

New York State Police

2008 Annual Report

**David A. Paterson, Governor
Harry J. Corbitt, Superintendent**



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 transmit for your review the Annual Report of the Division of New York State Police for 2008. The pages that follow highlight the achievements, contributions and sacrifices made by our dedicated troopers, investigators and non-sworn personnel. They include many stirring examples of personal courage and dedication in service to the people of New York

The price of this commitment comes high at times, as the images and names of 122 troopers and investigators enshrined in the Division's newly rededicated Wall of Honor silently attest.

The most recent of these is Tpr. Shawn W. Snow, a 19-year State Police veteran who lost his life Aug. 3 while helping a disabled motorist in Ogdensburg (St. Lawrence County).

I know you will join me not only commending, but also in thanking the gallant men and women of the New York State Police for a job well done throughout 2008.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harry J. Corbitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "C".

Superintendent

Brummer Award 2008

Tpr. David C. Brinkerhoff, who lost his life in an exchange of gunfire with a wanted man, April 25, 2007, was the posthumous recipient of the 2008 Brummer Award, the highest decoration for heroism in the New York State Police.

Superintendent Harry J. Corbitt conferred the award at the Division's Annual Awards Day Ceremony at the New York State Police Academy, May 28.

Tpr. Brinckerhoff was a member of an NYSP Mobile Response Team (MRT) that engaged in a firefight with a gunman wanted for shooting Tpr. Matthew J. Gombosi (C-Margaretville) at a traffic stop in the town of Margaretville (Orange County), April 24. Tpr. Gombosi's soft body armor stopped the bullet and he was able to radio for assistance as the suspect fled the scene, later abandoning his vehicle a few miles from the shooting scene.

Early next morning, MRT members moved in on a farmhouse where the gunman was suspected to be hiding. A firefight broke out on the second floor of the residence, and Tprs. Brinkerhoff and Richard G. Mattson were shot in the exchange.

The gunman was shot and died on the spot. Tpr. Mattson was grievously wounded in the arm.

MRT members pulled the stricken troopers away from the scene of the firefight and they were rushed to area hospitals for emergency surgery. Tpr. Brinkerhoff succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter, while Tpr. Mattson began a long and arduous recovery. He subsequently was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and ultimately accepted a service-connected disability retirement.

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.

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 88 times, including 13 times posthumously.



The Year in Review: 2008

Superintendent Harry J. Corbitt sworn in

Governor David A. Paterson nominated **Harry J. Corbitt** as his choice to be the 13th Superintendent of the New York State Police, March 24, 2008. The New York State Senate unanimously confirmed him April 16, 2008.

Supt. Corbitt was sworn in by the Honorable Helena Heath-Roland, Albany City Court Judge, **May 27, 2008**. He has the distinction of being the first African-American in the history of the State Police to hold the Division's highest rank. Supt. Corbitt had already served 25 years with the New York State Police, retiring in 2004 with the rank of Deputy Superintendent–Internal Affairs, before Gov. Paterson asked him to return as Superintendent.

Supt. Corbitt joined the State Police Feb. 20, 1978, and served as a trooper in Troop E until 1984, when he was promoted to Sergeant. He served as Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Basic School at the New York State Police Academy. In 1988, he was appointed to the position of Zone Sergeant.

Following promotion to Lieutenant, he was assigned first to the Traffic Services Division at Division Headquarters and later to the State Police Academy. He was promoted to Captain in 1991, to Major in command of Troop T on the New York State Thruway in 1993, and to Staff Inspector–Employee Relations in 1994.

In Employee Relations he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and then to Colonel,

becoming the Deputy Superintendent for Employee Relations in 1997. In 2001, he became Deputy Superintendent in charge of Internal Affairs.

From 1966 to 1972, Superintendent Corbitt served in the United States Army in the Military Intelligence Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement in Ground Operations Against Hostile Forces.

Command staff promotions

On May 27, Gov. Paterson joined Supt. Corbitt in recognizing recently promoted New York State Police Executive Staff members and Commissioned Officers.

“The State Police has a strong legacy of producing top-notch law enforcement professionals who behold the values of duty, honor and courage,” Gov. Paterson noted. “The(se) individuals...will guide and shape the future of the New York State Police. It is an honor for me to participate in a ceremony formally recognizing the promotions of these fine women and men to these leadership positions.”

Among those recognized were:

► **First Deputy Superintendent Pedro J. Perez**

First Deputy Superintendent Perez entered Division service Oct. 19, 1981. After serving as a Uniform Trooper in Troop A, where he was a member of the Mobile Response Team (MRT) from

1984-1992, and West Team Leader from 1988 -1992, he was promoted to Technical Sergeant–Assistant Affirmative Action Officer in 1987, and subsequently in 1988 to Sergeant–Field Station/Patrol Operations.

In 1989 he was assigned to Troop A as an Investigator, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant in 1992, serving in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. In 1994 he was promoted to Captain–BCI, as the commander of the Community Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET). Later in 1994, he was promoted to Major and assigned as Troop Commander–Troop A.

In 1997, he was promoted to Staff Inspector–Internal Affairs–Narcotics/Forensics Unit, eventually serving as a Staff Inspector in the BCI as the Division-wide Narcotics Commander.

In 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Deputy Superintendent–Bureau of Criminal Investigation. In March 2007, he was promoted to Deputy Superintendent, Internal Affairs Bureau, and later that year became Deputy Superintendent, Field Commander.

On April 17, 2008, he was elevated to the rank of First Deputy Superintendent.

► **Deputy Superintendent Anthony G. Ellis, Internal Affairs**

Colonel Ellis entered Division service Oct. 19, 1981. After serving as a Uniform Trooper in Troops E and F, he was promoted to Sergeant in 1989.

In 1994, he was promoted to Lieutenant and served in Troops A, C and NYC. In 1998, he was promoted to Captain and assigned to Troop T. In 1999, he was promoted to Major and assigned to oversee the New York State Park Police.

In 2002, he was promoted to Staff Inspector and shortly thereafter returned to the Internal Affairs Bureau. In 2003, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to Human Resources.

He then assumed command of the State Division of Parole, until returning to the State Police Administration and Internal Affairs Bureau. On April 17, 2008, Col. Ellis was elevated to the rank of Deputy Superintendent in charge of the Internal Affairs Bureau.

► **Assistant Deputy Superintendent Patricia M. Groeber, Internal Affairs**

Colonel Groeber entered Division service Sept. 22, 1986. After serving as a Uniform Trooper in Troops G and T, she was promoted to Sergeant in 1991 and was assigned to the SP Laboratory, SP Academy and Troop G.

In 1997, she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and served assignments in Troop A, Planning and Research, Internal Affairs and Troop G. In 2001 she was appointed to Captain (Zone Commander)—Troop T. In 2002, she was appointed to the Executive Services Detail as the Capital Detail Commander.

In 2006, she was promoted to Major and served first as Director of Traffic Services, then as Troop Commander of Troop G.

On April 17, 2008, Col. Groeber was

appointed to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and assigned as Assistant Deputy Superintendent—Internal Affairs/ Investigations.

► **Major William S. Sprague**

Major Sprague entered Division service Feb. 20, 1978. After serving as a Uniform Trooper in Troop K, he was appointed Investigator in 1982 and assigned to SP Manhattan, followed by Troop G and the Academy.

In 1990, he was promoted to Lieutenant—BCI in the Crime Analysis Unit at Division Headquarters. In 2002 he was promoted to Captain—BCI, Internal Affairs Bureau. In 2004 he was transferred to Troop G as Uniform Force Captain, assigned as Zone Commander. In 2006 he was assigned as the BCI Captain of Troop G.

On April 17, 2008, he was promoted to Major, and now serves as the Troop Commander of Troop G.

► **Major Robin H. Benziger**

Major Benziger entered Division service Oct. 3, 1983. After service as a Uniform Trooper in Troop K, she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1989, and served in that rank with Troops B and K until 1993, when she was promoted to Lieutenant (Zone Commander) and assigned to Troop D. She later served as Assistant Detail Commander on the Executive Services Detail.

In 1996 she was elevated to the rank of Captain. In 1997 she was assigned as Assistant Director of Training at the State Police Academy. In 2000 she became a Zone Commander in Troop G and

later was reassigned as Captain (Zone Commander) in Troop K.

Her promotion to the rank of Major was effective May 15, 2008, and she has been appointed Director of Training at the New York State Police Academy.

► **Major Bryon D. Christman**

Major Christman entered Division service March 24, 1986, and served as a Uniform Trooper in Troops D and G and in Employee Relations at Division Headquarters. In 1990 he was appointed to the rank of Technical Sergeant and later attained the permanent rank of Sergeant where he served with Division Traffic Services.

In 1994 he was promoted to Technical Lieutenant and assigned to the Office of Human Resources, where he subsequently attained the permanent rank of Lieutenant. In 2006 he was promoted to Captain in Field Command at Division Headquarters. In 2007 he was reassigned as Captain in the Office of Human Resources.

On May 15, 2008, he was elevated to Major and assigned as Director of Human Resources.

► **Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Management, Pamela T. Sharpe**

Director Sharpe entered Division service Feb. 20, 1978. After service as a Uniform Trooper in Troop A, she was promoted to Technical Sergeant in Division Headquarters, Traffic Section, where she attained the permanent rank of Sergeant in 1991. The following year she

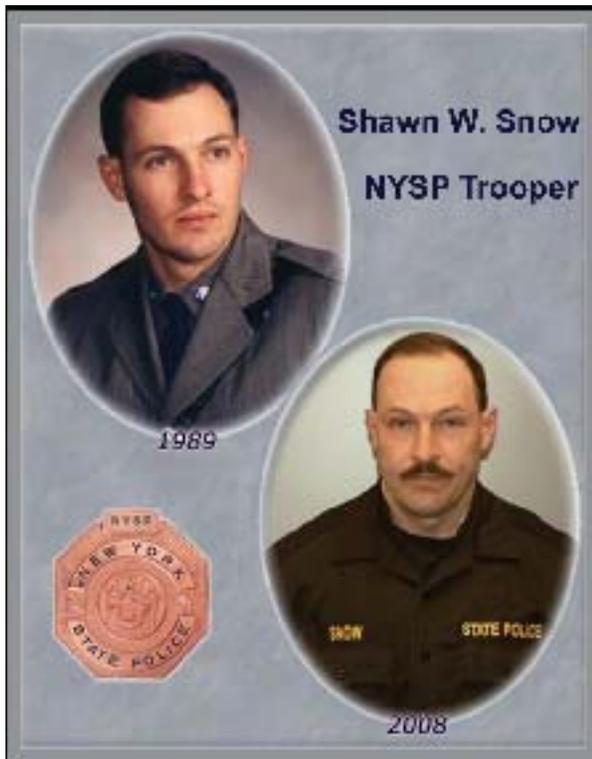
was promoted to Zone Sergeant in the Personnel Section.

In 1998 she was promoted to Staff Sergeant. In 2000 she was promoted to Technical Lieutenant, assigned to Personnel-Employee Staffing.

On May 15, 2008, she was promoted to Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Management, Division Headquarters, Office of Human Resources.

Trooper Shawn W. Snow

Tpr. Shawn W. Snow, 47, a 19-year veteran of the New York State Police, was inspecting a truck as a member of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, Aug. 3, when



he was notified of a disabled vehicle on the International Bridge approach at the Ogdensburg Port of Entry, in the city of Ogdensburg (St. Lawrence County).

Arriving at the scene of the breakdown, he met a man from Quebec, Canada, who asked for assistance with a blown tire.

The man was operating an antique fire truck, towing a trailer containing an antique fire chief's vehicle. While attempting to change the tire, the men raised the truck's extension ladder to redistribute the weight from the right rear tire. Tragically, in doing so the ladder inadvertently contact a high-voltage power line. Both Tpr. Snow and the motorist were electrocuted.

Tpr. Snow joined the New York State Police in October 1989. He is survived by his wife, Penny, two sons, three step-children and three grandchildren.

Safety and Training

In response to members' safety concerns:

- ▶ The Division instituted a new "winter training day" in 2008, during which members receive training in defensive tactics and active shooter response.
- ▶ Uniform members are also being issued collapsible batons and extra shotguns have been placed in stations where they may be needed.
- ▶ Employees have also received CPR training in conjunction with the recent deployment of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).
- ▶ In the area of communications improvements, the Division began issuing portable radios that can communicate with

certain county radio systems during 2008.

- ▶ In Troop L, Division negotiated with Nassau and Suffolk Counties to use their communications frequencies as backup to our system.
- ▶ The Division also embarked on a major project to put Automatic Vehicle Locator equipment in patrol vehicles throughout the State.
- ▶ All members participated in a three-hour familiarization course on the new first aid kits deployed to each Troop. Each marked troop car is now equipped with a new kit.
- ▶ Finally, the Division developed and launched a new on-line learning program — the NYSP e-Academy — an electronic-learning program designed to complement, but not to replace, the centralized programs conducted at the Academy and decentralized programs presented in the field.

The NYSP e-Academy is highly flexible, with powerful features and robust functionality. It allows training to be conducted in a decentralized manner at the member's duty station during a regular tour of duty by means of an on-line learning website, called NYSPeAcademy.org. This training mechanism can be accessed through the Division Intranet.

Traffic Incident Management Detail

The Division created a new Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Detail in 2008 to speed the clearance of major traffic crashes, avoid congestion and secondary collisions, provide more targeted enforcement in crash-prone

areas and fulfill the mandates of the Work Zone Safety Act of 2005.

TIM Teams, as they are known, are tasked with managing major traffic incidents and ensuring safety in active work zones.

TIM Team Troopers received extensive training in auto theft, motorcycle and commercial vehicle enforcement, criminal interdiction, fraudulent documents, targeted traffic enforcement strategies (e.g., speed and aggressive driving, impaired driving, unbuckled operators/passengers, work zone enforcement, etc.) and traffic incident management.

A total of 45,914 citations were issued for non-speeding violations in and around work zone areas in 2008. This more than doubled the number issued by State Police members in 2007.

Rededicated Wall of Honor

On Nov. 20, the New York State Trooper Foundation dedicated a newly redesigned and constructed "Wall of Honor" at the New York State Police Academy.

On its walls are the images of the 122 members of the New York State Police who have died in the line of duty since 1917.

Ms. Rachael Mincher, President of the Trooper Foundation, Mr. Bruce Stauffer, outgoing Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Trooper Foundation, Mr. John C. Egan, newly elected Chairman of the Board, and other trustees, formally dedicated the wall to the fallen Members of the New York State Police. Supt. Harry J. Corbitt accepted on behalf of the agency.

New Wall of Honor at New York State Police Academy



The original Wall of Honor, left, was designed and built in 1983 by employees of the New York State Police.

The new Wall, below, was constructed of maple columns and panels and surrounds a map of New York State sculpted into the carpeting.



The original wall was designed and built in 1983 by employees of the New York State Police.

Planning for the new memorial started in January 2008. The room was designed by JCM Architectural Associates, of Syracuse, NY and built by Zandri Construction Corporation of Cohoes

The project cost was entirely funded by corporate and private donations made to the Trooper Foundation, a 501(C)(3), non-profit charitable organization.



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 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 Structure

The New York State Police is organized into a Division Headquarters (Albany) and 11 separate troops:

- ▶ Troop A, 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.

Administrative Structure

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 five primary sections:

- ▶ **Field Command** directs all activities of the Uniform Force, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and the Office of Counter-Terrorism (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 Special Operations Response Teams (the Division's equivalent of S.W.A.T.) and the School Resource Officers Program.

BCI units and services include:

- Those devoted to combating: auto theft, computer crime and cigarette smuggling,
- Gaming Unit,
- Electronics Unit,
- Narcotics enforcement (including the regionally operated Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams),
- Gun Unit,
- Violent Felony Warrant Squad and
- Medico-legal Investigations Unit

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** oversees the Division's fiscal operations:

- Central Records Section (including the State's Pistol Permit Registry),

- Crime Laboratory System,
- Public Information Office,
- Asset Seizure Program,
- Quartermaster Section,
- Aviation Unit and
- Fleet Operations.

- ▶ **Technology & Planning** coordinates the activities of the Communications and Information Services units.

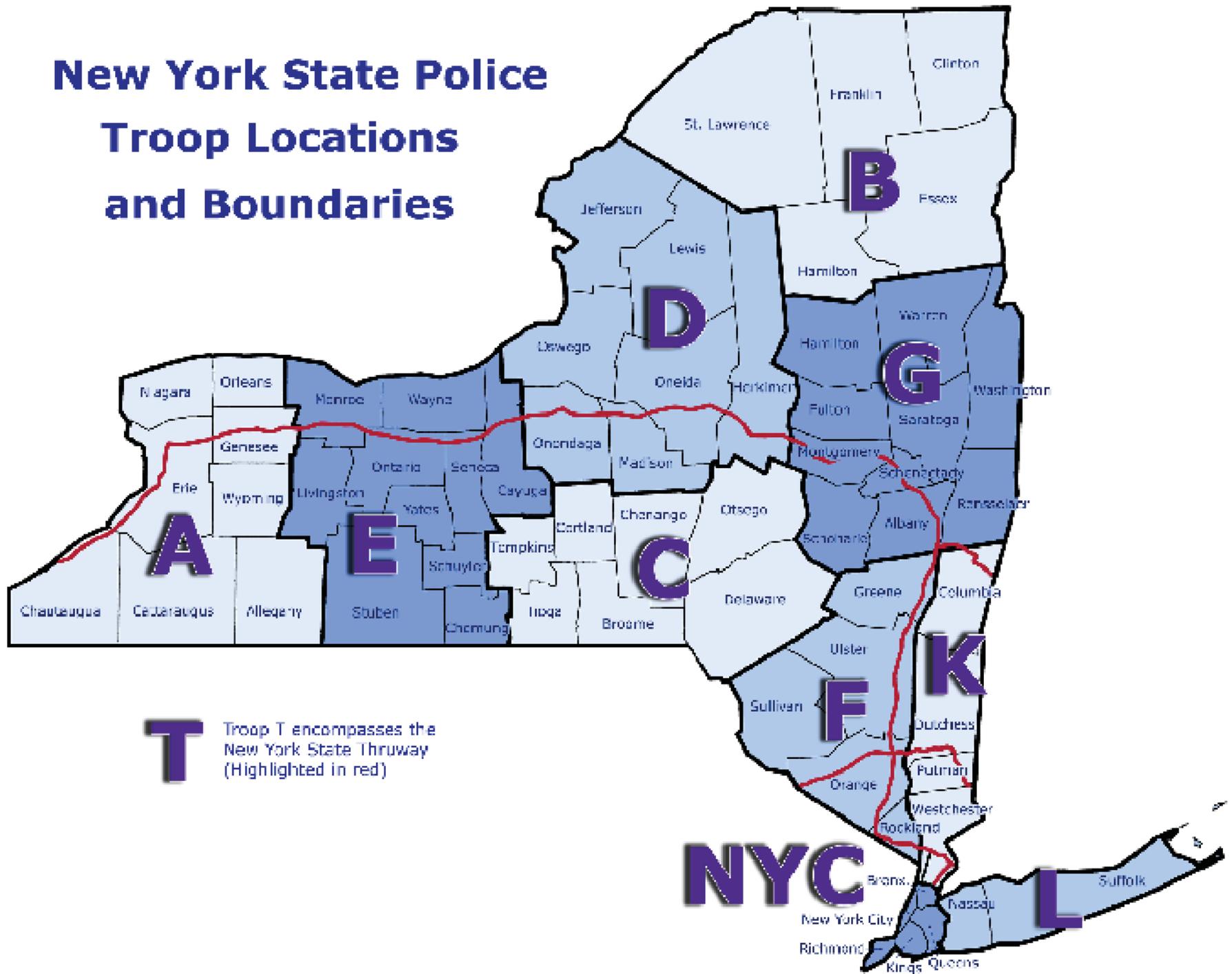
- ▶ **Employee Relations** conducts labor negotiations and oversees:

- The New York State Police Academy
- Human Resources and
- Staff development and career guidance.

Human Resources operates the Division's personnel and employee staffing sections, and such functions as recruitment, equal employment opportunity and the Employee Assistance Program.

- ▶ **Internal Affairs Bureau**, 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 and Boundaries



T Troop T encompasses the New York State Thruway (Highlighted in red)

On May 28, Gov. David A. Paterson joined Superintendent Corbitt, in conferring honors for performance of duty and exceptional service to 39 sworn and civilian employees of the New York State Police.

The 32nd annual New York State Police Annual Awards Day Ceremony took place at the Division's Academy 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 Superintendent's Letters of Commendation during the previous year.

- ▶ **Capt.** (then Lt.) **Steven A. Nigrelli** (A-Clarence) and **Invs. Christopher S. Weber** and **Josh P. Keats** (A-Major Crimes)

Beginning in November 2006, Capt. Nigrelli and Invs. Weber and Keats helped form a local task force to investigate three murders and 15 rapes attributed to the "bike path killer" who had terrorized communities in western New York for more than 25 years.

Their investigative efforts resulted in the arrest of the killer and exonerated another man who had been wrongly convicted and imprisoned.

Capt. Nigrelli and Invs. Weber and Keats contributed countless hours to the task force, and their investigative skill, professionalism and outstanding performance helped make possible its

Awards and Honors

32nd Annual New York State Police Annual Awards Day Ceremony

success.

- ▶ **Tpr. Jay A. Hoy** (A-Warsaw)

While off duty and working outside at his home, May 18, 2007, Tpr. Hoy heard a loud crash, turned and saw an overturned vehicle several hundred feet away.

He immediately ran to the accident, where he found the driver dead at the wheel and a small fire burning in the engine compartment.

By then several motorists had stopped nearby, and Tpr. Hoy yelled to them for a fire extinguisher and to call 911.

Another check of the vehicle's interior revealed a baby girl hanging upside-down in her car seat. Without hesitation, Tpr. Hoy entered the burning vehicle and saved the infant.

- ▶ **Tpr. Amanda S. Reif** (B-Canton)

Responding to a domestic dispute in Potsdam (St. Lawrence County), June 18, 2007, Tpr. Reif approaching the front door of the house and attempted to speak to the man inside, but was met by shouted ramblings.

Concerned for the woman inside, Tpr. Reif again attempted to speak to the man at the door. This time, however, the man

fired a shot from a muzzle-loading rifle through the door, striking Tpr. Reif in the shoulder and knocking her to the ground in a flowerbed beside the front steps.

She pushed herself as close to the building as possible and radioed to the dispatcher she had been shot. Lying on her back, she was unable to see the responding patrols, but recognized their repeated commands to the shooter to come out and surrender.

When the subject did step out, he behaved aggressively and repeatedly refused to comply with the officers' commands.

Observing the subject from behind, Tpr. Reif propped herself against the house, drew her service automatic, took careful aim and, when the subject moved aggressively toward the police officers, fired a single shot from her .45-cal. Glock, killing him.

- ▶ **Tprs. Steven H. Euler** (D-Pulaski) and **Douglas T. Hoffman** (B-Tupper Lake)

While on patrol in Tupper Lake (Franklin County), Aug. 9, 2007, Tprs. Euler and Hoffman encountered a man in a car parked beside the road.

When they asked for his vehicle

registration, he drew out a .357 revolver and opened fire on them.

The troopers took cover and an intense firefight ensued, in which the suspect was hit and disabled, and Tpr. Hoffman was wounded in the leg.

It was later determined that both the vehicle and handgun used by the suspect had been stolen in a burglary.

► **Tprs. Brendan J. Frost and Erik Lippassaar** (B-Winthrop)

Responding to a report of a vehicle accident on the town of Massena (St. Lawrence County), Aug. 12, 2007, Tprs. Frost and Lippassaar discovered a vehicle crashed into a tree, its engine compartment engulfed in flames and the driver slumped over the wheel.

Tprs. Frost and Lippassaar, immediately began working to contain the fire and extricate the driver.

Tpr. Jonathon M. Garrow (B-Winthrop), in an off-duty capacity, came upon the incident moments later and helped with the rescue efforts.

With the passenger compartment filling with smoke, the three troopers eventually managed to pry the door open and, with assistance from local firefighters, removed the driver to safety.

► **Sgt. Joseph R. Domagola** (D-Fulton)

As part of a domestic violence investigation, Sgt. Domagola attempted to stop a subject suspected of setting fire to his own house, June 23, 2007.

The subject intentionally rammed Sgt. Domagola's patrol vehicle. A violent

struggle ensued, in which the subject attacked the sergeant with a board and Sgt. Domagola fired a shot at his attacker, but missed.

The man then tried to take Sgt. Domagola's pistol away until the sergeant, with help from another trooper and a bystander, finally subdued and arrested the subject.

He was eventually convicted of attempted aggravated murder and arson.

► **Inv. Jeffrey T. Arnold**

Investigating a Feb. 3, 2006, warehouse fire that destroyed property belonging to the Seneca County Sheriff's Department, Inv. Arnold doggedly ran down information suggesting department members may have torched the building to destroy evidence of prior wrongdoing.

Inv. Arnold processed hundreds of leads and interviewed numerous witnesses and targets.

Finally, on Aug. 28, 2007, the sheriff, a former undersheriff and four Seneca County sheriff's deputies were indicted on numerous criminal charges.

► **Tpr. Joseph E. Decker**

Responding to emergency flood-related evacuation calls in Sullivan and Delaware counties, June 19, 2007, Tpr. Decker, personally carried an elderly woman and guided her husband to safety only minutes before their house was washed away.

In a subsequent search for victims, Tpr. Decker himself was swept 40 yards downstream by floodwaters until he managed to climb to safety. His quick

response, while at grave personal risk, and his courage and professionalism, saved several lives.

► **Cpts. Keith M. Corlett (K-BCI)** and (then-Lieutenant) **William Baker, Sr. Invs. Brian D. Hoff** (K-Stormville) **Joanne Leoni** (K-Major Crimes) and **George J. Mohl** (K-Wappinger) along with **Inv. John A. Vescio (K-Poughkeepsie)**

All participated in the successful investigation, arrest and conviction of two men responsible for murdering five members of a Dutchess County family, Jan. 19, 2007, then setting their house ablaze to destroy evidence associated with their crimes.

► **Staff Insp. George P. Beach II**

On May 9, 2007, then-Maj. Beach was traveling north on the Thruway when he observed a southbound pickup truck lose control, overturn and eject its passenger.

Maj. Beach immediately responded to the scene to render assistance and found the driver still in the truck, which by then had caught fire. With assistance from a passing motorist, Maj. Beach extricated the driver before the vehicle became fully engulfed, sustaining minor injuries in the process.

Both driver and passenger recovered from their injuries.

► Members of the New York State Police Mobile Response Team: **Tprs. Daniel P. Lean, William B. Crowe, Richard C. Mattson, Joseph A. Schmidt, Peter G. Verdesi** and **David C. Brinkerhoff**

On April 25, 2007, these members entered a farmhouse in Middletown

to search for a suspect wanted in the shooting of **Tpr. Matthew J. Gombosi** (C-Margaretville) a day earlier.

A violent gunfight erupted between the suspect and the MRT members, in which Tpr. Mattson was severely wounded and Tpr. Brinkerhoff was killed.

Each of the MRT members played an integral role in confronting the suspect or in protecting fellow team members through flanking maneuvers and the use of suppressing fire.

Tpr. Schmidt, at extreme personal risk, dragged Tpr. Mattson to safety in an adjoining room and rendered lifesaving emergency medical assistance.

Each member exhibited exceptional bravery and fortitude in the execution of their duties.

Supervisor Recognition Awards

► **Z/Sgt. Warner P. Hein**

Z/Sgt. Hein, who passed away unexpectedly, Dec. 31, 2007, served the New York State Police for more 20 years.

Last stationed at SP Monroe (Troop F), in addition to his regular duties he was the State Police representative to the Hasidic community of Kiryas Joel in the town of Monroe (Orange County).

Due to its insular nature, this large, complex, ultra-Orthodox community has unique law enforcement needs, and the State Police traditionally has had difficulty maintaining a trusting relationship with its residents.

Z/Sgt. Hein worked tirelessly and succeeded in establishing that relationship. He spent countless hours learning the customs and traditions of the community's residents, who regarded him as "a righteous man," whose presence was welcome and reassuring.

Z/Sgt. Hein also discharged his other supervisory duties in an outstanding manner, never forgetting that he was a trooper first.

He inspired trust and confidence in his subordinates, and his enthusiasm, dedication, advice, sense of humor and unquenchable zest for life will be missed by all fortunate enough to have known and served with him.

Z/Sgt. Hein's family accepted the award on his behalf.

► **Motor Equipment Manager I Emery Dergosits**

A State Police employee for 29 years, Mr. Dergosits has worked in the Division's Fleet Management Section, which he has supervised since March 2000.

During his entire tenure, he has been a consummate professional, expertly managing the State Police's fleet of 3,700 vehicles, and overseeing the acquisition each year of approximately 1,000 new vehicles.

He accomplishes this complex mission with an expertise developed through many years of service, loyalty, dedication and an outstanding work ethic, earning the respect and loyalty of his subordinates with competence and a friendly demeanor.

Civilian Employee Recognition Awards

► **Program Research Specialist Elizabeth S. Schneider**

In November 2006, members of the State Police and local law enforcement formed a task force to investigate the rapes and murders attributed to the infamous "bike path killer" over the past 25 years.

Ms. Schneider's analysis of information provided to her by case investigators ascertained critical data which proved to be essential in the successful outcome of the investigation.

Her integral role in the task force made it possible to arrest and convict the person responsible for these crimes and to release another individual from prison who had been wrongly convicted of two of the rapes.

► **Manager of Information Technology Services II Dennis M. McCann**

An employee by the New York State Police since 1973, beginning as an evidence clerk Mr. McCann later joined the staff of the Division's Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Section, today known as the Information Services Section.

In 1986, he was promoted to supervisor of EDP, where he became a key leader in maintaining and supporting the New York State Police Information Network (NYSPIN) and in the ongoing e-Justice portal project to upgrade all NYSPIN functions.

Throughout his career, Mr. McCann's devotion to duty and exemplary work ethic

have served as a model for others.

Due in large part to the dedication and efforts of Mr. McCann, the NYSP today enjoys a national reputation for excellence in the field of information services.

Superintendent's Traffic Safety Award

Tpr. Dennis F. Hastings (F-Kingston)

A tireless enforcer of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, Tpr. Hastings in 2007 issued 3,843 Uniform Traffic Tickets. Of those, 2,108 were for speeding violations and 414 were for occupant restraint violations.

Tpr. Hastings is a consummate professional in the courtroom, where his testimony in these matters has generated a conviction rate of better than 95%.

He is widely recognized as an expert in the prosecution of traffic offenses, and his opinion in related matters is regularly sought by members of the Division and outside agencies.

George M. Searle Memorial Award

Technical Sgt. Douglas J. Wildermuth (H-Emergency Management)

The George M. Searle Memorial Award, established in honor the late Deputy Superintendent George M. Searle, is presented annually to individuals who distinguish themselves in training and education.

Sgt Wildermuth played a major role in

the initiative to create a public access defibrillation program for the Division of State Police.

His experience in the field of emergency medical services and coordination made it possible for the Division to consolidate its efforts into a single regional medical advisory committee, replacing the need to coordinate efforts with 18 different committees across the state.

He was at the forefront in developing a Division-wide training program for the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), which today are deployed in all NYSP vehicles and installations.

As a result of his efforts, dozens of lives have been saved statewide.

Superintendent's Unit Citation Award

The **Troop C Forensic Identification Unit**

During 2007, this unit processed an extraordinary number of crime scenes, including a number of high-profile homicides and numerous other serious crimes and investigations.

The Troop C Forensic Identification Unit maintains one of the highest caseloads in the Division, and is called into service in nearly every significant case handled by any agency in the Troop C area.

Its tireless crime scene work, meticulous documentation and expert witness testimony under the direction of **Sr. Inv. Steven Andersen**, has resulted in the successful prosecution of many suspects and the solution of numerous serious crimes.

Tpr. William V. McDonagh Community Service Award

Tpr. William McDonagh, who was killed in the line of duty, Dec. 14, 1975, was an active participant in community events.

This year the award named in his honor was presented to **Sgt. (now Lt.) June E. Worden (B-Canton)** for her work as Division of State Police liaison to the New York Special Olympics.

The Special Olympics provides year-round athletic training and competition for people with disabilities.

Lt. Worden has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the Division's support for this program, particularly in organizing the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which involves more than 43,000 athletes.

She also volunteers at numerous fund-raising events.

Special Recognition Award

With gratitude, Superintendent Corbitt presented a special award this year to the **Margaretville Memorial Hospital** for its assistance and medical care to State Police personnel in the aftermath of the deadly April 25, 2007, fire in Middletown, involving a desperate gunman and Tprs. Brinckerhoff, Matson and the rest of their MRT unit.

Upon arrival at the Margaretville Memorial Hospital, Tpr. Mattson received immediate attention from the facility's physicians, physician's assistants and nurses.

They stabilized the injured trooper, stemmed the heavy bleeding from the life-threatening

gunshot wound to his left arm, protected him against further hemorrhaging and prepared him for transportation to Albany Medical Center.

As Tpr. Brinkerhoff arrived at the Margaretville Memorial Hospital, the emergency room staff assured State Police personnel that all possible life-saving measures were being taken.

Tpr. Brinkerhoff's body was subsequently taken to a private area, where Mr. Edward Morache, Executive Director of the Hospital, arranged for the hospital chaplain and members of the hospital's Social Services Section to provide emotional comfort and counseling to Tpr. Brinkerhoff's family and colleagues during this extremely difficult period.

Their support took many diverse forms, even including such mundane – but nevertheless essential – things as meals for Tpr. Brinkerhoff's family and Division Members, and a room with a crib for Tpr. Brinkerhoff's infant daughter.

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.

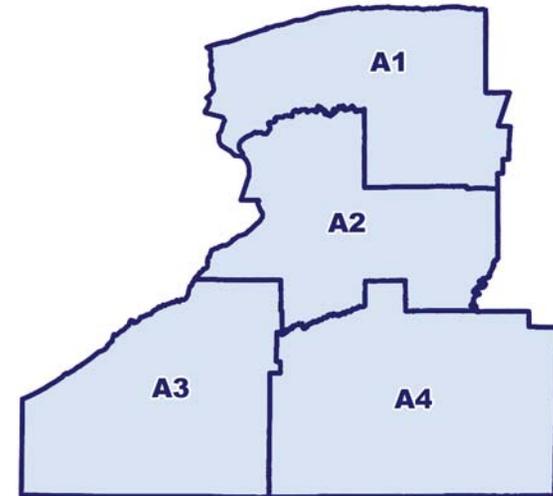
The eight counties comprising this westernmost troop are home to 22 State Police stations. From them, Uniform and BCI personnel serve the residents of 11 cities, 162 towns and 65 villages. Troopers and investigators throughout the region maintain regular patrols, assist motorists, investigate crimes and crashes, and provide around the clock emergency and disaster relief services as needed.

Because many Troop A stations are located near large metropolitan areas, such as Buffalo, the state's second largest city, members participate in numerous urban details, recruitment efforts, community speaking engagements and crime prevention programs.

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 also is home to five American Indian Reservations: the Allegany, the Tuscarora, Tonawanda, Cattaraugus and Oil Springs.

Troop A



Population: 1.6 million (approx.) **Service Territory:** 6,455 square miles

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chatauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans & Wyoming

Headquarters: Batavia (Genesee County)

Zone 1: Albion, Grand Island, LeRoy, Lockport

Zone 2: Alden, Boston, Clarence, Elma, Holland, Newstead, Warsaw

Zone 3: Collins, Fredonia, Jamestown, Sherman

Zone 4: Alfreud-Almond, Amity, Ellicottville, Fillmore, Machais, Olean

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 41,907

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,617	Speed: 32,854
Safety Restraints: 13,944	Total V & T: 104,261

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 1/17
 Rape: 32
 Robbery: 20
 Assault: 167

Property

Burglary: 427
 Larceny: 1,141
 Motor Vehicle Theft: 48

Interesting Cases

Disoriented driver

While patrolling in the town of Collins, Jan. 4, **Tpr. Mark A. Ondus**, (A-Collins) observed a vehicle turn in front of him and head north in the southbound lane.

Tpr. Ondus had to take evasive action to avoid a head-on collision with the vehicle, before running down the errant vehicle and effecting a traffic stop. The operator told Tpr. Ondus that he was not feeling well, and that he lived two-tenths of a mile from their location.

As the interview continued, the operator became progressively more disoriented and had difficulty speaking. Tpr. Ondus radioed SP Jamestown for an ambulance, only to be told none was available.

Convinced the operator was suffering from more than a general illness, Tpr. Ondus seized the initiative and drove the operator to Tri-County Hospital in his patrol vehicle, where he turned the man over to the emergency room medical staff.

Later in the shift, Tpr. Ondus was advised that the operator had suffered a stroke and was bleeding internally, but that his prompt action permitted the ER staff to stabilize the patient and save his life.

Tense standoff

A 42-year-old Lockport man told an acquaintance he was going to kill himself, Jan. 14. He stole the woman's car and drove to another friend's house, where he used his cell phone to call his girlfriend and make

additional suicide threats.

Enraged and distraught, he hung up, stepped outside the house, fired one shot into the air from a 20-gauge shotgun, then fled in the stolen vehicle.

Someone reported the man's actions to the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, which immediately broadcast an alert.

Inv. James A. Thompson and **Tprs. William R. Fish** and **Frank C. Velletta** (A-Lockport) monitored the radio transmission. A few minutes later, a Lockport police officer spotted the subject vehicle and gave pursuit.

The chase ended when the suspect crashed into a house. An armed standoff ensued, in which the suspect pointed his shotgun at his head and threatened to pull the trigger.

Sgt. S/C Mark A. Dischner (A-Lockport) and Uniform patrols quickly arrived on the scene to help establish a security perimeter.

Tpr. Fish and a Lockport PD captain made contact with the subject and began a conversation.

Inv. Thompson arrived on the scene and offered his assistance as a crisis negotiator, which was quickly accepted.

Assuming the

role of lead negotiator, Inv. Thompson calmly engaged the man in a face-to-face conversation that lasted approximately two hours, during which the subject kept the gun muzzle pointed at his head and his finger on the trigger.

The standoff finally ended when the subject unloaded his gun and surrendered.

Flat? What flat?

Tprs. Steven W. Flower and **Steven A. Pleakis** (A-CVEU) were working the "A" tour during the International Road Check at the Bemus Point rest area on I-86 in Chautauqua County, June 5, when they observed a rental truck with Ohio plates driving on a flat tire.

An interview of the driver, determined the vehicle was being used for business purposes.



The old and the new: A vintage and modern Troop car on display in the New York State Police building at the Erie County Fair.

An inspection of the cargo area followed, and the truck was found to be hauling 13,860 cartons of untaxed cigarettes.

Inv. Jeffrey E. Kujawa (SIU-**Buffalo**) responded to the scene to conduct a more detailed investigation, which subsequently determined the contraband cargo had originated in Kentucky and was being transported illegally to a location in Salamanca.

Trooper to the Rescue: Below, Tpr. Kevin J. Wozniak (A-SP Jamestown) rescued a 66 year-old woman from a submerged vehicle in a frozen creek adjacent to Quaint Road in the town of Poland, Chautauqua County.



It comes as a shock...

When a 58-year-old New York State Lottery Division employee working at the Erie County Fair suffered a heart attack, Aug. 16, Lottery employees ran to the State Police building at the fairgrounds for help.

Tpr. Ross M. Riley (A-Olean), an 11-year veteran assigned to the Division's Special Operations Response Team (SORT, formerly known as the Mobile Response Team), and **Comm. Spec. James R. Miller** (A-Jamestown) took the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from the NYSP building and responded to the scene.

When they arrived, two civilians were administering CPR to the victim.

Tpr. Riley, a certified paramedic, continued CPR while Comm. Spec. Miller, a trained AED instructor, applied the device and administered one shock.

The man immediately displayed vital signs and regained consciousness.

Emergency personnel transported him to Buffalo Mercy Hospital where he was subsequently reported in stable condition.

Pursuit and arrest

Tprs. Paul M. Reilly and Jeannette M. Kenny (A- Boston) were patrolling in the town of Boston (Erie County), Aug. 26, when they spotted a vehicle weaving erratically and proceeded to initiate a traffic stop.

The car pulled into a parking lot, and before it could come to a complete stop the passenger door popped open and out leaped a hysterical woman.

The driver then accelerated and tried to flee the scene, but crashed into a ditch a short distance away. He struggled briefly with the troopers but was quickly subdued.

The passenger told Tprs. Reilly and Kenny that the suspect had held against her will by placing a belt around her neck and holding her tethered with one hand while driving down with the other.

His motives and intentions remain unknown, but he was transported to SP Boston and processed on charges of Felony DWI, Unlawful Imprisonment, Reckless Endangerment, Resisting Arrest and several traffic violations.

He was arraigned and committed to the Erie County Holding Center in lieu of \$9,000 cash bail. The woman, an unrelated acquaintance of the suspect, was not injured.

Long time coming

On Jan. 5, 1971, a passerby found Robert James Stiffler of East Dunkirk lying dead beside a county road in the town of Arkwright (Chautauqua County). An autopsy revealed he had died of multiple stab wounds.

The State Police interviewed numerous

persons and compiled extensive background information on the victim, but no substantive leads were developed until December 1971, when a prime suspect emerged – a soldier who was then serving overseas in the U.S. Army.

Two persons claimed the suspect had told them he killed Stiffler. Investigators interviewed the man after he was released from the army with an Undesirable Discharge, but no incriminating information could be obtained and the case went cold. He eventually moved to Austin, Texas.

The case remained “on the books” and was worked regularly by succeeding State Police members over the years, but no positive developments ensued until 2003, when **Sr. Inv. Richard J. Landahl** (A-Major Crimes) was assigned to Troop A Zone 3 BCI and began a complete case review.

Investigators re-interviewed numerous witnesses, police officers and retired police, obtaining new information and identifying new witnesses. They also obtained and executed an eavesdropping warrant between January and March 2006.

Although the case still featured no fingerprints or DNA, investigators and forensic experts re-examined all physical evidence. From this emerged a new and detailed timeline of the victim’s life at the time of the murder, revealing a clear motive.

In the spring of 2008 a decision was made to seek prosecution. Sr. Inv. Landahl met weekly with the Chautauqua County District Attorney as they prepared the case for the Chautauqua County Grand Jury.

Prosecutors presented their case Aug. 27, and obtained an indictment for Murder 2nd

Degree. The suspect was arrested at his home in Texas the following day, closing a case that had begun nearly 37 years earlier.

