# THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE ANNUAL REPORT 2008 FACTS AND FIGURES

# SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

The Virginia Department of State Police is divided primarily into three Bureaus: Administrative and Support Services, Criminal Investigation, and Field Operations.

Each Bureau Director, who holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, reports directly to the Deputy Superintendent.

The Superintendent's Office includes the Executive Protective Unit, Professional Standards Unit, the Office of Performance Management and Internal Controls, and the Public Relations Office.

# **Professional Standards Unit**

The Professional Standards Unit is responsible for the internal affairs and staff inspection functions within the Department of State Police.

The Internal Affairs Section conducts and coordinates the investigations of allegations of misconduct on the part of Department employees. During 2008, 638 internal investigations were processed.

The Staff Inspection Section conducts inspections of all organizational components within the Department, ensuring compliance with National Accreditation Standards, OSHA requirements, and Department policies and procedures. Six staff inspections were conducted in 2008. The Staff Inspection Section also manages all records retention and destruction within the Department.

# Office of Performance Management and Internal Controls

Established in March 2007, the Office of Performance Management and Internal Controls (OPMIC) was created to track and monitor progress on the objectives established in the Virginia Performs performance management system and to ensure compliance with standards developed by central government oversight agencies. OPMIC is also tasked with managing Agency Risk Management and Internal Control Standards for the Department. OPMIC is comprised of the Internal Audit Section and the Planning and Research Section.

#### **Internal Audit**

Internal Audit performs audits and reviews of Virginia State Police operations for the purpose of monitoring the agency's performance in maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of Department operations and strengthening internal controls. Internal auditors follow professional auditing standards and carry out the scope of their work in an independent and objective manner. Results of all internal audits are reported to management and the Superintendent, along with relevant recommendations for improvement. Management then provides a response to the audit report, which includes applicable corrective action plans. Some of the common types of internal audits include:

- Review of the reliability of financial data and related financial reporting of operations
- Review of compliance with laws, regulations, policies, and procedures
- Audits of various operational areas or programs within the Department
- Reviews of the safeguarding of assets and the prevention/detection of losses, errors, or irregularities
- · Audits of information technology systems and related security of data
- Investigations of State Employee Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline complaint referrals
- Review or testing of the Department's compliance with the Agency Risk Management and Internal Controls Standards (ARMICS)

#### Planning and Research

The Planning and Research Section provides planning and policy support to all divisions and units of the Department and is responsible for:

- Conducting evaluations of new equipment, procedures, and technologies
- Updating staffing formulas
- Coordinating the Department's accreditation and grants management programs
- Conducting evaluations of existing programs and policies
- Maintaining the State Police Manual
- Developing and monitoring the Department's performance, productivity and administrative measures
- Providing support in the development of grant applications and budgetary submissions
- Conducting legislative studies mandated by the General Assembly
- Developing and monitoring the Department's Strategic Plan and Service Area Plans
- Developing and maintaining the Department's Continuity of Operations Plan
- Preparing the annual Use of Force Report
- Conducting the annual Citizen Survey

During 2008, the Planning and Research Section administered 38 grants that provided approximately \$18.55 million in funding for agency projects.

#### Accreditation

In August 2007, Virginia State Police underwent and achieved reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Department was fully compliant with the accreditation standards and received many favorable reviews from the "public input" component of the evaluation.

Virginia State Police has been a longstanding supporter and advocate of CALEA, as the Department, in 1985, became the second state law-enforcement agency in the nation to receive official accreditation by CALEA.

Maintaining accredited status is an on-going project for all accredited law enforcement agencies and requires constant monitoring and periodic updating of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with internationally accepted law enforcement standards. In December 2005, the Department was one of eleven agencies awarded a Certificate of Meritorious Accreditation for successfully maintaining accredited status for over 15 years.

The purpose of the accreditation process is to improve the delivery of law enforcement services by demonstrating that an agency's operations are in compliance with generally accepted standards. Accreditation requires a comprehensive review of every aspect of the Department's organization, operations, and administration.

# **Public Relations Office**

The Public Relations Office (PRO) is responsible for planning, developing, managing and implementing comprehensive, proactive, statewide public relations information and educational programs regarding the Department. In addition to maintaining daily contact with the public and media, the PRO disseminates news releases about Department programs and activities, traffic safety enforcement, and crime prevention. The office also develops and implements highway safety and public awareness media campaigns and conducts press interviews around the state.

The PRO staff consists of a Public Relations Manager and two Public Relations Coordinators at State Police Administrative Headquarters. The Public Relations Office assists and supports the Department's Public Information Officers (PIO) assigned to each of the seven field divisions. PIO's respond to the scenes of major highway crashes, criminal incidents, and handle regional press inquiries in order to assist the media in providing direct and timely information to the public.

In 2008, PRO and PIO accomplishments include:

- Circulated 67 statewide press releases and 155 divisional press releases;
- Advanced public awareness campaign for Virginia's "Move Over" law after eight troopers were struck along the Commonwealth's interstates in 2008 and created two public service announcements for marketing purposes;
- Continued promotion of Virginia's Highway Safety Challenge, to combat traffic fatalities statewide;
- Participated in four child safety seat clinics and one child seat crushing event;
- Production of a quarterly Department newsletter
- Assisted with the pre-publicity planning for the 56<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration.

# BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Bureau of Administrative and Support Services includes the divisions of Communications, Criminal Justice Information Services, Finance, Information Technology, Personnel, Property and Logistics, Statewide Agencies Radio System, Sworn Programs and Training.

Employees in these areas provide the Department, especially troopers and special agents in the field, with essential services through their extensive technical and professional expertise. These services range from:

- Designs complex and sophisticated computerized systems to maintain critical criminal files;
- Installing police radios and radar units in patrol vehicles
- Creating and implementing a Computer-Aided Dispatch System;
- Employing a qualified and diversified work force and managing an exciting volunteer program;
- Overseeing and maintaining Department buildings and grounds across the State;
- Preparing, monitoring, and accounting for the Department's annual budget;
- Providing criminal justice agencies with rapid access to local, state and national criminal justice files;
- Supervising Virginia's Firearms Transaction Program;

- Conducting research into innovative law enforcement techniques and products;
- Supervising Virginia's Sex Offender Registry;
- Providing criminal history record information for employment, adoptions, foster care and other lawful purposes;
- Coordinating the Department's accreditation and grant management programs.

The Bureau also develops and proposes legislation involving traffic safety and criminal statutes, and serves as a liaison during General Assembly sessions for discussion of issues.

# **Communications Division**

Under the command of the Communications Officer, the Division designs, installs, operates and maintains land mobile radios, vehicle computers, microwave radios, integrated flood warning, and private telephone networks. The system will include 131 microwave radio sites, 48 of which also have land mobile radio transmitters. This responsibility includes compliance with requirements of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Division is staffed by 70 persons, divided into 14 teams. The Division is responsible for:

- Maintaining mobile radios, portable radios, and vehicular repeaters
- Maintaining speed enforcement and in-car camera systems
- Test equipment calibration and tuning fork certification
- Maintaining mobile computer terminals, software, and automatic vehicle location (AVL)
- STARS Engineering and Infrastructure Maintenance
- STARS Network Operations Center
- Provisioning of pager, cellular and wireless data equipment and services
- Installing, repairing and maintaining radio towers, obstruction lighting, antennas, transmission lines, facility grounding, and emergency power plants
- Installing field communications equipment at remote sites and area offices
- Installing and maintaining equipment, telephones and other telecommunications at Administrative Headquarters

- Deploying and operating emergency transportable wireless communications
- Deploying one maintenance team at each field division for mobile and fixed communications equipment. This includes VSP and all 21 public safety and public service agencies participating in the STARS network
- Manage, operate, and maintain the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) / Management Information System (MIS) / Mobile Management System
- Serve on the Statewide Interdepartmental Radio System (SIRS) board, and the Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)

The Division is supporting efforts of the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS) Program Director by providing engineering, maintenance, inventory control, asset management, configuration management, and operations services. The Division also identifies and migrates the existing State Police mobile data, land mobile and microwave radio networks that will be upgraded to serve all of the Commonwealth's state-level public safety and service agencies. The STARS network is supported 24/7 by the STARS network operations center (NOC).

The Communications Division is currently maintaining 320 legacy mobile computer terminals (MCT) with commercial wireless CDMA 1X RTT service for messaging; VCIN, NCIC and NLETS access; and interoperability through terminal to terminal messaging with participating agencies. The STARS project now being implemented is providing a private data network with statewide geographical coverage currently to which units can operate mobile computer terminals through the radio. Legacy mobile data use has now been expanded to the entire I-81 corridor and other secondary routes parallel to the interstate due to the increased wireless coverage provided by the 1X RTT commercial technology.

The Virginia State Police Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system allows for rapid entry and retrieval of data associated with unit activity and calls for service. The CAD system consists of 15 servers, 50 dispatch terminals, and over 100 remote access users. A total of 953,329 incidents were entered into the CAD system in 2008. A total of 60,365 incidents were created by Troopers using mobile computer terminals. A real time data feed is supplied from CAD to VDOT to facilitate rapid response to incidents impacting traffic.

The Virginia State Police CAD Management Information System (MIS) is a database containing all incident and unit information collected in CAD since March 1999. CAD historical data is transferred to MIS nightly. The database currently holds in excess of six million records. An Intranet web

page allows VSP network users to create custom queries to obtain desired data from the database. The web page also allows user access to weekly and monthly reports. The MIS database allows the Department to track and access information never before available, such as average response times, total number of calls, and average workloads.

The Mobile Management System provides support for over 1,000 vehicle terminals currently deployed. The users supported include troopers, other state agencies, and local sheriffs' offices and police departments. This system allows user access to VCIN/NCIC, text messaging, and for the troopers, full CAD functionality.

Telephone systems and cabling have been replaced at Administrative Headquarters with new copper and fiber optic service. Telephone system upgrades are continuing as needed at area offices and division headquarters statewide.

In addition to mission-critical communications, the Communications Division coordinates and supports wireless communications equipment and services. The Division constantly monitors wireless services to provide better coverage and increased technical support. This effort supports the current mandated budget reductions with significant savings to the Department of State police and the taxpayers in the Commonwealth. These services make Department personnel more accessible and keep them better informed regarding routine and administrative activities. The number of wireless telephones approved and in use has exceeded 1,100 units. Current cellular services will allow the elimination of pagers in most areas of operations.

The Division continues to provide communications support with temporary systems for special events as they occur.

During 2008 events included:

- 1. Communications support for the NASCAR races held twice a year at Richmond International Speedway and Martinsville Speedway
- Floydfest Musical Festival

All field division radio shops are certified as independent laboratories by the Division of Consolidated Laboratories for the purposes of calibrating 2,800 radar tuning forks. The present inventory of active radars is approximately 1,421 units and 108 lidar units. The majority of Department radars are newer Golden Eagle II units.

The Division provides statewide telephone services and wiring for local area network wiring requirements for the Department and other state

agencies. At the present time, in excess of 5,000 items of equipment are being maintained for six additional agencies. The Division also continues to maintain approximately 9,000 items of radio equipment for most of the state's public safety agencies. The Division will be responsible for over 60,000 items of STARS equipment for all participating agencies. Depot level repair is performed in the Communications Division, a great savings over all other alternatives.

The Communications Division has actively participated with the Capital Wireless Interoperability Network (CAPWIN) and SAFECOM (formerly PSWN) activities to improve interoperability in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area.

The Communications Division serves as the Virginia's Frequency Advisor for the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the Federal Communications Commission's designated agent. The duties include:

- Preparation of new and modified FCC license applications for localities and agencies throughout the Commonwealth as requested
- Coordinate applications processed through APCO headquarters with regards to spectrum efficiency, coverage needs, protection of Commonwealth incumbents, and conformance to regulations
- Review to accept or deny, applications processed through other coordinating agencies for protection of Commonwealth incumbents, and conformance to regulations
- Review to accept or deny, applications from states adjacent to the Commonwealth for interference protection of Commonwealth incumbents
- Represent the Commonwealth on Regional Planning Committees

# <u>Criminal Justice Information Services Division</u>

The Criminal Justice Information Services Division is responsible for the maintenance of all files within the Department. This includes the implementation, monitoring, destruction, and archiving of records in accordance with the State Police Records Retention Schedule.

