



ATF News

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ATF VIOLENT GANG TASK FORCE ARRESTS 17 GANG MEMBERS IN DES MOINES/SEATAC AREA OPERATION

SEATTLE – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Kelvin N. Crenshaw announced today the arrests of 17 violent gang members and associates on federal and state firearms and drug charges. The gang members were operating in SeaTac, Des Moines and King County, Wash.

The three-tiered operation consisted of federal search and arrest warrants, state arrest warrants, and active community contacts and outreach.

“The goal of this operation is crime prevention,” Crenshaw said. “We are working with the community, local police, and using street intelligence to identify the most violent gang members. We are then employing every legal means to extract them from the community. Working with the community, we can end the cycle of violence and intimidation.”

“These arrests highlight the great work that can be done when law enforcement agencies work together,” said King County Sheriff Sue Rahr. “This cooperation truly makes our communities safer.”

Des Moines Chief Roger Baker praised the efforts of all the task force members and partners for their dedicated efforts and service. “We listened to our citizens, identified the problems, and partnered with the resources available to address the violence and other criminal elements in and around Des Moines,” he said.

The ATF Violent Crime Task Force is a coordinated effort among ATF, Seattle Police, King County Sheriff’s Office, FBI and the Washington Department of Corrections. The case would have not been possible with out the steadfast support of the United States Attorney’s Office, the King County Prosecutor’s Office, and the tireless efforts of the Street Crimes Unit of the cities of SeaTac and Des Moines.

More information on ATF and its programs to reduce violent crime can be found at www.atf.gov.

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