

**Actual Expenditures and Performance Results Achieved by the
Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**

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



October 2013

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Superintendent

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October 1, 2013

TO: The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell, Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Walter A. Stosch
Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

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

Pursuant to Item 417 (K.2.) of 2013 Virginia Acts of Assembly, I am respectfully submitting herewith a report on the *Actual Expenditures and Performance Results Achieved by the Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force* for the period of July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

Respectfully,

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

Superintendent

WSF/KSM/jcb

Enclosure

REPORT ON THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE DURING THE FOURTH YEAR

OVERVIEW OF THE TASK FORCE

The Northern Virginia-District of Columbia Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, otherwise known as NOVA-DC ICAC, is charged with the responsibility of investigating crimes perpetrated against children through the use of the Internet. Despite our efforts to address these complex and very serious crimes, there are still many who choose to actively prey upon our children and they are in a constant search to stay one step ahead of law enforcement.

The Internet and computers have become so commonplace in American life that all communities are impacted by their use. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Computer and Internet Use in the United States 2013 Survey, more Americans are connected to the Internet than ever before, which translates to increased access by online child sexual predators in the United States and globally. This dynamic has contributed to an increase in the overall activities of the NOVA-DC ICAC. The task force continues to experience a great number of predators willing to travel great distances and even from other countries to meet children with whom they have developed an online relationship. The NOVA-DC ICAC region is home to approximately three million residents, so law enforcement is greatly outnumbered when it comes to investigating these dangerous crimes against children. Due to the current economic downturn, many law enforcement agencies are closely evaluating their agencies' investigative and personnel priorities. However, NOVA-DC ICAC affiliate law enforcement agencies continue to keep Internet crimes against children investigations as a priority. This is in large part due to the financial support provided by the Internet Crimes Against Children Fund.

The NOVA-DC ICAC is comprised of the Virginia State Police and forty-nine partnering local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, who work aggressively to pursue those responsible for these crimes. These are the participating agencies:

NOVA-DC ICAC TASK FORCE AGENCIES

Affiliate Agency Name	Agency Type
Air Force Office of Special Investigations	Federal
Alexandria City Police Department	City/Local
Arlington County Police Department	County

Affiliate Agency Name	Agency Type
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Added 2/28/13	Federal
Clarke County Sheriff	County
Culpeper County Sheriff	County
Culpeper Police Department	City/Local
Fairfax City Police Department	City/Local
Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office Added 2/25/13	County
Fairfax County Police Department	County
Falls Church Police Department	City/Local
Fauquier County Sheriff	County
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	Federal
Federal Housing Finance Agency, Inspector General Added 3/19/13	Federal
Frederick County Sheriff	County
Fredericksburg City Police Department	City/Local
George Mason University Police Department	City/Local
Harrisonburg Police Department	City/Local
Haymarket Police Department	City/Local
Herndon Police Department	City/Local
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	Federal
Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation	Federal
Leesburg Police Department	City/Local
Loudoun County Sheriff	County
Madison County Sheriff	County
Manassas City Police Department	City/Local
Manassas Park Police Department	City/Local
Metropolitan Police Department (Washington, D.C.)	City/Local
Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)	Federal
Orange County Sheriff	County
Page County Sheriff	County
Prince William County Police Department	County
Quantico Police Department	City/Local
Rappahannock County Sheriff	County
Rockingham County Sheriff	County
Shenandoah County Sheriff	County
Spotsylvania County Sheriff	County
Stafford County Sheriff	County
Strasburg Police Department	City/Local
U.S. Court Services and Offender Supervision	Federal
U.S. Customs & Border Protection	Federal
U.S. Department of Energy	Federal
U.S. Postal Service	Federal

Affiliate Agency Name	Agency Type
Vienna Police Department	City/Local
Virginia Attorney General's Office	State
Virginia State Police	Task Force Lead
Warren County Sheriff	County
Warrenton Police Department	City/Local
Winchester City Police Department	City/Local
Woodstock Police Department	City/Local

The cooperation and collaboration of these agencies has led to many successes. These affiliated agencies work tirelessly to support one another and protect our children from those who seek to exploit their innocence. A few examples of their hard work are as follows:

- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted an investigation involving a female who sought to meet an adult male, who was selling sexual encounters with his child. The female travelled from Canada to Northern Virginia, where she was arrested. Additional investigation revealed that the female not only intended to have sexual encounters with the child, but she also planned to be impregnated by the male in order that she could molest her own child from infancy.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted an undercover operation and arrest of an adult male, who travelled from New Jersey to Northern Virginia for the purpose of sexual encounters with a 12-year-old minor.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted a child exploitation investigation involving a business operated by a Pediatrician. Follow-up investigation resulted in the arrest of the Pediatrician on numerous charges.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted an enticement investigation, where the suspect, a United States Department of Commerce employee, was later convicted of multiple felony charges. The initial arrest prevented the accused from embarking on a planned weekend trip with a group of young boys and ultimately led to the identification of several victims. Further investigation revealed that the subject had previously engaged in hands-on-offending of other juvenile victims.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted an investigation involving child exploitation. The investigation resulted in a confession, where the subject revealed that he not only downloaded the child pornography, but he reproduced it for further distribution.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted a lengthy investigation involving the use of an electronic communication device to solicit a minor. The suspect responded to an electronic advertisement requesting sex from a juvenile.

