

***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 2014

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Superintendent**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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January 1, 2014

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 the Appropriation Act, Item 417, G.2. (Regular Session 1, 2013), 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 October 16, 2012, through October 15, 2013.

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 the Appropriation Act, Item 417, G.2. (Regular Session 1, 2013), 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.

Creation and Staffing

The 2006 Session of the Virginia General Assembly allocated the Virginia State Police 45 sworn FTEs (full time equivalents) as an enforcement component of the Sex Offender Registry.

In July 2006, the Sex Offender Investigative Unit (SOIU) was established, consisting of one first sergeant position, four sergeant positions, and forty trooper positions. This unit was placed within 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 of the sex offender registry laws pursuant to Title 9.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. To ensure proper distribution of these established positions, an in-depth analysis of the existing sex offender population was conducted, resulting in the creation of four regions, with one sergeant and ten troopers assigned to each region. To further ensure efficiency, each region was divided into areas or small geographical work units to ensure that manpower was distributed evenly and ensure the sex offender population is properly served.

In 2006, when the SOIU was originally conceived, the offender to trooper ratio was 120:1. In the seven years since the implementation of the SOIU, legislative changes requiring additional types of offenders to register, coupled with the growth of the sex offender population, has pushed the ratio of sex offenders to troopers to 204:1.

Currently the SOIU monitors, registers, re-registers, and verifies employment and residency of 8,145 sex offenders. The *2010 Manpower Augmentation Plan* staffing model recommends the Department assign one trooper per 100 sex offenders living in Virginia communities. Implementation of this staffing model would require 42 additional troopers.

Effective July 1, 2012, 43 civilian compliance officer positions within the SOIU were authorized. The positions were advertised in March 2012, in anticipation of the newly created positions. The Department received 2,616 applications. The applicants were screened, interviewed and underwent a thorough background investigation. Twenty-five compliance officers were hired on July 9, 2012. The compliance officers completed two weeks of training at the Virginia State Police Academy, receiving training in eighteen different topics, to include sex offender laws, methods of effective information gathering, database utilization, report writing, civil liability, ethics and leadership, and defensive tactics. Upon graduating, the compliance officers were assigned to SOIU troopers for completion of field training. An additional 15 compliance officers were hired October 15, 2012, and also completed their academy and field training. During 2013, some of the compliance officers have resigned, and several more have been hired. Forty-two compliance officers are currently employed, with the only vacant position being the Danville duty post. The Department is currently in the process of filling this position.

The compliance officers complete all required training and re-certifications that may arise. They have access to all the databases necessary to adequately perform their

jobs. They are issued a cellular telephone, small purchase credit card, and voyager card. Additionally, they are supplied with oleoresin capsicum (pepper spray) for personal defense, a pepper spray holder, a flashlight, a flashlight ring, and a clipboard. They are issued laptop computers and STARS radios (purchased through a Byrne/JAG grant) are installed in their issued Nissan Versas. The radio provides them an added level of security via a means of communication to call for assistance if they are threatened or assaulted by the convicted sex offenders they encounter during the course of completing their verification assignments.

A thorough analysis was conducted regarding the location of registered sex offenders, resulting in a matrix for the assignment of the compliance officers based upon sex offender population density. The compliance officers continue to conduct and complete assigned home and employment verifications, to include both the semi-annual and 30-day verifications required by statute. In addition to the verifications, they also complete the necessary reports, perform other administrative/clerical duties, and are available for court appearances and testimony. The Virginia Department of State Police uses them to complement troopers in the SOIU, with the goal of easing the verification workload of the troopers so they can focus on the criminal investigations.

An office services specialist II is needed in each of the four regions for clerical support of the SOIU. Each region of the SOIU consists of 21-23 sworn personnel and compliance officers, with no support personnel to assist with the flow of the vast quantity of paperwork. The regions have essentially doubled in size since July, 2012. During the past year, the SOIU troopers have initiated 2,798 criminal investigations, which is a 12 percent increase from the previous year. The generation of criminal cases and the subsequent investigations conducted by the troopers will only increase as a result of the compliance officers' efforts. To allow the sergeants more time to perform case reviews and provide proper oversight, civilian support staff is needed.

Goals and Objectives

The overall objective of the SOIU 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*. The SOIU is committed to monitoring and prosecuting sex offenders who fail to comply with Title 9.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. The following information provides an overview of the production and progress of the SOIU.

Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry (SOR) Verifications

As of October 16, 2013, there were 20,360 sex offenders listed on the Virginia State Police Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry. They are divided into three groups: (1) 3,502 registrants under the purview of the Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Services, (2) 8,145 sex offenders whose registration and verifications are the responsibility of the Department of State Police, and (3) the remaining 8,713 registrants who are incarcerated in jails or prisons across the state.

The Virginia Department of State Police has developed and maintains a web-based system for recording and monitoring residential and employment address verifications.

This database is utilized by Virginia State Police troopers and compliance officers, as well as Department of Corrections (DOC) probation and parole officers tasked with completing the verification process. Our agency conducts the training, and these probation and parole officers, as well as the troopers and compliance officers assigned to the SOIU, are trained in the system.

In the past twelve months, from October 16, 2012, to October 15, 2013, VSP SOIU conducted 20,637 verifications of home and work addresses.

Registry Violations

In the past twelve months, from October 16, 2012, through October 15, 2013, the Virginia State Police conducted 2,798 criminal investigations for failing to register pursuant to § 9.1-902 and providing false information pursuant to §18.2-472.1. During this same period, there were 583 convictions from arrests made across the Commonwealth by the SOIU for violations of the aforementioned offenses. Many cases are still pending trial. These investigations were 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. The SOIU received 603 tips regarding potential registry violations through the Department's Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry website. Virtually all of them required 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 has 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 – In September, 2013, VSP assisted DOC Probation and Parole during a Richmond/Petersburg/Hopewell Tri-Cities probation violation “round-up.” Numerous detention orders (PB 15 arrest authority) were served throughout the Tri-Cities area.
- VSP and DOC - Offenders are monitored through joint initiatives, such as the Halloween meetings that took place at many Probation and Parole offices. These meetings were designed to monitor offender movement during this children's celebration of the fall season, and also educate the offenders about their registration requirements.
- VSP and the United States Marshals Service (USMS) – VSP collaborates with the USMS to apprehend violent sex offenders at large across the country. Once

located, VSP SOIU personnel team with the local VSP Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Fugitive Apprehension Unit to transport the fugitive back to Virginia.

- VSP and the USMS – Operation Spring Checkup commenced on March 4, 2013, and concluded on June 28, 2013. This joint operation was a sex offender compliance/enforcement initiative targeting violations of the Virginia Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry and the Adam Walsh Act by sex offenders located within SOIU Region IV. There were approximately 752 registered sex offenders targeted for verification within these 32 counties. Operation Spring Checkup also supplied our Region IV personnel with 24 hours of overtime pay each. Additionally, 23 Garmin Nuvi 42LM GPS units and one Fujitsu ScanSnap S1500 scanner were purchased by VSP and reimbursed by the USMS Western District of Virginia.
- VSP and other states - VSP worked with numerous out-of-state registries to locate and apprehend absconders who crossed state lines to escape compliance with sex offender registration requirements. This enables the SOIU troopers and compliance officers to extend their network of contacts.
- 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 improving the line of communication throughout Virginia's criminal justice system.
- VSP and local agencies – On February 9, 2013, VSP participated in Operation Verification with the City of Fairfax P.D. and Prince William County P.D. The mission of this assignment was to conduct sex offender residence and employment verifications, as well as investigate violations and arrest offenders not in compliance with statutory requirements. During this assignment, approximately 90 registered sex offenders were targeted for verification.
- VSP and local agencies – VSP, Caroline County, King George County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, and the City of Fredericksburg have initiated the establishment of a Child Abduction Response Team.
- VSP and daycare centers – During the months of September and October, 2013, a Region III compliance officer conducted four sexual offender awareness presentations for local daycare centers.
- VSP and U.S. Postal Service – VSP has conducted presentations at local post offices, explaining their critical role in delivering the certified letters to the registered offenders.

Sex Offender Investigative Unit

The below data represents the time period of October 16, 2012, to October 15, 2013, and is provided to illustrate the quantity and quality of work performed by the SOIU.

