

SCOTT ELLINGTON
Prosecuting Attorney
Second Judicial District

GRANT DEPROW
CHARLENE HENRY
TIARRA TANNER
Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys

RUSTY GRIGSBY
Investigator

DENA HOOTON
Case Coordinator



OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Craighead County Courthouse
511 Union, Suite 342
Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-972-4779
FAX: 870-972-1700

LISA INGRAM
Hot Check Coordinator
870-972-8118

VICTIM WITNESS
COORDINATOR
870-972-9593

DATE: January 11, 2019
TO: All Media Outlets in Northeast Arkansas
SUBJECT: Organized Criminal Activity Task Force

PRESS RELEASE

Scott Ellington, Prosecuting Attorney for the Second Judicial District, announced today the creation of the Second Judicial District Organized Criminal Activity Task Force (OCATF). The OCATF is comprised of law enforcement officials from the Second Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Jonesboro Police Department, the Blytheville Police Department, the Osceola Police Department, the Craighead County Sheriff's Department, the Craighead County Juvenile Department, the Mississippi County Juvenile Department, the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department, the Paragould Police Department, and the Arkansas Department of Community Corrections. Special Assistance is provided by the West Memphis Police Department; the Trumann Police Department, the Arkansas State University Police Department, the Arkansas State Police; and our federal partners, including the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; and the Department of Homeland Security.

The mission of the OCATF is to identify and target for prosecution criminal enterprise groups whose activities include drug trafficking, money laundering, alien smuggling, arms trafficking and possession, crimes of violence such as murder and aggravated assault, robbery, and violent street gangs, as well as to intensely focus on the apprehension of dangerous fugitives where there is or may be a local investigative interest. Its mandate will consist of intelligence gathering, maintenance, and sharing among the above-mentioned agencies. The OCATF will enhance the effectiveness of federal/state/local law enforcement resources through a well-coordinated initiative seeking the most effective investigative/prosecutorial avenues by which to convict and incarcerate dangerous offenders.

Prosecutor Ellington states “My office reviewed 24 jury trials and other prosecutions of violent crimes in Craighead County since June 2015 and we discovered a pattern. Many of Jonesboro’s most dangerous, violent offenders came from our surrounding counties within Northeast Arkansas. Many of those individuals associate themselves with others to carry on criminal activities. In May 2018, following the shootings in Downtown Jonesboro and in coordination with Chief Rick Elliott of the Jonesboro Police Department, we began to develop a consensus for the creation of this task force. We reached out to law enforcement agencies all over Northeast Arkansas with a goal. Our goal is to use this Task Force to collect vital information from multiple federal, state, and local sources. We will use this information to enhance our ability to identify, track, investigate, and prosecute individuals or groups who associate for criminal purposes.”