



Media Advisory

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U.S. Marshals Service

340 FUGITIVES ARRESTED DURING OPERATION FALCON ARIZONA

Arizona – In one of the largest fugitive initiatives ever undertaken in the Phoenix-Tucson area, the U.S. Marshals Service teamed with law enforcement agencies, arresting 340 fugitives and clearing 371 warrants during a recent six-day sweep. Led by the U.S. Marshals Service, Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally) is an ongoing, multi-city, nationwide law enforcement effort. The operation targets persons wanted for sexual offenses, gang members, narcotics violations, and other violent crimes. Since its start in July, Operation FALCON 2007 has netted 2,689 arrests and cleared 3,049 warrants in 16 operations. Operation FALCON - Arizona took place from August 19th through the 25th and this is the third consecutive year that the U.S. Marshals Service has conducted the FALCON fugitive sweep operation throughout the country.

Of the 340 fugitives arrested, 18 were wanted for sexual offenses. Kenneth Adkins was arrested in Tucson by FALCON Task Force officers on Thursday, August 23, 2007 for violation of the Adam Walsh Act. Specifically, Adkins is charged as a registered sex offender who crossed state lines and failed to register at his new address. Adkins was convicted of sexual abuse of a 14 year old child in Arkansas in 2001 and did not register with local authorities under Arizona state law upon his arrival to Tucson's southwest side in early 2007.

KENNETH ADKINS



There were numerous arrests of targeted Phoenix and Tucson area fugitives that were wanted for violent crimes. One of those targeted fugitives, Jose Garcia was arrested in Phoenix during Operation FALCON for the beating death of a Phoenix man. Garcia has been charged with Second Degree Murder. Phoenix Police learned that GARCIA fled to Salt Lake City and contacted the U.S. Marshals fugitive task force there, where he was arrested without incident. Garcia is a member of the Sureno 13

Conchella 53rd Street gang and the Sureno Varrío Conchella Rifa in California. Garcia has an extensive violent criminal history of Assaults, Drug Possession, Child Abuse and Car Thefts.

JOSE GARCIA



“Violent crime is on the increase in Arizona and one of the primary reasons is the sheer number of fugitives hiding in our communities,” said David Gonzales, U.S. Marshal for the District of Arizona. “Law enforcement agencies work best when working together. The FALCON project is a perfect example of the police collaborating to remove the most dangerous predators off our streets...not just grabbing the low hanging fruit for a statistic,” said Marshal Gonzales.

Operation FALCON – Arizona was comprised of over 100 law enforcement agents from 25 contributing agencies in the Phoenix and Tucson area. The agencies involved in the operation were the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Chandler Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Eloy Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Housing and Urban Development, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Maricopa County Adult Probation, Mesa Police, Oro Valley Police Department, Phoenix Police Department, Pinal County Adult Probation, Pima County Adult Probation, Pima County Sheriff’s Department, Pinal County Sheriff’s Department, Scottsdale Police Department, South Tucson Police Department, Tucson Police Department, Surprise Police Department, Tempe Police Department, Veteran Affairs, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and University of Arizona Police Department.

The U.S. Marshals Service also coordinates the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Fugitive Task Force, a multi-agency task force that targets persons wanted for violent crimes, narcotic offenses, and sexual offenders in the Phoenix and Tucson area and surrounding cities.

Since its inception in 2005, Operation FALCON has made over 30,000 arrests and cleared over 38,000 warrants. It continues to be the largest and most successful fugitive apprehension effort in U.S. Marshals history.

For more information about the U.S. Marshals Service, visit <http://www.usmarshals.gov/>

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America’s Oldest Federal Law Enforcement Agency

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



ARREST HIGHLIGHTS: TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA

KENNETH ALBERT ADKINS



Adkins was arrested by FALCON Task Force officers on Thursday, August 23, 2007, for violation of the Adam Walsh Act. Specifically, Adkins is charged as a registered sex offender who crossed state lines and failed to register at his new address. Adkins was convicted of sexual abuse of a child in Arkansas in 2001 and did not register with local authorities under Arizona state law upon his arrival to Tucson's southwest side in early 2007.

DANIEL ROBERT GARCIA



Garcia was arrested August 21, 2007 by the Arizona Department of Corrections for violation of parole (original charge: aggravated assault with a deadly weapon). Garcia evaded capture for almost three years prior to being arrested at a home near 22nd and Country Club. Garcia's prior criminal history includes multiple arrests for aggravated assault, possession of narcotics, and failure to appear.

LEANDRO PEREZ



Perez, a documented member of the South Park Family Bloods, was arrested August 23, 2007 in the 2600 block of South Euclid for violation of parole. Perez was on parole for a narcotics conviction and has a criminal history that includes numerous assaults, aggravated assaults and an arrest for illegal possession of a firearm. Perez' brother, Carlos Perez, was also arrested on a local warrant.

