

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

Sen. Blackburn welcomes AG Todd Blanche to Memphis to host roundtable on success of the Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF)

MEMPHIS, Tenn., October 17, 2026 – U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Attorney General Todd Blanche, and U.S. Marshals Service Director Gady Serralta hosted a roundtable discussion on the remarkable success of the Memphis Safe Task Force following its one-year anniversary.

Since the Task Force was launched, there have been more than 13,500 arrests, including more than 1,500 known gang members. Law enforcement has seized more than 1,300 illegal firearms, located nearly 200 missing children, and executed nearly 7,000 warrants.

Senator Blackburn was joined in this discussion by U.S. Attorney Mike Dunavant, U.S. Marshal Tyreece Miller, Memphis Police Chief C.J. Davis, U.S. Representative David Kustoff, and State Senator Brent Taylor.



U.S. Senator and TN Candidate for Governor Marsha Blackburn

"I want to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to Attorney General Blanche for accepting my invitation to come to Memphis today."

"He has been a true partner in our efforts to make Memphis safer, and I greatly appreciate his working with me every step of the way."

"We are here this morning because we recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the

Memphis Safe Task Force."

"And what a year it has been for this city."

"Today, we will discuss what has already been accomplished and where we go from here to ensure sustained, long-term public safety in Shelby County."

"Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force last year, we have witnessed a true success story in this historic, iconic city."

"Crime has declined across all measured categories when comparing 2026 with the same period in 2025."

"Overall violent crime has dropped by more than 38%."

"Homicides are down 37%."

"Carjackings are down 63%."

"Sexual assaults are down 30%."

"Robberies have decreased by 47%."

"By coordinating resources

among more than two dozen local, state, and federal agencies—including the FBI, U.S. Marshals Service, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee National Guard, and Memphis Police Department—the Task Force has been remarkably successful in getting criminals off the streets."

"Since the Task Force was launched, there have been more than 13,500 arrests, including more than 1,500 known gang members."

"Law enforcement has seized more than 1,300 illegal firearms, located nearly 200 missing children, and executed nearly 7,000 warrants."

"I have said it many times, but Memphis truly has become a model for fighting violent crime in a large city."

"We also have a stellar law enforcement team in place, working hard every day to make this city safer."

"Many of its members are here

"This Task Force has been a resounding success, and the Memphis community is feeling the difference."

"Sixty-two percent of Memphians say our efforts have been effective in reducing crime."

this morning, including U.S. Attorney Mike Dunavant, U.S. Marshal Tyreece Miller, Memphis Police Chief Davis, and representatives from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, FBI, DEA, ATF, TBI, and many other agencies."

"This Task Force has been a resounding success, and the Memphis community is feeling the difference."

"Sixty-two percent of Memphians say our efforts have been effective in reducing crime."

"I have made public safety in Memphis a priority in the U.S. Senate."

"More than two years ago, before President Trump was even ree-

lected, I introduced a resolution urging him to surge federal law enforcement resources into Memphis to crack down on violent crime."

"After President Trump nominated Kash Patel to lead the FBI, Patel came to meet with me in my office."

"During that meeting, he was stunned to learn that Memphis at the time had some of the highest—if not the highest—violent crime rates in our country."

"Over the following months, I worked with Director Patel as he launched what became known as Operation Viper, a targeted effort last summer that took the most dangerous gang members off our streets."

"This effort ultimately served as the precursor to what became the Memphis Safe Task Force."

"Given all the work that has been done for this great city, I am incredibly hopeful about the future of Memphis and West Tennessee."

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Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF) Report: 29 arrested on felonies, first degree murder, guns recovered, etc.

MEMPHIS, October 15, 2026—The Memphis Safe Task Force on Wednesday executed 29 arrests, including one woman on a homicide charge and a man on a first-degree murder charge, and recovered seven illegal firearms.

Of note:

Tamela Taylor, 23, was arrested at a residence in the 180 block of Woods Road in Humboldt on multiple warrants for a vehicular homicide-- vehicular homicide (intoxication), vehicular assault/aggravated assault (reckless), and vehicular homicide (reckless). Taylor was transported to Shelby County jail.

Taeveon Smith, 19, was arrested in the 100 block of Village Road in Covington on multiple felony warrants including first-degree murder, criminal attempt first-degree murder, aggravated assault and use of a firearm in commission of a felony stemming from a March 29 shooting incident in the 30 block of West Shelby Drive that left one man dead and two others injured. As part of their investigation into the first-degree murder, MSTF developed an address for Smith in Covington and, with assistance from the Covington Police Department, arrested Smith without incident.

Justin Thomas, 32, is being charged with vehicular manslaughter, possession of controlled substances, speeding, and fleeing law enforcement after he led officers on a pursuit that ended in a crash, killing the passenger in his vehicle and injuring himself and two other motorists. MSTF conducted surveillance in the 800 block of Red Leaf Lane on a matte black Cadillac, previously reported as having fled from MSTF during a traffic stop attempt. During surveillance, Thomas was seen getting into the driver's seat of the Cadillac, with a woman (identified later as Renisha Thompson) as the passenger. After departing the residence, Thomas is alleged to have initiated several evasive maneuvers (multiple U-turns) in the residential area attempting to disrupt MSTF's mobile vehicle surveillance. Thomas then turned onto West Shelby Drive where Tennessee Highway Patrol attempted a traffic stop near the intersection of South Third Street. Thomas fled from THP, resulting in a vehicle pursuit on South Third Street that ended just before the West Levi Road intersection. The Cadillac struck four vehicles causing Thompson's

ejection from the Cadillac, serious injuries to Thomas and minor injuries to two other motorists. Thomas was transported to the hospital in critical condition. Thomas had an active warrant for a weapons charge prior to this incident.

Lavelle Moore, 54, was arrested in the 2800 block of East Hickory Bluff on a warrant for theft of merchandise \$2,500-\$10,000. As MSTF arrived at the residence, Moore fled to the backyard where he was arrested. A subsequent search of the residence yielded six firearms. Moore was also charged with felon in possession of a firearm. Niquavious Hargrow, 20, was arrested at an apartment in the 3500 block of Bellbranch Drive for aggravated assault, unlawful possession and criminal trespass. MSTF was patrolling near an apartment complex in the 3600 block of Kingsgate Drive when two female security guards signaled for assistance. Prior to MSTF's arrival on scene, the security guards had been patrolling on Millbranch Road when they saw a woman (later identified as Synique Malone, 20) holding money next to a man (later identified as Hargrow). The security

guards made a comment to the pair, after which Hargrow is alleged to have brandished an AR-style black rifle/pistol, pointing it at the security guards and ver-

bally threatening them before walking toward the apartments. Upon arrival at the apartment, MSTF seized a Palmetto PA-15 multi-caliber rifle (round cham-

bered) w/loaded magazine and a second loaded magazine from Hargrow. Malone and Hargrow

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SET Your Calendar to Support UofM and Army Game!



Memphis-Army Kickoff Set for 7 p.m. on ESPNU

IRVING, Texas – Details for Memphis football's week nine matchup against Army on Oct. 31 have been announced.

The Tigers will host Army on Halloween night at 7 p.m., with the game airing on ESPNU.

BUY TICKETS NOW

Single-game tickets can be purchased online or by calling the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331. For group tickets and experiences, please contact the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331.

For premium seating experiences, please contact the Memphis Athletic Fund at MAF-premium@memphis.edu.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE TIGERS: For complete information on Memphis Tigers Football, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

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