



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**News**

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## Expertise and tenacity of Kitsap County investigators leads to arrest of international fugitive

**KITSAP COUNTY, Wash.** -- The U. S. Marshals Service contacted a U. S. Postal Service inspector detailed to the West Sound Narcotics Enforcement Team (WestNET), in January, regarding the ongoing investigation into international fugitive Jaromir Prokop.

Prokop had been identified as a Czech organized crime member who reportedly belonged to the Berdych Gang. This gang was identified during the largest and most notorious organized crime case in the history of the Czech Republic.

The inspector initially was able to track Prokop to a location in the greater Tacoma metropolitan area. Enlisting the help of his WestNET teammates and with approval from the Kitsap County Sheriff and superiors with the U. S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), a joint narcotics and fraud case was initiated, bringing together investigators from WestNET, USPIS and Kitsap County Sheriff's Special Investigations Unit (SIU).



**U. S. Marshals Service wanted poster for Jaromir Prokop, an international fugitive from justice.**

During the investigation, inspectors and detectives were able to amass a significant amount of information detailing the activities of Prokop, while slowly closing in on his whereabouts. They coordinated with the marshal's service and worked the investigation as a top priority case.

Prokop, having been on the run from his crimes in the Czech Republic for more than a decade, was adept at using false identifications to evade federal law enforcement. He was able to avoid capture while reportedly moving about the United States.

On April 28, after an exhaustive 50-day manhunt, the joint team of investigators was able to track Prokop to a business in King County, Wash.

The team covertly surveilled Prokop and surrounded the business. After watching Prokop enter, an undercover agent from Kitsap County Sheriff's SIU was sent in to attempt to verify Prokop's identity, as Prokop was concealing his face with a mask and ball cap. The undercover agent approached Prokop and was able to ascertain it was the wanted international fugitive. The undercover agent signaled his teammates and investigators closed in. Prokop was taken into custody without incident.

WestNET Commander Lt. Jon VanGesen said, "On Tuesday, detectives with the West Sound Narcotics Enforcement Team and inspectors from the U. S. Postal Inspection Service arrested Jaromir Prokop. He was one of the most wanted criminals internationally. Prokop's flight from justice finally ended with his arrest. We are extremely proud of the teamwork, coordination, and resolve investigators demonstrated to locate and safely arrest Prokop, allowing authorities in the Czech Republic to hold him accountable."

Prokop later was remanded into the custody of a deputy U. S. marshal.



**After an extensive manhunt, international fugitive Jaromir Prokop (left) was tracked to a business in King County.**

**He was apprehended inside the establishment by Kitsap County investigators with the West Sound Narcotics Enforcement Team, Kitsap County Sheriff's Special Investigations Unit and the U. S. Postal Inspection Service.**

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