



U.S. MARSHALS

FACT SHEET

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The U.S. Marshals is the federal government's primary agency for conducting investigations involving escaped federal prisoners, probation, parole and bond violators, and fugitives based on warrants generated during drug investigations.

The agency is the custodian of all federal arrest warrants until execution or dismissal. For more than 20 years, the agency has specialized in apprehending fugitives.

In fiscal year 2007, the Marshals apprehended more than 36,000 federal fugitives, clearing more than 38,900 federal felony warrants — more than all other law enforcement agencies combined.

Working with authorities at federal, state and local levels, Marshals-led fugitive task forces arrested an additional 58,663 state and local fugitives, clearing 70,329 state and local felony warrants.

Domestic Investigations

15 Most Wanted Fugitive Program

The U.S. Marshals established the *15 Most Wanted* Fugitive Program in 1983 to prioritize the investigation and apprehension of some of the country's most dangerous and high-profile fugitives. These felons tend to be career criminals with histories of violence, and they pose a significant threat to public safety. Current and past *15 Most Wanted* fugitives have included murderers, sex offenders, major drug kingpins, organized crime figures and individuals wanted for high-profile financial crimes. They are generally considered the "worst of the worst."

Fugitive cases may be drawn from U.S. Marshals' primary jurisdiction cases, cases sent to a USMS fugitive task force by another federal agency, state/local cases that have been adopted by USMS task forces, or cases referred to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Since the program began, 185 of the *15 Most Wanted* fugitives have been arrested. In FY 2007, the U.S. Marshals captured three of them.

Major Case Fugitive Program

To supplement the *15 Most Wanted* Fugitive Program, the Major Case Fugitive Program was established in 1985. Major cases garner a stronger focus within the agency and receive more resources from than do regular cases.

District Fugitive Task Forces

The USMS has a distinguished history of providing assistance and expertise to other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in support of their fugitive investigations. The U.S. Marshals currently lead 85 district fugitive task forces across the country. In addition, the agency leads ad-hoc fugitive task forces that operate in response to a targeted group of fugitives or a specific case — such as when an inmate escapes from prison.

District fugitive task forces are the backbone of the Marshals' fugitive apprehension efforts. Combining the resources of Marshals' district offices with other federal, state and local agencies, these task forces provide an extremely effective network of investigators dedicated to catching fugitives. The success of the district task forces, which began more

than 20 years ago, paved the way for Congress to fund six regional fugitive task forces.

Regional Fugitive Task Forces

The Presidential Threat Protection Act of 2000 established permanent fugitive apprehension task forces. The task forces consist of federal, state and local law enforcement authorities in designated regions of the United States and are directed and coordinated by the U.S. Marshals.

These regional fugitive task forces (RFTFs) combine the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest the most dangerous fugitives and serve as the focal point for information sharing concerning fugitive matters.

The U.S. Marshals currently operate six RFTFs — New York/New Jersey, Pacific Southwest, Great Lakes, Southeast, Capital Area and Gulf Coast. These task forces have significantly enhanced the Marshals' fugitive apprehension program.

RFTFs closed more than 27,500 felony warrants by arrest, including 1,075 homicide warrants in FY 2007.

Domestic Investigations Branch

The Domestic Investigations Branch of the Marshals' Investigative Services Division develops, manages and oversees programs related to domestic fugitive investigations.

One such program is the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force that identifies, investigates and prosecutes high-level money laundering and narcotics organizations. Another program is HIDTA — High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas — aimed at reducing drug-related crimes and violence in designated locations.

The agency also participates in Project Safe Neighborhoods and takes part in Violent

Crime Impact Teams — companion initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence.

Along with numerous formal agreements to pursue other agencies' fugitives, Marshals work with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to locate and arrest fugitives wanted for crimes against children. They also combat gang violence by prioritizing investigations of violent fugitives with ties to gangs. In support of the agency's fugitive mission, the Domestic Investigations Branch is developing new programs such as the Financial Surveillance Unit that tracks fugitives through financial means.

