



# THE FBI STORY

## 2018







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## 2018



Director's Community Leadership Awards, p. 13



# A MESSAGE FROM FBI DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY

Welcome to the 2018 edition of *The FBI Story*—a selection of our past year’s work as told through some of the original stories and images featured on our website. This “behind-the-scenes” look at our people, programs, investigations, and operations only scratches the surface of the work done by the FBI in 2018.

I’m so honored to serve alongside the men and women of this great organization. Our mission is simple to say but profound to execute: to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution. Every day, our 37,000 employees strive to carry out that mission. Whether it’s thwarting a would-be terrorist, dismantling a dangerous gang, or returning a missing child to her family, our work never ends—and our determination to protect you never stops.

I hope this publication gives you a better sense of who we are, the depth and breadth of what we do, the dedication and professionalism of our employees, and how our work keeps you and your community—**our** communities—safe. On behalf of the FBI, please enjoy the 2018 edition of *The FBI Story*. Thanks for letting us share our story with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CW', is positioned on the right side of the page.

THE COMPLETE VERSIONS OF THE STORIES FEATURED IN THIS PUBLICATION, AS WELL AS MANY MORE, CAN BE FOUND AT  
[FBI.GOV/STORIES](https://www.fbi.gov/stories).











# DIRECTOR ADDRESSES CYBER CONFERENCE

## STAYING AHEAD OF CYBER THREATS



// Because at the end of the day, we all want the same thing—which is to protect our systems, protect our innovation, and above all, to protect our people.”

As the threats from hackers and other cyber criminals grow, the FBI is committed to developing its workforce’s cyber expertise, building partnerships, and punishing cyber criminals who target the United States, FBI Director Christopher Wray said at the January 2018 FBI- and Fordham University-sponsored International Conference on Cyber Security.

There are numerous different types of cyber threats facing the country—nation-state intrusions, hackers, insiders, threats, and, more recently, the so-called “blended threat” of nation-states using criminal hackers to work for them. But as hackers and criminals evolve, the FBI is changing, too.

The Bureau is developing the cyber skills of its workforce and organizing its personnel to work the threat most effectively through its Cyber Task Forces and Cyber Action Teams.

Partnerships remain key to the FBI’s success in its cyber efforts, and the Bureau is always working to develop collaborative relationships with both law enforcement and the private sector.

Once hackers or other cyber adversaries are identified, the FBI and partner agencies work to impose some cost on them—even if they are not in the United States to be arrested and tried in the American justice system. Sometimes the best approaches are “naming and shaming” or seeking sanctions from the Treasury Department.

“Whether we’re in law enforcement, the government, private sector, technology industry, the security field, or academia, we’re going to need to figure out a way to work together and stay ahead of the threat and to adapt to changing technologies and their consequences, both the expected ones and the unexpected ones,” Wray said. “Because at the end of the day, we all want the same thing—which is to protect our systems, protect our innovation, and above all, to protect our people.”





Our state and local law enforcement partners depend on us to provide this training, so we have a commitment to getting it right."





# INSIDE THE FBI'S HAZARDOUS DEVICES SCHOOL

## WHERE THE NATION'S BOMB TECHS LEARN THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The FBI's Hazardous Devices School at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, is the only facility in the country that trains and certifies the nation's public safety bomb technicians and has provided training to more than 20,000 local, state, and federal first responders and bomb techs.

"The Hazardous Devices School places the FBI in a unique position," said Special Agent John Stewart, the school's director. "Our state and local law enforcement partners depend on us to provide this training, so we have a commitment to getting it right."

The facility is home to a sprawling 455-acre campus complete with classrooms, explosive ranges, and mock villages that include a train station, apartment complexes, a movie theater, and a strip mall. New bomb technicians spend six weeks learning about electricity, fuses, and improvised explosives. Their certification ensures they will be operating from the same playbook as every other bomb tech in the country.

Training scenarios are often developed based on real-world events, such as the Boston Marathon bombing, and students must devise approaches to counter each threat. Trainees also learn skills such as remotely navigating robots on stairs and

through a maze of barriers; this exercise simulates how bomb techs may have to pilot robots through multi-floor buildings and confined spaces.

"This is an ever-changing syllabus for the students, because we want them to learn what we know based on intelligence and teach them those skills in the real world," said Mark Vargos, an instructor at the school.

A mixture of classroom and field training ensures the trainees are ready to handle dangerous threats when they return home.

The FBI is upgrading and expanding the school, which has trained each of the country's 3,100 bomb technicians—a figure that does not include the military's explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians. The growth and expansion reflects the need to stay ahead of any emerging threats.

"As threats evolve and become more advanced, the Hazardous Devices School is poised to meet those threats head on," Stewart said.



# SUPER BOWL SECURITY

## BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

On the wintry streets of downtown Minneapolis, ice crunches underfoot. The wind is whipping, and the temperature hovers in the teens. The weather will be one of the many topics under discussion inside the city's convention center, where officials from every local, state, and federal organization involved with security at this year's Super Bowl have gathered to put their planning and preparation to the test.

With the big game just around the corner, participants at this daylong exercise—the first time everyone has come together under one roof—will be asked to simulate their agency's responses to a variety of scenarios, from an active shooter event to reuniting a missing child with a parent to keeping fans and first responders warm in the frigid Minnesota winter.

Nearly two years of planning has taken place, largely behind the scenes, to make sure that Super Bowl LII—and the 10 days of events leading up to the kickoff at U.S. Bank Stadium on February 4—is safe and secure. Nothing has been left to chance, not even the weather.

"An event like this is about planning, about preparation, and about partnerships," said Rick Thornton, special agent in charge of the FBI's Minneapolis Field Office. "Each organization brings its unique abilities to the table, but it requires tremendous teamwork and cooperation to pull everything together into a unified whole."

The Minneapolis Police Department is the lead agency for security at this year's Super Bowl, and they are being supported by an impressive team that includes dozens of local police departments and public safety organizations, along with federal agencies including the FBI and multiple components of the Department of Homeland Security.

Today's exercise, a security dry run of sorts, is a simulated opportunity for the entire team to come together to work through any potential issues as if it is game day.

The FBI's main responsibilities include taking the lead in any kind of terrorist, cyber, or major crime incident, and providing intelligence, from both a national and international perspective, about bad actors who might seek to disrupt Super Bowl activities.

The FBI has also offered other expertise and resources, including taking responsibility for credentialing thousands of public safety officers and volunteers who will need varying levels of access to Super Bowl venues.

