

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

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



**October 2008**

**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, 2008

TO: The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan  
Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Lacey E. Putney  
Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee

Pursuant to Item 420 (A) of Chapter 879 of the 2008 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 420 (A) of Chapter 879 of the 2008 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 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 FY2008, partnership initiatives were conducted in the Cities of Danville, Hampton, Lynchburg, Newport News, Richmond, Roanoke, and Staunton. These operations have proven successful in accomplishing established goals of violent crime suppression and enforcement of firearms, illegal drug and gang violations.

The results of operations conducted during FY2008 are as follows:

Persons Arrested	235
Total Charges	357
Weapons Seized	96
Value of Drugs Seized	\$580,481
Currency Seized	\$111,249
Assets Seized	\$115,750
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$807,480</u>

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**

The Violent Crime Strike Forces and State/Local Anti-Crime Partnerships 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 woundings, 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 Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit participated in numerous City/State Partnerships during FY2008. The statistics for these partnerships are as follows:

### City/State Partnership Statistics

Agency Assisted	Persons Arrested	Number of Charges	Firearms Seized	Narcotics Seized	Currency Seized	Other Seizure
Danville	26	29	4	\$2,602	\$0	\$1,850
Hampton	31	40	9	\$375,403	\$20,843	\$67,100
Lynchburg	10	19	6	\$366	\$5,843	\$12,500
Newport News	11	11	3	\$0	\$0	\$300
Richmond	129	228	74	\$196,828	\$84,563	\$34,000
Roanoke	14	15	0	\$1,260	\$0	\$0
Staunton	14	15	0	\$4,022	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>\$580,481</b>	<b>\$111,249</b>	<b>\$115,750</b>

### **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.