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**United States
Secret Service**

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR KEITH PREWITT ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RETIRE FROM U.S. SECRET SERVICE

(Washington, D.C.) – Deputy Director Keith L. Prewitt, a veteran of 29 years with the United States Secret Service, has announced plans to retire effective April 7, 2012.

“It’s truly been an honor to work with the dedicated men and women of the Secret Service and serve as Director Sullivan’s deputy,” said Prewitt. “It’s been a privilege to contribute to the rich tradition and history of the most respected law enforcement agency in the world.”

As the deputy director, Prewitt’s responsibilities include oversight of the agency’s daily operations, including approximately 7,000 personnel and \$1.6 billion budget. He also develops and implements policy as it relates to the agency’s investigative and protective mission.

“Keith’s contribution to the agency has been invaluable,” said Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan. “His experience, judgment and management skills have brought our agency much growth and success through the years. His outstanding leadership and friendship have meant a lot to me.”

Since 2008, Deputy Director Prewitt oversaw the protection of the U.S. President and Vice President and visiting heads of state. Also, he led the Secret Service’s investigative mission enforcing counterfeiting laws that protect U.S. currency; as well as criminal investigations into a wide range of financial and computer-based crimes.

From special agent to a senior supervisor, he has been involved in some of the most historic global events for nearly three decades. This includes Presidential Inaugurations, United Nations General Assemblies, political conventions, multi-national summits and many other international diplomatic events.

As a member of the Secret Service’s senior leadership team, Prewitt held positions as the assistant director of Protective Research, assistant director of Human Resources and Training and prior to that as the assistant director of the Office of Government and Public Affairs.

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Prewitt is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and a former Memphis City Police officer. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology/criminal justice from Memphis State University and an MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Management. He is a board member of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board.

He began his career with the Secret Service in 1983 as a special agent in the Memphis Field Office. He progressed steadily through the ranks of the agency; his subsequent career assignments included duty in the Washington and Chicago Field Offices, the Vice Presidential Protective Division and the Liaison Division.

He has received numerous awards and accolades during his distinguished career. In May 2011, Prewitt was honored by the U.S. Senate for his work overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Secret Service. Also in 2011, Prewitt was recognized by the Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service for enhancing the performance of federal agencies and employees as well as his commitment to service and excellence. He has been honored with the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Diversity and the Meritorious and Distinguished Presidential Rank Awards.

"It is very difficult to leave a career of public service," said Prewitt. "The thing I will miss the most is working with highly dedicated people you know you can count on – people who epitomize service before self."

Upon retiring from government service, Prewitt will become the senior vice president and chief operating officer for Harvard Protect, a subsidiary of Harvard Inc., New York, New York. In his new position, he will be responsible for security at corporate campuses, commercial office spaces, education facilities, banking, financial institutions and industrial facilities nationwide.

About the United States Secret Service

The U.S. Secret Service was originally founded in 1865 for the purpose of suppressing the counterfeiting of U. S. currency. Over the years it has grown into one of the premier law enforcement organizations charged with investigating financial crimes. The agency has taken a lead role in the emerging arena of cyber crime, establishing partnerships with the public and private sectors to address such issues as protection of critical infrastructure, Internet intrusions and associated fraud.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For questions concerning this release, please contact the U.S. Secret Service Office of Government and Public Affairs at 202-406-5708.