

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



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U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE OPERATION FALCON NETS 140 ARRESTS

SEATTLE – Following a five-year tradition of success in its national efforts, the U.S. Marshals Service locally conducted another successful Operation FALCON – (**F**ederal and **L**ocal **C**ops **O**rganized **N**ationally) in Clark, King and Pierce counties. Led by the U.S. Marshals, Operation FALCON 2009 netted 140 arrests within the Western District of Washington in June.

Operation FALCON 2009 – Western Washington combined the collective efforts of the U.S. Marshal sponsored Pacific Northwest Fugitive Apprehension Task Force and multiple law enforcement agencies in one of the area's largest-ever fugitive initiatives, focusing on capturing individuals wanted on felony charges including sexual predators and fugitives wanted for crimes of violence. Over the course of the operation, Deputy U.S. Marshals, teamed with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, arrested 140 fugitives, including 42 sex offenders and cleared 206 warrants in the area.

Among those arrested was Charles Jeffrey Davis, who was wanted by the Lacey Police Department for a 2001 alleged rape of a 16-year-old girl at the Lacey Transit Center. A state law passed in 2002 required authorities to collect DNA from anyone convicted of a felony. Based on a non-related conviction in 2008, Davis' DNA was collected and entered in the database. When Davis' DNA profile was compared against those in a database of unsolved cases, it matched the DNA of the suspect in the 2001 rape case. Davis was located and taken into custody at a Tacoma treatment center.

Michael Faatafa, was wanted by the Seattle Police Department for one count of rape of a child 1st degree and 2 counts child molestation 1st degree. PNWFAT investigators had been looking for Faatafa since August 2008. Information was developed that led investigators to an apartment complex in Lakewood. Based on this information, Faatafa was subsequently taken into custody on June 8. At the time of his arrest, Faatafa was in the company of an adult female and a minor child.

Darius Dontae Wilson, was wanted by the Washington State Department of Corrections for escape from community custody related to an assault charge and also drug possession and firearms violation charges out of Thurston County. Wilson is also a documented member and enforcer for the Maniac

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Crips gang in the Olympia area. Working along side the Lacey Police Department and the ATF, PNWFAT personnel developed information that led them to a residence in the Olympia area where Wilson was located and eventually taken into custody.

William Joseph Wentz, was wanted by the Clark County Sheriff's Office for Failure to register as a sex offender. Wentz was also wanted by Clatsop County (Oregon) on 2002 charges relating to a 1st degree attempted sexual abuse. PNWFAT personnel along with Career Criminal Apprehension Team (Vancouver, Wash.) investigators located and arrested Wentz at a residence in Kelso on June 8.

"The goal of Operation FALCON is simple – to make communities safer," said John F. Clark, Director of the U.S. Marshals Service. "Each time we wrap up a FALCON operation in any location, there are less dangerous individuals – and fewer threats to the community – than before we arrived there. That is very gratifying."

Operation FALCON 2009 – Western Washington consisted of approximately 65 federal, state and local law enforcement officers, making up nine separate arrest teams working throughout the operation. Each participating local officer was sworn in as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal immediately prior to the start of this operation. This special authority empowers them to cross traditional lines of jurisdiction to track down and arrest targeted fugitives throughout the operation.

"The cooperation and the excitement of all the law enforcement agencies in the Western District of Washington coming together to track down and arrest all these wanted fugitives is incredible," U.S. Marshal Joe Hawe said. "The U.S. Marshals and local law enforcement, at all levels, is dedicated to the protection of our citizens and our communities. The arrests made during FALCON 2009 only reinforce that dedication and puts the criminal element on notice that we will seek them out and bring them to justice."

Agencies contributing to Operation FALCON 2009 - Western Washington were the Clark County Sheriff's Office, King County Sheriff's Office, Pierce County Sheriff's Office, Seattle Police Department, Tacoma Police Department, Vancouver Police Department and the Washington State Department of Corrections. Federal Agencies participating included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Federal Air Marshal Service, Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Since its inception in 2005, Operation FALCON has made more than 91,086 arrests and cleared more than 117,874 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> or U.S. Marshal's Western Washington Web site at www.usmarshals.gov/district/wa-w

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