In 2008, the Division processed and responded to 3,308 subpoenas and 353 Freedom of Information Act requests.

#### Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE)

The Criminal Investigative Reports Section received and processed 314,400 investigative reports in 2008, an increase of 3.6% from 2007.

#### Non-Criminal Justice Program (NCJ)

The Non Criminal Justice Section processed a total of 96,078 fingerprint based searches and 284,006 name search requests for 2008. On February 8, 1996, the Non Criminal Justice Interface (NCJI) was implemented due to the constant growth and demand for criminal history record requests. The NCJI can be accessed through the Department's website. This interface eliminates the requirement for CCRE staff to receive and process a high volume of "paper record name-search" requests.

In 2008, CCRE staff processed 124,966 paper inquiries or 44% and 159,040 or 56% electronic name transmissions received from participants with an average response time of 72 hours or less. Of the total paper record name search requests, 74,704 inquiries were submitted on the bar-coded criminal history request forms and the remaining 50,262 were submitted on the non bar-coded forms. The bar coded method of automation has tremendously enhanced customer service by reducing turn around time.

#### Mental Health File

These records are maintained for the purpose of denying individuals on file the ability to purchase a firearm(s). Official notifications of individuals in these categories are received from clerks of courts upon court adjudication of an individual (1) acquitted by reason of insanity, (2) involuntarily admitted to inpatient or outpatient treatment, (3) adjudicated mentally incapacitated or incompetent or (4) is the subject of a temporary detention order (TDO) and agreed to voluntary admission. As of December 31, 2008, there were 16,042 mental health records added bringing the total records on file to 105,551. Reviewing this file when an application to purchase is being processed has prevented the transfer of a firearm in 136 instances in 2008.

#### Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry (SOR)

Within one year, the number of searches against the Sex Offender Registry for employment-licensure purposes had a slight increase.

- ✓ The SOR experienced a 5% increase.
- ✓ In 2008, there were 188,772 searches.
- ✓ An increase of 9,701 searches compared to 2007.

The Registry is designed to protect the general public, and children in particular, by providing personal descriptive and sentencing information on individuals convicted of certain sex crimes. Information regarding registered offenders which includes a photograph is maintained on the internet.

The Sex Offender Registry (SOR) includes 17,843 fingerprint-based registrations received since July 1, 1997.

✓ Fingerprint registrations grew 3% from 2007 to 2008.

#### The Sex Offender Investigative Unit

The Sex Offender Investigative Unit conducts criminal investigations related to offenders required to register. In 2008, 3,300 criminal investigations were initiated, which is a 9.3% decrease from 2007.

The Unit verifies addresses of registered sexual offenders. Registered offenders require semi-annual address verification and an additional verification within 30 days of a change to their home or employment addresses information. During 2008, troopers confirmed 17,350 addresses which represent a 10.4% increase in verifications from 2007.

#### The Supreme Court/State Police Disposition Interface

The Interface consists of 116 Circuit Courts, 129 General District Courts, and 124 Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts transmitting court dispositions to CCRE.

In 2008, an estimated 413,304 records were transmitted, negating the requirement to submit the SP-180/SP-222 hardcopy disposition forms to CCRE. Of all dispositions transmitted, an estimated 14% were rejected.

In February 2000, the arrest/disposition monitoring system was implemented. Designed to reduce human intervention, notifications are automatically generated for missing arrest fingerprint cards.

For 2008, notifications for 26,759 individual charges were generated. The majority of notifications (83%) were generated because the court did/could not include the Document Control Number when transmitting their data. The remaining notifications (17%) were generated when the court transmitted the Document Control Number, but CCRE did not have a corresponding fingerprint card on file.

#### The Correctional Status Information (CSI) Interface

As of December 31, 2008, there were 245,993 offenders on file with commitments received from the Virginia Department of Corrections, which accounts for 13.26% of the offenders on file.

The Central Criminal Records Exchange continues to receive Correctional Status Information on a weekly basis. The Correctional Status Information Interface improved the criminal history information by providing up-to-date correctional information with minimal error.

#### The Microfilm Section

This section archived 1,046,521 documents during 2008, an increase of 78,246 documents, or 8% since 2007.

#### Photographic Laboratory

The Photo Lab maintains records, files, film, and responds to requests for photographs, digital images, and court enlargements. Additionally, there were

122,875 photographic prints, a decrease of 7%, developed for use by sworn personnel in investigations and prosecution of motor vehicle crashes and criminal cases in 2008. The lab also processed 231 compact discs (CD) due to digital camera use.

#### The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)

This statewide computer system searches and stores rolled fingerprints and palm prints from criminal arrests, sex offenders and partial latent fingerprints recovered from crime scenes. The central components of this system are located at State Police Administrative Headquarters. The Department and 24 other state and local agencies have access to the system through terminals located in their respective agencies. The Global Transaction Controller receives Live Scan transmissions and provides automated interfaces to CCH, SOR, CATS, and AFIS systems for searching existing criminal history records or to match latent fingerprints against know criminal prints. The installation of the Electronic Fingerprint Archive System has enhanced our ability to store and retrieve fingerprint these records. Currently, there are 1,487,884 Virginia unique subject related fingerprint files as part of AFIS.

There are 1,849,728 ten-print fingerprint records on file and 108,319 unsolved latent fingerprints in the database. The Slap database has 562,477 images, the Palm database has 28,967.

The Department's Live Scan network electronically captures and transmits arrest information, including fingerprints and mugshots, to the State Police and the FBI. This process enhances an agencies ability to detect aliases and outstanding warrants on arrestees prior to their release.

Our agency is currently assisting the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice by working with their agencies to enable local booking agencies to pass biometric data to the FBI and ICE for the Secure Communities initiative. This pilot program in Fairfax County, VA is targeting level 1 offenders for removal.

#### Operational Live Scan Sites and Units

Currently, there are 222 Criminal Live Scan sites utilizing 285 Live Scan units. In addition, there were 99 Civil Live Scan sites utilizing 123 Live Scan Units. A total of 59 criminal Live Scan sites are submitting criminal justice and concealed weapon applicant information via Live Scan. The following is a brief comparison of statistics.

CATEGORY	% of CHANGE
1. Arrest records processed	- 0.09%
2. Arrest records Live Scan	+0.94
3. Applicants processed	+1.09%
4. Applicant requests	+12%
CATEGORY	% of CHANGE

5. Criminal Live Scan sites	0%*
6. Criminal Live Scan units	- 31%
7. Civil Live Scan sites	0
8. Civil Live Scan units	0
9. Criminal Live Scan sites submitting	0%*

During 2008, the fingerprint section processed 302,750 criminal arrests and 187,503 applicants.

\* The drastic decrease in number of Criminal Live Scan sites and units was due to the replacement of Live Scan terminals in 2007. During 2007, both live scan units (old units and newly replaced units) were transmitting to VSP and were counted. Additionally, the new replaced units and software allowed the criminal sites to submit criminal justice applications electronically.

#### Virginia Firearms Transaction Program (VFTP)

The VFTP provides for the approval at the point of sale for all firearms, except antiques, based on the results of a criminal history record information check on the buyer. The VFTP processed a record setting volume of gun transactions in 2008, specifically in the month of November with almost 40,000 transactions. A total of 268,136 transactions were processed in 2008, which is the highest volume of transactions processed in a calendar year since the beginning of the program in 1989, and a 19% increase in transactions processed in 2007. Of these, 2,777 were denied based on the result of a criminal history record information check or other disqualifying record. During 2008, 126 wanted persons were identified for extraditable offenses, which resulted in the arrest of 73 individuals wanted in Virginia, and the arrest of 4 individuals who were named in an outstanding warrant from another state. In 2008, the State Police requested 891 criminal investigations related to the illegal sale or attempt to purchase firearms. Additionally, during 2008, 810 criminal investigations for illegal attempts to purchase firearms resulted in closed arrests.

#### **VCheck**

VCheck is Virginia's Internet based Instant Background Check program, which was introduced to all firearms dealers registered with the State Police Firearms Transaction Center (FTC) on August 1, 2006. Approval numbers are generated in instant clearances, while transactions that require review or research are routed to the FTC for processing. During calendar year 2008, approximately 70% of the total transactions, statewide, were processed via the Internet. As online users increase, staff is diverted from telephonic firearm transactions to research and verification processes. Additional employee time devoted to these other processes provide more efficient overall services to the firearm dealers and firearm purchasers and cost savings to the Department and the Commonwealth.

A fingerprint-based criminal background check is performed for all employees of a gun dealer authorized to transfer firearms, and the State Police issues a seller identification number for qualified employees. As of December 31, 2008, the State Police issued 8,804 seller identification numbers.

#### Concealed Handgun Permits

Since July 1, 1995, 407,792 concealed handgun permits have been issued as authorized by Section 18.2-308, <u>Code of Virginia</u>; 55,864 were issued in 2008 (34.7% increase) by Virginia Circuit Courts. During 2008, 724 nonresident concealed handgun permits were issued by the State Police, which is a 44% increase in the volume of nonresident permits issued in 2007.

Pursuant to statute, the State Police enters the permit holder's name and description in the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) so that the permit's existence and current status will be made known to law-enforcement personnel accessing the Network for investigative purposes. As of December 31, 2008, there were 172,132 active concealed handgun permits issued by Virginia circuit courts maintained in VCIN.

#### Uniform Crime/Incident Based Reporting (UCR/IBR)

The Uniform Crime/Incident Based Reporting (UCR/IBR) Section is responsible for collecting monthly Incident Based Reporting (IBR) data from all contributing law enforcement agencies throughout the state on 46 different criminal offenses. The UCR/IBR office no longer accepts summary hardcopy reports. Data is submitted either by diskette or via the Internet. The diskettes and Internet files are submitted through the IBR Web site. This is a secure system to which only State Program personnel and contributing agencies have access. Each day submitted files are run through the edit process. This procedure generates an error report so that agencies may correct any incidents that failed to be sent to the IBR central repository database. A monthly file of Virginia's data is generated and emailed to the National Program (FBI) for inclusion in their annual publication, *Crime in the United States*.

During 2008, the UCR/IBR office assisted local agencies on a daily basis with training issues, interpretation of error reports, and clarifications in offense definitions and reporting procedures, as well as assisted computer software vendors with reporting issues.

There are 18 private vendors with software that transforms agency crime data into an approved IBR format. In addition, several large agencies have built their own in-house software systems. Monthly and quarterly reports are now posted on the IBR Web site rather than having to be mailed to each contributing agency. The UCR/IBR office responded daily to multiple requests for crime statistics from state agencies, government officials, students, media, and the general public.

Statistical crime data is published in the CJIS Newsletter, the annual report, *Crime in Virginia*, and distributed to contributing agencies. Commonwealth's Attorneys, judges, legislators, and other state agencies are also informed of the availability of this information. In 2004, the annual report was published for the first time on a CD rather than hardcopy. Beginning in 2007, the annual report will only be available through the State Police Web site. This report contains reported Group A offenses by each contributing agency in Virginia, and Group A and Group B arrests by counties and cities in Virginia. The data is used for law enforcement budget funding, inmate forecasting, and legislative implementation.

The IBR contributing agency Web site went into production in 2002. Currently, there are 282 agencies that have the ability to submit their monthly data through the Internet. This Web site provides law enforcement agencies with the convenience of on-line monthly data submission, receiving timely error notifications, monthly and year-to-date statistical reports, performing searches and ad hoc reporting, viewing manuals, bulletins, and posting inquiries in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.

