

# United States Marshals Service



## NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2004

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### **United States Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force to receive State and National Awards**

**Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown, Ohio September 7, 2004-** The United States Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (NOVFTF) has been selected for three of law enforcement's top awards by the National Association of Police, the Ohio Attorney General and the United States Marshals Service.

The NOVFTF was selected to be the sole representatives from the State of Ohio at a national awards ceremony in Washington, DC on September 11, 2004. The task force was chosen by the **National Association of Police Organizations as the "Top Cops" for the State of Ohio.** On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Task Force will also receive the **"Distinguished Group Achievement Award"** from the United States Marshals Service in Washington, D.C. The third award, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, is from **Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro** for **"Distinguished Group Achievement"**.

**The NOVFTF was created in June 2003 by United States Marshal Peter J. Elliott** and is funded through the United States Department of Justice **Project Safe Neighborhoods.** The task force has had a tremendous impact on reducing violent crime throughout the Northern District of Ohio. Since its inception, the task force has arrested over **2300 violent fugitives**, including over **90 suspects for murder and attempted murder**, over **100 suspects for rape and other sexual related offenses**, and has seized hundreds of **firearms** from violent fugitives. *They led all Marshals Service task forces in the nation this past year in the number of firearms seized.* "This task force is a tremendous

success due to the outstanding team work of all the agencies involved. I appreciate the leadership and support that each of the departments leaders has provided”, stated Peter J. Elliott, United States Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio. The task force is made up of 37 different law enforcement agencies from the northern district and has over 60 specially deputized local officers assigned.

Officers from the United States Marshals Service, Shaker Heights, Bainbridge, Pepper Pike, Youngstown, Akron, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and Akron University Police Departments, Officers from the Lorain County, Summit County and Mahoning County Sheriff’s Departments, the Medina County Prosecutors’s Office, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Adult Parole Authority will receive awards on behalf of the task force.