



SPECTIC

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WHO WE ARE

The U.S. Postal Service[®] backs its products and services with the protection of its own federal law enforcement organization — the U.S. Postal Inspection Service[®]. We are the primary law enforcement, crime prevention, and security arm of the Postal Service. We provide the investigative and security resources that ensure America's confidence in the U.S. Mail. It's our mission to support and protect the Postal Service and its employees, infrastructure, and customers; enforce the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and ensure public trust in the mail.

We work to ensure that American businesses can safely dispatch funds, securities, information, and physical goods through the mail; that postal customers can entrust their correspondence to the mail; and that postal employees can work in a safe environment.

Our Postal Inspectors are federal law enforcement agents who carry firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants, and serve subpoenas. Over 1,250 Inspectors enforce roughly 200 federal laws covering crimes that include fraudulent use of the U.S. Mail and the postal system. We have almost 450 armed, uniformed Postal Police Officers assigned to protect postal facilities. Our national information technology infrastructure supports users at nearly 200 sites nationwide. Our more than 600 professional, technical, and administrative personnel support these efforts nationwide and at the National Forensic Laboratory. There, a state-of-the-art facility is staffed by highly trained forensic scientists and technical specialists who play a key role in identifying, apprehending, prosecuting, and convicting individuals responsible for postal-related criminal offenses. They also provide scientific and technical expertise to the criminal and security investigations of the Postal Inspection Service.

Our Postal Inspectors investigate postal-related crimes, such as postal robberies, mail theft, identity theft, mail bombs, and burglaries. They protect against the use of the mail to defraud customers, exploit children, and transport illegal drugs and drug money. And they ensure postal employees, customers, and approximately 32,000 postal facilities are safe from criminal attack.

If it has anything to do with preserving the safety, security, and integrity of the nation's mail system from criminal misuse, we do it. And we've been doing it successfully since our inception 247 years ago, on August 7, 1775.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



I So said the great American statesman, and the original Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin. Looking back at all we have accomplished in Fiscal Year 2022, it is clear that those two words—energy and persistence—exemplify the work of the U.S. Postal Service and our unwavering dedication to serve our customers. Despite extraordinary obstacles, the dedicated men and women of the Postal Service continue to deliver for America, ensuring each day that millions of letters, checks, packages, and more reach their intended destinations.

As the Postal Service's law enforcement branch, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service supports the agency with the same energy and persistence. We are committed to protecting the U.S. Mail from the threat of criminal activity, and we aggressively investigate crimes targeting the mail and, especially, postal employees and customers.

This 2022 Annual Report of Investigations highlights only some of the remarkable accomplishments from our more than 2,300 Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Officers (PPOs), and professional, technical, and administrative personnel. The report demonstrates our commitment to fulfilling our mission: to support and protect the U.S. Postal Service and its employees, infrastructure, and customers; enforce the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and ensure public trust in the mail. It also showcases our commitment to evolve as an organization as we align our efforts with Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's bold 10-year plan: Delivering for America.

FY 2022 posed a tremendous challenge for the Inspection Service, as we faced a dramatic rise in letter carrier robberies and related mail theft. We expended an

extraordinary amount of time and resources to address these issues. In fact, we responded nationwide to 6,946 reports of violent crime activity, ranging from threats to assaults, burglaries, robberies, suicides, and homicides. To maximize our resources, we supplemented local Inspector complements by deploying quick-response "Jump Teams" of Postal Inspectors and analysts to areas with high occurrences of letter carrier robberies and mail theft. During this reporting period, Postal Inspectors arrested 1,258 suspects for mail theft.

We also implemented several preventative measures to combat mail theft. In July 2022, we launched Project Safe Delivery, a prevention and enforcement initiative to combat mail theft and violent attacks on postal employees. To date, the project has led to numerous arrests and more than 1,700 prevention activities.

Further, we took steps to harden targets against potential mail thieves. We partnered with USPS Engineering Systems to design and pilot eArrow Locks, design new long-life vehicles, purchase high-security locks for existing LLVs, and install additional High Security Collection Boxes. And we continue to work with postal districts to strengthen existing collection boxes by installing anti-fishing devices.

Another enormous challenge for FY 2022 was the ongoing opioid epidemic. With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimating over 107,000 Americans died in 2021 from drug overdose—the majority of which involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl—we made illicit drugs a top priority. We took strong and consistent action to remove these dangerous substances from the mailstream. And we continue to disrupt both international and domestic drug trafficking organizations and target high-traffic points along our own borders. Contraband Interdiction and Investigations (CI2) activity resulted in the seizure of 114,679 pounds—more than 57 tons—of controlled dangerous substances. CI2 investigations also led to 2,110 arrests.

FY 2022 was the second year of our Southwest Border Initiative, a program designed to intercept drug parcels at high-traffic points along the southern border. The interdictions resulted in the seizure of 170 pounds of methamphetamine, 136 pounds of fentanyl, and 56 pounds of cocaine.

One program that has proven to be a highly effective force multiplier is our Task Force Officer (TFO) program, which enables us to bolster our drug enforcement resources with local police officers trained and deputized as Postal Inspection Service TFOs. To date, 113 officers have been sworn in as Cl2 TFOs.

Of course, 2022 was a mid-term election year, and one in which voters increasingly relied on mail-in ballots. To prepare for the elections, the Inspection Service collaborated with federal, state, and local officials regarding election planning, information, and security preparedness. We also partnered with the Department of Justice on an Election Crimes Task force to investigate reports of election-related threats and crime.

In FY 2022, our third-party canine program, or 3PK9, continued operations at 28 domestic airports and the four international service centers. Canine teams screened 83.6 million pounds of mail and alerted 321 times throughout the year, with all alerts being cleared through secondary screening.

Protecting USPS property was a special point of focus in FY 2022. In support of PMG DeJoy's 10-year plan to consolidate and reorganize the vast USPS distribution network, we conducted risk assessments and provided security recommendations on existing and planned USPS distribution centers. Our work in this area will be essential in the coming year, as will the presence of the brave PPOs who will be protecting the new facilities.

Uniformed PPOs help raise the security profile at large USPS facilities. Whether they are securing our facilities or performing other critical protective actions, their presence and professionalism play a crucial role in accomplishing the Inspection Service mission to protect the Postal Service, its employees, and infrastructure. We deploy PPOs at postal facilities in 20 cities where crime risk is high. They provide security patrols at well over 700 postal facilities, respond to burglar alarms at almost 600 stations, and are often the first to respond to emergencies, disruptions, and criminal activity reported at postal facilities.

This year marked the 150-year anniversary of the mail fraud statute, which Postal Inspectors have used to investigate and arrest fraudsters and scammers every year since 1872. In FY 2022, our Mail Fraud Program focused investigative efforts especially on scams that target the most vulnerable or needy, such as the elderly or persons affected by natural disasters or other unexpected events. We also participated on several task forces, committees, and cross-border partnerships with other federal and foreign agencies investigating impactful mass marketing fraud cases and cross-border fraud. This fiscal year, we arrested 442 suspects for fraud. Asset forfeitures from fraud cases and other Inspection Service investigations resulted in the seizure of 1,566 assets worth over \$402 million.

Fraud awareness and consumer education has also long been a keystone of our crime prevention efforts. FY 2022 was no exception. In November, we released a series of Holiday Mail Safety PSA videos. We delivered elder fraud and money mule prevention signage and messaging to tens of millions of consumers. And, in addition to our social media outreach, we utilized the Postal Service's Informed Delivery service to educate consumers on scams.

In FY 2022, we collaborated with USPS Engineering on the "Get it Right 617" program to identify over \$145 million in losses due to counterfeit postage. We also conducted counterfeit package interdictions with Customs and Border Protection in New York and Los Angeles, stopping numerous freight shipments containing packages affixed with counterfeit postage from entering the U.S. In one case, we seized almost \$2.5 million in counterfeit stamps coming from China.

Finally, this year we renewed our commitment to fostering an Inspection Service where employees feel valued, connected, and accountable to what is expected of them as leaders. To that end, we developed a new Inspection Service Leadership Principles model to support our vision for a more integrated organization. These principles—defined by the three actionable habits: Serve Boldly; Unleash Potential; Partner for Excellence—will drive and sustain long-term, productive leadership habits within the Inspection Service long into the future.

I am pleased with the accomplishments and progress recorded in this report. More than that, I am proud of the passion and resolve displayed every day by the men and women of the Postal Inspection Service. With energy and persistence, we will continue to safeguard the nation's mail system, preserve trust in the Postal Service brand, and ensure USPS can safely continue Delivering for America.

~ Gary R. Barksdale

MEET OUR LEADERS

The Executive Committee of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service considers and sets the organizational direction of the agency, focusing on all matters encompassing strategic planning, policy development, investment and risk programs, workplace issues, and succession planning. The members also serve as a liaison to the U.S. Postal Service's leadership team and other law enforcement and investigative agencies. Committee members include the Chief Postal Inspector, the Deputy Chief Inspectors, Chief Counsel of the Office of Counsel, and the Director of Business Operations.



ROBERT B. WEMYSS Deputy Chief Inspector Eastern Field Operations



PATRICIA ARMSTRONG Deputy Chief Inspector Western Field Operations



CRAIG GOLDBERG Deputy Chief Inspector Headquarters Operations



JEANNINE GRAHAM Director

Director Business Operations



PETER R. RENDINA Deputy Chief Inspector Headquarters Operations



LOUIS J. DIRIENZO Chief Counsel Office of Counsel



TARGETING THEFT

The American public has an expectation when it comes to their mail. They expect it to be safe, not tampered with, and not stolen. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service works tirelessly to make sure the mail is secure. Whenever mail is stolen, Postal Inspectors are committed to finding those responsible and bringing them to justice.

In FY 2022, our Mail Theft Program saw a dramatic rise in letter carrier robbery and related mail theft. In response, we expended extraordinary time and resources to address mail theft and letter carrier robberies.

We also deployed five quick response "Jump Teams" to three field divisions to supplement local Inspector complements and address mail theft in those areas of responsibility.

In conjunction with the Violent Crimes Program, the Mail Theft Program hosted a Mail Theft and Violent Crimes Summit in Fort Worth, TX. The summit focused on the relationship between mail theft and robbery cases and provided information and resources to assist field Inspectors investigating these crimes. Attending Inspectors used the information provided at the summit to educate their field divisions upon returning to their respective offices.

In addition to our focus on letter carrier robberies and mail theft, we continued investigating identity mail theft cases and other non-violent forms of mail theft.

Arlington, TX, Man Sentenced for Robbing Letter Carrier

On April 13, 2022, a USPS city letter carrier was delivering mail in Arlington, TX, when she was approached by an man wearing a red hoodie, black gator type face mask, and dark pants. The man brandished a firearm and demanded the letter carrier's Postal Service keys.

