entry. Their initial inspection includes three questions: the person's citizenship, the nature of the person's trip (business or pleasure), and if the person is bringing anything into the United States. The CBP does have the legal authority to inspect baggage, cars, trucks, and airplanes to look for prohibited items, ranging from terrorist weapons to controlled substances.²²

When I lived in South America for a couple of years, I traveled from multiple South American cities back to the United States through Miami. On every trip, I was met by CBP agents in customs and immigration. They had a host of dogs searching for prohibited items. One time I was randomly selected for a thorough search. The one agent, a man, patted me down while the other agent, a woman, had a female beagle that sniffed