

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL)

INTERPOL WASHINGTON

U.S. NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FY 2020 PERFORMANCE BUDGET



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
I. Overview for INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau.....	1
II. Summary of Program Changes.....	9
III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language	9
IV. Program Activity Justification	10
V. Program Increases by Item	17
VI. Program Offsets by Item.....	17
VII. Exhibits	17

- A. Organizational Chart
- B. Summary of Requirements
- C. FY 2020 Program Increases / Offsets by Decision Unit
- D. Resources by DOJ Strategic Goal/Objective
- E. Justification for Technical and Base Adjustments
- F. Crosswalk of 2018 Availability
- G. Crosswalk of 2019 Availability
- H. Summary of Reimbursable Resources
- I. Detail of Permanent Positions by Category
- J. Financial Analysis of Program Changes
- K. Summary of Requirements by Object Class
- L. Status of Congressionally Requested Studies, Reports, and Evaluations (Not Applicable)
- M. Senior Executive Service Reporting (Not Applicable)
- N. Modular Costs for New Positions (Not Applicable)
- Q1. Contract Workers (Not Applicable)

I. Overview for INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau

A. Introduction

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB), has been allocated is requesting **\$34,444,000**; (\$11,544,000 for agency operating expenses and \$22,900,000 for payment of the United States' annual statutory dues obligation to INTERPOL and mandatory DOJ shared services), 68 FTE (including 1 reimbursable FTE) and 69 direct positions to support efforts to combat transnational crime and terrorism.

B. Background

The USNCB is the designated United States representative to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on behalf of the Attorney General, pursuant to statute and regulation. Co-managed by the Department of Homeland Security, it serves as the official U.S. point of contact for all INTERPOL matters. This vital and unique role encompasses a broad range of activities and responsibilities that directly support the Administration's priorities of enhancing public safety in the interior of the United States; protecting the nation from foreign terrorist entry, and enforcing federal law with respect to transnational criminal organizations and the prevention of international trafficking.

Operating 24/7/365, the USNCB is staffed by a multi-sector workforce comprised of full-time DOJ employees and contractors, as well as a cadre of agents, analysts, and specialists representing more than two dozen U.S. law enforcement agencies. This blended staffing structure creates an environment that fosters and supports collaboration across multiple disciplines, and a whole-of-government approach to combating transnational criminal and terrorist threats.

Using "I-24/7", INTERPOL's encrypted, virtual private network, the USNCB shares and exchanges criminal investigative intelligence and humanitarian assistance information with U.S. law enforcement agencies and their counterparts in 193 other INTERPOL member countries. In addition to enabling real-time messaging, I-24/7 also enables the USNCB to exchange biometric information, and to access and query INTERPOL's array of investigative and analytical databases, which are populated with millions of records on international fugitives; Foreign Terrorist Fighters and other terror suspects; criminal alien sex offenders; stolen and lost travel documents; missing persons; illicit firearms, and persons and entities subject to UN Security Council sanctions.

In addition, by strategically leveraging established national information sharing environments, the USNCB has made this data accessible to the more than 18,000 domestic law enforcement agencies for use in their respective missions. At the same time, it has worked with key interagency partners to develop integrated domestic information sharing platforms enabling them to ingest and process large quantities of INTERPOL data for purposes that include, but are not limited to, terrorist watch listing and screening against illicit international travel.

The USNCB is also exclusively responsible for obtaining the publication of INTERPOL Notices on behalf of all U.S. law enforcement authorities, and for ensuring that Notices published on behalf of other member countries are entered and maintained in the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and TECS, the automated border control system utilized by U.S. Customs and

Border Protection (CBP). Published to all 194 INTERPOL member countries, these Notices serve to facilitate the identification, location and, where indicated, apprehension of subjects of interest to law enforcement world-wide, and to warn of persons, objects, events, and modus operandi that present an imminent and/or continuing threat to public safety.

Even for U.S. law enforcement agencies with a well-developed international presence, the USNCB’s services, capabilities, and resources are *complementary* to their missions, not competitive or duplicative.

C. Full Program Costs

The USNCB is one decision unit, and all requested funds sustain operations that support DOJ’s key priorities, as well as those of DHS and INTERPOL. Therefore, each performance objective is linked with the costs of critical strategic actions that reflect the operational requirements of all three organizations. Of note, the USNCB receives no funding from the more than two dozen participating agencies for operating expenses (such as guard service, telecommunication, equipment, and supply expenses) to support their detailed personnel assigned to the USNCB.

The USNCB’s appropriated resources are allocated to support the following four basic categories of costs in FY20 (Figure 1);

- (1) U.S. statutory dues contributions to INTERPOL’s General Secretariat (approximately 48%);
- (2) Mandatory DOJ Share Services costs (approximately 20%);
- (3) Support and maintenance of the agency’s amalgamated law enforcement communications and information sharing architecture (approximately 10%); and
- (4) USNCB operational costs (approximately 22%).

