

United States Marshals Service District of Oregon

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District of Oregon

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Marshal Notes



How quickly time passes. We are already in the midst of the 2006 holiday season. This last year was filled with a multitude of significant events and important issues. I guess that's why the time seemed to slip by so fast.

The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), District of Oregon has had a very successful year. As such, I want to thank all of our law enforcement partners (federal, state, and local) for their outstanding support and assistance during 2006. This includes all the sheriff offices and FDC Sheridan that house our federal prisoners, as well as our full and part-time partners on our fugitive task forces. I also thank the entire federal court family for your helpful attitude and for creating a supportive and collaborative environment. We simply couldn't accomplish our mission without all of you!

I have to recognize the great work accomplished by all of our USMS employees in the District of Oregon. I trust each of them realizes how much I appreciate their efforts, professionalism, and dedication. They are really a terrific team.

One of the most significant events for the USMS in 2006 was the passage of the Adam Walsh Act. Language in the act charges the USMS with the responsibility for investigating, locating and arresting unregistered sex offenders. We are excited about this new challenge but

realize that it will require a lot of extra effort, particularly in the short term. Even though some additional personnel resources have been programmed for this effort, we most likely will not see any gains in staffing until 2008. In the meantime, we will do the best we can with existing resources. What makes this even more challenging is that we are currently operating with personnel vacancies that we are unable to fill. This is not necessarily a budget issue, rather it is a human resources challenge in hiring sufficient people fast enough to keep up with the demand. Regardless, we will work diligently and smartly with our law enforcement partners to meet and exceed our mission objectives.

Before we usher in calendar year 2007, I hope we all take a personal timeout to truly enjoy the spirit of the season. At the same time, let's not forget those that find themselves serving our country in assignments away from home or overseas – military or civilian – that can't be home for the holidays. We deeply appreciate their service and sacrifices.

On behalf of all of us in the USMS, District of Oregon, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!



"...I want to thank all of our law enforcement partners (federal, state, and local) for your outstanding support and assistance during 2006."

Investigations

The second half of 2006 has been a busy and fruitful time for the U.S. Marshals Service Oregon Fugitive Task Force. While the goal of the Marshals Service has always been to arrest all fugitives within its jurisdiction, priority has been given to those subjects that present the greatest threat to the community, especially those who endanger children. This year the U.S. Congress and the Attorney General designated the U.S. Marshals Service as the lead agency in the apprehension of sex offenders in non-compliance with sex offender registration requirements. Additionally, the Marshals Service is tasked with investigating sex offenders who have not complied with their registration requirements possibly leading to new criminal charges.

The “Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006” not only makes failure to register as a sex offender and then crossing state lines a federal felony, but depending upon the underlying charges and the individual’s criminal history, the minimum sentence is 5 or 10 years. Additionally, the law attempts to move all states toward some form of uniformity in how they classify sexual offenders and their registration requirements.

In order to assist our partners in the state and local agencies, our fugitive task force has begun to identify those individuals throughout the State of Oregon who may be potential targets of investigation and/or arrest. This is being accomplished via the already strong presence of the Oregon State Police on the Fugitive Task Force and the implementation of an automated notification process through the CJIS system administered by the State of Oregon. This notification process will give the Marshals Service and the Task Force Officers immediate notification when a sexual offender has a new warrant allowing immediate attention and assignment to an investigator.

While seeking to refine the notification process, the Marshals Service is also seeking to forge long term relationships with all agencies across the State of Oregon in order to identify high-priority sex offenders. By adding investigators and resources to participating agencies requesting assistance, the task force serves as a “force-multiplier.” This is particularly valuable to smaller departments with limited manpower and investigative resources. While the Marshals Service believes it has strong working relationships with many agencies throughout the state, it is always seeking ways to strengthen and expand those relationships critical to the protection of the most innocent among us.

With the present criminal investigators from the Marshals Service, detectives from the Portland Police Bureau and the Oregon State Police as well as Multnomah and Clackamas County Probation Officers and Oregon National Guard analysts, the task force creates the perfect environment to address the provisions of the Adam Walsh Act. The wealth of

knowledge each individual brings to the task force and their ability to easily share their expertise and agency resources allows the task force to aggressively charge, arrest and convict sex offenders and especially sexual predators.

