



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Nov. 4, 2017

Contact: DUSM Milton Ramirez

Eastern District of LA, New Orleans, 504-628-6313

USMS Office of Public Affairs, 202-307-9065

## **Operation Boo Dat: Multi-Agency Sweep Targets Convicted Sex Offenders on Halloween to Keep Children Safe**

**NEW ORLEANS** – Operation Boo Dat commenced Oct. 23 with teams of deputy U.S. marshals and local and state law enforcement partners conducting sex offender compliance checks and arresting fugitive sex offenders in Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

This operation focuses on ensuring sex offenders comply with legislative requirements and guidelines that mandate they register with law enforcement agencies. Moreover, during these checks, officials ensure sex offenders are not participating in Halloween activities such as decorating their homes, dressing up in costumes, or handing out candy.

Approximately 80 home compliance checks were conducted and **11 (TBD)** convicted sex offenders were arrested for failure to register and various violations.

One of those arrested during the operation, Kevin D. Barnes, has a previous conviction for sex offenses involving an 11- year-old female victim.

Another offender, John Major, also arrested during the operation, has at least three prior sex-based convictions in the New Orleans metro area. He was convicted in 1992 of two counts of carnal knowledge of a juvenile. He was again convicted in 2008 of molestation of a juvenile and attempted aggravated rape. One of his victims was an 11-year-old female. New Orleans Police records also show that he was arrested and convicted in 1988 for attempted aggravated rape.

Also during the operation Louisiana State Police located during a traffic stop in the French Quarter Halloween night a sex offender covered with face paint to the point that he was not recognizable – a clear violation of his compliance restrictions. State police took appropriate action at the time and the matter is under further investigation by LSP for possible registry violations.

The Adam Walsh Act of 2006 designates the U.S. Marshals Service as the lead federal agency responsible for investigating violations of sex offenders who fail to register. This provides a valuable tool enabling the U.S. Marshals Service to assist local and state jurisdictions in locating and apprehending fugitive sex offenders.

“The Marshals Service is committed to keeping our communities safe by taking predators off the streets,” said U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana Genny May. “We want to send a clear message to fugitive sex offenders -- we will be out there and we’ve instituted an aggressive enforcement strategy that will bring us to your doorstep if you fail to comply with your registration requirements.”

The U.S. Marshals Service, Eastern District of Louisiana, has a team of dedicated criminal investigators who work with local and state authorities on a continuous basis conducting fugitive sex offender investigations. Operation Boo Dat is specifically conducted for the safety of trick-or-treaters and their families on Halloween, but it is merely one of numerous sex offender operations conducted by the U.S. Marshals Service along with local and state law justice partners throughout the year. Operation Boo Dat continues through Nov. 4.

[www.usmarshals.gov](http://www.usmarshals.gov)

###

OPERATION  
**BOO DAT**



U.S. Marshals Service  
Eastern District of Louisiana  
New Orleans

**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
504-822-1111 GNO  
crimestoppersgno.org