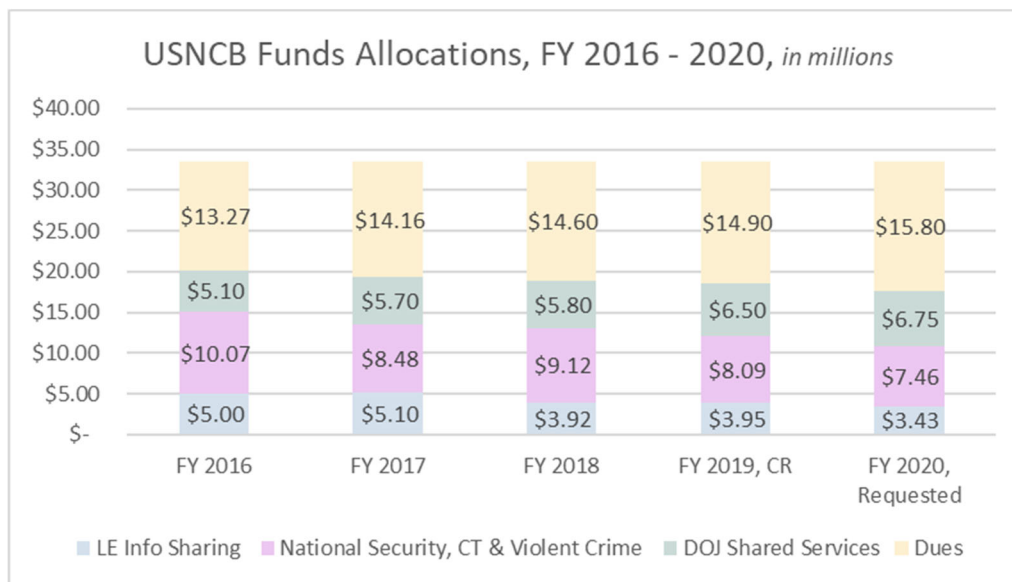


Figure 1

Funding U.S. Dues to the INTERPOL Organization

The U.S. dues contribution is paid in Euros (€) from the USNCB's appropriated budget, and has seen a 154% increase from €4.6 million in 2005 to €11.7 million (estimated) in 2020, which, based upon currency fluctuation, is projected to be \$15.8 million (USD) due to trending currency conversion rates. This fluctuating value of the USD relative to the Euro obfuscates the USNCB's ability to forecast the final cost of U.S. dues, presenting both a challenge and advantage to the agency depending on the strength, or weakness, of the USD versus the Euro at the time of the payment. In FY15, Congress approved carry over authority to assist the USNCB in meeting the U.S. dues obligation during times of weakness of the USD compared to the Euro.

During its 2013 General Assembly, INTERPOL adopted a new model for assessing the annual statutory dues contributions paid by its then-190 member countries. This provided contribution rates for 2014 – 2018, and the 2018 rate was maintained for 2019. (For the United States, this rate is 19.44 %.) A new dues model for 2020 – 2023 was approved at the November 2018 General Assembly. This model ties member countries' INTERPOL dues obligation to the United Nations scale, which is comprised of various economic indicators that include a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Because the new statutory contributions model included a ceiling of 20%, the United States' dues obligation would increase to the new maximum rate of 20% in 2020, which is approximately \$15.755 million based on a 5-year average of Euro to Dollar exchange rates. (Figure 2)

It should be noted that **NO** U.S. dues paid to INTERPOL directly support any U.S. law enforcement, border security, or immigration enforcement operation or activity. While the U.S. dues support the INTERPOL platform, global communication system and its databases, all direct mission and operational support functions are exclusively undertaken by the USNCB with a portion of the USNCB's remaining funds.

