



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C21

For the meeting of: November 14, 2017

Date: September 20, 2017  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: William Damiano, Chief Probation Officer, *sub*  
Subject: United States Marshals Service Regional Fugitive Task Force Memorandum of Understanding

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Accept the United States Marshals Service Regional Fugitive Task Force (RFTF) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and
2. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to sign two (2) original copies of the MOU (Attachment 1) and any modification, extensions and all other documents required by United States Marshals Service for participation in the RFTF.

### SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

Prepared by Elisha Hardison, Legal Office Business Manager CAO Approval

REVIEW:

Auditor

County Counsel

Human Resources

Other

TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent  
☐ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Wilson

Ayes Sundberg, Fennell, Bass, Bohn, Wilson  
Nays  
Abstain  
Absent

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: 11/14/17

By:

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

## DISCUSSION:

The United States Marshals Service (USMS) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 566(e)(1)(B) has been granted authority to direct and coordinate permanent Regional Fugitive task Forces consisting of federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities for the purpose of locating and apprehending fugitives. The primary mission of the task force is to investigate and arrest, as part of joint law enforcement operations, persons who have active state and federal warrants for their arrest, thereby improving public safety and reducing violent crime.

Each participating agency agrees to refer cases for investigation by the RFTF. Cases will be adopted by the RFTF at the discretion of the RFTF Chief Inspector. Targeted crimes will primarily include violent crimes against persons, weapons offenses, felony drug offenses, failure to register as a sex offender, and crimes committed by subjects who have a criminal history involving violent crimes, felony drug offenses and/or weapons offenses. Task force personnel will be assigned federal, state, and local fugitive cases for investigation. Investigative teams will consist of personnel from different agencies whenever possible. Participating agencies will retain responsibility for the cases referred to the RFTF and all RFTF cases will be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

Probation Officers assigned to the task force will be deputized as Special Deputy U.S. Marshals. Special Deputation will permit the listed personnel (Attachment II) to be assigned to the RFTF, which will include but is not limited to: 1) Adoption of fugitive cases for investigation by the task force; 2) Assist the Marshals task force as liaison officers with the Humboldt County Probation Department for investigations in the State of California/County of Humboldt; 3) participation in short term, long term, and complex investigations into whereabouts of federal, state and local fugitives.

The MOU will be in effect once signed by the Humboldt County Chief Probation Officer. Participating agencies may withdraw from the RFTF by providing 30 days advanced written notice to the RFTF Chief Inspector.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Salaries, benefits, overtime travel, training, fuel, supplies or equipment for direct support provided to the RFTF are the responsibility of the local participating agency. Costs may be reimbursed by the USMS, pending availability of asset forfeiture funding. Reimbursement is not guaranteed.

As part of this agreement, salary and wage expenses for the personnel assigned to the RFTF are covered by allocated funding in Probation's budget units 235 and 294 of the FY 2017-18 budget.

Approval of the MOU for participation in the USMS RFTF meets the Board's Strategic Framework Plan by ensuring inter-jurisdictional and regional cooperation to provide community appropriate levels of service, improving public safety and reducing violent crime.

## OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

United States Marshals Service

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Board may elect not to approve the MOU with USMS, however, this is not recommended since participation in the task force greatly expands the ability of local law enforcement to apprehend state and federal fugitives.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- I) United States Marshals Service Regional Fugitive Task Force- Memorandum of Understanding
- II) Humboldt County Probation Fugitive Task Force Letter

## Attachment I

**United States Marshals Service**  
**Regional Fugitive Task Force – Memorandum of Understanding**

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**PARTIES AND AUTHORITY:**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Humboldt County Probation Department

