

**ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE
SOUTHERN VIRGINIA INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE**

REPORT TO THE

Governor

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Senate Finance Committee

House Appropriations Committee

Director of Department of Planning and Budget



September 15, 2016

Sheriff Michael J. Brown
Bedford County Sheriff's Office

Lt. Michael J. Harmony
SOVA-ICAC Commander



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE



September 15, 2016

TO: The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Brian J. Moran
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Co-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Co-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

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

Mr. Daniel Timberlake
Director of the Department of Planning and Budget

Pursuant to Appropriation Act – Item 398 (2016 Budget), I am respectfully submitting herewith a report on the *Actual Expenditures and Performance Results Achieved by the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force* for the Report period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Brown".

Sheriff
Bedford County, Virginia

MJB/MJH/BCA

Enclosure

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**REPORT ON THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AND PERFORMANCE
RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE SOUTHERN VIRGINIA INTERNET
CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE DURING THE
2015-2016 YEAR**

OVERVIEW OF THE TASK FORCE

The Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, otherwise known as SOVA-ICAC, was founded in 1998 with funding from Department of Justice through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. Originally the task force name was Operation Blue Ridge Thunder. The task force designation is through the Bedford County Sheriff’s Office. Initial investigative responsibilities were investigating child sexual exploitation crimes perpetrated against children through the use of the Internet but was later changed to include most all child sexual exploitation crimes perpetrated against children to include, but not limited to, child trafficking and child prostitution.

The SOVA-ICAC is comprised of 143 affiliate agencies from all areas of Law Enforcement, the private sector and Non-Government Organizations. Law Enforcement support comes from Federal, State, County City/Local, Tribal and Military agencies. An (*) denotes an agency that joined the Task Force this past year. Six new agencies signed MOU’s, with several others renewed by new chiefs or sheriffs.

Affiliate Agency Name	Agency Type
12th MP Detachment (CID) - US Army	Federal
Accomack County Sheriff’s Office *	County
Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 201-Langley Air Force Base	Federal
Albemarle County Police Department	County
Albemarle County Sheriff’s Office	County
Alleghany County Sheriff’s Office	County
Amelia County Sheriff’s Office	County
Amherst County Sheriff’s Office	County
Appalachia Police Department	City/Local
Appomattox County Sheriff’s Office	County
Augusta County Sheriff’s Office	County
Bedford County Commonwealth’s Attorney Office	County
Bedford County Sheriff’s Office	County
Bedford Department of Social Services	County
Bedford Police Department	City/Local
Big Stone Gap Police Department	City/Local
Blacksburg Police Department	City/Local

Bluefield Police Department	City/Local
Botetourt County Sheriff's Office	County
Bristol Police Department	City/Local
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	County
Buchanan County Sheriff's Office	County
Buckingham County Sheriff's Office	County
Buena Vista Police Department	City/Local
Campbell County Sheriff's Office	County
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	County
Central Virginia Community College Police Department	State
Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy	State
Charlottesville Police Department	City/Local
Chesapeake Commonwealth's Attorney Office	City/Local
Chesapeake Police Department	City/Local
Chesterfield County Police Department	County
Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol/Washington County	County
Christiansburg Police Department	City/Local
Coeburn Police Department	City/Local
Covington Police Department	City/Local
Craig County Sheriff's Office	County
Crewe Police Department	City/Local
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office	County
Danville Commonwealth's Attorney Office	City/Local
Danville Police Department	City/Local
Dickinson County Sheriff's Office *	County
Dinwiddie County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office	County
District 20 Bedford Probation and Parole	State
District 23 VA Beach Probation and Parole	State
Floyd County Sheriff's Office	County
Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office	County
Franklin County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	County
Giles County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Giles County Sheriff's Office	County
Gloucester County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Gloucester County Sheriff's Office	County
Grayson County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Grayson County Sheriff's Office	County
Greater Richmond SCAN	City/Local