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



ARREST HIGHLIGHTS: TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA (CONTINUED)

RICKY LAMAR SIMMONS



Simmons was arrested August 23, 2007 in the 300 block of E. Navajo on 6 local warrants. Simmons had Failure to Appear warrants for Sexual Assault (3 counts), Assault, Domestic Violence/ Criminal damage, 2 Driving under the Influence warrants, and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor. Simmons criminal history consists of a 1994 arrest for Sex with a Minor, Aggravated Assault and Solicitation. When authorities arrived at Simmons home, his girlfriend lied to officers about him not being at the residence and when Simmons was found hiding in the bathroom, gave a fake name to officers.

FRANCISCO JAVIER LOPEZ

ADRIAN ALEJANDRO ITTURALDE



Lopez and Renteria were arrested by Sonora State Judicial Police in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico after an international investigation in conjunction with the U.S. Marshals Mexican Investigative Liaison and the homicide unit of the Pima County Sheriffs Department. Both fugitives are accused in the December 2006 murder of Jonas Gastelum. Gastelum was beaten, shot, and his body burned and left in a remote area on Tucson's far southeast side. With the assistance of Mexican immigration officials, Lopez and Renteria were expelled from Mexico to the United States. They are currently in the Pima County Jail facing the murder charges.

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



ARREST HIGHLIGHTS: TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA (CONTINUED)

YESENIA MARTINEZ-SOVARZO



Martinez-Sovarzo was arrested on August 21, 2007 for Alien in Possession of a Firearm at a home near Grant and 1st Avenue. In June 2007, several assault rifles, a stolen handgun, a hand grenade, and numerous loaded high capacity magazines for each weapon were found at her home near Magee and Oldfather. Also seized was a 2003 Cadillac Escalade. Martinez-Sovarzo has three prior deportations.

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



PARTICIPATING AGENCIES IN TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS)

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF)

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA)

ELOY POLICE DEPARTMENT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)

ORO VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

PIMA COUNTY ADULT PROBATION

PIMA COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT

PINAL COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT

SOUTH TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL (USBP)

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA POLICE DEPARTMENT



FALCON's Most Notorious Phoenix Area

Jose GARCIA was arrested during Operation FALCON for the beating death of a Phoenix man. GARCIA has been charged with Second Degree Murder. Phoenix Police contacted the FALCON task force members after learning GARCIA fled to Salt Lake City. GARCIA was apprehended by the U.S. Marshal fugitive task force in Salt Lake City on Friday. GARCIA is a member of the Sur 13 Conchella 53rd Street gang in California and the Sureno Varrio Conchella Riders in Phoenix. GARCIA has an extensive violent criminal history of Assaults, Drug Possession, Child Abuse and Car Thefts.

Bruce PETERSON was arrested by task force members for Possession of a Weapon by Prohibited Person, Domestic Violence, Stalking, Threatening and Probation Violation. PETERSON allegedly threatened to kill his ex-girlfriend. PETERSON has an extensive criminal history that includes: Kidnapping, Aggravated Assault, Possession of Dangerous Drugs, Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Misconduct Involving Weapons.

Mikel JUNG was arrested during Operation FALCON for Misconduct Involving Weapons relating to a Domestic Violence and Possession of Marijuana. JUNG was found hiding in the attic of his residence when authorities attempted to arrest him. JUNG is a Westside Boothill Crips gang member and has a history of Weapon Violations and Burglaries.

Thomas CARAS was arrested by police after being on the run for 11 years. CARAS was wanted by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department in Tacoma, WA, for Rape of a Child in the First Degree. CARAS was found hiding in Gila Bend.

Stephen VALENCIA was captured by task force members in Tolleson. VALENCIA is a Sex Offender who violated his Probation. In 2002, he was convicted for sexually assaulting a woman. Southgate, CA Police Department also wanted VALENCIA for a Weapons Offense. VALENCIA has prior arrests for Kidnapping, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Theft, and Drug Possession.

David HILMER was arrested during Operation FALCON for Possession of a Weapon by a Prohibited Person (pipe bomb) and Probation Violation. A pipe bomb was found in HILMER's vehicle when he fled on foot from police last month. HILMER associates with the Skinhead White Supremist gang. His criminal history includes arrests for: Assault, Drug Possession, Resisting Arrest, and Theft.

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



OPERATION FALCON PARTICIPATING AGENCIES PHOENIX AREA

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS)
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF)
CHANDLER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)
MARICOPA COUNTY ADULT PROBATION OFFICE
MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT
PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT
PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PINAL COUNTY ADULT PROBATION OFFICE
SCOTTSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT
SURPRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT
TEMPE POLICE DEPARTMENT
VETERANS AFFAIRS-OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE
U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE**