**VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS HEADQUARTERS** 

AND

# STATEWIDE FIRE SERVICE TRAINING FACILITY

**REPORTED TO** 

# THE GOVERNOR

AND

# **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



# **SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 19**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA Department of Purchases and Supply Richmond 1975

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### REPORT OF THE

### VIRGINIA ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

0n

### VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS HEADQUARTERS

And

## STATEWIDE FIRE SERVICE TRAINING FACILITY

Richmond, Virginia January 1975

TO: HONORABLE MILLS E. GODWIN, JR., GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA and THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Report of the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council Studying the Feasibility and Advisability of the Establishment of a State Sponsored and Supported Central Headquarters for the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads and the Feasibility of Establishing a Statewide Fire Service Training Facility.

# I. INTRODUCTION

#### Organization and Conduct of Study

Senate Joint Resolution No. 43 (Appendix I) directed the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to study the advisability and feasibility of the establishment of a State sponsored and supported central headquarters for the Virginia Association of

Volunteer Rescue Squads, and the feasibility of establishing a statewide fire service training facility, such study to be completed by September 1, 1974.

Pursuant to this Resolution a committee was appointed. The members were: Aerts Colby, Roundhill; Joseph Crockett, Galax; Honorable Garry G. DeBruhl, Critz; Honorable Robert R. Gwathmey, III, Hanover; Otis L. Hall, Mechanicsville; Charles T. Moses, Appomattox; Honorable Alexander B. McMurtrie, Midlothian; Honorable Lacey E. Putney, Bedford; Honorable C. Jefferson Stafford, Pearisburg; Senator Charles L. Waddell, Sterling and Senator George M. Warren, Jr., Bristol.

Honorable Robert R. Gwathmey, III, served as Chairman and Senator George M. Warren, Jr., served as Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman appointed two Subcommittees, one chaired by Senator George M. Warren, Jr., to study the advisability and feasibility of the establishment of a State sponsored and supported central headquarters for the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, and another chaired by Senator Charles L. Waddell, to study the need for fire service training facilities in the Commonwealth.

In the course of the study two public hearings were held in the State Capitol at which representatives of local government, paid and volunteer firemen, rescue squad members and interested citizens appeared and spoke.

The Committee received valued information in support of the establishment of a statewide fire training facility from Mr. Robert E. Carter, Supervisor of the State Fire Training Program, State Department of Education.

The presentation to the Committee in support of a State sponsored and supported central headquarters for volunteer rescue squads was made primarily by officers of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads.

The officers of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads pointed out that the squad members have an investment in excess of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in land, buildings and equipment; responded to 160,239 calls in their community; and devoted 842,181 man-hours of service during the performance of their duties (based on 1973 figures, see Appendix II), all without cost to any governmental unit in the State or the citizens of the Commonwealth. If this service were not furnished on a volunteer basis, it would necessarily become a governmental responsibility. Based on 1973 figures, computing the cost of man-hours at \$2.00 per hour and mileage at .20¢ per mile, it would cost State and local governments a minimum of \$2,500,000 per year to duplicate the services rendered.

The Committee members believe that a central office for the Association, having only an Executive Director and a secretary would be of invaluable assistance in maintaining a complete inventory of rescue equipment throughout the State, in serving as a liaison with the State Emergency Services Department, in arranging bulk purchases for the squads, in keeping abreast of federal and State legislation and its effect on member squads, in developing continuous intersquad relationships to facilitate the exchange of ideas, and in assuming the responsibility for the visitation and orientation of prospective new members.

The Committee was informed that the State of Tennessee, through contract, has provided the sum of \$50,000 per year for a central headquarters for its rescue souads (Appendix III). It is the feeling of the Association officers that Virginia, having over twice as many squads as Tennessee, would require an appropriation of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) to set up a central operating office. This sum would be spent on salaries for an Executive Director, a secretary, office rent, equipment, travel expenses, stationery, postage and other items.

