

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

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



October 2006

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Colonel W. S. (Steve) Flaherty

Superintendent

(804) 674-2000

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

P. O. Box 27472, Richmond, VA 23261-7472

(804) 674-2000

Lt. Col. Robert B. Northern

Deputy Superintendent

October 1, 2006

TO: The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, 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 414 (A) of Chapter 3 of the 2006 Virginia Acts of Assembly (Special Session 1), 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 414 (A) of Chapter 3 of the 2006 Virginia Acts of Assembly (Special Session 1), 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 Crime Strike Forces 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 2006, partnership initiatives were conducted in the Cities of Franklin, Richmond, Lynchburg, Newport News, Roanoke, Staunton, Winchester, Fredericksburg, and Hopewell. 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 2006 are as follows:

Persons Arrested	547
Total Charges	910
Value of Drugs Seized	\$347,510
Currency Seized	\$74,481
Weapons Seized	132
Assets Seized	\$293,265
Total	\$715,256

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

The Department of State Police periodically joins resources with local law enforcement agencies in the execution of a combined enforcement initiative designed to address the violence associated with illegal distribution of narcotics on the "street corners" of the community. The local law enforcement agency's criminal activities analysis section gathers and analyzes the statistics associated with violent criminal activity, such as homicides, robberies, malicious wounding, and shootings that have occurred in the community in an effort to identify criminal "hot spots." These high intensity enforcement initiatives utilize a zero tolerance approach towards combating the criminal activity in the identified "hot spots."

The department's Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit spear heads this effort by providing a cadre of highly trained troopers to collaborate with local agencies to combat criminal activity in the respective community. The unit has seven separate areas that are consistent with the geographical boundaries of the seven field divisions. These 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 in the targeted region.
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 Franklin

During 2005, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Franklin.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	5
Total Charges:	5
Value of Drugs Seized	\$275
Currency Seized	\$45
Weapons Seized	0
Assets Seized	\$15
Total	\$335

City of Richmond

During 2005 and 2006, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Richmond.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	308
Total Charges:	600
Value of Drugs Seized	\$305,976
Currency Seized	\$30,342
Weapons Seized	119
Assets Seized	\$157,900
Total	\$494,218

City of Lynchburg

During 2005, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Lynchburg.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	30
Total Charges:	36
Value of Drugs Seized	\$2,988
Currency Seized	\$2,332
Weapons Seized	4
Assets Seized	\$10,310
Total	\$15,630

City of Newport News

During 2005, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Newport News.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	36
Total Charges:	59
Value of Drugs Seized	\$19,833
Currency Seized	\$800
Weapons Seized	0
Assets Seized	\$0
Total	\$20,633

City of Roanoke

During 2005, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Roanoke.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	52
Total Charges:	62
Value of Drugs Seized	\$9,920
Currency Seized	\$12,106
Weapons Seized	6
Assets Seized	\$14,450
Total	\$36,476

City of Staunton

During 2005 and 2006, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Staunton.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	26
Total Charges:	37
Value of Drugs Seized	\$3,543
Currency Seized	\$27,369
Weapons Seized	3
Assets Seized	\$103,125
Total	\$134,037

City of Winchester

During 2005, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Winchester.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	75
Total Charges:	87
Value of Drugs Seized	\$3,372
Currency Seized	\$0
Weapons Seized	0
Assets Seized	\$6,020
Total	\$9,392

City of Fredericksburg

During 2006, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Fredericksburg.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	11
Total Charges:	12
Value of Drugs Seized	\$1,488
Currency Seized	\$1,487
Weapons Seized	0
Assets Seized	\$1,445
Total	\$4,420

City of Hopewell

During 2006, the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted partnership operations in the City of Hopewell.

The following statistics are credited to this project:

Persons Arrested	4
Total Charges:	12
Value of Drugs Seized	\$115
Currency Seized	\$0
Weapons Seized	0
Assets Seized	\$0
Total	\$115

Conclusion

The continuation of these partnerships will be beneficial both to the local jurisdictions and the Department of State Police. Such collaborative efforts serve to strengthen working relationships, while simultaneously demonstrating to the citizens that law enforcement is working together to provide for their security and well being.

The Department of State Police will continue to monitor all operations to ensure that program objectives are met and that the respective communities are receiving the necessary assistance to address their problem areas. These efforts will be ongoing and will aid localities in reclaiming neighborhoods and streets that were once havens for criminal activity.