On April 14, 2022, an undercover Postal Inspector observed a Telegram post purported to be selling USPS keys for the Dallas Fort Worth area. The Postal Inspector contacted the individual, who was using the name "SLIME Anonymous," later identified as Joshua Shaw. The Inspector began messaging with Shaw and coordinated a meeting that afternoon to purchase the key. Shaw sent a live video of the key to confirm he was in possession of it at the time.

On the same date, an undercover Inspector met with Shaw to purchase a USPS key for \$6,000. After Shaw displayed the stolen USPS key and demonstrated that it worked on an apartment complex mailbox, Postal Inspectors, ATF agents, and Arlington Police Department SWAT arrested him.

On April 14, 2022, Inspectors interviewed Shaw regarding the robbery of the USPS keys. A search warrant executed on Shaw's phone revealed the messages between Shaw and the undercover Postal Inspector. On June 15, 2022, Shaw pleaded guilty to 18



USC 2114. On September 23, 2022, he was sentenced to 63 months incarceration with the Bureau of Prisons, a \$100 special assessment, and three years' supervised release.



"CertifiedSwiper" Pleads Guilty to Carrier Robbery

On April 11, 2022, a Fort Worth, TX, letter carrier was delivering mail when she was approached by an armed man. The suspect put a gun to the carrier's abdomen and demanded her keys. When the carrier complied, the suspect ran to a parked car and drove away. The carrier contacted the Fort Worth Police Department and USPS management, who notified the Postal Inspection Service.



Stolen checks found in Omar's residence, in the process of being washed.

A Fort Worth Postal Inspector canvassed the area where the robbery occurred and obtained surveillance video that showed a Honda Accord circling around and then parking near the scene of the robbery. A search of the vehicle license plate revealed Abdirashid Omar as the registered owner.

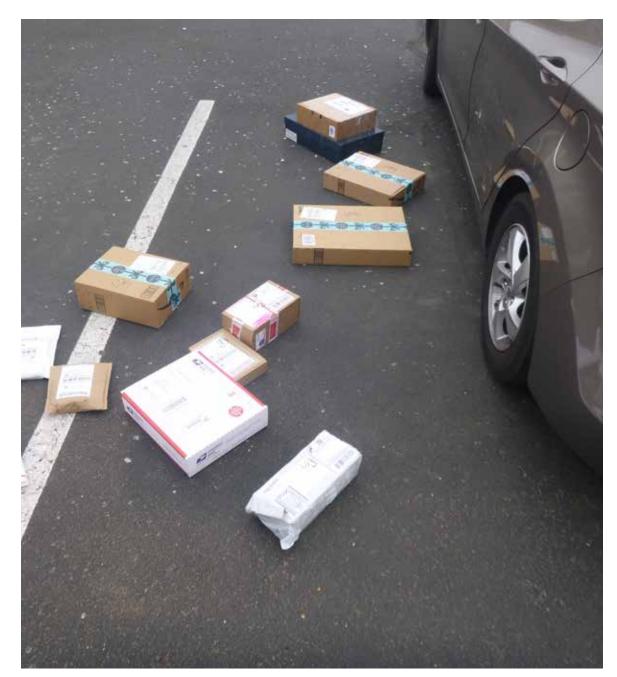
A facial recognition search of Omar revealed he had an Instagram account in the name of @famOus_atl, which linked to his Telegram account, certifiedswiper1. It was also learned that Omar participated in a Telegram channel called sCams not Grams, which is used to discuss how to rob USPS letter carriers, as well as the buying and selling of checks and USPS Arrow keys.

The case Inspector then met with the management of Omar's apartment complex and verified he lived there. By observing video surveillance, the Inspector saw Omar's vehicle return to the complex approximately 10 minutes after the robbery occurred, wearing the same clothing as the robber described by the letter carrier. On April 25, 2022, the Inspector obtained two federal warrants for Omar: a GPS tracker warrant for his vehicle and a cell site historical warrant. The GPS tracker was placed onto the suspect's vehicle, and the results of the cell site historical warrant showed that Omar was in the vicinity of the robbery location at the time the letter carrier was robbed.

A federal search warrant was obtained for Omar's residence and executed on May 2, 2022. Inspectors located trash bags full of mail, stolen checks in Omar's closet, and more checks and money orders in the process of being washed in the kitchen. Omar was taken into custody and transported to the Fort Worth Police Department to be interviewed. He admitted to robbing the letter carrier and to using the Arrow key to steal checks from blue collection boxes.

Omar's girlfriend was also interviewed on scene. She stated that Omar had been on Telegram, watching people talk about robbing letter carriers for keys and stealing mail. She further stated he had been wanting to get a key and told her that he got one after robbing the carrier.

On June 22, 2022, Abdirashid Omar pleaded guilty to one count of Robbery. On October 25, 2022, he was sentenced to 71 months' imprisonment and three years supervised release.



VIOLENT CRIME RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

Keeping postal employees safe and secure is the number one priority of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. In the unfortunate event that an employee becomes the victim of a violent crime, Inspection Service personnel respond, investigate, and arrest identified suspects. We are also committed to preventing violent crime from occurring through deterrence and public awareness campaigns.

In FY 2022, USPS saw an unprecedented rise in violent crimes, specifically robberies of letter carriers with offenders demanding Arrow keys or keys in general. To address this issue, we deployed Project Safe Delivery to bring awareness to employees and law enforcement partners across the nation. Project Safe Delivery also implemented greater key accountability in Post Offices.

We also increased public awareness of our prevention and enforcement efforts through all our media resources and engaged with Congress to keep them aware of our enforcement efforts. By partnering with USPS Engineering, we began development on future technology solutions that require a two-step authentication system to use postal Arrow keys.

Inspection Service personnel also increased mobile patrols of USPS employees at facilities and on carrier routes, and we engaged with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to ensure they are aware of incidents of violence against employees. Further, we deployed special "Jump Teams" of Postal Inspectors and analysts to areas with high occurrences of letter carrier robberies and mail theft to further the investigations into these crimes.

National Headquarters and field divisions alike have coordinated with our partners in the Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure prosecution of identified offenders. In June, we held a National Violent Crimes/Mail Theft Summit in Fort Worth, TX. This event brought together violent crime and mail theft Inspectors and analysts nationwide to coordinate robbery investigations with investigations into mail theft and the resulting financial crime.

In FY 2022, Inspectors enforced federal and state law regarding violent crimes against USPS employees by responding nationwide to 6,946 reports of crime activity, ranging from threats to assaults, burglaries, robberies, suicides, and homicides. Though not all of these reported cases turn out to be credible, the Inspection Service takes all reports of violent crime seriously and responds to every reported incident. Included among these reports were 432 robberies, six homicides of on-duty USPS employees, 47 suicides, 197 burglaries, and 581 credible assaults and threats.

75-Month Prison Term for Robbery of U.S. Mail Carriers

On December 9, 2021, David Leveren Quinn of Oakland, CA, was sentenced to more than six years in prison for robbing or attempting to rob several U.S. letter carriers at gunpoint. On August 11, 2020, Quinn approached an Oakland letter carrier delivering mail in the 2000 block of 34th Avenue. Brandishing a firearm, he demanded trays of mail and packages from the mail truck and then fled.

In the weeks that followed, Quinn and others robbed several more letter carriers, demanding letter trays and other mail. The primary purpose of these robberies was to acquire customers' personally identifiable information, allowing the ring of thieves to engaging in identity theft.

On March 8, 2021, Quinn was arrested. He was charged with conspiracy to commit robberies affecting interstate commerce on April 14, 2021. In a plea deal, he admitted to working with others to rob or try to rob five letter carrier between August 11 and September 25, 2020. He was sentenced to 75 months in prison, to be followed by three years' supervised release.



Photo credit: 11 Alive News, Atlanta, GA.

Georgia Man Sentenced to Life without Parole for Homicide of Postal Employee

On September 23, 2022, Quantez Tyre of Decatur, GA, was sentenced for the 2017 murder of his estranged girlfriend (also the mother of their six-month-old child). City Carrier Assistant Tyrika Terrell, 22, had ended the relationship weeks before the incident. On the night in question, she had just finished her tour at the Wesley Chapel Post Office when Tyre ambushed and shot her.

Postal Inspectors and the Decatur City Police Department obtained murder warrants for Tyre, then conducted knock and talk interviews with Tyre's family and friends. On December 1, 2017, information was obtained that Tyre had stayed at a relative's house the night of the shooting. There, Inspectors located the shoes and sweatshirt Tyre was believed to be wearing at the time of the murder, as seen in surveillance video. Inspectors uncovered phone numbers Tyre had called using the relative's phone, ultimately leading them to a residence of one of Tyre's associates.

Tyre was arrested four days later after a twohour standoff with police. In November 2017, he was convicted of malice murder. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole, plus 10 years.



Photo credit: 11 Alive News, Atlanta, GA.

Shreveport, LA, Man Sentenced for Murder of Letter Carrier

On August 3, 2022, Michael Jarred Gentry of Shreveport, LA, was sentenced to federal prison for the murder of U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier Antonio Williams. On June 22, 2019, Williams was delivering mail on his route. As he approached an apartment, Gentry fired through the door four times with a semiautomatic rifle, striking Williams twice. Tragically, Williams died at the hospital shortly after the incident.

Inspectors and local law enforcement responded swiftly and apprehended Gentry. He entered a guilty plea to second degree murder on March 21, 2022. Months later, he was sentenced to 40 years in prison, to be followed by five years' supervised release.

At the sentencing, Houston Division Inspector in Charge Scott Fix said, "The sentencing of Michael Gentry for the murder of postal employee Antonio Williams brings to an end the investigation of a heinous crime. The safety and well-being of Postal Service employees is a top priority for the Postal Inspection Service, and every act of violence elicits an immediate and firm response."

IMPEDING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

The Postal Inspection Service works aggressively to prevent the flow of illicit drugs through the mail. We take all practical measures to ensure the safety and security of USPS employees and the American people.

Our Contraband Interdiction and Investigations (CI2) Program leads the effort to eliminate opioids and other illicit drugs from the mailstream by investigating mail-related trafficking crime and working with other law enforcement agencies to share intelligence, coordinate cases, and conduct joint enforcement operations. Through relationships with domestic and international law enforcement partners, we combat the distribution of these materials through both the U.S. Mail and the international postal system.

In FY 2022, Postal Inspectors made 2,110 arrests involving drug trafficking, saw the conviction of 1,949 suspects, seized over 114,679 pounds of illegal narcotics, and confiscated \$38,413,233 in illicit proceeds.

