



INTERPOL WASHINGTON

U.S. NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU (USNCB)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FY 2025 Congressional Submission

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I. Overview for INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau

A. Introduction

Established in 1969, INTERPOL Washington is the United States National Central Bureau (USNCB) and designated representative to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on behalf of the Attorney General, pursuant to statute and regulation. Co-managed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), it serves as the official point of contact and coordination for all INTERPOL matters in the United States. Its vital and unique role in facilitating international law enforcement cooperation between the United States and 195 other INTERPOL member countries encompasses a wide range of activities and responsibilities that directly support the Administration's efforts to combat all aspects of transnational crime and terrorism. Even for U.S. law enforcement agencies with a well-developed international presence, the USNCB's exclusive information sharing authorities, capabilities, and resources are *complementary* to their missions, not competitive or duplicative.

The USNCB's ability to continuously and expeditiously share INTERPOL's global criminal investigative intelligence and information is indispensable to the achievement of its objectives. To that end, it has strategically leveraged existing national information sharing environments to make INTERPOL data available to the more than 18,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies for use in their respective missions, regardless of size, jurisdiction, or location. In addition to having extended this access to the individual officer or investigator working at street level, the USNCB has also established integrated information sharing platforms that are now enabling key interagency partners to conduct hundreds of millions of queries of INTERPOL data annually for purposes that include terrorist watch listing and screening against illicit international travel.

Developed using tools and authorities available to every National Central Bureau (NCB), the USNCB's integrated information sharing model is now being adopted by other INTERPOL member countries for their use in determining the criminal or terrorist threat posed by persons located in or attempting to enter or transit their sovereign territory. Those member countries are enhancing their domestic screening and detection capabilities with the solutions pioneered by the USNCB, which opens the channel to actionable law enforcement information generated by our foreign counterparts worldwide regarding the identity, location, and movement of known and suspected threat actors – information that is vital to the security of our homeland.

Operating 24/7/365, the USNCB's investigative support activities include responding to the tens of thousands of requests for international law enforcement and humanitarian assistance received each month through its INTERPOL Operations and Command Center (IOCC).¹ The USNCB is also exclusively responsible for obtaining the publication of INTERPOL Notices and Diffusions on behalf of U.S. law enforcement authorities and for ensuring that Notices and Diffusions originating from foreign partner countries are entered and maintained in U.S. law enforcement, immigration, and border security indices. Of immediate concern, as the number of these Notices and Diffusions continues to grow, so too does the number of hits against INTERPOL records—

¹In FY 2022, the IOCC responded to an average of more than 59,000 requests for assistance each month.

many of which involve critical, time-sensitive, and potentially life-threatening matters, and each of which an IOCC analyst must resolve.

Today's transnational threat environment has created an unprecedented demand for INTERPOL's global criminal investigative data – a demand that is today pushing the USNCB to the limits of its capacity to share information and provide continuous investigative support. Maintaining its ability to do so requires an immediate and sustained investment in both people and technology.

For Fiscal Year 2025, INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau, requests \$47,704,000, 80 direct positions, and 75 FTE to sustain mission needs that directly support the Administration's priorities.

Full Program Costs

The USNCB is one decision unit staffed by a multi-sector workforce consisting of 80 permanent DOJ analysts, attorneys, and administrative personnel; more than 30 law enforcement officers and analysts detailed to it from across the interagency; and a cadre of contractors that assist in areas that include agency communications, criminal analysis, information technology (IT), and administrative support. All requested funds sustain operations that support DOJ's key priorities, as well as those of DHS and INTERPOL. Therefore, each performance objective is linked to the costs of critical strategic actions that reflect the operational requirements of all three organizations. Of note, the USNCB receives no funding from DHS or the more than a dozen participating agencies for operating expenses (such as guard service, telecommunication, equipment, and supply expenses) to support their detailed personnel assigned to the USNCB.

