



*U.S. Department of
Homeland Security*

**United States
Secret Service**

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: (202) 406-5708
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U.S. SECRET SERVICE FORMS THREE NEW TASK FORCES Electronic crimes partnerships bring together law enforcement, academia and private sector

(Washington, D.C.) – The United States Secret Service has announced the formation of three new Electronic Crimes Task Forces (ECTFs), a successful public-private partnership aimed at fighting high-tech computer-based crimes. The three new U.S.-based task forces are located in St. Louis, Kansas City and New Orleans and join an existing network of nationwide operations. The Secret Service also recently announced the creation of the first European Electronic Crimes Task Force, based in Rome, Italy, to provide a forum through which U.S. and European law enforcement agencies, the private sector and academia can collaborate to investigate, suppress and prevent computer-related crimes.

“One of the top priorities for the Secret Service continues to be combating the computer related crimes perpetrated by domestic and international criminals that target the U.S. financial infrastructure,” said Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan. “Building on the success of the Secret Service’s highly successful model, the addition of our new task forces has expanded the number of ECTFs from 24 to 28.”

The ECTF approach developed by the Secret Service has generated unprecedented partnerships among law enforcement at the local, state, federal and international level, the private sector and academia. The types of investigations handled by the Electronic Crimes Task Forces encompass a wide range of computer-based criminal activity, including network intrusions, hacking cases, identity theft, and other computer related crimes affecting financial and other critical infrastructures.

The Secret Service has a rich history of working collaboratively with other law enforcement agencies and believes in partnerships versus membership, where there is a strong emphasis on prevention and education, in addition to traditional law enforcement

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measures. The Electronic Crimes Task Force model provides a productive framework and collaborative crime-fighting environment in which the resources of its participants can be combined to effectively and efficiently make a significant impact on cybercrime. Other law enforcement agencies bring additional criminal enforcement jurisdiction and resources to the task force, while representatives from private industry and academia bring a wealth of technical expertise and research capabilities.

About the United States Secret Service

Well known for protecting the nation's leaders, the U.S. Secret Service is also responsible for protecting America's financial infrastructure. The Secret Service has taken a lead role in mitigating the threat of financial crimes since the agency's inception in 1865. As technology has evolved, the scope of the U.S. Secret Service's mission has expanded from its original counterfeit currency investigations to also include emerging financial crimes. As a component agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Secret Service has established successful partnerships in both the law enforcement and business communities – across the country and around the world – in order to effectively combat financial crimes.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For questions concerning this release, please contact the United States Secret Service Office of Government and Public Affairs at 202-406-5708.