Missing teen found

Responding a report from an Erie County man that his 14-year-old son had failed to arrive at school as scheduled, Nov. 3, **Tpr. Joseph J. DePlato** (A-Iroquois School District School Resource Officer), searched the boy’s home, finding no indication of foul play.

Suspecting more than simple truancy, he called for assistance; **Z/Sgt. Joseph F. Mullen** (A-Clarence) and **Invs. Thomas R. Spulecki** and **Robert W. Gardner**, (A-Boston), responded to the scene.

Zone II Commander **Capt. Steven A. Nigrelli** (A-Clarence) and BCI **Lt. Richard S. Allen** (A- Batavia) assumed command at the scene shortly thereafter and organized a search detail.

State Police Aviation, **Tpr. James C. Jackson III** and his **K-9** partner **Dobbs** (A-Batavia) also joined the search, along with members of the East Aurora PD.

About three hours after the initial complaint, pilot **T/Sgt. Gregory S. Vaillancourt** and **Tpr. Merle N. Schreckengost Jr.** (A- Elma) in Division helicopter 1H11 spotted the missing boy lying in a creek bed under a bridge, a short distance from his high school.

Division Aviation transported the youth to Women and Children’s Hospital in Buffalo, where he was reported in stable condition with two broken legs, a broken hip, and pelvis, a collapsed lung and a compression fracture of the lower back; a suicide note was

found in his clothing.

Yuletide dramas

Dispatched by the SP Jamestown desk to investigate a report of a vehicle in a creek in the town of Poland (Chautauqua County), Dec. 23, **Tpr. Kevin J. Wozniak** arrived at the scene of the accident to find a car slowly sinking into the icy water.

A witness told him he had not been able to check the vehicle for occupants. The car by this time was submerged up to the rear passenger window.

With the air temperature hovering around 15°F, Tpr. Wozniak entered the creek, reached the car, where he used his Division



Only a training exercise: Investigator Robert J. Murray, H-Seneca Allegany Casino/former Troop A K-9 handler (right) assists Trooper Brian A. Pazderski, A-Niagara/K-9 Handler (left) and K-9 T.C. during a training exercise.

issued Res-Q-Me tool to tap on the window. A faint voice responded, and he immediately used the Res-Q-Me tool to break one of the rear windows.

Inside he found a 66-year-old woman huddled in a small air pocket near the rear deck window. Tpr. Wozniak pulled the victim out of the vehicle, helped her ashore, wrapped her in blankets and placed her in his troop car.

A volunteer ambulance crew arrived soon thereafter and transported her to a hospital in Jamestown, where she was treated for exposure.

Two days later, on Christmas day, **Tprs. Steven J. Ferguson** and **Jeffrey G. Mruk** were working a 2 Shift out of SP Niagara, assisting disabled vehicles on I-190 that had skidded on black ice and gotten stuck in the median, when they observed another northbound vehicle spin out of control, roll over numerous times and plunge down an embankment into a flooded ravine.

Tpr. Mruk stopped traffic while Tpr. Ferguson ran down the embankment and dove into the freezing, waist-deep water.

He reached the car and found it was occupied by a partially disabled driver and two passengers.

He quickly removed all three from the vehicle, then carried the disabled operator and assisted the other two occupants back up the embankment.

The troopers then placed the victims in their patrol vehicle to keep warm, and administered first aid until medical personnel arrived on the scene.

Girls Only Ride

On October 10, Allstate Insurance and the New York State Police co-sponsored a motorcycle event solely for women.



Trooper Arthur Pittman Jr. (A-Niagara IP/ Motorcycle Unit) instructs participants.



Left, Trooper Pittman and Allstate Agent Leslie Harrington with Jeff Calderon, a New York Specialties Product Line Distributor with Allstate Insurance, astride the motorcycle Allstate Insurance donated to the Trooper Foundation for the Troop A Motorcycle Unit.



Troop B

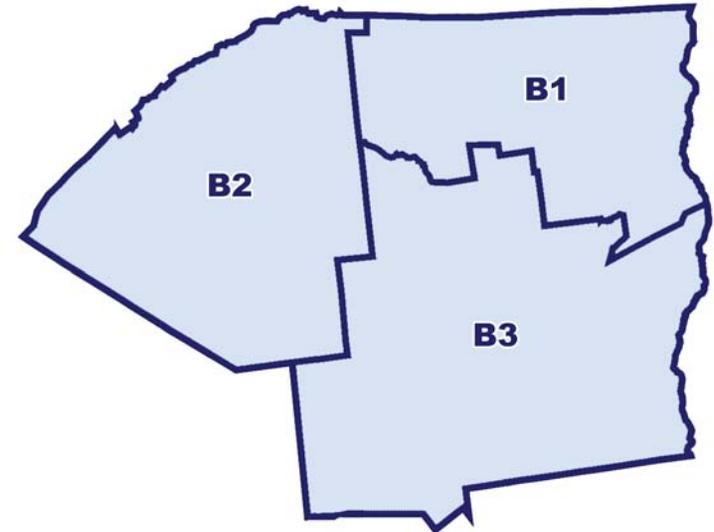
Established in 1921, Troop B is distinguished by its extremes.

The northernmost troop, and the biggest geographically, its five counties are the largest, most sparsely populated in New York State. Home to the St. Regis Mohawk American Indian Reservation and Ganienkeh Community, 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 — an area larger than the Commonwealth of Massachusetts — 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.



Population: 287,000 (approx.) **Service Territory:** 8,091 square miles

Counties Served: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence

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

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 36,209

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,185	Speed: 25,201
Safety Restraints: 5,947	Total V & T: 81,091

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 1/12
Rape: 55
Robbery: 6
Assault: 255

Property

Burglary: 619
Larceny: 1,361
Motor Vehicle Theft: 55

Interesting Cases

The shock of a lifetime saves a life

Responding to the scene of a serious personal injury automobile accident, Jan. 18, **Tprs. Daniel R. Monheim** and **Erin M. Barrett** (B-Massena) arrived to find local fire and rescue personnel performing CPR on a 51-year-old victim.

Tpr. Barrett retrieved the automatic external defibrillator (AED) from their patrol vehicle, attached the device to the victim and administered two shocks, as directed.

The man's pulse returned at that point, rescue squad personnel transported him to Massena Memorial Hospital, where he was admitted in stable condition.

It was subsequently determined that the accident had been precipitated by the driver's heart attack.

One arrest closes two cases

On Sept. 24, **Sr. Inv. Mark A. Brown** and **Inv. John D. Miner** (B-CCU) contacted SP Malone for help executing a search warrant in an investigation involving Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child.

While discussing the case, **Inv. Jason J. Pelkey** (B-CTIU) recalled the prime suspect also was involved in the unsolved disappearance of a Quebec woman during 2004.

Sr. Inv. Charles E. Bishop contacted the Quebec Provincial Police Homicide Division in Montreal and advised the Canadian

authorities of the likely arrest of the suspect. Quebec Provincial Police detectives asked for permission to participate in the interview of the suspect.

Numerous items of evidence were secured at the time of the warrant's execution, after which the suspect contacted SP Malone and arranged to come in for an interview.

Inv. Miner and **Inv. Joseph A. Tatro** (B-Malone) conducted the interview, during which the suspect confessed to the computer-related crimes.

Upon completion of this interview, Quebec detectives and Inv. Tatro interviewed the suspect about the woman's disappearance.

He eventually confessed to strangling her in his truck while in Canada, then transporting her body to the United States and burying it in a gravel pit near his residence.

The body was later recovered.

The suspect was committed to Franklin County Jail without bail on the original charge of Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child; murder charges and extradition were pending against him in Quebec.



Second Case Closed: After extensive efforts by Tpr. George Studlack, CVEU, Inv. Glen Huber and Tpr. Eric Dwyer, SP Plattsburgh, and Inv. Timothy Woodruff, FIU, the body of Quebec woman who disappeared in 2004 was unearthed in a gravel pit near the residence of the man who strangled her.



Now that took brass...

Millwrights at the Newton Falls Fine Paper Company in St. Lawrence County were annoyed when their #4 paper machine broke down, Feb. 7.

And they were more than nonplussed when they went to repair the machine and found the custom-made, solid brass replacement parts, valued over \$100,000, were missing from the storage room.

This precipitated a general inventory of the plant's storage facilities, leading to the discovery that numerous brass and copper items, including entire spools of copper cable, were missing.

The total value of the stolen property exceeded \$200,000. A call went out to SP Star Lake.

Canton-based BCI personnel investigated. They observed that the mill is a fenced-in facility with round-the-clock security personnel posted at the entrance gate, making it likely that the theft involved an employee.

Only the millwrights and electricians had both access and opportunity, and as the millwrights were responsible for all machinery repairs and would know how essential the brass parts were to operation of the mill, the investigation focused on the electricians.

Interviews revealed the mill's electrical and instrumentation manager had given some of the electricians permission to strip scrap copper wire in the mill and sell it to buy tools for the shop and items for their break room. This occurred only on one occasion.

The scrap had been taken to a yard in Massena. Yard personnel identified one of the electricians as a regular customer who had brought in thousands of pounds of copper and brass scrap, valued at more than \$24,000, since November 2007.

Investigation established that he had taken most of the brass parts and copper wire from the mill while working nights, slipping it out in his personal vehicle through an unsecured rear gate. Two other electricians helped him with cutting, stripping and

loading the stolen materiel.

Voluntary statements were obtained from all three employees detailing their roles in the larceny.

They pleaded guilty to charges ranging from Grand Larceny to Criminal Possession of Stolen Property and Criminal Facilitation.

Border enforcement comes up aces

A U.S. Border Patrol fixed-wing aircraft reported seeing camouflage-clad people lurking in the woods near the Canadian border, April 15, and summoned ground units to investigate. When the suspects fled from the federal agents, the Border Patrol put in a call to SP Malone for assistance.

Tpr. Thomas B. Bryant and his K-9 partner "**Gunner**" arrived soon and began tracking the suspected smugglers. **Tpr. Frank W. Johnston** located and secured one of the pickup vehicles, a rental car from JFK Airport in New York City, ensuring the suspects could not double-back to it and escape.

SP Malone personnel **Sr. Inv. Peter J. Arcadi**, **Invs. Gary L. Brown Jr.** and **Jason J. Pelkey**, and **Tprs. Mark P. Tatro** and **Kyle J. Otis**, along with Narcotics Enforcement Unit **Inv. Brian S. Mulverhill**, arrived and joined the search.

A Division helicopter flew overhead to coordinate the ground efforts. **Tpr. Kevin A. Beattie** with K-9 partner "**Cully**" also arrived and joined the hunt.

As the search progressed, more Border Patrol K-9 units arrived, and the Royal

Canadian Mounted Police took up the search on the Canadian side of the border. A second vehicle rented from New York City was soon secured.

Two suspects were arrested on the U.S. side, and three others were picked up by Canadian authorities.

Ten hockey bags containing 700 pounds of marijuana, worth an estimated \$2.8 million on the street, were confiscated.

Domestic violence X4

A report of a domestic assault in Rouses Point (Clinton County), May 17, involving an injured woman and a house on fire, brought **Tprs. Shawn P. Murphy** and **Eric L. Brown** (B-Chazy) to the scene, along with local fire and rescue personnel.

The victim and her three children, who had taken refuge in a house across the street, told the troopers that her husband, drunk and abusive, had assaulted them, then set the house afire.

Sr. Invs. Patrick M. Mitchell and **Kevin C. Leavine** (B-Plattsburgh) arrived with a detail of BCI members to conduct the criminal investigation shortly thereafter, while **Sgt. James L. Patterson** and **Tprs. Keith C. Paine**, **Todd M. Brown** (B-Chazy), **Ian D. Paine** (B-Ellenburgh), **Matthew S. Ross** (B-Keesville), and **Ronald J. Dacre** (B-Indian Lake), arrived to help search for the subject.

After securing the likely escape routes, they searched the village of Rouse Point, where, with assistance from the U. S. Border Patrol, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department and the Rouses Point PD, the suspect was

found hiding in a vacant house.

He was arrested and charged with Assault, Attempted Murder, Arson, Reckless Endangerment and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

On Jan. 5, 2009, the man pleaded guilty to Assault 1st. Degree and three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

He was sentenced to 20 years on the Assault charge and one year for each of the child endangerment charges, each to be served concurrently.

Suicidal man shoots trooper

State and local police from Tupper Lake joined forest rangers in an organized ground and aerial search in and around the Village of Tupper Lake, Aug. 27, for a Ticonderoga man who called Essex County 911 and said he intended to harm himself.

The search was eventually called off due to a lack of investigative leads, difficult terrain, and the onset of darkness.

The next day, members from numerous State Police installations resumed the search, and around 4:30 p.m. the man's vehicle was located on an off-road trail in Harrietstown. Troopers and SP Aviation joined rangers and DEC conservation officers in searching the surrounding area.

Searchers spotted him around 7:20 p.m. in an area lean-to. He subsequently fled in a canoe along the Raquette River. **Tprs. George M. Stannard** (B-High Peaks) and **Dustin E. Fleishman** (B-Tupper Lake) and a state forest ranger followed him in a boat until the subject turned on them with

a muzzle-loading rifle and threatened to kill himself.

Tpr. Stannard began a lengthy dialogue with the man. During the course of this conversation he saw the man momentarily point the gun away from his head. The troopers and ranger immediately rushed him.

In the ensuing struggle the rifle discharged and the projectile struck Tpr. Stannard in the right hand. Tpr. Fleishman and the subject then tumbled into the river, and after a brief struggle Tpr. Fleishman subdued, disarmed and arrested the man without injury.

Tpr. Stannard was transported first to the Adirondack Medical Center for treatment before being flown via State Police helicopter to Albany Medical Center for followup treatment.

The Ticonderoga man was charged with one count of Assault, arraigned in Harrietstown Town Court and held on no bail pending a mental health evaluation.

More metal thieves

A reported larceny in progress at the National Lead Industries at the Tahawus mines in Newcomb (Essex County), Sept. 4, brought **Tpr. Guyowen S. Howard** (B-Indian Lake) to investigate.

The caretaker believed a truck and horse trailer with New Hampshire plates had been on the property, where several persons were stealing copper wire from the high tension lines along the railroad tracks.

Tpr. Howard checked the truck and inside saw what appeared to be an electrical

tester, climbing gear, water bottles and lineman's gloves. Tpr. Howard tracked the individuals for three miles along the railroad tracks. Along the way he saw the electric line had been cut down, coiled in approximately 50-pound rolls and placed on the tracks. There were approximately 100 of these rolls and a large quantity of line down under the poles.

The route was strewn with empty water bottles of the same brand he had seen in the back of the suspect vehicle.

With daylight waning, Tpr. Howard requested **Tprs. David A. Johns** and **Douglas T. Hoffman** (B-Tupper Lake) to secure the suspect vehicle and contact the State Department of Environmental Conservation for ATV assistance. Shortly thereafter, Tpr. Howard heard voices and the engine of an ATV, but he was unable to catch the subjects on foot.

Half an hour later he was advised that three subjects had come out of the woods and told Tpr. Johns they had been checking cellular phone towers and did not have an ATV. Tpr. Johns detained them until Tpr. Howard could reach the scene.

When he did, he immediately saw the subjects were covered with a green film, consistent with the color of aged copper. Under questioning the admitted they had in fact been stealing the copper wire.

All three subjects were arrested for Grand Larceny 3rd Degree and Criminal Mischief 2nd Degree, arraigned and placed in Essex County Jail.

The copper wire had a total weight of 3,240 pounds, and was valued at approximately \$10,000.

YouTube . . . cellphones . . . arson . . . jail

At the request of the St. Lawrence County Fire Investigation Team, **Tpr. Andrew S. Fregoe** (B-Massena) responded to a suspicious structure fire in Norfolk, Nov. 9, where team members advised him they had found evidence of an accelerant in the living room.

During the subsequent investigation, information was gathered regarding two young men who had been seen videotaping the fire as emergency vehicles responded. Both subjects had left the scene on foot, and shortly thereafter, a firefighter witnessed an old blue pickup truck drive by.

Tpr. Fregoe passed this information on to **Inv. Andrew S. Gayeskie** (B-Massena), who in turn learned the cellular telephone number used to report the fire belonged to a 17-year-old Hogansburg resident.

Later that morning, Inv. Gayeskie observed a pickup truck with three occupants drive by the scene. A traffic stop of the vehicle revealed the occupants were the Hogansburg youth, an 18-year-old Norfolk resident and a 16-year-old girl from Massena. The three immediately became primary suspects in the investigation.

Under questioning, the 17-year-old told Inv. Gayeskie the 18-year-old had started the Norfolk fire, as well as a garage fire in Hogansburg. He said they had videotaped the fires and were going to put them on YouTube on the internet. Both subjects admitted to starting the fires.

The two men were arrested for Arson 3rd Degree, arraigned and committed to the St.

Lawrence County Jail in lieu of \$1,000 cash or \$2,000 bond.

The 18-year-old's parents posted his bail, whereupon he was immediately re-arrested taken into custody for transfer to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department to answer a charge of Arson 3rd Degree in connection with the garage fire.

For that he was arraigned in Bombay Town Court and remanded to the Franklin County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 cash or \$50,000 bond.



Home Destroyed for YouTube Video! Investigators informed that the fire that destroyed this home was started and video taped by Norfolk teens just so they could post the video on YouTube.

Troop C

Operating from 18 State Police facilities across the Southern Tier, the members of Troop C provide essential police services throughout a sprawling seven county area.

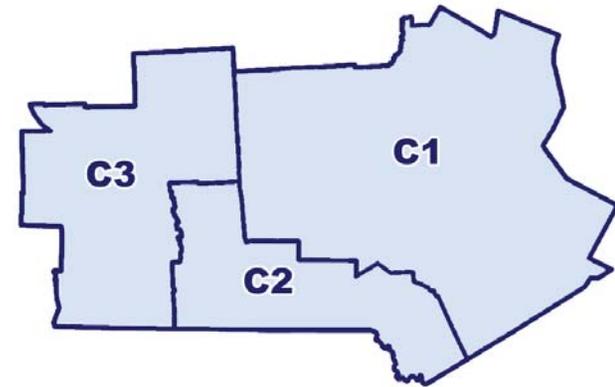
In addition to patrolling the 112 townships in the region, C Troopers provide the only police protection available to many of the area's 44 incorporated villages and work closely with police departments in five cities.

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.



Population: 558,000 (approx.) **Service Territory:** 5,587 square miles

Counties Served: Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, Tompkins

Headquarters: Sidney (Delaware County)

Zone 1: Oneonta, Green, 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

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 42,059

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,025	Speed: 33,488
Safety Restraints: 9,706	Total V & T: 79,965

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 3/16
Rape: 65
Robbery: 12
Assault: 139

Property

Burglary: 553
Larceny: 1,405
Motor Vehicle Theft: 56

Interesting Cases

People who set fires shouldn't throw bricks...

Between Dec. 3, 2007, and Jan. 22, 2008, a series of suspicious unoccupied building fires swept through neighboring communities in Barton (Tioga County), NY and Bradford County, PA.

Investigators from the Tioga County Fire Investigation Team, the New York State Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control, and the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal's Office found several distinct similarities in these blazes.

All the buildings had been situated close to a road in remote, rural locations. Most of the fires caused massive property damage, though the latter ones had increased in size and lethality, killing 100 dairy cows and destroying historic family farms.

Fire investigators developed several leads and a *modus operandi*, but could not identify a particular suspect or vehicle associated with the fires. Patrols from SP Owego, the Waverly PD and the Tioga County Sheriff's Office scoured the back roads for leads or a suspect before the firebug could strike again.

Just after midnight on New Year's Day, **Tpr. Gregory E. Derick** (C-Owego) responded to a complaint of criminal mischief to a motor vehicle in Barton. The owner reported the rear window of her car had been smashed out.

Inside the car, Tpr. Derick found a brick

wrapped with grey duct tape; the words "keep ur mouth shut" were written across it.

A neighbor reported seeing a gold vehicle drop off an unknown person in front of the complainant's residence and return to pick him up shortly thereafter. The neighbor further said he had seen the same vehicle on other occasions, and that it belonged to friends of the complainant's boyfriend.

Tpr. Derick next interviewed the boyfriend, who said the car was being driven by a man who lived in the village of Waverly (Tioga County).

Tpr. Derick located the man and his brother in Waverly, along with a gold automobile matching the description provided by the neighbor. The owner denied operating the vehicle earlier in the day, but when approached, the brother blurted out, "I've already been interviewed about the fires." Tpr. Derick told him he was there to investigate a criminal mischief case.

Keenly aware of the rash of fires in the area, Tpr. Derick carefully recorded the brother's statements and noted the vehicles parked on the property. He then completed a detailed SJS entry on the initial complaint, ensuring the man's statement was described in the context of the interview.

Investigators from the Tioga County Sheriff's Office and the Troop C Major Case and FIU squads jumped on the information Tpr. Derick provided, soliciting information on the brothers from the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) and agencies in both states.

It soon became evident that the brothers had been setting fires as far back as 1999.

They were arrested on Jan. 30 and subsequently confessed to starting eight fires in Tioga County, NY, and Bradford County, PA.

What's your handicap? A cut thumb...?

Tpr. Marcus A. Vacanti (C-Richfield Springs) answered a complaint at the Otsego Golf Course in Springfield (Otsego County), Feb. 10, where nine buildings had been broken into and golf clubs, televisions and a grinder were stolen.

Other items, including a pressure washer, microwave cookers and tools had been left near doors, as if they had been staged there so the burglar could return and steal them.

A window in the clubhouse had been broken to gain entry, and blood was found nearby, along with a bloody footprint leading to a first aid kit.

In another building the burglar had left a bloodstained bandage that dried into the shape of a thumb. By the position of the blood on the bandage, Tpr. Vacanti determined the cut was near the first knuckle of the thumb. The bandage was secured as evidence.

From tire tracks left in the snow and a review of all the evidence Tpr. Vacanti developed two suspects — an employee and his brother. One was located and

immediately found to have an unexplained cut on his thumb, consistent with the position of the blood on the bandage.

Inv. Joseph T. Valentine, a zone identification technician out of SP Richfield Springs, processed the scene and secured more evidence the following day, including a match between the footwear the suspect wore to the station for his interview with Inv. Valentine and the bloody footprint found at the golf club.

The suspect denied his involvement but consented to a DNA swab for comparison. Based upon the evidence compiled, he was arrested for the burglary.

Suicides prevented

► Just before noon, March 10, the Broome County 911 Center dispatched **Tpr. Timothy M. McQuade** (C-Endwell Satellite) to a report of a suicidal person on the edge of a highway overpass in the town of Union.

Tpr. McQuade was headed toward the man's location when the 911 Center advised that the subject had returned to his vehicle and driven west on the highway.

Following the dispatcher's report, he made for an exit ramp on a bridge in the town of Vestal. There he found a man standing on the guard rail, looking over at the roadway below, one foot on the top rail and one on the barrier fence.

Vestal police positioned themselves on the roadway below, as Tpr. McQuade approached the man and attempted to engage him in conversation.

He first asked the man to come down, but the subject refused. Then he asked him to at least take his foot off the top of the fence. As the man moved to comply, Tpr. McQuade lunged forward, grabbed him and pulled him safely to the ground.

Taken into custody, the 32-year-old local man explained that he had been unable to bear his "recent life struggles." Tpr. McQuade transported him to the Crisis Center at Binghamton General Hospital for an emergency mental health evaluation.

► **Tpr. Dennis T. Colpitts** (C- Deposit) faced a similar situation, March 22, when he encountered a 53-year-old Cortland man sitting on the guard rail of a Route 17 overpass.

Tpr. Colpitts asked the man what he was doing, and he replied that he was going to jump off the bridge. He then stood up, climbed over the rail and leaned over the cement ledge, while holding onto a chest-high chain link fence. Tpr. Colpitts radioed SP Binghamton for assistance.

Patrols and supervisors from SP Binghamton, Gateway Satellite and Deposit responded to the location, set up a perimeter and closed the passing lane of Route 17 east.

A check of the man's vehicle registration revealed he was a suspect in a Westchester County homicide being investigated by Troop K.

Investigators and crisis negotiators attempted to talk to the man as he hung over the edge of the bridge in freezing temperatures. The man was uncooperative and negotiators saw that

he had a knife protruding from his pants. By 8:30 p.m., negotiators reported the man was growing cold and tired, and they felt he would not be able to hold on much longer.

Members edged closer. Ten minutes later, the man lost his footing and slipped from the ledge. Several members grabbed him and pinned his arms to the fence as he fell.

The man flailed about, kicking and struggling as he yelled at members to let him fall. His hooded sweatshirt came off and his knife clattered to the pavement 45 feet below, but the members managed to pull him over the fence and subdued him.

Transported to SP Binghamton, he refused to speak with K Troop investigators and was moved SP Cortlandt, where he was charged with one count of 2nd Degree Murder in the homicide investigation.

Troopers respond to shooting

Delaware County 911 Center dispatchers received a telephone call from a 15-year-old Grand Gorge (Delaware County) girl, April 17, reporting that her mother had been shot in the abdomen. The assailant — the girl's father — and the estranged boyfriend of the victim, fled the scene, headed for a trailer in Stamford (Delaware County).

Tpr. David J. Morgan (C-Margaretville) located the suspect vehicle in the village of Stamford. It refused to stop, and he followed it to the gunman's trailer.

While Tpr. Morgan and an NYC Department of Environmental Protection police officer took up a position on one side of the suspect's trailer, **Tpr. Matthew J. Gombosi** (C-Margaretville) positioned himself on the opposite side.

The suspect exited his vehicle brandishing a .44 Magnum pistol and turned to confront the trooper. Tpr. Gombosi fired several rounds from his Glock .45 AGP, striking the suspect once in the thigh. The suspect then shot himself through the head, taking his own life.

The girlfriend was airlifted to Albany Medical Center, where she was listed in critical but stable condition.

River rescue

Sgt. David R. Segit and **Tprs. Michael J. Buchinger** and **Brian G. Mackey** (C-Oneonta) responded to a 911 call for persons in need of rescue on the Susquehanna River, April 27.

A 46-year-old father and his 13-year-old son were canoeing on the river when they overturned in a swollen eddy.

The strong current of the cold water forced them into the root system of a large submerged tree, where the canoe pinned them against the roots. The father had the sharp end of a root sticking into his abdomen, and his leg was trapped.

The son was beneath the side of the canoe with water up to his face, and his arm pinned between the tree and the canoe. The situation was grave.

The first responders tried to reach them

from the far bank of the river, without success. Tpr. Buchinger then tried unsuccessfully to reach the father with a 50-foot rope from the opposite side.

Shortly thereafter, rescue squad managed to reach the father with a longer rope, which he clipped to the canoe. So strong was the current, however, that even with Sgt. Segit, Tpr. Buchinger and a couple of Oneonta firemen hauling on the line, the best they could manage was to relieve some of the pressure on the two victims; they could not pull the canoe completely off them.

Noticing a group of bystanders watching from the nearby interstate, Sgt. Segit solicited their help. With this added force pulling on the rope, the citizens, firemen and troopers were able to connect the rope to a block and tackle system hooked to a nearby tree.

A second lifeline was strung and wrapped around the father, who was nearest to the riverbank. Tpr. Mackey manned this line with other responders.

Sgt. Segit and Tpr. Buchinger, still on the first line, hauled on the block and tackle line until the aluminum canoe actually bent in half, releasing the son and then the father, who was pulled to safety by Tpr. Mackey and the other responders.

Both father and son were pulled ashore, only slightly the worse for their ordeal.

Family violence, with a twist...

Dispatched by the Broome County 911 Center to the scene of a reported stabbing behind the Harpursville High School in the town of Colesville, May 8, **Tpr. Christopher**

G. Skinner (C-Binghamton) arrived to find three teenage boys had been knifed during a fight.

The victims and almost a dozen witnesses provided the names of the assailants and a description of their vehicle.

Additional Zone Two patrols responded to two local hospitals where the injured parties were transported, and to the suspects' residence, near the school.

A BCI detail led by **Lt. James E. Barnes** (C-Sidney) and **Sr. Invs. Lori A. Hochdanner** (C-Sidney) and **G. Fred Goodall** (C-Binghamton) also responded.

Just over an hour later, **Tprs. Travis A. Webster** and **Kevin R. Culver** (C-Binghamton) stopped the suspects' vehicle not far from the school. Investigation into the incident showed that a 19-year-old family member had previously been involved in a fight with one of the victims. He, along with his mother, father and sister, were driving near the school when they saw the three victims driving to the school.

The family followed the them to a basketball court behind the school, where the 19-year-old threatened the trio and started throwing punches at them. The three young men were defending themselves when the mother approached the fighting youths and stabbed all three of them.

The mother, father, and son were arrested, and the vehicle was towed to SP Binghamton for processing. The Troop C FIU recovered the knife used in the stabbings several miles away.

Members charged the mother with Assault 1st Degree, the father with Tampering

with Physical Evidence, and the son with Menacing 3rd Degree.

All three stabbing victims were expected to recover.

Seized: Two kilograms of cocaine

Officials from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) contacted CNET-Southern Tier, Sept. 23, to request assistance regarding a vehicle expected to be traveling to Syracuse that morning with a large quantity of cocaine. The information had not been confirmed and did not amount to probable cause to stop and search the vehicle.

Sr. Inv. Lawrence R. Marsili (CNET-Southern Tier) called SP Binghamton and asked for a Uniform Trooper to look for the vehicle on I-81. **Tpr. Kenneth M. Summa** (C-Gateway Satellite) was assigned and responded, together with **Invs. Scott M. Pauly** and **John R. Ward** (CNET-Southern Tier).

Just before noon, Sr. Inv. Marsili spotted the vehicle. He alerted Tpr. Summa, who stopped it for an unsafe lane change near the Gateway Rest Area.

The lone occupant said his foot had been bothering him, and he had swerved while taking his shoe off. The driver made conflicting statements about the origin of his trip and his destination.

A Broome County Sheriff's Office K-9 handler responded, and his dog "alerted" on the vehicle. These factors, taken together, were sufficient cause for the members to

impound the vehicle and have it towed to SP Binghamton.

After questioning the man, CNET-Southern Tier members obtained a warrant, searched the vehicle and located two kilograms of cocaine secreted in the rear seat cushions.

Set me free, why don't you say...

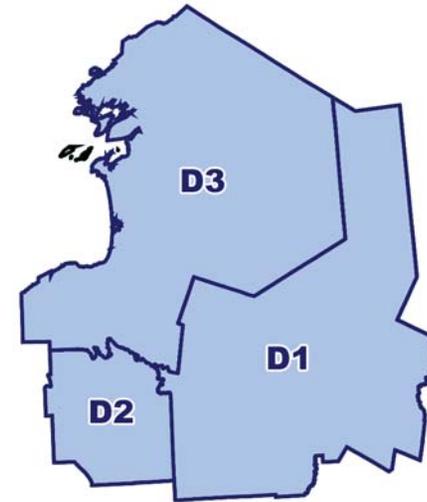
While on patrol, Oct. 5, **Tpr. Benjamin R. Barton** (C-Oneonta) came upon an small compact car lodged under an agricultural dump truck on County Route 18 in Morris (Otsego County).

Smoke and noxious fumes were billowing from the car, where a semi-conscious 81-year-old woman lay slumped in the driver's seat.

The car's doors were locked. Tpr. Barton contacted Otsego County 911 to request an ambulance, then used his recently issued Res-Q-Me tool to break the passenger-side front window so he could reach inside and unlock the doors.

He dragged the woman to a safe location beside of the road and comforted her until fire and EMS personnel arrived. She was transported to Bassett Hospital for treatment.

Troop D



Geographically and demographically, the words best used to describe Troop D are "big" and "diverse". Its seven county area is larger than the states of Connecticut and Delaware combined. It features densely wooded parts of the Tug Hill Plateau and southern Adirondacks, hundreds of miles of shoreline along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway, urban centers and scores of rural communities, lakes, rivers and wetlands. It holds the sprawling Fort Drum military complex, an International Point of Entry, the Oneida and Onondaga American Indian Reservations and the bustling Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona.

For 12 days each year, it hosts the New York State Fair, which draws hundreds of thousands to Syracuse from throughout the northeastern United States and Canada. Its forests and waterways are renowned among hunters, fishermen, campers and vacationers, and winter enthusiasts flock to its thousands of miles of ski and snowmobile trails. The task of providing police services throughout this region is borne by Troop D. Operating from 27 facilities, the men and women of Troop D provide service to 167 towns, 89 villages and five cities. Their daily tasks incorporate a high degree of "custom-tailoring" to satisfy local community needs or special demands presented by the region's geography, climate and ever shifting demographics. Troop D is one of four original State Police troops established in 1917.

Population: 1.1 million (approx.) **Service Territory:** 7,587 square miles

Counties Served: Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego

Headquarters: Oneida (Madison County)

Zone 1: Herkimer, Lee (Rome), Marcy, Morrisville, New Woodstock, Old Forge, Poland, Remsen, Sullivan, Sylvan Beach, Waterville, West Winfield

Zone 2: Elbridge, Lafayette, Lysander, North Syracuse

Zone 3: Adams, Alexandria Bay, Carthage, Fulton, Grasspoint, Hastings, Lowville, Philadelphia, Pulaski, Orleans, Watertown

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 63,919

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,579

Speed: 26,557

Safety Restraints: 14,893

Total V & T: 101,044

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 4/23

Rape: 41

Robbery: 18

Assault: 230

Property

Burglary: 934

Larceny: 2,311

Motor Vehicle Theft: 83

Interesting Cases

Divers make grisly discovery

Troop D divers got more than they bargained for when they took advantage of a spell of mild weather to do their monthly practice dive, Jan. 8.

Probing the murky depths of the Seneca River where it meets Onondaga Lake beside the Thruway overpass at Onondaga Park, **Tpr. Joseph N. Lamardo** (D-N. Syracuse) encountered what he initially thought was a submerged tree trunk. Closer examination, however, revealed it to be an automobile.

It obviously had been in the water a long time, for he had to scrape a heavy encrustation of zebra mussels from the license plate to read the data on it. A file check by SP Lafayette IP revealed the 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage had been registered to a Liverpool (Onondaga County) woman, missing since April 2002.

Hauled to surface, the car revealed its grim secret: inside was a badly decomposed body, believed to be that of the missing woman.

Investigation disclosed she had suffered from bi-polar disorder and was last seen filling a prescription at an area pharmacy. Neighbors reported her missing when her two children began knocking on doors, asking for food.

The case was turned over to the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office for further investigation.

Investigation results in patricide charge

Vernon (Oneida County) police contacted SP Oneida, Jan. 24, after responding to a village residence and discovering the body of a 37-year-old man mortally wounded by a single gunshot to the head. No firearms were found in the immediate area.

The victim had been transported to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica, where he arrived alive, but died a short time later.

The first Division member on the scene, **Inv. Donna B. Wassall** (D-Oneida), interviewed the victim's 13-year-old son, who told her he had come home from school around 2:35 that afternoon, found his father bleeding on the living room couch and immediately called 911. He said his father had owned three shotguns, all of which were found locked in a downstairs gun cabinet.

When queried, Oneida County 911 advised that the youth's call had been received 41 minutes *after* he said he made it, a fact backed up the statement of a school bus driver, who said he had dropped the boy at approximately 2:35 p.m.

Sr. Inv. Timothy E. Blaise (D-Oneida) and **Inv. Michael D. Grande** (D-VCIT) re-interviewed the youth, who attempted to explain the time discrepancy by claiming his cell phone battery had been dead and that he had had to charge before he could place the emergency call; he said he hadn't used the hard-line telephones in the house because the downstairs phone was too near his father, and he didn't want to go



Just Checking! Trooper Diane L. Doell, Troop D Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, inspects the log book of a trucker while participating in a Department of Transportation roadcheck at a rest area on I-81 in the Town of Watertown.

near him, and he was not allowed to use the phone in his father's upstairs bedroom.

He also admitted that not all the victim's guns had been locked up, but that he had found a .410 shotgun leaning against the wall, and had subsequently locked it inside the gun cabinet.

In processing the crime scene, Troop D Forensic Investigation Unit members **Sr. Inv. Adrian S. Grenier**, **Invs. Steven M. Kubat**, **Joseph S. Harriger**, **Jeffrey C. Ryan** and **Musco Millner III**, and **Tpr. Tamara R. D'Agata** found no forced entry to the residence and no sign of a struggle. All evidence indicated the victim had been lying on the couch when shot.

An autopsy conclusively established that if he had been shot prior to 2:35 p.m., he could not have survived until 3:16, when

the 911 call was received, and would most certainly have been dead before the ambulance arrived to take him to the hospital.

FIU further determined the shot pattern within the wound had been made from a firing distance of approximately seven feet, ruling out suicide.

It was later learned that the shotgun had been a Christmas present for the 13-year-old.

Invs. Grande and **Edward J. Marecek** (D-VCIT) interviewed the youth a third time, but the boy's mother terminated the discussion shortly after it began, and no further pertinent information could be developed.

A lead desk was established at SP Oneida and a lengthy investigation ensued. Investigators conducted numerous interviews and ran down many leads.

Several items of evidence were submitted to the Forensic Investigation Center for analysis, and in September the case was presented to an Oneida County Grand Jury, which ultimately handed down an indictment for the arrest of the 13-year-old son on a charge of 2nd Degree Murder.

The youth was remanded to a secure detention facility in the Albany area, where at last report he was awaiting trial.

Just driving around...

Tpr. John J. Poggi (D-Alexandria Bay), his **K-9** partner "Ram" and a U.S. Border Patrol agent were patrolling on State Route 11 in the town of Philadelphia (Jefferson County), May 24, when they monitored a

radio message from **Tpr. Kevin A. Beattie** (B-Massena) about a suspicious vehicle with a single male occupant which had passed him while he was occupied with a stop.

Tpr. Poggi located the suspect vehicle in the village of Philadelphia, followed it south on Route 11 and initiated a traffic stop when he saw the car drive across the center line.

In interviewing the driver, he learned the man was from Quebec and claimed to be driving to New York City, allegedly to "just drive around".

Tpr. Poggi directed Ram to sniff around the subject's vehicle, and Ram alerted at the passenger-side window.

Tpr. Poggi immediately searched the interior of the vehicle and found six large hockey bags containing approximately 200 pounds of high-grade marijuana.

Last warning

Tpr. Terry M. Duerr (D-Morrisville) was working a scheduled 2 -shift, May 26, when Madison County 911 dispatched him to the scene of a domestic disturbance in the town of DeRuyter in which a man was holding a knife to a woman's throat.

Approaching the house on foot, Tpr. Duerr heard voices inside, and from

a concealed position, peered through a screen door. Inside he saw the man, who was holding a 13-inch knife.

Tpr. Duerr drew his pistol, entered the residence and ordered the man to drop the knife. The male said "no" and approached Tpr. Duerr.

From a distance of 15 feet Tpr. Duerr repeated the warning, but the man ignored him and continued to advance on the trooper. At a distance of only six feet, Tpr. Duerr was compelled to shoot the suspect to protect himself. The man died of his wounds.



Town of Elbridge, Onondaga County: Investigators Joseph S. Harriger and Benjamin M. Miller, SP Oneida, and Tpr. David S. Campbell, SP New Woodstock, excavate the septic tank of a residence in order to retrieve the bodies and body parts of two homicide victims. (See Gruesom Discovery on next page.)

The woman was treated for abrasions to her neck. It was subsequently discovered that the suspect had been arrested numerous times for assault, domestic violence, weapons and drug possession.

His record showed he had been arrested previously in New Jersey for assaulting a police officer and taking his gun.

Gruesome discovery

A man reported to **Sgt./SC Timothy G. Siddall** (D-Elbridge) that he had just discovered a dismembered human torso in the septic tank at a home in the town Elbridge (Onondaga County), July 22.

Earlier in the day, a woman, concerned that she had not heard from her parents for several days, had checked the residence, where her parents and 27-year-old brother lived.

After finding her brother sleeping in the parents' bed, and seeing no sign of the parents, she had fled the home and contacted other family members for assistance.

The family had been concerned for years about the son's increasingly erratic behavior. Sgt. Siddall responded to the residence along with **Tpr. Thomas J. Quilter** (D-Elbridge), and together they searched the residence and surrounding area.

Finding the brother gone, they secured the area to safeguard any possible evidence, established a command post from the back of Sgt. Siddall's troop car and started a crime scene log.

Tpr. James F. Simpson, Capt. Jerome P. Pristash, and Invs. Jeffrey C. Ryan and Benjamin M. Miller, SP Oneida, survey the damage to a pedestrian bridge over I-690 in the Town of Geddes, Onondaga County, after it was struck by a hydraulic lift on the back of a flatbed truck. A SUV carrying a family headed to the opening day of the New York State Fair is visible on the right, having sustained major damage when struck by debris.



BCI and Troop D Forensic Investigation Unit personnel responded to the scene. Investigation revealed the mother's body had been placed in the 1,000-gallon septic tank, and the father's body had been dismembered and also placed in the tank.

Over the next five hours, Troop D FIU Members completed the grisly task of retrieving the bodies and body parts from the tank.

Interviews and evidence indicated the son as the prime suspect, and a search was initiated. Within hours, the suspect turned himself in at the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office headquarters in Syracuse.

A subsequent interview with **Inv. Timothy O. Allen** (D-North Syracuse) and a sheriff's detective led to a full confession, in which

the suspect admitted to shooting his parents and disposing of their bodies. He was charged with the murders, but later adjudged to be mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Too-tall truck brings down the bridge

Tpr. Jeffrey M. Cicora (D-Lysander) was en route to work an F-12 shift at the NYSP exhibit at the State Fair, Aug. 22, when Onondaga County 911 dispatched emergency personal to the scene of a personal injury accident involving the collapse of a bridge on I-690 near the State Fairgrounds.

Already close by, Tpr. Cicora reached the scene quickly, where he found that a flatbed truck with an hydraulic lift for moving large garbage containers had struck and heavily damaged the concrete pedestrian bridge.

He advised 911 that I-690 should be shut down, then observed a passenger vehicle with extensive front-end damage pinned against the guide rail just east of the bridge structure.

An EMT from Brooklyn and an off-duty emergency room doctor from Syracuse advised Tpr. Cicora that there were serious injuries and that seven ambulances and a helicopter/MEDEVAC would be needed.

Faced with a mass casualty incident, **Capt.**

Jerome P. Pristash (D-Oneida) responded with a uniform detail from the Fairgrounds, joining members of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, fire and emergency personnel and police from the towns of Geddes and Camillus.

Personnel from the State Transportation Department determined the bridge structure was not only unsafe but unstable and needed to be removed immediately.

Investigation revealed the truck had been "over-height" and its hydraulic lift had struck the 15-foot-high pedestrian bridge.