"AT A GLANCE"

Cases initiated: 2,311 Arrests: 2,110 Convictions: 1,949 Drugs seized: > 114,679 pounds (57 tons) Illicit proceeds confiscated: \$38,413,233.

Force Multiplier Task Force Officer Program

The Cl2 Program initiated a full-time Task Force Officer (TFO) Program to provide field offices with additional resources to identify, investigate, and prosecute drug traffickers at the local level. The program brings together vital resources from state and local law enforcement agencies to maximize collective impact. Cl2 TFOs are credentialed by the Postal Inspection Service and receive training, tools, and other resources to perform their duties. To date, 113 officers have been sworn in as Cl2 TFOs.



Phoenix TFO K-9 with recent meth and fentanyl seizures.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force

The Inspection Service has been involved with many complex investigations that target large-scale

Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and foreign Transnational Criminal Organizations. Since 2017, Cl2 has been an active member of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). This partnership allows us to better share and coordinate investigations and information with other agencies to effectively target criminal organizations.

In 2022, the Inspection Service participated in 171 new OCDETF investigations, 143 of which we sponsored directly. To date, we have participated in 1,897 OCDETF investigations and currently list 901 active investigations, sponsoring 602 cases. Over 170 of these cases are linked directly to the Attorney General's Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) and Regional Priority Organization Target (RPOT) lists. These are multiagency target lists of the "command and control" elements of the most prolific international drug trafficking and money laundering organizations affecting the United States. Our participation with OCDETF has allowed us to go beyond our domestic borders to work with international law enforcement and our interagency partners that are currently stationed overseas where we currently do not have a presence.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

The Cl2 Program, in collaboration with the National High Intensity Drug Traffic Areas (HIDTA) Program, developed a parcel interdiction and investigations webinar. These quarterly webinars were designed to encourage collaboration and cooperation with the HIDTA Program to combat drug trafficking in the mail, express consignment, and private shipping and delivery environment. To date, a total of five webinars have been conducted.

Southwest and Caribbean Border Initiatives

In FY 2022 the Postal Inspection Service conducted the second phase of a Southwest Border Initiative at major induction points, identified by our analytical work, for drugs in the domestic mail. This phase continued to utilize "Jump Teams" of Postal Inspectors from across the country conducting interdictions and investigations related to the Southwest Border and expanded our focus to a total of three field divisions.

Phase two of this initiative resulted in the seizure of 170 pounds of methamphetamine, 136 pounds of fentanyl, 56 pounds of cocaine, 4.1 pounds of PCP, 19 pounds of amphetamine, and over \$465,000 in illicit proceeds. Additionally, a significant number of investigations have been launched.



California Task Force Officer K-9 poses with recent methamphetamine and fentanyl seizures.

The Cl2 Program also continued this fiscal year with our counter-drug efforts in the Caribbean region. These actions are aimed at extinguishing the flow of illicit drugs, specifically cocaine, as well as reducing inbound firearms to and from the region. Inspectors conducted a two-week interdiction under "Operation Cast Net," seizing over 676 pounds of cocaine, eight firearms, and \$299,146 in illicit proceeds. The operation generated numerous investigations and referrals to other divisions.

Enhanced Analytics and Network Targeting

The Cl2 Investigative Support Section (IS2) is in the process of creating a comprehensive intelligence and investigative unit focused on providing in-depth research and advanced analytics. This group consists of intelligence analysts and subject matter experts who directly support Cl2 Inspectors and ensure field divisions have the intelligence and actionable information they need to build comprehensive highimpact investigations to dismantle DTOs. Since July 2021, IS2 has supported 93 Inspection Service cases, including domestic and international investigations, in all 17 divisions.

By utilizing the resources of IS2, field Inspectors can focus their own resources on additional aspects of the investigation. By working together, we achieve our common goal of optimizing case development, culminating in prosecutable, high-impact Cl2 investigations.



Canada Post Security & Investigation Services Postal Inspector observing a U.S. Postal Inspection Service parcel interdiction.

International Partnerships

The Postal Inspection Service works with our international law enforcement and Foreign Post partners through participation in and memberships to EUROPOL, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and other international bodies. We combat would-be illicit drug shipments and work together to identify Transnational Criminal Organizations.

The U.S. Government and Canadian Government agreed to a bilateral Joint Opioids Action Plan to strengthen cross-border cooperation and find effective approaches to addressing the opioid crisis. Within this bilateral agreement, the US-CAN Postal Security Action Plan was created, which directly supports the bilateral priorities between the governments of both countries to address the ongoing opioid crisis and the distribution of dangerous synthetic drugs within the mail system.

In October 2021 the Chief Postal Inspectors of both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the collaborative relationship between both Posts and provide greater postal security visibility to this bilateral action plan. This formalized agreement was finalized in an April 2022 meeting in Ottawa, Canada, to improve communication and coordination; streamline operational and strategic informationsharing and trends; conduct joint training; and share best practices to target illicit drug trafficking between US-Canada postal streams.



Counterfeit M30 fentanyl pills seized from Jacob Medina (a.k.a., Ghost831).

"Ghost831" Sentenced to Three Years

In November 2018, the Postal Inspection Service initiated an undercover purchase of heroin from Dark Net vendor "Ghost831" on the Dream Market Dark Net marketplace. Ghost831, identified as Jacob Matthew Medina, advertised methamphetamine, black tar heroin, and Oxycodone for sale. During the investigation, Postal Inspectors learned of three overdoses allegedly related to purchases from Ghost831. Two of the three victims did not survive. During surveillance of Medina and his girlfriend Diane Erika Marin in early March 2019, Postal Inspectors witnessed Marin mail 24 parcels at three separate Post Offices in one day. Postal Inspectors secured a search warrant, retrieved all 24 parcels, and examined them, revealing approximately 93 grams of blue "M30" pills. Our Forensic Laboratory Service later confirmed the pills contained fentanyl.

With the assistance of the Maricopa County, AZ, Sheriff's Office, SWAT, and Clandestine Laboratory teams, we executed a search warrant on Medina and Marin's residence. Items seized included a pistol, \$31,000 in currency, and multiple counterfeit "M30" fentanyl pills. Inspectors also seized a customer mailing list that included the name and address of one overdose victim, as well as the receipt to the identified parcel, various binding agents, and pill press components.

Shortly after, Postal Inspectors were notified of another fentanyl overdose in Arlington, VA. This victim was revived by Narcan and admitted he purchased pills from Ghost831 on the Dark Web. During the investigation, an additional fentanyl overdose death related to purchases from Ghost831 was identified in Gresham, OR.

Medina and his girlfriend were indicted in March 2019 on federal narcotics charges of Title 21, USC, Sections 846 and 841. Medina pleaded guilty in May 2021 and was sentenced on January 4, 2022, to 13 years in federal prison.

Our Phoenix Division received a White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), U.S. Interdiction Committee (USIC) Award for this investigation.



Seizures of cocaine and U.S. currency in Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rican DTO Dismantled

In April 2022, two leaders of a violent Puerto Rico Drug Cartel were convicted of multiple murders and racketeering conspiracy. The Postal Inspection Service became involved in this case in 2013, when New York Division Inspectors began investigating a New Yorkbased target named Juan Valdez. Valdez utilized the U.S. Postal Service to traffic kilograms of cocaine from Puerto Rico to New York. His sophisticated DTO supplied customers in New York with cocaine from suppliers in Puerto Rico, via individual mailers who moved around the narcotics and the proceeds. Our investigation also revealed that an active day care center in the Bronx, NY, was utilized by the DTO as a manufacturing and distribution center for crack and cocaine.

The case also led to the identification of another high-level narcotics trafficker named Luis H. Blondet-Martinez (Blondet). Collaboration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) confirmed Blondet was a significant drug trafficker in the San Juan metropolitan area of Puerto Rico and that this DTO was shipping kilogram quantities of cocaine from Puerto Rico to several divisions including, Miami, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York.

As revealed in the investigation, during the early 2000s, most street-level drug sales in the San Juan metropolitan area were controlled by gangs operating in public housing projects, where each housing project had its own gang. Sometime in or about 2004, these gang leaders agreed to form an alliance called the "Organizacion de Narcotraficantes Unidos" (La ONU) to resolve conflicts between rival drug gangs.

From its founding through 2016, La ONU gained control as a major drug trafficking enterprise responsible for shipping massive amounts of narcotics—via the U.S. Mail—to the contiguous United States. La ONU leaders also pooled their resources to purchase weapons, vehicles, and other items to engage in violent acts, including the murders of numerous gang rivals and bystanders. One of the founding members, Julio Marquez-Alejandro (a.k.a., "Chino"), was believed to be behind dozens of these murders, as well as widespread bribery of corrupt Puerto Rico police officers.

In 2017, eight members of La ONU were indicted out of the Southern District of New York for six murders and multiple violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, in addition to drug trafficking and firearms offenses. Two of those charged in the indictment were members of the Puerto Rico Police Department. Eventually, all charged defendants except Luis Blondet and Julio Marquez-Alejandro pleaded guilty to their various crimes. On April 8, 2022, after a threeweek trial, Blondet and Marquez-Alejandro were found guilty of their crimes. They now face mandatory life sentences.

Ultimately, this case led to the arrest and conviction of over 24 defendants and cleared over 57 open homicides in Puerto Rico. More than 12 kilograms of cocaine were seized from the mail, as well as five firearms and over \$350,000 in illicit drug proceeds from various traffickers. While announcing the Blondet and Marquez-Alejandro convictions, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York praised the investigative efforts of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, DEA, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

FIGHTING MAIL FRAUD

U nited States Postal Inspectors investigate criminal activities, both domestically and around the world, whenever the U.S. Mail is utilized to further a fraud scheme. We especially focus our investigative efforts on scams that target the most vulnerable or needy among American consumers, such as the elderly or persons affected by natural disasters or other unexpected events.

To this end, the Inspection Service Mail Fraud Program participates in several task forces, committees, and cross-border partnerships with other federal agencies to coordinate investigative efforts and create leads for criminal investigations.

Through these partnerships, our Mail Fraud Program investigates impactful mass marketing fraud cases and cross-border fraud, which often targets the elderly and those who are vulnerable because of fixed or limited income. Our collaborative efforts are instrumental in both protecting the victims and prosecuting those who have caused them financial harm. These cross-border partnerships have resulted in complex, large-scale, and high-impact consumer fraud investigations spanning multiple jurisdictions, both within and outside the United States, Canada, and other countries.

