

Annual Report 2007

New York State Police



David A. Paterson
Governor

Harry J. Corbitt
Superintendent



HARRY J. CORBITT
SUPERINTENDENT

NEW YORK STATE POLICE
STATE OFFICE CAMPUS
ALBANY, NY 12226-2252



To:

The Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor of the State of New York

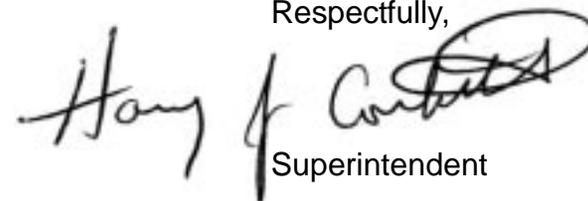
I am proud to submit the Annual Report of the Division of New York State Police for 2007. The pages that follow highlight the achievements, contributions and sacrifices made by our dedicated troopers, investigators and non-sworn personnel.



The year 2007 may not have seen troopers and investigators responding to extraordinary disasters like Hurricane Katrina in 2005, nor was it marked by the overwhelming number of personnel tragedies that characterized 2006, but it did bear its share of both elements, as once again sworn members of the New York State Police were called to give their all in service to the people of New York State. It featured exceptional achievements and acts of extraordinary heroism by many of our members, and we will forever bear the marks left by the losses of Tprs. Jose A. Rosado of Troop L, killed in a motor vehicle crash in Southampton, Long Island, Jan. 24, and David C. Brinkerhoff, April 25, a Mobile Response Team member from Troop F, who died in an exchange of gunfire with a gunman who also grievously wounded Tprs. Matthew J. Gombosi and Richard G. Mattson.

I know you will join me in not only commending, but also thanking the men and women of the New York State Police for a job well done in 2007.

Respectfully,


Superintendent



Brummer Award 2007

Tpr. **Joseph A. Longobardo**, fatally shot in an ambush by a desperate fugitive, and **Sgt. Donald H. Baker Jr.**, who was badly wounded in the same gun battle that fateful August day, were honored for their sacrifice when Acting Supt. Preston L. Felton conferred upon them the Brummer Award, the highest decoration for heroism in the State Police, May 16. The award was announced at the Division's annual Memorial Day service at the State Police Academy in Albany.



Tpr. Joseph A. Longobardo

Sgt. Donald H. Baker Jr.

Tpr. Longobardo (G-Wilton) and then-Tpr. Baker (G-Northway) were members of the Division's elite Mobile Response Team

on Aug. 31, 2006, participating in the manhunt for prison escapee Ralph Phillips, who was wanted for attempted murder in the shooting of **Tpr. Sean M. Brown** in Chemung County, June 10. They were conducting surveillance at a listening/observation post in rural Chautauqua County when Phillips opened fire on them from close range with a .308-cal. hunting rifle. Tpr. Longobardo, though mortally wounded, returned fire while Sgt. Baker, himself critically wounded, radioed other MRT members of the ambush. Though rushed to the hospital, Tpr. Longobardo succumbed to his wounds three days later. Sgt. Baker suffered grievous abdominal injuries which required multiple surgeries, extensive hospitalization and a lengthy recovery period before he could return to duty.

The Brummer Award, established in 1968 by Wall Street financier and philanthropist Bertram F. Brummer, represents valor, heroism and outstanding performance of duty by sworn members of the New York State Police. It has been given 87 times, including 11 times posthumously.

The Year in review: 2007

Killed in the line of duty: Tpr. Jose A. Rosado

The tragedy that seemed to stalk the New York State Police throughout 2006 claimed yet another member of the Long Gray Line when **Tpr. Jose A. Rosado** (L-Riverside) lost his life in a motor vehicle crash in Southampton, Long Island, Jan. 24. Tpr.



Tpr. Jose A. Rosado

Rosado, 45, was an 18-year NYSP veteran

and had served his entire career on Long Island. He was traveling southbound on County Rte. 104 when his Chevrolet Tahoe patrol vehicle skidded on the icy roadway and slid into the path of an oncoming vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Tpr. Rosado entered the State Police Sept. 19, 1988. He is survived by his mother, wife, and a teenage son and daughter.

Killed in the line of duty: Tpr. David C. Brinkerhoff

Tpr. Matthew J. Gombosi (C-Margaretville) stopped a van that was missing its front license plate, April 24, in the village of Margaretville (Delaware County). The driver, Travis Trim, drew a concealed small-caliber handgun and fired one round at Tpr. Gombosi. Tpr. Gombosi's soft body armor stopped the bullet and he was able to radio for assistance as the suspect fled the scene.

Troopers and local police quickly threw a cordon around the area, and the suspect's vehicle was located three miles away, about two hours later.

At approximately 7:39 a.m. the next day, an electronic burglar alarm went off at a farmhouse not far from where the suspect's van had been recovered. Trim's wallet and a handgun were found in an adjacent barn.

Around 8:45 a.m., a Division Mobile response Team (MRT) moved in and entered the farmhouse, where it encountered Trim on the second floor. Gunfire broke out, and **Tprs. David C. Brinkerhoff** (F-Coxsackie) and **Richard G. Mattson** (K-Stormville) were shot during the encounter. Fellow MRT team members extracted them from the building. Tpr. Brinkerhoff was transported to Margaretville Hospital, where he suc-



Tpr. David C. Brinkerhoff

cumbed to his injuries. Tpr. Mattson suffered a gunshot wound to the arm and was ultimately transported to Albany Medical Center by Division Aviation.

Division personnel maintained a perimeter around the residence for several hours until a fire spread throughout the building, completely destroying it. Trim's body was found in the ashes, and it was later determined he had been killed during the firefight with Tprs. Brinkerhoff and Mattson.

Tpr. Brinkerhoff, 29, was an 8½-year veteran of the New York State Police. He joined the New York State Police's Mobile Response Team in early 2006. He is survived by his wife and infant daughter.

Tpr. Mattson remains on extended medical leave.

Safety measures

Shortly after assuming the position of acting superintendent in February, Supt. Felton initiated an unprecedented bottom-to-top

safety review of the NYSP, its policies, operations and equipment. He conducted numerous meetings with the troopers' and investigators' unions for their input and established a new position, with the rank of captain, responsible for overseeing all safety considerations of State Police personnel, and a Safety Committee, composed of executive staff officers, responsible for reviewing, developing and implementing policies to carry out the Division's safety mandate.



Tpr. Richard G. Mattson

2007 was the adoption of stronger ballistic vests for all troopers, heavier armor for the MRT tactical unit, including two specialized Bearcat armored vehicles, procurement and distribution of 1,400 automated external defibrillators for all marked patrol cars and State Police installations, as well as training in their use for all Division employees, new high-visibility troop car roof light bars that feature blue lights, which are easier to see in fog, and special reflective vests for use in highway investigations and while directing traffic.

Among the equipment upgrades facilitated by these measures in

Traffic enforcement record

The year 2007 was the most active year for traffic enforcement in State Police history, with troopers issuing more than one million traffic tickets for the first time. The record-setting effort was the result of a renewed emphasis on basic traffic law enforcement and an agency re-commitment to providing troopers with the most effective enforcement tools available.

Data compiled from the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) electronic ticketing and crash reporting system indicate that of the 1,019,000 tickets issued by troopers during 2007, nearly half were for priority traffic offenses: failure to wear safety restraints, speeding and DWI — the three offenses which together accounted for more than 70% of all New York traffic fatalities in 2006.

More history...

Two milestones in State Police history distinguished 2007.

The first occurred April 11, when the Division marked its 90th anniversary. It was on April 11, 1917, that the State Legislature established the New York State Police. Characteristically, the occasion was marked with little fanfare.



Sgt. John H. Lockhart

The second historical event of note involved the addition of a long-deceased member of the Uniform Force to the Division's wall of Honor: **Sgt. John H. Lockhart**, who died of a cerebral hemorrhage, March 3, 1937, at the age of 43, five days after receiving an accidental head injury. Sgt. Lockhart joined the State Police June 1, 1919 and served in Troops A and C, where he was highly respected and figured prominently in a number of the large cases of the time.

On the morning of Friday, Feb. 26, 1937, at SP Highland (then a part of Troop C), Sgt.

Lockhart was responding to a call involving a break-in at a local drug store when he slipped on ice entering his patrol vehicle and struck his forehead on the frame of the car. He continued to work for two days with extreme headaches before falling unconscious. He was transported to Kingston Hospital and never regained consciousness.

Sgt. Lockhart's grandson, **Inv. Timothy J. Ruzzo**, joined the State Police in 1986. Perplexed by the absence of his grandfather's picture on the Division's Wall of Honor, he spent 10 years researching the matter and eventually, with the assistance of Ulster County Medical Examiner Dr. Walter Dobushak, found a death certificate for his grandfather marked "on duty." Pages of information and supporting documentation were forwarded to the Office of the Superintendent for review, and as a result, Sgt. John H. Lockhart was added to the New York State Police Honor Roll of those who have died in the line of duty.

Sgt. Lockhart also will be recognized on the Troop C Memorial at SP Sidney, on the New York State Police Officers Memorial at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, and at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Recruitment

After a year of intensive recruitment, the Division noted with satisfaction that a total of 27,963 candidates had applied to take the New York State Trooper's entrance examination, scheduled for January and February 2008 at several locations throughout the state. Supplemental exams for military personnel who were on active duty during the normal testing period also were announced and scheduled for 2008.

Organizational Structure

One of the ten largest law enforcement agencies in the nation, the Division of State Police is unique as the only full-service police department in New York with statewide jurisdiction; its only specific statutory restriction is that its members may not “exercise their powers within the limit of any city to suppress rioting or disorder except by direction of the Governor or upon the request of the mayor of the city with approval of the Governor.”

In many rural areas the New York State Police is today, as it was at the time of its establishment in 1917, the principal — sometimes only — department providing police services to the public. In other areas it shares jurisdiction and works cooperatively with local agencies. This is accomplished by making available to local departments the full range of State Police specialized units, scientific and criminal investigative services, and other resources most smaller departments typically cannot sustain themselves.

Wherever it operates, the State Police follows a simple philosophy: to provide whatever level of service or assistance is necessary, and to complement or supplement, as appropriate, the efforts of local law enforcement agencies.

Structure and function

The NYSP is divided into two branches, the *Uniform Force* and the *Bureau of Criminal Investigation* (BCI), under the direct operational supervision of the Deputy Superintendent – Field Command. While each branch has its own specific law enforcement responsibilities, each supports and cooperates with the other, and with other law enforcement agencies.

The *Uniform Force* conducts active patrols of specific geographic regions and is the first responder to most calls for police services. In

areas where Uniform Troopers are the primary providers of police services, they perform routine patrols and initially respond to all types of calls for service, including burglaries, missing children, assaults, robberies and homicides. Even in areas that have their own local village and town police departments, Uniform Troopers provide essential support. Frequently, they are the only law enforcement officers available around the clock.

Cases requiring extensive investigation or involving felonies are referred to the Division’s primary investigative arm, the *Bureau of Criminal Investigation*. In addition to conducting investigations initiated by the State Police, BCI Investigators regularly assist county and municipal law enforcement agencies that lack the personnel, expertise or materiel needed for major crime investigations. Specialists within the BCI deal with cases related to narcotics, violent and serial crimes, child abuse and sexual exploitation, computer and technology-related crimes, bias-related crimes, auto theft, illegal gun trafficking, consumer product tampering and organized crime.

Also falling under the rubric of Field Command is the *Office of Counter Terrorism* (OCT), which is staffed with personnel from both the Uniform Force and the BCI. OCT is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all activities related to preventing, investigating and responding to terrorist-related matters. It interacts with the BCI and the Uniform Force to ensure that information is appropriately shared and that all terrorism-related issues are brought to the forefront for investigative and notification purposes. It also is responsible for maintaining liaison with the state’s Office of Homeland Security, the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), local law enforcement, the FBI and other relevant federal, state and local agencies associated with investigating, preventing and responding to terrorism. All NYSP troops and details are responsible for directly notifying OCT of all incidents, responses and investigations related to, or suspected to be related

to, terrorism.

Troop and administrative structure

The New York State Police is organized into a Division Headquarters (Albany) and 11 separate troops: Troop A is headquartered in Batavia (Genesee County), B in Ray Brook (Essex County), C in Sidney (Delaware County), D in Oneida (Madison County), E in Canandaigua (Ontario County), F in Middletown (Orange County), G in Loudonville (Albany County), K in Poughkeepsie (Dutchess County) and L in Farmingdale (Long Island).

These nine geographically based troops provide primary police and investigative services across the state.

Troop NYC provides specialized investigative and support services in the five boroughs of New York City, and Troop T patrols the roads and canals managed by the New York State Thruway Authority.

Except for Troop NYC, each troop is divided into two or more zones, each of which incorporates a number of stations. In some locations, individual stations direct the activities of smaller satellite offices.

Division Headquarters provides administrative and support services to all troops. It also oversees a number of technical and support services available to county, local and other

state agencies, as well as to members of the State Police. These include operation of the Division's regional Crime Laboratories and Albany-based Forensic Investigation Center. Division Headquarters also serves as the base of operations for the agency's six primary branches:

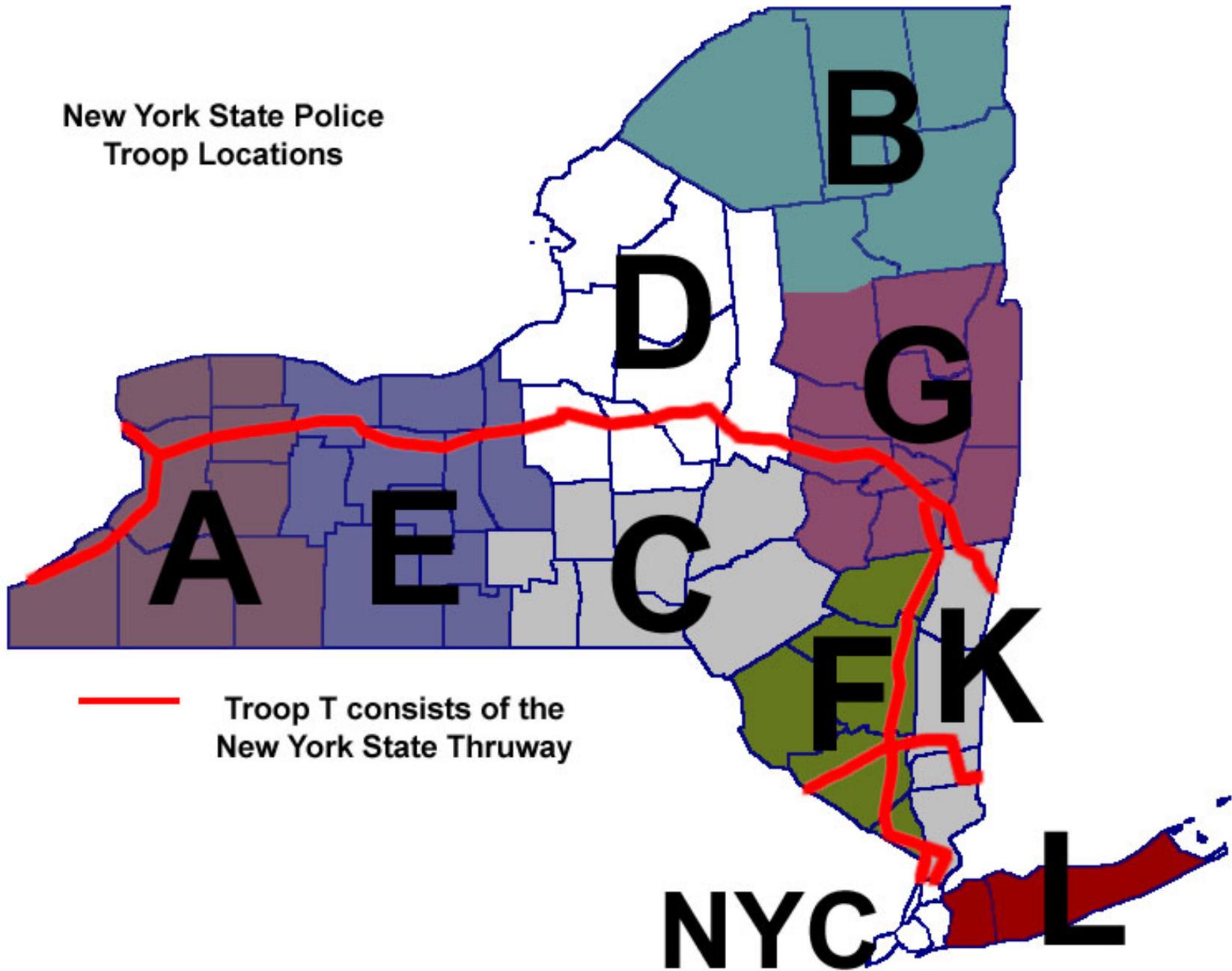
- *Field Command*, which directs all activities of the Uniform Force, the BCI and the OCT. Uniform Force operations include patrol and general law enforcement, highway safety and traffic enforcement, hazardous materials inspection and enforcement, and such specialized units and services as State Police boats, K-9s, bomb disposal, SCUBA divers and Mobile Response Teams (the Division's equivalent of S.W.A.T.). BCI units and services include those devoted to combating auto theft, computer crime and cigarette smuggling, a Gaming Unit, an Electronics Unit, a Medicolegal Investigations Unit, narcotics enforcement (including the regionally operated Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams), a Gun Unit, and a Violent Felony Warrant Squad. The OCT is responsible for managing terrorism-related prevention, training and response activities, the Special Investigations Unit, the Criminal Intelligence Section, and other multi-faceted investigative functions.

- *Administration*, which oversees the Division's fiscal operations, its Central Records Section (including the State's Pistol Permit Registry), the Crime Laboratory System, Public Information Office, Asset

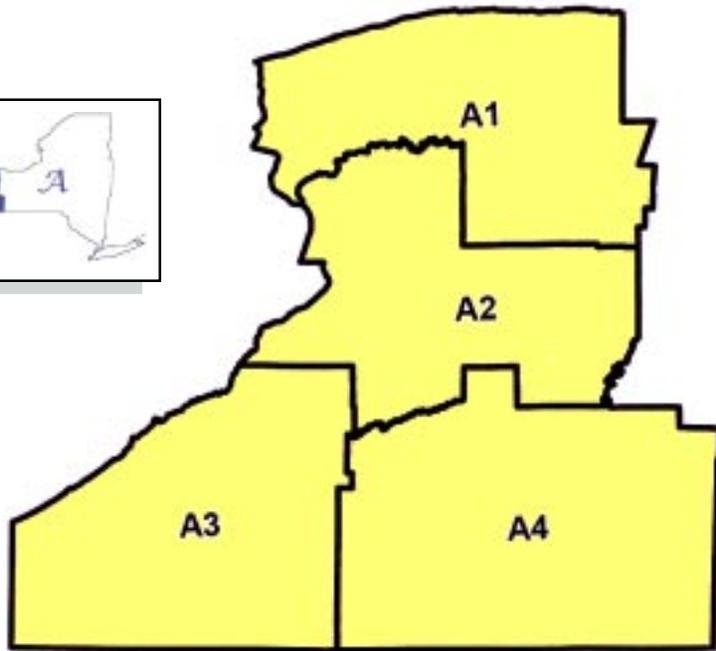
Seizure Program, Quartermaster Section, the Aviation Unit and vehicle fleet operations.

- *Technology & Planning*, which includes the Communications, Planning and Research, and Information Services units.
- *Employee Relations*, which administers the New York State Police Academy, conducts labor negotiations and is responsible for staff development and career guidance.
- *Human Resources*, which operates the Division's personnel and employee staffing sections, and such functions as recruitment, equal employment opportunity and the Employee Assistance Program.
- *Internal Affairs*, consisting of separate Audit and Investigation units, is responsible for ensuring the integrity, efficiency and quality of State Police operations.

New York State Police
Troop Locations



Troop A



From the thunder of Niagara Falls to the tranquility of the region's many vineyards, Troop A exhibits a breadth of diversity unsurpassed anywhere in New York State — and all the policing challenges that go with it. The eight counties comprising this westernmost troop are home to 22 State Police stations. From them, Uniform and BCI personnel serve the residents of 11 cities, 162 towns and 65 villages. Troopers and investigators throughout the region maintain regular patrols, assist motorists, investigate crimes and accidents, and provide around-the-clock emergency and disaster relief services as needed. One of four original State Police troops established in 1917, Troop A's four border crossings bring streams of tourists to and from Canada, and the heavily traveled web of highways connecting its population centers makes activity continuous for the troop's various highway safety details. Troop A is home to five Native American reservations: Allegany, Tuscarora, Tonawanda, Cattaraugus and Oil Springs.

Counties served:

Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming

Population:

1.6 million (approx.)

Service territory:

6,455 square miles

Headquarters: Batavia (Genesee County)

Zone 1

Albion, Grand Island, LeRoy, Lockport, Niagara

Zone 2

Alden, Boston, Clarence, Elma, Holland, Newstead, Warsaw

Zone 3

Collins, Fredonia, Jamestown, Sherman

Zone 4

Alfred-Almond, Amity, Ellicottville, Fillmore, Machias, Olean

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law statistics
DWI arrests- 1,455 Speed - 27,578
Safety Restraints - 12,460

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 7
Rape - 23
Robbery - 10
Assault - 183

Property

Burglary - 432
Larceny - 1,280
Motor Vehicle Theft - 44

2007 Interesting Cases

“Bike Path Rapist” brought to justice

In the fall of 2006, members of the Troop A Major Crimes Unit began contributing to a special investigative task force probing a series of unsolved attacks on as many 15 women, three of whom had been murdered. The suspected serial assailant, known as the “Bike Path Rapist” and later the “Bike Path Killer,” struck first in October 1986 and continued irregularly until 1994, when the attacks appeared to stop. After an interval of 12 years, however, the killer struck again on Sept. 29, 2006, murdering a mother of four in the Erie County town of Newstead. The task force, consisting of elements from the NYSP, the Amherst and Buffalo PDs, and the Erie County Sheriff’s Office was formed Nov. 16, 2006, and included **Lt. (now Capt.) Steven A. Nigrelli** (A-Jamestown) and **Invs. Josh P. Keats** and **Christopher S. Weber** (A-VCIT); **Program Research Specialist II Elizabeth S. Schneider** (H-Criminal Intelligence) provided analytical support.

These sworn and civilian personnel re-examined every fact and detail in the case, ran down old leads, developed new ones from connections and similarities between cases, and created background workups on

suspects. Their efforts contributed substantially to the identification and arrest of a 48-year-old Cheektowaga man on rape and murder charges, Jan. 17, 2007. The arrest also resulted in the exoneration of another man who had been wrongly convicted and imprisoned for two rapes subsequently charged against the Cheektowaga man. The entire staff of the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC, formerly known as the Upstate New York Regional Intelligence Center or UNYRIC) rendered valuable assistance to the investigation, particularly **Ms. Schneider, Program Research Specialist III Michele A. Melton** and **Inv. Patricia E. Collins** (H-Criminal Intelligence). The suspect was charged in two murders, and additional charges remain pending.

The cold plunge – and a rescue

Inv. Brian J. Ratajczak (A-Machias) responded to a dispatch from Cattaraugus County 911, Jan. 24, regarding a man falling through the ice on Harwood Lake, Farmersville. There he met a local police officer, and together they located the victim: an 80-year-old man clinging to the edge of the ice about 50 yards from shore. Borrowing a boat from a neighbor, they tried to make their way to the victim, but could only

manage to approach within 15 yards of him, owing to the thickness of the ice. Local fire department personnel arrived just then, and their water rescue team made its way out to the man. The victim lost consciousness and stopped breathing just as they reached him. Realizing they could not pull him from the water because of the ice conditions, the rescue team smashed a path through the ice to the boat, where **Inv. Ratajczak** and the police officer lifted him aboard. Though the man showed no signs of life, rescue workers sped him to Olean General Hospital, where medical personnel were able to resuscitate and stabilize him. At last report, the man was alive and recuperating from his ordeal.

Plucked from the Niagara

A report of a man in trouble on the Niagara River in the town of Grand Island, Feb. 5, sent **Tpr. Timothy M. Roof** (A-Grand Island) speeding to the scene. Upon arrival, **Tpr. Roof** saw a man in a rubber raft being swept downriver about 150 feet from shore. **Tpr. Brian M. Pazderski** (A-Niagara) and



his **K-9 partner TC** arrived soon afterward, and together the troopers positioned themselves on a boat dock downstream from the man and shouted for him to paddle toward them. The man was able to get close enough to grab a rope thrown to him, and the troopers began hauling him toward shore. Just as he neared the dock, however, he lost his balance and tumbled into the icy water, forcing the troopers to plunge in after him. Emergency workers were waiting on the dock when they finally pulled him out of the water, and transported the man to a nearby hospital. He recovered quickly, and was released into the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol, which charged him with Illegally Entering the United States.

SRO's tip nabs on-line predator

School Resource Officer Tpr. Nora A. Barie (A-Batavia) informed **Inv. Gabrielle Kyser** (A-Olean), March 1, that a 14-year-old girl from Portville Central School (Cattaraugus County) had told a school employee her "friend" had had sex with a 45-year-old man. After numerous interviews, Tpr. Barie determined the victim's identity. The girl told Inv. Kyser she had met the man on-line and initially told him she was 18, but later informed him she was 15. She agreed to meet him Feb. 28. At that time he had given her beer and they engaged in sex. Using the student's on-line account, Invs. Kyser and **David Elliott** (A-Amity) set up

another meeting with the suspect for March 2. The suspect arrived at the rendezvous, where Invs. Kyser, posing as the student, and Elliott arrested him. The man made a full confession and was charged with Criminal Sexual Act 2nd Degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Unlawful Dealing with a Child (providing alcohol to a minor). He was remanded to Cattaraugus County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail.

Home Alone 2

While patrolling through the village of Oakfield (Genesee County), April 4, **Sgt./SC Corey S. Harmon** (A-Batavia) stopped an erratically driven car and found the 25-year-old woman behind the wheel was obviously intoxicated. Sgt. Harmon also noted two child safety seats in the car, and substantial damage from a recent collision. He immediately placed the driver under arrest for DWI and summoned **Tprs. Jamie D. Gonsowski** and **Holly J. Hanssel** (A-Batavia) to assist. Tpr. Hanssell took charge of the defendant and asked her where her two children, ages five months and five years, were. Initially, the woman insisted they were being cared for at a relative's house, but after a time admitted they were home alone. At the house, Sgt. Harmon and Tpr. Gonsowski discovered the natural gas pipe leading into the building had been broken off, evidently by the suspect's vehicle. There was a strong smell of gas in and around the residence. The children were removed from the house and turned over to Child Protective Services, and the local utility

and fire department summoned. During a consent search of the residence, troopers observed a small quantity of marijuana in plain view, and a mattress at the residence that had been set on fire.

Investigation revealed the defendant and her boyfriend had partied into the morning hours, when the boyfriend had stalked out after a drunken argument, leaving the children with the highly intoxicated mother. The woman then tried to leave, first attempting to set a mattress afire, then striking the gas line with her car, shearing it off. Shortly thereafter, she was arrested by Sgt. Harmon. She was charged with Aggravated DWI, two counts each of Endangering the Welfare of a Child 2nd Degree and Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree, Attempted Arson 2nd Degree, and numerous V&T charges, and committed to Genesee County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail. The boyfriend was charged with Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child 2nd Degree.

A surprise inside

Tpr. Jay A. Hoy (A-Warsaw) was off-duty and working outside his house, May 18, when he heard a loud crash from the highway and immediately went to investigate. At



the scene of the crash he found a vehicle, upside down, and a 5-year-old boy who had climbed from the wreck. Tpr. Hoy told the boy to stay with a female motorist who had stopped at the scene, then proceeded to the wreck, where he found the driver dead from massive trauma. A fire then broke out under the vehicle's engine compartment. Tpr. Hoy yelled to the motorists who had stopped for someone to get a fire extinguisher and call 911. Sticking his head inside the smashed car, Tpr. Hoy was surprised to find a baby girl, approximately nine months old, hanging upside down in her car seat. He immediately forced entry into the wreck, extricated the infant from her seat, and carried her to safety. A passing trucker then handed him a fire extinguisher and Tpr. Hoy doused the flames. The children were removed to a safe location to await their mother, who had been at work at the time of the accident.

Recovering a drowning victim

A 16-year-old boy and his brother were picking cattails at a family pond near their house, June 8, when he accidentally fell backwards into the water and failed to resurface. The brother immediately called for help and Allegany County Sheriff's Department 911 Dispatch quickly put out a mutual aid call for the closest fire department. Personnel from the New Hudson Volunteer Fire Department, the Cuba PD and SP Amity responded.

Arriving at the same time as the fire depart-

ment personnel, **Tpr. Jeffrey L. Giardini** (A-Amity) immediately entered the water to search for the victim. He soon found him and with help from the New Hudson fire chief, brought him ashore where CPR was administered. The boy still had a slight pulse when transported to Olean General Hospital. He was placed in intensive care, then transferred to Children's Hospital in Buffalo, where, unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries the next morning.

Like a house afire

Responding to a report of a house fire, Oct. 18, **Tpr. Chad P. Barry** (A-Elma) arrived at the scene to find two Erie County sheriff's deputies standing in the driveway of the residence with the woman of the house and her three children. The complainant said her husband had gone down to the basement, where the fire originated, and had not returned. Tpr. Barry and the deputies entered the house but were unable to locate the basement owing to the heat and smoke. Tpr. Barry continued to look for another way inside, and soon discovered a sliding glass door at the rear of the house leading into the basement. Once inside he shone his flashlight into the basement and shouted the man's name. The man was able to follow the trooper's voice toward the exit, where he was assisted out of the residence. He later stated that he had entered the basement in an effort to extinguish the fire, but had become overwhelmed and disoriented by the smoke and heat. He was transported to the Erie County Medical Center and treated for

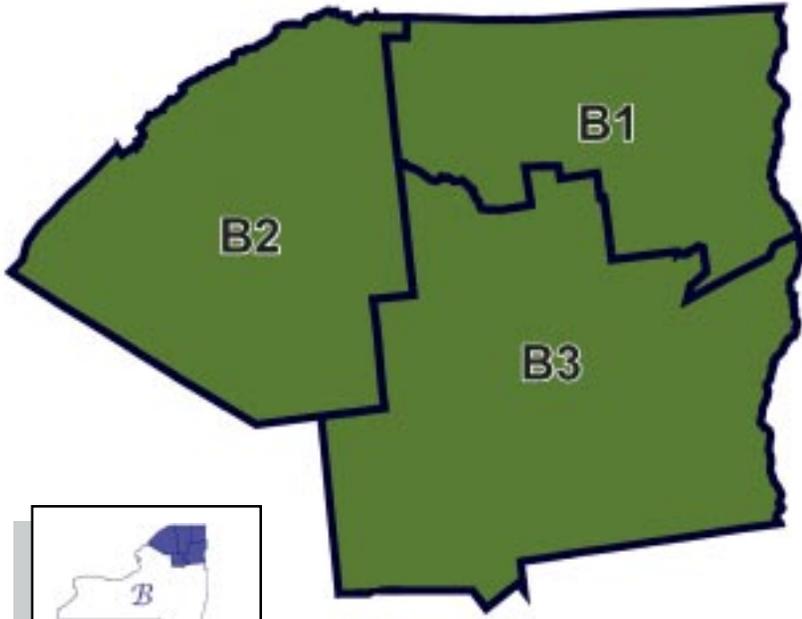
smoke inhalation.

Attempted murder and robbery

Monitoring a Nov. 19 radio transmission by Wellsville police regarding a foot chase with an armed robber, **Tpr. Stephen M. Austin** (A-Amity), responded to a shopping plaza to assist the officers, where he met **Tpr. Jeffrey L. Giardini** (A-Amity) and **School Resource Officer Tpr. Charles D. Sackett** (A-Batavia), together with several members of the Bolivar PD and the Allegany County Sheriff's Department. As State Police personnel were arriving at the scene, the suspect jumped into a white van, left unattended with its engine running, and sped away. Responding police established a perimeter around the plaza, but the suspect ran the blockade, striking several police cars and firing two rounds from his .380-cal. handgun. Officers returned fire without effect, and the subject sped up the highway until he was struck and run off the road by several police vehicles. Tpr. Austin then assisted the other officers in removing the suspect from the van. The defendant was charged with 1st Degree Robbery and Attempted Murder of a Police Officer, arraigned and remanded to the Allegany County Jail without bail.



Troop B



Established in 1921, Troop B is distinguished by its extremes. The northernmost troop, and the biggest geographically, its five counties are the largest, most sparsely populated in New York State. It is a predominantly rural area of great distances, “forever wild” forests, the Adirondack Mountains, long winters and great natural beauty. To the north lie the St. Lawrence Seaway and Canada; to the east, Lake Champlain and Vermont; to the west and south lie boundaries with Troops D and G, respectively. This vast region is serviced by 22 strategically located stations, from which troopers patrol 8,091 square miles and provide police services to 79 towns and 27 villages. Patrolling the North Country fosters a special brand of self-reliance, and B troopers are renowned for their ability to handle any situation with minimal assistance. In addition to such typical tasks as investigating accidents and crimes, interstate patrol and special border details, they often find themselves called on to search for lost hikers, evacuate injured campers, rescue storm-stranded travelers, investigate Fish and Wildlife Law violations and respond to domestic disputes and criminal complaints in remote locations.

Counties served:

Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence

Population:

287,000 (approx.)

Service territory:

8,091 square miles

Headquarters:

Ray Brook (Essex County)

Zone 1

Chazy, Dannemora, Ellenburg, Keesville, Malone, Plattsburgh, Valcour

Zone 2

Canton, Gouverneur, Massena, Norfolk, Ogdensburg, Star Lake, Winthrop

Zone 3

Blue Ridge/High Peaks, Crown Point, Indian Lake, Schroon Lake, Tupper Lake, Wilmington

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI - 1,137

Speed - 27,698

Safety Restraint - 5,976

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 22

Rape - 36

Robbery - 13

Assault - 431

Property

Burglary - 749

Larceny - 1,412

Motor Vehicle Theft - 77

2007 Interesting Cases

Persistence pays off

Throughout the fall and early winter of 2006, SP Ray Brook BCI investigated a series of burglaries at commercial establishments throughout the troop's five counties. Although the crimes were spread over a wide area, the burglars' modus operandi suggested the same persons were involved. In an effort to identify them, investigators installed video surveillance cameras in businesses and collected latent evidence from crime scenes, including footwear and tire impressions, and advised night shift troopers throughout the region of their findings.

On Jan. 2, **Tprs. Guyowen S. Howard** and **John C. Zahray** (B-Indian Lake) were working a 2 shift when they received a report of an attempted burglary in Newcomb (Essex County). The complainant told them by telephone that he had interrupted burglars in his store, and provided a description of the suspects and their getaway vehicle. Tprs. Howard and Zahray checked other area businesses as they patrolled toward Newcomb.

While checking the parking lot of a store in Blue Mountain Lake (Hamilton County), they observed a vehicle matching the suspects' car, saw two men running from the back of the store, and quickly apprehended them. They found the store's cash register, pried open, in the parking lot. In their possession the suspects had money from several burglaries that

night, along with a scanner, burglar tools and a weapon. Ray Brook **Invs. Larry E. Cragle, Dennis C. Dwyer** and **Brian J. Sypek** confronted the suspects with the accumulated information, after which the men confessed to more than 30 burglaries in five counties.

Second tragedy averted

Dispatched to investigate an "open 911" call at an apartment in Dannemora (Clinton County), March 10, **Tprs. Ronald G. Whittington** and **Joseph A. Liberty** (B-Plattsburgh) arrived to find all the lights on and the residence secure. From a neighbor, they learned that the occupant of the apartment had recently lost her husband, a utility lineman, in an electrical accident. Tpr. Liberty gained entry through the building's basement, made his way into the apartment and unlocked the door for Tpr. Whittington. They found the woman on the floor, unresponsive, with a pulse of 142. Tpr. Liberty quickly restored her breathing and she was transported to the Champlain Valley Physicians Medical Center in Plattsburgh, where she eventually made a full recovery. Investigation determined she had been distraught over the death of her husband and consumed half a bottle of wine and 21 Tylenol PM tablets.

A wintry well done!

A spring blizzard was raking the North County, April 15, when a Malone resident called SP Malone to report a man he knew had threatened him in his driveway with a handgun, fired one shot wildly, then fled the scene. **Tprs. Kristina M. Stewart** and **Cary A. Young** (B-Malone) responded, photographed tire tracks in the driveway and secured a statement from the complainant. The shooter's address was relayed to other members. **Inv. Joseph A. Tatro** (B-Malone) drove to the shooter's house, where he saw a pickup truck enter the garage and the door close behind it. With Tprs. Young and **Thomas C. Brown** (B-Malone), he established a perimeter. **Sgt./SC Daniel K. Shea** (B-Malone) was recalled to duty and responded to the scene with **Tprs. James M. Gwinn** and **Shawn D. Niles** (B-Malone). Inv. Tatro made telephone contact with the man in the house, who said he had numerous guns and no intention of surrendering alive, and would take as many troopers with him as he could. Inv. Tatro continued talking to him for more than two hours, during which the troopers remained on the perimeter, enduring the snow, wind and cold. In the end, the man surrendered without a fight. He was charged with 1st Degree Reckless Endangerment, arraigned in Malone Town Court and committed to the Franklin County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail. Several pistols, rifles and shotguns were found throughout the house.



High drama in the North Country

Responding to a domestic complaint, June 18, **Tpr. Amanda S. Reif** (B-Canton) was approaching the complainant's residence when a man in the house, a convicted rapist with a substantial criminal history, fired a .50-cal. blackpowder rifle at her through the front door. The bullet struck Tpr. Reif in the upper left chest, knocking her to the ground. The man then exited the residence, pointing the rifle at Tpr. Reif and threatening her as the injured trooper pushed herself along the ground to get out of the line of fire.



She radioed that she had been shot and needed assistance. When responding patrols arrived and instructed the shooter to surrender, the man refused to obey their commands, and when he began moving aggressively toward the other officers, Tpr. Reif, despite her injuries, fired a single round from her .45-cal. service weapon, killing the assailant.

Treated at the scene by responding troopers and emergency medical personnel, Tpr. Reif was transported to Canton-Potsdam Hospital where her medical condition was stabilized. She subsequently was flown to Fletcher Allen Medical Center, an acute trauma center in Burlington, VT, for surgery. She was discharged from the hospital after several weeks and is expected to recover fully and return to duty.



Emergency personnel transport wounded Tpr. Amanda Reif to Canton-Potsdam Hospital. (WCAX-TV Photo)

Tpr. Amanda S. Reif In February 2008, Tpr. Amanda Reif was honored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as recipient of the *IACP Trooper of the Year Award*.

Troop B Commander Maj. Richard C. Smith Jr. **presents an NYSP plaque of appreciation to Dr. Bruce A. Crookes, Tpr. Reif's attending physician, and Nurse Robyn Joseph-Robar, nurse manager of the Fletcher Allen Medical Center Emergency Department in Burlington, VT, for their invaluable help in saving Tpr. Reif's life.**



New technology records same old mistakes

Responding to a reported gas station robbery in Peru (Clinton County), May 18, **Tprs. Darren D. Forgea** and **Jamie A. Leary** (B-Plattsburgh) interviewed the cashier, who told them a short man in a dark grey hooded sweatshirt had asked for cigarettes, then displayed a black semi-automatic handgun and demanded the contents of the cash drawer. He fled on foot with \$167 toward the village of Peru. **Sr. Inv. Patrick M. Mitchell** and **Invs. Joey D. Rice, Michael W. Madore** and **Karen L. Dufour** (B-Plattsburgh) arrived soon afterward and began conducting interviews throughout the neighborhood. Before long they hit the jackpot: a witness who not only revealed the identity of the suspect, but provided them with an actual confession, recorded with his cellular telephone, in which the robber admitting to the crime shortly after the stickup. They had little difficulty arresting him. A search revealed his weapon to have been a BB gun. He eventually pleaded guilty to Attempted Burglary 2nd Degree and Menacing 2nd Degree, and was sentenced to 3½ years in state prison.

Suicide averted – I

Tprs. Benjamin J. Davis (B-Schroon Lake), **James D. West** (B-High Peaks) and **Dennis M. Riley** (G-Chestertown) responded to the town of Minerva (Essex County), July 9, for a report of a suicidal man with a gun. The re-

sponding troopers were familiar with the subject, having handled many domestic disputes at his residence. Arriving at the house, they were able to see the 66-year-old man seated at his dining room table. He had a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, but was conscious and alert. The troopers effected an emergency entry. The man refused to obey their directions, however, and when he reached under the table for a sawed-off, single-shot .22-cal. rifle, Tpr. Davis rushed him, slapped his arm away from the gun and knocked him to the floor. The troopers arrested him under section 9.41 of the Mental Hygiene Law. He was airlifted to Albany Medical Center in stable condition.

Suicide averted – II

During the 2 Shift, July 26, **Tprs. Joel T. Vanderpool** and **Luke W. Beadnell** (B-Schroon Lake) were dispatched to a residence in Crown Point (Essex County), where a woman told them her husband, a Vietnam War veteran, was intoxicated and refusing to take his prescribed medication for post-traumatic stress disorder. He was suicidal and homicidal, she said, and further advised that he had left the residence in his SUV with a handgun, several long guns and knives, threatening to kill any police officer who approached him.

Lt. Patrick E. Ryan (B-Ray Brook) encountered the subject on Rte. 22 in Ticonderoga and radioed the patrol for assistance. Lt. Ryan and Tprs. Beadnell and Vanderpool attempted a felony traffic stop on a rural stretch of the highway. The subject pulled over but refused to exit his vehicle and immediately brandished a handgun, threatening to shoot himself and menacing the members. The patrols hastily

established a perimeter with Lt. Ryan, Tpr. Beadnell and a Ticonderoga Village police officer providing cover. Tpr. Vanderpool, who had prior dealings with the man, engaged him in a lengthy conversation in an effort to dissuade him from shooting himself. **Sgt. Robert A. Buell** (B-Schroon Lake) and **Tprs. Leston W. Sheeley, Donald M. Fougere Jr.** (B-High Peaks), **David W. Howard** and **Tarone M. Liebman** (B-Wesport) also arrived at the scene to assist. After an abortive attempt to flee and a short pursuit, the man relinquished his weapons and surrendered to Tpr. Vanderpool without further incident. At the time of his arrest he was wearing military fatigues, a black trench coat and camouflage paint on his face. In addition to the weapons his wife had described, he also had a military gun belt and web gear, handcuffs and pepper spray. It was later learned that he was a former Navy SEAL.

Routine search ends in gun battle

Tprs. Douglas T. Hoffman and **Steven H. Euler** (B-Tupper Lake) were working an assigned 2 Shift, Aug. 9, when they spotted a car on the side of the road in the town of Tupper Lake. The driver exited the vehicle as they approached, and when asked for his registration information said it was inside the car. He returned to the vehicle, accompanied by the patrol, at which time the troopers spotted a handgun under something on the front seat. A struggle ensued, but the man was able to grab his pistol and open fire at the troopers, striking Tpr. Hoffman once in the left calf. The troop-



ers took cover and returned fire, striking and disabling the gunman. The Tupper Lake Rescue Squad transported Tpr. Hoffman and his assailant to Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake. Tpr. Hoffman was treated and released, while the gunman underwent emergency surgery and at last report was in critical condition.

Roadside rescue

During a scheduled 1 Shift, Aug. 12, **Tprs. Erik Lippassaar** and **Brendan J. Frost** (B-Massena) received a report from a passing motorist of a personal injury automobile accident on Rte. 37 in Massena. At the scene they found a pickup truck crashed into a large tree, its engine compartment in flames and a man slumped over the steering wheel. Attempts to extricate him were hampered by damage to the driver's door. When the truck cab began to fill with smoke, Tpr. Lippassaar broke the driver's-side window for ventilation. The situation became increasingly perilous when flames began gushing from behind the dashboard and the victim, now unconscious, began pleading for help. **Tpr. Jonathan M. Garrow** (B-Winthrop Satellite) arrived and attempted to pry the door open with a Halligan tool obtained from a passer-by, but the bar slipped from the door jamb and sent him sprawling backward onto his left ankle. Though in great pain, he continued to assist in the rescue. Tprs. Frost and Lippassaar were overcome by smoke as they worked to free the victim, and it wasn't until members of the Helena Fire Department



Inv. Dennis C. Dwyer (**B-Ray Brook**) and Maj Richard C. Smith Jr., **B Troop Commander**, inspect the wreckage of a twin-engine Beechcraft Baron aircraft that crashed near the Adirondack Regional Airport in Lake Clear, April 8, killing a Saranac Lake man.

arrived with a heavy chain that the door of the burning vehicle was finally forced open and the rescue completed. The motorist was transported to Massena Memorial Hospital with non-life threatening injuries to his ribs and fractures to his lower extremities. All three troopers required medical attention: Tprs. Lippassaar and Frost were treated for smoke inhalation and released; Tpr. Garrow was diagnosed with a fractured left ankle and released to follow up with an orthopedic physician.

A dumpster-diving hero

A gentleman from Outremont, Quebec, was driving north on I-87 from New York City with his family, Aug. 20, and stopped at the Schroon Lake rest area to wash and eat some sandwiches they had brought for the trip. As was her custom, the wife removed her jewelry prior to washing her hands and absent-mindedly placed her rings in the bag with their food. After the meal he tossed the garbage into a refuse bin and the family continued on their way. It wasn't until they arrived in Montreal that the family



realized the wife's wedding and engagement rings had gone with the trash. He then placed an urgent telephone call to the New York State Police. **Tpr. Leston W. Sheeley** (B-High Peaks) answered it.

Tpr. Sheeley found the phone number for the maintenance department servicing the Schroon Lake rest area and requested that the garbage cans be checked. Unfortunately, he learned, the garbage already had been moved to the outside dumpster. He called Tpr. Sheeley back, and the trooper dutifully recorded the man's name, phone number, and a description of the bag containing the rings. Tpr. Sheeley then picked up his partner, **Tpr. Gregory J. Brack** and drove to the Schroon Lake rest area. There they found an entire day's worth of garbage bags piled next to the dumpster. After picking through that pile of refuse without success, they looked in the dumpster, where they spotted a bag matching the description provided to them. Tpr. Sheeley donned a pair of latex gloves and retrieved the bag. Inside it were the missing rings. The gentleman was contacted, advised of the good news, and two days later reclaimed the rings at SP Westport.

The story had one more chapter, however: Not long afterward, a New York City-based weekly newspaper published an article recounting the incident. In the weeks that followed, the State Police was deluged with e-mails and letters of thanks, admiration and approbation for the efforts of Tprs. Sheeley and Brack from up and down the Eastern Seaboard. The grateful missives were still trickling in as late as February 2008. At last count, the total had reached 791.

Manhunt by the lake

Dispatched to the scene of a reported armed robbery at a grocery store near Black Lake in Morristown (St. Lawrence County), Nov. 15, SP Canton uniformed personnel learned on arrival that a masked man in camouflage clothing brandished a rifle and demanded money from the employees. Hearing the commotion, the 71-year-old shop owner had hurried to the front of the store, where he grappled with the robber and was shot in the lower leg. The suspect fled the scene, but not before the owner had managed to seize the man's mask. Uniform and BCI investigators began a manhunt, flooding the area with police. Neighborhood interviews turned up several residents who reported hearing a motorboat motor on the lake at the time the robbery – an unusual phenomena for

mid-November. Meanwhile, a boat was reported missing several miles down the shore of Black Lake from the robbery, and the ownersaid a .22-cal. rifle was missing from his garage in nearby Ogdensburg. His son, who had recently been released from prison after serving time for an armed robbery conviction, became a prime suspect. He was located and apprehended in short order, and before the month was out had pleaded guilty to attempted robbery. The store owner is recovering from his injury.

Last call

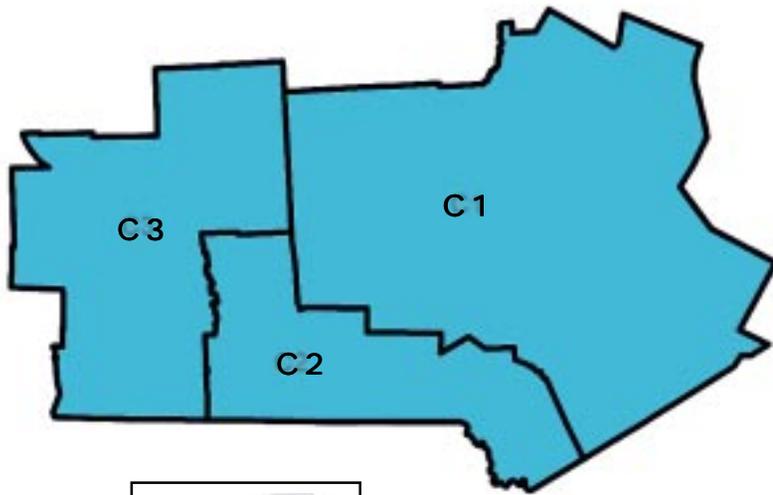
A motorist reported seeing the body of a man lying beside the road just outside the village of Gouverneur (St. Lawrence County), Dec. 9. Finding pieces of a vehicle nearby, investigating personnel from the State Police and Gouverneur PD determined the victim, a 27-year-old Harrisville (Lewis County) man, had been struck from behind while walking west-bound on Rte. 12. The road was closed and **Sgts. Randy J. Bush** (B-Gouverneur) and **Michael J. Trimboli** (B-Massena) responded to the scene along with **Inv. James P. Disalvo** (B-Canton) and the Troop B Collision Reconstruction Unit. **Tprs. Craig R. Miller, Bryan C. Shippee, Joshua J. Roth, and Mark A. Fenton**, SP Gouverneur, assisted at the scene and conducted numerous interviews.

Among those interviewed were friends of the deceased, who stated that around 2:30 a.m., the victim was walking to their house and talking to them on his cell phone when the phone suddenly went dead. Their attempts to re-contact him went to his voicemail. The shattered cell phone was found near the scene.

An alert fireman near the scene noticed a pickup truck with extensive front-end damage drive by the roadblock. He radioed his dispatcher, who advised the members at the scene. Troopers stopped the truck and found the driver was still intoxicated. The truck was secured at SP Gouverneur and later processed by the Troop B Forensic Identification Unit. Evidence at the scene and on the truck indicated it had indeed struck the pedestrian. The driver, a 34-year-old Gouverneur man, was charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident, vehicular manslaughter, and two counts of DWI.



