



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

Fact Sheet

- **The United States Postal Inspection Service** is one of the nation's oldest law enforcement agencies, tracing its roots back to August 7, 1775 – the earliest recorded date that William Goddard served as the first Surveyor General of Post Roads.
- As the federal law enforcement, crime prevention, and security arm of the United States Postal Service®, its goal is to ensure confidence in the U.S. Mail. It works to ensure that American businesses can safely dispatch funds, securities and information through the U.S. Mail; that postal customers can entrust their correspondence to the mail; and that postal employees can work in a safe environment.
- **Postal inspectors** are federal law enforcement officers who carry firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants, and serve subpoenas. Inspectors work with U.S. Attorneys, other law enforcement, and local prosecutors to investigate cases and provide evidence in court. Inspectors throughout the country enforce roughly 200 federal laws related to crimes that adversely affect or entail fraudulent use of the U.S. Mail, the postal system, postal employees, and customers.
- To assist in carrying out its responsibilities, the United States Postal Inspection Service maintains a uniformed force of **Postal Police** officers who are assigned to critical postal facilities throughout the country. The officers provide facility security and perform other essential protective functions.
- The United States Postal Inspection Service also maintains a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory in Dulles, Virginia which contains 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. The mission of the lab is to provide scientific and technical expertise to the criminal and security investigations of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

U.S. Postal Inspection Service Stats:

- **Number of Employees:** ~2,400
- **Leader:** Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale
- **Organization:** The United States Postal Inspection Service is divided into 16 Divisions

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