Greene County Sheriff's Office	County
Greensville County Sheriff's Office	County
Halifax County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Halifax County Sheriff's Office	County
Hampton Police Department *	City/Local
Hanover County Sheriff's Office	County
Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Henrico County Police Department	County
Henry County Commonwealth 's Attorney Office	County
Henry County Sheriff's Office	County
Hillsville Police Department	City/Local
Hopewell Police Department	City/Local
Interpol	Federal
Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office *	County
James City County Police Department	County
King and Queen County Sheriff's Office	County
King George County Sheriff's Office	County
Lancaster County Sheriff's Office	County
Lebanon Police Department	City/Local
Liberty University Police Department	Private
Louisa County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Louisa County Sheriff's Office	County
Lynchburg City Sheriff's Office	County
Lynchburg Police Department	County
Martinsville Police Department	City/Local
Mathews County Sheriff's Office	County
Middlesex County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office	County
Montgomery County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	County
Naval Criminal Investigative Service - Norfolk	Federal
Nelson County Sheriff's Office	County
New Kent Sheriff's Office	County
Norfolk Police Department	City/Local
Northampton County Sheriff's Office	County
Northumberland County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Northumberland County Sheriff's Offices Office	County
Norton Police Department	City/Local
Office of the Norfolk Commonwealth Attorney Office	City/Local
Patrick County Sheriff's Office	County

Petersburg Police Department *	City/Local
Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office	County
Portsmouth Police Department	City/Local
Pound Police Department	City/Local
Powhatan Sheriff's Office	County
Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office	County
Radford Police Department	City/Local
Radford University Police Department	Private
Rich Creek Police Department	City/Local
Richmond City Police Department	City/Local
Richmond County Sheriff's Office	County
Roanoke City Police Department	City/Local
Roanoke City Sheriff's Office	County
Roanoke County Police Department	County
Rocky Mount Police Department	City/Local
Russell County Sheriff's Office	County
Saltville Police Department	City/Local
Scott County Sheriff's Office	County
Smyth County Sheriff's Office	County
Southern Virginia Child Advocacy Center	State
St. Paul Police Department	City/Local
Staunton Police Department	City/Local
Suffolk Police Department *	City/Local
Tazewell County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Tazewell County Sheriff's Office	County
Tazewell Police Department	City/Local
Pulaski Police Department	City/Local
Vinton Police Department	City/Local
U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement	Federal
United States Attorney's Office - Eastern District	Federal
University of Virginia Police Department	State
Virginia Attorney General	State
Virginia Beach Commonwealth Attorney's Office	City/Local
Virginia Beach Police	City/Local
Washington County Sheriff's Office	County
Waynesboro Police Department	City/Local
Westmoreland County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office	County
Williamsburg Police Department	City/Local
Williamsburg/James City County Commonwealth's Attorney	City/Local

Wise County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County
Wise County Sheriff's Office	County
Wise Police Department	City/Local
Wythe County Sheriff's Office	County
York County Sheriff's Office	County
York-Poquoson Commonwealth's Attorney Office	County

BUDGETARY SOVA-ICAC

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
Personnel	\$848,312.00	\$535,923.14	\$312,388.86
Equipment	\$266,141.00	\$239,110.25	\$27,030.75
Supplies	\$85,547.00	\$113,126.79	-\$27,639.79
Total	\$1,200,000.00	\$888,160.18	\$311,779.82

PERSONNEL

Funding in the Personnel category was allocated to pay salaries and benefits of core SOVA-ICAC personnel. Core SOVA-ICAC personnel operate out of the SOVA-ICAC office in Forest, Virginia, located within the confines of Bedford County, Virginia. ICAC personnel are employed by the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, or affiliates who have assigned investigators to work full-time out of the SOVA-ICAC main office. The staff is comprised of a Task Force Commander, Analyst, Cyber Tip Manager and Investigators. The investigative team is composed of two units, criminal investigations and forensic examiners. In the investigations unit, there are currently two sergeants, and two investigators, one being a K9 handler. In the forensic examiner unit, there is currently one sergeant, and two forensic investigators. In the time frame covered by this report, the SOVA-ICAC main office saw the departure of eight criminal and forensic investigators from the unit, for other law enforcement and non-law enforcement employment. Two of those employees were from other agencies that had been assigned full-time to the SOVA-ICAC main office.