Troop C



Operating from 19 State Police facilities across the Southern Tier, the members of Troop C provide essential police services throughout a sprawling seven-county area. In addition to patrolling the 112 townships in the region, C Troopers provide the only police protection available to many of the area's 44 incorporated villages and work closely with police departments in five cities. Troop C's topography is varied, ranging from the rolling fields of Cortland County to the rugged mountains of Delaware County, itself equal in size to the state of Rhode Island. Typical duties include rural patrol and investigative work, policing numerous fairs, agricultural festivals and parades, and providing a security detail for the annual National Baseball Hall of Fame weekend in Cooperstown (Otsego County). Additionally, the troop is transected by three major highways, which require regular patrol and occasional emergency response. Troop C was created in 1921.

Counties served:

Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga and Tompkins

Population:

558,000 (approx.)

Service territory:

5,587 square miles

Headquarters: Sidney (Delaware County)

Zone 1

Oneonta, Greene, Margaretville, Norwich, Richfield Springs, Stamford

Zone 2

Binghamton, Deposit, Endwell, Whitney Point, Gateway (I-81 Welcome Center)

Zone 3

Ithaca, Berkshire, Homer, Marathon, Newfield, Owego

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI - 1,169

Speed - 33,102

Safety Restraint - 10,055

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 11

Rape - 44

Robbery - 15

Assault - 431

Property

Burglary - 629

Larceny - 1,454

Motor Vehicle Theft - 44

2007 Interesting Cases

Tense standoff

Responding to an address in Otego (Otsego) for a “check the welfare” complaint, Jan. 28, **Tprs. Eric C. Oellrich** and **Tony Fioretto** (C-Oneonta) found themselves immediately confronted by a 39-year-old man who pointed a loaded .25-cal. pistol at Tpr. Oellrich behind the wheel of the troop car. Exiting the patrol car, Tpr. Fioretto drew his Glock and a Mexican standoff ensued. The situation prevailed until the man, distraught over financial and legal problems, made a quick switch and held the pistol to his own head. Tpr. Oellrich was able to call for backup and hostage negotiator **Inv. T.R. Ward, Z/Sgt. Gary A. Leahy** (C-Oneonta), and **Tprs. Martin J. Colabelli, John W. Gombach** and **Kristie A. Sowle** (C-Sidney) responded and took up positions. Tprs. Oellrich and Fioretto kept the subject talking for nearly two hours, despite the freezing temperatures. Finally, he surrendered his weapon and was taken to A.O. Fox Hospital Crisis Center before being released to the custody of State Police. Arraigned in Otego Town Court, he was remanded to the Otsego County Jail in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

Suicide averted

Tpr. Greg D. MacPherson (C-Deposit) was on patrol in the town of Windsor (Broome County), March 12, when he observed a man climbing over the guide rail on the Susquehanna River overpass. Tpr. MacPherson turned his troop car around to investigate and notified SP Binghamton by radio. When he approached him, the man climbed back over the railing onto the roadway. Questioned about his behavior, the subject replied, “Leave me alone. I just want to be gone. I just want to go,” and pointed to the river below. Tpr. MacPherson continued talking with the man and learned he was 23 years old, intoxicated and despondent over the loss of his girlfriend.

He also said he had been threatened by an individual for implicating him in a case the SP Deposit BCI was investigating. As they spoke, the young man became more upset. He threatened to jump several times and climbed onto the railing. Tpr. MacPherson talked him away from the rail each time, all the while waiting for backup. First to arrive was **Tpr. Patrick T. Skinner** (C-Binghamton), followed by **Sgt./SC Todd M. Burdick** (C-Deposit). They assumed strategic positions around the man, and when Tpr. MacPherson momentarily distracted him, Sgt. Burdick seized the opportunity, approached the subject from behind, seized his hand and subdued him without further incident. The subject was transported to Binghamton General Hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

Shots fired, response

The Broome County 911 Center dispatched SP Binghamton **Tprs. Timothy S. Conklin, Andrew Tocheny** and **Stephen J. Sochor** to a fight in the town of Kirkwood where shots reportedly had been fired, April 18. Moments after the initial call, the center reported numerous cars had left the scene of the altercation. The troopers stopped two vehicles en route believed to have been involved in the incident. **Z/Sgt. John C. Lynch, Sr. Inv. G. Fred Goodall** and **Invs. William Dengler, Diane A. Hall, William P. Baumgartner** (C-Binghamton) and **Tpr. Todd A. Rogers** (C-Whitney Point) all responded as backup. Preliminary interviews indicated other persons involved in the incident were on their way to a local restaurant to regroup. SP Binghamton and Endwell Satellite personnel located three involved vehicles there, secured the occupants and transported them to Binghamton for questioning.



Investigation revealed a group of 12 youths ages 13 to 20 had gathered to beat up a 17-year-old Kirkwood youth. When the group, traveling in five cars, arrived at his house, the 17-year-old came outside and fired approximately 15 shots into the air with a shotgun. The group fled and were rounded up by the responding patrols. The 12 youths were charged with 3rd Degree Menacing, their intended victim with Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree and 4th Degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon.

Blazing conclusion

Members from SP Oneonta and Richfield Springs converged upon a farmhouse in Hartwick (Otsego County), May 14, when calls started coming in about a mentally ill man. Told by his wife that she wanted a divorce, he had set fire to their farmhouse, and as it burned, stood menacingly on the front porch waving a sawed-off shotgun at anyone who approached. Fire and hot embers spread to fields in the vicinity, and soon the blaze began to threaten nearby homes.

Richfield Springs **Tprs. Charles L. Humphreville, Robert M. Dabreau Jr., and Lester B. Swald**, along with Oneonta **Tprs. Eric C. Oellrich, Austen B.**



Uniform Troopers and investigators at a Delaware County roadblock search vehicles for the suspects who shot and wounded Tpr. Matthew J. Gombosi (C-Margaretville), April 24. The search climaxed the following morning in a gun battle in which the suspect and MRT member Tpr. David C. Brinckerhoff (F-Coxsackie) died.

Asquith and Daniel K. Butler, supported by **Sr. Inv. Robert Fernandez, Invs. T. R. Ward and Michael G. MacInerney and Sgt. David R. Segit**, set up a perimeter around the building with sheriff's deputies. At times, the smoke was so thick they lost sight of the man, but the members repositioned themselves quickly and were able to confine him to a small horse barn on the property. This enabled a Hartwick Fire Department truck to approach the neighboring houses closely enough to prevent them from catching fire. Despite the best

efforts of all involved, however, the man took his own life. Nevertheless, by their actions, the troopers and investigators earned praise from the neighbors, firefighters and even the man's own family.

Disaster response

When a late evening cloudburst pounded Cat Hollow in Colchester (Delaware County) with eight inches of rain, June 19, it spawned a flash flood that took the lives of four local residents. Numerous roads were washed out and remained closed for months. Power and telephone service were knocked out for days in some areas, and property damage was widespread. State Police provided round-the-clock support to the community throughout the crisis, as personnel

from Troop C joined others from Troop F, the State Emergency Management Office, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Red Cross, local law enforcement agencies and fire companies. Troopers, accompanied by urban search and rescue units, Division K-9 teams, SCUBA divers and NYSP Aviation, searched extensively for missing persons



throughout a vast area littered with wreckage and debris. Three bodies were recovered, although the remains of a woman reportedly swept away with her house in the flood remained missing.

Accident investigation leads to drug seizure

Dispatched by the Broome County 911 Center to a one-car personal injury accident in the town of Binghamton, June 24, **Tpr. Patrick T. Skinner** (C-Binghamton) secured the scene and interviewed the driver, who claimed his brakes had failed, causing his car to roll over several times when he pulled off the road to slow down. All three occupants of the vehicle were injured, and the evidence at the scene appeared to support the driver's story. But a bystander

Dalai Lama visits Troop C



The New York State Police coordinated protective service support with eight other law enforcement agencies for a four-day visit by the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso, to the Ithaca area, Oct. 8-12. His High Holiness conducted a land blessing for a new monastery and made public appearances before large audiences in the city of Ithaca, at Cornell University and at Ithaca College. The security detail was lauded for its seamless effectiveness, smooth execution and professionalism. Members of the State Police assigned to the protective service detail posed with the Dalai Lama prior to his departure from Troop C.

who approached **Tpr. Patrick E. Finn** (C-Binghamton) at the scene shortly thereafter said the driver had been acting suspiciously before police arrived. After helping the two

injured passengers from the overturned car, the motorist had placed several items into a fishing tacklebox, he said, then moved the box to a van that had arrived at the scene. Tpr. Finn advised Tpr. Skinner of this and together they approached the driver of the van, who identified himself as the accident driver's father. He said his son had called him and asked him to come to the accident scene. Upon arrival, he said, his son had asked if he could put a tacklebox in the van; he had no ideas what was in the box, he said.

As ambulance personnel were examining the three injured persons, the troopers obtained consent to search the van. The man handed the



tackle box to Tpr. Finn, who opened it and found four ounces of cocaine, three grams of crack cocaine, three grams of marijuana, a digital scale and \$5,000 in cash inside.

The troopers completed an inventory of the vehicle and had it towed to SP Binghamton while an ambulance transported one of the victims to the hospital for treatment. **Invs. William P. Baumgartner** (C-Binghamton) and **Sean R. Kilpatrick** (H-CNET Southern Tier) interviewed all three occupants and, after consulting with the Broome County District Attorney's Office, Inv. Baumgartner arrested two men for 2nd and 7th Degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia, 2nd Degree, and Unlawful Possession of Marijuana. One of the passengers was additionally charged with 3rd Degree Bail Jumping, based on an outstanding bench warrant from the city of Binghamton. The third man was charged upon his release from the hospital.

Alert trooper nabs bank robber

Several cars from the Broome County Sheriff's Office and State Police converged on a Front Street bank in the town of Chenango, Aug. 11, in response to reports of a robbery in progress. The county 911 center advised patrols the robber, a white man wearing a white-and-black-striped T-shirt, blue jeans, a baseball cap and a black knapsack, had told the teller he had a

weapon, but displayed none. While troopers and deputies secured the scene, **Tpr. Christopher G. Skinner** (C-Binghamton) patrolled to nearby Otsiningo Park, which borders the bank and has a walkway running along the Chenango River. He questioned a couple walking in the park if they had seen anyone fitting the robber's description. They answered no, but said a man who had just jogged past them in running clothes had lost a \$100 bill out of his pocket. The woman had called out to the jogger, and the man had returned to retrieve the bill. Tpr. Skinner obtained a description of the subject and continued checking the walkway.

He found the man a short time later. The jogger seemed nervous and was evasive in his answers, and told Tpr. Skinner he had left his identification in his hotel room in Binghamton. Knowing his patrol area, Tpr. Skinner challenged him on this information, whereupon the man took to his heels and fled. Tpr. Skinner was able to run him down and took him into custody. In the suspect's front pocket he found the proceeds of the bank robbery — \$5,000.

The 43 year-old Bronx man had stashed the running clothes behind the bank prior to the robbery, changed clothes immediately afterward and run to the walkway, where he hoped to blend in with the other early morning runners in the park. State Police members turned him over to the Broome County Sheriff's Office for processing and arraignment.

The man knew his place

Tpr. Calvin I. Thomas (C-Homer) was reviewing teletype messages prior to beginning a scheduled 2 shift when he noted a Statewide "BOLO" from the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department indicating one of their Top 10 Wanted Fugitives was expected to be traveling north on I-81 in a blue Ford. He was considered armed and dangerous.

That evening, Tpr. Thomas was clearing from a traffic stop when he saw the suspect vehicle pass him on I-81. A rolling file check confirmed the car was associated with the fugitive. Tpr. Thomas alerted the dispatcher at SP Ithaca and requested assistance in stopping the vehicle near Exit 12. **Sgt. Michael G. Compton** (C-Homer) and **Tpr. Andrew J. Campbell** (now E-Painted Post) responded and assisted with a felony traffic stop. The fugitive immediately placed his hands out of the window, yelled that he was "Number 5 on the Most Wanted List" and that he wished to surrender. He was taken into custody without incident and turned over to the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department.



Bad wedding guest

A burglary complaint brought **Tpr. Brian G. Mackey** (C-Oneonta) to a hotel in Oneonta, where a woman told him her room had been burglarized while she was attending her wedding reception. Shortly thereafter, the girlfriend of the groom's brother reported her room also had been burglarized. **Tpr. Marc A. Barbera** (C-Oneonta) responded to assist and interviewed the hotel manager, who determined that the girlfriend had obtained a duplicate electronic room key for the bride's room, and that only the girlfriend and the groom's brother had used the electronic key card for their own hotel room. Permission to search the girlfriend's room was obtained and all of the bride's property stolen was found secreted there. The groom's brother's girlfriend was arraigned on one count of Burglary in 2nd Degree and sent to jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Medical assist call uncovers infanticide

Tprs. Michael J. Burling and **Quentin D. Giles** (C-Ithaca) responded to a 911 call of an unresponsive two-year-old child in Dryden (Tompkins County). They were the first emergency personnel to arrive at the scene and were told by the frantic babysitter that the child was found submerged in a bathtub. They immediately began resuscitative efforts and cleared water from the child's airway. Tpr. Burling remained on scene and began a preliminary investigation, and Tpr. Giles followed the ambulance with the infant to Cayuga Medical Center. The child's aunt, who had been babysitting, told **Inv. Richard H. Prunier** (C-Ithaca) she had become distracted while giving the girl a bath and returned to find the infant under water. This information was related to Tpr. Giles at the hospital. He quickly began to develop medical information that conflicted with the aunt's account. The attending physician advised him the child had additional injuries that were inconsistent with accidental drowning. This information was relayed back to personnel at the scene, and the aunt was transported to SP Ithaca for further questioning. Ultimately, she ultimately confessed to intentionally holding the child's face under water, in an attempt to drown her. She was subsequently charged with 2nd Degree Murder when the child succumbed to her injuries.



2007 Interesting Cases

Derailment and evacuation

On the morning of March 13, 28 cars of a 79-car CSX train bound from Buffalo to Selkirk jumped the tracks and piled up near the city of Oneida. Two tanks containing pressurized propane caught fire and exploded, sending an orange fireball high into the sky and rattling the countryside for miles around. No sooner had that fire burnt out, than two more tanks containing liquefied petroleum gas and another filled with the solvent toluene began to burn.



The aftermath of an accident involving a 79-car freight train that derailed and exploded just outside the city of Oneida, March 13. Uniform troopers and investigators helped city and county police and deputies evacuate everyone within a mile of the accident

Uniform troopers and investigators under Troop D Commander **Maj. Frank J. DeGennaro** and **Capt. Francis S. Coots** (D-Marcy) were sent to help Oneida city police and deputies from the Madison and Oneida County Sheriffs Departments in evacuating everyone within a mile of the accident. The zone included a large residential section of the city, two schools, the Madison County Jail and the New York State Thruway between Exits 34A and 33. SP Aviation-Syracuse was called in to survey and photograph the scene. A command post was established at SP Oneida and representatives from the following agencies responded: the CSX rail system, the American Red Cross, Madison County Executive's Office, SEMO, DEC, the State Thruway Authority, state and federal DOT, Troop T and the Oneida mayor, police, fire chiefs and schools superintendent.

A state of emergency was declared that afternoon, and the evacuation radius was reduced to a half-mile. This enabled all but eight residents to return to their homes. The Thruway was reopened shortly thereafter, although Zone One troopers continued to assist Oneida police with

traffic control for several days while CSX personnel cleaned up the accident scene.

Wild man finally subdued

A house fire in the town of Granby (Oswego County), June 23, brought uniform members from SP Fulton to the scene, where fire personnel told them the blaze appeared to have been arson. **Inv. Scott T. Harrington** (D-Pulaski) interviewed the homeowner, a long-haul truck driver, who said he had returned that morning to find his wife and children had moved out. Enraged, he had set the house afire.

Later, Inv. Harrington was interviewing the suspect's wife and children at SP Fulton when the trucker drove into the station lot. Inv. Harrington went outside to speak with him,



but the man threw a beer bottle at him and sped out of the parking lot, headed north, pursued by **Sgt. Joseph R. Domagola** (D-Fulton) in a marked Tahoe. The suspect next spun his vehicle around and attempted to drive head-on into the troop car. Sgt. Domagola avoided the collision and continued the pursuit for another half-mile, at which point the man performed the same maneuver, this time plowing straight into Sgt. Domagola's Tahoe, wrecking both vehicles.

The suspect then jumped from the wreck and immediately began trying to hijack a succession of vehicles from motorists who had pulled to the side of the roadway during the pursuit. Sgt. Domagola attempted to subdue him, but the suspect grabbed an 8-foot length of 4 X 4 lumber from one of the vehicles that had stopped and struck him with it several times. The brawl spilled into the roadway, where the suspect gained control of Sgt. Domagola's service pistol. He shoved the gun to Sgt. Domagola's head and attempted to pull the trigger, but the pistol jammed, and after a struggle, Sgt. Domagola was able to regain control of the weapon and re-holster it. By this time Inv. Harrington arrived at the scene and he and Sgt. Domagola together finally subdued the wild trucker. He was arrested and charged with multiple felonies. He eventually pleaded guilty in Fulton City court to Attempted Aggravated Murder 1st Degree and 3rd Degree Arson, and received a sentence of 22 years to life in state prison.

A black mark against you...

Tprs. Richard E. Sadowski and **James E. Issakainen** of SP North Syracuse were on routine patrol early Aug. 8 when they saw two men



Troopers conduct a multi-agency DWI Roadcheck held in the city of Oneida on a frosty night in late December. From left: Tpr. Ronald L. Cardwell (D- Lee), Tpr. David N. Olney (D-Marcy), Tpr. Erik F. Knapp (D-Oneida) and Z/Sgt. Lori S. Hughes (D-Marcy).

of Pompey (Onondaga County). Numerous roads intersect at that location, and traffic congestion is exacerbated by poor sight lines. SP Lafayette personnel began targeted enforcement of the Vehicle and Traffic Law at the site, but found few actual speeding violations. Rather, the problem was determined to be a persistent failure to yield by drivers entering onto Route 20. Troop D Zone Two Commander **Capt. Jeffrey D. Raub**, **Z/Sgt. Casey L. Gray** (D-North Syracuse), **T/Sgt. Bernard W. Kennett** (D-Oneida Traffic) and state DOT personnel made many visits to the site to formulate a solution. Eventually, they decided to create a 40 mile-per-hour zone on Route

walking through the lot of a shopping plaza in the town of Salina (Onondaga County). The troopers approached and interviewed them, and noticed a black substance on their hands and wrists. They claimed it was dirt. Through past complaints, Tpr. Sadowski knew the plaza facility manager had covered the pipes leading to his roof with tar to discourage vandals. He and Tpr. Issakainen questioned the men further, and they finally admitted to having burglarized the facility and committing several car larcenies.

Unsnarling a traffic problem

During October, members from SP Lafayette investigated two serious motor vehicle accidents with fatalities at the intersection of Routes 20 and 91 in the town





Troop D marked the opening of its new SP Alexandria Bay station, Nov 17. Presiding at the ribbon-cutting ceremony Sgt./SC Edward Fillingham, Capt. Darrin Pitkin and Troop Commander Maj. Frank DeGennaro.

20 to slow traffic and allow drivers on the intersecting highways to cross or turn onto Route 20 more safely. The change was well-publicized and new signage installed. Early returns suggest the improvements have been successful.

“What you got” is trouble

Two SP Morrisville patrols were out on a Mental Health law arrest in Brookfield (Madison County) when a caller reported an armed robbery at a village convenience store in

Morrisville, Dec.4. **Sgt./SC Christopher E. Williams** (D-Morrisville) responded and found the victim bleeding from the top of the head and with his right pants leg torn off. Sgt. Williams promptly arranged for medical assistance and obtained detailed descriptions of the suspects and their getaway vehicle. The victim said three men had approached him in a parking lot. One of them put a handgun into his chest, saying “Give me what you got”. When the victim refused, he was pistol-whipped, knocked to the ground and the leg of his pants — with a pocket containing his wallet — was torn off. Sgt. Williams broadcast this information over the radio, and a Cazenovia policeman quickly reported a vehicle matching the getaway car’s description in his

village.

With the assistance of the Madison County Sheriff’s Department and the Manlius PD, a felony stop was attempted on State Route 92. The officers saw objects being thrown from the vehicle before it pulled over. The five occupants were taken into custody and transported to SP Oneida, where **Inv. Christopher J. Altimonda** questioned them. An AMT .45 pistol and the victim’s wallet were recovered from the scene of the vehicle stop. Three of the occupants were charged with Robbery 1st Degree and Criminal Possession of Marijuana 4th Degree. Two of the suspects had prior convictions for robbery and one was a con-

firmed gang member from the city of Syracuse.

Hey, big spenders!

Investigators from SP Herkimer were called to investigate a bank robbery in Middleville (Herkimer County), Dec. 6, in which a masked gunman had ordered three employees and two customers into the vault and forced them to fill a folded sheet with cash. He left the bank with \$135,000. Troopers and investigators immediately began running down hundreds of leads. A week later, **Inv. Matthew T. Sullivan** (D-Herkimer) received information regarding several people who were spending large amounts cash in Utica. Inv. Sullivan followed up the lead with Utica police and was able to develop credible information about the identities of the suspects. On Dec. 13, a detail was formed under **Lt. David M. Krause** (D-Oneida) to locate, identify and arrest the suspects. The team included **Sr. Inv. Joel H. Campbell, Invs. Michael W. Dolly, Matthew T. Sullivan, Reece S. Treen, William P. Vincent, William B. Keiffer** (all D-Herkimer), **Jeffrey T. Morgan, Samuel Serrano** and **Buenaventura Ruiz-Ortiz** (all CNET Central), **Tpr. Chad Chevrier** (CNET Central) and **Kenneth W. Lawrence Jr.**, (D-Herkimer) and **Z/Sgt Vernon L. McCandlish** (D- Marcy).

Surveillance was established and a search warrant was obtained for the suspects’ residence in Utica. Shortly before entering the house, the surveillance team stopped two



vehicles nearby and detained several of the suspects. Inside the house, the team found a large quantity of cash and money wrappers from the bank, along with a ski mask, latex gloves and a map of the interior of the bank. Among the property seized in the raid were several vehicles purchased the day after the robbery. A total of four suspects ultimately were arrested.

Hey “copper”!

When **Tpr. Scott F. Weber** (D-Oneida) stopped to check a car without license plates parked across Rte. 31 from an abandoned house in Sullivan (Madison County), Dec. 19, the occupant immediately thrust his hands out the window as if he was surrendering. Tpr. Weber asked the man why he was there and what he was doing. The subject said he was with a friend who was working on the house. Footprints leading into the building suggested there was something in that, but the subject in the car could not provide any consistent information regarding the house or the work being done. Tpr. Weber called for assistance and the Chittenango PD responded to detain the subject in the car while Tpr. Weber approached the house.

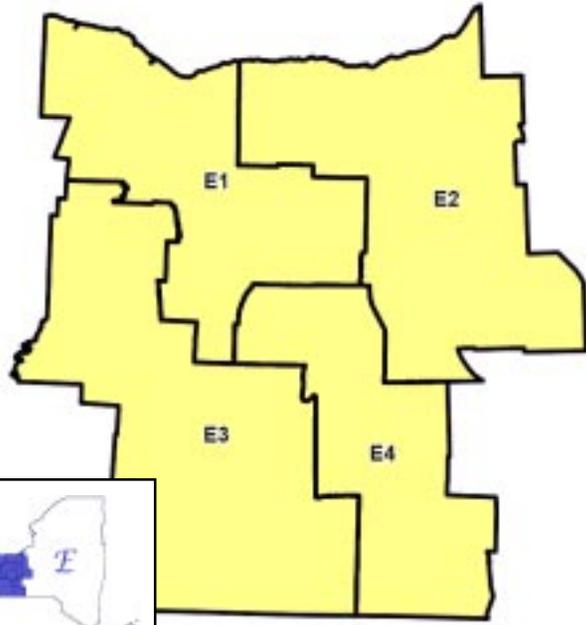
Inside, he heard movement and observed a man jump out a window and begin running. Tpr. Weber called for additional assistance to initiate a search. **Sgt. S/C Thomas E. Haumann, Tprs. James S. Russell and Nicholas J. Lotito** responded from Sylvan Beach, along with **Invs. Donna B. Wassall and Christopher J. Altimonda** and **Tpr. Michael R. Drake** from SP Oneida, **Inv. Robert B. Heath** of the Oneida Gaming Detail, and **Tpr.**

Ronald G. Morse and his K-9 partner “**Prime**” from SP North Syracuse. Tpr. Weber organized a foot search with Tprs. Morse and Lotito while the other units were en route. Upon their arrival, the investigators initiated a roving patrol in the area. SP Aviation-Syracuse arrived and conducted an aerial reconnaissance.

The swiftness of this response caused the suspect to take cover in an auto body shop a half-mile from the initial scene. Tpr. Morse and “Prime” led searchers to the shop, where they took the suspect into custody without incident. Further inspection of the house revealed a large amount of copper tubing had been ripped out and stacked by the door. The



Troop E



Like Troop A, its neighbor to the west, Troop E covers a sprawling region bordered by Lake Ontario to the north and Pennsylvania to the south. The ten counties served by the “Finger Lakes Troop,” as Troop E is known, encompass some of the most picturesque agricultural and recreational areas of New York State. The region is overspread with farms, vineyards and orchards; its gentle, rolling hills attract hunters, skiers and other winter enthusiasts, and the five Finger Lakes are a world-famous aquatic playground. There are seven cities, 160 towns and 79 villages throughout the area. All these assets contribute to making the Troop E area a predominantly rural region with a vigorous economy, substantial population and plenty of highway travel. This is reflected in the troop’s operation. From 23 stations throughout the region, Troop E’s Uniform personnel patrol 18,457 miles of rural and interstate roadways every day, and its BCI investigative specialists deal with criminal matters of every type and variety. Troop E was created in 1967 from portions of Troops A, C and D.

Counties served:

Cayuga, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates

Population:

1.3 million (approx.)

Service territory:

6,042 square miles

Headquarters: Canandaigua (Ontario County)

Zone 1

Canandaigua, Churchville, Penfield, Naples, Rochester

Zone 2

Auburn, Lyons, Moravia, Romulus, Walworth, Waterloo, Williamson, Wolcott

Zone 3

Bath, Canisteo, Geneseo, Lima, Painted Post, Wayland

Zone 4

Dundee, Big Flats, Horseheads, Montour Falls, Wellsburg

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Enforcement	
DWI - 1,375	Speed - 30,936
Safety Restraint - 11,187	

Index Crimes	
Violent	Property
Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 13	Burglary - 488
Rape - 48	Larceny - 1,620
Robbery - 6	Motor Vehicle Theft - 53
Assault - 214	

2007 Interesting Cases

Betrayal of trust

Inv. Thomas E. Hand (E- Lyons) received a complaint from a man, Dec. 10, 2006, alleging two Livingston County men were molesting his 14-year-old daughter and 13-year-old son. The complainant was divorced from the children's mother, who was herself suffering from terminal cancer and had entrusted the care of her children to her boyfriend and his father. In turn, the men were victimizing the children. **Invs. Christopher M. Burns** and **Thomas E. Gibbons** (E-Geneseo) interviewed the two men, who admitted to multiple sex crimes. In the spring 2007, they accepted a plea offer from the Livingston County DA's Office. The younger man received a seven-year prison sentence, while the father, a repeat violent offender, received 20 years without the possibility of early release or parole.

Change from your C-note, sir?

Sgt. James P. Feely and **Tpr. Kenneth P. Kline** were working the night shift out of the SP Wayland, March 31, when a call of a robbery in the village of Dansville (Livingston County) was reported. Sgt. Feely and Tpr. Kline immediately responded to I-390, knowing it would be a main route of escape from the village. While en route, they monitored a report of the suspect, described as a man armed with a silver handgun, who had fled the scene in a small, two-door car.

Sgt. Feely and Tpr. Kline set up a roadblock in the southbound lane, just north of Exit 3. One of the first cars they stopped was a black car occupied by one man. They first interviewed the driver, then ordered him from the vehicle. On the passenger seat, half-hidden by a knit cap, was a large pile of cash. The driver initially claimed he was traveling from Geneseo to Wayland to visit his uncle, and that the cash was change from a \$100 bill he had used to buy a can of soda at a local truck stop. The driver was taken into custody and turned over to the Dansville Police Department. Further inventory of the vehicle revealed a loaded .25-cal. handgun under the passenger seat and a black ski mask with sunglasses attached. The suspect was charged with armed robbery.



Troopers and members of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department and Rochester PD who took part in the 2007 city of Rochester "Operation IMPACT" Detail pose for the camera.

DWI, drugs and a car crash

Tpr. Terrence M. Ball Jr. (E-Rochester) was on patrol July 3 when he came upon a crashed car burning beside the road in the town of Gates. Helped by a civilian bystander, Tpr. Ball pulled the driver and passenger to safety. **Tpr. Bryan R. Blum** (E-Rochester) interviewed the driver before the man was taken to the hospital, and detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath. At the hospital, Tpr. Blum secured a blood sample from the driver and subsequently charged him with Vehicular Assault 2nd Degree, Driving While Intoxicated and numerous Vehicle



and Traffic Law charges. **Tpr. Derik J. Plaisted** (E-Rochester) found crack cocaine on the passenger and subsequently charged him with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th Degree.

Two-month burglary wave halted

Early in August, SP Painted Post and SP Bath received a rash of burglary complaints in Steuben County. The complaints included multiple burglaries to Amish-owned residences in the towns of Woodhull and Jasper, mostly occurring on Sundays, when the homeowners were at religious services. Members of the Painted Post, Bath and Canisteo barracks conducted numerous surveillances in the area, contributing to a joint investigation with members of the Steuben County Sheriff's Department and the Addison PD. The probe turned up information and a description of a suspicious vehicle in the area. **Tpr. Jonathan O. Stelmack** (E-Painted Post) learned that a known burglar, on parole since June, had been driving a vehicle matching its description.

Investigators tracked the suspect's vehicle, and it was learned that he frequently visited the residence of another parolee. A track of his movements on Sept. 17, determined he had stopped at the second parolee's residence and several suspicious locations in the towns of West Union, Jasper, Cameron and Troupsburg. Members responded to those locations and discovered four church burglaries in which cash and sound equipment were missing. Further tracking led to a pawn shop in Rochester, where the items had been sold.

Four days later, SP Painted Post received four more burglary complaints. Members interviewed the second parolee, and when they confronted him with evidence of his involvement in the church burglaries, he confessed. He denied involvement in the burglaries of the prior evening, but said he thought they had been committed by two brothers in Addison. His information resulted in the arrest of two more men for a total of eight burglaries over a two-month period.

The parolee then implicated the original suspect in the church burglaries, as well as those in the Amish-owned residences and businesses. A search warrant executed at the suspect's residence turned up a cache of stolen property.

The suspect's eventual confession ultimately cleared 31 additional burglaries under investigation by SP Painted Post and SP Bath, the Steuben County Sheriff's Department and the Addison PD.

Cemetery thefts solved

In late September, a woman reported to **Tpr. Vincent S. Abbate** (E-Auburn) that someone had stolen the bronze veteran's memorial plaque from her late husband's headstone in the Cayuga village cemetery. Over the next three weeks, identical complaints of missing cemetery plaques and flag holders flooded in to SP Auburn from around Cayuga County. After extensive interviews and overnight patrols, Tpr. Abbate received word from the manager of a metal recycling facility in Seneca County that a group of people had tried selling him cut-up

pieces of bronze plaques. Tpr. Abbate followed up this information, which led him to a suspect who admitted to dumping several plaques and flag holders into the Seneca River. An NYSP dive team was requested, and a five-gallon bucket filled with bronze and brass cemetery markers was recovered from the river. Although some plaques had been destroyed and sold for scrap, many were returned to family members of the deceased veterans.

Three suspects were arrested for stealing plaques and flag holders from cemeteries in six townships in Cayuga County. They were charged with 10 counts of Petit Larceny and one count of Making a False Written Statement.

Awakened from slumber to safety

While patrolling Route 31 in the town of Arcadia (Wayne County) late on the night of Oct. 12, **Tpr. Frederick J. Sousa III** (E-Lyons) observed a cloud of black smoke billowing from somewhere down a private road. Investigating, he found it was coming from the eaves and windows of a house. He notified Wayne County 911 of the structure fire and began pounding on the front door to alert any occupants. Flames were licking through the north wall of the house when a woman finally came to the door, revealing the interior of the house filled with smoke. Tpr. Sousa confirmed she was the sole occupant and led her to safety. **Tpr. Daniel B. Armstrong** (E-



Lyons) responded to the scene and assisted Tpr. Sousa in alerting residents in the surrounding homes to the fire danger.

Identified and busted

Responding to a reported larceny in Big Flats (Chemung County), Oct. 19, **Tpr. Jared C. Rowling** (SP Horseheads) learned that a woman had complained to the store that she had been overcharged for a purchase. Investigation determined the woman had purchased 10 identical items, then returned a day or so later claiming she had been overcharged. The patron maintained she had indeed purchased one article of clothing, and that the cashier had inadvertently charged her for 10 items. On at least three separate occasions, the woman was given a full refund and issued an apology by store management. At first, the manager had believed a cashier had been involved in the scam, but a review of store surveillance tapes and interviews with other employees made it clear they were dealing with a solo con artist.

Provided with a surveillance photo of the patron and a copy of her Minnesota Driver's License, Tprs. Rowling and **Mary A. Carson** (E-Horseheads) searched the Chemung County informational database and determined the subject had a local dealing with an area businessman. Using this community contact, Tpr. Carson was able to identify the woman, a local hospital technician, and arrested her for Petit Larceny.

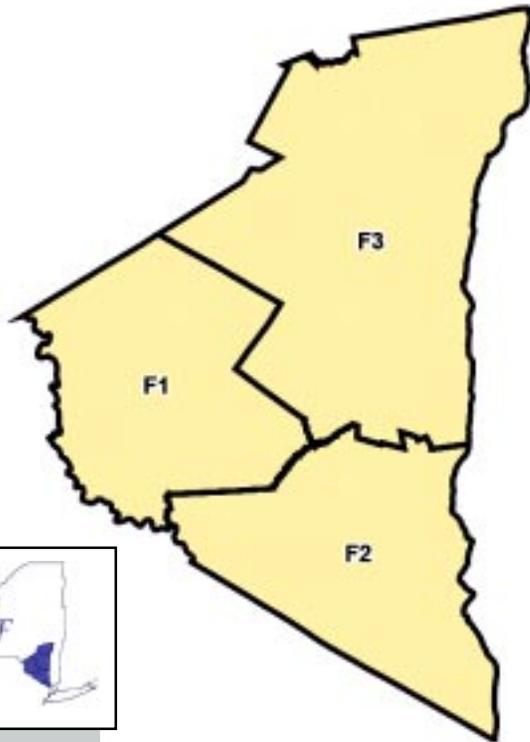
With a little help from the public...

Throughout the summer of 2007, troopers from SP Horseheads investigated more than 150 larcenies in which thousands of dollars worth of jewelry, money, electronics, and other valuables were taken from un-locked vehicles. Over time, the thieves began breaking into locked vehicles, and Criminal Mischief accompanied the larcenies. Having exhausted all potential leads, **Sgt. Donald M. Brietzke** and **Tpr. Kevin T. Morrissey** enlisted the help of local media. Tpr. Morrissey was interviewed by the local television station, and asked for the assistance of area residents. One person who saw the broadcast knew instantly that the new I-pod his son acquired during the first week of school must have been involved. After confronting his son on the matter, the man contacted Tpr. Morrissey to provide him with a list of five suspects, all

Horseheads High School students. On Oct. 20, Tpr. Morrissey, **Inv. Joseph M. Kelly**, and **Tprs. Jon R. Lackey, Jared C. Rowling** and Officer Abe Patterson (SRO) of the Horseheads Police Department arrested all five teenagers and recovered most of the stolen property, which was being sold to unsuspecting fellow students. Additionally, a handgun from an unreported burglary the teens had committed was recovered and returned to its owner.



Troop F



Created from portions of Troops C, G and K in 1968, Troop F services the state's heavily traveled Mid-Hudson region. Working from 22 stations, Troop F personnel provide the full spectrum of State Police services to residents, commuters and travelers in and around the region's 75 towns and 50 villages. Though its resident population is modest by Empire State standards, the area's many Catskill Mountain vacation homes and resorts, along with its proximity to New York City, make it a busy place to live, work and visit. The region encompasses five major ski centers, untold hundreds of camps and campgrounds, and the world-famous festival sites of Woodstock and Bethel, both of which draw thousands of faithful music aficionados every August. Commercially, Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, possessor of the sixth longest runway in the world, is becoming a major player in the air travel market and is the preferred alternative to the hectic airports of New York City. Troop F has responsibility for providing security to the airport.

Counties served:

Greene, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster

Population:

928,000 (approx.)

Service territory:

3,756 square miles

Headquarters: Middletown (Orange County)

Zone 1

Liberty, Narrowsburg, Roscoe, Wurtsboro

Zone 2

Deer Park, Florida, Greenville, Hamptonburgh, Haverstraw, Monroe, Newburgh, Pine Bush

Zone 3

Catskill, Coxsackie, Ellenville, Gardiner, Greenville, Highland, Hunter, Kingston, Shokan

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI - 2,636

Speed - 32,453

Safety Restraint - 10,606

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 23

Rape - 77

Robbery - 18

Assault - 474

Property

Burglary - 551

Larceny - 1,634

Motor Vehicle Theft - 133

2007 Interesting Cases

Smile, you're on *Stolen Camera!*

SP Highland Tprs. **Brandon P. Moore**, **David B. Ruderfer** and **Ken M. Ahigian**, Inv. **Yan Salomon** and **Sgt. Gary R. O'Reilly** responded to the scene of a reported home burglary in Plattekill, Feb. 21, in which \$2,000 in jewelry, several hundred dollars in cash and 15 bottles of liquor were taken. **Tpr. Elizabeth P. Apmann** was called in with **K-9 Truscott** to track footprints in the snow leading away from the house, but the trail soon petered out. The following night SP Highland received another report of a burglary in Plattekill, this from the house adjacent to the scene of the previous night's burglary.

Again, Tprs. Moore and Ruderfer and Inv. Salomon responded, this time assisted by **Tpr. Jan C. Anthony**. More than \$1,000 in electronic equipment, \$1,350 in jewelry, \$300 in cash and a 12-gauge shotgun were missing this time.

As before, the troopers conducted neighborhood interviews. Tpr. Moore interviewed one resident who reported having seen three young men carrying boxes through the neighborhood the night before. Tpr. Moore ascertained where one of the young men lived and patrolled to the residence. When questioned, the suspect said he had met up with two friends who told him they had just committed the burglary, and helped them carry the proceeds back to their houses. Tpr. Moore got their names and

passed the info along.

Troopers were interviewing one of them at his home when the youth's father ordered the police out of the house. Inv. Salomon advised him a search warrant was being drawn up and the troopers weren't going to leave the house until it was executed. When the warrant arrived, the majority of the property from the two burglaries was recovered, along with several photographs of the suspects posing with their loot — taken with one of the stolen cameras. All three were charged with 1st Degree Burglary.

Wrong way to her heart...

Responding to a 911 complaint of a home invasion in Liberty (Sullivan County), Feb. 28, **Tpr. Michael M. Pappas** (F-Liberty) interviewed the complainant, who said she had seen a person with a scarf and hat coming up her stairs. After making eye contact, the subject had fled the house.

A Uniform and BCI detail, including Tprs. **Matthew C. Johnstone** and **Daniel D. Tompkins** (F-Liberty) with their **K-9 partners JT and Dale**, respectively, and Division Aviation, began combing the area. Interviews with neighbors turned up reported sightings of a white snowmobile around the time of the intrusion.

Footprints led from the residence through a

wooded area and then to an open field, where they disappeared. The K-9 teams picked up another track in the same field, which led them to a series of snowmobile tracks, and finally, after a four-hour trek that covered eight miles, found the snowmobile they were seeking parked beside a mobile home. The front door of the trailer was locked and no one answered their knock.

One of the residents turned up shortly thereafter and informed them that "something isn't right" because the front door was always left unlocked. Investigators gained entrance through a back door and found a subject hiding in the bedroom. Arrested for 2nd Degree Burglary, he told investigators he had broken into the residence get money for "a makeup gift" to his girlfriend, with whom he'd had a fight the day before.

One thing leads to another

A 32-year-old man in his car attempted to buy cocaine from two subjects outside a residence in Mamakating, March 21, and when the deal went wrong, wound up being shot in the face. He drove himself to a local diner and reported the incident to police.



On March 25, SP Wurtsboro investigators reported a possible sighting of the two shooting suspects at a motel in the village of Monroe.

SP Monroe **Tprs. Peter J. Cirigliano II, Evan Rothbaum, Douglas Tinnirello** and **Scott M. Kalleberg** responded to the motel, where they quickly identified the suspects' vehicle and room number. Tprs. Tinnirello and Kalleberg secured the rear of the motel to prevent any escape while Tprs. Rothbaum and Cirigliano approached the entrance. The door was ajar, and a strong smell of marijuana wafted from the room.

Inside, the troopers apprehended five subjects: two girls, ages 15 and 16, and three men ranging in from 18 to 21. A search of the room and the vehicle turned up quantities of cocaine and marijuana, glassine envelopes and a digital scale. The subjects were questioned initially by **Invs. Albert J. Drake** at SP Monroe and later by **Sr. Inv. Frank J. Sticco III** at Wurtsboro. All four adults were charged with Criminal Possession of Marijuana 5th Degree. One of the 21-year-olds was additionally charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 4th Degree and Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia 2nd Degree; the three men were charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child. Later, at SP Wurtsboro, the two 21-year-old men were additionally charged with 1st Degree Assault and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the shooting.

Female armed robber apprehended

Tpr. John Kakavas (F- Haverstraw) was on patrol, March 26, when he monitored a radio

broadcast from Clarkstown police about an armed robbery at a dry cleaning establishment in Nanuet (Rockland County). The bandit was described as a woman with a handgun and a 2001 Mitsubishi for a getaway vehicle. Tpr. Kakavas radioed SP Haverstraw and advised **Tpr. Brian L. Hunter** to alert the other patrols.

Tpr. Thomas J. Tierney Jr. (F-Haverstraw) picked up the suspect vehicle traveling east-bound on West Clarkstown Road, notified SP Haverstraw and, with the assistance of **Tpr. Christopher P. Kelly** (F-Haverstraw), executed a felony vehicle stop. Together, they approached the vehicle with sidearms drawn and ordered the suspect to exit with her hands visibly in the air. She surrendered without resistance and was charged with 1st Degree Robbery, 1st Degree Criminal Use of a Firearm and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 5th Degree. An inventory of the vehicle revealed the proceeds from numerous larcenies and a handgun.

Taking care of business

An estate caretaker in Mongaup Valley (Sullivan County), fired for being drunk on the job, April 28, fired two shots from a .22-cal. rifle inside the residence and fled into the woods. SP Liberty patrols under **Lt. Joseph J. Banish** and **Sgt. Michael J. Rushanski**, responding to a request for assistance by the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department, arrived at the estate and quickly set up fixed and roving perimeter patrols around the residence.

Tpr. Kurt J. Labuda (F-Wurtsboro), on roving patrol, spotted the subject on a road in back of

the residence and ordered him to the ground. He was turned over to the sheriff's department, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Weapon and committed to Sullivan County Jail in lieu of \$2,500 bail.

Traffic stop nets four armed robbers

Tprs. Joseph P. Sinagra Jr. and his 2 Shift partner, **Tpr. Jan C. Anthony** (F-Highland) saw a vehicle turn into the parking lot of a convenience store after committing traffic infractions on Route 9W in Highland, May 22, activated their emergency lighting and pulled in behind it. Inside the car were four men dressed completely in black, from the bottoms of their jeans to the tops of their "do-rags."

Seeing a two-foot length of pipe in the front seat, Tpr. Sinagra ordered the two front occupants out of the car. As they were exiting, he noted furtive movements by the two back-seat passengers and saw they were trying to hide a rifle under their legs. The troopers immediately drew their weapons, ordered the two rear seat occupants out of the vehicle at gunpoint and requested backup.

Sgt. Gary R. O'Reilly and **Tpr. Donald DeQuarto** (F-Highland) arrived along with a patrol from the town of Lloyd and assisted. A search of the vehicle turned up three sets of black gloves and three black ski masks, a knife, the lead pipe, the .22-cal. Mossberg rifle



and a magazine containing ten rounds, which the occupants had tried to ditch behind the car. They were arrested on weapons charges and brought to SP Highland, where Inv. Quentin M. Dixon began interviewing them.

Local PDs in Ulster and Dutchess counties were notified of the arrests and canvassed for any incidents involving suspects similar to those in custody. Poughkeepsie police said they were investigating an armed robbery at a convenience store near Marist College that had occurred at almost the same time three days earlier, in which three men in black clothes and ski masks had robbed the clerk of more than \$2,000. One of the suspects had been armed with a rifle. Three of the four suspects admitted their involvement in the armed robbery in Poughkeepsie, and the fourth admitted to being their “wheel man.”

One suspect was found to be an illegal immigrant. All four were remanded to Ulster County jail on weapons charges in lieu of \$100,000 bail, and Poughkeepsie detectives lodged warrants at the jail for 1st Degree Robbery in conjunction with the convenience store robbery.

Bloody struggle

Called to an assault in progress in Wurtsboro Hills (Sullivan County), June 7, **Tpr. Kyle J. Kroeger** (F-Wurtsboro) arrived at the scene within 30 seconds and was told by witnesses a man had been hitting and choking a woman, then chased her into her bungalow. Tpr. Kroeger immediately ran there and heard the woman screaming for help. Inside, he found the man stabbing her with a 12-inch steak knife.

Tpr. Kroeger drew his Glock and ordered the man to freeze and drop the knife, but the subject held his weapon aloft and turned towards him. Tpr. Kroeger could not shoot owing to the woman being in the line of fire.

At that point, **Tpr. Al I. Shamah** arrived from SP Wurtsboro, and again the troopers ordered the assailant to drop his knife. When the subject moved a few feet away from the victim, Tpr. Kroeger directed the woman, screaming in pain, to get down on the floor and clear the line of fire. The suspect yelled, “Shoot me! Shoot me! I want to die!” When Tpr. Kroeger told him he didn’t want to kill him, the suspect replied, “Do I have to charge at you to get you to shoot me?” He then lunged at the troopers, who retreated several steps and held their fire. “If you’re not going to kill me, I’ll do it myself!” the man shouted, and began stabbing himself in the chest.

While Tpr. Shamah kept the subject covered with his pistol, Tpr. Kroeger hit him squarely in the face with a burst of pepper spray. After 10-15 seconds, the subject finally took his hands away from the knife to wipe his eyes, at which point Tprs. Kroeger and Shamah rushed in and knocked him to the ground, the knife still in his chest. Tpr. Shamah pulled it out, and after considerable wrestling the troopers finally managed to subdue and handcuff him.

An ambulance rushed both victim and suspect to Catskill Regional Medical Center for treatment. The woman was released later that evening. The suspect was charged with 1st Degree Burglary, Assault and Criminal Contempt, and sent to Sullivan County Jail without bail.

Swept away

Tpr. Joseph E. Decker (F-Roscoe) was working in northern Sullivan County, June 19, when he responded to a location near the Sullivan/Delaware county line to help close off State Route 206, which was swollen to flood stage by heavy rains. Afterward, he patrolled the Troop C portion of State Route 206, north-bound, to assess the flood damage. Finding the Spring Brook River, which runs parallel to the road, overflowing its banks, he notified SP Liberty and, along with several members of the Roscoe Fire Department, began to evacuate the area.

Tpr. Decker checked numerous residences and helped several persons to higher ground. At the intersection of Rte. 206 and Ackerman Acres Road in the town of Delaware, he encountered an elderly couple stranded on their front porch. With the husband following close behind, Tpr. Decker carried the woman through the debris and floodwaters to safety. As he was leaving the area, however, an unoccupied vehicle floating down the Spring Brook River struck the bridge ahead of him and lodged there, and the welter of debris following it downstream quickly blocked the roadway and cut off his escape.

Tpr. Decker contacted SP Liberty via radio and advised that he would have to abandon his patrol vehicle.



Attempting to reach higher ground, Tpr. Decker tried to ford the flooded roadside ditch but was rapidly swept off his feet by the current and carried 40 yards downstream before he was able to climb to safety. For several hours after that harrowing ordeal, Tpr. Decker, the evacuees and fire personnel all were stranded on Ackerman Acres Road, until the floodwaters receded sufficiently to permit their exit, after which Tpr. Decker returned to the task of helping rescue personnel locate and assist other flood victims.

A hot time in the basement

On Oct. 25, SP Middletown received a call from a woman reporting a burglary at her residence in Unionville (Orange County). **Tprs. Andrew J. Stack** and **Timothy J. Mannix** (F-Middletown) met the complainant at a pay phone at the end of her street. She told them someone had broken into her basement during the day. The troopers attempted to question her on specifics of the break-in, but her answers were evasive, misleading and inconsistent. The troopers and the complainant went to the residence, where they saw the entire cellar area had been badly damaged by a recent fire.

The troopers contacted Middletown BCI, and **Invs. Brian J. Hammer** and **Paul M. Dequarto** responded to the scene. The complainant and her 16-year-old son were transported to SP Greenville for more questioning, and eventually provided written statements explaining what had occurred.

Investigators determined the woman and two of her children had tried several times during the day to burn the residence down, with the object of killing her 71-year-old father-in-law, who she believed had mistreated the children. The man, a semi-invalid, lived on the third floor, rarely left his bedroom, and would have surely perished if the fire had consumed the house. When the subjects were unable to set fire to the house, they reported the incident to police as a burglary.

The mother and her two children, along with an adult friend, were arrested and charged with Attempted Murder 2nd Degree, Attempted Arson 1st Degree, and Arson 2nd Degree.

Back here!

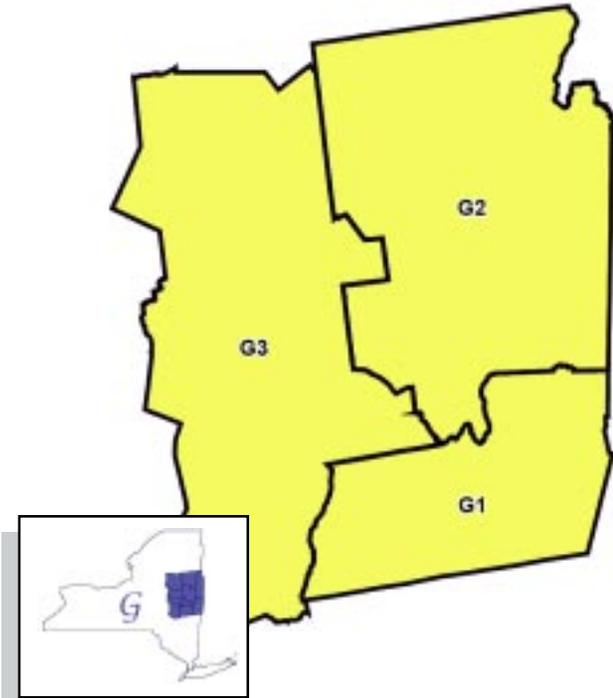
Tprs. Joseph A. Rivera and **William B. Crowe** (F-Middletown), were on routine patrol early one November morning when they saw an unusual glow off the south shoulder of Stoneridge Road in the town of Wallkill (Orange County). Further inspection revealed a Jeep Grand Cherokee had crashed into a rocky ditch, rupturing its fuel tank and starting a fire. A quick check of the front seat disclosed no apparent occupant, and Tpr. Crowe went to retrieve the fire extinguisher from his troop car.