The impact had ripped the hoist completely off the truck and dropped it on the passenger car, which contained a Rochester man and six family members, including three young children, en route to opening day at the State Fair.

Several large chunks of concrete had crashed through the car's windshield, seriously injuring the driver and front-seat passenger. They were taken to local hospitals and treated for broken bones and serious cuts.

The other five passengers were treated for various minor injuries at Syracuse area hospitals and released, as was the driver of the truck.

Child abuse horror

Summoned to a residence in the town of Palermo (Oswego County) on a report of an attempted suicide, Aug. 29, **Tpr. Shawn M. Finkle** (D-Fulton) arrived to find an 11-year-old girl unresponsive on the floor of her bedroom.

The child died eight hours later at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, where doctors noted ligature marks on her neck and evidence of sexual trauma.

Tpr. Finkle interviewed the only other person at the residence, the girl's 27-year-old stepbrother. He said the girl had been in her room, and had called out for her supper.

He claimed that when he entered her room, she was hanging by a nylon dog leash from a small screw in the window frame. An examination of the screw revealed it protruded only about a quarter-inch from the woodwork.

The stepbrother returned to SP Fulton, and a BCI detail under **Lt. Troy D. Little** (D-Oneida) went to work on the investigation.

They found the residence to be unspeakably filthy, filled with trash, rotting food and the excrement of nearly 100 cats, two dogs and an assortment of live poultry. One room



Tpr. Brett T. Yorgey, SP Hastings, maintains security at the scene of a homicide involving an 11-year-old girl, while Troop D FIU Members Sr. Inv. Adrian S. Grenier, Inv. Jeffrey C. Ryan, and Inv. Joseph S. Harriger, secure evidence. Invs. found deplorable conditions in the house, which housed more than 100 animals.

was found to be literally 18 inches deep in animal feces.

On the outside of the bedroom where the victim had slept they discovered a locking mechanism. The girl's father and stepmother confirmed the child had been alive when they left the residence only 30 minutes before the incident.

The stepbrother agreed to a polygraph examination, which was conducted that evening by **Inv. Paul A. Olson** (D-North Syracuse).

Lt. Erwin Brandl (D-Oneida) managed the lead desk operation over the next several weeks. It emerged that the victim was routinely locked in her room for the night each evening at approximately 6 o'clock, given only minimal amounts of food, and denied adequate clothing or hygiene items.

Investigation revealed she was often taunted by other children at school because of her poor hygiene, and had been seen going through garbage cans at school to find scraps of food discarded by other children. Despite all this, she was described by many people as a bright, warm and friendly child who loved to read.

The Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office and **Director of SP Forensics Dr. Michael Baden** concurred that the girl's injuries were inconsistent with hanging, and ruled the death a homicide.

On Oct. 3, an Oswego County Grand Jury indicted the stepbrother, for 2nd Degree Murder. The father and stepmother were charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

That's how you do it!

Dispatched by the Jefferson County 911 Center to a domestic violence complaint in the town of Champion, Dec. 12, **Tprs. Nicholas D. Morgia** and **Larry L. Pacola** (D-Carthage) were advised en route that a man with two large kitchen knives was threatening to kill his girlfriend and any police who came near.

Upon arrival, they approached the front door and observed a man with a large knife in each hand standing just inside the door, and a woman cringing on a couch about eight feet away. The man was yelling that he would kill anyone who tried to come in.

Tpr. Pacola yelled to the man drop the knives and come outside, and when the man refused to comply, advised Tpr. Morgia to open the door just enough so he could hit the subject with a burst of pepper spray.

Tpr. Morgia cracked the door about four inches, whereupon Tpr. Pacola administered a burst of OC spray. The man slashed wildly at Tpr. Pacola, but Tpr. Morgia quickly slammed the door shut.

As soon as they saw the spray begin to take effect, Tprs. Morgia and Pacola kicked in the door.

The perpetrator lunged forward with both knives, but the troopers used their batons to knock them from his hands, then took him into custody.

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.

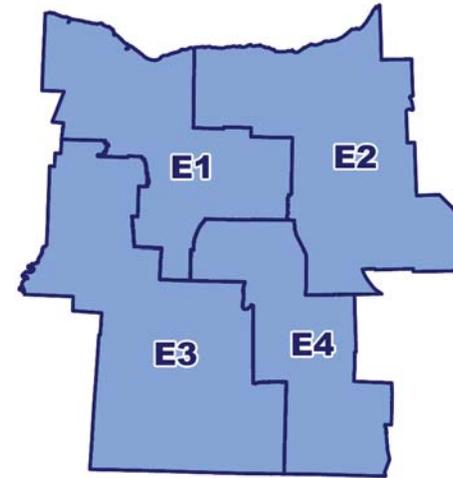
The ten counties served by the "Finger Lakes Troop," as Troop E is known, encompass some of the most picturesque agricultural and recreational areas of New York State.

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.



Population: 1.3 million (approx.) **Service Territory:** 6,042 square miles

Counties Served: Cayuga, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates

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

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 58,916

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,367

Speed: 32,114

Safety Restraints: 10,953

Total V & T: 111,130

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 3/11

Rape: 67

Robbery: 17

Assault: 215

Property

Burglary: 455

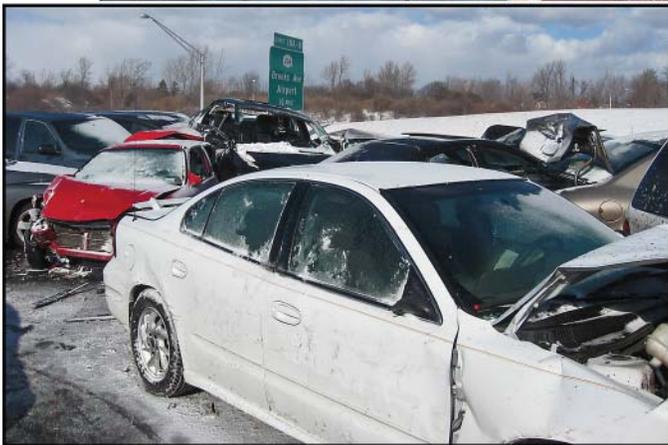
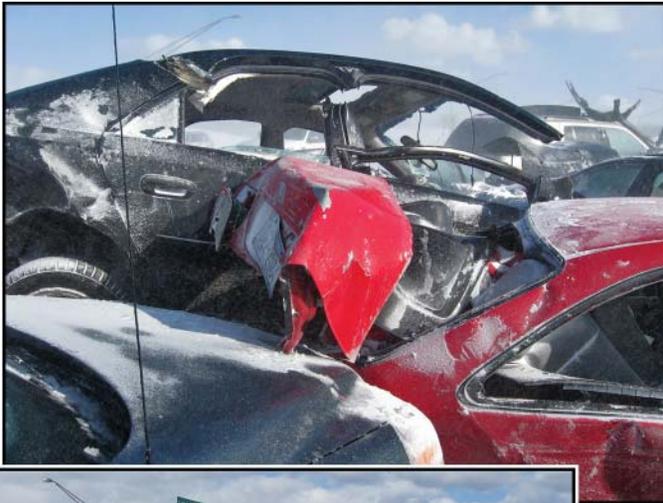
Larceny: 1,485

Motor Vehicle Theft: 48

Interesting Cases

1 killed, 24 hurt in interstate pileup

Snow, driven by winds gusting at up to 37 mph, caused whiteout conditions, Feb. 10, precipitating a 36-vehicle, chain reaction smashup on Interstate 390 near the Greater



36 vehicle accident: Vehicular carnage resulting from an multi-car accident occurring on February 10, 2008, on Interstate 390 in the town of Gates, Monroe County New York. This accident resulted in the death of one person and injuries to 24 others.

Rochester International Airport.

The pileup left a teenager dead and injured 24 persons.

Tpr. Brent S. Bernard (E-Rochester) responded to the scene of the disaster, where he found mangled vehicles spread across all three lanes of the interstate for more than a hundred yards.

Troopers established an on-scene unified command post with the State Police as lead law enforcement agency in conjunction with EMS and the town of Gates Fire Department.

Zone One Commander Capt. Michael J. Cerretto (E-Rochester) directed the operation. Emergency responders, including 23 ambulance crews and four fire departments, battled the cold, icy winds and drifting snow, climbing over and crawling under wrecked cars to reach many of the victims.

Two empty coach buses were commandeered and used as mobile triage centers and warm-up facilities at the scene while the wreckage was sorted out.

Given the magnitude of the accident and the severity of the weather, many responders found it just short of miraculous that only one fatality resulted.

Drug-fueled rage

Tpr. Patrick M. Stickler, School Resource Officer at the Cooper's Plains BOCES, was dispatched to an intersection in the town of Campbell (Steuben County), March 14, for a report of woman being assaulted by her estranged husband.

The woman, an adult BOCES student, had been turning into the school when the husband rammed her car from behind, causing her to overturn. The man exited his vehicle with an assault-type rifle in hand, smashed out the victim's windshield and forcibly hauled her from the car. He then struck her several times with the butt of his rifle, causing numerous injuries.

Tpr. Stickler and two BOCES staff members arrived at the scene and, after a struggle, disarmed and subdued the subject. He was then transported to SP Painted Post where he stated that he had used heroin. Lapsing into a stupor, he was transported to Corning Hospital, where he was treated and returned to police custody.

He was then arraigned in the Campbell Town Court for Criminal Contempt 1st Degree and remanded to the Steuben County Jail without bail to await additional charges.

Investigation nets scrap metal thief

On June 16, **Tpr. Derek G. Merritt** and **Inv. Scott L. Carr** (E-Lyons) responded to a burglary at a factory where management

reported someone had broken in overnight and stolen 3,744 pounds of copper turnings. The metal shavings, valued at approximately \$12,000, had been destined for recycling into copper wire.

Investigation revealed the perpetrators had used one of the factory's forklifts to load the bins of scrap copper into a rental truck.

Investigators from SP Lyons and police agencies throughout the region spent weeks running down leads with negative results. None of the scrap yards in the surrounding area reported receiving any of the copper turnings.

Interviews with informants had produced no useful information; checks with area truck rental businesses likewise yielded nothing.

A break in the case came when factory managers reported the thieves returned during the nights of Aug. 30 and 31, again forcing their way into the production area and using a forklift and truck to steal more copper turnings and several large spools of copper wire on pallets.

The pure copper stolen over both nights weighed more than 13,000 pounds, and was valued at more than \$40,000.

Over the next few days, Invs. Carr, **John A. Stubbe IV** (E-Lyons) and **Peter McCormack** (E-Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Unit) developed information on a truck rented from a lot in Wolcott during the weekends when the burglaries had occurred.

Once the truck was located, Crime Scene Technician **Tpr. Daniel B. Armstrong** (E-Lyons) examined it carefully and found a small quantity of copper residue.

Inquiries at the rental lot yielded information on a 50-year-old man who had rented the truck. A check of the man's criminal history revealed at least 12 prior arrests and three prior prison sentences, including two for Burglary 1st Degree and parole violations, as well as numerous robberies, larcenies and stolen property possession.

Based upon these findings, on Sept. 5, Inv. Stubbe obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence.

A search and arrest team led by **Sr. Inv. Orlando V. Gonzalez** (E-Williamson) and including Invs. Stubbe, Carr, **Frank C. D'Aurizio**, (E-VCIT), **Geoffrey Governor**, **Sgt./SC Gary C. Hand**, **Tprs. Preston W. Fullerton** (E-Lyons) and **Timothy M. Betlewicz** (E-Auburn) and members of the Division Aviation Unit converged on the man's residence, a trailer in a thickly wooded area.

Investigators knocked on the door and although they could hear the subject moving inside, it soon became evident that he was not about to answer.

Just as an entry team began to breach the rear door, the subject ran out of the trailer and attempted to flee down a narrow path. A short foot pursuit ensued, with the subject being subdued by several members, handcuffed and taken into custody without further incident.

A search of the premises resulted in the recovery of approximately 4,500 pounds of stolen copper wire, copper turnings, long guns, an assortment of burglar's tools, a large quantity of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, and approximately \$21,000 in cash.

The subject was charged with three counts of Burglary 3rd Degree, arraigned in Lyons Town Court and committed without bail to the Wayne County Jail.

A search of the premises also turned up what appeared to be many more metal items apparently stolen in other burglaries and larcenies, and maps from all over New York State featuring circles and notes on numerous locations.

Suicidal clergyman

Members of the SP Painted Post 1st and flex shifts helped Village of Painted Post (Steuben County) police investigate a report that a man had tried to hang himself in Hodgeman Park, Sept. 8. At the park they discovered the man had fled.

A person who had been walking through the park told them he had discovered the 59-year-old local pastor hanging by an old rope from the rafters in the main pavilion. Still alive when the rescuer cut him down, the pastor had struck his head on a picnic table and suffered a scalp laceration.

The rescuer ran to summon help, and the clergyman apparently regained consciousness in his absence and fled on foot, leaving behind a small pool of blood and a couple of bloody handprints, but no trail to follow.

Troopers and village police converged on the scene to conduct a search of the park and the surrounding area.

The minister's wife acknowledged he had been depressed for weeks, but she had failed to take seriously his utterances about hanging himself or "jumping off a balcony."

The detail fanned out to re-check a wooded area adjacent to the park as darkness fell. Searchers heard moaning as they approached the far side of the woods, and a fireman found the man hanging upside down approximately 25 feet from the ground, suspended only by his right ankle, which was lodged in a tree branch.

Medical assistance and fire equipment were summoned. But the man became alert and began flailing around despite pleas by the firemen to remain still.

Tpr. Jonathan O. Stelmack (E-Painted Post) assessed the situation and determined the man would free himself and fall before the fire department could arrive.

Grabbing a rope, he climbed the tree to a point where he could reach the clergyman, looped a slipknot over the man's left foot and tied it off securely so the he couldn't fall or impede the rescue efforts.

Eventually, firemen using a ladder truck were able to reach the minister and lower him to awaiting EMS personnel. He was airlifted to an Elmira hospital, where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Swamp search, scrap recovery

Inv. Kristin A. Fleming (E-Waterloo) investigated a report from Waterloo (Seneca County) police regarding the theft of numerous bronze veterans' plaques from cemeteries in Waterloo Seneca Falls.

Following up on information provided by a Waterloo police officer, Inv. Fleming and **Tpr. Steven M. Kelley** (E-Waterloo) interviewed three subjects who eventually confessed to the crimes.

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Pieces of the cemetery plaques were recovered from a local scrap yard, but the total weight of the recovered bronze fell well short of the estimated total weight of the missing plaques.

Eventually, one of the culprits told **Inv. John S. Lotemple** (E-Waterloo) the missing plaques had been dumped in the Montezuma Swamp in the town of Tyre.

On his own time, Tpr. Kelley, began searching parts of the swamp where the plaques were said to have been dumped, but even with hip waders soft swamp bottom and the depth of the water made the task impossible.

Division divers were called in, and after a four-hour search, recovered all the remaining plaques.

The thieves were remanded to the Seneca County Jail in lieu of bail.

Assist leads to arrests

An armed robbery at a convenience store in the village of Canaseraga (Allegany County), brought **Tprs. Timothy H. Ferris** and **John L. White** (E-Wayland) in to assist members of the SP Amity Troop A patrol, Sept. 21.

Information was developed that a man and woman had held up the store and escaped in a black Ford Escort. The area was searched with negative results.

Several hours later, Tpr. Ferris stopped to eat at a restaurant in the village of Dansville (Livingston County), where he observed a black Ford Escort in the parking lot.

Inside the restaurant, he noticed a man

and woman at the counter. The sight of the trooper seemed to unnerve them and they got up to leave.

Tpr. Ferris followed them outside and called Tpr. White for assistance. The subjects acknowledged the black Ford was theirs, but would not consent to a search.

While interviewing the woman, Tpr. White noticed her stuffing old receipts into an empty cigarette pack. She asked if she could throw it away, and Tpr. White offered to do it for her. Before doing so, however, he checked the contents and discovered baggies containing cocaine residue and heroin.

The man denied possessing any drugs and consented to a search of the vehicle. This turned up several items related to the robbery, including two pieces of paper with tape attached that had been used to cover the car's license plates, a shirt and a sweatshirt witnesses identified from the robbery and a purse stolen from an employee at another nearby restaurant.

The suspects were turned over to investigators from Troop A. They eventually confessed to the robbery, admitted to spending the proceeds on drugs in Rochester and disclosed the whereabouts of a starter's pistol they had used in the holdup.

Determination and persistence solve a homicide

Around midnight, Nov. 27, a resident of Williamson (Wayne County) saw a maroon Chrysler PT Cruiser stop across the road from her house.

Troop E

A man got out and went into a wooded area carrying what looked like a plastic bag. He returned several minutes later without the bag and drove away.

Next morning the resident sent her son to see if he could find the bag. He did: it contained bloody clothing and other items. Uniform and BCI members from SP Williamson were called to investigate.

On a prescription bottle inside the bag was a man's name and a Texas address, but an SJS check revealed the person in question actually lived nearby. Coincidentally, the man's mother had reported him and his wife of two months missing the previous day around 1 p.m., but had called back later to say he was home and the wife had taken a plane back to her family in Texas.

Sr. Inv. Orlando V. Gonzalez, Invs. Jeffrey L. Miller and Andrew J. Jasie (E-Williamson) located the 36-year-old man, and he drove to SP Williamson for an interview, along with his parents.

Investigation revealed that he did in fact own a maroon PT Cruiser, and that he had a history of domestic violence, including several incidents with his new wife.

After an extensive interview, he admitted to having assaulted her, but maintained he had acted in self-defense, and that when she subsequently regained consciousness, he had driven her to the airport to catch a flight to Texas.

Invs. Peter McCormack and Barry C. Chase (E-CTIU) conducted extensive searches through NYSIC, regional airlines and Texas authorities, but could not find any record of the wife having boarded a plane. They did, however, discover a record

of a recent domestic violence arrest for the man in Hawaii, four days after the couple had been married.

Inv. John A. Stubbe IV (E-Lyons) prepared and obtained search warrants for the man's car and residence, which were executed with the assistance of Troop E Forensic Investigation Unit. Meanwhile, the subject was charged with Assault 1st Degree and jailed without bail.

On Nov. 29, a state/local search detail combed the area where the bag of clothing was found, along with other areas of interest. The local media broadcast information about the search and a request

to the public for any information related to the case.

A local resident reported having seen a man carry something from a maroon PT Cruiser parked on a cul-de-sac near the shore of Lake Ontario. The driver had returned to the same spot the next day for a short time.

Under the direction of **Sr. Inv. Allan M. Dombroski, Invs. Thomas Crowley, Jeffery T. Arnold (E-VCIT)**, Jasie and McCormack, fanned out to search the area near where the car had been seen.

Soon thereafter, Inv. Arnold discovered a female victim buried under rocks along the shoreline. The victim was identified as the



Victim buried under rocks: On the afternoon her body was found along the shore of Lake Ontario, in the town of Williamson, Wayne County, New York (left to right) Inv. Jeffrey Arnold (Troop VCIT), DA Richard Healy (Wayne County DA), Sr. Inv. Thomas Gehl and Invs. David Kuntz and Kevin Sucher (Troop E FIU), are at the scene of where the body of a female homicide victim was located.

subject's 28-year-old wife. She had been stabbed and bludgeoned.

The man was charged with murder.

Undercover operation nets one arrest, one resignation

The State Division of Parole contacted **Inv. Barry C. Chase** (Counter Terrorism Investigation Unit-Canandaigua), Dec. 4, regarding a parolee who had tried to arrange the murder of a police officer.

The parolee had either wanted to have the officer killed or, failing that, wanted to purchase a gun so he could do it himself.

Inv. Chase immediately notified **BCI Lt. James J. Greenwood** and arranged for the parolee to meet **Sr. Inv. James J. Newell Jr.** and **Invs. Amy T. Crosier** (E-Rochester), **Thomas Crowley** (VCIT) and **Aaron B. Dake** (Source Development Unit-Rochester).

A controlled call was made to set up a meet with the parolee and an undercover CNET investigator.

The next day, Lt. Greenwood, Sr. Inv. Newell, Inv. Crosier and **Invs. Bryan R. Blum, Dennis C. Enser** and **Stephen M. Lalonde** (E-Rochester), along with **Invs. Crowley, Dake, Sr. Inv. Paul H. Kelly, Invs. Matthew P. Butts** and **Kevin J. Jordan** of CNET-West, **Invs. Scott A. Shepard, Johnnie B. Willis Jr., and Jordan J. Bonafede** of the CNET-West Gun Investigation Unit, and **Tprs. Erich A. Koenig** (E-Rochester) and **John R. O'Brien** (E-Penfield) set up to meet the suspect.

The suspect was directed to bring money

and drugs in exchange for the weapon.

The suspect told Inv. Jordan the name of the targeted police officer and gave him money. He was promptly taken into custody and brought to SP Rochester, where he told investigators he wanted to kill the officer because he had been selling cocaine to him for more than three years and had recently discovered he was a policeman.

The officer was asked to come to SP Rochester and, after being interviewed, gave a deposition confirming that he had been purchasing drugs from the suspect.

The suspect went to jail and the police officer subsequently resigned.

Child abuse

A report of a five-year-old boy seriously injured in a fall brought **Tpr. Gregory F. Schmitter** (E-Auburn) to a house in the town of Summerhill (Cayuga County), Dec. 15.

While assisting responding EMS units, Tpr. Schmitter observed unmistakable signs of violent abuse on the unconscious child's body, as well as to one of his two brothers.

A brief interview with the mother and her female friend failed to yield a reasonable explanation for the children's condition.

The five-year-old was transported to Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, where he underwent emergency surgery for a blood clot in his brain.

His two-year-old brother was sent to Auburn Memorial Hospital, and subsequently transferred to Upstate Medical Center for treatment of suspected internal injuries.

Tpr. Schmitter immediately advised **Sr. Inv. David R. Stebbins** (E-Auburn) of the situation and arrangements were made for the mother's friend to bring the rest of the children to SP Auburn.

Inv. Joel F. Pinker (E-Auburn) responded to assist Tpr. Schmitter with interviews of the friend and the children, while **Inv. Richard P. Dix** (D-Lafayette) went to interview the mother at the hospital.

Tpr. Schmitter and a Cayuga County child protective worker developed information that the mother's friend had routinely assaulted the children. She was charged with Assault 2nd Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child and committed to the Cayuga County Jail on \$50,000 cash bail.

Additional information developed by **Invs. Stebbins** and **Pinker** over the next few days established that the mother was aware of the assaults and in some instances had participated in them. She, too, was charged with Assault 2nd and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

The injured children were released from hospital and are expected to recover fully. Cayuga County Family Court removed them children and placed them in the care of foster families.

Troop F

Created from portions of Troops C, G and K in 1968, Troop F services the State's heavily traveled Mid Hudson region.

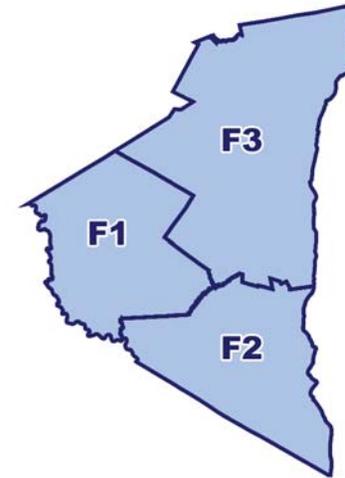
Working from 22 stations, Troop F personnel provide the full spectrum of State Police services to residents, commuters and travelers in and around the region's 75 towns and 50 villages.

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 sole responsibility for providing security to the entire airport.



Population: 928,000 (approx.) **Service Territory:** 3,756 square miles

Counties Served: Greene, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster

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

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 67,088

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 2,321

Speed: 36,961

Safety Restraints: 11,229

Total V & T: 107,959

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 10/21

Rape: 68

Robbery: 22

Assault: 396

Property

Burglary: 573

Larceny: 1,899

Motor Vehicle Theft: 95

Interesting Cases

Into the ‘hot zone’ at a traffic stop

Members of the Troop F Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit were conducting a border security road check at the I-84 Wallkill (Orange County) rest area, Jan. 24, when several members’ personal radiation detectors (PRDs) went off. A tractor-trailer was immediately identified as the radiation source.

Tpr. Adrian T. Tyndell stopped the vehicle for inspection and quickly learned that while the driver could produce shipping papers for radioactive Cesium 137, his truck did not feature the required placard for radioactive materials. The readings that Tpr. Tyndell received on his PRD were higher than expected, and he contacted Troop F CVEU Supervisor and Tier 2 radiological responder **T/Sgt. George S. Okst** to respond.

T/Sgt. Okst confirmed the elevated readings and that the source was in fact Cesium 137. The package inside the vehicle was isolated and inspected, and the labeling and markings on it were found to be improper for the readings associated with the radiation emitted.

The driver was issued three UTTs for violations of the State Transportation Law: being insufficiently placarded, being improperly labeled, and displaying an improper shipping name.

The vehicle was placed out-of-service until the violations were corrected.

Not quite as smart as he thought...

Responding to an alarm at a closed convenience store in the town of Wallkill, Feb. 25, **Tpr. Jennifer Sulli** (F-Middletown), met the “key holder” and the two checked the exterior of the building, where they discovered the telephone lines had been cut. The store’s external surveillance camera footage revealed a bearded man cutting the phone lines and leaving in an unknown white vehicle that had a “doughnut” tire on the rear passenger side.

While interviewing the “key holder,” Tpr. Sulli’s attention was drawn to a slow-moving vehicle that drove past the store with a “doughnut” on the rear passenger side. She immediately got in her troop car and stopped the vehicle, after radioing her location to SP Middletown.

As Tpr. Sulli approached the bearded driver, she observed a billy club, wire cutters, and a crowbar on the passenger seat. She immediately took the operator into custody for Criminal Possession of a Weapon. **Inv. Matthew Skarkas** arrived to assist at that point, and while searching the operator, discovered that he possessed five decks of heroin and a suspended license.

Confronted with overwhelming evidence, the suspect confessed he had cut the phone lines to disable the alarm system and had planned to return and complete the burglary after allowing time for the police to respond. He had figured the police would determine the premises was secure and never notice

the phone lines had been cut.

He was charged with Attempted Burglary, CPW, CPCS, Criminal Mischief, Possession of Burglar’s Tools and Aggravated Unauthorized Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Drug ring shattered

An 18-month-long investigation into cocaine distribution in Sullivan County culminated with the arrest of 27 individuals for conspiracy, May 7. The arrests uncovered an organized drug distribution network that spanned the region from Sullivan County to New York City.

The investigation began with SP Liberty BCI and the Sullivan County District Attorney’s Office working to break up a local cocaine distribution network. As it began to intensify, members of the CNET-Southern region were assigned to the investigation.

Confidential informants were developed who were able to purchase significant amounts of drugs from the main target. This, combined with physical surveillances and the analysis of the primary target’s 5,000 to 6,000 cell phone calls a month established probable cause for an eavesdropping warrant. This in turn led to the identity of major suppliers from Orange County and New York City and mid-level dealers in the Sullivan county area.

On May 7, a kilo of cocaine destined for Sullivan County was intercepted, the suspects were arrested and search warrants were executed, resulting in the

recovery of \$100,000 in cash and numerous vehicle seizures.

The investigation, dubbed “OPERATION INTERCEPT,” ended the network distribution of approximately a kilogram of cocaine a week, with a street value of \$1.5 million annually. The majority of the defendants pleaded guilty, Dec. 7.

Maybe he was related to Minnie Pearl...

While on patrol in the city of Kingston, June 14, **Tpr. Joshua J. Taylor** (F-Kingston) monitored a report of an armed robbery involving a gold-colored handgun. Shortly thereafter he initiated a Vehicle and Traffic stop.

Statements made by the driver and passenger conflicted, and a closer look revealed the passenger was wearing clothing with the price tags still attached. Pressed for details, the subject could offer no explanation.

Tpr. Taylor conducted a pat-down search of the passenger, which disclosed a loaded, gold, .32-cal. pistol. A search of the vehicle turned up clothing matching the description of that worn by the robber. The subject was arrested and charged with Robbery 1st Degree and illegal weapons possession.

Keep digging...

A 19-year-old Brentwood, Long Island, man contacted SP Catskill, July 27, to report that he had not heard from his mother in three weeks. This was uncharacteristic of her, he

stated, adding that it also was unlikely that she would have gone anywhere, as she possessed numerous animals and would never leave them unattended.

Finally, he advised troopers that his mother, who lived in a remote part of Catskill (Greene County), had recently taken in a troubled friend of the family, a 24 year-old man who had been in and out of jail throughout his life. He was presently incarcerated in the Greene County Jail on probation violation charges.

The complainant had visited this man in jail, looking for information about his mother. The man had told him he didn't know where the woman had gone, but that her dog had died weeks earlier and he had helped her bury it on her property.

Skeptical, the young man had gone to his mother's house to seek out the dog's grave. In a corner of the property he found a cross and marker that read “RIP SAVANAH”.

He dug into the clay until he unearthed the dog, but continued digging when he noticed fabric protruding from the bottom of the hole. This led to the discovery of his mother, who had been shot in the head and buried beneath the dog.

The SP Catskill BCI had been investigating a homicide case in Ulster County involving a burned and dismembered body. **Sr. Inv. Scott Youngblood** and most of his squad had already worked a 12-hour-day, but when presented with the young man's information, they sped to the assistance of the Troop F Major Crimes and the Forensic Investigation Units.

They quickly determined that the county jail inmate had been arrested weeks earlier in

Rome (Oneida County) while in possession of a pickup truck, a cell phone and credit cards belonging to the victim.

Sr. Inv. Youngblood and his squad then began a three-day marathon during which they traveled repeatedly between Troops F and D, gathering video evidence and store receipts, interviewing family members and police, and ultimately building a solid case against the suspect.

The investigative pressure they brought to bear on persons associated with the suspect led to many of his friends and family members providing crucial information which ultimately led to his indictment.

Members of the Catskill BCI who contributed to closing this particularly gruesome homicide case included **Invs. Joseph Caputo, Diana Benoit, Scott Donn, Lance Aguiar, Brian Santos, Carmen Goffredo, Stephan Williams** and **Shawn Houck**, and **Tprs. David Lane** and **Gregory Lischak**.

Déjà vu all over again

Tpr. Joseph E. Decker (F-Roscoe) was working a 1 shift in Sullivan County, July 23, as the area staggered under another heavy rainfall.

Authorities there had been monitoring Little Spring Brook, which runs from Colchester in Delaware County (Troop C) into the town of Rockland in Sullivan County (Troop F).

The area already had been devastated thirteen months earlier by a flash flood that claimed four lives and forced the closure of Route 206, and Tpr. Decker had earned

a Superintendent's Commendation then for personally rescuing elderly people from their homes, at one point, having to swim to safety himself.

At about 2 p.m., Tprs. Decker and **Stephen K. Johnstone** (E-Roscoe) saw flood waters once again surge across the roadway and threaten the nearby homes. They radioed SP Liberty to make notifications to close the mountain highway on both ends, and had begun evacuating residents in the area when a local fireman informed them a family was trapped in a house at the base of the mountain.

Tprs. Decker and Johnstone sped to the house, where they saw a woman and child screaming for help from their front door. With the help of two firemen, they secured a 150-foot rope to a guide rail and managed to talk the trapped woman into tying the other end to her front porch.

Tpr. Decker then secured himself to the rope using a rescue belt. He entered the flood waters and swam 30 yards to the house, which by then was totally surrounded by fast-moving water. He carried a 9-year-old child from the house to the highway, then returned and hauled the 30-year-old mother to safety.

Shortly thereafter, the rampaging waters ripped the porch from the house and swept it downstream.

Cold, cold case...

Responding to a fraud complaint at a bank in Roscoe (Sullivan County), Oct. 3, **Tpr. Michael Park** (F-Roscoe) interviewed company officials who said a man had

cashied several checks made out to him, but signed with a rubber-stamped facsimile of his mother's signature. No one at the bank had seen the mother for several years, and they were concerned.

Tpr. Park tried several times to contact the man at his home in Cooks Falls (Delaware County) before finally making contact with him.

During the ensuing interview, the man was generally vague and evasive; for instance, he told Tpr. Park his mother was living in "the Hebrew House in Brooklyn," but was unable to provide an address or telephone number for the institution. He assured the trooper his mother was alive and well, and that he would get back to him with further information.

An on-line search by Tpr. Park revealed that there were numerous Hebrew Houses in the New York City area, but Tpr. Park was unable to verify the woman's residency at any of them.

The following day, the man still could not supply an address for his mother, and told the trooper his attorney would contact him with further details.

Tpr. Park, fearing foul play, contacted the attorney and inquired if the mother was alive. After demurring initially, the lawyer eventually told Tpr. Park the mother had been dead for 15 months.

"You'll never guess where the body is," he said. There was an awkward silence on the phone for several seconds, after which the attorney said, "...*in the refrigerator.*"

He went on to advise Tpr. Park that the body was being taken by the Delaware

County Sheriff's Department to Syracuse for autopsy.

The District Attorney's Office ultimately obtained a search warrant for the mother's house, and her body was recovered from a freezer there. Investigation revealed the son had been collecting his mother's Social Security payments for more than a year.

Fatal confrontation

Members of Troop F Major Crimes Unit and the SP Middletown BCI were conducting joint undercover operations with Middletown police detectives shortly after 3 a.m., Oct. 4, when they observed a man fitting the description of a robbery suspect urinating outside a nearby restaurant.

A Middletown PD detective approached the subject, but the man turned on him and stabbed the detective in the chest and abdomen.

Sr. Invs. Brian D. Meier and **Kevin V. McGrath** (F-Middletown) pursued the fleeing man for several blocks before he turned again and menaced them with his knife. Sr. Inv. Meier then opened fire on the man with his Glock sidearm, striking him in the upper torso, but the subject was still able to flee afoot, circling the perimeter of an adult home-care facility.

When the pursuing members closed in on him again and directed him to drop his weapon, he instead thrust the knife into his own throat several times.

Taken into custody by Sr. Invs. Meier and McGrath, he was transported to Orange Regional Medical Center for treatment of his

wounds. He was subsequently identified as a 37-year-old multiple-felony offender. His condition gradually deteriorated and he died late on the afternoon of Oct. 5.

Sr. Inv. McGrath was treated for a knife wound and released.

The more grievously wounded detective underwent emergency surgery and is expected to make a full recovery.

When additional rescuers showed up, the troopers helped organize an overlapping line of workers who gradually passed the mother and child along from hand-to-hand until they reached safety.

Hand-me...up?

An Ulster County 911 poll brought **Tprs. Julyan T. Gillman** and **Thomas P. Hanigan** (F-Ellenville) to a remote part of the town of Rochester (Ulster County), Nov. 28. There they could hear a woman screaming for help and an infant crying from atop a high ridge behind a house.

Darkness was closing in and temperatures dropping rapidly as they climbed the ridge, negotiating numerous drop-offs and steep ledges along the way. Along the way they called Ulster 911 for additional search resources.

Following the anguished voices, they climbed an exhausting 1,000 feet before finally reaching the woman and child.

The mother explained that she wandered off a trail four or five hours earlier, then slipped down a steep drop-off and slid down a 100-foot rock face, clutching her infant the entire time, before finally coming to rest.

It was obvious to the troopers that they could not bring the woman and child safety down the same way they had come up.

Tpr. Gillman scaled the bare rock face in an effort to locate a possible exit route.

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, 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.



Population: 1.06 million (approx.) **Service Territory:** 6,534 square miles

Counties Served: Albany, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington

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, Queensbury, Saratoga, Schuylerville, Northway, Wilton

Zone 3: Cobleskill, Fonda, Mayfield, Princetown, Wells

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 65,100

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,709

Speed: 36,684

Safety Restraints: 11,999

Total V & T: 102,781

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 1/19

Rape: 46

Robbery: 11

Assault: 242

Property

Burglary: 460

Larceny: 1,740

Motor Vehicle Theft: 61

Interesting Cases

Alcohol, depression fuel bridge drama

Tprs. Neil Blakely and **Chun H. Park** were working a 2 Tour out of SP Queensbury, Jan. 10, when they received a report of a disabled vehicle at an intersection in Lake Luzerne (Warren County). They located the vehicle and its intoxicated 26-year-old driver.

When they tried to interview him, the man bolted towards the Hadley/Luzerne Bridge, climbed over the railing 75 feet above the Hudson River, and from there declared he was depressed about his life and wanted to kill himself.

While Tpr. Blakely attempted talk the man back onto the sidewalk, Tpr. Park made supervisory notifications.

For the next 45 minutes, Tpr. Blakely kept the man occupied and talking, but the man kept inching away until eventually he reached a narrow flagpole attached to the bridge.

He climbed out on the flagpole and began to hang from it. As the pole began to bend under his weight, Tpr. Blakely reached over the railing and grabbed the man, just as the subject lost his footing.

With help from Tpr. Park and an off-duty Warren County sheriff's deputy, he pulled the subject to safety.

An ambulance transported the man to Glens Falls Hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Explosives, a hostage and drugs

Tpr. John P. Peck (G-Greenwich) was dispatched to assist federal customs and ATF agents at a residence in rural White Creek (Washington County), Feb. 8, after authorities learned someone there had purchased by mail quantities of potassium perchlorate and aluminum powder — substances which can be combined to make an explosive.

Invs. Frank R. Borbolla and **Joseph M. Bearor** (G-Greenwich) also responded, as did **Chief T/Sgt. Timothy L. Fischer** (H-BDU).

The house was occupied by a husband, wife and their three teen-age children. The federal agents had already obtained a consent to search and quickly located the chemicals, along with about 10 pounds of marijuana, stored in the dining room.

During the investigation, Tpr. Peck and Invs. Borbolla and Bearor were summoned to a nearby residence for a possible hostage situation. A telemarketer who had called there said a man, noticeably upset, had threatened shoot himself and his wife.

Tpr. Peck and Invs. Borbolla and Bearor joined up with **Tpr. Gregg D. Saunders** (G-Greenwich) and took up strategic positions around the house while the investigators placed a phone call to the residence. The man agreed to come out and meet with investigators, at which time he was taken into custody without difficulty.

Tpr. Peck transported him to Glens Falls

Hospital for mental health evaluation.

Back at the original scene, Sgt. Fischer and **Tpr. Edward Cardinal** (G-Princetown) safely removed the chemicals. They had, it was learned, been ordered two years earlier by the eldest son, who had kept them in his bedroom near a wood-burning stove. The 18-year-old said he had been fascinated by fireworks and had intended to make his own.

The father was arrested for Criminal Possession of Marijuana 2nd Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

The mother was arrested for Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and the 18-year-old was arrested for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree and Reckless Endangerment 2nd Degree.

One case closes 40 others

Sr. Inv. Patricia A. Donovan (G-Clifton Park) conducted a meeting with local law enforcement representatives, March 11, to explore details of several similar recent burglaries of commercial establishments in Saratoga, Albany and Schenectady counties.

The probe identified a prime suspect, and it was decided that the State Police should conduct a surveillance.

Four days later, Sr. Inv. Donovan, **Invs. Matthew D. Britten, Henry J. Abeel** (G-Clifton Park) and **Michael W. Student** (G-Loudonville) followed the suspect to a strip mall on Central Avenue in Colonie (Albany

County), where he parked behind a Chinese restaurant and a hair salon.

About ten minutes later, he drove away, and immediately thereafter the investigators received a report that the Chinese restaurant had been burglarized. Invs. Student and Abeel were notified and stopped the suspect vehicle.

In his possession the suspect had several items stolen from the restaurant. He was arrested for 3rd Degree Burglary and remanded to the Albany County jail without bail.

His arrest closed a string of approximately 40 commercial burglary cases.

Domestic donnybrook

On the morning of St. Patrick's Day, March 17, the Warren County 911 Center dispatched **Tpr. Eric B. Swan** (G-Chestertown) to an address in Brant Lake, where a third-party caller had overheard a loud domestic dispute.

Upon arrival, Tpr. Swan found himself confronting a 60-year-old woman clutching a steak knife and threatening to kill her longtime live-in partner, a 70-year-old man, who was seated on the couch in the adjoining room. She claimed he had a pistol hidden under the sofa cushions.

Tpr. Swan was able to calm the woman and, within a few minutes, convince her to put down the knife. She was taken into custody and later charged with Menacing 2nd Degree.

Tpr. Swan then searched the sofa and found a loaded .25-cal. Beretta pistol. The

man possessed no pistol permit, and was arrested for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree.

When he was able to interview the woman at length and talk to the neighbor who had made the call, Tpr. Swan learned the woman had been the victim of an ongoing abusive relationship in which the man had repeatedly threatened her with physical harm. He was subsequently charged with Menacing 3rd Degree.

Identifying the mystery contaminant

Inv. Robert J. Stampfli (G-Wilton) investigated a complaint of possible consumer product tampering, May 10, after a Northumberland (Saratoga County) family reported finding what appeared to be glass or hard plastic in pre-formed hamburger patties purchased from a local grocery store. Fortunately, although their backyard barbecue had been ruined, no one had been injured.

Inv. Stampfli immediately contacted store officials to remove all packages of the product from shelves throughout the grocery chain. In doing so he learned the meat had been distributed by a western New York packing company, and immediately contacted a representative of that company.

Working from this information, the company was able to track down the cause of the problem: fragments from a loose Plexiglas shield that had come into contact with the blades on a meat grinder.

Corporate officials later reported multiple complaints regarding the product, and that

while several law enforcement officials had contacted them, only Inv. Stampfli had been able to provide the packaging codes that enabled them to identify the source of the contamination.

Thus, the manufacturer was able to issue a widespread recall of the specific contaminated product, without having to resort to a more expensive general recall of all its goods.

Helping to find a lost helpmate

SP Princetown received an anguished call from a woman who said her 89-year-old mother was missing from her Duanesburg (Schenectady County) home.

Tprs. Darin A. Jones and William D. Martin were dispatched to the residence and interviewed family members there.

The missing woman's 85-year-old husband, afflicted with dementia, told them he thought his wife had gone off on a trip to Boston with a church group, but could not recall when he had last seen her.

Area interviews determined no one had seen her since she had gone to a hair appointment two days earlier.

A four-wheel drive "Gator" utility vehicle was found to be missing from the family's garage, as well.

Tprs. Jones and Martin coordinated a search of the couple's 36-acre, mostly wooded, property. **Sgt. Tryon S. Lecakes** (G-Cobleskill) arrived to supervise the search and called **Tpr. Robert W. Schlegel III** (G-Saratoga) in with his partner **K-9 "Alex"** to attempt a track.

Hours of searching in the dark proved futile, however, and search efforts had to be suspended until 8 a.m. the next day, when a large-scale effort, utilizing all available resource, was planned.

