

***MONITORING OF OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO
COMPLY WITH THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY
REQUIREMENTS***

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



January 2009

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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January 1, 2009

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 H.2. of Chapter 879 of the 2008 Virginia Acts of Assembly, I am respectfully submitting herewith, a *Report on Monitoring of Offenders Required to Comply with the Sex Offender Registry Requirements*. The report is a compilation of the Department's efforts during the past calendar year.

Respectfully,

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

Superintendent

WSF/CAV

Enclosure

**Report on Monitoring of Offenders Required to Comply with
the Sex Offender Registry Requirements**

Preface

Pursuant to Item 420 H.2. of Chapter 879 of the 2008 Virginia Acts of Assembly, the Department of State Police is pleased to provide this report on the monitoring of offenders required to comply with the Sex Offender Registry requirements.

Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry (SOR) Verifications

As of December 1, 2008, there were 15,297 sex offenders listed on the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Registry. They are divided into three groups which consist of the following: (1) 2,941 registrants under Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Services, (2) 5,606 sex offenders whose verification will be conducted by the Department of State Police, and (3) the remaining 6,750 registrants who are incarcerated in jails or prisons across the state.

The Virginia Department of State Police (VSP) has developed and maintained a web-based system for recording and monitoring residence and employment address verifications. This database is utilized by Virginia State Police troopers and Department of Corrections (DOC) Probation and Parole officers tasked with completing the verification process. Our agency conducts training in the use of this system. There are 74 Probation and Parole officers and 45 Virginia State Police Sex Offender Investigative Unit troopers trained in this system to date. This training will continue until all Probation and Parole officers are familiar with this program.

Our agency conducted 17,266 verifications of home and work addresses. The offender compliance rate for verification is 99 percent, with 17,110 addresses being verified. All of these verifications were completed utilizing the troopers assigned to the Sex Offender Investigative Unit.

Registry Violations

From January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008, VSP conducted 2,371 criminal investigations for "Failure to Register" and "Providing False Information." During this same period, there were 665 arrests made across the state by VSP for violations of the aforementioned offenses, with 208 convictions to date. Many cases are still pending trial. These investigations initiated from troopers' observations, tips from citizens, information from other law enforcement agencies, information from the Department of Corrections, and other states' sex offender registries.

Coordination with Other State and Local Law Enforcement Organizations

Interagency coordination during this reporting period includes the following:

- VSP and DOC – VSP developed the Sex Offender Verification (SOV) System, which is also used by DOC. VSP continues to conduct training for both agencies.
- VSP and DOC - Area offices register or re-register each incoming sex offender and work to process offenders who are under the supervision of Probation and Parole.
- VSP and DOC – Offenders are monitored through joint initiatives, such as the Halloween meetings that took place at several Probation and Parole offices.

- VSP, DOC, and the United States Marshal Service - This fugitive task force initiative was continued and will include sex offender fugitives in its targeted operations. In the summer of 2008, the task force initiated Operation Falcon III. This one-week effort resulted in arrests statewide.
- VSP and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Operation Cold Play targeted illegal aliens who were registered sexual offenders convicted of deportable offenses.
- VSP and other states – VSP worked with several out-of-state registries to locate and apprehend absconders who crossed state lines to escape compliance with sex offender registration requirements.
- VSP and local agencies – VSP developed small task force initiatives with local agencies across the state with the goal of enhancing investigations surrounding SOR violations and to improve the line of communication throughout Virginia's criminal justice system.

Staffing Requirements

The 2006 Virginia General Assembly allocated the Virginia State Police 45 sworn positions as an enforcement component of the SOR. This unit is committed to monitor and prosecute sex offenders who fail to comply with Title 9.1 of the Code of Virginia. The following information provides an overview of the creation, implementation, and progress of the Sex Offender Investigative Unit.

In July 2006, the Sex Offender Investigative Unit was implemented by establishing one first sergeant position, four sergeant positions, and 40 trooper positions. This unit was added to the Criminal Justice Information Services Division in the Bureau of Administrative and Support Services. The positions of the unit were constructed to provide an enforcement component to the Sex Offender Registry with the goal of providing quick and in-depth investigations of sex offender violations. To properly distribute these established positions, the sex offender population in the Commonwealth was studied and the results were utilized for the creation of four regions in which one sergeant and ten troopers would be assigned to each region. Originally, the offender to trooper ratio was expected to be 120:1. Since the implementation of the program in 2006, that ratio has grown to 150:1. To further ensure efficiency, each region was divided into areas or small geographical work units to ensure that manpower was distributed evenly within each region.

The *2008 Manpower Augmentation Plan* recommended that the Department assign one trooper for each 100 sex offenders living in Virginia communities. At current levels, this would require 55 troopers. The positions would be allocated according to the distribution of registered sex offenders in each division and the Department would use the normal supervisory staff ratio of one supervisor per 12 troopers.

