



Media Advisory

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175 Arrested During Operation FALCON – PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

Portland, Oregon – Following a two-year tradition of success, the U.S. Marshals Service conducted another highly successful Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally) from August 6 –10 in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Operation FALCON is an ongoing, multi-city, nationwide law enforcement effort. Since its onset in July, Operation FALCON 2007 has netted 2,293 arrests and cleared 2,653 warrants in 14 locations across the country.

Operation FALCON 2007 in the Portland Metropolitan area, under the framework of the U.S. Marshals Oregon Fugitive Task Force, combined the collective efforts of multiple law enforcement agencies, focusing on capturing individuals wanted on felony charges including sexual predators and fugitives wanted for crimes of violence.

Over the course of the five-day operation, Deputy U.S. Marshals, teamed with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, arrested 175 fugitives – including 28 for sex crimes – and cleared 197 warrants. 92 % of these fugitives had prior criminal histories. Two firearms were also recovered.

Among those arrested included Michael Stroy, a Washington County Sheriff's Department *Ten Most Wanted* fugitive. Stroy has been wanted since 2005 for multiple charges of Burglary and Theft and has an extensive criminal history. FALCON investigators identified Stroy's location in Vancouver, and subsequently took him into custody at that location.

Brett Heist was one of many sex offense related arrests. Heist was wanted out of Washington County for Sex Abuse and Unlawful Sexual Penetration of a minor. His charges fall under Oregon's Measure 11, mandating a five year sentence on each charge. FALCON investigators learned that Heist enlisted in the military, and had been stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood. The very next day, Deputy U.S. Marshals in Western Missouri, safely took Heist into custody at his military training facility. Heist remains in custody pending extradition to Oregon.

According to Dennis Merrill, U.S. Marshal for the District of Oregon, "Operation FALCON was an extraordinary cooperative effort involving all levels of law enforcement. The Operation clearly demonstrates what we can accomplish by combining resources and working as a team – all of those that participated helped make our communities safer," said Merrill.

Operation FALCON consisted of 23 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with over 130 participating officers, deputies, agents, troopers, and detectives. 12 separate arrest teams were organized and worked throughout the five-day period. All non-U.S. Marshals participants were special deputized as Special Deputy U.S. Marshals immediately prior to the start of this operation. This special authority

empowered them to cross traditional lines of jurisdiction to track down and arrest targeted fugitives throughout the week.

Agencies contributing to Operation FALCON 2007 -
Participating Agencies

	<u># officers</u>
Multnomah County SO, Corrections	9
Multnomah County SO, Enforcement	1
Multnomah County Department of CJ	22
Clackamas County SO	1
Clackamas County Parole & Probation	1
Washington County SO	16
Oregon National Guard	1
Oregon State Police	2
Portland Police Bureau	4
Gresham Police Department	8
Tigard Police Department	5
Milwaukie Police Department	2
Beaverton Police Department	2
Hillsboro Police Department	4
North Plains Police Department	2
Forest Grove Police Department	3
Bureau of Emergency Communications	9
Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms (ATF)	3
Immigration & Customs Enforcement	4
Drug Enforcement Administration	9
Social Security Administration OIG	3
U.S. Postal Service/OIG	4
U.S. Department of Agriculture/OIG	2
U.S. Marshals Service	20

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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