At approximately 5 a.m., Tprs. Jones and Martin contacted two Schenectady sheriff's members, and the four resumed the search on their own.

While probing a heavily wooded area about a mile from the house, they found the missing utility vehicle.

They concentrated their search in that area and soon located the woman lying in a creek bed. After providing first aid, they transported her back to the house in the Gator.

On the way, she told them her husband had gone missing from the house for about four hours, and worried, she had gone looking for him.

Exhaustion had overcome her, and she ended up falling into the creek bed. She said that she had been outdoors for two nights and had endured severe thunderstorms and mid-90 degree heat.

Transported to Albany Medical Center, she was treated for exposure, dehydration, and other ailments.

Video matches stickup man

Dispatched by Saratoga County 911 to a possible armed robbery at a Northway (I-87) gas station in Malta, Aug. 9, **Tprs. Kevin D. Manion** and **Shawn P. Gould** (G-Saratoga) interviewed two victims who said they had given a man, aged 30 to 40, a ride from an

Exit 10 convenience store to a gas station at Exit 11.

At the traffic light just off the exit ramp, the subject put a black handgun to the head of one of the victims and demanded money. He fled on foot into the woods with \$23 in cash.

Backup units from the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office and Wilton and Clifton Park 2-shift troopers arrived shortly thereafter, along with **Inv. Jason P. Deluca** (G-Saratoga). **Tprs. Kyle W. Hutter** and **Amy L. Flansburg** (G-Wilton) patrolled to the convenience store, where the clerk gave them a description of the suspect and told them the store's security camera might have surveillance footage of him.

A Saratoga County deputy contacted Inv. Deluca later in the day with a possible lead. He remembered investigating a domestic incident with a subject who matched the description obtained by Tprs. Hutter and Flansburg. The subject was living at an Exit 11 motel.

Inv. Deluca then conducted an extensive investigation into this lead with assistance from **Invs. Andrew P. Werner** (G-Wilton) and **Rodger F. Kirsopp** (G-Clifton Park).

Meanwhile, personnel from the NYSP Academy Audio/Visual Department, enhanced the surveillance video, showing the deputy's suspect to be a perfect match with the man in the video.

This, along with other evidence obtained by Invs. Deluca, Werner and Kirsopp, led to the arrest of the suspect for one count of 1st Degree Robbery.

30 pounds of pot vs. a red light...

Tpr. Brian D. Rumrill and his K-9 partner "**Donivan**" (G-Queensbury) saw a car run a red light directly in front of them at an intersection in Warrensburg (Warren County), Aug. 24, and pulled the offender over a short distance away.

Tpr. Edward G. Stannard (G-Bolton Landing) stopped by a moment later to assist, and interviewed the front seat passenger while Tpr. Rumrill interviewed the driver.

The driver appeared extremely nervous, sweating profusely, shaking, and unable to answer simple questions without considerable thought. The two occupants claimed they were headed to Newburgh for a week.

Tpr. Rumrill smelled a faint odor of marijuana. Observing a small gym bag in the back seat, he asked the driver what was in it. The driver said it was his clothing for the week.

Asked what was in the trunk, the driver answered, "nothing." Tpr. Rumrill then inquired where the passenger's clothing bag was, and after a long pause, the driver said the passenger's clothing was in the same bag.

Tpr. Rumrill instructed the driver to get out and obtained consent for a search of the vehicle. K-9 Donivan performed a free-air sniff of the car, alerting vigorously at the trunk, near the left tail light.

When opened, the trunk revealed two empty coolers and a large, black, multi-layered

plastic garbage bag containing 60 one-gallon freezer bags full of marijuana. The total seizure weighed approximately 30 pounds.

The driver was charged with Criminal Possession of Marijuana 1st Degree and violations of the state V&T Law. The passenger was charged with Criminal Possession of Marijuana. Both were remanded to the Warren County Jail in lieu of bail.

This may come as a shock, but...

Tprs. Evan S. Fiet (G-Brunswick) and K-9 Handler **Kevin E. Holohan** (G-Schodack) were staffing the Schaghticoke Fair State Police exhibit, Sept. 1, when a fairgoer told them a man was lying on the ground in the middle of the walkway behind the grandstand.

Tprs. Fiet and Holohan responded in Tpr. Holohan's patrol vehicle, which was equipped with a medical kit, accessories, and an AED.

Upon arrival, they found a woman performing chest compressions on the stricken man. Someone was yelling the victim had no pulse and was not breathing.

Tpr. Holohan took the AED from the troop car and assessed the patient while Tpr. Fiet requested Advanced Life Support. The device recommended a shock, which Tpr. Holohan administered.

The AED then stated, "Begin CPR." Tpr. Holohan took over chest compressions and the woman performed rescue

breathing. This continued until the patient was reassessed and a pulse detected.

Rescue Squad/EMS arrived then, and the troopers helped load the subject into the ambulance with the AED still attached.

The patient was transported to Samaritan Hospital in Troy, where emergency room staff confirmed that without prompt use of the AED, the patient would have died.

He was transferred later to Albany Medical Center for emergency cardiac surgery on arterial blockages.

Anniversary tragedy prevented

Informed by SP Albany communications personnel that a man was standing on the edge of the Dunn Memorial bridge over the Hudson River, Oct. 8, **Tpr. Eric Terraferma** (G-Loudonville) arrived at the scene to find the subject, dressed in a suit and overcoat, staring down at the water.

Tpr. Terraferma parked his troop car to block traffic and shield himself and the subject from oncoming traffic, but when he approached the man, he motioned him back.

Tpr. Terraferma then attempted to engage the visibly distraught man in conversation, but he refused to talk and kept looking at his watch. Whenever Tpr. Terraferma attempted to edge closer, the man warned him to back off or it would be all over.

As Tpr. Terraferma continued to try reasoning with the man, three Rensselaer city police officers arrived from the other end of the bridge and approached the man from behind.

Tpr. Terraferma kept the man occupied until the Rensselaer officers were able to tackle him from behind. Tpr. Terraferma then helped pull the man back from the ledge to — what else? *Terra firma*...

As they waited for an ambulance to transport him to Albany Medical Center, the man told Tpr. Terraferma his wife had died two years ago on that date, and that he had intended to jump off the bridge at 3:55 pm — the exact time of her death.

They're going back inside...

Two men robbed the M&T Bank in Schaghticoke (Rensselaer County), Oct. 14, escaping down State Route 40 in a dark-colored Cadillac.

A BOLO went out from SP Saratoga. **Tpr. Matthew S. Wilski** (G-Saratoga) monitored it and immediately proceeded to the Village of Round Lake, reasoning it would be a likely getaway route if the suspects tried to flee west.

Approaching the village, he saw the Cadillac stopped at a red light with several other vehicles behind it. Playing it calmly, Tpr. Wilski passed the stopped suspect vehicle in the opposite direction, observing the driver but seeing no passenger.

Then, keeping the vehicle in sight, he proceeded 200 yards up the road, performed a quick turnaround in a driveway and began following the suspect vehicle.

Tpr. Wilski caught up with the Cadillac in the town of Clifton Park and positioned himself in the second lane of the four-lane highway, from which viewpoint he observed a dark, suspiciously large, hump in the back seat.

Tpr. Wilski then radioed for a second unit in preparation for stopping the vehicle.

Tpr. Victoria A. Lovett (G-Clifton Park) answered from approximately a mile south of his location, along with **Invs. Neil F. McAuliffe** (G-Saratoga) and **Matthew D. Britten** (G-Clifton Park), and all four vehicles began converging on suspect.

When both marked troop cars were positioned behind the Cadillac, they activated their emergency lights.

The vehicle responded by pulling directly onto the shoulder. As he moved in, Tpr. Wilski observed what appeared to be a passenger in the rear seat, hunched over and covered up.

Before he and Tpr. Lovett could complete the felony traffic stop, the driver suddenly veered back onto the roadway and sped southbound, back into traffic on Rte. 9.

Tprs. Wilski and Lovett returned to their vehicles and gave chase, advising Saratoga County and State 911 by radio of their situation and direction of travel, while keeping the suspect vehicle in sight and coordinating with other patrols in the area.

A short distance to the south, **Tpr. Eric S. Gough** and **Invs. Rodger F. Kirsopp** and **Kevin E. Noto** (G-Clifton Park), were waiting near the intersection of Rtes. 9 and 146 with Saratoga County sheriff's patrols.

As the pursuit neared, Tprs. Gough and Lovett and two Saratoga County sheriff's patrol cars picked up the pursuit westbound on Rte. 146 toward Schenectady County.

About a mile from there, the suspect ran a red light and collided with four other vehicles. The driver bailed out and

attempted to flee on foot, but was quickly apprehended. The backseat passenger initially refused to exit the vehicle, but eventually surrendered to the troopers.

A search of the vehicle and suspects revealed \$7,236 in cash, along with a small amount of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

The suspects were turned over to the Washington County Sheriff's Department, which had the lead in investigating the original bank robbery.

It was subsequently learned that the robbers had met in prison, where they decided to hold up a bank when they met on the outside.

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 18 stations, its members provide service to nine cities, 37 villages and 62 towns in this 2,100 square mile area. Among the characteristics distinguishing this region are 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 spectrum from one complaint to the next. For these reasons, troopers assigned to the region develop and demonstrate outstanding communication and cultural sensitivity skills.

Troop K



Population: 1.36 million (approx.) **Service Territory:** 2,111 square miles

Counties Served: Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester

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

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 56,458

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 2,055

Speed: 37,326

Safety Restraints: 12,187

Total V & T: 98,768

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 2/14

Rape: 24

Robbery: 24

Assault: 2427

Property

Burglary: 433

Larceny: 1,599

Motor Vehicle Theft: 53

Interesting Cases

“Cold Case” finally solved

During June 1993, SP Somers BCI investigated a case involving a decomposed body found floating in Westchester County’s Titicus Reservoir. The victim, a man in his 30s, carried no identification, and despite the presence of 38 pounds of rocks in a backpack strapped to the corpse’s shoulders, autopsy results revealed no body trauma to suggest foul play.

The only substantial lead in the case involved a photograph in a glass frame found on the body under multiple layers of clothing (below).

It showed a grandfatherly looking man holding a young boy; there was a brick building in the background. Details in the photograph suggested it was probably taken sometime in the 1950s or early 1960s.



In the years that followed, numerous investigators had tried to identify the dead man without success. All missing person

records were checked and numerous leads were pursued with negative results.

In January 2008 **Inv. Joachim A. Fiebich** (C-Somers) was assigned to this “cold case”. In reviewing the file, Inv. Fiebich focused on the photograph, taking note of a vintage-looking street light in the background.

Research through the internet revealed similar type street light reflectors had been common in western Massachusetts during the 1950s and 60s. Inv. Fiebich sent the photograph to several newspapers there in hopes someone might be able to identify the building in it.

A retired teacher in Pittsfield with a very sharp memory saw the story in the *Berkshire Eagle* and recognized the building as the back of a church she had attended many years before in Bellport, Long Island.

Further investigation confirmed the woman’s identification. Additional information was then developed relative to a person missing from Bellport in 1993 who had lived across the street from the building in the photo.

The man, whose troubled past had included alcohol/drug abuse and family problems, had been reported missing in 1999.

Dental record comparisons provided a positive match, and family members confirmed that the child in the photo was in fact the victim, being held by his grandfather.

With this information, an unidentified body recovered its identity, and a family’s long uncertainty came to a merciful conclusion.

Rapid response

A Cortlandt (Westchester County) woman was accosted by a man in the parking lot of a local grocery store, Feb. 26, forced at knifepoint into her car, then driven to a secluded spot in Putnam County where she was sexually assaulted and released. Police in Beacon (Dutchess County) later recovered her car.

The entire BCI Squad at SP Cortlandt and a team from Troop K-Major Crimes was assigned to investigate.

K-9 handler **Tpr. Ronald S. Cardis Jr.** (K-Poughkeepsie), was dispatched to the site of the vehicle recovery and quickly developed a track leading to the front door of an apartment complex.

Investigators descended upon the complex, where they developed leads into the suspect’s identity and secured key pieces of evidence from within an apartment.

On Feb. 28, **Inv. David W. Atkins** (K-Cortlandt) received a telephone tip reporting the suspect’s location, and within 48 hours of the original report, the suspect, a homeless Level 3 Sex Offender, was arrested and charged with Kidnapping 2nd Degree, Robbery and Criminal Sexual Act 1st Degree.

The man subsequently pleaded guilty to the charges in Westchester County Court and received a sentence of 15 years to life.

Serendipitous stop

Tpr. Norville N. Yearwood was working a 2-shift out of SP Hawthorne on the Sprain

Brook Parkway, Feb. 27, operating a troop car equipped with a license plate reader (LPR) when he received a “hit” on a southbound van.

He stopped and interviewed the occupants before returning to his car to run a NYSPIN inquiry and print out UTTs for a suspended registration. While thus engaged, he monitored a HOT-LINE message from Ossining regarding a carjacking there a short time earlier in which a motorist was badly beaten and his vehicle stolen.

Tpr. Yearwood immediately realized the van he had stopped matched the description of the stolen vehicle, and he radioed the dispatcher to confirm his suspicion with the Ossining PD. Meanwhile, **Tpr. Fred J. Martins** (K-Somers) stopped to assist.

As soon as the dispatch point confirmed that Tpr. Yearwood had the suspects stopped in the stolen van, he and Tpr. Martins took the occupants into custody. The driver and his passenger were transported back to SP Hawthorne, where Ossining PD took them into custody.

Troop C attempted suicide: The rest of the story

Two sons entered their father’s home in Croton (Westchester County), March 22, noted blood on the hallway floor and walls and called police.

SP Cortlandt dispatched **Tpr. Thomas B. Colucci**. He investigated and found the body of a woman, bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat, in the lower bedroom of the residence. Responding members isolated the

crime scene. Initial investigation determined the dead woman had been the girlfriend of the homeowner, who was missing, along with his 2002 white Cadillac Escalade.

A BOLO was dispatched for the missing vehicle while members of Troop K Major Crimes Unit and FIU responded to assist with the investigation. Shortly thereafter, members at the crime scene were advised that the homeowner had been located atop an overpass on Route 17 in the town of Windsor (Broome County).

Crisis negotiators from Troop C responded to the scene and spoke with the subject for approximately three hours until finally he lost his footing and troopers grabbed him before he fell.

Members from Troop K BCI took custody of the subject, who was returned to SP Cortlandt and charged with 2nd Degree Murder.

All together now!

Tpr. David A. Schmitz was working a scheduled “1” tour out of SP Rhinebeck, April 10, when an EMS call went out for a man in cardiac arrest.

Tpr. Schmitz and **Sgt. Darren W. Forbes** immediately responded to the Moose Club in Hyde Park (Dutchess County), where they found a 59-year-old construction worker with no respiration and no pulse.

Sgt. Forbes, Tpr. Schmitz, Hyde Park police officers, fire personnel and fellow construction workers, all joined in administering CPR rescue breathing. An AED provided by the Roosevelt Fire Department was employed, and although the man remained unconscious, the combined rescue efforts of those present

restored his breathing and heart beat long enough for an ambulance to arrive on scene and transport him to Vassar Hospital.

Four days later, Sgt. Forbes learned the man had been successfully fitted with a pacemaker and was in satisfactory condition.

They’re, ah, right here...

While patrolling in the town of La Grange (Dutchess County), May 3, **Tprs. Jason A. Meyer** and **Brian D. Gregoire** (K-Stormville) observed a vehicle maneuvering erratically, crossing the fog line as the operator attempted to turn north onto State Route 82. They stopped the vehicle, and immediately detected a strong smell of an alcoholic beverage coming from the driver and four occupants.

While Tpr. Meyer conducted field sobriety tests on the driver, Tpr. Gregoire overheard a police radio broadcast from Dutchess County 911 regarding five men involved in an assault at a gas station and convenience store in LaGrange.

The suspects reportedly had fled in a car matching the description of the one they had just stopped. Tpr. Gregoire advised Dutchess County 911 that they apparently had the suspects detained at their location.

Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to assist, and all five suspects were arrested without incident. The driver was charged with DWI.

Further investigation revealed that the victim of the assault had witnessed four of the five suspects attempting to shoplift merchandise from the convenience store. When he told the store clerk, the suspects followed him outside the store and attacked him, causing

serious injuries. The victim was transported to St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, where he underwent emergency surgery for head injuries.

Four of the five suspects were arraigned on charges of Robbery 1st Degree and Gang Assault 1st Degree, then remanded to the Dutchess County Jail on \$100,000 cash bail or \$200,000 bond apiece.

The fifth suspect was released without being charged owing to a lack of evidence showing that he had joined the others in the robbery and assault.

Purse snatch leads to pursuit

Dutchess County 911 alerted area police agencies, July 30, to a purse-snatching outside the Wal-Mart Store in Fishkill (Dutchess County). Dispatchers broadcast a description of the suspect and his vehicle.

Tpr. David G. Barnard (K-Stormville) was en route to assist other Division members at a reported altercation in Fishkill when he observed the suspect's vehicle westbound on I-84.

It fled when he tried to stop it, and a low-speed vehicle pursuit ensued, ending a few minutes later when Tpr. Barnard blocked the suspect in a parking lot. The man then fled on foot, only to have Tpr. Barnard run him down and apprehend him.

Further investigation revealed he had stolen the vehicle. While conducting an inventory of the vehicle's contents, **Tpr. Ryan A. Cruickshank** (K-Stormville) found a small quantity of heroin and cocaine, a forged money order, the stolen purse and a wallet apparently taken from another female victim.

The suspect was charged with Robbery, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property and two counts of misdemeanor Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance.

He was arraigned in Fishkill Town Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail without bail.

Child neglect

Responding to a call to help Columbia County Child Protective Services personnel check on the welfare of children living at a residence in the town of Livingston, Aug. 15, **Tpr. Matthew Colwell** (K-Livingston) arrived to find that the caseworker had been unable to meet with the four young children suspected of being left there unsupervised.

After numerous attempts to enter the residence, the case worker had been able to make verbal contact with one of the children through a bathroom window, ascertaining that four children between the ages of 18 months and five years were in the home with no parents present.

Tpr. Colwell gained entry by removing an air conditioner from a window and unlocked the front door.

Investigation found the parents had left the children unattended for an extended period, and had screwed their bedroom door shut.

Tpr. Colwell advised **Invs. Abdul D. Weed** and **Kelly M. Taylor**, who responded immediately and interviewed the older children. The parents were eventually located as well, and admitted to knowingly leaving the children unattended.

The father was charged with four counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child and four counts of Unlawful Imprisonment 2nd Degree, the mother with four counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

They were arraigned and remanded to Columbia County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 cash and \$5,000.00 cash bail respectively.

Responding to nature's wrath

A terrific ice storm crippled Columbia County on the night of Dec. 11.

For many days thereafter, all NYSP personnel worked hand-in-hand with local residents, fire department, DOT and utility company emergency crews to help people in need, clean up the roadways and get the county back on its feet.

Capt. Scott L. Brown met with community leaders at Columbia County's Emergency Operations Center to organize and get resources to those in need.

Z/Sgt. Michael E. Comerford (K-Livingston) advised troopers on post coverage and provided updates on conditions in the area.

Tprs. Christopher L. Taylor (K-Livingston) and **Michael A. Ramirez** (K-Wappinger) helped DOT workers clear State Route 217 in Philmont so oil could be trucked down the road to heat Pine Haven nursing home.

Tprs. Troy D. Antal and **Kevin P. Klein** (K-Livingston) cleared State Route 23, where fallen trees blocked both lanes and wires were draped across the blacktop.

Tpr. Michael J. Clark (K-Livingston) assisted two elderly women who needed to be evacuated from their home. Greenport

Rescue transported them to a shelter so they could get through the freezing cold nights.

There were many similar instances of troopers helping during the ice storm and the resulting state of emergency. Everyone did his/her utmost to get the battered county up and running again.

Troop L

Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk counties are distinguished by two outstanding characteristics: the surrounding Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound 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. Troop L also is home to the Shinnecock and Poospatuck American Indian Reservations.

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 a 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, 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, after which State Troopers disappeared from Long Island until Jan. 1, 1980, when legislation merged the State Parkway Police into the State Police and formally established Troop L.



Population: 2.75 million (approx.) **Service Territory:** 1,199 square miles

Counties Served: Nassau, Suffolk

Headquarters: Farmingdale (Nassau County)

Zone 1: Lake Success, Valley Stream

Zone 2: Brentwood, Fishers Island, Riverside

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 13,186

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,052

Speed: 21,817

Safety Restraints: 6,734

Total V & T: 68,617

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 3/10

Rape: 2

Robbery: 2

Assault: 21

Property

Burglary: 5

Larceny: 50

Motor Vehicle Theft: 6

Interesting Cases

No traffic stop is routine...

When **Tpr. Michael P. Mawn** (L-Brentwood) attempted to stop a 2001 Lexus for a traffic violation on the Sagtikos Parkway in Islip (Suffolk County), Feb. 7, the operator tried to flee. A short pursuit ensued, ending when the Lexus blew a front tire and wobbled to a stop.

A front seat passenger bailed out and ran from the vehicle, but Tpr. Mawn kept his focus on the driver. As Tpr. Mawn approached, the driver got out of the car, but then appeared to reach back inside it. Tpr. Mawn attempted to detain him but the subject resisted, punched Tpr. Mawn in the face, and fled on foot.

Tpr. Mawn caught up with him about 400 feet away. A struggle for the trooper's gun began, during which Tpr. Mawn's Glock discharged, the bullet grazing the perpetrator's left calf.

Tpr. Mawn then hit the subject with a burst of OC spray, but he broke free and took to his heels. Once more, Tpr. Mawn ran him to ground, and the struggle resumed, only this time a Suffolk County police officer joined the fray, and the subject was subdued and taken into custody.

Investigation revealed both the car and its Florida license plates had been reported stolen.

The driver — possessor of a criminal history featuring 28 arrests and eight felony convictions, two of which involved firearms — had been on supervised parole.

The passenger who fled the vehicle turned out to have been the perpetrator's 8-year-old daughter.

He was charged with 2nd Degree Assault, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 3rd and 5th Degrees, Unlawfully Fleeing a Police Officer, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Resisting Arrest, and numerous VTL infractions.

The devil wears (fake) Prada

Late in December 2007, a private investigation firm from Manhattan contacted the Troop L Major Case Unit (MCU) with information regarding a possible counterfeit clothing operation in Suffolk County.

The MCU immediately launched a joint investigation with the Suffolk County Police Department.

A probe of the firm's trash recovered shipping receipts totaling more than \$660,000 and dating back to October 2006. The investigation also identified two more Suffolk County locations tied to the operation.

A drive-by check of all three locations revealed trash bins piled full of cardboard boxes.

On April 10, the MCU, along with the Suffolk County Police Department and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, executed search warrants at all three locations.

The resulting searches recovered \$200,000 worth of counterfeit clothing, sneakers, handbags, and sunglasses, \$161,700 in cash and \$20,000 in assorted jewelry. Two persons were charged with Trademark Counterfeiting 2nd Degree.

One traffic stop, three arrests

When **Tprs. Charles C. Weilminster** and **Christopher B. Nolan** (L-Farmingdale), approached a vehicle they had stopped on the Southern State Parkway for numerous V & T violations, May 26, they instantly smelled a strong odor of marijuana and spotted a marijuana cigarette in the front-seat ashtray.

They directed the three occupants to exit the vehicle, at which time a female passenger grabbed her purse and pushed Tpr. Nolan.

A brief, but futile, struggle ensued, and when the troopers examined the purse they found it concealed a loaded 9-mm pistol with a defaced serial number and a butterfly knife.

Investigation revealed the driver was wanted by Nassau County Police, and the third occupant, a parolee from prison on conditional release, had falsely identified himself as another person.

All three were taken into custody and variously charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree/Defacement of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Knife, Resisting Arrest, Bail Jumping 3rd Degree, Criminal Impersonation, DWAI-Drugs, marijuana possession, and numerous Vehicle and Traffic Law charges.

Accident investigation results in murder indictment

Troop L Uniform and BCI members responded to a one-vehicle crash on the

Southern State Parkway in Hempstead (Nassau County), June 1, in which a 26-year-old man lost control, skidded approximately 480 feet, caromed off the concrete center barrier, and continued another 400 feet before striking the Fletcher Avenue overpass. A 22-year-old passenger, ejected from the wreck, later died of his injuries.

The driver was treated for minor injuries and released. He refused to submit to a chemical test. A court order was obtained and a blood sample secured, and he was initially arrested for Vehicular Manslaughter 2nd Degree and Assault 2nd Degree. But this quickly changed.

A witnesses told BCI investigators that the driver and two other unidentified vehicles had been weaving through traffic at speeds over 100 mph; the Troop L Collision Reconstruction Unit confirmed details of the crash, and the results of the blood test analysis indicated the presence of alcohol and marijuana in the driver's system.

Taking these factors together, the Nassau County District Attorney's Office Vehicular Crimes Bureau sought and obtained an indictment for Murder 2nd Degree, Depraved Indifference and Reckless Manslaughter.

Discovered remains close missing person case

Inv. Michael Marin (L-NEU) was off-duty, July 9, driving onto the Southern State Parkway in the town of Hempstead (Nassau County) when he observed what looked like a laundry or shopping bag lying under the guardrail. An examination revealed it contained human remains.

The Troop L Major Case Unit (MCU) identified the remains as those of a 29-year-old Cliffside Park, New Jersey, woman whom local police and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office had been searching for since she disappeared after leaving work, Sept. 14, 2007.

Her live-in boyfriend, a 34-year-old sex offender, had been taken into custody and charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Failure to Register under Megan's Law.

He was later charged with murder, although the missing woman's body had never been found. Investigation and a comparison of dental records positively identified the victim's remains.

At last report, the MCU was working with New Jersey authorities to assist in completing the prosecution.

The Unholy Trinity: guns, money and drugs

In August, Members of the Troop L Narcotics Enforcement Unit (NEU) began investigating a suspected large-scale marijuana dealer in Suffolk County.

The investigation revealed the subject was receiving 60-pound packages of marijuana on a regular basis. He was known to possess a handgun.

On Aug. 14, after observing suspicious activity at the subject's residence, NEU members, with the assistance of **Tpr. Anthony J. Tatta Jr.** (L-Farmingdale), stopped a car in the Wyandanch area. Upon approaching it, they smelled a strong odor of marijuana and

observed a black handgun protruding from the driver's pants pocket. They brought him to SP Farmingdale for questioning.

Investigation revealed he had assumed the identity of another person in an attempt to avoid being identified as a prior deported felon. A record check revealed his pistol had been reported stolen in April in Ohio.

Seized from within the vehicle were recently purchased blank money orders totaling approximately \$132,000, which he had used as currency to buy marijuana.

He was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, three counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, Identity Theft, Falsifying Business Records, Criminal Impersonation, Forgery and Federal Illegal Re-entry.

Police impersonator apprehended

Responding to a complaint of an unmarked vehicle attempting to make a traffic stop on the Meadowbrook State Parkway in Hempstead (Nassau County), Aug. 19, **Tpr. Mario J. Lobianco** (L-Valley Stream) interviewed a woman who said she had been followed by a green Ford Crown Victoria which suddenly pulled alongside her car, flashing its high beams and honking his horn to attract her attention.

The driver yelled at her to pull over and then displayed a silver badge. Alarmed, she used her cell phone to call 911, at which point the Crown Victoria suddenly exited the parkway. The complainant provided a full description

of the vehicle, its New York registration, and the driver, complete right down to the tattoo of a large spiderweb on his arm. Tpr. Lobianco provided all details in the matter to **Inv. Eric C. Bruns** (L-Valley Stream).

On Aug. 22, state DMV told Inv. Bruns about a man who for several months had been trying to pass himself off as a police officer at DMV branch offices in an attempt to obtain services.

Suffolk County Police had recently arrested him for Police Impersonation. Their description of the subject matched that given to Tpr. Lobianco in the Aug. 19 incident on Meadowbrook Parkway.

Later that same day, Troop L SIU **Invs. Robert Holman** and **Rodney Polite** and **Tpr. John J. Gray** (L-Farmingdale) were able to arrest the man when he walked into the DMV offices in Bethpage.

He was charged with two counts of Criminal Impersonation and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree.

At the time of his arrest he had in his possession a badge stamped "US Bail Enforcement Fugitive Recovery - Special Agent," a "Fugitive Recovery Special Agent" picture ID card, a black starter pistol in a black leather holster, a pair of silver handcuffs and a gravity knife.

Illegal Firearms Arrest

Troop L Gun Investigations Unit (GIU) personnel obtained information from a confidential informant, Sept. 8, indicating a 48-year-old Lindenhurst (Suffolk County) man was in possession of several illegal handguns.

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The investigators obtained a search warrant for the man's home, and early on the morning of Sept. 12, a detail of Troop L GIU personnel, the Special Operations Response Team (SORT), Uniform Troopers and a Troop L K-9 team executed it.

Three loaded handguns, assorted ammunition, a switchblade knife, and two Billy clubs were recovered.

The subject was charged with three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree and three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree.

Traffic accident snags man wanted for attempted murder

Dispatched to investigate a personal injury auto accident on the Wantagh State Parkway in East Meadow (Nassau County), Sept. 12, **Tpr. Ronald V. Gallo**, (L- Farmingdale), noted that one of the two involved vehicles had struck the other in the rear.

When Tpr. Gallo opened the rear passenger-side door of the vehicle and attempted to interview the sole occupant, he noted that the driver was conscious but unresponsive.

On the passenger seat were a bloody folding utility knife with a 3½-inch blade and an open can of beer, and an empty prescription bottle of Valium was on the floor.

Tpr. Gallo secured the knife and summoned medical assistance and backup.

Further investigation determined the man was wanted for Attempted Murder by the Nassau County PD after having slashed his wife's throat two days earlier.

Troop T, which services the New York State Thruway, originally was established as the State Police Thruway Detail in 1954. It attained independent troop status in 1961.

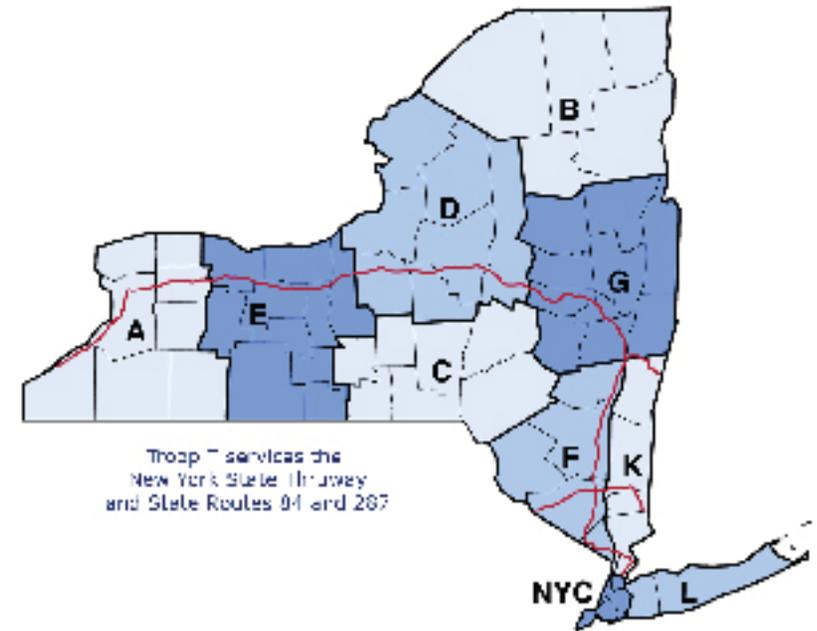
Today it is the sole remaining troop with exclusive policing authority within its service area. It also shares a close relationship with the NYS Thruway Authority in the daily administration and operation of a network of interstate highways that includes I 95, I 84 and I 287. Troop T's 14 stations service 641 miles of roadways in five separate zones.

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.

Troop T



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

Headquarters: Albany (Albany County)

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

2008 Selected Statistics

Calls for Service: 21,399

Vehicle and Traffic Law Enforcement

DWI Arrests: 1,340

Speed: 99,861

Safety Restraints: 16,833

Total V & T: 200,148

Index Crimes

Violent

Murder/Neg. Manslaughter: 0

Rape: 0

Robbery: 0

Assault: 0

Property

Burglary: 0

Larceny: 42

Motor Vehicle Theft: 1

Interesting Cases

Not a shooting gallery

A man at the Dunkirk interchange told **Tpr. Michael J. Jurek** (T-Dunkirk) his vehicle had been hit by gunfire about three miles east of the tollbooths, Feb. 23.

There was a bullet hole in the vehicle's passenger-side rear window, and the driver's-side rear window was completely blown out.

The complainant said no other vehicles had been near him at the time of the incident. Tpr. Jurek escorted the man to SP Dunkirk, then patrolled to the location of the incident in company with **Tpr. Pedro I. Vera** (T-Dunkirk).

Near milepost marker 465.6 westbound they found a pickup truck stopped on the right shoulder. It had a bullet hole in the passenger-side door.

The driver said someone had shot at him near the Newell Road overpass.

Tprs. Jurek and Vera began checking the area, and soon were joined by **Tprs. Bernard Garrasi II** (A-Fredonia) and **Gary L. Mahoney** (A-Collins), and members of the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department.

Not far from the overpass they came to a house with several vehicles parked in the front yard. The troopers immediately spotted several empty .22-cal. shell casings on the steps of the front porch.

There was no response from within the house, but a check of the grounds revealed a boat parked in the front yard, between the residence and the Thruway, with a fresh bullet hole in its side.

The troopers settled down nearby to wait for

someone to leave or return to the house. An hour later, a 45-year-old man stepped out the front door.

Taken into custody, he told the troopers there was another man and a 5-year-old girl still inside the house.

The troopers made their way inside, where they located an 18-year-old man and the girl.

Consent to search the residence was obtained, and shortly thereafter a .22 rifle was secured as evidence.

Transported to SP Dunkirk for questioning, the 18-year-old admitted to firing the rifle toward the Thruway and striking two vehicles.

He was arrested for Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree and Criminal Mischief 2nd and 3rd Degrees and remanded to the Chautauqua County Jail on \$50,000 cash bail.



Troopers out of SP Albany - Troop T, make arrests at the exit 24 tolls of 5 suspects linked to a shooting incident in the City of Schenectady that occurred on September 30, 2008.

Unexplained violent behavior

During a "1" shift, March 15, **Tpr. David S. Slowik** (T-Henrietta) stopped to assist an SUV with a flat tire in the eastbound deceleration lane from I-90 East to the Leroy Interchange. Tpr. Slowik advised the driver, a 32-year-old Buffalo woman, to pull the vehicle onto the shoulder of the roadway.

When she stepped out of the truck to check the tire, Tpr. Slowik asked for her driver's license and registration. She returned to her seat in the vehicle, but the only document she could produce was a learner's permit.

As Tpr. Slowik approached the driver's window he saw the woman had a shotgun in her lap, pointed in his direction.

With a lunge, he grabbed the barrel and pinned the gun against the door's window frame, and in a brief struggle managed first to eject the shell in the gun's chamber, and then wrest the weapon from her hands.

Tpr. Slowik then took the woman into custody without further incident.

Investigation at the scene indicated an odor of alcoholic beverage and marijuana, although a breath test of the subject yielded a BAC of only .04% and a DRE pre-screen showed negative results.

A special file check of her shotgun also came back negative.

She was arraigned in the Town of Leroy Court and committed to the Genesee County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 cash bail or \$100,000 property bond.

A surprise in every package!

Tprs. Heath McCrindle and **Gary Danise** (T-Albany) stopped an eastbound vehicle in the city of Albany for a lighting violation and illegally tinted windows, April 25, and immediately detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from the passenger compartment.

While interviewing the 20-year-old driver and 19-year-old passenger, both from Schenectady, they observed part of a plastic bag protruding from the passenger's waistband.

It was found to contain approximately three grams of marijuana, but a closer check revealed a loaded 9-mm handgun also hidden in the waistband.

At this point the driver was searched and found to be in possession of an electric stun gun.

The two subjects were taken into custody without incident. The driver was issued traffic tickets and charged with 4th Degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, the passenger with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree and Unlawful Possession of Marijuana.

They were arraigned and sent to the Albany County Jail on bail.

Keep him talking...

The Thruway dispatch center received a report of a domestic dispute in a vehicle traveling south on I-190 city of Buffalo, May 12, and dispatched **Tpr. Sean P. Haen** to investigate. Tpr. Haen located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop.

Both occupants exited the vehicle and a

woman immediately ran to the trooper. The driver, however, opened the rear driver's-side door, extracted a semiautomatic handgun and placed it against his head, saying he would die before being placed under arrest.

While Tpr. Haen kept the driver talking, other troopers and Buffalo police, the Division's MRT, the Erie County Sheriff's Department SWAT team and U.S. Border Patrol agents arrived to assist. Both north and southbound lanes were shut down.

After a time, Buffalo SWAT personnel were able to create a diversion utilizing a "flash bang" device and took the subject into custody without further incident.

He was transported to Erie County Medical Center for a psychological evaluation, subsequently arraigned in Buffalo City Court for Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Menacing of a Police Officer, Unlawful Imprisonment, Criminal Mischief, Reckless Endangerment, Harassment and DWI, and jailed in lieu of bail.

Ballgame's over...

Observing a speeding car headed north on I-87 in Clarkstown (Rockland County), **Tpr. Seamus A. Lyons** (T-Tarrytown) first paced the vehicle, then pulled it over.

The driver seemed more than usually nervous, his hands shaking as he opened and closed the car's glove compartment several times in a frenzied effort to locate his registration and insurance cards.

Tpr. Lyons had the driver exit the vehicle and interviewed him further. The driver stated that he had come down to see the Yankees game but could not provide details about the start

of the game, who the Yankees had played, or where in the stands they had been seated. All the while, Tpr. Lyons observed that the man was "blading" his body away from him.

Tpr. Lyons then interviewed the passenger, who gave a conflicting account of their activities in New York City.

He noticed that she was attempting to conceal a black grocery bag near her feet. Tpr. Lyons returned to his troop car and requested assistance from **Tpr. William M. Suchocky** (T-Tarrytown).

When Tpr. Suchocky arrived, Tpr. Lyons once again directed the driver to exit his vehicle and, while speaking with him, observed him blade his body away from the patrol as if he was hiding something.

At this point, Tpr. Lyons detected a bulge along the front of the man's pants. Asked about it, the man became combative and attempted to turn away.

A pat-down search of the driver's waistband revealed a black bag containing eight ounces of cocaine.

The man was taken into custody and charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree.

The passenger was found to possess five counterfeit DVDs and was issued an appearance ticket for a charge of Trademark Counterfeiting.

The driver was additionally charged with Trademark Counterfeiting 3rd Degree and was remanded to the Rockland County Jail in lieu of bail.

Jackpot

On another occasion, **Tpr. Lyons** was traveling northbound on the Thruway in Ramapo (Rockland County), Oct. 5, when he observed one vehicle following another too closely. The tailing car also had illegally tinted windows.

He followed it as the driver made an unsafe lane change, almost striking another vehicle, then pulled the offending vehicle over.

Tpr. Lyons saw immediately that the vehicle was over its occupancy limit, with three men, a woman and two small children in child restraint systems all crammed into the passenger compartment.

Tpr. Lyons asked the driver, a 37-year-old Amsterdam (Montgomery County) man, for his license and registration and directed him to exit the vehicle so he could interview him.

The driver had red, glassy eyes. He stated that he did not drink, but that he had smoked marijuana earlier in the day.

Tpr. Lyons then turned to the front seat passenger, who said he had no identification on him, and claimed they were all returning from a trip to visit family in Brooklyn. The other occupants were his 18-year-old son, his 25-year-old sister and his two nephews, he said.

Tpr. Lyons return to his vehicle and requested the assistance of **Tpr. James D. Leeder** (T-Tarrytown) and his K-9 partner "**Robbie.**"

A NYSPIN query revealed the operator license was suspended and that none of the passengers were licensed.

When Tpr. Leeder arrived on scene they placed the driver in custody and secured him

in the troop car.

A search of the front seat passenger produced a plastic wrapper containing approximately 100 glassine envelopes of heroin in his waistband.

An inventory impound search of the vehicle turned up a plastic bag containing a sawed-off 12 gauge Ithaca shotgun w/pistol grip and six rounds of slug ammunition in a shell holder, all concealed in a sweatshirt.

The vehicle and all its occupants were transported to SP Tarrytown for processing, where the driver was charged with DWAI-Drugs, the front seat passenger with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd and 7th Degree, and the rear seat passenger with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.

A review of the front seat passenger's criminal history revealed prior arrests for weapons offenses and robbery.

Three days later, the New York City Police Department reported the rear seat male passenger was a suspect in a homicide investigation.

You can't hide behind tinted windows

Tpr. Timothy Ryan (T-Syracuse) stopped a speeding rental car on I-90 in Onondaga, Dec.2.

It, too, had illegally tinted windows and the inside reeked of marijuana. The driver, a 41-year-old Jamaican citizen, couldn't produce a valid driver's license and was found to have a



Troopers Timothy Ryan (SP - Syracuse -T) , and **Daniel C. Snyder Jr.** along with **K-9 Juna** (SP Schuyler - T), pose with evidence (approximately 105 pounds of marihuana) seized during a traffic stop along the New York State Thruway on December 2, 2008.

pending immigration court date.

Tpr. Ryan requested assistance and **Tpr. Daniel C. Snyder Jr.**, and his K-9 partner "**June**" responded to the scene. Tpr. Snyder conducted an exterior search of the vehicle and June alerted to the rear driver's-side door and rear cargo area.

A closer examination disclosed five black garbage bags containing approximately 105 pounds of marijuana.

The defendant was arraigned in the Town of Van Buren and remanded to the Onondaga County jail in lieu of \$50,000 cash/\$75,000 bond.

The estimated street value of the seized marijuana was approximately \$225,000.

One more time!

Tpr. James D. Leeder (T-Tarrytown) pulled over a northbound white passenger van with dark tinted windows on I-87 in Ramapo (Rockland County), Dec.5, and the driver, a 31-year-old Bronx man provided his license and registration.

A NYSPIN/DMV inquiry showed the driver had an active felony warrant from Troy for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance.

Tpr. Leeder requested another patrol, and the ubiquitous **Tpr. Seamus Lyons** responded.

An impound inventory of the vehicle revealed a plastic bag contained approximately 3.2 ounces of cocaine with an approximately street value of \$4,500.

Transported to SP Tarrytown for processing, the subject was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell.

He was committed to Rockland County Jail with no bail.

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.