EQUIPMENT

Funding in the equipment category is used to purchase equipment used solely by ICAC personnel to investigate child sexual exploitation cases and prevent and or educate on child sexual exploitation to include the following:

- Computer system for processing evidence
- Miscellaneous software
- Miscellaneous cables
- Monitors, hardware and software for video conferencing capabilities
- Forensics server
- Computer Hardware for Forensics Lab
- Computer Software for Forensics Lab
- USB storage drives
- Portable Hard Drives
- ChildID supplies/equipment
- Storage totes for evidence vault
- Server installation and maintenance

SUPPLIES and OTHER EXPENSES

Monthly recurring costs such as electric service, gas service, cellular phone contracts, copier and postage costs, alarm and building services and Internet communications services were expended from the Supplies and Other Expenses category. Other expenses include the following:

- Postage
- Office Supplies
- Ink and Toner Cartridges
- Internet Service
- Wireless Service
- Electrical Service
- Land line Service
- Alarm System
- Elevator service (phone, repairs, etc)

BUDGETARY SOVA-ICAC AFFILIATES

CATEGORY:	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
Total	\$475,000.00	\$243,645.67	\$231,354.33

Funding for affiliates is used for the purpose of Personnel, Travel/Training and Equipment expenditures.

PERSONNEL

Funds were allocated to reimburse for time worked by SOVA-ICAC affiliates. The 143 affiliated agencies with SOVA-ICAC employ these staff members, and the funds reimburse them for work performed for ICAC investigations.

TRAVEL/TRAINING

Funding in the travel category is used to train and educate the members of our 143 affiliates and equip them to continue their investigations to locate those individuals who prey upon and exploit our children and secure the evidence needed to bring them to trial. Training consisted of the following:

- Peer-2-Peer Training
- Undercover Chat Training
- ICAC Investigative Techniques
- FTK (Forensic Tool Kit) Training
- Internet Evidence Finder Training
- Data and Recover Analysis
- ICAC Unit Supervisory Training
- IDRA Training (NW3C)
- Dark Web Training
- Forensic Explorer Training
- EnCase Training
- iCritt Training
- IACIS Training
- K9 Training
- 2015 Florida ICAC Conference
- 2015 Crimes Against Children Conference
- 2016 ICAC Conference

EQUIPMENT

Funding in the equipment category is used to purchase equipment used by the SOVA-ICAC affiliates to investigate child sexual exploitation cases, and to prevent and/or educate on child sexual exploitation. Funds were expended to purchase needed investigative equipment for affiliate investigators to include the following:

- Forensic Falcon Manager
- Software SMS fees
- Hardware (i.e. keyboard, monitors, etc.)
- Printers

Webex video conferencing subscription
 Servers
 K9 supplies/vet expenses
 Utility Trailer for equipment transport
 IT server support
 CISCO Switches
 Computers
 Cables
 iPad and accessories
 Diskstation NAS Server
 Smart UPS power backups
 8TB SATA Cache Drive

**Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force SOVA ICAC
 Enforcement Activities**

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Documented Complaints

Traveler	Proactive	14
	Reactive	12
Enticement	Proactive	41
	Reactive	166
Obscenity Directed to Minors	Proactive	26
	Reactive	191

Child Prostitution	Proactive	2
	Reactive	17
Child Pornography Manufacture	Proactive	23
	Reactive	187
Distribution	Proactive	204
	Reactive	793
Possession	Proactive	99
	Reactive	215
<u>Case Information</u>		
Case Dispositions	Unfounded	474
	Suspended	41
	Plea	85
	Trial	30
Submitted Federal Prosecution		23
Accepted Federal Prosecution		16
<u>Number of Investigations</u>		1,416
<u>Arrests</u>		150
<u>Goals</u>		
Cyber Tips Received		1,540
CVIP Submissions		25
Affiliated Agencies Added		13
Child Victims Identified		4
	CVIP Cases	45
<u>Court Actions</u>		

Subpoenas or Court Orders

Federal	63
State/Local	964

Technical Assists

Technical Support	1,327
Forensics Exams	2,425
Total Digital Medial (TB)	456.54642

Training

Training Sessions Provided	164
Law Enforcement Trained	1,346
Prosecutors Trained	182
Other Professions Trained	785
Number Sent to ICAC Training	108
Number Sent to Other Training	91

