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Adult Probation and Parole improves operations, communication

The Division of Adult Probation and Parole apprehended 329 probation or parole fugitives between February and June of this year — one of many significant achievements under the direction of the division's new leadership over the past six months.

In addition, AP&P worked with the U.S. Marshals Service's Violent Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (VFAST) to apprehend more than 50 high-priority fugitives. AP&P assigned a full-time agent to the strike team in February.

These offenders were apprehended through fugitive investigations, information sharing and intelligence developed by the strike team. Those arrested include a number of offenders on the Department's Most Wanted Fugitives list, such as:

- Irvin Forrest, convicted of aggravated assault, absconded in July 2015. Forrest was arrested by Colorado Springs police and a U.S. Marshals Service task force in July, after being on the run for nearly a year.
- Dean Vaughn, who was on parole for aggravated robbery and robbery convictions, absconded in November 2015. He was arrested in North Carolina by the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and a U.S. Marshals Service task force in July.

- Marshall Jones, convicted of aggravated sexual assault and criminal mischief, absconded on Sept. 24, 2015. He was located by the U.S. Marshals Service after being arrested on new charges in Tennessee in July.
- Shane Wynn, convicted of drug offenses, absconded in January and was apprehended on July 27 in Ogden by VFAST and AP&P agents.

“Having a full-time agent from AP&P has helped VFAST locate and arrest some of the most violent fugitives on our streets, making the community a much safer place,” said Derryl R. Spencer, supervisory DUSM with the U.S. Marshals Service.

AP&P also has one agent assigned full time and three agents working part time with the Salt Lake Metro Gang unit. Statewide, AP&P has 15 agents assigned part time to fugitive search teams.

"Since February, I've met with law enforcement throughout the state to discuss partnerships in our efforts to improve public safety, communication and collaboration," said Jim Hudspeth, AP&P director. "I've also met with local officials and community partners to discuss challenges, changes, ongoing projects and to ensure our commitment to continued collaboration on these important efforts."

Other significant operational improvements made by AP&P in the past six months include:

- Instituted statewide broadcasts to all law enforcement agencies of high-profile fugitives.
- Authorized enhanced GPS monitoring in all community correctional centers as well as in AP&P offices throughout the state to assist with offender accountability and enhance public safety.
- Implemented a pilot program in collaboration with the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole to detox parole violators at the Davis County Jail prior to admittance to Intensive Outpatient Treatment at Fortitude Treatment Center, Atherton Community Treatment Center or Northern Utah Community Correctional Center. This prevents offenders who are using from upsetting these sober-living communities and reduces violation and walkaway risk.
- Worked with the Department of Public Safety to implement a watch notification system that allows AP&P agents to be alerted when a probationer or parolee has contact with law enforcement.
- Improved communication and consistency of operations throughout AP&P.
- Used the Department's Jail Contract Monitors to inspect community correctional centers to ensure policies and procedures were current and adequate to provide safe operations.
- Reviewed operations at community correctional centers with center directors to ensure programs are addressing offenders' risks and needs.

"Over the past six months, our AP&P staff has been engaged in an enormous amount of change, from tightening our operations to implementing key provisions of the state's Justice Reinvestment

Initiative," Hudspeth said. "Their professionalism is at the core of these efforts and is making a tremendous difference in public safety. They had done an amazing job in a short time and we will keep moving forward as one and making a difference in people's lives."

Adult Probation and Parole is a division of the Utah Department of Corrections. VFAST is a multi-agency task force created two years in Utah and led by the U.S. Marshals Service, which has similar task forces throughout the country.

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