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My name is David Preski and I am currently the Chief of the Pretrial Service Division of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. Accompanying me is Thomas Press the Commanding Officer of the Warrant Unit.

The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, through its Pretrial Service Division, operates a full service Agency. The agency is responsible for many of the components from arrest to adjudication, within the Criminal Justice process. The agency acts as the informational gatekeeper for all arrested and charged individuals and is responsible for the monitoring, supervision and enforcement of released individuals and the arrest and apprehension of wanted individuals.

The Warrant Unit is responsible for the enforcement of all adult Criminal Bench Warrants and Adult Probation and Parole Violation Warrants for the First Judicial District. Additionally, the Unit is responsible for the enforcement of Traffic Court Warrants and Domestic Relations Warrants related to Child Support and Custody.

The Unit is presently comprised of 52 armed field personnel and approximately 20 full and part time administrative staff. The Unit operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays, to complete fugitive investigations for the arrest of individuals wanted on Bench Warrants, Probation and Parole Violations, Traffic Court and Domestic Relations Warrants. Administrative staff process correspondence from Law Enforcement Agencies and Departments throughout the Commonwealth in conjunction with the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) in order to confirm the validity of Criminal Warrants for individuals detained in other jurisdictions. Warrant Unit Investigative personnel are dispatched to accept custody of confirmed fugitives who are not being held on any other Criminal charges and return them to Philadelphia. The Warrant Unit also has a major role in the FJD House Arrest program from the initial investigation, field installation and equipment maintenance to the arrest of violators. The Unit also maintains an office at the Criminal Justice Center to facilitate individuals who surrender on Criminal Bench Warrants.

During calendar year 2009, the Unit was responsible for the arrest of 6,300 individuals wanted on 10,787 Warrants. Additionally, through its surrender process, the Unit processed 17,381 cases; returning them to the active inventory.

The Warrant Unit has established excellent working relationships with Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement Partners including but not limited to: the Philadelphia Police Department, U. S. Marshal's Service and the FBI. The Unit has participated in various arrest sweeps such as: Operation Falcon, Operation Pressure Point and Fugitive Safe Surrender.

The ultimate mission of the Warrant Unit is to reduce the Warrant inventory and to maintain the integrity of the Judicial Process. Given adequate resources and personnel, the Unit will strive to reduce the current outstanding Bench Warrant catalog.