



**Media Advisory**

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U.S. Marshals Service

**OVER 350 FUGITIVES ARRESTED DURING OPERATION FALCON ARIZONA**

**Arizona** – In one of the largest fugitive initiatives ever undertaken in the Phoenix-Tucson area, the U.S. Marshals Service teamed with law enforcement agencies, arresting 350 fugitives and clearing 381 warrants during a recent six-day sweep.

Led by the U.S. Marshals Service, Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally) is an ongoing, multi-city, nationwide law enforcement effort. The operation targets persons wanted for sexual offenses, gang members, narcotics violations, and other violent crimes. Since its start in July, Operation FALCON 2007 has netted 2,689 arrests and cleared 3,049 warrants in 16 operations. Operation FALCON - Arizona took place from August 19th through the 25th and this is the third consecutive year that the U.S. Marshals Service has conducted the FALCON fugitive sweep operation throughout the country.

Of the 350 fugitives arrested, 17 were wanted for sexual offenses. Kenneth Adkins was arrested in Tucson by FALCON Task Force officers on Thursday, August 23, 2007 for violation of the Adam Walsh Act. Specifically, Adkins is charged as a registered sex offender who crossed state lines and failed to register at his new address. Adkins was convicted of sexual abuse of a 14 year old child in Arkansas in 2001 and did not register with local authorities under Arizona state law upon his arrival to Tucson's southwest side in early 2007.

**KENNETH ADKINS**



There were numerous arrests of targeted Phoenix and Tucson area fugitives that were wanted for violent crimes. One of those targeted fugitives, Jose Garcia was arrested in Phoenix during Operation FALCON for the beating death of a Phoenix man. Garcia has been charged with Second Degree Murder. Phoenix Police learned that GARCIA fled to Salt Lake City and contacted the U.S. Marshals fugitive task force there, where he was arrested without incident. Garcia is a member of the Sureno 13

Conchella 53<sup>rd</sup> Street gang and the Sureno Varrío Conchella Rifa in California. Garcia has an extensive violent criminal history of Assaults, Drug Possession, Child Abuse and Car Thefts.

## JOSE GARCIA



“Violent crime is on the increase in Arizona and one of the primary reasons is the sheer number of fugitives hiding in our communities,” said David Gonzales, U.S. Marshal for the District of Arizona. “Law enforcement agencies work best when working together. The FALCON project is a perfect example of the police collaborating to remove the most dangerous predators off our streets...not just grabbing the low hanging fruit for a statistic,” said Marshal Gonzales.

Operation FALCON – Arizona was comprised of over 100 law enforcement agents from 25 contributing agencies in the Phoenix and Tucson area. The agencies involved in the operation were the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Chandler Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Eloy Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Housing and Urban Development, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Maricopa County Adult Probation, Mesa Police, Oro Valley Police Department, Phoenix Police Department, Pinal County Adult Probation, Pima County Adult Probation, Pima County Sheriff’s Department, Pinal County Sheriff’s Department, Scottsdale Police Department, South Tucson Police Department, Tucson Police Department, Surprise Police Department, Tempe Police Department, Veteran Affairs, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and University of Arizona Police Department.

The U.S. Marshals Service also coordinates the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Fugitive Task Force, a multi-agency task force that targets persons wanted for violent crimes, narcotic offenses, and sexual offenders in the Phoenix and Tucson area and surrounding cities.

Since its inception in 2005, Operation FALCON has made over 30,000 arrests and cleared over 38,000 warrants. It continues to be the largest and most successful fugitive apprehension effort in U.S. Marshals history.

For more information about the U.S. Marshals Service, visit <http://www.usmarshals.gov/district/la-m/index.html>.

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