To further enhance these relationships as well as develop new ones, the USMS is conducting training for investigators throughout the state to demonstrate the capabilities of the Electronic Surveillance Bureau (ESB) and the USMS sponsored task forces. The ESB works hand-in-hand with the local task forces and the District of Oregon in providing the latest in electronic surveillance techniques in the pursuit of fugitives and sexual predators. With numerous assets at their disposal and the ability to quickly respond to almost any circumstance (at no cost to the local or state agency) the ESB is now an integral part of task force operations.

Captured:

Investigate Highlights

As evidence of the success of the District’s fugitive task force in the pursuit of those considered the “worst of the worst”, for the period of April 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006, the District of Oregon and the its fugitive task force combined to arrest over 351 fugitives categorized as violent offenders. These 351 violent offenders had over 385 warrants associated with their criminal activities. Several highlights from these arrests are as follows:

Convicted rapist, **Howard Kenneth Thomas**, had absconded from under the close supervision of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. On June 14, 2006 Thomas cut the strap of his electronic tracking device and disappeared with money in his pocket and a vehicle to make good his getaway. Numerous law enforcement agencies and news bureaus throughout the west coast were alerted based on this individual’s propensity for violence and mental state. At the same time, Thomas was tracked to Tacoma, WA by the work of the U.S. Marshals Task Force members. On July 21, 2006 Thomas was located and arrested in Tacoma by members of the Pacific Northwest Fugitive Apprehension Task Force and later returned to Multnomah County.



Alden Yale, a Thurston County, WA most wanted fugitive, was being sought on 23 criminal counts including, Leading Organized Crime, Distribution of Methamphetamine, Assault with a

Investigations cont'd

Deadly Weapon, Money Laundering and Witness Intimidation. Alden was believed to be on the run with large amounts of cash and several firearms at his disposal when on August 7th the Pacific Northwest Fugitive Apprehension Task Force in Seattle became involved along with the Oregon HIDTA Fugitive Task Force. On the evening of August 8th, Alden was tracked to the Beaverton, OR area by Task Force members and a suspected location was soon under surveillance. After several hours of attempting to locate Alden, he was spotted and taken into custody by numerous law enforcement officers thereby preventing a potentially violent confrontation.



On September 18, 2006 **Terry Smith** was arrested for violating the immigration laws of Cambodia outside the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Authorities in Jackson County, OR wanted Smith for Sex Abuse of a Minor and for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. The Oregon State Police had developed information indicating Smith had fled to Cambodia and con-

tacted the Oregon HIDTA Fugitive Task Force for assistance in locating and apprehending him. Oregon HIDTA Task Force coordinated with USMS Headquarters, the U.S. Department of State and the Cambodian authorities to develop information on Smith's location. Cambodian authorities previously arrested Smith for Sodomy of a Minor, confiscated his passport and released him on bond. Investigators learned that Smith would attempt to obtain a replacement passport at the U.S. Embassy, and coordinated his arrest when he arrived there. Smith has since been brought back to the U.S. and awaits trial while also being investigated for further crimes against minors.

Fugitive **Maxie Allen Moore** arrived with a yellow rose in hand expecting to meet his on-line date for a romantic lunch. Moore's "date" had cultivated the relationship with talks of fall leaves, music and games. In fact, Moore's "date" was a Deputy U.S. Marshal from Eugene who had given Moore a dose of his own medicine with false information and leading conversations. Moore was arrested by U.S. Marshals on October 18, 2006 when he arrived for his romantic interlude. He was wanted for Violation of Supervised Release out of the Western District of Washington with original charges of Social Security Fraud, False Statements, False Representation, Failure to Appear, Rape and Domestic Violence.



John Clarence Farris was arrested by Deputy U.S. Marshals out of Medford, OR on October 30, 2006. Farris was charged with over 500 counts of Sex Acts with a Minor and Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child and was scheduled to be profiled on America's Most Wanted. Farris had disappeared from a pretrial hearing in

Guadalupe County, TX where he was facing 99 years in prison for his charged crimes. Deputy U.S. Marshals had tracked Farris to Medford where it was believed he was living as a panhandler on the local streets. Based on an extensive investigation Farris was found talking on a local pay phone by local Deputy Marshals and was heard to exclaim that "oh s--- they got me!"