Community Outreach

Presentations	316
Number of Attendees	23,496
Public Events	146
Number of Attendees	8,497
Public Awareness	48

Over the past 12 months the SOVA-ICAC has been working in close cooperation with DCJS to distribute funding to affiliate agencies. We devised a plan to distribute funding through the seven districts in three categories - personnel, equipment and travel and training. Staging the funds proved to be the easiest part of the equation. Because a large number of affiliates are small and do not participate as much as they possibly could, spending down the funds has proven to be slightly challenging. We are continuing to work with District Coordinators and affiliates to increase program participation, which will result in spending down of current and future funds in a more efficient manner.

A few cases of interest during this reporting period include the following:



Williamsburg, VA

Lt. Scott Little with Gloucester County Sheriff's Office, an affiliate agency with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, identified Matthew Stickle as a suspect in a child pornography distribution investigation. During an onsite preview of Stickle's computer, as part of the execution of a search warrant at Stickle's residence, multiple images of child pornography were discovered. Further analysis of Stickle's computer also located sexually explicit videos of Stickle and a minor child. Stickle was charged with one count possession of child pornography (in violation of COV 18.2-374.1:1(A)), two counts of second or subsequent offense of possession of child pornography (in violation of COV 18.2-374.1:1(B)) and twenty-two counts of possession of child pornography with intent to distribute (in violation of COV 18.2-374.1(C)). Stickle was found guilty on all counts, and was sentenced to 185 years in prison.



Chesapeake, VA

Thomas Almberg, was arrested on May 25, on ten counts of using a communication device to solicit a minor (in violation of COV 18.2-374.3) and two counts of indecent liberties with a

minor (in violation of COV 18.2-370). Almberg was a lieutenant with the Chesapeake Fire Department with 17 years experience, at the time of his arrest. The Chesapeake Police Department, an affiliate agency with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, began the investigation after being contacted by an out of state law enforcement agency, who had taken a report by the minor female's parents, after they discovered communications between the victim and Almberg. According to Chesapeake Police, Almberg's case has been adopted for federal prosecution, where he faces 10 years to life.



Bedford, VA

Brian McAlexander was arrested February 5, 2016, as the result of an intensive investigation between the Bedford County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, who had an investigator assigned to work full-time out of the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Office, located in Bedford County, VA. McAlexander was a lieutenant with the Town of Bedford Police Department, with 26 years of experience. On August 23, 2016, he pled guilty to six counts of distribution of child pornography (in violation of COV 18.2-374.1:1), and was sentenced to 10 years, with 5 years suspended, and 5 years of probation upon release. In addition he must register as a sex offender. The Office of the Attorney General handled the prosecution, at the request of the Bedford Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, due to the close working relationship they had had with McAlexander as a member of the Town of Bedford Police Department.



Chesterfield, VA

Based on a tip, and subsequent investigations into the activity of a subject uploading images of child pornography to cloud storage services, Officers from Chesterfield Police Department, an affiliate agency with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children task Force, developed enough probable cause to execute a search warrant in early 2015 at the residence of Ronald Wilbur Ridout, Jr. During the interview of Ridout, he admitted to controlling the online accounts used to upload the child pornography to the cloud storage site, to downloading those images from the internet, and then uploading them to his cloud storage account.

Ridout is a convicted sex offender, stemming from a 2005 conviction of aggravated sexual battery and taking indecent liberties with a child in Henrico County. He was originally sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, with 11 years suspended. As a result of the search of his residence in Chesterfield County, he was also charged with failing to properly register as a sex offender in Chesterfield County, and was sentenced to 3 years in prison, with those 3 years suspended. In June 2016, Ridout was also sentenced to 50 years, with 12 years to serve, and 38 years suspended, as part of a plea deal.



Danville, VA

Michael Edwards, a teacher's aide at George Washington High School, at the time of the investigation, was sentenced in July 2016, to 10 years and 3 months in prison, after pleading guilty to 21 counts related to child pornography in March 2016.