The USNCB's appropriated resources are allocated to support 10 divisions in the following two basic categories of costs:

1. U.S. statutory dues contributions to INTERPOL's General Secretariat (approximately 36 percent)
2. Support and maintenance of the agency's operational costs and amalgamated law enforcement communications and information sharing architecture (approximately 64 percent)

Funding U.S. Dues to the INTERPOL Organization

Each INTERPOL member country pays an annual dues obligation to the organization in Euros (€). Consequently, fluctuations in the value of the U.S. Dollar (USD) relative to the Euro impede the USNCB's ability to forecast the final cost of U.S. dues, presenting both a challenge and an advantage to the agency in accordance with the relative strength or weakness of the USD to the

Euro at the time of the payment. In FY 2015, Congress approved carry-over authority to assist the USNCB in meeting the U.S. dues obligation during times of weakness of the USD compared to the Euro.

During the 213th INTERPOL Executive Committee session, the organization approved a new scale for assessing the annual statutory dues contributions for 2023-2025. This scale ties member countries' dues obligation to the United Nations (UN) scale and includes a ceiling of 22 percent for any country's obligation. The scale was approved at the 90th General Assembly session in November 2023, and the United States will see a potential increase of 10 percent. Despite the set U.S. percentage of the INTERPOL Statutory Contributions budget, the Statutory Contributions budget itself increases annually, such that the U.S. has been paying an increasingly larger amount over the last several years. It is estimated that in 2025, the United States contribution will be over 20 million Euros, thereby surpassing the 22 percent ceiling. (Figure 1)

It should be noted that while the U.S. mandatory dues payment supports the INTERPOL platform, global communications system, and databases, all direct mission and operational support functions are exclusively undertaken by the USNCB utilizing its remaining appropriated funds.

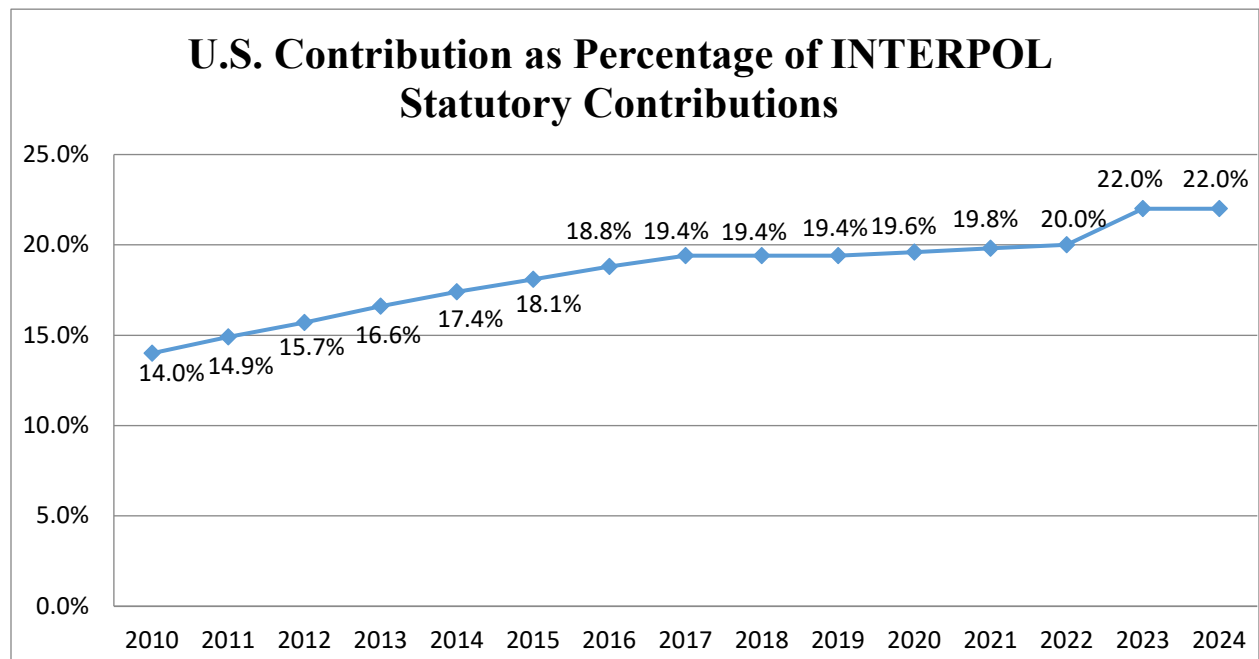


Figure 1

Law Enforcement Communication and Information Sharing Architecture

Today, law enforcement information sharing is a dynamic enterprise driven by the use of increasingly advanced and diverse forms of IT. As these technologies have continued to evolve, INTERPOL's global criminal investigative data has assumed a leading role in the fight against transnational crime and terrorism. Collectively, these developments have imposed new – and in some instances extreme – demands upon the USNCB's capacity to move INTERPOL data quickly and seamlessly between domestic law enforcement agencies and their international counterparts. Maintaining this capacity remains the single most critical operational requirement for accomplishing our mission, and a foremost funding priority for this agency.