"Most agencies deal with events like a Super Bowl maybe once in a career or once in a lifetime," Thornton said, "where collectively the FBI deals with these things on an ongoing basis. The fact that we have the ability to reach back to the entire FBI with its specialty components, as well as all the other offices, to augment our resources is what makes the FBI unique."





// Each organization brings its unique abilities to the table, but it requires tremendous teamwork and cooperation to pull everything together into a unified whole."







# FBI CHAPLAINS

## BRINGING THE LIGHT IN THE DARKEST HOURS





Volunteer chaplains were added to the FBI's roster in 1991 after it was found that employees involved in shootings and who worked gruesome scenes needed additional support beyond that provided by mental health professionals.

As part of a robust crisis intervention program that provides psychological first aid to employees, the FBI now has about 130 unpaid chaplains, all of whom are protected by workplace rules and have security clearances. They work part-time but hold regular office hours when they are not deployed in the field, meeting with employees and practicing their ministry of presence. Many are chaplains for other organizations or lead their own congregations. They do not proselytize during their work with the FBI.

FBI chaplains are accessible to anyone, regardless of faith, and they can help answer the deeper questions in the hearts of those who witness tragedy, differently from other trained professionals.

Chaplains provide spiritual guidance when employees are facing personal tragedy or other difficulties. But they also deploy to mass casualty events along with special agents and other professionals. Their primary job during these events is to be present and available to anyone who needs them, on a strictly voluntary basis.

**//** We know there's a point at which people may need to talk to a mental health professional. But if needed, the chaplain can offer to provide the spiritual aspect with faith, with values, with meaning."

# OPERATION DISARRAY

## NATIONWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION TARGETS ONLINE DRUG TRAFFICKING



A nationwide law enforcement action aimed at shining a light on those who use the dark web to buy and sell illegal opiates has resulted in hundreds of interactions and arrests of individuals who may have considered their seemingly anonymous online transactions beyond the reach of authorities.

The FBI-led enforcement action, named Operation Disarray, is part of a recently launched Department of Justice initiative to disrupt the sale of opioids online and was the first operation of its kind to occur simultaneously in all 50 states.

Darknet marketplaces resemble legitimate e-commerce sites, complete with shopping carts, thousands of products, sales promotions, and customer reviews. But the Darknet sites' drop-down menus direct customers to cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and other illegal drugs.

There are risks associated with the Darknet. Buyers might get more than they bargained for. Opiates laced with fentanyl, for example, have resulted in deadly overdoses throughout the country. And there is the very real risk of arrest and prosecution because specially trained investigators can use a variety of techniques to infiltrate the marketplaces.

Operation Disarray was designed, in part, to highlight those risks for buyers and sellers. Hundreds of FBI agents and federal partners conducted searches, made arrests, and carried out "knock and talks" with more than 160 individuals known to have bought or sold drugs through the marketplaces. Leads from the investigation identified 19 overdose deaths of persons of interest.

Law enforcement personnel participating in Operation Disarray handed out brochures that included information on medical steps to take in the event of an overdose and where individuals or family members can get help for issues related to drug addiction.

In January 2018, the Department of Justice announced the Joint Criminal Opioid Darknet Enforcement (J-CODE) team, an FBI-led initiative that brings together a variety of federal agencies to disrupt illicit opioid sales online.

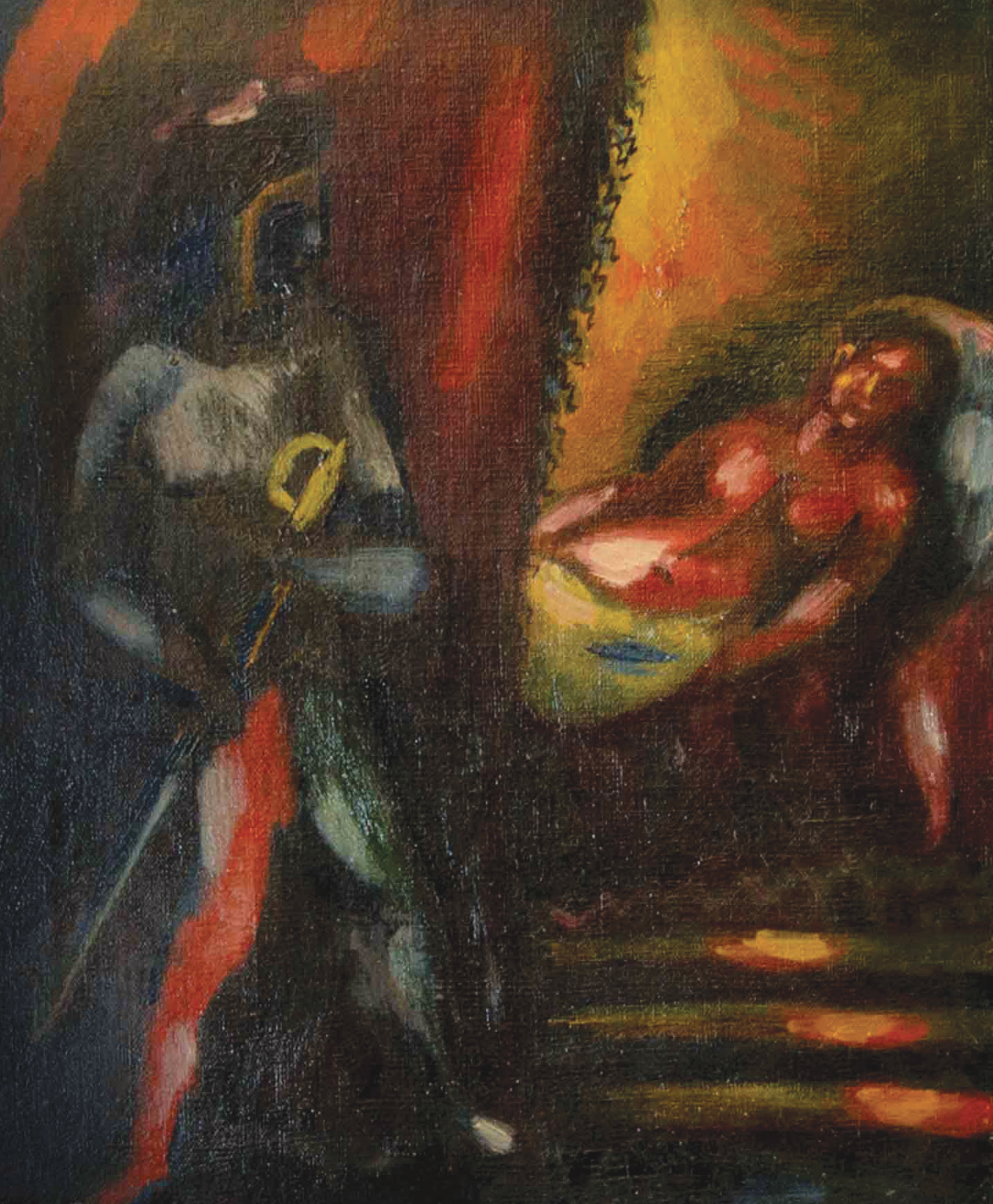
As part of the effort, the FBI is training hundreds of agents, as well as local and state law enforcement partners, about the increasing use of Darknet marketplaces to facilitate the sale of opiates.



