

United States Marshals Service District of Oregon

Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2008



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Marshal Notes



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

For all of us in the U.S. Marshals Service, calendar year 2007 was certainly action packed. At the same time, it was highlighted by outstanding work that was accomplished by a lot of great people. I sincerely thank all the members of the USMS, the court family, and all of our law enforcement partners for all your hard work during this past year. I believe our accomplishments are quite notable.

The start of a New Year is always an excellent time for reflection. Looking at where we've been and understanding our current status enables us to better focus on the challenges that lie ahead in 2008.

As with most agencies, staffing and personnel actions continue to be of the highest priority. The last six months have been unprecedented in terms of supervisory promotions. We had occasion to promote three of our in-house deputy U.S. marshals to supervisory positions. Bud Delay was promoted to supervisor of the Warrant Section, Dave Brown for the Operations Section, and Mark Barr as the supervisory deputy in Eugene. At the same time, we lost Mike Benbow to a promotion at the Special Operations Group at Camp Beauregard, LA. I extend my hearty congratulations to each of these individuals. Their enthusiasm and energy is contagious and I know they will all do a terrific job.

In addition to the promotions, Deputy Debbie Boyd decided to retire from the USMS after 20 years of service in November. Debbie was a respected criminal investigator and worked most recently in our protective investigations section. I wish Debbie all the best in her well deserved retirement and in whatever she may decide to do in the future. She will be missed by all of us.

We are aggressively working to fill our personnel vacancies. We welcome aboard Deputy Karrie Lewis, from North Carolina, who graduated from the USMS Academy in October and is currently assigned to the Portland Operations Section; Deputy Jhon Coleman who transferred to our Medford Office from the Southern District of Texas in September; and Deputy Vince Byford who is scheduled to transfer to Portland from the Southern District of New York at the end of January. Jonathan Lobell from New York State enters the USMS Academy in January. He will be assigned to Portland Operations Section when he graduates in May. We also recently advertised for a

detention enforcement officer who will help manage our cell block. We hope to fill this position by June 2008. As we move into the New Year, we still have two operational vacancies with no planned backfill (one in Portland and one in Eugene).

We continue to face prisoner management challenges for 2008. Without additional authorized staffing, the Districts average daily prisoner population (ADP) and court productions continue to increase. Since 2006, our ADP has risen over 19% to about 560 prisoners. We expect this trend to continue. To help address these factors, we are currently re-negotiating intergovernmental agreements with a number of county jails and examining ways to transport prisoners and schedule court productions more efficiently.

We cannot effectively manage the workload without the regular use of contract employees known as District Security Officers (DSO). To complicate matters further, the use of DSOs is often constrained due to budget considerations. On many occasions we find ourselves overstretched. Deputies assigned to investigations are often required to assist in these circumstances. This situation calls for an on-going balancing act between operational and investigative priorities.

In spite of the need to assist with prisoner operations, our fugitive investigation and apprehension effort within the District continues to produce excellent results. This is primarily due to the great work of the Oregon Fugitive Task Force (OFTF). One of the notable fugitive investigative highlights of last year was Operation Falcon 2007. Our OFTF provided the framework for this multi-agency effort which we conducted in August throughout the Portland metropolitan area. During the Operation, we were joined by 23 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies with over 130 participating officers, deputies, agents, troopers and detectives. The results were impressive with 175 fugitives arrested and 197 active warrants cleared in five days.

In the area of judicial security, long awaited enhancements to Hatfield Courthouse building access system were completed in October. The only pending project not yet finished involves the installation of digital video recorders in the USMS control room. This upgrade will provide significant enhancements in our overall capability. This project is now scheduled to be completed during the first two months of 2008. I again wish to thank all the tenants of the Hatfield Courthouse for your patience and understanding during these upgrades.

In closing, I believe the USMS, District of Oregon, is moving forward in a positive and productive fashion. I look forward to working closely with all of our partners in meeting the challenges of 2008 and making it the best year ever.

Investigations

As the Investigative Service Division for the District of Oregon finishes out another year, several changes have occurred which we believe will make the District of Oregon more responsive to the needs and concerns of our law enforcement partners throughout the state, especially those who participate in the district-led Fugitive Task Force. In order to provide better coordination and investigative oversight, Assistant Chief Deputy (ACDUSM) John Shoemaker will oversee all district investigative activities including warrant investigations, Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) violations, threat investigations, and background investigations.

