

**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 2015

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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January 1, 2015

TO: The Honorable Terry R. McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan
Co-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

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

The Honorable S. Chris Jones
Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee

Pursuant to the Appropriation Act, Item 414 H.2. (Special Session I, 2014), 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, 2013, through October 15, 2014.

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, 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 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. Each region is further divided into smaller geographical areas to 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 eight 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 218:1. 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.

Currently the SOIU monitors, registers, re-registers, and verifies employment and residency of 8,726 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 47 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-four 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 & 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. Over the last two years, some of the compliance officers have resigned, and more have been hired. Forty compliance officers are currently employed, with the only vacant positions being the Charlottesville, Hampton, and Norfolk duty posts. The Department is currently in the process of filling these positions.

The compliance officers will complete all required training and re-certifications that may arise. They will 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. It serves as a means of communication if they are threatened or assaulted by the convicted sex offenders they encounter, during the course of 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 on 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 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 2,873 criminal investigations, which is a three 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 productivity and progress of the SOIU.

Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry (SOR) Verifications

As of November 25, 2014, there were 21,342 sex offenders listed on the Virginia State Police Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry. They are divided into three groups: (1) 3,478 registrants under the purview of the Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Services, (2) 8,726 sex offenders whose registration and verifications are the responsibility of the Department of State Police, and (3) the remaining 9,138 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, 2013, to October 15, 2014, VSP SOIU conducted 21,605 verifications of home, work, and school addresses.

Registry Violations

In the past twelve months, from October 16, 2013, through October 15, 2014, the Virginia State Police conducted 2,873 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 514 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 555 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 – VSP 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 - Offenders are monitored through joint initiatives, such as the Halloween meetings that take place at many Probation and Parole District Offices. These meetings are designed to monitor offender movement during this children's celebration of the fall season, and also educate the offenders on their registration requirements.
- VSP and DOC – During 2014, the SOIU set up meetings with Probation and Parole District Offices to provide probationary offenders the contact information for troopers and compliance officers. This information is needed by offenders when they have questions, or when they have any changes that need to be reported.

- VSP and DOC - Probation and Parole District 15 is scheduled to meet with Region IV staff to discuss operational efficiency and enhanced communication between the two entities. This was delayed until December 3, 2014, after completion of SOIU refresher training.
- VSP and the United States Marshals Service (USMS) – VSP SOIU Regions I, II, and IV now each have a trooper assigned to the USMS Task Force.
- 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 Fugitive Apprehension Unit to transport the fugitive back to Virginia.
- VSP and the United States Marshals Service (USMS) – Operation Big Lick commenced on May 5, 2014, and concluded on May 17, 2014. 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 100 registered sex offenders targeted for verification within these 32 counties.
- VSP and the United States Marshals Service (USMS) – Operation Summer Shutdown commenced on September 7, 2014, and concluded on September 27, 2014. 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 200 registered sex offenders targeted for verification within these 32 counties.
- 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 other states – On January 15, 2014, Region II personnel conducted training with the Washington, D.C. SOR to coordinate better reporting between entities. This was in regard to offenders living or working between the jurisdictions.
- VSP and other state agencies - Region IV personnel reached out to the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health. Each entertained an SOIU trooper at their regular meetings. This facilitation has generated two new cases.

- 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.
- VSP and local agencies – VSP, Caroline County, King George County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, and the City of Fredericksburg are in developmental stages of establishing a Child Abduction Response Team.
- VSP and local agencies – On January 9, January 20, and March 13, 2014, Region II personnel conducted SOR training for the Arlington County Sheriff's Office.
- VSP and local agencies – On February 20, 2014, Region II personnel met with Prince William County Risk Management regarding school-aged convicted sex offenders. On the same date, SOIU personnel met with Prince William County Child Protective Services regarding convicted sex offenders residing with children.
- VSP and educational facilities – On January 8, 2014, Region IV personnel met with Roanoke County School Resource Officers to collaborate and enhance each other's operation. Both entities now have contact information and a framework for approaching investigations with one another.
- VSP and educational facilities – A Region II trooper instructed an informational class for criminal justice majors at Germanna Community College. The subject matter pertained to sex offender registration requirements.
- VSP and daycare centers – During 2014, a Region III compliance officer conducted 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. This collaboration has been effective in reducing mail issues across the state. When an issue arises, the OIG Special Agent is contacted to facilitate corrective action.
- VSP and U.S. Postal Service - During the months of April and May, 2014, Region III troopers and compliance officers conducted four sexual offender awareness presentations for local post offices. The emphasis was on the offenders' obligations and the importance of the delivery of the certified letters.