He then travelled to meet the child for the purpose of engaging in sex, and was later arrested and charged.

- As a result of an undercover operation, NOVA-DC ICAC personnel intercepted an adult male subject who had arranged to meet his minor niece for the purpose of having sexual relations.
- A NOVA-DC ICAC Cybertip investigation from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children revealed that the suspect had reportedly videoed himself molesting various children. Further, it was discovered that the suspect was a repeat offender.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted a child exploitation investigation involving a 15-year-old female. A registered sex offender confessed to receiving sexually explicit pictures and having sexual intercourse with the 15-year-old girl.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel intercepted an adult male subject who had arranged to meet a minor for the purpose of having sexual relations. This action was the result of an ongoing undercover online investigation.
- A NOVA-DC ICAC Cybertip investigation from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children revealed evidence that a father was filming inappropriate videos of his 14-year-old daughter and then posting the videos online. As a result of follow-up investigation, the offending father was arrested.
- During an undercover operation, NOVA-DC ICAC personnel encountered an individual online who sought to have sexual encounters with a minor. As the investigation developed, the French resident travelled to the United States to have sexual encounters with the juvenile and was subsequently arrested.
- The law enforcement community as a whole received information regarding an unknown subject molesting a child on video for the purpose of producing child pornography. NOVA-DC ICAC personnel discovered additional details and determined the crime occurred in Virginia. Follow-up investigation resulted in the rescue of two children who were being victimized by their great-uncle.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted a file-sharing investigation where the suspect shared numerous child pornographic files. Subsequent investigation resulted in the identification and rescue of a four-year-old male child, who was repeatedly victimized and videoed. Further, the suspect was positive for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and evidence suggested he intended to victimize other children in the coming days.

- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel developed case information from a file sharing program. In addition to possessing and distributing child pornography, the subject had previously sexually victimized his own daughter.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel engaged in a proactive initiative and discovered child pornography on a computer in the possession of an individual previously adjudicated as a violent sex offender.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted an investigation involving the sexual abuse of a minor by a local Pastor. Further investigation revealed that the Pastor's wife was aware of the sexual abuse and intimidated the victim to prevent the child from telling her parents. Both the Pastor and his wife were charged.
- NOVA-DC ICAC personnel conducted an investigation, where the suspect, who was on probation, admitted to a sexual encounter with a 13-year-old female. Further investigation revealed that the subject previously provided alcohol to several minor females, and then led them to a river area where he victimized the children.

These case notations are intended to be a very small representation of the volumes of complex and noteworthy criminal investigations being handled by the NOVA-DC ICAC Task Force. The task force is committed to providing highly efficient and professional services across its region. As such, special training and equipment are necessary on an ongoing basis to keep pace with evolving technologies and the complexities associated with these investigations. In addition to evolving technologies, media capacity continues to grow, which demands increasing efficiency for the forensic analysis of digital evidence. Details are included in the subsequent paragraphs.

**Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
Appropriation Expenditures during July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013**

PERSONNEL

Expended: \$503,205

TRAINING/TRAVEL EXPENSES

Expended: \$56,172

EQUIPMENT EXPENSES

Expended: \$223,413.81

OTHER

Expended: \$31,069

TOTALS

Initial Budget: \$843,160

Expended: \$813,860

Unexpended: \$ 29,300

* Additional cash received \$131,586

Year-end Cash Balance: \$160,889

* Additional Cash Received: The year-end cash balance is representative of cash received in excess of the appropriated amount. The agency was unaware of these monies (\$131,586) and therefore did not allocate such prior to the end of the fiscal cycle.

The remaining unexpended funds (\$29,300) result from allocated monies where items were not paid for and/or received prior to the end of the fiscal cycle. Additionally, a small portion of the unexpended funds was retained to support investigative work and/or overtime. Fortunately, these funds were not expended prior to the end of the fiscal cycle.

