



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MAY 15, 2002**

### **U.S. SECRET SERVICE TO HOST FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND ELECTRONIC CRIMES TASK FORCE**

BOSTON – On Thursday, May 16, 2002, the first quarterly meeting of the New England Electronic Crimes Task Force (NET) will convene at the Boston Field Office of the United States Secret Service.

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 City model. The task force approach developed by the Secret Service has generated unprecedented partnerships among federal, state and local law enforcement, the private sector, and academia. These partnerships have experienced remarkable success in detecting and suppressing computer-based crime.

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

Well known for protecting the nation's leaders, the U.S. Secret Service is also responsible for protecting America's financial infrastructure. 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. With the task force approach, the Secret Service and its law enforcement partners at the federal, state and local level, will work closely with members of these industries and the academic community to share information and identify weaknesses.

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The New England Electronic Crimes Task Force is one of eight task forces established as a direct result of the anti-terrorism USA PATRIOT Act, which was passed by Congress in response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on America. In addition to the New England task force, the Secret Service will establish new electronic crimes task forces in Miami, Charlotte, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: A portion of the first quarterly meeting of the New England Electronic Crimes Task Force will be OPEN PRESS.*

**What:** First Quarterly Meeting of the  
New England Electronic Crimes Task Force

**Who:** U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan  
Attorney General Thomas Reilly  
Mass. State Police Superintendent Col. Thomas Foley  
Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley  
U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge John O'Hara

**When:** Thursday, May 16, 2002

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|--------------|--|
| 1:30-1:45 pm | Media registration   |
| 2:15 pm      | Media escort to auditorium for remarks by<br>Sullivan, Reilly, Foley, Conley |

**Where:** U.S. Secret Service Boston Field Office  
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building  
Main Auditorium - First Floor  
10 Causeway Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts

*If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the Boston Field Office at 617-565-5640. Media wishing to attend this event MUST call in advance with clearance information and must present press identification upon registration.*

*Electronic Crimes Task Force information available at  
[http://www.ectaskforce.org/Regional\\_Locations.htm](http://www.ectaskforce.org/Regional_Locations.htm)*

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