

FBI Names Woman To Run N.Y. Division

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman who has worked at the FBI for 23 years is the new head of the FBI's New York Division, the bureau's largest with 2,000 agents and other employees.

With a strong background in national security work and counter-terrorism, Jan Fedarcy becomes the first woman to be named an assistant director for one of the FBI's operational field offices. Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., are the other two field offices run by an assistant director.

Recently, Fedarcy led the Philadelphia division, where she oversaw the investigation leading to pending criminal charges against two American women accused in a global terror plot.

Most FBI field offices around the country are run by a special agent in charge, or SAC. In her new position, Fedarcy will have six SACs reporting to her.

Fedarcy will succeed Joseph M. Demarest Jr., who is now an assistant director in charge of the international operations division. Demarest will be responsible for more than 600 FBI employees at FBI headquarters and in legal attaché offices around the world.

After becoming an FBI agent in 1987, Fedarcy was assigned to Los Angeles where she investigated organized crime, drug cases, money laundering and gangs.

Promoted in 1996 to FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., Fedarcy coordinated FBI responses to domestic and international crises and special events and became the first FBI liaison to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. She returned to FBI headquarters in 2001 as an assistant team leader in the inspection division.

Fedarcy became the assistant section chief in the counterterrorism division's terrorist financing operations section in 2003. Subsequently, she was put in charge of the national center for the analysis of violent crime in the FBI's critical incident response group.

In 2005, Fedarcy began serving as the FBI representative to the National Counterterrorism Center's directorate of strategic operational planning.

She was instrumental in developing a classified national strategic operational plan in the war on terrorism.

In 2007, she became special agent in charge of the counterterrorism division in Los Angeles.

Obama Has Success With Appointment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The third time was the charm for President Barack Obama to fill the top job at the Transportation Security Administration.

The Senate Friday confirmed John Pistole, the former deputy FBI director, to head the TSA. The vote was unanimous. Obama's first two choices to run the agency dropped out during their confirmation processes over the past year.

Pistole had a 27-year career with the FBI and rose through the ranks of its counterterrorism division. His background was touted as bringing an enhanced law enforcement perspective to the agency whose primary mission is to shore up the nation's defenses against terrorist threats in the air, on roads and rails.

The TSA was created after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and it's most well known for screening passengers at airports — a job that includes asking travelers to take off their shoes and for tossing liquids weighing more than 3.4 ounces. In 2008, TSA screeners got new uniforms and police-style metal badges, a move some say was intended to improve their image as law enforcement officers.

Obama's first choice for the post, Erroll Southers, withdrew his nomination after it became apparent he would have trouble winning confirmation. Questions were raised about a reprimand that Southers, a top official with the Los Angeles Airport Police Department, had received for running background checks on his then-estranged wife's boyfriend two decades ago. He acknowledged giving Congress inconsistent answers.

More Kids Trapped In Sweltering Cars Are Dying

BY KEN THOMAS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Temperatures are rising and so are reports of infants and toddlers dying from being trapped inside sizzling automobiles.

A researcher says 18 children have died of hyperthermia since the beginning of the year, with eight deaths reported since June 13. That's the largest number of fatalities through the first half of a year since Jan. Null, an adjunct professor of meteorology at San Francisco State University, began tracking the data in the late 1990s.

Government and safety experts are telling parents that they never should leave children in an unattended vehicle or allow kids to play in cars and trucks. Many of the recent cases have involved children who climbed inside an unlocked vehicle on a hot day and then couldn't get out.

"These really are good parents who love these kids who make a mistake that turns out to be fatal," said David Strickland, the administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The government's highway safety agency issued a consumer

advisory this week that included a warning for parents not to leave children unattended in or near a vehicle.

Null, who has compiled data on the cases through media reports, said 37 children typically die each year from heat exhaustion in vehicles. A NHTSA report in June 2009, based on police reports, estimated that 27 children died in 2003-2004 from hyperthermia.

The deaths in June have caught the attention of safety advocates because July tends to be the most deadly month for children trapped in hot cars. With a week left in June, the number of deaths has topped the previous high of 17 fatalities from January to June 2009, according to Null's data.

In 2005, when Null counted 47 child hyperthermia fatalities, only 12 of the deaths occurred through the end of June.

Since 1998, Null has documented 463 child deaths involving heat exhaustion inside cars and trucks. Safety advocates said the deaths have been more prevalent since the mid-1990s when parent-drivers were required to put their children in the back seat, where they are safer in transit but more likely to be forgotten.

Six fatalities have been reported in Texas, including three in the past month, along with two deaths apiece in Tennessee and Missouri.

In Hineson, Ala., 2-year-old Hunter Iles was found dead on Monday in the front passenger seat of his family's car after playing with other children outside his home. Sheriff's officials told local media outlets that the child was discovered missing and later found unconscious in the vehicle. Temperatures were in the 90s that day.

In Portageville, Mo., 2-year-old twins Allannah and Alliya Larry were found dead in their grandmother's car on June 16 as temperatures pushed into the mid-90s. New Madrid County Sheriff Terry Stevens said the children apparently got into the unlocked car on their own and were locked inside the vehicle for two hours.

When investigators arrived, he said, the temperatures inside the car had surpassed 140 degrees.

Children are particularly vulnerable because they have difficulty escaping on their own and their respiratory and circulatory systems can't handle heat as well as adults.

Safety groups such as Kids and Cars

and Safe Kids USA urge parents to check the back seat every time they exit the vehicle and to create a reminder system for themselves.

Some parents leave their cell phone or purse on the floor near the car seat to ensure they retrieve it along with the child. Others remind themselves by placing a stuffed animal in the car seat when the child isn't using the seat and putting the toy in the front seat when the child is tucked in the car seat.

Online:
Hyperthermia deaths of children in vehicles:
http://ggweather.com/heat/index.htm
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: http://www.nhtsa.gov/Kids and Cars: http://www.kidsandcars.org/
Safe Kids USA:
http://www.safekids.org/

www.yankton.net

Court: Some Budget Cuts Unconstitutional

BY ALISON MUTLER
Associated Press Writer

BUCHAREST, Romania — A top Romanian court ruled Friday that some of the austerity measures proposed by the government were unconstitutional — a move that will likely delay a crucial multibillion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

The ruling by the Constitutional Court, whose decisions on constitutional matters cannot be appealed, came after dozens of Romanians tried unsuccessfully to storm the presidential palace to protest the measures and gain an audience with President Traian Basescu.

Riot police repelled those who tried to force their way past barri-

ades into the 17th-century palace.

Prime Minister Emil Boc said he would present alternative measures to reduce spending and qualify for the loan from the International Monetary Fund. He declined to say what steps he would take until he had consulted with the fund and the World Bank. The government is thought likely to try to raise the sales and income taxes.

Jeffrey Franks, the IMF's mission chief for Romania, said in a statement the fund was assessing the court's ruling. A meeting previously scheduled for Monday in which the board was to decide whether to disburse the next installment of the loan was cancelled.

However, Boc said he hoped Romania could stay on track for the IMF loan.

The court did not publish its reasons for ruling. Romanian media and unions said the reason was that Romanian law forbids cutting pensions that are based on worker contributions. They said that salary cuts are not unconstitutional and the government may still go ahead with them.

The government had proposed cutting pensions by 15 percent and public sector wages by 25 percent.

Romania's currency, the leu, lost more than 1 percent of its value after news of the court decision, with a rate of 4.28 lei to the euro, and 3.49 lei to the dollar.