The 2008 offenses and arrest data will be available in the middle of April. Through grant funding, the front-end of the IBR Web site has been changed to allow agencies to submit monthly files for editing so they may correct rejected incidents before sending data to Virginia's IBR central repository. Reformatting of IBR manuals and development of online training modules are currently under development. The Department will seek additional funding to complete additional phases of the improvement project.

# Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) / National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

The VCIN/NCIC system now serves 683 member agencies with 10,655 terminals, an increase of 166 terminals, a slight increase over the number of terminals in 2007. The system is used by 28,801 certified operators in various criminal justice agencies. Of these terminals, there are 3,312 non-mobile terminals.

This number has remained stable over the past year. Mobile terminals have increased to 7,509 from 7,457. In 2008, VCIN processed approximately 374,649,384 transactions (a decrease of 7% of the 2007 totals) between NCIC/NLETS member agencies and state computer databases. The decrease is the result in the "New Hotfiles" system which now can transmit multiple searches of files in one transmission back to the requester. This system processes messages and/or transactions in approximately three seconds.

Virginia agencies entered numerous types of information in the VCIN/NCIC system, which is critical to law enforcement officers. As an example, these systems store information relating to wanted persons, missing persons, and stolen vehicles. VCIN/NCIC currently retains Virginia information relating to 48,096 wanted persons (less than 1% decease as compared to 2007), 1915

missing adults, 14111 missing children, and 13,492 stolen vehicles. As of December 31, 2008, the active numbers of Protective Orders on file were: 858 Emergency Protective Orders, 2,459 Preliminary Orders, and 19,890 Orders of Protection.

In February of 2008, the new VCIN Wanted "Hotfiles" System was implemented. Some of the advantages of the new files are allowing agencies with access to a query page that has the look and feel of a web page through Messenger. The query page will allow each VCIN user to view a current list of his/her agency's outstanding warrants, missing persons, protective orders, felony/stolen vehicles/license plates/parts, and towed/abandoned vehicles. The new file has also enhanced VCIN Protective Order transactions to be more compatible with NCIC.

Law enforcement agencies were given the opportunity to acquire one free two year license of the new OpenFox Messenger software as part of the VCIN Image Project Grant. The project is designed to enable law enforcement agencies to use the application to receive and send images through an existing Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) terminal. As of January 1, 2009, 361 law enforcement agencies have accepted and installed the new OpenFox Messenger program.

#### E-Magistrate

The Supreme Court of Virginia now has an automated interface called E-Magistrate that is now being used in several pilot test sites locations through out the state. This interface permits felonies and misdemeanor warrants and Emergency Protective Orders issued by magistrates to be presented to VCIN terminals for acknowledgement and entry from into VCIN and NCIC. This is a similar interface from the Courts Management Information System currently being used by the courts enter Preliminary Protective Orders and Final Orders of Protection. In 2009, this automated interface will come on-line for all law enforcement agencies obtaining warrants from magistrates in their jurisdictions.

The interface works as follows:

Within 30 minutes of issuance of the warrant or protective order, a VCIN
message will be generated by the VCIN hot files interface to the terminal
for the law enforcement agency that is consistent with that jurisdiction and
speeds the data entry required for to make it available to all law
enforcement agencies.

This new interface is going to provide a benefit to Virginia law enforcement and speed the entry of warrants and protective orders into VCIN and NCIC. After receipt of a document, charging a person with a felony or violation of §18.2-472.1, appropriate wanted information will be <a href="mailto:immediately">immediately</a> entered into the NCIC and VCIN systems (excluding juvenile petitions unless the juvenile will be tried as

an adult and any felony documents that will be served within the 24 hours). As a result of the new interface, Virginia agencies will now have this information available for entry within 30 minutes of the magistrate issuing and entering the warrant or Emergency Protective Order into the Supreme Court of Virginia E-Magistrate System. As another benefit, this functionality will reduce data entry required by staff.

#### Availability of Department of Motor Vehicle Images via VCIN

Virginia DMV images are available to Virginia law enforcement agencies through the Virginia State Police, Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) using the OpenFox Messenger application. Alternatively, they will be available to interface agencies that have completed the programming to their VCIN interface as advised. Since April of 2008, the VCIN system as processed 35,700 images requests from law enforcement agencies for DMV Images.

Additionally, DMV images are available through NLETS from other participating states. Currently, the states of Tennessee and North Carolina are the most prevalent recipients of Virginia photos and the states that Virginia users request the most often.

#### Virginia Missing Children Information Clearinghouse

#### Virginia Amber Alert System

A new system was developed in March 2006 to automate the entry and notification process for Virginia's Amber Alert system. The system is designed to provide a comprehensive and rapid broadcast of information that will lead to the safe recovery of a child and capture of the abductor. Local law enforcement agencies can log into the secure Virginia Amber Alert request form, enter the information and submit it electronically to Virginia State Police. The system has significantly reduced the time required to get this information out to the public.

In 2008, seven requests were received for AMBER ALERT. Two of the requests met the criteria and activated. In some cases in which the criteria were not met an Endanger Missing Child Media Alert was offered as an alternative to the requesting law enforcement agency. Eight of these alerts were activated.

The Virginia Missing Children Information Clearinghouse has also joined efforts with the U.S. Department of Justice to educate Virginia's fifth grade students about safety issues through a national poster contest with a theme of "Bring Our Missing Children Home." Ms. Jordan Simon, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student from Hebrew Academy of Tidewater in Virginia Beach, Virginia was recognized as the 2008 winner. In 2009, the contest will be conducted again, with the Department submitting the Virginia winner for a national judging competition by the Department of Justice. If they win the national competition, the artwork will become the theme for all DOJ Missing Children publications in 2010.

#### Virginia Senior Alert Program

Enabling legislation enacted by the 2007 Virginia Assembly created the Virginia Senior Alert Program. This program, managed by the Criminal Justice Information Service Division, created policy and guidelines for the State Police to publicize an incident of a missing senior adult. When activated, the information is publicized at <a href="www.vasenioralert.com">www.vasenioralert.com</a> and through notifying our media partners. In 2008, the Senior Alert process was activated on five occasions.

# **Finance**

The Finance Division encompasses a wide range of financial functions, including the preparation of, monitoring, and accounting for the Department's annual budget of in excess of \$286,000,000 for 2008, including approximately \$11,500,000 of federal grants.

The Finance Division processes payments to vendors in accordance with established policies and procedures issued by various entities, including, but not limited to the State Department of Accounts and Federal agencies. Payments are processed in compliance with the "Prompt Payment Act."

Security, patrol services and background information is routinely provided to other state agencies, localities and private entities for which the Department seeks reimbursement. The Finance Division, along with other Divisions of the Department, bills for these services provided by the Department. It is the responsibility of the Finance Division to collect the receivables and record deposits to the proper accounts, as well as seek alternative solutions to collect on bad debt.

The Finance Division is responsible for seized asset accounting and case management for drug related seizures in accordance with applicable state and federal guidelines and reporting requirements. The Finance Division is also charged with managing the recently award \$44 million settlement related to the Purdue Pharmaceutical case.

The Finance Division prepares all state and federal reporting in compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations, working with the State Auditor of Public Accounts and Federal auditors. Along, with VSP's Office of Performance Management and Internal Controls (OPMIC), the Finance Division ensures the Department's compliance with the Agency Risk Management and Internal Control Standards (ARMICS).

# **Information Technology Division**

The Information Technology Division (IT) provides the computer infrastructure in support of Virginia State Police's public safety mission and services to the citizens of the Commonwealth. The IT Division is responsible for many mission critical systems and applications which support local, state, and federal law enforcement efforts.

#### **Automated Fingerprint Processing**

In 2008, the Live Scan Network was expanded to 408 systems in 321 local law enforcement and civil applicant agencies. More than 279,450 arrest fingerprints were electronically transmitted to State Police in 2008 from local law enforcement agencies. This represents 92.5% of the arrest volume in Virginia. Approximately 90% of the arrests received electronically at State Police were processed without manual intervention.

In 2008, almost 187,000 applicant prints were processed through the automated applicant system, which reduces the turnaround time from months to days. Of these applicant requests, 73.5% were initiated at Live Scan devices and were processed with minimal manual intervention.

#### The Virginia Criminal Information Network System (VCIN)

In 2008, VCIN processed over 374 million transactions. This decrease of 7% from the previous year is the result of the implementation of the new Hot Files system. With its implementation, hot files combined multiple file searches into a single response to the requesting agency.

On September 30, 2008, the NISP (NLETS Interstate Sharing of Photos) project was placed into VCIN production to provide DMV photos to requesting agencies. The number of requested photos has gone from 8,518 in its first full month, to almost double that amount in January 2009 (15,442). This should increase substantially as larger law enforcement agencies throughout Virginia program their applications to accept the photo format.

A new IBM p5 series server was installed at the Disaster Recovery site in Salem. This new server will allow for a more seamless transition should it be needed to assume the duties of the VCIN production environment. Successful transactions have been sent to NCIC, NLETS and CCH.

#### Firearms System VCheck (Virginia's Instant Background Check)

In 2008, 630 firearms dealers used the VCheck automated instant background check system. The Virginia Firearms Transaction Center (FTC) processed a record setting volume of gun transactions in 2008; a total of 268,136 transactions

were processed, which is the highest volume of transactions processed in a calendar year since the beginning of the program in 1989, and a 19% increase in transactions processed during 2007. In addition, the monthly transaction record was set in November with almost 40,000 transactions. Of the 2008 firearms transactions processed, 70% were directly by dealers using VCheck. The other 30% of firearms transactions were processed by FTC call takers who used VCheck to initiate the background check.

In 2008, the functionality was provided to all allow the FTC administrator to manage the information displayed to dealers via the VCheck Home page. In addition, enhancements were made to VCheck to allow dealers who sell firearms at gun shows to select the specific gun show (instead of the jurisdiction of the gun show) where the transaction occurred; this change has eliminated the dealer confusion associated with selecting the jurisdiction of the gun show.

#### **Hot Files (replacement for Wanted System)**

The Hot Files system was implemented on January 14, 2008. This system provides all of the same functionality of the Wanted system with enhancements to support the entry of misdemeanor as well as felony wanted persons, entry and display of images, direct access to agency records, online validation, and an interface with the Virginia courts to automatically receive protective orders. Reports are generated electronically and distributed by email.

Over 105,800 wanted persons were entered in 2008. Of the 62,000 total protective orders, over 16,600 were received directly from the courts. Over 7400 images were entered in 2008.

#### **Sex Offender Registry (SOR)**

VSP public sex offender website was redesigned in 2008. The web site now provides live data to the public in addition to improved features. The Sex offender system was also enhanced to accept photos of offenders from DMV.

During 2008, VSP processed 3,443,884 records from DMV; 590,148 records from higher education institutions. VSP processed 17,350 sex offender verifications and DOC processed 10,661 verifications.

#### **Palm Print System**

By the end of 2008, at least 18 live scan units were installed in local law enforcement agencies around the state having the ability of taking and submitting palm prints with criminal arrest records.

### **Personnel Division**

The mission of the Personnel Division is to provide effective human resource management with continued emphasis on attracting qualified personnel and diversifying the Department's work force.

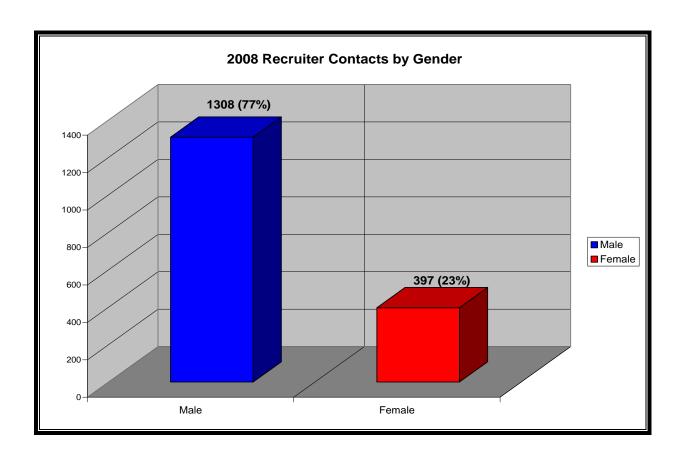
#### **Recruitment Unit**

The Recruitment Unit Recruiters gave a combined 757 programs at selected sites in 2008 to generate a qualified and diverse applicant pool.

