



# U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Forces

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## REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

### CATCH OF THE WEEK

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12, 2007

TAKING THE WORST OF THE WORST OFF THE STREETS

#### Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force (GCRFTF)

On February 14, 2007, John R Buckner was arrested in Madison County (AL) by members of GCRFTF and deputies from the Madison and Birmingham County (AL) Sheriffs' Departments, who acted with critical assistance from the Technical Operations Group (TOG). The Opelika, AL Police Department wanted Buckner for Rape, Sodomy and Enticing a Child for Immoral Purposes after he allegedly assaulted a five year old girl. Authorities in Opelika also consider Buckner a likely suspect in a separate assault on a nine year old boy. GCRFTF investigators developed information indicating that Buckner fled to the Huntsville, AL area with a female associate, and began searching that community for him. Investigators later observed a vehicle associated with Buckner parking at a home. Investigators surrounded the home, and moved in after confirming Buckner's presence inside the residence. GCRFTF searched the home and safely took Buckner into custody after finding him hiding under a bed.



**John R Buckner**  
**Wanted for:**  
**Rape, Sodomy &**  
**Enticing a Child**

#### Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF)

On February 14, 2007, Mark Anthony Bell was arrested in Atlanta, GA by members of CARFTF and investigators from the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF). Federal authorities in the Eastern District of Virginia wanted Bell for Conspiracy to Distribute marijuana, a charge relating to his alleged masterminding of a large drug distribution ring that operated throughout the eastern United States. Bell owns and operates a large company that leases tour buses and aircraft to numerous mainstream musical artists. The Federal Bureau of Investigation initially attempted to serve a warrant against Bell in December 2006, but failed to locate him at that time. CARFTF and SERFTF investigators, with critical assistance from the Technical Operations Group (TOG) and the Financial Surveillance Unit (FSU), developed information indicating that Bell fled to Atlanta. CARFTF personnel traveled to Atlanta and along with SERFTF units, located Bell at a movie theater and established surveillance at that site. Investigators later observed Bell exit the theater, moved in, and safely took him into custody. Incident to arrest, investigators seized fourteen cell phones, multiple subscriber identity module cards for those phones, more than \$5,000 in US currency, and a vehicle Bell recently purchased using cash.



**Mark Anthony Bell**  
**Wanted for:**  
**Narcotics Violations**

#### New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF)

On February 16, 2007, Tuscon Jones was arrested in Brooklyn, NY by members of NY/NJ RFTF, who acted with critical assistance from USMS investigators in the District of South Carolina and inspectors from the Technical Operations Group (TOG). The Lexington County (SC) Sheriff's Office wanted Jones for Homicide after he allegedly participated in a botched robbery that resulted in the death of a two year old girl. During this incident on January 22, 2007, Jones and three associates allegedly attempted to rob the residence of a narcotics dealer. The narcotics dealer confronted Jones and his associates, and a gun battle ensued. During the exchange of fire a round struck and killed the dealer's two year old daughter. USMS investigators in South Carolina developed information indicating that Jones fled to Brooklyn, and contacted NY/NJ RFTF for assistance in locating and apprehending him. NY/NJ RFTF investigators identified Jones' location at a family member's home, responded to that site, and safely took him into custody. Incident to arrest, investigators seized a fully-loaded .38 caliber handgun. Jones remains in custody on weapons charges pending extradition to South Carolina.



**Tuscon Jones**  
**Wanted for:**  
**Homicide**

### **Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSWRFTF)**

On February 13, 2007, Richard Maurice Morris was arrested in Las Vegas, NV by deputy US marshals (DUSMs) assigned to the District of Nevada's Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (FIST) and officers from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), who acted on information provided by PSWRFTF and the Technical Operations Group (TOG). The Beverly Hills, CA Police Department (BHPD) wanted Morris for Burglary and Sexual Assault of a Minor. These charges relate to multiple incidents during which Morris allegedly broke into a home, stole items of value, and then fondled and exposed himself to children living in those homes. Morris also allegedly stole the minor victims' underwear before fleeing. The BHPD investigation also revealed that authorities in both Gardena and Santa Monica, CA considered Morris a prime suspect in a series of similar incidents occurring in those cities. Authorities identified at least fourteen potential victims during this investigation. The California Department of Corrections also sought Morris for Parole Violation. On February 06, 2007, BHPD requested assistance from PSWRFTF in locating and apprehending Morris. On February 11, 2007, PSWRFTF developed information indicating that Morris fled to Las Vegas, and contacted FIST for assistance. FIST immediately began work to identify Morris' location, and along with the LVMPD-Sexual Assault Unit, identified Morris as a suspect in five additional incidents occurring in and around Las Vegas. FIST later developed information indicating that Morris entered a local library, responded to that site with LVMPD units, and safely took Morris into custody there. During a post-arrest interview with detectives from the LVMPD-Sexual Assault Unit, Morris provided a confession to his role in the five incidents which occurred in the Las Vegas area. Morris faces further proceedings regarding those charges, as well as eventual extradition to Beverly Hills to face charges in that jurisdiction.



**Richard Morris**  
**Wanted for:**  
**Burglary &**  
**Sex Assault of a Child**

### **Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF)**

On February 13, 2007, Derrest Jones was arrested in Atlanta, GA by members of SERFTF and officers from the Atlanta Police Department (APD). APD wanted Jones for Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer after he allegedly shot and wounded an officer during a traffic stop on February 10, 2007. Jones fled from the scene of the shooting on foot after allegedly striking the APD officer in the arm. On February 12, 2007, APD requested assistance from SERFTF in locating and apprehending Jones. SERFTF investigators identified Jones' probable location at a home in Atlanta, responded to that site, and established surveillance. After several hours of observation, investigators confirmed Jones' presence inside the home. SERFTF units surrounded the home and made entry after Jones refused to comply with commands to surrender himself. Following a search of the home's interior, investigators discovered Jones hiding in the attic. Jones refused to exit the attic space, at which time investigators employed a less-lethal TASER device and took him into custody without further incident. Jones has an extensive criminal history of narcotics distribution and Obstruction of Law Enforcement Officers.



**Derrest Jones**  
**Wanted for:**  
**Aggravated Assault**  
**on a Police Officer**

### **Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF)**

On February 15, 2007, Ruben Vargas, Jr, a documented member of the *Latin Kings* gang, was arrested in Chicago, IL by members of GLRFTF, who acted with critical assistance from the Technical Operations Group (TOG). Authorities in Illinois wanted Vargas for multiple charges relating to his alleged kidnapping of eight individuals from a restaurant in Carpenterville, IL. During this incident, Vargas, along with seven associates previously taken into custody by authorities, allegedly entered the restaurant and took the owner and his family hostage at gunpoint. While Vargas and his associates held the victims captive, they beat the victims and allegedly fondled one of the minor female family members. GLRFTF investigators developed information on Vargas' location, responded to that site, and safely took him into custody. Incident to arrest, investigators seized a .45 caliber handgun and a quantity of marijuana from Vargas.

*Latin Kings* Gang Member



**Ruben Vargas, Jr.**  
**Wanted for:**  
**Kidnapping**