

Bedford County Sheriff's Office
Internet Crimes Against Children
Annual Report
July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

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Annual 07/01/08 through 06/30/09

The Bedford County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the administration of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) grant funds awarded by The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Programs (OJJDP). The Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SOVA ICAC), under the code name, Operation Blue Ridge Thunder is a regional task force staffed by six full time Investigators and one Staff Analyst from the Bedford County Sheriff's Office. The task force is a multi-agency collaboration established by the Bedford County Sheriff's Office to combat crimes against children. Investigators and supervisory personnel assigned to the SOVA ICAC task force by BCSO work only ICAC related cases with ICAC funding. During the first half of the semi annual reporting period the SOVA ICAC was fully staffed. The positions within the SOVA ICAC include a working Lieutenant, working Sergeant, four investigators, and one full time administrative analyst. The term "working" indicates that these positions are not only supervisory positions but they also carry active investigations and handle complaints. Currently the work load is broken up in that the Lieutenant handles a limited number of active investigations, a limited number of forensic exams and the majority of the day to day supervision. The Sergeant of the unit handles a limited number of proactive investigations, reviews all of the Cyber tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and assists with the day to day supervision. The investigators work all online enticements both proactive and reactive. The investigators also handle all peer to peer investigations and proactive and reactive social networking investigations, gaming investigations and cybertips. All personnel take daily complaints from citizens as they are reported (reactive). The Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is responsible for the ICAC investigations in the Commonwealth of Virginia with the exception of the geographic area assigned to the Virginia State police in Northern Virginia. The SOVA ICAC continues to work with the West Virginia State Police who have a signed Memorandum of Agreement to assist with ICAC investigations. The following pages summarize the activities of the SOVA ICAC and the agencies affiliated with the SOVA ICAC. The Memorandum of Understanding program with affiliate agencies continues to show an increase in the number of active members.

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TASK FORCE AGREEMENT AGENCIES

The geographic area of the SOVA-ICAC has presented a challenge over the years. In an attempt to better serve the agencies associated with the SOVA-ICAC the decision was made to organize the area by districts. The SOVA ICAC task force had 4 additional agencies that signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, bringing the YTD total to sixty-four. In addition there are three additional agencies that are in the process of completing the MOU paper work. The following is a list of the participating agencies by district.

District ONE—Bedford County Sheriff's Office

Alleghany County Sheriff's Office
Amherst County Sheriff's Office
Appomattox County Sheriff's Office
Bedford City Police Department
Bedford County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Bedford County Probation and Parole
Buena Vista Police Department
Botetourt County Sheriff's Office
Campbell County Sheriff's Office
Covington Police Department
CVCC Police Department
Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Henry County Sheriff's Office
Liberty University Police Department
Lynchburg City Sheriff's Office
Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office
Roanoke City Police Department
Roanoke County Police Department
Town of Vinton Police Department

District TWO—Virginia Beach Police Dept.

NCIS—Norfolk

District THREE—Richmond Police Dept.

New Kent Sheriff's Office
Virginia Attorney General's Office

District FOUR—Albemarle County Police Dept.

Albemarle County Sheriff's Office
Augusta County Sheriff's Office
Charlottesville Police Department
Louisa County Sheriff's Office

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Staunton Police Department
University of VA Police Department

District FIVE—Christiansburg Police Dept.

Blacksburg Police Department
Craig County Sheriff's Office
Floyd County Sheriff's Office
Giles County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Giles County Sheriff's Office
Montgomery County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Patrick County Sheriff's Office
Radford Police Department
Radford University Police Department
Town of Pulaski Police Department

District SIX—Gloucester County Sheriff's Office

James City County Police Department
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office
US Attorney's Office—Eastern District
York County Sheriff's Office
12th MP Detachment—US Army

District SEVEN—Wise County Sheriff's Office

Appalachia Police Department
Big Stone Gap Police Department
Bluefield Town Police Department
Coeburn Police Department
Norton Police Department
Pound Police Department
St. Paul Police Department
Tazewell County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Tazewell County Sheriff's Office
Washington County Sheriff's Office
Wise County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Wise Police Department

During this annual reporting period for 2008/2009 the SOVA ICAC worked eleven proactive traveler cases and eighteen reactive traveler cases. A total of seventy-one proactive enticement cases occurred with eighty-four reactive enticement cases occurring. There were thirty-seven proactive obscenity directed toward minors cases initiated by investigators and ninety-four reactive obscenity directed toward minors cases