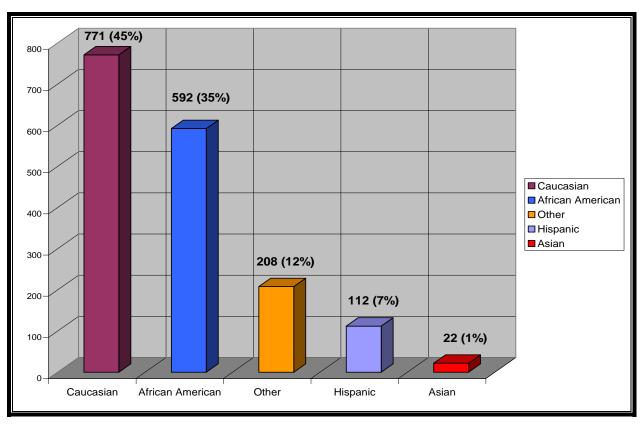
- Recruiters continue to attend minority and female colleges and universities to locate prospective applicants. <u>Recruiting Lunchbox formats</u> are continuing to be used on university and college campuses within their divisions. Each Recruiter conducted a minimum of three programs per month. This recruiting technique continues to provide the Department with a diverse pool of candidates and is furthering a relationship with the diverse university population we recruit. A total of 227 lunchbox events were conducted in 2008.
- Recruiters have been actively recruiting at local <u>Civic, Women's and Minority group venues</u> in an effort to facilitate recruiting minority candidates. This has been established in order to provide recruiting campaigns when these groups are holding festivals and to directly work with minority organizations to develop a rapport to facilitate recruitment efforts. Recruiters are participating in a minimum of three programs per month. These groups continue to provide valuable contact information within their organization and the community. The following organizations have been very helpful in assisting our Department with our recruiting efforts: NAACP, NOBLE, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Radio Richmond Multi-Cultural Community, St. Paul's Baptist Church, and the National Organization of Women (NOW). A total of 216 civic/women's/minority events were conducted in 2008.
- Military Recruitment Each Recruiter provides one program per month
  to transitioning military personnel. Virginia has the most military facilities
  of any state in the nation, and the military offers a very diverse candidate
  pool. A total of 100 military events were conducted in 2008.
- Recruiters continued to identify <u>Student Athlete Recruiting</u> to further our minority and female recruitment. Recruiters visited <u>athletic/health facilities</u> in assigned divisions to actively recruit with emphasis on women and minorities. *A total of 68 student athlete events were conducted in 2008.*
- <u>Career Sessions/Public Safety Day events</u> were held in Wytheville,
   Culpepper and Salem in 2008. These sessions provided a regional venue to recruit as well as showcase our Department to the community. Each event was attended by many prospective applicants and citizens. The events

received positive publicity through statewide radio coverage. *Due to the budget shortfall, only 18 job fairs were conducted at no cost to the Department.* 

• Other Recruitment Efforts: 128 programs were conducted at the request of other agencies and vendors throughout the state.



Recruiters contacted a total of 1,705 prospective candidates for the position of Trooper.



Recruiters contacted a total of 934 prospective minority candidates for the position of Trooper.

#### **Employment Section**

There were no trooper trainees hired in 2008. Seven Trooper IIs and one Special Agent were rehired during 2008, and 12 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers were hired for the 32<sup>nd</sup> CVEO Basic School which began on December 10, 2008.

The Employment Section advertised 264 civilian positions (156 full-time and 108 wage) throughout 2008. This is a 44.7% decrease in the 382 positions advertised in 2007. The total number of applicants who applied in 2008 was 4,346 (2,552 full-time and 1,794 wage). This is an 11.6% increase in the 3,895 applications received during 2007.

The Employment Section processed 19 grievances during 2008, a decrease of 11 from 2007. There were 44 written notices processed, a decrease of 34.1% from the 59 written notices processed in 2007. Two Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaints were filed in 2008 (2 federal and 0 state), compared to 2 (1 federal and 1 state) filed in 2007.

During 2008, 76 volunteers gave 7,880 hours of their time in locations throughout the state. This is an increase of four volunteers and 108 volunteer hours of service from 2007. In April, a volunteer recognition event was held to thank our

involved citizens who work to make the community a better place. According to the Independent Sector research, the estimated dollar amount of volunteer time for 2007, the latest computation, is \$19.51 per hour. Using these figures, our volunteers contributed time valued over \$153,738.00 to the Department.

The Employment Section continues to provide training to Department supervisors and employees on Workplace Harassment, Workplace Violence, and Grievance Procedures. All new employees receive a comprehensive orientation, which provides a broad overview of the operation of the Virginia State Police, the procedures and policies that guide the agency including performance expectations, compensation, and benefits. Education and training to all employees continues to prove to be very successful. There were no complaints of workplace harassment or workplace violence in 2008.

Classification, Compensation, Transactions and Records Section (CCTR) During the 2008 year, the CCTR Section processed 934 personnel actions in the Personnel Management Information System. The attached document specifies the transactions. These transactions do not include the high volume of address, telephone numbers, email, and name changes. The State Police Salary Plan was updated.

A large number of employment history and verification requests were also processed by telephone and in completing forms. We responded to 45 subpoenas, four FOIA requests, 44 requests for purchase of individual firearms, 100 outside employment requests, and several legal inquiries. Additionally, 216 inactive personnel files will be pulled from our inactive shelves, prepared and microfilmed. We average seven requests a week to pull files for managers, background investigators, and outside parties. Also, history cards must be completed for all employees leaving the agency. Finally, we record all educational records.

Several reports are developed on a routine basis such as military leave, resignations from the Department, and salary/work title sorts as a tool for management. We are also testing the automated Alternate Work Schedule Program. A report function needs to be added to the database. We received over 400 updated EWPs by email for review and filing. We also resolved dozens of payroll issues in tandem with the Finance Division and Payroll Service Bureau. The Payroll Service Bureau is independent from the State Police and is not on site.

We are participating along with other agencies with DHRM's initiative for automation of personnel practices in State Government. The first goal is to establish an automated time and attendance program for all agencies.

The CCTR Section also completed a classification study of 142 positions in CJIS. We also resolved several overpayment issues related to military leave. We received, audited and processed 27 classification requests for full-time positions

and 11 wage positions. We responded to five salary surveys. We also reviewed and responded, as necessary, to all probationary performance reviews. We also are working to match our position information in PMIS to CIPPs and MAPPER. The agency is taking a fiscal approach to placement of positions for budgeting purposes.

CCTR also maintained all Weight Control Records on all sworn personnel, central Personnel Records, all Background Records, all Position Files and selected Medical Files for the Department. Additionally, this section reviewed and processed all VEC inquiries, processed employees entering and returning from military service, and analyzed and returned explanations for audit exceptions reports concerning all pay transactions.

The section reviewed and processed 2,556 Performance Evaluations for 2008, which 927 were rated as extraordinary contributors, 969 major contributors, 632 Contributors, seven Marginal Contributors, one below Contributor, and 20 evaluations were not completed due to LWOP issues. Wage employees were also updated for the next cycle.

# **Property and Logistics Division**

The Property and Logistics Division encompasses a wide range of property management and logistical functions. It was responsible for the procurement, warehousing, and distribution of more than \$28,631,156 in supplies and equipment in 2008. The Property and Logistics Division is also responsible for the management and maintenance of 115 buildings and grounds across the state.

The State Police Administrative Headquarters Building Renovation project is under way and will be completed in early 2009.

The Department is proceeding with design documents for the construction of a new 14,000 SF garage facility at headquarters complex. The Department is also developing design documents for the construction of a Public Safety Driver Training facility at Fort Pickett.

The Property and Logistics Division oversees the mailroom and printing sections, which processed 289,241 pieces of mail during 2008, and printed 4,745,366 copies. It also manages the garage, which is responsible for equipping and issuing a fleet of approximately 2,500 vehicles.

The Property and Logistics Division has the responsibility for the Virginia Excess Military Property Program, which allows Virginia law enforcement agencies to procure, at no cost, military property and equipment that is in

excess of the Department of Defense needs. The Department is appointed by the Governor as the point of contact, and provides a state coordinator. The program serves over 250 Virginia law enforcement agencies and in 2008 the program distributed goods valued over \$1,840,000.dollars.

In 1998, the Division was tasked with the development, implementation and day-to-day operational control of the State and Local Law Enforcement Procurement Program, "The 1122 Program." This program allows state and local law enforcement agencies to purchase law enforcement equipment suitable for counter-narcotic activities through the federal procurement channels at substantial savings. During 2008, over \$975,784 was purchased through this program, saving the Department \$338,075.

# **Training Division**

During 2008, the Training Division ensured that all employees met mandated training requirements. The Virginia State Police Academy provided 9,075 hours of instruction in 343 sessions for 7,540 employees and 1,550 employees from outside agencies. Fifty-nine trooper trainees, two commercial vehicle enforcement officers (CVEOs), and two special agent accountants (SAA) graduated from the 114<sup>th</sup> Basic Trooper Session and 31<sup>st</sup> Basic CVEO Session.

The Department of State Police joined efforts with the American Legion to host its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior Law Cadet Program. During the week July 6-11, 2008, 37 youths underwent training at the Academy similar to that experienced by new trooper trainees.

There were 1,157 CVEOs and troopers who received Trooper/CVEO In-Service training for a total of 46,280 hours. The Academy conducted one Leadership and Professional Development Training session for the Department's law enforcement first line supervisors. A total of 22 new supervisors attended a four-week session, which resulted in 3,520 hours of training. Defensive driving classes were given to 51 civilian employees in four four-hour sessions for a total of 204 hours of instruction. The Training Division conducted one Motorcycle Basic School, which six sworn employees attended for a total of 480 hours of instruction. Additionally, Motorcycle In-Service was provided to 28 sworn employees for a total of 448 hours of training. During 2008, the Department's SCUBA team conducted 54 training sessions, 44 recovery operations (22 weapons - three of which were used in murders, eight vehicles, two boats, and 12 bodies), and assisted 23 agencies. SCUBA In-Service School (40 hours) for 14 divers was completed.

The fourth session of the National Criminal Justice Command College was conducted at the Virginia State Police Training Academy on July 7 - September

18, 2008. Five Department and ten sworn employees and supervisors from outside agencies (Albemarle County Police Department, Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, Roanoke Police Department, Virginia Beach Police Department, Colonial Beach Police Department, Colonial Heights Police Department, University of Virginia Police Department, City of Newport News Sheriff's Office, Wise County Sheriff's Office, and Prince George County Police Department) completed the 10-week school for a total of 9,200 hours.

In 2008, three basic canine schools (one explosive, one narcotic, and one bloodhound) were conducted for a total of 1,560 hours of training at the Training Academy. Two Explosives Canine Trainer Schools were conducted for a total of 1,040 hours of training. Handlers from Virginia State Police, Virginia Tech, and Petersburg Police Department were trained. Two trainers were certified from Virginia State Police. A total of 10 canine teams and two canine trainers graduated.

Academy facilities were utilized by several outside agencies, including the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Department of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These 70 sessions provided 3,166 hours of instruction to 83 Department employees and 1,552 outside students.

# **BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**



The Department provides a thorough and comprehensive investigation of all criminal matters mandated by statute and established Department policy through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The Bureau is mandated to investigate any matter referred by the Governor.