B. Challenges

As a requirement of membership, United States participation in INTERPOL requires the establishment of a National Central Bureau to act as the central point of contact and liaison between the U.S. and the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France. Previously, the USNCB's most critical internal challenge was the need to complete the modernization of the IT infrastructure; however, efforts to replace the system are currently underway. The USNCB now faces the challenge of responding to a rapidly escalating demand for its services. The USNCB's queries, messages, Notices, Diffusions, and lookout records have consistently increased, as have requests for investigative support in areas that include humanitarian assistance and threatened acts of mass violence such as school shootings.

The USNCB is committed to supporting the Administration's efforts to cut waste and identify opportunities to promote efficient spending. Recently, the USNCB implemented several improvements to its procedures and has automated several functions. Despite these measures, rapidly increasing demand for its information and services continues to challenge the agency's ability to carry out its core mission functions.

Increasing Operational Demands

Today, virtually every U.S. law enforcement, immigration, and border security agency relies upon the USNCB's integrated IT architecture to access INTERPOL's global criminal investigative data. This reliance has led to an unprecedented increase in the number of queries of INTERPOL indices processed through the USNCB and a substantial growth in the number of U.S. records it maintains on the INTERPOL platform. This increasing operational demand has also resulted in a significant increase in the number of positive hits against INTERPOL records, each of which requires resolution by an investigative analyst. Most times, these hits involve critical, time-sensitive, and potentially life-threatening situations related to law enforcement, border security, and national security operations occurring in real time.

Further compounding the situation, recent geopolitical events and advances in information and communications technology have driven demand both upwards and in new directions. For example, the USNCB is collaborating with its law enforcement and defense partners to enhance existing terrorism information sharing programs by obtaining, identifying, and formatting biometric and contextual information for foreign terrorist fighters encountered in the recent conflict zones of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. The purpose of these efforts is to upload, and make available to select member countries, thousands of Diffusions in INTERPOL's criminal police and analytical databases. At the same time, the USNCB is experiencing a pronounced, upward trend

in the number of requests for investigative and/or humanitarian assistance involving health and welfare checks, death notifications, and Threats to Life (TTL) that include suicidal threats and expressions of intent to commit acts of mass violence communicated through social media platforms.

Overall, the following facts and statistics reflect the increase in demand for USNCB support and assistance:

- Between FY 2016 and FY 2019, the number of U.S. queries of INTERPOL indices increased by 16 percent, from 464 million queries to more than 540 million – the highest number of any member country.² It should be noted that FY 2020 and FY 2021 saw a decrease in message traffic because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, in FY 2022, the number of U.S. law enforcement queries against INTERPOL data exceeded 486 million. In FY 2023 U. S. queries of INTERPOL indices were 567, 957, and FY 2024 U.S. queries to date total 63,429,449.
- Between FY 2016 and FY 2021, the number of messages received by the IOCC rose by 34 percent – from over 388,000 to more than 521,000. This number is growing to new levels due to the increased collection, processing, and sharing of terrorism-related data. FY 2020 and FY 2021 saw a decrease in message traffic due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, in FY 2022 there were 709,259 messages received, an increase of 36 percent over the previous FY. Between October 2022 to September 2023 the number of messages received by the IOCC was 587,800. Between October FY 2023 to January FY 2024 the number of messages received by the IOCC is 251,450.
- The USNCB is currently maintaining over 789,709 domestic lookout records in U.S. databases. These records include advisories on wanted fugitives, Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF), missing and endangered persons, sex offenders, transnational gang members and other persons who, based on their criminal history, pose a potential threat to public safety.
- The USNCB is currently maintaining over 38,150 U.S. Notices and Diffusions in INTERPOL indices, along with just under 7 million records of U.S. travel documents reported lost or stolen.
- Humanitarian assistance communications for FY 2021 showed a 321 percent increase in cases involving death notifications, suicide threats, self-harm threats and health and welfare checks, and a greater than 744 percent increase in cases involving threats to others (i.e. school shootings and attacks on public institutions) over FY 2016. In FY 2023, Humanitarian requests totaled 1,942.

