



THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY ARM OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

FACT SHEET

- The United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is one of the nation's oldest law enforcement agencies, tracing its roots back to August 7, 1775 – the earliest recorded date that William Goddard served as the first Surveyor General of Post Roads.
- As the federal law enforcement, crime prevention, and security arm of the Postal Service, its goal is to ensure confidence in the U.S. Mail. It works to ensure that American businesses can safely dispatch funds, securities and information through the U.S. Mail; that postal customers can entrust their correspondence to the mail; and that postal employees can work in a safe environment.
- U.S. Postal Inspectors are federal law enforcement officers who carry firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants, and serve subpoenas. Inspectors work with U.S. Attorneys, other law enforcement, and local prosecutors to investigate cases and provide evidence in court. Inspectors throughout the country enforce roughly 200 federal laws related to crimes that adversely affect or entail fraudulent use of the U.S. Mail, the postal system, postal employees, and customers.
- To assist in carrying out its responsibilities, the Postal Inspection Service maintains a uniformed force of Postal Police Officers who are assigned to critical postal facilities throughout the country. The officers provide perimeter security, escort high-value mail shipments, and perform other essential protective functions.
- The USPIS also maintains a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory in Dulles, VA which contains highly trained forensic scientists and technical specialists who play a key role in identifying, apprehending, prosecuting and convicting individuals responsible for postal-related criminal offenses. Its mission is to provide scientific and technical expertise to the criminal and security investigations of the USPIS.

USPIS STATS:

- **Number of Employees:** 2,442
- **Leader:** Chief Postal Inspector Guy Cottrell
- **Organization:** The USPIS is divided into 17 Divisions: Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Fort Worth, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark (NJ), New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington. Additionally, the USPIS maintains a training facility at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac, MD, and a forensic laboratory in Dulles, VA.