Postal Inspectors also investigate schemes that target American businesses. We work in close collaboration with our partners at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and federal law enforcement agencies to protect the U.S. Mail from fraudulent misuse. As part of our elder fraud outreach, we employ Victim Services Specialists who are tasked with contacting elder fraud victims to identify any needed social services, such as assistance with food and utilities. If any of these services are needed, Victim Services Specialists connect victims with local agencies. With the victim's consent, Victim Services Specialists also contact the family members to facilitate delivery of elder fraud prevention materials to both the elderly victims and their families.

The Inspection Service also leverages USPS's footprint and scale in our elder fraud prevention efforts, placing signage and messaging in Post Offices nationwide to educate tens of millions of customers on elder fraud and money mule prevention. Further, we have increased our fraud prevention efforts by utilizing the Postal Service's Informed Delivery service to educate consumers on elder fraud and money mule scams.

DOJ Securities & Investments Fraud Team

Beginning in 2020, the Postal Inspection Service investigated Glencore International A.G. (Glencore) for allegations of manipulating prices in the U.S. bunker fuel market. In May 2022, Glencore pleaded guilty to violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and a commodity price manipulation conspiracy in which Glencore created the false appearance of supply and demand to manipulate oil prices. Glencore was also accused of paying bribes to obtain oil contracts, avoid government audits, and even allegedly paid bribes to judges to make lawsuits disappear. Glencore's corrupt actions occurred for over a decade and involved intermediaries and foreign officials in seven countries.

Both Glencore and Glencore, Ltd., agreed to pay over \$1.1 billion to resolve criminal and civil investigations into the bribery and commodity price manipulation in the U.S., U.K., and Brazil.



Commodities giant Glencore PLC, based in Baar, Switzerland. Photo: Arnd Wiegmann/Reuters.

DOJ Transnational Elder Fraud Team

On May 17, 2022, at the conclusion of a federal trial, defendants Sean Novis and Gary Denkberg were convicted of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, fraudulent use of fictitious names, and aiding and abetting other mail fraud schemes. The jury convicted Novis of all 19 counts in the indictment and convicted Denkberg of 13 counts.

Novis and Denkberg were charged with operating mass mailing fraud schemes that tricked thousands of consumers into paying fees that falsely promised prizes. From January 2003 to September 2016, Novis and Denkberg mailed millions of prize notices to victims to make the victims believe they were chosen to receive a large cash prize only if they paid a small fee. Victims who paid the requested fee, however, did not receive the promised cash prize. Although the notices appeared to be personalized correspondence, they were merely mass-produced, boilerplate documents that were bulk mailed to recipients whose names and addresses were on mailing lists.

Victims suffered over \$92 million in losses as a result of the years-long scheme. Novis and Denkberg are scheduled to be sentenced in 2023.

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Pop-up message falsely informing over 57,000 victims their computers were infected by malware. Photo: ALUGY.com.

Chicago Division

In FY 2022, the final of 21 defendants was sentenced to nine years and five months in prison after a multi-year Postal Inspection Service investigation into the owners and employees of Client Care Experts, LLC (Client Care), and ABC Repair Tech (ABC). Client Care and ABC were accused of running a boiler room and tech support scheme in which over 57,000 victims received a pop-up on their computers saying their computers were infected with malware. The pop-up ads directed the victims to call a toll-free number, where they were connected to employees who used a high-pressure telemarketing pitch to convince them to pay \$200-\$500 to remove the malware from their computers. The victims were not told that, in most cases, they simply needed to reboot their computers to make the pop-up ads disappear.

The owners of the businesses, Michael Austin Seward and Kevin James McCormick, were sentenced to prison terms of over nine years and 11 years, respectively. In addition to their prison sentence, Seward and McCormick were ordered to pay over \$11.5 million in victim restitution.

New York Division

In 2018, the Postal Inspection Service began investigating a case involving five defendants accused of mailing, or facilitating the mailing of, fraudulent solicitations involving three mail fraud schemes targeting the elderly and/or the vulnerable. The solicitations claimed to notify recipients they had won multimillion-dollar cash prizes and needed to immediately pay a fee to collect their winnings. Victims around the world were targeted and suffered losses of approximately \$13 million.

Each of the five defendants has been convicted and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. The defendants are scheduled to be sentenced in early 2023.



PROTECTING **POSTAL CUSTOMERS**

The Postal Inspection Service is committed to protecting our primary customer — the American public — from fraud schemes that exploit the U.S. Mail. Scammers never cease in their attempts to exploit a crisis, such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Teaching potential victims how to recognize and avoid these and other types of scams can prevent many crimes before they occur.

Fraud Prevention and Consumer Protection

A critical element of the Postal Inspection Service's crime prevention efforts is informing and educating consumers about fraud schemes involving the mail. Inspectors have found that educating people about crimes is the best way to prevent them from becoming victims. Armed with the right knowledge, almost anyone can recognize a fraudulent scheme and make the right decision — to stay away.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our Mail Fraud Program worked with our Communications, Governance & Strategy (CGS) Group to engage in a coronavirus/COVID-19-related fraud prevention campaign. This included a page on the Postal Inspection Service website dedicated to coronavirus-related scams and prevention tips; social media posts on Facebook

and Twitter: and a series of COVID-19-related fraud Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos.

During FY 2022, we scripted, filmed, and released 24 PSA videos covering a wide range of fraud, scams, and other prevention messaging. We also created a new Spanish language fraud prevention page on our website, USPIS.gov, informing the Spanish-speaking public on the most prevalent frauds they may encounter. Further, we uploaded supporting Spanish language videos on the new page.

During the reporting period, we also expanded our Operation Protect Veterans and election mail security pages. We updated our email scams and tax fraud webpages, as well as our current scam articles. And we created a new page to support the Financial Industry Mail Security Initiative and a "hot topics" page for trending scams and customer concerns. Finally, we added buttons visitors can click to report email crimes and instructions for reporting mail theft through the USPS.com site.

The work to prevent crimes against or involving the U.S. Mail is a continuous endeavor for the Postal Inspection Service. We remain engaged and resolute in our efforts to educate the American public, stop crimes before they happen, and ensure the safety of our customers and the mail.



ANT MAN IN THE TANK T

ASSISTING CRIME VICTIMS

The impact of fraud and financial crimes can be devastating. Due to underreporting and the complexities of investigations and prosecutions, victims are seldom made whole.

To help them find their way in the criminal justice system, the Inspection Service works with crime victims by advising them of their rights and the services available to them. Inspection Service staff regularly contact victims, offering support and guidance.

With this outreach, victims feel more comfortable in an unfamiliar system. This support also has a significant impact on the confidence of victims in the criminal justice system.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

For the past 16 years, the Inspection Service has supported National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), which is held annually in April. This year's theme was Rights; Access; Equity for All Victims and highlights organizations that support victims of crimes. The Postal Inspection Service distributed and displayed posters at over 12,000 Post Offices throughout the nation.

Remission Payments for Epsilon Fraud Victims

As part of a 2021 deferred Prosecution Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Epsilon Data Management, LLC, ("Epsilon") agreed to pay \$127.5 million into a victim compensation fund. Epsilon sold victims' personal data to clients who used the data to engage in fraudulent mass-mailing schemes.

As part of the remission process, the corporate investigation firm Kroll, Inc., was selected as the Claims Administrator responsible for managing the distribution of compensation funds to the victims. As of September 2, 2022, over 150,000 remission payments totaling over \$52 million have been received by victims of the fraud.

Additionally, another 114,000 payments have been distributed, totaling another \$39 million. Another two rounds of distribution are soon to follow.



ADMINISTERING ASSET FORFEITURE

The Postal Inspection Service is committed to preserving the American public's trust in the integrity of the U.S. Mail. Asset forfeiture has a long history as a critical component of our strategies to combat mail theft, mail fraud, child pornography, money laundering, and drug trafficking through the mail.

Asset forfeiture deters criminal activity and punishes criminals by depriving them of property used in or acquired through illegal activities. It also provides an effective means to recover assets that, when authorized under federal law, may be used to compensate victims. Moreover, forfeited proceeds unrelated to victim loss may be reinvested in the continuing fight against crime by helping offset the costs to the government. Such funds are used to support task force operations, train personnel, acquire needed technologies and equipment, enable canine detection capabilities, and cover many more necessary expenses of combating crime.

The availability of asset forfeiture funding also allows us to support numerous innovative investigative initiatives, such as Project JOLT (Jamaican Operations Linked to Telemarketing) and the Cross-Border Task Force partnerships with Canadian law enforcement. These, along with other partnerships around the globe, make us more effective at protecting U.S. citizens from criminals who prey upon them from beyond our borders through international mail. Mail-related crimes often involve the use of the internet, particularly the Dark Web. Inspectors have honed their investigative skills to find and seize illegal proceeds hidden in online cryptocurrency accounts.

In FY 2022, the Inspection Service seized 1,566 assets worth over \$402 million. Of these seizures, \$6.5 million in equitable sharing was granted to state and local partners. The following cases illustrate some of the ways Inspectors are utilizing forfeiture.

"AT A GLANCE"

Assets seized: 1,566 Value: > \$402 million Equitable sharing: \$6.5 million



Photo Credits — Getty Images — BBC News



Glenn Arcaro at the 2018 BitConnect multi-level event. Photo: ItZone.com.

BitConnect

On September 1, 2021, Glen Arcaro pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud for his role in the BitConnect cryptocurrency Ponzi scheme. As part of the plea agreement, he agreed to the forfeiture of property, including cryptocurrency, which was derived from the scheme, as well as restitution of over \$24 million to victims of the scheme.

BitConnect had already received national and international attention. In late 2017, one of BitConnect's more enthusiastic supporters became a viral meme on the internet. Because of the meme's popularity, the scam was featured in an episode of "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," which originally aired March 12, 2018. A Postal Inspector was assigned to the IRS-CI task force investigating Mr. Arcaro. In October 2021, as a result of her involvement, IRS-Criminal Investigations, USAO of the Southern District of CA, and the Asset Forfeiture Unit enabled the transfer of the cryptocurrency per the plea agreement. Over the course of several days, with on-site and virtual assistance provided by Postal Inspection Service forensic analysts, Forfeiture Management analysts coordinated with Inspector and Arcaro's attorneys to successfully complete the transfer of over \$56 million in cryptocurrency.

In May 2022, a significant portion of the seized cryptocurrency was liquidated per an interlocutory sale. The market value of the cryptocurrency at the time of the sale was \$40.2 million. The BitConnect Ponzi scheme ensnared 4,154 victims from 95 countries.



Bill Connect Webdesign

INTERCEPTING DANGEROUS MAIL

The Inspection Service's Dangerous Mail Investigations (DMI) Program is made up of approximately 400 Inspectors specially trained and equipped to respond when prohibited mailings, suspicious substances, or hazardous materials (including explosive devices) are sent through the U.S. Mail. The DMI program, which has evolved since the first response to the Anthrax investigation in 2001, has remained a top priority for the Inspection Service. This past year, DMI Inspectors responded to 1,804 incidents involving suspicious items, substances, powders, or liquids in the mail or at postal facilities.