// For those who think the Darknet provides anonymity, you are mistaken."









# STOLEN ART RETURNED

## CHAGALL OIL PAINTING RECOVERED

### NEARLY 30 YEARS AFTER HEIST

Nearly 30 years after an elderly New York couple's 1911 painting by Marc Chagall was stolen from their Manhattan home, the modernist oil-on-canvas work is being returned to the family's estate.

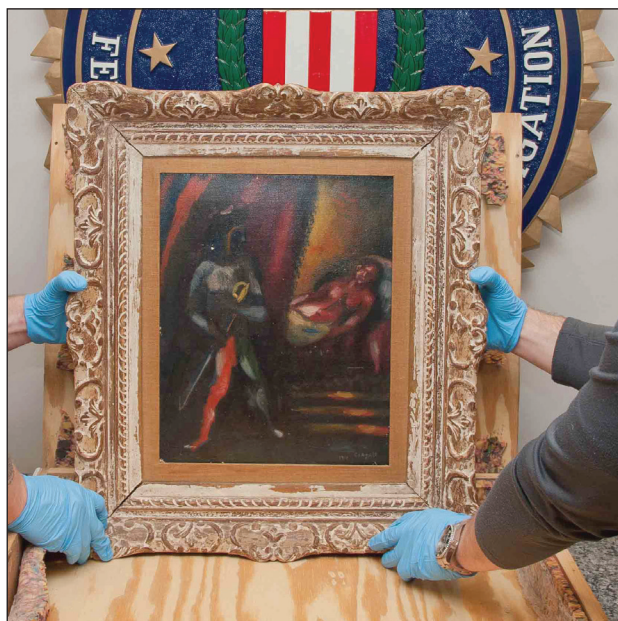
The painting, entitled *Othello and Desdemona*, was recovered in 2017 after a Maryland man contacted the FBI's Washington Field Office. His repeated efforts to consign the painting had been rebuffed by a D.C. gallery owner who was suspicious about its provenance and suggested the man call law enforcement. The ensuing investigation led the FBI to the man's home in Maryland, where he had stored the painting in his attic for years in a custom box he crafted out of a doorjamb and plywood.

The Maryland man had obtained the painting in the late 1980s or early 1990s from the man who stole the Chagall in New York in 1988. The thief was a worker in the Upper East Side building where Ernest and Rose Heller lived in an apartment surrounded by paintings and sculptures by renowned artists. Several other works of art also disappeared in the heist while the Hellers were on vacation.

Shortly afterward, the thief met with the Maryland man in Virginia to try to sell the painting but the deal collapsed. The Maryland man kept possession of the painting and stashed it in his attic for years. He brought it out in 2011—and again in January 2017—in his fruitless appeals to the D.C. gallery owner to exhibit and try to sell the stolen art.

The statute of limitations for the theft has expired, so no charges are pending against the individual who initially stole the painting, nor the individual who kept it. The Maryland man is not named in court filings. The suspected thief in the case was convicted in federal court and served time on charges related to selling stolen property, including art from other apartment buildings.

The Chagall painting, which until recently was still stored in the makeshift wooden box, will be returned to the Hellers' estate, which plans to place it on auction. Proceeds will reimburse the insurance company that paid the theft claim years ago and be directed to several non-profit organizations supported by the estate.







Many days you're doing  
thankless work, so we want to  
make sure that we thank you."

FBI Director Christopher Wray



Community Leadership Award

Director's Community Leadership Award

F. Traynham

New Mexico Sol Running Club

Outstanding Contributions

Communities Through

ion and Leadership

TH  
PRECIATION

Director's Community Leadership Award

Director's Community Leadership Award

Director's Community Leadership Award

Presented to  
**Theresa Payton**

**Sally B. Hazel**

In Recognition of Your Outstanding Contributions

to Our Nation's Communities Through

Unselfish Dedication and Leadership

Unselfish Dedication and Leadership

WITH  
DEEPEST APPRECIATION





# 2017 DIRECTOR'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## LOCAL LEADERS HONORED

In a ceremony at FBI Headquarters on April 20, 2018, 57 remarkable individuals and organizations were honored during the Director's Community Leadership Awards (DCLA) ceremony. Nominated by each of the FBI's 56 field offices and the Criminal Justice Information Services Division last year, the 2017 recipients were formally recognized by Director Christopher Wray for extraordinary service to their communities.

Since 1990, the annual awards have been the principal means for the FBI to publicly acknowledge the achievements of those working to make a difference in their communities through the promotion of education and the prevention of crime and violence.

In his remarks to the group, Wray thanked the honorees for their efforts to make the country safer and noted the similarities between community leaders and the FBI's own workforce—both are dedicated to public service and “doing the right thing in the right way,” he said.

“We need the support, the understanding, and the trust of our community partners and the public. You're out in your neighborhoods and your communities every day building that support and that trust and that understanding,” Wray added.

The 2017 DCLA winners have made a variety of meaningful contributions to their communities, such as improving relationships between law enforcement and those they serve, providing housing to human trafficking survivors, combating the opioid crisis, and encouraging young people to make positive choices.

“Many days you're doing thankless work,” Wray told the recipients, “so we want to make sure that we thank you.”

# JUSTICE FINALLY SERVED

## INDIANA FUGITIVE CAPTURED IN 1999 CHILD MOLESTATION CASE

Seymour, Indiana, in the 1990s was a Midwestern town with rural roots and a comfortable, small-town feel. Parents felt safe letting their children walk to Girl Scout meetings with friends and ride their bikes unchaperoned.

All that changed on January 20, 1999, when a 10-year-old girl waiting for her father after gymnastics practice was abducted and molested. The man who approached her outside a local girls club said he had locked the keys in his car and needed someone with slender arms to reach them.

The attack shocked the community, all the more when the suspect fled before he could be apprehended. At the time, no one realized it would take nearly two decades to bring justice to the victim and her family, and a sense of closure to the community—or that Todd Prewitt, an Indiana State Trooper at the time of the crime who was born and raised in Seymour and is now an FBI agent, would play a central role in resolving the case.

