



Fact Sheet

Prisoner Transportation

2026

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals' Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System manages the coordination, scheduling and secure handling of prisoners in federal custody, transporting them to detention facilities, courts and correctional institutions via a network of aircraft, buses, vans and cars.
- ▶ JPATS is the largest transporter of prisoners in the United States, supporting the federal judiciary, U.S. Marshals district offices and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

<i>Fiscal Year 2025 Data</i>	
Total federal prisoner movements	265,969
• Movements by air	101,090
• Movements by ground*	164,879
Average prisoner movements per day+	1,094

*Does not include prisoners moved within district or up to 50 miles into a bordering district

+Based on 243 operational days in fiscal 2025

- ▶ Prisoner movements across the 94 judicial districts take place for a variety of reasons, such as to testify at a trial, serve a sentence at a facility or transfer between institutions. Prisoners are also moved for pretrial hearings, competency examinations, medical studies and observations.
- ▶ JPATS is the only government-operated, regularly scheduled passenger airline in the nation.
- ▶ JPATS transports prisoners using more than 40 airlift sites throughout the U.S. and its territories. With appropriate planning, JPATS can accommodate international and special movement requests.
- ▶ JPATS air operations are conducted using JPATS-owned and -leased aircraft operated by specially trained aviation security staff, expert pilots, medical personnel and experienced mechanics.
- ▶ JPATS operates a fleet of aircraft to move prisoners over long distances more economically and with higher security than commercial airlines.
- ▶ For ground movements, JPATS coordinates the scheduling, but the transits are performed by Federal Bureau of Prisons buses, contracted transportation services with facilities that house Marshals prisoners and U.S. Marshals vehicles.
- ▶ JPATS also provides prisoner transportation to state and local law enforcement agencies and other federal agencies, including the military, on a space-available, cost-reimbursable basis.
- ▶ When a prisoner is in transit, the Marshals do not disclose any transportation details except verification that a prisoner is in Marshals' custody and confirmation when a prisoner movement is complete.
- ▶ JPATS is funded through a revolving/working capital fund reimbursed from the partners it supports. JPATS does not receive appropriated funding.
- ▶ JPATS is a leader in government aviation safety programs and is recognized by the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations.