



**FOR THE HERALD**  
**IN ACTION:** A member of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office SWAT team moves in during part of a raid that netted 22 suspects Friday. The ring is believed responsible for 90 percent of the crack cocaine in the Upper Keys.

## Raids net 22 suspected in drug-trafficking ring

BY LISA FUSS  
lfuss@herald.com

Police and federal agents on Friday arrested more than 20 people they said were part of a drug-trafficking ring responsible for 90 percent of the crack cocaine distributed in the Upper Keys.

More than 60 local, state and federal agents sprang into action at daybreak, armed with 27 arrest warrants to serve in Key Largo and Homestead.

Within several hours of "Operation Exodus II," law enforcement officials had arrested 22 suspects, including Key Largo resident Christine Smallwood Davis, 50, who police say was the leader of the drug ring, based in Hibiscus Park, an oceanside community at mile marker 101.5.

Law enforcement officials said they hope the raid sends a message to the drug community.

"We think it will have a dramatic effect in the Keys," said Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Jon W. Wicker III.

"Hopefully, (the arrests) dismantled that organization. If it comes back, law enforcement officials will be back for sure," he said.

Over the last few months, officials said, undercover officers made more than 100 crack cocaine purchases from Davis' organiza-



**FOR THE HERALD**  
**THE SCENE:** Law enforcement vehicles outside the site of a raid. More than 60 agents were involved in the operation.

tion.

Five suspects were still at large late Friday.

Twenty people face federal charges of distributing cocaine.

Those facing federal charges are: Darrell Baker, Sedric Brooks, Sherry Ann Cooper, Rudy Cunningham, Christine Smallwood Davis, Burgess Gaston, Patrick Howard, Calvin Johnson, Melvin Johnson, Demone McKinley, Ros-

coe Meadows III, Enos Mitchell III, Gabriel Robles, Tammy Tomika Sanders, Lorenzo Scott, Clarence Taylor, Joseph Thomas, Valerie Wheeler, Willie Whitehead and James Wilson.

Seven individuals face state drug charges, including Leocia Bradley, Bernard Carter, David Johnson, Phillip Jones, Donald Riley, Doris South and Philip Lenzy Wells.