On that cold January day, Charley Hollin forced the girl into his car at knifepoint, drove away, and sexually assaulted her. Afterward, he made the girl leave the car naked, and her clothes were thrown out after her. Hollin also mistakenly threw out his own jacket, which contained his day planner.

The assault itself was tragic, but then justice was not served. Hollin's identity was known to authorities—and reported by the media—because they had his day planner. But the victim could not positively identify her assailant with full certainty, so authorities were forced to wait for the results of DNA testing before they could arrest Hollin and charge him with the crime. Hollin took that opportunity to flee.

Eleven years before the assault, Hollin had stolen the identity of a deceased 8-year-old boy who was the victim of a drunk-driving crash. Hollin secured a Social Security card using the boy's name, Andrew David Hall. He used that new identity to obtain driver's licenses in Indiana and Minnesota, and later a passport. Hollin lived in Minnesota for several years, where he married, and then relocated to Oregon. He had apparently bragged about his ability to become someone else and disappear.

Prewitt fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming an FBI agent in 2001 and was transferred to the Indianapolis Division in 2009,



where he worked out of the Bloomington Resident Agency. One of the first things he did was take a fresh look at the Charley Hollin case and contact the victim's parents.

"After so much time had passed," he said, "the parents and the victim had resigned themselves to Hollin not being caught. I told them I was going to do everything I could."

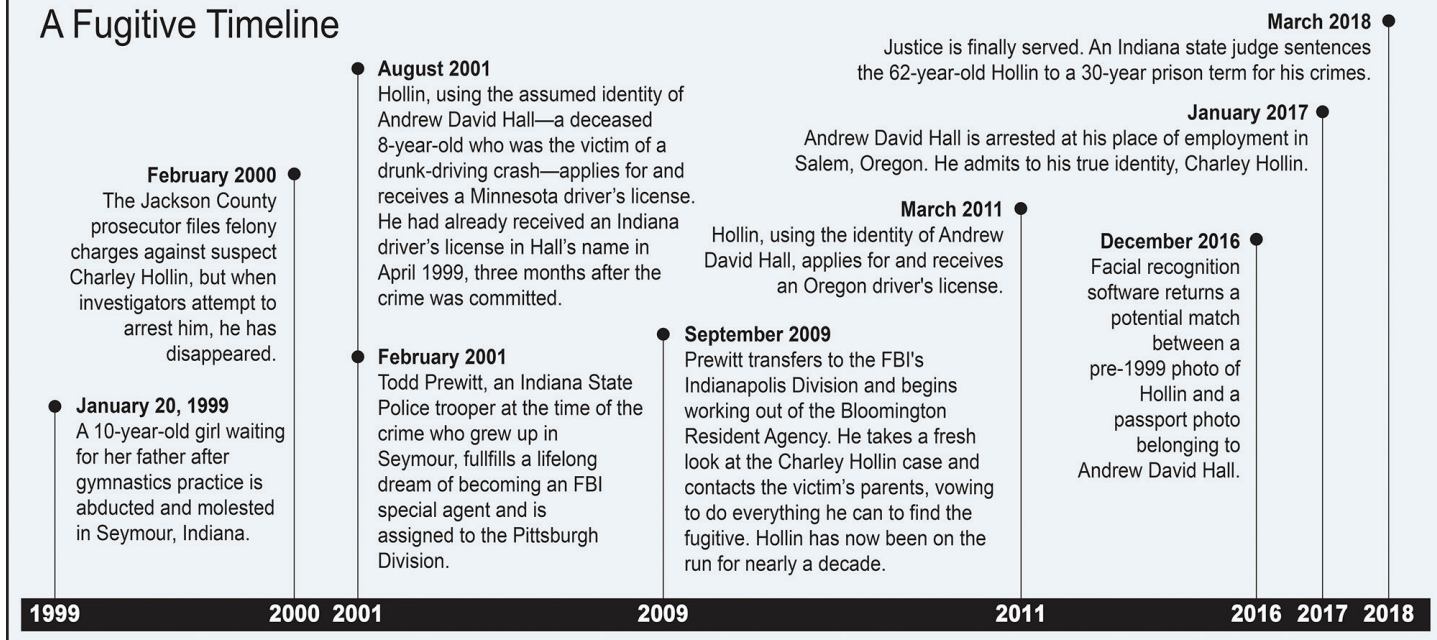
After years of searching, Hollin was located in Salem, Oregon, and taken into custody in 2016. In March 2018, the 62-year-old was sentenced by an Indiana state judge to a 30-year prison term for his crimes and an additional 10 years of home supervision.

Prewitt credits local law enforcement and the prosecutor's office for their help in finally apprehending Hollin. "We all worked together and stayed on this to bring him to justice."





## The Charley Hollin Case: A Fugitive Timeline



“ After so much time had passed, the parents and the victim had resigned themselves to Hollin not being caught. I told them I was going to do everything I could.”



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH HOME RUN

SPORTS MEMORABILIA FRAUD CASE  
YIELDS UNEXPECTED BENEFIT FOR  
CHICAGO YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUES





John Rogers was a prolific forger of sports memorabilia who fleeced banks and individual investors out of millions of dollars. And although his victims are unlikely to be repaid, Rogers' fraud has provided an unexpected benefit for a group of inner-city teen baseball players in Chicago.

In early July 2018 on the city's South Side—an area known for gang violence and homicides—employees from the FBI's Chicago Field Office delivered 125 Louisville Slugger bats and dozens of baseballs to young players whose leagues are sponsored by the Chicago White Sox organization. (A similar amount of equipment was donated to youth leagues sponsored by the Chicago Cubs, and equipment will also be donated in Little Rock, where Rogers' business was located.)

The equipment was seized during the Rogers fraud case, and after the forged signatures of famous players were chemically removed or blacked out, the bats and balls found a new home among youngsters who have embraced baseball as a way to stay out of trouble and to possibly earn a college scholarship.

"These kids are doing the right thing and trying to live the right path in life," said Special Agent Brian Brusokas, who led the Rogers investigation as part of the FBI's Art Crime Team. "We wanted to give them something that they needed."

"If we took one of these bats and put it in the hands of one of these kids," said FBI Chicago Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Sallet, "could that bat make a difference for that kid?"



“ These kids are doing the right thing and trying to live the right path in life. We wanted to give them something that they needed.”





# FBI PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST APP

## LEARN WHAT IT'S LIKE TO TRAIN LIKE AN AGENT

Think you have what it takes to become an FBI special agent?

The new FBI Physical Fitness Test mobile app allows aspiring agents and fitness enthusiasts alike to learn the benchmarks of the official FBI Physical Fitness Test for agents.

