



U.S. MARSHALS

FACT SHEET

SEX OFFENDER INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH

The U.S. Marshals Service is the lead law enforcement agency responsible for investigating sex offender registration violations and related offenses in connection with violations of the Adam Walsh Act (AWA).

Adam Walsh Act Missions

In furtherance of the AWA, the USMS has three distinct responsibilities:

- ▶ Assisting state, local, tribal and territorial authorities in the location and apprehension of non-compliant and fugitive sex offenders
- ▶ Investigating violations of 18 USC § 2250 and related offenses
- ▶ Assisting in the identification and location of sex offenders relocated as a result of a major disaster

To ensure the safety of America's neighborhoods and children, the USMS has adopted an aggressive approach to these tasks.

Since 2005, the USMS has executed more than 18,000 warrants for fugitives wanted for sexual assaults, sex offender registration violations and other sex crimes. Since the passing of the AWA in July 2006, the USMS has opened more than 1,300 cases on convicted sex offenders for violations of the AWA and arrested more than 240 individuals for violating the provisions of the AWA.

Current Initiatives

Through a strong relationship with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and established contacts with state sex offender registries, the USMS continues to assist with the identification of non-compliant sex offenders for prosecution under the AWA.

As of March 2008, NCMEC figures indicate approximately 630,000 registered sex offenders reside in the United States. NCMEC also estimates there are at least 100,000 more offenders classified as being in a "non-compliant status."

To fulfill its mandate from Congress as the nation's leading law enforcement agency in this fight, the USMS has taken the following initiatives:

- ▶ Established the Sex Offender Apprehension Program, which encompasses more than 200 specially-trained criminal investigators
- ▶ Undertaken national sex offender apprehension operations that focus USMS resources on the location and apprehension of non-compliant and fugitive sex offenders
- ▶ Established a case management office at NCMEC to oversee USMS investigations involving abducted children – also known as *Operation Pickup*
- ▶ Created Incident Management Teams to assist with identifying and locating sex

offenders displaced during a major crisis or natural disaster

- ▶ Coordinated with Interpol to issue “Green Notices” used to track the movement of sex offenders between member nations
- ▶ Developed nationwide media campaigns encouraging compliance with sex offender registration laws

Future Plans

In addition to the initiatives already created, the USMS plans to implement projects to increase its vigilance in support of the AWA, such as:

- ▶ Establishing the National Sex Offender Targeting Center (NSOTC), designed to

be an interagency intelligence and operations center supporting the identification, investigation, location, apprehension and prosecution of non-compliant sex offenders

- ▶ Creating the USMS Behavioral Analysis Unit within the NSOTC to assist with the prioritization and targeting of non-compliant and fugitive sex offenders
- ▶ Increasing USMS participation in *Operation Pickup*
- ▶ Establishing a coalition among nations to maintain organized sex offender registries and hosting an annual summit with these nations to address the growing issue of sexual predation, especially against children

