

***VIOLENT CRIME STRIKE FORCES
AND STATE/LOCAL ANTI-CRIME PARTNERSHIPS***

**A Report to the Governor, House Appropriations Committee,
And Senate Finance Committee**



October 2003

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent**

October 1, 2003

TO: The Honorable Mark R. Warner, Governor of Virginia

The Honorable John H. Chichester
Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.
Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee

Pursuant to Item 459 (A) of Chapter 1042 of the 2003 Virginia Acts of Assembly, I have the honor of submitting herewith, a *Report on Violent Crime Strike Forces and State/Local Anti-Crime Partnerships*. The report is a compilation of the Department's efforts during the past fiscal year.

Respectfully,

Superintendent

WSF/CAV

Enclosure

Report on Violent Crime Strike Forces and State/Local Anti-Crime Partnerships

Preface

Pursuant to Item 459 (A) of Chapter 1042 of the 2003 Virginia Acts of Assembly, the Department of State Police is pleased to provide this report on the utilization and performance of the positions provided for violent crime strike forces and for the state/local anti-crime partnership.

Executive Summary

Upon request, the Department of State Police currently provides law enforcement assistance to localities through the Violent Crimes Strike Force and the Anti-Crime Partnerships. To enable the Department to provide greater assistance to localities, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit increases the Department's capability to assist localities by providing a cadre of highly mobile troopers to immediately blanket areas of escalating criminal activity. The newly structured unit in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation has formulated seven separate areas that are consistent with the geographical boundaries of the seven field divisions. During Fiscal Year 2003, partnership initiatives were conducted in the Cities of Lynchburg, Petersburg, Portsmouth, and Richmond. These operations have proven successful in accomplishing established goals of violent crime suppression and eradication.

The results of operations conducted during FY 2003 are as follows:

Total Man Hours Worked	16,806
Persons Arrested	879
Total Charges:	1,538
Felony	677
Misdemeanor	861
Value of Drugs Seized	\$207,815
Currency Seized	\$70,600
Weapons Seized	288
Assets Seized	\$191,110

The Department of State Police will continue to monitor all operations to ensure that program objectives are met and that those communities that have requested assistance are receiving law enforcement support to the degree necessary in identified problem areas. This will provide citizens with a higher degree of confidence that their neighborhoods and streets are safe, secure, and are no longer havens for criminal activity.

Introduction

These initiatives were designed to enable the Department to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies in combating violent crime in their jurisdictions. Through the utilization of these partnerships, the Superintendent is able to provide assistance to requesting local agencies without jeopardizing support to other communities of the Commonwealth. The additional resources provided by the Department of State Police enable jurisdictions to supplement their limited resources to address their violent crime problem. The establishment of extra positions enables the State Police to assist more than one jurisdiction concurrently. The number of jurisdictions assisted is limited only by the total number of sworn personnel committed to these initiatives, and the length of time State Police personnel are assigned to a particular jurisdiction. Requests for assistance are based upon the severity of the local problem and the anticipated needs of the requesting jurisdictions.

Current Situation

Upon request, the Department of State Police currently provides law enforcement assistance to localities through the Violent Crimes Strike Force and the Anti-Crime Partnerships. In providing the extra resources to the localities, troopers are relieved of their normal duty assignments and temporarily reassigned to the Violent Crime Strike Force and/or State/Local Anti-Crime Partnership in a particular locality. To enable the Department to provide greater assistance to localities, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation increases the Department's capability to assist localities by providing a cadre of highly mobile troopers to immediately blanket areas of escalating criminal activity. The newly structured unit has formulated seven separate areas that are consistent with the geographical boundaries of the seven field divisions. Partnership initiatives have proven successful in accomplishing established goals of violent crime suppression and eradication.

Each operation conducted to date has had three primary objectives:

1. Reduce the potential for violent crime by providing an increased, visible police patrol presence using uniformed troopers.
2. Investigate and apprehend persons involved in violent crime or criminal activity associated with violent crime.
3. Return a sense of confidence, safety, and security to citizens of the community.