In the event such a headquarters was established, the Association would be agreeable to reasonable audit of the expenditure of such sum appropriated to it and would agree to make the headquarters' services available to non-member squads.

The members of the Committee believe that the establishment of a central headquarters is needed in order to develop, implement and coordinate policies and programs applying to all phases of activity within the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads.

At the public hearings held by the Committee, a majority of the speakers on the subject of fire-fighting pointed out that because of the increased development of hazardous materials, fire fighting is becoming more of a science and therefore requires more extensive training. The majority of persons appearing before the Committee felt that in order to accomplish this training, proper facilities need to be established. At the present time, there are 565 fire departments in Virginia staffed by 22,500 firemen. Of these 22,500 firemen, there are 4,000 paid firemen and only ten fully paid departments. It has become increasingly difficult for the volunteers:

to sacrifice time and incur large expenses in order to attend training programs conducted throughout the Commonwealth. The Committee was also told that without facilities which are always available, long-range planning for training programs in virtually impossible. At the present the personnel of the fire service training program must obtain "on-loan" facilities throughout the State for their training programs. These locations are obtained on conditions set forth by the lender and include, among other provisions, hours of opening and closing the building, which often requires that planned program schedules be revised extensively; responsibility for cleaning up the building; responsibility for accidental damages; and other stipulations which cause problems. An additional problem involved in using such locations is the right retained by the lender to advise at the last minute that the facility will not be available.

In their deliberations, the members of the Committee concluded that there is a need for more extensive fire service training in the Commonwealth, and heard testimony indicating the desirability of establishing a statewide central fire service training facility.

The members of the Committee believe that the creation of strategically located training facilities in the Commonwealth is, at this time, a viable method of fulfulling the need for professional training oriented toward improving the effectiveness of fire departments, developing leadership for five prevention and reducing firefighter injuries.

# II. CONCLUSION

The Virginia Advisory Legislative Council has accepted the report of its Committee studying the questions set forth herein and has directed that such report be printed and distributed to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly without recommendations.

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Respectfully submitted,

Willard J. Moody, Chairman

Edward E. Lane, Vice Chairman

George E. Allen, Jr.

Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.

Archibald A. Campbell

Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr.

Jerry H. Geisler

Robert R. Gwathmey, III

C. Hardaway Marks

Lewis A. McMurran, Jr.

William V. Rawlings

James M. Thomson

Lawrence Douglas Wilder

Edward E. Willey

#### APPENDIX I

#### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43

Directing the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to study the advisability and feasibility of the establishment of a State sponsored and supported central headquarters for the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, and the feasibility of establishing a statewide fire service training facility.

Whereas, there is at present a lack of coordination in the work of volunteer rescue squads; and

Whereas, the officers of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads are volunteers who can only work part-time in their capacity in the Association; and

Whereas, the establishment of a central office to coordinate the activities of rescue operations, particularly in major disasters that have occurred from time to time within the State appears to be desirable; and

Whereas, a study should be made of the advisability and feasibility of the establishment of such a central headquarters; and

Whereas, an essential factor in assuring dependable, sound and effective fire prevention and fire-fighting services is adequate and competent training of personnel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council is directed to make a study and report on the advisability and feasibility of establishing a State sponsored and supported central headquarters for the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads. The Council shall consider all aspects of the problem, including, but not limited to, the economic and legal aspects thereof, and the experience of other states. The Council shall also study and make a recommendation on the feasibility of establishing a statewide fire service training facility.

The Council shall complete its study and report to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than September one, nineteen hundred seventy-four.