DMI Inspectors receive comprehensive HAZMAT training and use multi-tiered field-screening equipment to identify hazards to the U.S. Postal Service. These may include suspicious powders, liquids, threats, hoaxes, or improvised explosive devices (IEDs). During FY 2022, DMI Inspectors were involved in numerous high-profile investigations involving mail that contained suspicious substances, along with threatening communications to federal and state government officials, religious organizations, foreign embassies, and news media agencies. These investigations and others led to 21 arrests and 19 convictions.

Mail Screening at National Security Events

The Inspection Service worked with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners at national mail-screening events during FY 2022. The Postal Inspection Service was tasked with providing security for mail and mail-related matter at selected sites, and with providing investigative and intelligence support during each event. The Postal Inspection Service has participated in 28 national mail screening events in the past three years.







East Bay Mail Bomber Gets 40 Years

In late 2017, two explosive devices were mailed and delivered in the San Francisco Bay area. Postal Inspectors responded and investigated the devices, collecting evidence from both crime scenes. The evidence was sent to our Forensic Laboratory Services (FLS) in Dulles, VA, and the lab was able to assist in developing a suspect, Ross Gordon Laverty. Simultaneously, Postal Inspectors continued the investigation, eventually leading to the arrest of Laverty. A federal jury convicted Ross Gordon Laverty of multiple felonies in connection with mailing two explosive devices with the intent to injure or kill his targets. In July 2022, Laverty was sentenced to 40 years in prison. The conviction was a result of the investigation by the Postal Inspection Service, FLS, ATF and the FBI.



New York Man Sentenced for Sending Threatening Letters

On May 26, 2021, Postal Inspectors were made aware of five threatening letters sent to the organizers of the New York City Pride Parade. After a joint investigation with the FBI, Robert Fehring was identified as the sender.

Through the investigation, it was determined that Fehring sent letters threatening violence to individuals associated with the LGBTQ+ community from 2013 through 2021. In those letters, Fehring threatened to use firearms and explosives against the recipients. One such letter threatened that there would "be radio-cont[r]olled devices placed at numerous strategic places" at the 2021 New York City Pride March. The letter claimed these devices had enough "firepower" to "make the 2016 Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting look like a cakewalk," referencing the 2016 attack in which 49 persons were killed and dozens wounded at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

Fehring also sent a threatening letter to the owner of a barbershop affiliated with the LGBTQ+ community in Brooklyn, NY, which stated, in part, "your shop is the perfect place for a bombing . . . or beating the scum that frequents your den of [expletive] into a bloody pool of steaming flesh." Fehring mailed dozens of additional threatening letters to individuals, businesses, and elected officials associated with the LGBTQ+ community.

Fehring was arrested on December 6, 2021, and pleaded guilty to 18 USC 876 on February 23, 2022. On August 3, 2022, he was sentenced to 30 months in prison.



Robert Fehring entering court to receive sentence for mailing threats. Photo: nbcnewyork.com



HALTING CHILD EXPLOITATION

ederal law prohibits the production, distribution, reception, and possession of child pornography. Using the mail to transmit materials that exploit children debases the integrity of the postal system and further endangers the safety and well-being of young victims. The Inspection Service assigns specially trained Inspectors to investigate incidents when the mail is used for this purpose or when child pornography is identified through other Inspection Service investigations.

The Postal Inspection Service partners with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and all 93 U.S. Attorney's Offices across the United States to investigate child sexual exploitation involving the U.S. Mail and the internet.

In Fiscal Year 2022, several Inspectors from our Child Exploitation Unit attended the National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation in Atlanta, GA. The training, sponsored by the Department of Justice, included presentations from law enforcement agencies, mental health professionals, and professionals specializing in child exploitation. The training also provided investigative techniques used to combat the sexual exploitation of children and fostered better working relationships across jurisdictions with other professionals.

Former Sheriff Sentenced for Child Exploitation

In January 2018, Postal Inspectors worked with Louisiana State Police on the investigation of sexual abuse allegations against Jack Strain. Strain, who had previously served 20 years as the sheriff of St. Tammany Parish, LA, was also under investigation by the FBI and IRS for public corruption. The Postal Inspection Service was requested to assist in the case due to our expertise in both mail fraud and child exploitation investigations.

Strain was accused of raping and molesting young males, relatives and otherwise, over the span of his adult life, with charges beginning when Strain was 18 vears old.

Strain was arrested in June 2019 and went to trial in February 2022. After a 15-day trial, Strain was found guilty of several charges and sentenced in the 22nd Judicial District to four life sentences, to be run concurrently (for charges of aggravated rape of a minor under 13), followed by an additional 30 years to be run consecutively (for incest, molestation, and sexual battery charges). Strain was also ordered to pay \$27,885 in prosecution fees and a fine of \$30,000. The conviction of Strain in the state also led to his guilty plea in federal court on the corruption charges.

In the unlikely event of his release, he must register as a sex offender.



The Postal Inspection Service's cooperation with NCMEC has resulted in the analysis of over 350 million child sexual abuse images and videos and the identification of more than 20,000 child sexual abuse victims. In May 2022, Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale (right) received a NCMEC "Heroes' Award" on behalf of the Inspection Service for our ongoing support and our shared mission to end child exploitation. Presenting the award, NCMEC President and CEO Michelle DeLaune stated, "Thousands and thousands of children are safer because of the work of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service."

DEPLOYING SECURITY

Protecting postal employees, our facilities, and the mail they process and handle is of vital importance to the Postal Service and the Postal Inspection Service. Ensuring the Postal Service can continue operations in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other crisis involves coordinated protection planning efforts and a thorough evaluation of every vulnerability.

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police Officers (PPOs) ensure the safety of over 600,000 employees and approximately 32,000 postal facilities. Our uniformed PPOs are assigned to postal facilities throughout the country. PPOs provide facility security, respond to emergency situations at postal facilities, report security breaches and threats against employees, and carry out essential protective functions.

To help accomplish this mission, the Inspection Service conducts annual risk assessments to ensure security controls are upheld and in place. During FY 2022, we conducted security reviews of 515 postal facilities using the Vulnerability Risk Assessment Tool (VRAT)—a comprehensive, risk-based model to identify security deficiencies. Based on an analysis of crimes against persons and property in each area where a postal facility exists, these annual Postal Inspection Service risk assessments ensure security controls are in place to mitigate the risks in each area.

Securing Election Mail

Beginning with the 2020 Election Season, Postal Inspection Service divisions conducted Observations of Mail Conditions (OMCs) for primary and special elections in nearly every state and territory. OMCs provide election mail protection and security from dispatch to delivery. More than 700 Postal Inspection Service personnel were involved, and over 13,000 work hours were recorded to conduct 2,224 OMCs. In addition, an Election Mail Security Task Force worked to overhaul the OMC training, notification, and reporting system to make it more efficient for field personnel doing the work.

To prepare for the 2022 mid-term elections, the Inspection Service collaborated with federal, state, and local officials in regard to election planning, information, and security preparedness. We contributed to tabletop exercises, trainings, information-sharing sessions, and conferences focused on elections and election security. Inspection Service program managers also met with federal partners, such as Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), to prepare, secure, and support mail-in ballot initiatives for future elections.

Retail Security

The Security Group provided input on the security and implementation of several retail pilot projects across the country. In support of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year plan, the Security Group works closely with postal stakeholders on the design, implementation, and monitoring of pilot projects that seek to bring retail innovations that enhance customer experience and safety at the Post Office.

Logistics

The Security Group works with USPS Logistics to help ensure the security of the mail across the postal network. As the Postal Service enhances its partnerships across the transportation industry, the Security Group works simultaneously to build relationships with those same partners and to maintain the trust and accountability that underpin security and safety across the postal supply chain. Continuing our efforts to support the 10-year plan, security representatives met with network partners at ocean ports, railyards, and handling terminals across the country to discuss security and safety and find new ways to support the Postal Service in its mission to move the mail.



SECURING FACILITIES

Uniformed Postal Police Officers (PPOs) help raise the security profile at large USPS facilities. Whether they are securing facilities or performing other critical protective actions, their presence and professionalism play a crucial role in accomplishing the Inspection Service mission to protect the Postal Service, its employees, and infrastructure.

The Postal Inspection Service deploys PPOs at facilities in 20 cities where crime risk is high. Their uniformed presence is a deterrent to would-be criminals. PPOs provide security patrols at well over 700 postal facilities, respond to burglar alarms at almost 600 stations, and are often the first to respond to emergencies, disruptions, and criminal activity reported at postal facilities.

Los Angeles Post Office Burglar Caught

On February 23, 2022, at approximately 1:45 a.m., PPOs were notified of an alarm activation at Hancock Post Office in Los Angeles, CA. Officers responded and discovered an unauthorized individual, later identified as Jesus Soto, rifling mail in the facility. The officers arrested the subject and discovered stolen mail, Arrow keys, a USPS Voyager gas card, and other restricted items in his possession. On June 27, 2022, Soto pleaded guilty to Possession of Stolen Mail. He was sentenced on September 30, 2022, to time served, plus two years' supervised release.

Knife-Wielding Man Arrested in San Francisco Post Office

On November 1, 2021, at approximately 1:34 a.m., a Postal Police Officer responded to reports of a suspicious person loitering in restricted areas of the San Francisco P&DC. When the officer directed the subject to leave postal premises, the subject attacked – punching, kicking, and placing a chokehold on the officer. With support of additional responding officers, the subject was ultimately controlled and taken into custody. A 9-inch knife was discovered on the subject during the subsequent search incident to arrest. The case was referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Old National Post Office Burglary



On September 4, 2022, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Postal Police Officers responded to an activated alarm at the Old National Post Office in College Park, GA. Upon arrival, the officers found the front lobby door ajar and knocked partially off its hinges, though no one appeared to be inside. In the employee parking lot, they observed a postal utility pickup truck that had been vandalized and its contents rifled.

The officers then checked the rear employee entrance and found the door unlocked. The PPOs entered the facility with weapons drawn, scanning the workroom floor for any unauthorized persons. One of the PPOs observed someone hiding behind the letter cases and shouted, "Stop! Postal Police," and instructed him to turn slowly with his hands in the air.

At first, the suspect appeared to comply, but as the officers approached, he ran through a hole in the wall separating the workroom from the customer lobby. The officers contacted Postal Inspectors, then called 911 to notify local police.

