

Bedford County Sheriff's Office
Internet Crimes Against Children
Annual
Progress Report
July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

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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 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 10 additional agencies that signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, bringing the Yearly total to seventy-six.

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
Botetourt County Sheriff's Office
Buena Vista Police Department
Campbell County Sheriff's Office
Covington Police Department
CVCC Police Department
Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Halifax County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Halifax County Sheriff's Office
Henry County Commonwealth Attorney'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
Southern VA Child Advocacy Center
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
Henrico County Police Department

District FOUR—Albemarle County Police Dept.

Albemarle County Sheriff's Office
Augusta County Sheriff's Office

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Charlottesville Police Department
Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office
Louisa County Sheriff's Office
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

Gloucester County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
James City County Police Department
King George County Sheriff's Office
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office
Richmond County Sheriff's Office
US Attorney's Office—Eastern District
Williamsburg/James City Co. Commonwealth Attorney's Office
York County Sheriff's Office
12th MP Detachment—US Army

District SEVEN—Washington County Sheriff's Office

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

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During the annual reporting period for 2009-2010 the SOVA ICAC worked thirteen proactive traveler cases and four reactive traveler cases. A total of fifty-two proactive enticement cases occurred with seventy reactive enticement cases occurring. There were twenty-five proactive obscenity directed toward minors cases initiated by investigators and eighty-nine reactive obscenity directed toward minors cases reported by citizens. During this time period citizens and investigators had one report of proactive cases concerning initiated child prostitution and two reactive cases. On cases concerning child pornography the SOVA ICAC reported five proactive and twenty-seven reactive cases concerning manufacturing. Distribution of child pornography cases resulted in ninety proactive and sixty-seven reactive cases initiated. Possession of child pornography had one hundred and eleven proactive and one hundred and fifteen reactive cases reported. The task force had eighty arrests. There were three hundred and eight cases that once investigated resulted in being categorized as unfounded. There were twenty-four cases that were suspended. Thirty-seven of the cases that were presented by the SOVA ICAC resulted in a plea, and twenty-one cases went to trial. SOVA ICAC had four federal, fifty-eight state, and two hundred and thirty-eight local referrals for the reporting period. There were one hundred eighty-six cases that were recorded as being submitted for federal prosecution and five were accepted. The SOVA ICAC had three hundred and ninety-four cybertips that were received during the year. There were twenty-eight case submissions to the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) for the reporting period. A total of three federal subpoenas or court orders and seven hundred and eighty-two state subpoenas or court orders were obtained by task force officers. An additional eight federal and one hundred and forty-nine state search warrants were also obtained and forty-three knock and talks were executed. Officers with the taskforce provided six hundred and sixteen technical support functions and three hundred and nineteen forensic exams. During the annual reporting period for 2009-2010 the SOVA-ICAC had twenty-seven training sessions provided in which four hundred and seventy-six law enforcement officers, fifteen other professionals, and eighty-four prosecutors were trained. The SOVA ICAC sponsored eighty-four ICAC personnel to attend ICAC training and forty-seven to ICAC related training through programs other than ICAC. SOVA ICAC officers held one hundred and thirty-four presentations with one thousand seven thousand seven

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hundred and five persons attending. Officers participated in twenty-two public events with one thousand six hundred and seventy-six participants. The SOVA ICAC sponsored fifteen public awareness addresses during the annual report for 2009-2010.

Goals, Objectives and Measurements

Goal A: To serve as the resource for Internet child sexual exploitation to the Criminal Justice community in the State of Commonwealth of Virginia.

Objective: To provide technical assistance and law enforcement support for ICAC investigations statewide. This will include taking referrals and complaints, investigative assistance, legal document support, help preparing legal process, providing education about task force resources, solicitation of partners/affiliates, and offering instruction on investigative techniques.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 the SOVA ICAC provided 616 technical assists.

Goal B: To conduct both proactive and reactive investigations.

Objective: To train additional investigators on national initiatives and work peer to peer cases and enticement or "traveler cases" during the project period and have an increase in investigations and arrests.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, the SOVA ICAC initiated 297 proactive cases and 376 reactive investigations.

Goal C: To provide forensic evidence that can be used successfully in prosecutions and to identify victims of child sexual exploitation.

Objective: Provide training, software and equipment to affiliate agency forensic examiners in an effort to expand the resources of the SOVA-ICAC, increase the unit's output, and to reduce the forensic case backlog.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, the SOVA ICAC provided 5 sessions of ImageScan Training in which 34 officers were trained. The SOVA ICAC also provided 3 Forensic Scan Training sessions in which 43 officers were trained, and 2 Peer 2 Peer Training and Undercover Chat Training in which 36 officers were trained. Officers were given the necessary equipment to take home to their agency to use in the field.

Goal D: To maximize sentencing of offenders and prevent additional victimization.

Objective: Refer cases for Federal prosecution during the project period and better coordinate community outreach through our victim specialist.

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Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, the SOVA ICAC submitted one hundred 186 cases to Federal prosecutors for review and possible acceptance for prosecution.

Goal E: To act quickly in response to Cybertips and referrals.

Objective: Respond to referrals and Cybertips within 24 hours of notification.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through July 30, 2010, the SOVA ICAC has maintained a below 36 hour average.