In attempting to compensate for this growth, the USNCB has implemented a variety of measures designed to increase its operational efficiency. These measures include, but are not limited to, deploying IT solutions and interim fixes to the USNCB case management system, and a

² Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the USNCB was projected to reach an annual total of 700 million supported queries within 2-3 years.

restructuring and consolidation of operational divisions and functions in accordance with a comprehensive Business Process Review. Despite these efforts, the continuing escalation in absolute numbers of INTERPOL queries and case-related communications, coupled with network infrastructure challenges, has pushed the USNCB to the limits of its capacity to process and share data, and to provide continuous, reliable investigative and analytical support to its law enforcement partners.

D. Strategic Goals and Objectives

This submission identifies specific outcome-based, strategic mission objectives that will continue to advance the mission of the USNCB. Achieving these objectives will move the agency closer to fulfilling its mandate to ensure greater international police cooperation and information sharing with law enforcement agencies throughout the world.

E. Environmental Management System

INTERPOL Washington will continue to implement its agency-wide Environmental Management System. The agency has adopted a policy whereby INTERPOL Washington personnel incorporate environmental stewardship into their decision-making and day-to-day activities. The policy mandates, among other things:

- Incorporation of environmental management principles into planning and budget preparation.
- Promotion and encouragement for all employees to practice energy conservation, waste stream reduction, and recycling.
- Compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.
- Identification and reporting to the agency leadership any unsafe working conditions or environmental concerns.

II. Summary of Program Changes

The U.S. National Central Bureau is not requesting any program changes for FY 2025.

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

The U.S. National Central Bureau is part of the General Legal Activities (GLA) sub-appropriation in the Department of Justice's appropriation. General Legal Activities language is displayed in the GLA rollup budget submission.

IV. Program Activity Justification

INTERPOL Washington–U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB)

<i>INTERPOL Washington, USNCB</i>	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2023 Enacted	80	75	46,796
2024 Continuing Resolution ³	80	75	46,796
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	908
2025 Current Services	80	75	47,704
2025 Program Increases	0	0	0
2025 Program Offsets	0	0	0
2025 Request	80	75	47,704
Total Change 2024-2025	80	75	908

<i>INTERPOL Washington, USNCB-Information Technology Breakout (of Decision Unit Total)</i>	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2023 Enacted	5	5	4,228
2024 Continuing Resolution	5	5	4,228
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
2025 Current Services	0	0	0
2025 Program Increases	0	0	0
2025 Program Offsets	0	0	0
2025 Request	0	0	4,228
Total Change 2024-2025	0	0	0

1. Program Description

INTERPOL, the world’s largest international police organization, provides an intergovernmental platform upon which law enforcement authorities in 196 member countries are able to work together to combat transnational crime and terrorism through enhanced information sharing and cooperation—even where good diplomatic relations may not be strong between particular countries.

INTERPOL Washington, the USNCB, is the designated U.S. representative to INTERPOL on behalf of the Attorney General, pursuant to statute and regulation. As such, it serves as the exclusive point of contact and coordination for all INTERPOL matters in the United States, and the official portal to INTERPOL’s global criminal investigative intelligence and information for all U.S. law enforcement agencies. Its mission includes, but is not limited to, transmitting

³ Amounts included herein referring to the FY 2024 Continuing Resolution reflect an Annualized Continuing Resolution level.

information and requests for assistance of a criminal justice, humanitarian, or other law enforcement related nature between law enforcement agencies in the United States and other INTERPOL member countries, and coordinating and integrating information in investigations of an international nature.