While waiting for College Park Police Officers to arrive, they continued to search the exterior of the building for any evidence the suspect may have dropped. During the search, they encountered a man walking on the sidewalk and, after identifying him as the man who had fled, the officers placed the suspect in handcuffs.

The man, who had been arrested multiple times for a variety of felonies, was transported to a local jail, while the PPOs secured the facility. Upon further investigation of the scene, they discovered an employee entrance door lock had been popped out of the cylinder, apparently by a sledgehammer the suspect had allegedly taken from the vandalized truck, which they found on the employee breakroom floor. The suspect also allegedly used the sledgehammer to knock open the lobby door and break through the Post Office lobby wall, where he made his near escape.

The suspect is facing charges of Burglary in the Second Degree, Interference with Government Property, giving False Information to Law Enforcement, and Willful Obstruction of Law Enforcement.

A criminal indictment contains charges that are only allegations against a person. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.



SAFEGUARDING REVENUE & ASSETS

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) delivers almost 150 billion pieces of mail annually, more efficiently and at a lower cost than any comparable post. It does so without the financial support of the American taxpayer. USPS is a self-funding entity that derives its revenues entirely through the sale of postal products and services. For that reason, the Postal Service relies on its customers to pay the required postage costs. Postal Inspectors work with Postal Service groups to protect revenue and investigate claims of short-paid postage that indicates possible fraud.

Counterfeit Postage Labels

The manufacturing, distribution and use of counterfeit postage labels is a violation of 18 United States Code § 501. The Revenue Investigations (RI) Program works with the 16 field divisions to coordinate investigations, intelligence, and cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement partners.

In December 2021, Inspectors from the Inspection Service Security Group assisted the RI Program with a joint Inspection Service/Customs and Border Protection (CBP) interdiction in Los Angeles, focusing on foreign shipments of packages affixed with counterfeit USPS postage labels. Shipments with suspected counterfeit postage labels were placed on hold by CBP for additional review and intelligence gathering. We conducted additional interdictions with CBP at other freight entry locations in New York and Los Angeles. Further, we have begun to deploy new and enhanced technological controls within the USPS distribution network to mitigate the acceptance of counterfeit postage labels.



Brothers in Crime – Philadelphia Division

On December 20, 2021, two brothers pleaded guilty in federal court to mail fraud. The brothers owned a company that sold multiple household items through their online marketplace, including cases of bottled water. They shipped the goods to their customers using the USPS. From January 2020 to September 2020, they defrauded the USPS of approximately \$3 million in postage by purchasing low priced Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelope (FRE) labels and intentionally removing the FRE endorsement on the labels so they could mail heavier items that did not qualify for the Priority Mail FRE postage rates. On September 18, 2022, the men were each sentenced to three months' prison, three years' probation, and \$3.5 million in restitution.

PC Postage Counterfeiter Sentenced – Denver Division

On November 12, 2021, an ecommerce seller was sentenced to three years in federal prison for counterfeiting PC Postage. The seller altered postage labels used to mail items he sold through his eBay business between 2013 and 2017. The seller was found guilty at trial on seven counts of 18 USC 501, Counterfeiting and Forgery, as well as three counts of 18 USC 554, Export Violation. In addition to his prison sentence, he was ordered to serve a three-year term of supervised release, was fined \$10,000, and ordered to pay \$256,441.78 in restitution to USPS.

Counterfeit Postage Stamps

FY 2022 brought an increase in suspected counterfeit postage stamps being sold on ecommerce marketplaces and websites. The RI Program worked with the Inspection Service's Communications Unit to develop a fraud article and a public service announcement for release to warn the public about counterfeit stamps.

Additionally, Inspectors held meetings with various ecommerce marketplaces to discuss the increase in sales of stamps suspected to be counterfeit, due to significant discounts in price. These meetings led to two marketplaces deciding to end the sale of stamps on their sites. Other marketplaces provided processes for gathering information and requesting account closings on customers selling counterfeit stamps.

Over \$2 Million in Counterfeit Stamps Recovered – New York Division

In February 2022, Inspectors in the New York Division were contacted by local Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agents regarding two freight boxes entering the U.S. that contained suspected counterfeit stamps. The boxes were addressed to a fulfillment warehouse in the Long Island, NY, area. Inspectors worked with CBP to confirm the approximately 70,000 stamps (valued at \$40,600) were indeed counterfeit. Inspectors and Homeland Security Investigations agents interviewed the warehouse owner, who was unaware the stamps were counterfeit. The owner provided information on his overseas customer, who sold the stamps online, and agreed to no longer work with that customer. He also provided a tour of the warehouse and identified additional shipments of stamps he had on hand. A total of seven pallets containing 4,233,140 counterfeit stamps with a value of over \$2.4 million were voluntarily turned over to law enforcement.



Shipments of counterfeit stamps seized at Long Island, NY, Warehouse.



Squatting, left to right: Team Leader Gary Aringer, Acting HSC Shaun Varhese, and RFA Ralph Nardo. Standing: Physical Security Specialist (PSS) Anthony Pullara, Inspector Ed Gelpi, Inspector Shabeka Bent, Inspector Joseph Pereira, PSS Michael Chester, and Inspector Dennis O' Connell.

WORKING GLOBALLY

MILITARY & DIPLOMATIC MAIL

Our Global Security team oversees military and diplomatic mail security worldwide. In FY 2022, program managers partnered with military investigative agencies (NCIS, CID, and OSI) on more than 35 criminal cases, which primarily involved mail theft and narcotics investigations. Global Security program managers also served as inter-agency liaisons, ensured airline security partners were abiding to security-related contract requirements, resolved approximately 50 international alarm resolution incidents, and consulted on other postal crimes, such as mail fraud. Despite COVID-19 travel restrictions, we conducted 10 security reviews at military mail facilities worldwide.

Global Security also focused on prevention through training and guidance to military branch Command Postal Managers. Topics covered included:

- Mail Theft-Reporting Procedures (External/Internal).
- General Security Measures.
- Dangerous Goods.
- Eccentric Mailings.
- Fraud Schemes Targeting the Military Community.

Global Security actively supported Inspection Service election mail security initiatives. We provided guidance on the Military Strategic Voting Plan and reviewed the action plans for Military Postal Commands across all branches of service. We provided recommendations based on lessons learned from previous elections and emphasized the need for the military to conduct self-audits. During FY 2022, an estimated one million absentee ballots were mailed by active-duty service members, dependents, Department of Defense civilians, military contractors, and Americans living overseas. No significant issues were reported during the mailing of these ballots.



lifted, allowing official international travel to most countries to resume. The OIT processed 53 official passports and eight visas, bringing the total number of official passports currently maintained to 172. Additionally, the International Travel Coordinator has continued to collaborate with IT developers to streamline the program. The process to submit OIT requests and Official Passport Requests (OPR) will be updated and automated with an anticipated rollout in FY 2023.



OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM

The Official International Travel (OIT) Program, managed by Global Security, facilitated 56 trips to 16 foreign countries for Inspectors conducting investigations and security missions. In FY 2022, international travel restrictions for COVID-19 were

MAIL TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT RECOVERY PROGRAM

Global Security has oversight of the Mail Transportation Equipment (MTE) recovery program, which serves to identify and recover postal equipment and, when warranted, seek criminal prosecution. The misuse and theft of MTE can cost the Postal Service considerably. In FY 2022, hotline tips, leads, and enforcement efforts led to the recovery of over \$1 million in MTE. Postal Inspectors completed 169 prevention visits at recyclers, major mailers, freight forwarders, commercial mail receiving agencies, USPS facilities, and airports. The goal of prevention visits is to preempt the misuse and theft of MTE.



Postal Inspector Nicolas Bravo of the Los Angeles Division stands in a truck full of recovered MTE. Inspector Bravo led an effort to reclaim approximately 11,000 pallets valued at \$242,000.

INTERPOL & OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Global Security serves as the liaison to Interpol and the Office of International Affairs, which collaborates with 195 member countries to exchange information for international investigations and to extradite

fugitives. During FY 2022, Global Security submitted several Red Notices and Wanted Person Diffusions, which led to arrests and extraditions from member countries. Over the past three years, requests for assistance from Inspection Service divisions have grown substantially. These requests can include fingerprints, migratory movements, fugitive location, criminal history, business registry information, and other intelligence that can assist with investigations. Global Security has focused on promoting the resources provided by Interpol and the Office of International Affairs through presentations and by providing information to the more than 500 Inspectors working cases that have an international nexus. Additionally, Global Security is participating in a project with Interpol Argentina to bring to justice fugitives who are suspected to be in countries not currently partnering with the United States for extradition.



Fugitives Florin Vaduva, Vlad Baceanu, and Rashid Elhassani. All three were subjects of Postal Inspection Service Red Notices and were extradited to the United States for prosecution.

EXPORT ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION CENTER

During FY 2022, Global Security partnered with the Export Enforcement Coordination Center (E2C2) to conduct more than 1,100 deconflictions. Global Security personnel searched postal databases for information exchanged among federal partners for the purpose of deconfliction and to potentially create joint agency investigations.

HAZMAT & DANGEROUS GOODS

In response to the discovery of undeclared, improperly prepared, and/or prohibited hazardous materials found in the mail, approximately 270 civil penalty assessment letters were issued. A number of requests resulted in civil penalties with the total amount exceeding \$70,000. The HAZMAT group continued to work with Homeland Security Coordinators (HSCs) in every division to increase compliance with respect to local reporting of HAZMATrelated incidents and findings in the Mailpiece Incident Reporting Tool (MIRT).

The HAZMAT team engaged with USPS stakeholders to increase HAZMAT reporting compliance. The HAZMAT team also played a major role in the agency-wide HAZMAT enhancements initiative, working with internal partners to optimize acceptance, non-acceptance, logistics, and training materials. In May 2022, Global Security led an initiative to combat the illegal mailing of fireworks, with a concentrated focus on parcels transported via commercial airlines. Personnel from Global Security, our Los Angeles Division, ATF, and local law enforcement conducted a fireworks interdiction at the Los Angeles P&DC. During the interdiction, thousands of parcels were screened for fireworks and other hazardous materials. Items identified as HAZMAT were removed from the mailstream in accordance with USPS policies.



Members of the Los Angeles Fireworks Interdiction Team

COMBATTING COUNTERFEIT POSTAGE

In December 2021, Program Managers Zajo Hoti and Keith Nusbaum participated in an interdiction that aimed to identify items with counterfeit postage and prevent them from entering the mailstream. In collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Global Security led a two-week initiative to identify cargo shipments of items with counterfeit U.S. postage. Teams intercepted the shipments at airline warehouses. After confirming that the postage was counterfeit, CBP would refuse to allow entry of the shipments into the U.S. In total, the operation identified more than 1,500 boxes containing in excess of 86,000 items. The value of the fraudulent postage on the boxes exceeded \$420,000.