Goal F: To educate the public on Internet safety to prevent victimization.

Objective: To provide community presentations during the project period and work with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education on better coordinating Internet safety curriculum in the school system statewide to reach over 20,000 students and parents.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 the SOVA ICAC provided 134 presentations to 7,974 persons.

Goal G: Increase law enforcement capacity in the State of Commonwealth of Virginia.

Objective: Add new affiliate or partner agencies when possible and feasible and maintain current relationships.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 the SOVA ICAC had 10 new agencies enter into Memorandums of Understanding.

Goal H: To provide training and resource assistance to all agencies having a formal (MOU) agreement with the SOVA-ICAC program.

Objective: To host a minimum of two ICAC related trainings and to fund/equip a minimum of five agencies with software/equipment needed to perform proactive and reactive ICAC investigations.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 the SOVA ICAC hosted 5 ImageScan Training classes and 3 Forensic Scan Training classes, 2 Peer 2 Peer classes and 1 Undercover Chat class. Computer equipment was provided to 6 agencies.

Goal I: To develop partner relationships into affiliate agencies.

Objective: Convert partner relationships into affiliates through customized memorandums of understanding outlining the mission and goals of this relationship.

Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 the SOVA ICAC had 10 new agencies enter into Memorandums of Understanding.

Goal J: To support the national initiatives which are designed to provide a large scale solution to the problem of child sexual exploitation.

Objective: To continue to work peer to peer cases during the current program cycle and to enhance proactive efforts by conducting undercover chat stings and knock and talk stings.

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Status: From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 the SOVA ICAC continues to work Peer to Peer cases, undercover chats, and Cybertip referrals.

A few cases of interest during the first half of the reporting period of 2010 include the following:

- In June 2009, the Virginia Beach Police Department was advised by Spotsylvania County Police Department Detectives of an undercover operation in which an individual located in Virginia Beach was attempting to solicit a minor for sexual activity. The subject was identified as Ryan Earley. In addition to the solicitation of the Spotsylvania County undercover investigator, Earley also solicited two additional undercover investigators posing as minors located in the Tidewater Area. Investigators from NCIS and the Virginia Beach Police Department were working in an undercover capacity as minors when Earley contacted them and requested they engage in sexual activity. A search warrant was executed at Earley's place of employment. He admitted to communicating with whom he believed to be minors from his place of employment as well as from his parents' home in Norfolk, VA. Earley was subsequently charged with 2 counts of Proposing sex with someone less than 15 years old and one count of Indecent Liberties with a Child.

- On July 22nd and 23rd, 2009 Virginia Beach Police Department Detectives assisted the Chesapeake Police Department with a citizen complaint of an adult seeking sexual activity from a minor via Craigslist. William Geister, of Portsmouth, attempted to draw the undercover detectives, who had assumed the complainant's identity with permission, to his residence for sexual activity. Chesapeake detectives contacted Geister at his residence and conducted a non-custodial interview and consent search. Geister admitted to posting the ad on Craigslist and communicating with whom he believed to be a minor. Geister was subsequently arrested on Use of Communication Device to solicit a minor for sex. A forensic examination of Geister's computer revealed numerous images of child pornography. Geister entered a guilty plea and will be sentenced in April 2010. On January 16, 2010, Radford Police arrested Kevin E. Regan for possession of child pornography following the execution of a search warrant of his residence. Officers seized several computers and digital media and six marijuana plants. Regan was charged with possession of child pornography, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and obstruction of justice.

- On January 8, 2010 a Louisa County jury sentenced a Henrico man to the longest sentence for soliciting a minor for sex in Virginia's history. George Spiker was convicted on five counts of soliciting a child under the age of 15 over the internet for sexual purposes. Spiker was previously convicted in West VA of a crime that is comparable to rape of a minor in Virginia. The jury found him guilty and recommended a sentence of

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100 years.

- In January 2010, deputies and investigators from the Bedford County Sheriff's Office arrested a Bedford County woman as a result of an investigation into allegations of the woman having a sexual relationship with a minor. Angela Hackworth was arrested and held without bond. She is scheduled to enter a guilty plea to 2 counts of carnal knowledge and 2 counts of abduction.

- A Halifax County man will serve 20 years behind bars for using a computer to solicit a minor for sex. On Monday April 26, Alexander Chesbro 25, entered a guilty plea in Halifax County Circuit Court to four counts of using a computer to solicit a minor for sex of a person believed to be under 15 years of age. During the summer of 2009 while in an internet chatroom, Chesbro contacted an undercover investigator with the San Francisco State University Police Department who was posing online as a minor female. During several online conversations Chesbro solicited the undercover investigator for sex and sent illicit photographs of himself. Chesbro was arrested on September 17, 2009 by the Halifax County Sheriff's Office after being alerted by the undercover investigator.

- On April 27, 2010, Shawn Patrick Perdue, of Moneta, VA, plead guilty in Bedford Circuit Court to two counts possession of child pornography. As part of the guilty plea, Perdue was sentenced to 12 years in prison, with 5 years suspended. Perdue will begin probation after release, and will also register as a sex offender. Investigators from the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, headquartered at the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, began investigating Perdue after receiving a tip from a citizen stating that Perdue claimed he had child pornography. Information obtained during the investigation led to investigators obtaining a search warrant for Perdue's residence.