

**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**



October 17, 2019

Sheriff Michael J. Brown
Bedford County Sheriff's Office

Captain Michael J. Harmony
SOVA-ICAC Commander
Commander SOVA-ICAC



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE



October 17, 2019

TO: The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
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 395 H.2. (*Regular Session, 2019, Budget Bill Chapter 836*), 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, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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 2018-2019 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 154 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. Five new agencies signed MOU’s, with several others renewed by new chiefs or sheriffs.

Affiliate Agency Name	Agency Type
Accomack County Sheriff’s Office	County
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 Sheriff’s Office	County
Bedford County Department of Social Services	County
Bedford Police Department	County
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	City/Local
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
Centra Health (Forensic Nurses for Child Sex Abuse Exams)*	NGO
Central Virginia Community College Police Department	State
Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy	State
Charlottesville Police Department	City/Local
Chesapeake Police Department	City/Local
Chesterfield County Police Department	County
Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol/Washington County	NGO
Children's Trust – Child Advocacy Center	NGO
Christiansburg Police Department	City/Local
CID (ARMY) : Crminal investigative Command, HQ VA	Federal
Coeburn Police Department	City/Local
Colonial Beach Police Department	City/Local
Colonial Heights 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 Police Department	City/Local
Dickenson County Sheriff's Office	County
Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office	County
Floyd County Sheriff's Office	County
Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office	County
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	County
Giles County Sheriff's Office	County
Gloucester County Sheriff's Office	County
Grayson County Sheriff's Office	County
Greater Richmond SCAN	NGO
Greene County Sheriff's Office	County
Greensville County Sheriff's Office	County
Halifax County Sheriff's Office	County
Hampton Police Department	City/Local
Hanover County Sheriff's Office	County

Henrico County Police Division	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 Sheriff's Office	County
Lynchburg City Sheriff's Office	City/Local
Lynchburg Police Department	City/Local
Martinsville Police Department	City/Local
Mathews County Sheriff's Office	County
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office	County
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	County
NCIS: US 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 Sheriff's Offices Office	County
Norton Police Department	City/Local
Patrick County Sheriff's Office	County
Petersburg Police Department	City/Local
Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office	County
Poquoson Police Department	City/Local
Portsmouth Police Department	City/Local
Pound Police Department	City/Local
Powhatan Sheriff's Office	City/Local
Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office	County
Prince George County Police Department	County
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office*	County
Pulaski Police Department	City/Local
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 County Police Department	County
Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office*	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
Southampton County Sheriff's Office	County
Southern Virginia Child Advocacy Center	NGO
St. Paul Police Department	City/Local
Staunton Police Department	City/Local
Suffolk Police Department	City/Local
Tazewell County Sheriff's Office	County
Tazewell Police Department	City/Local
U.S. Department of the Air Force (USAF OSI)	Federal
U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement	Federal
United States Attorney's Office - Eastern District	Federal
United States Attorney's Office - Western District	Federal
University of Virginia Police Department	State/Private
Vinton Police Department	City/Local
Virginia Attorney General	State
Virginia Beach Police Department	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Amelia County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Augusta County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Bedford County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Chesapeake City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Danville City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Dinwiddie County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Franklin County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Giles County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Gloucester County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Goochland County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Grayson County	County

VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Halifax County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Henry County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Louisa County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Lynchburg City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Middlesex County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Montgomery County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Norfolk City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Northumberland County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Tazewell County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Virginia Beach	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Westmoreland County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Williamsburg-James City County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : Wise County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney : York-Poquoson	County
VA Department of Probation and Parole : District 20 Bedford	State
VA Department of Probation and Parole : District 23 Virginia Beach	State
Washington County Sheriff's Office	County
Waynesboro Police Department	City/Local
Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office	County
Williamsburg Police Department	City/Local
Wise County Sheriff's Office	County
Wise Police Department	City/Local
Wythe County Police Department	County
York County Police Department	County