At this point, Tpr. Rivera heard a faint cry for help from the back seat. The driver, in a highly intoxicated condition, had been unable to exit his vehicle but had managed to avoid the flames by crawling into the back. With the vehicle now fully ablaze, Tpr. Rivera pulled the operator through the passenger-side rear window and dragged him to safety.



Troop G

One of four original troops created in 1917, Troop G lies at the crossroads of New York State. Intersected by the primary arteries of upstate transportation and surrounded by densely populated commuter suburbs, tourist centers and rural districts, it is responsible for providing many unique varieties of police services. Troop G features some of the most heavily traveled highways in New York State. Both I-87 (the Adirondack Northway) and East/West I-90 transect the region, bringing motorists and commercial haulers through in large numbers. With Buffalo, Boston, New York City and Montreal all within an afternoon's drive of Albany, troopers assigned to Interstate Highway Patrol are busy around the clock. The region's sprawling suburbs, rural communities, seasonal vacation centers and tourist attractions also benefit from Troop G services. Members of Troop G are a familiar presence throughout the southern Adirondacks, along the state's inland waterways, and on the busy roads leading to such attractions as the Saratoga Race Track and Performing Arts Center, Lake George and the region's many colleges and universities. Working from 24 stations across 10 counties, the men and women of Troop G service the public safety needs of more than a million people a day in 118 towns, 49 villages and 12 cities.



Counties served:

Albany, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington

Population:

1.06 million (approx.)

Service territory:

6,534 square miles

Headquarters:

Loudonville (Albany, County)

Zone 1

Brunswick, Guilderland, New Scotland, Sand Lake, Schodack, Westerlo

Zone 2

Bolton Landing, Charlton, Chestertown, Clifton Park, Granville, Greenwich, Hadley, Northway, Queensbury, Saratoga, Schuylerville, Wilton

Zone 3

Cobleskill, Fonda, Mayfield, Princetown, Wells

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Arrests

DWI - 1,777

Speed - 31,313

Safety Restraint - 11,809

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 21

Rape - 46

Robbery - 12

Aggravated Assault - 249

Property

Burglary - 346

Larceny - 1,724

Motor Vehicle Theft - 58

2007 Interesting Cases

Starting the New Year off *wrong*

SP Wilton advised patrols that an intoxicated, possibly suicidal, man was en route from Latham to Malta in his blue pickup truck, Jan. 8. **Tpr. Matthew S. Wilski** (G-Saratoga) spotted the vehicle northbound on Rte. 9 in the town of Colonie (Albany County), advised SP Wilton and attempted to stop the subject. The man refused to comply, however, and a long pursuit ensued, winding along side roads, back onto Rte. 9 southbound, from there onto I-87 and proceeding north into Saratoga County.

At that point, **Tprs. Daniel F. Sisto** and **Brian S. Bonanno** (G-Clifton Park) took up stationary post in a U-turn south of Exit 9 and received authorization from **Sgt. S/C Scott W. McCart**, who was monitoring the pursuit from SP Clifton Park, to deploy a Stinger tire deflation device in the northbound lane of Interstate 87. The subject's vehicle struck the Stinger, but continued on, with several more units joining the pursuit, until it came to rest at Exit 10, where, after a brief struggle, he was successfully apprehended.

Charged with Unlawful Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle, Resisting Arrest, Driving While Intoxicated and numerous Vehicle and Traffic Law violations, the man was arraigned in Malta Town Court and remanded to the Saratoga County Jail on \$1,000 cash/\$4,500 bond bail.

DWI: This may come as a shock...

While working a 2 Shift, Feb. 10, **Tpr. Amy Landy** (G-Loudonville IHP) stopped a car in the village of Menands (Albany County) and arrested the driver for DWI. While handcuffed, the man suffered a heart attack and fell to the pavement, striking his head. After radioing for assistance, Tpr. Landy checked the man's vital signs and found he was not breathing and had no active pulse. She immediately began performing CPR and continued until EMS arrived. She assisted with the defibrillator, which successfully restored the man's heartbeat. He subsequently made a full recovery.

Another suicide averted

Shortly before midnight, April 21, Rensselaer County 911 dispatched the SP Schodack 2 Tour, **Tprs. Michael J. Keefe** and **Fred G. Scarano**, to a burglary in progress in Stephentown (Rensselaer County). A woman told 911 dispatchers her ex-boyfriend was in her house, armed with a knife, and that she had locked herself in a room with her child.

As the patrol sped to the scene, the 911 dispatchers relayed further information that the situation was escalating: The man was threatening the woman's parents and now had armed himself with an axe. A K-9 unit from SP New Lebanon was dispatched, along with the

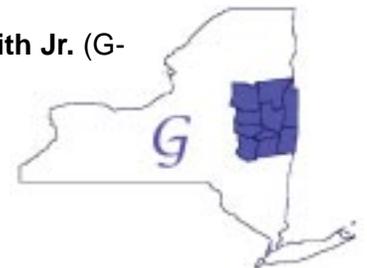
SP Brunswick 2 Tour. **Tprs. Joshua D. Bond** and **William J. Mulrien III** (G-New Lebanon) were the first to arrive and were met at the door by the intruder, who carried a large hunting knife at his waist and was wielding the axe. Two minutes later, Tprs. Keefe and Scarano arrived on the scene with **Sgt. William L. Carraher** (G-New Scotland), followed shortly by **Tprs. Evan S. Fiet** and **Jeffrey J. Kaneg** (G-Brunswick).

Tpr. Bond engaged the subject in conversation and gradually developed a rapport with him. Finally, after 10 tense minutes, during which the man implored the troopers several times to "Just shoot me and get it over with," he was persuaded to lay down his weapons and surrender. He was charged with two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree and three counts of Menacing.

The Stephentown town justice ordered a mental health evaluation for the man, and he was remanded to Rensselaer County Jail on \$10,000 cash bail or bond.

Axe attack victim saved

Tpr. Joseph P. Smith Jr. (G-Greenwich) was working a 1 Shift, May 20, when Washington County 911 polled for a domestic





The Emancipation Proclamation made a rare national tour during 2007 to present the historic document for public inspection. Troopers were assigned the honor of providing security to Lincoln's famous monograph freeing the slaves during the Civil War when the tour came to Albany in March.



assault. The suspect had called 911 to report he had assaulted his girlfriend with an axe. Tpr. Smith was the first to arrive at the scene. He entered the building and immediately took the suspect into custody. He then found the victim. Struck in the head with an axe, she had lost part of her scalp; her skull was exposed and she was bleeding profusely.

Contacting 911 for medical help, Tpr. Smith used some towels he found in the house to maintain pressure to the most severe of her head wounds until the Cambridge Rescue Squad arrived. Transported to Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, she was examined for a laceration to the left side of the head, behind the ear, and two more to her back. She subsequently was transferred to Albany Medical Center for treatment of a fractured skull.

The assailant eventually pleaded guilty to Assault 2nd Degree and received a seven-year prison sentence, to be followed by three years' parole.

The wheels of justice may grind slowly, but...

On the night of July 13, 2005, someone broke into a restaurant in the town of Westerlo, stealing liquor, cigarettes and frozen food. **Tpr. Eric D. Johnson** and **Special Inv. Michael Close** (SP New Scotland) found traces of blood near a broken kitchen window, secured a DNA swab sample and submitted it to the State Police Crime Laboratory as evidence. The sample did not match any prior suspects in the DNA Database.

The following day, **Tpr. Duane M. Messina** (G-Saratoga) arrested three underage boys drinking in the Westerlo Rural Cemetery. With them were three bottles of whiskey, seven packs of cigarettes and a large quantity of frozen food packaged in individual bags. The food was subsequently identified by the owner of the inn as having been stolen the night before. All three subjects denied any role in the burglary.

Two years later, in July 2007, the Albany County

Sheriff's Office arrested a subject for Reckless Endangerment 2nd Degree. In the course of the arrest, a DNA sample was obtained and submitted to the state database, and on Nov. 27, Troop G BCI was notified that the DNA sample collected in the case had been matched to the blood sample submitted by SP New Scotland in 2005, in conjunction with the burglary. When confronted with the new evidence the following day, the subject gave **Inv. Robert J. Martin** (G-New Scotland) a full confession to the restaurant burglary.

Water rescue

Summoned to the west bank of the Schoharie Creek in Esperance (Schoharie County) in response to a report of a suicidal man, Aug. 8, **Tpr. Antone R. Irvin** (G-Cobleskill) arrived with several sheriff's deputies to find the subject highly intoxicated and suffering from an illness that



severely affected his muscle control. Tpr. Irvin attempted to engage the subject and prevent him from harming himself, but the man turned hostile and jumped into a 30-foot-deep section of the creek. Without hesitation, Tpr. Irvin leapt into the water and towed the floundering man to shore, where deputies helped load him into a waiting ambulance. He was admitted to Ellis Hospital in Schenectady for psychological evaluation.

Predator brought down

In August, a 14-year-old girl told **Inv. Andrew R. Werner** (G-Wilton) she had been sexually abused by the father of a friend in 2003. The girl also accused the man of sexually abusing his own daughter. The suspect's ex-wife told Inv. Werner he had sexually assaulted their son for several years, but the crimes had gone unreported because the youth did not want to talk to police.

Inv. Werner developed information that the suspect had recently rented a room to four Russian foreign exchange students, who had discovered a hidden camera in the bathroom of the residence. The students had even made a videotape of their own, documenting the hidden camera after its discovery. As the investigation progressed, the suspect fled New York to hide with family members. He was arrested in Kentucky and subsequently extradited to New York. Eventually the man's son agreed to cooperate, disclosing years of victimization for himself and the girls.

The suspect was indicted on numerous sexual assault charges, in addition to an unlawful surveillance charge.

One-woman Rensselaer County crime wave

From August 2006 through September 2007, a series of burglaries struck the town of Schaghticoke (Rensselaer County), with break-ins and thefts occurring at commercial establishments, the post office, a tavern, a store and a construction company. The first burglary occurred in the hamlet of Melrose, where witnesses told **Tpr. Christine M. Brown** (G-Brunswick) they had seen a vehicle leaving the scene. A suspect was developed from this information, but insufficient evidence existed to make an arrest.

In July 2007, **Tpr. Evan S. Fiet** (G-Brunswick) investigated the theft of a safe containing \$900 in cash and several payroll checks at a Schaghticoke construction firm. The complainant revealed his ex-girlfriend was the same woman suspected in the earlier thefts. Evidence technician **Tpr. Michael K. Lewis** (G-Brunswick) processed the scene and **Inv. Joel P. Bailey** (G-Brunswick) adopted the BCI case. Additional burglaries occurred on Sept. 12 and 21 at a Schaghticoke tavern and post office, respectively; meanwhile, Rensselaer County sheriff's deputies were investigating several larcenies and burglaries believed to be the work of the same suspect. But while the evidence against her was mounting steadily, investigators still felt they needed one piece of solid evidence to seal the case.

Finally, on Sept. 23, **Inv. John J. Ogden Jr.** (G-Brunswick) re-interviewed the woman's boyfriend, who admitted having seen her in

possession of a U.S. Postal Service mailbag, which she thrown off a steep cliff above the Hoosick River in the town of Schaghticoke. Inv. Ogden combed the cliff and riverbank bank and located the bag and its contents. Confronted with the evidence, the woman admitted to several burglaries and larcenies in 2006 and 2007. She claimed she was addicted to prescription medication and needed the money to support her habit. Arrested for Burglary 3rd Degree, she was arraigned and remanded to jail without bail.

It's all on video!

Tpr. Thomas L. Burns (G-New Scotland) received a criminal mischief complaint from a building caretaker in Bethlehem (Albany County), Sept. 5, who reported that someone had broken into a warehouse and vandalized the building. Numerous doors, windows and computers had been broken, parts of the building damaged and graffiti sprayed on the inside walls. Among the graffiti markings were several names. The damage estimate was \$58,000. Invs. **Matthew J. Zell Sr.** (G-New Scotland) and **Drew H. McDonald** (G-FIU) were called in and over the next several days neighborhood interviews were conducted, with negative results. Five days after the break-in, Tprs. Burns and **Brian P. Filarecki** (G-New Scotland) checked the warehouse again and discovered the vandals had struck again. More paint had been sprayed inside and portable fire extinguishers had been discharged. A Division K-9 team responded



and a track was made to a local subdivision, where the trail ended.

Over the next few weeks, troopers and investigators conducted covert surveillance of the building with members of the Bethlehem PD. A number of local youths were identified as possible suspects, due in large part to the spray-painted graffiti “tags” found inside the warehouse.

During an interview with one suspect, a video camera was discovered which contained footage of several young men spray-painting and vandalizing the warehouse. As a result, seven young men, ages 16 to 18, were charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree. Video evidence also revealed that the same youths had damaged school buses and a backhoe at the Bethlehem School Bus Garage, leading to additional charges by the town PD.

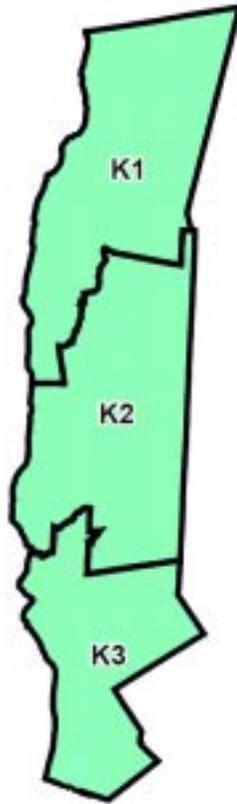
Getting a room at the “Graybar Motel”

SP Plattsburgh and municipal police requested assistance from SP Queensbury and SP Wilton, Oct. 30, with the investigation of an armed robbery in the city of Plattsburgh the night before. Information provided by Plattsburgh police resulted in the deployment of Uniform and BCI personnel to a motel in Queensbury (Warren County), where **Inv. David J. Mosher** (G-Queensbury) subsequently located the suspects’ vehicle. **Tpr. Jason A. Miller** (G-Queensbury) determined the suspects had rented three rooms at the inn, after creating a disturbance at another motel earlier that evening. Inv. Mosher observed numerous subjects moving among the three rooms.

Troopers and investigators under the direction of **Capt. Donald L.X. DePass** (G-Wilton) arrived and established a perimeter. Around 1 p.m., three men and two women got into their car and headed north up Rte. 9. Troopers performed a felony vehicle stop and all five subjects were taken into custody without incident. Surveillance was maintained on the motel, and a sixth subject was taken into custody soon afterward when he exited one of the rooms. A loaded .45 pistol was recovered from one of the rooms. The four men provided confessions and were turned over to Plattsburgh PD; the two women were charged with Unlawful Possession of Marijuana.



Troop K



One of the original 1917-era troops, Troop K services the region bounded by the Hudson River and the Connecticut border, from the Rensselaer-Columbia county line to the New York City limit. From 17 stations, its members provide service to nine cities, 37 villages and 62 towns in this 2,000-square-mile area. Among the characteristics distinguishing this region is its population density, which varies from more than 2,000 persons per square mile in Westchester County to about 100 per square mile in Columbia County. Even in its most densely populated areas, however, the geography of Troop K is picturesque, consisting of gentle hills, valleys and prime farmland. Some of the state's most wealthy and influential residents live in this area, and the region's proximity to New York City makes it a heavy commuter corridor. The combination of heavily traveled roads, variegated geography and a highly diverse population presents members assigned to Troop K with a demanding law enforcement experience. Members in Troop K regularly encounter people at totally opposite ends of the socio-economic spectrum from one complaint to the next. For these reasons, troopers assigned to the region develop and demonstrate outstanding communication and cultural sensitivity skills.

Counties served:

Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester

Population:

1.36 million (approx.)

Service territory:

2,111 square miles

Headquarters: Poughkeepsie (Dutchess County)

Zone 1

Kinderhook, Livingston, New Lebanon, Pine Plains, Rhinebeck

Zone 2

Brewster, Dover Plains, LaGrangeville, Stormville, Wappinger

Zone 3

Cortlandt, Hawthorne, Lewisboro, Mohegan Lake, Pound Ridge, Somers

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Arrests

DWI - 1,955

Speed - 33,427

Safety Restraint - 11,282

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 14

Rape - 46

Robbery - 12

Aggravated Assault - 249

Property

Burglary - 346

Larceny - 1,724

Motor Vehicle Theft - 58

2007 Interesting Cases

Yuletide mayhem

At midnight on Christmas Day 2006, SP Brewster dispatched **Tprs. Ian R. Llewellyn, Eric J. Bonci, Michael A. Bayer** and **Timothy S. Commerford** to a house in the village of Brewster, where a knifing had occurred. Tpr. Llewellyn located the victim and applied a pressure dressing to stop the bleeding in his lacerated arm until Brewster Rescue arrived.

Tpr. Bonci secured the scene and began interviews, but encountered a language barrier. After obtaining a description of the assailants, Tprs. Commerford and Bayer began checking the area and soon encountered two persons who matched the descriptions. Tpr. Bayer saw a knife protruding from the pants of one subject, and the troopers took both men into custody.

Back at SP Brewster, the troopers used the "Language Line" to good effect, and one suspect admitted doing the stabbing. Further investigation revealed the men had entered the house with the intent of having sex with the victim's wife. The victim discovered them and a fight ensued, resulting in the knifing.

The suspects were charged with 2nd Degree Assault, 1st Degree Burglary and Criminal Possession of a Weapon, arraigned and remanded to Putnam County Jail. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was contacted and deportation proceedings initiated.

A New Year's crisis

On New Year's Day, **Tpr. Todd A. Kara** and **Probationary Tpr. Kevin J. Piechowicz** (K-Wappinger) were dispatched to a domestic dispute in the town of Wappinger (Dutchess County). Dispatchers advised that the man in the dispute had menaced the girlfriend with a knife and fled in her car. The woman told troopers her side of the story and gave them the boyfriend's cellular telephone number. Tpr. Kara called him. The man told him he had nothing to say and was going to North Carolina, then hung up. Tpr. Kara called him back, only to be told several times that he was "tired," after which the man hung up again. Again, Tpr. Kara called back. The man told him that when his mother had passed away, her last words to him were that she was "tired." He went on to make several suicidal statements, and when Tpr. Kara asked to meet with him, he said Tpr. Kara could meet him "in heaven". He refused to give his location, but did say he was "at the park" before he hung up.

Tpr. Kara advised SP Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County 911 to have other patrols check the area parks, and that the subject was suicidal and possibly in possession of a knife. **Tprs. Shannon M. Albert, Michael R. Hettinger, and Jacqueline S. Perry** (K-Wappinger), patrolled to several parks in the surrounding area but were unable to locate the man. Tpr. Kara then contacted him again by phone and kept him engaged while **Sgt. Louise T. Daniele** (K-Wappinger) and Probationary

Tpr. Piechowicz attempted to have the cellular telephone company trace the cell phone, only to be told the company could not do so without a subpoena. Tpr. Kara managed to keep the subject talking for two hours, during which he gained the man's trust and ultimately convinced him to come to SP Wappinger so he could be taken for a psychological evaluation. He eventually did so, was arraigned on charges of Unlawful Imprisonment, Criminal Possession of a Weapon and Menacing, and transported to the Dutchess County Jail, where a psychological evaluation was scheduled.

Help across the border

Police in Danbury, CT, called SP Brewster, Feb. 7, for help investigating a case in which the suspect had slashed the throat of another man and stabbed him in the chest. When the victim's cousin attempted to intervene, the suspect stabbed him in the stomach and fled. He later called an acquaintance who, unknown to him, was working as an informant for the Danbury PD, and asked him to retrieve his passport and meet him in New York so he could flee to his native Guatemala. Danbury police suspected he was hiding in the Brewster area with his uncle in the meantime.

Under the direction of **Lt. Michael A. Jankowiak** (K-



Hi-tech homicide resolution...



Sgt./SC Ira S. Promisel, Data Communications Specialist Robert Weingaertner and the Hudson Valley Transportation Center's technology played significant roles in the conviction of two men for the Jan. 26 killings of five members of a Fishkill family.

A cellular telephone call from a motorist to Dutchess County 911 reported a residential structure fire at 203 State Route 82 in Fishkill. Uniform Members and Fishkill town police arrived at the scene to find the house fully aflame. Local volunteer fire departments extinguished the blaze and subsequently discovered the bodies of two adults and three children — all members of the same family, and all victims of gunshot and stab wounds, blunt trauma or smoke inhalation. About 15 minutes after the first report, County 911 received a call reporting a car fire about a mile from the residence. NYSP and East Fishkill police responded and discovered the family vehicle ablaze. SP Wappinger BCI and Uniform personnel, the Troop K Major Crimes Unit and FIU, Fishkill and East Fishkill police, and the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office immediately launched the biggest homicide investigation in Dutchess County in more than 50 years, running down hundreds of leads.

Tpr. Dawn M. Melfi (K- Wappinger) told Sgt. Promisel and Mr. Weingaertner she had driven by the family's residence around the time of the murders. Because her troop car was equipped with a license plate

reader and a GPS system, the exact time and place at which the plate reader recorded the license plate of the killers' car was established at the family's home within minutes of the murder. Two suspects, associates of the victims, were subsequently charged with multiple counts of homicide. Also contributing to the investigation were the Troop F Major Crimes Unit, the Troop K SCUBA Team, Uniform and BCI members, Troops K and F Crime Victims Advocates, the Division Mobile Response Team, personnel from the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, the NYSP GIU, CNET and Violent Felony Warrant Squad, and the New York State Division of Parole, Department of Correctional Services' Inspector General's Office, Park Police ATV Unit and Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

PHOTOS: Illuminated by spotlights and surrounded by troop cars and emergency vehicles at top left, the fire-gutted structure stands silently behind a crime scene security cordon next morning (lower right).



Wappinger) and **Sgt./SC Joseph J. Malorgio**, a detail consisting of **Invs. Thomas W. Gonska** and **Armando X. Barquin** and **Tprs. Douglas R. Weiller, Eric J. Bonci, Michael A. Bayer** (all K-Brewster) and **John F. Reppucci** (K-Poughkeepsie), set up surveillance in Brewster.

The suspect was eventually taken into custody without incident. Subsequent interviews led to a confession and the retrieval of the knife used in the attack. Charged as a Fugitive from Justice for Attempted Murder and Assault 1st and 2nd Degree, he was arraigned in Putnam County Court, where he waived extradition.

Infanticide

Summoned to an emergency involving a four-month-old in the town of Clermont (Columbia County), May 14, Tpr. Michael J Clark (K-Livingston) arrived within minutes of receiving the call and began giving the infant CPR; Tpr. Terry A. Moon (K-Livingston) arrived shortly thereafter to assist. Northern Dutchess Paramedics transported the child to Columbia Memorial Hospital. When the infant succumbed, **Invs. Thomas E. Fort** and **Kelly M. Taylor** and **Sr. Inv. Gary J. Mazzacano** (all K-Livingston) responded to the scene. Through further investigation, it became apparent that the infant had been murdered.

Questioned by **Invs. William M. Popow** and **Carmen R. Martino**, the victim's father admitted to abusing and subsequently killing his son. He was eventually convicted of 2nd Degree Murder.

Incendiary situation

Dispatched to a structure fire in the town of Southeast (Putnam County), July 16, **Tprs. Robert J. Lombardi** and **Christopher J. Esposito** (K- Brewster) arrived to find smoke pouring from the house. They could not locate the homeowner, who had called 911, and who was supposed to be outside the building.

When Tpr. Lombardi heard the voice of an elderly woman saying she could not get her crippled husband out of the house, the troopers grabbed their fire extinguisher, entered the building and made their way through heavy smoke to the bedroom. There they found the man lying on the floor, fire licking at his legs. Extinguishing the fire, they first had to disconnect the man from his supplemental home oxygen system before they could drag him to his wheelchair and carry him outside to safety. Investigation later revealed the fire may have been started by the man smoking in bed.

Like father like son

Tpr. Thomas M. Coubertier (K-Somers) pulled over a car for driving 84 mph in a 65 mph zone on I-684 in the town of Southeast, July 28, and ticketed the driver, a 43-year-old New Britain, CT, man. Tpr. Coubertier then patrolled south on I-684 and took a stationary position in the town of North Salem (Westchester County), to continue performing speed enforcement. Nine minutes later, he stopped the same vehicle for doing 88 mph, and issued a UTT to the 23-year-old son of the original recipient. The father, it seems, had turned over the driving to his son after he received his ticket.

DNA "hit" fingers parole violator

Three separate commercial burglaries only a few hundred feet apart occurred within a few hundred yards of the SP Livingston barracks, Sept. 5. At the scene of one burglary, **Tpr. Matthew Colwell** (K-Livingston) found a single bloodstained sock on the floor. Sr. Inv. Mazzacano and Invs. Taylor and Fort assumed the investigation and processed all three burglary scenes, but turned up no additional evidence. Tpr. Colwell, meanwhile, went to a nearby convenience store and reviewed the security tapes there; they showed an unknown man walking around to the rear of the store during the early morning hours. Video taken inside the store enabled Invs. Taylor and **David P. Lydon Jr.** (K-Livingston) to identify a man at the counter as a known burglar whom they had thought was in state prison. A phone call to a local parole officer confirmed the man had been released a day earlier. He was staying at a motel about ¼-mile from the burglaries. Later that day, Inv. Taylor located the parolee and observed a cut on his right hand. The man denied being involved and shut down the interview.

The bloody sock was turned over to the State Police Crime Lab, where a DNA profile was established and entered into CODIS. On Oct. 5, Inv. Taylor was notified that the blood on the sock registered a CODIS "hit" on the parolee's



previously recorded “convicted offender DNA”. He was arrested on a single Burglary 3rd charge and parole violation and remanded to the Columbia County Jail.

On Oct. 27, **Tpr. Wayne D. Oles Jr.** (K-Livingston) responded to a residential burglary complaint in Stockport (Columbia County), in which a large amount of change was stolen and apparently put into a blue bucket. Tpr. Oles observed several apparent human hairs on a piece of broken glass. After conferring with Inv. Taylor, he placed the hairs in an envelope and secured them as evidence. The complainant mentioned a possible suspect, who turned out to be the same parolee. Tpr. Oles then patrolled to a local grocery store, where he located a blue bucket next to a Coinstar machine. The store’s security tapes were secured. They showed the same suspect. A few weeks later, a DNA profile was established from the hairs and again identified the parolee as their source. Uniform and BCI members arrested the man again, Oct. 29, at a local hamburger shop in Columbia County, and he has since returned to state prison.

Rise and shine, sleepyhead!

While patrolling out of SP Hawthorne, Oct. 25, **Tpr. Fred J. Martins**, observed a vehicle stopped beside the Taconic State Parkway in the town of New Castle (Westchester County) and stopped to check on the welfare of the motorist. He found a man sleeping in the driver’s seat, and detected an odor of alcohol. Tpr. Martins woke the man, who immediately began acting nervous, and when asked where he had been prior to stopping on the shoulder of the roadway, changed his story several times. Tpr. Martins obtained consent to search his vehicle, and during the ensuing search, located 10.79 ounces of cocaine, \$11,210 in cash, an electronic stun gun and a can of pepper spray. Arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree and Unlawfully Possessing Noxious Material, the man was found to be on probation from a Massachusetts assault and battery case.

Into the drink, and out, safely

A report of a car in a pond in the town of Clinton (Dutchess County), Oct. 27, brought **Tprs. Russell W. Wright, Kenneth W. Kellenbenz** and

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Joseph M. Benziger (K-Rhinebeck), the Troop K SCUBA diver, swiftly to the scene. They found a gray vehicle completely submerged. While Tpr. Wright interviewed the caller, Tpr. Benziger donned his wet suit and entered the water. He found the driver, a 73-year-old woman inside, huddled in a tiny air pocket and hanging onto the car’s rearview mirror. Tpr. Benziger extracted her from the vehicle and pulled her to the shore, where **Tprs. Craig A. Hernandez** (K-Rhinebeck) and Kellenbenz helped treat her for hypothermia. Despite having been immersed in the chilly water for more than an hour, she remained conscious and alert the entire time. Tpr. Benziger then swam back to the vehicle and rescued the woman’s pet dog.

High school attack averted

A student at a Dutchess County high school approached **School Resource Officer Tpr. Luther I. Lorenzo** (K-LaGrangeville), Nov. 28, and said he had seen information on myspace.com about a plan to attack the school. Tpr. Lorenzo alerted school officials and notified the BCI. **Invs. Robert S. Torre** and **Eric J. Barnes** (K-Poughkeepsie) assumed the investigation. Two the students identified on the webpage, ages 15 and 16, were transported to SP Poughkeepsie for interview. A third, age 16, picked up at his home, claimed the plan was just a joke, and voluntarily surrendered his computer for analysis.

Back at SP Poughkeepsie, the young men said they had been planning a Columbine-style attack on the school for April 20, 2010. The date was picked because they would be seniors by then and old enough to purchase firearms. The webpage contained maps identifying areas within the school to be targeted, including the offices of the principal, building security and Tpr. Lorenzo. Further investigation revealed they had had access to their parents’ firearms and were planning to use them in the attacks. They also had planned to use home-made propane bombs.

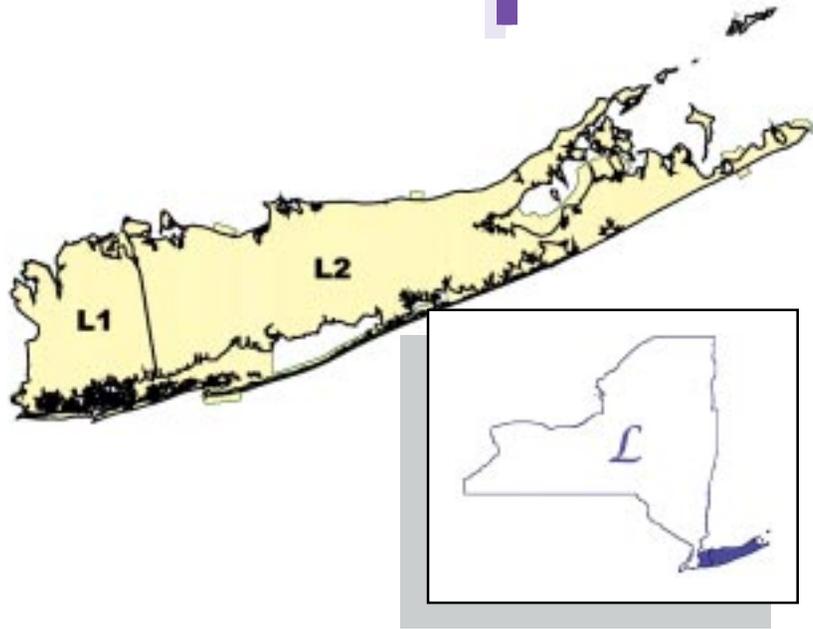
Interviews of students familiar with the conspirators indicated the plan had been formulated roughly two to three months earlier and was being constantly revised. Several students had been asked to join them. **Inv. Michael A. Prunty** (H-



Computer Crimes) notified myspace.com to preserve the web pages for investigation and prosecutorial purposes. A search warrant was obtained and executed by Uniform Troopers and investigators, including members of the Computer Crimes Unit, at one of the youth's residence, and three computers were secured for analysis. The 15-year-old was sent to a non-secure detention center overnight in the city of Poughkeepsie, appeared in Family Court, Nov. 29, and was released to his parents. The 16-year-olds were arraigned in LaGrange Town Court and remanded to Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$2,500 cash bail or \$5,000 surety bond.



Troop L



Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk counties are distinguished by two outstanding characteristics: the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound, which surround them, and the heavily traveled highways that connect them to each other and to metropolitan New York City. An estimated 2.7 million commuters travel Long Island's parkways each day, as do thousands of vacationers seeking "the Island's" seaside vistas, recreational parks and aquatic playgrounds. Most of these travelers at some point pass through the jurisdiction of State Police Troop L, headquartered in Farmingdale. While the State Police on Long Island are most visible in their role as highway safety, patrol and traffic control professionals, the uniform troopers and BCI investigators assigned to Troop L in fact provide a full range of police services. Originally part of Troop K, the region was patrolled by a handful of troopers known as the "Sunrise Trail Detachment" who operated out of Bay Shore (Suffolk County). Reorganized in 1928 as the Long Island State Park Detail, they moved to Babylon (Suffolk County), from where they policed parks, parkways and athletic events, conducted investigations, supervised lifeguards and regulated traffic. In time they adopted the unofficial sobriquet "Troop L". In 1945, the detail was subsumed once again within Troop K, until Jan. 1, 1980, when legislation merged the State Parkway Police into the State Police and formally established Troop L.

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Arrests
 DWI - 1,029 Speed - 20,427
 Safety Restraint - 6,632

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 15
 Rape - 0
 Robbery - 5
 Aggravated Assault - 12

Property

Burglary - 8
 Larceny - 30
 Motor Vehicle Theft - 5

Counties served:

Nassau and Suffolk

Population:

2.75 million (approx.)

Service territory:

1,199 square miles

Headquarters:

Farmingdale (Nassau County)

Zone 1

Lake Success, Valley Stream

Zone 2

Brentwood, Fishers Island, Riverside

2007 Interesting Cases

Beyond the ticket

Tpr. Scott Larson (L-Brentwood) stopped a 30-year-old man for driving 97 mph in a 55 mph zone on the Southern State Parkway in Babylon (Suffolk County), Feb. 13, and as the motorist was looking for his registration and insurance card, observed a handgun in a holster secreted in the vehicle's center console. Tpr. Larson immediately took the subject into custody and recovered a .38-cal. Titan Tiger SPL revolver loaded with six rounds. A NYSPIN check revealed that the vehicle's registration had been assigned to a different automobile and had been reported voluntarily surrendered to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The vehicle was impounded to SP Farmingdale, where investigation revealed the insurance card was a forgery. The man admitted having falsified the card to obtain the vehicle after it had been impounded by the Nassau County PD for failure to prove ownership. With the assistance of **Inv. Dennis Cavanagh** (L-Brentwood) and the SIU-Auto Theft Unit, it was also determined that the vehicle was stolen. The subject was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree, Possession of Stolen Property 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession Forged Instrument 2nd Degree.

Reservation narco operation broken up

At the request of the Shinnecock Indian Reservation Trustees, Troop L's Narcotics Enforcement Unit (NEU) began investigating criminal activity on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, (Suffolk County), in July 2006. By April 2007, the NEU had recorded numerous undercover drug purchases, and wrapped up the case, executing nine search warrants and arresting 28 persons on drug and weapons-related charges. Seizures in the case included \$7,000 worth of crack cocaine, \$1,500 worth of heroin, \$3,500 worth of marijuana, 10 vehicles and nine



Tpr. Jose A. Rosado was killed in a two-car accident while on patrol, Jan. 24, in the Town of Southampton (Suffolk County). He was 45 years old and was assigned to Troop L, SP Riverside. At Tpr. Rosado's funeral in Brentwood, Maj. Walter Heesch presented an American flag to the fallen trooper's mother, Generosa. At her side was Tpr. Rosado's wife, Nancy.

handguns.

Fraudulent prescriptions

A pharmacist at a local supermarket contacted SP Riverside, June 6, to report activity involving fraudulent prescriptions. A probe by **Inv. (now Lt.) William J. Hulse** (L-Riverside) led to the arrest of two Long Island women on numerous counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Although the two subjects acted independently, their M.O. was identical. They would bring stolen and forged prescriptions for highly addictive controlled substances to



different drug stores in eastern Suffolk County and would pay as much as \$1,500 in cash for the medications. The stolen prescriptions were from doctors' offices all over Long Island. The illegally obtained medications would then be sold on the street for up to \$50 a pill. Several similar cases are being investigated and the New York State Health Department, and the Office of the Inspector General has been assisting the State Police. The investigation is ongoing.

Flight to avoid apprehension

While patrolling the Southern State Parkway in Islip (Suffolk County), June 30, **Tprs. Adam B. Hoffman**

and **Michael G. Masino** (L-Brentwood) stopped a black Lexus for weaving out of its traffic lane several times. A strong odor of marijuana emanated from the vehicle, and when the troopers had the driver exit the vehicle to conduct a probable cause search, they discovered 13 white envelopes of heroin in his pocket. The man then fled on foot into a wooded area adjacent to the parkway, but a detail of Uniform Troopers and Suffolk County police successfully contained him, and he was soon recaptured in a nearby industrial park. A search of the man's car turned up quantities of marijuana, crack cocaine and Ecstasy pills. He was charged with 3rd and 7th Degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, DWI and Resisting Arrest.

Larceny ring smashed

On August 17, **Inv. Gary W. Bedell** (L-Valley Stream) concluded a six-month investigation into the activities of a group of larcenists who had



Sgt. Michael Granville (L-Brentwood), investigates a fatal collision that occurred Jan. 4, on the Southern State Parkway in the Town of Islip (Suffolk County).

stolen more than \$12,400 by means of fraudulent store returns. The group made multiple returns on high-priced men's suits by stealing garment tickets and store stock register tapes, and producing fraudulent receipts.

The investigation, in conjunction with the store's theft prevention unit and the Nassau County District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, involved numerous physical and video surveillances and the examination of subpoenaed personal bank account information.

A search warrant led to the recovery of numerous stolen items and the seizure of a computer. The suspects were arrested for multiple counts of Grand Larceny, Scheme to Defraud, Falsifying Business Records, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, Possession of Burglar's Tools and Petit Larceny.

Repeat offender

Tprs. Kevin M. Doyle and **Jason J. Hanley** (L-Riverside) arrested a drunken speeder in Southamptton (Suffolk County), Sept. 1, and found him in possession of an ounce of cocaine.

Subsequent investigation revealed him to be a career drug dealer who had just been paroled the previous June after serving a 4½-to-9-year sentence for a 1999 arrest by State Police for possessing a kilo of cocaine.



Mid-level drug dealer arrested

Members of the Troop L Gun Investigation Unit (GIU) witnessed a hand-to-hand drug transaction taking place in a North Babylon (Suffolk County) parking lot, Sept. 14, kicking off a short-term investigation into the drug-dealing operations of a 30-year-old Commack, L.I., man. An inquiry to the Drug Enforcement Agency revealed the subject had been identified as a mid-to-upper-level cocaine dealer, but the DEA felt it still had insufficient evidence to prosecute. The GIU's investigation resulted in the arrest of the subject for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Seizures in the case included more than 40 grams of cocaine, hidden in a trap in his vehicle, two vehicles worth more than \$100,000 and \$45,000 in cash.

Fatal collision investigation solves drive-by shooting

Uniform and BCI personnel responded to the scene of a fatal head-on collision on the Southern State Parkway in Hempstead (Nassau County), Oct. 19. One driver died instantly; the other driver and his passenger were injured, but survived. A 9-mm pistol that appeared to have been recently fired was found in their car, along with a plastic bag of crack cocaine. The survivors were charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of Controlled Substance. The driver was additionally charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Manslaughter 2nd Degree.

During the investigation, investigators inquired locally into any recent crimes involving the use of the type of weapon seized in the case, and were informed of a drive-by shooting in the village of Hempstead just prior to the collision. The recovered handgun was test-fired and the shell casings compared with those recovered by of Hempstead village police. The match was perfect. At last report, the shooting case was being prepared for prosecution.

Date rape drug intervention

While patrolling the Southern State Parkway in Hempstead (Nassau County), Nov. 24, **Tpr. Kenneth J. Bridgeford** (L-Farmingdale) stopped a vehicle for speeding. As he approached the vehicle, he noticed a strange chemical smell and saw that the driver appeared to be impaired. A search of the vehicle revealed a water bottle containing an unknown liquid and a small glass vial.

Tpr. Bridgeford contacted **Inv. Joseph Marti** (L-NEU) and, with his assistance, determined the substance in the bottle was liquid GHB and the vial contained Ketamine residue. Both are known as "predatory" or "date rape" drugs, used by predators to commit sexual assaults because of their powerful incapacitating effects. The driver was arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree (Ketamine), Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 5th Degree with Intent to Sell (GHB), Driving While Ability Impaired-Drugs, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation, and Speeding.



Troop NYC



Troop NYC, which services the five boroughs of metropolitan New York City, has no patrol function, but conducts and contributes to a variety of investigations throughout the city. It traces its origin to the early 1950s when, at the state attorney general's request, several BCI members were temporarily assigned to investigate organized crime on the New York waterfront. The temporary detail gradually expanded, became permanent in 1961, and was re-named SP Manhattan in 1973. It was designated an independent troop in 1992.

From its headquarters on Wards Island, Troop NYC is the operational hub of numerous specialized units and details. The largest of these, the **Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF)**, works in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the New York City Police Department. State Police members assigned to it conduct major narcotics investigations that originate within the City of New York. NYDETF is the premier agency in seizing drug-related cash, narcotics and property. The **Special Narcotics Unit**, assigned to the U.S. Customs Service El Dorado Task Force, focuses on money-laundering organizations and conspirators. The **Confidential Squad** conducts background investigations on trooper applicants, political appointees and out-of-state police applicants. It also provides security assistance when necessary. The **Attorney General's Unit** cooperates with the State Attorney General's Criminal Investigations Bureau in investigating violations of selected laws of the State of New York. The **District Attorneys' Unit** has squads attached to the Manhattan and Queens DAs' offices which work on long-term investigations directed by the borough district attorneys. The **Criminal Investigations Unit** provides investigative, warrant and lead assistance services in the city for upstate troops and out-of-state police agencies. The **Jacob K. Javits Convention Center Detail** consists of Uniform and BCI personnel who are responsible for the safety and well-being of all convention center visitors and vendors. Their efforts have produced a significant reduction in larcenies and organized crime activity at the once problem-plagued center. Troop NYC also has dedicated personnel to the **FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force** in Manhattan, which is responsible for New York City and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Putnam and Dutchess. State Police personnel assigned have "top secret" security clearances and are sworn special deputy marshals. These investigators are actively focusing on international terrorism, domestic terrorism and intelligence functions. Other Troop NYC personnel work with the **U.S. Marshals Regional Fugitive Task Force**, targeting violent felons, and the **U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force**, combatting technology-based crimes associated with credit card fraud, identity theft, money laundering and crimes against children.

Boroughs served:
**Bronx, Brooklyn,
Manhattan, Queens and
Staten Island**

Population:
8 million (approx.)

Service territory:
301 square miles

Troop Headquarters:
Manhattan (Wards Island)

2007 Activity

Attorney General's Squad

- **Identity Theft Investigation** – In August, investigators assigned to the Attorney General's Squad concluded an 18-month investigation into the production of fake identification documents, mortgage fraud and related crimes. Troop NYC members were joined by personnel from the Attorney General's Office, the FBI, NYPD and Alabama police. The investigation probed a group of criminals who used fake IDs to establish bank and credit card accounts, and take out apartment leases and bank loans. When they defaulted on the loans, the resulting loss to financial institutions was more than \$10 million. The investigation led to the arrest of 15 persons in three states, the seizure of six luxury vehicles and \$2 million worth of real estate.

Manhattan District Attorney's Squad

- **Embezzlement** – In April 2005, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office requested assistance in locating a project accountant who they believed had embezzled more than \$2 million from his employer. The suspect was responsible for paying subcontractors on individual job sites. A routine internal audit determined he had paid companies for work that was not completed. Further investigation revealed he had fled the area. After exhausting numerous leads, investigators finally located and arrested him for Grand Larceny 2nd Degree.

- **Grand Larceny** – A request for assistance in April from the NYPD brought in investigators from the Manhattan DA's Squad, who helped locate a subject wanted for stealing approximately \$1 million from her employer. The suspect was eventually located in Monroe, NC, living under her maiden name. The Union County, NC, Sheriff's Office assisted in locating, arresting and extraditing the subject back to New York.

Queens District Attorney's Squad

- **Enterprise Corruption** – Concluding a 14-month investigation, members of the Queens District Attorney's Squad arrested 17 persons

in March, seizing more than \$735,000 in cash and two vehicles. Investigation disclosed the defendants had used an offshore internet site to facilitate criminal gambling activity, taking in some \$2.5 million in wagers per year. To date, 13 defendants have pleaded guilty.

- **Scheme to Defraud** – In April, squad members initiated an investigation for the New York State Office of Unclaimed Funds (OUF), which said an unidentified person had fraudulently used the names of 74 legitimate claimants to file more than \$38,000 in false unclaimed fund applications. Investigation identified a suspect who was using his position as a process server to obtain personal information which he used to file the false claims. In June, a Queens grand jury returned a 230-count indictment against the suspect. He was arrested that week.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Squad

- **Money Laundering Cases** – While conducted a surveillance during March, members of the El Dorado Task Force saw two persons who were targets in a criminal investigation leave a location in Queens with two large bags. The suspects were followed to a meeting with a third individual, after which they were stopped and their bags searched. Investigators found them in possession of more than of \$600,000 cash. Further investigation led task force members to a house and a vehicle in Queens where they seized another \$600,000. The targets of the investigation were arrested and charged with violations of Federal Money Laundering Statutes.

During August, Troop NYC investigators assigned to the El Dorado Task Force conducted surveillance at a Long Island railroad station, where they expected a drug-related money exchange would occur. Eventually the subject was identified and observed getting into a vehicle carrying a heavy bag. A V&T stop was executed and the bag searched, revealing approximately \$150,000 in cash. Subsequent investigation led members to a house on Long Island, where an additional \$650,000



was seized. The targets of the investigation were arrested and held for federal prosecution.

Brooklyn ATF/Gun Investigation Unit

- **Assault Arrest** - Members of the Troop NYC ATF-Brooklyn were conducting surveillance in Washington Heights during August when gunshots rang out nearby. Rushing to the scene, they saw a man running away, ordered him to stop, and when he failed to comply, a chase ensued. Pursuing members saw him toss away a handgun. A short time later they took the suspect into custody. The man confessed to having shot another person once in the neck. The victim was transported to a local hospital and later recovered from his wound. After the arrest, investigators returned to the route of the pursuit and recovered the shooter's pistol.

Javits Center Detail

- During the New York International Auto Show in April, Tpr. Eric J. Tyson (NYC-ATF) was dispatched to a medical call for a 22-month-old girl who was having trouble breathing. Tpr. Tyson was able to clear the blockage in the victim's breathing passage and monitored the child's progress until emergency personnel transported her to a local hospital. The child made a full recovery.

Drug Enforcement Task Force

The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), which works in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the NYPD, is the oldest task force of its kind in the nation and the largest in the state. Its members specialize in major narcotics investigations originating in the New York Metropolitan Area. Many of these investigations lead to the dismantling of major narcotics trafficking organizations and significant seizures of drugs, weapons, drug-related currency and property.

During 2007, the NYDETF adopted 139 cases, made 529 arrests and executed 68 search warrants. The task force seized 9,294 pounds of cocaine, 138 pounds of heroin, 5,018 pounds of marijuana, a pound of crack cocaine, 25 milliliters of GHB, a pound of crystal methamphet-



The results of a 207-kilogram cocaine seizure made by NYDETF Group T-41, Aug. 29.

amine, 2,282 dosage units of methaqualone, 44 handguns and nine long guns. Asset seizures totalled \$21,372,468.20 in cash, \$2,436,122 in jewelry and 53 vehicles valued at \$1,243,173.

- Members of NYDETF **Group T-21**, along with the Office of Special Narcotics, initiated "Operation Final Destination" following a seizure of 340 kilograms of cocaine in January 2006. This multi-jurisdictional investigation involved DEA Offices in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Bogota, Santo Domingo, Houston, McAllen, Laredo, Brownsville, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles and New Jersey. In 2007, members of Group T-21 seized approximately 83 kilograms of cocaine, \$2.6 million and arrested 25 persons. To date, members of Group T-21 have seized approximately 900 kilograms of cocaine, \$2.8 million and made 30 arrests.

- In February, NYDETF **Group T-22** received information regarding a couple transporting heroin from the Bronx to Utica. With



the assistance of **Tpr. Thomas F. Keaveney** and (T-Tarrytown), a V&T stop was conducted on the vehicle in which subjects were passengers. A scent search by Embar resulted in the seizure of half-a-kilogram of heroin, hidden the car's air filter. All occupants of the vehicle were subsequently arrested, and later released on bail. A search warrant was obtained for the subject's apartment in the Bronx, leading to the seizure of two canisters of a white powdery substance believed to be a cutting agent, packaging material, and assorted paperwork. Members of Group T-22 learned the couple was acquiring kilogram quantities of heroin from a Dominican woman in Queens, and established additional surveillances. The woman was later seen meeting with the couple and transacting an exchange. Investigators moved in, arrested all three and seized roughly \$15,000 cash. A consent search of the woman's house in Queens led to additional seizures of 3.2 kilograms of heroin, scales, documentary evidence and an additional \$15,000 in cash.

- In August NYDETF **Group T-41**, working in conjunction with the Special Operations Division and Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, seized approximately 147 kilograms of cocaine in Secaucus, NJ, and 60 kilograms of cocaine in the Bronx. Both seizures were effected during traffic stops and subsequent vehicle searches. Four persons were arrested and charged with Conspiracy to Import with

Intent to Distribute Cocaine.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force

The New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, created in 2004, is comprised of approximately 170 members from the NYSP, DEA, FBI, ICE, ATF, IRS, NYPD, US Marshals, USSS and on-site prosecutors from both the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. Its mission is to disrupt and dismantle major drug trafficking organizations designated by the Department of Justice as Consolidated Priority Targets (CPTs) and their affiliates in the New York metropolitan area. Currently they are working on several long-term investigations targeting drug trafficking organizations in the New York City area.

During 2007, the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force adopted 55 cases, made 205 arrests and executed 24 search warrants. It seized 675 pounds of cocaine, 202 pounds of heroin, 1,003 pounds of marijuana, 10 pounds of crack cocaine, 174 pounds of *khat* and 16 handguns. Asset seizures totaled \$9,483,748.88 in cash and 33 vehicles.



Two views of the haul from a sophisticated indoor marijuana-growing operation in New York City seized by NYDETF Group T-42 during 2007.