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reported by citizens. During this time period citizens and investigators had no report of proactive cases concerning initiated child prostitution and two reactive cases. On cases concerning child pornography the SOVA ICAC reported four proactive and twenty-eight reactive case concerning manufacturing. Distribution of child pornography cases resulted in one hundred and fifty-one proactive and fifty-nine reactive cases initiated. Possession of child pornography had one hundred and nine proactive and one hundred and twenty-three reactive cases reported. The task force had eighty-four arrests. There were three hundred and three cases that once investigated resulted in being categorized as unfounded. There were twenty-one cases that were suspended. Thirty-nine of the cases that were presented by the SOVA ICAC resulted in a plea, and fourteen cases went to trial and resulted in findings of guilty. SOVA ICAC had sixteen federal, ninety-four state and one hundred thirty-six local referrals for the year. There were ninety-eight cases that were recorded as being submitted for federal prosecution and fifteen were accepted. The SOVA ICAC had one hundred and fifty-five cybertips that were received during 2008/2009. There were twenty-four case submissions to the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) for the reporting period. A total of forty-seven federal subpoenas or court orders and six hundred and fifty-three state subpoenas or court orders were obtained by task force officers, an additional nine federal and one hundred and forty-seven state search warrants were also obtained, and forty-three knock and talks were executed. Officers with the taskforce provided three hundred and ninety-six technical support functions, and two hundred and eighty-three forensic exams. During the annual reporting period for 2008/2009 the BCSO-ICAC had eighteen training sessions provided in which one hundred and eighty-three law enforcement officers, and seventy-four other professionals were trained, and eleven prosecutors. The SOVA ICAC sponsored sixty-eight ICAC personnel to attend ICAC training, and fifty-two to ICAC related training through programs other than ICAC. SOVA ICAC officers held one hundred and fifty-one presentations with eleven thousand two hundred sixty-eight persons attending. Officers participated in twenty-eight public events with twelve thousand four hundred and seventeen participants. The SOVA ICAC sponsored thirty-seven public awareness addresses during the annual report.

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A few cases of interest during the first half of the reporting period of 2009 include the following:

LOUISA COUNTY – On February 19, 2009, Louisa County ICAC Detectives arrested George Spiker, of Henrico County. Spiker was arrested after he drove from his residence to meet what he thought was a 13 year old female that he had been chatting with online. Upon arrival, he was arrested for soliciting a child under the age of 15 over the Internet for sexual purposes.

BEDFORD COUNTY - On March 17, 2009 Michael L. Harris, Blue Ridge, was convicted on 4 counts of Attempted Indecent Liberties and 4 counts of Computer Solicitation. The conviction was a result of a month long investigation involving chats between Harris and an UC posing as a minor female. He received 4 years suspended, 8 years good behavior, with the first four supervised. Additional sentencing consisted of no internet access, no unsupervised contact w/ minors, sex offender treatment if deemed necessary, and to register as a sex offender. The suspended sentence was based on statements of his simplicity and similar findings in the psychiatric evaluations. Additional information obtained during the evaluation revealed Harris' involvement in other NCMEC Cybertip Line Investigations.

STAUNTON - On March 25, 2009, Investigators with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SOVA ICAC), along with investigators from Staunton City Police Department, a SOVA ICAC Affiliate agency, executed a search warrant as part of a Peer2Peer investigation into the sharing of known or suspected child pornography. When notified of the search warrant, the suspect, Ed Walsh, admitted there was child pornography on his computer. An onsite preview of the computer confirmed the presence of several known or suspected images of child pornography. Walsh was placed under arrest, and charged with five (5) counts of possession of child pornography.

BEDFORD COUNTY - As a result of a Cyberip referral from Bedford County Sheriff's Office, Biloxi Police Department arrested Jeffrey Lee Breland of Biloxi, Mississippi .

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Bedford County had received a Cybertip from NCMEC advising of a suspect in Biloxi that was chatting online with several juveniles in numerous states, including Virginia. The case was referred to Biloxi Police Department who began conducting an undercover chat investigation with the suspect. Breland was arrested after he traveled to meet with who he thought would be a 14 year old female for sex. After the arrest, a search warrant was executed at Breland's residence . Breland awaits trial in Mississippi.

CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE COUNTY - On June 3, 2009, Brittney Demmer of Albemarle was arrested and charged with 10 counts of possession of child pornography after detectives from Charlottesville and Albemarle found videos involving child pornography. The arrest came after Charlottesville police first began investigating an IP address as one of the Charlottesville region's most active addresses for downloading and sharing child pornography. Demmer was employed as a daycare worker in the area. A search warrant of her residence was conducted and several items were seized including a laptop computer, a digital camera, two VHS tapes, two wireless Internet routers, and a Playstation 3.