From left to right: Program Manager Amanda Weisbacker, INC Mike Ray, USPS VP of Engineering Systems Linda Malone, DCI Pat Armstrong, and Program Manager Keith Nusbaum

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION/POSTAL SECURITY GROUP

A new cycle began for the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and all member countries on January 1, 2022. The Abidjan Congress Cycle opened with the installment of a newly elected Director General, Mr. Masahiko Metoki of Japan, and newly elected Deputy Director General, Mr. Marjan Oswald of Slovenia. During the initial standing group sessions of the year, Chief Postal Inspector (CPI) and Chairman of the Postal Security Group (PSG) Gary Barksdale welcomed the new electees into their roles and highlighted the desire for continued cooperation and support for the safety and security of the global mailstream. During the Postal Operations Council (POC) session held on November 2, 2021, the first ever PSG Chairman's Award was presented. The Secretary General of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (PUASP) accepted the award on behalf of the winner, Mr. Pablo Alejandro Sagastume Osorio, who was selected from among eight other international applicants.

The UPU PSG Chairman's Award recognizes excellence in leadership toward securing the global postal supply chain. This award highlights the development of innovative efforts, systemic improvements, and the promotion of supply chain security. Any UPU member country may nominate one of its own employees for this award or nominate a deserving employee of another member Post or UPU stakeholder.



Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale (right) presents the first PSG Chairman's Award to Secretary General Roberto Cavanna on behalf of the winner, Pablo Sagastume Osorio.



Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale, AIC Claudia Angel, and Program Manager Dawn Wilkes with other attendees at the Postal Operations Council session.

In April 2022, Chief Barksdale returned to Bern, Switzerland, to chair the first in-person meeting of the Postal Security Group since 2019. The meeting highlighted the new quadrennial cycle and the important initiatives that the Postal Security Group will undertake. These initiatives include addressing dangerous goods with partners in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), enhancing road safety, increasing Advanced Electronic Data capacity building, and the mitigation of illicit goods in the mail.

COLLABORATION ON A GLOBAL LEVEL

In February 2022, International Postal Affairs and Global Security team members met with newly elected Secretary General Franklin Castro of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (PUASP) to discuss upcoming work between the United States and the Secretariat. The Postal Inspection Service will support PUASP in their efforts to accelerate regional security certifications in alignment with the mission of the UPU Postal Security Group.



Program Manager Carlos Rodriguez reviews security measures at Correos Mexico Office of Exchange in Mexico City, Mexico.



AIC Claudia Angel, Program Manager Carlos Rodriguez, and members of USPS IPA attended the Correos de Mexico celebration of the Postal Palace's 115th anniversary in Mexico City.

In July 2022, Program Manager Keith Nusbaum presented on security enhancements at the annual Caribbean Postal Union Conference in St. Lucia. The presentation focused on the current security risks facing postal operators, specifically those in the Caribbean region. The presentation also discussed insight into new tools and techniques that postal operators can use to address issues of mail theft, narcotics in the mail, fraud, and disaster management.

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) convened a global operational conference on opioids in Vienna, Austria, in August 2022. The meeting brought together law enforcement officers and international and private-sector partners to address the trafficking of fentanyl, synthetic opioids, and related dangerous substances. Over 140 participants from 83 governments, international organizations, and private-sector companies shared their experiences and perspectives on the challenges and threats related to the illicit manufacture and distribution of fentanyl. Participants also exchanged practical voluntary cooperation approaches to address the growing threat of non-scheduled dangerous substances.



Program Manager Dawn Wilkes speaks at the INCB conference in Vienna, Austria.



Program Manager Dawn Wilkes (center) with attendees from multiple countries at the INCB conference in Vienna, Austria.

In August 2022, the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and U.S. Tied Funds co-sponsored a UPU-INCB-WCO Advanced Security Training Workshop in Bern, Switzerland. The global postal supply chain plays a vital role for businesses, individuals, and governments throughout the world and has experienced significant growth, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This growth exposes the sector to greater potential misuse and exploitation, compromising in turn the integrity and safety of postal services. To support the critical role that postal officers play in intercepting emerging dangerous substances in the global postal supply chain, this workshop provided specialized training to 18 select security experts and UPU regional postal security managers. These experts represented 15 countries located in the Asia-Pacific, Caribbean, and Latin America regions. All 18 attendees received access to and training on INCB's advanced communication and analytics tools, as well as training on safe handling of dangerous substances. Attendees were also trained to serve as Security Certification experts within their regions.



Program Managers Dawn Wilkes, Eula Toca, and Keith Nusbaum with attendees at the Advanced Security Training Workshop in Bern, Switzerland.

At the request of USPS International Postal Affairs (IPA), the JFK International Service Center's (ISC) Management Team and our Global Security Team hosted a senior-level delegation from the Turkish Post. The meeting included a tour of the ISC and its operation. The Turkish Post delegation was eager to learn about the Postal Service's experiences and initiatives for operational transformation, which will address the increasing opportunities in e-commerce, especially cross-border growth.



Program Manager Zajo Hoti (left) with members of USPS IPA and the Turkish Post Delegation.



Program Manager Zajo Hoti provides a tour of the JFK ISC.

CHILE POST MAIL SECURITY REVIEW

In March 2022, Global Security program managers participated as members of an international audit team for a security review of Correos de Chile (Chile Postal Service), headquartered in Santiago, Chile. This security review, conducted in support of the UPU and PUASP, rated the postal operators on international security standards. Correos de Chile is considered to be a leader in mail security in Latin America and passed their review with exceptional ratings.



Program Managers Martin Glover and Matt MacMillan in Santiago, Chile.



Program Manager Matt MacMillan (right) in Santiago, Chile.

AVIATION SECURITY

Since the inception of the Third Party Canine (3PK9) Program last year, Security Group personnel have continued to monitor and refine the process. There are currently 28 domestic sites and four international mail service centers where the program is active. The 3PK9 program, which uses explosive detection canines to screen mail, allows the Postal Service to transport mail weighing over 16 ounces on commercial passenger aircraft. Transferring the mail volume from high-cost private couriers to commercial passenger aircraft saves the Postal Service millions of dollars each year and provides a more flexible network for the transportation of mail. During FY 2022, 3PK9 teams screened 92.5 million pounds of mail, resulting in a savings of \$122 million to the Postal Service.



MSA Security handler and canine screen mail in Alaska.



MSA Security handler and canine screen mail at the International Service Center in Los Angeles.



MSA Security handler and canine screen mail in Miami, FL

FORENSIC EXAMINATION

A t the National Forensic Laboratory in Dulles, VA, and at 20 digital evidence locations around the United States, highly trained forensic scientists and technical specialists play a key role in identifying, apprehending, prosecuting, and convicting individuals responsible for postal-related criminal offenses. Postal Inspectors rely on the forensic scientists and technical specialists in Questioned Documents and Imaging, Fingerprints, Physical Sciences, and Digital Evidence for their expertise in helping to solve postal crimes.



Quality and Expertise

In FY 2022, Forensic Laboratory Services (FLS) demonstrated an ongoing commitment to quality assurance by continuing accreditation under the international requirements ISO/IEC 17025:2017,

General requirements for competence of testing and calibration laboratories. Accreditation is through A2LA, an independent, non-profit organization that certifies all the sections of FLS according to rigorous international standards. FLS personnel also worked on national forensic science standard development organizations, such as the Organization of Scientific Area Committees, ASTM International E30 Committee on Forensic Sciences, the Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence, and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

This year, the Assistant Laboratory Director for Questioned Documents & Imaging continued as the Inspection Service's technical representative to USPS for the ongoing development of the new USPS money order. FLS personnel served as subject matter experts and provided instruction for the Improvised Explosive Device Recognition and Response, the Postal Police Officer Basic Training, Basic Inspector Training, Advanced Crime Scene Processing, Contraband Interdiction and Investigation, and the Suspicious Substance Response Training courses. FLS personnel also published a peer-reviewed scientific paper on magnetic resonance in chemistry, which highlighted the forensic applications of High-Resolution NMR Spectroscopy in the identification of novel psychoactive substances and the quantitation of methamphetamine.



Customer Service and Examinations

FLS's dedication to quality of work is consistently demonstrated through its case work achievements, technical assistance, and expert testimony. Our scientists and experts examined over 900,000 items, including 474 terabytes of data. We also identified 1,780 suspects in Postal Inspection Service investigations and coordinated 55 new requests for DNA analysis, leading to 14 identifications. Sixteen (16) DNA profiles from cases were entered into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System, resulting in 13 matches and vital investigative information for the field. FLS also submitted 24 exhibits to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, resulting in one match. FLS Personnel appeared in court and provided testimony 33 times. FLS continues to support the challenges facing USPS and the Postal Inspection Service by prioritizing examinations involving fentanyl, election mail, robberies, mail theft, and counterfeit postage.

Increased DNA Requests

In FY 2022, FLS saw an increase in the number of DNA examination requests in support of Postal Inspection Service Robbery, Burglary, and Mail Theft cases. The number of requests sent to the DNA contract laboratory related to these investigations increased by 64%, as compared to FY 2021. Types of evidence submitted for these examinations included touch DNA swabs collected from firearms, points of entry, stolen USPS property, and USPS scanners, as well as swabs of blood left at the scene by subjects.

Incident Response

The FLS Incident Response Team (IRT) responded to five different locations for five different cases to assist with on-site processing of crime scenes and collecting evidence. The IRT is a group of forensic analysts that respond to crime scenes across the nation to aid in the collection and processing of physical and digital evidence. In August 2022, IRT responded to a critical incident involving the assault of a USPS letter carrier by a suspect with a machete. The four-member team provided on-site processing support for latent prints, physical evidence, DNA, and photography. Multiple laboratory requests for the examination of fingerprints, physical evidence, and DNA were submitted for analysis.

Technology

In support of Postal Inspection Service investigations, FLS focused on technology and the procurement of several new pieces of laboratory instrumentation and equipment. In the Physical Sciences unit, a new IR camera imaging system reveals blood stains on dark backgrounds that were previously not visible. Physical Sciences also added an FT-IR Spectrometer System, which uses infrared light to decipher the chemical signature of materials. The system allows personnel to identify the signatures of drug samples and compare against reference materials. FLS also procured a new Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) instrument to examine the physical, chemical, and biological properties of matter to determine an object's molecular composition. Finally, FLS purchased a Gas Chromatograph with a Flame Ionization Detector, allowing analysts to examine specific types of chemical compounds.