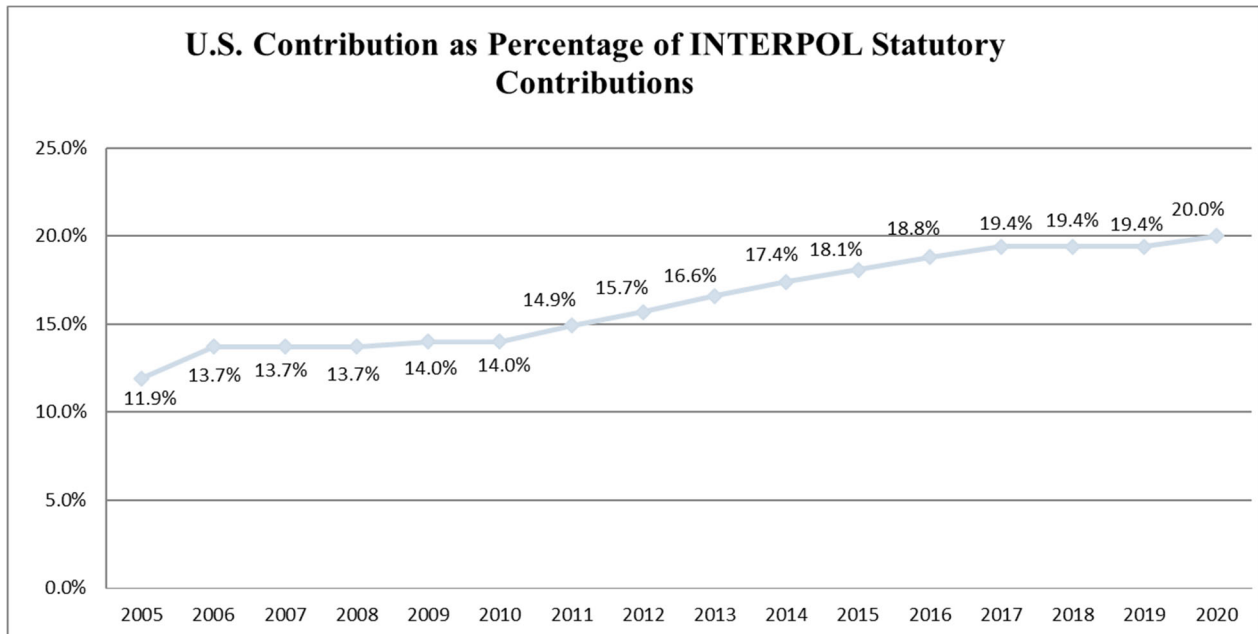


Figure 2

DOJ Mandatory Shared Services

The Department of Justice Working Capital Fund is a revolving fund authorized by law to finance a cycle of operations in which the full cost of services are charged to the recipient. It provides centralized performance of common administrative services, such as computer services, telecommunications, human resources, facilities, and financial. The USNCB's costs associated with DOJ's mandatory shared services have risen from \$5.13 million in 2016 to an estimated \$6.75 million in 2020 (See Figure 1).

Amalgamated Law Enforcement Communication and Information Sharing Architecture

Today's law enforcement information sharing demands are a dynamic and diverse enterprise that is enabled by the use of increasingly advanced forms of information technology (IT). Ergo, through on-going collaborative forecasting with our domestic and foreign counterparts, the USNCB continues to identify service gaps and emerging needs in information sharing and support that require additional and immediate investment and development in both its personnel and IT infrastructure.

Through its sustained efforts to strengthen public safety and national security, the USNCB has succeeded in integrating access to INTERPOL's global criminal investigative data into information sharing platforms utilized by nearly all 18,000 domestic law enforcement agencies for mission critical purposes that include, but are not limited to, immigration enforcement, border security, international traveler screening and vetting, as well as terrorist screening and watch listing. In FY17, U.S. law enforcement, border security, and immigration agencies relied upon the USNCB's amalgamated architecture to carry out their public safety and national security missions by querying and accessing data on INTERPOL's systems over 417 million times, the most in the world. With the single press of a button, the USNCB IT architecture extends the reach of the U.S. law enforcement officer to all points around the globe. In mere milliseconds foreign terrorist fighters, sexual predators, transnational criminals, and even potential victims of crime can be identified. Further, and of profound importance with regard to officer safety for the "cop on the street," the same architecture provides direct access to a layer of invaluable international information on possible criminal associations and/or violent proclivities of subjects of police encounters, not available via any other singular platform.

USNCB Operational Costs

Operational costs for INTERPOL Washington include all costs that do not fall within mandatory DOJ shared services, dues, or the amalgamated law enforcement information sharing architecture: approximately \$9.3 million in payroll and benefits for 69 full time USNCB employees, as well as travel, training, employee awards, office supplies, and contractor support.

D. Challenges

INTERPOL Washington, as with other organizations throughout the entire Federal Government, continues to face funding and resource challenges. The economic environment and the subsequent impact of tightened budgets have placed pressures on all federal agencies. The USNCB is committed to the Administration's efforts to cut waste in spending and to identify opportunities to promote efficient spending. In FY 2020, INTERPOL Washington faces the challenge of

responding to an increasing demand for our services while adhering to economic realities, constricted budgets, and efforts to reduce overall government spending.

Increased Costs Associated with Dues and Mandatory Shared Services

As detailed in Figure 1 on page 3, costs associated with Dues and DOJ Mandatory shared services have risen from a combined \$18.4 million in FY16 to an estimated \$22.55 million in FY20; a 23% **increase**. With flat budgets for several years, the remaining available funding to support the USNCB’s operations, activities, and IT architecture has decreased from a combined \$15 million in FY16 to \$10.9 million in FY20; a 38% **decrease**. (Figure 3)

