

United States Marshals Service District of Oregon

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District of Oregon

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Operations Supervisor

Dave Brown

Eugene Supervisor

Mark Barr

Medford Supervisor

Scott McLean

Judicial Security Inspector

Jeff Jones

Administrative Officer

Joanne Dixon

CSO Site Supervisor

Howard Cook

Marshal Notes



A belated happy 4th of July!

The last six months have been extremely busy but very productive.

Of real significance to us was a reorganization of our district structure. We were able to create a new position (taken from our existing staffing allocation) of Assistant Chief Deputy. By doing so, we were able to better align our functional responsibilities. We assigned the judicial security function, protective investigations, fugitive investigations, including task force operations, under the assistant chief deputy. Additionally, this person is responsible to coordinate fugitive investigations among the sub-offices. John Shoemaker who was our supervisory deputy in the Warrant Section was selected to fill this position.

Staffing and personnel movement within the district continues to be a challenge. Since October 2006, we have lost 8 deputies due to location and duty assignment transfers, promotions, and/or retirement. This number reflects about 25% of our total operational staffing. To offset these losses, we gained three deputies from transfers and hired a new detention enforcement officer to help manage our cellblock. A newly hired deputy, currently at the U.S. Marshals Service Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, will be assigned to the Portland Office when she graduates in October of this year. After all of this movement, we are still working to backfill three operational vacancies – two in Portland and one in Eugene. Further compounding our efforts, we are scheduled to lose another deputy from our Medford Office within the next 60 days due to a voluntary transfer. Chief Deputy Knaust and I continue to manage staffing issues as intensely and aggressively as we can. I wish to continue providing the best possible service to all of our court and law enforcement partners with little or no noticeable affects.

In support of a Department of Justice Initiative called the Violent Crimes Task Force, Deputy Brian Petty traveled to Iraq in March 2007, for a four month deployment. This has been a terrific experience for Brian and he has done an outstanding job. Nevertheless, we will be extremely happy to have him back when he returns later this month.

Full-time participation on our Oregon Fugitive Task Force continues to grow. In February we added a full-time task force officer from the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. Probation Officer Dave Upton was a terrific addition to our task force and has done an outstanding job. Additionally, Washington County Sheriff Rob Gordon is assigning Detective Chad Lotman to the Task Force effective July 2, 2007. This is an exciting development and we are looking forward to a highly productive partnership. We now have a total of five full-time task force officers and/or analysts assigned from the Oregon State Police, Oregon National Guard, Portland Police Bureau, Washington County Sheriff's Office, and Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. We anticipate this number to grow over the next several months.

We are continuing to improve and enhance our security posture at all of the District Court facilities. In particular, we are making some fairly dramatic improvements at the Hatfield Courthouse. These include upgrades to the building controlled access systems and digital video recording capabilities. I expect these projects will all be completed by the end of September. I realize some of these upgrade projects have caused some inconvenience and disruption to a lot of us that work in the building. However, I strongly believe these improvements are necessary and the "right thing to do." I wish to thank everyone for their patience and understanding.



Investigations

2007 has brought much change to the U.S. Marshals Service led Oregon Fugitive Task Force. A high demand has been placed on the Deputy Marshals and Task Force Officers based on the number and type of cases being brought to the Task Force for investigation as well as the expansion into the investigation of Adam Walsh Act sexual offender violations. Additionally, many members of the Task Force are playing an expanding role in law enforcement operations throughout the United States and in foreign countries. At the same time we are experiencing this expanding role we are in the process of replacing some seasoned investigators who have transferred due to promotion or retirement.

In order to maintain the high level of success that the Task Force has achieved to date, we are pleased to have added Washington County Sheriff's Detective Chad Lotman as a full-time Task Force Officer. By formalizing an already great working relationship with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, the Task Force hopes to assist our new partner by bringing the collective expertise of all its participants in the pursuit of fugitives and sex offenders who have committed crimes in Washington County. The Marshals Service looks forward to this new partnership and will no doubt be the beneficiary of the many talents Detective Lotman brings to the Task Force.

The Oregon Fugitive Task Force concept is based on the principal that the sum of all the members of the Task Force provides greater focus than any one agency could accomplish on its own. While individual agencies may have small units or groups who target fugitives, they may lack the manpower, resources and expertise to have a significant impact in the fugitive arena. The fugitive Task Force allows individual agencies to bring their significant fugitive or sexual offender cases to the Task Force so that the full weight of the unit may be brought to bear in locating and apprehending these individuals. In this way the Task Force acts as a "force multiplier" for each of the participating agencies. For example, Washington County may provide one detective to the USMS Task Force, but in return they receive the ability to assign their cases to any of the other 14 members. Additionally, each full-time member has assigned vehicles, equipment, office space and access to local and federal data sources.

