



For Immediate Release

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

ST. LOUIS – 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 9 – 13.

Operation FALCON – St. Louis combined the collective efforts of a number of law enforcement agencies in one of the area's largest-ever fugitive initiatives, focusing on capturing individuals wanted on felony charges, to include 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 98 fugitives – including seven sex offenders – and cleared 341 warrants. Two firearms were also recovered.

One of the fugitives arrested was David Stergion, who was wanted by the Missouri Department of Corrections, Board of Probation and Parole for parole violation. Stergion, whose criminal history includes arrests for sexual assault and narcotics abuse, was reported to be frequenting areas where small children congregate. A team of Deputy U.S. Marshals, with fellow law enforcement officers, arrested Stergion in North Saint Louis County on July 11.

“This operation is a clear indication of how effective law enforcement can be when we combine our resources toward a shared purpose,” said U.S. Marshal Ronald Henderson of the Eastern District of Missouri. “Operation FALCON continues to prove that federal, state and local law enforcement can work well as a team, achieving remarkable successes in bringing some of the worse criminal offenders to justice. The result is a safer, more secure community for all of us.”

Efforts involving Operation FALCON - St. Louis consisted of 43 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, making up four separate arrest teams working throughout the five-day period. To provide these state and local law enforcement officers with broader jurisdictional authority, each were sworn in as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal



immediately prior to the start of this operation. Throughout the week, this special authority empowered all FALCON - St. Louis personnel to cross traditional lines of jurisdiction to track down and arrest targeted fugitives.

Agencies contributing to Operation FALCON - St. Louis included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Florissant Police Department; Ladue Police Department; Maplewood Police Department; Missouri Department of Corrections – Board of Probation and Parole; Missouri State Highway Patrol; Olivette Police Department; Saint Louis County Police Department; Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Inspector General; U.S. Postal Inspection Service and U.S. Secret Service.

Led by the U.S. Marshal Service, Operation FALCON is an ongoing, multi-city, nationwide law enforcement effort. To date since July, Operation FALCON 2007 has netted 749 arrests and cleared 878 warrants in four operations.

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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