



REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of July 26th, 2004

Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets

Number of fugitive cases closed this calendar year by the Regional Fugitive Task Forces: **10,645**

Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force

A full-scale investigation by the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force, in coordination with the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force, Deputy U.S. Marshals from the Middle District of Florida, Southern District of Georgia, and officers from Sterling Heights, Michigan; Clay County, Georgia; and Jacksonville, Florida; led to the location of Timothy William Berner, a USMS *15 Most Wanted* fugitive since July 1, 2004. Berner was wanted for the June 4, 2004 killing of a Sterling Heights, Michigan police officer. He was also wanted for a series of bank robberies in Michigan. Authorities believe that Berner may have killed the police officer to obtain a more concealable weapon for other crimes. Acting on a citizen's tip phoned into the *America's Most Wanted* television program, the arrest team entered a two-story house on the south side of Jacksonville, Florida, and as they climbed the stairs to the second floor, Berner shot himself in the head. He was pronounced dead. The same 1994 red Camaro captured in the surveillance camera as Berner drove away from the murder scene in Sterling Heights was found backed into the driveway of the home.

15 Most Wanted



Timothy Berner

Wanted for Homicide and Multiple Bank Robberies

New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force

On July 14, 2004, the Capital District Fugitive Task Force Albany, NY (CDFTF) requested the assistance from the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) in locating and arresting Denis McClain, who allegedly shot and killed Jason Griffin on July 3, 2004. The shooting occurred during a failed narcotics deal at a gas station. McClain's violent criminal history includes homicide, robbery, narcotics, and weapons. On July 26, information was developed, with the help of the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG), that McClain's rental car was parked in Mt. Vernon. Surveillance was set up by NY/NJ RFTF, CDFTF, and TOG at that location. McClain was observed attempting to enter the vehicle and was taken into custody without incident. A search of McClain revealed approximately 3 ½ oz of "crack" cocaine in his front pocket.



Denis McClain

Wanted for Homicide

Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

On July 24, 2004, at approximately 11:46 p.m., Metropolitan Police were called to N.W., Washington, D.C., for a report of a shooting. Upon arrival, police found fifteen year-old Myesha Lowe seated inside a vehicle suffering from multiple gunshot wounds to the head and body. She was taken to the Howard University Hospital in critical condition. At 3:05 p.m., Sunday, July 25, she was pronounced dead. Detectives from the Metropolitan Police Violent Crimes Branch worked around the clock and identified Joshua Ross as one of the shooters. On July 26, the case was assigned to the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF) for apprehension. During the early morning hours of July 27, investigators developed information that Ross was in Hyattsville, Maryland. CARFTF investigators responded to the scene and arrested Ross without incident. Recovered at the time of arrest was a bullet proof vest, \$ 1,500 in cash, and a quantity of marijuana and crack cocaine. Investigators subsequently learned that Ross was just minutes away from leaving town.

**Joshua Ross****Wanted for Homicide****Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force**

On July 26, 2004, investigators from the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF) and the Atlanta Police Department arrested Atlanta Top Ten Fugitive James Burley, who was wanted as a suspect in the murder of a cashier at a gas station in Atlanta, Georgia. During a joint investigation between the SERFTF and the Atlanta Police Department, investigators were able to track Burley to an apartment complex in Atlanta. While investigators were converging on the target apartment, Burley and an associate, James McDowel, Jr., entered a stolen Honda Accord and attempted to flee the scene. As investigators attempted to block the exit, McDowel rammed the SERFTF Investigator's vehicle, and then continued to drive erratically until he crashed into a home. Both subjects attempted to flee on foot, but were quickly captured nearby. Two loaded pistols were recovered at the scene. McDowel was arrested for aggravated assault on a police officer, possession of a firearm, and theft by receiving. The vehicle that the two subjects were in at the time of their arrest had been reported stolen during a car jacking.

**James Burley****Wanted for Murder**

Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force

Eric Andrew Odell and his accomplice/associate Alexander Keoke Valle were arrested in Sacramento, California by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies, Sacramento Police Department Narcotics Officers and members of the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSW RFTF). The two fugitives were the subject of an intense manhunt after the shooting death of 6-year old Bryesha Limbrick in El Monte, California. The two fugitives, who are members of a local area "18th Street" gang, conducted a drive-by shooting on July 18, 2004 in El Monte; spraying a busy intersection with automatic gunfire. During the incident, a local area resident and his daughter were wounded and 6 year-old Bryesha Limbrick, who was getting an ice cream with her father, was killed. The incident was the subject of intense media coverage in the local area, addressing the ever-escalating gang violence in the Southern California area. Los Angeles County Sheriffs Deputies, who are members of the PSW RFTF, pursued countless leads which eventually led to the Sacramento area. Surveillance teams were able to identify Odell pulling up to a residence and he was taken into custody during a vehicle take-down. A search warrant executed at another Sacramento address turned up fugitive Valle. Both were extradited back to El Monte California and charged with one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder.



Eric Odell



Alexander Valle

Wanted for Murder and Attempted Murder