



For Immediate Release

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U.S. MARSHAL-LED EFFORTS RESULT IN DOZENS OF LOCAL ARRESTS

JACKSON, MS – Following a two-year tradition of success in its national efforts, the U.S. Marshals Service locally conducted another successful Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally) from July 15 – 21. Led by the U.S. Marshal Service, Operation FALCON is an ongoing, multi-city, nationwide law enforcement effort. Since its onset this year, Operation FALCON 2007 has netted nearly 1,300 arrests and cleared almost 1,500 warrants in eight operations.

Operation FALCON in Jackson combined the collective efforts of multiple law enforcement agencies in one of the area's largest-ever fugitive initiatives, focusing on capturing individuals wanted on felony charges including sexual predators and fugitives wanted for crimes of violence. Over the course of the five-day operation, Deputy U.S. Marshals, teamed with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, arrested 65 fugitives – including one sex offender – and cleared 72 warrants. Three firearms and a quantity of crack cocaine were also recovered.

Eric Taylor was a fugitive wanted by the Jackson Police Department for two counts of Aggravated Assault. Taylor is accused of shooting two individuals at Hamp's Place on July 5, 2007, after an argument in the parking lot. A team of Deputy U.S. Marshals, with fellow law enforcement officers, arrested Taylor in rural Rankin County, MS, on July 18, 2007. Additionally, task force officers seized an AR-15 assault rifle from Taylor at the time of his arrest.

"This operation continues to prove how effective the law enforcement community can be when we work together toward a common goal," said U.S. Marshal Nehemiah Flowers, Jr., of the Southern District of Mississippi. "Operation FALCON has demonstrated repeatedly that federal, state and local law enforcement can work well as a team, successfully bringing some of the worse criminal offenders to justice. The result is a safer, more secure community for all of us," said Flowers.

Operation FALCON - Jackson consisted of 33 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, making up four separate arrest teams working throughout the six-day period. Each participating local officer was sworn in as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal



immediately prior to the start of this operation. This special authority empowered them to cross traditional lines of jurisdiction to track down and arrest targeted fugitives throughout the week.

Agencies contributing to Operation FALCON - Jackson included the U. S. Marshals Service, U. S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mississippi Department of Corrections, Mississippi Bureau of Investigations, Hinds County Sheriffs Department, Madison County Sheriffs Department, Vicksburg Police Department, Jackson Police Department, and Clinton Police Department.

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>

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