



## **UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE PRESS RELEASE**

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### **UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE ADAM WALSH RAINBOW AWARD**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Saturday, February 16, 2002, U.S. Secret Service Director Brian L. Stafford will receive the 2002 Adam Walsh Rainbow Award from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The awards, given annually since 1995, honor individuals who have demonstrated their dedication to protecting and nurturing children.

“As the Secret Service has evolved, our expertise and proficiency in certain areas has progressed to world-class levels,” said Director Stafford. “As an agency, we are proud that the support and assistance we can lend to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children can make, and has made, a difference.”

As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, Congress authorized the Secret Service to provide forensic and technical assistance in matters involving missing and sexually exploited children. The agency’s Forensic Services Division offers this assistance to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Support for the NCMEC has included polygraph examinations, handwriting examinations, voiceprint comparisons, audio and video enhancements, age progressions and regressions, and fingerprint research and identification.

In addition, the Secret Service, working with NCMEC, initiated the Children’s Identification System and participates in Operation Safe Kids, which provides parents with a printed document that contains the thumbprints and a photograph of their child. More than 25,000 children have been processed at different sights across the country.

The U.S. Secret Service is also involved in a number of other efforts to protect America’s children. Field offices throughout the United States have been involved in hosting internet safety seminars for kids. These seminars include information on how to prevent and avoid online enticement and solicitation of children for sexual activity, exposure to unwanted sexual material, and harassment and/or offensive behavior.

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Through the National Threat Assessment Center's Safe School Initiative, the knowledge and expertise utilized by the Secret Service to protect the President has been applied to aiding our nation's schools and law enforcement communities in safeguarding our children.

The Adam Walsh Rainbow Award is named for the son of John and Revé Walsh, whose disappearance and murder twenty years ago set off a national movement to create awareness of missing children and to change laws on how missing child cases are handled by law enforcement personnel.

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: For questions concerning this release, please contact the United States Secret Service Office of Government and Public Affairs at 202-406-5708.*

*Additional information on the USSS National Threat Assessment Center's Safe School Initiative is available on the Secret Service website at <http://www.secretservice.gov>.*

*For information on the Adam Walsh Rainbow Awards, please contact the NCMEC's Kathy Foster at 561-310-5131 or Tina Schwartz at 703-837-6251.*