PERSONNEL

As a result of sustained funding support, the NOVA-DC ICAC is able to employ one supervisor, three special agents, and one computer forensic examiner. This funding also provided overtime pay for personnel to work pro-active/undercover investigations. These additional human resources enhance the task force's capacity to conduct child exploitation investigations, and further support the needs of the various affiliate agencies. Additionally, human resources impact the task force as a whole by increasing the hours dedicated to ICAC investigative work, as well as improving the continuity of administrative functions that ultimately benefits the overall efficiency of the task force. These partnerships provide resources to work cooperatively across the task force region to combat Internet crimes against children. Together, personnel initiate investigations related to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and child pornography with a goal to reduce child victimization through the identification, apprehension and prosecution of child sexual predators.

TRAINING

Task force members are required to successfully complete an essential training regimen that includes specified courses encompassing many technical topics of study. Courses normally range in duration from two days to one week, depending on the depth and complexity of the subject matter. Minimum standards of training must be achieved as well as compliance with the Internet Crimes Against Children Investigative Guidelines and Operational Standards. The focus of these training endeavors includes:

- Increasing the investigative capabilities of state and local law enforcement officers in the detection, investigation, and apprehension of Internet crimes against children offenses or offenders, including technology-facilitated child exploitation offenses.
- Providing advanced capabilities/skills and technical assistance to ICAC task forces and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the areas of investigations, forensics, prosecution, community outreach, and capacity-building, using recognized experts to assist in the development and delivery of a wide array of training programs.
- Enhancing a uniform, nationwide response to Internet crimes against children offenses, including assisting other ICAC task forces, as well as other federal, state, and local agencies with Internet crimes against children investigations and prosecutions related to the Commonwealth.
- Developing and delivering Internet crimes against children public awareness and prevention programs.

Expenses for training include tuition, transportation, fuel, lodging, parking, and meals. The following is a list of courses completed through the appropriated funding:

- **ICAC Peer to Peer Roundup**
- **Crimes Against Children Conference**
- **Forensic Interviewing of Children**
- **ICAC Peer to Peer Child Protection System**
- **Online Under Cover Basic Investigations**
- **Amber Alert Systems Training**
- **AccessData Forensic Tool Kit (FTK) Bootcamp**

TRAVEL

In order to build a robust investigative foundation, it is essential that the NOVA-DC ICAC support affiliate agencies with authorized travel-related expenses. Such expenses involve support for applicable transportation, meals and lodging for personnel attending specialized training and operational meetings. NOVA-DC ICAC personnel also travel to conduct field work and ICAC pro-active/undercover investigations, which often requires personnel to work lengthy hours. During these occasions, overnight stays away from their local area are necessary, causing lodging, per diem, and parking expenses to be incurred.

Through the appropriated funding, eleven personnel participated in pro-active undercover operations, and one supervisor worked in the field with other ICAC personnel. Additional travel expenses were incurred for one person to attend a two-day National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Cybertip Line Prioritization meeting, one person to represent the NOVA-DC ICAC at the Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney ICAC Training, and five personnel to attend ICAC/Operational meetings.

Travel is essential to promote collaboration and cooperation across the region, as well as to promote continuity of operations.

EQUIPMENT

The NOVA-DC ICAC investigates technology facilitated criminal activity. These complex investigations are conducted in an evolving environment. While emerging technologies may serve to enhance the capabilities of the investigator, they also serve to advance the criminal element making investigations even more challenging. The NOVA-DC ICAC strives to ensure that each fully participating affiliate has the necessary equipment and software to enable them to conduct thorough and comprehensive investigations. Such expenditures include equipment as well as the ongoing support and maintenance required for licenses and software updates.

Through the appropriated funding, the NOVA-DC ICAC purchased much needed equipment for member agencies, to include the following:

- **Wenger Briefcases**
- **Various Media Adapters & Adapter Kits**
- **Blu-Ray Disc Writers**
- **HP OfficeJet Printers**
- **Various Types of Digital Media Cables**
- **12v Power Inverters**
- **CelleBrite Mobile Forensic Ultimate Touch kits**
- **Audio Surveillance Microphones**
- **Computer Monitor Stands**
- **Desktop and Laptop Computers**
- **iPad applications**
- **Apple iMacs Computers**
- **Miscellaneous Software (forensic, presentation, etc.)**
- **USB Flash Drives**
- **Computer Memory**
- **24" Monitors**
- **MacBook Air Disc SuperDrives**
- **Video Graphics Cards**
- **Various Internal Hard Drives**
- **Routers and Switches**
- **Custom Vehicle Storage Vault**
- **APC Back-up Power Supplies**
- **Black Hawk Entry Tool Kit**
- **Streamlight Flashlights and Chargers**
- **Motorola Radio Chargers**
- **Welbilt Handtrucks**

OTHER

A recent report by the United States Marshals Service Behavioral Analysis Unit denoted specific findings with regards to secondary stress in Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) personnel. The report seeks to provide an idea of how secondary stress can impact the investigator and loved ones; communicate which coping skills were related to lower secondary traumatic stress scores; and share the advice offered by significant others of ICAC personnel.