Supervisory Deputies Scott Mclean (Medford), Mark Barr (Eugene) and Bud Delay (Portland) will work with ACDUSM Shoemaker to provide maximum coordinated effort and response to investigative matters throughout the state.

Another significant change has been the retirement of Detective Dirk Anderson from the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) and Oregon Fugitive Task Force (OFTF). Detective Anderson takes his many talents to the Oregon State Police where he will undoubtedly become a significant asset. In Detective Anderson's place, the PPB and the OFTF is pleased to welcome Detective Travis Fields who has already begun to focus his energy and talents in pursuing wanted individuals that pose the greatest threat to our communities. We look forward to the continued successful partnership with the PPB and the expertise their detectives bring to the OFTF and its member agencies.

Officer Dave Upton of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (MCDCJ) has been appointed by his agency as a full-time member of the OFTF. Officer Upton has been extremely active with the OFTF and we are fortunate to be able to utilize his extraordinary abilities and contacts within the parole and probation community to locate and apprehend fugitives. Officer Upton has already made a significant impact on the operation of the OFTF and the MCDCJ by identifying high-risk/high-profile probationers and parolees and then utilizing the resources of the task force to take them off the streets. This relationship between the OFTF and MCDCJ has been highly successful and has resulted in numerous arrests, greatly enhancing the capabilities of the OFTF and its participating agencies.

While these changes have occurred, the focus of the OFTF has not wavered. The hard work and dedication of those participating agencies and individuals assigned to the OFTF has resulted in 280 fugitives being arrested between June 1, 2007 and December 12, 2007. Of these 280 fugitives, 83% were considered violent offenders based on the FBI qualifying criteria. These statistics reflect the high standards each individual investigator brings to the Task Force and also the emphasis our partner agencies place on assigning their most talented investigators to the OFTF. Without the full support of the Portland Police Bureau, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Oregon National Guard, and the Clackamas County Parole and Probation Department, the OFTF would not be able to enjoy the kind of successes we have seen during the past year.

Between August 6 and 10, 2007 the District of Oregon organized and lead Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally) within the greater Portland Metropolitan Area. The focus of this FALCON operation was the targeting and arrest of those individuals considered to be the greatest threat to citizens within the Portland metropolitan area, including fugitives wanted for crimes of violence and sexual predators. Over the course of the five-day operation, Deputy U.S. Marshals, teamed with their federal, state and local law enforcement partners and arrested 175 fugitives and cleared 197 active warrants. Of these 175 wanted individuals, 28 were arrested for sex crimes and 92% of the fugitives had prior criminal histories.

As the name indicates, FALCON seeks to enhance the operational efficiencies of all participating law enforcement agencies through sharing of information and expertise to address the crime concerns of the area's citizens. The Marshals Service was joined by 23 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies with over 130 participating officers, deputies, agents, troopers and detectives. The coordination and effort put forth by all those who participated in Operation FALCON was an example to how law enforcement agencies and officers can unify and focus on a common goal with extraordinary results when called upon to do so.

Captured:

Investigate Highlights

When **Jeremy Rasmussen**, moved to Oregon in June of 2007, he made a few simple mistakes. First, he failed to notify his New York State Parole Officer he was leaving the state. Second, he failed to register as a Convicted Sex Offender here in Oregon and finally, he made the mistake of thinking that no one would look for him here in Oregon. All of these mistakes have landed Rasmussen back in New York State Prison until June 2009. It took less than 24 hours for members of the OFTF to locate and arrest Rasmussen based on the New York State Parole warrant. Rasmussen was convicted in June 2002 for the brutal rape and kidnapping of his ex-wife. He was paroled to Mason City, Iowa in 2006 where he remained until his new girlfriend learned the truth about his conviction. Rasmussen was arrested in Oregon City on June 14, 2007 where he was living with a girl he met on MYSPACE and her small child. Rasmussen is now facing federal prosecution for violations of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act.