The app runs users through the same exercises that special agent candidates must pass and includes tips on form, including video instruction for some exercises. The videos feature actual FBI fitness trainers who work with new agents at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The required exercises for the FBI Physical Fitness Test for agents are sit-ups, push-ups, a 300-meter sprint, and a 1.5-mile run. Candidates for the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team are also required to complete pull-ups as part of the test.

Prospective agents must take the actual fitness test several times throughout their hiring process, and current special

agents are also required to take the test regularly to ensure they remain in shape to handle the physical demands of their jobs.

The app has a practice mode and a testing mode, and while it provides an overview of the physical fitness requirements for FBI agents, it cannot be used for official Physical Fitness Test scoring in the actual agent application process.

The FBI does not collect personal user data from this app; the information remains stored on the device in accordance with [fbi.gov's](https://www.fbi.gov/privacy) privacy policy.

The FBI Physical Fitness Test app is free and available on the App Store and Google Play.



# THINK BEFORE YOU POST

## HOAX THREATS ARE SERIOUS CRIMES



In the aftermath of tragic shootings, such as the ones at Santa Fe High School in Texas and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, there is often an increase in hoax threats to schools and other public places. Safety is paramount, and the FBI and our state and local law enforcement partners always respond to each threat.

In recent months, the FBI and law enforcement around the country have investigated a number of hoax threats of targeted violence against schools and other public places. These threats—often issued via text message or posted on social media—are taken very seriously. Hoax threats are not a joke, and they can have devastating consequences—both for the public and for the perpetrators.

Issuing a threat—even over social media, via text message, or through email—is a federal crime (threatening interstate communications). Those who post or send these threats can receive up to five years in federal prison, or they can face state or local charges.

With a thoughtless remark on social media, young people risk starting out their adult lives in prison and forever being labeled a felon.

“The Bureau and its law enforcement partners take each threat seriously. We investigate and fully analyze each threat to determine its credibility,” said FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich. “Hoax threats disrupt school, waste limited law enforcement resources, and put first responders in unnecessary danger. We also don’t want to see a young person start out adulthood with a felony record over an impulsive social media post. It’s not a joke; always think before you post.”

In addition to consequences for individuals who issue threats, there is also a significant societal cost. Law enforcement agencies have limited resources, and responding to hoax threats diverts officers and costs taxpayers. The threats can also cause severe emotional distress to students, school personnel, and parents.





Terrorism is a global problem, and it requires a global response."



# A GLOBAL APPROACH TO ROOTING OUT TERRORISM

## ILEA TRAINING PROGRAM ADDRESSES TERRORISM, VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The United States woke up to the reality of terrorism on 9/11, but many of the African nations that participated in an FBI-led program aimed at countering violent extremism have been fighting terror attacks on their soil for decades.

"Terrorism is a global problem, and it requires a global response," said Special Agent Rick Hernandez, who provides counterterrorism training to the FBI's international partners. The Bureau's highest priority is to prevent terror attacks in the United States, Hernandez noted. "But if we can prevent an act of terrorism anywhere in the world, it helps keep America safe and it helps keep our partners safe."

The training—conducted at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Roswell, New Mexico—included delegations from Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Angola, Botswana, and Mozambique. Delegates were police officers, prosecutors, and judges, and many had firsthand experience dealing with terrorism in their countries.

In July 2010, suicide bombers in Uganda's capital city of Kampala carried out attacks on crowds watching a World Cup soccer match, and more than 70 people were killed. Susan Okalany, a member of the Uganda delegation at ILEA, was appointed lead prosecutor in the case after her colleague in that position was assassinated.

"Uganda is a young population—about 50 percent of Ugandans are below the age of 18," said Okalany, who is now a judge. "While we have universal primary and secondary education, the rate of enrollment and retention in schools is not very high." Without the proper programs for young people, she believes many could be indoctrinated and radicalized by extremist groups.

Other delegates shared similar concerns—as well as insights—about the threat from terrorism in their countries.

"We challenge them together," Hernandez said. "We ask them to search for ideas, we compare them with ours, and

then we find common ground. We ask each other: How can we work together? How can we be proactive to prevent acts of terrorism?"

A theme that emerged from the training was thinking "left of the boom."

The FBI, like many law enforcement agencies, has become expert at responding to the "right of the boom," which is what happens immediately after a terrorist bomb explodes. "We have teams, we have specialists, and we react," Hernandez said. "Unfortunately, we've learned that just reacting means you are already too late. Once the attack has happened, people have died."

The idea is to look left of the boom—a military term referring to the timeline before an explosion—and to trace the journey that individuals take from being average citizens to being violent extremists, and to find a way to interrupt that process.

Before attending the ILEA training, "perhaps our emphasis back home was more on suppression and containment," said Frank Emeka, a member of the Nigerian delegation who heads the Nigeria Police Force's criminal investigations and intelligence divisions. "One of the things this training has done for me is to open my eyes to the other side of the boom, which means we must begin to look beyond the traditional law enforcement tools."

Beyond providing training and instruction to America's international partners, a fundamental part of the ILEA mission is to bring regional nations' law enforcement leaders and decision-makers together to address shared threats and to promote lasting friendships and professional networks.

"The hope," said Hernandez, "is that through the dialogue and the exchange of ideas and perspectives, the delegates from these countries will leave with a new, proactive perspective on countering violent extremism."







We are still working to ensure that we have identified all parties involved in both the initial theft and the more recent extortion attempt for their return."





# A CULTURAL ICON COMES HOME

## STOLEN RUBY SLIPPERS FROM *THE WIZARD OF OZ* RECOVERED

A pair of ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* and stolen from the actress' namesake museum in Minnesota more than a decade ago has been recovered. The slippers are widely considered to be one of the most recognizable pieces of memorabilia in American film history and are estimated to be worth several million dollars.

The iconic sequined shoes—one of at least four pairs used in the film that are still in existence—were stolen from the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids in 2005 and recovered earlier this summer during a sting operation. But the case is far from over.

Despite a vigorous investigation by local authorities at the time of the crime, the slippers were not located, and no arrests were made. In the summer of 2017, an individual approached

the company that insured the slippers, saying he had information about the shoes and how they could be returned. When it became apparent that this was an extortion attempt, the FBI got involved.

"We are still working to ensure that we have identified all parties involved in both the initial theft and the more recent extortion attempt for their return," said Special Agent Christopher Dudley, who led the investigation from the FBI's Minneapolis Field Office. "This is very much an active investigation."

Anyone with additional information regarding the theft of the ruby slippers or the extortion plot is encouraged to contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or submit information online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).



