

United States Marshals Service District of Oregon

Volume 2, Issue 1

December 2005



District of Oregon

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Marshal Notes



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

We currently find ourselves well into the first quarter of FY 2006. Accordingly, we are focused on a lot of significant issues ranging from the budget and staffing to on-going operational priorities. At the same time, we find ourselves in the midst of the Christmas and holiday season. This time of year can be hectic for all of us - at work and at home. However, it also gives us the opportunity to be thankful for all that we have, reflect back on some of the challenges and highlights of FY 2005, and look ahead to what we face this next year.

I want to thank all of the United States Marshals Service (USMS) employees for their outstanding work this last year. Each person has good reason to feel good

about what they accomplished. Each section - administration, operations, fugitive investigations, judicial security and asset forfeiture, as well as our sub offices - all performed superbly. The activities we were involved with were many and varied. These ranged from Operation Falcon - the largest fugitive roundup ever conducted nation-wide, back to back deployments to Iraq for two of our deputies, expansion of our HIDTA and Ad Hoc Fugitive Task Forces, continuation of our participation on the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and our Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Liaison, strengthening our judicial security efforts, as well as our participation in the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (GREAT).

At the same time, I wish to commend and thank all of our law enforcement partners (federal, state, and local) as well as the federal court family for the excellent assistance and support you have rendered to the Marshals Service over this last year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Clearly, we could not be successful in accomplishing our mission without all of you.

Just last month all of us in the USMS as well as the court family suffered a tragic loss. Administrative Support Specialist Tom Conroy suddenly

and wholly unexpectedly passed away. Tom's passing was a tremendous shock to all of us. He was a terrific individual and will be sorely missed. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife Cheryl and his family.

Last July, the USMS Director, Benigno Reyna resigned. He was replaced by Acting Director John Clark on August 1, 2005. Acting Director Clark is a career USMS employee and his last assignment was the U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia (E/VA). He fully understands the issues and challenges facing our organization and his number one priority is to secure the necessary resources for the USMS to ably perform its mission. His confirmation as the Director is pending in the U.S. Senate. In the meantime, all of us in the District of Oregon (D/OR) welcome him to his new assignment and very much look forward to working with him in the future.

The Department of Justice and USMS appropriation bill was signed by the President on November 22, 2005. This year, our \$800 million budget

grew by seven percent (\$52 million) over last year. This seven percent growth provides funding to cover FY 2005 services at the FY 2006 cost level; the establishment of a Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force; and 25 new deputy United States Marshal Positions for high risk judicial security and increasing prisoner workload. Nonetheless, the USMS budget will not fully meet all of our requirements. Additionally, the USMS must address a \$2.2 million rescission in the enacted appropriation. What is not yet clear is whether we will face additional rescissions. As always, the USMS will continue to accomplish our mission with scarce resources. According to Acting Director Clark, this "speaks volumes about the character of our employees and the high quality of service we provide."

Perhaps it is a function of age, but it seems as though it was just a short time ago that it was the holiday season of 2004. Time passes too quickly. In that vane, I encourage all of us to step back a little from the hustle and bustle to reflect on this most special time of year, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy the season for what it is. May you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year!

"I encourage all of us to step back a little from the hustle and bustle to reflect on this most special time of year...."

Fugitive Investigations

The district warrant squad and the district led Fugitive Task Forces (HIDTA and Ad-Hoc) continued to play a significant role in taking the "worst of the worst" off the streets of Oregon in FY 2005. The HIDTA Task Force is made up of full-time participants from the USMS, the Portland Police Bureau and the Oregon National Guard. The HIDTA Task Force also has part-time participants from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, the North Plains Police Department, and the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. The Ad-Hoc Task Force receives and provides assistance to numerous other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies on a part-time, or ad-hoc basis. The primary focus of the Task Forces is to increase the overall safety of Oregon residents by reducing crime and violence by bringing federal, state, and local fugitives to justice. In FY 2005, the district received 578 warrants and cleared 603 warrants for which the district had primary fugitive apprehension responsibility. These federal warrants are issued for such violations as Escapes, Bond Defaults, Parole/Probation Violations, and DEA referred cases.

Here are some noteworthy arrests made during the second half of FY 2005:

Seven years after **STEVEN McClAIN** failed to appear at his sentencing, Deputy U.S. Marshals arrested McClain on August 18, 2005, outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. McClain, who was living under an assumed name, was wanted on a federal warrant for his failure to appear at his sentencing on July 30, 1998. McClain's original charges stemmed from a Multnomah County Sheriff's Office investigation in which a methamphetamine lab was seized in northeast Portland.



