

FLEOA Applauds U.S. Marshals Service and Law Enforcement Partners Following Recovery of 48 Missing Children

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, August 14, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association ([FLEOA](#)) applauds the U.S. Marshals Service and its federal, state, and local law enforcement partners following the successful recovery of 48 endangered missing children during Operation Yellow Card in Massachusetts.



Led by the U.S. Marshals Service District of Massachusetts in coordination with the Massachusetts State Police and Boston Police Department, Operation Yellow Card was launched in connection with the 2026 FIFA World Cup to locate and safely recover missing children believed to be at heightened risk of human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, violence, and other forms of victimization.

The recovered children ranged in age from 12 to 17. Investigators followed leads across Massachusetts and into multiple other states, ultimately reuniting children with their families or connecting them with appropriate child welfare and victim services.

The operation also generated intelligence and new investigations involving suspected kidnapping, child exploitation, human trafficking, and other related criminal offenses.

"Every one of the 48 recoveries represents a child whose future has been changed and a family that has been given hope. Protecting vulnerable children is among the most important missions entrusted to the U.S. Marshals Service. Every successful recovery reflects the dedication of experienced investigators and trusted law enforcement partners working together to locate endangered children and protect them from exploitation and victimization. There is no greater measure of success than knowing that 48 children who were once missing are now safe because dedicated law enforcement professionals refused to stop searching for them," said Dennis Matulewicz, Acting United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts.

Operation Yellow Card utilized specialized authorities granted to the U.S. Marshals Service under the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and brought together law enforcement agencies

and victim service organizations at every level of government.

Among the participating agencies were the Massachusetts State Police High Risk Victims Unit, Boston Police Department Human Trafficking Unit, Homeland Security Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Essex, Plymouth and Suffolk District Attorneys' Offices, Massachusetts Department of Children & Families, Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, Boston Family Justice Center and Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation Interstate Compact Unit.

FLEOA recognizes the federal law enforcement officers, investigators, state and local partners, and victim service professionals whose persistence and coordination made these recoveries possible. Operations such as Yellow Card demonstrate the critical role federal law enforcement plays in bringing agencies together across jurisdictions to locate vulnerable children, combat exploitation and pursue those who prey upon them.

Although Operation Yellow Card has concluded, the U.S. Marshals Service continues its nationwide efforts to locate endangered missing children. Since 2015, the agency's Missing Child Program has helped recover thousands of endangered missing children across the United States.

FLEOA remains proud to support the men and women of federal law enforcement who carry out this difficult mission and work every day to protect the nation's most vulnerable.

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FLEOA serves more than 34,000 registered members in the federal law enforcement community, who serve across more than 65 agencies. The organization does not endorse political parties or candidates for elected office, but serves as a voice of advocacy for federal law enforcement through the legislative process.

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