Additionally, the Attorney General, Commonwealth's Attorneys, Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs and Grand Juries may request the Department to investigate matters, which constitute Class 1, 2 or 3 felonies. The Bureau also conducts investigations of elected officials when directed by the Governor, Attorney General or Grand Juries. The Bureau consists of the *Criminal Intelligence Division*, *Support Services Division*, *Drug Enforcement Section*, and the *General Investigation Section*.

# **General Investigation Section (GIS)**

GIS responds to all complaints referred by the Governor and other complaints that constitutes a Class 1, 2 or 3 felony. Other requests for investigations are discretionary but major emphasis is placed on responding to requests from the

Attorney General, Commonwealth's Attorneys, Grand Juries, Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs throughout the Commonwealth.

A major priority of the GIS is to provide specialized assistance to local law enforcement agencies. Personnel are permanently assigned to strategic locations throughout the state to ensure that adequate response can be made to any location in a reasonable time.

During 2008, GIS conducted 3,634 investigations, of which 1,596, or 44%, resulted from requests from other law enforcement agencies. GIS Special Agents made a total of 2,825 arrests.

**Crime Scene Examination** – The GIS is staffed with crime scene technicians trained by the Division of Forensic Science. The technicians are often called upon by other State Police employees and by local law enforcement agencies to examine and evaluate evidence at crime scenes. In 2008, 282 scenes were examined in cases of murder, rape, robbery, burglary, and numerous other major crimes.

**Fugitive Apprehension** – The Fugitive Apprehension mission is to affect the swift apprehension of all fugitives, particularly in connection with violent crimes. Agents assigned to Fugitive Apprehension work closely with local and federal law enforcement agencies to accomplish its goal. During 2008, members were assigned 520 cases and made 527 arrests.

**Polygraph** – During 2008, State Police polygraph examiners conducted 569 criminal polygraphs and 149 administrative/pre-employment polygraph examinations.

**Violent Crimes Investigative Unit** – During 2008, this unit investigated 378 cases which included 233 requests from other agencies. A total of 194 arrests were recorded for the year. These crimes included homicide, rape, robbery and sex crimes.

The Violent Crimes Investigative Unit conducted 47 case profiles for the year for the Department and for other federal and local law enforcement agencies. The unit also presented 69 training programs relating to homicides, sex crimes and hostage negotiations.

**Crisis Negotiators** – During 2008, these specialty agents responded to 23 barricaded subject situations.

**Economic/Cyber Crimes Unit** – The Cyber Crime Unit opened 351 cases in 2008, involving a variety of investigations for this Department and other local and federal agencies.

**Arson Investigation** – A Lieutenant, who is assigned to the Support Services Division, is the chief arson investigator and coordinates activities between the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and other investigative agencies throughout the state.

Arson investigation training and assistance are provided when requested by localities. During 2008, the chief arson investigator provided or assisted in providing the following training related to arson investigations and explosives related matters:

- Training sessions are provided across the state to officers on handling bomb threats, bomb scene search techniques and suspected explosive devices.
- Training and demonstrations are conducted on explosive recognition and blast characteristics for law enforcement and fire service personnel in seminars, conferences, and academies.

Within the Bureau, there are a number of Special Agents who have been specifically trained to investigate arson-related matters. In 2008, GIS conducted 410 fire scene investigations

**Bomb and Explosives-Related Matters** – There are 32 trained bomb technicians assigned to the GIS. In 2008, there were 251 explosives-related incidents requiring the GIS to respond and provide explosives-related expertise. During 2008 there were 62 hoax and suspicious items requiring examination by bomb technicians.

Bomb technicians continue to present bomb threat presentations to school staffs throughout the Commonwealth.

**Auto Theft Agent Activities** – The Virginia State Police Auto Theft Agents are funded by the Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) Program. These Special Agents work closely with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the National Insurance Crimes Bureau, and federal and local law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes related to auto theft rings, chop-shops, insurance fraud and other illegal activity.

In 2008, the Special Agents conducted 165 motor vehicle theft investigations, resulting in 45 arrests and the recovery of 66 stolen vehicles and pieces of heavy equipment with a combined value of \$1,209,062. They also conducted 112 vehicle ID verifications for other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Auto Theft Agents coordinate monthly regional meetings with other auto theft investigators and insurance company special investigative units across the Commonwealth of Virginia. These meetings are held to discuss current

automobile theft trends and coordinate enforcement efforts among law enforcement agencies. In addition, members of the unit provide auto theft investigation training to numerous Troopers and local law-enforcement officers at the Virginia State Police Academy and regional academies.

Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T) – The Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) Program is an insurance industry-funded program established by Section 38.2-414 of the Code of Virginia. The Program was established in 1992 to receive and reward auto theft related tips. Callers who provide information that leads to the arrest of individuals for auto theft related crimes become eligible for cash rewards. On January 1, 2004 the maximum reward increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Seven full \$10,000 rewards were paid to callers before this increase took effect. During 2008, one Charlotte County citizen was awarded \$1,700 and three Fairfax County citizens were awarded H.E.A.T. rewards totaling \$20,000 by helping the police.

The Department's H.E.A.T. Program provides leadership to over 175 state and local police and sheriff agencies working cooperatively to reduce auto theft throughout Virginia. H.E.A.T. personnel support auto theft reduction efforts by providing training, conducting promotional events, conducting prevention/VIN Etching events, offering grant funding, procuring specialized equipment, coordinating monthly meetings of regional auto theft investigators, providing Department of Motor Vehicles' documentation to support prosecutions and by assembling auto theft statistical information. Since 2003, over 525 title searches were completed for auto theft investigators in the United States and Canada.

H.E.A.T. conducts two basic and one advanced auto theft investigation school for law enforcement annually. H.E.A.T. and the Virginia Crime Prevention Association cooperatively present auto theft prevention instruction to crime prevention specialists and *Operation HEATWave* Coordinators 4 to 5 times per year. To enhance Virginia's auto theft investigative abilities, the H.E.A.T. office provides training scholarships totaling \$25,000 each year to send auto theft investigators from local law enforcement agencies to receive specialized training conducted by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators. The H.E.A.T. office also supported the production of five bait cars that will be employed in high theft jurisdictions to turn up the "HEAT" on auto thieves. Mobile Data Hunter vehicles have also been deployed throughout the state to locate stolen vehicles.

The H.E.A.T. Program works with Neathawk Dubuque and Packett, a private marketing agency, to increase the public's awareness about the problem of auto theft, auto theft prevention devices and strategies, the H.E.A.T. Program, the H.E.A.T. Hotline (1-800-947-HEAT) and cash rewards of up to \$25,000. Citizens are directed to the H.E.A.T. Web Site at: <a href="www.heatreward.com">www.heatreward.com</a>, for additional H.E.A.T. Program information. The public is encouraged to call 1-800-947-HEAT (4328) if they ever learn of any auto theft related information. In addition,

H.E.A.T. promotional messages run throughout Virginia on television, radio, billboards, newspapers and on three NASCAR race cars.

Cooperation of Virginia's law enforcement community and the public has resulted in a momentous reduction in Virginia's auto theft rate. Since 1991, Virginia's motor vehicle theft rate per 100,000 inhabitants has declined by approximately 34%. Working together to protect cars by employing the "Layered Approach to Protection" and educating the public regarding the toll-free hotline to increase tips has proven to be an effective strategy to make Virginia a safer place to own and operate a motor vehicle.

Insurance Fraud Program (IFP) – Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the General Assembly approved establishing an Insurance Fraud Investigative Program within the Department of State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation. In 2003, the General Assembly lifted the sunset clause making the Insurance Fraud Program a permanent unit of the Department. The purposes of this Unit are threefold:

- Initiate independent inquiries and conduct independent investigations when the Department has reason to believe that insurance fraud may have been or is currently being committed, and to undertake studies to determine the extent of such insurance fraud;
- Respond to notification or complaints alleging insurance fraud generated by federal, state and local police, other law-enforcement authorities, governmental agencies or Units, and any other person;
- 3. Review notices and reports of insurance fraud; select the incidents of suspected fraud that, in its judgment, require further detailed investigation; and conduct the investigations.

Recent examples of insurance fraud include faking auto crashes, staging burglaries, fraudulently reporting theft, and falsifying Workers' Compensation injuries. The IFP is constantly uncovering some newly developed "scam" aimed at fraudulently receiving claim funds from insurance carriers. Insurance fraud has a significant economic impact on society as represented by the total amount of claimed loss that was actually received by individuals submitting suspected insurance fraud claims. During 2008, more than \$3,100,000 was actually collected by individuals suspected of insurance fraud and the total amount involved in suspicious claims that was attempted, but not collected, was over \$9,000,000.

It has been estimated that insurance fraud costs each insured Virginia household approximately \$200 in additional insurance premiums annually and as much as \$1,000 for the increased cost of goods and services. This Program is dedicated

to reducing the impact of fraudulent insurance claims on the law-abiding citizens of Virginia. The hotline for persons to call in with information about suspected insurance fraud receives frequent activity. The toll-free telephone number is: 1-877-62FRAUD. (1-877-623-7283)

In 2008, 1,951 calls were received through the toll-free hotline service. A reward program has been established to provide a reward of up to \$25,000 for individuals having a Sharp Eye and reporting information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of individuals committing insurance fraud. IFP operates the reward program by use of the insurance fraud hotline and through information obtained during investigations and provided by the general public. A reward committee has been selected to make recommendations based on written policy and procedures. Their recommendations are forwarded through channels to the Superintendent for final approval. The Insurance Fraud Program has paid out \$48,750 in rewards to those individuals that have a "Sharp Eye" and reported insurance fraud.

An Internet Web site is available to provide information on the various aspects of insurance fraud to the general public, law enforcement, the insurance industry and media. A portion of the Web site provides the insurance industry and the general public the capability to report incidents of suspected insurance fraud directly to the Insurance Fraud Program on line. This service is available through the Department's Web site and <a href="https://www.stampoutfraud.com">www.stampoutfraud.com</a>

The Special Agents assigned to investigate insurance fraud have a primary focus of fraudulent property and casualty insurance claims that in essence violate Section 18.2-178, obtaining money under false pretense, which was amended by the General Assembly in 2006. The amended code establishes venue for prosecuting the crime of obtaining money by false pretense. This means that for crimes committed after July 1, 2006, the person charged with obtaining money by false pretense can be tried in one of two places – the jurisdiction in which the person lived when the crime was committed or in the jurisdiction where the crime was actually committed.

During 2008, 1,924 notifications of potential property and casualty insurance fraud were received from the insurance industry, law enforcement agencies and the general public. There were 808 criminal investigations initiated by the Special Agents and 369 arrests for insurance fraud and related offenses. Four hundred twenty-two insurance fraud cases were prosecuted, which resulted in court-ordered restitution of \$1,277,921 during 2008.

# **Drug Enforcement Section (DES)**

DES continues in its aggressive enforcement of Virginia's narcotics and substance abuse laws. The Section remains committed to its support of local law enforcement agencies' efforts to enforce these state laws. Seven DES regional field offices also help in this effort by supporting special operations initiated by other law enforcement entities.

The DES mission is accomplished through the efforts of sworn members and civilian support personnel in six distinct functional areas:

- DES Regional Field Offices
- Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces
- Joint VSP/Federal Task Forces
- Marijuana Eradication/Operation Grand Slam
- G.I.A.N.T. Operations
- Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion

In 2008, DES field offices participated in 5,532 investigations that yielded \$22,765,921 in seized narcotics, \$5,300,557 in seized currency, and 2048 persons arrested on 3,110 felony and misdemeanor charges. In addition, 2,050 persons were arrested on 1,480 felony and misdemeanor charges in cases where DES assisted other agencies. Special Agents also seized 55 vehicles and 597 weapons. Additionally, 61 meth lab safety programs were delivered and 22 actual meth labs were dismantled.

**Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces** – During 2008, DES participated in 35 state and local multi-jurisdictional task forces, encompassing 120 local jurisdictions. These multi-jurisdictional task forces participated in 5,522 investigations that accounted for \$18,302,532 in illicit drug seizures, \$3,313,144 in seized U.S. currency, and 3,036 persons arrested on 3,974 charges. These task forces also seized 66 vehicles and 384 weapons.

Marijuana Eradication Program – The Commonwealth remains a prime location for the cultivation of the marijuana plant. Virginia's domestically grown marijuana has the potential for being a major cash crop. With DEA funding, the Department of State Police, along with assistance from other state and local law enforcement agencies, and the Virginia Army National Guard Reconnaissance Air Interdiction Detachment (RAID), conducted a regular program to eradicate domestically-grown marijuana. In 2008, the State Police and local law enforcement agencies found 13,727 plants in 298 outdoor plots. There were also 5,512 marijuana plants eradicated in 105 indoor grows. Marijuana eradication operations resulted in 335 arrests. Seizures included 222 weapons, vehicles, and other personal property valued at \$1,013,009. Considering the estimated yield of consumable marijuana from each plant, the cash value of marijuana not reaching the streets as a result of eradication would be in excess of \$57 million.

Governor's Initiative Against Narcotics Trafficking (GIANT) – The GIANT mission is to facilitate and assure coordination and cooperation among member agencies. The five facets of the GIANT mission are:

- 1. Development of intelligence pertaining to domestically grown marijuana, both indoor and outdoor, with the eradication of this marijuana and successful prosecution of the growers as a primary goal;
- Developing intelligence concerning air smuggling into Virginia using contacts to monitor suspicious activities of all known airports in the Commonwealth, and by locating clandestine airstrips and identifying users;
- 3. Reducing the supply of illegal drugs entering and being transported within the Commonwealth by interdicting drug shipments via land, air, and waterway;
- Developing procedures that eliminate duplication of activities and breakdowns in communication among the various state agencies and law enforcement authorities, and;
- 5. Utilizing the resources of county and city law enforcement agencies to the maximum extent possible.

GIANT performed 394 operations during 2008 that resulted in 306 arrests, and the seizure of \$29,235,000 worth of narcotics. GIANT also netted 140 weapons, 21 vehicles, and \$63,488 in U.S. currency.

**Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion** – The diversion of legitimate pharmaceuticals to illicit purposes continues to be a severe problem in Virginia. In fact, drug diversion predates the massive abuse of other drugs we know so well today. The Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion agents work with the DEA, the Department of Health Professions, and the Department of Medical Assistance Services, plus local law enforcement agencies to eliminate the diversion of prescription drugs for illicit purposes.

During 2008, Drug Diversion received 2,026 complaints of diversion activities throughout the Commonwealth. In response to these complaints, 1,140 investigations were initiated. A total of 788 persons were arrested on 1,110 charges. Additionally, 12 search warrants were executed during the past year.

A major educational role of Drug Diversion is teaching local law enforcement officials about the extent of the drug diversion problem in their own jurisdictions and what they can do about it. This role also included educating health care professionals, both physicians and pharmacists, about the magnitude of the problem and the importance of self-policing and ensuring the integrity of their individual health care delivery systems. During 2008, 12 presentations were

conducted for 373 healthcare professionals, and six presentations were conducted for 212 individuals in law enforcement. The Drug Diversion Unit, with assistance from the Department of Health Professions and the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (N.A.D.D.I.), hosted the Eighth Annual Drug Diversion School in Norfolk, Virginia.

## **Criminal Intelligence Division**

The primary purpose of the Criminal Intelligence Division (CID) is to identify, document, and disseminate criminal intelligence concerning persons involved in organized crime or terrorism. CID is currently composed of five units; the Analytical Unit, the Research Unit, the Field Intelligence Unit, the Technical Support Unit, the Computer Evidence Recovery Unit and the Virginia Fusion Center.

The Research Unit accomplishes a wide variety of tasks. They assist the other CID units with specific research tasks, field investigations including surveillance, officer safety issues, the handling of fictitious identifications for undercover personnel and serves as the Department's primary INTERPOL liaison. INTERPOL has now established a secure VPN connection with the Department. This connection has simplified and expedited the communication process with INTERPOL.

The Field Intelligence Unit interacts with investigators and task forces statewide to collect and supply intelligence, including information on current investigations. The unit also uses the Domestic Terrorism Tracking/Assessment System. The unit is active in each of the Department's seven field divisions. The Field Intelligence Unit also has five agents assigned to the various FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces.

In 2008, the Department was instrumental in securing the participation of the Department of Corrections (DOC) in the Washington-Baltimore HIDTA GangNet Intelligence System initiative. This multi-state regional system continues to be populated with gang related information by law enforcement agencies in Maryland, Washington, DC and Virginia. Additional states on the east coats are expected to join GangNet in the near future. The Department has also provided training to a number of our employees for data entry and user certification into the GangNet system.

In 2008, the Technical Support Unit (TSU) received 1683 requests for service. Of those requests, 402 were in support of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Each request was directly related to ongoing criminal investigations, which were supported by the installation of audio and video recording equipment, Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking equipment, covert surveillance and monitoring equipment, pen registers and other technical support. The unit continues to support significant investigations and uses

methods and technologies to assist any requesting law enforcement agency. The unit continues to provide audio enhancement services to all law enforcement agencies, as well as supporting the courts and Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices through installation and operation of 71 closed circuit television systems for victims of child abuse. The Hostage/Barricade Unit program continues to support state and local law enforcement through the deployment of sophisticated technical equipment. The Hostage/Barricade Unit responded to 16 Hostage/Barricade incident requests.

The Computer Evidence Recovery Unit (CERU) provides assistance to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies with on-scene execution of search warrants for computer-related evidence, evidence recovery through forensic examination, and training classes in computer search and seizure. In 2008, the CERU completed 109 investigations on 438 computers and other pieces of digital evidence involving 24,973 gigabytes of data. The CERU also handled over 1,500 internet fraud complaints and provided 382 hours of instruction on computer crime.

The Research Unit has revised the TIPS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide for a greater accounting of the current users of the system. This revision establishes a requirement of user agencies to notify the Department when an individual user leaves their department or no longer has a need to use the system. The section continues to work with the 350 user agencies throughout the Commonwealth by providing training and guidance in the use of the TIPS system. The Research Unit also continues to work with public safety agencies statewide to provide them with the Homeland Security Information System-Virginia (HSIN-VA), a Terrorism Bulletin Board system that will allow intelligence to be posted on a three-tiered system ranging from law enforcement, emergency management personnel, critical infrastructure companies in both the private and public sector and the general public. CID is currently working with the Information Technology Division to develop a new Virginia Intelligence Management System (VIMS) that will eventually replace TIPS.

The Virginia Fusion Center gathers, analyzes and disseminates information and intelligence as it relates to all criminal activity to include terrorism. In 2005, the Fusion Center moved into a new location within the Virginia Combined Headquarters. This joint operation between the Virginia State Police and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management is the first of its kind in the Commonwealth. Its primary mission is to "fuse" together resources from local, state and federal agencies and private industries to facilitate information collection, analysis and sharing, in order to prevent or deter criminal activity. Its secondary mission is to support the Virginia Emergency Operations Center by centralizing information and resources to provide a coordinated and effective response in the event of an attack or natural disaster.

The VFC operates the Terrorism Hotline and the Drug Hotline which are initiatives that provide a conduit for the public to provide information on both terrorist and criminal activities. Since April 2005, the Terrorism Hotline has received 346 actionable reports. The Drug Hotline has received 488 actionable calls since September 2007. The Homeland Security Information Network, Virginia Portal (HSIN-VA) allows for public and private entities that have a need and right to access certain databases a method of retrieving common operating picture information. The VFC's Critical infrastructure/Key Resource (CI/KR) program is not only cataloging important infrastructure throughout the Commonwealth, but is providing training to state and local first responders on crime prevention and target hardening for sites in their jurisdictions. The Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) program is training first responders in what suspicious activities could be precursors to criminal or terrorist activity and how to report the information to the VFC.

## **Support Services Division (SSD)**

The Support Services Division (SSD) was established in 2004 as a result of the Department's reorganization of BCI. The Insurance Fraud Division, Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) and the Drug Diversion Unit were decentralized and absorbed within SSD. Agents assigned to these units have continued their current investigative assignments while operating out of the seven BCI field offices.

SSD is responsible for law enforcement training, public awareness campaigns and insurance industry outreach programs for both the Insurance Fraud Program (IFP) and Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) units. The Arson/Bomb Program, the Drug Diversion Program and the Counter-Terrorism & Criminal Interdiction Unit (CCI) are also under the SSD umbrella. SSD provides statistical gathering, technical training and financial management support for these various units. The H.E.A.T. and Insurance Fraud toll-free telephone hotlines are administered and maintained by the SSD. Initial notifications of suspected insurance fraud and auto theft activities are received via the SSD hotlines, Web sites, e-mails and faxes. The notifications are reviewed and distributed to the appropriate local law enforcement agencies or to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation's field offices for investigation.

# Counter-Terrorism & Criminal Interdiction Unit (CCI)

Since its establishment on July 1, 2000 by the Virginia General Assembly, the Special Operations Division (SOD) has undergone a remarkable transformation. SOD's original mission was the interdiction of narcotics on Virginia's highways, public transportation systems, schools and businesses. SOD also provided assistance to local police departments to address localized drug and firearm related problems/situations.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the Special Operations Divisions was re-designated as the Special Operations Unit, and expanded its personnel, offices and duties to include response to acts of terrorism. This unit carried out the Virginia State Police Bureau of Field Operations (BFO) Homeland Security responsibilities related to response and recovery operations. The unit serves to coordinate the response of other resources and serves as core members of the Statewide Regional Response Teams.

On January 10, 2003, the name of the unit was changed to the Counter-Terrorism & Criminal Interdiction Unit (CCI) with fully operational teams in each of the seven traditional State Police Divisions. On August 10, 2003, command of the unit was transferred to the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI), Support Services Division.

In November 2005, the mission of CCI evolved to incorporate a new strategic initiative developed to diminish the violence associated with gang-related crimes.

### Statistical Information for Partnership Activities:

The Counter-Terrorism & Criminal Interdiction Unit participated in numerous and highly successful City/State Partnerships during 2008. The statistics for these partnerships are as follows:

Agency Assisted	Individuals Arrested	No. of Charges	Weapons Seized	Narcotics Seized	Currency Seized	Other Seizure
Lynchburg	16	35	7	\$3,914	\$5,843	\$12,600
Petersburg	16	25	3	\$4,010	\$0	\$800
Portsmouth	196	284	6	\$87,691	\$1,083	\$19,200
Richmond	162	269	69	\$109,173	\$9,827	\$27,525
Roanoke	44	62	0	\$2,144	\$0	\$6,350
Staunton	4	4	0	\$300	\$0	\$0
TOTALS	438	679	85	\$207,232	\$16,753	\$66,475

#### Statistical Information for Criminal Interdiction Activities:

#### C.C.I. Unit Totals for 2008:

	Narcotics Seized	Currency Seized	Other Seizure	Drug Arrests	Other Arrests	Firearms Seized
TOTAL	\$10,657,958	\$1,772,773	\$749,784	637	611	191

Grand Total: \$13,180,515

#### Narcotic Canine Teams

Currently, there are 21 narcotics canine teams with the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The teams receive numerous requests for help.

In 2008, narcotic canine teams responded to 665 requests for assistance.

The following are the results from those responses:

- ⇒ 112 arrests
- ⇒ 124 drug seizures
- ⇒ The narcotics seized had an estimated street value of \$3,994,000.00.
- ⇒ 8 vehicle seizures with a value of \$74,500.00.
- ⇒ 19 weapons seizures with a value of \$6,400.00.
- ⇒ The seizure of \$863,743.00 in U.S. currency.