At the end of the day, the ultimate goal of each individual member of the USMS Task Force is to put the bad guy in jail. As simple as this may sound, it takes hard work, long hours and much dedication and resources. The success of the Task Force is a reflection of individuals who have chosen to undertake this mission with the support of their parent agencies. Whether arresting the individual wanted for homicide, or checking on the location of a sexual offender, the individual members of the Task Force take great pride in their jobs and give significant meaning to the term "teamwork."

Captured:

Investigative Highlights

The Marshals Service for the District of Oregon and its Task Force operations have been able produce results that address the needs of society by taking wanted individuals off the streets and before the courts. The hard work and efforts of the Deputies and Task Force Officers has resulted in the arrest of 394 fugitives for the period of November 01, 2006 to May 31, 2007. Of those 394 fugitives arrested during this time period, 249 were considered violent offenders as defined by the Department of Justice. This is the greatest testament to the hard work and dedication of those individuals who work daily to make the pursuit of fugitives part of their law enforcement career. Here are some highlights that demonstrate the impact of that effort:

The Portland Police Bureau Robbery Division requested assistance in locating **Thomas Joseph Harris** who was a suspect in at least seven armed business robberies. Task force members developed a potential location and maintained surveillance for several hours. The waiting paid off and in the late evening hours on April 3, 2007, Harris was arrested by members of the Oregon Fugitive Task Force.

On March 5, 2007, **Joseph Eugene Allen** was arrested by members of the Oregon Fugitive Task Force at a NE Portland address. Prior to the arrest, the Portland Police Bureau Homicide office requested assistance in apprehending Allen for active warrants in Multnomah county for Robbery in the Second and Third Degree, Probation Violation (based on the original charge of distribution of crack cocaine), and 1st Degree Murder, stemming from the homicide of Devonte Lightfoot in early January 2007. After the arrest, Allen was transported to the Portland Police Detective Division for questioning.

Fugitive **Carlos Dewayne Nash** was wanted by the Portland Police Bureau Robbery Division for Felon in Possession of a Firearm, but when Portland asked for help, Nash was also verified as a suspect in several tavern and home invasion robberies. Victims came forward and identified Nash as being armed with a .22 caliber handgun with a silencer. During one robbery, Nash fired the gun and also allegedly molested female victims. On January 30th, 2007, seven members of the Oregon Fugitive Task Force set up surveillance at Nash's residence in NE Portland. The house showed evidence of the previous Portland SERT warrant execution during Nash's last arrest with boarded-up and broken windows. At about 12:30 PM, Nash was taken into custody without incident near his vehicle. After the arrest, Carlos Nash was charged with 51 counts of Robbery, Sex Abuse, and Firearms related crimes. His total bail was set at \$12,860,000. Nash is still in-custody.

A state judge's daughter was found dead under questionable circumstances and the Oregon Fugitive Task Force was asked to assist in the investigation. Specifically, analytical assistance was provided by the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG). The person of interest, **Robert Bettelyoun**, soon became the primary murder suspect. The Marshals were first asked to help in this case in August 2006, and a short time later on August 7th, Robert Bettelyoun was located and arrested by Task Force members after he departed the Phoenix Casino in La Center, Washington. Almost a year later, a Clackamas County murder warrant was issued for Bettelyoun and TOG was again asked to give assistance. On June 1st, 2007 Bettelyoun was arrested at a residence in Beaverton, Oregon for the second time, only this time it was for Murder.

Peter Karl Gebhart was first identified by the Drug Enforcement Administration in November of 2002. At that time he was stopped in a vehicle and \$120,000 was seized from a hidden location. Later on November 12, 2003, his wife was stopped by U.S. Customs in California and \$206,965 was seized. On February 22, 2007, the DEA Portland District Office turned over a sealed indictment requesting assistance from the Oregon Fugitive Task Force. It didn't take long to see that Gebhart was in the West Covina, CA area and should be close to his girlfriend and mother of his two daughters. On April 9th, Task Force agents and DEA traveled to Los Angeles and after a long day of surveillance, Gebhart was arrested at his girlfriend's house. Incident to arrest a consent search was done on his townhouse where \$114,520 in U.S. currency was seized. One day later, DEA and U.S. Marshals coordinated a second money seizure of \$32,555. Peter Gebhart is now in-custody in the district of Oregon and is awaiting trial.

