

## Electronic Crimes Task Forces (ECTF)

In 1996, the Secret Service established the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force (ECTF) to combine the resources of academia; the private sector; and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to combat computer-based threats to our financial payment systems and critical infrastructures. The USA Patriot Act (2001) recognized the effectiveness of the New York ECTF and mandated that the Secret Service establish a nationwide network of ECTFs to “prevent, detect, and investigate various forms of electronic crimes, including potential terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure and financial payment systems.”

ECTFs leverage combined resources in an organized effort to combat threats to our financial payment systems and critical infrastructures. Partnerships between law enforcement and the private sector are critical to the success of the ECTF model. Partnerships with academia ensure that law enforcement is on the cutting edge of technology by leveraging the research and development capabilities of teaching institutions and technical colleges.

Additionally, the combined resources allow ECTFs to identify and address potential cyber vulnerabilities before the criminal element exploits them. This proactive approach has successfully prevented cyber attacks that otherwise would have resulted in large-scale financial losses to U.S. based companies or disruptions of critical infrastructures.

As a direct result of the USA Patriot Act mandate, the Secret Service has established 24 ECTFs throughout the United States. Membership to our ECTFs include 299 academic partners; 2,100 federal, state, and local law enforcement partners; and 3,103 private sector partners. Currently, the Secret Service ECTFs are located in the following metropolitan areas:

- Atlanta
- Birmingham
- Buffalo
- Chicago
- Columbia
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New York
- Orlando
- Pittsburgh
- Seattle
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Charlotte
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- Las Vegas
- Louisville
- Minneapolis
- Oklahoma City
- Philadelphia

- San Francisco
- Washington, DC