Performance and Resource Tables

Strategic Objective	PERFORMANCE MEASURE TABLE						
	Decision Unit:						
	Performance Measures		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
			Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Target
1.1, 2.3, 2.5 1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 4.2	Performance Measure	Number of lookouts within 48 hours New Cases Initiated	31,690	31,690	20,027	32,324	32,958
1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6	Performance Measure	Number of TECS/NCIC "lookouts" entered/updated	41,824	41,550	17,717	42,381	43,212
1.1, 2.3, 2.5 1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 4.2	Performance Measure	Number of lookouts within 48 hours New Cases Initiated	35,894	37,414	42,050	38,162	39,910
1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6	Performance Measure	Number of TECS/NCIC "lookouts" entered/updated	183	189	166	189	191

[N/A= Data Unavailable]

PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE

Decision Unit:												
RESOURCES (\$ in thousands)			Target		Actual		Target		Changes		Requested (Total)	
			FY 2023		FY 2023		FY 2024		Current Services Adjustments and FY 2025 Program Changes		FY 2025 Request	
Total Costs and FTE (Reimbursable: FTE are included, but costs are bracketed and not included in totals)			FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000
			75	46,796	55	46,796	75	46,796		114	75	47,704
TYPE	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE	FY 2023		FY 2023		FY 2024		Current Services Adjustments and FY 2025 Program Changes		FY 2025 Request	
Program Activity	1.2, 2.2,2.3, 2.4, 4.2 1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6	Exchange of International investigative Information/Assistance	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000
Performance Measure:	1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 4.2	Number of TECS/NCIC "Lookouts" entered/updated	37,414		17,170		38,162				39,910	
Performance Measure:	1.1, 2.3, 2.5	New Cases Initiated	41,550		42,050		42,381				43,212	
Performance Measure:	1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 4.2	Number of "lookouts" issued to domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies on Interpol wanted/missing persons and suspects within 48 hours	31,690		20,027		32,324				32,958	
Performance Measure:	1.2, 2.2,2.3, 2.4, 4.2	Arrests, extraditions, and deportations on INTERPOL Notices/Diffusions with a U.S. nexus	189		166		189				191	

*Denotes inclusion in the DOJ Quarterly Status Report and DOJ Annual Performance Plan.

*This table is required.

3. Performance, Resources, and Strategies

a. Performance Plan and Report for Outcomes

The USNCB will support DOJ's strategic priorities by executing the following functions:

- Coordinating arrangements for payment of the United States' mandatory membership dues to INTERPOL, at a rate of exchange that is as advantageous to the United States as possible;
- Leveraging existing national information environments in order to provide access to INTERPOL's global criminal investigative intelligence and information to all U.S. federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies, and facilitating its integration and utilization in their respective missions, both at home and abroad;
- Communicating and exchanging actionable criminal investigative intelligence and information between domestic law enforcement agencies and their foreign counterparts on demand and on a 24/7/365 basis, pursuant to its charge;
- Actively engaging with U.S. and foreign law enforcement partners to identify and assess new and emerging threats to officer safety, public safety, and national security that are transnational in nature, and devising innovative and effective means to combat them using INTERPOL's global information sharing tools and resources; and
- Ensuring that United States' interests are fully and accurately represented to the international law enforcement community through INTERPOL's governing bodies and activities, including by providing leadership, expertise, and advocacy at global law enforcement conferences and symposia, and by actively participating in its working groups and other professional fora.

b. Strategies to Accomplish Outcomes

The timely sharing of actionable law enforcement information is indispensable to officer safety, public safety, and the security of the homeland. Consequently, the USNCB has strategically leveraged existing national information sharing environments in order to provide the more than 18,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies with access to the international criminal investigative data available from INTERPOL's 196 member countries.

In order to strengthen this access, the USNCB has devised a means by which U.S. law enforcement officers can search INTERPOL data *simultaneously* with data contained in U.S. criminal indices. Termed "federation", this capability enables searches of INTERPOL data conducted through the International Justice and Public

Safety Network (Nlets) combined with searches of the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system into a single query. Federation provides officers and investigators with an important safeguard: the ability to quickly and concurrently determine the domestic *and* international law enforcement status of a subject or object of interest. Whether conducting a routine traffic stop, responding to a report of a suspicious person, or managing a complex criminal investigation, federation enhances officer and community safety by helping prevent the inadvertent release of a wanted and potentially dangerous transnational offender encountered by law enforcement authorities. At the same time, federation can prove instrumental in identifying and rescuing persons at risk of assault or exploitation—perhaps the victim of an international kidnapping or human trafficking ring, or a missing and endangered child. Currently operational in 15 states, the USNCB is working with government and non-government partners to implement this capability among all 50, thereby creating a nation-wide “system of systems” that will help ensure that transnational criminals and terrorists are unable to enter, transit, or remain in any part of the United States undetected by law enforcement authorities.