"The Oregon Fugitive Task Force concept is based on the principal that the sum of all the members of the Task Force provides greater focus than any one agency could accomplish on its own."



Investigations cont'd

The first week in June was filled with drug arrests. The Drug Enforcement Administration requested assistance from the Oregon Fugitive Task Force to coordinate the "take-down" of a nine month OCDEF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force) investigation called "Need for Speed." The Salem Resident Office delegated ten sealed indictments with potentially fourteen additional warrants expected. The execution date for all warrants was completed during the early morning hours of June 6th. Critical assistance was provided by the USMS Technical Operations Group to ensure that the main target of the organization, Jorge Ortiz-Oliva, was apprehended. TOG's assistance paid off with the arrest of Ortiz-Oliva at 8:30 AM, on June 7th, in Hollister, California. Immediately after the arrest, USMS in Northern California along with DEA conducted a consent search at Ortiz-Oliva's apartment where nine kilograms of cocaine were located and seized. The total operation cleared fourteen federal arrests with the following items seized: just under 8000 marijuana plants, 100 Ecstasy tablets, one oz. meth, a portable meth lab, 12 firearms (5 assault weapons i.e. AK-47, AR-15, riot shotguns), 3 ballistic vests, two 40 mm rifle grenades, approx. \$150,836 in cash, 5 vehicles, and 1 custom motorcycle. It is safe to say the defendants in this case no longer feel the "Need for Speed" with the organization leader, Jorge Ortiz-Oliva looking at a federal sentence of 20 years to life.

Judicial Security

Security of federal judges and the judicial process is a core responsibility of the USMS. In addition to securing federal court facilities and courtrooms there are also a number of off-site judicial functions that require a security presence. During the past year there was a noteworthy increase in the number of off-site judicial functions in the District of Oregon. Following are some the functions we supported during the past year:

Running Y Ranch judicial conference	May 2006
Judge George E. Juba funeral	June 2006
9 th Circuit Capital Case Conference	August 2006
Judicial picnic	August 2006
Orientation seminar for U.S. Bankruptcy Judges	August 2006
Environmental Law Seminar	October 2006
Project celebration dinner	November 2006
GSA Community Leadership breakfast	December 2006
Eugene U.S. Courthouse dedication	December 2006
Supreme Court Justice visit	April 2007
Judicial Investiture	April 2007
Judicial Luncheon	May 2007
Federal Bar Association dinner	May 2007
Space and Facilities Judicial Conference	June 2007
Supreme Court Justice visit	July 2007

Each of these details requires a security detail involving in-district and, in some cases, out-of-district staffing. We expect this trend to continue as Portland has proven to be an attractive host city for various judicial seminars and conferences.

Reach the Beach

Marshal and Two Chief Trio "Reach The Beach"

Marshal Dennis C. Merrill (D/OR) and Chiefs Bill Knaust (D/OR) and David Miller (W/WA) pictured at the finish line of the May 19, 2007 American Lung Association's "Reach The Beach" benefit bike ride. The ride started in Portland and ended 5 ½ hours and 100 miles later in Pacific City, Oregon. All avid cyclists, the three will ride a combined total of about 15,000 miles throughout the Pacific Northwest this year alone. "I've been riding my entire adult life—it really becomes a lifestyle and serves as a great stress relief, not to mention the fitness benefit," says Bill Knaust. "Because it's a low impact activity, most people can stay at it long after they retire."

Chiefs Knaust and Miller will be riding together in several upcoming fundraising events including the "Ride Around Mount Rainier In One Day" (RAMROD) covering 150 miles and 10,000 feet in elevation gain and the Northwest's infamous "Seattle To Portland" (STP) covering 210 miles between the two cities. "It keeps me and my counterpart in Seattle, David Miller, connected both on and off the job and I think it's really neat that the Marshal and I share the same interest and can participate together in events like this," added Bill Knaust.

With high fuel prices, cycling has become an activity that even impacts the district work plan. Chiefs Miller and Knaust often ride to and from work logging 100-200 miles each in a single week. Regardless the motivation, cycling is good fun and good for you. According to this trio, any day on the bike is a good day...as long as it's not raining.



