

**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**



August 16, 2021

Sheriff Michael W. Miller
Bedford County Sheriff's Office

Captain Michael J. Harmony
SOVA-ICAC Commander



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE



August 16, 2021

TO: The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia

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

The Honorable Janet D. Howell
Chair of the Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Luke E. Torian
Chair of the House Appropriations Committee

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

Pursuant to Appropriation Act – Item 406 H.2. (*Special Session, 2021, Budget Bill Chapter 552*), 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, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. H. Milk".

Sheriff
Bedford County, Virginia

MWM/MJH/NTP

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
2020-2021 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 164 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.

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
Amherst Police Department	City/Local
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
Caroline 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
Emporia Police Department*	City/Local
Farmville Police Department	City/Local
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
Goochland 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
South Hill Police Department*	City/Local
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 : Albemarle County*	County
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 : Campbell 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 : Wythe 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	\$890,000.00	\$888,689.70	\$1,310.30
Equipment	\$508,000.00	\$685,337.06	(\$177,337.06)
Supplies	\$52,000.00	\$48,931.09	\$3,068.91
Total	\$1,450,000.00	\$1,622,957.85	(\$172,957.85)

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. Included in this was upgrading and replacing server equipment that was failing, or near failure, due to being past end of life. Four replacement vehicles for investigators were also purchased, as the vehicles they were using were twelve years old.

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. We have one additional investigator position reserved for affiliate agencies to assign an investigator to the main SOVA ICAC HQ office (with funding for this position allocated out of affiliate funding). This is currently being filled by an investigator from the Campbell County Sheriff's Office. In the forensic examiner unit, there is currently one sergeant, and three forensic investigators. We are still currently in the hiring process for the LAN Manager position, as applicants to date did not meet minimum requirements, or withdrew their applications.

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:

- Forensic Workstation
- Laptop Computers
- Miscellaneous software
- Miscellaneous cables

- Computer Hardware for Forensics Lab
- Computer Software for Forensics Lab
- USB storage drives
- Portable Hard Drives
- Griffeye
- Teel Tech Embedded HW Kit
- GrayKey License Renewal
- Server contract
- Server maintenance
- Manual Lift Table
- Network Migration Equipment and Services
- Mobile Forensic/Command Vehicle expenses
- 3 Durangos for Investigators
- Explorer for Investigator
- Server Disk Drives

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.)
- K9 Expenses

BUDGETARY SOVA-ICAC AFFILIATES

CATEGORY:	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
Total	\$604,210.00	\$645,135.90	\$(40,925.90)

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.

PERSONNEL

Funds were allocated to reimburse for time worked by SOVA-ICAC affiliates. The 164 affiliated agencies with SOVA-ICAC employ these staff members, and funds are used to reimburse them for overtime work performed for ICAC investigations. Funding for one affiliate position for full-time assignment to the SOVA-ICAC main task force office comes out of this funding as well. This position is currently filled by an investigator from the Campbell County Sheriff's Office. In addition, funding for the salary of financial analyst who supports and manages all funding for the entire task force is also supported with affiliate funding.

TRAVEL/TRAINING

Funding in the travel category is used to train and educate the members of our 164 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. Due to the pandemic, several conference and trainings went virtual. Training consisted of the following:

- iOS Fundamentals Training
- 2020 Dallas Crimes Against Children Conference - Virtual
- Introduction to ICAC
- Certified Operator & Physical Analyst
- Celebrite Training
- AX301 Magnet Axium & GrayKey Training
- Android Fundamentals Training
- AX350 Magnet Forensic Training
- Advanced iOS Forensics Training
- SANS FORS18 Mac & iOS Forensic Analysis
- Empathy Based Training

Griffeye Analysis Training
Advanced Adroid Forensis Training
MSAB XRY 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
Computer Monitors
Computer accessories (mouse, cables, keyboards, etc.)
Office 365 software
Falcon NEO
USB Flash Drives (various storage sizes)
External Hard Drives (various storage sizes)
Scanners
Tablets
UC phones and data plans
Drive Dock
Forensic Write Block Kits
Portable Power Packs
Memory Cards
Forensic Computers
Synology RackStations
Forensic Workstations
BitDefender

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

July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Documented Complaints

Traveler	Proactive	82
	Reactive	12
Enticement	Proactive	145
	Reactive	246
Obscenity Directed to Minors	Proactive	31
	Reactive	116
Child Prostitution	Proactive	29
	Reactive	18
Child Pornography Manufacture	Proactive	26
	Reactive	151
Distribution	Proactive	98
	Reactive	1,356
Possession	Proactive	114

Reactive 1,362

Case Information

Case Dispositions

Unfounded 1,378
Suspended 160
Plea 125
Trial 27

Submitted Federal Prosecution 28
Accepted Federal Prosecution 24

Number of Investigations 3,239

Arrests 219

Goals

Cyber Tips Received 4,289
CVIP Submissions 39
Affiliated Agencies Added 4
Child Victims Identified 101
CVIP Cases 39

Court Actions

Subpoenas or Court Orders
Federal 342
State/Local 2,846

Technical Assists

Technical Support 1,493
Forensics Exams 4,697
Total Digital Medial (TB) 510.2 TB

Training

Training Sessions Provided	32
Law Enforcement Trained	398
Prosecutors Trained	5
Other Professions Trained	0
Number Sent to ICAC Training	96
Number Sent to Other Training	924

Community Outreach

Presentations	65
Number of Attendees	914
Public Events	39
Number of Attendees	2,963
Public Awareness	99

Around December 2020 and January 2021, the task force was able to spend a significant amount of carryover funding for affiliates, and began utilizing the FY21 funds. Shortly before this report was compiled, we received the last lump sum payment of our FY21 funds, which we believe were significantly reduced due to the pandemic (mainly due to courts being closed early in the pandemic, which reduced fees collected upon sentencing). We are currently reducing the spending rate on these funds, until we have an idea of the rate at which fees are now being collected, to ensure we have sufficient funding to support the affiliates through the end of FY22, once we also begin receiving those funds.

