

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

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



October 2004

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent**

October 1, 2004

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 456 (A) of Chapter 4 of the 2004 Virginia Acts of Assembly, I am respectfully 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 456 (A) of Chapter 4 of the 2004 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 Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction 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 2004, partnership initiatives were conducted in the Cities of Lynchburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, and Winchester and the Town of Pulaski. These operations have proven successful in accomplishing established goals of violent crime suppression and enforcement of illegal firearm and narcotics violations.

The results of operations conducted during FY 2004 are as follows:

Persons Arrested	573
Total Charges:	1,019
Felony	480
Misdemeanor	539
Value of Drugs Seized	\$326,551
Currency Seized	\$350,814
Weapons Seized	172
Assets Seized	\$277,830
Total	\$955,195

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 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 Portsmouth

On July 7, 2003, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit began a City/State Partnership in the City of Portsmouth to enhance street enforcement of narcotics violations in high crime areas of the city. The operation concluded on August 2, 2003.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	22
Total Charges:	59
Felony	39
Misdemeanor	20
Value of Drugs Seized	\$64,114
Currency Seized	\$287,296
Weapons Seized	3
Assets Seized	\$84,980
Total	\$436,390

City of Richmond

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 focus of the operation was the enforcement of illegal firearm violations. The operation concluded on August 11, 2003.

On November 12, 2003, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit began Phase III of a City/State Partnership with the Richmond Police Department. The operation concluded on December 28, 2003. It is important to note that seven fugitives were arrested during this operation.

Following are the statistics that are credited to this operation:

	<u>Phase II</u>	<u>Phase III</u>	<u>Total</u>
Persons Arrested	215	116	331
Total Charges:	467	231	698
Felony	196	130	326
Misdemeanor	271	101	372
Value of Drugs Seized	\$54,514	\$149,383	\$203,897
Currency Seized	\$32,907	\$8,671	\$41,578
Weapons Seized	130	26	156
Assets Seized	\$102,550	\$62,500	\$165,050
Total	\$189,971	\$220,554	\$410,525

City of Lynchburg

The Lynchburg Police Department and the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted a City/State Partnership to address the problem of gang-related violence and open-air drug markets which had plagued certain communities in Lynchburg. The operation began on May 12, 2003, and concluded on July 19, 2003.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

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
Total	\$60,762

City of Winchester

On August 1, 2003, a City/State Partnership began with the City of Winchester Police Department and concluded on September 20, 2003.

The following statistics are credited to this initiative:

Persons Arrested	59
Total Charges:	75
Felony	29
Misdemeanor	46
Value of Drugs Seized	\$28,506
Currency Seized	\$10,545
Weapons Seized	2
Assets Seized	\$8,100
Total	\$47,151

Town of Pulaski

From May 20 through 22, 2004, a limited City/State Partnership was conducted at the request of the Pulaski Police Chief to quell the flow of drugs from the Roanoke area into Pulaski. Members of the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit Wytheville and Salem teams assisted the Pulaski Police Department with the enforcement of illegal narcotics violations. It is important to note that one mobile methamphetamine lab was discovered during this operation.

The following statistics are credited to this limited project:

Persons Arrested	6
Total Charges:	6
Felony	4
Misdemeanor	2
Value of Drugs Seized	\$367
Currency Seized	\$0
Weapons Seized	0
Assets Seized	\$0
Total	\$367

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.