Also on August 18, 2005, Deputy U.S. Marshals arrested **LASHAWN BARR** on a federal supervised release violation warrant in Portland. Barr, who was on supervision for a possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance conviction, attempted to dispose of a semi-automatic handgun as he fled on foot from Deputy U.S. Marshals. Barr has subsequently been charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.



Even as the District continued to keep pace with the in-

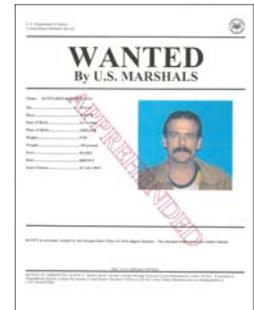
creasing number of federal warrants, the district and its Task Forces built on the Marshal Service's long history of providing assistance and expertise to other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in support of their fugitive investigations. The Task Forces targeted the most dangerous fugitives and cleared more than 251 state and local fugitive cases during FY 2005.

During the early morning hours of July 15, 2005, members of the Task Force along with the Vancouver Police Department arrested **JEREMIAH PRUEITT** in Woodland, Washington for attempted murder and malicious harassment (hate crime). Prueitt, who was known to affiliate with white supremacists, was charged with a June 19th, 2005 racially motivated shooting in Vancouver. At the time of his arrest, Prueitt was in possession of a semi-automatic handgun and a stolen vehicle. Prueitt was also wanted in Washington County for multiple counts of forgery, identity theft, and credit card fraud.



On July 22, 2005, members of the Task Force assisted the Marion County Sheriff's Office with an offenders sweep in an attempt to apprehend fugitives in and around Marion County. The one night sweep resulted in the arrest of 16 fugitives on outstanding warrants, the arrest of 17 individuals on new criminal charges and seven children being taken into protective custody.

On September 11, 2005, members of the Task Force located and arrested **DONALD SCOTT** at a Shari's Restaurant in Vancouver, Washington. Scott was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant out of Grant County, Oregon charging Scott with first degree sodomy. The warrant was issued following an Oregon State Police investigation into allegations involving a minor female.



On September 27, 2005, **ADAM CALBREATH** was arrested by members of the Task Force in Rhododendron on a failure to appear warrant out of Jackson County. At the time of Calbreath's arrest, an AK-47, a SKS, four additional rifles, two shotguns, and a revolver were seized from his residence.

IRAQ

Since March 2005, the District of Oregon and its Deputy U.S. Marshals have provided assistance and support to the Iraqi Special Tribunal and the Iraqi Ministry of Justice.

Selected personnel deploy for six month rotations in Baghdad, Iraq and have been required to travel throughout the country to complete various assignments.



Deputies Wahlstrom & Benbow in front of the Iraqi Courthouse

Deputy U.S. Marshals have provided their expertise in court security and investigations, which has led to close working relationships between the Iraqi Judges and investigators assigned to the Central Criminal Courts of Iraq and the Iraqi Special Tribunal.

The Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) is comprised of 12 major courthouses within Iraq.

This court system is responsible for local jurisdictional crimes to include cases such as robbery, theft, and murder, including those committed by insurgents. Deputy Mike Benbow from our Portland office is currently in Iraq and he has been working very closely with Iraqi officials assisting with all security aspects of the Saddam Hussein trial. During the six month tour, deputy U.S. Marshals have also conducted security assessments for the Iraqi judiciary, initiated construction projects involving 5 new courthouses, created enhancements to facilities that are already operational, and continue to teach innovative ways to improve security and training during this difficult transition period.

These considerable accomplishments also extend to the Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST). The IST is responsible for handling the trial brought against Saddam Hussein and members of his former regime. This court at the conclusion of all prosecutions will later become the equivalent of the Supreme Court in the United States. The USMS has provided considerable assistance in preparation for the upcoming trials.

Deputy Eric Wahlstrom, also from our Portland office, was assigned to the Regime Crimes Liaison Office which has been assisting with the investigation of Saddam Hussein and former regime members. Working together with the IST, deputy Wahlstrom's various assignments included conducting suspect and witness interviews, investigating atrocities such as the use of chemical weapons against civilians, ordered mass executions and the discovery of mass graves.



Deputy Wahlstrom in "The Cage"

Tom Conroy

In Memory of Tom Conroy

Tom, who served as an Administrative Support Assistant in our office since 1996, died suddenly and unexpectedly on November 9, 2005 while visiting his family in Ohio.

