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WILMINGTON ROUNDUP RESULTS IN OVER 200 ARRESTS

Wilmington, NC – From March 16th through March 19th, the U. S. Marshals Service for the Eastern District of North Carolina sponsored a multi-agency fugitive roundup in the Wilmington area. The goal of this operation was two-fold – close as many Wilmington Police Department warrants as possible and target any and all persons who had absconded from probation in the greater New Hanover County area.

Approximately 60 officers participated in this endeavor, representing the U.S. Marshals, Wilmington Police Department, North Carolina Division of Community Corrections, Raleigh Police Department, Wake County Sheriff's Office, Wilson Police Department, Sharpsburg Police Department, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Pitt County Sheriff's Office, and Nash County Sheriff's Office. As a result of the combined efforts and hard work of these officers, approximately 220 people were arrested and over 360 warrants were cleared, including 22 probation absconders.

Some of the more significant arrests included: John Paul Allinen, who had 39 criminal summonses for worthless checks dating back to 2004; Robert Wayne Chavis, wanted for assault and larceny from 1986; Rachel Godwin, probation absconder with the original offense of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; and Ruben Rojas Reyes, MS-13 gang member who is now being held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for possible deportation. In addition to the large number of persons arrested, two firearms were recovered along with quantities of crack cocaine and marijuana.

"This operation is an excellent example of federal, state and local agencies working closely together for purposes of serving warrants on many difficult-to-locate felony and misdemeanor violators" said Clyde Cook, Jr., U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina. "Meanwhile, we urge anyone who has information about a fugitive to call and leave a voice-mail message at our USMS tip line number, 1-877-8FUGITIVE (877-838-4484)." All information will be kept confidential and you do not have to leave your name.

The U.S. Marshals Violent Fugitive Task Force, Eastern District of North Carolina, is a team comprised of law enforcement officers from the U.S. Marshals Service, Raleigh Police Department, Wilson Police Department, Wake County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Division of Community Corrections, Sharpsburg Police Department, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Fayetteville Police Department, Wilmington Police Department, Greenville Police Department, Pitt County Sheriff's Office, and Nash County Sheriff's Office. The Task Force's objective is to seek out and arrest violent fugitives. Last year, U.S. Marshals task forces arrested more than 73,000 state and local fugitives. Annually, the U.S. Marshals Service arrests more federal fugitives than all other federal agencies combined.