

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

2022 Investigative Updates and Current Trends

Tara McLeese
Resident Agent in Charge
Baton Rouge Resident Office
tara.mcleese@uss.s.dhs.gov

202-579-8206



The overall classification of this presentation is:

UNCLASSIFIED

United States Secret Service

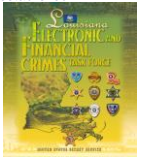
1

Louisiana Cyber Crimes Task Force (s)

*Strategic partnerships with state, local and federal law enforcement and Industry partners.

*Financial crimes investigations in particular benefit from an established national network of Task Forces.

- *Provide training and resources to State and Local Partnerships
- *Assist with high dollar loss/community impact cases
- *Organized groups/multi-defendant
- *Transnational and multi-district investigations
- *Identify new technology and schemes

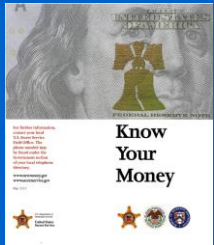


United States Secret Service 2

2

Counterfeit Deterrence

www.usdollars.gov



United States Secret Service

3

 **New Procedure for submitting counterfeit**

<https://www.usdollars.usss.gov>

- **Central processing facility in Washington, D.C**
- **Create an account**
- **Instructions for submission will be made clear**

4

 **Counterfeit Cont.**

What are we seeing in Louisiana

- “Bleached” Notes
- “Motion Picture use Only”
- **What can we charge Federally?**
- Manufacturing !!

Call us regardless so we can track trends and get statistics entered in USSS system

5

 **HOT TOPIC – CARES ACT Fraud**

- ✓ BILLIONS of dollars in Fraud between (UI, PPP, EIDL)
- ✓ USAO will potentially prosecute Money Mules
- ✓ Focus on Seizing Assets purchased by Fraud

What are we seeing in Louisiana

Fraud Indicators

- Fees in excess of SBA limits
- New Employer Identification Numbers (EIN)
- Shell Corporations/dormant EINs
- Recent incorporations (Prior to February 15, 2020)
- **Inflation of payroll**
- **Newly created bank accounts with abnormal transaction activity**
- Use of consumer accounts rather than business accounts
- Quick movement of money in and out of accounts
- **Withdrawals made via cash or cash apps**
- Transfers to overseas accounts known for poor anti-money laundering controls

6

Red flags, Mitigation, Prevention

- Red Flags
 - Requesting large transfers to foreign countries
 - Missing checks, unknown financial transactions
 - Repeated communication, badgering
 - Unsolicited requests for services, information
- Mitigation
 - Notify financial institutions
 - Change communication methods, phone numbers, emails
 - Update and enhance privacy settings on social media
 - Contact law enforcement, IC3, FTC Consumer Sentinel
- Prevention
 - Education & Awareness
 - Multiple verification for financial transactions
 - More Education & Awareness



10



WHAT CAN WE DO

*Investigative Intelligence aggregated at the National Level

*Foreign Field Offices ARE making moves in traditionally difficult locations (Nigeria)

*Get all the info you can then contact USSS so we can send it into our new GLOBAL INVESTIGATIVE OPERATIONS CENTER (GIOC).



11



Digital Money

- <https://www.secretservice.gov/investigation/DigitalAssets>
- <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/files/money-and-payments-20220120.pdf>

What are we seeing in Louisiana

- Used by MONEY MULES in furtherance of BEC, Romance Scams, and Ransomware.



12



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Counterfeit United States Savings Bonds

The U.S. Secret Service has received information that the U.S. Department of the Treasury has observed an increase in activity associated with the fraudulent redemption of United States Savings Bonds (Series EE and Series I) at financial institutions. This scheme often involves utilizing writing money orders to cash the counterfeit bonds for a share of the illicit profit. The volume of the counterfeit bonds is consistently growing, with estimated loss amounts reported at **\$80 million**. The Secret Service advises financial institutions to remain alert regarding this activity.



Department of the Treasury Resources

Tips and Security Features (attachment) - Department of the Treasury document to assist in the identification of counterfeit Series EE and I Savings Bonds.

The Guide to Cashing Savings Bonds (link) - Department of the Treasury reference guide for financial institutions redeeming and cashing savings bonds.

Additional Information can be obtained by contacting Treasury Retail Security Services at 1-844-284-2676.

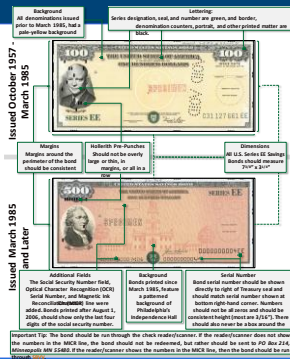
To report criminal activity, contact your local
[U.S. Secret Service field office/Chief Financial Task Force \(CFTF\)](#).

United States
Secret Service

16



U.S. Series EE Savings Bond Security Features



United States
Secret Service

17



USSS is here to help !!

Tara McLeese
tara.mcleese@uss.s.dhs.gov
202-579-8206 cell

United States
Secret Service

18

18