At the federal level, the USNCB has succeeded in integrating access to INTERPOL data into proprietary information sharing platforms utilized by DOJ, DHS, the Department of State (DoS), and other U.S. Government (USG) entities to combat transnational crime and terrorism, and to strengthen immigration, transportation, and border security. Because it is based on a shared set of tools and authorities available to all INTERPOL NCBs, the USNCB's strategic approach to data integration has resulted in the development of a proven, effective information-sharing model that is *replicable* by any INTERPOL member country, and *applicable* to combating virtually any form of transnational crime or terrorism.

The USNCB established the Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE) in February 2022. OPE implements initiatives and strategies which support engagement, communication, coordination, and cooperation efforts with federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement, and criminal intelligence information sharing in a continuous effort to enhance the USNCB's capabilities to provide improvement to countering international and domestic terrorism, violent crimes, gun violence, cybercrime and discrimination and hate crimes. OPE accomplishes this mission by establishing and maintaining key partner relationships, methods, and practices to enhance engagement, coordination, and information sharing with the international law enforcement community and over 18,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies and state fusion centers. Besides OPE, the USNCB has formed strategic partnerships with U.S. law enforcement agencies wherein subject matter experts are detailed to it to help initiate and respond to requests for international law enforcement assistance in specialized areas that include counterterrorism, immigration and border security, cyber, fugitives, and transnational organized crime. In addition, the USNCB is an active participant in joint international law enforcement initiatives that include INTERPOL's FTF Working Group and Fusion Task Force and the National Center for Missing and

Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline Program. The USNCB's participation in these and other initiatives helps ensure a continuing role and relevance for the United States in both domestic and international efforts to combat the full range of transnational criminal and terrorist threats.

The USNCB also actively represents the United States to INTERPOL's General Secretariat and General Assembly in matters of policy, governance, funding, and other key issues related to the Organization's role in facilitating international law enforcement cooperation. Its participation in INTERPOL working groups, advisory committees, and governing bodies helps ensure that U.S. positions and interests are fully and accurately represented, and that an effective deterrent is in place to counter efforts to steer or influence the Organization in a direction that is contrary to the strategic interests of the United States.

Through its strategic approach to integrated information sharing and partner engagement, the USNCB is today providing every U.S. law enforcement agency with 24/7/365 access to INTERPOL's global criminal investigative intelligence and information, as well as to police, customs, and immigration authorities in 194 other INTERPOL member countries. As a result, the USNCB is helping raise the United States' response to transnational threats from one that is "whole of *government*" to one that is "whole of *governments*". The anticipated outcome is the reduction of crime and terrorism, both domestically and internationally.

c. Priority Goals

The following are specific examples of how INTERPOL Washington supports the Department's strategic goals and priorities:

1. **Keeping Our Country Safe**

The USNCB actively promotes and advances virtually every objective in the Department's goal of keeping our country safe, as well as objectives in the goals of upholding the rule of law and protecting civil rights through dynamic collaboration with our over 18,000 domestic federal, state, local, Tribal and territorial law enforcement agencies, in addition to our vibrant partnerships with the INTERPOL General Secretariat and 195 other member countries.

The USNCB's coordination with counterterrorism components from across the interagency, as well as its continuing engagement with its counterparts in INTERPOL member countries throughout the world, directly supports DOJ's strategic goal of **protecting Americans from threats to national security and countering foreign and domestic terrorism.**

