



## NEWS RELEASE

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Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

### **US Marshals-led Operation North Star III – Baltimore Targets Violent Criminals** *Operation Focused on Violent Offenders, Gangs, Firearms Offenders*

BALTIMORE – The U.S. Marshals Service has concluded a high-impact fugitive apprehension initiative aimed at combating violent crime in 20 cities with a significant number of homicides and shootings. The U.S. Marshals Service arrested 4,455 violent offenders during the latest phase of its high-impact fugitive apprehension initiative, dubbed Operation North Star III (ONS III). The Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF), District of Maryland, Baltimore City Police Department, and task force partners provided local support for ONS III throughout the area of Baltimore. Locally, the three-month initiative resulted in the arrest of 226 fugitives, violent criminals, sex offenders and self-identified gang members.

From the months of June through September, the U.S. Marshals Service used its broad arrest authority and network of task force partners to arrest individuals wanted on charges including 32 for homicide, 36 for robbery, 82 for assault, 22 for sexual offenses, and 8 for weapon offenses. Law enforcement also seized 24 weapons and .941 kilograms of narcotics during the operation.

“Operation North Star III is another fine example of the United States Marshals Service Deputy Marshals working in a partnership with state, municipal, and county police and sheriffs’ deputies to arrest violent fugitives, thereby making our state and nation safer for all,” stated U.S. Marshal Johnny L. Hughes.

“The Baltimore Police Department is proud to partner with the U.S. Marshals Service in Operation North Star III to remove violent offenders from our streets,” said Acting Police Commissioner Richard Worley. “Creating and maintaining strong relationships with our law enforcement partners is vital in bringing to justice those responsible for violence in our neighborhoods. I want to commend the U.S. Marshals service and our ongoing collaboration for creating a safer Baltimore for all.”

Erek L. Barron, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, added, “Marylanders are safer today because of the federal, state, and local teamwork led by the U.S. Marshals Service, “The U. S. Attorney’s Office proudly supports this operation, which pursued repeat violent offenders and those driving the most violence in our communities.”

The concept behind interagency law enforcement operations such as ONS III evolved largely from regional and district task forces. Since the 1980s, the Marshals Service has its their resources and expertise with local, state, and federal agencies to find and apprehend dangerous fugitives. Operation North Star III continued this tradition.

Agencies participating in ONS III - Baltimore included: U.S. Marshals Service; Baltimore City Police Department; Baltimore County Police Department; Maryland State Police; FBI; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Hagerstown Police Department, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Howard County Police; Howard County Sheriff's Office, Maryland Transportation Authority Police; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Annapolis Police Department; Anne Arundel County PD; Carroll County Sheriff's Office; Frederick County Sheriff's Office; Frederick City Police; Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Cecil County Sheriff's Office; Westminster Police Department; and Washington County Police Department.

The Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force focuses resources and efforts on the enhancement of public safety and the reduction of violence within the National Capital Region, through the identification, investigation, and apprehension of fugitives wanted for egregious crimes against the community, while ensuring the equal application of Justice, Integrity, and Service for all.

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