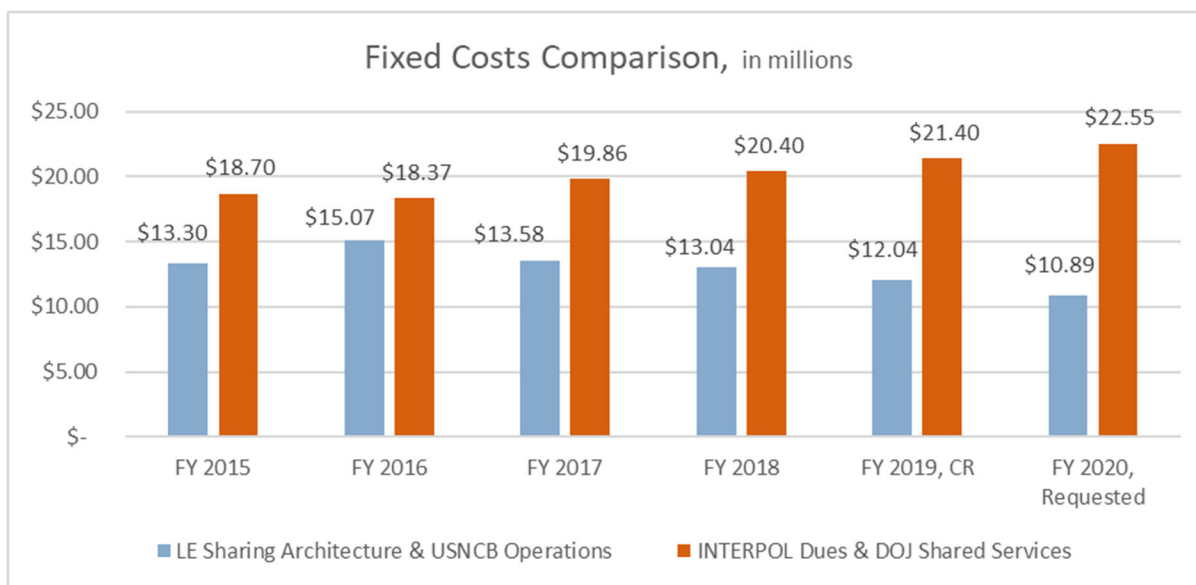


Figure 3

Increasing Operational Demands

Virtually every U.S. law enforcement, border security and immigration agency in the nation has come to rely to some aspect of the USNCB’s integrated architecture to access INTERPOL’s global criminal investigative data and information sharing platform. The increased domestic reliance and demand to leverage the INTERPOL system to meet U.S. information sharing and national security objectives has led to an unprecedented and extraordinary increase in the number of queries by U.S. authorities of the INTERPOL indices processed through the USNCB, as well as increases in the number of U.S. records maintained by the USNCB on the INTERPOL platform. Additionally, as a result of this rise in demand and accessibility, there has been a significant increase for operational assistance or information from the USNCB Operations and Command Center and Divisional resources.

The results of the drastic increased demand for access to INTERPOL data by virtually all U.S. law enforcement, border security, and immigration authorities are reflected in the following striking facts and statistics:

- An increase in the number of U.S. queries of INTERPOL indices processed through the USNCB - from 287.8 million in FY13 to more than 505.5 million for FY18 (a 76% increase).

- The current effort by the USNCB to expand and fill current gaps in domestic information sharing to law enforcement and other strategic partners will increase the demand and stress on the USNCB architecture by a staggering annual total, yet conservatively estimated, of 800 million to 1 billion queries by U.S. authorities in FY19.
- The USNCB is exclusively responsible for uploading and maintaining records in both domestic law enforcement systems and the U.S. data in INTERPOL indices. As of December 2018, the USNCB is maintaining over 156,153 domestic lookout records in U.S. database related to the over 198,287 active foreign Notices and Diffusions from the other 193 member countries of INTERPOL. These records include wanted fugitives, Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF), missing and endangered persons, sex offenders, gang members, etc.
- The USNCB is also exclusively responsible for the entry and maintenance of all U.S. data in INTERPOL indices. Currently, the USNCB is maintaining over 49,500 U.S. Notices and Diffusions across the INTERPOL platform, and over 5 million U.S. Stolen and Lost Travel Documents. In FY18 the USNCB provided, data managed, and facilitated bilateral information exchange efforts with foreign partners as it relates to the sharing of over 33,560 profiles of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and other Known or Suspected Terrorists (KSTs) with INTERPOL.

Unfortunately, with the unrelenting pace and volume of critical information being shared across the INTERPOL platform, the level of effort required to ensure accurate and continuous availability of this data to our domestic and international partners has created a significant strain on USNCB resources.

The exponential increase in available information on the INTERPOL platform coupled with the increase use and reliance on the INTERPOL system by both domestic and foreign law enforcement, border security, and immigration authorities has also resulted in an increase in the positive hit resolutions and requests for assistance that require intervention by the analytical staff assigned to the USNCB's INTERPOL Operations and Command Center (IOCC). Operating 24/7, the IOCC is the USNCB's sole resource to process all incoming message traffic from our domestic and foreign partners, often times involving time sensitive and critical communications supporting international law enforcement, border security and national security operations in real time.

Further, in recent months, due to the successful collaboration with U.S. agencies in obtaining and uploading U.S. terrorism related information from the conflict zones in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria into INTERPOL indices, the IOCC's workload has increased dramatically with regards to resolving positive matches and responding to urgent requests for information to domestic and foreign law enforcement and border authorities.