On July 6, 2007 the OFTF arrested **Charles Douglas Land**, age 51, and safely rescued his kidnap victim, Cynthia Ivie. Cynthia Ivie's photograph and story gained national attention when she was posted as "Endangered Missing" on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children web site. On June 26, 2007, Cynthia Ivie was reported missing by her mother in New Bos-

Investigations cont'd

ton, Texas. The Bowie County Sheriffs Office developed information that Charles Douglas Land was a suspect and had possibly fled the state. With this information, Bowie County Sheriffs asked for help from the Texarkana U.S. Marshals Office. Marshals in Texarkana immediately pursued the information and learned that Charles Land could be in Vancouver, Washington. Based on this information, the OETF located and arrested Charles Land at the Value Motel at 708 NE 78th St. in Vancouver, WA. Cynthia Ivie was present and was taken into protective custody. It was discovered that the suspect vehicle's license plates had been switched from Texas to California plates. Charles Land was charged with "Unlawful Restraint" and was lodged at the Clark County Jail. Land had been released eight months prior after serving a seven year prison sentence on a conviction of Attempted Murder.

On July 25, 2007, **Jose Manuel Benitez-Gastelum**, age 35, was arrested by members of the OETF and agents of ICE. Marshals located Jose Manuel Benitez-Gastelum in conjunction with a pending Provisional Arrest Warrant charging Benitez-Gastelum with Murder.



The murder occurred in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico in the city of Culiacan. During a search incident to arrest several firearms were seized. Jose Benitez-Gastelum was transported to the Columbia County Jail and lodged on an ICE detainer. Benitez-Gastelum

was deported shortly thereafter and turned over to Mexican Interpol officials through the Port of Entry at San Ysidro, California.

On November 13, 2007 OETF Officers arrested **Daniel Gordon** in SE Portland outside his daughter's residence. Incident to the arrest, Task Force Officers recovered two stolen firearms and a stolen vehicle. Gordon was wanted out of Washington County for two counts of Burglary 1, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Domestic Menacing, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, and Attempt to Elude, and Escape. On Oct 16, 2007 Gordon eluded Police in Hillsboro after running from a stolen vehicle. Then on Oct 19, 2007 Daniel Gordon broke into his girlfriend's home in Hillsboro and menaced several people with an AK-47 assault rifle. Once again, Gordon was able to elude police. Finally, on November 13, 2007 Gordon reportedly fired shots from a shotgun outside the home of his brother in NE Portland. Later that evening, OETF Officers located the stolen vehicle Gordon was driving, parked outside his daughter's apartment. They immediately set up surveillance and soon observed Gordon arrive in another vehicle. He was taken into custody without incident and has several charges pending in Portland in connection with a burglary, theft of firearms and the stolen vehicle, in addition to the pending Washington County charges.



On November 16, 2007 **Adam Farouk Mikhail**, 24 year-old white male, was arrested for the charge of Murder by the Portland Police and members of the OETF. Mikhail was arrested without incident as he left his residence in the 9800 block of NE Glisan St. The shooting occurred on November 7, 2007, at SE Division Street and SE 101st Avenue. Adam Mikhail was identified as the driver of the vehicle that pulled alongside 31 year-old John William Stewart's vehicle, when several shots were fired. Stewart died from a gunshot wound to his torso. Mikhail was lodged at the Multnomah County Jail.

On December 4, 2007 **Troy Mott** was arrested as a result of a joint OETF and Portland Police Bureau (PPB) effort. Mott was arrested in Las Vegas by the U.S. Marshals Nevada Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (FIST) on two charges of Attempted Murder Domestic Violence with a total of 13 counts. The charges stem from an October 19, 2007 domestic dispute in which Troy Mott was identified as allegedly firing a handgun multiple times at two female associates at a North Portland residence. Later that day, Mott was arrested by a Portland Police officer after a traffic pursuit. After being released on bail, a warrant for his arrest was issued on November 20, 2007. During a search warrant following his initial arrest, the Portland Police Bureau Gang Enforcement Team (GET) found a ballistic vest believed to belong to Mott. After contacting numerous family members, a Portland Police Bureau detective assigned to the OETF received a call from Troy Mott who said, "If the Marshals are after me this is serious and I am going to turn myself in." Mott proved he was not a man of his word when U.S. Marshals in Nevada arrested him as he left a Las Vegas residence. Troy Mott faces charges of Assault in the Second Degree, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Attempt to Elude in a Vehicle, and Reckless Driving.



Operation FALCON 2007

Eugene

Noe Garcia-Moncada: On October 16, 2007, former District Court Security Officer Dallas Vance and his wife Marilyn were hit by a vehicle while walking from a movie theater to their hotel in North Bend, Oregon. Marilyn Vance died shortly after arriving to the hospital from head injuries. Dallas Vance was airlifted to Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon where he died five days later.