Finish Line at the American Lung Association "Reach The Beach" Benefit Bike Ride

Pictured left to right – CDUSM Bill Knaust (D/OR), USM Dennis C. Merrill (D/OR) and CDUSM David Miller (W/WA)

Operations

Portland's Prisoner Operations section has undergone many personnel changes. Supervisory Deputy Dora Alvarado transferred to the Protective Operations section. Criminal Investigator/Deputy U.S. Marshal Dave Brown will serve as Acting Supervisor until a permanent selection is made. Deputy Zack Stovall transferred to the Witness Security and Prisoner Operations Division, and Deputy Brandon McMullen transferred to the District of Eastern California.

Prisoner Operations welcomes the following new personnel: Detention Enforcement Officer Luis Byerly, who came to the USMS in June 2007 from Homeland Security's Border Protection and Enforcement Division where he was an Inspector in various locations. DEO Byerly's duties will include running the USMS cellblock, prisoner transport, criminal records, and prisoner property. Criminal Investigator/Deputy U.S. Marshal James Stratton transferred to Portland in June 2007 from the District of Southern Ohio. Deputy Karrie Lewis is currently attending the Criminal Investigator Training Program and the U.S. Marshals Academy in Glynco, Georgia where she will graduate in October 2007.

Currently, Portland's Prisoner Operations has agreements to house federal prisoners at the Sheridan Federal Detention Center, NORCOR (Northern Oregon Correctional Facility), Multnomah County Jail, Columbia County Jail, Yamhill County Jail, Grant County Jail, and Umatilla County Jail. With growth in our prisoner population it has become increasingly necessary to house prisoners in multiple facilities.

Eugene

On April 12, 2007, Deputy U.S. Marshal Ross Mueske, completed a 16 week Criminal Investigators training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA. Congratulations Ross!

On April 14 and 15, 2007, the U.S. Marshals assisted the DEA in execution of 14 Federal search warrants and the arrests of 31 individuals for federal warrants charging the possession and distribution of Heroin and Methamphetamine. Approximately 20 of those individuals charged remain in pre-trial custody.

From May 22, 2007 to June 6, 2007, 10 environmental activists were sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken at the Wayne L. Morse U.S. Courthouse. The investigation known as "Operation Backfire," is the largest known prosecution of radical underground environmental activists in the United States. Judge Aiken applied the Federal anti-terrorism law to some of the defendants, resulting in enhanced sentences. Sentences for the 10 defendants ranged from 37 to 156 months. The 10 defendants were charged with twenty arsons in five states which occurred between 1995 and 2001. Although there was no evidence that anyone was injured, the fires did more than \$40 million in damage. The twenty arsons charged included the Romania Chevrolet dealership in Eugene, Oregon, the Oakridge Ranger Station and a Eugene Police substation.

On May 30, 2007, the retirement of Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Leavitt was held in the Wayne L. Morse U.S. Courthouse. Brian Leavitt served in Eugene from 1984 to 2007 and became a Supervisor in 1987. Brian served in the United States Marshal Service for 27 years and had a total of 30 years of Government Service. Over 100 people joined the celebration giving their best wishes to Brian in his retirement. On behalf of the U.S. Marshal Service, we thank Brian for his commitment and service to our nation's oldest Federal Law Enforcement Agency.



USM Dennis C. Merrill and Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Leavitt

On June 11, 2007, the Eugene office welcomed Deputy U.S. Marshal Tim Greer. Tim transferred from the U.S. Marshals Office in Lubbock, Texas. Welcome aboard Tim!



USM Dennis C. Merrill, Patsy Hansell and Judy Hansell at the dedication of the Fitness Center

On June 22, 2007, the Hal Hansell Memorial Fitness Center was dedicated at the Wayne L. Morse U.S. Courthouse. After retiring from the Oregon State Police after 28 years, Hal Hansell began a second career with the USMS in 1991. Hal worked with the USMS for 15 years until his death on June 19, 2006. Earning Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in the bench press and the shot-put, Hal distinguished himself as a first class competitor in the Police and Fire Games and the World Games spanning from 1985 to 2005. Hal and his wife Patsy Hansell traveled the world including Australia, Spain, Sweden, Canada and throughout the United States competing in the games. U.S. Marshal Dennis Merrill, conducted the dedication while Patsy Hansell and daughter Judy Hansell cut the ribbon.



Operations Support Specialist Sandy Mitten pictured with her granddaughter Makayla Yarbrough during "bring your child to work day."