#

AI	PPENDIX	II
1973	ACTIVITY	REPORT
	SUMMAR	Y

🖸 Squads		# Calls	# Miles	# Hours	# Vehicles	# Members
25	District #1	18,992	440,117	79,038	72	790
17	#2	19,739	447,027	89,323	45 <sup>-</sup>	621
24	#3	33,487	884,255	148,948	78	903
19	#4≉	18,131	482,363	149,245	73	681
25	#5	24,203	856,150	130,525	84	728
20	#6	18,095	408,742	78,423	58	573
13	#7	12,179	309,013	62,260	38	370
9	#8*	3,195	474,708	52,279	30	316
10	#9	12,218	294,544	52,140	37	403
162		160,239	4,596,919	842,181	515	5,385

167 Squads 162 Reported

162 Squads Reporting

Avg.		miles/call
Avg.		calls/squad
Avg.	2	vehicles/squad
Avg.		hrs./squad
Avg.	28,376	miles/squad

2 Squads over 4,000 calls 11 " over 3,000 " 12 " over 2,000 " 24 " over 1,000 " 113 " less than 1,000 calls (5 less than 100)

## 162

## Squada Not Reporting

Tappahamock
Gloucester

		210	IALUI I			
<u>s</u> , <u>d</u>	# Vehicles	# Members	# Call	s <u># Miles</u>	# Hours	# Miles to ER
Boiling Springs	2	33	224	12,945	2,400	17
Broadway	. 3	35	470	17,577	2,147	13
Buchanan	3	25	373	17,281	2,155	27
Buena Vista	4	30	1,165	30,630	5,689	7
Charlottesville/Alb.	6	66	3,231	40,543	5,482	1
Craigsville-Augusta Sp	gs. 2	20	176	6,593.	1,074	40
Churchville	2	29	248	7,394	1,127	8
Clifton Forge	3	29	695	13,732	2,632	0
Covington	2	40	966	12,858	5,424	1
Dunlap	3	41	202	15,262	1,382	15
Elkton	2	35	537	2,996	4,262	18
Fairfield	3	25	321	15,777	2,283	12
FCing Springs	2	18	151	5,633	1,076	18
Glasgow	2	22	442	15,686	3,564	17
Goshan	3	28	251	15,800	4,096	33
Grottoes	3	20	460	18,400	1,380	17
Harrisonburg	5	42	1,842	37,448	2,609	0
Highland Co.	2	17	85	8,899	463	42
Hot Springs	3	20	460	17,380	1,764	1
Lexington	3	25	1,248	26,018	<b>#</b> 4,000	1
Paint Bank	1	22	24	2,004	157	45
Staunton-Augusta	4	48	2,541	40,888	5,351	. 1
Stuarts Draft	3	28	405	11,128	2,509	12
Waynesboro	4	68	2,215	42,045	8,347	1.5
Westvaco	2	24	260	5,200	7,665	1
Totals	72	790	18,992	440,117	79,038	
-	. # calls/squad			Avg. # manhou		4.2
Avg	. # miles/squar	17,605	4	Avg. # miles/	call	23.2

Approx.

		U	ISIRICI Z			
<u>Se. ad</u>	# Vehicles	# Members	# Calls	# Miles	# Hours	# Miles to ER
Bennett's Creek	2	42	624	26,202	2,436	10
Brunswick	.3	47	538	46,260	3,156	20
Citizens	2	12	187	5,584	67.2	15
Creeds	2	24	250	4,634	2,000	25
Davis Corner	3	24	1,476	20,000	4,407	15
Greensville	3	43	819	25,320	3,094	1
Isle of Wight	3	30	904	43,903	5,174	20
Ivor	2	61	310	14,813	1,379	18
James City	3	18	543	12,308	3,240	12
Kenpsville	3	25	1,831	35,490	7,403	7
Nansemond-Suffolk	4	60	3,766	69,038	24,365	3
Ocean Fark	2	30	296	6,115	947	8
PCbus	2	33	2,057	27,045	4,480	4
Plaza	3	37	1,540	27,978	3,598	8
Stoney Creek	2	53	240	13,601	1,894	20
Virginia Beach	3.	46	3,003	48,724	17,520	5
Williamsburg	3	36	1,355	20,012	3,558	3
Totals	45	621	19,739	447,027	89,323	

Avg. # calls/squad	1,161.12	Avg. # manhours/call	4.5
Avg. # miles/squad	26,296	Avg. # miles/call	22.6