Dallas Vance and his wife Marilyn

Dallas Vance was a retired Beverly Hills, California Police Officer and had worked for many years in Eugene, Oregon as the Lead Court Security Officer in the United States Courthouse. The Investigative Task Force from North Bend Police Department, Coos County Sheriff's Office and the Coos County District Attorneys Office had located the vehicle, a Dodge Pickup, that had hit the Vances and identified the possible driver Noe Garcia-Moncada. The Task Force contacted the Eugene Marshals Office requesting assistance in locating Noe Garcia-Moncada. Eugene Marshals sent a lead to the U.S. Marshals Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force and a few hours later, with the help of the Tustin Police Department, Noe Garcia-Moncada was arrested without incident as he left an apartment at the Creekside Meadows complex in Tustin. Garcia-Moncada was charged with felony hit-and-run and trial is set for April 2008.

James McGary: On August 03, 2007, with the assistance of the Federal Protective Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Eugene Marshals Office arrested James McGary. McGary had been investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspectors in the Northern District of California and indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for mail and wire fraud. Deputies contacted McGary on a popular internet web site and after a couple of days of correspondence, McGary agreed to meet the undercover deputy at the 5th Street Market in Eugene, Oregon. McGary was punctual and as he showed up at the meeting location he was greeted by the small multi-agency task force. McGary was booked into the Lane County Jail.

Colleen Keeler: On September 27, 2007 Eugene deputies responded to an investigative lead from the Marshals Office in Northern Texas. Keller, age 52, is a suspect in a Texas Ranger Investigation where the murder victim was brutally stabbed 19 times with a knife. Keller had been wanted since May 2004. Texas Rangers, through the U.S. Marshals Dallas Fort Worth Fugitive Task Force, contacted the Eugene Marshals Office. Deputies conducted a thorough investigation into Keller's whereabouts and discovered she was living in Eugene, Oregon. When confronted at her at her residence on Coburg Road, Keeler gave her real name and was arrested by Marshals and the Lane County Sheriff's Office. Keeler is charged by the Collin County Sheriff's Office with murdering her boyfriend's ex-girlfriend. The murder happened on May 4, 2004 and Marshals determined that Colleen Keller had been living in the Oregon area since 2006. Keeler was lodged at the Lane County Jail and awaits extradition to Texas.



Michael Alan Kern: On October 16, 2007 Michael Alan Kern was arrested in Eugene, Oregon. Kern was being sought by Marshals in the District of Colorado as a fugitive on a parole violation warrant.

Kern has a substantial criminal history including attempted murder and sexual assault. The District of Colorado developed information that Kern had been in the Eugene area. After a few days of investigation, Eugene Deputies determined Kern was homeless and camping in a nearby park. Deputies approached Kern and after a short foot chase, Kern was taken into custody. During their search incident to arrest deputies recovered several fraudulent documents including credit cards, a social security card, and a Colorado birth certificate. Deputies also located an adult female listed as a missing person out of Colorado who had been traveling with Kern. Deputies arranged for the girl to be reunited with her family. Kern was extradited back to Colorado on his outstanding charges in addition to new charges stemming from his arrest.



Medford

Personnel

The Medford Office has gone through a few changes since the last newsletter was published. Criminal Investigator James Kim transferred to the Washington D.C. District Court and Deputy Jhon Coleman joined us from the Southern District of Texas, Houston Office. Deputy Coleman comes to the Medford Office with area family ties and he has expressed that he is excited to be living in Southern Oregon. Deputy Coleman has already taken advantage of the outstanding weather and some of the many outdoor activities available in Southern Oregon. Current staffing in the Medford Office includes Deputy Coleman, Criminal Investigator Brad Sholer, Deputy Rodney Lowe and Supervisory Deputy Scott McLean.

