



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
PUB 09-02

**MARCH 8, 2002**

### **TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY TO VISIT SECRET SERVICE NEW YORK ELECTRONIC CRIMES TASK FORCE**

NEW YORK, NY – On Monday, March 11, 2002, Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement Jimmy Gurulé will visit the United States Secret Service New York Electronic Crimes Task Force at John Jay College. Under Secretary Gurulé will tour the facility and will receive a briefing on current significant investigations.

“The partnering methods and techniques successfully utilized by the task force against cyber-criminals are unprecedented in the law enforcement arena,” Under Secretary Gurulé said. “The Secret Service has taken a truly collaborative approach and applied it to fighting high-tech crimes.”

With the passage in October 2001 of the USA PATRIOT Act, the U.S Secret Service was authorized to establish a nationwide network of electronic crimes task forces, based on the agency’s highly successful New York model. The task force approach developed by the New York Electronic Crimes Task force has generated unprecedented partnerships with local law enforcement, the private sector, and academia. These partnerships have experienced remarkable success in detecting and suppressing computer-based crime.

Technology and the rapid growth of the Internet have eliminated the traditional borders of financial crimes and provided new opportunities for those who engage in fraud to threaten the nation’s financial systems. These new technologies have been exploited by an expanding criminal element that conducts a host of sophisticated financial crimes. Telecommunications and finance systems are prime targets for the hacker or cyber-terrorist intent on causing damage to the economy of the United States. The Secret Service works closely with members of these industries to share information and identify weaknesses.

The New York Electronic Crimes Task Force was established by the Secret Service in 1995. Since its inception the task force has charged more than 800 people with electronic crimes, that had resulted in an estimated \$514 million in fraud losses. The task force partnership – between local, state and federal law enforcement, financial institutions, and universities – is a model for crime fighting within the ever-changing technology field.

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Nationally, the Secret Service will establish new electronic crimes task forces in eight cities: Boston, Miami, Charlotte, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

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