Sex Offender Investigative Unit

The below data represents the time period of October 16, 2013, to October 15, 2014, 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 One	0	5,769	100%
Region Two	0	5,139	100%
Region Three	0	5,189	100%
Region Four	0	5,508	100%
Totals	0	21,605	100%

Address Verifications per Region

Region	Home Address Change	Home Initial Verification	Home Semi-Annual Verification	Work Address Change	School Address Change	Other
Region One	944	44	3465	734	20	562
Region Two	701	78	3232	682	26	420
Region Three	861	80	3279	534	33	402
Region Four	979	56	3489	564	25	395
Totals	3,485	258	13,465	2,514	104	1,779

Criminal Investigations per Region From October 16, 2013, to October 15, 2014

Location	# Cases
Region One	880
Region Two	597
Region Three	796
Region Four	600
Total	2,873

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

Failure to Register Convictions by Jurisdiction 10/16/2013 – 10/15/2014

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
ALBEMARLE CO	1
ALEXANDRIA	1
ALLEGHANY CO	4
ARLINGTON CO	5
AUGUSTA CO	3
BEDFORD CO	2
BRISTOL	2
BRUNSWICK CO	1
BUCHANAN CO	2
CAMPBELL CO	6
CAROLINE CO	1
CARROLL CO	2
CHARLOTTESVILLE	5
CHESAPEAKE	7
CHESTERFIELD CO	55
CULPEPER CO	6
DANVILLE	6
DINWIDDIE CO	1
EMPORIA	1
ESSEX CO	2
FAIRFAX CO	17
FAUQUIER CO	3
FLOYD CO	1
FRANKLIN CITY	1
FRANKLIN CO	5
FREDERICK CO	4
FREDERICKSBURG	1
GLOUCESTER CO	2
GREENSVILLE CO	2
HALIFAX CO	4
HAMPTON	5
HANOVER CO	5
HENRICO CO	23
HENRY CO	2
HOPEWELL	5
ISLE OF WIGHT CO	3
KING & QUEEN CO	1
KING WILLIAM CO	1
LANCASTER CO	1
LOUDOUN CO	1
LOUISA CO	2
LUNENBURG CO	4
LYNCHBURG	10
MARTINSVILLE	2

JURISDICTION NAME	COUNT
MATHEWS CO	1
MECKLENBURG CO	2
MONTGOMERY CO	1
NEW KENT CO	2
NEWPORT NEWS	19
NORFOLK	53
NORTHUMBERLAND CO	2
ORANGE CO	1
PETERSBURG	17
PITTSYLVANIA CO	8
PORTSMOUTH	8
PRINCE EDWARD CO	3
PRINCE GEORGE CO	2
PRINCE WILLIAM CO	23
PULASKI CO	1
RICHMOND CITY	63
RICHMOND CO	1
ROANOKE	11
ROANOKE CO	10
ROCKBRIDGE CO	1
ROCKINGHAM CO	3
RUSSELL CO	2
SCOTT CO	1
SHENANDOAH CO	4
SOUTHAMPTON CO	2
SPOTSYLVANIA CO	4
STAFFORD CO	3
STAUNTON	2
SUFFOLK	1
SURRY CO	1
SUSSEX CO	1
VIRGINIA BEACH	27
WARREN CO	2
WAYNESBORO	4
WESTMORELAND CO	2
WILLIAMSBURG	3
WINCHESTER CITY	3
WISE CO	1
YORK CO	1
TOTAL	514

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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

OVENYI - ROANOKE	804-513-3444	000-523-8000
OVENYI - CULPEPER	540-626-1401	000-527-1700
OVENYI - APPOMATTOX	540-632-1128	000-543-0000
OVENYI - HIGHLAND	540-328-4100	000-543-4100
OVENYI - CHESTERFIELD	757-624-6828	000-585-8800
OVENYI - SALEM	540-375-7100	000-543-0000
OVENYI - FAYETTE	757-421-4300	000-513-4300

