

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Washington, D.C. Area Law Enforcement Gains Access to INTERPOL Databases

The INTERPOL-U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, is pleased to announce that the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) recently entered into an agreement with the USNCB that will allow members of the MPD, as well as other Washington, D.C. law enforcement agencies, to access databases administered by INTERPOL. INTERPOL is the International Criminal Police Organization with 187 member countries and headquarters located in Lyon, France.

INTERPOL's databases include information contributed by law enforcement authorities of its member countries on fugitives, terrorists, missing children and adults, sex offenders, gang members, and drug dealers. Officers and investigators can also access information on stolen and lost travel documents (passports) and national identification cards, and stolen motor vehicles. The USNCB, and its 24/7 Operations and Command Center, coordinates any follow up communications with foreign police officials when there is a positive query of the databases.

With the addition of Washington, D.C., all law enforcement authorities in the region including the States of Maryland and Virginia, now have access to INTERPOL'S databases and the capability of communicating with their foreign counterparts through the USNCB. Police officers in these states and throughout the country conducting traffic stops or involved in criminal investigations, can check the INTERPOL databases for information that may assist in identification or alert law enforcement agencies in other countries of the potential location of a fugitive. Mr. Martin Renkiewicz, Director of the USNCB, stated, "I am extremely pleased to assist the Metropolitan Police Department by connecting them to police around the world. Given the international nature of Washington, I believe it is especially important for our police to have this international access."