



## Fact Sheet

# U.S. Marshals Service

2013

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service is the nation's oldest and most versatile federal law enforcement agency.
- ▶ Federal marshals have served the country since 1789, often in unseen but critical ways.
- ▶ The Marshals Service occupies a uniquely central position in the federal justice system. It is the enforcement arm of the federal courts, involved in virtually every federal law enforcement initiative.
- ▶ Presidentially appointed, U.S. marshals direct the activities of 94 districts — one for each federal judicial district.
- ▶ Approximately 3,925 deputy U.S. marshals and criminal investigators form the backbone of the agency.
- ▶ The duties of the U.S. Marshals Service include protecting the federal judiciary, apprehending federal fugitives, managing and selling seized assets acquired by criminals through illegal activities, housing and transporting federal prisoners and operating the Witness Security Program.
- ▶ The agency's headquarters is just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

## Judicial Security

- ▶ Since 1789, the U.S. Marshals Service has been the enforcement arm of the federal courts and has been responsible for protecting the federal judicial process.
- ▶ The agency ensures the safe and secure conduct of judicial proceedings at more than 400 locations in 94 federal court districts and provides protection for federal judges, U.S. attorneys, assistant U.S. attorneys, judicial branch employees, jurors, the visiting public and prisoners.
- ▶ The Threat Management Center provides a national 24/7 response capability to review and respond to threats against the judiciary.
- ▶ Experienced former law enforcement officers work as Court Security Officers. These contracted CSOs receive limited deputations as special deputy U.S. marshals. CSOs detect and intercept weapons and other prohibited items from entering federal courthouses.

## Fugitive Operations

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service is the federal government's primary agency for fugitive investigations.
- ▶ U.S. Marshals apprehend more federal fugitives than all other law enforcement agencies *combined*.
- ▶ The Service arrests 337 fugitives *every day* on average.
- ▶ U.S. Marshals task forces combine the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest the most dangerous fugitives.
- ▶ Task force officers are state and local police officers who receive special deputations with the U.S. Marshals. While on a task force, these officers can exercise U.S. Marshals authorities, such as being able to cross jurisdictional lines.
- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service works with the international law enforcement community to apprehend fugitives abroad as well as to seek foreign fugitives living or residing in the United States
- ▶ The Marshals provide assistance, expertise and training on fugitive matters to federal, state, local and international agencies.
- ▶ The agency has four foreign field offices in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Mexico. U.S. Marshals work closely with law enforcement agencies along the borders of Mexico and Canada and with the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service. The agency also holds key positions at Interpol.

## Asset Forfeiture

- ▶ The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program has become a key part of the federal government's efforts to combat major criminal activity by stripping criminals of their ill-gotten gains.
- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service plays a critical role by managing and selling assets seized and forfeited by federal law enforcement agencies nationwide.
- ▶ Proceeds generated from asset sales are used to compensate victims, supplement funding for law enforcement initiatives and support community programs.
- ▶ The Marshals Service manages various types of assets, including real estate, vehicles, commercial businesses, cash, financial instruments, jewelry, art, antiques, collectibles, vessels and aircraft.
- ▶ The Marshals manage the distribution of equitable sharing proceeds to state and local law enforcement agencies that participated in investigations leading to forfeiture as well as payments to victims of crime and innocent third parties.

## Prisoner Operations

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service is responsible for the safe and secure confinement, care and transportation of federal prisoners from the time of court-ordered custody until either their acquittal or their conviction and delivery to the Federal Bureau of Prisons to serve their sentence.
- ▶ Once ordered into custody by a U.S. District Court, the U.S. Marshals Service assumes responsibility for all prisoners charged with a federal offense, regardless of which federal, state or local law enforcement agency made the arrest.
- ▶ All individuals arrested on a federal offense are brought before a U.S. magistrate or U.S. district court judge for an initial court appearance. The court determines if they are to be released on bond or remanded into the custody of the Marshals to await trial. If convicted at the conclusion of the case, the U.S. Marshals Service delivers prisoners to the designated Federal Bureau of Prisons institution to serve their sentence.
- ▶ The Marshals Service contracts with approximately 1,800 state and local governments to rent jail space. On average, about 80 percent of the prisoners are detained in state, local and private facilities — the remaining are housed in various Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities.

## Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System, sometimes called "Con Air," moves prisoners between judicial districts, correctional institutions and foreign countries.
- ▶ JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world — handling about 771 requests a day.
- ▶ JPATS transports prisoners in federal custody between judicial districts to hearings, court appearances and detention facilities.
- ▶ JPATS is the only government-operated, regularly-scheduled passenger airline in the nation.

## Witness Security

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service operates the federal Witness Security Program, sometimes referred to as the "Witness Protection Program."
- ▶ The Witness Security Program provides for the security, safety and health of government witnesses and their authorized family members, whose lives are in danger as a result of their cooperation with the U.S. government.
- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service provides 24-hour protection to all witnesses while they are in a high-threat environment, including pretrial conferences, trial testimonials and other court appearances.
- ▶ Witnesses and their families typically get new identities with authentic documentation.