BUDGETARY SOVA-ICAC

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
Personnel	\$1,017,156.00	\$954,930.80	\$116,225.20
Equipment	\$244,544.00	\$276,829.77	(\$32,285.77)
Supplies	\$134,300.00	\$78,930.30	\$55,369.70
Total	\$1,450,000.00	\$1,310,690.87	\$139,309.13

Overages shown in spending for equipment is due to a focused effort in spending down previously unobligated funding that was carried over, that had been accrued due to vacancy savings. This included funding from the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 awards. We are continuing

to spend down the remaining 2018-2019 MOU funds. As of 6/30/19, of the \$1,450,000.00 2018-2019 MOU Funding, we spent \$300,393.63 which leaves \$1,149,606.37 left to spend by 12/31/19. This was due to not receiving notification that the new MOU was ready to be signed, which provided access to the funding starting March 1, 2019.

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, Sergeants, Analysts, a Cyber Tip Manager, Investigators, and a LAN Manager.. The investigative team is composed of two units, criminal investigations and forensic examiners. In the investigations unit, there is currently one sergeant, and five investigators, one being a K9 handler, and another a polygraph examiner. We have one open investigator position reserved for affiliate agencies to assign an investigator to the main SOVA ICAC HQ office. In the forensic examiner unit, there is currently one sergeant, and three forensic investigators. We are currently in the hiring process for the LAN Manager position.

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:

- QTS Data Storage Services
- Internal Hard Drives
- Miscellaneous software
- Miscellaneous cables
- Webcams
- Computer Hardware for Forensics Lab
- Computer Software for Forensics Lab
- USB storage drives
- Portable Hard Drives
- Router
- Server maintenance
- Surge Protectors
- Network Migration Equipment and Services
- Mobile Forensic/Command Vehicle expenses
- Desktop Computers
- Server Disk Drives
- SMS Magnet Axiom

- USB-C Docking Station
- Battery Back-Up Uninterruptible Power Supply

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	\$604,210.00	\$631,471.29	(\$27,261.29)

Funding for affiliates is used for the purpose of Personnel, Travel/Training and Equipment expenditures. As with funding for the SOVA ICAC Task Force, that was previously mentioned, published overages are due to focused spending of funds from previous awards that were not spent or obligated by affiliates. . These included funds from the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 awards, with the continued spending down of 2018-2019 MOU funds at this time. As of 6/30/19, of the \$604,210.00 2018-2019 MOU Funding, we spent \$131,471.29 which leaves \$472,738.71

to spend by 12/31/19. This was due to not receiving notification that the new MOU was ready to be signed, which provided access to the funding starting March 1, 2019.

PERSONNEL

Funds were allocated to reimburse for time worked by SOVA-ICAC affiliates. The 154 affiliated agencies with SOVA-ICAC employ these staff members, and funds are used to reimburse them for overtime work performed for ICAC investigations.

TRAVEL/TRAINING

Funding in the travel category is used to train and educate the members of our 149 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
- K9 Training
- 2017 Dallas Crimes Against Children Conference
- 2018 ICAC Conference
- Axiom Examinations
- Celebrite Training
- Magnet Forensics
- Investigating the Dark Web
- EnCase Forensic Training
- Forensic Explorer Training
- XRY Forensic Training
- BitTorrent Training
- NW3C AMDA Training
- Basic Under Cover Chat Investigations
- Advanced Under Cover Chat Investigations
- NW3C JTAG Training
- Filemaker
- HTCIA Conference
- IACIS Basic Computer Forensic Examiner Training
- Online Ads Training
- ICAC Investigative Techniques Training
- UC Chat Training
- OSDF Conference
- VAST Advanced Training
- DHSI Mass CAT Training
- Griffeye Training
- NW ICAC Conference
- IEF Exanm Training
- Magnet User Summit

Mobile Device Forensics Training
Axiom Advanced Computer Investigations
Child Maltreatment Conference
Mass Child ID
X-Ways Training
NW3C DFA Tools
Freenet Training