Address Verifications per Region

Region	# To Be Verified	# Verified	Percent Completed
Region I	0	5,467	100%
Region II	0	4,859	100%
Region III	0	5,016	100%
Region IV	0	5,295	100%
Totals	0	20,637	100%

Address Verifications per Region

Region	Home Address Change	Home Initial Verification	Home Semi-Annual Verification	Work Address Change	School Address Change	Other
Region I	944	65	3,226	723	31	478
Region II	767	76	2,984	634	17	381
Region III	893	43	3,054	554	45	427
Region IV	1,025	70	3,240	562	17	381
Totals	3,629	254	12,504	2,473	110	1,667

Criminal Investigations per Region From October 16, 2012, to October 15, 2013

Location	# Cases
Region I	853
Region II	539
Region III	897
Region IV	509
Total	2,798

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

Failure to Register Convictions by Jurisdiction 10/16/2012 – 10/15/2013

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
ACCOMACK CO	1
ALBEMARLE CO	10
ALLEGHANY CO	1
AMHERST CO	3
APPOMATTOX CO	1
ARLINGTON CO	6
BEDFORD CO	1
BRUNSWICK CO	2
BUCKINGHAM CO	1
CAROLINE CO	2
CARROLL CO	1
CHARLES CITY CO	1
CHESTERFIELD CO	31
CULPEPER CO	3
DINWIDDIE CO	1
FAIRFAX CO	26
FAUQUIER CO	1
FLOYD CO	1
FLUVANNA CO	1
FRANKLIN CO	7
FREDERICK CO	1
GILES CO	3
GLOUCESTER CO	1
GRAYSON CO	1
GREENE CO	1
HALIFAX CO	5
HANOVER CO	6
HENRICO CO	32
HENRY CO	3
ISLE OF WIGHT CO	2
KING & QUEEN CO	1
LEE CO	2
LOUDOUN CO	3
LOUISA CO	3
MATHEWS CO	1
MECKLENBURG CO	4
MONTGOMERY CO	1
NORTHAMPTON CO	3
NORTHUMBERLAND CO	1
ORANGE CO	1
PAGE CO	1
PATRICK CO	1
PITTSYLVANIA CO	5
POWHATAN CO	3

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
PRINCE EDWARD CO	2
PRINCE WILLIAM CO	12
PULASKI CO	3
RICHMOND CO	2
ROANOKE CO	1
ROCKINGHAM CO	2
SHENANDOAH CO	8
SMYTH CO	2
SPOTSYLVANIA CO	2
STAFFORD CO	4
SURRY CO	1
TAZEWELL CO	2
WARREN CO	2
WASHINGTON CO	2
WISE CO	4
BRISTOL	1
CHARLOTTESVILLE	12
CHESAPEAKE	6
COLONIAL HEIGHTS	2
DANVILLE	10
EMPORIA	1
FAIRFAX CITY	1
FREDERICKSBURG	9
HAMPTON	11
HOPEWELL	4
LYNCHBURG	14
MARTINSVILLE	3
NEWPORT NEWS	12
NORFOLK	72
PETERSBURG	17
PORTSMOUTH	28
RICHMOND	50
ROANOKE	32
STAUNTON	3
SUFFOLK	3
VIRGINIA BEACH	38
WAYNESBORO	7
WILLIAMSBURG	4
WINCHESTER	8
TOTAL	583

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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER
OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER
OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER
OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER
OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER
OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER
OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER
OFFICE	NUMBER	AREA	PHONE NUMBER

AREA HEADQUARTERS

1. ARLAND	17. DANFORTH	33. QUINCY
2. WINGAN	18. DANVILLE	34. FRANKLIN
3. WEST POINT	19. BRANFORD	35. DANFORTH
4. WINDY	20. CROSBURG	36. WINDY
5. ROSSBORO	21. APPOMATTOX	37. WINDY
6. PORTLAND	22. SOUTH HILL	38. CLAYTON
7. WELLSBORO	23. SOUTH HILL	39. CLAYTON
8. HONOR	24. HALL	40. HALL
9. HONOR	25. HALL	41. HONOR
10. LITTLETON	26. WYTHEVILLE	42. WYTHEVILLE
11. WYTHEVILLE	27. WYTHE	43. WYTHE
12. WYTHEVILLE	28. CLAYTON	44. CLAYTON
13. WYTHEVILLE	29. WYTHE	45. WYTHE
14. WYTHEVILLE	30. WYTHE	46. WYTHE
15. WYTHEVILLE	31. WYTHE	47. WYTHE
16. WYTHEVILLE	32. WYTHE	48. WYTHE

LEGEND

- ▲ ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
- AREA HEADQUARTERS
- DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
- AREA HEADQUARTERS