- Drug Enforcement Task Force
- Special Narcotics Task Force
- District Attorney's Squad
- Attorney General's Squad
- Joint Terrorism Task Force
- Criminal Investigation Unit
- Jacob K. Javits Convention Centerr Detail
- U.S. Marshals Regional Fugitive Task Force
- U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force
- Confidential Squad

Population: 8 million **Service Territory:** 301 square miles

Counties Served: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island

Headquarters: Manhattann (Wards Island)

Drug Enforcement Task Force

The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF) is the oldest unit of its kind in the nation and the largest in the state.

It works with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the New York City Police Department (NYPD).

Members assigned to the DETF specialize in major narcotics investigations that originate 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 and drug-related money and property.

DETF is the premier agency in seizing drug related cash, narcotics and property.

During 2008, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force:

- Adopted 68 cases,
- Made 633 arrests and
- Executed 108 search warrants.
- Seized:
 - 2,349 pounds of cocaine,
 - 197 pounds of heroin,

- 807 pounds of marihuana,
- 1.6 ounces of crack cocaine,
- 2 ounces of GHB,
- 21 pounds of crystal methamphetamine,
- 8 ounces of Phensdyl,
- 7 pounds of MDMA (Ecstasy),
- 51 handguns and
- 7 long guns.
- Seized assests including:
 - \$23,219,799 in cash and
 - 36 vehicles valued at \$1,245,080, along with
 - \$3.7 million in real estate property.

2008 Cases

- ▶ Members of NYDETF **Group T-13** investigating a narcotics distribution organization operating in Metropolitan New York seized \$33,000 in cash, approximately 4.4 kilograms of heroin and arrested one subject.
- ▶ Members of NYDETF **Group T-21** and the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor 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.

During 2008, members of Group T-21 seized approximately 491 kilograms of cocaine, 45 kilograms of heroin, \$2.6 million in cash and arrested 48 suspects.

To date, members of Group T-21 have seized approximately 1,391 kilograms of cocaine, 45 kilograms of heroin, \$5.4 million in cash and made 78 arrests.

- ▶ In November 2007, **Group T-42** of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force initiated an investigation into a money launderer in Queens, New York.

Members observed numerous instances where large bags were delivered to certain locations.

In March, members of T-42 observed a large duffle bag being placed in the trunk of a vehicle. The vehicle was stopped and \$500,000 in cash was seized.

Search warrants executed at multiple locations resulted in the subsequent seizure of \$3 million in cash and 25 kilograms of cocaine.

- ▶ During June, members of **Group T-42** and the New Jersey State Police identified an organization specializing in the transportation of narcotics throughout the United States.

In August they identified a warehouse as a transfer location for this organization.

A tractor trailer attempting to enter the warehouse was stopped and 200 kilograms of cocaine seized from a concealed compartment in the trailer roof.

- ▶ Working with the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, NYDETF **Group T-43** seized approximately 12 kilograms of cocaine, \$125,000 in cash and a tractor trailer, and arrested three defendants during a three-day investigation during October.

On the first day, information and physical surveillance led group members to conduct a traffic stop in the Bronx, resulting in the seizure of two kilograms of cocaine and the arrest of one defendant. The vehicle stopped was registered with the defendant's legal address, where consent was obtained for a search.

An additional \$125,000 in cash was seized there, and a second defendant — the subject's son — was arrested. The son agreed to cooperate in an ongoing deal with his cousin.

The cousin contacted an unknown individual who arranged a meeting with the son and a tractor-trailer driver, on

the following day. When the truck driver requested to meet at a New Jersey rest stop, the son was given a trap-equipped SUV by his cousin and headed out to New Jersey.

Meetings at three different New Jersey rest stops were cancelled because the truck driver became alarmed.

On the third day, the operator made contact and wanted to meet at the Cross County Mall in Yonkers. Surveillance was set up there and the truck driver was observed placing a black knapsack inside the son's "trapped-out" SUV.

Police seized the knapsack, which contained 10 kilograms of cocaine, along the tractor trailer, and arrested the driver.

New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force

The New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force was established in 2004.

Comprised of approximately 160 members from the NYSP, DEA, FBI, ICE, ATF, IRS, NYPD, USMS, USSS and prosecutors from both the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

The group's mission is to disrupt and dismantle major drug-trafficking organizations designated by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) as Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOTs) and their affiliates in the New York Metropolitan area.

During 2008, the Strike Force:

- Adopted 117 cases,
- Made 197 arrests, and
- Executed 27 search warrants.
- Seized:
 - 2,573 pounds of cocaine,
 - 137 pounds of heroin,
 - 391 pounds of marijuana,
 - 33 pounds of methamphetamine,
 - 215 pounds of *khat* and
 - 24 handguns.
- Asset seizures included \$14,471,466 in cash and 38 vehicles.

2008 Cases

- ▶ In May 2006, members of **Group Z-42** began investigating a Colombia-based organization responsible for the importation and distribution of hundreds of kilograms of heroin and cocaine.

A total of 26 wiretaps were used in New York and Colombia in coordination with the Colombian National Police, DEA's Bogotá office and DEA's Special Operations Division.

One domestic and two international controlled deliveries were effected.

In June 2008, a takedown was initiated, with Strike Force members participating in the initial arrests in Colombia.

To date, a total of 19 arrests have been made, seven of which stemmed from Provisional Arrest Warrants issued out of the Southern District of New York; 170 kilograms of cocaine, 31 kilograms of heroin, and more than \$1 million in cash have been seized.

The seven subjects captured on

Provisional Arrest Warrants are being held in Colombia pending extradition to New York.

- ▶ In March 2004, **Group Z-43**, in conjunction with the DEA's Bogotá office, began investigating the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (known by the Spanish acronym of FARC), which is responsible for producing and distributing vast amounts of cocaine in Colombia.

At that time, it was estimated that FARC was the source of approximately 60% of all the cocaine in America. FARC has been designated a Tier 1 Terrorist Organization by the U.S. Department of State, and is responsible for thousands of homicides and kidnappings in Colombia and surrounding countries.

In March 2006, Group Z-43 was able to obtain an indictment against the top 50 FARC leaders for violations of 21 USC 963 (Narcotics Conspiracy) and 21 USC 853 (Criminal Forfeiture), of which four were DOJ designated CPOTs.

It was the largest indictment against narcotic traffickers in U.S. history. The State Department has also authorized Group Z-43 \$77.5 million in reward money to assist in capturing the indicted.

In 2008, Colombian military and police entities initiated numerous capture operations against FARC leaders and their cocaine laboratories in support of this investigation.

Three FARC leaders have been extradited, one leader who was captured during a July 2008 rescue operation of three Americans is in custody pending extradition, and five other, including two

CPOTs, have been killed resisting arrest.

It should be noted that the leader of the FARC died in March 2008. The investigation continues.

- ▶ In February 2006, NYSP Strike Force members initiated an investigation into the locations of 18 subjects wanted by the NYSP.

These warrants were originally held by SP Whitestone and all had been issued between 1988 and 2000 for subjects of Colombian citizenship.

Relations were established with the Colombian Prosecutor's Special Investigation Unit (CTI-SIU) and DEA's Bogota office. The CTI-SIU subsequently located nine of the wanted subjects living throughout Colombia.

Over the ensuing years, members worked to gain the approval of the U.S. Department of State National Affairs Section and the DOJ's Office of International Affairs (OIA) to extradite some of these subjects.

Based upon Colombian/American treaties, only three subjects who fled to Colombia in 1999, and who were wanted for Criminal Possession and Sale of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree, could be extradited. All three were part of a larger conspiracy, leading to the seizure of 676 kilos of cocaine, \$3,097,476 in cash, 17 vehicles and 36 defendants.

In December 2007, NYSP personnel traveled to Colombia to assist with operational plans for these arrests. In October and November 2008, after almost three years of work, these subjects were

successfully extradited and brought to justice with no cost to the NYSP.

This also represented the first time in NYSP history that Colombian citizens were extradited out of Colombia solely for the purpose of facing NYSP charges.

Special Narcotics Unit

The Special Narcotics Unit, assigned to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection service's El Dorado Task Force, focuses on money-laundering organizations and conspirators.

2008 Cases

- ▶ Members assigned to the El Dorado Task Force began surveillance during March on a residence used to store and distribute illegal drugs and drug money.

Detail members observed one person enter the house with three suitcases, followed by another carrying three bushel-type packages.

The second subject was approached as he returned to his vehicle, where a consent search found marijuana.

A search of the residence turned up another 275 pounds of marijuana and \$240,000 in cash.

The next day, during a follow-up investigation, another subject was detained as he attempted to enter the residence with a bag containing an additional \$255,000 in cash.

All three subjects were arrested and are awaiting criminal action in the federal judicial system.

- ▶ Division El Dorado Task Force members developed information during July regarding a large transfer of drug money in the Elmhurst, Queens, area.

Members conducting surveillance there spotted a pickup truck behaving like a mobile lookout vehicle, and moved in quickly when the driver committed a traffic violation. The driver consented to a search, which led to the discovery of \$450,000 in a duffel bag.

The occupants were turned over to immigration officials for further federal action.

- ▶ Information gleaned from an ongoing money-laundering and drug-smuggling investigation led El Dorado Task Force members to execute a federal arrest warrant charging one of the leaders of the infamous Norte Valle Drug Cartel with International Drug Trafficking.

Waiting task force members arrested him at JFK International Airport as he stepped off a plane from Panama.

Charged with conspiracy in the distribution of thousands of pounds of cocaine from Colombia, he was immediately transported to the Metropolitan Detention Center to await federal judicial proceedings.

Attorney General's Squad

The Attorney General's Squad cooperates with the State Attorney General's Criminal Investigations Bureau in investigating violations of selected laws of the State of New York.

District Attorney's Squads

The District Attorney's Squads have investigators attached to the Manhattan and Queens DA's offices to work on long term investigations directed by the borough district attorney.

2008 Cases

- ▶ In May, the Manhattan DA's Squad received a complaint from UPS regarding a customer who opened an account with a stolen credit card.

Further investigation revealed this account was associated with a large volume of mailings shipped from a residence on Wall Street in lower Manhattan. Search warrants were secured for 800 envelopes from this account still in the possession of UPS.

These disclosed a scheme designed to dupe people into depositing forged checks into their bank accounts, then returning 90% of the value back to the sender. The scheme reaped millions of dollars.

A subsequent search warrant was obtained for the sender's Wall Street residence and was executed with the assistance of the NYSP's Computer Crimes Unit (CCU).

Recovered from the residence were an additional 221 forged checks, UPS Express envelopes, blank check stock and the names and addresses of several hundred new targets throughout the country.

The investigation concluded with the arrest of the Wall Street resident, who was

charged with multiple counts of Grand Larceny and Forgery.

- Division members assigned to the Manhattan DA's Squad received a complaint in connection with a 35-year-old woman accused of stealing nearly \$50,000 from her Manhattan employer, the president of a \$2 billion private equity firm.

The investigation provoked scandalous attacks by the suspect against her employer in the local media.

Investigators found the woman had used her employer's credit cards on numerous occasions to purchase personal items ranging from expensive clothing to household goods. They also disproved her allegations against the employer.

She was arrested for 3rd Degree Grand Larceny.

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center Detail

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.

2008 Case

In November, the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center hosted the 15th Annual World Congress on Intelligent Transportation, consisting of vendors and visitors from around the world.

Division members assigned to police the convention received a sexual harassment

complaint from a female security guard alleging inappropriate behavior by one of the convention's security consultants.

Investigation determined a second female guard had been victimized by the same man in the same manner.

Uniform and BCI members conducted a quick and thorough investigation and arrested the security consultant for two counts of Sexual Assault and Forcible Touching.

He was remanded to the New York City Department of Corrections.

Criminal Investigations Unit

The Criminal Investigations Unit provides investigative, warrant and lead assistance in the city for upstate troops and out of state police agencies.

Joint Terrorism Task Force

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.

They focus on international and domestic terrorism and intelligence functions.

U.S. Marshals Regional Fugitive Task Force

Other Troop NYC personnel work with the U.S. Marshals Regional Fugitive Task Force, targeting violent felons.

U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force

The U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force, combating technology-based crimes associated with:

- Credit card fraud,
- Identity theft,
- Money laundering and
- Crimes against children.

USSS Credit Card Theft Unit

Members assigned to the United States Secret Service's Credit Card Theft Unit culminated an eight-month investigation during June into a credit card and identity theft ring.

Multiple search warrants were executed at locations throughout New York City. At one location in the Bronx, responding members discovered an illegal credit card processing center.

To date, the probe has identified a total of 34 participants in this identity-theft ring.

Confidential Squad

The Confidential Squad conducts background investigations on trooper applicants, political

appointees and out of state police applicants. It also provides security assistance when necessary.

Gun Investigation Unit / ATF Brooklyn

During September, detail members investigated a Staten Island resident who was attempting to purchase a gun illegally from an out-of-state federal firearms dealer.

Investigation revealed the suspect, a New York City school safety officer, had sent a postal money order to a Florida gun dealer in an attempt to obtain two firearms.

Members assigned to Group IV and the Joint Firearms Task Force conducted a controlled delivery of the guns, using an undercover officer as the UPS deliveryman.

After taking delivery, the suspect was arrested for a violation of Federal Law, Title 18.

A search warrant was executed at his residence, resulting in the confiscation of an additional 10 weapons, one of which had a defaced serial number.

Emergency Management Unit

The Field Command Emergency Management Unit is composed of NYSP Uniform Force personnel assigned to carry out emergency planning, training and 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;
- Respond to weapons of mass destruction (WMD)/hazardous materials;
- Design and evaluate exercises, and
- Develop National Incident Management System (NIMS)-compliant incident command strategies.

Tasks and activities during the year included:

- Participating in the development of state emergency response plans
- Coordinating field activities of the Emergency Management Noncommissioned Officers (EMNCOs)
- Providing liaison to the:
 - Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program,
 - The state's WMD task force,

Uniform Special Services

Emergency Management Unit

School and Community Outreach Unit

Specialized Operations

Special Ops Response Team	Canine Unit	Marine Unit	Mountain Bicycle Patrol
Bomb Disposal Unit	SCUBA	Snowmobile Unit	All-terrain Vehicle Patrol

- CBRNE 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)
- Reviewing statewide threat and vulnerability assessments
- Providing guidance to public and private entities on emergency planning and security procedures
- Participating in nuclear response and natural disaster 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
- Assisting troops with planning for special events/mass gatherings.

During 2008, the section administered or coordinated member participation in a variety of training programs dealing with incident

command and WMD response.

Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team

The section also oversees the 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 15 clandestine drug laboratories during 2008.

During 2008, a variety of emergencies, events and exercises required personnel from the Emergency Management and the Traffic Services sections to staff emergency operations centers (EOC) for the following events:

- March 9 winter storm
- September 6-7 tropical storm Hanna
- December 12-14 winter storm
- December 31 (New Year's Eve)

EMNCO activities included design and implementation of plans for policing the:

- Papal visit to New York City
- Annual Hall of Fame Game induction weekend in Cooperstown

- Watkins Glen NASCAR event — perimeter security and traffic control
- Lake Placid Iron Man competition
- Westchester County Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) exercise
- Strategic Police Intelligence-Driven Enforcement Response (SPIDER) Border Enforcement Details
- Buffer Zone Protection Plan — surveys and distribution of equipment)
- Strategic National Stockpile — tabletop exercises and security assessments
- Incident Management Team (IMT) – Hurricane Gustav deployment to the State of Louisiana
- Incident Command System (ICS) training for county and local first response agencies, and State Police Academy recruit and supervisors schools

During 2008, the section also undertook a number of special projects:

- Site review completion and plan submission for the 2008 Buffer Zone Protection Plan (BZPP) grant cycle.
- Distribution of \$110,000 in BZPP grant equipment purchases.
- Submission of Statewide Security Operations for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and New Site reviews with the U.S. Marshals Service.
- Submission of the Division Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) responsibilities for the Statewide Pandemic Influenza Plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- The “Central New York Regional Agro-Terrorism Tabletop Exercise,” Feb. 14 — a federal, state and local agency test

response to an intentional animal-borne disease outbreak.

- The “Upstate New York School District Agro-Terrorism Tabletop Exercise.” Nov. 19 — a federal, state and local agency test response to the intentional adulteration of a food product supplied to a large central school district.
- “New York State Full Scale Logistical Exercise,” June 23-25 — a federal, state and local agency exercise conducted on Long Island and in Central New York to simulate the distribution of pharmaceuticals in response to a pandemic emergency.

The Preparedness Section also plans, develops and carries out homeland security exercises designed to evaluate the Division’s ability to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and large-scale natural disasters.

During 2008, the unit was involved in the design and execution of:

- “Operation Urgent Action II” in Syracuse, May 13-14, a full-scale exercise designed to test the ability of law enforcement to detect and interdict illicit radioactive materials transported through the state for possible terrorist use.

There were 70 participants from the FBI, NYSP, the state

departments of Health and Environmental Conservation, the Onondaga County Sheriff’s and Emergency Management offices, and the Syracuse PD.

Two vehicles carrying radiological materials were successfully detected and interdicted.

- “Empire Express 2008,” Hurricane Exercise, May 30-June 6, conducted by SEMO.

This functional exercise of the State Emergency Operations Center, and the Nassau, Suffolk and New York City Emergency Management Centers was designed to evaluate the state’s ability to coordinate a response to a hurricane which made landfall on Long Island.

- “Zone-45” November 3-7 and 10-14, an exercise between the counter-terrorism



Operation Urgent Action II: T. Sgt. Brain P. Mahoney, right, facilitates a detection exercise as part of a two-day event involving 70 participants.

intelligence components of New York State and the Province of Quebec, designed to enhance communications in response to simulated terrorist operations by a terror cell based in the Montreal area.

- “Empire 2009,” a state-federal-local full-scale consequence management exercise incorporating the simulated detonation of a radiological dispersion device in the city of Albany.

Extensive planning for this event was conducted during 2008, with the exercise scheduled to take place in June 2009.

The Preparedness Section also administers grant funds provided through the Office of Homeland Security to support anti-terrorism programs and equipment. Among the many purchased items which have significantly improved Division operations are:

- Sector scan sonar;
- GPS/RADAR navigation system for the Division’s sonar boat;
- Portable generators and traffic barriers;
- Laser distancing meters, and
- Portable search lights.

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 sensitive radiation detection equipment, consisting of pagers, survey meters, backpacks and mobile systems, used to detect illicit radioactive material.

Since its inception, the program has provided equipment and training to the NYSP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

(CVEU) and Bomb Disposal Units (BDU), as well as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Civil Support Team and Department of Health.

More than 150 radiation detection pagers have been deployed to the field — including pagers for all K-9 teams and select CCSERT members — along with 35 radioactive isotopic identification detectors.

In 2008, more than 400 pager hits were recorded. Of these, two incidents involved transportation violations regarding radioactive material in transit.

The Radiation Interdiction and Detection Program also was involved in “Operation Urgent Action II,” and in a pilot program entitled “Secure the Cities,” under which the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has invested more than \$90 million to secure the city of New York against a terrorist attack involving radiological material.

Finally, program personnel coordinated radiation checkpoints at three large-scale gatherings during 2008: the papal visit to Westchester County and New York City, the New York State Fair and New Year’s Eve. No sources of illicit radiation were found.

School and Community Outreach Unit

During 2008, the safety and security of New York’s schools once again came to the forefront of public consciousness.

The citizens of New York State, speaking through their elected officials in Albany and for themselves as parents, students,

community leaders and school district personnel, expressed their opposition to a proposed elimination of the NYSP School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

As a result, program funding was restored.

The SCOU has worked to establish itself as a valuable resource to its communities and partner agencies. It does so through:

- Its network of 91 highly trained School Resource Officers (SROs) and 10 School and Community Outreach Coordinators (SCOCs);
- Statewide dissemination of information,
- Reporting of activity;
- Interagency cooperation;
- Open channels of communication, and
- A formal program evaluation.

In 2008, one of the unit’s most significant undertakings involved the statewide training initiative for the New York State School Safety Guide and DVD, a comprehensive guidance document designed to assist schools in enhancing safety and preparedness.

The document and DVD, produced by the SCOU in 2007, was sent to all public and private schools, colleges and universities in addition to every law enforcement agency and county emergency manager in New York State.

The subsequent seminars were presented to public and private school audiences at 14 sites across the state.

Additionally, the SCOU conducted two Basic School Resource Officer Schools to replace SROs reassigned or lost to transfer, promotion or retirement.

The 40-hour schools are designed to prepare selected prospective SROs for their full-time assignment to partner school districts.

The Division's SROs continue to maintain a dedicated presence in 118 partner school districts, while the SCOCs provide services to any school district or community group that request their assistance.

2008 Interesting cases

- ▶ A high school principal advised a Troop C SRO of a ninth grade student's disturbing writings to a physician during a routine physical, including a list of students and teachers the boy wanted to kill.

As a result, the SRO initiated a thorough threat assessment and the student's parents took him for psychological evaluation.

This uncovered alarming references to bomb-making and placement. The student was ultimately diagnosed as clinically depressed and received much-needed medication and followup counseling.

A subsequent school superintendent's hearing, in which the SROs findings were considered, determined that the most appropriate academic placement for the student during the balance of the school year was home tutoring.

- ▶ A high school teacher contacted the SRO in a Troop A high school after overhearing a 17-year-old student tell two

others he hated the assistant principal so much that he would shoot him.

The student further stated he would "bring an AK-47 in and shoot (the assistant principal) in the chest and wouldn't feel bad about it." He then said he would likewise shoot the physical education teacher.

When challenged by other students regarding his access to an AK-47, the boy stated, "You want to bet?" The student was subsequently charged with one count of Menacing 3rd Degree and remanded to the county jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail and psychiatric evaluation.

An order of protection was issued on behalf of the school district, the assistant principal and the physical education teacher.

The SRO interviewed the boy's mother, herself a school employee, and with her permission secured from the residence five long guns, including an AK-47 rifle.

- ▶ The parent of a six year-old elementary student approached a Troop E SRO for assistance regarding possible sexual abuse of her daughter.

The BCI was advised, and the resulting investigation revealed that the 17-year-old brother of the child's babysitter had inappropriately touched the child on two occasions.

The district attorney felt strongly about prosecuting only the most recent offense, and the 17-year-old was arrested for Sex Abuse 1st Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

School and Community Outreach Unit Activity - School year 2007-2008			
Criminal Calls	2,122	Total Firearms Confiscation	18
Non-Criminal Calls	7,281	Total Other Weapons Confiscation	61
Sexual Offense Cases	143	Domestic Incident Reports	26
Felony Arrests	139	Student / Faculty / Parent Presentations	6,259
Felony Arrests involving Weapons	11	Student Counseling Sessions	15,354
Felony Arrests involving Drugs	60	Suicide Counseling Sessions	142
Misdemeanor Arrests	669	Parent Counseling Sessions	3,746
Misdemeanor Arrests involving Weapons	37	Faculty/Staff Counseling Sessions	3,351
Misdemeanor Arrests involving Drugs	80	Value of Reported Property Stolen	\$101,843
Violation Arrests	216	Value of Recovered Property Stolen	\$ 54,800
Violation Arrests involving Drugs	121		

- ▶ Contacted by an elementary school principal, a Troop G SRO patrolled to a residence and found three children, ages 12, 7 and 10 months, home alone without adult supervision.

After conferring with the district attorney, the mother of the children was arrested for Endangering the Welfare of a Child 2nd Degree.

- ▶ A Troop B SRO interviewed a 15-year-old girl believed to be intentionally cutting herself. His interview bore out the suspicion.

More disturbing however, was his discovery that the girl had an active plan to commit suicide.

Her parents were contacted immediately, and she was subsequently transported to an area hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

- ▶ The parents of a 14-year-old girl told a Troop G SRO that a website was showing a naked picture of their daughter. The girl told them she thought a 16-year-old boy might be involved.

Investigation revealed the boy was circulating the name and photos of the girl, and was involved with the website on which the photos were posted. A 15-year-old student had the same pictures on his I-pod and had shown them to other students at school.

Both boys were arrested and charged with Disseminating Indecent Material to a Minor 2nd Degree.

The 16-year-old has a future court date in the local criminal court, and the 15-year-old was referred to Family Court.

- ▶ A Troop K SRO responded to an elementary school when the sound of a gunshot was heard from the neighboring woods.

All students were ushered inside and the school went into immediate “lockout” mode. With outside activities curtailed and exterior doors locked, the school continued to hold classes while an investigation into the source of the shot was undertaken.

Neighborhood interviews determined that the owner of an adjacent property had fired a shotgun at nuisance wildlife, failing to recognize the inherent danger of doing so in close proximity to a school.

He was charged with Discharging a Weapon Within 500 Feet of a Playground, Reckless Endangerment and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree.

- ▶ A Troop E SRO was instrumental in helping a school obtain grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice for a web-based security system that requires all visitors to present a valid state photo ID for scanning into the system.

The results are cross-referenced with the national sex offender registry and other databases selected by the district, such as local orders of protection.

After these administrative inquiries are completed, the system produces a time-stamped destination-labeled ID tag. Any alert produced by this process is sent discreetly to each building administrator and the SRO.

The system has proven effective in holding students accountable for their

schedules and attendance, thereby reducing truancy and tardiness.

- ▶ A Troop A SRO and the BCI arrested a man who had been seeking employment as a substitute teacher in three area school districts for Offering a False Instrument for Filing, after learning that he had claimed on his applications that he had never been arrested, when in fact he had in fact been convicted and incarcerated for Manslaughter 2nd Degree.

- ▶ A middle school principal in Troop C contacted his SRO for assistance with a student found to be in possession of four white pills. The boy said he had obtained the pills, determined to be Vicodin, from a female acquaintance.

In interviewing this second student, it became apparent to the SRO that numerous students probably were involved in the exchange and dissemination of these and other pills.

A K-9 was brought in to conduct a sweep of school lockers, and ultimately, six students were identified as having played some role in the possession and exchange of controlled substances.

All were referred to the probation department for intake proceedings.

- ▶ With the assistance of the BCI Computer Crimes Unit, a Troop B SRO arrested a 17-year-old student who had sent an after-hours e-mail to his principal stating that he and another student were “bringing guns to school” and were “going to go crazy”.

The student’s IP address was identified and a physical address secured.

When interviewed, the student confessed and was subsequently suspended from the district for the remainder of the school year.

He was arrested for Falsely Reporting an Incident 3rd Degree.

Other initiatives

- During 2008, the SCOU partnered with the National Center for Security and Preparedness at the SUNY-Albany Rockefeller College of Public Affairs to investigate measures for enhancing safety and security at colleges and universities, much as it has done for the state's primary and secondary schools.

Safety and security seminars were proposed, designed and presented in four-hour workshops attended by 100 college and university professionals from around the state.

- The SCOU undertook the production of a student video to deliver the message "See Something, Say Something" to student populations.

Working with the Division's Forensic Video and Multimedia Services Unit, the SCOU secured talent and locations, and created the script for the project.

- At the request of the IACP, **Sgts. Renise Holohan** and **George Marshall** served as instructors for a two-day training session sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, entitled, *Partnerships for Safe Schools*.

The training, held at the Vermont State Police Academy, was designed to help

educators and law enforcement personnel in Vermont and New Hampshire develop partnerships and enhance their school emergency plans.

- SCOCs in Troops D and G continue to support the DCJS initiative *Operation Safe Child* by operating ID stations at the State Fair, and throughout their troops and those surrounding them.

Specialized Operations

Special Operations Response Team

Originally established as the Mobile Response Team (MRT), the Special Operations Response Team (SORT) was created in 1980 to provide a tactical response element for the Lake Placid Winter Olympics.

The team is deployed in four regional squads: North, South, West and Central. These teams train and respond regularly, providing their specialized services to communities and law enforcement agencies across the state.

All SORT 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 2008, the SORT conducted 103 operations, ranging from responses to barricaded subjects to narcotics raids, search and rescue operations, dignitary protection, crowd control and surveillance missions.

They also supported troopers during Operation IMPACT details, serving arrest and search warrants at locations known to harbor weapons and high-risk criminals.

The SORT implemented a new two-week selection process during 2008.

Modeled after that used by the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue Team, it tests a candidate's physical, mental and psychological endurance and suitability under the continuous observation of a psychologist who specializes in Special Forces and tactical units.

Candidates deemed "best suited" were selected to attend the Basic Operators School which began in April, with the goal of filling 10 vacancies on the team.

Over the next 24 weeks the candidates were trained and tested in all of the various disciplines in which a SORT operator must be proficient: advanced firearms training, raid tactics, rope rescue, woodland search and rescue, WMD response, and other job-related courses.

The FBI Hostage Rescue Team invited the SORT to use its world-class training facility in Quantico, VA, for the final week of Close Quarters Battle training. The candidates' dedication and perseverance were rewarded with graduation in September.

2008 Interesting cases

- ▶ While conducting a Rope Rescue course at Letchworth State Park in Allegany County for the MRT Basic Operators School, April 30, four SORT instructor/operators were called to help state Park Police respond to an emergency situation at "Inspiration Point," where a suicidal

man was threatening to jump into the 550-foot deep gorge there.

Upon arrival, SORT members and Park Police rigged three members with safety harnesses and ropes while a Park Police Sergeant, attached to a safety line, engaged the “jumper” in conversation until he was able to get close enough to grab him.

Two SORT operators, also attached to safety lines, secured the sergeant and the despondent man, and successfully pulled them back over the stone barrier wall to safety.

- ▶ SORT members assisted CNET-Central with an early morning narcotics raid in Watertown, May 19.

The target had an extensive criminal history, and investigators seeking to serve a search warrant at his location projected there was a high probability of weapons being present there.

SORT members used their Bearcat Armored vehicle to approach the building, then deployed rapidly and initiated a dynamic entry into the residence. Once inside, they quickly secured all individuals in the residence, including the target, without incident.

Inside the building they seized two handguns, a semi-automatic shotgun, 10 grams of cocaine, a small amount of marijuana, scales and more than \$1,400 in cash.

- ▶ While staffing a static display at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, August 16, a SORT Medic responded to the New York Lottery building for a report of an elderly

man in cardiac arrest.

Upon arrival, the medic took over for two fairgoers who had been administering CPR. Then a NYSP communications specialist arrived with an AED and administered one shock to the subject, who began breathing again.

The subject regained consciousness just as paramedics arrived on scene to transport him to hospital for evaluation and treatment.

- ▶ SORT assisted the Columbia County Sheriff’s Department in responding to a barricaded gunman in Philmont (Columbia County), Sept. 9.

Earlier in the evening, deputies attempting to arrest the man on an assault charge had been fired upon as he entered his home.

Retreating, they set up a perimeter and awaited the Columbia County Tactical Team.

When the team tried to break a bedroom window and insert a pole camera into the house, the subject fired at them again with a shotgun, this time striking one of the tactical team in the shoulder of his tactical vest.

Arriving with two Bearcat armored vehicles, an eight man SORT element quickly deployed to evacuate two houses across the street, as riflemen/observers took up positions to watch and to gather information.

Once the nearby houses had been cleared, the two Bearcats, each carrying an eight-man SORT element, moved in. One approached the front of the house

with a hostage negotiator, while the other drove into the back yard to cover the rear of the residence.

The hostage negotiator then engaged the man in conversation via the Bearcat’s PA system, after which the gunman exited the rear of the residence and was taken into custody.

- ▶ SORT served a no-knock federal search warrant at a Buffalo residence, Nov. 19, after investigators completed a probe into the operations of a clandestine drug lab making Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) and LSD.

Wearing personal protective equipment, the SORT operators conducted a dynamic entry, securing the residence and persons within.

In the basement, SORT operators found an active DMT cooking process. They checked for the presence of potential airborne health hazards and advised the on-scene DEA chemist of the nature of the product, chemicals and processes there before turning over the residence and all occupants to the DEA.

The site was the first active DMT lab discovered in New York State.

- ▶ DEA and CNET requested SORT assistance again Dec. 4, in conjunction with a multi-agency investigation into the distribution of controlled substances in and around the city of Middletown.

Between them, SORT, the Middletown and the Orange County Tactical Teams served a total of seven no knock search warrants simultaneously.

All subjects listed in the written affidavit

filed in the Southern District of New York had prior criminal histories ranging from resisting arrest and possession of controlled substances to possession of firearms.

Bomb Disposal Unit

The Division's Bomb Disposal Unit (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, such as old dynamite, detonators and illegal fireworks.

The unit's 10 bomb technicians are trained to handle chemical and biological hazardous materials and participate as members of the Division's Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT).

All bomb squad technicians receive training and maintain certification through the FBI Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama, and are required to attend re-certification every three years.

The BDU maintains four facilities located in Albany, Newburgh, Watertown and Batavia, each of which is equipped with disposal trailers, robots and hazardous materials suits.

All bomb technicians carry critical first responder equipment with them, including X-ray machines and bomb suits.

Two new state-of-the-art response trucks were purchased in 2008 and stationed in the Albany and Buffalo areas, ensuring BDU technicians have the best possible technology

at their disposal.

During 2008, BDU technicians handled 318 incidents. These included:

- 30 commercial explosive and
- 64 military ordnance recovery and destruction operations, and
- 89 illegal fireworks seizures/destructions, involving thousands of pounds of pyrotechnics.

The unit also responded to 16 calls involving homemade or improvised explosive devices, recovering 170 actual bombs.

BDU Activity by troop area:

Troop A – 45	Troop F - 61
Troop B – 24	Troop G –91
Troop C – 18	Troop K – 24
Troop D – 36	Troop L - 3
Troop E – 16	

2008 Interesting Cases:

- ▶ March 28 — BDU technicians responded to the SUNY Delhi campus, where they used a bomb trailer to remove four pounds of crystallized picric acid safely. The items were taken to a nearby dump and destroyed by detonation.
- ▶ June 6 — Technicians responded to Bannerman (Pollopel) Island in the Hudson River north of Cold Spring (Putnam County) to remove a Civil War-era Parrot Gun shell, discovered in the river at low tide.

The area is famous as the site of Bannerman's Castle and Arsenal, an

early 20th Century commercial warehouse for the military-surplus equipment and explosives firm of Francis Bannerman Sons.

- ▶ August 4 – A farmer requested assistance from the Bomb Disposal Unit after discovering three old bottles of nitroglycerin in a barn on his property. Technicians moved the liquid to a nearby field and destroyed it with dynamite.
- ▶ October 2 – Town of Coeymans (Albany County) police responding to an animal cruelty complaint in house with more than 60 cats requested BDU assistance after discovering a room containing more than 400 pieces of military ordnance. Technicians examined and X-rayed dozens of items, removing 43 separate pieces of presumed live explosive ordnance for destruction.
- ▶ December 4 – The FBI and Joint Terrorist Task Force called in the Bomb Disposal Unit to assist an investigation involving an informant who bought homemade explosive devices from a person in Troy. Several controlled buys resulted in the recovery of 80 separate explosive devices and numerous arrests.

Canine Unit

The Division Canine Unit marked its 33rd year of service in 2008.

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.

All basic training occurs at the Division Canine Training Facility in Cooperstown, (Otsego County). The Training Facility conducted:

- A Basic Handlers School for 12 new dog handlers, including eight troopers.
- Canine re-certification sessions were conducted at the Training Facility for the 135 State Police and outside law enforcement agency canine teams overseen by the unit.
- Additionally, two bloodhound teams undertook basic training.

These additions brought the Division Canine Unit to a total of 72 teams:

- 33 explosives detection dogs, with 11 handlers assigned to the Division Bomb Disposal Unit,
- 36 narcotics detection teams with 10 cross-trained for cadaver detection, and
- Three bloodhounds.

The Division bloodhounds are utilized solely for tracking lost or missing persons when the track is not fresh.

In 2008:

- Division canine handler teams responded to 4,297 calls for service.
- Explosives detection teams responded to 655 calls, of which 69 were bomb threats or sweeps and 586 were explosives searches.

Explosives and/or weapons were recovered in 24 instances.

- Narcotics/cadaver detection teams

responded to 1,504 calls for service, including 1,390 drug sweeps of buildings, schools, vehicles, outdoor venues, and 114 cadaver searches.

Narcotics were located in 551 searches; seven cadavers were recovered.

The canine teams successfully:

- tracked 61 fugitives and
- 20 lost or missing persons, and
- located eight subjects while conducting building searches.

Division canine teams also conducted or provided:

- Security at 923 venues;
- 375 public presentations and demonstrations;
- 360 tracks for fugitives and or lost/missing persons;
- 86 building searches, and
- 394 other canine-related calls or incidents.

2008 Interesting Cases

- ▶ **Tpr. Michael Boburka** and K-9 partner “**Wheeler**” (C-Binghamton) assisted the Broome County Sheriff’s Department in tracking down a fleeing rapist in the town of Barker (Broome County), June 1.

They tracked the subject for approximately a mile before taking him into custody without incident.

- ▶ **Tpr. Daniel Snyder** and partner “**Juna**” (T-Schuyler) assisted CNET-Central and the SORT execute a search warrant at a house in Utica, Sep. 29.

They searched throughout the residence, including an insulated, covered corner on

the attic floor where “**Juna**” alerted.

Several ounces of cocaine were found to have been secreted under the insulation on a hook down inside the wall.

- ▶ **Tpr. Harold Edwards** and partner “**Nate**” (T-New Rochelle) helped the DETF-NYC with a vehicle search at a mall in Yonkers (Westchester County), Oct. 30.

A “free air sniff” of a tractor trailer there yielded a positive alert to the tractor and the upper interior portion of the cab, leading to the discovery of approximately 10 kilograms of cocaine secreted in two hidden compartments.

- ▶ After graduating from the Canine Basic Handler’s School Oct. 17, 2008, **Tpr. Bruce Shive** and “**Lock**” (C-Homer), responded to the town of Lapeer (Cortland County), Nov. 18, to track a wanted subject who fled from a vehicle stop.

Tpr. Shive and “**Lock**” conducted a track for roughly 2.5 miles, after which the subject was apprehended without incident.

SCUBA - Underwater Diving Detail

The State Police has operated its own underwater diving 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, NYS SP divers perform regular patrol and

administrative duties.

During 2008, members of the SCUBA Unit:

- Responded to 193 details,
- Conducted 1,660 dives and
- Recovered:
 - 10 victims and
 - 31 significant pieces of evidence, including 16 weapons and six vehicles.
 - The aggregate value of recovered property was approximately \$36,380.

In addition to details, the SCUBA Unit conducted its annual fall in-service training for all Division SCUBA divers. In total, 55 Division divers and 18 divers from outside agencies participated in the training, completing a total of 532 individual dives.

This training was conducted in the Saint Lawrence Seaway in Jefferson County, and included several task-oriented dives in association with specialized equipment recently acquired under federal grant initiatives, including:

- A venue that required divers to complete a victim search and recovery under blacked-out conditions, directed by underwater communications from topside, with progress monitored on a sector-scanning sonar system.
- Another venue that required divers to raise a two-ton vehicle from a depth of 65 feet using specially designed inflatable lift bags.

Divers were also tasked with locating, disentangling and rescuing a simulated trapped SCUBA diver from a submerged vehicle.

2008 Interesting Cases

- ▶ Two subjects flagged down a trooper from SP Catskill, Aug. 18, to report their friend had drowned in the Catskill Creek.
After a land and aerial search proved negative, the Troop F SCUBA Team responded and located the victim near the State Route 23 Bridge in about 15 feet of water.
- ▶ The early morning hours of Dec. 30 were the last on earth for a 22-year-old Turkish man who decided to go kayaking with a companion on Lower Rhodes Pond (Columbia County) after a night of drinking.
Both kayaks overturned and the combination of cold water, failure to wear personal floatation devices and the effects of alcohol, proved fatal. Only one of the two was unable to swim ashore.
Division SCUBA Divers recovered the body in 28 feet of water later that morning.

Marine Patrol

The State Police maintains boat patrols in Troops B, D, 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.

Marine patrols assist boaters in distress, and provide search and rescue services and water security

at regattas, hydroplane races and other water-related events.

During the 2008 boating season:

- Troop B patrolled the St. Lawrence River, Lake Champlain and smaller lakes in the Adirondacks, while Troop D provided patrols on the St. Lawrence River in Alexandria Bay, a heavily used recreational and commercial waterway.
- Troops B and D enhanced security on the state's border by providing additional patrols on the St. Lawrence, working closely with the United States Coast Guard, Border Patrol and Customs officials.
- Elsewhere, Troops F and K covered the Hudson River, and Troop G deployed boats on Lake George.
- Troop L patrolled areas of Long Island Sound around Fishers Island.
- Troop T deployed four boats along the 525-mile state Canal System that includes the Mohawk, Hudson, Oswego, Seneca,





Investigated 10 boating accidents, including one fatality, and Were assigned to roughly 2,200 hours of water-related special events.

Division marine patrol members continued the Division's commitment to boating safety education during the 2008 navigation season.

Marine Patrol personnel assisted the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation by providing

volunteer boating safety instructors to teach the mandatory training classes for personal watercraft 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.

Due to the large demand for the Marine Patrol Operators Course by law enforcement agencies, a second course was held in Syracuse in the fall on Onondaga Lake.

Mountain Bicycle Patrol

The Division's Mountain Bicycle patrol program has grown steadily since it began in 1997.

Originally, Troop T provided 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 ultimate

goal of having a trail system connecting the state from Albany to Buffalo.

That same year, Troop D, with financial assistance from local businesses, began providing bike patrols in the Sylvan Beach area and the New York State Fairgrounds.

The Executive Services Detail also provides bicycle patrols at the Empire State Plaza complex in Albany.

Additional mountain bicycle patrols have been added in Troops A, B, E, F and L, with Troop E offering an annual Mountain Bicycle Patrol Training course to officers across the state.

Snowmobile Unit

In 2008, Troop T continued its efforts in snowmobile enforcement and education. Members assigned to the detail are certified instructors for the NYS Snowmobile Safety Program, and assist with the instruction of these courses across the state.

Troop T members also provide instructors for the annual Basic and Advanced Law Enforcement Snowmobile Operators course sponsored by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, conducted in Cobleskill.

During the 2008 snowmobile season, Troop T members logged more than 1,200 hours of snowmobile patrol, covering more than 2,100 miles of trails.

Detail members issued more than 540 tickets for various snowmobile violations, including Snowmobiling While Intoxicated, Unsafe Speed, Reckless Operation, and registration/insurance.

Genesee and Niagara Rivers, as well as Oneida, Onondaga, Cross, Seneca and Cayuga Lakes.

Troop T continued to utilize personal watercraft (PWCs), popularly known as jet skis, for specialized and general patrol duties, and for specialized education and enforcement efforts.

High fuel prices and inclement weather during the boating season reduced traffic on state waterways during 2008.

