

Narcotics officer wins state honor

Detective Frank Perez also Dallas Officer of the Year

By Jerry Needham

OF THE TIMES HERALD STAFF

Undercover police narcotics detective Frank Perez, this year's Dallas Officer of the Year, was named the Texas Officer of the Year on Thursday by the Texas Attorney General's Conference on Law Enforcement.

"Detective Perez exemplifies the idea of making the drug pushers meet the slammer," Attorney General Jim Mattox said. "He meets face-to-face with the lowest elements of society, people who are killing our future by drugging our children, people who have no morals or ethics or conscience, people who carry weapons and are quick to use them."

Perez, 35 and a seven-year member of the department, was in Austin for the ceremony but did not make an appearance before the cameras because he still is working undercover.

The Friends of the Dallas Police last year named Perez Officer of the Year. He has been nominated for that honor again this year.

"As far as individual narcotics officers go, Frank's the best we've got," said Capt. Eddie Walt of the Dallas police Narcotics Division. "He works hard. I guess the bottom line is he always gets results — big results."

In a one-year period that ended in August, Perez planned and executed 50 search warrants, made 30 undercover drug buys, made 14 drug buys in which he made immediate arrests and made 13 arrests on reverse drug deals in which he posed as the seller, Walt said.

During that year, Perez's efforts resulted in the seizure of 44 pounds of cocaine valued at \$3.5 million, 470 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$560,000 and \$963,037 in cash, Walt said.

"Since he started working in narcotics about three years ago, he has seized \$1,904,446 in cash from drug dealers," he said.

Also honored Thursday was state trooper Barry G. Washington, who arrested 70 drug dealers and seized \$8.8 million in drugs during his patrols in Panola County last year.

Retired U.S. Marshal Clint T. Peoples was given a special award for 59 years in law enforcement. Peoples has been a deputy sheriff, constable, Texas Ranger, highway patrolman and a Dallas-based marshal.