- During December 2005, members of **Group Z-41** began investigating a Somali drug trafficking organization that was dealing in *khat* — the first comprehensive national/international investigation relating to the importation and distribution of that substance. Wiretaps were used



extensively throughout the investigation, and it was determined that profits from the *khat* sales had roots running all the way back to Somalia's warlords. In July 2006, 43 subjects were arrested throughout the U.S., 17 search warrants were executed, and approximately \$200,000 in cash seized. More than five tons of *khat* was seized, with a street value running into the millions. To date, 29 subjects have been convicted; an additional 12 are awaiting trial in 2008.

- In March 2004, **Group Z-43**, in conjunction with the DEA Bogotá Country Office, initiated an investigation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (known by the Spanish acronym FARC), which is responsible for producing and distributing vast amounts of Colombian cocaine. It is estimated that FARC is responsible for approximately 60% of the cocaine on America's streets. It has been designated a Tier 1 Terrorist Organization by the U.S. State Department and is responsible for hundreds of homicides in Colombia and surrounding countries. In March 2006, Group Z-43 was able to obtain an indictment against the top 50 FARC leaders for Narcotics Conspiracy, the largest indictment against narcotics traffickers in U.S. history. The State Department has authorized Group Z-43 \$77.5 million in reward money to assist in capturing the indicted persons. In 2007, two FARC leaders were extradited and two were killed resisting arrest. Additional advertising campaigns to highlight the State Department's reward program for the capture of FARC leaders are being developed by Group Z-43 and will be broadcast throughout Colombia.



Troop T



Service territory:

New York State Thruway,
State Routes 84 and 287 (641 linear miles)

Troop Headquarters:

Albany

Zones/Stations:

Zone 1

Tarrytown, New Rochelle

Zone 2

Albany, Fultonville, Kingston

Zone 3

Junius Ponds, Schuyler, Syracuse

Zone 4

Buffalo, Dunkirk, Henrietta

Zone 5

East Fishkill, Newburgh, New Hampton

Troop T, which services the New York State Thruway, was originally established as the State Police Thruway Detail in 1954. It attained independent troop status in 1961. Today it is the sole remaining troop with exclusive policing authority within its service area. It also shares a close relationship with the NYS Thruway Authority in the daily administration and operation of a network of interstate highways that includes the Thruway, I-95, I-84 and I-287. Troop T's 14 stations service 641 miles of roadways within five separate zones. Where needed, it is supported by other NYSP units having specialties unavailable in the troop, such as aviation. In 1994 the Thruway Authority absorbed the State Canal System, and Troop T became responsible for policing 524 miles of inland waterways. The Canal Detail, which operates May through October, is supplemented with personnel from adjoining troops and staffs four regularly scheduled patrols: one each in the Buffalo and Albany areas, and two in the Syracuse area. The detail provides security coverage at regattas, races, canal festivals and other water-related special events. In 1997, Troop T initiated bicycle patrols along the canal's adjacent paths and trails, complemented by the inauguration of wintertime patrols on snowmobiles during 1999.

2007 Selected Statistics

Vehicle & Traffic Law Arrests
 DWI - 1,405 Speed - 104,877
 Safety Restraint - 17,546

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter - 0/0
 Rape - 0
 Robbery - 0
 Aggravated Assault - 1

Property

Burglary - 1
 Larceny - 30
 Motor Vehicle Theft - 3

2007 Interesting Cases

Running and gunning

Tprs. Anthony J. Catalfamo and **John M. Knoetgen** (T-Albany) pulled over two northbound vehicles for speeding in the town of Coeymans (Albany County), Feb. 10, one of which tried to flee. A strong odor of marijuana greeted them as they approached the first car, and a check and search of the three occupants turned up a small amount of pot and approximately \$2,000 in cash.

Tprs. Victor E. Franco and **Heath D. Mccrindle** (T-Albany) stopped the second vehicle, a rental, and found it similarly occupied by three men. Interviews determined that all six persons were traveling together from Poughkeepsie, en route to a bar in Albany. A file check of the second vehicle revealed three occupants were on parole for violent felonies ranging from robbery to weapons possession. A search of the trunk produced a .45-cal. pistol and two fully loaded ammunition clips. All six were arrested and processed at SP Albany, and the three from the second car were charged with felony Criminal Possession of a Weapon and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and remanded to the Albany County Jail without bail. The operator of the first vehicle was charged with Unlawful Possession of Marijuana and Speeding.

Domestic violence: The toll

Tprs. Thomas F. Keaveney, Brady Ng, David J. Katz, and Aaron K. Riley (T-Tarrytown) were patrolling the I-87 portion of the Thruway, March 5, when the Thruway dispatcher advised them of numerous calls regarding an assault in progress on the southbound lanes between the Tarrytown Toll Plaza and Exit 9 in the village of Tarrytown (Westchester County).

Arriving at the scene, Tprs. Keaveney and Ng saw a man standing over a woman, later identified as his wife, punching her in the head. Tpr. Keaveney tackled the suspect, tumbling over the guide rail and down an embankment. Tpr. Katz then helped him handcuff the assailant. When

questioned, the man made several incriminating statements, saying numerous times, "She deserved it." Transported to SP Tarrytown, he was charged with DWI and 1st Degree Assault, arraigned and committed to Westchester County Jail without bail. Investigation revealed the couple had a history of domestic violence, and had been engaged in a violent argument in their car which resulted in a property damage automobile accident. Once the vehicle was stopped, the wife leaped out and was chased down and pummeled by her husband.

The troopers rendered first aid to the bleeding, unconscious victim. Arriving EMS personnel performed an emergency tracheotomy to help her breath and transported her to Westchester County Medical Center in critical condition. Diagnosed with a fractured eye socket, multiple skull fractures and a punctured lung, at last report she remained in Westchester County Medical Center in critical condition and in a drug induced coma. Doctors believed she had suffered brain damage.

Loaded for bear... and going the wrong way

While working a 1-shift on I-190, March 7, **Tpr. Matthew J. Stegner** (T- Buffalo) spotted a car driving the wrong way on a marked one-way road before proceeding southbound on the Niagara section of the Thruway. When he pulled the driver over, he immediately noticed a baseball bat and a knife next to the driver and ordered him to exit the vehicle. Despite repeated warnings, the nervous suspect tried repeatedly to place his right hand into his right coat pocket, and when Tpr. Stegner inquired if there were any other weapons in the car, replied that he had a single-shot, sawed-off shotgun under his driver's seat. A frisk for additional weapons turned up a .25-cal. handgun in the man's right pocket.

A search incidental to this arrest produced a homemade holster for a sawed-



off shotgun concealed in a back brace under the defendant's jacket, and a used hypodermic needle inside his left sock. The sawed-off shotgun was found to have a live round in the chamber and its safety off. A box of assorted ammunition was located in the glove compartment. The suspect was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd and 3rd Degree, CPCS 7th, and Possession of a Hypodermic Needle.

Flip this suspect!

Tpr. Daniel J. Parker (T-Tarrytown) stopped a speeding 1995 Toyota Camry on I-87 in Clarkstown (Rockland County), March 24, and interviewed the four occupants, who said they had been traveling from New York City to Ithaca. With the assistance of **Tpr. James D. Leeder** and his K-9 partner "**Robbie**" (T-Tarrytown), he searched the vehicle, discovering more than 3.5 ounces of cocaine on one of the passengers. A digital scale, small glass jars used for packaging narcotics, and a small amount of marijuana also were found in the vehicle.

During a subsequent interview, the passenger with the cocaine told investigators and Tpr. Parker about two unsolved crimes in the Ithaca area: a stabbing at a basketball game the previous summer, and a home invasion robbery during which the son of a retired police officer was shot and paralyzed.

Back from the brink

A passing motorist informed Troop T Communications that a woman had abandoned her car on the northbound side of the Tappan Zee Bridge, climbed over the guide rail and appeared ready to jump, Sept. 19. **Tpr. Carlton N. Deloatch Jr.** (T-Tarrytown) sped to the scene and located the subject, who had climbed approximately six feet down the bridge superstructure from the roadway. Lying on a girder, she was hanging on with one foot and one arm, while making good-bye phone calls on her cell phone.

Sgt./SC John T. Antonelli (T-Tarrytown) arrived on the scene and, together with Tpr. Deloatch, tried to dissuade the distraught woman from taking her life. Tense conversation reigned for the next 20 minutes, during which the woman insisted her relationship problems were in-

soluble and meeting every attempt to approach her with hysterical screams.

Gradually, the mental stress and physical strain began to fatigue the woman. She began sliding and losing her grip on the beam. Sgt. Antonelli and Tpr. Deloatch convinced her to grab a rope thrown to her, and when she reached out for it, Sgt. Antonelli lunged and seized her wrist. Then, with assistance from Tpr. Deloatch and Thruway employees, she was hauled to safety. She was transported to Westchester County Medical Center for mental health treatment.



Honors and Awards: 2007

On May 16, Acting Superintendent Preston L. Felton conferred honors for performance of duty and exceptional service to more than 50 sworn and civilian employees of the New York State Police during the Division's 31st Annual Awards Day Ceremony in Albany.

Superintendent's Commendation Awards

The recipients of the Superintendent's Commendation Awards were selected from the many troopers, investigators and civilian support personnel who received Letters of Commendation during this previous year.

- **Sgt. Robert A. Buell** (B-Schroon Lake) and **Tprs. John A. Hill** (D-Herkimer), **James A. Schweiger** (Aviation-Batavia) and **Jason D. Soden** (C-Deposit) — In the immediate aftermath of the shootings of Tprs. Joseph A. Longobardo and Donald H. Baker Jr., Aug. 31, 2006, Sgt. Buell and Tprs. Hill, Schweiger and Soden responded to assist them, knowingly placing themselves in the path of a cold-blooded killer. Sgt. Buell and Tpr. Soden established defensive positions to provide security for the evacuation, while Tprs. Schweiger and Hill rendered emergency medical aid to the wounded troopers.
- **Sr. Inv. Allan M. Dombroski**, and **Invs. Patrick J. Englishby** and **Frank E. Roney III** (E -Violent Crime Investigative Team) — Upon learning of the fatal shooting of Tpr. A.J. Sperr, March 1, 2006, Sr. Inv. Dombroski and Invs. Englishby and Roney immediately established and operated an investigative lead desk at the SP command post in Big Flats (Chemung County). Their investigative, administrative and organizational efforts helped bring about the arrests of the three suspects responsible for Tpr. Sperr's murder, and greatly assisted the county prosecutor's efforts to secure evi-

dence, prepare witnesses and convict the suspects.

- **Kevin P. Bruen** (H-Counsel) — An accomplished attorney and former assistant district attorney in Warren and in Kings counties, Mr. Bruen was instrumental in bringing the murderers of Tpr. Andrew J. Sperr to justice. He worked diligently with investigative personnel and the Chemung County district attorney, who prosecuted the case, at all phases of the grand jury process, and was present at every subsequent court proceeding. Mr. Bruen has been twice honored with Superintendent's Commendations.
- **S/Sgt. Anthony J. Barrera** (H-Communications), and **Tprs. Susan M. Buckley** (F-Middletown), **Christopher M. Berg** (C-Homer), **Michael L. Grudecki Jr.** (ESD) and **Amy Landy** (G-Brunswick) — On Oct. 6, 2006, off-duty Tprs. Buckley and Berg, then recruits in the NYSP Academy, observed a woman, slumped over the steering wheel of her SUV, careen across several lanes of traffic, then plow through trees and bushes and crash into a shallow ravine. S/Sgt. Barrera, also off-duty at the time, saw the same incident and all immediately pulled to the side of the highway to assist the victim. Dispatched to the accident, Tprs. Grudecki and Landy arrived at the scene to find the SUV lying on its side in two feet of fast-running water. Without regard for their personal safety, all plunged into the water and climbed atop the SUV, from where they could see the driver, nearly submerged inside and unconscious. Working swiftly, they were able to extricate her from the wreck and carry her to arriving rescue squad personnel on the stream bank, saving her life.
- **Tprs. Christopher J. Gonyo** (B-CVEU) and **Christopher L. Dumas** (Troop B) — Responding to a fire at a four-unit apartment complex in the town of Chazy (Clinton County), Dec. 1, 2006, Tprs. Gonyo and Dumas entered the blazing building without regard for their personal safety or benefit of protective equipment to rescue three trapped residents in two apartments.

• **Lt. James M. Land** (C-BCI) and **Tpr. Nelson Torres** (C-Sidney) — During the devastating flash floods in Broome County, Nov. 16, 2006, Lt. Land came upon an horrific scene on I-88 in the town of Fenton, where a saturated mountainside had collapsed into a massive slide, forcing trees, boulders, rocks and mud four feet deep across a quarter-mile of the roadway and trapping many people in their vehicles. Hearing Lt. Land's radio report of the disaster, Tpr. Torres responded to the scene, and together they began helping fire and rescue crews evacuate the motorists while loud rumblings issued from the mountain and the ground shook beneath their feet.

Suddenly, a second mudslide roared down the mountainside, striking vehicles on the roadway, hurling one car with two occupants eight feet into the air, over a Jersey barricade and into the opposing lane of traffic. A second vehicle was catapulted over the barrier and landed upside down atop the first. Lt. Land and Tpr. Torres extricated a man and a woman from the wreckage, both conscious but bleeding from head wounds, and carried them to emergency medical services personnel for treatment. Lt. Land is a three-time Superintendent's Commendation recipient.

• Members of the **NYSP Scuba Unit: T/Sgts. John J. Beno** (C-Traffic, second commendation), **Alvaro E. Garcia** (H-Emergency Management, second commendation), **Inv. Jamie T. Bell** (C-Sidney) and

Tprs. Thomas N. Barden (D-Lafayette, second commendation), **Christopher J. Garrow** (B-Valcour), **George F. Hafele Jr.** (C-CVEU, second commendation), **Wesley E. Mills III** (C-Norwich), **Stephen M. Posada** (B-Valcour, second commendation), **Michael H. Scheibel** (Troop D, third commendation), **Tpr. William A. Torruella** (C-CVEU, second commendation) — These members all responded to the hardest hit areas of the Susquehanna Valley Flood Plain June 27, 2006, during three days of record-setting rainfall in the Southern Tier. The resulting floods stranded thousands of persons and rendered entire communities homeless. With overwhelming demands for service, limited communications and treacherous conditions, the divers rescued several persons and evacuated hundreds of others.

The SCUBA team maneuvered their airboat through and around live electrical wires to extract people and animals from the second stories of homes. Four houses exploded in the area, one perilously close to the dive team. As soon as their rescue work was done, they began search and recovery operations for the bodies of two truck drivers, lost in their tractor-trailers when a culvert under I-88 failed and the entire roadway collapsed into the Susquehanna River.

• **Inv. Jan B. Golding** (F-Middletown) — Recalled to duty after an early morning gas station robbery in the town of Wallkill (Ulster County), May 13, 2006, Inv. Golding methodically obtained witness statements, secured

and viewed the station's security videotape, transmitted a description of the robbery suspect and suspect vehicle on the New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN), and obtained a computer listing of vehicles that matched the suspect's.

Through diligent investigative work, he was able to identify a strong suspect in the case, and after checking the man's last known residence, was returning to the area of the robbery when he observed the suspect vehicle. Inv. Golding followed the vehicle, stopped it and apprehended the suspect. The man had just held up a store, as it turned out, and had in his possession the knife used in both robberies and the money taken in the second robbery.

• **Inv. Brendan J. Tumulty Jr.** (F-Haverstraw) — On June 13, 2006, a 16-year-old Rockland County girl disappeared without a trace. On June 28, local police brought the girl's 22-year-old neighbor to SP Haverstraw for a routine polygraph examination. He was not considered initially a strong suspect, but Inv. Tumulty's polygraph examination indicated the man was lying. After an extensive interview, he confessed to Inv. Tumulty that he had planned and executed the girl's murder.

• **Inv. Terry Dwyer** (Troop K) — In December 2005, Inv. Dwyer was an integral member of a joint federal, state, county and city task force focusing on a violent Poughkeepsie street gang called "Partners

N Crime” or PNC. Monitoring more than 26,000 calls by active gang members, Inv. Dwyer’s wiretapping investigation revealed the PNC gang was responsible for narcotics distribution, home invasions, violent robberies of rival drug dealers, numerous shootings and three homicides. Several times during the course of his surveillance, Inv. Dwyer intervened to prevent gang members from committing robberies or violent assaults. For more than a year, the task force developed a case that described the recruitment of PNC members, their finances and positions in the gang hierarchy.

In late August 2006, the Dutchess County district attorney convened a special grand jury and indicted 13 PNC members for murder, robbery, burglary, criminal sale of a controlled substance, and enterprise corruption, only the second time in the history of New York State — the first time outside New York City — the latter charge was used against other than traditional Mafia-related organized crime. Six vehicles, three assault weapons, 11 handguns, 16 ounces of cocaine and \$45,000 in cash were seized. The investigation also closed seven shootings, resulting in a total of six guilty pleas.

- **Tpr. John F. Reppucci** (Troop K) — Responding to a fire at a two-story, multi-family dwelling in the village of Brewster, Nov. 7, 2006, Tpr. Reppucci heard cries from people in a rear bedroom where flames were blocking the exit. Tpr. Reppucci kicked in a window air conditioner and, without

protective equipment or regard for his personal safety, entered the burning building and located three trapped children. He guided them to the window, carefully lifted them out, and then carried their disabled mother on his back through the window. Tpr. Reppucci then went back and rescued the family dog.

- **Tpr. Ronald V. Gallo Jr.** (L-Farmingdale) — Dispatched to the scene of a one-car rollover on the Northern State Parkway in Nassau County, July 17, 2006, Tpr. Gallo arrived to find the overturned car on fire, one occupant trapped inside. He immediately contacted SP Farmingdale communications for fire and emergency medical services personnel. Then, undeterred by the flames, he helped extricate the occupant.

- **Tprs. Sean M. Brown** (E-Montour Falls) and **Donald M. Will** (E-Dundee) — While on patrol, June 10, 2006, Tprs. Brown and Will were following a vehicle when, unaccountably, it pulled to the shoulder of the road. Tpr. Brown pulled in behind it and activated the troop car’s spotlight and emergency lights. As Tpr. Brown approached the vehicle, the driver, fugitive Ralph Phillips, an escapee from the Erie County Correctional Facility, shot him in the abdomen and sped from the scene before the troopers could return fire.

Tpr. Will immediately helped Tpr. Brown to their patrol car, advised the dispatch point of the details concerning the shooting and requested an ambulance.

After assessing Tpr. Brown’s condition, Tpr. Will decided not to wait but to transport him to the nearest hospital. This saved Tpr. Brown’s life. The shooting of Tpr. Brown sparked one of the largest manhunts in NYSP history.

Special Recognition Award

Mr. Dave Barger, President and CEO of Jet Blue Airways, was recognized for his company’s support in flying three detachments of 100 New York State Troopers to and from Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Mr. Barger played a key role in offering Jet Blue’s services and contacted key individuals who acquired the aircraft, flight crews and necessary support staff for the airlift. The only cost to the New York State Police was the actual operating costs of the equipment. Flight crews volunteered their time to support the mutual aid mission between the New York State Police and the State of Louisiana. This historic humanitarian mission was largely facilitated by the generosity and compassion of the employees of Jet Blue.

Supervisor Recognition Awards

- **Supervisor of Forensic Services Margaret L. LaFond** — Supervisor of the drug chemistry section of the NYSP Forensic

Investigation Center and all three State Police regional laboratories, Ms. LaFond coordinates the activities of the labs with local district attorneys, assures processes and training of staff comply with accreditation criteria, and assists Division Counsel regarding legislation involving controlled substance laws. In this critical position, she ensures that the numerous high-profile drug investigations in New York State are successfully adjudicated.

Ms. LaFond also represents the NYSP Office of Human Resources as an equal employment opportunity counselor, teaches drug chemistry as an adjunct professor for the State University of New York at Albany and assists in the development of forensic chemistry training at the Northeast Regional Forensic Institute. She is an auditor for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board, and sits on the Scholarship Committee of the Northeast Association of Forensic Scientists and on the Technical Working Group of New York State Forensic Laboratories.

- **Sr. Inv. John E. Daley** (H-Gaming Detail) — As administrative senior investigator of the Gaming Detail in Albany since 2001, Sr. Inv. Daley, a 21-year NYSP veteran, has managed the substantial growth of the Gaming Detail attendant on the addition of nine video lottery units and the two new casinos in the state during that time. He is highly knowledgeable in all aspects of law enforcement unique to gaming, including licensing appli-

cations, background investigations and criminal activity.

He is highly regarded and sought by national and international gaming law enforcement authorities and regulatory committees for his expertise. Most recently, he assisted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in establishing a gaming unit and related investigative processes. He continually trains and mentors young investigators assigned to his detail and frequently interacts with the state Division of Lottery and the Racing and Wagering Board.

- **Sr. Inv. Timothy P. Parry** (H-NYSIC) — A 19-year NYSP veteran, Sr. Inv. Parry manages the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC). In addition to handling crucial, time-sensitive, tasks involving investigation and analysis of potential terrorism threats, he has distinguished himself by regularly coordinating local, federal and state law enforcement agencies in counter-terrorism initiatives and terrorism prevention exercises.

Due to his knowledge and outstanding work, he is highly regarded by his staff and his colleagues in law enforcement and criminal intelligence agencies nationwide.

Civilian Employee Recognition Awards

- **Communications Technician Robert C. MacFarland** (H-ESU) — Surveillance

Unit, a 22-year NYSP employee, Mr. MacFarland is the longest-serving member in the Criminal Intelligence Section's Electronic Surveillance Unit (ESU). He is in charge of the maintenance and repair of all types and varieties of electronic equipment and devices throughout the state. His technical and professional expertise plays an essential role in the purchase of millions of dollars worth of surveillance equipment. He is affectionately (if unofficially) referred to as "Q," after the inventive gadget master in the James Bond films, because he regularly fixes much of the equipment manufacturers routinely condemn as irreparable or too costly to fix. Mr. MacFarland also designs and retrofits equipment for specific applications.

- **Communications Specialist Robin L. Tomlinson** (H-Communications) — On the morning of Oct. 1, 2006, Ms. Tomlinson answered a cellular 911 call from a five-year-old child named Hunter who had been traveling in a car with his father when the parent began to go into diabetic shock and pulled to the side of the road. When his father wouldn't wake up, Hunter used his cell phone to summon help. State Police Communications Section personnel obtained a home telephone number from the cellular company and were able to contact the boy's mother to provide information about her husband's vehicle.

Ms. Tomlinson then calmly instructed Hunter how to activate the vehicle's emergency

flashers and turn on the interior light, and to honk the horn until a passerby responded. A responding passerby was able to then provide Ms. Tomlinson the location, and EMS was dispatched to the scene. She then directed the passerby in providing first aid until rescue personnel arrived.

Superintendent's Traffic Safety Award

- **Tpr. Ernest R. Barboza Jr.** (G-Queensbury) — A five-year veteran of the State Police assigned to Interstate Highway Patrol, Tpr. Barboza has distinguished himself in the enforcement of the Vehicle and Traffic Law while conducting numerous and complex criminal investigations. He reliably patrols the most desolate areas of I-87 in search of stranded motorists, and in 2006 issued 946 Uniform Traffic Tickets, made 16 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated and another 61 for illicit drug possession.

George M. Searle Memorial Award

The George M. Searle Memorial Award, established in honor the late Deputy Superintendent George M. Searle, is presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in training and education. This year's recipients were **T/Lt. Don R. Williams** (H-Planning and Research) and **T/Sgt. Jeffrey R. Carmichael** (H-Academy).

T/Lt. Williams is an 18-year veteran who has been involved in numerous research projects aimed toward the continued improvement and advancement of Division operations. T/Sgt. Carmichael is chief Academy firearms training officer, a 20-year veteran, who has developed numerous firearms training programs.

Last year, T/Lt. Williams and T/Sgt. Carmichael worked together as a team to review the State Police issue sidearm and make recommendations concerning officer safety and the needs of the agency. They played a major role in researching and testing new weapons and ammunition, and their comprehensive, tireless efforts identified the Glock .45 GAP caliber, Model 37 as the weapon of choice to the replace the Division's long-serving Glock 9-mm, Model 17. They also developed a secure process to issue the new weapon and a training program to facilitate the Division's approximately 5,000 sworn members in transitioning to it.

Superintendent's Unit Citation Award

This year's Superintendent's Unit Citation Award was presented to the SP Horseheads (Troop E) Bureau of Criminal Investigation unit: **Sr. Inv. Gary V. Ferguson** and **Invs. Randy A. Hugg, Karl F. Aepelbacher, Joseph M. Kelly, Timothy J. Randall,**

Michael J. Hess, Chad J. Deweese and Eric M. Hurd.

Responding to the murder of Tpr. Andrew J. Sperr, March 1, 2006, these members launched a criminal investigation that succeeded in bringing the killers into custody within hours of the murder. Their investigation made it possible to obtain vital confessions and recover critical evidence. They assisted the Chemung County District Attorney's Office in preparing the murder case for trial; they prepared evidence and assisted in briefing witnesses crucial to the successful prosecution of the case. Three months later, on June 10, 2006, this same unit was tasked with the investigation of the attempted murder of Tpr. Sean Brown by escaped fugitive Ralph Phillips.

Tpr. William V. McDonagh Community Service Award

This award, established in honor of the late Tpr. William McDonagh, an active participant in community events, killed in the line of duty, Dec. 14, 1975, was presented to **Inv. Michael J. Hess, Tprs. Christopher R. Shields and Paul J. Campbell** (E-Horseheads).

Within one week of the murder of Tpr. Andrew J. Sperr, Inv. Hess, and Tprs. Shields and Campbell developed a plan to build a memorial park. Tpr. Sperr was an accom-

plished outdoorsman, and they wanted a park to commemorate and reflect his love for nature and the outdoors. They contacted county and town officials with their plan, coordinated the efforts of local community members, organized hundreds of volunteers from across the state, and collected more than \$100,000 for materials to build the park and provide for its long-term maintenance. With family members, they performed much of the labor on the park themselves.

The park features a black granite monument with an engraved picture and biography of Tpr. Sperr, surrounded by paving-stones, trees, a pavilion, walking trails, public access to a fishing pond and picnic tables. On Sept. 9, 2006, with hundreds of people from around the state, Tpr. Andrew J. Sperr's family and friends officially dedicated the park in his memory.



Investigative Details

Cases requiring extensive investigation or involving felonies are referred to the Division's primary investigative arm, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. In addition to conducting investigations initiated by the State Police, BCI Investigators regularly assist county and municipal law enforcement agencies that lack the personnel, expertise or materiel needed for major crime investigations. Specialists within the BCI deal with cases related to narcotics, violent and serial crimes, child abuse and sexual exploitation, computer and technology-related crimes, bias-related crimes, auto theft, illegal gun trafficking, consumer product tampering and organized crime.

Gaming Detail

The Gaming Detail, established in July 1993, consists of headquarters staff and discrete units assigned to the four Native American-owned and operated gambling casinos around the state: Turning Stone Casino, operated by the Oneida Indian Nation, in Verona (Oneida County), the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino, operated by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (Franklin County), and the Seneca Niagara and Seneca Allegany casinos, operated by the Seneca Nation of Indians, in Niagara Falls (Niagara County) and Salamanca (Cattaraugus County). In July 2007, the Seneca Nation opened its third casino, the Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino, in the City of Buffalo (Erie County).

The State Police units assigned to these facilities conduct suitability assessment background investigations on all casino employees, who are ultimately certified for licensing by the New York State

Racing and Wagering Board, and perform law enforcement and public safety services on the casino gaming floor areas.

State law also authorizes eight racetracks to operate "video gaming entertainment facilities" or "racinos". The State Police maintains nine installations, with roles similar to those it performs at the larger casinos, at these facilities: NYS Lottery Headquarters in Schenectady (Schenectady County), the Saratoga Gaming and Raceway in Saratoga Springs (Saratoga County), Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack in Farmington (Ontario County), Fairgrounds Gaming and Raceway in Hamburg (Erie County), Monticello Gaming and Raceway in Monticello (Sullivan County), Batavia Downs Gaming in Batavia (Genesee County), Tioga Downs Gaming in Nichols (Tioga County), Empire City at Yonkers Raceway in Yonkers (Westchester County) and Vernon Downs Gaming in Vernon (Oneida County).



Invs. Brian D. Frankowski **and** Christina A. Sherer-Young (VLU-Buffalo) **conduct an audit of the facility's procedures using video review and surveillance equipment.**

2007 Cases

And if you believe that one, I've got some land...

A Fairgrounds Gaming and Raceway banker told **Invs. Eugene L. Baritot and William C. Curtin** (VLU-Buffalo) that a man had cashed several suspicious-looking \$500 American Express Gift Cheques, Dec. 20, 2006. Investigation revealed the checks were indeed fakes. The man said he had responded to an e-mail from someone in the United Kingdom or Nigeria who had claimed banking problems in his country had compelled him to seek people to cash gift checks for him and return 90% of the money to him; the person cashing the check osten-

sibly would be permitted to keep the rest. The suspect swallowed the bait and received 12 checks, which he cashed at Fairgrounds Gaming and Raceway over a two-week period. Meanwhile, investigation also revealed the suspect was being sued by Bank of America for cashing forged postal money orders, which he claimed resulted from a similar offer. He was arrested for eight counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument 2nd Degree.

Make no mistake, It's extortion

A security officer told **Inv. Frank A. Spatto** the Vernon Downs director of security was extorting money from her, May 4. The racket began when he caught her sleeping on the job and demanded \$40 to keep quiet about it. She paid the "hush money," but when she lost her access card a few weeks later and reported it to the director, he made the same extortionate proposition. Again she paid the "fine." Realizing he had a good thing going, the director later told her that if she wanted to keep her job she would have to reimburse the company \$117 for a hotel room the casino had "comped" to a couple who supposedly had been offended by her language. She paid him \$40 on the spot, and agreed to pay the remaining \$77 the next payday.

She later learned from other employees that no hotel room had been "comped," and reported the entire matter to Inv. Spatto on the next payday. When she cashed her check Inv. Spatto photocopied the money and fitted her with a tape recorder. A few minutes later she was summoned to the director's office, from which she soon returned with a highly incriminating tape-recording in which the man was heard to say, "Oh, I almost forgot, that 'comped' room cost the company \$137, not \$117, so you owe me an extra 20 bucks. You can give it to me next payday...that is, if you want to keep your job." An arrest by Inv. Spatto brought an end to the extortion.

Violence averted?

A female employee of Saratoga Gaming & Raceway told **Invs. Andrew J. Shattuck and Joel R. Walbridge**, June 12, she had

overheard a kitchen worker say he was “coming to work with a gun” and would “blow a bunch of people away.”

The angry man was interviewed and admitted having uttered the threats, but denied having any actual plan to carry them out. A search of his residence by **Invs. Raymond Marrero** and **Kevin A. Bouyea** yielded air-powered BB pistols and long guns, but no firearms. The investigators noted, however, that an extraordinary proportion of the suspect’s possessions, including video games, movies and elaborate drawings, featured violent themes and subjects, shootings and death. After consulting with the Saratoga County district attorney, they arrested the defendant on one count of Falsely Reporting an Incident, and the judge at his arraignment ordered him to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

You pays your money, and you takes your chance...

A birthday party turned deadly when someone targeting a 17-year-old Queens resident fired eight times into a backyard containing a large group of people, July 22. One person died and the shooter fled the scene. Nassau County police began an investigation.

On Aug. 23, a security employee at the Empire City Gaming and Raceway facility in Yonkers advised **Invs. Gregory M. Panzarella** and **James J. Boyle** (VTL-Yonkers) that two Nassau County PD detectives had entered the building to conduct surveillance on a homicide suspect. Invs. Panzarella and Boyle conferred with the detectives, who had followed the suspect and several family members into the racino. **Sr. Inv. Edward C. Martinez** (VTL-Yonkers) directed two detail members to monitor the racino’s surveillance cameras for the detectives while other detail members established a discreet, loose, perimeter around the subject. When the suspect ventured from his family group to cash in his winnings, the investigators moved in swiftly and apprehended him without causing any disruption or disturbance on the gaming floor. The suspect admitted to his part in the shooting, implicated his conspirators, and was

charged with two counts of Murder 2nd Degree.

A shattering experience...

Members of the Oneida Casino Unit received information that a suspect wanted in New Jersey on multiple bench warrants was staying at the Turning Stone Casino under a false name, Aug. 22. After confirming the suspect’s identity and the validity of the warrants, **Invs. Daniel W. Engert, Thomas O. Malone, Michael R. Tinkler, Thomas A. Giannettino** and **James Coldiron III** went to the suspect’s room where, after repeated unanswered knocks at the door, they attempted to gain entry with a passkey, only to be thwarted by the mechanical “day-lock” on the door. While they called for a hacksaw to cut through the lock, the suspect attempted to break a window in his 14th-floor hotel room. Monitoring the situation via radio, **Lt. Todd D. Keister** appropriated a sledgehammer from a construction project and responded to the scene. With it he forced observed a counterfeit \$20 bill, cut into sections, in plain sight. A



A wanted man who contemplated suicide from the 14th floor of the Turning Stone Resort and Casino peers out through a window panel he smashed in a desperate getaway attempt. Members took him into custody after an eight-hour standoff.

entry into the room, but not before the suspect managed to shatter one of the suite's "unbreakable" windows.

Investigators found the suspect in the bedroom, threatening to jump out the broken 14th floor window. Hostage negotiators were called in from Troop D, while uniform patrols cleared spectators from the parking garage area and secured the hotel front entrance. After eight hours of tense negotiation, the hostage team, consisting of **Invs.**

John D. Fallon, Timothy M. Kelly (D-Major Crimes) and **Reece S. Treen** (D-Herkimer) convinced the man to surrender. He was taken into custody without further incident, arraigned as a fugitive from justice and jailed without bail.

Funny money is no laughing matter

The discovery of counterfeit money is a relatively routine event for Gaming Detail members due to the large quantity of cash passing through a casino daily. **Inv. Robert J. Weber** of the Oneida Casino Unit received a report, Sept. 9, of a blackjack player at the Turning Stone Casino attempting to pass \$300 in suspected counterfeit money. **Invs. Weber and Kevin F. Buttenschon** examined the money, along with another \$150 the suspect had in his possession, and confirmed the bills were indeed bogus. The man claimed he had received the bills from an unknown person in exchange for a car stereo earlier that day.

Video surveillance records showed he had arrived with two other persons, whom the investigators located and questioned. While interviews revealed inconsistencies in the suspect's claim, they were insufficient to sustain an arrest at that point. The suspect was released, and the investigation continued.

Consultation with the U.S. Secret Service revealed the bills as a "known counterfeit," indicating identical fake bills had been discovered and reported elsewhere. This established probable cause to make an arrest for Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument. The investigators thereupon went to the suspect's house, where they

search warrant was obtained for the residence, leading to the seizure of three computers and a printer used in the production of the counterfeit currency, a kilogram of marijuana, a 20-gauge shotgun and ammunition, a billy club and \$2,800 in cash. The suspect was charged with Possession of a Forged Instrument, Forgery, Criminal Possession of Marijuana and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree.

So good, you'd never know they were there...

Batavia Downs Gaming hosted the "Blues, Bikes and Tattoo" Show, Oct. 7, featuring custom motorcycle vendors, tattoo artists and a blues concert. More than 1,000 patrons from throughout Western New York attended. Information gathered in the weeks before the show suggested rival outlaw motorcycle gangs from the Buffalo and Rochester areas would gather at the event in a show of territorial strength, possibly leading to a confrontation.

A multi-agency law enforcement detail led by the NYSP was formed to deal with this potentiality. Members of VLU-Batavia served as liaison with civilian personnel at the facility, and conducted electronic surveillance. The prominent presence of law enforcement around the city of Batavia and at the facility appeared to have the desired effect, and no conflicts between rival gangs were reported. The event promoter and Batavia Downs gaming executive staff members were duly impressed and congratulated the detail for ensuring the safety of all attendees while maintaining a discreetly low profile at the event.

He'll have "three hots and a cot" from now on, though...

Inv. Jason M. Miller (VLU-Tioga) investigated a complaint involving a patron who attempted to cash in a \$200 voucher which the cashier's records showed had already been redeemed. When the

cashier took too long to verify the voucher, the man walked away and did not return. A review of surveillance tapes identified two video gaming machines the subject had been patronizing, where examination of the cash boxes disclosed one contained a photocopied gaming voucher identical to the one the man had tried to cash in. Investigation revealed he had previously won a jackpot at Tioga Downs. Tax forms completed by the man and photographs of him receiving his jackpot led to his identification. **Invs. Douglas J. Courtright** and **Gregory S. Ellison** picked him up on the gaming floor 10 days later. At the time of his arrest he had in his possession 14 photocopies of the original \$200 voucher. He said he had copied the vouchers after losing approximately \$9,000 at Tioga Downs and being kicked out of his house by his wife. He was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument 1st Degree and Attempted Petit Larceny and was remanded to jail.

Narcotics Enforcement

The Division currently has more than 200 sworn members dedicated to narcotics enforcement duties statewide. These include members assigned to the five regional Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams (CNET), Troop Narcotics Enforcement Units (NEUs) in Troops B and L, five Drug Enforcement Task Forces (DETF), and specialized details throughout the state. Their efforts annually result in the identification of money-laundering operations at home and abroad, confiscation of thousands of pounds of illegal drugs, numerous arrests and the seizure of millions of dollars of drug-tainted property and cash.

Overall, the BCI, Uniform Force and DETF investigated 9,653 drug cases in 2007, including 3,682 investigations involving the sale of controlled substances. These cases resulted in the arrests of 13,802 persons for various drug offenses and the seizure of 11,499 pounds

of powder cocaine, 10,720 pounds of marijuana, 295 pounds of heroin and 33 pounds of crack cocaine. Division personnel seized \$47,639,472 in cash, 213 vehicles, 705 handguns, 596 long guns and property valued at \$3,230,202.

Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams (CNET)/ Gun Investigation Units (GIU)

The New York State Police has five regional **Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams (CNET)** deployed across the State to help local police deal with areas blighted by drug trafficking and related street crimes. Through CNET, specially trained State Police undercover narcotics enforcement personnel are available upon request to assist any police agencies north of New York City. CNET personnel fill a critical void for many rural, suburban and small city police departments, which typically lack the personnel or resources to maintain their own trained undercover narcotics units.

During 2007, CNET personnel made 1,935 undercover purchases and arrested 1,451 persons for narcotics and firearms offenses. CNET closed 2,211 cases by arrest, and seized \$3,643,084 in illegal drugs, 117 guns, 48 vehicles and \$1,434,450 in cash. They also assisted 94 local police departments, bringing to 1,322 the total number of times CNET personnel have assisted local agencies since the program's inception in September 1990.

To help stem the trade in illegal firearms, the Division operates a statewide **Gun Investigation Unit (GIU)** through CNET regional offices and units in Troops B, L and NYC.

GIU personnel seized 451 weapons in 2007, purchased 84 weapons, arrested 641 persons for narcotics and firearms offenses, and made 398 narcotics purchases, of which 337 were in an undercover

capacity. GIU also seized \$645,294 cash, along with seven vehicles valued at \$134,100 and illegal drugs worth an estimated \$502,619. The GIU closed 940 cases by arrest and assisted 404 outside police agencies, bringing to 906 the total number of times GIU personnel have assisted local agencies since the program's inception in January 2006.

CNET/GIU Capital

CNET-Capital is responsible for investigating narcotics-related crimes and assisting local police agencies within a 15-county area encompassing all of Troop G and parts of Troops B, F and K. CNET Capital also provides members to the Capital District Drug Enforcement Task Force located at the DEA Albany office.

- In December 2006, CNET Capital and the Amsterdam Police Department began an investigation into the distribution of cocaine and marijuana in the City of Amsterdam that ultimately concluded with the arrests of 24 Amsterdam residents, including a former Amsterdam High School standout athlete and two city firefighters. After a five-month investigation, several search warrants were executed, resulting in the seizure of 17 vehicles, \$206,000 in cash, 25 pounds of marijuana, two ounces of cocaine, a quantity of anabolic steroids, six handguns, two semi-automatic assault rifles and 1,500 rounds of ammunition.
- CNET Capital, the DEA, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Troy and Albany PDs began a 10-month joint probe, May 24, beginning with street-level purchases of cocaine in the city of Troy and gradually expanding into a major investigation involving 17 eavesdropping warrants. A total of 27 persons were arrested and smashed a drug ring which brought cocaine from New York City into the Capital District. Seizures included five kilograms of powdered cocaine, 50 grams of crack cocaine, \$30,000 in cash, four vehicles, five handguns, an AK-47 assault rifle and three bullet-proof vests. Several of those arrested were associated with the notorious "Crips" street gang.

CNET/GIU Central

CNET-Central covers a 10-county region that encompasses all of Troop D and parts of Troops B and E.

- In late spring, CNET Central initiated an investigation into the distribution of cocaine in Onondaga, Oswego and Jefferson counties. Surveillance teams tracked a subject to a meeting with his main supplier in Syracuse. There they stopped both men and searched their vehicles, finding small quantities of cocaine and marijuana. A search warrant was obtained for the main target's residence, leading to the seizure of more than \$70,000 in cash and two vehicles. He was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 2nd Degree.
- The owner of a store in Utica contacted CNET Central/GIU, July 5, to report an attempt to purchase a firearm that had resulted in a National Instant Check System (NICS) denial. Investigators were able to determine that a convicted felon had falsely completed his ATF Firearms Transaction Record; the NICS blocked him from trading in one .223 Bushmaster assault rifle toward the purchase of another. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Office was advised and provided information regarding a prior suspicious firearms transaction involving the subject's girlfriend at another store in New Hartford (Oneida County).

On July 10, the subject was located in Utica and compelled to surrender the rifle that he had offered in trade. During the subsequent interview he also admitted that he possessed another assault rifle, a Romanian 7.62-mm AK-47-type rifle, purchased by his girlfriend in New Hartford. The subject was charged with Falsifying Business Records 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree and Criminal Purchase of a Firearm. His girlfriend was charged with two counts of Criminal Purchase of a Firearm.

CNET/GIU Hudson Valley and Mid-Hudson D.E.T.F.

CNET-Hudson Valley/Mid-Hudson DETF covers a 10-county region encompassing parts of Troops F and K.

- CNET Hudson Valley members received a tip from the Rockland County Narcotics Task Force, Sept. 10, regarding a marijuana-growing operation in Harriman State Park. Two men with machetes had been seen entering the woods. Investigators called on personnel from SP Monroe and SP Aviation for help in locating the site of the suspected growing operation. Ultimately, they discovered a large field of mature marijuana plants within the park. They also found several tents nearby where the two men were processing marijuana. Taken into custody, they were found to be illegal immigrants from Guatemala. Seized in the raid was 1.7 pounds of processed marijuana and 130 marijuana plants. The subjects were arraigned and remanded to the Orange County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bail or \$1 million bond.
- City of Newburgh police requested wiretap surveillance assistance from Mid-Hudson DETF investigators in a narcotics probe of a cocaine trafficking suspect, March 26. The investigation recorded numerous cell phone calls, leading to court orders for two more phone taps. The resulting intelligence led to several traffic stops in which six defendants were arrested for cocaine possession. By July 1, enough evidence had been obtained for the execution of eight search warrants. These led to the arrests of 32 persons on charges ranging from Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree to Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree, and Conspiracy. Related seizures included three pounds of cocaine, four handguns and more than \$13,000 in cash.

CNET/GIU Southern Tier

CNET-Southern Tier assists local and county agencies with narcotics investigations in Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties.

- In November 2006, members of the New York State Police and Elmira Police Department arrested two violent subjects for distributing cocaine in Elmira for several years. A two-year investigation led investigators to establish that the prime suspect had international contacts in the Dominican Republic and Mexico, and cocaine sources in Alabama and California. However, he had been careful to insulate himself from the day-to-day drug distribution and used dozens of telephones to compartmentalize his telephone conversations and evade law enforcement detection. Information gathered in the investigation revealed he dealt in multi-kilo quantities with his suppliers, but never more than five to ten kilograms at a time, so as to limit the amount of time he could be physically connected to the cocaine. Members of the organization who dealt the cocaine thereafter and were close to his inner-workings often were subjected to violence and gun-related threats to deter them from being disloyal. Throughout the investigation, various individuals known to be connected to this organization were arrested for significant cocaine and/or gun-related offenses.

In February 2007, a wiretap led investigators to the target's phone, and they spent six months attempting to put together enough evidence to charge him with a significant crime. During the investigation, the target became the primary suspect in a murder in the city of Rochester.

Finally, the case culminated in November 2007, when investigators were able to identify a vehicle the target had purchased in California and sent approximately 600 miles into Mexico to be outfitted with a concealed trap. Communications were intercepted indicating that cocaine had been placed in the vehicle for a "test run" across country. Arizona police located and searched the vehicle, finding the trap

and a kilogram of cocaine. Closer examination of the trap determined it had been designed to secrete approximately 20 kilos of cocaine.

Search warrants were subsequently executed at seven different locations in Elmira and the Syracuse area. The investigation is continuing.

- Investigators developed information during August that an unknown subject was inquiring about purchasing firearms and selling narcotics in the Broome County area. Undercover purchases of crack cocaine were made from the target in September and October. A search warrant was executed at his residence in Binghamton, leading to the seizure of small amounts of crack cocaine and marijuana, drug paraphernalia and illegal fireworks, along with AK-47 and AR-15 assault rifles, several magazines and ammunition. He was arrested for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2nd Degree, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana and Unlawfully Dealing with Fireworks.

CNET/GIU Western

CNET-Western is responsible for investigating narcotics-related crimes and assisting local police agencies in a 13-county area that includes all of Troop A and the northeast portion of Troop E.

- Members of the Wayne County Narcotics Enforcement Task Force requested CNET Western's assistance in an ongoing eavesdropping investigation in Monroe County during July. Working with Wayne NET, Troop E-SIU and agents of the DEA and IRS, CNET personnel were able to establish that the targets of the investigation were being supplied with hundreds of pounds of Canadian hydroponic marijuana and were responsible for distributing it to Bloomington, IN, Philadelphia, PA and Asheville, NC. As a result of this investigation, 16 persons were arrested for the federal crime of Conspiracy to Distribute, and 190 pounds of marijuana, six ounces of narcotic mushrooms, 26

guns, six vehicles and \$643,000 in cash were seized.

- GIU Western received a report of an National Instant Check System (NICS) denial from a sporting goods store in Greece (Monroe County), March 5. A store employee said that an individual's application to purchase a 12-gauge shotgun had been denied. Several attempts were made to contact the subject, with negative results. In April, GIU Western received a call from the loss prevention manager at Dick's Sporting Goods stating that the individual had returned to the store and attempted to have his wife purchase a firearm. The sale was denied by an alert clerk who recognized the subject from the previous denial. The subject subsequently left a message on the manager's voice mail complaining about the denials and admitting that he had several guns at his home. Follow-up interviews were conducted with Dick's employees and the ATF Rochester office was contacted.

On June 7, investigators from CNET Western/GIU, ATF-Rochester and the Greece PD executed a search warrant at the subject's home, from which they recovered two illegally possessed long guns. The subject was charged with Falsifying Business Records 1st Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon, along with the federal crimes of Falsifying a Written Statement and two counts of Possessing Firearms Illegally.

Computer Crime Unit (CCU)

Criminal investigation and modern technology are changing rapidly and continually. Today, every law enforcement officer must be aware of information that can be found on computers, the Internet, and in mobile computing devices, and must have ready access to the investigative resources needed to identify and preserve it.

The NYSP Computer Crime Unit (CCU), founded in 1992 and headquartered at the NYSP Forensic Investigation Center (FIC), was expanded in 2006. Today it is a statewide detail dedicated to providing expert support in all criminal investigations involving technology, from the use of computers by pornographers and predatory pedophiles, to cyber-crime in all its forms, including consumer/credit card fraud, theft of funds by electronic transfer and money laundering. CCU members are recognized leaders in advancing computer investigative and forensic procedures, and continue to develop and deliver training programs for the law enforcement community and the public.

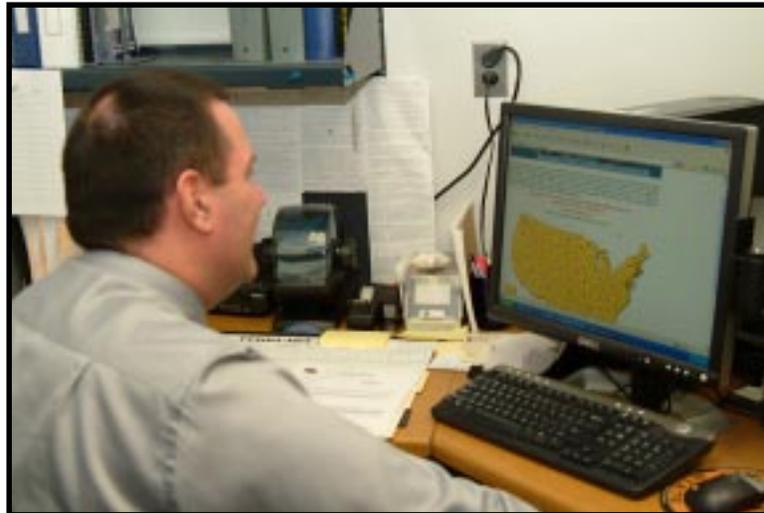
The expanded CCU facilitates an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive response to cyber-crime. This valuable resource is deployed at Division Headquarters in Albany and in regional offices at troop headquarters around the state. With its state-of-the-art mobile laboratory, the CCU can deploy its resources swiftly anywhere in the state to support any law enforcement agency.

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force

The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force coordinates statewide investigations into predators who seek to exploit and victimize children through the use of computers and the Internet. ICAC investigative staff conduct proactive investigative activities on the Internet, locating and identifying criminals who are becoming

increasingly sophisticated about hiding their activities.

New York has one of the most successful ICAC Task Forces in the country, ranked in the top three nationally, with more than 1,000 referrals from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. ICAC members deliver education and training activities to students, teachers and parents. These activities build rapport with schools, leading to earlier detection of child predators and faster response to threats of violent activities.



