

United States Marshals Service



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Marshals arrest Portland Drug Fugitive in Tampa Bay Area

This Morning, January 8, 2007, Marques Hardges, age 31, a wanted fugitive and dangerous member of the Lokout Piru Bloods gang, was arrested in St. Petersburg, Florida by Deputy U.S. Marshals. Hardges, 31, was wanted in Multnomah County for several outstanding warrants involving narcotics activity and parole violations. Hardges was considered a serious threat to the public based on his gang association and previous arrests involving weapons and narcotics.

Recently, during a non-related criminal investigation, U.S. Marshals learned that Hardges was residing in St. Petersburg, Florida. At approximately 10:00 a.m., members of the U.S. Marshals Tampa Bay Area Fugitive Task Force and officers with the St. Petersburg Police Department attempted to arrest Hardges at his apartment, located at 509 ½ 8th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida. Initially, Hardges was not located inside the apartment; however, as the officers were leaving the area, they noticed Hardges standing across the street talking on his cell phone. Hardges was in possession of a fictitious birth certificate and social security card utilizing the alias Orlando Ware. Hardges was arrested without incident and booked into the Pinellas County Jail, awaiting extradition to Portland, Oregon.

The U.S. Marshals Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency. Annually, U.S. Marshals arrest more than 50 percent of all federal fugitives and serve more federal warrants than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined. Last year, U.S. Marshals cleared over 38,000 federal fugitive warrants and cleared an additional 45,000 state and local fugitive warrants through USMS co-operative task forces. For more information go to

www.usmarshals.gov