and the United States Marshals Service (USMS) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 566(e)(1)(B). As set forth in the Presidential Threat Protection Act of 2000 and directed by the Attorney General, the USMS has been granted authority to direct and coordinate permanent Regional Fugitive Task Forces consisting of Federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities for the purpose of locating and apprehending fugitives. The authority of the USMS to investigate fugitive matters as directed by the Attorney General is set forth in 28 USC § 566. The Director's authority to direct and supervise all activities of the USMS is set forth in 28 USC § 561(g) and 28 CFR 0.111. The authority of United States Marshals and Deputy U.S. Marshals, "in executing the laws of the United States within a State . . . [to] exercise the same powers which a sheriff of the State may exercise in executing the laws thereof" is set forth in 28 USC § 564. Additional authority is derived from 18 USC § 3053 and Office of Investigative Agency Policies Resolutions 2 & 15. (See also) "Memorandum for Howard M. Shapiro, General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Investigation" concerning the "Authority to Pursue Non-Federal Fugitives", issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel, dated February 21, 1995. (See also) Memorandum concerning the Authority to Pursue Non-Federal Fugitives, issued by the USMS Office of General Counsel, dated May, 1, 1995. (See also) 42 U.S.C. § 16941(a) (the Attorney General shall use the resources of federal law enforcement, including the United States Marshals Service, to assist jurisdictions in locating and apprehending sex offenders who violate sex offender registration requirements).

**MISSION:**

The primary mission of the task force is to investigate and arrest, as part of joint law enforcement operations, persons who have active state and federal warrants for their arrest. The intent of the joint effort is to investigate and apprehend local, state and federal fugitives, thereby improving public safety and reducing violent crime.

Each participating agency agrees to refer cases for investigation by the RFTF (Regional Fugitive Task Force). Cases will be adopted by the RFTF at the discretion of the RFTF Chief Inspector. Targeted crimes will primarily include violent crimes against persons, weapons offenses, felony drug offenses, failure to register as a sex offender, and crimes committed by subjects who have a criminal history involving violent crimes, felony drug offenses, and/or weapons offenses. Upon receipt of a written request, the RFTF may also assist non-participating law enforcement agencies in investigating, locating and arresting their fugitives. Task force personnel will be assigned federal, state, and local fugitive cases for investigation. Investigative teams will consist of personnel from different agencies whenever possible. Participating agencies retain responsibility for the cases they refer to the RFTF.

Federal fugitive cases referred to the task force for investigation by any participating agency will be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) by the USMS or originating agency, as appropriate. State or local fugitive cases will be entered into NCIC (and other applicable state or local lookout systems) as appropriate by the concerned state or local agency.

**SUPERVISION:**

The RFTF will consist of law enforcement and administrative personnel from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Agency personnel must be approved by the RFTF Chief Inspector prior to assignment to the RFTF. Agency personnel may be removed at any time at the discretion of the RFTF Chief Inspector.

Direction and coordination of the RFTF shall be the responsibility of the USMS RFTF Chief Inspector. Administrative matters which are internal to the participating agencies remain the responsibility of the respective agencies. Furthermore, each agency retains responsibility for the conduct of its personnel.

A Task Force Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of participating agencies and USMS RFTF personnel, may be established at the discretion of the RFTF Chief Inspector and will meet and confer as necessary to review and address issues concerning operational matters within the RFTF.

**PERSONNEL:**

In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, personnel assigned to the task force are required to undergo background investigations in order to be provided unescorted access to USMS offices, records, and computer systems. The USMS shall bear the costs associated with those investigations. Non-USMS law enforcement officers assigned to the task force will be deputized as Special Deputy U.S. Marshals.

Task force personnel may be required to travel outside of the jurisdiction to which they are normally assigned in furtherance of task force operations. State or local task force officers traveling on official business at the direction of the USMS shall be reimbursed directly by the USMS for their travel expenses in accordance with applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations.

**REIMBURSEMENT:**

If the Marshals Service receives Asset Forfeiture funding for either 1) overtime incurred by state and local investigators who provide full time support to USMS RFTF joint law enforcement task forces; or 2) travel, training, purchase or lease of police vehicles, fuel, supplies or equipment for state and local investigators in direct support of state and local investigators, the USMS shall, pending availability of funds, reimburse your organization for expenses incurred, depending on which category of funding is provided.

Reimbursement of overtime work shall be consistent with the Fair Labor Standards Act. Annual overtime for each state or local law enforcement officer is capped at the equivalent of 25% of a GS-1811-12, Step 1, of the general pay scale for the RUS. Reimbursement for all types of qualified expenses shall be contingent upon availability of funds and the submission of a proper request for reimbursement which shall be submitted quarterly on a fiscal year basis, and which provides the names of the investigators who incurred overtime for the RFTF during the quarter; the number of overtime hours incurred, the hourly regular and overtime rates in effect for each investigator, and the total quarterly cost.