In the Fingerprint & AFIS section, the newest handheld laser allows analysts to control the angle of visualization, leading to the better imaging and procurement of latent prints. Also, the procurement of a Full Spectrum Color Imaging System (FSIS) introduces a new fast-scanning option for examination in ultraviolet and infrared.

In the Questioned Documents and Imaging section, we added a new software, AmpedFIVE, to expand our ability to import proprietary video, perform restorations and enhancements, and generate scientific reports. These instruments add to the existing capabilities and technology at FLS and strengthen examiners' ability to analyze evidence and provide crucial information to investigators.

Planning for the Future

With an eye to the future, FLS started several projects in FY 2022 to bring new skills and expertise to the Postal Inspection Service. One focus of FLS personnel was Forensic Intelligence, or the expedient release of identifying information to more rapidly assist and link investigations. FLS also began a project to develop new skills and technology to explore the rapidly developing field of Digital Vehicle Forensics, which involves the collection and analysis of digital evidence from motor vehicle electronics systems. Finally, Physical Sciences began a project in gunshot residue to include Primer Residue testing, which can determine if an object was in the environment of a discharged firearm. These new skills demonstrate the dedication of FLS to continue learning, evolving, and providing exceptional service to the Postal Inspection Service.

INVESTIGATING CYBER THREATS

The Postal Inspection Service's Cybercrime Program is responsible for investigating various types of cybercrime and providing investigative, forensic, preventive, and analytical support to Inspection Service field divisions and across the United States Postal Service. Our Inspectors and analysts aggressively investigate potential criminal incidents affecting the USPS computer network, USPS eCommerce products and services, and field investigations related to web sites, postal revenue, and cryptocurrencies.

To accomplish this mission, Cybercrime program managers and intelligence analysts are embedded with multiple task forces and fusion centers (both internal and external to USPS) focusing on combatting cybercrime.

Cybercrime Task Force-Fusion Center Partnerships

The Cybercrime group maintains two Cyber Task Force-Fusion Center Partnerships: The National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force (NCIJTF) and the National Cyber Forensics & Training Alliance (NCFTA).

The NCIJTF is composed of multiple law enforcement and intelligence agencies, formed together to consolidate intelligence and research into cybercrime trends and techniques. As part of its relationship and liaison activities at the NCIJTF, our Cybercrime Program focuses on intelligence surrounding cyber security, organized cyber-attack threats, and virtual currency crimes that present potential threats to USPS employees, customers, and infrastructure.

NCFTA Inspection Service Cybercrime personnel, located on site in Pittsburgh, PA, partner with multiple public and private NCFTA member organizations. The overall purpose of the NCFTA is to bring together government, law enforcement, and private organizations to combat various types of cybercrime. One of the most significant focus areas of our NCFTA liaisons during FY 22 was potential malware and cyber threats for the USPS network. Cybercrime Group personnel partner with NCFTA Malware & Cyber Threat analysts to provide threat alerts and indicators to the USPS Corporate Information Security Office (CISO). These alerts are used to help protect the USPS network infrastructure.

eCommerce Fraud Prevention and Risk

During FY 2022 our Cybercrime Program continued to lead a USPS enterprise-wide eCommerce Fraud Risk Steering Committee (FRSC). This committee is a cross-functional group of executive managers who come together to discuss the state of fraud within the organization. The FRSC plays a critical role in minimizing USPS's fraud risk and ensuring that the organization's mission and resources are not compromised. During FY 22, the Cybercrime Program reported to the FRSC at regular intervals to highlight fraud metrics across monitored eCommerce applications. The committee reviewed fraud vulnerabilities and controls and evaluated new or enhanced controls to reduce brand damage and financial loss to the organization.

Liaison to the USPS Corporate Information Security Office (USPS-CISO)

Our Cybercrime personnel, located on site at the USPS Corporate Information Security Office (CISO) Security Operations Center, provide cybercrime-related support services to USPS. Some of the incidents we prevent and respond to include network intrusions, social media fraud, USPS website phishing, smishing, internal and external email fraud, and other online threats. One of the focus areas of our Cybercrime CISO liaison team during FY 22 was preventing and investigating USPS-related online fraud initiated from emails, texts, social media, and fraudulent USPSrelated websites. As a result, a total of 356 fraudulent USPS-related websites targeting consumers with fraud schemes were identified and taken down from the internet in FY 22.

Cybercrime Investigations and Forensics

Our Cybercrime Program contains a nationally focused investigations unit composed of both Postal Inspectors and computer forensic analysts. The focus of this unit is to investigate cybercrime and attacks targeting the USPS infrastructure, employees, and customers.

Investigations Opened and Results in FY 2022:

- The arrests and convictions of two individuals acting as conspirators and money mules in business email compromise incidents. These types of cases victimized U.S. and foreign businesses.
- Opened investigations involving the buying and selling of USPS employee log-on credentials and USPS customer ecommerce accounts on both publicly accessible and dark web sites.
- Opened investigations focusing on malicious links sent via fraudulent email and text messages posing as USPS correspondence. The links take customers to fake USPS websites, where consumer credit card information and other identifiable information is collected and used for criminal purposes.





CONNECTING PEOPLE AND SERVICES



The NLECC/Radio Unit comprises two National Law Enforcement Communications Centers (NLECCs) and the Radio Communications Group. The mission of the NLECC/Radio Unit is to provide critical public safety functions and essential services—24 hours a day, 365 days a year to U.S. Postal Service employees, Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Officers (PPOs), USPS customers, and outside law enforcement agencies.

Daily operations at both NLECC locations include centralized monitoring of the Inspection Service radio communications network and all USPS alarmed facilities. NLECC dispatchers access law enforcement and intelligence data to deliver vital criminal justice information to Postal Inspectors and PPOs. In addition, NLECC provides after-hours emergency telephone coverage for Inspection Service field offices to ensure emergency support and response 24 hours a day.

The Radio Communications Group

has oversight of the Inspection Service radio network and is responsible for the design, procurement, implementation, and maintenance of all aspects of the radio communications infrastructure. NLECC is a hub for the radio network, allowing NLECC personnel to provide emergency communications response to Inspectors and PPOs using handheld and mobile radios. In addition, the radio network supports interoperable radio communications between Inspectors, PPOs, USPS personnel, and other law enforcement agencies.

"AT A GLANCE"

187,725 telephone calls for assistance
12,613 radio calls handled
16,569 incident reports generated

58,531 investigative database gueries

215 warrant confirmations on suspects detained by outside law enforcement

PREPARING OUR WORKFORCE

Our Career Development Unit (CDU) oversees the functions of the National Training Academy, which includes the delivery of Inspector and Postal Police Officer basic training programs. CDU has maintained its Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation (FLETA) status since 2005. Our academy is one of only 16 FLETA accredited training centers in the nation. CDU also oversees the Assessment Center process for Postal Inspector applicants, the Polygraph Unit, and In-Service training programs — including the Leadership and Employee Development Program (LEDP) and the Employee Engagement Program.

In FY 2022, the USPIS-HERO platform allowed all Inspection Service personnel to complete a combined variety of six online courses, with 9,430 completions.

The CDU In-Service training program conducted 70 in-person trainings, reaching 1,000 participants. The trainings included Mail Theft, Narcotics, Threat Management, Dangerous Mail Investigations, and more. Additionally, the CDU conducted 11 subject matter expert meetings.

The CDU Basic Training Program graduated three Basic Inspector Training classes, in FY 2022, sending 56 new Postal Inspectors into the field.

The Assessment Center process ensures Postal Inspector applicants travel to CDU and are assessed through an in-box exercise, panel interview, and group exercise where they are required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to be a Postal Inspector. They are also required to undergo a polygraph administration. In FY 2022, CDU conducted eight Assessment Center events, assessing 159 Postal Inspector applicants.

During FY 2022, the polygraph examiners conducted seven criminal examinations in support of field investigations and 97 examinations for Postal Inspector applicants.











PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

he U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is committed to building and maintaining a workforce worthy of America's continuing confidence and trust. To support that mission, the Postal Inspection Service's Security Investigations Service Center (SISC) provides background investigation and security clearance processing for USPS, the Postal Inspection Service, and the USPS Office of Inspector General. In FY 2022, the SISC focused efforts on two of Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale's goals: Postal Inspector and Postal Police Officer (PPO) hiring. SISC's processing of applications led to three Basic Inspector Training (BIT) classes, with an average of 22 candidates each. The Inspection Service also hosted a Postal Inspector candidate open season for two weeks in July, resulting in over 8,000 applicants. PPO open season for this fiscal year ran the last week of August. This open season resulted in 37 potential applicants. The SISC also processes all Postal Inspection Service law enforcement credentials for new and retiring Inspectors and PPOs.

Because surface transportation supplier employees require access to the U.S. Mail and to processing facilities, SISC also screens these individuals—over 25,600 background investigations in FY 2022. To streamline processes for the cleared population, the SISC has included badge dissemination for surface transportation supplier employees to ensure compliance with required background investigation updates, per contracted intervals.

To continue ensuring the security of the mail, the SISC processed background investigations for

employees of United Parcel Service (UPS), Federal Express, Amazon, Terminal Handler Services (THS), and all commercial airlines, in accordance with established contracts. These background investigations exceeded 70,600.

During FY 2022, USPS continued to deal with the effects of Covid-19. SISC supported their efforts, ensuring a robust workforce, especially during the Peak Season. Over 241,000 National Agency Checks with Inquires (NACI) applications were submitted by USPS HR for processing. The utilization of a collaborative workforce dashboard allowed USPS to on-board those granted interim clearances. Over 180,000 interims were processed, with approximately 159,000 favorably adjudicated.

The SISC has successfully transitioned to the new normal of a hybrid workforce. This has increased the safety of all staff while ensuring optimal work volume processing. This has allowed for more engaged and collaborative teams, focused on the mission of supporting and protecting USPS employees, facilities, mail, and customers.



INVESTIGATIVE STATISTICS: FY 2022

Program	Cases Initiated	Arrests*	Convictions*
Assaults	566	232	155
Burglary	195	63	39
Child Exploitation	6	3	5
Mail Fraud	409	442	470
Mail Theft	1,124	1,258	1,188
Prohibited Mail Narcotics	2,311	2,110	1,949
Money Laundering	23	34	27
Nonmailable, Restricted Matter	33	17	21
Revenue Investigations	23	11	б
Robbery	423	100	68
Suspicious Substances and Items (includes bombs, explosives, threats, hazardous items, non-threatening items, and hoax CBRNE**)	53	21	19
Security and Crime Prevention	333	N/A	N/A
Total	5,499	4,291	3,947

* Arrests and convictions reported in this period may be related to cases initiated in prior reporting periods. Convictions include pretrial diversions.

** CBRNE refers to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive material.



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