Nevertheless, Division boat patrols reported an increase in overall activity and

- Made approximately 1,200 total arrests, up from 1,158 in 2007,
- Logged more than 5,800 patrol hours,
- Issued over 500 uniform tickets for Boating While Intoxicated (BWI), Speeding, Reckless Operation and safety violations,
- Made more than 800 Penal Law arrests,
- Gave out more than 450 warnings for minor violations,
- Conducted 785 vessel safety inspections,

All-Terrain Vehicle Patrol

In 2008, Troop T continued providing All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) patrols along the NYS Canalway Trail System.

The machines are equipped with optional track kits, which allow the ATVs to be operated in even the harshest conditions and terrain.

ATVs are used to assist in searches for lost persons, evidence retrieval, criminal investigations and specialized enforcement efforts.

Members logged more than 800 patrol hours and issued approximately 100 tickets for various violations during 2008.

Ensuring traffic safety is a fundamental and essential function of every trooper on patrol.

Whether investigating crashes, issuing traffic tickets, arresting drunk drivers or assisting disabled vehicles and stranded motorists, the New York State Trooper remains the guardian of New York's roads and highways.

The NYSP employs a multi-faceted and interdisciplinary approach to traffic safety, combining basic and targeted Vehicle and Traffic Law enforcement with 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.

Each troop is tasked with analyzing local traffic conditions and developing zone- and troop-specific plans to address potential hazards.

Effective and innovative traffic safety strategies are shared among troops to replicate successes.

In 2008, troopers fulfilled those functions in historic fashion.

They issued 1,059,752 traffic tickets — a 4% increase over the previous year and the second consecutive year in which traffic tickets exceeded the million mark.

Troopers also investigated nearly 75,000 traffic collisions, of which 297 involved a fatality — nearly one-quarter of all fatal crash investigations in the state.

Traffic Services

Highway Safety and
Traffic Enforcement

Speed Enforcement

Traffic Incident Management Detail

Collision Reconstruction Unit

Impaired Driving Enforcement

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit

Occupant Protection

Speed Enforcement

Unsafe speed is the most common contributing factor in highway fatalities.

In 2008, the Division secured grant funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) to address this persistent problem. The grant provided more than 9,000 hours of paid overtime for traffic enforcement, greatly increasing the Division's highway safety presence and enforcement activity.

The Division also acquired 25 state-of-the-art Direction Sensing Radar (DSR) and 10 laser speed measurement instruments. As result, the Division's enhanced ability to put more troopers on the road around the clock with the latest speed enforcement technology materially contributed to the record number of traffic tickets issued in 2008.

The NYSP's dedicated Interstate Highway Patrols (IHPs) enforce speed limits on New York's high-speed interstate system.

Off the interstates, however, speed-related crashes on non-interstate roads remain a problem, and in 2008, the Division stepped up its speed enforcement efforts in this area with **Sustained Zone Enforcement Details** to complement regular day-to-day speed enforcement by post patrols in high-crash areas.

Troopers also participated in the following statewide initiatives:

- **July Speed Initiative** – to target higher summer speed;
- **Traffic Safety Corridor Program** – targeting aggressive driving in identified high-crash corridors
- **Operation Safe Stop** – targeting violators of school bus protection laws
- **Operation Brake Program** – targeting speeders in work zones

Traffic Incident Management Detail



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), of the 42,000+ traffic fatalities that occur every year, more than 1,200 occur in work zones.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reports there is one work zone fatality every 8.2 hours, and one injury every nine minutes.

The Division created the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Detail in 2008 to expedite the clean-up of major traffic crashes, minimize congestion and secondary collisions, provide more targeted enforcement in crash-prone areas and fulfill the mandates of the Work Zone Safety Act of 2005.

TIM Teams, as they are known, are tasked with managing major traffic incidents and ensuring safety in major active work zones during the summer months, and help address other specific traffic safety issues within each troop during the rest of the year.

One hundred TIM troopers are deployed statewide to nine troop-based teams.

TIM Detail supervisors work with local police, fire, EMS, tow operators and other traffic incident responders to improve emergency response coordination and apply the concepts of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to the traffic environment.

This dedicated team approach improves safety not only in New York's highway work zones, but in the overall roadway system year-round.

TIM Team members issued 12,316 work zone speeding tickets between June, when the detail was established, and year's end. Details issued a total of 45,914 citations for non-speeding violations in and around work zones —more than double the number issued by State Police members in 2007 during the same time span.

TIM Team troopers received extensive training in auto theft, motorcycle and commercial vehicle enforcement, criminal interdiction, fraudulent documents, targeted traffic enforcement strategies and traffic incident management.

In 2009, the entire detail will seek North American Standard Truck Inspection (NASTI) Level III certification, enabling it to provide valuable assistance to the Division's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit (CVEU).

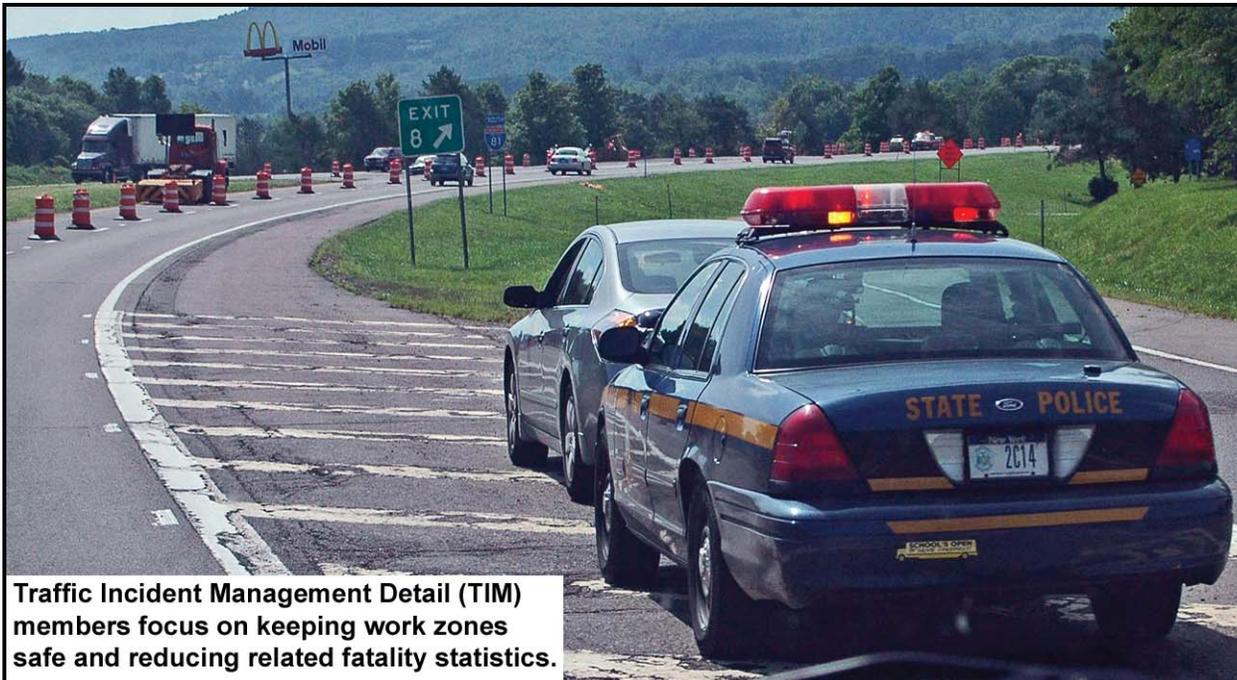
Motorcycle Enforcement and Education

The popularity of motorcycles has exploded in recent years. Unfortunately, with this growth has come an attendant surge in the number of motorcycle injuries and fatalities, and a proliferation in the availability and use of illegal motorcycle equipment.

To address these problems, in October 2007, Traffic Services piloted a motorcycle enforcement checkpoint program that combined a mandatory inspection of all motorcycles on a targeted stretch of highway with direct public education of motorcyclists entering the checkpoint.

Because crash data indicate head injury is the most frequent cause of death in motorcycle accidents, one of the program's main objectives is to increase the number of tickets issued for illegal helmets.

During 2008, a total of 796 tickets were issued for illegal helmets, compared with just 35 the previous year. This was largely accomplished by teaching troopers how to identify illegal helmets.



Traffic Incident Management Detail (TIM) members focus on keeping work zones safe and reducing related fatality statistics.

Checking Motorcycle Safeness: Traffic Services conducted a motorcycle enforcement checkpoint program focusing on illegal helmets. Below, Sgt. William "Buddy" Meyers directs motorcyclists into the inspection area, and right, under the direction of Lt. James Halvorsen, troopers complete a mandatory inspection of each of the motorcycles as well as the helmets worn by the riders.



The program has generated significant interest at the federal, state and local levels, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police made it the cover story in the July 2008 edition of its official publication, *The Police Chief* magazine.



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.

Strategies

During 2008, the Division continued to employ its mainstay enforcement strategies with success against impaired drivers.

► **Fixed sobriety checkpoints and roving saturation patrols** both focus on targeting a specific area with large numbers of troopers.

Fixed sobriety checkpoints provide the highest degree of public visibility and drunk-driving deterrence.

The 183 fixed sobriety checkpoints conducted during 2008 resulted in:

- 413 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI),
- 22 for Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI),
- 16 Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) evaluations and
- 2,775 other arrests.

Meanwhile, troopers conducted 207 roving saturation patrol details, accounting for 289 DWI and eight DWAI arrests, eight DRE evaluations and 3,729 other arrests.

► **Technology** also continued to play a strategic role in impaired driving enforcement during 2008.

The NYSP's Draeger Alcotest 7110 breath testing instruments have been linked to the TraCS system to streamline paperwork flow and increase data collection.

In addition, validation began on the Alcotest 9510, the Division's choice to replace the aging Alcotest 7110. Not only will the 7110s be replaced but the wet bath reference standard solution will be replaced by dry gas.

This cutting edge instrument and state of the art reference standard process will provide the best blood alcohol testing possible.

- ▶ **Public information, education and high visibility enforcement** efforts are proven deterrents to impaired driving. Sadly, however, far too many young people continue to drive while impaired.

To save lives and reduce underage impaired driving crashes, the Division has established a strong working relationship with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

During Academy training, OASAS instructors work to increase troopers' awareness of the prominence of alcohol in society and other issues associated with underage alcohol consumption.

OASAS funding is used to develop, print and distribute brochures and information cards to parents and underage drivers on the risks and dangers of underage drinking and impaired driving.

It also pays for the **Underage Drinking Hotline** (1-866 UNDER-21), which is monitored around-the-clock and continues to provide information for targeted enforcement details.

The **Underage Drinking Identification (UDI) Program** is an enforcement effort designed to reduce the availability of alcohol to underage drivers.

A total of 114 UDI details were conducted during 2008, checking Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Law compliance at 311 bars and 1,127 retail establishments.

As a result of these efforts, 331 arrests were made for violations of the ABC Law, along with 191 arrests for Penal Law violations. Public tips led to investigations at four house parties.

Collision Reconstruction Unit

Crash scenes, like crime scenes, are often more complicated than they appear to the untrained eye, and the proper investigation of them requires skill and experience.

Considered the premier law enforcement resource for collision reconstruction services throughout New York State, the CRU investigates potential crime scenes on and off the state's roadways.

Armed with their electronic total work stations (ETWSs), brake testing computers, crash data retrieval systems and calculators, CRU specialists responded to 405 calls for service during 2008, with approximately 20% of their annual caseload being assistance to other agencies.

More than 100 different partnering agencies request CRU assistance each year.

The unit is comprised of 17 full- and 43 part-time uniform and BCI members statewide, supervised by the Troop Forensic Identification Units (FIU).

These technicians are uniquely experienced and adept at the forensic mapping of roadway crashes and crime scenes.

The forensic maps they produce can establish relative evidence positions to illustrate reports or support courtroom presentations, interpreting causation and/or determining

contributory factors.

The CRU works diligently to determine criminality and exonerate the innocent and 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 \$136 million in frivolous and unfounded civil lawsuits since 1995.

2008 Interesting case - 2001 Hyundai Elanta Recalled

Tprs. Robert G. Miller (E-ID) and **Robert J. Frost** (E-Auburn) were assigned to investigate a two-vehicle fatal collision on Rte. 370 in the town of Cato (Cayuga County), Jan. 26, in which on-scene investigation had noted the lack of any frontal airbag deployment in the deceased person's vehicle.

During reconstruction analysis, Tpr. Miller researched mechanical failure complaints through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) website, and discovered a similar Troop G case involving a two-vehicle fatal crash in Mayfield (Fulton County), Aug. 12, 2003.

Analysis of both crashes showed each involved a failed deployment of the vehicle's frontal airbag. Tpr. Miller provided this information to the NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation, which opened a preliminary evaluation on March 10.

With the assistance of a NHTSA contractor in Buffalo, Tpr. Miller secured several vehicle components as evidence for examination.

The findings of that investigation resulted in an Oct. 17 nationwide recall by Hyundai

Motors of 228,910 model year 2001 Hyundai Elantra passenger vehicles for a potential mechanical defect/failure associated with their frontal air bag sensors and control modules.

It was determined that liquid spilled around the center console cup holder could seep through the opening for the parking brake and contaminate the electrical connector for the airbag control module; this in turn could result in a failure of the frontal airbags to deploy in a crash.

This marked the first time in Division history that a motor vehicle recall was ordered as the direct result of a CRU investigation.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit

Commercial vehicle safety is an integral component of the NYSP's highway safety mission.

Its Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit is composed of 104 men and women highly trained in ensuring commercial driver/vehicle safety, assessing size/weight compliance, and the arcane art of detecting the presence of hazardous materials.

CVEU members also are the Division's radiological monitors, safeguarding major cities and the roads that service them from radiological contamination or attack.

CVEU members are regularly tasked with



Commercial Vehicle Safety Checks: Members of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit ensure commercial vehicles driving on NYS roadways meet roadway safety standards. During a roadside inspection, above, Intercomp semi-portable scales are used to determine if a truck's weight meets standards; right, the electric connections and air brake supply lines on a tractor-trailer combination are inspected; above, right, a CVEU member inspects the undercarriage of a stinger street car carrier; and far right, a driver's credentials are being validated.



numerous other assignments, including public education.

The 2008 “**Share the Road,**” campaign was conducted to educate passenger car drivers about the operation and physical limitations of large trucks and how to operate their own vehicles safely around “big rigs.”

Members made presentations to numerous schools, trucking companies, fairs and highway safety conferences during 2008, and provided training on commercial vehicle enforcement to troopers and police officers around the state.

During 2008, the CVEU:

- Inspected more than 68,000 vehicles, and
- Weighed and measured more than 106,000 others,
 - Identifying 149,000 violations and
 - Resulting in the issuance of more than 42,000 tickets.

Occupant Protection

Wearing proper safety restraints remains the single most effective means of preventing death and minimizing injury in an automobile crash.

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 immediately rose to about 50% and grew slowly thereafter, topping out around 75% over the following two decades.

In 1999, the Division added the **Buckle Up New York zero-tolerance enforcement** campaign to its overall Occupant Protection Program, and safety restraint use has risen

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steadily ever since.

Surveys conducted in 2008 indicated that 93.2% of motorists were buckled up, a record high.

During the *Buckle Up New York* enforcement wave in May, troopers issued 20,184 safety restraint citations — more than 40% of the total for all law enforcement agencies statewide.

During 2008, troopers engaged in regular monthly enforcement details and daily patrol activities issued 115,000 occupant restraint violations and conducted 533 roving or fixed restraint details.

Although New Yorkers continue to buckle up at a record rate, research shows compliance still lags among young drivers and those traveling at night. This contributes to higher



Log-truck Rollover: Tpr. Wayman Walker, Troop G, CVEU, explains the probable cause of a commercial vehicle log-truck accident to Tpr. Gregory Bennett, Troop G, IHP, Loudonville. The truck rolled over on the northbound Exit 24 ramp of I-87.

rates of serious injury and death among these groups.

Teen and Nighttime Initiatives

In 2008, the NYSP began focused occupant protection campaigns targeting nighttime and teen/younger drivers.

- ▶ **Nighttime Safety Restraint Enforcement Details** were held in each troop statewide, and public education and information efforts were directed toward nighttime drivers and teens.
- ▶ In a special effort to reach young drivers, the Division initiated several **Teen Seatbelt Initiative** pilot programs during 2008.

NYSP School Resource Officers (SROs) administer the campaign in selected school districts.

This concentrated awareness campaign includes such in-school components as:

- Impromptu educational seatbelt checks,
- Brief PA announcements,
- Educational programs dedicated to seatbelt awareness, and
- Visual aids, such as videos, brochures and posters.

An ancillary benefit of this initiative is the personal interaction between trooper/SROs and students, which extends beyond the subject of seatbelt usage into all aspects of public and personal safety.

Child Passenger Safety

National data consistently indicates that parents and caregivers still misuse or

improperly install child restraint systems. Therefore, Child Passenger Safety (CPS) features prominently in the Division's Occupant Protection Program.

The CPS program encompasses areas 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.

The program uses 153 troopers certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians and five as CPS Instructors to assist parents and caregivers with child restraint installations.

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.

This includes monthly fitting stations available to caregivers at 21 stations statewide.

In 2008:

- Troopers at State Police fitting stations:
 - Aided parents and caregivers with the installation of 2,503 child restraint devices, and
 - Distributed 380 child safety seats to clients with an immediate need.
- Uniformed members also conducted public child safety restraint education clinics, employing the NYSP *Seat Belt Convincers* and *Rollover Simulators*, which dramatically demonstrate what can happen to vehicles and their occupants in a crash.

- Technicians and instructors also participated in training events within their troop areas at hospitals, schools, day care facilities and community firehouses.

Child passenger safety efforts were greatly enhanced in 2008 with the creation of **Child Passenger Safety Week**, Sept. 21–27, by highway safety professionals including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

In support of the observance, troopers conducted fixed safety restraint enforcement and educational details across the state.

Troopers issued a total of 1,107 citations for safety restraint violations during the week, including child safety restraint infractions.

The observance was preceded Sep.20 by a national "**Seat Check Saturday**," in which State Police CPS technicians statewide joined with police officers from other agencies to staff fitting stations:

- More than 365 seats were checked on this day, of which, 92% were found upon arrival to have been incorrectly installed.
- Troopers provided financially needy motorists with 34 seats for their children.

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 NYSP Gaming Detail, established in 1993 with the advent of casino gaming in New York State, consists of discrete units at four Native American-owned and operated gambling casinos around the state:

- Turning Stone Resort & Casino operated by the Oneida Indian Nation in Verona (Oneida County);
- Akwesasne Mohawk Casino, operated by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in Hogansburg (Franklin County);
- Seneca Niagara Hotel & Resort, operated by the Seneca Nation of Indians in Niagara Falls (Niagara County), and
- Seneca Allegany Hotel & Resort, also operated by the Seneca Nation in Salamanca (Cattaraugus County).

The Seneca Nation opened a third casino, the Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino, in the City of Buffalo (Erie County) in 2007. At present,

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BCI Details, Units, Services

Gaming Detail

Narcotics Enforcement

Central Narcotics Enforcement Teams

Forensic Investigation Support Services

Computer Crime Unit

Violent Felony Warrant Squad

Gun Investigative Unit

the State Police Gaming Detail is providing a presence there with personnel assigned to the other Seneca facilities, while negotiation between the State and Seneca Nation are ongoing.

Each Gaming Detail unit maintains an around-the-clock on-site presence during all operating hours at its respective casino.

Assigned investigators perform law enforcement and public safety services on the casino gaming floor areas, and conduct criminal and non-criminal investigations, although the majority of the case load involves background investigations required by the Nation-State compacts for all employees and vendors conducting business at the gaming facilities.

These background investigations are conducted at the request of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, which is the designated regulatory authority.

2008 Cases

When push comes to shove...an arrest!

A report of an attempted robbery at a restaurant in the Turning Stone Casino & Resort brought **Invs. Daniel Engert, Katie**

Fischer and Patrick Kinane to the scene, May 28.

The victim reported an unknown man had approached from behind, pushed him off balance in an attempt to steal his wallet from his back pocket, and ran off through the restaurant's kitchen, exiting through a side door near the parking garage.

The casino's video surveillance unit obtained footage of the event and provided members with a still photo of the suspect on the gaming floor. A few dealers recognized the suspect from the night in question, but not before that.

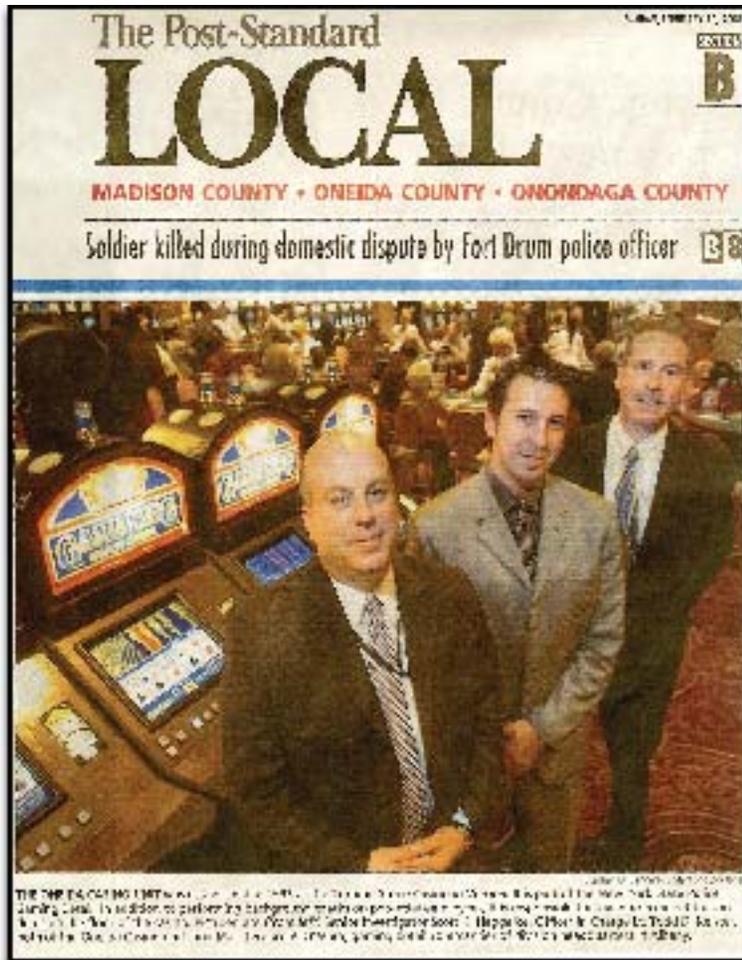
After exhausting all leads at the casino, investigators relayed the case information and the suspect's photo to the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) for use in an attempted robbery bulletin.

On July 17, a state parole officer advised the unit that he had identified the suspect in the photo as a state parolee. Two parole officers responded to the Oneida Gaming Unit, where they reviewed the photo and video firsthand, confirmed that the suspect was a parolee, and advised that he was also a suspect in an investigation with the city of Rome Police Department involving a confidential informant (CI).

Inv. Kinane followed up with the Rome PD,

and it was suggested that the CI be used to obtain further information regarding the attempted robbery. A meeting was set up involving the suspect, the CI and Inv. Kinane.

A concealed recorder captured the suspect making incriminating statements, and this in turn led to a full confession in the crime.



Made the Paper! Oneida Casino Gaming Unit was featured in the Post Standard on Sunday, February 10. Pictured, left to right, are Sr. Inv. Scott K. Heggelke (promoted to Lt. 8/21/08), Lt. Todd D. Keister and Major Terence P. O'Mara, Gaming Detail Commander.

He's a bad bet

A complainant told **Inv. Robert B. Heath** that \$1,450 worth of power tools had been stolen from the back of his pickup truck, parked in the garage at the Turning Stone Casino while he was inside, March 18.

Video surveillance footage had recorded the crime and enabled Inv. Heath to track the suspect's movements through the casino. Casino employees identified the suspect, and additional interviews revealed the man's wife had a vehicle registered to her that matched the description of the vehicle operated by the suspect on the date in question.

The following day another larceny of power tools occurred, this time valued at \$1,590. Security video showed the same vehicle in the vicinity of the victim's truck.

An interview with the suspect's probation officer disclosed that the suspect owed \$9,300 in restitution to two of his victims, that he had failed to make any payments in three years. Further investigation revealed he had gambled away \$7,050 at the casino during the same period.

The suspect was "flagged" by casino security and management, and on April 1, Inv. Heath was alerted that the suspect was on site. With **Inv. Robert Weber**, he arrested the suspect without incident.

Subsequent investigation resulted in recovery and return of all the stolen property.

Liar, liar...

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Unit investigators received information from the casino's director of security that a 27-year-old female patron had been sexually assaulted when she gave a man a ride into Massena, July 29.

The complaint was in the form of an e-mail from the victim's mother to a casino executive. The victim, who lived with her grandparents, told them she had been raped.

Investigators from the casino and SP Massena made numerous unsuccessful attempts to contact the victim. The mother said the victim knew the State Police were trying to reach her, and that she was extremely upset that her mother had disclosed the rape allegation.

Inv. Mark K. Kłowsowski worked with the casino surveillance department to identify and track the victim's movements in the archived surveillance recordings. These showed the victim and a man conversing and then leaving the casino together. The victim was seen to return 33 minutes later and played the slot machines into the next morning, when she left and turned east toward Vermont.

Inv. Darin Chartrand (B-Massena) interviewed relatives, who told him the woman had a history of drug use and had made spurious allegations of being robbed in the past to elicit sympathy and financial assistance. Burlington police said the victim's name appeared numerous times in its departmental database, including several arrests.

After the tenth attempt at contact, the victim finally returned Inv. Chartrand's call



Mohawk Casino Gaming Unit



Finders (not!) keepers...

An upset Mohawk Casino patron told **Invs. Jay W. Taylor** and **Erik W. Burnett** she had lost \$380 when the money apparently dropped from her coat pocket while she was playing at a slot machine, Nov.30.

Surveillance video showed she had in fact dropped the money, and that it was picked up shortly thereafter by two patrons gambling at the slot machines beside her, who immediately left the building. They were identified by a review of the in-house system which tracks wins and losses of individuals based on account numbers associated with the use of "Winners Club" cards.

Later that day, the same two subjects were located at The Mohawk Bingo Palace, a Class II gaming establishment associated with the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. They admitted finding the cash on the casino floor, but said they were unaware where it had come from or who owned it.

In the end, the cash found its way back to the complainant. The Franklin County DA declined to press charges.

Money laundering

Invs. Daniel Stayner and **Cheryl Johnson** were working a C tour at the Seneca Niagara Casino, June 25, when they received a report of a possible money-laundering scheme occurring on the gaming floor.

Two patrons, a man and a woman, were placing large amounts of cash into the slot machines and cashing out without playing, subsequently redeeming their cash-out tickets at the automated teller machines.

The subjects failed to provide any legitimate explanation for why they were cycling the money through the slot machines, and could not account for the source of their funds.

Investigation and collaboration with the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office determined the pair had passed more than \$20,000 dollars in cash through the slot machines.

While no New York State law could be cited against their actions, due diligence by the investigators resulted the case being adopted under federal statutes against money structuring to avoid the federal financial reporting requirements of US Title 31.

As a result, the money is being sought under federal seizure statute, and numerous ancillary investigations have spun off from the case, assisting the FBI, the DEA and several local law enforcement agencies with related cases in Western New York.

Rubber check bounces back

Responding to a complaint at the cashier's window about an individual trying to cash a counterfeit \$500 American Express Travelers Check, October 26, **Invs. Alan Harshany** and **Robert Garbacz** interviewed the suspect, who said he was working in concert with another person elsewhere on the casino grounds.

They located the accomplice, who was found

Mohawk Casino Gaming Unit: Top, left, Inv. Mark K. Klosowski investigating an alleged rape and, bottom, Invs. Erik W. Burnett (L) and Jay W. Taylor investigate a lost money complaint.

and advised him her mother had incorrect information, that she had not been injured or assaulted, and that she would not provide a statement or cooperate with the investigation.

After collective consultation with all investigative parties involved, it was resolved that the victim had never anticipated the statement she had made to her grandparents would ever find its way back to legal authorities. After consultation, the Franklin County district attorney declined to pursue charges against her.

to be in possession of an additional \$4,000 in counterfeit checks. They were arrested for Criminal Possession of Forged Instruments.

Further investigation identified elements of an organized effort to use travelers cheques and international money orders in a manner that attempted to defraud the casino.

Assist to patron

Invs. David P. Haines and Michael Omilian discovered a woman lying on the shoulder of the road leading to the Seneca Allegany Casino entrance, July 11, administered first aid and summoned Casino Emergency Medical Services.

Investigation revealed the woman, an exchange student from Romania, had been bicycling to her job at the casino when she felt weak and fainted.

She was treated for dehydration and released.

Narcotics Enforcement

The Division 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 (NEU) in Troops B and L,
- Five Drug Enforcement Task Forces (DETF) and
- Specialized details throughout the state.

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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 8,858 drug cases in 2008, including 3,308 investigations involving the sale of controlled substances.

These cases resulted in the arrests of 5,876 persons for various drug offenses and

- Seizure of:
 - 5,402 pounds of powder cocaine
 - 5,187 pounds of marijuana
 - 351 pounds of heroin
 - 22 pounds of crack cocaine
- Division personnel seized:
 - \$45,360,545 in cash
 - 176 vehicles
 - 552 handguns
 - 610 long guns
 - property valued at \$6,622,258

Central Narcotics Enforcement Teams / Gun Investigative Unit

The New York State Police have 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 agency 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 2008, CNET personnel:

- Made 1,385 undercover purchases
- Arrested 1,327 persons for narcotics and firearms offenses
- Closed 2,179 cases by arrest
- Seized:
 - \$8,254,175 in illegal drugs
 - 67 guns
 - 35 vehicles
 - \$1,028,652 in cash

The also assisted 90 local police departments, bringing the total number of times CNET personnel have assisted local agencies to 1,412 since the program's inception in September 1990.

Gun Investigative Unit

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

In 2008, GIU personnel:

- Seized 672 weapons
- Purchased 42 weapons,
- Arrested 541 persons for narcotics and firearms offenses
- Made 533 narcotics purchases
- Seized:

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- Nine vehicles valued at \$84,000
- \$1,318,792 in illegal drugs
- \$349,966 in cash
-

It closed 838 cases by arrest and assisted 303 agencies during the year, bringing the total number of times GIU personnel have assisted local agencies to 1,209, since the program's inception in January 2006.

CNET-Western - 2008 Cases

CNET-Western is responsible for investigating narcotics-related crimes and assisting local police agencies in a 13-county area encompassing all of Troop A and five counties in the northeastern part of Troop E.

It works closely with these troops and DEA personnel to develop information regarding drug trafficking and initiate investigations of mid-to-upper level narcotics organizations.

- ▶ In November 2005, the Buffalo Police Department was called to a city residence for a report of an accidental shooting. The victim had been shot in the head while lying in his bed.

The wife claimed she had grabbed the gun in the dark room and accidentally pulled the trigger.

After 23 months of investigation, the wife's story unraveled and she was charged with Murder and committed to the Erie County Holding Center.

In March 2008, a Buffalo PD detective told CNET-Western investigators that the same woman had tried to have a witness killed prior to her trial.

A CNET investigator was assigned to

meet her, posing as a "hit man". He did so on two occasions, recording incriminating conversations during the encounters.

As a result, she was arrested again by Buffalo homicide detectives on April 22 and charged with Conspiracy 2nd Degree and Solicitation 2nd Degree, not only preventing another killing, but removing any possible doubt about the righteousness of her initial conviction.

- ▶ Working with the Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, members of CNET-Western investigated a Buffalo parolee who was trying to arrange a trip to New York City to buy five kilos of cocaine.

Coordinating with the Attorney General's Office and Troop T, Zone 4, CNET-Western personnel identified and stopped two vehicles on the Thruway, Nov. 10, and transported the occupants to Troop A Headquarters in Batavia. There the vehicles were searched.

One vehicle, bearing a Georgia registration, was found to have \$143,000 in cash concealed within the rear quarter panels. The money was seized and the parolee was charged with violating the conditions of his parole.

CNET-Central - 2008 Cases

CNET Central covers a 10-county region encompassing the seven counties of Troop D and parts of Troops B and E.

- ▶ Investigators from CNET-Central received information, July 19, that a large sum of cash — known proceeds from marijuana trafficking — was going to be transported from Syracuse to the Akwasasne

Reservation.

Detail members began surveillance at a location in Syracuse and observed the arrival of a known marijuana runner. The subject took the money and left the area, watched carefully along the way by SP Syracuse Thruway personnel.

A V & T stop was conducted, the driver found to be suspended, and the vehicle impounded. An inventory search of the vehicle turned up \$85,720 in cash.

- ▶ From Aug. 29 to Aug. 31, 2008, CNET-Central worked with the Lewis County District Attorney's Office, the Lewis County Sheriff's Department and Uniform Troopers on a concert detail known as the "Moe Down" — a three-day event attended by some 7,000 concert-goers and on-site campers.

CNET-Central undercover members worked to identify drug dealers and purchase illicit drugs during the event.

CNET investigators conducted total of 17 undercover buys, and on Sept. 1, as the crowds were dispersing, Uniform Troopers and Lewis County Sheriff's Deputies moved in to apprehend the 21 individuals investigators had identified.

The resulting stops resulted in charges ranging from Unlawful Possession of Marijuana to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 2nd Degree, an A-II Felony.

Three individuals were wanted on warrants, two of whom were fugitives from justice.

Seizures totaled more than \$3,600, an ounce of crack cocaine, seven grams of

powder cocaine, five nitrous oxide tanks, more than 400 hits of LSD, three ounces of marijuana and numerous prescription drugs.

CNET-Capital - 2008 Cases

CNET-Capital is responsible for investigating narcotics-related crimes and assisting local police agencies within a 15-county region encompassing all of Troop G and portions of Troops B, F and K.

- ▶ CNET-Capital joined personnel from the DEA Albany, the State Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, and the Watervliet and Albany PDs in a six-month investigation into cocaine and marijuana trafficking throughout the Capital District.

The investigation, dubbed "Operation Family Tree," began with street-level drug buys by undercover members in the city of Watervliet (Albany County), and grew into a large-scale Title III narcotics investigation involving wiretaps on more than a dozen telephone lines.

On April 11, investigators staged a large-scale raid carefully timed to coincide with the delivery of two kilograms of cocaine from a New York City source to a buyer in Albany.

Five search warrants were executed and 20 subjects were arrested on various drug-related charges.

More than eight kilograms of cocaine, 140 pounds of marijuana, three handguns, an

assault rifle, three bulletproof vests and \$60,000 in cash were seized.

- ▶ On May 8, CNET-Capital culminated a year-long investigation into narcotics trafficking in the Capital District with the arrest of 24 persons, including the former Schenectady city police chief, on narcotics-related charges.

The investigation began with information developed by Uniform Troopers during traffic stops involving drug seizures.

The information was passed on to a CNET-Capital investigator who worked the case into a Title III wiretap investigation involving 10 phone lines.

Five search warrants were executed, resulting in the seizure of 1.5 kilograms of



Slim Chance: The completion of a year-long investigation resulted in the sizeable seizure of drugs, vehicles, weapons and cash.

cocaine, 1,794 bags of heroin, 12 grams of raw heroin, four vehicles, a handgun, an assault rifle, \$25,000 in cash.



Operation Family Tree: Representatives from the agencies participating in the six-month operation unite for a press conference showcasing the seizure of over 8 kilograms of cocaine, 140 lbs of marijuana, 3 handguns, 1 assault rifle, 3 bullet proof vests and \$60,000 USC.

CNET-Hudson Valley/Mid-Hudson DETF - 2008 Cases

CNET-Hudson Valley Office investigates narcotics-related crimes and assists local police agencies in a seven-county area that includes Troop K and three counties in Troop F.

- ▶ Beginning in the spring of 2007, CNET-Hudson Valley and the Newburgh city PD launched "Operation Take Back Our Streets," designed to target the city's open-air drug markets.

Members successfully used a confidential informant and concealed audio/video equipment to record each sale, resulting in the arrests of 80 drug dealers, 75 of whom since have pleaded guilty or were

convicted of felonies.

Members also were able to develop information that led to the resolution of a homicide and the development of a strong lead in a second killing.

The operation's second phase, "Operation Save Our Children," ran from August 2007 through March 2008, targeting sales within school zones, defined by state law as anywhere "within 1,000 feet of a school."

Ninety four of the resulting 126 indicted drug dealers face second felony charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in a School Zone.

Most of these sales took place in the zones of five schools, a pre-kindergarten program and a daycare center.

On March 13, a multi-agency sweep was conducted involving the New York State Police, the Joint Crimes Task Force, including city and town of Newburgh police, the New Windsor PD, the Orange County Sheriff, Orange County District Attorney, Probation and Parole and the U.S. Marshals Service.

To date, 101 targets have been arrested. Of these, 98 were dealers, 88 of whom have pleaded guilty to 94 B-level felonies and six to C-level felonies when confronted with the A/V evidence against them.

Information was obtained that helped Newburgh detectives close four open homicide cases.

- ▶ On January 26, members of the Hudson Valley GIU, SP Liberty BCI, Mid-Hudson Drug Enforcement Task Force and the

Sullivan County District Attorney's Office began an eavesdropping investigation into two multi-kilo heroin and cocaine dealers living in Middletown, (Orange County) and operating in the Monticello (Sullivan County) area.

The four-month investigation, the largest in Sullivan County history, reached into Orange County and the NYC Metropolitan area.

It concluded with the arrests of 31 persons who were charged with Conspiracy 2nd Degree, three of whom were charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree. Property seized with the narcotics is estimated to be worth approximately \$400,000. Also seized were 12 vehicles and \$100,000 in cash.

The network distributed approximately a kilo of cocaine a week — a total street value of more than \$1.5 million a year.

CNET-Southern Tier - 2008 Cases

CNET-Southern Tier handles undercover narcotics investigations in a 10-county area along the northern border of Pennsylvania.

- ▶ In August, CNET-Southern Tier and GIU members responded to assist the Vestal (Broome County) PD with a traffic stop in which a Vestal police officer had discovered items used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Members interviewed a passenger in the vehicle, who had in his possession a "shopping list" of components and ingredients for a meth lab, and who indicated he was delivering them to someone who was going to manufacture

the methamphetamine.

Controlled telephone calls subsequently were made to the lab operator, who was unable to meet at that time. In the meantime, the passenger indicated he could purchase heroin from another subject.

Investigators supervised the controlled purchase of heroin by the passenger and subsequently arrested the heroin supplier, who was found to be in possession of 31 packets of heroin, 20 Hydrocodone tablets, four hypodermic needles and approximately 20 grams of marijuana.

The next morning arrangements were made with the meth lab operator to turn over the components in exchange for cocaine.

The lab operator and another subject arrived at the meeting location to deliver the cocaine and take possession of the components, and were taken into custody for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance.

The lab operator cooperated and provided enough information to obtain probable cause search warrants at three locations, suspected clandestine laboratories in Broome and Tioga Counties.

The Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT) was called in and effected dynamic entries at both lab locations.

At the Broome County lab, a residence in the town of Lisle, the subjects were away but returned while the search was in progress. They attempted to flee in their vehicle but were apprehended after a

short pursuit.

Related seizures included a “box” meth lab, 17 pounds of marijuana, two long guns, drug paraphernalia and illegally possessed prescription medication.

Four persons were present at the Tioga County lab raid, where seizures included a small amount of processed methamphetamine and two long guns, batteries soaked in ether, numerous canisters of ether, tubing, glassware, equipment and other components necessary for a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory.

Seizures from the third location included numerous items used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine, digital scales, marijuana and eight long guns, one of which was confirmed to have been stolen.

In all, over a two-day period, members of CNET-Southern Tier and the local agencies in Broome and Tioga counties they assisted arrested 10 persons for various drug-related charges and dismantled two clandestine laboratory sites.

- ▶ A joint investigation during February involving the Binghamton city PD and CNET-Southern Tier targeted a Binghamton resident suspected of distributing large amounts of cocaine.

Confidential informants, physical surveillance and court-authorized wiretaps were used in the case, which culminated with the execution of search warrants at seven locations in and around Binghamton.

Related seizures totaled more than a pound of cocaine, two pounds of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, seven vehicles and approximately \$53,000 in cash.

Four persons were arrested and subsequently indicted on federal charges of Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine.

Four other persons were arrested for New York State Penal Law felonies, including Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of Marijuana.

Computer Crime Unit

Criminal investigation and police technology must change continually to meet the relentless demands imposed by today’s technically sophisticated criminals.



CCU Vehicle: Invs. Todd Grant (CCU-Central) and Dustin Hite (D-Oneida) conduct a field preview in a specially equipped Computer Crime Unit vehicle.

Today, every law enforcement officer must be aware of information that can be stored on computers, or found on 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) was founded in 1992 to address this need.

Headquartered at the NYSP Forensic Investigation Center (FIC) in Albany, 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.

CCU investigators are deployed regionally to enhance the investigation of traditional crimes that increasingly involve the use of the Internet and computing devices.

Detail members target increasingly sophisticated cyber criminals who are perpetrating crimes against citizens, such as online fraud and ID theft, and respond to and investigate cyber attacks on the critical infrastructure of New York State.

CCU personnel also are dedicated to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), and coordinate statewide investigations involving the online exploitation of children.

The detail’s state-of-the-art mobile laboratory also enables the CCU to deploy its resources

swiftly anywhere in the state to support any law enforcement agency.

Protecting our children

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



Computer Forensic Analysts Brian Salmon and Glenford Rose (CCU-HQ) prepare to acquire digital evidence in the Computer Forensic Laboratory.

increasingly sophisticated about hiding their activities.

New York State has one of the most successful Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces in the country, ranked in the top three nationally with over 1,000 referrals from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

During 2008, the Task Force and its affiliates arrested 175 individuals for felonies involving the online sexual exploitation of children.

ICAC members also deliver education and training activities to students, teachers, and parents. These activities build a rapport with the schools that lead to earlier detection of child predators in support of ICAC investigations and provide faster response to threats of violent activities in our schools.

During 2008, the task force and its affiliates conducted 330 such presentations to more than 33,000 students, parents and teachers.

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, 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 NYSP Office of Counter-Terrorism, the NYSP 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.

CCU investigators also are in demand for training and outreach activities, lectures and interviews within the State Police, to other law enforcement agencies, and to the news media.

2008 Cases

Computer Forensic Laboratory

CCU personnel helped Albany PD detectives investigate the murder of a man shot in the head with a pistol in the city's South End, Nov. 14, 2007.

Detectives suspected a man and woman of planning and carrying out the killing, and submitted several cellular phones belonging to them for analysis. From these, the Computer Crime Unit was able to call up histories, photographs and text messages linking the defendants to the victim.

