



## Fact Sheet

# U.S. Marshals Service

2017

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service is the nation's oldest and most versatile federal law enforcement agency.
- ▶ Federal marshals have served the country since 1789, often in unseen but critical ways.
- ▶ The Marshals Service occupies a uniquely central position in the federal justice system. It is the enforcement arm of the federal courts, involved in virtually every federal law enforcement initiative.
- ▶ Presidentially appointed U.S. marshals direct the activities of 94 districts — one for each federal judicial district.
- ▶ Approximately 3,709 deputy U.S. marshals and criminal investigators form the backbone of the agency.
- ▶ The duties of the U.S. Marshals Service include protecting the federal judiciary, apprehending federal fugitives, managing and selling seized assets acquired by criminals through illegal activities, housing and transporting federal prisoners and operating the Witness Security Program.

## Judicial Security

- ▶ Since 1789, the U.S. Marshals Service has been the enforcement arm of the federal courts and has been responsible for protecting the federal judicial process.
- ▶ The agency ensures the safe and secure conduct of judicial proceedings at approximately 719 facilities in 94 federal court districts and provides protection for federal judges, other court officials, witnesses, jurors, the visiting public and prisoners.
- ▶ The Marshals assess, investigate and respond to threats against the judiciary 24/7 through the national Threat Management Center.
- ▶ The Marshals also manage contracted security services inside federal court facilities, which are funded by the judicial branch's court security appropriation. The agency oversees the daily operation and management of security services performed by approximately 5,200 court security officers within the 94 U.S. District Courts and 12 circuits of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

## Fugitive Operations

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service is the federal government's primary agency for fugitive investigations.
- ▶ The Marshals have the broadest arrest authority among federal law enforcement agencies.
- ▶ The Marshals provide assistance to state and local agencies in locating and apprehending their most violent fugitives.
- ▶ The Marshals arrest 242 fugitives every day on average.
- ▶ U.S. Marshals task forces combine the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest the most dangerous fugitives.
- ▶ Task force officers are state and local police officers who receive special deputations with the Marshals. While on a task force, these officers can exercise U.S. Marshals authorities, such as crossing jurisdictional lines.
- ▶ U.S. Marshals work with the international law enforcement community to apprehend fugitives abroad as well as to seek foreign fugitives living or residing in the U.S.
- ▶ The U.S. Marshals "15 Most Wanted" fugitive program draws attention to some of the country's most dangerous and high-profile fugitives. These fugitives tend to be career criminals with histories of violence, and they pose a significant threat to public safety.

## Asset Forfeiture

- ▶ The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program is a key component of the federal government's law enforcement efforts to combat major criminal activity by disrupting and dismantling illegal enterprises, depriving criminals of the proceeds of illegal activity, deterring crime and restoring property to victims.
- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service plays a critical role in identifying and evaluating assets that represent the proceeds of crime as well as efficiently managing and selling assets seized and forfeited by DOJ.
- ▶ The Marshals Service manages a wide array of assets, including real estate, commercial businesses, cash, financial instruments, vehicles, jewelry, art, antiques, collectibles, vessels and aircraft.
- ▶ Proceeds generated from asset sales are used to operate the program, compensate victims and support various law enforcement efforts.

## Prisoner Operations

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service is responsible for the care and custody of federal prisoners from the time of their arrest by a federal agency (or remand by a judge) until they are acquitted, committed to their designated Federal Bureau of Prisons institution or otherwise ordered released from Marshals custody.
- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service ensures the safe, secure and humane care of prisoners in its custody.
- ▶ The Marshals provide housing, medical care and transportation for federal prisoners throughout the U.S. and its territories and escorts prisoners to and from their court appearances.
- ▶ Individuals arrested for federal offenses are brought before a U.S. magistrate or U.S. district court judge for their initial court appearances. The court determines whether prisoners are to be released on bond or remanded to the custody of the Marshals to await trial.
- ▶ The Marshals Service does not own or operate detention facilities but partners with state and local governments to house approximately 63 percent of its prisoners. Additionally, the agency houses approximately 18 percent of its prisoner population in private detention facilities and approximately 18 percent in Federal Bureau of Prison facilities.

## Prisoner Transportation

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals' Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System transports prisoners between judicial districts and correctional institutions in the U.S., including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
- ▶ JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world — handling 1,051 movements per day on average.
- ▶ JPATS transports prisoners in federal custody between federal judicial districts to hearings, court appearances and detention facilities.
- ▶ JPATS operates a fleet of aircraft to move prisoners over long distances more economically and with higher security than commercial airlines.
- ▶ JPATS is the only government-operated, regularly-scheduled passenger airline in the nation.

## Witness Security

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service operates the federal Witness Security Program, sometimes referred to as the "Witness Protection Program."
- ▶ The Witness Security Program provides for the security, safety and health of government witnesses and their authorized family members, whose lives are in danger as a result of their cooperation with the U.S. government.
- ▶ Witnesses and their families typically get new identities with documentation.
- ▶ The Witness Security Program has successfully protected an estimated 18,750 participants from intimidation and retribution since the program began in 1971.