



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **OPERATION WASHOUT YIELDS 90 ARRESTS**

*Federal, state and local law enforcement partners together to reduce violent crime in Richmond and the Tri-Cities Regions*

**RICHMOND, Va.** – A one week, large-scale gang enforcement operation, labeled Operation Washout wrapped up on May 24, resulting in 90 arrests of alleged violent offenders and fugitives in the Richmond area.

“The resounding success of this multi-agency operation is a testament to the level of cooperation between the individuals and the leadership from each of the participating agencies,” said Nick Proffitt, U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia. “The level of professionalism and dedication to the communities each of these officers, investigators and agents serve, displays their commitment to ensuring the safety of our citizens here in the Commonwealth. I am proud of our law enforcement partners and am humbled that the Marshals Service is a part of this team. These operations are truly the epitome of efficiency, and the results speak for themselves.”

Led by the U.S. Marshals Service, multiple federal, state and local law enforcement agencies worked around the clock from May 20 to May 24, concentrating their efforts primarily on known gang members who were wanted in the Richmond and Tri-Cities areas. Of the 90 arrests, 22 were documented gang members, and many others arrested were suspected gang members or associates. Additionally, several wanted persons not originally targeted in the operation were arrested after being found in the company of targeted fugitives. Additional state and federal prosecutions are pending on those arrested where drug, gun or other crime evidence was seized during or subsequent to the person’s arrest.

### Operation Washout Highlights

- Seizure of 6 firearms including an AK-47 type pistol and sawed-off shotgun.
- 54 grams of heroin. Additional seizures of cocaine, marijuana and oxycontin pills.
- 6 murder related arrests.
- Arrested Gang affiliations: Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Pagans, Hells Angels, Aryan Brotherhood, Stain Gang/Campaign Gang, Ward Boyz, Willow Boyz, Chippenham Money Makers, Juggalos and 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Gang.

“Thank you to the U.S. Marshals Service and all of the participating law enforcement partners who contributed to this successful anti-violent crime initiative,” said Zach Terwilliger, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. “The federal, state, and local cooperation amongst law enforcement in the Richmond Division is both tremendous and critical as we continue to fight the scourge of gun and gang violence. The brave men and women in law enforcement who put themselves at risk to apprehend these alleged criminals deserve our admiration and thanks.”

The U.S. Marshals Service’s national fugitive initiative known as Operation Washout was deployed to local communities to bring immediate relief from violent, gang-related crime. The collaborative law enforcement effort was accomplished by targeting and arresting violent fugitives who were wanted by authorities for high-profile crimes such as homicide, felony assault and sexual assault, illegal possession of firearms, illegal drug distribution, robbery and arson. Operation Washout’s success should send a strong message to gang members and others responsible for preying on citizens in the region that their actions will face a unified law enforcement response. Operations like Washout will continue in the future in an effort to reduce violent crime in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Since 2010, U.S. Marshals – led Counter Gang Operations have resulted in more than 9,000 arrests of violent offenders and the seizure of more than 2,000 illegal firearms.

#### Operation Washout Notable Arrests

- Jyahshua Hill, wanted in Richmond, was arrested for felony animal cruelty resulting in death. Hill allegedly tied a dog to a fence and set the animal on fire, resulting in it’s death.
- Jamonte Brothers, wanted in Hopewell, was arrested for a double homicide, kidnapping and using a firearm in the commission of a felony.
- Simeon Gordon and Toron Bloomfield, gang members wanted in Chesterfield, were arrested for aggravated assault and shooting into an occupied dwelling. A firearm was seized incident to arrest.
- Donnel Young and Nicole Andrews, wanted in Richmond, were arrested for robbery and suspected of involvement in the homicide of Charles P. Smith IV in his home in The Fan.
- Andrew Cortez Scott, Jr., a gang member wanted in Hopewell for Robbery and Firearm offenses, was arrested in Petersburg. Four firearms were recovered from his residence.
- Timon and Timothy Ward, gang members wanted in Richmond, were arrested for conspiracy to murder and rob Reginald Addo.
- Phillip Curtis White, IV, a gang member wanted out of St. Louis, MO for multiple counts of Armed Robbery, was located and arrested in Henrico County.

Operation Washout was led by the U.S. Marshals Service in partnership with: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); Virginia State Police; Virginia Department of Corrections; Richmond City Police Department; Chesterfield County Police Department; Chesterfield County Sheriff’s Office; Henrico County Police Department; Hanover County Sheriff’s Office; Petersburg Bureau of Police; Hopewell Police Department; Colonial Heights Police Department; U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia; and the Richmond Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office.

Links:

Operation Washout Pics and Poster with Stats: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/usmarshals/77WnHp>

B Roll Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ut90nogpbc5solw/Operation%20Washout%20B-roll.mp4?dl=0>

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