

Fact Sheet
Fugitive Apprehension
2024

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service is the federal government’s primary agency for fugitive investigations.
- ▶ The Marshals have the broadest arrest authority among federal law enforcement agencies.
- ▶ The Marshals provide assistance to state and local agencies in locating and apprehending their most violent fugitives.

<i>Fiscal Year 2023 Data</i>	
Total fugitives arrested/cleared by U.S. Marshals Service	73,362
• State and local fugitives	45,297
• Federal fugitives	28,065
• Sex offenders*	10,088
• Gang members	3,496
• Homicide suspects	5,447
• Transnational fugitives	1,487
• Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Program fugitives	1,051
• Adam Walsh Act violations	287
• “15 Most Wanted” fugitives	4
Average fugitives arrested per day (based on 250 operational days)	293
Total warrants cleared by U.S. Marshals Service arrests**	86,388
• State and local warrants	57,280
• Federal warrants	29,108
International removals (extraditions, deportations and expulsions)	772

*Sex offenses include sexual assault, failure to register/noncompliance with the national sex offender registry and other offenses.

** Number of warrants cleared exceeds the number of arrests due to fugitives with multiple warrants.

Task Forces

- ▶ U.S. Marshals task forces combine the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest the most dangerous fugitives.
- ▶ Eight congressionally funded regional fugitive task forces are located in the Carolinas, New York/New Jersey, Pacific Southwest, Great Lakes, Capital Area, Southeast, Gulf Coast, and Florida/Caribbean regions.
- ▶ Fifty-seven local task forces are dedicated to reducing violent crime by locating and apprehending wanted criminals. They also serve as the central point for agencies to share information on fugitive matters.
- ▶ Task force officers are state and local police officers who receive special deputations with the Marshals. While on a task force, these officers can exercise U.S. Marshals authorities, such as crossing jurisdictional lines.
- ▶ The agency also leads ad-hoc fugitive task forces in special cases, e.g., when an inmate escapes from

prison.

“15 Most Wanted” Fugitive Program

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals “15 Most Wanted” fugitive program draws attention to some of the country’s most dangerous and high-profile fugitives. These fugitives tend to be career criminals with histories of violence, and they pose a significant threat to public safety.
- ▶ Generally, “15 Most Wanted” fugitives are considered the “worst of the worst” and can include murderers, sex offenders, major drug kingpins, organized crime figures and individuals wanted for high-profile financial crimes. Since the program began in 1983, 242 “15 Most Wanted” fugitive cases have been closed by arrest.¹

International Fugitive Operations

- ▶ U.S. Marshals work with the international law enforcement community to apprehend fugitives abroad as well as to seek foreign fugitives living or residing in the United States.
- ▶ The Marshals protect the public from international fugitives through coordinated enforcement efforts with foreign and domestic law enforcement.
 - The U.S. Marshals direct and coordinate international and foreign fugitive investigations conducted by its personnel and task force partners.
 - The U.S. Marshals manage and execute the U.S. government’s extradition program on behalf of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.
- ▶ Four U.S. Marshals foreign field offices, a foreign law enforcement training program and an international liaison program coordinate these enforcement efforts. The agency also maintains liaison positions with INTERPOL Washington, the Department of Justice’s Office of International Affairs and the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service.
- ▶ In fiscal year 2023, the Marshals closed 1,487 transnational fugitive investigations requiring investigative coordination with 128 countries and territories. The Marshals conducted 772 removals, including extraditions, foreign extraditions, deportations and expulsions, through coordination with 56 foreign nations.
- ▶ The Marshals provide assistance, expertise and training on fugitive matters to federal, state, local and international agencies.

Gang and Organized Crime Enforcement Programs

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals gang enforcement model aims to reduce gang crime and violence by strategically pursuing those gang members and criminals most responsible for a community’s crime and violence. Along with using eight regionally-located Counter Gang Units and 57 district-based fugitive task forces, the Marshals regularly conduct targeted operations, called “Operation Triple Beam,” which focus on apprehending violent gang members and removing illegal firearms from the streets.
- ▶ The Marshals play a key role in the attorney general’s strategy to disrupt and dismantle major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. Through its participation as a component of DOJ’s Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Program, the Marshals Service provides its unique fugitive apprehension skills in identifying, locating and arresting the nation’s most prolific drug traffickers and leaders of the world’s largest transnational criminal organizations. The Marshals provide personnel to serve on various co-located strike forces throughout the nation, train select field personnel to work the complex fugitive investigations that often mark OCDEF cases and offer valuable technical assistance to other countries in locating fugitives who seek refuge outside the borders of the United States.

¹ Fugitive cases closed by arrest does not include those closed due to removal or those found deceased.