Inv. Jeffrey Goldman (**H-Computer Crime Unit**) **conducts an Internet search pursuant to an online children exploitation investigation. The NYS Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force's statewide investigations are coordinated through CCU headquarters at the Forensic Investigation Center in Albany.** (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

Forensics and digital evidence

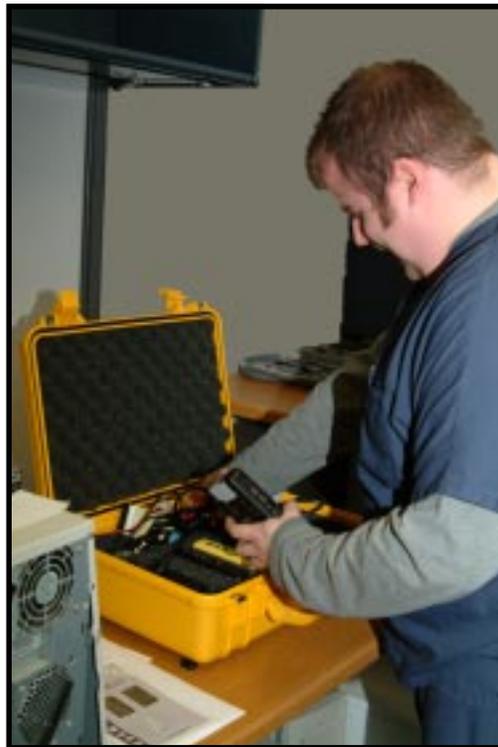
Digital evidence is being used with growing success in criminal prosecutions. The CCU's Computer Forensic Laboratory is developing the capacity for increased casework involving drug trafficking, illegal firearms, identity theft and Internet fraud. It also continues to

develop digital evidence into an accredited discipline in New York State.

Elsewhere, the ever-increasing presence of cellular telephones and personal digital devices in society has inevitably led to their integral involvement in major crimes. The CCU's specialized personnel and expertise provide a ready forensic resource to investigators who encounter such devices in the course of probing these crimes.

Cybercrime and Infrastructure response

Identity theft and fraud affect the financial security and privacy of citizens and businesses. Proactive investigative activity on the Internet targets organized criminals involved in these activities. CCU investigators are partnering with federal agencies in initiatives like the Internet Crime Complaint Center,



Forensic Analyst Kevin Salhoff (H-CCU) examines hardware for forensically sound pre-view and analysis of hard drives and other digital media. (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

which work to identify and arrest high-tech criminals.

Another high-priority area of CCU involvement is investigation of, and response to, incidents where organized criminals or terrorists seek to disrupt our computer systems and networks, steal intellectual property or compromise the private information of our government and citizens. In cases involving threats to domestic security, CCU investigators work closely with the NYS Office of Counter-Terrorism, the NYS Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit, and the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC), as well as the NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination, to provide an effective statewide response.

2007 Cases

Computer Forensic Laboratory

- During August, the Washington County Sheriff's Office was investigating an arson case involving the burning of a church, while state police in Massachusetts were probing a similar case with undeveloped



Forensic Analyst Kimberly Cardona (H-CCU) creates a forensically sound copy of a computer hard drive for examination in a criminal case. (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

leads. The sheriff's office had seized several items containing digital evidence and requested help in analyzing them for leads. **Inv. Barry L. Friedman** (H-CCU) examined a computer and digital camera, which yielded pictures of the burned church, e-mails and documents, including the Anarchist's Cookbook and several military documents on explosives, several of which explained how to make bombs and pick locks. E-mail found on the computer showed the prime suspect had communicated under his real identity and what he called his alter ego. Further examination produced a document identical to a letter received by the church in Massachusetts after the fire there. Confronted with this evidence, the defendant pleaded guilty to arson and two burglaries in

Washington County. Under the state's hate crime statute, he was sentenced to 14 years in prison, followed by five years of parole. Additionally, he was required to return to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, where he admitted to the arson there.

ICAC Task Force

- Working at the FIC, **Inv. Mary A. Barrette** (H-CCU) posed as a 13-year-old girl in an online chat room, where a man from Hudson (Columbia County) began sending her nude photographs of himself and engaged in sexual conversation with what he believed to be an underage girl. The man requested a meeting with the "girl" for the purpose of engaging in sex. A rendezvous was established, and on Aug. 22, members from the ICAC, CCU and SP Livingston conducted an undercover meeting with the subject at an area restaurant. The man arrived at the location, was arrested and remanded to the Columbia County Jail awaiting further court action.

CCU-Central

- In July, **Sr. Inv. Alan R. Cordary** (H-CCU) initiated an investigation into the distribution of child pornography on the Internet via peer-to-peer networks. He identified a computer in Binghamton that was making child pornographic movies available for download. In a

cooperative effort with the national Project Safe Childhood initiative, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents (ICE) and the U.S. Attorney's Office were briefed. In early 2008, Sr. Inv. Cordary, Inv. James P. Szenher, and **Inv. Todd F. Grant** (H-CCU) helped ICE agents execute a search warrant. Inv. Grant interviewed a 55-year-old man who admitted knowingly possessing and sharing child



Inv. Barry Friedman (**H-CCU**) archives hard drive digital evidence in a criminal case using an automated CD/DVD Robot burner. (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

pornography via the Internet. The defendant revealed he had been paid \$500 to \$1,000 a month to house between 10 and 15 foreign exchange students over the previous eight years, and admitted to having forcibly touched at least one of them and having what he described as an "inappropriate relationship" with many. During the search, Child

Protective Services removed a 15-year-old Ukrainian girl from his residence. ICE agents arrested him and turned him over to federal marshals. Sr. Inv. Cordary and Inv. Grant later performed a forensic review of CDs and DVDs the defendant had created, revealing 922 child pornographic images. ICE agents sent inquiries worldwide regarding any children who might have lived with the defendant during the exchange program.

CCU-Western

- **Inv. Scott Folster** (CCU-Western) helped SP Amity BCI investigate a report of a substitute teacher who possessed child pornography at the Scio Central School. Students at the school accidentally saw the contents of the teacher's thumb drive, disclosing images of child pornography, and reported him to their State Police School Resource Officer (SRO). The teacher admitted to possessing the images, and his thumb drive, computer and cellular phone were seized. Thousands of images of child pornography were discovered on his home computer.

CCU-Southern

- VCCU-Southern Region received a request for assistance from **Tpr. Luther I. Lorenzo**, the SRO at Arlington High School in La Grangeville, (Dutchess County), regarding a report of three students who were making plans to attack the school on the anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre. A review of the students'

MySpace pages disclosed notes to each other about plans to attack the school. One suspect disclosed he had an online account with files of images containing the floor plans of the school, with what appeared to be color target points. Further interviews resulted in the arrest of all three students for Conspiracy 4th Degree.

CCU-Northern

- State Police from SP New Scotland and CCU members arrested a 27-year-old Ravena (Albany County) man, March 22, climaxing a three-month investigation. Investigation revealed he had been advertising laptop computers, game systems and baseball cards which he did not possess for sale on internet auction sites. State Police interviewed more than 100 victims across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The defendant was charged with Scheme to Defraud 1st Degree, Identity Theft 1st Degree, Grand Larceny 4th Degree.
- CCU-North concluded an investigation from the ICAC Task Force with the arrest of two men, one from Cohoes (Albany County), the other from Chickasaw, OK. The men had had an internet chat room conversation in which they discussed bringing the Oklahoma man's year-old son and 5-year-old daughter to New York for the purpose of prostituting them to the New York man for \$5,000. NYSP-Oklahoma State Police cooperation led to the arrest of the Oklahoma man for Procuring a Minor for Prostitution. CCU-North and Cohoes police executed a search warrant and seized the Cohoes man's computer, which harbored several dozen images of children engaged in sexual activity. He was arrested for Possession of an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child and sent to the Albany County Jail.



Inv. Ryan Kubasiak (H-CCU) demonstrates how CCU investigators can analyze digital evidence in the field with the Computer Incident Response Vehicle (CIRV). The specialized mobile computer forensic laboratory can be deployed anywhere in the state for investigations involving large computer networks and other sophisticated computing systems. (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

Violent Felony Warrant (VFW) Squad

Established in 1979, the Division's seven regionally based Violent Felony Warrant (VFW) Squads are responsible for apprehending violent criminals who flee prosecution or evade arrest. They assist local police departments which lack the resources or staff to conduct their own warrant enforcement efforts, and will pursue any violent felony warrant anywhere in the state, if requested. VFW coordinates reciprocal warrant enforcement efforts with law enforcement agencies across the country, an important element for investigators seeking fugitives in today's highly mobile society.

On any given day in New York State, there are over 25,000 active warrants outstanding, of which more than 80,000 are for "violent felonies". The VFW Squad accepts all cases defined as violent felony offenses under New York's crime classification system: homicide, sexual assault, felony narcotics, and the most serious degrees of assault, robbery, burglary, arson and kidnapping; it also pursues prison escapees, felony parole violators and "major offenders" — persons whose individual offenses may not be violent, but whose collective criminal histories warrant special attention.

During 2007, VFW personnel investigated 1,931 cases, closing 1,915 by arrest. These included arrests for 32 murderers, 78 sex offenders, 82 robberies arrests, 169 narco-criminals, 61 felony assaults, 16 firearms cases, eight arsons, 41 burglars, 10 escape/absconders/bail jumpers, 148 federal statute violators, 147 fugitive from justice arrests, 321 parole and 389 probation violators.

The VFW Squad also assists federal, state, local and out-of-state

agencies in their investigations and arrests of wanted subjects. VFW members, cross-designated "special deputy United States marshals," are active participants in the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force's three Federal Judicial District Divisions encompassing the state of New York. This gives the VFW access to the vast technological and financial investigative resources of the federal government. The VFW squad is dedicated to, and continues to participate in, statewide Operation IMPACT initiatives, Operation Rolling Thunder, "Crime Stoppers" and other national/local criminal apprehension efforts.

VFW Squad offices are located in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Loudonville (Albany County), New Hampton (Orange County), Brentwood (Long Island) and Montrose (Westchester County).

2007 Cases

VFW-Buffalo

- **Sr. Inv. Kevin S. Kendall** received a call from **Sr. Inv. Jimmie Phelps** (CNET-Western), March 15, requesting help identifying and locating the person who had assaulted **Sr. Inv. Joseph M. Commisso** (CNET-Western) two days earlier. Sr. Inv. Commisso and **Inv. Joseph E. Migliore** (CNET-Western) had observed a drug transaction in the parking lot of a grocery store in Buffalo. When Sr. Inv. Commisso, who was on foot, identified himself as a police officer and attempted to arrest the drug dealer, the dealer struck him with his vehicle. Sr. Inv. Commisso went over the hood of the vehicle, striking his head on the windshield, resulting in a concussion, fractured vertebrae, a head laceration and contusions. The dealer abandoned his car later on, after it became disabled.

An investigation by the Buffalo PD, CNET, VFW and the Troop A BCI identified the perpetrator as a man with addresses in Buffalo and Charlotte and a lengthy criminal record; he also had failed to report to his probation officer in North Carolina. Information was developed that he had a new girlfriend in the Niagara Falls area. Surveillance

was established there, and on the third day VFW investigators and U.S. Marshals saw the man driving his girlfriend's rented car. A vehicle pursuit ensued, followed by a foot chase that resulted in the dealer's capture at an apartment complex. He was turned over to the Buffalo PD, charged with 1st Degree Attempted Assault and 2nd Degree Assault, and bound over for grand jury indictment.

- Milton, GA, police began investigating a double homicide in suburban Atlanta, Oct. 29. The victims had been shot in the head at close range; a large quantity of drugs and cash was located at the scene. The investigation quickly identified the victims and the shooter as Buffalo residents, the latter was on parole in New York State for robbery and narcotics convictions. Milton police obtained an arrest warrant for the shooter and sent out a nationwide Officer Safety message. The New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) provided this information via Officer Safety Bulletin to VFW detail commander **Capt. James M. McDowell**, who directed it to the Troop A VFW Squad for action. **Sr. Inv. Kevin S. Kendall** coordinated the investigation with authorities in Georgia.

On Nov. 1, investigators from VFW-Buffalo, NYS Parole and Deputy U.S. Marshals, took the shooter into custody without incident at his house. He was transported to Buffalo PD Headquarters, where he was interviewed by homicide detectives regarding an unrelated Buffalo murder, until the arrival of Georgia detectives, who traveled to Buffalo immedi-

ately upon being notified of the arrest.

VFW-Rochester

- Rochester police contacted VFW-Rochester, April 26, regarding a "Crime Stoppers" tip received the previous night on a prison escapee from Canada, who had been serving a life sentence for stabbing a Sudbury, Ontario, drug dealer 39 times. During the ensuing investigation, **Sr. Inv. James C. Chase** and **Inv. Robert J. Johnson** showed a photograph of the escapee to the manager and employees of a Rochester newsstand. The manager said the escapee had been there the previous evening, waiting for a Western Union money that never arrived. While investigators were interviewing employees, a security camera in the office picked up the man as he walked through the front door. Investigators immediately took him into custody, transported him to SP Rochester and turned him over to the U.S. Border Patrol.
- Rochester police contacted VFW-Rochester again in December for help in locating and arresting a man wanted for 2nd Degree Murder. With assistance from VFW-Syracuse, leads were developed in the Liverpool (Onondaga County) area, and surveillance was established at two locations. On December 4, a vehicle was seen leaving one of the locations. Investigators followed it onto the Thruway, and into a rest area just west of Syracuse. The surveillance team confirmed the rear seat passenger was the wanted

man, and took him into custody without incident. He was turned over to the Rochester P.D.

VFW-Syracuse

- On Dec. 20, members of VFW-Syracuse took a 23-year-old Buffalo man into custody at the City Mission in Syracuse and relayed him to the Buffalo Police Department Homicide squad. At Buffalo PD Headquarters, detectives asked **Invs. Salomon DeJesus** and **Hector M. Alicea** (SIU-Buffalo) to translate, as the defendant spoke only Spanish and the PD had no bilingual officers available. During the questioning, the subject confessed to shooting a 19-year-old man at a car wash in Buffalo in July in retaliation for the murder of his brother three days earlier. Invs. DeJesus and Alicea booked him into the Erie County Holding Center.
- Working with the Utica PD's Warrant Unit and the Central New York Fugitive Task Force, **Inv. William R. Kiernan** arrested a 33-year-old Utica resident, Oct. 16, who was wanted as a fugitive from justice in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in a 1997 assault case; he also was a suspect in another Pennsylvania homicide case. Investigation into that case revealed the perpetrator had been injured during the crime and left blood at the scene. A DNA profile developed from that evidence was entered into a national database. In September 2007, he was convicted and sentenced in Utica City Court for Resisting Arrest and Harassment. His DNA sample

from that conviction, mandated by New York State law, provided a positive match with the Pennsylvania homicide. He waived extradition and was returned there, charged with Murder.

VFW-Loudonville

- VFW investigators at Loudonville, working with the Capital District Violent Crimes Fugitive Task Force, arrested a 19-year-old man at his apartment in Schenectady for 2nd Degree Murder, Aug. 6. Under a pillow in his bedroom they found a loaded, defaced, semiautomatic handgun and ammunition. On June 22, he had chased another man into the hallway of a building in Schenectady and shot nine times. He was turned over to the Schenectady PD. At the time of his arrest he also was wanted on an outstanding warrant for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance.

VFW-New Hampton

- In December 2006, members of the Middletown VFW Squad began seeking a 61-year-old Deer Park (Suffolk County) man, wanted by State Police in Pennsylvania and New York for 1st Degree Rape. Over several months, VFW investigators, Pennsylvania State Police, U.S. Marshals and local police agencies pursued numerous leads, conducting surveillances and interviewing relatives and associates of the fugitive without result. Finally, on June 4, 2007, information was developed that he might be in the Ellenville (Ulster County) area. VFW members and Ellenville police interviewed associates of his in the area, ascertained a possible hideout at the home of a distant relative in a remote section of Kerhonkson, and there took the man into custody without incident. He was remanded to the Orange County Jail.

VFW-Brentwood

- VFW-Brentwood investigators teamed up with the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force/Long Island Division, Oct. 22, to conduct an investigation in an attempt to locate and arrest three men, two of whom were wanted for 1st Degree Murder with a Firearm by the West Palm Beach County, Florida, Sheriff's Office. The warrants stemmed from a fatal shooting over the theft of 500 pounds of marijuana. Information developed during the investigation revealed that the trio had fled Florida and might be staying with a friend in East Elmhurst, Queens. Members responded to the location and observed all three subjects in the back yard, playing dominos and drinking. All three were taken into custody without incident and held as Fugitives from Justice.

VFW-Montrose

- On Jan. 8, a 16-year-old boy was shot to death in Kingston, the result of a feud with another young man over a girl. The case was being investigated by the Kingston PD with the assistance of SP Kingston and the Troop F Major Case Squad. They soon developed a suspect, who was believed to have fled to the Bronx. Two days after the shooting, the VFW at Montrose contacted **Sr. Inv. Peter J. Kusminsky** (F-Kingston) and offered the assistance of the VFW and the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force. Later that morning, VFW members met with other police units at the NYPD's 43rd Precinct to share information and develop a plan. Raids were laid on at two different Bronx locations, but the subject fled his apartment just ahead of the police for another location in the borough. VFW personnel arrested him in the stairwell of a Bronx apartment building that evening. He was turned over to the Kingston PD for transportation, processing and arraignment.

NYSP counter-terrorism prevention and intelligence activities are concentrated at the state's fusion center, the **New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC)**. At the NYSIC, 14 partnering government agencies work in collaboration to coordinate statewide intelligence activities, providing the resources, expertise, and information needed to detect, prevent and support the investigation of and response to, criminal and terrorist activity. Agencies represented at the NYSIC include the:

- Colonie Police Department
- DHS / Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- New York City Police Department
- NY Army National Guard
- NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- NY State Police
- NYS Department of Correctional Services
- NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
- NYS Division of Parole
- NYS Office of Homeland Security
- Social Security Administration
- U.S. Attorney's Office.

In addition, liaison positions with the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Regional Intelligence Center (NY/NJ HIDTA-RIC) and the New York State Office of Homeland Security (OHS) assist with the NYSIC's criminal intelligence and counter terrorism mission.

A secure law enforcement e-Justice web portal enables the NYSIC and OHS to provide law enforcement personnel access to valuable information, intelligence and links to related websites. It also facilitates the submission of terrorism tips and requests for information (RFI) to the NYSIC.



NYSIC members participated in several national initiatives during 2007, including the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security–State and Local Intelligence Community of Interest. This is a committee of fusion center representatives who focus on improving information-sharing across the nation through the Homeland Security Information Network; 39 states are participating. NYSIC representatives also participated in:

- **Secure the Cities** — a Domestic Nuclear Detection Office-funded program to protect New York City against radiological attack.
- **Critical Infrastructure–Suspicious Activity Reporting Project** — a joint initiative with the OHS and the State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination to analyze and compare suspicious activity against critical infrastructure in New York State.
- **National Institute of Justice Technical Working Group** — a group of homeland security experts who provide guidance to the National Institute of Justice on technological advances.
- **Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCTC)** — a Pennsylvania-based center that provides free homeland security and law enforcement training. A NYSIC member sits on its Homeland Security Working Group,

providing guidance and recommendations on current and future classes.

The NYSIC, in partnership with the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and OHS, hosted the first Statewide Intelligence Summit, Dec. 5. The event provided law enforcement executives and commanders from across New York State an opportunity to discuss best practices, learn about current initiatives and share information on collaborative information and intelligence-sharing efforts.

Border Intelligence Unit

The NYSIC Border Intelligence Unit (BIU) works hand-in-hand with field personnel in Troops A, B and D to identify and dismantle cross-border criminal activity. This is accomplished by maintaining strong professional relationships with federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies here and in Canada.

The BIU maintains several databases on criminal activity with a cross-border nexus to Canada. The data are compiled from contributing field agencies and personnel. This information is constantly checked and vetted, and has identified several criminal connections which otherwise might have gone undetected. The result of this successful information-sharing connected a homicide suspect in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to a subsequent homicide in Troop B.

Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) are joint multi-jurisdictional U.S./Canada cross-border law enforcement efforts. Five of the 15 IBETs in existence across the entire U.S. northern border are located in New York State,

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and the BIU is represented in all five.

The NYSIC BIU hosted the first Strategic Integrated Border Enforcement Team meeting in Alexandria Bay, June 20. Representatives from Canadian, U.S. federal, provincial and state agencies participated. This was the first time a meeting involving all five New York IBETs was held.

Major operations involving the Border Unit in 2007 included:

- Operation S.P.I.D.E.R. (Strategic Police Intelligence-Driven Enforcement Response): This initiative provides focused supplemental funding from the OHS to improve border security and fosters multi-agency operational efficiency to counter the threat of terrorism along the state's 402 miles of international border with Canada.

Troop BIU personnel were instrumental in orchestrating six multi-agency operations in conjunction with the U.S. Border Patrol and OHS across the state in 2007, resulting in 10 felony and 15 misdemeanor arrests, and the seizure of 117 pounds of marijuana, five significant tobacco shipments, \$175,000 in cash, four assault weapons and one handgun.

- Operation Maple Guard: In support of a U.S. Border Patrol initiative to track air smuggling, the NYSIC BIU has undertaken several initiatives, including identification of remote landing strips in the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River regions. The BIU is analyzing suspect private pilots in New York State as well, and developing a plan to identify and dismantle criminal organizations which use aircraft to smuggle contraband, currency and illegal

aliens into the United States.

CALEA Intercept Unit

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) Intercept Unit provides law enforcement agencies the equipment and expertise to implement court-ordered intercepts for various types of communications, utilizing a network of strategically located, fixed "wire rooms" throughout the state. Sworn members assigned to the CALEA Intercept Unit are available to assist local law enforcement agencies with lawfully authorized electronic communication intercepts and provide expert technical advice and call data interpretation.

Criminal Gun Clearinghouse (CGC)

The Criminal Gun Clearinghouse is a statewide investigative resource for federal, state and local law enforcement agencies working to reduce gun-related violence. Unit members maintain regular liaison with the NYSP Pistol Permit Section, Firearms Identification Section and Gun Investigation Unit, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives-Regional Crime Gun Center to exchange information and stay abreast of current firearms-related issues.

Training and awareness are a priority for unit personnel. Members assigned to the Clearinghouse worked regularly with DCJS during 2007 to integrate the unit's services into the statewide Operation IMPACT program. In September, they traveled to Syracuse to share information with the Onondaga County-Operation

IMPACT Executive Committee and Gun Committee. As a result of this continued cooperation, NYSP personnel will provide instruction at several DCJS-Illegal Gun training sessions scheduled for 2008.

Criminal Intelligence Unit

Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) analysts and investigators perform a variety of services to aid law enforcement agencies throughout New York State. They handle local, state, national and international requests for information, review and respond to "Crime Watch" tips submitted via the New York State Police website, and produce and disseminate publications on such law enforcement topics as narcotics, school violence, officer safety and methods of concealing weapons and illicit items.

CIU also provides liaison to a variety of national and international law enforcement resources, including the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), Mid-Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLN), New England State Police Administrators Conference (NESPAC) and the U.S. National Central Bureau-INTERPOL. CIU personnel are a source of information and a point of contact for other law enforcement concerns, including burglary trends and patterns, gangs, money laundering, organized crime and schemes to defraud. They also maintain contact with experts throughout the country on topics of current interest.

Law enforcement agencies from within and outside New York State can submit requests for

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information to the NYSIC to enhance information they gather in their own criminal investigations. Upon request, NYSIC personnel can provide link analyses, commodity and flow charting, timelines and telephone toll analyses to support an agency's criminal investigation. Law enforcement agencies submitted more than 8,000 requests for information to the NYSIC during the year, approximately half of which were DMV photo requests.

2007 Cases

Anonymous caller identifies marijuana-growing area

An anonymous caller to the NYS "GiveTip" hotline reported seeing a suspicious group of about 10 persons in a wooded area, Sept. 9. The caller claimed he could identify one subject, and that some in the group appeared to be carrying guns. NYSIC personnel performed a background search on the identified individual and forwarded the information to the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office. The target's criminal history contained a previous narcotics-related offense. On Sept. 11, Division Aviation conducted a fly-over of the target area and spotted several fully cultivated marijuana plots. Troopers and investigators, assisted by the St. Lawrence County Drug Task Force, NYSP CNET, and the NYSP Gun Intelligence Unit, subsequently seized 90 six-foot-tall plants there and arrested several of the subjects.

Felon arrested for double homicide

NYSIC investigators learned via nationwide teletype, Oct. 29, that the Milton, GA, PD and

the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) were investigating a double homicide. NYSIC personnel identified the suspect in the homicides as a Buffalo man, thought to be in that area. Research revealed he had recently been released from prison, was on parole for robbery and narcotics convictions in New York, and had an address in Buffalo. Working with Troop A investigators, they quickly produced and disseminated an officer safety bulletin to all federal, state and local contacts. After monitoring his Buffalo residence, Troop A VFW members, NYS Parole Officers, and U.S. Marshals took the suspect into custody without incident, Nov. 1, and transported him to Buffalo Police Headquarters. Georgia detectives traveled to Buffalo to interview the suspect, who confessed.

Counter Terrorism Center

The Counter Terrorism Center (CTC), comprised of representatives from the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, OHS, and the New York State Police, provides law enforcement agencies throughout New York State with timely intelligence to detect, prevent and deter terrorist acts. It is a centralized contact point for citizens and law enforcement personnel to report suspicious activity and handles all tips received through the 24/7 toll-free New York State Terrorism Tip Line (1-866-SAFE NYS). All leads from these calls are investigated by either the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force or state and local law enforcement agencies. In 2007, the CTC handled 654 tip line calls, bringing the total number received to more than 5,600 since the line's inception, Sept. 16, 2002.

NYSIC-CTC representatives participated in several projects/working groups during 2007, including:

- The FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) training conference in Lexington, KY. As part of the FBI Office of Law Enforcement Coordination (OLEC) Police Executive Fellowship Program (PEFP), an alumni working group was formed to provide input to the FBI regarding selected projects, including requirements for a state/local/tribal law enforcement executive director position at the Terrorist Screening Center.
- Representation on two of the Program Manager-Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE), Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) working groups. The first is a technical working group to establish the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) standard for SARs; standards developed by this group were published in November 2007. The second is the SAR Operational Study, which included a site visit to determine whether the NYSIC will be selected to pilot the SAR flow and NIEM standard.
- Participation in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's Summer Hard Problem (SHARP) Program in Orlando, FL. Over four weeks, a gathering of professionals from the U.S. government, academia, the private sector, and state, local, and tribal law enforcement studied, debated, and analyzed a problem of direct importance to national security. SHARP participants were encouraged to draw upon their experience while seeking new approaches. Goals included identifying opportunities and impediments, and addressing them

with specific recommendations.

During 2007, the CTC, in conjunction with the NYS Office of Homeland Security, continued with New York's Operation Safeguard Program, a public outreach program that provides indicators of suspicious activity to private citizens, businesses and organizations, and emphasizes the critical importance of reporting all suspicious activity. One of the program's most significant efforts involved contacting more than 1,300 owners and operators of facilities storing explosive materials in New York State. These include gun shops that store black powder, pyrotechnic providers and businesses manufacturing or utilizing high explosives.

Electronics Surveillance Unit

The Electronic Surveillance Unit provides technical assistance in the installation and maintenance of video surveillance, vehicle tracking and covert transmitting and recording equipment. In 2007 the ESU upgraded the Auto Theft Equipment Loan Library inventory with the addition of the latest in covert surveillance equipment. This inventory makes available a wide range of technical surveillance options to assist law enforcement agencies throughout New York State in auto theft prevention and investigation efforts.

Financial Crimes Unit

The Financial Crimes Unit coordinates investigations into money laundering and other financial crimes throughout the state. It assists field personnel with investigations and in identifying

assets for criminal forfeiture. The FCU also actively searches for individuals or businesses involved in laundering illicit funds.

During 2007 the FCU:

- Assisted field personnel with 139 separate financial investigations associated with criminal investigations. Cases ranged from larcenies and embezzlements to money laundering and homicide. The unit also assisted outside agencies with 135 investigations and reviewed more than 9,000 Suspicious Activity Reports to identify possible money-laundering activities.
- Provided specialized training to Division members and personnel from law enforcement and regulatory agencies, prosecuting attorneys and the private sector.

Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU)

The Gang Intelligence Unit collects, analyzes and disseminates intelligence on street, prison and outlaw motorcycle gangs, and extremist/hate/transient criminal groups.

In March, the GIU organized and hosted the Tenth Annual Capital District Gang Conference at the New York State Police Academy. Law enforcement agencies from throughout the northeast United States attended, sharing information on identifying gang members, new trends in gang violence and street gang criminality.

The GIU also implements the Statewide Gang Reporting Intelligence Program (GRIP), catego-

rizing gang members identified by law enforcement and entering the resulting information into the GRIP database at the NYSIC and the NCIC's Violent Gang Terrorist Organization File (VGTOF). The VGTOF notifies law enforcement officers who come into contact with identified gang members when running license checks, vehicle data, etc., of a gang member's affiliation. This enhances officer safety and provides a mechanism for further gang-related intelligence collection and dissemination.

During 2007, the GIU uploaded approximately 2,000 gang member records into GRIP and VGTOF. As a result, the GIU was able to document approximately 2,600 post-submission law enforcement contacts ("hits") with gang members. This information enables the GIU to analyze travel patterns, migration and criminal activity among gang members.

The GIU also is responsible for collecting, recording and disseminating gang information received from the public and law enforcement officers from around the nation. Dissemination is done through such intelligence products as the Gang Intelligence Newsletter (GIN), Threat Assessments, Gang Intelligence Bulletins, and Officer Safety Bulletins.

Narcotics Intelligence Unit (NIU)

The NYSIC Narcotics Intelligence Unit (NIU) was formed to assist field personnel from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies within and outside New York. NIU staff regularly provide assistance to these agencies through the collection, analysis and dissemination of information involving narcotics and their distribution throughout the state. Related intelligence is made available through briefs and bulletins and the completion of law enforcement information requests.

During 2007, the NIU received and prepared 296 narcotics-related leads and provided the information to law enforcement agencies throughout New York State for follow-up. The unit also received information and completed 32 leads for out-of-state agencies. The NIU disseminated 22 bulletins concerning immediate officer safety issues, concealment methods and emerging narcotics information, and published more than 20 intelligence briefs regarding narcotics trafficking trends and patterns. In addition, the NIU identified several subjects suspected of participating

in narcotics trafficking and published monthly target packages alerting police officers to their activities and possible involvement in criminal enterprises.

In April, members of the NIU were detailed to Utica as part of a mobile intelligence team investigating the homicide of a Utica police officer. By analyzing raw information from investigating officers and a variety of other sources, unit members were able to complete an in-depth timeline of the events immediately before and after the homicide, and provided link analysis which assisted with identifying a suspect who was ultimately arrested and charged in the case.

New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Liaison

New York/New Jersey High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Regional Intelligence Center (NY/NJ HIDTA-RIC) has representatives from the NYSP, NYPD, U.S. Customs, NY/NJ Port Authority Police, MTA Police, NYC DEP, U.S. Marshals, and military personnel working together in a task force setting. NYSIC members assigned to NY/NY HIDTA-RIC are the first contact between the New York State Police and the New York City Police Department's Intelligence Division and Counter Terrorism Bureau. NYSIC members assigned to the HIDTA office are a point of contact and source of information for federal, state and local department personnel assigned to the Intelligence Center who need to access information or make contact with the New York State Police and/or other state agencies.

The NYSP members assigned to the NY/NJ HIDTA-RIC collect, analyze and share tactical and strategic intelligence received from a variety of sources. They participate in intelligence-sharing programs involving gangs, financial crimes, port security, events and demonstrations, and prisons. Intelligence is passed along to the NYSIC, where it is reviewed and disseminated.

NYSP members also interact daily with liaison officers from foreign countries assigned to the NY/NJ HIDTA-RIC who look to share intelli-

gence regarding criminal activity that may begin or end in their countries and have a connection to New York State.

Operation IMPACT Unit

The Operation IMPACT Unit at the NYSIC was established in March to offer special intelligence and investigative support to the 17 IMPACT counties outside of New York City. The unit's goal is to work in conjunction with DCJS to help these high crime areas achieve long-term, substantial reduction of Part I crimes.

Members from the unit travel across the state to attend meetings and provide assistance with IMPACT-related activities. The IMPACT Unit also acts as liaison between the primary cities in each county and the various units within the NYSIC. Any intelligence received from participating law enforcement partners is forwarded to the appropriate unit at the NYSIC and shared with other sites that may be experiencing similar identified crime trends.

- In 2007, the Operation IMPACT Unit provided detailed background information and coordinated historical workups for IMPACT agencies who participated in the DCJS-funded "Rolling Thunder" warrant sweeps. The IMPACT Unit delivered 1,139 workups to five IMPACT counties across the state in support of this initiative.
- The IMPACT Unit worked in conjunction with the Troop A VFW and partnering law enforcement agencies in Erie County to create a "10 Most Wanted" poster program. The program has shown success and will be expanded in 2008 to all IMPACT counties throughout the state.
- The IMPACT unit hosted and facilitated a series of meetings at the NYSIC which offered a detailed overview of NYSIC's capabilities and resources. The various specialized units at the NYSIC provided presentations to field intelligence officers and analysts from various IMPACT sites, including sheriffs and district attorneys' offices, and an opportunity to interact with their counterparts from across the state.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is the investigative arm of the Division of State Police's Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT). Its mission is to investigate terrorism-related crimes in New York State and provide investigative support to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and New York City.

Its primary enforcement initiatives focus on money laundering, identity theft, cigarette smuggling and document fraud — crimes which at times have been known to be associated with terrorism-related activity.

SIU also specializes in multifaceted investigations of organized crime, industry corruption, fraud and racketeering — especially those which cross multiple jurisdictions or require interagency cooperation, technical expertise and a long-term commitment of experienced personnel and specialized equipment. In addition, SIU works closely with federal and local agencies to investigate and gather intelligence on outlaw motorcycle gang activities in New York.

The Special Investigations Unit operates 14 offices across the state, including two dedicated units: the Auto Theft Unit (ATU) and the Cigarette Smuggling Enforcement Unit (CSEU). A complement of experienced Investigators in the Labor Racketeering Unit at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office also targets corruption in the labor industry throughout the New York Metropolitan area.

The Special Investigations Unit regularly evaluates its objectives and modifies assignments accordingly. A recent analysis of ongoing investigations revealed an increase in counterfeit merchandise and trademark infringement cases. In response, SIU undertook specialized training for its personnel in the identification of counterfeit merchandise, and coordinated its efforts with private sector security organizations that monitoring counterfeit merchandise activity.

SIU members are assigned to assist other agencies targeting specific criminal activity. Members work closely with the:

- FBI – targeting organized street gangs, public corruption, money laundering and terrorism;

- Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – targeting alien smuggling and other issues regarding illegal immigration, including the investigation of businesses utilizing undocumented immigrants;
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) – targeting cigarette and tobacco smuggling, and firearms issues related to traditional SIU investigations;
- New York State Attorney General’s Office Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) – targeting organized criminal groups involved in gambling, narcotics and tax evasion;
- New York State Office of Taxation and Finance – targeting tax evasion and cigarette smuggling, and
- New York State Department of Motor Vehicles – targeting auto theft and fraudulent document production and distribution;

SIU is a permanent partner in the NYS Fraudulent Identification Task Force (FITF), tasked with investigating individuals and organized groups possessing, using and producing bogus government identification documents. A number of FITF initiatives have been conducted in the Metro New York area involving SIU, DMV, the NYPD, the Office of Public Security (OPS), the Social Security Administration and local district attorneys’ offices. These incorporate enforcement operations within DMV offices and investigation of historical document fraud cases.

The Auto Theft Unit provides assistance to local law enforcement agencies across the state. It uses license plate reader devices to capture and read data from vehicle license plates in high-crime areas and identify suspended and revoked registrations and stolen vehicles. During 2007, the Auto Theft Unit read 146,504 vehicle plates, resulting in the identification of 985 registrations that were suspended or revoked, the recovery of seven stolen vehicles and 24 criminal arrests.

During 2007, the SIU also operated a total of 177 electronic surveillance installations in conjunction with investigations, incorporating 13,584 hours of technical surveillance.

As an investigative resource, SIU personnel executed 62 search warrants in 2007. In total, SIU investigations resulted in 927 felony and 259 misdemeanor arrests. Approximately \$4.35 million in cash, 29 vehicles and 18 firearms were seized as a result of these operations. During 2007, SIU personnel recovered \$2,726,144 worth of stolen property,

including 152 vehicles, along with \$4,521,507 worth of illegal tobacco products.

SIU-Albany

- SIU-Albany and the Albany County Sheriff’s Narcotics Unit conducted a joint investigation into the gambling activities of four persons who took in more than \$1.6 million in illegal bets during a three-month period. Search warrants executed at three residences resulted in the seizure of gambling records and more than \$50,000 in cash, marijuana and cocaine. The ringleader was charged with Enterprise Corruption and eight counts of 1st Degree Promoting Gambling. The other three were arrested for numerous charges, including Possession of Gambling Records, Possession of a Gambling Device, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance. Analysis of the group’s records indicated they had taken in close to \$10 million in illegal bets between September 2006 and March 2007.

- An “hawala” is a system of transferring money from one person to another, usually in different countries, using various physical and electronic means that evade regulatory scrutiny and leave no “paper trail”. In January 2005, SIU-Albany began investigating a hawala in the city of Schenectady responsible for sending more than \$1.2 million to the Sudan over a 27-month period. Sudan is listed as a Special Designated Country by the U. S. Treasury Department because of its human rights violations and ties to terrorism; no person living in the United States is allowed to send money to any government-controlled financial institution there. The target of the investigation moved money to the Sudan via Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries in exchange for a fee; the larger the amount, the lower the percentage he would charge. Surveillance and investigation recovered hundreds of “Daily Wire” forms from the target’s refuse, leading to a financial review by members of the SIU Albany Cigarette Smuggling Enforcement Unit. This ultimately led to his arrest on Dec. 5, 2007, for Enterprise Corruption and Unlicensed Money Transmission. An Attorney General’s Grand Jury also indicted him for numerous counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing and Unlicensed Money Transmission. Additionally, the target’s wife was indicted for Offering a False Instrument for Filing, and Unlicensed Money Transmission.

SIU-Binghamton

- In January 2006, SIU-Binghamton developed information on a sports bookie who organized, hosted and ran illegal card games where players had to ante up \$1,000 just to play. SIU-Albany investigators worked undercover as card players to infiltrate the racket and SIU-Binghamton members conducted physical surveillances of the target paying and collecting from his customers. From this work, investigators and prosecutors were able to execute a series of warrants, Feb. 6-7, at six locations, resulting in the seizure of \$79,277 in cash, one vehicle, several computers and numerous gambling-related documents. Since then, three subjects have pleaded guilty to 1st Degree Promoting Gambling, another pleaded guilty to 2nd Degree Promoting Gambling and the main target pleaded guilty to Attempted Enterprise Corruption.
- SIU-Binghamton concluded an eight-month food stamp fraud investigation, May 4, with the execution of search warrants and the arrest of a Binghamton convenience store owner for exchanging approximately \$5,000 in food stamp benefits for cash. During the course of the investigation an undercover officer met with the target and was paid 50 cents on the dollar for food stamps. The target accepted 26 public benefit cards and was subsequently charged with 1st and 2nd degree Criminal Possession of Public Benefit Cards, 3rd Degree Grand Larceny and Misuse of Food Stamps, all felonies. A second target was also charged with 1st Degree Criminal Use of Public Benefit Cards, 4th Degree Grand Larceny and Misuse of Food Stamps, all felonies.

SIU-Buffalo

- SIU-Buffalo investigated a complaint of identity theft in which the victim received a fraud alert on her credit card account. Investigation determined an unknown woman claiming to be the victim had contacted the Bank of America, reported she had lost her credit card and wanted a replacement. She provided a Buffalo address to the bank, which subsequently mailed a new card in the victim's name to the address. The suspect then activated the card and went on a shopping spree at several Buffalo-area stores. The suspect then used the victim's identity to obtain and activate two cell phones, open a Sears account with a \$10,000 credit line, attempted to establish a line of credit with Dell Electronics and obtained a Capital One Credit Card in the victim's name, which was

used to make additional purchases. Once the victim was advised of the fraud alert, she canceled her accounts. Around the same time, the suspect, apparently upset that the cards had been canceled so quickly, decided to let the victim know of her displeasure by making three harassing phone calls to her home. An SIU Investigator identified the phone numbers used to make these and established that they were registered to a parolee whose criminal history included several arrests for identity theft-related crimes.

The investigator then accompanied a state parole officer on a curfew check at the subject's residence, where he found her to be in possession of a cell phone, a violation of her parole agreement. The phone was determined to be the one used to make the harassing calls. The subject also was found to be in possession of a tax return prepared by the victim for the defendant two years earlier, a receipt from Wal-Mart with the victim's forged signature and a box containing T-Mobile packaging slips for two cell phones addressed in the victim's name. She was taken into custody on the parole violation and interviewed by SIU-Buffalo members.

During the interview she implicated her aunt in the fraud, and described the aunt's residence as a "drug house" frequented by drug users with guns. Execution of a search warrant there by members of SIU-Buffalo and SIU-Rochester resulted in the seizure of a loaded .22-cal. revolver, a T-Mobile cell phone box with identifiers related to the phone used to make the harassing phone calls, and financial-related mailings addressed in the names of the victim and her husband. The subject was charged with 2nd Degree Identity Theft, 1st Degree Scheme to Defraud, 2nd Degree Forgery and 2nd Degree Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument; her aunt was charged with 4th Degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, 2nd Degree Identity Theft and 1st Degree Scheme to Defraud.

- After Niagara Falls police passed along information during the summer of 2007 from an unrelated investigation, members of the SIU-Buffalo Cigarette Smuggling Enforcement Unit and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents teamed up to investigate. Their probe exposed a massive scheme to import millions of dollars worth of counterfeit Nike sneakers from the People's Republic of China. The sneakers, which arrived in shipping containers, were sent to wholesalers in New York City who in turn supplied them to "retailers" around the United States. After numerous wiretaps and countless hours of surveillance,

investigators were able to secure federal indictments charging 23 men and women around the country with Conspiracy to Traffic in Counterfeit Goods and Trafficking in Counterfeit Goods. Four persons were arrested in the Buffalo area, along with nine others in Metropolitan New York. Large quantities of counterfeit merchandise were seized. Additional subjects were arrested in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Rhode Island, Texas, Wisconsin and Illinois.

- SIU-Buffalo CSEU investigators also conducted an eavesdropping investigation in Buffalo that led to three arrests and the seizure of more than 43 pounds of marijuana, several weapons and a quantity of cash. The primary target of the investigation, a Buffalo nightclub owner, pleaded guilty to 1st Degree Attempted Criminal Possession of Marijuana. As a condition of his sentence, he forfeited \$150,000 in cash, a residential property he owned and a 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer.

SIU Auto Theft Unit-Long Island

- The SIU Auto Theft Unit-Long Island office joined forces with several Long Island police and civilian agencies during 2007 to address a dramatic increase in reported stolen vehicles in the Suffolk County area. Investigators set up an undercover sting shop that was completely wired for A/V surveillance. Word was circulated by various means that the shop owner was accepting stolen vehicles. Numerous individuals brought stolen vehicles to the shop, where they were paid varied amounts of cash depending on the year, make, model and condition of the vehicle. As stolen vehicles kept arriving at

the shop, hidden cameras and audio equipment kept a record of the events. In one case, an individual delivered five stolen vehicles. This process went on for several months.

Some of the defendants burglarized repair/service stations and stole vehicles left there by customers for repair work. Others used deception to procure ignition keys from car dealerships and returned after hours to steal the vehicles. Still others were found to have surrendered their vehicles for insurance money. Analysis revealed the recovered vehicles had been reported stolen from locations all over Long Island, New York City and Pennsylvania. The investigation resulted in the recovery of 93 stolen vehicles, valued at more than \$1.1 million. Forty persons were arrested and charged with varying degrees of Burglary, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, Grand Larceny and Insurance Fraud.

SIU-Rochester

- In August 2006, SIU-Rochester and SIU-Syracuse, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and the State Attorney General's Office, initiated an investigation into the purchase and sale of untaxed alcohol at two bars in Elmira. The investigation became part of "Operation Thunder and Lightning," a three-city investigation spearheaded by the Attorney General's Office with concurrent investigations in Rochester, Syracuse and Elmira. On Sept. 6, 2007, members of the NYSP SIU, CNET, GIU, Troop E Uniformed Troopers, the State Attorney General's Office Organized Crime Task Force, the Elmira, Horseheads and Corning PDs and the Chemung County Sheriff's Office executed

17 Superior Court Warrants of Arrest issued by the Chemung County Court. The case ultimately resulted in the dismantling of a significant narcotics-trafficking operation in the Southern Tier and many upstate communities, and the arrest of 63 persons in Elmira, Rochester and Syracuse.

- In February 2007 an SIU-Rochester member and the Monroe County Economic Crime Unit, working in conjunction with the US Secret Service, initiated an investigation into fraudulently received benefits intended for victims of Hurricane Katrina. A Rochester woman had applied for benefits from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), claiming she had lived in New Orleans when the hurricane struck in August 2005; she collected \$18,810 in FEMA aid for alleged damage to her property. Investigation revealed she actually had been in Rochester, receiving rental assistance from the Monroe County Department of Social Services. She also was found to have received \$2,474 in duplicate disability benefits by falsely claiming on four occasions she did not receive her Supplemental Social Security Income check.

A second woman applied for and received a check for \$2,000 in September 2005 from FEMA in response to a claim that she had lost personal property stored in Louisiana at the time of Hurricane Katrina. The check was mailed to her residence in Rochester and cashed. A month later, she claimed she never received the check and was subsequently issued another one, which also was cashed.

Both subjects were arrested and charged federally with Theft of Government Funds and

Mail Fraud.

SIU Syracuse

- In the fall of 2005, SIU-Syracuse received information that three members of the Hell's Angels outlaw motorcycle gang were headed to a tavern in Fulton (Oswego County) to assault and possibly murder members of a rival gang. SIU-Syracuse and Uniform members from Troop D stopped two vehicles carrying Hell's Angels members en route and found them to be in possession of three loaded handguns and a stolen shotgun. They were taken into custody, charged with 3rd Degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon and 4th Degree Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, and eventually released on bail pending further court action.

During the next two years, a federal grand jury heard evidence in connection with this group's ongoing activities. Search warrants were executed and additional evidence seized and presented to a grand jury. As a result, indictment arrest warrants were executed in Utica, Syracuse and Rochester, and four Hell's Angels members were arrested and charged with federal racketeering and weapons charges relating to the 2005 arrests. The wife of one of the Angels was charged with Making a False Statement for lying to agents and later admitted seeing her husband wiping his fingerprints from a gun he planned to use in a drive-by shooting in the fall of 2005.

By the end of 2007, two Angels and the wife had pleaded guilty to federal charges of Conspiracy to Commit an Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Conspiracy to Commit Murder in Aid of Racketeering and Possessing a Firearm in

Furtherance of a Crime of Violence.

CSEU-New York City

- During 2007, the NYSP and NYPD concluded a joint investigation into a ring of Middle Eastern men who ran a business counterfeiting New York and New Jersey state tax stamps and U.S. postage stamps. The ring supplied counterfeit tax stamps to wholesalers who used them on untaxed cigarettes and counterfeit cigarettes manufactured in China. The bootleg cigarettes would be purchased for as little as \$1 a carton, then resold with the counterfeit tax stamps affixed for up to \$75 a carton. During the three-month investigation, the ring produced and sold over a million counterfeit stamps. This counterfeit postage stamps were sold at full face value out of local stores in all five boroughs of NYC.

The Cigarette Smuggling Enforcement Unit in NYC was able to infiltrate this group through the use of informants, undercover agents, electronic surveillance methods and reverse sales. At one point, an NYSP undercover was given hands-on instruction on how to operate the printing press used to counterfeit the tax stamps. The case concluded with the arrest of four persons, the seizure of more than a million tax stamps, a printing press and the plates used to counterfeit the stamps.

SIU Labor Racketeering Unit

- The SIU Labor Racketeering Unit expanded its focus on corruption in the construction industry to include private check-cashing businesses in the Metropolitan New York area.

Numerous businesses and individuals have used these check-cashing establishments for years to generate cash and launder money. Investigators gained the cooperation of one such check-cashing establishment in midtown Manhattan, where they established a video sting operation. After reviewing the video surveillance and corresponding paperwork submitted to the check cashier, SIU members, together with personnel from the State Department of Taxation and Finance and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, have built strong cases against a wide variety of companies and individuals throughout the New York City Metropolitan area.

- In October, the SIU Labor Racketeering Unit arrested two men from a construction firm for defrauding two insurance companies of \$790,462 in Workers' Compensation insurance premiums. The company was found to have generated more than \$9 million in "off-the-books" payroll between October 2000 and September 2006. Beginning in 2000, the company formed four shell companies to write payroll checks to "off-the-books" employees. The construction firm would write checks to these fictitious companies and write those checks off as "materials" on their general ledger and tax returns. Upon receipt of the checks, the shell companies would then write payroll checks to the companies' employees. The individuals were charged with multiple counts of Insurance Fraud, Falsifying Business Records and Conspiracy.

- In June 2006, the corporate offices at Saks Fifth Avenue asked the SIU Labor Racketeering Unit to conduct an investigation into possible

corruption in construction contracts there. Investigation revealed a Saks project manager was steering a majority of work at numerous Saks projects throughout the New York Metropolitan area to one construction company. Most of the work paid for was found to be either sub-standard or not performed at all. The owner of the construction company compensated the Saks project manager with more than \$100,000 in home improvements at his personal residence and cash bribes. The construction company and the project manager were charged with numerous counts of commercial bribery and bribe-receiving.

SIU-Utica

- SIU Utica initiated an investigation in early June into the possession, storage and distribution of unlawful fireworks in the Utica area. Surveillance resulted in the discovery of two rented storage units in the town of Marcy (Oneida County), from which the target was believed to be conducting his unlawful fireworks trade. SIU members observed him, his brother and a third man load cases of fireworks from the storage units into two minivans. Uniform patrols from SP Marcy stopped both minivans and found 17 cases of fireworks. A search warrant was obtained for the storage units, leading to the seizure of approximately 290 cases of fireworks, worth an estimated \$100,000. The two minivans and \$1,605 in cash also were seized. The subjects



Investigators from SIU-Utica display part of the estimated \$100,000 worth of illegal fireworks their investigation seized in the Utica-Marcy area in June.

were arrested and charged with Unlawfully Dealing with Fireworks and Dangerous Fireworks; one subject was charged under the Labor Law with Unlawful Possession of Explosives and Unlawful Storage of Explosives.

SIU-White Plains

- During January 2007, the SIU White Plains Auto Theft Unit received a request for assistance from Co-Part Auto Auction Corporation officials in Fairfax, CA. The corporation, which has 125 auction facilities throughout the United States, had just discovered the larceny of more than \$300,000 from its inventory. The thefts had

occurred over a two-day period at several auction locations, including two in New York State. The company has an on-line virtual auction sale every week for registered dealers. Investigation revealed that during December 2006 a registered dealer from Newark, NJ, deposited several counterfeit bank checks to his account at Co-Part's Lakewood, NJ, and Houston, TX, offices; the checks were sent overnight to Fairfax, CA, corporate headquarters. A few days later the counterfeit checks were deposited in the Kays Exclusive Auto Sales account at Co-Part at the Bank of America in San Diego. It took bank officials another few days to discover the counterfeit checks in the Co-Part Corporate account and then notify security officials.