Homeland Security - The CCI Homeland Security component is prepared to respond to a terror-related event to recover hazardous material evidence and assist other federal, state, and local agencies. Many team members are certified Hazardous Material Technicians trained to enter a scene that may be contaminated with biological, chemical, or radiological substances. Each team is equipped with detection and monitoring equipment to identify and classify hazardous substances employed during a terror attack and collect samples for the purposes of determining treatment for persons exposed and obtaining evidence for prosecution. Some of the team members have completed Environmental Crimes Investigation training provided by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

Additional training is ongoing to further prepare the teams to deal with terrorist-related bombings, suicide bombers, radiological attacks, and chemical nerve agent attacks. All team members are being trained to operate within the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Incident Command System. The teams attend stakeholder meetings and training with the local Hazardous Materials Teams and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Regional Hazardous Material Officers and the National Guard's 34<sup>th</sup> Civil Support

Team. The teams also conduct training quarterly to maintain certification utilizing assigned Personal Protective Equipment and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

The unit has specialized response vehicles that are equipped with forensic equipment specifically designed for evidence collection in hazardous environments, radiological detection equipment, Multi-Rae Combustible Gas Indicator equipped with a photo ionization detectors to identify volatile and toxic gases, chemical and biological weapons detecting equipment, satellite television capabilities, weather monitoring equipment, emergency decontamination stations and rehabilitation tents. The unit also has Hazardous Material Identification Instruments that will allow field analysis of liquids and powders.

In August 2008, the unit accepted delivery of the ASP-L (Advanced Spectroscopic Portal) radiation detection vehicle. This vehicle contains state of the art radiation detecting sensors coupled with advanced computer equipment which have the capability of detecting and classifying sources of radiation which are being transported along the highways of the Commonwealth. This vehicle has been used during a multi-state preparedness exercise and was deployed for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

# **BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

The Bureau of Field Operations has as its primary responsibility the patrolling of over 64,000 miles of state roadways and interstate highways throughout Virginia. Uniformed State Police personnel provide both traffic enforcement and criminal law enforcement as the need arises and based upon the ability of local law enforcement to respond. The bureau also is responsible for managing the Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Program regarding the enforcement of motor carrier and commercial vehicle safety regulations, and the Aviation Unit that provides aerial support for law enforcement activities and emergency medical evacuations.

The Commonwealth's geography and size dictate the need to decentralize uniformed police services into seven field divisions. These divisions are further subdivided into 48 State Police areas that consist of one or more cities and/or counties. Staffing is allocated based upon workload demands at the city and county level.

# **Enforcement Initiatives to Address Highway Safety**

### Checkpoint Strikeforce

Identifying and removing drunk drivers from the highways of the Commonwealth of Virginia is a primary objective of State Police Troopers in their goal to provide the safest highway system in our nation. Checkpoint Strikeforce is a high visibility DUI enforcement campaign that involves saturation patrols and DUI sobriety checkpoints every week on specific highways and in locations where alcohol related incidents and arrests have been identified. This national campaign is supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and involves significant public education and awareness, and strict DUI enforcement.



During 2008, a total of 17,800 vehicles passed through 34 DUI sobriety checkpoints resulting in 90 drunk driving arrests. Additionally, DUI saturation patrols were conducted on Interstates, primary and secondary highways throughout Virginia resulting in arrest and the removal 360 alcohol impaired drivers.

#### Operation Air, Land, and Speed

In response to an increase in fatal crashes the Virginia State Police created and implemented an enforcement plan in July, 2006, to effectively reduce and eliminate vehicle crashes on the highway attributed to traffic violations. The effort was also intended to combat the increase in citizen complaints of poor driving behavior on Interstates that pass through Virginia to make travel in our Commonwealth safe and enjoyable for motorists.

With the success of this program, seven enforcement phases were conducted in 2008:

**Phase 10**: February 10 – February 11, 2008

#### Results

Interstate 77	Interstate 85	Interstate 295	Total
Speed 52	Speed 188	Speed 200	Speed 440
Reckless 6	Reckless 148	Reckless 120	Reckless 274
DUI 0	DUI 1	DUI 0	DUI 1
Safety Belt 8	Safety Belt 10	Safety Belt 18	Safety Belt 36
Drug/Felonies 0	Drug/Felonies 7	Drug/Felonies 3	Drug/Felonies 10
TOTAL 82	TOTAL 474	TOTAL 477	TOTAL 1,033

# Highway fatalities - 0

# **Phase 11**: March 9 – March 10, 2008

### Results

Interstate	81	Inter	Interstate 95		
Speed	2,282	Speed	2,223	Speed	4,505
Reckless	223	Reckless	712	Reckless	935
DUI	7	DUI	9	DUI	16
Safety Belt	142	Safety Belt	239	Safety Belt	381
Drug/Felonie	es 17	Drug/Felonie	es 74	Drug/Felonies	91
TOTAL	3,746	TOTAL	5,098	TOTAL	8,844

Highway fatalities - 0

# **Phase 12**: May 7 – May 8, 2008

### Results

Interstates 66, 395, 495, Dulles Toll Road and the Greenway

### Total

Speed	578
Reckless	134
DUI	3
Safety Belt	59
Drug/Felonies	s 9
TOTAL	1,504

Highway fatalities – 0

Operation Air, Land, and Speed Results

**Phase 13**: June 27 – June 28, 2008

# Results

Interstate 81		Interstate 95	Interstate 95		Total	
Speed	2,210	Speed	1,941	Speed	4,151	
Reckless	201	Reckless	581	Reckless	782	
DUI	5	DUI	11	DUI	16	
Safety Belt	118	Safety Belt	171	Safety Belt	289	
Drug/Felonie	es 7	Drug/Felonie	s 15	Drug/Felonie	es 22	
TOTAL	3,494	TOTAL	4,666	TOTAL	8,160	

# Highway fatalities - 0

# **Phase 14**: July 25 – July 26, 2008

## Results Interstates 64, 264, 464, and 664

## Total

Speed 1,684
Reckless 298
DUI 5
Safety Belt 189
Drug/Felonies 21
TOTAL 3,303

Highway fatalities - 0

# Phase 15: November 1 – November 2, 2008

#### Results

Interstate 81		Interstate 9	Interstate 95		Total	
Speed	2,173	Speed	2,053	Speed	4,226	
Reckless	260	Reckless	650	Reckless	910	
DUI	12	DUI	21	DUI	33	
Safety Belt	134	Safety Belt	165	Safety Belt	299	
Drug/Felonie	s 21	Drug/Felonie	es 13	Drug/Felonie	s 34	
TOTAL	3,527	TOTAL	4,625	TOTAL	8,152	

Highway fatalities - 1

# Operation Air, Land, and Speed Results

# Phase 16: December 5 – December 6, 2008

### Results

Interstate 64		Interstate 66		Total	
Speed	1,783	Speed	683	Speed	2,466
Reckless	251	Reckless	123	Reckless	374
DUI	2	DUI	2	DUI	4

Safety Belt 227 Safety Belt 49 Safety Belt 276 Drug/Felonies 22 Drug/Felonies 1 Drug/Felonies 23 TOTAL 3,914 TOTAL 1.449 TOTAL 5,363

Highway fatalities – 0

Grand Total All Phases = 86,489

During the 7 enforcement phases conducted throughout the year 2008, there was one fatal crash on the involved interstate highways where enforcement was increased and visibility heightened. Virginia has experienced only two fatal crashes since the program's inception.

#### **Trooper Bowl**

Trooper Bowl is a high visibility DUI enforcement initiative that has spread throughout the Commonwealth. It kicked off following a successful initial program conducted on Interstate 66 following the NFL Super Bowl - XL. The primary objective of Trooper Bowl is to identify and arrest motorists driving under the influence of alcohol and jeopardizing highway safety. The 2008, initiative resulted in 265 traffic arrests including 8 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol.

#### Click-it-or-Ticket

Increasing the usage rate of vehicle safety belts and child safety seats are the primary functions of this national and statewide initiative. Virginia has seen a steady average increase in safety belt use over the past decade from 67.1 % in 1997, to 80.6 % recorded in 2008. Click-it-or-Ticket combines public awareness, education, and enforcement to gain compliance with existing safety belt laws. Increasing the use of safety belts and child safety seats have statistically shown to decrease deaths and serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes. During the May phase of Click-it-or-Ticket state police personnel issued 1,730 summonses for failure to wear safety belts and 443 summonses for child safety restraint violations.

#### Smooth Operator

The Smooth Operator Program is a public safety initiative intended, which aims to provide education, information and solutions for the problem of aggressive driving. For nearly 10 years, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., have partnered through the Smooth Operator Program to combat aggressive driving. Law enforcement agencies, trauma experts, government officials and other professionals have worked together to educate motorists of the risks involved with aggressive driving, and to stigmatize aggressive driving behavior on our roads.

#### **Operation Cruise Control**

Effective July 1, 2005, the State Police implemented "Operation Cruise Control" to increase visibility and enforcement efforts to address all types of violations and the reckless operations of a vehicle on Interstate 81 from our border with Tennessee to the West Virginia state line.

During 2008, the operation was proven successful in controlling driver behavior and preventing crashes and their destruction. Throughout 2008, troopers devoted 2,038 additional work hours to Interstate 81 and patrolled 34,782 miles resulting in approximately 3,381 traffic summonses and 39 criminal arrests. From the traffic arrests made, 1,931 were for speed violations and 344 arrests were made for reckless driving.

#### Operation C.A.R.E.

Proactive enforcement efforts and increased police visibility during the major holidays of Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving are the primary purposes of the Combined Accident Reduction Effort (C.A.R.E.). During these major holiday periods that are noted for increased highway travel, the Department maximizes the deployment of all available resources to address highway safety and promote travel safety throughout the Commonwealth.

## Highway Safety Corridors

There are currently 3 highway safety corridors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Two are on Interstate 95, one in Prince William County and the second in Henrico Country. The other highway safety corridor is on Interstate 81 in Roanoke County. Highway safety corridors were established as an additional measure to gain driver compliance to posted speed limits and other applicable traffic laws. The corridor locations were determined based on statistical crash data that identified specific sections of a highway to have a higher than normal crash rate when compared to other segments of the same highway. Establishing the Highway Safety Corridor allows the courts to impose higher penalties for violations cited by police for traffic violations and criminal offenses. A comprehensive review of highway traffic data for 2008, indicates that within the highway safety corridors traffic crashes are lower than in the previous years, and average vehicle speeds and driver behavior was improved.

# Primary and Secondary Highway Emphasis

During 2008, each of the department's seven field divisions continued enforcement emphasis and visibility on primary and secondary highways within the counties in their divisions. Each division's program focused resources on those highways where crashes, traffic violations, and citizen complaints regarding traffic were noted. The objectives of this initiative were to prevent crashes, reduce violations, and address the concerns citizens identified as threats to their safety.

# **Safety Division**

As of December 31, 2008, there were 4,383 active inspection stations located throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. There were 14,696 licensed safety inspectors who performed approximately 7,728,200 inspections at appointed stations during 2008. Approximately 18% (1,365,150 vehicles) of all vehicles submitted for inspection were rejected for unsafe components.

This Division investigated 2,554 inspection complaints, which resulted in 2,290 instances of disciplinary action against 185 stations for various classes of offenses and the suspension of 35 inspection stations. These statistics include administrative errors made by inspection stations, and the majority of errors/complaints were corrected by counseling sessions.

Disciplinary action was also taken against 675 safety inspectors, resulting in 138 suspensions.

Safety Division personnel also conducted 1,162 business security checks.

# **Motor Carrier Safety**

The bureau's Motor Carrier Safety teams ensure that trucks and buses meet safety requirements on Virginia highways. Troopers assigned to the Motor Carrier Safety program regularly present lectures to the public and other interested groups on motor carrier safety and hazardous materials regulations. They also serve as instructors in criminal justice training seminars.