Through the use of appropriated funds, the NOVA-DC ICAC has been proactive in its approach to the issues surrounding secondary stress. Consistent with the report, NOVA-DC ICAC personnel operate in a supportive work environment; meaning one where respondents feel their co-workers can be relied on in difficult situations, are easy to communicate with, and are willing to extend help on challenging cases. Affiliates are invited to take part in peer discussion groups and they are afforded the confidential services of a highly qualified mental health provider. The task force recognizes the value of human resources and the

serious nature of secondary stress. The Mental Wellness Program continues to provide support and guidance in an effort to protect the welfare of personnel subjected to disturbing and graphic depiction of child victimization.

In addition to the Mental Wellness Program, other miscellaneous or recurring costs are necessary for the support of the ICAC office and personnel. Through the appropriated funding, the ICAC was able to procure/provide the following:

- **Office Supplies**
- **Ink and Toner Cartridges**
- **Misc. Vehicle Expenses (Fuel, Insurance, Repair, and Maintenance)**
- **General Liability Insurance**
- **Meals Reimbursement**
- **Phone Reimbursement**
- **Payroll Service Bureau Yearly Fee**
- **Professional Services – Mental Wellness Program**
- **Software/Hardware Maintenance and Warranty Renewals**
- **Anti-Virus Software VITA Fees (for previously purchased software)**
- **Line of Duty VRS Fee**
- **Workers' Compensation Yearly Fee**

Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Performance Results and Enforcement Activities

The hard work and dedication of the many NOVA-DC ICAC personnel are documented in numerous reports, media releases, and public presentations. Additionally, the NOVA-DC ICAC is mandated to report monthly to the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DOJ/OJJDP). The various metrics included in the DOJ/OJJDP Reports have been compiled and incorporated below for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

Overall, the NOVA-DC ICAC experienced an increase of approximately 12 percent in the number of documented complaints and a 20 percent increase in the number of investigations from the previous fiscal year. This dynamic also included a decrease of approximately 20 percent in the number of arrests. This decrease results from many variables, to include referrals and complaints that were investigated, but lacked criminal merit; a metric supported by a nearly 28 percent increase in the number of unfounded and suspended case dispositions. To further compound this dynamic, reporting by Electronic Service Providers has increased, which is supported by a 23 percent increase in the number of Cybertips received. However, it is important to note that many Cybertips are not actionable, meaning they lack criminal merit. Despite this dynamic, task force personnel must continue to examine each Cybertip to ensure no victim is overlooked. Further, NOVA-DC ICAC personnel planned, obtained, and executed 482 search warrants, which is a 17 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. Additionally, the 482 search warrants represent a 25 percent increase in the number of state/local search warrants.

The NOVA-DC ICAC personnel routinely support one another in various ways. Such support and collaboration is reflected in a 54 percent increase in the number of technical assistance and forensic exams. Also, the task force engaged in community outreach with 8,459 citizens; an increase of six percent over the past fiscal year.

Documented Complaints

Traveler	Proactive	47
	Reactive	12
Enticement	Proactive	31
	Reactive	45
Obscenity Directed to Minors	Proactive	15
	Reactive	40
Child Prostitution	Proactive	15
	Reactive	37

Manufacture Child Pornography	Proactive	12
	Reactive	52
Distribution of Child Pornography	Proactive	145
	Reactive	83
Possession of Child Pornography	Proactive	32
	Reactive	82
<u>Case Information</u>		
Case Dispositions		
	Unfounded	70
	Suspended ¹	36
	Plea	78
	Trial	7
Case Referrals		
	Federal	76
	State	46
	Local	28
Submitted for Federal Prosecution		88
Accepted for Federal Prosecution		81
<u>Number of Investigations</u>		565
<u>Arrests</u>		159
<u>Goals</u>		
Cybertips Received		1,037
CVIP Submissions		19
Affiliated Agencies Added		3
Child Victims Identified		
	CVIP	140
	Cases	17
<u>Court Actions</u>		
Subpoenas or Court Orders		
	Federal	379
	State/Local	415
Search Warrants		
	Federal	100
	State/Local	382
<u>Technical Assists</u>		
Technical Support		637
Forensic Exams		1,553

Training

Training Sessions Provided	17
Law Enforcement Trained	344
Prosecutors Trained	1
Other Professions Trained	1
Number sent to ICAC Training	59
Number sent to Other Training	43

Community Outreach

Presentations	63
Number of Attendees	5,740
Public Events	8
Number of Attendees	2,719
Public Awareness	9

Footnote:

1. *Suspended – Inactive case closed due to lack of investigative leads*