Investigation

Criminal Investigator (CI) Brad Sholer participated in two marijuana eradication operations this fall. In his first operation in Jackson County, Elk Creek drainage, CI Sholer played a major role in the arrest of two alleged growers. Sholer along with DEA, Jackson County Sheriff's Office and Shady Cove Police Department arrested Blas Zaragoza-Infante and Santiago Infante-Viveros during a felony traffic stop in Trail, Oregon. Zaragoza and Infante were arrested with one handgun, a



CI Sholer With Pot Plant

shotgun and approximately 50 pounds of freshly processed and packaged marijuana. Approximately 4,000 marijuana plants were destroyed by law enforcement at the grow site in the Elk Creek drainage. In his second operation, Sholer assisted the DEA in the eradication of approximately 5,000 marijuana plants in Del Norte County, California. There were two arrests associated with that grow by the DEA in Talent, Oregon. The Medford Office plans to continue to assist the DEA and BLM in future operations to eradicate these large grows in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

Facility Projects

The secure parking area was completed in October. After several years of budget requests, planning and final construction, the project is now complete. The Medford Office would like to thank everyone involved in this project. The Medford Office also completed a galley and is now in the planning stages to alter its space in the basement of the James A. Redden U.S. Courthouse to accommodate a HIDTA fugitive Task Force officer.



Medford U.S. Courthouse

Judicial Security

Security Enhancements

The Hatfield U.S. Courthouse U.S. Marshals base control will see some upgrades, one of which is converting the recording capabilities from VHS cassette tape to digital video recorders. This enhancement will allow better coverage of criminal activity and greatly enhance tenant safety.



Loading Dock

one card.

The Hatfield Courthouse has completed installation of the long-awaited barrier system at the parking entrance. This is a significant security enhancement preventing unauthorized vehicle entry into the building. The system was put to the test when an unauthorized vehicle attempted entry behind an employee vehicle on November 15th. The barrier worked as advertised and no one was more surprised than the driver as the vehicle was lifted off the ground.



Employee Entrance

CSO Staffing

We are currently conducting two background investigations for the Portland vacancies which will bring us back to full staffing at 63 officers district-wide.

AFU

The second half of 2007 (July to present) was eventful for the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU). Assets seized during this period totaled \$1.1 million while assets disposed totaled \$1.3 million. The value of assets on hand as of December 2007 is \$6.9 million which includes aircraft, artwork, business inventory, cash, electronic equipment, firearms, furniture, jewelry, real property, vehicles, and vessels.

Weapons

Oregon has the largest weapons inventory in the nation. The weapons are turned over to South Texas (S/TX) for storage and disposal. In fact, we were recently recognized by AFO on November 6, 2007 when we supplied S/TX with their **3000th weapon**. The AM Arms/Delta SA-60 Belt-Fed Semi-Auto rifle was sent in by the District of Oregon. Pictured holding the rifle are Property Custodian Ricky Rodriguez and CO-OP Student Natalie Garza.



Property Custodian Ricky Rodriguez and CO-OP Student Natalie Garza

AFU

The Marshals Service is in the process of requesting several weapons for official use including: Barrett 50 Caliber Rifle to be transferred to the Special Operations Group and two AR-15's for the District.



Barrett 50 Caliber Rifle

A Mauser C/96 Broom handle Pistol has



Mauser C/96 Broom Handle Pistol

been transferred to the Smithsonian Institution for display, research, and exhibition. This weapon is extremely rare and has great historical value.

Vehicles

The District recently lost its vehicle storage contractor when Towne Storage Auto (TSA) was bought out by Portland General Electric to make room for a new power station. We currently have 60 vehicles on hand, half of which are stored at TSA. We found two storage facilities that meet our requirements and vehicles have been relocated to the new facilities beginning December 17th.

Real Property

Our real properties are turned over to Fidelity National Assets Management Solutions (Fidelity) for disposal after forfeiture. Fidelity has determined that the property located at 48250 Highway 101, Bandon is contaminated with harmful molds. It is not cost effective to clean up the property, therefore it has been scheduled for demolition. This is the first property to be demolished due to contamination due to something other than drug manufacture.

Equitable Sharing

Federal, state, and local agencies benefited from participating in the federal forfeiture program by receiving actual assets of up to 80% of sale proceeds and cash. Over \$2 million was paid out utilizing the USMS E-Share system which electronically transmits funds directly to the state/local agency's bank. A listing of the items transferred to state and locals to be placed into service during the second half are as follows: 2006 Cadillac



2006 Cadillac CTS

CTS, 2005 Nissan Altima, 2002 Toyota Camry, 2004 Toyota Corolla, 2002 Ford Explorer Sport, and a 42" Samsung LCD television.



42" Samsung LCD T.V.