Before joining the Marshals Service, Tom worked for the Corps of Engineers from 1989 to 1996. This past March, Tom married the love of his life, Cheryl. He loved spending time at home with Cheryl working in their yard, gardening and tending their flowers. Tom



was very fond of the outdoors and had a great appreciation for nature. When he wasn't working in his garden, Tom often went hiking with Cheryl enjoying their shared appreciation for the outdoors. Tom also loved his job and his coworkers and he was a highly efficient, well organized and greatly respected member of our team.

During the fall of 2003, two days after Thanksgiving, Tom had suffered a stroke. After undergoing surgery, he had fully recuperated and he started running every day. He was in excellent physical condition and participated in the USMS fitness program. Unfortunately, despite Tom's recovery and dedication to his health, he was overcome by another similar event that took his life.

Tom will be greatly missed by all of us, but his memory will live on in our hearts.

Asset Forfeiture Unit

It's been a busy year in the asset forfeiture arena. Our office has gone from 0 to 8 listings of real properties within the last two months (four listings are pending signature). Three listings are in Portland and five are in Grants Pass. 4055 N. W. Twilight Terrace in Portland, OR is listed for \$1,030,000.

We have 8 vehicles scheduled for auction in the month of December. 6 have already been sold for total gross proceeds of \$150,550 (of which \$60,000 was from the sale of a 2003 Viper).

We released a 2002 Cadillac Escalade to DEA for Hurricane Relief. The vehicle will be used by law enforcement in the affected areas.

FBI/USMS joined forces for seizure of stolen personal property involved in Second Hand stores. We seized 30 vehicles, but returned 8. Approximately \$4 million in personal property was also seized and is being stored at a local storage facility.

Towne Storage Auto, our vehicle storage facility, has grown from 14 vehicles to 38 within the last several months.

Total Assets on Hand to date are 218 with a value of \$7,620,883.82.

Eugene Sub-Office

On September 22, 2005, the Coos County Sheriffs Office in Coquille obtained an arrest warrant for Rickie Leanne Powell for Custodial Interference in the First Degree. One of her minor children in Coos County and another in neighboring Douglas County were taken without the permission of their custodial parents. Shortly afterwards, the Coos County Sheriffs Office sought the investigative assistance of the U.S. Marshals Office in Eugene through the use of an Oregon Ad Hoc Task Force agreement.

The U.S. Marshals Office soon developed information on a potential vehicle and traveling companion of Powell. That information was relayed to numerous law enforcement agencies, including the border stations between the United States and Mexico. As a result, it was learned that there was a strong likelihood that the children had already been removed from the United States, but their whereabouts were unknown.

Acting on leads provided by the U.S. Marshals, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents arrested Powell and her companion on September 28th at the Otey Mesa Port of Entry.

Unfortunately, her children were not with her and she would not cooperate. U.S. Marshals in San Diego were dispatched to Otey Mesa and began pouring over evidence taken at the border.

Utilizing relationships fostered with the Mexican authorities, an international effort was launched to locate the missing children. Less than twelve hours later, Mexican police authorities located the children and they were returned to the United States and placed with the child protective services staff in San Diego County, where they were ultimately reunited with their custodial parents.

At the end of the day, the investigation involved three U.S. Marshals Offices (Mexico City, San Diego and Eugene), the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Tijuana Police Department, the San Diego Police Department, and the Coos and Douglas County Sheriffs Departments in Oregon.

The U.S. Marshals Service maintains a close working relationship with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, utilizing a variety of investigative tools to assist in tracking down kidnapped children.

“Utilizing relationships fostered with the Mexican authorities, an international effort was launched to locate the missing children.”

Medford Sub-Office

Investigations

Thomas Chilcott, a Middle District of Florida fugitive who cheated customers out of more than \$2 million in a bogus investment scheme, was captured in Mexico based solely on information developed by the Medford Office. Responding to a tip from a local citizen, deputy Brad Dorn located Thomas Chilcott in Ensenada, Mexico. Chilcott was living under the alias “John Williams”. The information developed by Deputy Dorn was passed on to the U.S. Marshals Service Mexico Field Office at Mexico City, Mexico. Chilcott was arrested with the assistance of Mexican authorities on September 23, 2005. Chilcott was expelled from Mexico by Mexican immigration and was ultimately delivered to Federal Court at Ft. Myers, Florida to face 13 counts of mail and wire fraud, money laundering and tax evasion. Chilcott was convicted of similar charges in Colorado in the early 1980's in which he served 14 years in prison.