Motor Carrier Safety teams responded to 38 hazardous material spills or incidents in 2008 and conducted 136 post-crash investigations of heavy commercial vehicles involved in accidents.

Data indicates that during 2008, Troopers conducted 40,827 in-depth inspections on heavy commercial vehicles and 9,372 of these, or 23 percent, were placed out of service for violations of regulations governing safety equipment and transportation of hazardous materials.

# **Field Support**

The Safety Division's sworn employees provided support for local field divisions during all major C.A.R.E. holidays. During 2008, Safety Division troopers had 8,498 arrests/summonses issued, investigated 140 motor vehicle crashes, assisted local Troopers with the investigation of 93 motor vehicle crashes, and assisted 2,622 disabled motorists.

## **Aviation Unit**

The State Police Aviation Unit was formed on January 1, 1984, to provide for the administration and coordination of the department's aviation resources. The Unit's primary mission is to provide aircraft for search, rescue, law enforcement and medical evacuation. During its 24 year existence, the Aviation Unit has recorded 90,929 flight hours responding to 61,696 flight requests.

The unit utilizes four bases located in the following Virginia localities:

- 1) Lynchburg
- 2) Manassas
- 3) Abingdon
- 4) Richmond

#### Aircraft

The unit operates seven helicopters and four airplanes across Virginia.

- 4 Cessna 182 airplanes
- 4 Bell 407 helicopters
- 1 American Eurocopter BK117
- 2 American Eurocopter B0-105's

The BK117 and BO-105's are primarily used for medical evacuation operations.

#### Medical Evacuation

The Department operates three helicopter medical evacuation programs that serve Central and Southwest Virginia. These programs provide rapid response, advanced medical procedures, and transportation of critically injured patients to a level one trauma center. Combined, these programs serve 43 hospitals and the citizens residing in 59 counties and 34 cities. Med-Flight I began operations on April 1, 1984, and responds to calls for assistance in a 60-mile radius of Richmond, Virginia. Med-Flight II began operations on January 1, 1987 and responds to calls for assistance in a 60-mile radius of Abingdon, Virginia. Med-Flight III began operations on September 1, 2000, and responds to calls for assistance predominately along the Lynchburg-Route 29 corridor to Danville and in a 60-mile radius of Lynchburg. In 2008, all 3 programs responded to a total of 3,118 requests with 1,083 patients transported. The total number of flights for all three programs from April 1, 1984 to December 31, 2008 was 23,231 responses to calls with 15,741 patients transported as a result of these calls.

#### Search and Rescue

During 2008 the Aviation Unit responded to 105 requests for searches for escapees, missing persons, criminals, and stolen property. Utilizing a Forward Looking Infra-Red system on four helicopters and a 30 million-candlepower searchlight on the other helicopters, the Unit has been successful in locating fugitives, missing persons, and lost children. During this period the Unit also recovered \$209,000 in stolen property, and 2 missing aircraft. As a result, 6 arrests were made.

#### Surveillance

The Aviation Unit also conducts surveillance using our aircraft. In 2008, the Unit was requested 49 times for drug or narcotic surveillance, 36 times for other criminal matters and 18 miscellaneous calls. As a result, 1712 marijuana plants were located at a value of \$1,712,000.

#### Other Duties

The Aviation Unit provides aerial support to any Federal, State, or municipal agency whereby the solution of a police problem or mission may be obtained. During 2008, the Unit provided aerial support to 56 requests from agencies external to the Department of State Police. These flights included photographing crime scenes, providing support for presidential motorcades, participating in multi-agency task force efforts, and demonstrations of the capabilities of the Aviation Unit's aircraft. Between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008, the Aviation Unit flew 2,821 hours responding to 3,118 flight requests.

# **Motorist Assistance Program**

The Motorist Assistance Program operated by the department currently operates in the four largest metropolitan areas in Virginia with operations in Chesapeake, Fairfax, Richmond, and in the Roanoke/Salem areas.

During 2008, motorist assistance aides provided assistance to disabled or stranded motorist on more than 46,658 occasions.

State Police motorist assistance aides provided services such as fixing flat tires, providing gasoline, jump-starting vehicles, traffic control, and making cellular phone calls for additional assistance or to notify family members of a stranded motorist's situation. Motorist Assistance Aides also were instrumental in the

arrest of drunk drivers and aggressive drivers by reporting erratic driving behavior to troopers who subsequently made the apprehension.

#### Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

The Department has 55 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers whose primary responsibilities include the inspection and measurement of commercial vehicles that utilize the highways of the Commonwealth. During 2008, approximately 18.8 million commercial vehicles passed through Virginia's 13 permanent weigh stations for inspection. Through the inspection of these vehicles and through other enforcement initiatives, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers issued 51,240 summonses and made 112 criminal arrests. This program is vital to Virginia's overall highway safety program through the protection of roadways from overweight and oversized vehicles; through assurances that commercial vehicles are mechanically safe to operate on the highways; and through the validation of all commercial vehicle operators to ensure they are properly licensed to operate a commercial vehicles in the Commonwealth.

# Crime Prevention

During 2008, the Department continued to provide specialized training to the Crime Prevention Specialist troopers across the State on current crime prevention techniques. Participating troopers received training in enhancing governmental, business, and residential security through the "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (CPTED) model and other mitigation based methodologies. Additional training focused on personal safety, workplace violence prevention and personal information associated crimes. All training was part of an intensified crime prevention curriculum that enabled troopers to achieve certification or remain certified through the Department of Criminal Justice Services as Crime Prevention Specialist.

In calendar year 2008, approximately 176,000 citizens of Virginia were contacted through 2,715 various crime prevention and safety programs. These programs distributed nearly 30,000 informational handouts by certified crime prevention troopers. Troopers conducted 394 crime prevention programs and 784 Safety Programs. In addition 114 programs were conducted to address personal safety, 36 programs addressed the issues of road rage, 10 workplace violence workshops were held, and 7 programs were sponsored on recognizing and preventing schemes and scams.

Crime prevention troopers also conducted security assessments on 948 businesses and residences. Additionally, during 2008, troopers conducted 45 drug education programs, 7 class action programs, and 9 Help eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) programs to enhance safety in Virginia communities.

Below is a summary of significant crime prevention programs / activities for 2008:

- The Office of Commonwealth Preparedness (OCP) requested that the Department assist the Virginia Capitol Police with providing all-hazard assessments or 11 state office buildings located in the new codified Capitol District. These assessments were completed over an 11 month period and a comprehensive report was submitted to the OCP for introduction before the Capitol Security Working Group.
- To better assist state agencies with improving security, the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness conducted its annual Agency Preparedness Assessment. This year the Department was requested to submit physical security related recommendations to be included in the assessment, of which all recommended questions and topics were accepted. The Department will be providing personnel for periodic agency on-site reviews in the coming year.
- The Virginia Judicial Security Initiative, which was initiated in 2005, has continued to require assets from the crime prevention program. These assets involved the participation in courthouse assessments, training and technical/subject mater expertise. The department's crime prevention specialists, of which 29 are trained for this specialized form of assessment, have been directly involved in the assessment of 66 courthouses across Virginia. The program and its product have been recognized by several jurisdictions outside of Virginia and have adopted the program as their model.
- The Virginia Department of Aviation, in conjunction with the Department began addressing the security issues facing Virginia's 58 General Aviation airports. In response, 28 crime prevention troopers received specific training needed to conduct comprehensive security assessments on these airports. In 2008, the program provided independent assessments for 19 General Aviation airports across the state. These assessments are not only providing recommendations to the individual airports on methods to enhance security, but are gathering information which the Department of Aviation utilizes in projecting future security needs.
- The Department has continued to disseminate gun locks to the public and governmental agencies. During 2008, approximately 18,000 locks were distributed through public speaking events, county fairs, local public safety agencies, and the state fair of Virginia.
- The Crime Prevention Program began certification of 5 new troopers to the program to account for promotions at the area office level. They should receive their certifications in late 2009.

The Department is represented by Crime Prevention Specialists on the following committees and events; The Governors Office Prevention First/KidSafe conference, Youth Alcohol Drug Abuse Project (YADAP), the Virginia Airport Security Committee, the Virginia Judicial Security Initiative, the Capitol Security Working Group, Office of the Attorney General's Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT), Governors Office Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) committee and Virginia Crime Prevention Association.

# **Specialty Teams:** Canine Program

Canine teams are available to track lost persons or fugitives, search for suspects, and detect illegal drugs, explosives or accelerants used in arsons. At the present time, there are two canine training facilities operated by the Department. The first is located at the Training Academy in Richmond and the second is located at the Abingdon Regional Jail in Washington County.

Contained below are statistics that reflect the work accomplished by these teams in 2008.

## Explosives/Weapon Detector Canine Teams and Accelerant Canine Teams

The Virginia State Police has 18 explosive canine teams that make up this division.

The following is the results of the teams work for 2008:

- ⇒ 683 searches
- ⇒ 49 security assignments
- ⇒ 29 canine demonstrations

The outcome of the calls resulted in:

- 1) 10 weapons discovered
- 2) 3 explosive devices recovered

#### Patrol Canine Teams

At this time, there are 15 patrol canine and three bloodhound teams. In 2008, the canine teams responded to 354 calls/requests for assistance.

Here are the results of their work for the year:

- ⇒ Responded to 342 requests
- $\Rightarrow$  86 felony arrests
- ⇒ 15 misdemeanor arrests
- $\Rightarrow$  4 people found
- ⇒ 7 canine demonstrations

## **Tactical Team Program**

Within each of the seven State Police field divisions, a Tactical Operation Team is maintained. These teams are available to assist local agencies and other State Police members in the arrest and apprehension of individuals known to pose a threat to law enforcement officials.

Following are the results for 2008:

- $\Rightarrow$  422 felony arrests
- ⇒ 251 misdemeanor arrests
- ⇒ 157 weapons seized
- ⇒ \$6,353,162.00 worth of illegal narcotics seized
- ⇒ \$846,440.57.00 in currency recovered

### **SCUBA Program**

During 2008, the Department's Search and Recovery Team (SART) conducted 44 recovery and rescue operations and assisted 23 agencies.

The following recoveries were made by the SART in 2008:

Weapons	19
Murder weapons	3
Vehicles	8
Boats	2
Bodies	12

Total Property Recovered \$500,200.0	erty Recovered \$500.	,200.00
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Total Operations	44
Total Assist to other agencies	23
Total Training	54
SAR Operations	3
Swiftwater Operations	4

The Department's SART continues to expand the capabilities through a proactive approach in recoveries, as well as our rescue missions. This approach includes, but is not limited to, liaison with other departments, proactively searching believed criminal dump sites and maintaining our professional performance through innovative training and equipment acquisition.

# Bureau of Field Operations - Summary of Activities 2008

In 2008, Virginia State Troopers assigned to the Bureau of Field Operations:

- Worked a total of 260,690 staff days patrolling 31,867,016 miles of highway.
- Responded to approximately 1.32 million incidents.
- Investigated 37,308 vehicle crashes.
- Assisted 170,133 stranded or otherwise distressed motorists.
- Responded to 27,909 requests for assistance from sheriffs' departments, 16,714 requests from police departments and 6,361 requests from other local, state and federal agencies.
- Made 724,348 traffic arrests, including 223,208 speeding, 86,260 reckless driving and 7,354 for driving under the influence.
- Made a total of 24,128 criminal arrests.
- Made a total of 3,486 drug/narcotics arrests on a total of 3,014 criminal charges.
- Seized drugs and narcotics at an estimated street value of \$380,791.
- Performed 40,827 in-depth safety inspections of heavy commercial vehicles and placed 9,372 or 23 percent of these vehicles out of service.
- Made 2,715 crime prevention presentations to 176,000 citizens.
- Conducted 948 CPTED assessments on businesses and on homes.
- Committed 3,861 man-hours to crime prevention programs and safety seminars.
- Achieved a 92.6% conviction rate for adjudicated cases.
- Seized 117 illegal weapons.