With the counterfeit checks deposited in the Kays Exclusive Auto Sales account, the account was immediately credited with that specific amount of cash on-hand for Kays to spend. The registered Kays dealer simply went on-line to Co-Parts virtual sales, bid on dozens of high-end vehicles, not having to be concerned about over-bidding, and won most of the bids. A review of corporate computer records established that it took Kays Exclusive Auto Sales about 28 minutes to spend \$310,000. Immediately after the auction, Kays contacted the auction locations, claimed its winnings and had itinerant carriers already lined up to collect the vehicles and transport them to Newark.

Co-Part normally did not wait for the checks to clear at a banking institution, but credited registered dealers' accounts when they deposited funds at the Co-Part facility. This practice enabled the Kays representatives to set up their larcenies in advance. The vehicles involved were removed from Co-Part's nationwide inventory 14 days before bank officials even realized the deposited checks had been counterfeit.

Photo Identification on file with Co-Part for the principal owner of Kays Exclusive Auto Sales was secured and later incorporated into a photo array. From it, Co-Part employees and tow truck operators were able to identify the prime suspect as the person who took possession of several vehicles at the Marlboro, NY, location. This information, along with other incriminating evidence, was used to secure a felony arrest warrant. An online computer search of Co-Part files enabled investigators to track down the prime suspect. City and State Police agencies in the relevant jurisdictions were notified of the larcenies and directed to forward all criminal actions to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark, which intended to prosecute the case federally. Information gleaned during the investigation lead SIU Auto Theft members to Newark, where they worked with the city's Auto Crimes Division to recover 12 high-end stolen vehicles, eight of which, valued at over \$412,000, were associated with the Co-Part case.

The primary suspect was arrested a few days later, interrogated and booked on New Jersey criminal charges. Federal charges of Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property and Internet Fraud/Larceny also were filed. As the cars were being recovered, individuals operating

them were arrested for Possession of Stolen Property, along with outstanding warrants for Murder, Attempted Murder, Firearms Possession, Drug Possession and Robbery. A stolen .357-Magnum handgun, two AK-47 assault rifles, stolen license plates and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from a chop shop location developed during the investigation.

SIU-White Plains Money Laundering Unit

- In July, while conducting physical surveillances in Manhattan and Brooklyn, investigators observed their target meeting with a second person who placed a cooler in the rear of a target vehicle. Members stopped the vehicle, and the cooler was found to contain more than \$200,000 in cash. The defendant consented to a search of his residence, where investigators seized an additional \$156,000, along with 243 grams of heroin. In the basement they discovered a table with processing and packaging materials, along with three empty U.S. Postal Boxes that had contained the wrappings for 15 kilos of cocaine (five kilos per box), mailed to the U.S. from Puerto Rico.

After that target's arrest, members of the Money Laundering Unit continued to investigate his associates and identified a small money-laundering group operating in the Ozone Park Section of Queens. In September, SIU members observed the target arrive at Putnam Avenue in Ridgewood, Queens, where he removed a U.S. Postal Box from the trunk of his vehicle and entered a business. The target later met with an unidentified man to whom he surreptitiously passed two brick-shaped packages. Investigators stopped his vehicle a few

blocks away, and after receiving a voluntary consent to search the car, found a hidden "trap" (secret compartment) containing two kilos of cocaine. Search warrants for his home and business address were obtained from the New York State Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office of New York City. These turned up an additional kilo of cocaine, two hand guns and \$26,000 in cash, along with notebooks documenting millions of dollars in money laundering/drug transactions.

- In the fall of 2006, the Rockland County District Attorney's Office requested assistance from SIU-White Plains involving a victim whose gambling debt had grown to \$25,000. The victim, after making approximately six-months worth of partial payments, amounting to more than \$20,000, was visited by the bookie and his well-known pro-wrestler enforcer who threatened him, told him his partial payments were only good enough to satisfy the interest and that he now owed \$35,000.

At this point the victim turned to the Rockland County District Attorney's Office for help. Following this lead, SIU developed enough information for a wire tap on the target's cellular telephone. Within weeks, the investigation led to two organized crime families who were also running a number of gambling casinos in New York City and Westchester County. Some of the conversations intercepted involved the investing of over \$250,000 in furnishings, security cameras, managers, dealers and masseuses for a casino to handle high stakes "Texas hold 'em" games. The principal backers of these clubs were splitting profits of \$400,000 to \$500,000 per month. The investigation resulted in the arrests of 15 defendants on Extortion, Gambling and drug-related charges

and uncovered a large-scale distribution of prescription drugs, leading to the arrest of a pharmacist and two family members.

- The SIU-White Plains Money Laundering Unit had been conducting a lengthy investigation into a group operating in the Washington Heights and West Bronx Sections of New York City responsible for laundering hundreds of thousands of dollars each month in the Dominican Republic. During a Bronx surveillance in late August, members observed one of the targets exiting his residence carrying a plastic bag that contained a cereal box. Investigators followed him into Washington Heights where, at a busy Path-Mart Shopping center, he got out of his car and, carrying the cereal box, stepped into a second vehicle. Within a minute he returning back to the first car, now empty-handed. At this point the surveillance team split up, one squad tailing the target back to his home in the Bronx, the other following, and eventually stopping, the second vehicle a short distance away. After questioning the driver, members secured a written consent to search his vehicle. A meticulous search turned up a “trap” in the rear passenger compartment which led into the upper deck of the trunk. There the plastic bag and cereal box, containing two kilos of cocaine, were found.

Members immediately applied to the Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Office of New York City for a search warrant on the Bronx residence. Members at the Bronx location were asked for a more detailed description of the target’s two-story residence. As they were approaching the building, the target exited with two of his children. As soon as he saw the members he left the children and dashed back inside, locking

the door. Members broke down the door and seized the target as he tried to exit through a second-story rear window. A search of the house yielded 11 kilos of heroin, thousands of dollars in cash and notebooks containing meticulous money-laundering records. The two children were released to family members.

- On the morning of Feb. 21, members of the Money Laundering Unit were on Broadway in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, conducting surveillance on a Dominican man who was a member of a large-scale drug network. Their interest was aroused by a man leaving a large apartment complex. They tailed the subject to Westchester County, where he exited his vehicle with a bag that he handed off to a second person. Both parties left the area, and the surveillance units split up to follow them separately. The second vehicle was stopped as it entered Bronx County. A consent to search was obtained and the bag that the first subject had handed off was found to contain \$150,000. Both suspects were arrested on money-laundering charges. When members were vouchering the first subject’s property, they noted that among his possessions was a set of keys for a special security lock. Later, as the defendants were being transported to NYC Central Booking, the subject was overheard cryptically telling one of the other defendants in Spanish to have the old lady clean his apartment. Members then returned to the Broadway address where they interviewed the building’s security person and reviewed some three hours of videotape to determine the precise location of the suspect’s apartment among the approximately 1,200 residence there. There they found a stack of wrapped packages,

totaling 22 kilos of cocaine, laid out by the door.

- While conducting surveillance on a group involved in a money-laundering operation operating between Bergen County, NJ, and New York City, Nov. 19, SIU-White Plains investigators observed the target stop at several businesses in New Jersey, then return home to New York to retrieve a briefcase and immediately depart again. The surveillance unit followed the target to Washington Heights, Manhattan, where he stopped in front of a six-story apartment building. A second suspect got into the car, which circled around the block and dropped the second man — now carrying the briefcase — off at a side entrance. Investigators stopped the vehicle as it departed and questioned the occupants. This in turn led the members to contact the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office and apply for a search warrant of the New Jersey home. Bergen County narcotics detectives executed the search warrant and seized over \$150,000. Meanwhile, video security cameras helped locate the pickup man’s apartment and secured a search warrant from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Office. They found the target hiding in a bedroom closet. Members of the Money Laundering Unit searched the sparsely furnished apartment, but initially could find nothing but a set of high power magnets. Closer scrutiny of the furniture showed the dresser drawers were four to five inches shorter than the width of the furniture. When the magnets were placed on the top of the dresser it unlocked a mechanism that allowed the top to slide forward, revealing a hollowed-out section that contained wrapped bundles of cash. The other furniture in the apartment was similarly checked with the same results, and

members were able to seize \$600,000 in cash.

- In early July 2007, members of the SIU-White Plains Money Laundering Unit received information regarding a group of individuals who were distributing narcotics in Brooklyn and Queens. Surveillance revealed the group was receiving U.S. Postal Boxes shipped weekly from Puerto Rico and addressed to fictitious individuals. The boxes would contain approximately three to five kilos each. On July 17, one member of the group was seen traveling into Manhattan, where he met other members of the organization and picked up a substantial amount of cash. A car stop ensued, followed by a search of the vehicle that revealed approximately \$260,000 in a Styrofoam cooler. The target was arrested for money laundering. A consent search of his residence revealed an additional amount of cash exceeding \$100,000, approximately a quarter-kilo of cocaine, along with heroin and marijuana and associated tools for processing and packaging the drugs.

From there, the focus of the investigation shifted to the head of the organization, a man who had managed to evade the law for a long time while dealing drugs throughout Brooklyn and Queens. During a surveillance in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, SIU members were approached by several cooperative residents who supplied useful information to the investigators.

On Sept. 11, Money Laundering Unit members observed a subject take a postal box from the trunk of his vehicle into a residence on the Brooklyn/Queens line. This particular building was equipped with surveillance cameras which viewed the street in front of the residence. The

suspect went in and out, loading kilos of cocaine into vehicles which were equipped with concealed compartments. Members of the team waited patiently for the right moment to make their move, and conducted several car stops and street approaches with safety. The subject and two other defendants were arrested in possession of two kilos of cocaine. Warrant searches at the subject's residence turned up meticulous drug records, \$26,520 in cash and two handguns.



Forensic Investigative Support Services

The State Police has developed an array of specialized investigative services to meet the challenges posed by today's highly mobile and technically sophisticated criminals. These Forensic Investigative Support Services are based at the Division's Forensic Investigation Center (FIC) in Albany. The juxtaposition of bench scientists and BCI investigative personnel there provides the state's entire law enforcement community with a multifaceted, "one-stop-shopping" approach to criminal evidence examination and analysis. The case review system made possible in this environment also has facilitated the review and, in some cases successful resolution of, crimes which have gone unsolved for many years.

Child Abuse and Exploitation Unit (CAE)

The Child Abuse & Exploitation (CAE) Unit works to prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes against children. It provides investigative support to State Police personnel and other law enforcement/social welfare agencies that need assistance with child abuse, neglect, exploitation or domestic violence cases. The unit refers cases to medical experts and conducts case reviews, at times in conjunction with the Medicolegal Investigation Unit.

The CAE Unit also:

- Plans and administers the Division's annual Sex Offense Seminar. This 40-hour seminar features instruction in victimology, forensics, technology, interview techniques, offender typology, legal issues and

other topics in the investigation of sexual offenses. The 2007 seminar, held at the New York State Police Academy, May 21-25, attracted 200 representatives from 95 agencies.

- Plans and administers the Division's annual Child Physical Abuse and Neglect Seminar. This 25-hour seminar features nationally renowned speakers presenting instruction in the investigation and prosecution of child physical abuse, infant homicide, Munchausen Syndrome and cultural considerations in abuse cases. The 2007 seminar, held at the New York State Police Academy, Nov. 13-16, attracted 180 representatives from 80 agencies across the state.
- Serves as statewide coordinator for the NYS AMBER Alert Program, a collaborative effort with the NYS Broadcasters Association, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the NYS Emergency Management Office, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the NYS Thruway Authority, the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT), the NYS Association of Police Chiefs, and the NYS Sheriffs Association. Since the program's inception in 2002, there have been 19 AMBER Alert activations. In each case, the child or children have been safely recovered. There were two AMBER Alert activations during 2007, one involving a 6-year-old boy abducted after the murder of his mother. Unit members are involved in all aspects of development, training and implementation of this program, which provides every law enforcement agency in the state access to radio and television airwaves, transportation signs, NYS Lottery machine screens and website information to publicize details of a child abduction.

- Maintains and coordinates the Law Enforcement Referral Database, which contains more than 31,600 Child Abuse Hotline reports of alleged child abuse. The database can be used to determine if a person has ever been reported as a victim or perpetrator of child abuse, exploitation or domestic violence. Suspect and victim names are checked daily against the entire database to provide investigative personnel with potential leads in the event of a positive match. There were 238 such matches made and provided to various agencies as lead information during 2007.

- Provides training for State Police in-service personnel, School Resource Officers, Basic School BCI and Basic School recruits on the topics of Child Abuse and Neglect, Sex Crimes and the NYS AMBER Alert Program. Training was also provided to the Bureau of Municipal Police Zone 5 Academy, and the NYS Park Police.

- Assisted in the creation of a Forensic Interviewing Best Practices Guide and related training, developed in conjunction with the New York State Children's Justice Task Force and child abuse investigation professionals. The guide, developed to assist with the forensic interview of child abuse victims, was made available to all Division members via the intranet in 2004. Three-day training sessions were made available to law enforcement, prosecutors and child protective service agencies throughout the state. This training consists of two days of classroom instruction, and a third day of 50-minute taped mock interviews utilizing actors and attendees. The unit also helped create a 30-minute forensic interview training video with the NYSP Video Unit during 2005. The CAE Unit participated in three separate training sessions across the state in 2007.

- Participates in multidisciplinary child abuse and sexual offense efforts, including the Capital District Center for Sex Offender Management, the NYS Children's Justice Task Force, the NYS Developmental Disabilities Sexual Assault Task Force, and the NYS Sex Offender Management Grant Steering Committee.

- Assisted in implementing and coordinating the start of a demonstration project, in conjunction with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), to co-locate five NYSP investigators to Child Advocacy Centers across the state. The assigned personnel will conduct child abuse investigations as part of multidisciplinary teams. The project was implemented in an effort to improve the investigation of these cases and

reduce trauma to victims of child abuse. It will run through 2008.

Forensic Imaging Unit

The Forensic Imaging Section provides a battery of highly specialized skills for enhancing images used in conjunction with investigations, such as the ability to create age progressions on photographs of missing or wanted persons, or updating their hairstyles, clothing and such cosmetic features as eyeglasses and facial hair. It also assists the Medico-Legal Investigations Unit by using computers to enhance and clarify photographs of abuse victims, corpses, bruises, bite marks and other crime scene visual/photographic evidence. The physiognomical reconstruction of unidentified skulls is a unit specialty, where facial features are created over the surface of a skull's landmark features, resulting in a facial likeness of photographic quality. To further the identification process, once a missing person is identified as being a possible match, the technique of superimposing a photographic image of the missing person over the unidentified skull is utilized to suggest a probable match for police comparison.

In 2007, several law enforcement agencies in New York State asked the unit to provide sketches and clarify electronic images of perpetrators. This work led to the identification of several suspects who are now in custody.

Medico-Legal Investigations Unit

The Medico-Legal Investigations Unit (MIU) supports field investigations by supplying forensic expertise to all law enforcement agencies investigating homicides, suspicious deaths, skeletal remains and assaults, and with interviews of living victims, such as battered children and sexual assault victims. Unit members also testify in court trials and administrative hearings.

The unit employs many world-renowned forensic experts at the disposal of the BCI, through its consultant service. MIU members review equivocal or unusual death cases and work closely with the Cold Case Unit in interpreting old autopsy reports and other hospital and medical records. These reviews have led to a number of old cases being resolved.

The MIU also has a significant training role: The annual Colonel Henry F. Williams Homicide Seminar celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. The seminar is an important instrument for training the national and international law enforcement community in forensic sciences technology. Presenters include unit members and professional colleagues from throughout the world who share their expertise and significant case studies. This elite group of homicide investigators, known as Williams Associates, increased its membership to 3,238 members in 2007, including countries such as Lithuania, Estonia, Russia, Canada, England and Ireland.

2007 Cases

- In January, the Indiana State Police, perennial HFW seminar attendees, requested the services of **Director of Forensics Dr. Michael M. Baden** (H-FISS) in an investigation into the unexplained death of a 14-year-old girl. The body was exhumed and a second autopsy performed. The cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma to the head, adjudged as a homicide. Investigation by the Indiana State Police is ongoing.
- In January, at the request of the Cayuga County District Attorney, **Director of Forensic Operations Dr. Lowell J. Levine** reviewed a 1992 homicide case in which a Mr. Roy Brown had been convicted of murdering a woman named Sabrina Kulakowski. Evidence examination by Dr. Levine implicated another person, a subsequent suicide victim, as the killer. Mr. Brown was thereafter released from prison.
- In May, at the request of the Tompkins County Sheriff and County District Attorney's Office, the MIU was asked to review the circumstances surrounding the sexual assault and possible attempted murder of a Trumansburg woman. Dr. Levine was able to identify bite mark patterns on the victim's body as characteristic of the defendant. The man pleaded guilty to predatory sexual assault.
- In October, at the request of the Troop F Child Abuse Unit and Ulster County Family Services, Dr. Baden was asked to review the circumstances surrounding a suspicious burn on the arm of an 8-year-old girl. After examination and interview, it was determined she could not have burned herself. The investigation is continuing.

Violent Crime Analysis Program (NYS ViCAP)

The New York State Violent Crime Analysis Program was launched in 1987 in support of the FBI Violent Criminal Apprehension Program. Specifically designed to assist law enforcement agencies with identifying, tracking and apprehending serial offenders, NYS ViCAP maintains a confidential database of homicides, unidentified human remains cases, missing persons cases and sexual assaults.

NYS ViCAP's goal is to help police identify, link or track cases involving offenders who commit serial crimes. It does this by bringing together agencies that are investigating violent crimes that may be related, putting the managing agencies or investigators in touch with each other so they can exchange information and, if desired, coordinate their investigations. The program provides information management assistance and case-specific analysis to law enforcement personnel specializing in investigations relating to homicides, missing persons where foul play is suspected, unidentified persons, living and dead, and sexual assaults. Program services are available to any criminal justice agency wishing to participate. In 2007, NYS ViCAP provided substantive leads to 42 different agencies. These leads included case linkages provided to the "Bike Path Rapist" task force, numerous missing person and unidentified person match possibilities to agencies, and attempted abduction cases in Troops D and E.

In addition, NYS ViCAP maintains the File 11a – Abduction/Attempted Abduction/Sexual Molestation Database, which tracks and identifies similarities in child abductions and attempted abductions, as well as such nuisance crimes as public lewdness and voyeurism. This information is made available to investigating agencies in other jurisdictions.

In addition to the traditional uniformed troopers on patrol, the State Police also provides an array of highly specialized uniformed support services.

Aviation

For 40 years, the New York State Police Aviation Unit has continued to evolve into a diverse, multi-purpose, organization capable of providing essential aerial support to law enforcement and emergency service agencies throughout the state. The unit conducts operations from five locations throughout the state: Albany, Newburgh, Saranac Lake, Syracuse and Batavia. From these bases, 13 helicopters, six airplanes, 43 pilots, 15 mechanics and six dispatch/support staff respond to requests for its four core missions.

- Law enforcement missions support police agencies across New York and contiguous states. NYSP aircrews conduct aerial surveillance, photography and searches for wanted subjects, extradite prisoners, transport key State Police personnel and Mobile Response Team members to critical events, respond to prison escapes and disasters, and conduct drug detection flights. In 2007, their efforts contributed to the seizure of 7,000 marijuana plants from various grow operations.



A joint Aviation/Forest Ranger/MRT hoist rescue training exercise at SP Batavia Aviation

Uniform Specialized Services



- The MEDEVAC program, called Lifeguard, established in the early 1970s, combines State Police aircraft and pilots with volunteer and private sector paramedics. The Albany-based program combines State Police aircrews with the town of Colonie EMS paramedics. At Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, the State Police works in association with Mobile Life Support, a private ambulance company, and services the Lower Hudson Valley. In Central New York, flight medics from the North Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps (NAVAC) help staff the helicopter based at Hancock International Airport in Syracuse. In the North Country, State Police aircraft based in Saranac Lake operate a joint venture with North Country Life Flight, and in Western New York, Aviation-Batavia is teamed with Mercy Flight Buffalo.

- Environmental Support duties include a variety of missions: wildlife surveys, aerial fish stocking, aerial firefighting, sling-load operations into remote locations, pollution and illegal dumping detection, and photographic documentation of environmental issues. Specialized equipment employed include aircraft-mounted, gyro-stabilized cameras, cargo hooks, wildlife tracking antennae and digital mapping systems.

- Transport missions convey personnel from the state's Executive Branch, State Police personnel, and organ transplant recipients or medical teams that need to reach a medical facility under emergency conditions.

Night Vision Goggle Program (NVG)

Division Aviation completed the initial training of all pilots in the operation of night vision goggles in 2007 after receiving 20 sets of NVGs under a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. These afford aircrews complete night time authority when the weather permits. All utility helicopters required modifications to the cockpit interior and cabin lighting, which is now complete. All aircrews assigned are now fully mission-qualified. The merits of this program were proven almost immediately, allowing crews to search for lost, missing or wanted subjects during the hours of darkness in densely wooded, and even mountainous, terrain.

Safety

Safety is the cornerstone of the State Police Aviation. In 2007, Division aircrews flew a total of 4,147 hours in a demanding environment that ranges from densely populated coastal areas with large volumes of air traffic to high elevation mountain wilderness areas with elevations to 5,600 feet. Training for these missions is constant and demanding. Crews rely on their experiences gained through extensive training and the intimate knowledge of the local terrain and local weather conditions to maintain a safe work environment.

2007 Cases

Catskill mountain rescue

T/Sgts. John E. Cuneo Jr., James Torhan and Lee A. Walker (Aviation-Newburg) responded to a report that a glider had crashed in mountainous terrain in the Greene County town of Windham. En

route to the scene, ground personnel reported the pilot and passenger had suffered life-threatening injuries. Carrying the victims off the mountainside by foot was not a viable option because of the time involved and the risk to both the patients and the rescuers Sgt. Torhan flew a Mobile Life paramedic to the scene to prepare the victims for extraction. Both patients were then brought to a staging area where a waiting LifeNet helicopter transported them to Albany Medical Center for treatment. Both patients have since recovered.

Quick find

T/Sgts. John M. Harrington, James Torhan (Aviation-Newburg) and a Mobile Life Flight paramedic received a request from SP Norwich to help search for an elderly Alzheimer's patient who had wandered away from her home earlier that day, June 13. The search area was typical of Chenango County: farmland surrounded by wooded hills. Ground crews already had searched for hours without success. At the scene, the crew set up a search pattern around the residence and began looking at areas inaccessible to ground searchers. After a short time, they spotted the woman and directed ground crews to her. She was treated for heat-related injuries and returned safely to her residence.

Search for suicidal subject

In July, Monroe County Emergency Communications received a call concerning the whereabouts of a subject believed to be suicidal. Officers from the Webster Police Department responded, and as more information was obtained, other agencies became involved to assist with the search, eventually leading to the discovery of the subject's car parked in a remote area of Webster Park. An intensive ground search began. **T/Sgt. Todd E. Hathaway** (Aviation-Syracuse) responded in a Division helicopter to provide aerial assistance. Shortly after arrival, the aircrew spotted the victim lying on a blanket, well off the marked trail. EMS personnel were directed to the subject's location. It was later determined that he had sustained

self-inflicted injuries and had overdosed in an apparent effort to end his life. The quick response and coordination prevented a greater tragedy.

Another tragedy averted

The Onondaga County 911 call center received an emergency call in July regarding a missing 4-year old child. Troopers responded to an address in the town of Pompey (Onondaga County), where they interviewed the child's grandmother, who told them her grandson had been playing in the yard with the family dog shortly before he went missing. Members of the State Police, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department and the Pompey Hill Fire Department coordinated a search in the woods surrounding the house, without success. State Police Aviation was contacted and **T/Sgt. Christopher J. Clark** (Aviation-Syracuse) and a paramedic responded to the area. After a brief aerial search, they located the child and the dog waist deep in a stream a half-mile from the residence. Sgt. Clark was able to direct ground personnel through dense brush to the child. He was found to be in good health.

Five-organ transplant for 8-month-old

Severe weather was moving through the Capital District area, July 11, keeping the crews assigned to Aviation-Albany grounded most of the day. Another line of severe thunderstorms was approaching eastern New York when a call came in from SP Plattsburgh around 8 p.m. regarding an organ transplant flight.

A young family from Elizabethtown (Essex County), whose 8-month-old son was on a priority organ transplant list, had been notified they had four hours to get to Columbia Hospital in New York City because a suitable donor had been found. The organs were presently being flown to New York from Florida, so time was of the essence. Driving to NYC would take approximately six hours, so a faster means of transportation was needed.

T/Sgt. Thomas Dowling and **Aircraft Pilot Patrick R. Hogan** (Aviation-Albany) were assigned to see if a flight was possible, factoring in the weather and the habitually long delays in and out of the city airports. The crew was quickly able to secure priority handling from Air Traffic Control and took advantage of a small weather window to complete the mission in under an hour. It was later learned that boy had been the recipient of an historic five-organ transplant, essentially replacing his entire digestive tract. Recent reports say the boy and his family are doing well.

Adirondack search

In May, a request came through the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office to assist in the search for an Alzheimer's patient in the town of Stockholm. The man's car had been found abandoned in a remote area and he had been neither seen nor heard from in 24 hours.

T/Sgt. John J. Heverly and **Aircraft Pilot Scott D. Kotronis** (Aviation-Saranac Lake) responded by helicopter to a staging area, where a search pattern was formulated. Helping in this particular search was the fact that most of the trees had just begun blossoming, allowing the flight crew to see through them to the forest floor. After a brief aerial search, the subject was located, lying in a swamp approximately two miles from his vehicle. He was airlifted from the scene and brought to Massena Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for dehydration and exposure, and subsequently was released.

Kaaterskill Falls rescue

Hundreds of hikers visit this landmark 260-foot waterfall in Greene County every year, enjoying the trek to its bottom. Even the experienced hiker can find the trail challenging, but for one, it nearly turned deadly. In August, a hiker lost his footing and fell approximately 80 feet to the base of the falls. It was determined that his injuries were life-threatening, and that he needed to be hoisted out by helicopter. **T/Sgt. Kathy D. Sweeney** (Aviation Albany) and two town of Colonie medics were dispatched to effect the rescue. Maintaining a

steady hover 60 feet above the floor of the gorge, T/Sgt. Sweeney's rescue team extracted the hiker and flew him to a staging area where he was transferred to an awaiting MEDEVAC helicopter for transport to a local trauma center. The hiker has since recovered from his injuries.

Marijuana find

In September, **T/Sgt. Gregg S. Vaillancourt** and **Tpr. Michael J. Eberl** (Aviation Batavia) were operating a Division Helicopter, assisting the Monroe County Drug Task Force in marijuana eradication efforts. An anonymous tip led them to an area near Rte. 104 in the town of Parma, where a suspected growing operation was underway. This search located four large plots of marijuana, yielding 600 plants. This was the largest single such operation found in Western New York this past year. This case eventually yielded other leads relating to other illegal drug activity.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Section is comprised of personnel formerly assigned to the Response and Training Section of the Office of Counter Terrorism (now organized under the rubric, "Preparedness"), and personnel from the former Emergency Services Section (now "Special Operations"). The reorganization, implemented during 2007, integrates under a unified command structure the NYSP Uniform Force personnel assigned to carry out emergency planning, training and exercises, and those assigned to Uniform Force operational response.

Preparedness

The Preparedness Section oversees the Division's planning, preparation for and response to disasters and emergencies, including criminal acts involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) hazards. It also administers programs, manages training and coordinates efforts to promote comprehensive emergency management, weapons of mass destruction (WMD)/hazardous materials response, exercise design and evaluation and National Incident Management System (NIMS)-compliant incident command strategies. Tasks and activities during 2007 included:

- Participating in the development of state emergency response plans;
- Coordinating field activities of the Emergency Management NCOs (EMNCOs);
- Providing liaison to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program, the state's WMD task force, the CBRN Task Force, Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC), State Radiological Workgroup and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC);
- Liaison and training with specialized response entities, such as the National Guard Civil Support Team (CST) and Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC);
- Participating with county representatives in Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC);
- Representing the Division on the DCJS State Methamphetamine Task Force;
- Providing guidance to public and private entities on emergency planning;
- Participating in nuclear response drills sponsored by the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO);
- Arranging, tracking and updating presentations provided to the emergency response community and other special groups on clandestine drug laboratory awareness, and
- Assisting troops with planning for special events/mass gatherings.

The section administered or coordinated member and EMNCO

participation in a variety of training programs dealing with NIMS compliance and WMD response statewide during 2007.

It also oversaw the Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT), a cadre of specialists who provide emergency response capabilities to support law enforcement agencies responding to crime scenes/incidents involving CBRN contamination hazards. The CCSERT responded to nine clandestine drug laboratories in 2007.

During 2007, a variety of emergencies, events and exercises required personnel from Field Command – Emergency Management and the Division’s Traffic Services Section to staff emergency operations centers (EOC) for the:

- Feb. 14-15 winter storm;
- March 16 winter storm;
- July 11 weather-related emergency;
- Dec. 21 flooding and
- Dec. 31 (New Year’s Eve).

EMNCO activities included design and implementation of:

- Counter Terrorism Zone 4 Operation City Lights – A radiation Interdiction exercise that was part of the New York City “Securing the Cities” (STC) Initiative;
- Counter Terrorism Zone 4 Monroe-Woodbury High School Terrorism SWAT

Uniform Specialized Services

Exercise;

- Numerous school safety and security presentations – Table-top and functional drills;
- County “Operation Safe-guard” training with Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs);
- Incident Command System (ICS) Simulator Board Training at the State Police Academy for recruits and Basic Supervisors



Trprs. Robert J. Vishion and Kevin J. Close (A-CVEU), and Sgt. Gary E. Henderson (T-CVEU) perform a radiation interdiction inspection exercise as part of Operation Urgent Action, in Hamburg, NY, during October 2007.

Schools, and

- ICS for Schools presentations.

The section also undertook a number of

special projects during 2007:

- Development and posting on the Division’s intranet site of a member information document on Pandemic Influenza Awareness and Response;
- Development of a Division Pandemic Influenza Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP);
- Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Receipt Storage and Staging (RSS) site reviews with the U.S. Marshals’ Service;
- Statewide State Grant Guidance Training;
- Distribution of \$250,000 in Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) grant equipment, and
- Site review completion and plan submission for the 2007 BZPP grant cycle.

The Radiation Interdiction and Detection Program was started in 2007 through the efforts of the New York State Office of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security. The program features highly sensitive radiation detection equipment, consisting of pagers, survey meters, backpacks and mobile systems, used to detect illicit radioactive material. Initial rollout consisted of equipment and training

provided to the NYSP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit (CVEU) and Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU), as well as the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation,

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Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Civil Support Team and Department of Health. More than 100 pagers were deployed to the field, along with more than 30 radioisotope identification devices. To date, more than 250 pager “hits” have been recorded, and one incident in which an illegally shipped radioactive material was detected.

The Radiation Interdiction and Detection program has been involved in Operation Urgent Action, an exercise conducted in October at the NYSP Thruway Hamburg (Erie County) toll plaza. Participants in the exercise included the NYSP CVEU and BDU, the New York State Intelligence Center and Counter Terrorism Investigation Unit (NYSIC/CTIU), the Erie and Chautauqua County Sheriff’s Office bomb disposal units, the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Brookhaven National Laboratory, the NYS Office of Homeland Security and the NYS Thruway Authority.

The Radiation Interdiction and Detection program also has been involved in a pilot program titled “Securing the Cities,” in which the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has invested over \$50 million to secure the City of New York against a terrorist attack involving radiological material. On New Year’s Eve, members of the CVEU and Radiation Detection Program established detection points at the Harriman, Woodbury and Yonkers toll plazas in search of illicit radioactive material.

The Preparedness Section also administers grant funds provided through the Office of Homeland Security to support programs and equipment required to meet the challenges associated with the threat of terrorism. In many cases, purchased items have significantly improved Division operations. Examples include:

- Rescue vests and helmets for the Division SCUBA units’ swift water recovery work;
- GPS/radar navigation system for the sonar boat;
- High-angle rescue equipment for the MRT;
- Night vision goggles;

Uniform Specialized Services

- GPS tracking equipment and satellite phones, and
- Portable searchlights.

Special Operations

Mobile Response Team

The Mobile Response Team (MRT) was created in 1980 to provide a tactical response element for the Lake Placid Winter Olympics. The team’s current authorized strength is 40, deployed in four regional squads: North, South, West and Central. The teams train and respond regularly, providing their specialized services to communities and law enforcement agencies across the state. All MRT members are trained in handling hazardous materials and participate as members of the Division Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency

Response Team (CCSERT) to respond to chemical and biological incidents.

During 2007, the MRT took possession of two Bearcat Armored Personnel Carriers for use in a variety of missions.



One of the Division’s two new Bearcat armored personnel carriers, designed to provide MRT personnel with ballistic protection in dangerous situations

The Bearcats were purchased through Homeland Security grants and provide ballistic protection for members who must approach any dangerous situation.

The MRT was involved in 126 operations during 2007, ranging from barricaded subjects to narcotics raids, search and rescue operations, dignitary protection details and clandestine lab surveillance missions. The MRT also supported troopers during Operation IM-PACT, serving arrest and search warrants at locations known to harbor weapons and high-risk criminals.

2007 Interesting Cases

- In January, CNET-Central requested MRT assistance in a Utica narcotics raid involving a suspect with a propensity for violence and at least one handgun. Investigation revealed he also had acquaintances who had been involved in, or who were suspects in, a number of shootings. MRT members seized a loaded, defaced, 9-mm handgun, more than an ounce of crack cocaine, and a quantity of powder cocaine and marijuana.

- In May, the MRT was asked to assist the DEA, CNET and Troy police with a raid in the city of Troy. Several of the operation's targets had previous gun convictions and were believed to be in possession of firearms. Due to the raid's high-risk potential, MRT personnel deployed the new BEARCAT armored personnel vehicle for the operation. Once inside, they secured several suspects. Two weapons were located just outside the basement back door, including a loaded .357 Magnum.

- During October, MRT personnel were activated to assist the Troop G BCI and Troy Police search for a robbery suspect with a record of convictions for violent crime and ties to white supremacist groups, and who had threatened not to be taken alive. Investigators located his vehicle in the driveway of an ex-girlfriend's mobile home. Under cover of a noise-flash diversionary device, the MRT entered and initially found no sign of the suspect. They made their way carefully through the narrow hallway into a back bedroom, where they found the suspect hiding under a blanket, subdued and arrested him.

SCUBA

The State Police has operated its own underwater detail since 1934. Today it has SCUBA teams on call 24 hours a day in all troops except L, T and NYC. These teams regularly provide their specialized services to communities and law enforcement agencies across the state. When not assigned to a dive detail, NYSP divers perform regular patrol and administrative duties in the troops.



A Division SCUBA divers ascends from a training device beneath the ice of Lake George.

The busiest year in the history of the NYSP Underwater Recovery Team, 2007 saw SCUBA Unit members respond to 173 details, conducted 2,107 dives, and recover 17 victims and 33 pieces of evidence, including 14 weapons and \$17,000 in cash.

2007 Interesting Cases

- Ten days after a Fishkill (Dutchess County) family of five was found murdered in their burning home, Jan. 19, the Troop K dive team was called in to search nearby ponds and waterways for any evidence that might provide investigators a lead. On Jan. 31, divers searching Dutchess Park Lake located

a .22-cal. firearm used in the crime. Over the next few days, divers braving frigid conditions successfully recovered a butcher knife and other pieces of evidence – some from the lake bottom and some found frozen in the ice. The recovery of these items contributed to the successful prosecution of one of two defendants, who was found guilty of 1st Degree Murder and other charges, Dec. 3. The trial of the second defendant is pending.

- An unusual storm dumped more than six inches of rain in just over an hour on a mountainside in rural Delaware County, June 19. Flash flooding resulted, rampaging across Rte. 7 near the village of Roscoe, sweeping away four persons, destroying several homes and causing millions of dollars worth of damage. Troop C divers responded to assist in the search for victims. NYSP divers located one victim, floating under debris in a 10-acre pond, June 22. Divers operating from the Division airboat searched 10 miles of the Beaverkill River, where they recovered a safe with \$7,000 five miles from the home where it had been lost. They then used the airboat to “plow” debris from the surface of a pond and continued the search, assisted by an FBI underwater recovery team with a sector-scan sonar system. While no further victims were found in the pond, divers recovered another safe containing \$12,000 in cash.

- While on routine patrol, Oct. 27, Troop K Senior Diver **Tpr. Joseph M. Benziger** (K-Rhinebeck) responded with other Troop K personnel to an early morning call in which a local homeowner reported finding a vehicle submerged in her pond. Tpr. Benziger found

the vehicle with only the top eight inches of its roof above water and no sign of any movement within. Donning his SCUBA gear, he swam out to the vehicle, where he discovered a 73-year-old woman inside, clinging to the rearview mirror to keep her head above water. Tpr.

Benziger freed the woman and brought her to shore, where paramedics rendered first aid and transported her to hospital. Tpr. Benziger then returned to the vehicle and rescued the woman’s dog. Both the woman and her dog recovered from their ordeal.



Division SCUBA divers scour the icy shallows of Dutchess Park Lake for evidence in a Troop K homicide investigation, Jan. 31. They recovered a .22-cal. rifle, a butcher knife and other pieces of evidence.

unit’s 11 FBI-certified bomb technicians also handle chemical and biological hazardous materials and participate as members of the Division’s Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT).

The BDU maintains facilities in Albany, Newburgh, Watertown and Batavia, each of which is equipped with disposal trailers, robots and hazardous materials suits. All Division bomb technicians carry critical first-responder equipment with them, including X-ray machines and bomb suits. The BDU recently took possession of a new

Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU)

The Division BDU responds to service calls involving improvised explosive devices, recovered military ordnance, commercial explosives and fireworks throughout most of upstate New York. It also is responsible for the controlled destruction of explosives, and during 2007 neutralized several thousand sticks of old dynamite and more than \$1 million worth of illegal fireworks. The

total containment vessel and is awaiting delivery of two new bomb response trucks and a state-of-the-art robot, all funded with Homeland Security grants.

Division bomb technicians handled 208 incidents during 2007. These included 33 commercial and 46 military ordnance recovery and destruction operations, and 70 illegal fireworks seizures totaling more than 250,000 pounds, all of which were subsequently destroyed. The unit also responded to 22 improvised explosive device calls, recovering more than 100 homemade bombs.

2007 Interesting Cases

- June 11– BDU technicians in Troop F destroyed by “controlled burn” five trailer loads of illegally stored fireworks seized at a Newburgh storage facility.
- Aug. 24 – Construction crews excavating at the General Electric dredging site near Fort Edward on the Hudson River uncovered a cache of 100-year-old dynamite, bringing all work to an immediate halt. The nitroglycerin-based explosives had been buried during the building of Lock 8 on the Champlain Canal around 1910, having been deemed too dangerous to transport elsewhere, a common practice at the time. BDU technicians recovered and destroyed 960 sticks. BDU technicians were called back in December to deal with another 48 cases of dynamite — more than 4,000 sticks — which they similarly destroyed.

Uniform Specialized Services

- Sept. 21 – Technicians responded to the scene of an explosion in Orange County that caused more than half a million dollars’ damage to a recycling facility. Investigation revealed a small quantity of fireworks improperly disposed of in a trash bin had detonated under pressure in a compactor, causing a massive explosion.

- Oct. 15 – Four Clifton Park (Saratoga County) youths were amusing themselves by making and exploding small pipe bombs in a wooded area, video-recording the explosions and posting the footage on the internet for viewing on YouTube. One of the boys, age 14, had difficulty lighting the fuse on a bomb; sparks from his lighter caused a premature detonation, blowing off his right hand. BDU technicians responded to the accident scene, removed three live pipe bombs and recovered several of the youth’s fingers and parts of his hand.

Canine (K-9) Unit

The Division Canine Unit marked its 32nd year in 2007.

K-9 teams are assigned to stations throughout the state and perform patrol duties when not involved in or assigned to a canine-related incident. They detect explosives and drugs, track and search for lost or missing persons, find bodies, search buildings, provide site/venue

security and help protect dignitaries.

The Division operates its own Canine Training Facility in Cooperstown (Otsego County). In 2007, two canine recertification sessions were conducted at the facility for 135 canine teams. These sessions ensure that all NYSP canine teams and those maintained by other agencies remain certified and perform at or above DCJS standards. Additionally, eight canine handlers undertook training with replacement dogs. These additions kept the unit at full strength: 66 teams, with 32 explosives-detection dogs and 11 handlers assigned to the BDU; 32 narcotics detection teams, with 22 cross-trained for cadaver detection, and two bloodhounds. The Divi-



Tpr. Jesse Davis (D-Oneida) displays State Police bloodhound “Dillon” while he demonstrates child safety skills to elementary students at Holland Patent School during the 2007 Ride for Missing and Exploited Children.

sion bloodhounds are used solely for the tracking persons who have been lost or missing for an extended time.

Division K-9 teams responded to 5,024 calls for service during 2007, an increase of 11% from 2006. Explosives detection K-9 teams responded to 681 calls for service. These included 64 bomb threats or sweeps and 617 additional explosives searches throughout the state. Explosives and/or weapons were recovered in 28 instances.

The drug/cadaver detection teams responded to 1,741 calls for service, including 1,657 narcotics sweeps of buildings, schools, vehicles and outdoor venues, and 84 cadaver searches. Narcotics were located in 634 searches, and there were three cadaver recoveries.

Division K-9 teams also provided security at 1,159 venues, took part in 388 public presentations/demonstrations, 361 trackings for fugitives or lost/missing persons, 101 building searches, and 593 other K-9 related calls or incidents. They successfully tracked 51 fugitives and 24 lost/missing persons, and located five subjects in building searches.

2007 Interesting Cases

- **Tpr. David I. Turner Jr.** and canine partner “**L.T.**,” (K-Cortlandt) were called to assist the members of the MRT South Team with a search warrant at a residence in Westchester County, Jan. 10. L.T. “alerted” to the door of a hallway closet, where searchers found a loaded AK-47 and a cache of ammunition. Further investigation revealed the weapon had been stolen from a residence two months earlier.
- **Tpr. Kevin A. Beattie** and canine partner “**Cully**” (B-Massena) were on routine patrol in St. Lawrence County, Jan. 25, when they stopped a car for speeding and have illegally tinted windows. The two women in the car were extremely nervous and their stories

contained conflicting details. Tpr. Beattie obtained consent to search the vehicle, and Cully “alerted” on two bags that were found to contain approximately 122 pounds of ecstasy tablets — equal to roughly a quarter-million dosage units — with a street value of about \$6 million.

- **Tpr. Todd G. Costa** and canine partner “**R.J.**” (E-Painted Post) responded Feb. 15 when Steuben County fire investigators asked for help locating the remains of an elderly woman who died in a house fire in the town of Howard. Investigators had been sifting unsuccessfully through the rubble and debris for nearly six hours before Tpr. Costa and R.J. arrived. They obtained a positive alert within 10 minutes. A hand search of the area led to discovery of the victim’s remains under 10 inches of debris.
- A report of a five-year-old child missing from an apartment complex in Greenport (Columbia County) brought out **Tpr. Douglas J. Colwell** and canine partner “**A.J.**,” (K-Livingston) March 28. Advised that the child had wandered into an adjacent wooded area, Tpr. Colwell and A.J. commenced a track and located the child, unharmed, approximately half-a-mile away in a swamp.

Marine Patrols

The State Police maintains boat patrols in Troops B, D, E, F, G, K, L, and T. Troopers assigned to marine duties patrol waterways throughout the state from early spring to late fall, enforcing the Navigation Law, Canal Rules & Regulations and Environmental Conservation Laws. These Troopers assist boaters in distress, and provide search and rescue services and water security at regattas, hydroplane races and other water-related events.

During the 2007 boating season, Troop E patrolled portions of Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes, Troops F and K covered the Hudson River, and Troop G deployed boats on Lake George, Saratoga Lake and the Great Sacandaga Lake. Troop L patrolled areas of Long Island Sound around Fishers Island. Troop T deployed four boats



A Troop T Marine patrol team keeps a vigilant eye on one of the state's busy waterways.

along the 525-mile state Canal System that includes the Mohawk, Hudson, Oswego, Seneca, Genesee and Niagara Rivers, as well as Oneida, Onondaga, Cross, Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Troop T continued to use personal watercraft (PWCs), popularly known as jet skis, for specialized and general patrol duties, and for education and enforcement efforts.

In 2007, State Police



One of the Marine Patrol's personal watercraft (PWCs) used for close inshore patrol and enforcement work.

Marine Patrols logged more than 10,000 patrol hours, effecting 1,498 arrests for a variety of violations, including Boating While Intoxicated, Reckless Operations, Speeding, and Safety and Equipment violations; 700 of these arrests were for criminal behavior as defined in the Penal Law. Troopers also issued more than 800 warnings for minor violations. Marine patrols made almost 1,700 vessel stops, conducted 1,229 inspections, and provided 116 assists to boaters. They were assigned to almost 2,900 hours of water-related special events during the year, including fireworks displays, water-related

festivals, hydroplane, canoe and kayak races, and security details.

Continuing the Division's commitment to boating safety education during the 2007, Marine Patrol personnel assisted the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation by providing volunteer boating safety instructors to teach the mandatory training classes

for PWC operators across the state. Marine patrol members also supported law enforcement education efforts by providing instructors to the Annual Basic Marine Law Enforcement Training Course and the Marine Patrol Vessel Operator's Course, conducted in Lake George.

Bicycles

Troop T provides bike patrols along the New York State Canal Trail System. Each year the State Canal Corporation works with municipalities across the state to open additional sections of trail with the goal of having a trail system connecting the state from Albany to Buffalo. Troop D provides bike patrols in the



Tpr. Mark A. Bender (D-North Syracuse) and Inv. Dustin J. Hite (D-Fulton) escorting bicycle riders during the 100 miles of the 2007 Ride for Missing and Exploited Children.

Sylvan Beach area and at the New York State Fair. The Executive Services Detail also maintains bicycle patrols at the Empire State Plaza complex in Albany.

Snowmobiles



The Troop T snowmobile detail covered more than 3,400 miles while patrolling the state's snowmobile trails during 2007.

During the 2007 snowmobile season, Troop T members logged more than 1,000 hours of patrol covering more than 3,400 miles of trails. Detail members issued 550 tickets for various snowmobile infractions, including Snowmobiling While Intoxicated, Unsafe Speed, Reckless Operation and registration/insurance violations. Troop T also continued its snowmobile enforcement and education efforts. Members assigned to the detail are certified to instruct the New York State Snow-

mobile Safety Program, and they helped provide these courses across the state. Troop T members also provided instructors for the annual Basic and Advanced Law Enforcement Snowmobile Operators course sponsored by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, conducted in Cobleskill.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

In 2007, Troop T instituted ATV patrols along the NYS Canalway Trail System, adding six ATVs to its fleet of recreational enforcement vehicles. ATVs were used to assist in searches for lost persons, evidence retrieval and a homicide investigation, as well as for specialized enforcement efforts. The

machines are equipped with an optional track kit which allows them to be operated in even the harshest conditions and terrain. Two detail members received national instructor certification in Maryland.



Troop T instituted ATV patrols along the NYS Canalway Trail System during 2007.

Member and Civilian Safety

Beginning in May, all State Police personnel were surveyed regarding their safety and security concerns as part of a sweeping safety examination. Acting Superintendent Preston L. Felton established an executive-level Division Safety Committee to review the survey results and other operational reports to identify the need for equipment and training, and to suggest remedies. In June, the new position of Captain-Member and Civilian Safety was created in Field Command to assist the Safety Committee in

its work and to maximize the safety of State Police sworn and civilian personnel. The new captain has the specific mission of reviewing policy, procedures, equipment and training, with the goal of improving safety across the agency. Several safety-related matters were addressed during the year,

including:

- Patrol rifle and first aid kit evaluation;
- Active Shooter, Defensive Tactics refresher, and Incident Command System training;
- Shotgun and baton deployment, and
- AED policy development.

Other issues addressed by the Safety Committee included vehicle safety matters, Division safety messages, communications concerns, personnel deployment questions, and tactical and operational reviews.

Uniform Support Services

School and Community Outreach Unit (SCOU)

During 2007, several incidents on the national stage brought school safety and security back to the forefront of public consciousness. Events such as the Virginia Tech massacre, a school shooting in Cleveland, and thwarted attacks planned for schools in Plymouth Meeting, PA, and La Grangeville in Dutchess County, NY, highlighted the need for schools, law enforcement and communities to remain vigilant on school safety and security. The SCOU has endeavored to establish itself as a valuable resource to the Division, its partner agencies and the communities it

serves. It does so through its network of 91 highly trained School Resource Officers (SROs) and 10 School and Community Outreach Coordinators (SCOCs), through statewide dissemination of information, reporting of activity, interagency cooperation, open channels of communication and a formal program evaluation.

The unit's most significant undertaking in 2007 involved a partnership with the New York State Department of Education, Emergency Management Office and the Office of Homeland Security, resulting in the New York State School Safety Guide. This comprehensive publication replaces previous guidance documents and includes an accompanying DVD. In addition to its four chapters detailing Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery, it includes recently created standardized responses for schools to implement in a crisis. A copy of the School Safety DVD and guidebook was sent to all public and private schools, colleges and universities, as well as every law enforcement agency and county emergency manager in New York State.

Additionally, the SCOU conducted two Basic School Resource Officer schools to replace members lost to transfer, promotion or retirement. These 40-hour schools prepare personnel for full-time

SRO activity - school year 2007

Criminal Calls	2,526	Firearms Confiscation	6
Non-Criminal Calls	7,703	Other Weapons Confiscation	68
Sexual Offense Cases	101	Domestic Incident Reports	35
Felony Arrests	300	Presentations	5,088
Felony Arrests - Weapons	9	Student Counseling Sessions	16,428
Felony Arrests - Drugs	53	Suicide Counseling Sessions	172
Misdemeanor Arrests	921	Parent Counseling Sessions	4,283
Misdemeanor Arrests - Weapons	37	Faculty/Staff Counseling Sessions	3,977
Misdemeanor Arrests - Drugs	83	Value of Reported Stolen Property	\$148,732
Violation Arrests	357	Value of Recovered Stolen Property	\$69,266
Violation Arrests - Drugs	122		

assignment to partner school districts. The Division's SROs continue to maintain a dedicated presence in 118 partner school districts, and its SCOCs provide services to any school district or community group that requests it.