On the last weekend of September, 2006 **Michelle Dawn Finley** abducted her daughter, Heidi Rus, during what was supposed to be a supervised custodial visit. Finley and Rus were featured on America's Most Wanted and soon after the Pendleton Police Department sought out the assistance of the Oregon HIDTA Fugitive Task Force in finding Heidi Rus and arresting Finley. Several weeks of non-stop media interest and investigative leads being sent all over the country by the Marshals Service Task Force resulted in the possibility that Finley had relocated to Las Vegas, NV with the assistance of a boyfriend. On November 17, Finley was located and arrested in Las Vegas by members of the Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force and Heidi Rus was reunited with her father and soon after returned to Pendleton, OR.



Charles Sampson and Brenda Hudson were wanted by the Portland Police Bureau, Homicide Division for investigation of Homicide and Theft. In November, 2006 the PPB contacted their representative on the Oregon HIDTA Fugitive Task Force to assist in locating and arresting the couple. The charges related to an incident during which Hudson had lured the victim to a room for sex and tied him to the bed. Sampson then entered the room and allegedly struck the victim in the head with a club, killing him. After the crime, the couple began to hide out but remained in the Portland area. On November 15, 2006 both subjects were located and arrested without incident following a lengthy surveillance of their suspected residence.

Welcome Aboard

Lisa Wilson transferred from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Longview, WA as our new Purchasing Agent. She has over 22 years of government service to include time with the Army Corps of Engineers, I.R.S. and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. She was born and raised in St. Helens, OR where she still lives today. We are fortunate to have Lisa as part of our Marshals Service family.

Operations

Prisoner population has spiked to an all-time high in recent months. The average prisoner population during FY06 was 466 prisoners per day whereas the average during FY07 has climbed to 547 prisoners. This has a significant impact on District resources, particularly during a time when we are experiencing manpower shortages due to unfilled operational vacancies. Further compounding the issue, the Bureau of Prisons facility at Sheridan is running at full capacity often resulting in limited prisoner beds for USMS prisoners. This pressure is passed on to local jails with whom the USMS contracts to hold its prisoners. In particular, Multnomah County has experienced a significant upswing in USMS prisoners over the last year and in order to relieve some of this pressure, the USMS is placing prisoners into previously unused facilities such as NORCOR in The Dalles, Columbia County Jail in St. Helens and the Yamhill County Jail in McMinnville. To put it in a cost perspective, the USMS paid 7.6 million dollars in FY05 to house its prisoners in Oregon local jails compared to 9.1 million in FY06 and during FY07 we are on pace to spend 11 million dollars on local prisoner housing. Our office also produced 8,331 prisoners for court appearances in FY06 and we are on pace to produce 8,609 in FY07. As always, we continue to manage this important part of our core responsibilities with a great sense of accomplishment.



Deputies escort Jose Serratos-Ponce-Mexican Citizen Extradition from Mexico to the United States

Medford

The Medford Office has seen a steep incline in prisoner population over the late summer and fall of 2006. In-custody defendant numbers are near historic highs for the office at 59. Defendant numbers awaiting trial on bond are also at very high levels at 56. With these increases, our time and efforts managing prisoner medical needs, transportation, court appearances, paying witnesses, managing seized assets and tracking pre-trial release violators has increased significantly.

The office has also seen a sharp increase in the number of fugitive warrants. Of significance, was the arrest of John Farris. Farris was wanted in the State of Texas for Sexual Assault of a minor. He was charged in two Texas Counties for sexually assaulting separate minor female victims. He allegedly sexually assaulted one victim over 500 times. The Western District of Texas assumed the fugitive investigation and secured an unlawful flight to avoid prosecution warrant. The Medford Office arrested Farris after receiving information that he was frequenting a business in Medford. Prior to his arrest, Farris was slated to be profiled on America's Most Wanted.

The Medford office is very pleased to welcome Brad Sholer and his family to the district. Brad has been a deputy for approximately 5 years. Brad began his career in the Minneapolis office and transferred as an Investigator to the San Francisco Office in 2004.

Construction continues for the secure parking area and with delivery of the fencing material the project will be in its final phase.

Eugene

Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse in Eugene Now Open for Business



Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse

The long awaited day for the official move-in to the new WLM Courthouse in Eugene arrived on Thursday, October 26th when the U.S. Marshals Office (the first major tenant) moved in. The Courts spent the weekend setting up shop in their new space, and on Monday morning, they too were open with no disruption of service to the public. At the time of this writing, all tenants (with the exception of the U.S. Attorneys Office) have settled in and no one has been caught looking back!

