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 2011

Colonel W. Steven Flaherty Superintendent



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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(804) 674-2000 January 1, 2011

TO: The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell, 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 408, H.2., of the 2010 Appropriation Act, 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 from December 1, 2009, through November 30, 2010.

Respectfully,

W. S. Flakety

Superintendent

WSF/CAV

Enclosure

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

Preface

Pursuant to Item 408, H.2., of the 2010 Appropriation Act, 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, 2010, there were 17,623 sex offenders listed on the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Registry. They are divided into three groups which consist of the following: (1) 3,420 registrants under Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Services, (2) 6,562 sex offenders whose verification will be conducted by the Department of State Police, and (3) the remaining 7,641 registrants who are incarcerated in jails or prisons across the state.

The Virginia Department of State Police (VSP) has developed and maintained a webbased 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 43 Probation and Parole officers and 40 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.

In the past twelve months, from December 1, 2009, to November 30, 2010, VSP conducted 17,255 verifications of home and work addresses. The offender compliance rate for verification is 99 percent. All of these verifications were completed utilizing the troopers assigned to the Sex Offender Investigative Unit.

Registry Violations

In the past twelve months, from December 1, 2009, through November 30, 2010, the Virginia State Police conducted 2,203 criminal investigations for "Failure to Register" and "Providing False Information." During this same period, there were 944 arrests made across the state by the Virginia State Police for violations of the aforementioned offenses, with 592 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. Also, during the same period, the Registry and the Investigative Unit received 1,609 tips and/or comments through the State Police website that needed follow up investigations.

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.

- In October 2010, the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Investigative Unit participated in Operation SOAR (Sexual Offender Alien Removal) with the Department of Homeland Security and sixty other law enforcement agencies. The Operation removed 14 foreign nationals convicted of sex offenses from the Commonwealth of Virginia and Washington, D.C. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the Operation also identified 356 foreign national sex offenders in federal, state and local facilities who will be removed upon completion of incarceration.
- VSP and DOC Offenders are monitored through joint initiatives, such as the Halloween meetings that took place at several Probation and Parole offices. These meetings were designed to monitor offender movement during this children's celebration of the fall season.
- 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.
- 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 Sex Offender Registry. This unit is committed to monitoring and prosecuting sex offenders who fail to comply with Title 9.1 of the <u>Code of Virginia</u>. 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 unit was structured 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; 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 164:1. 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 2010 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 25 additional troopers, which represents two more positions than were outlined in the Augmentation Plan. 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.

An Office Services 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 <u>Code of Virginia</u>.

General Observations

The below data is from the time period of December 1, 2009, to November 30, 2010.

Address Verifications per Region

Region	# To Be Verified	# Verified	Percent Completed
Region One	6	4,231	99%
Region Two	9	4,097	99%
Region Three	31	4,407	99%
Region Four	5	4,520	99%
Totals	51	17,255	99%

Type Address Verification per Region

Region	Home Address Change	Home Initial Verification	Home Semi-Annual Verification	Work Address Change	School Address Change
Region One	1025	54	2425	695	32
Region Two	847	83	2414	720	33
Region Three	1042	76	2538	695	56
Region Four	1063	56	2739	641	21
Totals	3977	269	10116	2751	142

Criminal Investigations per Region From December 1, 2009, to November 30, 2010

Location	# Cases	
Region One	580	
Region Two	450	
Region Three	711	
Region Four	462	
Total	2,203	

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

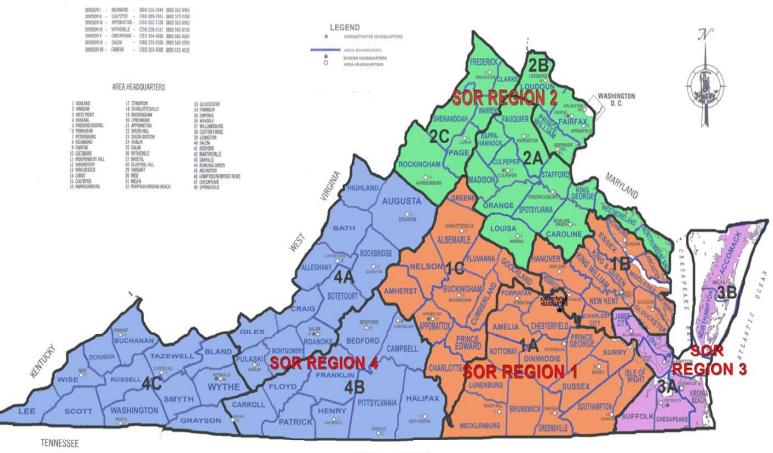
Failure to Register Convictions by Jurisdiction 12/1/2009 – 11/30/2010

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
ACCOMACK CO	2
ALBEMARLE CO	11
ALEXANDRIA	5
ALLEGHANY CO	2
ΑΡΡΟΜΑΤΤΟΧ CO	5
ARLINGTON CO	3
AUGUSTA CO	2
BEDFORD CO	3
BLAND CO	1
BOTETOURT CO	1
BRISTOL	6
BRUNSWICK CO	7
BUCKINGHAM CO	1
CAROLINE CO	5
CARROLL CO	2
CHARLOTTE CO	1
CHARLOTTESVILLE	8
CHESAPEAKE	13
CHESTERFIELD CO	20
CULPEPER CO	3
DANVILLE	10
FAIRFAX CITY	1
FAIRFAX CO	22
FAUQUIER CO	3
FLOYD CO	3
FLUVANNA CO	2
FRANKLIN CO	1
FREDERICK CO	3
FREDERICKSBURG	3
GALAX	1
GREENE CO	2
HALIFAX CO	2
HAMPTON	26
HANOVER CO	13
HARRISONBURG	2
HENRICO CO	28
HENRY CO	3
ISLE OF WIGHT CO	1
JAMES CITY CO	1
KING GEORGE CO	2
LANCASTER CO	2
LOUDOUN CO	7

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
LOUISA CO	3
LUNENBURG CO	1
LYNCHBURG	9
MADISON CO	4
MANASSAS	1
MARTINSVILLE	1
MIDDLESEX CO	34
MONTGOMERY CO	5
NELSON CO	1
NEWPORT NEWS	28
NORFOLK	52
NORTHAMPTON CO	2
ORANGE CO	2
PAGE CO	2
PATRICK CO	1
PETERSBURG	13
PITTSYLVANIA CO	8
PORTSMOUTH	24
PRINCE EDWARD CO	1
PRINCE GEORGE CO	1
PRINCE WILLIAM CO	14
PULASKI CO	4
RAPPAHANNOCK CO	2
RICHMOND CITY	42
ROANOKE	15
ROANOKE CO	1
ROCKINGHAM CO	1
RUSSELL CO	3
SMYTH CO	1
SPOTSYLVANIA CO	9
STAFFORD CO	8
STAUNTON	3
SUFFOLK	4
TAZEWELL CO	2
VIRGINIA BEACH	24
WASHINGTON CO	3
WAYNESBORO	2
WESTMORELAND CO	1
WILLIAMSBURG	12
WINCHESTER	6
WYTHE CO	2
YORK CO	1
TOTAL	592

Virginia Department of State Police Sex Offender Registry (SOR) Regions

TELEPHONE NUMBERS



NORTH CAROLINA