		DI	STRICT 3			
\$ " <u>ad</u>	# Vehicles	# Members	<u># Calls</u>	# Miles	# Hours	# Miles to ER
Amelia	2	24	442	44,200	2,652	40
Ashcake	2	20	193	5,185	695	
Ashland	5	37	1,630	58,347	5,963	16
Bensley-Bermuda	4	57	2,084	60,008	5,073	12
Centerville	1	30	188	6,110	1,033	16
Dinwiddie	. 3	55	882	98,438	5,292	15
E. Hanover	3	30	691	35,000	4,794	17
Ettrick-Matoaco	3	40	815	19,839	2,445	8
Forest View	4	77	3,131	52,903	7,980	1
Goochland	1	22	93	2,768	469	12
Haddensville-Fife	2	25	128	10,880	768	35
Henrico	4	45	3,494	56,270	9,996	8
Lewell	3	21	1,122	12,833	2,392	1
Lakeside	5	48	2,891			5
Louisa Co.	2	20	357	20,256	1,460	30
Manchester	5	55	3,549	80,942	8,622	5
Powhatan	3	27	343	25,410	4,540	35
Prince George	3	43	713	42,863	2,808	5
Providence Forge	3	18	559	28,432	3,354	25
Southside Va.	7	53	4,622	105,709	8,907	1
Surry	2	16	239	16,320	1,105	30
Tuckahoe	5	60	2,869	67,829	59,875	2
Waverly	2	25	307	19,713	2,225	26
West End	4	55	2,145	14,000	6,500	4
Totals	78	803	22 / 97	99/ 255	148,948	
		903	33,487	884,255	-	
	Avg. # calls		-	# manhour		4.4
	Avg. # miles	/squad 36,8	44 Avg	. # miles/c	all 20	5.4

		D	ISTRICT 4			
કુ શ્ર <u>ત</u> ે	# Vehicles	# Members	# Calls	# Miles	# Hours	# Miles to ER
*Bowling Green	3	21				
Coles Dist.	· 2	26	264	7,368	1,324	15
Culpeper Co.	2	31	756	12,854	2,998	1
Dumfries-Triangle	3	26	1,282	28,488	2,944	10
Enders	2	28	506	13,822	1,548	15
Fredericksburg	6	40	3,944	71,976 ·	7,249	1
Greater Manassas	4	20	1,410	27,518	6,125	2
Ladysmith	3	28	662	37,919	1,981	21
Lorton	2	10	687	14,306	19,949	5
Loudoun Co.	5	32	1,090	16,000	15,000	1
Luray	4	20	634	17,814	1,450	0
Madison Co.	· 3	36	403	22,133	1,999	30
M(Chall	4	30	422	17,364	1,828	12
Mt. Jackson	3	28	517	24,403	1,891	12
'O.W.L.	4	63				
Orange Co.	<b>3</b> .	20	824	43,690	4,605	30
Round Hill	2	20	172	7,316	769	16
Shenandoah	3	30	279	14,995	1,289	20
Sterling Park	3	28				
Strasburg	4	39	662	20 <b>,919</b>	21,557	12
Winchester	5	80	2,695	52,352	52,196	3
Woodstock	3	25	922	28,726	2,543	1
Totals	73	681	18,131	479,963	149,245	

Avg. # calls/squad	954.3	Avg. # manhours/call	8.2
Avg. # miles/squad	25,261.2	Avg. # miles/call	26.5

\* Squade not reporting.