Of course, change brings challenges, and transitioning into the new facility is no exception. The Marshals Office has been busy working with all agencies in crafting efficient emergency responses, identifying and correcting security deficiencies and doing its part in making the new courtroom design safe and functional for all concerned.

The dedication ceremony for the courthouse was held on December 1st, and the building was visited by crowds (estimated at 7,000 by GSA officials) over a two day period. Security was provided for some thirty judges, U.S. Senator Smith, Congressman DeFazio, and other dignitaries. The U.S. Marshals Service was generously assisted in these events by the Eugene Police Department, the F.B.I. and the Federal Protective Service. Our thanks to those in these various agencies, employees and the public in making this high profile event a great success.

Clearly, life has changed for the staff in the Marshals Office in Eugene. Today there is ample cellblock space to serve a growing need to produce greater number of prisoners in court, five attorney-client interview rooms which enables more efficient proceedings, and more office space to meet growing responsibilities of the Marshals Office in the areas of fugitive investigations and most recently, the enforcement of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. The public can only be better served by these enhancements.

Asset Forfeiture

The Asset Forfeiture Unit is in the process of disposing of Experimental Aircraft Parts in a U. S. Postal Service Inspection case. Since this is our first experimental aircraft, we have employed the services of IRC Turbine to dispose of the parts. IRC will “de-mill” the parts and dispose of them. The company will saw/chop the parts intermittently so they cannot be used again and will take the destroyed parts to a landfill.

2006 Hummer was recently forfeited and transferred to DEA, Seattle, WA for Official Use. This is the first Hummer ever seized and forfeited in Oregon. DEA is quite happy now!



Glen Doyle Wright has been sentenced and his real and personal property has been forfeited to the United States. He was found guilty of bilking millions from Oregon Eye Specialist. Here are a few of the items to be sold: 7 original paintings by NW artists, bronze sculpture, Amish-made furniture, billiard table, 2005 Fleetwood Sequoia Camper Trailer, 2 Polaris Snowmobiles & Haulmark Trailer, 2001 Maxum Boat & Trailer, etc. The proceeds of sale will be paid to the victim/Oregon Eye Specialist after U. S. Marshals Service expenses are deducted.

Vin Tranh has been sentenced and his real and personal property has been forfeited to the United States. Up for sale are two real properties: 7233 S. W. Virginia, Portland and 2533-2535 S. E. Belmont, Portland; four Men’s Rolex Watches. Assets previously disposed are \$538,977.78 in U. S. Currency and Stolen Property valued at \$500,000.00 recently sold at public auction on December 2, 2006.

Oregon had a total of 154 weapons in custody, the largest inventory in the nation. We recently shipped these weapons to S/TX for storage and/or disposal. S/TX replaces SOG as the mandatory weapons custodian.



During FY 06 we disposed of \$3,612,000.00 in assets, which includes cash, real, and personal property. From these forfeited funds, we have paid out a total of \$815,000.00 to state/locals in the Equitable Sharing program, now known as E-Share. The Marshals Services has now converted to EFT to disburse sharing monies to state/locals for their participation in Federal asset forfeiture cases. The E-Share payments are deposited directly into the bank account of Sheriff/Police agencies.

Judicial Security

USMS Director John Clark continues to focus on our agency’s core mission of judicial security. Newly appointed Judicial Security Division Assistant Director Bob Finan has already made great strides toward realigning the division. During FY07, the division was divided into two distinct components, Judicial Operations and Judicial Services, each managed by a Deputy Assistant Director. The Judicial Operations component will focus on Protective Operations, Protective Intelligence, and Courthouse Management while the Judicial Services component will focus on Financial Management, Security Contracts (including the Court Security Officer contract) and Security Systems (including courthouse physical security systems).

Here in the District, there is much good news on the security systems front. In addition to the recently dedicated Wayne L. Morse Courthouse in Eugene with state-of-the-art security systems and ongoing security upgrades to the James A. Redden Courthouse in Medford, the Hatfield Courthouse here in Portland is in store for significant security upgrades over the next six months including hydraulic barricades, upgraded access control systems and digital recording systems. In partnership with the District Court Security Committee and our Headquarters Judicial Security Division, we continue to strive toward improving our security posture.



Medford CSO Control Room