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

James City County/Hanover County/Charles City County, VA:

In March of 2021, via Snapchat, a 14 year old female befriended a 21 year old male by the name of Daven Odou. The 14 year old victim ran away from her home in Hanover County, to Odou's home in James City County. Hanover County eventually tracked the victim using an IP address that was used to log into a fake social media profile that the victim was using to communicate with friends. Investigators were led to the home where Odou lived. The residence belonged to Odou's aunt and uncle, and he lived there with them and his adult brother. The aunt knew the victim was there, but refused to allow police to search, and lied about the girl being there. Eventually, Odou admitted she was there, and they found her hiding in his bedroom.

Odou was charged with multiple counts of carnal knowledge of a minor in James City County, as well as contributing to the delinquency of a minor and using electronic communications systems to commit offenses against children, out of Hanover County.

During the forensic exam of Odou's phone, they discovered a second victim, that was an underage relative by marriage, and was from Charles City County. Odou was then charged by James City County on production and possession of child pornography charges. Charles City County charged him with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Odou pled guilty to most charges, with others dropped as part of the plea. He is currently awaiting sentencing.

Chesterfield County, VA:

In April of 2021, the Chesterfield Police Department announced the arrest of Brandon Hyde, 31 years old, on charges of solicitation of child pornography and using an electronic communications system to commit certain offenses against a child. Hyde exchanged pictures with a girl he knew, who was under the age of 18. Hyde was working for the Chesterfield County Police Department at the time of offense. The investigation into Hyde began when another officer became aware of the inappropriate relationship, and reported it to senior staff. Hyde was fired in March of 2021.

Virginia Beach, VA:

As an update to a previous arrest made by VA Beach Police Department in 2017, we are happy to report the resolution of a case that involved a shooting of an ICAC investigator, who ultimately had to retire as a result of his injuries.

During the execution of a search warrant for child pornography, Bryan Cage, now 50, shot at VA Beach PD Officers as they executed a search warrant at his parents residence. Cage lived in an apartment above the garage, and opened fire as investigators made entry into the apartment. Detective Ryan Sweeney was shot in the shoulder. Due to his injuries, Sweeney had to medically retire, and has limited use of his right arm.

In May of 2021, a jury convicted Cage on charges related to attempted capital murder, possession of child pornography, and shooting inside an occupied building, among other charges. Trial lasted six days.

Cage is scheduled to be sentenced in August of 2021, but the jury has already recommended a life sentence plus 1,248 years.

Staunton, VA:

In October of 2020, officers with the Staunton (VA) Police Department arrested Michael Harris, 35, of Blue Ridge. Harris was a previously convicted sex offender, with convictions for attempted indecent liberties with a child, and computer solicitation.

Harris had been communicating with an underage female, when her parents reported the sexual solicitations to authorities. He then traveled to Staunton to an undisclosed hotel, with the intention of meeting the girl for sex. Investigators were waiting and took him into custody. He is currently charged with attempted indecent liberties with a child, attempted carnal knowledge of a child, and using an electronic communications system to solicit sex from a child.

Powhatan County, VA:

In October of 2020, Powhatan County Sheriff's Office investigators arrested Robert Wesley Brizendine, 54, for soliciting a child under 15 for sexual purposes, and for using a communications system to expose his genitals to a child under the age of 15. Brizendine traveled from his home in Powhatan to another location within the county, expecting to meet the 14 year old child, but was instead met and taken into custody by Powhatan Sheriff's Office deputies.

Southampton County, VA:

Based on an initial CyberTip Complaint, investigators with the Southampton Sheriff's Office identified Shawn Denne, of Courtland, VA, as a suspect involved in the distribution of child pornography. At the time of his arrest, Denne was a health and P.E teacher at Franklin high School.

Wythe County, VA:

In November of 2020, Wythe Sheriff's Office investigators arrested David Olean Pickett, Jr., 35, of Austinville, VA, on charges of possession of child pornography. Pickett, a registered sex offender, had previously pled guilty to child pornography charges stemming from a previous case in 2012. He served three months in jail as part of the plea, and was still on current probation from that conviction, when he was arrested again in 2020.

Bedford County, VA:

Investigators with the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, arrested Michael Craig Ayers, 44, of Bedford on multiple child pornography charges. Ayers is a currently registered sex offender, who was convicted of raping a child in 2003, and was sentenced to 10 years, with 5 years suspended on those charges.

Christiansburg, VA:

Ethan Michael Havens, 25, of Christiansburg, VA, was arrested in July of 2020, as the result of a Cybertip investigation. At the time of the offenses, Havens was a police officer with the Christiansburg Police Department. Initially investigated by the Southern Virginia ICAC, once it was determined that Havens was law enforcement, Christiansburg Police Department command staff were notified, and asked that the case be referred to the Virginia State Police for continued investigation. Havens had been involved with the distribution of child pornography with others users of a popular social media app.