The request for reimbursement must be submitted to the RFTF Chief Inspector, who will review the request for reimbursement, stamp and sign indicating that services were received and that the request for reimbursement is approved for payment. Supporting documentation must accompany requests for reimbursement for equipment, supplies, training, fuel, and vehicle leases.

#### **VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT:**

Notwithstanding the above, pending the availability of asset forfeiture funding and approval by the USMS in advance of any purchase, the USMS may acquire vehicles and equipment purchased in support of full time state and local investigators assigned to the RFTF involved in joint law enforcement operations. Such vehicle and equipment purchases are to be titled to the state or local law enforcement agency and must comply with requirements prescribed by the USMS pursuant to this MOU and applicable policies of the United States Department of Justice. Vehicles and equipment provided to state and local law enforcement agencies with asset forfeiture monies provided by the USMS must remain available for exclusive use of the task force officers assigned to the RFTF by the undersigned participant agency for the duration of the task force. Upon termination of the agreement, usage and disposition of such vehicles are at the discretion of the undersigned state or local law enforcement agency.

Pending the availability of funds and equipment, the USMS will issue USMS radios, telephones, and other communication devices to each task force officer to be used for official RFTF business. All equipment used by or assigned to task force officers by the USMS or an agency will remain the property of the agency issuing the equipment and will be returned to that agency upon termination of the task force, or upon agency request.

#### **RECORDS AND REPORTS:**

Original reports of investigation, evidence, and other investigative materials generated, seized, or collected by the RFTF shall be retained by the agency in the RFTF responsible for the case. However, evidence may be turned over to other law enforcement agencies as appropriate. Copies of investigative reports and other materials may be provided to other agencies in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Task force statistics will be maintained in the USMS Justice Detainee Information System (JDIS) - Warrant Information Network (WIN). Statistics will be made available to any participating agency upon request.

#### **INFORMANTS:**

Pending the availability of funds, the USMS may provide funding for the payment of informants. However, all payments of informants utilizing USMS funding shall comply with USMS policy.

#### **USE OF FORCE:**

All members of the RFTF will comply with their agencies' guidelines concerning the use of firearms, deadly force, and less-than-lethal devices, to include completing all necessary training and certification requirements. All members of the RFTF and their parent agencies will read and adhere to the DOJ Policy Statement on the Use Of Less-Than-Lethal Devices, dated May 16, 2011. Copies of all applicable firearms, deadly force, and less-than-lethal policies shall be provided to the RFTF Chief Inspector and each concerned task force officer. In the event of a shooting involving task force personnel, the incident will be investigated by the appropriate agency(s).





**United States Marshals Service**  
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## Attachment II



## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

2002 Harrison Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501  
Telephone (707) 445-7401 Fax (707) 443-7139

October 4, 2017

Bert Tapia  
Task Force Commander  
Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive task Force  
1938 Saturn Street  
Monterey Park, CA 91755

Dear Commander Tapia,

This is a request for the following Probation Officers to be specifically deputized as a United States Marshal:

Darren Ghisetti  
Brian Grossman  
Sara Quenell  
Jackson Robbins  
Nick Jones  
Nicole Ambrosi  
Chris Petersen

The above listed personnel have all completed California CORE Training for Probation Officers.

Special Deputation will permit the listed personnel to be assigned to the United States Marshal Fugitive Task Force which will include but is not limited to: 1) Adoption of fugitive cases for investigation by the task force, 2) Assist the Marshals task force as liaison officers with the Humboldt County Probation Department for investigations in the State of California/County of Humboldt, 3) Participation in short term, long term and complex investigations into the whereabouts of federal, state and local fugitives.

None of the above listed personnel have any pending disciplinary actions of Internal Affairs investigations and are all in good standing with this agency.

Sincerely,

William Damiano  
Chief Probation Officer  
County of Humboldt



## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

2002 Harrison Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501  
Telephone (707) 445-7401 Fax (707) 443-7139

October 4, 2017

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Task Force Commander  
Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive task Force  
1938 Saturn Street  
Monterey Park, CA 91755

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Chief Probation Officer  
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