Medford

The Medford office conducted two Adam Walsh Act investigations. The offenders are being investigated for failure to comply with sexual predator registration requirements. One case was referred to the office from the District of Arizona and the other from the Medford Police Department. Both investigations are ongoing and it is hopeful that an indictment will be obtained.

On April 19, 2007, Medford deputies arrested Christopher GILBERT, Joseph FAAETEETE and Martin ANGELEAS, all of whom were considered extremely dangerous. GILBERT, FAAETEETE and ANGELEAS were wanted in the District of Oregon, Medford Division for conspiracy to commit arson, attempted arson and possession of a destructive device. The charge alleges that they attempted to burn down a Medford nightclub using Molotov cocktails. At the time of the alleged incident, ANGELEAS was employed as a bouncer at another Medford night club.

On April 26, 2007, Medford deputies located and arrested Gary Ryan Lawrence at Rogue River, Oregon. Lawrence was wanted out of the Middle District of Tennessee for violating conditions of his bond. Lawrence's original charge was felon in possession of a Russian AK-47 rifle and a Sig Sauer 9mm hand gun and he was considered to be armed and dangerous. While tracking Lawrence, investigators obtained his cell phone number. Because Lawrence was being aided by a friend that deputies had interviewed, he knew that he was the subject of a manhunt. When deputies called Lawrence's cell number, Lawrence had recorded a message taunting the deputies that said, "You haven't caught me yet, but keep trying!" Gary, you can change your message now.

So far in FY2007, Medford is averaging 57 prisoners per day. This is up from the 2006 average of 39 prisoners per day. The cost to house these prisoners to date in FY2007 is \$833 thousand and is projected to reach \$1.2 million by the end of this fiscal year. The current average daily prisoner cost in Medford is \$71.47.

During the first eight months of this fiscal year, the Medford Office has produced prisoners for 463 appearances. That number is projected to reach 681 productions by the end of the fiscal year. The appearances include all types of in-custody court productions as well as the transfer of prisoners within the District of Oregon.

The James A. Redden U.S. Courthouse secure parking area is 95% complete. The only remaining item is the walk-through employee/emergency egress gate opening and closure hardware. Parking in the secure area accommodates the U.S. District Court and U.S. Marshals Service. This project originally began on September 29, 2004 when the U.S. Marshals Service provided the GSA with a Reimbursable Work Authorization in the amount of \$245,889 for providing material and labor to complete the project.



Secured parking area with emergency gates

Asset Forfeiture

The first half of 2007 proved to be a busy period for the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU). Assets seized totaled \$1.8 million and assets disposed of totaled \$2 million. The value of assets on hand as of June 2007 is \$7.2 million which includes aircraft, artwork, business inventory, cash, electronic equipment, firearms, furniture, heavy equipment, jewelry, real property, vehicles and vessels.

Seizures included a variety of assets ranging from high valued homes (4201 Coyote Creek Road, Wolf Creek \$495,000) to Operation Rainbow Drop in Eugene resulting in seizure of laboratory glassware and vacuum pumps.

The Jeff Davis case was finally disposed. We conducted auctions and real property sales disposing of five real properties, heavy equipment, vehicles, ATV's, motorcycles, and brought in a whopping \$1,785,040. Way to go Janice and Ronnie!



1998 Lincoln Navigator



2002 Cadillac Escalade

Oregon has the largest inventory of weapons in the nation. The majority of weapons are transferred to South Texas for storage and eventual destruction. Fifty weapons have been destroyed this year so far. We are also working on putting some of the weapons into official service.

Contaminated assets and/or vehicles with hidden compartment are becoming the trend. We destroyed several items by crushing at recycling centers and auto wrecking yards, including 1997 Ford Expedition, 1998 Nissan Frontier, and an Experimental Aircraft.

Equitable Sharing: Federal/State/Locals benefited from participating in the federal forfeiture program by receiving actual assets or up to 80% of sale proceeds. Here is a list of recipients:

2001 Polaris ATV to Josephine County Sheriff's Office; Hyster 80XL Forklift to Josephine County Sheriff's Office; 2001 Lexus to Jackson County Narcotics Enforcement Team; 1998 Lincoln Navigator to Linn County Sheriff's Office; 1999 Cadillac Escalade to Sweet Home Police Department; 2002 Cadillac Escalade to DEA Medford, and approximately \$1.1 million in cash was shared with various agencies. Finally, the District of Oregon requested and received a forfeited 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer for Official Use.