On August 11, 2005, deputies Brad Dorn and Rod Lowe, along with IRS agents, arrested four men indicted by a federal grand jury for charges of filing false documents with the IRS to harass government officials. Kenneth Bozarth, Varley Fitch and Duane Panter were arrested at their homes without incident. Michael Stemac was arrested at the U.S. Post Office at Trail, Oregon. The indictment alleges that the men falsely re-

ported under perjury that government officials had engaged in suspicious currency transactions in amounts ranging from \$105,000 to \$500 million. Intended to harass and retaliate against officials with whom they had disputes, the false reports sparked an IRS investigation.

If convicted, they face up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each charge. Since their initial release by the Court, Duane Panter has been arrested once and Michael Stemac twice by DUSM'S Dorn and Lowe for failure to comply with pre-trial release conditions.

Special Projects

The time has come for a much needed and anticipated security upgrade for the James A. Redden U.S. Courthouse. During a December, 1999 Court Security Committee meeting at Portland, a controlled parking area for the courthouse was unanimously endorsed by the Committee. Since 1999 the Medford Office has explored several different funding avenues as well as obtain estimates for a controlled parking area. The first estimate was completed during the summer of 2000 upon the recommendation of the GSA. Funding was ultimately approved and provided by the U.S. Marshals Service Central Courthouse Management Group in 2004. Through much effort this project is now a reality. Funding is in place and the project has been awarded to Pacific Tech Construction, Inc.



West side of James A. Redden Courthouse

Medford Sub-Office Cont'd

According to the GSA construction schedule, the secure parking project is estimated to be completed by July 31, 2006. With this enhancement, pedestrian and through traffic will be eliminated on the west side of the James A. Redden U.S. Courthouse. This will have a positive impact on both judicial and prisoner security.

As part of the same construction award, the U.S. Marshals Service fitness room is scheduled to be completed by the middle of February, 2006. Some enhancements for the fitness room include interlocking rubber flooring, mirrors, fresh paint and a telephone. If you would like any further details about these projects, please feel free to contact Supervisory Deputy Scott A. McLean at 541-776-4277 extension 3.

Prisoner Services

The Medford office had a total of 576 prisoner productions during FY 2005. Of that number, 138 were for initial appearances, detention and preliminary hearings. 377 prisoner productions were for sentencing, revocations, arraignments, status and other miscellaneous hearings ordered by the court. The final 61 productions were for prisoner medical and prisoner transfers within the district. With staff numbering only three, it takes much communication and cooperation with other agencies and U.S. Marshals Service personnel within the District of Oregon to assure the Medford office performs at the level it does.

Judicial Security

The Pioneer U.S. Courthouse formally opened its doors on December 12, 2005. On this date a formal re-dedication ceremony was held in "Portland's living room", the Pioneer Square. The ceremony was attended by 36 judges including 27 from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Pioneer Courthouse is the oldest surviving federal structure in the Pacific Northwest and the second oldest courthouse west of the Mississippi. First constructed in 1875 with a west wing addition in 1905, the courthouse was originally designed as a Federal Courthouse, Customs House and post office. For the last 35 years, the Pioneer Courthouse has been home to the U.S. Court of Appeals. The courthouse was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977.



Historical photo of Pioneer Courthouse

The oak woodwork on the walls of the courtroom and substantial woodwork in the chambers, hallways and main floor lobbies is more than 130 years old.

Inside the entry area of the courthouse are two cedar caryatids which flank the screening station. These two life-size figures were sculpted in 1884 for the Jacob Kamm building on SW First Avenue. The Kamm building was demolished and the two caryatids found a new resting place inside the Pioneer Courthouse in 1972.

Even the Marshals Service has a stake in the historical significance of this treasured building. The desk belonging to the first Marshal for the District of Oregon, Joseph Meek, who served from 1848-1853, is housed within the courthouse.

Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (GREAT)

The U.S. Marshals Service became the first federal agency to participate in the Portland Police Bureau led western region Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (GREAT). The GREAT Program is a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum. The program's primary objective is prevention and is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. GREAT lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems.

In October, Deputy Brandon McMullen started teaching the thirteen week GREAT program at Robert Gray Elementary School. He attended a two week instructor course put on by the Portland Police Bureau in August. Deputy McMullen is the first federal officer in the western region, and the second Deputy Marshal in the Marshal's Service to teach the GREAT program.



Deputy McMullen at Robert Gray Elementary