



# U.S. MARSHALS

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## FACT SHEET

# SEX OFFENDER INVESTIGATIONS

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 Child Protection and Safety Act, which was enacted July 27, 2006. As part of this Act, the U.S. Marshals Service has three principle responsibilities:

### **Adam Walsh Act Missions**

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- ▶ Assisting state, local, tribal and territorial authorities in the location and apprehension of non-compliant and fugitive sex offenders
- ▶ Investigating violations of the act for federal prosecution
- ▶ Assisting in the identification and location of sex offenders relocated as a result of a major disaster

To ensure the safety of children across the country, the U.S. Marshals Service implemented an aggressive enforcement strategy. Since July 2006, U.S. Marshals have apprehended approximately 20,000 fugitives wanted for sexual assaults, sex offender registration violations and other sex crimes. Additionally, investigators have opened more than 2,200 investigations on convicted sex offenders for violations of the act and arrested more than 400 individuals, who have been federally charged.

### **Current Initiatives**

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Through a strong relationship with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and established contacts with state sex offender registries, the U.S. Marshals Service continues to assist with the identification of non-compliant sexual offenders for prosecution under the act. NCMEC figures indicate approximately 665,000 registered sex offenders reside in the United States. Other estimates suggest an additional 100,000 sexual offenders are classified as non-complaint or unregistered.

To fulfill its mandate by the Department of Justice as the nation's leading law enforcement agency in this fight, the U.S. Marshals Service has established the following initiatives:

- ▶ The Sex Offender Apprehension Program
- ▶ National sex offender special apprehension initiatives, which focuses resources on non-compliant and fugitive sex offenders
- ▶ "Operation Pickup" a case management office at NCMEC to oversee U.S. Marshals Service investigations involving abducted children
- ▶ Incident Management Teams to assist with identifying and locating sex offenders during a major crisis or natural disaster

- ▶ A working relationship with Interpol to issue “Green Notices” to track the movement of sex offenders between member nations
- ▶ Nationwide media campaigns encouraging compliance with sex offender registration laws

## **Future Initiatives**

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In addition to these programs, the U.S. Marshals Service plans to implement future initiatives in furtherance of its enforcement responsibilities, these include:

- ▶ The establishment of the National Sex Offender Targeting Center,

- designed to be an interagency intelligence and operations center supporting the identification, investigation, location, apprehension and prosecution of non-complaint, unregistered fugitive sex offenders
- ▶ The creation of the U.S. Marshals Service Behavioral Analysis Unit, within the NSOTC, to assist with the prioritization and targeting of non-compliant and fugitive sex offenders
  - ▶ Increasing participation in NCMEC’s “Operation Pickup” program
  - ▶ Establishing a coalition between nations that maintain organized sex offender registries and hosting an annual summit with these nations

