



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **HUNDREDS ARRESTED IN U.S. MARSHALS-LED THREE-CITY SWEEP**

TRENTON – A month-long law enforcement effort targeting sexual predators, violent criminals, and gang members has resulted in more than 600 arrests in Newark, Trenton, and Jersey City. Undertaken in support of the U.S. Department of Justice's "Initiative for Safer Communities," the fugitive operation is one of the largest ever to target northern and central New Jersey.

Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally), now in its third year under the direction of the U.S. Marshals Service, combined the collective efforts of more than 30 law enforcement agencies. Deputy U.S. Marshals, teamed with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, arrested **626** fugitives – including 35 individuals wanted for sex offenses, 244 wanted on drug charges, 36 wanted for weapons violations, and dozens of others wanted for a variety of violent felonies such as robbery, assault, and vehicle theft. Additionally, **118** gang members were taken into custody.

"The overwhelming success of Operation FALCON will have a direct and lasting effect on the communities, helping to make them safer for residents to live, work and raise their families," said Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. "The cooperative performance of federal, state, and local law enforcement toward the common goal of removing dangerous fugitives from the three communities and the leadership provided by the U.S. Marshal for the District of New Jersey give cause for optimism."

Among those arrested during Operation FALCON - New Jersey was **Clarence Donaldson**, who was wanted in Mercer County, New Jersey, for [failure to register as a sex offender](#) under Megan's Law. Donaldson is a self-proclaimed member of the *Moorish Nation* radical group, which does not recognize the laws of the United States, and whose followers consider themselves to have diplomatic status. During the execution of a search warrant following Donaldson's arrest, FALCON team members recovered a loaded Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver, a bullet-proof vest, approximately \$4,000 in cash, approximately 70 grams of both powder and crack cocaine, approximately 15 grams of marijuana, 60 rounds of ammunition (of which 14 rounds were hollow-point), narcotics paraphernalia, counterfeit *Moorish Nation* identification cards, and a Moorish diplomatic license plate. Also discovered during the search was a concealed room designed to accommodate a marijuana grow room.

In an unrelated case, FALCON team members also executed a search warrant on a residence in Mercer County that revealed a virtual armory of weapons, including three SKS-type assault rifles, one AR-15-type assault rifle, one M50 rifle, three 100-round drum magazines, approximately 10,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, and approximately 150 additional firearms. Also seized were 140 grams of cocaine, nearly a pound of psychedelics, a quantity of marijuana, approximately \$1,000 in cash, and two slot machines with hidden compartments used to conceal narcotics. Investigators also took two other subjects into custody during the execution of the warrant.

“This operation was a success by any standard. Operation FALCON continues to yield remarkable results, and I am proud of the teamwork demonstrated by the various federal, state, and local agencies who come together every day and work tirelessly to get the worst criminal offenders off our streets,” said James Plousis, United States Marshal for the District of New Jersey. “However, despite this success, we are well aware that there is much more to do. The Marshals Service will continue to work closely with all of our federal, state, and local partners to find creative solutions to address violent crime in our communities,” Plousis said.

The FALCON operations in New Jersey were directed by the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Force (NY/NJ RFTF). In operation since May 2002, the NY/NJ RFTF is led by the U.S. Marshals Service and is comprised of more than 130 federal, state, county, and local law enforcement officers from 50 law enforcement agencies throughout the two states. Since its inception, the Task Force has arrested more than 20,000 dangerous fugitive felons in New Jersey and New York, as well as throughout the country and internationally.

Chief Inspector Lenny DePaul, the Task Force’s commanding officer, echoed the Marshal’s sentiments. “Arresting violent felony fugitives makes our communities a much safer place to live and work. Through the combined efforts of Marshals Service investigators and our federal, state, and local partners throughout the State of New Jersey, we’ve brought closure to many victims of violent crime and made a difference on the streets of Trenton, Newark, and Jersey City,” said Commander DePaul. “It is comforting to know that we can work together during these operations to safely and successfully apprehend these violent predators.”

Also arrested during Operation FALCON - New Jersey were:

**Martin Gomez:** Gomez was wanted in Middlesex County, New Jersey, for aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, and endangering the welfare of a child. Assisted by the New York City Police Department, FALCON team members tracked Gomez to a location in New York City, and arrested him following a vehicle stop. Gomez remains in custody pending extradition to New Jersey.

**Victor Morales:** A known member of the *Latin Kings* gang, Morales was wanted in Paterson, New Jersey, for murder and three counts of attempted murder. The four victims were assaulted by Morales and another gunman while they hung out on a street in Paterson in May. FALCON team members arrested Morales without incident.

**Vincent White:** A known member of the *Bloods* gang, White was wanted in Blair County, Pennsylvania, for narcotics violations. He also was wanted in Hudson County, New Jersey, on drug charges. When FALCON team members arrested White in Jersey City, they also seized a loaded .357 caliber revolver. A search warrant executed on the residence subsequent to White’s arrest revealed 25 grams of cocaine. White now faces additional charges of unlawful possession of a weapon and possession with intent to

distribute narcotics. Three other **Bloods** gang members were located in the residence as also arrested and charged.

**Juan Maldonado, Sammy Gonzales, Joshua Padilla, and Jaime Rodriguez:**

Maldonado was wanted in Hudson County, New Jersey, for assault. When FALCON team members arrested him at a residence in Jersey City, they also took Gonzales into custody on outstanding warrants from the Hudson County Sheriff's Office. Padilla and Rodriguez, who also were in the residence, were found to be in possession of 250 grams of marijuana, 10 grams of methamphetamine, and 30 grams of crack cocaine. They also were arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute narcotics.

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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Agencies contributing to the U.S. Marshals Service Operation FALCON New Jersey included:

#### Federal

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Social Security Administration – Office of the Inspector General
- U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
- Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of the Inspector General
- Department of State – Diplomatic Security Service
- Department of Veterans Affairs – Office of the Inspector General

#### State

- New Jersey Department of Corrections
- New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice
- New Jersey Human Services Police
- New Jersey State Parole
- New Jersey State Police
- New York Department of Corrections
- Port Authority Police Department of New York/New Jersey

#### County

- Essex County Sheriff's Office
- Hudson County Department of Corrections
- Hudson County Prosecutor's Office
- Hudson County Sheriff's Office
- Mercer County Corrections
- Mercer County Intelligence Unit
- Mercer County Prosecutor's Office
- Mercer County Sheriff's Department
- Monmouth County Sheriff's Office
- Morris County Sheriff's Office
- Ocean County Sheriff's Department
- Passaic County Sheriff's Department
- Union County Sheriff's Office
- Westchester County Police Department

#### Local

- Asbury Park Police Department
- East Orange Police Department
- Jersey City Police Department
- Kearny Police Department
- Newark Police Department
- New York City Police Department
- Trenton Police Department