



**REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES**

***CATCH OF THE WEEK***

Week of August 9th, 2004

***Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets***

Number of fugitive cases closed this calendar year by the Regional Fugitive Task Forces: **11,457**

**New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force**

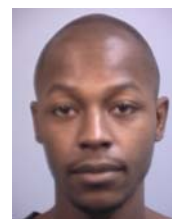
On August 10, 2004, the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) arrested Paul Church and Darnell Reid who were wanted by the Ewing Police Department for Felony Murder, Murder, Robbery, and Weapons Offenses. Reid was also wanted by New Jersey Parole for Absconding Parole. The warrants stem from an incident that took place on August 3, 2004. A 61 year old man was fatally shot after his house was visited by three gun-toting men who, just minutes earlier, had robbed a relative of the murdered victim outside the home. Ewing Police rushed to the victim's house after receiving a 911 call of shots being fired. The victim was lying on the kitchen floor suffering from a gunshot wound to his side. As a result of their investigation, Ewing Police developed three suspects for this case. The Ewing Police contacted the NY/NJ RFTF requesting their assistance in locating and apprehending these suspects. After receiving confidential information, Paul Church and Darnell Reid were arrested on August 10. Eric Jones, the third suspect, was arrested on August 11.



**Paul Church**



**Darnell Reid**



**Eric Jones**

**Wanted for Felony  
Murder, Murder, Robbery  
and Weapons Offenses**

### Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force

On August 8, 2004, Ronnie Johnson, a registered sex offender with an extensive criminal history, kidnaped a 13 year-old girl who was playing outside her house. Johnson allegedly pulled her by the hair into his semi truck, drove to a remote rural location and raped her. Johnson told the girl he had to kill her because she knew him, then took her into the woods, tied her to a tree and stabbed her repeatedly. Johnson left in the semi, leaving the victim to die. The victim worked her way loose from the rope and wandered onto a nearby road. She was picked up by a motorist and identified her attacker. The Edgar County Sheriff and the Illinois State Police began working the case and called the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF) for help in locating Johnson. Members of the GLRFTF, along with the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group, learned that Johnson's truck was at a truck stop between Terra Haute and Indianapolis, Indiana. At approximately 3:00 am on August 9, Johnson's truck was located by the Indiana State Police at the truck stop with the victim's belongings still in the truck. Johnson was able to escape into the woods when he saw the marked police cars. A manhunt began for Johnson by the Indiana State Police, Indianapolis Police, Edgar County Sheriff, Illinois State Police, Hendricks County, Indiana Police, and the Southern District of Indiana's USMS task force. Johnson was eventually spotted and surrounded in a corn field. He surrendered at approx. 5:30 am. The 13 year old victim is in critical condition.



**Ronnie Johnson**

**Wanted for Attempted Murder, Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault of a Minor, and Aggravated Kidnaping**

### Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

From January 2004 until present, six banks have been robbed in the District of Columbia and Prince Georges County, Maryland by a group of individuals carrying assault weapons and wearing body armor. On August 4, 2004, an indictment was issued out of U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., charging seven individuals with Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery and various other violations. Omar Holmes was named in the indictment and a warrant was issued. On August 5, 2004, the case was forwarded to the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF) for apprehension. Task Force investigators, in conjunction with the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG), tracked Holmes to Laredo, Texas near the Mexican border and developed information on the vehicle he was driving. A collateral lead was sent to the U.S. Marshals office in Laredo, Texas. Laredo deputy U.S. marshals followed up on many leads provided to them by the CARFTF, and as a result, located the vehicle, which was parked and unoccupied, in a shopping mall in Laredo. Laredo Police and deputy U.S. marshals established surveillance and later that afternoon arrested Omar Holmes and his father Ronnie Holmes as they approached the vehicle. As a result of the efforts of the CARFTF, all seven of those charged in the DC area serial bank robberies are in custody.



**Omar Holmes**

**Wanted for Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery**

### **Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force**

On August 13, 2004, investigators from the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF), the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group, the Cherokee County Sheriffs Office, the Georgia State Patrol, and the Canton Police Department arrested federal fugitive Randy Myers, 36. Myers original charges stemmed from a violation of his federal probation. He was originally convicted of participation in a methamphetamine conspiracy. On July 13, 2004, after a federal warrant had been issued for his arrest he initiated a high speed car chase and was able to elude investigators from three separate jurisdictions. After the chase, he was able to remain undiscovered until August 11, 2004, when a Rome police officer spotted Myers on US 411. Myers failed to pull over and initiated a second dangerous high speed chase, during which he reportedly pointed a firearm at police. Myers wrecked his vehicle into the woods but managed to escape on foot. On August 13, 2004, investigators from the U.S. Marshals Service developed information that Myers was in Canton, Georgia. After further investigation, leads pointed to the suspect being inside of the Canton Walmart. Surveillance was established and the subject was located inside the store with another individual. As the two men left the store, investigators converged upon them and took them into custody. Myers now faces charges for federal probation violation, aggravated assault on a police officer with a firearm, fleeing, eluding police and numerous serious traffic violations. The second man, Clifton Morgan, was arrested on the scene for drug charges and federally for harboring and aiding and abetting a federal fugitive.



**Randy Myers**

**Wanted for federal probation violation, aggravated assault on a police officer with a firearm, fleeing, eluding police and numerous serious traffic violations**

### **Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force**

Alfredo Javier Rivera-Aviles was arrested in Soledad, California on August 9, 2004 by members of the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSW RFTF), deputy U.S. marshals from the Central and Northern Districts of California, and officers of the Soledad, California Police Department. Rivera-Aviles was wanted in the Central District of California pursuant to a provisional arrest warrant that was based on homicide charges in Baja California, Mexico. The charges against him allege that, after leaving a bar in Mexicali, he approached a 15-year-old male victim in the parking lot and executed him by shooting him in the head. The case received extensive political and media attention in the Republic of Mexico as a result of the fact that Rivera-Aviles was a law enforcement officer in Baja California, assigned to a specialized organized crime unit. As a result of a complex six-month investigation, leads were developed that indicated that Rivera-Aviles was most likely staying at a secluded compound in a rural area of Soledad. With the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group, investigators established surveillance at the compound and, on the afternoon of August 9, observed an individual resembling Rivera-Aviles get into a vehicle and drive to a gas station. After confirming the identity of Rivera-Aviles, investigators and officers moved in and arrested him without incident.



**Alfredo Rivera-Aviles**

**Wanted for Homicide**