

United States Marshals Service



FACT SHEET Prisoner Services

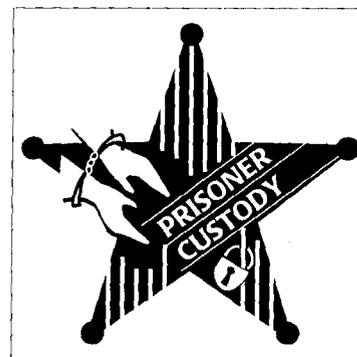
The Marshals Service assumes custody of individuals arrested by all federal agencies and is responsible for the housing and transportation of prisoners from the time they are brought into federal custody until they are either acquitted or incarcerated.

Prisoner Custody

Each day, the Marshals Service has in its custody over 23,000 unsentenced prisoners in federal, state and local jails throughout the nation.

Individuals who are arrested or detained for a violation of a federal statute must be brought before a magistrate or judge for an initial hearing. After the hearing, prisoners may be released or remanded to the custody of the Marshals Service. If convicted, it is the Marshals Service's responsibility to deliver the prisoner to an institution to serve the imposed sentence.

In order to house all these prisoners, the Marshals Service contracts with approximately 1,000 state and local governments to rent jail space for federal prisoners. Nearly two-thirds of the prisoners in Marshals Service custody are detained in state and local facilities. In return for guaranteed space for federal prisoners, the Marshals Service provides Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) funds to improve local jail facilities and expand jail capacities. Since 1982, the Marshals Service has awarded more



than \$209 million to counties and municipalities under CAP agreements, resulting in the provision of more than 10,300 guaranteed spaces for federal prisoners.

The responsibility for the detention of prisoners is challenging in its diversity and complexity. Deputy Marshals must resolve issues such as: arranging for the hospitalization and care of prisoners with terminal illnesses or contagious diseases; finding lodging for dependent children of prisoners and alien material witnesses; and deciding whether the Marshals Service will grant the transfer of prisoners to state authorities pursuant to state writs.

Prisoner Transportation

In 1995, the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) was initiated. This system merged the air fleets of the Marshals Service and the Immigration and Naturalization

Service (INS). The merger created a more efficient and effective system for transporting both prisoners and criminal aliens. Operated by the Marshals Service, the JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world, handling hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners between judicial districts and correctional institutions.

On average, more than 180,000 prisoner and alien movements a year are completed by the Marshals Service via coordinated air and ground systems. Most of these prisoners are transported aboard Service-owned aircraft and vehicles.

Since 1984, the Marshals Service has acquired a fleet of aircraft that includes three Boeing 727s, a DC-9 and several smaller jets. These planes are used to move thousands of prisoners for the Marshals Service, INS and the Bureau of Prisons, as well as state and local governments and the U.S. military.

Many of the airplanes were acquired at no cost through the Government Surplus Property Program and the Marshals Service's Asset Forfeiture Program.

The JPATS is the only government-operated, scheduled passenger airline in the nation. It serves 40 cities, and when compared to commercial airlines, it moves prisoners cheaper and with higher security.

Moving thousands of prisoners and criminal aliens each year requires intense security precautions and careful coordination. Deputy Marshals are stationed throughout the aircraft, and prisoners wear handcuffs and leg irons in the close confines of the aircraft cabin.

Ground security is provided by Deputy Marshals and BOP guards at each airport transfer point. If prisoners cannot be moved in one day, they are



housed overnight at BOP facilities. Careful scheduling is required to ensure that each prisoner appears in court at the designated time.

In an effort to assist state and local law enforcement agencies, the Marshals Service transports non-federal prisoners when space is available on its aircraft.

For example, a fugitive wanted for trial in one locale may have been apprehended in another, distant jurisdiction. However, local authorities are often reluctant to seek extradition of felons because of high transportation and personnel costs. The Marshals Service offers state and local law enforcement agencies a safe and effective prisoner transportation system at about one-fourth the normal cost.

Prisoner Medical Services

The Marshals Service staffs a Public Health Service officer who categorizes the types and severity of prisoner health problems, recommends appropriate transportation methods, and looks at ways to lower prisoner medical costs.

This officer uses vast medical resources to find available, locked-down medical wards to treat Marshals Service prisoners — thus avoiding the need to hire guards or post Deputy Marshals while prisoners undergo treatment.

— United States Marshals Service —