Increased visibility

Recognizing that schools and businesses are typically easy targets for crime and terrorism, the SCOU suggested that road patrols and police visibility be increased in and around schools and businesses. This result was a directive from Field Command in April, entitled Increased Visibility In And Around Soft Targets, urging patrol personnel to visit and familiarize themselves with local businesses, community centers and schools.

2007 Interesting Cases

- A Troop G SRO received a request from the elementary school social worker to assist in locating the parent of a 4th grader who had been absent for an extended period. The social worker said that in early November 2006, after a series of communications regarding the child's expired immunizations, the parent had been advised the child could not return to school until a doctor's appointment had been scheduled. The parent apparently chose instead to keep the child home. The SRO located the parent and arranged with the county public health service for the child to receive his vaccinations later that day. The child returned to school in



Division School Resource Officers (SROs) undergo emergency response training. The massacre at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and thwarted attacks in New York State and Pennsylvania brought a renewed emphasis on school safety to the forefront in 2007.

mid-January. A further inquiry into the student's attendance in several different school districts revealed a pattern of gaps where he regularly missed several weeks of school at a time—for no apparent reason. Shortly thereafter, the mother was interviewed regarding her child's school attendance. When a timeline of her child's absences was laid out before her she stated: "I guess he has missed a lot of school. I did not realize how much school he missed." She was subsequently arrested for Endangering

the Welfare of a Child, arraigned and remanded to the county jail in lieu of \$500 bail. The student was left in the care of his aunt. Child Protective Services adopted the case, and the student has since maintained perfect attendance.

- A school counselor in Troop A approached an SRO to report that a rumor circulating about a 7th or 8th grader meeting an adult that morning for sex after on-line conversations. The SRO began examining attendance records, and faculty and staff were asked to be on guard for any young girls uncharacteristically "acting out". Two 8th graders were later referred for discipline. One had a history of behavioral problems, but the other was out-of-character. The SRO spoke with her and referred her to the school counselor. Soon afterward, she made a full disclosure to the counselor and the SRO, revealing she had had sex with a 45-year-old man she met online. Next morning, after guardian notification, the SRO and an investigator obtained a formal statement from the girl in which she referred to websites she had visited and on which she had made contact with the man. While in the presence of the investigator and SRO, she demonstrated her access to these sites. Coincidentally, the suspect was online and waiting in a chat room for her. After a quick consultation with the district attorney, correspondence was resumed with the suspect and a meeting arranged for the following morning. The man appeared as scheduled and was summarily arrested by the BCI. He was charged with Criminal

Sexual Act 2nd Degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and Unlawfully Dealing with a Child, arraigned and remanded in lieu of \$10,000 bail. The FBI has since executed a search warrant at his Pennsylvania residence, seizing his computer to determine the extent of his criminal activity.

- Near the end of a school day, a Troop C SRO received a telephone call from the high school principal, reporting a 17-year-old had disclosed to his social worker that his friend was encouraging him to participate in a school shooting. Both were students of the same high school but attend separate off-site alternative programs. Principals were advised, the SRO contacted the BCI and a plan was formulated to interview the reporting student. The SRO and an investigator interviewed the mother of the student who reported the matter. She told him she had picked up her son at the alternative school because he was “depressed,” but that he later went out with the other student to a local shopping mall. Throughout the afternoon leads were developed and explored, but the whereabouts of the boys remained unknown. That evening, two investigators made contact with the reporting student at his home. He revealed that a week earlier his friend had been talking about shooting people at the high school, and had said he would shoot himself after he shot everyone else. Investigators also interviewed the boy’s 15-year-old sister, who said she had overheard the other boy say he was going to “do a Columbine,” though at a different high school, a point which complicated the investigation. When telephone calls

to the other youth at his home went unanswered, the SRO and an investigator went directly to the boy’s house and interviewed him in the presence of his parents. The boy denied making any threats. His parents said they had no firearms in the house, but revealed their son had spent time in a psychiatric hospital. Based upon this investigation, the boy was charged with a Mental Hygiene Law violation and transported to an area hospital. En route there he admitted making the threats, but asserted that he had only been “joking.” The investigation revealed he had made similar statements to two female students, neither of whom had reported the matter. His “MySpace” page was found to include phrases such as “I Hate Our Government.” He was admitted for a psychological evaluation and returned to school three days later, but with follow-up counseling.

- A Troop K SRO was advised that a female student was attempting to find him. When reached, the girl said she had been concerned about an incident that had occurred a week earlier. She and a girlfriend, who had recently returned from college, had been sunbathing at a local park when a young man approached them and inquired if they were from the area. They had responded affirmatively and said they were both college students — although only one actually was. The man then asked if they wanted to make some money. He said he had an audio/video job, had worked in the pornography business, and could offer them a schedule of fees in return for permitting him to videotape them performing various sex acts. He even went so far as to solicit sex from each

of them for financial compensation. At that point the girls said they were not interested and began packing up their belongings. The man followed them and attempted to give them his cellular telephone number, saying that if they changed their minds they could contact him at the local high school. As it happened, the man was an A/V technician at the same high school the girl attended. The SRO immediately notified the high school principal, and together they confronted the technician. The man admitted he had said some “stupid things to a couple of girls” in the park, and asked the SRO if they were “our” students. He was suspended immediately, and terminated the next day.

- A Troop G SRO met with his school principal after encountering a woman in the school parking lot who claimed she was there to pick up her 14-year-old brother. Suspicious, he interviewed a number of faculty and administrative personnel, developing sufficient information to determine that the woman could not possibly have been the student’s sister. When he interviewed the boy in the presence of his parents the youth revealed that the he and the woman had in fact engaged in a sexual relationship. More disconcerting, however, was the revelation that the woman was the boy’s court-appointed counselor, and that their intimate encounters took place during “counseling sessions”. The counselor was arrested for two counts of Rape 2nd Degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and Criminal Sex Act 2nd Degree.

- A student reported a suspicious webpage

on MySpace.com. to an SRO in Troop K, Nov. 26. On it, a high school student with the screen name “Steve” had written to another student that he should keep watch on “zero hour” and do “some research” regarding items they could use. “Steve” further advised that “THE CLOCK IS TICKING,” a reference, it was determined, to a countdown clock posted on another student’s webpage, which was marked “private,” accessible only to persons on his “friends list”. Investigation subsequently turned up more disturbing messages in which “Steve” made specific threats. One of the three students involved in these exchanges was brought to the administrator’s office, where he logged on the private webpage. There, the three conspirators had posted a detailed plot to shoot high school students.

The student said he believed the plot by his friends was real and that they intended to carry it out. He said the other two had access to weapons and were planning to make pipe bombs. The second of the three students, a 15-year-old, was interviewed then, and detailed their plans to carry out the shootings on the anniversary of the Columbine attack. The students were taken into custody and brought to Troop K Headquarters to be interviewed by the BCI. The third student, who was out sick that day, was arrested at home. All three were charged with Making a False Report 1st Degree and Conspiracy 4th Degree. Two students, age 16, were remanded to the county jail; the third, age 15, was placed in juvenile detention overnight and arraigned the following morning in Family Court. Numerous weapons were confiscated from their homes.

Field Command Technology Unit

The Field Command Technology Unit researches, tests and assists other Division units, partners with other agencies in the development of new technologies for field operations, and supports and enhances current systems in use.

Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS)

From its beginning as the e-ticketing and accident reporting system for the NYSP, TraCS is rapidly becoming the electronic reporting tool of choice for police agencies in New York State. With TraCS, police officers can write and print tickets and complete accident reports on a computer in their patrol car, and transmit the data electronically to courts, DMV, DOT and NYSP administrative sections. Today, through TraCS, troopers and police officers can complete a multitude of law enforcement forms — appearance tickets, depositions, informations, complaints, statements, field interview cards, vehicle search forms, DWI Supporting Deposition/Bill of Particulars, Long Form Informations — and import case data directly into the Spectrum Justice System (SJS) records management system.

By the end of 2007, 401 police agencies in New York State had established agreements for use of TraCS, and 239 were using it. The State Police currently has 1,400 patrol vehicles and every station equipped with TraCS. More than 1 million traffic citations were issued in 2007 with the assistance of TraCS, and more than 126,000 accident reports were transmitted to DMV.

Although some benefits of TraCS will not be fully realized until it is implemented statewide, the improved data has already facilitated better access to information for Division supervisors and timely submission to DMV, DOT and the courts. System enhancements continue to be made and additional forms and uses are in development.

License Plate Recognition Systems (LPR)

LPR technology uses vehicle-mounted cameras and onboard computers to capture vehicle license plate images and compare them

immediately to an electronic list of suspended, revoked and stolen vehicles from the New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN). On any given shift, the system can check hundreds of plates and alert troopers to any vehicle of interest. The system works equally well with moving and stationary vehicles.

During 2007, the Division continued to expand its use of LPR technology. Currently, troopers have 75 LPR systems helping them identify stolen vehicles and detect operators with suspended and revoked registrations.

LPR operators also have the ability to add suspect plates to a “hot list,” enabling the LPR to serve as another set of “eyes” while searching for a wanted or suspected driver. This capability is particularly useful during emergency situations requiring an immediate police response. The LPR also checks to see if the vehicle plate was previously read.

In 2007, with the assistance of LPRs more than 500,000 license plates were scanned each month. This led to nearly 2,000 traffic citations, 27 misdemeanor arrests, seven felony arrests, and the recovery of nine stolen vehicles each month.

Spectrum Justice System (SJS)

During 2007, the Division worked extensively with the state Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI) to build Spectrum Justice System (SJS) 7.0. This new version of the SJS records management system will enhance security and functionality, and enable users to transmit accusatory instruments created in SJS or Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) electronically to any prosecutor’s office.

Other Projects

The Field Command Technology Unit continues to research, test and

assist other units in the development of new technologies, and to support and enhance current systems. These include in-car digital video, geographical information systems (GIS), improved in-car computing devices, LiveScan, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) and automatic vehicle locators (AVL).

Traffic Services

Perhaps more than any other function, traffic safety enforcement has defined the public image of the State Trooper since 1917. Whether investigating crashes, issuing traffic tickets, arresting drunk drivers or assisting disabled vehicles and stranded motorists, the New York State Trooper has been the guardian of New York’s roadways for 90 years.

The NYSP employs a multi-faceted and interdisciplinary approach to traffic safety. This involves basic and targeted Vehicle and Traffic Law enforcement, crash investigation and collision reconstruction, commercial vehicle enforcement, traffic incident management, and public awareness and education. These efforts are designed to mitigate all traffic safety threats, including speeding, impaired driving, failure to use safety restraints, and commercial vehicle equipment deficiencies.

In 2007, troopers marked their place in “Long Gray Line” history by issuing more than 1 million traffic tickets for the first time, demonstrating their appreciation of traffic safety’s integral importance in contemporary law enforcement. In recognition of the Division’s excellence in law enforcement traffic safety programs and leadership, both in this state and nationwide, the International Association of Chiefs of Police awarded the New York State Police first place in its National Law Enforcement Challenge. The Division has achieved this distinction only once before, in year 2000.

Speed Enforcement

Unsafe speed is the most common contributing factor in highway fatalities, responsible for nearly 30% of crashes. It is twice as prevalent as the next most common contributing factor, alcohol. Speeding and other hazardous moving violations are especially dangerous on non-interstate highways, where Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) data show the fatality rate is more than three times higher than on the interstates. For this reason, the Division enhanced its speed enforcement efforts on non-interstate highways in 2007. Troops utilized strategies such as Sustained Zone Enforcement Details to complement day-to-day speed enforcement by post patrols in high-crash areas, and participated in the following statewide initiatives:

- A July speed initiative targeted increased summer speeding;
- A Traffic Safety Corridor Program targeted aggressive driving on identified high-crash corridors;
- Operation Safe Stop, targeting violators of school bus protection laws, and
- Operation Brake Program, targeting speeders in work zones.

The Division remains committed to providing troopers the best enforcement tools available. In 2007, 53 new radar units, 11 new LIDAR (laser) units and 100 rear antennae devices were deployed to the field. The dual

antenna configuration allows troopers to measure the speed of vehicles that are approaching or receding, whether the patrol car is moving or stationary. This configuration provides troopers a significant tactical advantage in identifying speeders, and reduces the need for potentially hazardous U-turns. Additional radar mounting equipment also was acquired to ensure that radar components are securely attached to the dashboards of patrol vehicles. By early 2008, every Division patrol vehicle will be equipped with the new mounts. The Division also began evaluating new speed enforcement equipment, including Direction Sensing Radar (DSR), that might aid troopers in their speed enforcement efforts.

Impaired Driving Enforcement

Division efforts to combat impaired driving involve training in the detection and apprehension of violators, and public education and awareness. All recruit troopers receive extensive training in the detection and testing of impaired drivers, and are expected to enforce the state's impaired driving laws assiduously. They employ a variety of strategies to this end, including fixed sobriety checkpoints and roving saturation patrols, which focus the efforts of numerous troopers in a targeted area.

The Division's multi-faceted approach to combating impaired driving, reducing under-

age alcohol consumption and underage drinking and driving, continues to save lives and make New York's highways safer. It also figured prominently in a December 2007 special investigative report entitled "Special Report: America's Deadliest Drunken Drivers" in Forbes magazine, which ranked New York State first in the nation in its efforts to prevent drunk driving.

Strategies

Fixed sobriety checkpoints provide effective enforcement and a high visibility impaired driving deterrence factor. During 2007, the Division conducted 179 fixed sobriety checkpoints statewide. These resulted in 412 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), 27 for Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI), and 2,474 other arrests. Although less visible, roving saturation patrols have proven an effective DWI enforcement tool. During 2007, the NYSP conducted 183 roving saturation patrols, resulting in 268 DWI arrests, nine DWAI arrests, and 3,255 arrests for other law violations.

The Division's Traffic Services Section continually evaluates emerging technologies for their potential to improve the effectiveness or safety of enforcement efforts. In 2007 it deployed new preliminary breath test instruments to improve the ability of troopers to detect impaired drivers at low blood alcohol concentrations (BAC). The Division deployed 690 Intoximeter FST alcohol

screening devices, which provide reliable breath alcohol measurements using more automated features than previous devices. They also can be used in a passive (“sniffing”) mode to facilitate investigations of persons under age 21 when alcohol consumption is suspected, and during brief checkpoint interrogations to detect the presence of alcohol. The Division’s goal is to provide an alcohol screening device for each patrol vehicle.

Public awareness and education continues to be a major component of the Division’s Traffic Safety plan, and is especially important to deterring impaired driving and underage drinking. The Division has established an effective partnership with the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to improve the professional competence of troopers on patrol, and to raise public awareness of impaired driving and underage drinking issues. OASAS trainers speak at Academy Basic School Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training on the issues of underage drinking from a social perspective. This information provides background and acts as a resource troopers can use to handle alcohol issues which emerge while on patrol.

Underage drinking is a social problem which is especially deadly in combination with driving. For this reason, the Division’s Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Law enforcement efforts targeting the sale and consumption of alcohol by minors are the vanguard of

all state initiatives to prevent underage drinking. The toll-free underage drinking hotline (1-866 UNDER-21) is monitored around the clock and continues to elicit public cooperation. In 2007, the Division conducted 111 underage enforcement details, checking ABC Law compliance at 274 bars and 1,084 retail establishments; 392 arrests were made for violations of the ABC Law, along with 158 arrests for Penal Law violations. Public tips also led to investigations at 11 underage “house parties”.

Occupant Protection

Wearing proper safety restraints remains the single most effective means of preventing death and minimizing injury in an automobile crash – for people of all ages. Yet, prior to New York State’s enactment of the nation’s first safety restraint law in 1985, only about 12% of New York motorists regularly buckled up. That number increased to about 50% immediately thereafter and grew slowly, topping out around 75% over the following two decades. Despite widespread evidence that seat belts save lives, efforts specifically designed to enforce the safety restraint law did not occur until 1999, when the NYSP spearheaded the multi-agency Buckle Up New York zero-tolerance enforcement campaign.

As a result of Buckle Up New York, seat belt use improved to more than 90%, and was measured at 93.2% — up from 92.4 in 2006

— following the enforcement wave of May 2007. More importantly, the Buckle Up New York strategy has had a dramatic life-saving impact. In the year prior to deployment, 485 unrestrained motorists died on New York’s roads. By 2006, that number had dropped to just 230, a reduction of 53%.

As rewarding as this progress has been, history has shown that continued vigilance will be essential to sustain it. To that end, troopers during 2007 issued 110,929 citations for safety restraint violations, including more than 7,500 citations for child safety seat violations.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for children age 3-14, and many of these deaths can be prevented through the proper use of child safety seats. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), child safety seats can reduce fatal injury by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers age 1-4.

National data consistently indicate that parents and caregivers misuse vehicle and child restraint systems at rates from 81% percent to more than 90%. Therefore, Child Passenger Safety (CPS) is a prominent element of the Division’s Occupant Protection Program. The CPS program incorporates elements of enforcement, training and education. It is designed to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries to children from birth to age 10 from the non-use or incorrect use of child restraint devices and vehicle

occupant protection systems.

To ensure the success of this program, 143 troopers are certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians and the six certified as CPS Instructors. CPS technicians and instructors put their knowledge to work through a variety of activities, including checks organized to provide parents and caregivers with education and hands-on assistance regarding the proper selection and use of child restraint systems and safety belts. In 2007, these troopers conducted 252 special details at the 21 permanent child seat fitting stations established at NYSP facilities. Division members also participated in 90 public child passenger safety and occupant protection events hosted by other public and private sector entities, and assisted with the instruction of 11 CPS technician training courses. Division CPS technicians assisted in the installation of approximately 2,800 child seats and provided more than 350 seats, free of charge, to parents and caregivers in immediate need.

Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU)

The NYSP CRU is the premier law enforcement resource for collision reconstruction services throughout New York State. It consists of 7 full-time and 53 part-time Uniform and BCI members who are supervised by the Troop Forensic Identification Units (FIU)

in each troop. The CRU has become an adjunct to the FIU, its members contributing their Electronic Total Workstation forensic mapping expertise to the investigation of crime scenes as well as collisions. The forensic representations CRU members create have become not only critical components of investigative reports, but invaluable elements of courtroom presentations as well.

Data derived from these meticulous analyses enable CRU members to determine causation and contributing factors in crashes that might otherwise go undetermined. CRU results assist State Police command staff and other traffic safety planners in efforts to reduce the number and severity of crashes.

The CRU is a resource for all law enforcement. Nearly one-quarter of its annual caseload is generated by outside agency requests. More than 100 different partnering agencies request CRU assistance each year.

In 2007 the CRU received a \$270,000 high priority grant from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for studying and reducing commercial vehicle collisions and improving traffic flow. Through this grant, CRU members received 10,848 man-hours of training, facilitating the addition of 24 newly trained CRU members and technical training for 36 members on investigation and inspection of commercial motor vehicles.

The CRU also made great strides in improv-

ing its technological capabilities during 2007. CRU members were trained in the latest forensic mapping and diagramming software, called MapScenes Pro 2008®. The Division's Information Services Section integrated this software on two networked servers at NYSP Headquarters to provide statewide network accessibility for a self-sufficient and safe working environment. This application is the first of its kind in North America.

The CRU works diligently to determine criminality and exonerate the innocent. It is heavily relied upon to determine and provide facts in civil litigation. The highly accurate and credible work of CRU members has saved over \$135 million in frivolous and unfounded civil lawsuits since 1995.

Since 1936, the NYSP Crime Laboratory System has made providing quality forensic science services to the entire state criminal justice system its fundamental mission. The system incorporates four facilities:

NYSP Crime Laboratory System



The **Forensic Investigation Center (FIC)** in Albany, which first opened its doors in 1996, is home to the system's Headquarters Laboratory and provides a full range of forensic science services, including the state's DNA Databank. In 2007 the Headquarters Lab received 6,917 cases for analysis.

The **Mid-Hudson Regional Lab**, established in 1978 at Stewart Airport in Newburgh (Orange County), provides controlled substance examinations and toxicology analyses. In 2007, it received 4,070 cases.

The **Southern Tier Regional Lab** in Port Crane (Broome County), established in 1979, specializes in controlled substance examinations. In 2007, it received 1,261 case submissions.

The **Western Regional Lab** in Olean (Cattaraugus County), established in 1987, specializes in controlled substances, toxicology, trace evidence and firearms tool mark examinations. It received a total of 1,779 cases in 2007.

During 2007, the Crime Laboratory System continued to grow in response to new legislation. While expansions continued throughout the system, administrative personnel worked to prepare for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)-International™, an ISO 17025 program of accreditation. An audit is scheduled for spring 2008. ASCLD/LAB-International™ accreditation confirms the NYSP Laboratory System's reputation as one of the top publicly funded laboratories in the nation.

Interagency Relations & Training

The NYSP Lab System conducts training seminars for Division employees and hundreds of forensic personnel from city, county, state and federal agencies and laboratories throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic states. In addition to economical cost-effective training, these programs promote interagency cooperation, develop operating procedures and update training curricula.

Forensic scientists and senior laboratory technicians at the FIC participated in many training programs throughout the year. This training helps laboratory staff keep current with ever-changing technologies in the field of forensic analysis, and also fulfills an ASCLD-LAB accreditation requirement for all scientists to complete eight hours of training in their field annually.

In 2007, NYSP laboratory personnel hosted or attended a variety of courses around the state: ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory Accreditation and ASCLD/LAB International Assessor Training; Forensic DNA Initiatives Seminar at GE Global; Applied Biosystems lectures at SUNY Albany; in-house training, utilizing the Databank's next generation of robotics, genetic analyzers, and analysis software; Physical Fracture Match Workshop; Forensic Digital

Imaging by Foray Technologies; Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners course at RIT, and additional training opportunities provided by the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS), the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), and the annual NYSP Sex Offense Seminar.

DCJS and the State Police also funded and sponsored the Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings at the FIC for Drug Chemistry, Questioned Documents, Firearms and Latent Prints.

Administration

In addition to overseeing all administrative, technical and supervisory functions associated with managing the Laboratory System, State Police personnel in the Administrative Section of the Headquarters Laboratory provide training to recruits at the State Police Academy and are responsible for the lawful destruction of seized narcotics and firearms. By law, the Superintendent of State Police is authorized to destroy "nuisance" weapons – guns or firearms which are unwanted, surrendered or which have been used in the commission of a crime. In 2007, FIC staff destroyed 1,772 "nuisance" firearms and 12,080 pieces of narcotics-related evidence from closed State Police cases.

Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

LIMS is an integral part of the NYSP Crime Laboratory System's daily operations. This computerized database is the primary communication link for analytical and administrative data between all four laboratories in the system. LIMS is responsible for essential document control for chain-of-custody matters, statistical tabulations and analytical report-writing.

Biological Sciences

The Biosciences Section maintains and operates a full spectrum of modern forensic DNA identification technologies. Its Casework section

uses DNA technology to identify perpetrators in violent crimes, and its Databank section prepares DNA profiles for tracking violent repeat offenders.

Casework

The Casework Section analyzes biological material to help investigators identify perpetrators of violent crimes. During 2007, the section:

- Generated 2,118 reports on criminal cases.
- Analyzed a total of 30,809 items.
- Examined 9,743 pieces of evidence, resulting in 1,055 DNA matches and 540 exclusions.
- Provided expert testimony in 80 trials across the state.

To accommodate the ever-increasing number of cases being submitted, the Biological Sciences Casework Section has implemented an automated system for processing DNA evidence: Automated extractions are

performed, DNA concentrations are determined and amplified, and the resulting samples are analyzed. Throughout the entire process, LIMS is used to create notes, generate worksheets and track samples. These high-throughput methodologies have reduced the case backlog and



Forensic Scientist III Linda McKiernan **takes cuttings from a shirt recovered at a crime scene to test for the presence of blood.**
(Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

turnaround time for casework processing. The section also is performing a study on the use of automation to process sex assault samples.

2007 Interesting Cases

- For of years, the unsolved murders of Patricia Daggett and Lachelle Weaver appeared to be unrelated. On Nov. 29, 1995, Patricia Daggett's body was found in northeast Rochester. Her wrists were bound with one of her shoelaces; the other was wrapped around her neck. There was evidence of rape. Investigators quickly zeroed in on Christopher Gifford and Howard Wright as primary suspects, but detectives did not have enough evidence and the case went cold. On Aug. 25, 1996, Lachelle Weaver's body was found in her home with her throat cut. Detectives working the case ran out of leads and that case, too, went cold.

On March 15, 2000, the Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory submitted two samples from Lachelle Weaver to the FIC for analysis. Two days later the FIC issued a report on the results and entered the data into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), the FBI-funded computer system that solves crimes by searching DNA profiles developed by federal, state and local crime laboratories.

On Sept. 10, 2001, CODIS recorded a hit between the sample from Lachelle Weaver and convicted offender Christopher Allen Gifford, whose DNA profile had been entered into CODIS after his conviction for another crime. Since Gifford had already been a suspect in Patricia Daggett's murder, investigators requested DNA analysis on biological evidence taken from her body. That analysis revealed traces of DNA from at least three men: includ-

ing Christopher Gifford and an unknown man.

Investigators working the case with the district attorney's office decided to re-examine physical evidence and track down original witnesses. Analysis of a short broken hair found in Lachelle Weaver's hand was sent out for analysis, and the results linked it to Christopher Allen Gifford. They also linked Howard Wright to DNA from the shoelace found on Patricia Daggett. On Aug. 17, 2006, **DNA Supervisor Maria T. Mick** reported that DNA from Christopher Allen Gifford matched the items submitted from Lachelle Weaver. In June 2007, a jury convicted Christopher Allen Gifford of two counts of 2nd Degree Murder and one count of Rape. He was sentenced to 50 years to life. Howard Wright was convicted of 2nd Degree Murder and sentenced to 25 years to life.

- On May 23, 1991, Sabina Kulakowski was found murdered in Aurelius, (Cayuga County). The suspect in the case, Roy Brown, had recently been released from jail after serving time for threatening county social workers. On Jan. 23, 1992, based on circumstantial and some physical evidence, he was convicted of Murder and sentenced to 25 years to life. Brown maintained his innocence and began the appeals process. On Dec. 24, 2003, Roy Brown wrote a letter to a man named Barry Bench, asking him to confess. On Dec. 29, 2003, Bench committed suicide.

In 2005, the Innocence Project became involved with Brown's case and requested additional DNA testing on bite mark swabs, smear slides, fingernail clippings and the victim's t-shirt. In November 2006, **Forensic Scientist Timothy J. Goble** performed serology and DNA testing on the court-ordered

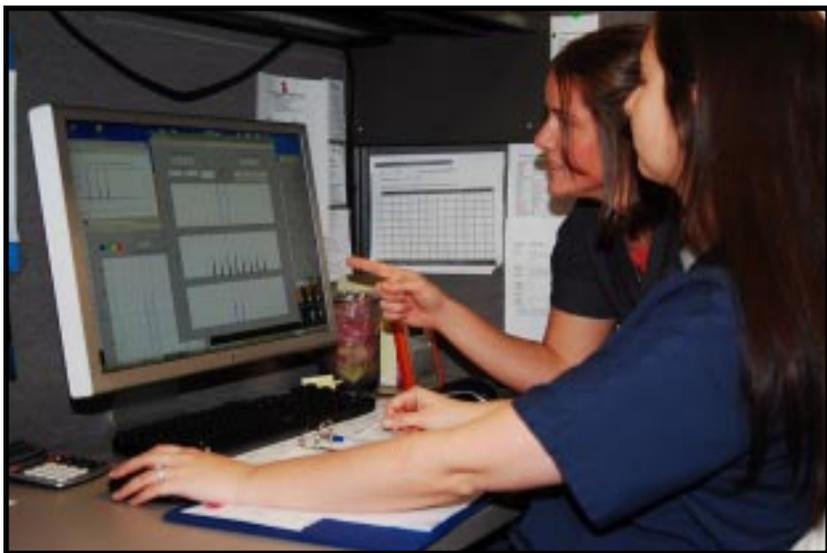
items. A fluorescent stain from the t-shirt was localized and DNA-tested. A DNA profile was developed that did not match Brown and was assigned to an unknown male donor, "John Doe."

On Dec. 26, 2006, a bone from the exhumed body of Barry Bench was submitted to the laboratory for DNA analysis. The "John Doe" profile developed from t-shirt matched that developed from the femur of Barry Bench. On Jan. 23, 2007, the conviction of Roy Brown was vacated and he was released from prison after serving 15 years for a crime he didn't commit.

DNA Databank

The New York State DNA Databank is responsible for processing and analyzing DNA samples from convicted offenders. DNA profiles generated from the samples are entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and searched against forensic profiles in local, state and national databases for potential investigative leads. The range of offenses covered by this system has increased several times since the inception of the DNA Databank in 1994. Most recently, in 2006, an amendment to section 995(7) of the state's Executive Law increased the number of qualifying convictions to include all felonies and 18 additional misdemeanors. This expansion caused a threefold increase in the number of samples submitted each month to the DNA Databank which, combined with a retroactive indexing requirement, produced a backlog extending into 2007.

To address this, the DNA Databank increased its in-house capacity threefold during 2007,



Forensic Scientists II Allison Benson and Michelle Malley perform an automated review of DNA profiles. (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

implementing a new Laboratory Information Management System, training additional laboratory staff, validating new instruments and software, renovating existing laboratory space, and establishing a vendor contract to outsource convicted offender samples. It uploaded 86,299 convicted offender DNA profiles during the year, compared to 24,669 in 2006. It processed 63,484 of these in-house and outsourced 22,815 to a vendor laboratory. Most importantly, the backlog generated by the mandated expansion of 2006 will have been wiped out by March 2008.

At the end of 2007, the Databank contained 242,908 convicted offender samples and 8,782 subject samples. The Databank contributed to 1,340 investigations during 2007, generating 1,210 hits between convicted offenders and crime scenes, 50 hits for subjects to crime

scenes and 84 hits for convicted offenders and crime scenes from other states. There were also 52 case-to-case matches within New York State.

2007 Interesting Case

- Cosimo DiBrizzi was shot during an apparent burglary attempt at his Balmville (Orange County) home and died three months later. His son, Nicolas, was also shot, but recovered. In September 2006, Dennis Sweeney of Montgomery (Orange County) pleaded guilty to 4th Degree Grand Larceny, admitting that he had broken into cars

and stolen wallets and credit cards in the New Hampton area in 2005. He went to state prison, where his cheek was painlessly swabbed for cells containing his DNA. Sweeney did about a year in prison and was released on parole in October 2007. With a prior conviction for Attempted Murder in New York City in 1980, he was already a two-time felon.

When the state broadened the scope of crimes requiring DNA collection in 1999, an additional 50,000 DNA samples were taken from people in jail, prison or on probation. This caused a longer wait for processing of the DNA samples from new offenders like Sweeney, but ultimately it led to routine comparisons with DNA samples from unknown persons, gathered at the scenes of unsolved

crimes. In 2007, a routine comparison generated a “hit” between DNA on a piece of chewing gum recovered from the DiBrizzi crime scene and the DNA of the 58-year-old Sweeney. Sweeney was subsequently indicted for 1st Degree Murder, Attempted 1st Degree Murder, 1st Degree burglary, 2nd Degree Burglary, Assault and Criminal Possession of a Weapon, all felonies.

Drug Chemistry

The Drug Chemistry Section analyzes any substance seized under the state’s laws restricting the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of abusive-type drugs. Case submission types include drug sales, possessions and overdoses, date rape and substitution cases.



Forensic Scientist III Kristen Calabro uses the liquid chromatograph mass spectrometer to identify and quantify samples of suspected psilocyben seized from an illegal mushroom-growing operation. (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

Drug chemistry sections in the NYSP laboratory system received 6,700 submissions in 2007, of which 87% were controlled substance cases, the remainder consisting of marijuana submissions.

NYSP drug chemists are often called to testify as experts in a court of law. They provide assistance to investigators regarding the proper collection and preservation of evidence. When clandestine laboratories are investigated and seized, specially trained forensic chemists respond to the scene, serve as scientific advisors, and aid in dismantling the laboratory and collecting of evidence. They provide expert testimony regarding the practical and theoretical aspects associated with the synthesis of methamphetamine.

2007 Interesting Cases

- New Windsor police, responding to a report of a suspicious odor at a storage facility, Sept. 29, found what appeared to be a mushroom-growing operation in one of the units. Fifty jars and three syringes containing spore material were seized. **Forensic Scientist David L. Wurtz** from the Mid-Hudson Regional Crime Laboratory helped process the scene, and the evidence was submitted to the lab for drug analysis. **Forensic Scientist Kristen D. Calabro** analyzed the evidence and found psilocin, a Schedule 2 hallucinogen, to be

present.

- An Ulster County sheriff's deputy working undercover for the newly formed Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team purchased a sheet of paper believed to contain LSD from two defendants. The evidence was

sent to the Southern Tier Regional Crime Laboratory where an analysis on the Gas Chromatograph-mass selective detector (GC-MSD) confirmed the suspicion. An additional quantitative analysis was performed on the GC which showed the paper contained 27 milligrams of LSD, an A-II felony. It is believed to be the largest amount of LSD ever submitted to the Southern Tier Regional Crime Lab from an undercover drug sale.

Clandestine Drug Laboratories

Selected forensic scientists within the NYSP Crime Laboratory are specially trained to accompany the Division's Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT) personnel when they respond to a suspected clandestine drug laboratory. They advise and assist in the securing and processing of evidence, while emphasizing safety and health concerns. These experts are trained to collect appropriate quantities of controlled substances, precursors, solvents and reagents in accordance with the laws of NY State.

A total of 16 clandestine drug labs were raided throughout New York State in 2007, 13 of which were set up to produce methamphetamine. One lab was manufacturing steroids, one was

growing psilocin/psilocybin mushrooms, and one was extracting Dimethyltryptamine from plant material. Since 2000, more than 256 such clandestine drug labs have been discovered statewide.

2007 Interesting Case

- Three college students set up a drug-manufacturing lab in a dormitory at their northern Dutchess County campus and were apparently moving their equipment from one location to another in October when they bumped into campus security personnel responding to an

unrelated disturbance at the school. They became alarmed and ditched the suitcases they were carrying, prompting the security officers to search them. The cases were found to contain bags of red-brown powder, chemicals and items amounting to a portable processing lab. Campus security contacted the State Police, and CCSERT members responded to process



Evidence seized in a raid on a DMT lab in Dutchess County

the scene. Armed with a search warrant, they also searched a dorm room and confiscated additional solvents and precursors in addition to hashish and nearly a pound of marijuana. Laboratory analysis of the powder at the Mid-Hudson Regional Crime Laboratory determined the presence of 5 grams of the hallucinogenic substance Dimethyltryptamine (DMT), a substance that occurs naturally in the bark of one

species of mimosa tree. Further investigation revealed the processed bark was available through internet-based suppliers as a red-brown powder.

Evidence Receiving

Personnel in the Evidence Receiving Section are responsible for taking in, processing, securing and maintaining the chain of custody for criminal evidence in cases submitted by law enforcement personnel. Because evidence is handled many times by different personnel while under the control of the laboratory system, everyone involved in the process must conform to strict protocols and policies. All evidence movement is documented via the chain of custody section in the LIMS.

During 2007, evidence receiving units within the NYSP laboratory system received close to 100,000 items of evidence, including firearms, drugs, biological DNA and toxicological specimens, trace items, latent fingerprints, fire debris, questioned documents and items associated with computer crimes.

Firearms

The Firearms Identification Unit is responsible for identifying, examining and analyzing guns and related expended ammunition components. Firearms examiners perform all test-firing, microscopic analyses, distance determinations, serial number restorations and tool mark examinations in criminal cases. The Firearms Section processed more than 3,000 pieces of crime scene evidence in 745 cases during 2007. This marked the third consecutive year in which it surpassed the 700-case level, a significant increase over the caseload of only five years ago. The increase is partly the result of Operation IMPACT, the Integrated Municipal Police Anti-Crime Teams that target illegal guns, drugs and gangs in selected counties.

Since 1998, the Firearms Section also has utilized specialized microscopes and computers to capture digital images of firing pin impressions and breach-face marks on expended cartridge casings. In January 2002 they began using the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), a computer network maintained by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that enables



T/Sgt. Craig Grazier examines the serial number on a rifle under a stereo microscope.
(Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

partner crime laboratories to search ballistic databases nationally for links to crime scene cartridge casings and test-fired crime weapons. Since its adoption, NYSP firearms examiners have entered 2,755 images into NIBIN, resulting in 220 “cold hits” that have aided numerous investigations and often contributed to convictions within and outside New York State.

In 2007, the Firearms Identification Unit entered 489 digital images of expended cartridge casings recovered at crime scenes and test firings from recovered firearms into NIBIN for comparison. The unit identified 67 “cold hits” linking open cases on the NIBIN, including robberies, assaults and murders.

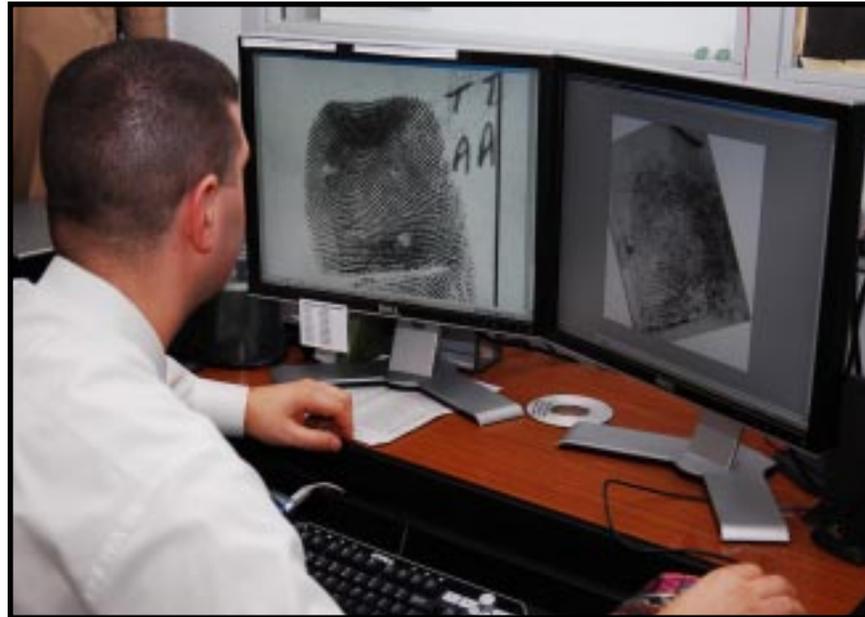
The Combined Ballistic Identification System (CoBIS), begun in 2001, captures digital images of sample expended cartridge casings submitted for every new handgun sold in New York State. By the end of 2007, the ballistics database included 174,629 images ready to be searched against crime scene evidence. Since the Identification System’s inception in March 2001, the system has been queried 7,124 times with two “hits”. The database was searched 140 times during 2007 with no additional “hits” discovered.

In 2007, the section’s three firearms examiners testified in 24 county court proceedings and once in Federal court.

2007 Interesting Case

- During 2007, a joint task force comprised of FBI agents and members of the State Police, Poughkeepsie city and town police and the

Dutchess County Drug Task Force concluded a yearlong investigation into the activities of a violent Poughkeepsie street gang called "Partners N Crime," aka PNC. All three State Police firearms examiners worked 14 separate, though related, cases submitted between April 2005 and June 2006. The resulting prosecutions resulted in the reputed leader of the gang being convicted for 1st Degree Murder and more than 13 other crimes. In all, 13 members of the PNC gang were convicted for a variety of crimes including robbery, burglary and criminal sales of drugs and weapons.



Inv. Peter C. Galletta **uses a computer and twin monitors to compare images of a latent fingerprint (right) with a known print (left).** (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

Forensic Identification

The FIC Forensic Identification Unit's (FIU) fingerprint examiners process physical evidence for the presence of latent fingerprints. They also evaluate and compare identifiable latent prints to known inked fingerprint impressions for positive identification. Unmatched latent prints are also entered into the Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS) computer for digital comparison and possible identification. Modern technology permits crime scene latent prints from anywhere in the state to be entered into SAFIS within minutes. The SAFIS site at the FIC also enters developed latent prints into the FBI IAFIS (Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System) database. In 2007, the FIC SAFIS site examined 648 latent prints and entered 199

more into the IAFIS site. From those cases, 84 resulted in positive identifications.

The FIC FIU also provides technical support and oversight for the nine troop headquarters Forensic Identification Units, including quality assurance review of all positive fingerprint identifications and latent print proficiency testing. The unit uses state-of-the-art software for image enhancement and examination. The FIC processed 170 cases for latent print development in 2007. Troop Forensic Identification Units made another 249 latent print matches.

2007 Interesting Case

- In January, the FIC FIU processed evidence submitted from the Colonie (Albany County) PD involving a case where an unsuspecting couple had a substantial amount of cash stolen from their residence by guests they had met on vacation. The suspects used aliases to gain their trust and access to the victims' home. A beer bottle handled by one of the suspects was processed at the FIC, where UV light from the Krime-site Imager helped locate an identifiable latent print. This led to an identification of the perpetrator, whose prints were on file in the FBI IAFIS database from a previous arrest in Denver.

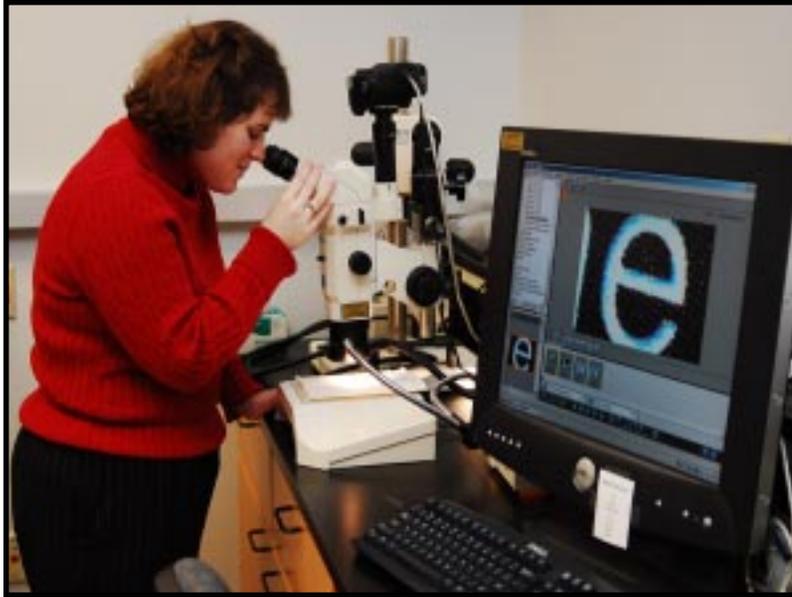
- The body of an unidentified male homicide victim was recovered from a body of water in Troop K during September, and the Troop K FIU was asked to assist in processing the scene. Investigators made a set of inked

fingerprints from the victim's hands and forwarded them to the FIC FIU. Within minutes SAFIS identified the victim. With the ID, homicide investigators were able to generate leads which ultimately led to arrests in the case.

Photography

The Photography Unit records special events, assists the analytical sections with photographing evidence, prepares court presentations and supports administrative sections at the FIC, Division Headquarters and the Academy. It also supports field operations by processing all film and photo enlargements. In addition to the traditional photo-film process, the unit utilizes digital image technology, producing photo-

graphic enlargements and securing digital images on computerized compact discs. In 2007, the Photography Unit processed almost 5,500 rolls of film, produced 953 CDs of digital images and printed approximately 85,550



Sr. Laboratory technician Lisa Palombo **examines a document under a stereo microscope to identify a printing process.** (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

photographs for field members.

Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance Office monitors laboratory system policies and procedures to verify compliance with New York State Executive Law 49-B, which established the New York State Commission on Forensic Science. The commission requires the New York State Police Crime Laboratory System to maintain accreditation through ASCLD/LAB. During 2007, the

Quality Assurance Office prepared staff for an enhanced accreditation process using ASCLD/LAB-International™, an ISO 17025 program of accreditation. The office also manages the laboratory system's internal auditing program, the proficiency testing and safety programs, and the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

Questioned Documents

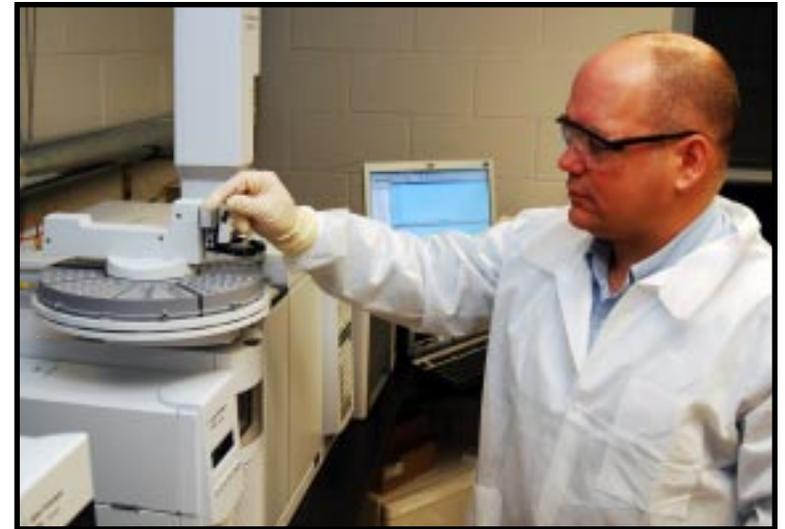
The Questioned Documents Section examines suspect documents for evidence of forgery or falsification, such as alterations, obliterations and ink inconsistencies. The section also performs handwriting comparisons to determine authorship, examines documents for indented writing, and reconstructs fractured paper evidence

items. In addition to casework, the unit also provides training for different agencies and institutions. The Questioned Documents Section is currently working with the Trace Evidence Section on validation and method development for ink and paper analysis using Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (Laser Ablation ICP-MS).

Trace Evidence

The Trace Evidence Section examines evidence from criminal cases involving arson residue, footwear and tire impressions, hairs/fibers, paint, glass and unknown substances. Its recently upgraded arsenal of high-tech instruments includes a:

- Scanning electron microscope,
- Polarizing microscopes,
- Comparison microscopes,
- Micro-spectrometer with optics,
- Refractive Index System,
- Infrared micro-spectroscopy,
- Gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, and
- Pyrolysis gas chromatograph.



Forensic Scientist III Brad Brown **loads a vial containing suspected arson debris into a gas chromatograph/mass selective detector for analysis.** (Photo by NYSP Photo Unit)

It also has one of the few gas-phase laser ablation inductively coupled plasma labs in the world, with Deep Ultraviolet Excimer Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS).

Pyrolysis is the chemical decomposition of organic materials by heating in the absence of oxygen or any other reagents. It is used in chemical analysis to break down complex matter into simpler molecules for identification, like pyrolysis gas chromatography mass spectrometry. Trace Evidence scientists use Pyrolysis GC almost exclusively for paint assays, in which they heat up paint chips until they ignite, enabling them to identify the substances by their gas chromatography spectra.

During 2007, the Crime Laboratory System's Trace Evidence Sections received 48 cases, including homicides, kidnapping, rapes, burglaries and incidents of criminal mischief, as well as cold cases and accident investigations. They processed 433 items of fire debris from 112 cases of suspected arson.

2007 Interesting Case

- The section supported analysis by the Biological Science Section to bring the case of a former Auburn Correctional Facility inmate to justice. The defendant was accused in the assault and attempted rape of a female employee at the prison. He was charged with binding the victim's wrists with strips of cloth during the attack. Trace Evidence Section examiners analyzed the strips and found them to be "consistent" with the prison bed sheets in the defendant's cell. On Dec. 7, a Cayuga County jury found him guilty of five felonies.

Toxicology

The Toxicology Section provides analyses of biological specimens — primarily blood and urine — for the presence or absence of alcohol and other drugs, and interprets those findings for court proceedings. The scientists use a variety of analytical instruments and techniques, including gas chromatography, mass spectrometry, fluorescence polarization immunoassay and solid phase extraction. Much of the section's caseload supports highway safety enforcement, involving charges such as vehicular homicide/manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, vehicular assault, DWI, and DWAI-Drugs. The section also provides analyses in death investigations and sexual assaults.

The scientists serve as a resource for the criminal justice community on toxicology matters involving impairment, cause of death and drug-facilitated sexual assault. In 2007, they provided training in conjunction with the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS), and the annual NYS SP Sexual Offense Seminar. The section also hosted a three day "Interpretive DUID Workshop" sponsored by the Society of Forensic Toxicologists.

The Toxicology sections of the NYS SP Crime Laboratory System analyzed 3,826 cases in



Forensic Scientist III Andrea L. Belec **prepares quality control samples for blood alcohol analyses.** (Photo by NYS SP Photo Unit)

2007. These were categorized as highway safety enforcement (3,289), death investigation (194), drug facilitated sexual assault (69), and other toxicology investigations (22). The section also performed testing on 252 samples to support the training of new Drug Recognition Experts (DRE).

2007 Interesting Cases

- A group of people partying at a camp on Fourth Lake in the Adirondacks left the camp by boat and went to a local waterfront bar around midnight. Video footage showed they continued drinking after leaving the bar to return to the camp. They were headed in the wrong direction and traveling at a high rate of speed when they crashed their boat into an island. One of the passengers was ejected from the boat and died; another sustained serious injuries. The

driver of the boat tried to convince campers to give him a boat. He was unsuccessful, so he swam back to his family's camp, a mile away. Upon reaching the shore of the camp, he was apprehended by State Troopers. The Toxicology Section determined his blood alcohol content to be 0.10 by weight, even though the sample had been drawn about seven hours after the crash. Based on information from the investigation, the toxicologist was able to extrapolate the driver's BAC at the time of the crash. Confronted with this evidence, the young man pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter and is serving a 2-6 year sentence.

- Around 11 a.m. on a Sunday morning, a woman appeared to fall asleep at a restaurant drive-through window. An employee called EMS, believing it might be a medical emergency. The woman was taken to the hospital and a blood sample was drawn pursuant to an impaired driving charge. She was found to have a blood alcohol content of 0.41 — a potentially lethal level. She was convicted of Felony DWI.
- An Albany County legislator crashed her vehicle after driving in the wrong direction on a divided highway. The Toxicology Section determined her blood alcohol content to be 0.17. Unfortunately, she died as a result of her injuries.

Field Response

The Laboratory System provides on-scene specialized support staff and equipment to meet the needs of any requesting agency. These experts, available on a 24-hour basis, can assist with many types of investigations, including unusual or multiple deaths and major disasters, and can consult and testify as required.

Breath Testing

Personnel in the Breath Testing Section certify breath test reagents used by police officers statewide to screen suspected intoxicated drivers. The section maintains and certifies breath testing instruments and simulators used by the State Police, and evaluates new technology as it becomes available. Expert legal testimony is also provided in court proceedings pertaining to DWI cases.