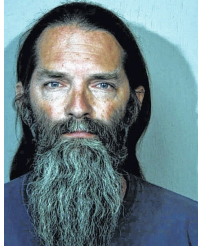
The investigation by Danville Police Department, an affiliate agency on the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, led to the execution of a search warrant at the residence of Edwards, in September, 2015. As part of that search warrant, they seized computer equipment, and printed copies of hundreds of images of child pornography. A Danville grand jury indicted him on 100 counts related to possession of child pornography (in violation of COV 18.2-374.1:1).



Bedford, VA

Army Sgt. Angelo Paderes, was arrested on June 6, 2016, at Ft. Benning, Georgia, as part of an investigation by the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, the lead agency of the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Paderes had been communicating with a minor female in Bedford County, after they had met playing online video games.

Paderes was stationed at Ft. Wainwright, in Alaska, but had traveled to Ft. Benning for training. On June 5, 2016, he hired an escort out of North Carolina, on his way to Bedford County. He used the escort and her two year old child (under the pretense of her being his girlfriend and son for a dinner date), as part of an elaborate plot to make contact with the victim at the victim's family's business. When the escort refused and told the family what was going on, Paderes took off with her two year old child. The child was safely recovered in north Carolina, with the assistance of local law enforcement there, but Paderes had disappeared before law enforcement there was able to arrest him. Army Criminal Investigation Division at Ft. Benning was contacted, and advised there were warrants for Paderes' arrest, and when he returned to base, he was arrested. Continued investigation and analysis of Paderes' online activities and electronic devices and online accounts, revealed evidence that he had previously traveled to Bedford County and had sexual relationships with the minor female. Paderes is awaiting trial, and has been charged with abduction (in violation of COV 18.2-47), four counts of computer solicitation (in violation of COV 18.2-374.3), and one count of carnal knowledge (in violation of COV 18.2-63).



Hillsville, VA and Washington County, VA

Darius Lee Foran, Sr., was arrested June 1, 2016, by Hillsville Police Department, an affiliate agency with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Foran had been communicating online with someone he believed to be a minor female under 15 years old, and traveled from Washington County, VA, to meet the minor for sex. He was arrested on two counts of using a communications device to facilitate certain offenses against children (in violation of COV 18.2-374.3). Detectives from Hillsville contacted investigators from the Washington County Sheriff's Office, also affiliate agency on the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. They were able to obtain a search warrant for Foran's residence, and seized computers and other electronic storage devices. In addition, due to Foran's previous felony record, firearms that were found in his residence were also seized. A subsequent examination of the electronic devices revealed Foran possessed approximately 20,000 images of child pornography, as well as several videos of child pornography. He was also charged with possession of a firearm by a felon.

Foran had actually been communicating with an undercover detective, from Hillsville Police Department, when he traveled to Hillsville. That undercover officer and investigators from Washington County Sheriff's Office had just successfully completed an online undercover training, hosted by the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Task Force in Bedford County, VA, just two weeks prior.



Hanover, VA

In December 2015, investigators from Hanover Sheriff's Office began investigating a complaint of the uploading of child pornography to an online storage account. The investigation led to a search warrant being executed at the residence of Edward Tillman. During an interview, Tillman admitted to searching for and viewing child pornography.

A forensic exam revealed more than 23,000 images and over 700 videos of child pornography, on Tillman's computers that were seized during the search warrant.

In August 2016, Tillman was sentenced to 20 years, with 15 years suspended.



Henrico, VA

In October 2015, Noland Harper was sentenced to 24 years in prison. This case was ultimately tried in federal court due to multiple jurisdictions involved, but was investigated by Henrico Police Department, an affiliate of the SOVA-ICAC Task Force. Harper was a long time youth baseball coach. Harper traveled across the United States to engage in sexual relations with three male juveniles under the ages of 16, with two being 11 years old at the time of the abuse. He, along with three other adult men, also produced images of the abuse, and then sold those images of the child sex abuse, via websites that Harper had helped set up. Harper, also handled the financial aspect of the operation, as the principal financier. Harper initially began being investigated, after a tip was received from Nevada law enforcement, who had pulled over a vehicle occupied by one of the other men, who had two boys with him in his vehicle. Harper admitted to collecting child pornography for almost 10 years. There were a total of eleven child victims identified, as a result of this investigation, based on investigations into the other adult offenders as well.