



FUGITIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Criminal Investigations

8.9 FIFTEEN MOST WANTED PROGRAM/MAJOR CASES

- A. Purpose:** This directive sets forth the United States Marshals Service (USMS) policy and procedures for the Fifteen Most Wanted and Major Case Programs, including the submission requirements, criteria, media coverage, and reporting responsibilities.
- B. Authority:** The Director's authority to direct and supervise all activities of the USMS is set forth in 28 USC 561(g) and 28 CFR 0.111. The authority to investigate fugitive matters, effect arrests, protect the judiciary, and execute lawful writs, court orders, and process is set forth in 28 USC 566.
- C. Policy**
1. **Qualifications for Fifteen Most Wanted Program:** A Fifteen Most Wanted Case, may include Class I, Class II, federal cases, state/local cases, or international cases and must meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. A career criminal with a history of violence and weapons convictions. Violence included charges or convictions for murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, assault, battery, sexual assault, firearms offenses, arson, and child molestation.
 - b. A major drug kingpin, including fugitives delegated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, fugitives adopted by the Presidential Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, and fugitives identified as members or associates of a violent gang.
 - c. A fugitive who has committed a crime which by its nature has gained national or international attention, district or regional attention; or which has been identified as a special interest case by the Investigative Operations Division (IOD) or the Department of Justice.
 - d. A significant state, local or other Federal agency case which has been formally referred to the USMS for investigation.
 2. **Qualifications for Major Case Program:** A Major Case may include Class I, Class II, federal cases, state/local cases, or international cases and must meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. A career criminal with a history of violence or weapons convictions. Violence included charges or convictions for murder, attempted murder, robbery, manslaughter, assault, battery, sexual assault, firearms offenses, arson, and child molestation, abduction, and other serious crimes against persons.
 - b. A major narcotics distributor or manufacturer and those fugitives associated with violent gangs or significant criminal organizations.
 - c. A fugitive that has gained district, regional, national, or international attention; or who has been identified as a special interest case by IOD or the Department of Justice.

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- d. A significant state, local, or other Federal agency case where apprehension authority has been delegated to the USMS.
 - e. Any physical custody escape (walkaways are not included).
3. **Review and Approval:** Proposals for Fifteen Most Wanted cases will be reviewed by Chief of Investigative Operations and forwarded to the Assistant Director of IOD for final approval. Proposals for the Major Case Program will be reviewed by IOD Senior Inspectors and forwarded to either the Chief of the Domestic Investigations Branch or the Chief of the International Investigations Branch for final approval.

D. Procedures

1. **Fifteen Most Wanted**

- a. Fugitive Biography: The case deputy will forward a brief biography on the fugitive to an IOD Senior Inspector and will include the following information:
 - (1) Criminal history/WIN Report
 - (2) All outstanding warrants and the respective responsible agency
 - (3) Photographs
 - (4) Laminated fingerprint cards (2)
 - (5) Brief summary of the current status of the case and investigative efforts
 - (6) Available local police reports and news articles
- b. Review and Approval: Cases will be reviewed by Chief of Investigative Operations and forwarded to the Assistant Director of IOD for final approval and inclusion in the Fifteen Most Wanted Program.

2. **Major Cases**

- a. Initial Request: The case deputy will contact a Senior Inspector for the respective region within IOD and request that a particular case be reviewed for inclusion in the Major Case Program.
- b. Review and Approval: Requests will be reviewed by a Senior Inspector and forwarded to either the Chief of the Domestic Investigations Branch or the International Investigations Branch for final approval.

3. **Removal of Cases from Fifteen Most Wanted/Major Case Program:** The Assistant Director has the authority to remove cases from the Fifteen Most Wanted Program. Either the Chief of the Domestic Investigations Branch or the Chief of the International Investigations Branch has the authority to remove cases from the Major Case Program.

E. Responsibilities

1. **Fifteen Most Wanted/Major Case Program**

- a. Assistant Director, IOD (or Designee): Responsible for overall management of the case, including funding requests, allocation of staffing resources, authorizations for travel, and the establishment of any ad hoc task forces.
- b. Senior Inspector, IOD: Responsible for managing and directing all major case activity as necessary, including submission of weekly investigative updates for executive briefing.
- c. District Warrant Supervisor or Case Deputy: Responsible for submitting weekly

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investigative status reports (via WIN/JDIS) to an IOD Senior Inspector. Responsible for submitting all collateral leads via WIN/JDIS. The district remains responsible for ensuring that all photos and fingerprint images are imported into WIN/JDIS.

- d. Ad Hoc Task Force Supervisor: In the event, an ad hoc task force has been established, a Task Force Supervisor may be designated by a Senior Inspector to submit daily investigative updates to IOD.

2. **Major Case Program**

- a. Assistant Director, IOD (or Designee): Responsible for the overall management of the case, including funding requests, allocation of staffing resources, and authorizations within IOD.
- b. District Warrant Supervisor or Case Deputy: Responsible for submitting monthly investigative status reports (via WIN/JDIS) to an IOD Senior Inspector. Responsible for submitting all collateral leads via WIN/JDIS. The district remains responsible for ensuring that all photos and fingerprint images are imported into WIN/JDIS.
- c. Ad Hoc Task Force Supervisor: In the event, an ad hoc task force has been established, a Task Force Supervisor may be designated by a Senior Inspector to submit daily investigative updates to IOD as necessary.

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