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Central Records

The Central Records Section secures and maintains all agency records and is responsible for providing records and information to the public, the criminal justice community and government agencies in timely fashion, in compliance with laws and policies which ensure officer safety, maintain the integrity of current investigations, and protect the privacy of all citizens. It is composed of three distinct units.

- The **Criminal Records Section** is the central repository for all Division investigative reports, daily correspondence and other written material the Superintendent deems necessary. It receives, answers and maintains all general records inquiries.
- The **Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Unit** receives, answers and maintains all requests made to the State Police pursuant to Article 6 of the Public Officers Law.
- The **Pistol Permit Bureau** is the repository for all records concerning various classes of firearms and licenses in New York State.

During 2007, Central Records:

- Processed and filed 65,458 investigative, arrest and case reports, as well as 17,815 supplemental criminal reports;
- Received and filed 11,256 administrative documents and items of correspondence;
- Processed 684 requests for written verification of claims from crime victims who suffered financial losses;
- Prepared and provided written verification to the State Crime Victims Board regarding 299 criminal incidents that resulted in claims of injury, death, or loss of personal property;
- Received 1,586 Freedom of Information Law requests;
- Received and processed 4,377 sealing orders for records compiled in criminal cases in which the arrestee was acquitted or convicted of a non-criminal offense, and
- Maintained a file containing 1,213,287 pistol licenses issued in the state since 1936, including 12,307 received during 2007.

During the year, a total of 71,587 firearms licenses were amended and 7,880 were canceled or revoked; 76 new firearms dealer and 49 gunsmith licenses were received and filed, and 576 others were renewed. Retail firearms dealers reported 107,052 transactions. During 2007, 13,898 “nuisance firearms” were destroyed in New York State, as mandated by law, of which the Division destroyed 1,772.

Although it is not required by law to do so, the Police Pistol Permit Section often provides assistance and guidance to persons charged with the responsibility of issuing firearms licenses. Applicants seeking licenses and those possessing pistol/revolver licenses and dealer/gunsmith licenses often consult with section personnel. Issuing authorities have found the section to be a ready source of assistance in the proper processing of pistol/revolver licenses, amendments and dealer/gunsmith licenses.

Communications and Technology Support

The NYSP Communications and Technology Support Section is responsible for the NYSP's statewide network of telephones, radio systems and related technologies used to support the activities of Division personnel. The unit manages all communications infrastructure and provides technical assistance, workstation support, call center services and user training for a wide array of communications systems throughout the state. The section also provides communication capabilities at temporary emergency command post locations.

Radio Services Unit

The Radio Unit oversees the agency's statewide radio network and supporting infrastructure. In addition, it operates and maintains emergency command and communications vehicles for response as needed to critical incidents and special details anywhere in the state.

In 2007, severe weather affected radio system operations on several occasions. Emergency repair, replacement and reconfiguration of critical system infrastructure was necessary to restore service in a timely manner.

The Radio Services Unit, working with other state agencies, successfully deployed "green" technology by overseeing the installation and implementation of Plug Power fuel cells at tower sites in several locations for backup power.

Telephone Services Unit

The Telephone Services Unit is responsible for managing the Division's voice telecommunications networks, serving hundreds of State Police facilities and special operations statewide. It also provides technical support to special details, including Homeland Security and Counter Terrorism Units. Over the past year, the Tele-

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phone Services Unit has coordinated the design and installation of nine new telephone systems at various relocated State Police installations, and upgrade services at existing facilities, including four major upgrades to troop headquarters telephone systems.

911 Call Answering

The Division continues to answer 911 calls with the latest available technology at the Albany and Hudson Valley Traffic Management Centers. As more counties take over primary responsibility for answering 911 calls, the Division is supporting them as secondary and backup answering points.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Unit

The GIS Unit provides geospatial support and solutions statewide, including Division map requests. The group maintains GIS data and provides end-user technical support with GIS coordinators assigned to various sections and troops statewide.

In 2007, the GIS Unit began developing a statewide Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) system using Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) software. CAD/AVL technology will enable dispatch centers to identify the location of patrol vehicles at all times. The system will include a NYSPIN interface and in-car mapping. Once the AVL portion of the project is completed, full CAD implementation will commence. Development of the NYSP CAD/AVL system is an agency-wide initiative, requiring resources from other support sections, such as Information Services and Fiscal Services. Once fully operational, CAD/AVL technology will enable dispatch personnel to manage resources more effectively, improving response times and enhancing officer safety.

The Unit also provided maps for a variety of uses throughout the year, including several search and rescue operations, special de-

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tails, crime scenes and criminal trials. In Orange County, mapping data developed by the GIS unit was used to assist in the prosecution and conviction of two subjects on murder, robbery, conspiracy and weapons possession charges.

Transition to the Statewide Wireless Network (SWN)

The Communications and Technology Support Section includes a dedicated working group whose personnel manage and implement the Division's transition to the Statewide Wireless Network (SWN). The SWN transition team works closely with representatives of the NYS Office for Technology and a number of participating state agencies to develop operating standards, equipment requirements and system protocols associated with the new system. The group is also tasked with the development of State Operation Center (SOC) locations statewide.

Workstation Support

The Workstation Support Unit is responsible for much of Division's technology hardware and associated software. Over the past year, the Workstation Support Unit has expanded its efforts to include a number of new initiatives, chiefly Blackberry and cell phone distribution and support.

Additionally, LANDesk, a centralized workstation management product, has been leveraged to provide remote software deployments. LANDesk also has been utilized to streamline operating system deployments.

The Field IT Specialist Program, implemented in 2006, has experienced significant growth throughout troops statewide. Assigned to troop headquarters locations, field IT specialists provide on-site technical assistance and coordinate the deployment of IT-related initiatives.

NYSP Call Center

The NYSP Call Center is round-the-clock unit that provides first-level support to Division personnel and all NYSPIN users. The center and its staff play a significant role in the Integrated Justice (IJ) Portal Help Desk process by serving as a backup and subject matter expert source in many law enforcement support areas. Functioning solely as a backup, the center handled 84 IJ Portal Help Desk in the first two months of the IJ Portal Help Desk's existence.

In 2007, the Call Center logged a total of 44,840 trouble tickets. It was able to close 30,605, or 68%, of these calls at first level. This reflects a 15% increase in the total number of trouble tickets created/received from 2006 and a 14% increase in the number of trouble tickets closed at the first level.

Technology Training Unit

The Technology Training Unit is responsible for the training and certification of 210 communications specialists throughout the state and ensuring compliance with State 911 Board standards. The unit also is tasked with research, development and implementation of statewide training projects for Communications and Technology.

In 2007, the unit began a training initiative with DCJS for the new Integrated Justice Portal, consisting of a training requirement for approximately 100,000 users statewide in criminal justice and civil agencies.

The Technology Training Unit also conducted four five-day Professional Development Schools for Communication Specialists and Troopers involved with Division Communications, two Emergency Medical Dispatch courses, two Instructor Development Schools, several CPR courses and one 40-hour Basic School for Telecommunicators.

New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN) Support Services

The New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN) Support Services Unit is responsible for supporting all 25,000 internal and external NYSPIN operators at more than 1,000 locations throughout the State.

On a monthly basis, the staff of NYSPIN Support Services coordinate the validation of more than 19,500 NYSPIN data base entries.

The unit coordinates the annual NYSPIN Advisory Committee meeting. In 2007, the event was attended by more than 350 law enforcement personnel from throughout New York State and focused on end-user orientation and instructional sessions relating to the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal initiative, and the available services from the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC).

NYSPIN Support Services also assisted in the development and presentation of seven “road show” meetings throughout the state, providing instructions for the new eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal. The unit also helped coordinate and provide informational updates to more than 600 eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal Agency Champions during all 17 live web-based meetings in 2007.

Fiscal Management

The Fiscal Management Section is responsible for all Division activities involving cash, payroll, procurement and vendor payment. It ensures the agency’s financial resources are used efficiently and effectively in support the Division’s public safety mission, and that the agency complies with all Office of the State Comptroller, Division of the Budget, and Division of State Police rules, regulations, policies and procedures governing financial matters.

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In biweekly cycles, the Section’s Payroll Unit processes payment and deduction transactions for more than 5,700 employees. During 2007, it made more than \$500 million in salary payments. Payroll staff processed salary payments and special payroll transactions for longevity, education, physical fitness assessments and holidays.

During 2007, the Quartermaster Unit negotiated contracts for 2007 model year police vehicles, laboratory instruments, aircraft parts and repairs, DNA analysis, drug testing, laboratory software, and flight training. The section ordered 163 Remington 870 shotguns, additional reflective safety vests, a replacement Integrated Ballistic Identification System, CAD/AVL software, anti-terrorist equipment, and a robot system. Defibrillators were ordered for distribution to Division installations throughout the state. Multiple orders were placed for recruitment advertising in a variety of media, and 3,500 expandable batons were ordered and received.

The Division continues to strive toward improved facilities that will afford all personnel a suitable environment in which to perform their job duties each day. During 2007, the State Police relocated into new facilities in Gouverneur, Fulton and Alexandria Bay, and satellite offices were opened in Big Flats and Gardiner. The Division relocated the Central Records, Pistol Permit and Forensic Identification Support Services section from Division Headquarters to a professional office building on Washington Avenue in Albany. The new facility provided much-needed office space and freed up space in Division Headquarters and the Forensic Investigation Center.

In 2007, the NYSP began the process of relocating its Westport, Boston, Warsaw, Newburgh, Malone and Chestertown stations. It currently is working to relocate the SP Newburgh Aviation Detail and the Internal Affairs Bureau – South. Professional office space will be available for both units during 2008. Progress continues on the design of a prototypical Forensic Identification Unit building to be constructed at each Troop Headquarters. The Division is working with the Office of General Services and a consultant architectural firm in the design of the approximately 13,000-square-foot buildings that will house the troop Forensic Identification Units, Collision Recon-

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struction Units, and the Computer Crimes Units. In addition to providing office space, the buildings will provide evidence storage and space for vehicle processing.

Progress on the replacement of Troop G Headquarters also continued in 2007. In addition to the administrative, patrol and investigative operations that will be located there, the new Troop G Headquarters building will house a Statewide Operations and Traffic Management Centers. As is the plan for the other Troop Headquarters, Troop G will have a Forensics Identification Unit building reflecting the prototype design to be used across the state.

Fleet Management

The Fleet Management Section is responsible for the acquisition, deployment, maintenance and surplus of all Division vehicles. Excluding Troop T, the vehicles in this fleet patrolled 78,963,155 miles during 2007.

In addition to Ford Crown Victoria and Chevrolet Tahoe patrol vehicles, fleet acquisitions included a variety of mid-sized vehicles for use by BCI members. Specialty vehicles include vans, trucks, and four-wheel-drive utility vehicles. All were purchased through a competitive bidding process.

The tremendous task of maintaining this fleet is borne by NYSP repair staff at the nine regionally based troop headquarters and at Building #18 on the State Office Building Campus in Albany, augmented where necessary by commercial repair businesses. The Division also maintains auto body shops in Troops E and F.

When no longer serviceable, Division vehicles are stripped of all emergency equipment and sold at public auction by the State Office of General Services, Surplus Property Unit.

Information Services

The mission of Information Services (IS) is to develop, provide and support information technology solutions that are reliable and secure, and which will facilitate the functions of the New York State Police and the NYS law enforcement and criminal justice community. The sections within IS work to deliver technology solutions that meet operational needs of the New York State Police.

Application Development

This section has three units:

- **Uniform Applications** supports information and technology systems for administrative and patrol operations,
- **Investigative Applications** support systems for the investigation of criminal activities.
- **Enterprise Architecture/Web** designs and devises standards for application platforms, programming languages, and the user interface for NYSP applications.

Together, these sections work with business sections to analyze requirements for new systems or requested changes, and to determine how to solve business problems using technology. Software systems are designed and constructed, including development of the websites and applications such as TraCS, Trooper recruitment, the new NYSPIN, LIMS, and intranet reports.

Technical Architecture Services

This section is composed of three sections:

- **Server Management** staff set up, maintain and improve back-end

hardware that supports and runs NYSP applications and storage, including servers for GroupWise e-mail, intranet servers, Citrix servers for application delivery, and a large storage area network.

- **Data Management** staff design, create and maintain essential data that are at the core of mission-critical applications, and manage quality assurance and control.
- **Network Management** staff design and devise the physical NYSP network and maintain connections with outside law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice agencies.

Project Management Office (PMO)

PMO staff are responsible for tracking and managing all technology projects for the agency. Project managers develop and maintain project schedules, manage project team resources and lead teams from project inception through implementation while working to keep within budget, on schedule and consistent with the customer's needs and expectations. Established in August 2005 to develop a project management methodology to better manage the increasing volume of technology projects required by the State Police, the PMO's project managers coordinate and oversee the development and implementation of the majority of the agency's technology projects. The PMO also provides mentoring and training on project management techniques, coordinates the preparation of the Annual Technol-

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ogy Plan and manages the technology Project Portfolio.

Through effective monitoring, communication and priority-setting, the Information Services Section, working closely with the Division's operational sections, completed 30 technology projects in 2007. The technology Project Portfolio currently contains 48 active projects, with 24 on hold projects awaiting resource availability.

NYSPIN

The **New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN)** is a sophisticated computer system that supplies law enforcement agencies the information they need to enforce the laws and protect citizens nationwide. The NYSPIN network consists of more than 1,200 intelligent "Enforcer 2000" workstations and network connections to more than 90 regional, county and metropolitan systems. NYSPIN serves more than 50,000 law enforcement and criminal justice users throughout New York State. The information and communication services it provides are available to the law enforcement message switching systems in all 50 states and Canada via the International Justice and Public Safety Information Sharing System, and reach more than 80,000 agencies in North America.

In 2007, NYSPIN processed more than 443 million messages, 19 million more than in 2006. NYSPIN processed more than 38

million queries for DMV information, 52 million combined transactions to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and other state information repositories via the International Justice and Public Safety Information System. More than 34 million NYSPIN queries aided law enforcement officers in determining the status of property and subjects, including data on stolen vehicles, guns, property, wanted/missing persons, terrorists, gang members and immigration violators.

During 2007, Information Services continued work on the redesign of NYSPIN as part of an initiative to upgrade and integrate information systems provided by the major criminal justice agencies in New York. The Division of State Police, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Correctional Services, Division of Parole and Office of Homeland Security are collaborating on **eJusticeNY - Integrated Justice Portal** (the Portal). The ultimate goal of the Portal project is to provide criminal justice users a single access point to all information needed to combat crime in New York State. In 2007 the Department of Corrections State-Ready Inmate Reporting System, the State Commission of Corrections Jails Population Reporting System, and access to state and national criminal history records were migrated from NYSPIN to the Portal. Remaining NYSPIN components are scheduled to be transitioned to the Integrated Justice Portal in 2008.

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Intranet

The NYSP Intranet website is an internal information resource for NYSP employees. In 2007 it continued to grow with updates and additions to content and applications. Changes to the menu and navigation were made to enhance the user experience.

The internal system for managing NYS Trooper applicants was rebuilt and improved. Many features were added to help the Exam Detail view and update applicant information independent of Information Services, and time-saving features in communication, exam site management and reporting were added.

Internet

The Division's internet website is an external information resource for anyone inside or outside the NYSP. This year brought enhancements to posting Amber Alert information, improving the way alerts are posted. Another change to the site was the ability to post seminar registrations, and now attendees are linked to an online registration process. This saves phone calls and improves the ability to track registrants.

The biggest change this year was posting the NYS Police Trooper Exam application online. Further enhancements included the ability to log in and update personal and test information in real-time. Other user interface improvements were made to reduce the possibility of error. To help potential applicants find the online application, the Division established a recruitment website at nytrooper.com. This alone helped increase web traffic and deliver an increased recruitment online presence.

Records Management - SJS

Since implementation in 2001, the **Spectrum Justice System (SJS)** for police records management has recorded more than 2,310,000 incidents and 274,000 arrests. In 2007, an average of

approximately 8,700 incidents and 1,000 arrests were entered into SJS each week. More than 4,300 investigators and troopers use SJS to store and retrieve information regarding incidents and arrests into a single statewide repository.

During 2007, standardized reports using SJS data were implemented for NYSP Uniform Force activity. These reports assist field users by automating data collection for productivity reporting. Field activity is now reported in a standard format incorporating SJS incident and arrest statistics, along with TraCS ticket and accident data.

Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS)

The New York State Police has deployed TraCS to more than 1,400 vehicles. More than 2.5 million tickets and 240,000 accidents have been recorded since its inception, with more than 1 million tickets being written in 2007. Other forms implemented within TraCS include the Incident, Field Interview Card, Vehicle Search, Vehicle Inventory, Traffic Deposition, an Arrest package that includes the Appearance Ticket, Deposition, Information, Complaint and Statement forms, and a DWI Arrest package. In addition to the NYSP, more than 130 local law enforcement agencies began implementing TraCS during 2007, bringing the statewide total to 400 agencies. The NYS Office of Court Administration (OCA) reported that 93% of the more than 1.5 million tickets submitted electronically in 2007 were transmitted to the local courts without human intervention, up from 82% in 2006.

NYSIC Technology Projects

The New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) began to develop a **Criminal Intelligence and Analysis System** in June 2006. The NYSIC plans to go live with Phase 1 of this multi-phase project in early 2008.

The NYSIC continues to enhance the information available for local law enforcement on the Integrated Justice Portal (IJP). This interface

is increasingly used to submit criminal intelligence and terrorism information. Another enhancement on the IJP is Operation Safe-guard, which enables local law enforcement to update visits and business information easily on the IJP.

Forensic Investigation Center (FIC) Technology Projects

The latest expansion of the Casework Laboratory Information Management System (CLIMS) system wrapped up a two-year project to implement process automation in the Bioscience DNA Lab. These sophisticated system enhancements include interfaces to instruments and robots, along with new auto-populating screens and worksheets that reduce the data forensic scientists and lab technicians must enter manually.

In response to new and proposed legislation, the New York State Police DNA Databank implemented a new Databank Laboratory Management System (DLIMS) to manage and track the increasing number of Convicted Offender DNA samples and DNA profiles and allow for process automation in 2008. In addition, the system was designed to scale up, allowing for expansion over and above the 100,000 samples the FIC now receives annually. The DNA Databank also implemented a new instrument system that performs up to 90% of the DNA analysis that scientists previously did manually. This new

instrument increases the time available for scientists to complete their final analyses and enter DNA profiles into CODIS, the FBI's national DNA database.

In 2007, Information Services worked closely with FIC administration, scientists, and staff preparing for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board's (ASCLD/LAB) 2008 accreditation audit. To address accreditation requirements, IS staff reviewed, refined and documented processes and procedures to ensure all services and support comply with accreditation requirements.

Technical Architecture Services

In 2007, the NYSP Technical Services Group began making Data Center physical and operational improvements. The technologies within, and the demands upon, the NYSP Data Center had evolved significantly over time, and a facilities upgrade was needed to keep pace with these changes. In 2007, the Technical Services Group, working in conjunction with the facilities office, performed a full modernization of the Data Center, including replacement of air conditioning units, uninterruptible power supply, computer racks and the floor. In addition, the Technical Services Group standardized the wiring and layout of all servers and network devices within the data center. This initiative has resulted in better utilization of space, increased cooling and electrical capacity, and

a decrease in the size of the Data Center despite a partnership with the Department of Corrections, which moved its systems into the NYSP Data Center. These improvements led to a significant decrease in facility costs for New York State.

The Technical Services Group continued to support and improve upon GroupWise e-mail and delivery of other applications such as SJS and TraCS. During 2007, the technical services group received 4,412 "trouble tickets" of which 99% (4,331) were resolved.

GroupWise e-mail continues to be a significant communications tool for the NYSP. During 2007 our GroupWise e-mail system received more than 226,000 messages per day from external e-mail sources. Of those messages, more than 166,000 were identified as spam and were quarantined from entering the GroupWise system. On average, IS received more than 59,000 valid messages per day from sources external to the NYSP. In addition, the GroupWise system processed more than 63 million non-spam messages throughout the year. With more than 6,000 user accounts, IS processes on average 10,000 messages per user per year.

Planning and Research

The Planning and Research (P & R) Section supports NYSP operations and administration by investigating and developing applications for new technology, conducting analyses to identify new, more responsive, efficient and effective ways to operate, pursuing grants to fund new and ongoing initiatives, producing professional-quality reports and other documents for internal and external distribution, updating the agency's policy and operations manuals, and developing new policies to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of the State Police. As a member of the Division's Uniform and Equipment Committee, P & R researches, tests and recommends for or against products prior to their deployment to the field. Section staff also support Division executives and field personnel with comprehensive briefings, statistical analyses, research, position papers and reports on a variety of law enforcement-related topics.

P&R provides oversight of the State Police Intranet, producing, editing and approving content. It oversees the Division's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) submissions to the FBI through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and manages the Division's program to achieve and maintain accreditation through the New York State

Law Enforcement Accreditation Council. The section also responds to requests for information and policies received from other criminal justice and governmental agencies

The section also receives all e-mails addressed to the State Police internet website's general e-mail address. After evaluating each message, section personnel respond directly or route the message to the appropriate person, section or outside agency for response.

P & R also manages the Division's Employee Suggestion Program, coordinates the agency's participation in the New York State Employee Suggestion Program, and produces the Division's annual report to the governor and the legislature.

Ballistic vests

The structural integrity of ballistic vests is known to degrade with age, and long-term wear of older-model vests can result in structural deformities that compromise their bullet-resistant properties. Accordingly, in 2006 P & R embarked on a program to ensure all sworn members with Division-issue ballistic vests five years old or older are re-equipped in timely fashion with new vests. P & R conducted a study that established a continuing rollout program for ensuring personnel with the oldest vests receive first priority for replacement, and which will maintain an ongoing system of regular replacement for every vest within five years

of its issuance.

AED Rollout

In December, the Division implemented a technology rollout featuring the deployment of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to 300 State Police installations and 1,400 marked patrol vehicles. The \$1.7 million deployment fulfilled the mandates of a law passed in 2005 which required the placement of life-saving AEDs in all public state buildings and facilities. Today, all 6,000+ employees of the New York State Police have been trained in the use of these devices. Planning & Research performed the detailed analysis and evaluation of available AED models in support of this initiative.

Manual revision

Late in 2007, P & R began the process of conducting a baseline updating and reconfiguration of the Division's Members Manual. The last full manual update was completed in December 1994. Since then the Division's sworn strength has increased nearly 20%. Despite hundreds of content changes over the same period, the structure and format of the Members Manual has remained unchanged. All changes and revisions have been accommodated by means of individual replacement pages for the manual's now overloaded binders.

The new manual will feature a policy-based

electronic format in which the user can navigate successive hypertext links to access the material most appropriate to his/her needs. This will eliminate the necessity for users to thumb through layers of rank- and supervisory-specific instructions to reach the section or sections relevant to their needs. Electronic links similarly will be made to appendices, endnotes or other reference materials, obviating the need to repeat information in multiple locations throughout the document. This will dramatically reduce the amount of printed material produced by the Division for everyday use, and facilitate keeping the manual's content continuously up-to-date and accurate.

SRO program evaluation

P & R also embarked on a major program to survey and evaluate the effectiveness of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. This effort included a survey of the 91 State Police SROs assigned to 118 school districts throughout the state, as well as the approximately 170 school districts served by SROs from other law enforcement agencies. The survey results will be used to assess the effectiveness of these programs, the satisfaction of the program recipients, and the potential need for future program expansion to reach unserved and under-served school districts. Analysis of differences between programs also may be used as a means of enhancing, complementing or supplementing

services to program recipients.

Also during 2007 P & R:

- Conducted a variety of surveys to improve Division procedures and equipment, and to assist command staff in policy development. These surveys examined workplace violence, patrol rifles and other topics of interest or concern to the Division.
- Directed the Division-wide rollout of the new Leave Accrual and Tracking System (LATS), a computerized program that provides automated scheduling and leave reporting capabilities and replaces paper time sheets and leave slips.
- Conducted research and evaluation that led to replacement of the Division's traditional nightsticks with expandable batons.
- Developed protocols and standards for e-learning and assisted with related course development.

Public Information Office

The Division's Public Information Office (PIO) responds to media inquiries, serves as liaison with other governmental agencies on public relations matters, prepares news releases, coordinates public events, assists

field personnel with local media relations, and coordinates video production for documentaries and news stories of special interest. The PIO assists other Division sections in developing informational and promotional materials to support displays, speaking assignments, the New York State Fair, the internal and external websites, and special events.

On April 11, the New York State Police celebrated its 90th Anniversary. Troops around the state celebrated the anniversary in various ways, and the PIO fashioned a special statewide media release to support local observances of the occasion. Historians and local news outlets generated numerous inquiries about NYSP history, to which the PIO responded.

The Division also began a major recruitment initiative in 2007 to promote the forthcoming Trooper Exam in 2008. The Public Information Office worked closely with **T/Lt. Richard J. O'Brian**, Division Recruiting Officer, and recruiters in troops across the state to promote the announcement. As part of the recruiting efforts, **T/Lt. Gregory Mosley** and **Staff Sgt. Tera K. Arey** from the Office of Human Resources organized the first-ever New York State Police Media Academy. This unprecedented event allowed members of the media to experience life at the Academy and recruit training.

The PIO worked with **Asst. Deputy Superintendent for Administration Steven J.**

Maher, and Division Safety Officer **Capt. Michael J. Regan** to disseminate Acting Superintendent Felton's informational messages to the field on new equipment and changes in procedure designed to improve officer safety. The PIO also coordinated news conferences to inform the public of these improvements, and to announce the deployment of the automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

During 2007, in addition to servicing hundreds of public inquiries, the PIO also fielded more than 1,000 media inquiries and replied to more than 1,800 e-mails from private citizens and the media. With support from Information Services, the Public Information Office compiles and posts a daily media roundup of news articles and internet links to video clips of news stories about Division activities on the Division Intranet to keep NYSP employees informed and up-to-date. With ongoing improvements in technology and software, the capacity to share relevant current and historical data with Division employees is expected to expand.

The PIO also is responsible for the Division's Crime Prevention Program. In addition to assisting Division employees with crime prevention information and material, the office coordinates responses to public requests for information on topics such as Neighborhood Watch, personal safety, workplace violence prevention, crime prevention for senior citizens, internet safety, residential security, CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), and appearances by McGruff the Crime Dog. The Division's public website was updated to include a section on Crime Prevention, where information can be accessed and uploaded on a number of crime prevention topics.

Seized Assets Unit

The Seized Assets Program was established in 1990 to ensure proper processing and tracking of seizure cases. The unit manages and researches all cash, vehicles, real property, jewelry, equipment and bank accounts seized by troopers and investigators in cases involving illegal drugs, gambling, fraud and smuggling.

The State Police participated in the seizure of \$52,050,111 in cash during 2007. Since 1984, combined drug enforcement efforts of the New York State Police, the DEA, FBI, BICE, BATF, IRS and local police agencies have seized more than \$1,334,791,822 in cash and \$252,610,956 in appraised property. During this period, the Division has received \$151,478,906 in asset revenue.

Employee Relations & Training



Office of Employee Relations

The Division's **Office of Employee Relations** administers the collective bargaining agreements at the agency level between the State of New York and all employees represented by the Police Benevolent Association of the New York State Troopers (PBA), the New York State Police Investigators Association (NYSPIA), the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), the Public Employees Federation (PEF), and the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA). In furtherance of this function, Employee Relations represents the Division in contract negotiations, binding interest arbitration, grievance hearings, and improper practice proceedings between the State and the various statewide employee organizations. Employee Relations also oversees the NYSP Academy and all Division training programs.

- **PBA Contract Status** – Division Members (Troopers' and Supervisors' units) represented by the PBA are operating under collective bargaining agreements that ex-

pired on March 31, 2007. Negotiations for successor collective bargaining agreements between the parties commenced in 2007.

- **NYSPIA Contract Status** – Division Members represented by NYSPIA are operating under a collective bargaining agreement which expired on March 31, 2007. Negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement did not commence during 2007.

- **CSEA Contract Status** – Division employees represented by CSEA (Operational Services, Administrative Services, and Institutional Services Units) are operating under a collective bargaining agreement dated 2007-2011.

- **PEF Contract Status** – Division employees represented by PEF are operating under a collective bargaining agreement covering the period 2003-2007 that expired April 1, 2007. Negotiations for a successor agreement commenced during 2007.

- **NYSCOPBA Contract Status** – Division employees represented by NYSCOPBA are operating under a collective bargaining agreement covering the period 2003-2007.

SP Academy 2007

The New York State Police Academy provides training resources to approximately 14,000 persons each year. While many of those receiving training are State Police and law enforcement personnel, many others come from throughout the criminal justice community and the general public for law enforcement-related education.

The Academy conducted two Basic School Sessions during 2007. Seventy-four (74) recruit troopers from the 194th Session completed their Academy training on July 10th. On August 16th, 153 recruits, comprising the 195th Session of the Basic School, began their 6-month training program, with a scheduled graduation date of Feb. 19, 2008.

Cyclical in-service training for sworn personnel was administered in a decentralized program in the field and combined with the firearms qualification schedule. Standard centralized training also was conducted at the Academy, with courses for newly appointed supervisors, training for new investigators and specialized instruction in numerous other areas. A total of 15,993 persons received in-service training at the Academy in 2007.

In addition to training for State Police personnel, the Academy provides instruction and classroom, dining and lodging facilities for members of other police departments and outside agencies, who routinely look to the State Police for help in training their personnel. Throughout 2007, the Academy assisted the State Office of Public Safety in its counter-terrorism efforts, hosting meetings and presenting several seminars. It also hosted seminars for DCJS and the state Prosecutors Training Institute.

The Academy hosted a number of annual seminars and conferences that drew hundreds of participants in 2007. These included:

- A two-day **Outlaw Gang Conference**;
- A one-week **Sex Offense Seminar** attended by 250 persons from agencies throughout the state;
- The **20th Annual Henry F. Williams Homicide Seminar**, attended by representatives from 175 police agencies from as far away as Russia. With its distin-

guished list of speakers and instructors, this seminar has become one of the most sought-after training opportunities available anywhere to the criminal justice community.

- A four-day **Child Abuse Seminar**, attended by more than 200 persons from across the state.

The Academy also hosted a **Masters Degree Program in Public Administration** through an extension of Marist College. Approximately 20 Division personnel and officers from other departments participated in this two-and-a-half-year degree program, attending weekly evening sessions at the Academy. Division personnel also were able to participate in a **Bachelors Degree Program** offered at the Academy by Siena College.

The Academy remains a point of interest for criminal justice students from area schools. In 2007, Academy personnel conducted 52 tours for 961 students, many of whom are considering careers in law enforcement.

In August, the **State Police Summer Program (SP/SP)** completed its 31st year of providing underprivileged youngsters with a wholesome summer camp experience. SP/SP is a joint venture between the NYSP and the Trooper Foundation-State of New York, Inc. One hundred forty-five (145) children from across the state attended this year's program under the guidance and support of sixteen trooper counselors. Activities included trips to the Great Escape, Water Slide World, the National Baseball Hall of

Fame at Cooperstown and the Clark Sports Center. Additionally, every child received a complete physical examination, including vision, dental and hearing screening, at no cost.

Office of Human Resources

Established in 1994, the Office of Human Resources is responsible for the oversight and delivery of an array of essential programs and services to existing and potential Division employees.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The Division of State Police has approximately 96 sworn and civilian Human Resources Counselors, 13 EEO Specialists, and three senior investigators involved in the direct delivery of comprehensive employee services. They train supervisors in sexual harassment and discrimination-related issues, administer an informal/formal dispute/complaint resolution process, and serve on interview panels as a representative of the Office of Human Resources. During 2007, Human Resources Counselors handled 15 separate cases, most of which were resolved satisfactorily through the informal dispute resolution process.

Recruitment

The recruitment campaign for the 2008 NYSP Entrance Examination began June 4, 2007. A kickoff press conference was held at the NYSP Academy in Albany, hosted by Lt. Governor David Paterson and Acting Superintendent Preston Felton. A new state-of-the-art website with an easy-to-recognize domain, www.NYTROOPER.com, was unveiled as the preferred method for applicants to: obtain information on qualifications, salaries and duties of a trooper, view recruitment videos, and sign up online for the 2008 examination.

Ten recruitment teams throughout the state immediately embarked on an aggressive marketing campaign to encourage qualified men and women from all walks of life to consider a long-term career with the NYSP. With an application deadline of Dec. 1, 2007, numerous strategies were utilized, including placing ads in state, local, minority-subscriber and worldwide military newspapers, in mass transit/buses in several cities, on billboards, radio and on television, and internet employment sites.

In addition, troopers represented the Division at numerous college, community, out-of-state career and county fairs, the State Fair in Syracuse, community events, high-profile parades, and before several civic and community groups during the campaign. To maximize the number of military applicants, supplemental military exams were an-

nounced and are being scheduled for military personnel who are on active duty during the normal testing period. The first such exam is scheduled for Oct. 4, 2008, in Albany.

Recruitment efforts resulted in 27,963 candidates applying to take the exam in January and February 2008 throughout the state.

Member Hiring Unit

During 2007, the Member Hiring Unit processed the appointment of an Academy class that graduated 74 new troopers in July 2007. In addition, the Member Hiring Unit was responsible for administering the selection process and appointment of 153 recruits to an Academy class that commenced in August 2007 and is scheduled to graduate in early 2008.

In preparation for the Winter 2008 Basic School, Decentralized Trooper Candidate Processing was conducted in May 2007. These processings were conducted on three separate weekends in the individual troops. A total of 296 trooper candidates attended. This initial phase of processing was for Physical Ability Testing only and did not result in the initiation of any background investigations at that time.

The next phase of processing was conducted in July 2007. Also attending that date were candidates who had failed the physical ability testing from prior Trooper Candidate Processing, those who had previously de-

ferred their candidacy and those who had participated in the final Military Supplemental Testing. A total of 256 candidates attended, which resulted in the initiation of 188 background investigations. Additionally, 97 background investigation updates were conducted for candidates who were processed but who were not called for the Academy classes held in May 2006 and January 2007.

The July 2007 Trooper Candidate Processing was the last processing for candidates from the 2004 Trooper Exam Eligibility List. Those candidates successfully completing all phases of processing will be considered for appointment to the Spring 2008 Academy class.

Civilian Hiring Unit

The Civilian Hiring Unit is responsible for the testing, hiring, processing, promotional policies and administration of guaranteed benefits for non-sworn employees.

On Feb. 24, 2007, a statewide promotional examination was conducted for the position of Secretary 1 (SG-11). A total of 126 eligible employees applied to take the exam, and 109 candidates participated. A total of 67 candidates passed the examination and were placed on the resulting eligible list, established May 1, 2007.

An eligible list for the open-competitive position of SP Communications Specialist was established on Feb. 27, 2007. The test

which was administered Oct. 21-22, was a statewide open-competitive examination. A total of 490 candidates applied to participate, of which 359 candidates, including 42 provisional employees, appeared for the written examination.

The Civilian Hiring Unit is working with the Local Exams Section at the Department of Civil Service to schedule promotional examination opportunities for the positions of Keyboard Specialist 2 (SG-9), Calculations Clerk 2 (SG-9) and Clerk 2 (SG-9).

The Civilian Hiring Unit continued to update job descriptions for each title within the New York State Police. Standards and specifications for titles unique to the agency were developed for the New York State Department of Civil Service. The unique titles include the SP Forensic Scientist series and the SP Communications Specialist.

Training and Educational Initiatives

The Office of Human Resources continued to provide training on the topics of Managing and Valuing Cultural Diversity, Cultural Sensitivity: The Issue of Racial Profiling, Prevention of Discrimination/Sexual Harassment, and the NYSP Maternity Policy for sworn and non-sworn employees. Approximately 700 employees statewide participated in OHR-related training programs administered during 2007. Training on the maternity policy and a review of the EEO process was con-

ducted in every troop with commissioned officers, Human Resources Counselors, and EAP peer contacts. There are now 110 trained Human Resources Counselors statewide to assist OHR with the informal EEO process and the non-competitive interviewing process.

Also new in 2007, Human Resources conducted a recruitment/outreach initiative in which members of the media were given an opportunity to participate in daily life at the SP Academy. This exercise enhanced recruitment efforts and media relations, while establishing a positive image of the personal commitment and training required to become a trooper. The media participants consisted of one newspaper and three TV reporters who actively participated in various training components once a week for five weeks. The training components included physical training, orientation to police culture, vehicle and traffic stops, defensive tactics, collision investigation, emergency vehicle operations and firearms. Segments were designed to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the New York State Police training program.

Sworn Member Competitive Promotional Examinations

The written portions of the promotional examinations for the positions of Uniformed Lieutenant and Sergeant were administered in February and March 2007. The process of preparing for the examinations began in June

2006 with a survey of incumbent Sergeants and Lieutenants, who were asked to rate specific information sources used in performing duties associated with their positions (*i.e.*, Division Manuals, Penal Law, Selected Laws, etc.). The results of the surveys were analyzed to determine written examination content and whether a source would be included on the closed- or open-book portion of the test.

The promotional examination process is comprised of three main components: (1) closed- and open- book technical knowledge written exam; (2) written assessment center exercise, and (3) oral assessment center exercise (OACE). Performance on the first two components determines whether a member qualifies to participate in the third component (OACE). For the 2007 promotional examination process, members who achieved the top 60 scores on the written portions of the Lieutenant's examination, and the top 250 scores for those portions of the Sergeant's examination, qualified to participate in the OACEs. The OACEs were conducted over a nine-day period during May. New promotion eligibility lists for the positions of Lieutenant and Sergeant were established Aug. 16, and are expected to be utilized through Aug. 15, 2009.

Personnel Services

Personnel continued to provide services in the areas of employee health and insurance benefits, IPP (Income Protection Program),

M/C (Management/Confidential) life insurance, death benefits and tuition reimbursement.

The Leave Unit oversees attendance and leave programs for all employees. This includes a variety of benefit programs, including compressed workweek scheduling, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Leave Donation Program, Voluntary Reduction in Work Schedule Program, and the Productivity Enhancement Program. Guidance and assistance are provided to employees on maternity leave, extended military leave, and those who have filed for retirement. The Leave Unit is currently assisting with the new statewide rollout of the **Leave and Accrual Tracking System (LATS)** project.

The **Workers' Compensation Unit** is responsible for the administration of compensation benefits, including the filing of claims through the Accident Reporting System and assisting employees with obtaining approval for medical treatment through the New York State Insurance Fund. The Workers' Compensation Unit also is responsible for the preparation of annual statistical reports required by the Department of Labor pertaining to on-the-job injuries. Both the Leave Unit and Workers' Compensation Unit have been researching and responding to issues regarding The World Trade Center Site—Rescue, Recovery or Cleanup Operation and The World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The Employee Assistance Program is a confidential early intervention system designed to help employees with problems that interfere with their ability to function on the job. The unit is staffed by sworn members (regional coordinators) who identify, motivate and refer for treatment employees (and family members) whose job performance is impaired by alcohol or substance abuse, emotional and relationship problems, critical incident stress and other problems that may affect them in their work.

Members in the field who are designated as peer contacts support these coordinators at funerals for deceased employees and family members, and assist at **Survivors Weekend**; they assume other duties under the supervision of the EAP staff. Members of the Employee Assistance Program also provide mandated training to recruit and basic supervisor classes and basic investigator schools, and conduct mandatory debriefings of all employees who return to the Division from active military service.

Community Events

The Office of Human Resources coordinated the State Police participation in a number of cultural and community related events during 2007.

- The Division provided a detail to the 2007 **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance**.
- Fifty-five Division members represented the NYSP at the **36th Annual Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus**, held at the Empire State Plaza, Feb. 16-18.
- The **Women's History Month Celebration**, March 15 at the State Police Academy, with featured keynote speaker Kathleen B. Hogan, Warren County District Attorney. Also recognized for their contributions to the Division of State Police were 24 female employees who retired in 2006.
- Forty-one sworn members from Division Headquarters, the Academy and Troops A, B, D, F, K, L, T and NYC participated in the **20th Annual Puerto Rican/Hispanic Conference (Somos el Futuro) Gala**, April 27-29.
- The **30–35 Anniversary Ceremony Honoring Division Employees**, June 19 at the State Police Academy. The Division of State Police honored 22 employees with 30 years of service and two employees with 35 years of service.
- The Division provided a detail to the **Empire State African American Family Festival** in August 2007.

Division Counsel



Attorneys assigned to the Office of Division Counsel are sworn State Police members who provide the necessary legal assistance in connection with a broad range of State Police operations.

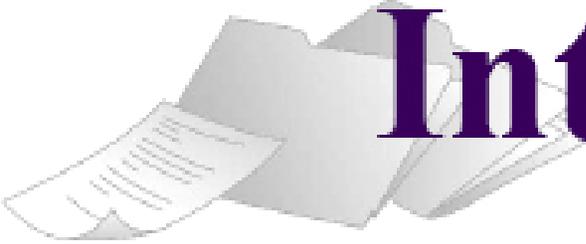
The *Litigation Unit* oversees the defense of lawsuits brought against the agency and its employees, and provides legal and technical assistance to the State Attorney General's Office.

Attorneys assigned to Counsel's Office work closely with district attorneys across the state in criminal investigations and prosecutions. They also provide assistance to prosecutors dealing with challenges to scientific evidence and other technical issues.

Members assigned to Counsel's Office teach a variety of courses to recruits, current members and employees, as well as to outside personnel at the State Police Academy and various locations across the state. They also participate as instructors for the New York Prosecutors Training Institute.

The office reviews changes in state and federal law and makes recommendations for related changes in Division operations. It prepares legal service bulletins to help keep police officers and prosecutors aware of changes in the law. Office members also work with field personnel to assist in decisions concerning asset forfeiture and Freedom of Information Law requests. They draft and review leases and contracts, and prepare and review legislative proposals. Division attorneys respond to phone calls, faxes and e-mails requesting legal advice and assistance on a daily basis.

Counsel's Office also coordinates the Division's response to subpoenas for personnel and records, and oppose subpoenas that are overbroad or which seek disclosure of privileged material. Finally, the office oversees the prosecution of employee misconduct matters.



Internal Affairs

The Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) has a wide range of responsibilities that further the mission of the Division. To carry out its mission, IAB is divided into an Investigative Section and an Audit Section. The Investigative Section oversees all investigations into allegations of misconduct by Division employees. The Audit Section oversees the Division's audit and Inspection processes.

Four regional IAB offices place IAB staff in close proximity to all troop headquarters within their regions. IAB staff work to ensure all employees meet and maintain the highest standards of professional conduct and adhere to the law, on and off duty. IAB investigations protect our employees from unfounded allegations and ensure that outstanding performance of duty and acts of extraordinary courage performed by Division employees are appropriately recognized.

The Internal Affairs Bureau also:

- Conducts internal audits of troops, zones and specialized units.
- Responds to critical incidents involving Division employees.
- Conducts and oversees employee drug and integrity testing.
- Reviews and recommends improvements to Division policies and procedures.

- Conducts citizen satisfaction surveys and quality of service assessments and
- Collects and analyzes data regarding employee performance and conduct.

Investigative Section

One of the primary responsibilities of the Internal Affairs Bureau is to ensure the prompt and thorough investigation of allegations of misconduct by NYSP employees.

Internal Affairs Bureau staff also must respond to "critical incidents" with troop and Field Command supervisory personnel throughout the year. A critical incident is defined as any action by a sworn member that results in serious physical injury or death to another person or member. These incidents usually arise during situations involving the discharge of firearms, Division vehicle accidents or incidents involving aircraft and marine vessels.

Audit Section

The internal audit process is considered an essential tool for government accountability. The Governmental Accountability, Audit and Internal Control Act of 1987 mandated that all state agencies examine their own weaknesses

and establish workable and cost-effective systems of controls. Our current internal audit process allows us to comply with the mandates of the Internal Control Act by obtaining, analyzing, and evaluating information concerning the operations, administration and management of any troop, zone, station, detail or section. This process helps identify strengths and weaknesses, and leads to instructions, recommendations, and/or suggestions to improve the Division's performance.

To maximize the success of its zero tolerance policy regarding illegal drug use and drug/substance abuse, the Division randomly screens all sworn members using both urinalysis and hair testing methods. Each recruit is subjected to one test during his or her Academy training. Upon graduation and at some point during their probation and field training, they undergo a second screening. The Division's testing standards have been designed to ensure the members' personal confidentiality and dignity is maintained while simultaneously safeguarding the screening process.

Surveys

The New York State Police also administers several types of citizen satisfaction surveys on

a regular basis. During Division-level audits, IAB staff members perform telephone and personal surveys with internal and external customers. In addition, the Internal Affairs Bureau has managed a mail survey program since April 1999. All of these programs combine to support the Division's organizational values and ensure that everyone receives dedicated and conscientious service.

The mail surveys are aligned with planned IAB audits and each survey round is initiated approximately four weeks before the audit commences. The replies are carefully reviewed to discern if there are any areas of concern that should be brought to the attention of the audit team. The surveys are conducted confidentially in an attempt to glean candid responses regarding our performance and citizens are provided with the Regional IAB office telephone number should they wish to speak to IAB directly.

In 2007, a total of 366 mail surveys were sent to citizens prior to IAB audits.



2007 Statistical Review

PART I OFFENSES REPORTED*

	Known or Reported		Cleared by Arrest		Closed by Investigation		Closed Unfounded	
	Felonies	Misdemeanor & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misdemeanor & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misdemeanor & Lesser Offenses	Felonies	Misdemeanor & Lesser Offenses
Violent Crimes								
Murder	24	0	7	0	2	0	3	0
Manslaughter (Non-Negligent)	25	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	447	0	179	0	147	0	63	0
Robbery	142	0	63	0	32	0	13	0
Assault	1,102	1,201	646	725	135	406	22	24
Sub-total Violent Crime	1,740	1,201	912	725	316	406	101	24
Property Crimes								
Burglary	4,635	38	992	20	2,159	11	56	0
Larceny	3,714	10,043	1,279	2,737	1,477	6,940	69	299
Motor Vehicle Theft	461	164	121	33	195	86	28	18
Sub-total Property Crime	8,810	10,245	2,392	2,790	3,831	7,037	153	317
PART I CRIMES TOTAL	10,550	11,446	3,304	3,515	4,147	7,443	254	341

*Source - New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services



2007 Statistical Review

PART II OFFENSES REPORTED*

OFFENSE	TROOPS										Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	K	L	T	
Arson	13	30	30	18	28	26	32	11	1	0	189
Bribery	3	3	0	3	12	5	3	2	0	0	31
Burglary Tools	0	1	3	2	2	19	5	2	0	0	34
Coercion	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	9
Controlled Sub. Sale	207	123	133	464	69	299	121	65	22	23	1,526
Controlled Sub. Use	1,091	701	708	895	894	1,992	1,412	670	418	716	9,497
Criminal Mischief	612	880	899	1,292	868	942	1,001	1,077	32	43	7,646
Dangerous Weapons	98	157	88	145	92	174	160	64	30	10	1,018
Disorderly Conduct	325	1,315	1,055	1,257	1,227	917	1,071	2,063	24	44	9,298
Embezzlement	9	18	25	36	17	46	20	14	1	0	186
Extortion	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
Forgery	257	266	233	543	399	303	826	528	67	12	3,434
Fraud	458	371	366	597	576	355	511	425	14	30	3,703
Gambling	0	0		0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Kidnapping	4	0	2	0	1		1	3	0	0	11
Liquor Law Viol.	160	120	84	92	151	178	122	93	11	21	1,032
Loitering	5	7	4	9	3	17	5	4	2	2	58
Off. Against Family	223	293	247	454	421	232	360	129	16	0	2,375
Prostitution	0	1	2	1	2	3	6	1	0	0	16
Public Intoxication	35	1	5	36	70	4	10	28	2	10	201
Public Order	40	10	142	56	60	125	63	51	7	5	559
Sex Offenses	270	330	351	816	755	353	493	187	5	0	3,560
Simple Assault	294	605	1,346	961	643	364	686	320	19	7	5,245
Stolen Property	113	167	114	127	144	200	120	163	32	13	1,193
Unauth. Use Vehicle	46	64	83	166	70	76	90	54	5	10	664
All Other	2,938	4,670	5,725	5,437	4,384	5,181	5,882	4,956	378	623	40,174
PART II CRIMES TOTAL	7,206	10,134	11,647	13,407	10,890	11,812	13,001	10,914	1,086	1,569	91,666

*Source - New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services



2007 Statistical Review

Non-Criminal Investigations

Classification of Investigation	Matters Reported	Closed by Investigation	Converted to criminal case	False or Unfounded
ACCIDENTS	402	392	0	10
ANIMALS-NO CRIME	11,215	11,158	2	52
ASSISTS TO MOTORISTS	72,956	72,853	2	146
ASSISTS TO POLICE DEPT.'S	22,429	22,407	1	1
ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE	3,905	3,882	11	10
CIVIL MATTERS	13,684	13,618	2	61
DEATHS (NATURAL)	464	464	0	0
DROWNINGS	135	125	0	10
ELECTRONIC INTRUSION DEVICE	29,233	18,996	18	10,189
FIREARMS - WEAPONS	365	319	0	46
FIRS/FLOODS/OTHER	1,883	1,845	2	35
LOST/MISSG PERSONS	2,836	2,781	7	35
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	7,008	6,773	4	224
PARKING COMPLAINTS	1,281	1,271	0	8
POSTED PROPERTY	2,077	2,072	0	0
PRISONER RELAY	1,983	1,980	0	1
PROPERTY LOST/FOUND	6,128	6,083	4	15
ROAD HAZARDS	8,659	8,595	0	48
SUSPENSION & REVOCATION ORDERS	695	685	0	10
SPILLS (CHEM/FUEL)	72	65	0	7
SUICIDES & ATTEMPTS	435	420	5	9
SUSPICIOUS PERSON/VEHICLE	15,559	15,385	13	145
TRAFFIC CONTROL	9,351	9,342	0	9
VEHICLE IMPOUNDS	3,957	3,938	15	0
ALL OTHER NON-CRIMINAL	76,100	75,736	92	213
NONCRIMINAL INV TO	313	207	0	2
ZERO TOLERANCE DET	3	3	0	0
NON-CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION TOTAL	293,128	281,395	178	11,286



2007 Activity Summary

Vehicle and Traffic Activity	1,019,448
Criminal Cases Reported - Originated by the Division (Part 1 & 2 Crimes)	113,662
Criminal Cases - Reported by a State Correctional facility, State Mental Health Institution or adopted by the Division at the request of another agency	9,149
BCI Lead Investigations	24,452
Non-Criminal Investigations	293,128
Other Calls for Service	56,168
Total Workload Units	1,516,007

Credits:

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