International Investigations Branch

The USMS is responsible for tracking fugitives who flee the territorial boundaries of the United States. The agency has also been designated by the Department of Justice to locate and apprehend fugitives wanted by foreign nations and believed to be in the United States. The agency has the statutory responsibility to extradite international and foreign fugitives after they are captured.

In FY 2007, the Marshals successfully completed a record 772 extraditions/deportations from 64 countries. The USMS operates foreign field offices in Mexico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and coordinates law enforcement liaison programs along the borders of Mexico and Canada.

In support of international fugitive investigations, personnel currently serve in management positions with Interpol's U.S. National Central Bureau in Washington, D.C. A chief inspector also serves as a liaison at the Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs and at the El Paso Intelligence Center in Texas.

To further extend its investigative reach to foreign locations, the Marshals provide special deputations to approximately 400

regional security officers with the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service. These officers serve at embassies and consulates around the world. To facilitate worldwide coordination, the Department of State has assigned an agent from the DSS to the U.S. Marshals' International Investigations Branch.

Sex Offender Investigations Branch

The U.S. Marshals was tasked with important new responsibilities in 2006 under the *Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act*. This important new legislation designated the U.S. Marshals as the lead federal agency tasked with locating fugitive sex offenders who fail to register or do not comply with their state's registry requirements.

To support its new role, ISD created the Sex Offender Investigations Branch (SOIB) to manage its Sex Offender Apprehension Program. Since SOIB's inception, it has developed an implementation strategy, assisted the Department of Justice with legal guidance, assigned a full time liaison to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and designated a Sex Offender Investigations Coordinator in each district and RFTF.

The SOIB has also trained more than 200 criminal investigators in sex offender investigations and is developing a National Sex Offender Targeting Center.

During the first year of SOIB operations, the U.S. Marshals apprehended 7,333 sex offenders, including 2,705 persons who failed to register or were non-compliant.

Additionally, 920 cases were initiated for investigation of violating the new legislation. Due to these cases, 240 warrants were issued and 183 individuals arrested.

Criminal Information Branch

The Criminal Information Branch (CIB) is a team of analysts that provides tactical and strategic expertise for operations conducted by the U.S. Marshals. CIB researches and analyzes information in support of fugitive investigations, and manages data sharing projects with other agencies. CIB also oversees special information systems used by the Marshals, including the Warrant Information Network — the agency's central law enforcement information system.

Technical Operations Group

Electronic Surveillance Branch

The Electronic Surveillance Branch (ESB) provides covert investigative and intelligence support for the U.S. Marshals' major cases and *15 Most Wanted* fugitive investigations. In addition, ESB provides assistance when requested by other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to solve complex criminal investigations or violent crimes.

ESB achieves a very successful case clearance rate by deploying some of the most sophisticated technologies available. ESB members help prepare court orders, serve as expert witnesses in the field of electronic surveillance and train law enforcement personnel from the United States and the international law enforcement community in the use of electronic surveillance. ESB maintains a central monitoring facility and electronic surveillance operation centers, with field offices throughout the United States.

Air Surveillance Branch

The Air Surveillance Branch provides aerial surveillance, electronic tracking and other aerial platform functions in support of operations. TOG aircraft provide vital intelligence during the investigation, arrest and prosecution of some of the country's most dangerous fugitives.

Tactical Support Branch

The Tactical Support Branch provides support to districts, task forces, fugitive investigations, prisoner operations, special operations and judicial security/witness security details. It also provides force protection measures during missions — covert audio, video, alarms and sensors, as well as other techniques and applications necessary to protect personnel and protectees. The Tactical Support Branch includes the Operational Wireless Communications Support Group that

provides digital, narrowband, encrypted wireless communications in support of Marshals' operations. OWCS maintains a cache of radio and satellite communications equipment — tactical repeaters, base stations, portable tower trailers and other specialized gear. The Tactical Support Branch also has personnel trained to conduct technical surveillance countermeasures that protect government property and sensitive information, as well as identify technical surveillance devices and hazards.