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:

Desktop Computers
Laptop Computers
Forensic Software SMS
Forensic Falcon equipment/warranties
Computer Monitors
Computer accessories (mouse, cables, keyboards, etc.)
Office 365 software
Miscellaneous software
USB Flash Drives (various storage sizes)
External Hard Drives (various storage sizes)
K9 Supplies
ADF Digital Investigator
Tablets
UC phones and data plans
Memory Cards
Forensic Computers

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

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Documented Complaints

Traveler	Proactive	51
	Reactive	21
Enticement	Proactive	84
	Reactive	158
Obscenity Directed to Minors	Proactive	58
	Reactive	236
Child Prostitution	Proactive	1
	Reactive	12
Child Pornography Manufacture	Proactive	23
	Reactive	191
Distribution	Proactive	153
	Reactive	656
Possession	Proactive	138
	Reactive	1,440

Case Information

Case Dispositions		
	Unfounded	598
	Suspended	108
	Plea	131
	Trial	37
Submitted Federal Prosecution		55
Accepted Federal Prosecution		26

Number of Investigations 2,524

Arrests 247

Goals

Cyber Tips Received		3,069
CVIP Submissions		57
Affiliated Agencies Added		5
Child Victims Identified		94
	CVIP Cases	57

Court Actions

Subpoenas or Court Orders		
	Federal	56
	State/Local	2,120

Technical Assists

Technical Support		1,347
Forensics Exams		3,361
Total Digital Medial (TB)		523.9TB

Training

Training Sessions Provided		46
Law Enforcement Trained		1,045
Prosecutors Trained		41

Other Professions Trained	134
Number Sent to ICAC Training	72
Number Sent to Other Training	842

Community Outreach

Presentations	181
Number of Attendees	8,960
Public Events	60
Number of Attendees	4,269
Public Awareness	26

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



Virginia Beach, VA:

Jonathan Sahim, 44, was arrested in Virginia Beach for child pornography offenses, as a result of an investigation into users of BitTorrent to distribute child pornography. Sahim had been using a VPN to try to hide his online activities. In addition, Sahim had underage family members living in the residence, and forensic interviews with them are scheduled, based on statements another adult family member found in a child’s diary, after Sahim had been arrested.



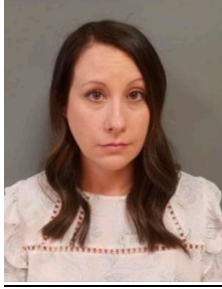
Covington, VA:

Justin Hipps, 35, of Covington, VA, was arrested for possession of child pornography, on April 5, 2019. Microsoft had forwarded information to NCMEC about suspected activity using Bing, which was forwarded to the SOVA ICAC in Bedford, VA, as a Cybertip. Further investigation identified Hipps as a suspect, and the case was referred to Covington Police Department, an affiliate of the task force. Once it was discovered Hipps was a Virginia State Trooper, Covington PD turned the case over to the Virginia State Police, who subsequently made the arrest. Hipps is no longer employed by the Virginia State Police.



Blacksburg, VA:

William Carter, 52, of Auburn, AL, was arrested in Blacksburg, VA, for child pornography possession. Carter was a professor at Auburn University. Information provided by Blacksburg police, to Auburn police, prompted an investigation in Alabama, that resulted in additional evidence of child porn possession. Alabama police obtained additional arrest warrants for Carter, who was on bond in Virginia for the arrest by Blacksburg police, and he was arrested on those new charges by the Montgomery County Sheriffs Office. His previous faculty page for Auburn University listed him as a longtime resident of Roanoke, VA



Grayson County, VA

In September 2018, Jessica Kincaid Snow, 33, of Fries, VA, was indicted on additional charges related to indecent liberties with children, and with enticing a minor to be the subject of pornography. These new charges were in addition to previous indictments for contributing to delinquency of a minor, using a communications system to facilitate certain offenses involving a minor, indecent liberties by a custodian, and enticing a minor to perform in pornography.

