

Comet Task Force continues to challenge Triads

by City Desk Correspondent
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REPUBLIC CITY, LIUYUE 11 – The Republic City Police Department's ongoing battle against the encroachment of the dangerous street drug known as "Comet" took another step forward early this morning, as the multilateral task force charged with stopping the drug's spread conducted a daring raid against a Comet trafficking operation in the waterfront district.

Acting on information gathered in several undercover operations, members of the unit popularly known as the Comet Task Force raided the *Xiānyàn zhànfāng* tea room just after midnight, arresting several men and women who were allegedly engaged in receiving the illegal substance in bulk and repackaging it for distribution.

Supported by officers of the RCPD's Special Tactical Division, Comet Task Force members led by Detective Inspector Eitaro Imanishi engaged and subdued several firebenders, two of whom were allegedly under the active influence of Comet. After the patrons and staff were removed from the premises, the task force seized more than 50 *jīn* of drugs, proceeds from illicit drug sales, and related paraphernalia.

"The RCPD's Organized Crime Control Division has long associated the *Xiānyàn zhànfāng* tea room with one of the city's most powerful and violent crime syndicates, the notorious Agni Kai firebending Triad, and most of those arrested in this morning's raid are known associates of that organization," said Inspector Imanishi after the raid. "It appears that the Agni Kai's recent difficulties haven't affected their operations as much as we might have hoped."

(The alleged headquarters of the Agni Kai Triad, an office building in northern Firetown, burned to the ground last week in what a Republic City Fire Department spokesperson described as "highly suspicious circumstances." No suspects have yet been named nor criminal charges filed in that incident, which is not believed to be directly connected with the Comet Task Force's activities.)

When asked for comment on the Task Force's future plans, Inspector Imanishi refused to discuss specifics, citing the need to protect the officers involved in the ongoing operation. He restated the unit's intention to drive Comet out of Republic City, and make sure that any organizations found dealing in these drugs will suffer the fullest consequences prescribed under the law.

"The people of Republic City refuse to bow to the whims of organized crime," he said. "It is our responsibility to bring this illegal and dangerous trade to an end, and we will do so."