The results of operations conducted during this reporting period are as follows:

City of Lynchburg

The Lynchburg Police Department and the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit, in conjunction with the Bureau of Field Operations Division Three (Appomattox), conducted a two part City/State Partnership to address the problem of gang-related violence and open-air drug markets which had plagued certain communities in Lynchburg. The Department of State Police provided eight sworn personnel including five troopers, one special agent, and two supervisors. Phase I of this operation began on October 17, 2002, and concluded on January 9, 2003. Phase II began on May 12, 2003, and concluded on July 19, 2003.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Phase I

Maximum Number of Sworn Personnel Assigned	8
Total Man Hours Worked	768
Persons Arrested	26
Total Charges:	73
Felony	57
Misdemeanor	16
Value of Drugs Seized	\$4,810
Currency Seized	\$779
Weapons Seized	3
Assets Seized	\$0

Phase II

Maximum Number of Sworn Personnel Assigned	8
Total Man Hours Worked	1,140
Persons Arrested	155
Total Charges:	181
Felony	82
Misdemeanor	99
Value of Drugs Seized	\$29,667
Currency Seized	\$11,395
Weapons Seized	11
Assets Seized	\$19,700

City of Petersburg

On March 5, 2003, "Operation Blue Storm", an intensive interdiction operation, was conducted with the Petersburg Police Department, in conjunction with the Bureau of Field Operations Division One (Richmond). The Department of State Police provided a total of eight sworn personnel for this operation including five troopers, two special agents, and one supervisor. The City/State Partnership concluded on April 11, 2003.

The following statistics are credited to this initiative:

Maximum Number of Sworn Personnel Assigned	8
Total Man Hours Worked	770
Persons Arrested	117
Total Charges:	86
Felony	36
Misdemeanor	50
Value of Drugs Seized	\$4,761
Currency Seized	\$3,352
Weapons Seized	2
Assets Seized	\$1,160

City of Portsmouth

On April 7, 2003, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit began a 6 week City/State Partnership in the City of Portsmouth to enhance street enforcement of narcotics violations in high crime areas of the city. Concluding on May 24, 2003, the Department of State Police provided eleven sworn law enforcement officers, including six troopers, three supervisors, and two special agents who worked in conjunction with sworn officers from the Portsmouth Police Department. At the request of the Acting Police Chief, Phase II of the project began on July 7, 2003, and extended through August 2, 2003.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Phase I

Maximum Number of Sworn Personnel Assigned	11
Total Man Hours Worked	2,560
Persons Arrested	102
Total Charges:	162
Felony	90
Misdemeanor	72
Value of Drugs Seized	\$20,609
Currency Seized	\$0
Weapons Seized	18

Assets Seized

\$5,000

City of Richmond

On June 10, 2002, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit entered into a 60 day City/State Partnership with the Richmond Police Department to address the problem of violent crime in specified neighborhoods in the City of Richmond. Specifically targeted in these enforcement efforts were crimes associated with illegal firearms and the subsequent violence spawned by their use. The Department provided a total of twelve sworn law enforcement personnel for this initiative. At the request of the Richmond Police Department, the City/State Partnership was extended for an additional 30 days and concluded on September 7, 2002.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Maximum Number of Sworn Personnel Assigned	12
Total Man Hours Worked	5,760
Persons Arrested	288
Total Charges:	620
Felony	245
Misdemeanor	375
Value of Drugs Seized	\$97,439
Currency Seized	\$22,428
Weapons Seized	135
Assets Seized	\$80,500

On May 21, 2003, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit entered into the second phase of a City/State Partnership with the Richmond Police Department. The Department of State Police provided a total of twelve sworn law enforcement personnel for this operation, including nine troopers, one special agent, and two supervisors. The focus of the operation was the enforcement of illegal firearm violations.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Maximum Number of Sworn Personnel Assigned	12
Total Man Hours Worked	5,808
Persons Arrested	191
Total Charges:	416
Felony	167
Misdemeanor	249
Value of Drugs Seized	\$50,529
Currency Seized	\$32,646
Weapons Seized	119
Assets Seized	\$84,750

Conclusion

The continuation of the Violent Crime Strike Force and State/Local Anti-Crime Partnerships will be beneficial both to the jurisdictions requesting State Police assistance, and to the State Police by providing exposure to a broader range of police functions for the participating troopers and supervisors.

The Department of State Police will continue to monitor all operations to ensure that program objectives are met and that those communities that have requested assistance are receiving law enforcement support to the degree necessary in identified problem areas. This will provide citizens with a higher degree of confidence that their neighborhoods and streets are safe, secure, and are no longer havens for criminal activity.