

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION

FALCON
FEDERAL AND LOCAL COPS ORGANIZED NATIONALLY
II



APRIL 17-23, 2006

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OVER 1,100 SEXUAL PREDATORS ARRESTED DURING U.S. MARSHALS "OPERATION FALCON II"

Phoenix, Ariz. – Just one year after the United States Marshals Service (USMS) announced the apprehension of more than 10,000 violent fugitives as part of "Operation FALCON" ("Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally"), the USMS has done it again. Earlier today, U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and Marshals Service Director John F. Clark revealed that more than 9,000 fugitives, including 1,102 fugitives wanted for committing felony sex offenses, violent sexual assaults, and failure to register as sex offenders, had been arrested during Operation FALCON II, which took place from April 17 to April 23. More than 240 fugitives were arrested in the local area.

Over the course of the seven-day operation, Deputy United States Marshals, in cooperation with hundreds of federal, state, and local law enforcement partners in 27 states, primarily west of the Mississippi, and the territories of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands arrested more than 9,000 violent fugitives. Here in the Valley, one of those fugitives was David Ramirez Jr, who was wanted by Maricopa County for Probation Violation. Ramirez has been on lifetime probation since his 2003 conviction for Sexual Conduct Against a Minor. A team of Deputy U.S. Marshals from the District of Arizona and state and local law enforcement officers from the area arrested Ramirez in South Phoenix on April 21, 2006.

"Like the original FALCON, this operation was an enormous success," said David P. Gonzales, United States Marshal for the District of Arizona. "The capture of Ramirez and the hundreds of others we have arrested across the country demonstrate the power of law enforcement when we partner up with our federal, state, and local counterparts."

Like last year, Operation FALCON II coincided with the Department of Justice's "National Crime Victims' Rights Week." In announcing the results of the fugitive initiative, Attorney General Gonzales praised the efforts of both the Marshals Service and the hundreds of participating agencies, noting that "the significance of holding it during this week was that it allows the victims and their families to find some element of closure. Just as we recognize the survivors for their courage, we applaud all of the law enforcement officers for their dedication."

In the District of Arizona, more than 240 fugitives were arrested. Eight fugitives whose original charges involved sexual offenses, were arrested for probation violations to include failure to register as sex offenders. Deputy Marshals and local task force officers also arrested 91 individuals wanted on narcotics charges, 56 for immigration offenses, and 5 for weapons violations. During the operation deputies seized, 6 guns, including one AK-47 assault rifle and several boxes of ammunition, over 1 pound of marijuana, various quantities of methamphetamine, and uncovered a meth lab.

Director Clark reinforced the sentiments of both the Attorney General and Marshal Gonzales. "It is fitting that the theme of this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week is 'Strength in Unity,'" stated the Director. "Operation FALCON II does justice to this theme by honoring the victims and their families who have suffered indignities at the hands of violent criminals. The force-multiplier effect of the Marshals Service working together with thousands of our federal, state, and local partners has, once again, produced results that are unmatched in law enforcement."

Nationally, Deputy U.S. Marshals and their law enforcement partners arrested a total of 9,037 fugitives, and cleared more than 10,419 felony warrants during the seven-day operation. Task force members arrested 462 fugitives wanted for a variety of violent sex offenses, 311 fugitives for other felony sex crimes, 783 unregistered sex offenders, 73 homicide arrests with 87 warrants cleared, and 163 documented gang members. They also cleared 2,941 drug cases, and seized 111 guns, more than \$120,265.00 in cash, and more than 91 kilograms of narcotics.

Fugitives whose cases were adopted by Operation FALCON II were wanted by the Marshals Service, other federal agencies, United States Attorneys, and courts at every level of government. Because the highest priority was given to sexual predators and unregistered convicted sex offenders, the USMS entered into a partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which provided high-profile cases and facilitated contacts with state agencies that maintain sex offender registries. The USMS also worked closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to ensure maximum support for cases involving narcotics and weapons.

Robert J. Finan II, the Marshals Service's Assistant Director for Investigative Services, expressed his deep appreciation to officers from every agency that participated in Operation FALCON. "I applaud the achievements of every Deputy Marshal, police officer, detective, trooper, investigator, deputy sheriff, and special agent who hit the street virtually around-the-clock for seven days," said Finan. "To many of these men and women, they were just doing their jobs. But for the communities across the country that benefited from this operation, 'just doing their jobs' made a world of difference."

PHOTOS/VIDEO AVAILABLE

The Marshals Service Office of Public Affairs has photos of actual arrests during Operation FALCON II available to press at www.usmarshals.gov/falcon2, as well as fact sheets on arrests nationwide and in each of the agency's participating. A ten-minute B-roll video package for broadcasters will be available for satellite distribution on April 27 at 2:30 -2:45 pm EDT (11:30 – 11:45 am PDT) at C-Band coordinate IA 6 T-17 Downlink Frequency 4040 V 93 degrees WL, and at 6:30 – 6:45 pm EDT (3:30 – 3:45 pm PDT), and 10:00 – 10:15 pm EDT (7:00 – 7:15 pm PDT) at C-Band coordinate IA 6 T-16 Downlink Frequency 4020 H 93 degrees WL.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A complete list of all of the federal, state, and local agencies that participated in Operation FALCON II is available at the USMS website at www.usmarshals.gov/falcon2

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ARREST HIGHLIGHTS ARIZONA

JOHNNY LEE JOHNSON:

On April 17, 2006, Johnny Lee Johnson was arrested in Phoenix, on a Maricopa County felony probation violation warrant. Johnson has an extensive criminal history including; aggravated assault with deadly weapon, aggravated assault on a minor, and cruelty to children.

LUIS LOPEZ:

On April 18, 2006, Luis Lopez was arrested at his house in Phoenix, for probation violation; original charge was theft. He was arrested in bed with his girlfriend next to him. Next to his bed was a loaded AK-47 Assault Rifle with two fully loaded magazines. The weapon was seized, and Lopez will face additional federal firearms charges. His criminal history includes arrests for assault, burglary, theft of means of transportation, making threats, and damage to property.

JARED DANIEL LOSEY:

U.S. Marshals arrested Jared Losey, 23, Saturday, April 22, 2006, on West Miracle Mile in Tucson on a federal warrant for a Violation of Pretrial Release (original charge: Smuggling Aliens). Upon his arrest investigators suspected the van Losey was driving contained a mobile methamphetamine lab. U.S. Marshals and Tucson Police immediately secured the scene and requested assistance from the Counter Narcotics Alliance. Once on the scene, officers of the Counter Narcotics Alliance evacuated the surrounding area and obtained a search warrant for the van. The subsequent search revealed an operating methamphetamine lab containing various dangerous precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Additionally, LOSEY was in the possession of two (2) debit cards belonging to other individuals which were seized and turned over to Tucson Police for investigation. Losey was booked on the federal warrant and may face state charges in connection with the mobile methamphetamine lab and possession of the debit cards.

