



## Union County Public and Media Relations

500 N. Main St., Room 921 • Monroe, NC 28112 • Phone (704)283-3546 • Fax (704)282-0121

### News Release

#### **Operation Trident Results in 13 Arrests in Union County**

*Multi-agency effort focused on absconders, sex offenders and high-risk probationers*

**February 2, 2015, Monroe, NC** – Law enforcement and public safety officers arrested 13 individuals during a multi-agency enforcement operation called “Operation Trident” on Jan. 29 and 30 in Union County. The operation focused on a three-part mission: locating absconders from probation supervision, conducting compliance checks on sex offenders, and conducting searches on high-risk probationers.

Agencies involved in the operation included the U.S. Marshals Western N.C. Violent Fugitive Task Force, N.C. Department of Public Safety – Community Corrections, N.C. State Highway Patrol, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Union County Sheriff’s Office and Monroe Police Department.

“This operation is an example of local, state and federal agencies working toward a common goal, safer communities,” said Kelly Nesbit, U.S. Marshal for Western North Carolina. “The commitment of resources from the participating agencies sends a strong message to criminal offenders that law enforcement is committed to enforcing the laws that keep our streets safe.”

“Collaborative efforts like these with our local and federal partners help ensure that criminal offenders are held to the supervision terms established by the courts, and make those on probation and parole understand that their illegal activities will not be tolerated in our communities,” said Johnny Hawkins, Director of Security Services for the North Carolina Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.

“This is a great example of the working relationships that have been formed with all agencies, federal, state and local to keep the citizens safe,” said Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey. “This should send a message that laws will be enforced.”

Officers served 21 warrants during the operation for violations including drug and weapons charges, probation and parole violations and an immigration violation. Three individuals were cited for drug possession and officers seized 10 firearms from felons not permitted to possess them. A parole warrant is pending against one sex offender found in possession of pornographic materials.