



U.S. MARSHALS

FACT SHEET

PRISONER OPERATIONS

The U.S. Marshals assume custody of individuals arrested by all federal agencies and is responsible for housing and transporting prisoners from the time they enter into federal custody until they are either acquitted or sentenced. If sentenced, the prisoner is transported to a designated prison facility.

Prisoner Custody

Each day, the USMS houses approximately 55,200 detainees in federal, state, local and private jails throughout the nation. In order to house these prisoners, the Marshals contract with approximately 1,800 state and local governments to rent jail space. Seventy-nine percent of the prisoners in the Marshals' custody are detained in state, local and private facilities; the remainder are housed in Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities.

Individuals arrested or detained for violating federal statutes must be brought before a magistrate or judge for an initial hearing. After the hearing, prisoners may either be released or remanded into the custody of the respective U.S. Marshal to await trial. If a prisoner is subsequently convicted, it is the U.S. Marshals' responsibility to deliver him or her to the designated institution to serve the imposed sentence.

In locations where detention space is scarce, the Marshals can provide state and local governments with Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) funds to improve local jail facilities and expand their capacities. In return, the Marshals receive guaranteed

detention bed space for its federal prisoners. Since the fund's 1983 establishment, the Marshals have awarded more than \$279 million in CAP funds to state and local jails throughout the nation — resulting in more than 12,000 guaranteed bed spaces for federal prisoners. However, new CAP funds have not been received since 2005.

The responsibility of detaining federal prisoners is challenging in its diversity and complexity. Deputy Marshals must resolve issues such as the hospitalization and care of prisoners with terminal illnesses or contagious diseases, and deciding whether to grant the transfer of prisoners to state authorities pursuant to state writs.

Prisoner Medical Care

The U.S. Marshals relies on state and local jails as well as BOP detention facilities to provide in-house medical care. However, the agency is responsible for providing secure escort and absorbing the health care costs for prisoners, who require medical services delivered in the local community. In support of the program, Congress passed 18 U.S.C. 4006, as amended, which authorizes the agency to pay medical claims consistent with Medicare payment standards. As a result, the USMS has reduced its prisoner medical care costs by \$290 million.

The U.S. Marshals faces an increasing number of prisoners suffering from extremely complex medical problems such as cancer, AIDS, hepatitis and multiple organ failure. The agency is also committed to protecting its staff, other prisoners and the public from

exposure to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus commonly known as MRSA.

With the assistance of the U.S. Public Health Service, the agency has establish preferred provider medical networks, centralized medical bill review and repricing,

and procured secure hospital wards. The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers assigned to the agency have been the pillar in the success of this program. Their medical expertise has allowed them to provide invaluable assistance to districts dealing with prisoner health care issues and has contributed to the continued success of the program.