These data helped tie together the conspiracy, and **Inv. Frantz Michel** (H-CCU) provided expert testimony at trial in November 2008.

The man was convicted of 2nd Degree Murder, and Inv. Michel is slated to testify in the upcoming trial of the female partner.

ICAC Task Force

CCU and the ICAC Task Force successfully completed a seven-month investigation during 2008 into a former New York State assemblyman – who most recently served as a New York State Parole Hearing Officer – suspected of trying to contact 11- and 12-year-old girls for sex.

The investigation began in March with a report from America On Line (AOL) to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding the transmission of child pornography via email.

Working in an undercover capacity, **Inv. Mary A. Barrette** (H-CCU) posed as a mother who was willing to exploit her children. Inv.

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Barrette set up several undercover face-to-face meetings with the suspect to arrange such a meeting.

Two undercover troopers posed as underage girls, and in October CCU members arrested the man at a hotel where he had paid to meet with the “girls”.

In December he pleaded guilty to Online Enticement of a Child in federal court, and at last report was facing a possible sentence of 10 years.

Critical infrastructure response

During 2008, **Inv. Eugene F. Bell** (H-CCU) worked with members of the state Office of Cyber Security on an incident involving a compromised website belonging to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

A review of log files indicated the compromise was caused by an SQL Injection (worm) which has been found on numerous websites across the United States.

The worm redirected visitors to the compromised site through several computers to a computer in China, which would then attempt to place the worm on the visitor's computer. Once implanted, it could facilitate exploitation of the infected computer for other purposes.

Investigation revealed that this was not a deliberate attack on NYSERDA, but rather an attack of opportunity.

Cyber security personnel have been in contact with the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) to discuss ways to better identify and defend against this type worm.

CCU-Central

The Pennsylvania State Police alerted the Computer Crime Unit to an investigation involving child pornography distribution by a Tioga County resident. CCU and personnel from SP Owego and the Tioga County Sheriff's Office seized a computer at the man's residence.

Intelligence developed there indicated that the suspect had left for Minnesota to meet a woman he had met online, the mother of a 5-



New Phone: Inv. Frantz Michel (CCU-HQ) demonstrates new cell phone forensic equipment to Computer Forensic Analyst Justin Leri.

year-old child. CCU immediately provided this information to the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, eventually leading to the location of the suspect, along with a laptop computer with which he was traveling.

A search of the laptop revealed child pornography, leading to his arrest in Minnesota for Possession of Pornographic Images Involving Minors.

At last report, he was in custody in Minnesota, and the case was being reviewed by the U.S. Attorney for possible federal prosecution.

CCU-Western

The NYS ICAC Task Force and the CCU-Western investigated a graduate student/teacher at the University of Rochester who admitted to viewing and possessing child pornography through various online file sharing sites.

Suspecting that he was being watched, the man dismantled the entire inside contents of his computer and placed them in separate garbage bags in various dumpsters around his residence hall.

Investigators found a garbage can outside one residence hall on campus that contained a sealed brown plastic bag containing a computer hard drive. The subject admitted it had been his.

Forensic analysis performed on it revealed approximately 10,000 pornographic images. The subject was arrested for Possession of Obscene Sexual Performance of a Child (Class E Felony) and remanded to Monroe County Jail.

CCU-Southern

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received ten referrals to its "CyberTipLine" from on-line service provider AOL indicating a subscriber had been transmitting sexually explicit images of underage children.

The internet protocol (IP) address of the subscriber, captured at the time of each transmitted e-mail message, traced back to a cable company in Bethpage, Long Island.

NCMEC forwarded a referral to CCU and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The cable subscriber was identified as a Port Washington resident. A search warrant was obtained and executed.

In addition to the seizure of three laptop computers, a digital camera, CDs, DVDs, and other storage media, State Police personnel located a loaded 9-mm pistol and a quantity of ammunition hidden underneath a dresser in one of the bedrooms; the owner was not licensed to possess a handgun.

CCU conducted forensic previews of the three computers and storage media seized, and they were found to contain explicit still and video images of underage children.

The man was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree and Possessing an Obscene Sexual Performance By A Child and held for arraignment in Nassau County First District Court the following day.



Investigator Barry Friedman (CCU-HQ) and Computer Forensic Analyst Kimberly Cardona look at new computer forensic network storage equipment.

CCU-Northern

- ▶ On Sept. 25, CCU-North and personnel from SP Malone executed a search warrant at a residence in Malone (Franklin County) in response to an investigation developed by the Computer Crime Unit and the Internet Crimes Against Children regarding the distribution of child pornography on a file sharing network.

CCU and SP Malone investigators seized a computer and other evidentiary material from the subject's house.

The investigation also provided insight into the disappearance of a St. Catherines, Quebec, woman four years earlier.

A forensic preview of the suspect's computer revealed several photographs of mutilated women and child pornography.

Troop B Major Crimes, Montreal PD and the RCMP were notified and the suspect voluntarily surrendered at SP Malone, where he admitted strangling woman and burying her body in a gravel pit near his home.

Search warrants executed at home and a search of the gravel pit brought forth additional evidence confirming the man's confession.

- ▶ In December 2007, a woman reported that her credit reporting service had notified her someone was trying to obtain credit cards in her name.

During the subsequent investigation, CCU personnel facilitated the issuance of nine subpoenas to various banks and retail establishments, and worked closely with the U.S. Postal Service and State Department of Taxation and Finance.

Ultimately, enough information was developed to obtain four search warrants, leading to the seizure of digital and paper evidence showing an Amsterdam (Montgomery County) woman was the perpetrator.

A voluntary admission revealed she had engaged in this type of crime in Las Vegas before coming to New York, and that the victim's information had been accessed via stolen health records.

The subject was charged with nine counts of Forgery, and one count each of Identity Theft, Scheme to Defraud and Unlawful Possession of Identifying Information.

Violent Felony Warrant Squad

Established in 1979, the Division's 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 more than 250,00 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.

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.

2008 Cases

VFW-Buffalo

- ▶ VFW-Buffalo received an NCIC warrant match Feb. 13 regarding a fugitive wanted by Chicago police on an active arrest warrant for 1st Degree Murder in the 1994 stabbing of his girlfriend.

At the time of the homicide the man had been considered a "person of interest," but he had fled the area and disappeared before police could interview him.

The case had languished until being reopened a year ago at the request of the victim's family. The suspect had been traced to Buffalo, interviewed, and a DNA sample taken. Upon completion of the forensic tests, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

On Feb. 14, **Sr. Inv. Kevin Kendall** and **Inv. Donald Rieger** (VFW-Buffalo) — part of a joint VFW-U.S. Marshals surveillance detail, took up position near his residence and at a nearby car wash where he was

reported to be an occasional employee.

The subject was taken into custody at the car wash without incident and lodged in the Erie County Holding Center pending extradition by the state of Illinois.

- ▶ On Sept. 4, investigators from the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force arrested a Georgia man in Buffalo for the May 12, 2007, murder of a Gwinnett County, GA, man.

The man had fled to Buffalo shortly after the shooting, where several Operation IMPACT partners had joined forces to look for him. A telephone tip to the Buffalo "Crime Stoppers" hotline resulting from a wanted poster provided crucial information needed to locate him.

Investigators found him hiding in an attic crawlspace. When he refused to comply with repeated orders to come out, State Police and U.S. Marshals had to cut a hole in an interior wall and forcibly remove him.

Charged with being a Fugitive from Justice, he was lodged in the Erie County Holding Center awaiting extradition.

VFW-Binghamton

- ▶ A shooting outside a bar in Endicott (Broome County), June 13, resulted in a warrant for 2nd Degree Attempted Murder and Assault.

On June 24, Endicott police contacted the Binghamton VFW Squad for assistance in apprehending the prime suspect at an address in that city. Investigators responded, helping to establish a

perimeter and surveillance.

The man was taken into custody without incident shortly thereafter.

- ▶ The VFW at Binghamton participated in "Operation FALCON" June 23-26, the first Operation IMPACT detail organized by the State Police and U.S. Marshals Service in the Binghamton area specifically targeting warrant enforcement.

Participating agencies included the Binghamton PD and the Broome County Sheriff's Office. A total of 22 warrants were closed by arrest, including 10 felony, six misdemeanor and six violation warrants.

VFW-Syracuse

- ▶ A state parole officer received information that an absconder with a history of weapons possession had been seen entering a Utica apartment building, April 23. He requested assistance, and members of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force who were working in the city responded.

They first searched the ground floor with negative results. Members were advised the occupant of the upstairs residence was a 72-year-old woman. When there was no answer at her door, investigators secured a key from the landlord, entered the apartment and found themselves confronted by the woman and her frightened 12-year-old grandson.

A sweep of the residence turned up the wanted man, hidden in a bedroom closet. He was taken into custody after a struggle.

The woman and boy told police the fugitive had entered their apartment that morning, telling them to keep quiet, stay away from the windows and not to answer the door or telephone.

He was charged with Burglary 2nd Degree, Unlawful Imprisonment 2nd Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

VFW-Rochester

- ▶ Buffalo police contacted VFW-Rochester March 3 for help in locating a parolee wanted for the strangulation murder of a young girl whose body was discovered in a garbage bag that had been dumped in a trash bin and set afire.

VFW investigators developed information on a Rochester address where the man was believed to be staying with a woman. A search there revealed she had moved. Neighborhood interviews produced another possible location in the city.

A team went there and interviewed the woman, who indicated the suspect was hiding upstairs in a bedroom. He was quickly taken into custody for parole violation and relayed to Buffalo police headquarters, where he confessed to the murder.

- ▶ **Sr. Inv. Kevin Kendall** (VFW-Buffalo) contacted **Sr. Inv. James Chase** (VFW-Rochester), Aug. 25, regarding a subject, wanted for murdering his live-in girlfriend in Vermont, who was thought to be in the Rochester area.

Vermont State Police advised that the suspect had fled after the murder and was believed to be on his way to the Buffalo

area. He had told family members he would not be taken alive.

Vermont State Police had been “pinging” the man’s cell phone ever since, and signal indicated the phone was active from a tower on the northeast side of Rochester. VFW obtained a photograph, description and license plate of the man’s car, and Troop E Headquarters and the Monroe County 911 Center were requested to broadcast an item in reference to it.

Investigators patrolled to the north side of the city in an effort to locate the man. Meanwhile, the Vermont authorities inquired if there were any Wal-Mart stores in the area, as they had developed information that the suspect’s mother was going to send him money via a Wal-Mart money transaction.

At the direction of Sr. Inv. Chase, members proceeded to a Wal-Mart on Hudson Avenue in the city, where they took the man into custody while he was talking to his mother on his cell phone. On the rear seat of his car they found the .30-30 rifle used in the murder.

The man said that if he could have got to it, he would have committed suicide.

VFW-New Hampton

- ▶ VFW-New Hampton and State Police at SP Ellenville arrested a Petersburg, Florida, fugitive from justice, May 27, wanted for three armed robberies there in April.

He was arraigned and remanded to the Ulster County Jail without bail pending

extradition to Florida.

- ▶ On June 3, Middletown police responded to a 911 call regarding a terrified, half-naked woman who had fled from a residence into the street after being assaulted and held against her will.

Uniformed police and tactical personnel attempted to make contact with her assailant, presumed to be still inside the building. After several hours they breached the building, only to discover he had fled prior to entry.

Middletown police contacted VFW-Middletown for assistance the next day. A joint investigation revealed the suspect had gone to New York City.

On June 12, members of the Middletown and Montrose VFW squads apprehended him in Brooklyn and transported him back to Middletown for prosecution.

VFW-Loudonville

- ▶ Loudonville VFW investigators, working with the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, located and arrested a 21-year-old man, Feb. 28, for 2nd Degree Murder in a 2007 drive-by shooting in Schenectady.

Information was developed that the suspect might be hiding at a residence on Elder Street in Schenectady. He was found under a bed and taken into custody.

The man also had pending criminal charges involving an incident where he intentionally drove a car in reverse into a marked police car.

- ▶ VFW-Loudonville assisted the Division’s Executive Services Detail at the State

Capitol, May 19, in locating and arresting a man for Assault resulting from a traffic stop in which the motorist had sped away with a trooper’s arm caught inside the vehicle. The trooper suffered an injury to his shoulder.

Exhaustive interviews with relatives and acquaintances enabled the investigators to locate the man hiding in an Albany apartment the next day.

VFW-Brentwood

- ▶ During a violent domestic dispute, June 5, a Syosset, Long Island, a man murdered his mother-in-law, stabbed his wife and fled to Florida.

Homicide detectives requested assistance from the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force U.S.

Marshals tracked him via his personal cell phone, but when deputy marshals in Florida went to the residence, they found only the phone. Using a new cell phone, he called his wife, who was hiding at her sister's house in California. Electronics experts tracked the new phone to the Richmond Hills section of Queens. The man also called her from different pay telephones in Richmond Hill and Ozone Park.

On Aug.27, 2008, members of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force and the Nassau County PD conducted an intense surveillance of the area where the pay phones had been used. Members were able to locate him while he was calling his wife from a pay phone inside a deli market

in Richmond Hills.

He was taken into custody without incident and turned over to Nassau County homicide detectives at the scene.

- ▶ VFW-Brentwood investigators received a call from Troop L Administrative **Sr. Inv. Donald Berberich**, Oct. 21, regarding a request for assistance from the North Carolina State Police Fugitive Tracking Unit.

A North Carolina trooper told **Sr. Inv. John Inclan** (VFW- Brentwood) they were tracking the cellular phone of an Anson County, NC, man, wanted for Attempted Murder, somewhere in the Mastic Beach, Long Island, area.

On Oct. 22, the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force tracked the phone to an address in Riverhead, where they apprehended the man, and another person wanted on the same charge in the same case.

Both were turned over to the Riverhead PD for processing and arraignment.

Forensic Investigation 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, based in Albany, provide the state's entire law enforcement community with a multifaceted resource for:

- Criminal evidence examination,
- Analysis and cold case review, and
- Have facilitated the resolution of some crimes which have gone unsolved for many years.

Forensic Imaging Unit

The Forensic Imaging Section provides the Division a battery of highly specialized skills for enhancing images used in conjunction with investigations, such as creating age progressions on photographs of missing or wanted individuals, or updating their hairstyles, clothing, and cosmetic features such 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 physiognomic reconstruction of unidentified skulls is a unit specialty, where

facial features are created over top of a skulls landmark features resulting in a facial likeness of photographic quality.

To further the identification process, once a missing subject is identified as 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 the police investigation.

During 2008

- Director of Forensic Imaging **Herbert W. Buckley** assisted several New York State law enforcement agencies by providing sketches of wanted individuals and clarifying electronic images of perpetrators.

He also was asked to present a lecture on the subject to post-graduate and doctoral students at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

- Mr. Buckley also oversaw the redesign and reconfiguration of the Division Headquarters display wall featuring past Brummer Award winners.

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, along

with interviews of living victims, such as battered children and sexual assault victims.

MIU members also render testimony in court trials and administrative hearings.

The unit also has a significant training role in conjunction with the annual Colonel Henry F. Williams Homicide Seminar, which celebrated its 21st 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 their 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 3,411 members during 2008, including attendees from throughout the United States, Bermuda, Lithuania, Estonia, Russia, Canada, Latvia, Germany, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

MIU directors and consultants also review equivocal or unusual death cases and work closely with the Division's **Cold Case Unit** to interpret old autopsy reports and other hospital/medical records.

These reviews have led to a number of old cases being resolved.

- ▶ In March, a year-old Westchester County child was referred by a family pediatrician to White Plains Hospital Center for unusual bruising, later determined to be human bite marks.

Child Protective Services was contacted and the District Attorney contacted MIU for assistance.

Director of SP Forensic Operations

Dr. Lowell Levine and MIU Consultant Dr. Ira Titunik independently examined photographs of the injuries and compared them to dental exemplars from possible suspects, resulting in the identification of a suspect.

- ▶ Three teen-age boys ventured into a wooded area in Troop F, March 25, 1996, and only two returned.

During 2008, investigators re-interviewed one of the boys, currently on federal probation. Facts gleaned from the interview lead investigators to an area where human remains were found.

Fragments of those remains were submitted for mtDNA testing, and the results indicated they were those of the missing teen-ager.

One of the teens has since pleaded to 1st Degree Manslaughter, and the other case remains pending.

Special Victims Unit (SVU)

Formerly known as the Child Abuse and Exploitation Unit, the SVU provides investigative support, training and resources to State Police personnel and other law enforcement/social service agencies seeking to prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes against children, and all victims of sexual or domestic violence.

Investigative support provided by the SVU includes referrals to medical experts and reviewing cases, at times in conjunction with the Medico-Legal Investigation Unit.

The unit's duties were expanded during 2008

to include work in the areas of elder abuse and victims with disabilities.

The SVU 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.
This year the seminar included a new training module pertaining to child abuse in schools.
The 2008 seminar, held at the New York State Police Academy, May 19-23, attracted 200 representatives from more than 90 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 homicides, and cultural considerations in abuse cases.
This year the seminar included a new training module pertaining to victims with disabilities.
The 2008 seminar, held at the New York State Police Academy, Nov. 18-21, attracted 200 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,

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children,
- NYS Emergency Management Office,
- Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS),
- NYS Thruway Authority,
- Department of Transportation (DOT),
- Association of Police Chiefs, and
- Sheriffs Association.

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 child abductions.

Since the program's inception in 2002, there have been 23 AMBER Alert activations. In each case, the child or children were recovered safely.

There were four AMBER Alert activations issued during 2008, including New York's first international AMBER activation.

In that case, two girls, abducted by a suicidal family member, were taken across the border into Canada. SVU members activated an AMBER Alert and requested their Canadian counterparts to do the same there.

The collaboration resulted in the prompt, safe, recovery of the girls.

New for 2008, in collaboration with other AMBER partners, was the creation of an AMBER patrol card, an informational guide for law enforcement officers in the field.

Also in 2008, the SVU spent a great deal of time and effort working with the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) on an AMBER project designed to increase efficiency in the dissemination of critical information in AMBER Alert activations.

The unit also worked with the billboard industry in an effort to add digital billboards to be activated during AMBER Alerts.

- Maintains and coordinates the **Law Enforcement Referral Database**, which contains more than 34,580 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. During 2008, there were 443 such matches made and provided to various agencies as lead information, an increase of 205 matches over 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.
- Unit personnel provided training to the Bureau of Municipal Police's Zone 5 Academy and the NYS Park Police. New in 2008 was the addition of elder

abuse to the SVU's training curriculum.

- Participated in three training sessions statewide for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and child protective service agencies in the use of the *Forensic Interviewing Best Practices Guide*, developed in conjunction with the New York State Children's Justice Task Force and child abuse investigation professionals.

The training consists of two days of classroom instruction, and a third day of 50-minute taped mock interviews utilizing actors and attendees.

- 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, and the NYS Child Fatality Protocol Review Committee. In 2008, the SVU joined and now participates as a member of the NYS Coalition on Elder Abuse Advisory Board. The mission of the coalition is to raise awareness and create solutions for elder abuse prevention and intervention.
- Helped implement and coordinate the start of a demonstration project in conjunction with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to place five NYSP investigators at child advocacy centers across the state. The assigned investigators conduct child abuse investigations as part of multidisciplinary teams.

The project was implemented in an effort to improve the investigation of these cases and to reduce trauma to child

abuse victims.

This project will continue, with SVU coordination, through 2009.

unidentified person match possibilities and possible attempted abduction case matches in Troops G, K and F.

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 public nuisance crimes as public lewdness and voyeurism.

This information is made available to investigating agencies in other jurisdictions.

Violent Crime Analysis Program

The New York State Violent Crime Analysis Program (NYS ViCAP) was launched in 1987 in support of the FBI's 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 which might be related.

NYS ViCAP puts the managing agencies or investigators in touch with each other so they can exchange information and, if desired, coordinate their investigations. Program services are available to any criminal justice agency wishing to participate.

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.

In 2008, NYS ViCAP provided substantive leads to numerous agencies. These leads included case linkages, missing and

New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC)

All 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:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- NY City Department of Environmental Protection
- 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
- Schenectady County Probation Department
- Social Security Administration
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- U.S. Border Patrol
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Office of Counter-Terrorism

NYS Intelligence Center

Criminal Intelligence Unit

Gang Intelligence Unit

Border Intelligence Unit

Counter Terrorism Center

Narcotics Intelligence Unit

CALEA Intercept Unit

Electronic Surveillance Unit

Source Development Unit

Criminal Gun Clearinghouse

Financial Crimes Unit

Special Investigation Unit

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 personnel participated in several national initiatives during 2008, including the Department of Homeland Security-led Homeland Security-State and Local Intelligence Community of Interest.

This committee of fusion center representatives focuses on improving information sharing across the nation through the Homeland Security Information Network. Seven federal agencies and 45 states plus the District of Columbia are participating.

NYSIC representatives also participate in the following initiatives:

- Secure the Cities - a Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO)-funded

program to protect New York City against radiological attack.

- Critical Infrastructure – Suspicious Activity Reporting Project – a joint initiative between 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 the Homeland Security Working Group, providing guidance and recommendations on current and future classes.
- HS-SLIC Advisory Board – a group of NYSIC representatives who provide advice and recommendations to the Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis.

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.

This successful sharing of information assisted numerous smuggling investigations during 2008, and contributed to significant seizures of cash and contraband.

Operation S.P.I.D.E.R.

Operation S.P.I.D.E.R. (Strategic Police Intelligence-Driven Enforcement Response) is an initiative providing 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.

The NYSIC BIU is responsible for the coordination and vetting of all information and intelligence gathered in S.P.I.D.E.R. operations. Submitted information is checked against NYSIC's databases, recorded and when appropriate returned to the submitting

agency with value added.

Information gathered during these details has proven beneficial to several high-level on-going investigations of cross-border drug trafficking organizations.

One subject in particular — identified as a major marijuana supplier after an interdiction stop in Troop D that seized 23 pounds of hydroponic marijuana — later was one of three persons arrested by Canadian officials and U.S. Border Patrol agents for attempting to smuggle \$1,077,000 in cash across Lake Erie from Canada into the US.

During 2008, NYSIC and Troop BIU personnel were instrumental in orchestrating eight separate multi-agency S.P.I.D.E.R. operations across New York State, resulting in 21 felony and 30 misdemeanor arrests, and the seizure of 506 pounds of marijuana, five shipments of untaxed tobacco and \$250,000 in cash.

CALEA Intercept Unit

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) Intercept Unit provides law enforcement agencies the equipment, personnel and expertise to implement court-ordered intercepts for various types of communications, utilizing a network of strategically located, fixed "wire rooms" throughout the state.

The unit also has the ability to deploy remote wire room access to law enforcement agencies and task forces and provide a remote intercept location when traveling to a fixed wire room is geographically impracticable.

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.

During 2008, the CALEA Intercept Unit responded to approximately 550 requests for service or assistance from law enforcement agencies throughout New York State.

Criminal Gun Clearinghouse

The Criminal Gun Clearinghouse (CGC) 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 and Explosives-Regional Crime Gun Center to exchange information and stay abreast of current firearms related issues.

In 2008, the Unit processed information received in conjunction with 4,243 crime gun recoveries.

During 2008, CGC members worked closely with the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to fully integrate the unit's services into the successful statewide Operation IMPACT program.

As part of this ongoing collaboration, CGC personnel provided instruction at seven DCJS-sponsored training sessions held at locations throughout the state.

Criminal Intelligence Unit

Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) analysts and investigators perform a variety of services to aid law enforcement agencies.

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 various law enforcement cases and officer safety topics.

CIU also provides liaison to a variety of national and international law enforcement resources, including the:

- Mid-Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLLEN),
- New England State Police Administrators Conference (NESPAC),
- Northeast Regional Intelligence Group (NRIG), and
- US 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 information to the NYSIC to enhance information they gather in their own criminal investigations. Upon request, NYSIC personnel can also 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 9,500 requests for information to the NYSIC during the past year.

A new initiative implemented in 2008 which exemplifies the cooperative efforts of agencies at the NYSIC is the Persons of Interest Program (POIP), an initiative developed by the NYS Department of Correctional Services, Division of Parole and the NYSIC to identify prisoners about to be released from prison who may pose a threat to society upon their release, or who have a propensity to violence.

The information it gathers is disseminated to law enforcement entities in the area where that subject will be released after serving prison time. This helps law enforcement agencies know more about the person they may have to deal with before any such encounter actually occurs.

2008 NYSIC cases

- ▶ Mortgage Fraud Investigation Leads to 59-Count Indictment

A financial institution contacted the State Police Financial Crimes Unit (FCU) in July 2007 to advise that it had identified suspicious loans in the Albany area. The unit researched the loans and determined they were connected to a man and woman working together.

Knowing the U.S. Attorney in Albany had an indictment charging one of them with mortgage fraud, the FCU contacted the Assistant U.S. Attorney prosecuting the

case to advise him of its findings. It was determined that the properties FCU had identified were not part of the federal indictment, and an investigation was commenced.

The case was investigated through the Albany County District Attorney, with assistance from the NYSP’s Special Investigations Unit in Albany.

The investigation culminated June 24, when an Albany County Grand Jury returned a 59-count indictment against the suspects for grand larceny, falsifying business records, false filing of state income tax records, failure to file state income tax returns, and money laundering. It is estimated that the suspects stole \$1.6 million of the \$2.3 million funded by the mortgages on the involved properties.

- ▶ Investigation Disrupts Corporation’s Widespread Hiring of Illegal Aliens

In 2005, the State Police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement began investigating an illegal immigrant case which gradually shifted to probe of a corporation hiring illegal immigrants for its workforce.

On April 19, 2006, a nationwide enforcement action was undertaken at 52 sites throughout the country. During this action, 1,187 illegal immigrants were detained — the largest single day worksite enforcement action in history at the time.

The case came to another landmark conclusion in December 2008 when the company agreed to a settlement with the U.S. government and forfeited \$20.7 million, the largest forfeiture action

resulting from an immigration case in U.S. history.

The Financial Crimes Unit has been an integral part of this investigation from the beginning. FCU members traveled the country investigating aspects of the case. Unit personnel invested nearly 10,000 work hours during the course of this investigation.

► **The WIRE Connects Crimes Across the State**

In October 2008, the NYSIC introduced a new intelligence report called the WIRE: the Weekly Information Report and Exchange.

The goal of this publication is to provide law enforcement officers in the field with timely, relevant, case leads and information related to their jurisdictions.

In the first four months since its release, the WIRE has connected numerous criminal cases across jurisdictional boundaries and received widespread acclaim from law enforcement officers across the state for its quality and relevance to their work.

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 2008, the CTC handled approximately 500 tip line calls, bringing the total number of calls received to more than 6,000 since the tip line's inception, September 16, 2002.

During 2008, the CTC expanded its information-sharing efforts with other law enforcement and homeland security agencies. It played an integral role in the development of the Information Sharing Environment – Suspicious Activity Reporting (ISE-SAR) federal initiative, in which the NYSIC was chosen to be the first to test this national information exchange model.

The ISE-SAR ultimately will provide law enforcement agencies throughout the United States the ability to share and view each other's suspicious activity reports.

The CTC also was involved in two analyst exchange programs in 2008, one with the Georgia Information Sharing & Analysis Center (GISAC) and one with Canadian law enforcement and homeland security agencies in Quebec, with a goal of sharing best practices and developing policies for improved information.

In furtherance of the Canadian analyst exchange, the NYSIC participated in an information-sharing exercise sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security in December.

This involved participants from the Sûreté du

Québec, Province du Québec State Security Division, New York State Office of Homeland Security, and the New York State Police.

Electronic 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.

Its inventory makes available a wide range of technical surveillance options to assist law enforcement agencies throughout New York State.

In 2008, the ESU received 223 requests for service, including technical assistance or providing equipment to New York State Police troops, specialized units and 54 outside agencies across the state.

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 2008 the FCU:

- Assisted field personnel with 153 separate financial investigations associated with criminal investigations. Cases ranged from larcenies and

embezzlement to money laundering and homicide.

The unit also assisted outside agencies with 133 investigations and reviewed 9,328 Suspicious Activity Reports to identify possible money-laundering activities.

The unit developed seven cases that were sent to the field for further investigation.

- Provided specialized training to Division members and personnel from law enforcement and regulatory agencies, prosecuting attorneys and the private sector.

Gang Intelligence Unit

The Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU) 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 11th Annual Capital District Gang Conference at the New York State Police Academy. Law enforcement agencies from throughout the northeast United States and Canada 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), categorizing gang members identified by law enforcement and entering the resulting information into the GRIP database at the NYSIC and the NCIC's Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File (VGTOF).

The VGTOF notifies law enforcement officers of a gang member's affiliation when

they come into contact with identified gang members when running license checks, vehicle data, etc. This enhances officer safety and provides a mechanism for further gang-related intelligence collection and dissemination.

During 2008, the GIU:

- Uploaded approximately 2,200 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

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, bulletins and the completion of law enforcement information requests.

During 2008, the NIU:

- Received and prepared 246 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 27 leads for out-of-state agencies.
- The NIU disseminated 10 bulletins concerning immediate officer safety issues, concealment methods, and emerging narcotics information.
- Published more than 10 intelligence briefs regarding narcotics trafficking trends and patterns.
- Identified 55 persons suspected of participating in narcotics trafficking.
- Published monthly target packages alerting police officers to their activities and possible involvement in criminal enterprises.

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

During the past year, members assigned to the NY/NJ HIDTA assisted members of more than 25 different agencies with investigations.

Operation IMPACT Unit

The Operation IMPACT Unit at the NYSIC was established in March 2007 to offer special intelligence and investigative support

to the 17 identified IMPACT counties outside the boundaries of New York City.

The unit's goal is to work in conjunction with these high crime areas to achieve a long-term, substantial reduction in 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.

During 2008:

- ▶ The Operation IMPACT Unit provided detailed background information and historical workups for IMPACT agencies who participated in the DCJS-funded "Rolling Thunder" warrant sweeps. The IMPACT Unit delivered 618 workups to five IMPACT counties across the state in support of this initiative.
- ▶ The IMPACT Unit expanded its "10 Most Wanted" poster program to Schenectady and Albany counties. The posters are tailored to the needs of participating jurisdictions.
- ▶ In April, the IMPACT Unit worked with the Schenectady Police Department to analyze shootings within the city. The resulting information was provided to Troop G for consideration in deploying troopers in Schenectady during Operation IMPACT details.

- ▶ In August, members of the IMPACT Unit worked in conjunction with the NYSIC Criminal Intelligence Unit and agencies from the Utica area to provide detailed analysis and maps regarding a series of arsons in their jurisdiction.
- ▶ In October, the IMPACT Unit played a major role in developing and disseminating "the WIRE" (Weekly Information Report and Exchange). Utilizing its connections and relationships, the IMPACT Unit made presentations across the state on the WIRE at IMPACT meetings and helped generate participation and buy-in for the publication.

Source Development Unit

The Source Development Unit (SDU) was established during 2008 to enhance the NYSP's identification, cultivation and management of Confidential Informants and Community Sources.

Members of the SDU help troops and special details (e.g., CNET, SIU, GIU) find and document sources to assist them in criminal investigations, and coordinate the use of existing sources between members for investigative purposes.

In 2008, members of the SDU cultivated and/or documented more than 160 human sources of information for law enforcement purposes.

Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is the investigative arm of the Division of State Police's Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT).

SIU is specifically designed to conduct multi-faceted, covert investigations, which often cross jurisdictional boundaries, requiring special technical expertise and a long-term commitment of experienced personnel and equipment.

Its primary mission in the post-9/11 era 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, Binghamton and New York City. Its enforcement initiatives focus on crimes which at times have been known to be associated with terrorism-related activity — money laundering, identity theft, cigarette smuggling and document fraud.

However, SIU still pursues its original mandate for the pro-active, covert investigation of ongoing criminal enterprises, traditional and non-traditional organized crime, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, industry corruption, fraud and racketeering.

The Special Investigations Unit continually evaluates its mission and objectives and modifies assignments accordingly.

During 2008, it took the point in combating human trafficking, with investigators receiving specialized training in that area.

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, and
- New York State Office of Taxation and Finance – targeting tax evasion and cigarette smuggling.

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.

During 2008, the SIU

- Operated a total of 138 electronic

surveillance installations in conjunction with investigations, incorporating 13,463 hours of technical surveillance.

- As an investigative resource, SIU personnel executed 55 search warrants.
- In total, SIU case investigations resulted in:
 - 952 felony and 265 misdemeanor arrests.
 - Approximately \$3.2 million,
 - Seizure of 45 vehicles and 22 firearms,
 - Recovery of \$1,892,349 worth of stolen property including recoveries made by the Auto Theft Unit.

Also under the aegis of the SIU is the Division's Auto Theft Unit (ATU), a statewide initiative that helps local law enforcement agencies target auto theft rings, chop shops, exporters of stolen vehicles and automobile insurance-related crimes.

The ATU's complement of BCI investigators is deployed to six Auto Theft and Fraud offices throughout the state.

During 2008, the ATU recovered 112 vehicles. Utilizing license plate readers (LPR), the unit read 50,033 vehicle plates, resulting in the identification of 122 registrations that were suspended or revoked, five stolen vehicles and 14 LPR-related criminal arrests.

2008 Cases

SIU-Albany

- ▶ Beginning in November 2006, SIU-Albany and the Albany County Sheriff's Office

conducted an 18-month investigation into an illegal sports gambling operation in Saratoga, Albany and Onondaga counties.

One of the targets had established a “social club” in the Albany area where sports betting and poker games occurred. An undercover investigator was able to penetrate the “club,” play cards and place sports bets.

In the process, he discovered that the targets used an offshore gambling website based in Costa Rica and cell phones to accept bets.

Investigators followed up with undercover operations, physical and electronic surveillance of the target’s telephones, cellular phones and computers over the next year-and-a-half, documenting bets totaling approximately \$57 million.

The investigation culminated with the simultaneous execution of 16 search warrants across the three counties and the arrests of 13 persons for Enterprise Corruption, Promoting Gambling, and Money Laundering.

Numerous gambling records, computers, vehicles, and more than \$75,000 in cash were seized.

- ▶ In October, Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)-Albany investigators, working with FBI Albany JTTF, began a 10-week investigation into a Watervliet man suspected of selling homemade explosive devices.

Confidential informants, undercover buys and physical/electronic surveillance were employed over a two-day period in December, resulting in the seizure

of nearly 80 homemade explosive devices, 17 weapons, a tear-gas gun, and substantial amount of explosives precursor chemicals.

Three persons were charged with Conspiracy to Unlawfully Manufacture and Sell Explosive Materials, of whom two were additionally charged with four counts of Aiding and Abetting in the Unlawful Possession, Manufacture and Sale of Explosive and Destructive Devices.

One subject was charged with Unlawfully Dealing in Explosive Materials and the Unlawful Possession of a Fully Automatic Rifle at the time of his arrest, another with Unlawfully Engaging in the Business of Manufacturing and Dealing in Explosive Devices.

- ▶ SIU-Albany conducted an investigation into a report of a 36-year old Flushing, NY, woman attempting to sell her unborn child. An investigator posing as a prospective buyer met with the woman to discuss the purchase.

She said she would sell the child for \$20,000, with an initial down payment of \$1,000. As proof of her pregnancy she gave the undercover investigator her Social Security card and two ultrasound photos of the unborn child which bore her name, and even took the investigator to her doctor to see relevant medical records.

Two weeks later, the investigator received word that the woman had given birth and had asked for the spelling of the investigator’s name and the name he wanted on the baby’s birth certificate. The woman advised that she was at New York

Downtown Hospital, and that she did not want any further contact with the child.

Next day the investigator met with the woman, who handed him a card and stated that he could pick up the child by using the number on it.

She accepted a check for \$20,000 and \$5,000 in cash in exchange for the child, and was promptly arrested for Tampering with Public Records, Falsifying Business Records, Offering a False Instrument for Filing, Abandonment of a Child, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and a felony violation of the state’s Social Service Law.

SIU-Binghamton

- ▶ In November 2007, at the request of the Broome County District Attorney’s Office, SIU-Binghamton began investigating the source of narcotics being distributed in the Binghamton area by suspected members of the “Bloods” gang.

Using undercover drug buys, physical surveillance, electronic eavesdropping and assistance from the Troop C Computer Crimes Unit and the NYSIC, investigators established that an organized group of identified “Bloods” was indeed bringing narcotics from New York City to the Binghamton area.

Additional resources were requested from the SIU details in Utica, Syracuse, Albany and White Plains to assist in the investigation, which conducted 11 electronic eavesdropping surveillances over an eight-month period.

The investigation resulted in the arrests of

11 persons from the Binghamton area.

The information and intelligence developed was utilized by a gang task force in New York City to continue the investigation an additional four months, resulting in the arrests of 15 more persons there.

SIU-Buffalo

- ▶ The SIU-Buffalo Auto Theft Unit worked with the Buffalo PD and the NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau on the investigation of a suspicious insurance claim involving the theft of a 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer.

During June, the owner of the Trailblazer told Buffalo police her vehicle had been stolen from the street during the night.

In July, the city's Underwater Recovery Team, on an unrelated matter, located the vehicle in the Erie Canal, and evidence found during the recovery raised suspicions of insurance fraud.

Following the vehicle recovery, **Inv. John Lubecki** (SIU-Buffalo ATU) and a Buffalo PD detective interviewed the owner and obtained a written deposition concerning the reported theft. When questioned about inconsistencies in her deposition, she ultimately admitted that she had made a deal in June with a dealership salesman to "take care of" her "gas guzzler" in such a way that would enable her to buy a new vehicle with insurance money.

She gave a spare key to the salesman and advised him where the vehicle would be parked while she worked the overnight shift. One morning after work she found

her vehicle missing and reported the theft to the Buffalo PD.

The salesman was interviewed and admitted he asked two subjects who worked in the dealership's detail shop to get rid of the vehicle. He gave them the key and the car's expected location. The workers were interviewed and admitted taking the vehicle, and dumping it in the canal.

The vehicle owner was arrested for Insurance Fraud, Falsely Reporting an Incident, Attempted Grand Larceny, and Conspiracy.

The salesman was arrested for Attempted Grand Larceny, Insurance Fraud and Conspiracy, and the two detail shop workers for Insurance Fraud and Conspiracy.

- ▶ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requested assistance from SIU-Buffalo in early 2007 concerning a human trafficking investigation involving the transportation, harboring and employment of undocumented Mexican subjects.

The case involved a Buffalo-area resident identified as the leader of an organization that owned and operated seven Mexican restaurants in Western New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Georgia.

Surveillance of restaurants in Allegany, Dunkirk and Cheektowaga, NY, coupled with coordinated traffic stops by Uniform Troopers in Troops A and T, identified numerous members of the organization.

Surveillance identified several locations

throughout Western New York where the workers were housed.

The investigation established that the organization smuggled undocumented Mexicans into the U.S. for the purpose of employing them in the seven restaurants at low wages.

In April 2008, SIU-Buffalo members and ICE agents executed federal search warrants at 10 Western New York restaurants and residences, in addition to 17 search warrants executed by ICE agents in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Georgia.

Eleven persons were arrested, seven of whom were in Western New York. Forty-six undocumented aliens were arrested for immigration violations.

Three firearms, computers, almost \$100,000 in cash and a vehicle were among the items seized.

- ▶ Working with the Buffalo FBI Safe Streets Task Force, SIU-Buffalo developed information during September 2006 that the "Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation" street gang was attempting to open a chapter in the city of Buffalo.

Initial information indicated numerous gang members already resided in the Buffalo area, and though highly organized, had not yet established a formal chapter.

During the course of this two-year investigation, controlled narcotics purchases, physical surveillance, confidential information and the use of other sensitive techniques showed that that the Latin Kings gradually developed an organization in Buffalo that had its own

rules, internal justice system and weekly dues, and was involved in the large-scale distribution of heroin and cocaine as well as the illegal acquisition and sale of firearms. They were believed to be responsible for acts of violence in Western New York.

In April 2008, SIU-Buffalo members and FBI agents, assisted by numerous other agencies, executed 36 federal arrest warrants and eight federal search warrants, effectively dethroning the gang in Buffalo.

SIU-ATU Long Island

- ▶ ATU-Long Island investigators responded to the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles Offices in Nassau County, Aug. 22, where a man was reported to be identifying himself as a federal agent, displaying a suspicious-looking shield and identification card and carrying a holstered handgun.

DMV employees suspected him of being a person who was defrauding immigrants by convincing them to give him money in return for help obtaining driver's licenses or vehicle registrations.

ATU members and DMV investigators informed NYSP Troop L that the subject's description matched that of a man sought in connection with a police impersonation investigation on the Meadowbrook Parkway.

ATU and Troop L members arrived and detained the man just as he was leaving the building. His badge and identification card carried the legend, "US Bail

Enforcement Fugitive Recovery-Special Agent." He also had a black starter's pistol holstered in his waistband.

Transported to SP Valley Stream, he subsequently was identified as the man in the Meadowbrook Parkway incident, and was charged with two counts of Criminal Impersonation 1st Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree.

- ▶ ATU/Long Island initiated an investigation after receiving information regarding the apparent use of counterfeit documents in the purchase of a 2008 Mercedes Benz.

Investigation revealed that a stolen personal identification and a counterfeit New York State Driver's License had been used to complete the sale.

Through the business records of the car dealership, investigators were able to trace the vehicle buyer. A Bronx resident, on parole in Georgia after serving time for credit card fraud, was arrested and charged with Grand Larceny 2nd Degree and Identity Theft 1st Degree.

SIU-Rochester

- ▶ As a result of an ongoing investigation into the criminal activity of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, on Jan. 15, members of SIU-Rochester and the Rochester FBI executed a search warrant at the Hells Angel's Clubhouse in Rochester.

The purpose of the search was to seize any and all documents and electronic devices that contained business records pertaining to the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, as well as other property

substantiating the gang's organization and its criminal activities.

Continued investigation led to electronic eavesdropping investigations of the Hells Angels, Iron Horsemen and the Lords motorcycle clubs. The probe culminated with the arrest of a Hells Angels associate in possession of three kilos of cocaine being transported from California to Rochester.

Search warrants were executed at a Rochester residence where an additional two pounds of marijuana, one handgun, 18 long guns and \$13,286 in cash were seized.

SIU-Syracuse

- ▶ Based on information provided by the NYSP Financial Crimes Unit, SIU began investigating a Solvay (Onondaga County) man during 2006 to determine his role in an Internet-based business involved in stolen property, money laundering and tax evasion. A decision was reached to pursue the investigation jointly with the state Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office and members ICE personnel. Physical and GPS surveillance was initiated along with the process of obtaining tax and other records via subpoena.