Photo credit: Smithsonian



# REMEMBERING 9/11

## COMPENSATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, VICTIMS STILL AVAILABLE

As the nation marks the 17th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, the FBI is helping to raise awareness about compensation available to law enforcement personnel and other first responders who have fallen ill as a result of their selfless acts in the days and weeks after the attacks.

Speaking at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City, FBI Director Christopher Wray noted that in the past six months he has attended memorial services for three FBI special agents who died from illnesses related to their efforts in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

"We are only now beginning to understand and witness the long-term effects of that work and the full extent of the

sacrifices all of our first responders made," Wray told a group of nearly 200 federal law enforcement officers during a public forum to provide information about federal programs available to those who responded to crash sites at the World Trade Centers, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

According to the World Trade Center Health Program, which participated in Friday's event with the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, there have been more than 7,500 cancer cases with more than 350 first responders having died from 9/11-related illnesses. The FBI has reported that 15 special agents have died from 9/11-related illnesses.

// We are only now beginning to understand and witness the long-term effects of that work and the full extent of the sacrifices all of our first responders made."



Photo credit: 9/11 Memorial & Museum



The 9/11 attacks were the most lethal in U.S. history, taking the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans and international citizens and ultimately leading to significant changes in the way the FBI and the federal government deals with terrorism around the globe. The Bureau's ensuing investigation was its largest ever. The crash sites represented the largest crime scene in FBI history. At the peak of the case, more than half of all agents were at work to identify the hijackers and their sponsors and, along with other agencies, to head off any possible future attacks.

FBI personnel who responded to the attacks and have died as a result of their efforts, Wray explained, "were men and women who served their country in its greatest hour of need, much like the thousands and thousands of first responders who poured into this city in the hours and days after the attacks, and the first responders who worked day after day, and night after night, in Pennsylvania and Virginia."

The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund was created by an act of Congress to provide compensation to

individuals—or to family members of those who died—who suffered physical harm or were killed as a result of the 9/11 attacks or the debris removal efforts that took place in the immediate aftermath of the airliner crashes.

To date, according to the group's website, nearly 21,000 individuals have become eligible for compensation, and more than 19,000 of them have been awarded funds. The total amount awarded exceeds \$4.2 billion.

But there is no telling when a first responder might fall ill. Officials at the event encouraged law enforcement officers and emergency personnel who worked at 9/11 sites, and who may be at risk of illness, to register for possible compensation even if they are not ill now.

"There are resources that may be available to you," Wray told those at the 9/11 event. "You fought to make sure that what happened that day would never ever happen again. So let us help you now."



Photo credit: 9/11 Memorial & Museum



# Dismantling a Violent Gang in Indian Country

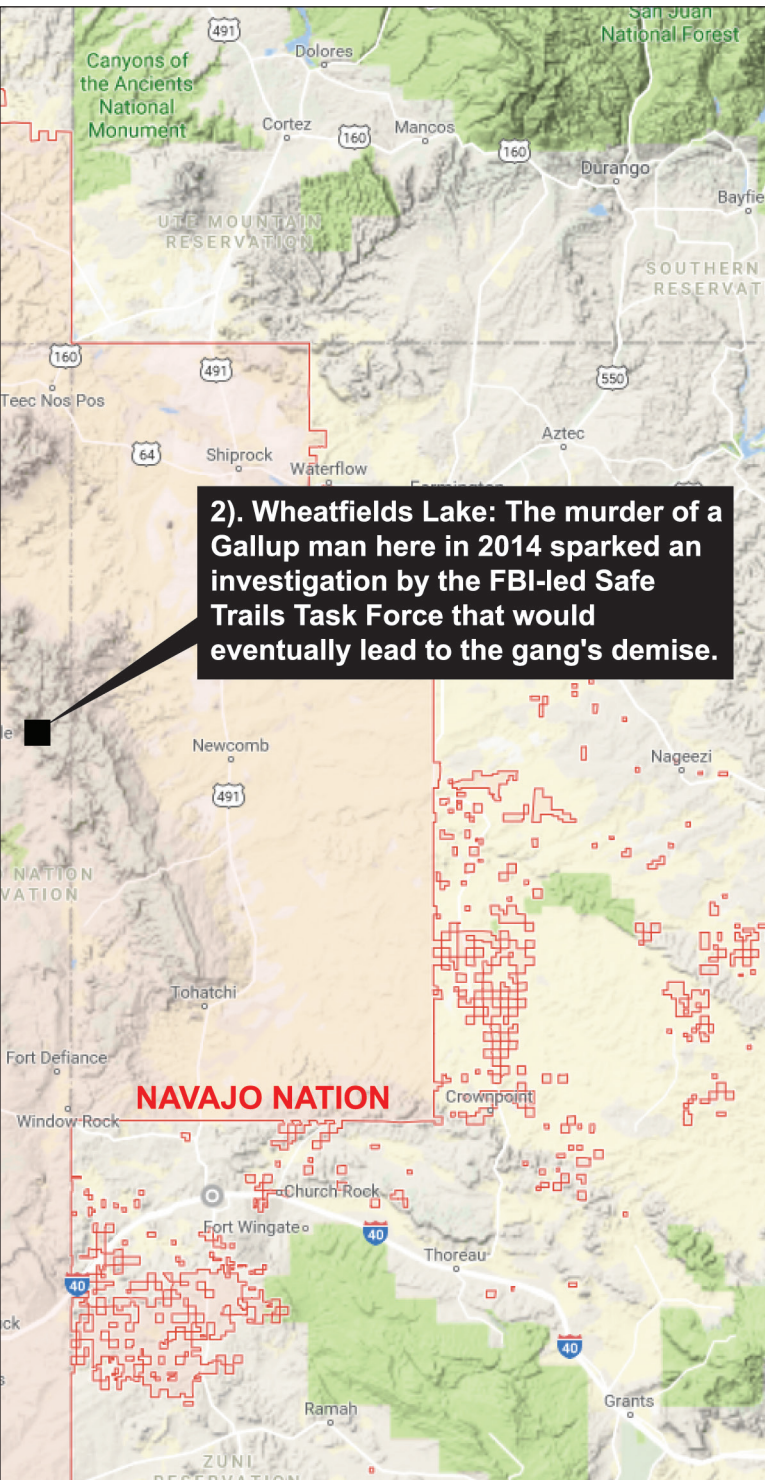
The violent Red Skin Kingz (RSK) gang, led by a mother-son team in a northern Arizona town on the Navajo Nation, engaged in crimes including drug trafficking, assault, carjacking, and murder. An investigation by the FBI's Safe Trails Task Force resulted in the complete dismantling of the gang and lengthy prison sentences for its leaders.