Prominent among current terrorism-related threats, the rise and subsequent defeat of ISIS has propelled the USNCB into the forefront of USG efforts to counter the international travel of FTFs and other combatants. As a result, the USNCB has

developed and implemented new and innovative countermeasures involving the exploitation of battlefield evidence collected by U.S. and Coalition forces in the conflict zones. Specifically, the USNCB has leveraged its access to INTERPOL systems and services to develop a suite of low-cost, high-yield projects designed to identify, locate, apprehend, and prosecute subjects involved in acts of terrorism perpetrated by ISIS. These projects employ identification, screening, and detection methods involving the use of physical tokens (i.e. passports), biometrics, data analytics, IT integration techniques, and INTERPOL's system of Notices and Diffusions to provide a broad-spectrum defense against transnational threats to our national security. Key initiatives include:

- **Project TERMINUS:** The USNCB has compiled a team of technical and operational experts to provide assistance to partner countries in Southeast Asia, Africa, the Western Hemisphere, and Eastern Europe. This project implements its integrated border screening and detection model and tools as a means of interdicting the illicit international travel of FTFs and other threat actors seeking to enter or transit their respective regions.
- **Project TREAD:** The USNCB is generating INTERPOL Blue Notices containing information used to help identify, trace, and locate persons biometrically linked to the manufacture and placement of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) recovered by U.S. and Coalition forces in the conflict zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Published to all INTERPOL member countries, these Notices have resulted in the identification of several persons culpable for these acts, including some who were seeking refugee status in countries outside the conflict zone.
- **Project CELLBLOCK:** The USNCB is disseminating, through INTERPOL channels, biometric, biographical, and contextual information on the “worst of the worst” ISIS FTF detainees who are likely to travel internationally after release in order to participate in additional terrorist activities.
- **FTF Working Group and Fusion Cell:** The USNCB is collaborating with other participating INTERPOL member countries in a dedicated program to combat the threat of FTFs worldwide. Established in 2013, the program supports a working group, – an international forum for sharing criminal investigative intelligence and best practices – a multinational fusion cell, and an analytical database populated with information contributed by and accessible to participating member countries. The criminal intelligence contained in the database includes detailed identity particulars on known or suspected FTFs as well as other information that enhances the exploitation of available data, and enables the production of more focused, actionable analyses of FTF identities, movement, and activities for use by law enforcement.

Furthermore, in order to address the Department's objective of enhancing cybersecurity and combat cybercrime, the USNCB is working with INTERPOL to

develop best practices and criminal intelligence sharing initiatives that will enhance investigations, increase capacity, and increase connectivity between U.S. law enforcement and cyber authorities worldwide. To that end, the USNCB is:

- Actively pursuing the development of training opportunities with INTERPOL and DOJ to improve member countries' use of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties as a critical tool in supporting global efforts to combat cybercrime;
- Providing the conduit to Europol for the USG to facilitate the relationship between EU and U.S. law enforcement. In addition, USNCB coordinates and hosts training for U.S. partners on how to use Europol tools;
- Developing solutions for streamlining the process of obtaining and communicating Basic Subscriber Information held by U.S. Internet and social media service providers;
- Promoting the operational, technical, and investigative cyber capabilities of U.S. law enforcement through the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation and its Digital Crime Center; and
- Increasing international cooperation in support of DOJ's priority goal of disrupting and dismantling cyber threat actors.

The USNCB is also actively engaged with domestic stakeholders, the INTERPOL General Secretariat, and INTERPOL's 195 other member countries in combatting drug trafficking and preventing overdose deaths; protecting the environment through U.S. participation in INTERPOL's environmental crime working groups; fighting transnational criminal organizations through participation in the working groups; and providing participation and leadership in many other areas.

Fight violent crime and gun violence

The USNCB is actively working with its domestic and foreign law enforcement partners to combat violent transnational criminal organizations and offenders. Its efforts include developing and exchanging criminal investigative information and intelligence designed to deny the illicit movement of and access to U.S.-sourced firearms, explosives, and ammunition by international traffickers, drug dealers, gang members, and terrorists. The USNCB's international data resources and communications network also support U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies in investigating violent offenses that include kidnapping, bank robbery, homicide, rape, and sexual assault. For example, the USNCB processes trace requests of U.S.-sourced firearms recovered or seized abroad for those member countries without electronic trace (E-Trace) capability and, through I-24/7, INTERPOL's global communications network assists the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Tracing Center with requests to member countries for assistance in tracing foreign-made firearms recovered in the U.S.

