

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

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



October 2005

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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October 1, 2005

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. S. Flaherty".

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 seven separate areas that are consistent with the geographical boundaries of the seven field divisions. During Fiscal Year 2005, partnership initiatives were conducted in the Cities of Lynchburg, Richmond, Leesburg, Franklin, and Hampton. 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 2005 are as follows:

Persons Arrested	150
Total Charges:	297
Felony	126
Misdemeanor	171
Value of Drugs Seized	\$45,120
Currency Seized	\$17,213
Weapons Seized	24
Assets Seized	\$21,100
Total	\$83,433

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. The Department's response to requests for assistance is 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 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

On June 2, 2004, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted a City/State Partnership in the City of Lynchburg. The operation concluded on October 31, 2004.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	45
Total Charges:	102
Felony	37
Misdemeanor	65
Value of Drugs Seized	\$5,582
Currency Seized	\$3,219
Weapons Seized	7
Assets Seized	\$11,000
Total	\$19,801

City of Richmond

On July 1, 2004, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit began a City/State Partnership in the City of Richmond. This was not a continuous partnership; only a few days were worked each week. The operation concluded on August 31, 2004.

The following statistics are credited to this nine-week project:

Persons Arrested	97
Total Charges:	187
Felony	86
Misdemeanor	101
Value of Drugs Seized	\$39,124
Currency Seized	\$13,994
Weapons Seized	17
Assets Seized	\$10,100
Total	\$63,218

City of Leesburg

On August 10, 2004, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit participated in a partnership with Leesburg Police Department. This was not a continuous partnership; only a few days were worked each week. The partnership concluded on August 20, 2004. No arrests or seizures were made.

City of Franklin

On September 16, 2004, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit began a City/State Partnership in the City of Franklin. The operation concluded on October 15, 2004.

The following statistics are credited to this four-week project:

Persons Arrested	3
Total Charges:	3
Felony	1
Misdemeanor	2
Value of Drugs Seized	\$100
Total	\$100

City of Hampton

On April 18, 2005, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit began a City/State Partnership in the City of Hampton. The operation concluded on June 30, 2005.

The following statistics are credited to this ten-week project:

Persons Arrested	5
Total Charges:	5
Felony	2
Misdemeanor	3
Value of Drugs Seized	\$314
Total	\$314

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.