1). Lukachukai: This remote town was the headquarters for the violent RSK gang.

3). Phoenix: In May 2018, a federal judge in Phoenix sentenced three of RSK's leaders to lengthy prison terms. In all, eight gang members were indicted and have pleaded guilty as a result of the task force investigation. Officials are confident that the gang has been completely dismantled.



# INDIAN COUNTRY BEHIND THE SCENES OF A RARE RICO CASE



**2). Wheatfields Lake: The murder of a Gallup man here in 2014 sparked an investigation by the FBI-led Safe Trails Task Force that would eventually lead to the gang's demise.**

They called themselves the Red Skin Kingz, or RSK for short. And unlike most gangs on the sprawling Navajo Nation Indian Reservation that occupies portions of Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona, this criminal group was highly organized and extremely violent.

"Unfortunately, violence in Indian Country is common," said Mike Caputo, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Phoenix Field Office, explaining that the violent crime rate on the nearly 200 Indian reservations within the FBI's investigative jurisdiction is about three times the national average. But RSK, whose top leaders were a mother-son team, "was one of the most violent gangs we have ever seen."

In May 2018, a federal judge in Phoenix sentenced Devan Leonard to 50 years in prison. His mother, Lucille Leonard, was given a 10-year sentence, and a third gang leader, Kyle Gray, received a 30-year prison term. In a rare occurrence, the three were charged with racketeering offenses typically reserved for the Mafia and other highly structured criminal groups.

The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act is a federal statute that provides penalties for actions performed as part of an ongoing criminal organization. In this case, RSK had been engaged for years in drug trafficking, carjacking, kidnapping, and murder.

"There was a clear hierarchy," said Special Agent Bradley Smith, who investigated the case from the FBI's Gallup Resident Agency in New Mexico as part of the Safe Trails Task Force. "And they committed crimes in furtherance of the gang. Within the span of four days in 2014, they murdered, dismembered, and burned the bodies of three people."

RSK members primarily operated in and around the remote northern Arizona town of Lukachukai. Devan Leonard and his mother had a legitimate business there, but selling cocaine and methamphetamine was the gang's priority. It was a drug-related murder near Gallup in 2014 that triggered the investigation that eventually brought the gang down.

In all, eight RSK members were indicted and have pleaded guilty as a result of the task force investigation. "We dismantled the gang," Smith said. "We put a complete stop to their activities."



# RUSSIAN HACKERS INDICTED

## GRU OFFICERS TARGETED ANTI-DOPING ORGANIZATIONS, OTHER AGENCIES



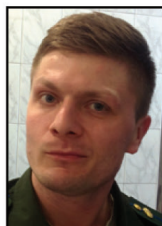
# WANTED BY THE FBI

**CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT COMPUTER FRAUD; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT WIRE FRAUD; WIRE FRAUD; AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MONEY LAUNDERING**

## GRU HACKING TO UNDERMINE ANTI-DOPING EFFORTS



Dmitriy Sergeyevich  
Badin



Artem Andreyevich  
Malyshev



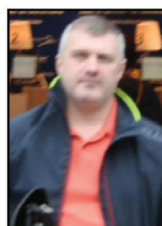
Alexey Valerevich Minin



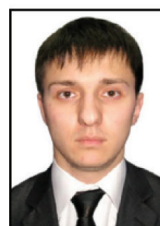
Aleksei Sergeyevich  
Morenets



Evgenii Mikhaylovich  
Serebriakov



Oleg Mikhaylovich  
Sotnikov



Ivan Sergeyevich  
Yermakov

Seven Russian government operatives have been charged with hacking into the computer networks of organizations working to investigate and stop Russian athletic doping, just after Russia was banned from the Olympics due to state-sponsored doping revelations.

The hackers also allegedly targeted other international entities seen as thwarting Russia's strategic interests, including a Pittsburgh-based nuclear energy company that provides nuclear fuel to Ukraine and an anti-chemical weapons organization in the Netherlands; they later planned to target

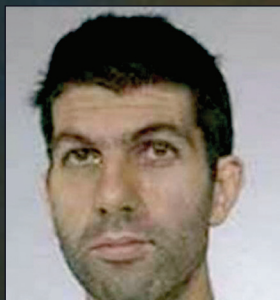
a Swiss chemical laboratory but were disrupted by Dutch authorities.

As a result of the indictment, the operatives, all of whom are Russian citizens and are believed to be living in Russia, will no longer have the benefit of anonymity—which is prized among state-sponsored cyber criminals. Publicly identifying the hackers in an indictment, known as “naming and shaming,” hampers their ability to operate, particularly in traveling outside Russia.

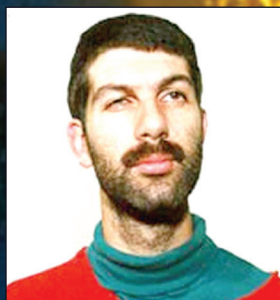


# DOMESTIC TERRORISM

## AFTER 12 YEARS ON THE RUN, JOSEPH DIBEE HAS BEEN APPREHENDED



**Captured**



**Captured**



Just because time passes doesn't mean the FBI forgets. We are very gratified to have Dabee in custody."

Joseph Mahmoud Dabee, one of two remaining fugitives linked to a domestic terrorism group that carried out dozens of criminal acts in the late 1990s, has been apprehended.

Federal authorities learned that the 50-year-old was traveling through Central America on his way to Russia with a planned stop in Cuba. With assistance from Cuban authorities, he was detained there before boarding a plane bound for Russia and was returned to the United States.

Dabee fled the U.S. in December 2005. In 2006, he was indicted along with 11 co-conspirators as part of Operation Backfire, a long-running FBI domestic terrorism investigation. The conspirators, known as The Family, have been linked to more than 40 criminal acts between 1995 and 2001, including arson and vandalism, causing more than \$45 million in damages. The Family's 1998 arson attack on a ski resort in Vail,

Colorado—which caused estimated damages of \$26 million—was its most notorious act.

"The crimes they committed were serious and dangerous," said Special Agent Tim Suttles, who has been working the Operation Backfire investigation from the FBI's Portland Field Office since 2004. "Just because time passes doesn't mean the FBI forgets. We are very gratified to have Dabee in custody."

Dabee's capture leaves one fugitive still at large from The Family: Josephine Sunshine Overaker, an American citizen believed to be either 43 or 46 years old, who fled to Europe in late 2001. The FBI continues to offer a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to her arrest. Anyone with information should contact their local FBI office or submit a tip at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).