Further, the USNCB is exclusively responsible for processing applications for all U.S. Red, Blue, and Green INTERPOL Notices on subjects connected with violent criminal offenses. These subjects include deportees who have committed violent crimes and who, based on their criminal history, pose a potential threat to public safety, i.e., members of transnational criminal organizations such as MS-13, criminal alien sex offenders, and members of violent outlaw motorcycle gangs. In addition to facilitating the location, capture, and removal of criminal fugitives, the publication of these Notices supports the sharing of criminal intelligence and coordination of investigations and operations at a truly global level.

The USNCB also facilitates the processing of emergency disclosure requests from internet and social media service providers to prevent violent crimes in which serious threats of bodily harm, death threats, stalking, and extortion attempts are expressed online, resulting in the identification, location, and arrest of offenders who pose a significant threat to persons and/or the public.

Protecting vulnerable populations

The USNCB provides substantial support to partner agency efforts to combat crimes against vulnerable populations, including children in particular. Using its exclusive information sharing authority, the USNCB has:

- Extended access to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) image database to U.S. child sex crimes investigators as well as the NCMEC. This system employs sophisticated software programs to automatically extract digital information from images and compare it to stored images seized worldwide. To date, over 10,000 victims from countries around the world were identified using ICSE, and many offenders prosecuted.
- Collaborated with NCMEC to disseminate urgent and timely investigative leads involving images of child sexual exploitation online to specialized investigators in more than 100 member countries using INTERPOL's I-24/7 system. Since the program began in May 2014, the USNCB has electronically distributed more than 36 million CyberTipline leads.
- Collaborated with NCMEC and federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to assist in the identification of unknown deceased juveniles. Under this initiative, items such as physical descriptions, physical characteristics, distinguishing marks, jewelry, tattoos, dental records, and other pertinent data are combined with artist renditions and/or reconstruction imagery are incorporated into INTERPOL Black Notices in an effort to identify unknown and unclaimed remains.
- Established a process for issuing and reviewing INTERPOL Yellow Notices and Diffusions to facilitate the location and safe return of missing minors.

Incoming requests from foreign law enforcement counterparts are reviewed and entered into appropriate U.S. indices, including notification to NCMEC. Outgoing requests for investigative assistance from U.S. law enforcement authorities are disseminated to INTERPOL member countries as well as the U.S. Department of State's Office of Children's Issues in an attempt to locate missing and/or abducted U.S. citizens.

- Partnered with the United States Marshals Service and other U.S. law enforcement agencies to assist in tracking convicted sex offenders who visit, relocate, and/or are deported to foreign countries; in entering advisories from foreign member countries regarding convicted traveling sex offenders into U.S. lookout systems; and in locating and apprehending non-compliant fugitive sex offenders that flee overseas. This partnership includes coordinating investigations of fugitive sex offenders that have fled to the U.S.
- Partnered with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide international notification regarding foreign sex offenders whose crimes make them removable, and who are being removed from the United States. Upon removal, the USNCB obtains the publication of an INTERPOL Green Notice on the individual to alert all member countries to the circumstances of the offender's removal, and of any continuing threat they may pose. To date, the USNCB has obtained the publication of more than 8,000 Green Notices in support of this initiative.
- Partnered with ICE-Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and foreign law enforcement counterparts to assist in identifying and locating human rights violators and those who have engaged in war crimes in collaboration with HSI's Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center (HRVWCC). Additionally, partnered with the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT) to utilize INTERPOL Notices and Diffusions to identify subjects that are either suspected of or wanted for crimes of human trafficking and/or smuggling.

2. Upholding the Rule of Law

The USNCB also provides support to U.S. and international law enforcement efforts to combat other forms of transnational crime. Among these offenses are financial crimes such as fraud, insider trading and tax violations, counterfeit documents and currency, credit card fraud, healthcare fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering.

Working on behalf of its foreign law enforcement partners, the USNCB processes criminal record checks and/or fingerprint checks on subjects who have been arrested or are under investigation in other countries for ordinary law crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, assault, and other offenses. Similarly, it forwards DNA profiles submitted by foreign law enforcement authorities to the FBI National Lab, as well as state labs, for comparison.

V. Program Increases by Item

N/A

VI. Program Offsets by Item

N/A

VII. Exhibits