Snow was a music teacher at Galax High and Middle Schools, and the offenses involved students of hers. She was terminated from her job after the initial indictments, and her Virginia teaching license was subsequently cancelled in August, after her termination.

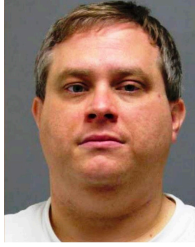


Roanoke County/Bedford County, VA :

David Early, 32, of Roanoke, VA, was arrested on three felony charges out of Bedford County, related to online solicitation of who he believed to be a 13 year old child. During the examination of his laptop that was seized as part of a search warrant, investigators discovered recorded video of a minor female. It was determined the videos were secretly recorded in a previous residence Early lived in, in Roanoke County. The victim was identified, and was confirmed to have been in the residence while Early lived there.

Early was subsequently charged in Roanoke County, with 8 felony charges related to the videos of the victim.

Early had been previously employed as a basketball coach at Northside high school in Roanoke, before being fired earlier in the year, due to a DUI.



Hanover County, VA:

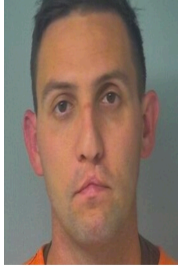
Ryan Pick, 40, of Woodbridge, VA, was arrested by Hanover County Sheriff's Office on five felony charges involving the online enticement of a juvenile. Pick was a music teacher at Cameron Elementary School in Alexandria, the music director at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Woodbridge, and also taught private music lessons, at the time of his arrest. He is scheduled for trial in April 2019.



Bedford County, VA

In December 2018, Lawrence W. Henry, Jr, 46, of Normalville, PA, was arrested in Bedford County, on multiple felony charges involving using a communications device to facilitate certain offenses involving children.

Henry had been chatting online with what he believed to be a minor female, and committed several offenses during the communications. He then made arrangements to travel from Pennsylvania to Virginia, where he expected to meet the minor female for sexual activities. He was arrested and held without bond.



James City County, VA

In November 2018, Robert C. Sypole, 30, of Richmond, VA, was arrested by James City County Police. He was charged with three counts of aggravated sexual battery, with all victims being under 10 years old at the time. James City County Police had received a reports from the victim's parents, who had been notified by the parent of other victims from out of state, that their children may have also been victimized.

At the time of his arrest, Sypole was a Captain in the US Army.



Lynchburg, VA

Jared Miller Anderson, 40 years old, of Lynchburg, was arrested by Lynchburg police on 21 counts of taking indecent liberties with a child under 15 years old, and 21 counts of using communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children. Miller had been communicating with a 14 year old female victim from North Dakota, where he had also traveled to from Lynchburg, to engage in sexual activities with her. She had previously been victimized by another subject, who had subsequently posted her images on the dark web. Lynchburg Police Department investigators were assisted by Special Agents from HSI and Secret Service, as well as SOVA ICAC Investigators from the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, including the ESD K9. Anderson was a former volunteer in the Lynchburg City School system.

NO PICTURES:

Pulaski County, VA:

On April 15, 2019, Saul Alberto Lopez Ramirez was arrested in Pulaski County, VA, after an ongoing investigation revealed he had solicited a juvenile for pictures via Facebook. The juvenile was positively identified as a 13 year old female, and Lopez was 25 years old. Lopez confessed during an interview, was arrested, and is being held without bond. Additional charges may also be pending due to Lopez's confession of sexual intercourse with the child. Lopez is an illegal alien from Honduras.

Pulaski County, VA:

On April 25, 2019, Joshua Tromblay, 25 years old, was arrested for having a sexual relationship with, and producing and distributing child pornography of, a 15 year old female. A confession was obtained from Tromblay, and corroborated by the female victim. Tromblay had been a long time family friend.