# CONVICTED KILLER LINKED TO 90 MURDERS

## FBI'S ViCAP CONNECTS CASES TO PROLIFIC SERIAL KILLER

A 78-year-old man sitting in prison in Texas may be among the most prolific serial killers in U.S. history, FBI crime analysts report. According to the Texas Rangers, Samuel Little has confessed to 90 murders to date, and the FBI is working with the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Texas Rangers, and dozens of state and local agencies to match Little's confessions with evidence from women who turned up dead in states from California to Florida between 1970 and 2005.

Little was arrested at a Kentucky homeless shelter in September 2012 and extradited to California, where he was wanted on a narcotics charge. Once Little was in custody, Los Angeles Police Department detectives obtained a DNA match to Little on the victims in three unsolved homicides from 1987 and 1989 and charged him with three counts of murder. For these crimes, Little was convicted and sentenced in 2014 to three consecutive life sentences with no possibility of parole.

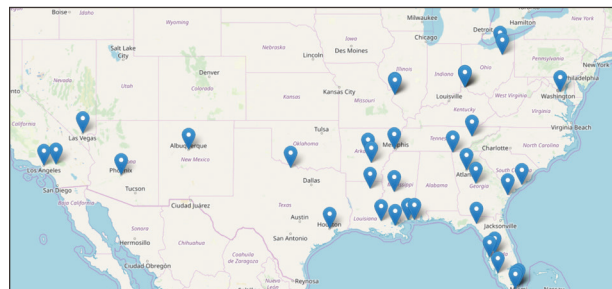
In all three cases, the women had been beaten and then strangled, their bodies dumped in an alley, a dumpster, and a garage. Little asserted his innocence throughout his trial—even as a string of women testifying for the prosecution told of narrowly surviving similarly violent encounters with him.

When Los Angeles got the DNA hit on Little, they asked the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) to work up a full background on him. The FBI found an alarming pattern and compelling links to many more murders.

ViCAP reached out to the Texas Rangers with one clear connection. "We found a case out of Odessa, Texas, that sounded very much like him, and we could place him passing through the area around the same time," said ViCAP Crime Analyst Christina Palazzolo, who worked on the cases with Angela Williamson, a Department of Justice senior policy adviser and ViCAP liaison. "We sent that lead out to the Texas Rangers, who were eager to follow up on the long-cold case."

When Palazzolo and Williamson accompanied Ranger James Holland to California to interview Little in the spring of 2018, the convicted murderer was hoping to move prisons. In exchange for a move, Little was willing to talk.

"Over the course of that interview in May," said Palazzolo, "he went through city and state and gave Ranger Holland the number of people he killed in each place." In total, Little confessed to 90 killings, and Palazzolo and Williamson have been working to match up evidence to as many confessions



as they can. Thus far, the team has confirmed 34 killings with many more pending confirmation. There are still a number of Little's confessions that remain uncorroborated.

Williamson and Palazzolo say Little remembers his victims and the killings in great detail. He remembers where he was and what car he was driving. He draws pictures of many of the women he killed. He is less reliable, however, when it comes to remembering dates. Little's uncertain timeline has created a verification challenge for the ViCAP team, along with the issues stemming from the victims Little targeted, his methods, and how much he moved around—features of his crimes that begin to explain how he got away with murder for decades.

In addition, DNA evidence was often not available or could not provide a clear link back to Little. A large number of the killings occurred in the 1970s and early 1980s, before DNA profiling was part of the law enforcement toolbox. After DNA analysis came into play, the victims' work as prostitutes complicated the ability of police to gather telling physical evidence.

Palazzolo and Williamson said the cases that were recorded in ViCAP made for early and easy connections. The absence of data on so many others is what has made confirming Little's accounts difficult and is perhaps part of what allowed his crimes to continue for so long.

Little is in poor health and will likely stay in prison in Texas until his death. The goal now is to identify his victims and provide closure and justice in unsolved cases. ViCAP is also hoping this case will serve as a reminder to every jurisdiction of the importance of consistent violent crime reporting.







# THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103

30 YEARS LATER, STILL ACTIVELY SEEKING JUSTICE



Photo credit: AP



Most Americans were awakened to the reality of terrorism on September 11, 2001, but more than a decade earlier, a few days before Christmas in 1988, Pan Am Flight 103, bound to New York from London and carrying mainly U.S. citizens, was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb over the small Scottish town of Lockerbie.

In all, 270 souls perished. On board the aircraft were citizens of 21 countries, including 189 Americans. On the ground, 11 residents of Lockerbie were killed when the plane's burning wings plunged into a quiet neighborhood just after dinner. Mothers and fathers, grandparents, children as young as 2 months old, and college students returning home from a study abroad program lost their lives in what was the largest terrorist attack in American history until 9/11.

The bombing, believed to be carried out by Libyan intelligence officers in retaliation for U.S. actions against then-Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, was a transformative event for the FBI, one that changed the way the Bureau investigates terrorism and assists victims of crimes.

Although two individuals were eventually arrested and tried under Scots law in a special court in the Netherlands, the case

is still open and being actively investigated by the FBI and its Scottish partners. Then as now, the goal is to hold everyone involved responsible for the crime and to bring justice to the families of the victims.

Despite the passage of three decades, noted Mike McGarrity, who leads the Bureau's Counterterrorism Division, "the FBI does not forget. The American people—and our adversaries—need to know that we don't give up."

For the families who lost loved ones; for the Scottish police officers, firefighters, and volunteers who responded to an unprecedented disaster; for investigators and prosecutors who dedicated years of effort to the case; and for the residents of Lockerbie, there is no forgetting December 21, 1988. In fact, many have vowed never to forget, to make sure the lessons of Lockerbie are not lost on future generations.

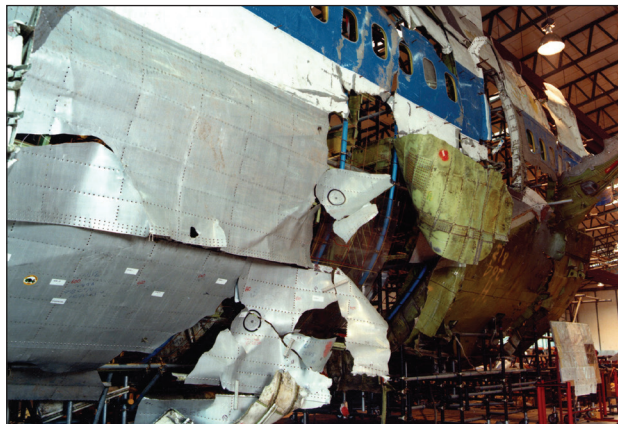
Thirty years ago, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 sent a shock wave around the world. In many ways, the reverberations are still being felt today.



Photo credit: AP



Photo credit: Syracuse University Libraries















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