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Breaking Up International Counterfeiting Rings

A Rochester investigator is getting international attention for his anti-counterfeiting efforts. Mark McCabe has spent the past decade intercepting shipments of pirated merchandise making its way into the United States. Wednesday McCabe will be featured on CNBC.

Mark McCabe calls Rochester home. But he spends a lot of his time in South America. He's an investigator who's company, McCabe Associates, is out to stop bandits who are threatening American businesses and are believed to be funding terrorism.

"We have people from the FBI, CIA, DEA, U.S. customs, military, prosecutors office," McCabe tells CNBC.

Wednesday McCabe will be profiled on CNBC's "Business Nation," which followed him to the dangerous tri-border region of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. What kind of place is the tri-border?

"The pirate haven. There's stolen goods, counterfeit goods, drugs, weapons, corruption all over, the government, politicians. It's just the wild wild west," McCabe explains.

He goes there on behalf of American corporations who are losing billions to merchandise counterfeiters in lost sales and damaged brand image.

McCabe was the chief criminal investigator for the Monroe County District Attorney's Office before starting his own company.

McCabe first started going to South America when Bausch and Lomb hired him to do some work. Over the past decade his investigations have led to the seizure of \$100-million worth of counterfeit goods.

He's also done work with companies like Kodak, Canon and Nintendo.

Motorola sent McCabe to the tri-border to slow the flow of counterfeit cell phone parts. Like other cell phone makers, Motorola has been plagued by knock off batteries that look like the real thing but can overheat and explode.

Last year I-Team 10 was there when a McCabe undercover investigation led to raids on stores in the city of Rochester selling knock-off nikes. Police confiscated more than 3700 boxes of counterfeit shoes.

"The normal route is they come through China, through the Panama Canal up through Miami ports or New York City ports up into Rochester," he told I-Team 10.

According to U.S. authorities, the tri-border region is second only to Iran as the largest source of funding for the terrorist group Hezbollah.

To catch the full feature on McCabe's anti-counterfeiting efforts, tune into CNBC's "Business Nation" this Wednesday, October 3rd, at 9 pm.

<http://www.whec.com/article/stories/S212118.shtml?cat=572>

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