One administrative and office specialist II is needed in each of the four regions for clerical support of the Sex Offender Investigative Unit. The tracking of criminal case requests and criminal investigations generated by the unit will increase as a result of the added trooper positions. This position would enter information into the Department's criminal investigative report system and maintain information on pending cases.

The overall objective of the Sex Offender Investigative Unit is to enhance public safety by investigating and successfully closing criminal cases involving sex offenders who fail to comply with Title 9.1 of the Code of Virginia.

General Observations

On July 1, 2008, Section 9.1-902, Code of Virginia, which governs the registration of offenders with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry in Virginia, was amended. As a result of this statutory amendment, 1,492 offenders were re-classified to violent offenders. Due to this change, there has been a significant increase in the number of investigations for §18.2-472.1, Failing to Register/Re-register violations.

Address Verifications per Region

Location	# To Be Verified	# Verified	Percent Completed
Region One	26	4,039	99%
Region Two	38	4,007	99%
Region Three	70	4,687	98%
Region Four	22	4,377	99%
Totals	156	17,110	99%

* Information derived from the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Verification System.

Type Address Verification per Region

Location	Home Change	Home Initial	Home Semi-Annual	Work Change	School Change
Region One	777	66	1,955	831	18
Region Two	832	76	1,805	869	13
Region Three	935	92	2,115	970	4
Region Four	966	86	2,065	796	13
Totals	3,510	320	7,940	3,466	48

Criminal Investigations per Region

Location	# Cases
Region One	558
Region Two	543
Region Three	755
Region Four	515
Totals	2,371

* Information derived from Virginia State Police Criminal Investigative Report File and FACTS System.

Failure to Register Convictions by Jurisdiction 1/1/2008 – 12/31/2008

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
Albemarle County	2
Alexandria	1
Alleghany County	1
Amelia County	1
Appomattox County	1
Augusta County	3
Bedford County	7
Bristol	3
Campbell County	2
Carroll County	1
Charlottesville	11
Chesapeake	5
Chesterfield County	7
Colonial Heights	2
Fairfax County	5
Fauquier County	1
Frederick County	2
Fredericksburg	2
Galax	1
Giles County	1
Halifax County	1
Hampton	5
Hanover County	3
Henrico County	8
Hopewell	1
Isle Of Wight County	3
King George County	3
Lee County	1
Loudoun County	5
Lunenburg County	3
Lynchburg	4

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
Martinsville	2
Montgomery County	1
Newport News	3
Norfolk	8
Petersburg	10
Pittsylvania County	2
Portsmouth	5
Powhatan County	2
Prince George County	2
Prince William County	3
Radford	1
Richmond City	10
Roanoke	8
Salem	2
Scott County	1
Shenandoah County	3
Smyth County	4
Spotsylvania County	4
Stafford County	3
Staunton	3
Surry County	1
Tazewell County	1
Virginia Beach	20
Warren County	1
Waynesboro	1
Williamsburg	3
Winchester	3
Wise County	2
York County	3
Total	208

Virginia Department of State Police

Sex Offender Registry (SOR) Regions

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

DIVISION I - RICHMOND	- (804) 553-3444	(800) 552-6963
DIVISION II - CALPEPER	- (540) 825-7461	(800) 277-2160
DIVISION III - APPOMATTOX	- (540) 352-7128	(800) 552-0962
DIVISION IV - WYTHEVILLE	- (276) 228-3131	(800) 542-8716
DIVISION V - CHESAPEAKE	- (757) 424-6830	(800) 542-8350
DIVISION VI - SALEM	- (540) 375-9300	(800) 542-5559
DIVISION VII - FAIRFAX	- (703) 623-4500	(800) 572-4310

AREA HEADQUARTERS

1 ADIRLAND	17 STANTON	33 GLOUCESTER
2 WARGAW	18 CHARLOTTEVILLE	34 FRANKLIN
3 WEST POINT	19 ROCKINGHAM	35 EMPIRE
4 MINERAL	20 LYNCHBURG	36 WARREN
5 FREDERICKSBURG	21 APPOMATTOX	37 WILLIAMSBURG
6 POWHATAN	22 SOUTH HILL	38 CLIFTON FORGE
7 PETERSBURG	23 SOUTH BROOK	39 LEONINGTON
8 RICHMOND	24 DOUBLIN	40 SALEM
9 FAIRFAX	25 GALAX	41 BEDFORD
10 LEEZBURG	26 WYTHEVILLE	42 HARTFORDVILLE
11 INDEPENDENT HILL	27 BRISTOL	43 DANVILLE
12 HARRINGTON	28 CLAYPOOL HILL	44 BOWLING GREEN
13 WINCHESTER	29 VAUGHANT	45 ARLINGTON
14 LURAY	30 WISE	46 HAMPTON/REPORT NEWS
15 CALPEPER	31 MELFA	47 CHESAPEAKE
16 HARRISBURG	32 PORTFOLK/VIRGINIA BEACH	48 SPRINGFIELD

LEGEND

- ★ ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
- AREA BOUNDARIES
- DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
- AREA HEADQUARTERS