LEGEND

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

AREA HEADQUARTERS

1 GORDON	17 SWAINSON	30 GUILFORD
2 WINDSOR	18 DANVILLE	31 FRANKLIN
3 WEST POINT	19 BRADFORD	32 DANBURY
4 WINDSOR	20 LEBANON	33 WINDSOR
5 ROSSBORO	21 APPARENTIA	34 WILKES
6 PORTLAND	22 SOUTH BELL	35 WILKESBORO
7 WILKESBORO	23 SOUTH BELL	36 CLAYTON FORCE
8 HICKORY	24 SOUTH BELL	37 CLAYTON
9 HARRIS	25 SOUTH BELL	38 SALEM
10 LEBANON	26 SOUTH BELL	39 SALEM
11 HARRISBORO	27 SOUTH BELL	40 SALEM
12 HARRISBORO	28 SOUTH BELL	41 SALEM
13 HARRISBORO	29 SOUTH BELL	42 SALEM
14 HARRISBORO	30 SOUTH BELL	43 SALEM
15 HARRISBORO	31 SOUTH BELL	44 SALEM
16 HARRISBORO	32 SOUTH BELL	45 SALEM
17 HARRISBORO	33 SOUTH BELL	46 SALEM
18 HARRISBORO	34 SOUTH BELL	47 SALEM
19 HARRISBORO	35 SOUTH BELL	48 SALEM
20 HARRISBORO	36 SOUTH BELL	49 SALEM
21 HARRISBORO	37 SOUTH BELL	50 SALEM
22 HARRISBORO	38 SOUTH BELL	51 SALEM
23 HARRISBORO	39 SOUTH BELL	52 SALEM
24 HARRISBORO	40 SOUTH BELL	53 SALEM
25 HARRISBORO	41 SOUTH BELL	54 SALEM
26 HARRISBORO	42 SOUTH BELL	55 SALEM
27 HARRISBORO	43 SOUTH BELL	56 SALEM
28 HARRISBORO	44 SOUTH BELL	57 SALEM
29 HARRISBORO	45 SOUTH BELL	58 SALEM
30 HARRISBORO	46 SOUTH BELL	59 SALEM
31 HARRISBORO	47 SOUTH BELL	60 SALEM
32 HARRISBORO	48 SOUTH BELL	61 SALEM
33 HARRISBORO	49 SOUTH BELL	62 SALEM
34 HARRISBORO	50 SOUTH BELL	63 SALEM
35 HARRISBORO	51 SOUTH BELL	64 SALEM
36 HARRISBORO	52 SOUTH BELL	65 SALEM
37 HARRISBORO	53 SOUTH BELL	66 SALEM
38 HARRISBORO	54 SOUTH BELL	67 SALEM
39 HARRISBORO	55 SOUTH BELL	68 SALEM
40 HARRISBORO	56 SOUTH BELL	69 SALEM
41 HARRISBORO	57 SOUTH BELL	70 SALEM
42 HARRISBORO	58 SOUTH BELL	71 SALEM
43 HARRISBORO	59 SOUTH BELL	72 SALEM
44 HARRISBORO	60 SOUTH BELL	73 SALEM
45 HARRISBORO	61 SOUTH BELL	74 SALEM
46 HARRISBORO	62 SOUTH BELL	75 SALEM
47 HARRISBORO	63 SOUTH BELL	76 SALEM
48 HARRISBORO	64 SOUTH BELL	77 SALEM
49 HARRISBORO	65 SOUTH BELL	78 SALEM
50 HARRISBORO	66 SOUTH BELL	79 SALEM
51 HARRISBORO	67 SOUTH BELL	80 SALEM
52 HARRISBORO	68 SOUTH BELL	81 SALEM
53 HARRISBORO	69 SOUTH BELL	82 SALEM
54 HARRISBORO	70 SOUTH BELL	83 SALEM
55 HARRISBORO	71 SOUTH BELL	84 SALEM
56 HARRISBORO	72 SOUTH BELL	85 SALEM
57 HARRISBORO	73 SOUTH BELL	86 SALEM
58 HARRISBORO	74 SOUTH BELL	87 SALEM
59 HARRISBORO	75 SOUTH BELL	88 SALEM
60 HARRISBORO	76 SOUTH BELL	89 SALEM
61 HARRISBORO	77 SOUTH BELL	90 SALEM
62 HARRISBORO	78 SOUTH BELL	91 SALEM
63 HARRISBORO	79 SOUTH BELL	92 SALEM
64 HARRISBORO	80 SOUTH BELL	93 SALEM
65 HARRISBORO	81 SOUTH BELL	94 SALEM
66 HARRISBORO	82 SOUTH BELL	95 SALEM
67 HARRISBORO	83 SOUTH BELL	96 SALEM
68 HARRISBORO	84 SOUTH BELL	97 SALEM
69 HARRISBORO	85 SOUTH BELL	98 SALEM
70 HARRISBORO	86 SOUTH BELL	99 SALEM
71 HARRISBORO	87 SOUTH BELL	00 SALEM