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<u>Smed</u>	# Vehicles	# Members	# Call	<u># Miles</u>	# Hours	# Miles to ER
Altavista ·	4	25	808	40,516	4,104	35
Amherest	4	19	493	21,441	2,103	17
Appomattox Co.	3	30	515	24,428	2,156	23
Big Island	2	15	96	3,233	764	20
Brookneal	3	21	573	36,784	2,173	35
Campbell Co.	6	40	2,105	63 <b>,</b> 150.	10,009	15
Central	3	23	204	20,448	1,988	30
Charlotte Co.	4	28	634	52,731	3,404	13
Chase City	6	33	706	56,971	3,995	21
Chatham	3	42	415	20,035	1,625	20
Citizens	3	34	716	22,958	2,179	26
Concord	2	16	330	8,530	1,040	14
C( erland	2	15	.300	30,000	3,000	20
Danville	4	64	3,806	60,864	.33,451	1
Crewe Emer. Sq.	4	48	1,021	52,744	4,132	20
Gladstone	2	16	172	11,505	972	65
Gretna	3	22	498	27,375	10,255	35
Halifax Co.	5	40	2,013	75,282	6,418	0
Lynchburg		45	3,541	46,373	6,114	1
Martinsville-Henry	4	20	2,042	28,512	11,321	1
Mecklenburg Co.	3	24	553	49,433	2,846	25
Monelison	3	26	1,016	23,663	2,613	16
Prince Edward	3	31	672	22,080	2,916	1
Roseland	3	19	330	28,094	2,947	34
Southside	3	32	644	29,000	8,000	0
Totals	82	728	24,203	856,150	130,525	
	Avg. # call			Avg. # manho	-	5.4
				Avg. # miles		35.4
	***** " "**E	-, oquu J49			,	

		D	ISTRICT 6			
<u>s</u> <u>u</u>	Vehicles	# Members	# Calls	# Miles	# Hours	# Miles to ER
Alleghany Dist.	3	19	389	13,953	2,018	22
Bedford	. 3	18	852	16,936	4,457	1
BentMountain	2	25	138	5,389	1,250	15
Blacksburg	4	40	1,204	26,832	9,441	3
Boones Mill	3	25	408	12,865	2,077	15
Cave Springs	4	41	978	17,294 <sub>.</sub>	3,343	2.5
Clearbrook	2	21	781	27,358	2,721	4
Craig Co.	2	25	244	13,559	4,765	27
Fort Lewis	3	33	934	25,409	3,734	7
Huddleston	2	39	134		801	18
Moneta	2	14	378	25,608	1,512	18
Montvale	2	20	261	8,990	695	20
M_:t Pleasant	3	22	541			3
Roanoke Co.	3	27	1,327	32,150	8,364	10
Roanoke	4	35	4,161	80,000	14,000	10
Salem	4	37	1,783	19,114	5,280	3
Stevartsville/ Chamblissburg	3 .	30	400	11,808	1,537	15
Troutville	3	60	723	23,174	2,487	15
Vinton	4	21	1.006	13,303	3,941	3
Williamson Rd.	2	21	1,453	35,000	6,000	2
					•	
Total	. <b>s</b> 58	573	18,095	408,742	78,423	

•	Avg. # calls/squad	904.8	Avg. # menhours/call	4.5
Avg. # miles/squad 22,707 Avg. # miles/call 22.6	Avg. # miles/squad	22,707	Avg. # miles/call	22.6

<u>s 1d</u>	# Vehicles	# Members	<u> </u>	<u> # Miles</u>	# Hours	# Miles to ER
Bluefield, W. Va.	3	30	3,286	48,453	8,660	2
Bluefield, Va.	3	20	948	23,675	8,267	3
Christiansburg	3	22	1,140	24,950	4,376	7
Franklin Co.	4	42	1,286	42,437	4,210	0
Giles Co.	3	25	759	23,699	3,432	2
Long Shop-McCoy	2	21	75	5,500.	500	20
Marion	1	29	202	6,571	4,895	3
Princeton	2	20	377	6,729	9,542	2
Pulaski Co.	5	42	1,421	59,832	4,715	6
Richlands	3	10	679	11,539	3,898	1
Tazewell	5	35	959	38,969	4,694	30
Va. Tech	1.	50	269	1,813	2,471	1
Wi_e Co.	3	24	778	14,846	2,600	1
Totals	38	370	12,179	309,013	62,260	