As the U.S. data grows with the increase in sharing of critical terrorism related data the workload on the IOCC and the support Divisions of the USNCB is expected to grow to unprecedented levels. For example, the annual incoming message traffic to the IOCC has steadily risen from over 294,000 in FY12 to over 741,738 for FY18 (an increase of over 152%), as shown in Figure 4.

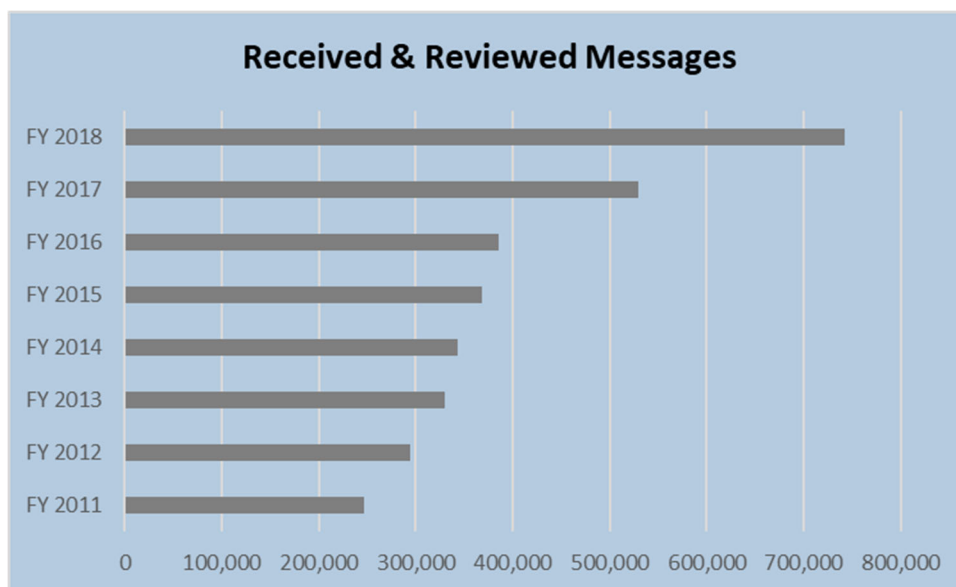


Figure 4

Shrinking Workforce

The USNCB is staffed by a multi-sector workforce consisting of 69 permanent DOJ analysts, lawyers, and administrative personnel; and approximately 31 equivalent law enforcement officers, agents, and analysts detailed to the USNCB from just over 15 different U.S. law enforcement agencies, and is augmented by a cadre of contractors and interns. With respect to the detailed workforce, they are relied upon by the USNCB to assist with the specialized case work and expert investigative support provided by the USNCB to our foreign and domestic partners. This workforce is borrowed from our domestic law enforcement partner agencies who set the period of service and availability according to the needs of their parent organization not the USNCB. These resources who currently comprise approximately 25% of the USNCB workforce, are subject to immediate recall or termination of assignment by the parent agency to support their critical operational requirements that may arise, such as National Special Security Events, critical incidents, or increased mission responsibilities. Unfortunately, as a result of partner organizations recalling detailed personnel back to fill critical needs in their agency’s missions since 2013, the detailed workforce has dropped from 62 positions to 32 equivalent positions in 2018, a 51% reduction.

To maximize efficiency, the USNCB has completed a number of improvements to its procedures and has automated a number of functions to redeploy personnel to address critical workload demands. Despite these measures, the reduction in the USNCB workforce threatens the agency’s ability to keep up with the demands of its core mission functions.

E. Strategic Goals and Objectives

This submission identifies specific outcome-based, strategic mission objectives that will continue to advance the mission of the USNCB. Achieving these objectives will move the agency closer to fulfilling its mandate to ensure greater international police cooperation and information sharing with law enforcement agencies throughout the world.

F. Environmental Management System

INTERPOL Washington will continue to implement its agency-wide Environmental Management System. The agency has adopted a policy whereby INTERPOL Washington personnel incorporate environmental stewardship into their decision-making and day-to-day activities. The policy mandates, among other things:

- Incorporation of environmental management principles into planning and budget preparation.
- Promotion and encouragement for all employees to practice energy conservation, waste stream reduction, and recycling.
- Compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.
- Identification and reporting to the agency leadership any unsafe working conditions or environmental concerns.

II. Summary of Program Changes

Not applicable.

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

General Legal Activities language is displayed in the GLA rollup budget submission.

IV. Program Activity Justification

INTERPOL Washington – U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB)

<i>INTERPOL Washington</i>	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2018 Enacted	72	62	33,441
2019 Continuing Resolution	72	67	33,441
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	-3	0	1,003
2020 Current Services Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	69	67	34,444
2020 Program Increases	0	0	0
2020 Program Offsets	0	0	0
2020 Request	69	67	34,444
Total Change 2019-2020	-3	0	1,003

<i>INTERPOL Washington -Information Technology Breakout (of Decision Unit Total)</i>	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2018 Enacted	5	4	3,268
2019 Continuing Resolution	5	4	3,268
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	1	0
2020 Current Services with Base and Technical Adjustments	5	5	3,268
2020 Program Increases	0	0	0
2020 Program Offsets	0	0	0
2020 Request	5	5	3,268
Total Change 2019-2020	0	1	0

1. Program Description

As the world’s largest international police organization, INTERPOL provide an intergovernmental platform upon which law enforcement authorities in 194 member countries are able to work together to combat transnational crime and terrorism through enhanced information sharing and cooperation – even where good diplomatic relations may not exist between particular countries.

INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB), serves as the designated representative to INTERPOL on behalf of the Attorney General. As such, it is the exclusive point of contact for all INTERPOL matters in the United States, as well as the exclusive U.S. portal to INTERPOL’s global criminal investigative intelligence and information. Its mission includes, but is not limited to, transmitting information and requests for assistance of a criminal justice, humanitarian, or other law enforcement related nature between law enforcement agencies in the United States and other INTERPOL member countries, and coordinating and integrating information in investigations of an international nature.

PROGRAM AND RESOURCE TABLES

PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE											
Decision Unit: INTERPOL Washington											
RESOURCES		Target		Actual		Projected		Changes		Requested (Total)	
		FY 2018		FY 2018		FY 2019		Current Services Adjustments and FY 2019 Program Changes		FY 2020 Request	
Total Costs and FTE (reimbursable FTE are included, but reimbursable costs are bracketed and not included in the total)		FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000
		72	33,441	67	33,441	67	33,441	0	0	67	34,444
TYPE	PERFORMANCE	FY 2018		FY 2018		FY 2019		Current Services Adjustments and FY 2019 Program Changes		FY 2020 Request	
Program Activity		FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000
Exchange of International Investigative Information/ Assistance		72	33,441	67	33,441	67	33,441	0	0	67	34,444
Performance Measure: Output	Number of TECS/NCIC "lookouts" entered/updated	31,693		37,570		32,010				32,330	
Performance Measure: Output	Number of locates on fugitives obtained through database queries or lead information provided by a foreign NCB	600		764		500				400	
Performance Measure: Output	New cases initiated	41,905		42,770		42,324				42,747	
Performance Measure: Efficiency	Number of "lookouts" issued to domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies on INTERPOL wanted/missing persons and suspects within 48	28,173		30,400		28,455				28,739	
Performance Measure: Outcome	Arrests, extraditions, and deportations on INTERPOL Notices/Diffusions with a U.S. nexus	173		195		173				173	

Data Definition, Validation, Verification, and Limitations: **INFORMATION REQUIRED** : Use this section to discuss data terms, data sources, how the information is collected, how the information is verified, and data limitations to include how well the indicator measures performance in this area.

TECS/NCIC "Lookouts" are defined as records created by the USNCB in the Department of Homeland Security's TECS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center system. Both systems are checked at U.S. border entry points. By placing the entries, the USNCB is able to alert U.S. law enforcement to international wanted persons who may attempt to enter the U.S. The USNCB considers "locates" to be the identification, through queries or lead information provided by another country, of a potential address or location of a wanted fugitive. USNCB Workload and Performance data is collected from the USNCB Envoy system and the INTERPOL General Secretariat. Data is validated through manual random sampling. A continuing data limitation is the fact that USNCB is sometimes left out of the information loop once a fugitive is located and/or arrested by national authorities, making it difficult to track and report final outcome. The USNCB continues to make improvements to its statistical reporting.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE TABLE

Decision Unit: INTERPOL Washington

Performance Report and Performance Plan Targets		FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018		FY 2019	FY 2020
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Target
Performance Measure	Number of lookouts within 48 hours	16,649	25,301	32,765	31,510	28,173	30,400	28,455	28,739
Performance Measure	Number of INTERPOL Diffusions issued	190	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Performance Measure	New Cases Initiated	47,934	41,935	41,946	43,048	41,905	42,770	42,324	42,747
Performance Measure	Number of US requested INTERPOL Notices	1,200	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Performance Measure	Number of TECS/NCIC "lookouts" entered/updated	27,434	34,487	39,217	39,790	31,693	37,570	32,010	32,330
Performance Measure	Number of locates on fugitives obtained through database queries or lead information provided by a foreign NCB	874	1,116	768	646	600	764	500	400
Performance Measure	Number of red notices published on US fugitives and sex offenders	437	402	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Performance Measure	Number of green notices published on US fugitives and sex offenders	655	521	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OUTCOME Measure	Arrests, extraditions, and deportations on INTERPOL Notices/Diffusions with a US nexus	183	185	173	242	170	195	173	173

N/A = Data unavailable

3. Performance, Resource, and Strategies

a. Performance Plan and Report for Outcomes

The USNCB will support DOJ's strategic priorities by executing the following functions:

