

PROTECTING OUR COLLECTIVE INTERESTS!

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Our nation's Sheriffs and the United States Marshals Service (USMS) have enjoyed an outstanding partnership since the USMS was created in 1789. With Sheriffs having been around since the early 1600s, the newcomer Marshals stood to learn a thing or two from the often only law enforcement officers of the day. As times have changed, the outstanding relationship between America's oldest Federal law enforcement agency, and America's first law officers, has continued to flourish. The partnership has allowed both the Sheriffs and the Marshals to be the leaders in the protection of people and property in our great land.

The USMS often relies on Sheriffs for a number of resources. This includes facilities to house two-thirds of the USMS' almost 56,000 (pre-sentenced) prisoners currently in federal custody. To accomplish this, the USMS working with the respective Sheriff, enter into what is referred to as an Inter-Governmental Agreement, or "IGA". An IGA is an "at will" agreement between the federal government and the local jurisdiction.

The funding for housing federal prisoners is overseen by the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee (OFDT). The OFDT and the USMS work collectively to ensure responsible and appropriate spending of federal detention

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funding. The IGA business process is initiated online through the OFDT's e-IGA website. You can access the site at www.usdoj.gov/ofdt/eiga.

The agreement is then negotiated by the Sheriff or County government representative and the USMS' Prisoner Operations Division, which is responsible for the Marshals Services' nationwide detention management program.

Recently, the USMS Prisoner Operations Division has identified an area of concern. Some Sheriffs have been approached by private firms, who, for a substantial retainer, pledge to petition U.S. Congressional members for new or increased jail rates with the USMS. Often times these firms seek to obtain a commission on any rate increase received. This is not necessary, and the fees charged by these firms take critical funding from County governments needlessly.

The USMS negotiates only with the Sheriff, their designee within the Sheriff's office, or another authorized County representative. The USMS will not discuss IGA terms with a private third party representative. In addition, due to procurement regulations, the USMS will not negotiate an IGA or jail rates directly with a private company which operates a county jail on behalf of the local jurisdiction.

The United States Marshals Service stands committed to our partnership with the nation's Sheriffs! For questions or concerns regarding an IGA, the USMS Prisoner Operations Division can be contacted at (202) 307-5100.

To find your local USMS district office, visit our website at www.usmarshals.gov. ☘

