

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**INTERPOL – USNCB
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**TWO INTERPOL OFFICES
ESTABLISHED IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS**

Washington, D.C. - - The Guam Police Department and the Commonwealth of the North Mariana Islands, Department of Public Safety (DPS) were recently designated official points of contact for INTERPOL matters which affect their jurisdictions.

In order to combat the increasing globalization of crime, it is crucial for the United States' state and local police authorities to be able to communicate with, and access information from, their international counterparts. The communication network and database resources of INTERPOL¹, the International Criminal Police Organization, are ideally suited for this purpose. To address this need, the U.S. National Central Bureau of INTERPOL (USNCB), the United States' official representative to INTERPOL and a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, in coordination with state and local authorities, has established "INTERPOL Liaison Offices".

Guam PD and the North Mariana Islands DPS become, respectively, the 65th and 66th U.S. departments designated to meet this need. They join existing offices in each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Boston, New York, Chicago, the city and county of Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Miami-Dade County, Houston, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The USNCB will forward foreign investigative requests that have a nexus within Guam and the North Mariana Islands to the INTERPOL offices of those jurisdictions. Conversely, the newly designated INTERPOL offices will channel local requests that require international investigation to the USNCB for transmission to the appropriate INTERPOL member country or countries. Additionally, both INTERPOL offices will educate police throughout their jurisdictions of their affiliation with the USNCB and the various ways in which INTERPOL can be of investigative assistance.

¹ *INTERPOL, the world's largest international police organization with 186 member countries, facilitates the timely and secure exchange of criminal investigative information among the world's law enforcement entities.*