- Coordinating arrangements for payment of the United States' mandatory membership dues to INTERPOL;
- Leveraging existing national information environments to provide access to INTERPOL's global criminal investigative intelligence and information to all U.S. federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies, and championing its integration and utilization in their respective missions, both at home and abroad;
- Communicating and exchanging actionable criminal investigative intelligence and information between international and domestic law enforcement agencies on demand and on a 24/7/365 basis, pursuant to its charge;
- Actively engaging with U.S. and foreign law enforcement partners to identify new and emerging threats to officer safety, public safety, and national security that are transnational in nature, and devising innovative and effective means to combat them through enhanced information sharing, and
- Ensuring that the interests of the United States are thoroughly and accurately represented to the international law enforcement community through INTERPOL's governing bodies and activities, including by providing leadership, expertise, and advocacy at global law enforcement conferences and symposia, and as a participant in its working groups and other professional fora.

b. Strategies to Accomplish Outcomes

The USNCB has strategically leveraged existing national information sharing environments to provide access to INTERPOL's global criminal investigative data to the more than 18,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies. At the same time, it has integrated access to INTERPOL data into more than a dozen proprietary information sharing platforms utilized by DOJ, DHS, the Department of State, and other USG entities to combat transnational crime and terrorism, and to strengthen immigration and border security enforcement. In doing so, it has created a proven, effective model for information sharing and screening that is currently being adopted by foreign partner countries to help identify and interdict the illicit international travel of FTF and other threat actors.

In addition to its use as a screening mechanism, the information being generated by the use of USNCB's model is providing important criminal intelligence concerning the identities, origins, migratory movements, modes of transportation, and associates of persons of interest to law enforcement – information that supports the national security of the United States. Moreover, as this information is unclassified, it can be readily and securely shared between law enforcement and border security authorities in other INTERPOL member countries for their use in determining the criminal or terrorist threat posed by persons located in, or attempting to enter or transit their respective jurisdictions – once again redounding to our national security capabilities and interests.

Further strengthening its efforts to combat transnational threats, the USNCB has formed strategic partnerships with U.S. law enforcement agencies that have resulted in the detailing of their

personnel to it to initiate and respond to requests for international law enforcement assistance. As a result, the USNCB is helping to raise the United States' response to transnational threats from a one that is "whole of government" to one that is "whole of *governments*" in nature.

The USNCB is also a major participant and leader in joint international law enforcement initiatives that include INTERPOL's FTF Working Group and Fusion Task Force and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline Program, which provides investigative leads to foreign law enforcement regarding Internet sites within their countries that are hosting images of child sexual abuse. Its active participation in these and other initiatives helps ensure a continuing role and relevance for the United States in international law enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking and human smuggling; firearms trafficking; maritime piracy, and cybercrime, among others.

Through the USNCB, every law enforcement agency in the United States has 24/7/365 access to police, customs, and immigration authorities in 193 other INTERPOL member countries. The anticipated outcome is the reduction of crime and terrorism both domestically and internationally.

c. Mission Priorities

The following are specific examples of how INTERPOL Washington supports the Department's mission:

Protecting Americans from threats to national security

By strategically leveraging its access to INTERPOL's global law enforcement systems and capabilities, the USNCB has developed a suite of low-cost, high-yield projects to counter the spread of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) and other radicalized elements. Under the umbrella of Operation IOLAUS TORCH, these initiatives employ identification, screening, and detection methods that involve the use of physical tokens (i.e. passports), biometrics, data analytics, IT integration techniques, and INTERPOL's system of Notices and Diffusions to provide a broad-spectrum defense against transnational threats to our public safety and national security.

In addition, the USNCB is collaborating with nearly 50 other INTERPOL member countries in a dedicated program to combat the threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) worldwide. Established in 2013, this program supports a working group - an international forum for sharing criminal investigative intelligence and best practices - a multinational fusion cell, and an analytical database populated with information contributed by and accessible to participating member countries. The criminal intelligence contained in the database includes detailed identity particulars on known or suspected FTFs as well as other information that enhances the exploitation of available data, and enables the production of more focused, actionable analyses of FTF identities, movement, and activities for use by law enforcement.

The USNCB's active collaboration with counterterrorism components within the FBI, Department of State, Department of Defense, Terrorist Screening Center, and the National Counterterrorism Center, as well as its continuing engagement with its counterparts in INTERPOL member countries throughout the world, directly supports DOJ's strategic goal of protecting Americans from threats to national security, as well the objectives outlined in the Administration's forthcoming *National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel*.

Furthermore, in order to combat the growing dangers from cybercrime and cyber-based attacks, the USNCB is working with INTERPOL to develop best practices and criminal intelligence sharing initiatives that will enhance investigations; increase capacity, and increase connectivity between U.S. law enforcement and foreign cyber authorities worldwide. For example, the USNCB is actively pursuing the development of training opportunities with INTERPOL and DOJ to improve member countries' use of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties as a critical tool in supporting global efforts to combat cybercrime; developing solutions for streamlining the process of obtaining and communicating Basic Subscriber Information held by U.S. service providers; promoting the operational, technical, and investigative cyber capabilities of U.S. law enforcement and, through the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation and its Digital Crime Center, increasing international cooperation in support of DOJ's priority goal of disrupting and dismantling cyber threat actors.