Avg. # calls/squad	936.8	Avg. # manhours/call	5.1
Avg. # miles/squad	23,770.0	Avg. # miles/call	25.4

<u>Sc 1</u>	# Vehicles	# Members	<u>  # Calls</u>	# Miles	# Hours	# Miles to R
Callao	2	25	328	35,452	2,352	68
Central Middlesex	3	34	305	21,378	1,933	30
Colonial Beach	4	35	714	38,832	35,389	35
Dahlgren	3	23	455	39,575	3,981	28
*Gloucester	2	38				
Kilmarnock	3	41	355	39,333	2,817	90
King Wm. Co.	2	25	283	15,557	1,115	25
Middlesex	3	16	181	15,746	1,229	48
Northumberland Co.	2	30	231	24,438	1,665	110
Richmond Co.	3	24	343	24,397	1,798	10
*Tappahannock	3	25				
Totals	30	316	3,195	254,708	52,279	

Avg. # calls/squad	356.1	Avg. # manhours/call	16.3
Avg. # miles/squad	28,300.9	Avg. # miles/call	79.7

\* Squads not reporting.

	DISTRICT 9					
<u>Sq</u>	# Vehicles	# Members	# Calls	# Miles	# Hours	# Miles to 🖻
Bristol	4	21	3,570	51,182	9,341	1
Buchanan Co.	6 ´	18	663	23,585	2,159	26
Lee Co.	2	22	109	6,482	8,324	1
Russell Co. #1	3	36	917	25,996	4,245	0
Russell Co. #2	3	21	386	15,580	1,846	15
Russell Co. #3	3	26	411	16,025	1,480	19
Saltville	3	37	1,076	50 <b>,</b> 400	8,000	25
Scott Co.	2	32	480	17,146	1,571	10
Washington Co.	7	57	1,929	43,330	6,881	1
Wise Co.	4	133	2,677	68,218	8,293	11
Totals	.37	403	12,218	317,944	52,140	

Avg.	# calls/squad	1,221.8	Avg. # manhours/call	4.3
Avg.	∉ miles/squad	31,794.4	Avg. # miles/call	26.0

#### APPENDIX III

### CONTRACT

WHEREAS, by Chapter 302, Section 1, Public Acts of 1971, the 87th General Assembly of Tennessee memorialized the hearly 2,000 volunteer members of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads; authorized the establishment of a state office; and provided an executive committee of twelve (12) elected officers who are to follow guidelines and policies of a State Board of Directors made up of one (1) director from each member squad; and

WHEREAS, the sum of not more than Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars was appropriated from the general funds of the state to be expended solely for the purpose of establishing state headquarters of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads, the salary of an Executive Director of the Association and other expenses appertaining thereto for the fiscal year 1971-1972; and

WHEREAS, the sum of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars was appropriated to the Department of Finance & Administration by Chapter 440, Section 51, Public Acts of 1971 (General Appropriations Bill) to further the intent of the 87th General Assembly as set out above.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the aforesaid appropriation, the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads, acting by and through its President and Executive Director, agrees to maintain sixty-seven (67) rescue squads strategically located throughout the state, each such squad having a vehicle, a boat, or both, equipped with resuscitation apparatus, oxygen, drag-lines, blow torches, stretcher, signals and many other devices, all for use in finding the lost, aiding the sick and rescuing those in peril; to establish a state headquarters; pay the salary of an executive director, and pay other expenses relative thereto; it being further understood that the Department of Finance & Administration will administer the said appropriations of not more than Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars, disbursing same on vouchers submitted jointly by the President and Executive Director for expenses authorized only by them and that all expenditures will be in accordance with state laws and subject to audit by appropriate State agencies.

This contract to take effect at midnight on July 1, 1971 and end at midnight on June 30, 1972.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties hereunto have affixed their signatures this <u>14</u> day of <u>October</u>, 1971.

Association of Rescue Squads Association of Rescue Squads C age Commissioner & Administration

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