Protecting Americans from violent crime

The USNCB fights violent crime by working with its domestic and foreign law enforcement partners to combat violent transnational criminal organizations and offenders. Its efforts include developing and exchanging criminal investigative information and intelligence designed to deny the illicit movement of and access to U.S.-sourced firearms, explosives, and ammunition by international traffickers, drug dealers, gang members, and terrorists. INTERPOL Washington's international data resources and communications network also support U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies in investigating violent offenses that include kidnapping, bank robbery, homicide, rape, and sexual assault. For example, INTERPOL Washington processes trace requests of U.S.-sourced firearms recovered or seized abroad for those member countries without electronic trace (E-Trace) capability and, through INTERPOL's I-24/7 network, assists ATF's National Tracing Center with requests from member countries for assistance in tracing foreign-made firearms recovered in the U.S.

Additionally, the USNCB is exclusively responsible for processing applications for Red, Blue, and Green INTERPOL Notices on subjects connected with a wide range of violent offenses. These subjects include deportees who have committed violent crimes (including members of transnational criminal organizations such as MS-13), and members of outlaw motorcycle gangs (e.g., Hells Angels, Bandidos, Mongols, Vagos, and Outlaws). In addition to facilitating the location, capture, and removal of criminal fugitives, the publication of these Notices supports the sharing of criminal intelligence and coordination of investigations and operations at a truly global level.

The USNCB also routinely facilitates emergency disclosure requests from Internet service providers and online social media companies to prevent violent crimes in which serious threats of bodily harm, death threats, stalking, and extortion attempts are made using the Internet, resulting in the identification, location and arrest of offenders posing a significant threat to persons and/or general public safety.

Protecting the most vulnerable members of society

The USNCB provides substantial support to partner agency efforts to combat crimes against vulnerable populations, including especially children. For example, using its exclusive information sharing authority, the USNCB has extended access to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) image database to U.S. child sex crimes investigators as well as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). This system employs sophisticated software programs to automatically extract digital information from images and compare it to

stored images seized worldwide. ICSE's performance capabilities enable users to initiate investigations online, comment on shared material, apply their unique knowledge of local circumstances, and consult and collaborate with their international counterparts. To date, over 10,000 victims from countries around the world have been identified using ICSE, and numerous offenders prosecuted.

The U.S. USNCB recently reached a significant milestone in its 20-year partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Pursuant to its nonprofit private mission to help reduce child sexual exploitation, NCMEC works with Interpol Washington to provide law enforcement officials urgent and timely leads and information to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse. Historically, these leads were not actionable due to the unavailability of law enforcement contacts as well as a lack of an established mechanism for making the reports available to law enforcement in certain jurisdictions. Interpol's I-24/7 secure messaging system is the tool that is being used to quickly and effectively make available the information and leads to investigative law enforcement entities around the world. Foreign Universal Resource Locators (URL) Internet leads received by the USNCB are provided to NCMEC. Images and other forms of media containing actual evidence are provided to U.S. law enforcement agencies for potential action. The program went live in May 2014; and became available to approximately 140 Interpol member countries. By November 2015, 1 million CyberTipline reports had been made available to international law enforcement agencies, with 38 countries requesting additional follow-up information; and by the end of December 2018, the total number of reports made available to INTERPOL member countries through NCMEC's CyberTipline and INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure messaging system exceeded 19.4 million.

The USNCB is also using its exclusive authority to obtain the publication of INTERPOL Notices to alert domestic and foreign police agencies to the presence of serious child sex offenders travelling from abroad. In this regard, the USNCB's authority now includes the ability to publish Green Notices on U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents with an international nexus that fit the definition of Tier II and III sex offenders under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), 42 USC § 16911(4).1. In furtherance of these efforts, the USNCB has entered into a partnership with the U.S. Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center to identify, target, and track non-compliant sex offenders that travel internationally, and to notify destination countries of the proposed international travel of compliant registered U.S. sex offenders.

In addition, under Operation Predator, the USNCB has partnered with ICE to identify criminal alien sex offenders whose crimes make them removable from the United States. This includes child sex predators, smugglers, and traffickers, as well as individuals involved in the distribution of images of child sexual abuse via the Internet. To date, the USNCB has obtained the publication of approximately 7,819 Green Notices in support of this operation.

The USNCB is also partnering with ICE/HSI and foreign law enforcement counterparts to assist in identifying and locating human rights violators and those who have engaged in war crimes and, in collaboration with ICE's Human Trafficking and Smuggling Center, to utilize INTERPOL Notices and diffusions to identify subjects that are either suspected of or wanted for crimes of human trafficking and/or smuggling. Requests for assistance received from domestic and foreign law enforcement counterparts are reviewed and entered into appropriate U.S. indices and are then disseminated to the INTERPOL community.

V. Program Increases by Item

Not applicable.

VI. Program Offsets by Item

Not applicable.

VII. Exhibits