In November 2006, a search warrant was executed at the subject's residence, where financial and business records, a small amount of counterfeit U.S. currency and a computer hard drive were seized for review. The hard drive was found to contain child pornography.

In March 2007, a second search warrant was executed at the subject's residence and his computer was seized, together with flash drives and approximately 50 videotapes. Analysis revealed numerous files had been deleted. Further analysis enabled the investigators to recover the deleted files, which altogether revealed more than 600 images of child pornography. The investigation also revealed that the subject had set up a series of separate financial transactions at his bank under the \$10,000 limit to evade currency reporting requirements. He also was forging U.S. postage meter stamps for his internet business mailings.

He was arrested in January and charged with Receiving Child Pornography and Structuring Financial Transactions, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court during February and was sentenced in July to six years in federal prison and a \$15,000 fine. In addition, he was required to repay the U.S. Postal Service more than \$5,000 for counterfeited postage meter stamps he used in his business.

SIU-White Plains

- ▶ In January 2008, members of the SIU-White Plains Money Laundering Unit (MLU) initiated an investigation into a scheme that used hundreds of accounts in several area banks to move drug profits from New York to Colombia, South America.

On a daily basis, the prime target would board public transportation and use taxicabs to avoid surveillance while traveling throughout the boroughs to pick

up money and make bank deposits.

One afternoon the target was spotted leaving home with a suitcase and placing it in the trunk of a cab. Two MLU members approached and inquired about the suitcase and the target immediately denied any knowledge of it.

After obtaining search consent from the cabbie, investigators located and seized the suitcase, which they found to contain more than \$299,000.

Other MLU members promptly secured the target's apartment building while a search warrant was obtained. An additional \$40,000 was seized from inside the apartment, along with two laptop computers, money ledgers, hundreds of bank receipts, wire transfers and e-mails.

Examination of the seized e-mail messages disclosed them to be instructions directing the target to deposit funds into more than 150 accounts throughout New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Colombia.

Investigators then matched the e-mails with corresponding bank receipts and wire transfers, and conferred with the El-Dorado Task Force in New York, Miami-Dade and Broward counties to assess the information relevant to their jurisdictions.

As a result of this probe, sufficient cause was established to seize more than \$1.2 million from New York accounts and an additional \$1 million from accounts in Florida.

The records also have been used to assist an ongoing FBI-DEA Los Angeles probe by furnishing enough probable cause to

execute search warrants and freeze the assets of a U.S.-based company and 24 foreign accounts in Colombia, Panama, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil.

- ▶ In August, SIU-White Plains received information regarding two subjects who had traveled from out of state to Westchester County to engaging in a multi-kilo cocaine deal at an undetermined location.

With this scanty, but reliable, information, MLU canvassed area motels, ultimately focusing their attention on an inn in Yonkers, where they set up a surveillance detail.

Without a physical description of the two men, investigators had to keep an especially close watch on everyone entering or leaving the motel. When a taxicab arrived with two men, a decision was made to follow it.

Investigators tailed the cab to the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, where the men got out and walked a short distance before meeting fleetingly with two other unknown men. They then returned to their cab and continued to Midtown Manhattan where they visited several stores before returning to their motel in Yonkers.

Surveillance continued throughout the night and into the next afternoon, when the men were seen carrying their luggage from the rear of the motel to a vehicles parked in the far end of the lot. As the surveillance team was setting up to follow them, a Range Rover entered the rear lot and stopped near them.

The surveillance team recognized the

occupants as the two unknown men the subjects had encountered in Washington Heights the night before. Just as they were removing a black duffle bag from the rear of the Range Rover, the investigators moved in and identified themselves. The two original suspects fled on foot into a wooded area, while the other two jumped into the Range Rover and abruptly fled the parking lot.

The first pair were caught and arrested after a short foot pursuit. Troopers and investigators had a much more difficult time with the other two, who intentionally rammed and damaged three troop cars and injured two investigators who tried to block their escape.

They were eventually brought to heel, however. Seven kilos of cocaine were recovered at the scene and all four defendants were remanded to the Westchester County Jail without bail.

- ▶ During the winter of 2007, SIU-White Plains became aware of an identity theft ring composed of several persons from Ghana, West Africa.

The group had been perpetrating fraud since 2004, obtaining the personal information of more than 4,000 persons from insiders who worked at hospitals or social service agencies.

At the beginning of each income tax season, the perpetrators would fill out bogus tax returns and e-file the information with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. U.S. Treasury checks would then be mailed to one of 10 drop locations the group used.

Group members then deposited the

checks into bogus business accounts, from which they would later draw personal checks.

After months of surveillance, investigators from SIU-White Plains, the U.S. Secret Service, the NYPD Frauds Bureau and U.S. postal inspectors executed search warrants on four Bronx residences, where they seized laptop computers and volumes of ledger books documenting \$2 million in theft for 2007.

Four members of the group were arrested and held without bail.

- ▶ The SIU-White Plains CSEU concluded a nine-month investigation into a ring that counterfeited movie and music DVDs. The group mass-produced thousands of counterfeit DVDs, which they delivered to wholesalers throughout Metropolitan New York.

These were then sold by store owners or street vendors, ultimately depriving the recording industry of millions of dollars.

Surveillance teams identified locations in Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx where the ring would manufacture a master disk of the latest movies or music recording, some of which had not even been released commercially yet. Other locations were used as mass distribution centers.

The SIU was able to infiltrate the group by means of informants, undercover investigation and electronic surveillance.

The case concluded with the arrest of nine persons and the seizure of more than 100,000 counterfeit movies and music DVDs, 31 computers and other electronic

and duplicating devices, approximately \$30,000 in cash and four vehicles.

- ▶ ATU-White Plains received a request for assistance in September from Troop T investigators at SP Tarrytown regarding a tracked construction excavator (or “crawler”) stolen from a Thruway work area in Yonkers.

The excavator, a Caterpillar 330D, apparently had been loaded onto a flatbed truck and driven away southbound on the Thruway. The hastily loaded machine was thought to have struck a Thruway overpass during this incident, as there were several reports of debris in the roadway under an overpass.

Armed with this knowledge, ATU investigators contacted sources within the heavy equipment industry and requested they be notified of any purchase or order for certain parts for this particular type of machine.

Shortly thereafter, ATU investigators received notification from Caterpillar that a dealer in Piscataway, NJ, had received such an order. The subjects who placed the order were identified and the machine itself traced to the Port of Philadelphia, where it was scheduled to be shipped to the Dominican Republic.

Working with U.S. Customs officials at the port, the investigators pinpointed the excavator, and established that it had been “re-identified” with the Product Identification Number from a similar machine on the Caterpillar lot in Piscataway.

Inter-departmental liaison determined that this theft was the work of a ring

responsible for truck and equipment thefts in the tri-state area, currently under investigation by the NYPD Auto Crimes Unit.

The stolen excavator was seized and returned to its rightful owners. The case also resulted in the recovery of numerous trucks and pieces of heavy equipment stolen from Westchester, Rockland and Orange counties.

- ▶ In August 2008, SIU/ATU-White Plains, in conjunction with detectives from the City of Peekskill Police Department, began investigating several subjects who were allegedly trying to sell two stolen Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The sellers, a pair of Westchester County men, it was learned, needed to get rid of the bikes quickly.

A undercover operation was set up in which two ATU investigators posing as potential buyers were introduced to the subjects. The suspects agreed to sell both bikes for \$4,500. At that time of the sale, one of the suspects stated that the motorcycles had been reported stolen approximately a month earlier.

The undercover investigators were equipped with an audio recorder to document the transaction. Meanwhile, an ATU surveillance team was able to confirm the identity of one of the subjects involved in this sale.

The two motorcycles were secured as evidence, and transported to SP Poughkeepsie for storage.

ATU investigators used the NYSP Stolen Vehicle Database to confirm that both motorcycles had indeed been reported

stolen at the same time, from the same residence in Cornwall (Orange County) on July 20, 2008.

ATU thoroughly investigated the reported thefts and accompanying insurance claims submitted by the owners of the motorcycles.

Although the thefts had occurred approximately 50 miles from where the undercover investigators subsequently “purchased” them, ATU believed there was a link between the victims and the suspects who sold the stolen bikes. Information was obtained from the insurance company handling the reported thefts.

After reviewing these documents, ATU was further convinced the thefts were part of insurance fraud. A background search showed that one of the Cornwall victims previously had lived only a block away from the address where one of the suspects had lived his entire life.

Concluding that the “victims” actually had been associates of the sellers, ATU applied for subpoenas to examine their cell phone records to see if they had been calling each other.

ATU investigators received the phone records for all four suspects in October. They showed one of the reported “victims” had made repeated calls to both suspects involved in the “theft.” This strongly suggested all four persons involved in the investigation were perpetrators in an insurance fraud scheme.

Investigators revised their conclusions several weeks later after interviewing one of the “victims” extensively. The man

said he and his friend had been trying to sell the motorcycles, and that he had returned to New York from a business trip to learn both bikes had been stolen from his residence. From this, investigators determined the subject had in fact been victimized by his friend, who had arranged for the motorcycles to be “stolen” and later sold.

A few days after this interview, ATU arrested the second motorcycle owner for Attempted Grand Larceny 3rd Degree and Insurance Fraud 3rd Degree, both felonies.

ATU immediately contacted the District Attorneys Offices in Westchester and Orange counties to discuss charges against the suspects who had sold the motorcycles to the undercover ATU investigators. At last report, additional charges were pending against the two suspects and the second owner.

This case resulted in the recovery/seizure of two expensive Harley-Davidson motorcycles with a total value exceeding \$35,000, felony charges against several defendants and the denial of fraudulent insurance claims.

Aviation Unit

Since its formal establishment more than 40 years ago, 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, 41 pilots, 10 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 Special Operations Response Team members to critical events, respond to prison escapes and disasters, and conduct drug detection flights.
- **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,

Administration - Fiscal

Aviation Unit

Central Records

Fiscal Management

Fleet Management

Public Information Office

Seized Assets Unit

NYSP Crime Laboratory System

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.
- In Western New York, Aviation-Batavia is teamed with Mercy Flight Buffalo.
- **Environmental conservation 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 includes 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

Division Aviation completed the initial training of all pilots in the operation of night vision goggles (NVGs) 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 underwent modifications to the cockpit interior and cabin lighting to facilitate compatibility with Night Vision Goggles and all aircrews assigned are 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 2008, 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.

2008 Cases

Search for an overdue school bus

T/Sgts. Philip Napolitano and William Accuosti (Aviation Albany) responded to Stephentown (Rensselaer County) to search for an overdue school bus/van with three preschool special needs children. The bus had missed its first stop, scheduled for approximately 2:15 p.m.

Authorities retraced the vehicle's route without finding a trace of it. Aviation was called to the scene after darkness had fallen.

The aircrew used Night Vision Goggles to locate the bus and directed ground units to the scene to assess the situation. The driver of the van was brand new and unfamiliar with her route.

The vehicle was found down an unplowed, seasonal road, where it had taken a wrong turn and gotten stuck in the snow.

The driver was unable to use the dispatch radio or her cell phone to call for assistance. All occupants were found in good health.

Marajuana finds

- ▶ While flying an unrelated mission, **T/Sgts. John Cuneo and James Torhan** (Aviation Newburgh) spotted marijuana plants growing on an abandoned farm in

Putnam County.

Troopers were dispatched to the scene, where they harvest 400 plants for removal and destruction.

- ▶ **T/Sgt. Philip Crane and Pilot Patrick Hogan** responded to the intersection of Interstates 90 & 87 to search for a suspect who had fled a motor vehicle accident.

On their return, they conducted a marijuana reconnaissance in Rensselaer County. They spotted a plot with 15 plants and forwarded their information to CNET-Albany.

- ▶ **T/Sgts. Jim Bendo and Michael Eberl** assisted SP Lyons with a search for marijuana in the town of Ontario (Wayne County).

A Trooper patrolling a dirt road adjacent to a power line had discovered an unoccupied truck which contained growing tools and fertilizer.

An aerial search of the area resulted in the discovery of numerous marijuana plants, which were secured by SP Lyons for further investigation.

- ▶ **T/Sgt. Mark Stryker and Jamie Schweiger** in Division helicopter H11 conducted a marijuana search in Cattaraugus County, Troop A, locating four plots with 84 plants.

Hoist rescues

- ▶ Pilots **Mr. William Wadsworth** and **Mr. Roger Skinner** (Aviation Albany) were dispatched to conduct a hoist rescue for a hiker who had fallen 80 feet from the lower Katterskill Falls.

The hiker's numerous injuries and

the remote location of the falls made ground evacuation by medical personnel impractical.

Hovering 130 feet above the injured hiker, the pilots lowered a litter to waiting rescue and medical personnel. Once the patient had been secured in the litter, the helicopter lowered a rescue cable, the litter was secured and victim hoisted into the aircraft.

He was then transported to a trauma center for treatment of a serious head injury and a punctured lung.

- ▶ **T/Sgts. James Torhan and Lee Walker** (Aviation Newburgh) were dispatched to help Division SORT members rescue an injured climber on Breakneck Mountain in the town of Beacon. The victim had suffered a compound fracture of the leg.

SORT members rendered medical assistance and packaged the patient for transport. The Stewart pilots determined that another helicopter, equipped with a rescue hoist, was required to complete the mission.

T/Sgt. Kathy Sweeney and Pilot Roger Skinner flew down from Albany and air-lifted the patient to a landing zone, where he was transferred to an ambulance for transport to a local hospital.

- ▶ **Pilots David Lewis and Bill Wadsworth** responded to the town of Hunter (Greene County) in helicopter 1H19 for a report of an injured hiker.

The hiker was unable to negotiate his trail by ground and needed to be extricated. Aircrew hoisted him aboard the helicopter and transported him to a ground

ambulance, which whisked him to an area hospital.

- ▶ **T/Sgt. Pat Converse** and **Pilot Scott Kotronis** responded in 1H9 to assist State Forest Rangers rescue an injured female hiker from Noonmark Mountain.

The victim was hoisted to safety and transported to Adirondack Medical Center in Lake Placid.

Fire suppression

- ▶ **Pilots Mike Collins, Bob Hanrahan** and Crew Chief **Tony Condolora** responded to a forest fire in the area of Crown Point.

The crew dropped 19 bucket loads which significantly reduced the fire hazard in the area.

- ▶ **Pilots Michael Collins** and **Robert Hanrahan** and **Crew Chief Joe Bahn** responded to a fire suppression mission on Beaver Mountain in Minerva (Essex County).

The crew dropped 27 bucket loads of water on the forest fire.

T/Sgt. Kathy Sweeney and **Pilot Patrick Hogan** continued their work the next day, dropping an additional 20 buckets on the fire scene before NYS Forest Rangers declared the fire under control.

Drowning

T/Sgts. Scott Oseback and **Phil Napolitano** searched the Mohawk River for a drowning victim missing from a May 31 boating accident.

The crew searched an area which already had been searched several times in preceding few weeks and located the victim.

SP Divers and the helicopter crew recovered the body and transported the victim to the appropriate authorities.

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, and 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.

- **Criminal Records Section**

This 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.

- **Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Unit**

This unit receives, answers and maintains all requests made to the State Police pursuant to Article 6 of the Public Officers Law.

- **Pistol Permit Bureau**

The bureau is the repository for all records concerning various classes of firearms and licenses in New York State.

Criminal Records Bureau

During 2008:

- Processed and filed 64,079 investigative, arrest and case reports, as well as 22,268 supplemental criminal reports;
- Received and filed 13,186 administrative documents and items of correspondence;
- Processed 838 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 446 criminal incidents that resulted in claims of injury, death, or loss of personal property;
- Received and responded to 1,975 Freedom of Information Law requests;
- Received and processed 5,697 sealing orders for records compiled in criminal cases in which the arrestee was acquitted or convicted of a non-criminal offense, and
- Maintained files containing 1,226,612 pistol licenses issued in New York State since 1936.

Pistol Permit Bureau

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.

During 2008:

- The Division received:
 - A total of 13,325 new firearms licenses
 - 73,130 firearms license amendments
 - 6,505 cancellations or revocations
 - 66 new firearms dealer
 - 39 gunsmith licenses
- 596 firearms dealer and gunsmith licenses were renewed.
- Retail firearms dealers reported 110,787 transactions.
- Division destroyed 641 of the 12,967 “nuisance firearms” that were destroyed in New York State, as mandated by law.

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.

Payroll Unit

In biweekly cycles, the Section’s Payroll Unit processes payment and deduction transactions for over 5,700 employees.

During 2008

The Payroll Unit 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.

Quartermaster Unit

- The Quartermaster Unit negotiated contracts for shotgun night sights, patrol rifles, State Fair lodging, pistol lockers, trucks, police pursuit vehicles, Netmotion software, lab equipment for Troop FIUs, Chevrolet Tahoes, laboratory equipment maintenance, and laser speed enforcement equipment.
- The section completed orders for new reflective raincoats and safety vests.
- New Sabre Red pepper spray and foam was ordered and distributed to the field.
- The unit negotiated a partnership with New York State Industries for the Disabled to expedite the purchase and distribution of trauma first aid kits and extra refill supplies for vehicles.
- The unit ordered uniforms and equipment to outfit the 196th and 197th Academy Basic School Session.

Facilities Unit

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 2008:

- The State Police began relocating the SP Newburgh Aviation Detail and Internal

Affairs Bureau–South.

- The Division is currently working to relocate the Montgomery station and SP Syracuse Aviation.
- 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 Reconstruction 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 2008. In addition to the administrative, patrol and investigative operations that will be located there, the new Troop G Headquarters building will house Communications 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.

The design of the facility and site continues through the Office of General Services, with the support of a number of professional architectural and technical consultants.



Fleet Management

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 79,278,829 miles during 2008.

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 of the State Office Building Campus in Albany, augmented where necessary by commercial repair businesses.

The Division also maintains auto body shops in Troop E and Troop 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.



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 that are used to support displays, speaking assignments, the New York State Fair, the internal and external websites, and other special events.

During 2008, in addition to addressing thousands of public inquiries, PIO fielded approximately 1,000 media inquiries and replied to more than 1,400 e-mails, mostly from private citizens and media inquiring about pistol permits, criminal cases, background checks, accident investigation, production requests, internet hoaxes, traffic laws, criminal laws, State Police history and personnel.

The Division hosted several events which were widely covered by the media during 2008, including:

- Graduation of the 195th and 196th New York State Police Academy Basic School sessions,
- A Division Canine Program graduation,
- Dedication of the Division's new Wall of Honor,
- The Operation Urgent Action radiation



NYSPPNews.com

This year, after nearly 18 months of collaboration with the Office of Counsel and an Information Services consultant, the Division launched its on-line electronic newsroom website: www.NYSPPNews.com.

The system is designed to facilitate the efficient provision of newsworthy information to reporters at the troop level.

Crime Prevention

Elsewhere, the PIO continued to assist Division Employees with crime prevention information and material, coordinated public requests for information on topics such as:

- Neighborhood Watch,
- Personal safety,
- Workplace violence prevention,
- Crime prevention for senior citizens,
- Internet safety,
- Residential security,
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and
- Appearances by McGruff the Crime Dog.

The Division's public website includes a section on Crime Prevention, where information can be accessed and uploaded on a number of crime prevention topics.

Finally, the NYSP maintains formal partnerships with the National Crime

Prevention Council, the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, and the newly developed National Crime Prevention Association, where it has a seat on the board of directors.

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 \$62,189,282 in cash during 2008.
- 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 \$1,396,981,104 in cash and \$254,716,008 in appraised property.
- During this period, the Division has received \$157,662,071 in asset revenue.

interdiction program, and

- Several press conferences on investigations and arrests involving the:
 - Special Investigation (SIU) and Computer Crimes units (CCU) and
 - Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams (CNET).

Zone Public Information Report

Also new in 2008 was the development of a Zone Public Information Report — an automatically generated summary of each zone's Spectrum Justice Service (SJS) entries for the preceding 24 hours.

The Public Information Office, with the support of Information Services, continues to compile and post a daily compendium of relevant news articles on topics of professional importance to Division employees in the "Daily News" section of the Division's intranet website.

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:

- **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 2008 the Headquarters Lab received 7,201 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 2008, it received 4,069 cases.
- **The Southern Tier Regional Lab** in Port Crane (Broome County), established in 1979, specializes in controlled substance examinations. In 2008, it received 1,361 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 2,008 cases in 2008.

The Crime Laboratory System is ISO 17025 accredited, as mandated by Executive Law 49-B. In 2008, as in 1993, 1998 and 2003, all four labs successfully completed accreditation inspections by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD-LAB).

Annual Report 2008

Crime Laboratory System

Biological Sciences	Drug Chemistry	Forensic Identification	Quality Assurance
Chemistry	Evidence Receiving	Photography	Toxicology
DNA Databank	Firearms/Tool Marks	Question Documents	Trace Evidence

ASCLD/LAB-International™ accreditation confirms the NYSP Laboratory System's reputation as one of the top publicly funded laboratories in the nation.

2008 Interesting cases

- ▶ In a routine traffic stop, Ithaca police discovered a driver was in possession of a light colored powder, capsules containing light colored powder, and 23 cupcake-shaped confections, wrapped in foil, each weighing about 25-30 grams.

The confections contained ground or chopped vegetable matter which tested negative for marijuana.

An extraction procedure from the DEA Microgram Journal was employed to separate the controlled substances from the interfering fats and sugars found in the confections, and the presence of psilocin (a hallucinogen) was confirmed.

The powders, suspected to be methamphetamine, were confirmed as MDMA (ecstasy).

- ▶ During the latter part of 2008, the Drug Chemistry section of the Mid-Hudson Crime Laboratory assisted CNET-Hudson Valley, the Orange County District Attorney's Office and the Newburgh City

PD with a massive undercover narcotics investigation.

Although the operation took place over many months, the laboratory's drug section performed most of the analyses within a short span of time as plea agreements were being reached in Orange County superior courts.

The drug chemistry section performed more than 120 examinations for the successful completion of the investigation, which culminated in 113 felony convictions.

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 2008, staff at the Forensic Investigation Center destroyed 596 firearms and 12,680 narcotics-related pieces of evidence from closed State Police cases.

Biological Sciences

Casework

The Casework Section analyzes biological material to help investigators identify perpetrators of violent crimes and exonerate and/or exclude innocent persons.

During 2008, the section:

- Generated 2,373 reports on criminal cases.
- Examined a total of 33,586 items.
- Analyzed 14,827 pieces of evidence, resulting in 2,094 DNA matches and 641 exclusions.
- Provided DNA analysis in 598 no-suspect cases.
- Provided DNA analysis in 49 forensic paternity cases.
- Provided expert testimony in 100 trials across the state.

2008 Interesting cases

- ▶ On Sept. 4, 2007, the body of a 20 year-old Newburgh man was found in Fallkill Creek in Poughkeepsie.

He had been beaten with a shovel over a drug debt, stripped naked, placed into the trunk of a car and driven to Poughkeepsie, where he was dumped into the creek and left to die.

Forensic Scientist III Stacy Rack

performed serology examinations on approximately 85 items recovered from the crime scene and the vehicle, collecting numerous blood stains and swabs for DNA analysis.

Supervisor of Forensic Services

Timothy Goble performed DNA analysis on 34 evidence items.

The victim's DNA profile was found in the car's trunk, and the prime suspect's DNA profile was found at the scene of the beating, as well as on tape wrapped around the victim's head.

The Orange County District Attorney's Office prosecuted the case against two defendants, with Ms. Rack and Mr. Goble testifying as expert witnesses.

The defendants were convicted of Kidnapping and Murder, and each was sentenced to 26 $\frac{1}{3}$ years to life. An accomplice in the case pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 19 years to life.

- ▶ A Lewis County resident was accused of having sexual contact with a 7-year-old boy at his residence in November 2007.

The defendant had been previously charged with first-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child for an incident involving the same boy in 2005, but was acquitted for lack of evidence.

The FIC received several items of clothing worn by the child at the time of the 2007 assault.

Forensic Scientist Anthony Reddy
and **Forensic Scientist Jay Caponera**

developed DNA that connected the suspect to the victim, and a jury convicted him on single counts of 1st Degree Criminal Sexual Act, 1st Degree Sexual Abuse and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

In January he was sentenced to 15 years in state prison and certified as a sex offender.

Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

There are eight local DNA databases (LDIS) throughout NYS: Erie County, Monroe County, Nassau County OCME, NYCOCME, Onondaga County, Suffolk County, Westchester County and NYSP Crime labs.

The State DNA Database (SDIS) resides at the FIC.

DNA Profiles from the LDIS and SDIS databases are sent to the National DNA Database (NDIS) in Quantico, VA, for comparison of DNA profiles throughout the country.

At the end of 2008, the State DNA Database contained more than 294,425 convicted offender profiles and 13,071 subject profiles.

LDIS, SDIS and NDIS have generated approximately 1,665 investigations aided by CODIS.

SDIS has generated 1,492 convicted offender hits and 37 subject offender hits against evidence profiles in New York State, and 97 offender hits against evidence profiles elsewhere.

SDIS also compares evidence profiles from

the eight LDIS labs against each other. This has generated 11 New York case-to-case matches, one of which was solved by matching unidentified human remains against a missing person sample.

2008 Interesting case

Forensic Scientists Kerri Sage and Elizabeth Staude developed DNA evidence from samples collected during the investigation of a March 11 rape in a downtown Schenectady parking garage.

A “John Doe” profile developed from the evidence was entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), resulting in a match, March 24, with the profile of a convicted offender.

The suspect was brought in for questioning, and the victim was able to point him out during the police lineup. He admitted his guilt in September 2008, and was sentenced to 20 years to life in state prison.

DNA Databank

The New York State DNA Databank is responsible for processing and analyzing DNA samples from convicted offenders.

The samples, collected on oral swabs, are transferred at the time of collection to a stain card, which stabilizes the sample indefinitely for DNA analysis.

In 2008, the DNA Databank generated DNA profiles from 65,899 convicted offender samples. Once in CODIS, these DNA records are available for comparison with DNA patterns developed from evidence recovered at crime scenes.

In May, DNA Databank staff achieved a major milestone when they officially eliminated the last of the backlog of approximately 50,000 samples created by expansion of Section 995 (7) of Executive Law in July 2006.

According to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), approximately 46% of all persons convicted of a Penal Law offense in New York State are required to submit a DNA sample for testing and searching in CODIS. Currently, the DNA Databank receives about 4,500 convicted offender samples per month for analysis.

In anticipation of further expansion of the law, the DNA Databank implemented several measures during 2008 to achieve a capacity of 10,000 DNA patterns per month. It secured a \$1 million Convicted Offender Backlog Reduction grant from the National Institute of Justice that can be used for capacity



Senior Laboratory Technician Jill Sweitzer, DNA Databank Section, performing a liquid handling operation to prepare 96 convicted offender samples for real time PCR in order to determine DNA concentrations with a Perkin Elmer MultiPROBE II Plus liquid handling robot.

enhancements.

The DNA Databank also purchased a new secure modular storage building to house the current inventory of approximately 300,000 convicted offender samples and to provide for future expansions.

The capacity enhancements initiated by the DNA Databank include redesigning and expanding its Databank Laboratory Information Management System (DLIMS), validating new high-throughput analytical instruments, and development of new associated software.

The DNA Databank and DCJS collaborated on a project to streamline sample accessioning, reduce data entry, and improve the data exchange process between the two agencies.

The DNA Databank also developed a Statement of Work to design, build and implement an expansion to the Databank LIMS system that will incorporate the entire analytical process. This project is crucial for accommodating increased sample throughput, streamlining sample management and improving quality control during the DNA analysis process.

Validations performed in 2008 included continued development of Expert System software for automated review of DNA profiles and a new generation of automated

robots for DNA analysis.

The Expert System software was originally implemented in the DNA Databank in 2007 and was the first use of an automated data review system in the country.

An additional validation was required in 2008 to ensure compatibility with an instrumentation upgrade. This was approved by the FBI in June 2008 and training was provided to 10 qualified analysts.

Five Multiprobe II Forensic Workstations automated liquid handling robots, in validation during 2008, were purchased for preparation of DNA samples for analysis.

Extensive training and testing was performed to ensure the data generated from these robots is accurate and reliable.

Four scientists and technicians are training on this new automation line. These robots will replace the current production line, increase throughput and reduce hands-on manipulation.

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. 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

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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.

2008 Interesting case

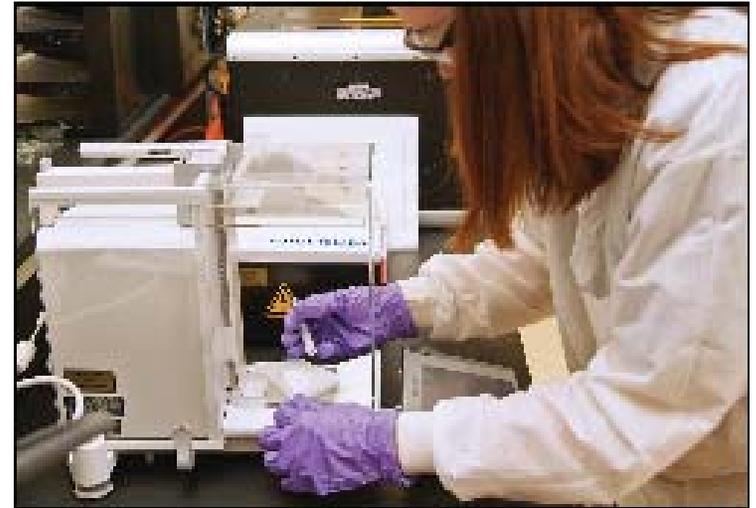
In July, the Drug Chemistry Section received and analyzed a multi-item submission related to an overdose death.

The items included 872 white tablets marked with an "8" and a half score on one side and "pms" on the other side. Pharmaceutical references identified these as containing hydromorphone hydrochloride.

Another item contained 813 green tablets marked with "OC" on one side and "80" on



Imitation Pharmaceutical tablets ("knockoff tablets") containing the controlled substance ketamine.



Forensic Scientist I Kate Botting, Drug Chemistry section, is weighing a white powder substance believed to contain a controlled substance utilizing a Mettler Toledo balance capable of reporting weights out to the 5th decimal place.

the other, similar in appearance to tablets containing Oxycodone hydrochloride or "Oxycontin" manufactured by Purdue Pharma.

However, chemical analysis of these tablets did not confirm the presence of Oxycodone. The tablets contained alprazolam and ketamine, both controlled substances.

Although powder submissions containing ketamine are not uncommon, this was the first instance of imitation or "knockoff" pharmaceutical tablets making an appearance on the drug scene.

To produce look-alike tablets such as these, the use of some type of a pharmaceutical tablet press is required.

Clandestine drug laboratories

Selected forensic scientists within the NYSP Crime Laboratory System are specially trained to accompany the Division's Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency

Crime Laboratory System

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 17 clandestine drug labs were raided throughout New York State in 2008. All of the labs were set up to produce methamphetamine.

Since 2000, more than 273 illicit clandestine drug labs have been discovered statewide.

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.

During 2008, the section upgraded its drug screening procedures to utilize enzyme-linked

immunosorbent assay technology, improving the scope and sensitivity of the screening process.

The section's scientists serve as a resource for the criminal justice community on toxicology matters involving impairment, cause of death, and drug facilitated sexual assault.

In 2008, they provided training in conjunction with the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), and the annual NYSP Sexual Offense Seminar.

The section also hosted a two-day "Vehicle & Traffic Law for Toxicologists" workshop for toxicologists from throughout the state.

The Toxicology sections of the NYSP Crime Laboratory System analyzed 3,264 cases in 2008. These were categorized as:

- Highway safety enforcement (2,967),
- Death investigation (81),
- Drug facilitated sexual assault (93), and
- Other toxicology investigations (26).

The section also performed testing on 100 samples to support the training of new Drug Recognition Experts (DRE).

Breath Testing

The laboratory's Breath Testing Section is a subset of the Toxicology department, supporting the Division's Traffic Services

Breath Testing Program.

Staff perform the maintenance, repairs and certification of all Drager 7110 breath testing equipment utilized by the State Police.

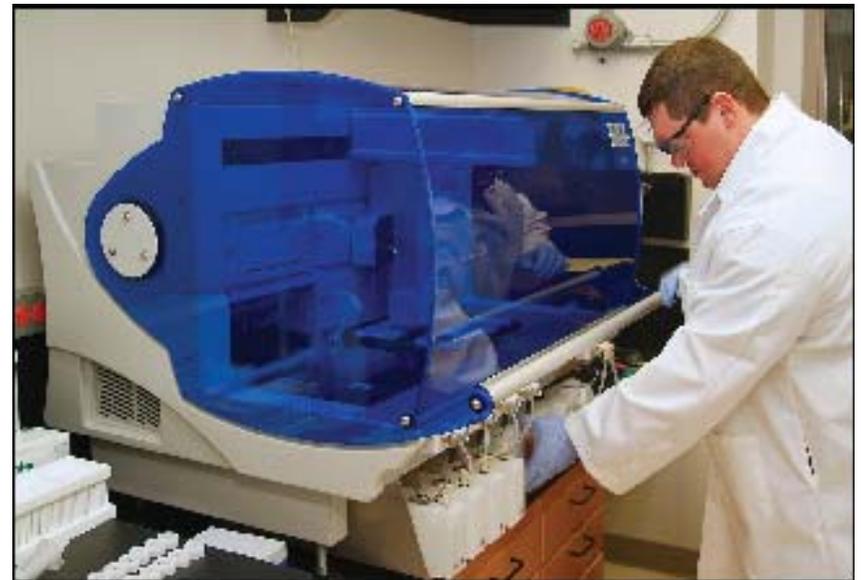
The section also certifies the simulator solution used by law enforcement agencies statewide, and laboratory personnel provide expert testimony on alcohol related driving issues.

During 2008, the section began the transition to the Drager 9510 instrument with dry gas reference material.

Laboratory staff will validate the instrument and certify all instruments purchased. They also will support the training of the criminal justice community regarding the new program.

Firearms/Tool Marks

The Firearms Identification Unit is responsible



Forensic Scientist III Joseph Knapik, Toxicology section, prepares the ELISA instrument for drug screening of suspected DWAI-Drug cases.

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 received 616 assignments from 563 cases in 2008.

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



Senior Laboratory Technician Janice Hauck, CoBIS section, is loading a cartridge casing into the BrassTRAX unit from Forensic Technology Inc. for digital imaging.

Network (NIBIN), a computer network maintained by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that enables partner crime laboratories to search ballistic databases nationally for links to crime scene cartridge casings and test-fired crime weapons.

Since then, NYSP Firearms examiners have entered 3,399 images in NIBIN, resulting in 281 “cold hits” that have aided numerous investigations and often contributed to prosecutions and convictions both within and outside New York State.

In 2008, the Firearms Identification Unit entered 644 digital images of cartridge casings recovered at crime scenes and from test firings of recovered firearms into NIBIN for comparison.

The unit identified 61 “cold hits” linking open cases on the NIBIN, including robbery, assaults and murder cases.

The section’s three firearms examiners also gave testimony in superior court proceedings 36 times in 2008.

2008 Interesting case

In January, an Orange County Jury convicted a 22-year-old defendant of 2nd Degree Murder in the drive-by shooting of a 15-year-old Newburgh youth.

Firearms Examiner Sgt. Dennis Lyons was able to testify that a bullet recovered from the scene and one recovered at autopsy had been fired by the same gun that was found near an abandoned car used

in the crime.

The defendant faces a minimum of 15 years to life and a maximum of 25 to life in prison.

Combined Ballistic Identification System

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”.

New equipment was delivered and installed in 2008 as part of an upgrade from the original IBIS technology to the new TRAX technology, thus facilitating increased automation in image acquisition and the capability for three-dimensional imaging.

The installation of the TRAX technology and accompanying software enhancements to NIBIN will make it possible to establish a direct one-way connection from NIBIN to CoBIS.

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 and latent palm print impressions into the NYPD APIS (Automated Palm Identification System).

In 2008, the FIC SAFIS site:

- Examined 1,448 latent prints and
- Entered 116 more into the FBI IAFIS and NYPD APIS sites.

From those cases, 80 resulted in a positive identification.

The FIC processed 189 cases for the development of latent prints in 2008.

Troop Forensic Identification Units also examined and identified 271 latent fingerprint matches during the year.

2008 Interesting case

In March, someone placed a Molotov cocktail in a parked car in Warren County. Items from the crime scene were submitted to the FIC, where personnel processed the items, including a two-liter soda bottle used as the firebomb, for latent prints.

Two identifiable prints were developed on the bottle. These were entered into the Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS) at the FIC, which identified them as belonging to an individual who was charged with 1st Degree Arson.

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The defendant subsequently pleaded guilty and was sentenced to prison.

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 and assisting members in their investigative assignments.

In addition to the traditional photo-film process, the unit utilizes digital image technology, producing photographic enlargements and securing digital images on computerized compact discs.

In 2008, the Photography Unit processed 3,430 rolls of film/CDs, produced 772 CDs of digital images and printed approximately 50,650 photographs for field members.

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 system).

Trace Evidence

The Trace Evidence Section examines evidence from criminal cases involving arson residue, footwear and tire impressions, 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
- Pyrolysis Gas Chromatograph

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 2008, the Crime Laboratory System's Trace Evidence Sections examined 107 cases including homicide, rape, narcotics, property crimes, and fatal motor vehicle "hit-and-run" investigations. They also processed fire debris evidence from 264 cases of suspected arson.

2008 Interesting case

On March 25, 2008, a Schenectady County man accepted a 16-year-prison term rather than face trial for intentionally setting several fires in the Rotterdam area.

A trace evidence examination of a beer can left at one fire scene identified residue from an ignitable liquid; the can was subsequently linked to the defendant by DNA analysis.

A piece of torn cardboard at the scene also bore the defendant's fingerprint. Through a process known as fracture or "jigsaw-puzzle" matching, **Forensic Scientist III Frank Padula** was able to match its torn edge to the edge of a piece of cardboard found in the defendant's home.

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).

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.

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 2008, 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
- Items associated with computer crimes

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 and services 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.

Geographic Information System Unit

The Geographic Information System (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.

During 2008

- The GIS Unit continued development work on a statewide Automated Vehicle Locator (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 also

Technological Operations

Communications/Tech Support & Information Services

Geographical Info Systems	Workstation Support	Application Development
Radio & Telephone Service	Technological Training Unit	Technical Architecture Serv.
NYSP Call Center & Support	911 Call Answering	Project Management Office

include a NYSPIN interface and in-car mapping. Once the AVL portion of the project is completed by fall 2009, full CAD implementation will commence.

When fully operational, CAD/AVL technology will enable dispatch personnel to manage resources more effectively, improving response times and greatly enhancing officer safety.

- The GIS Unit also provided maps for a variety of uses, including search and rescue operations, special details, crime scenes and criminal trials.
- GIS technology also provided detailed geographic analysis of accident histories, thus helping supervisors identify places where incidents are occurring and adjust deployments and resources accordingly.

Radio Services Unit

The Division's Radio Unit is responsible for the management of the agency's radio system and supporting infrastructure across the State.

In addition, the unit operates and maintains mobile emergency command communications vehicles for response as needed to critical incidents and special details anywhere in the state.

The vehicles, operated by a trained technical support staff, provide incident commanders with portable telephone, radio, video and satellite connectivity in a mobile office environment.

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.

During 2008

The Telephone Services Unit coordinated the design and installation of eight new telephone systems at various relocated State Police installations and upgraded services and facilities at 15 State Police locations.

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.

Workstation Support

The Workstation Support Unit is responsible for planning, procuring, implementing and supporting client hardware and software, including all PDA and cellular communication devices.

During the past year, the unit played a significant role in several statewide projects and initiatives, including:

- The Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) project
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) rollout
- TraCS
- A computer refresh program

The Field IT Specialist Program continues to be successful. Assigned to Troop Headquarters locations, IT specialists work closely with field personnel to 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 more than 30,000 NYSP personnel and NYSPIN users.

Supported technology includes computers, Blackberrys/cell phones, networks, applications, user accounts and portal access.

During 2008

- The Call Center took on 13 new support efforts:
 - TIMS
 - AMS
 - AVL
 - Draeger
 - LDAP Admin
 - E-Academy
 - FleetWave
 - NYSP Newsroom
 - GW Password resets
 - New Citrix Apps
 - Closed Circuit Security,
 - Compass (IJP),
 - CIRIS (IJP)
- The Call Center logged 37,766 requests for service or support, and closed 29,589 — a 78% closure rate. Statistics show a 2% increase in the volume over 2007.
- The Call Center has served as backup Portal Help Desk, and as the point-of-contact for the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal, processing 158 calls for portal assistance.

It is now preparing to assist NYSPIN users as they transition from legacy NYSPIN to the new portal delivery of NYSPIN services.

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.

During 2008

- The unit developed training for the approximately 100,000 new Integrated Justice Portal users statewide. The unit is responsible for producing training curricula and instruction manuals, and preparation of policies for the scheduling and enrollment of end-user training.
- The Unit coordinated a program for training Communication Specialists and Members in the field in the new Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) application. Unit personnel have been traveling throughout the state training personnel in each Troop to become trainers for the AVL application.
- The Unit took an active role in the development and deployment of a new version of on-line learning (GeoLearning). This program has proven to be very effective in distance learning and will be utilized for many upcoming training endeavors.
- The Unit conducted two Emergency Medical Dispatch courses, several CPR courses and one 40-hour Basic School for Telecommunicators.

NYSPIN Support Services

The NYSPIN Support Services Unit is responsible for supporting all 25,300 internal and external NYSPIN operators at more than 1,000 locations throughout the State.

On a monthly basis, the staff of NYSPIN Support Services coordinates the validation of more than 20,000 NYSPIN database entries.

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 also has three units:

- **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.

During 2008

In 2008, the NYSP Technical Services groups continued to build upon investments and infrastructure upgrades from the previous year to improve and enhance the NYSP Information Technology Environment.

Servers have begun the transformation to “green-technology” by changing from physical to virtual servers for many enterprise systems.

GroupWise, the Division e-mail system, has been completely revitalized and migrated to a LINUX platform. Near the end of 2008, an upgrade to GroupWise 7 was implemented, offering new benefits and features to staff throughout the NYSP.

Database systems have been expanded to meet the growing needs of the many applications hosted by Information Services.

Network improvements in 2008 included a significant reduction in the number of unscheduled outages through implementation of proper change control procedures.

Project Management Office

Project Management Office (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 Technology Plan and manages the technology Project Portfolio.

Through more effective monitoring, communication and priority setting, the Information Services section, working closely with the operational sections of the State Police, and under the guidance of the Executive Technology Committee completed 16 technology projects in 2008.

The technology Project Portfolio currently contains 26 active projects and 45 projects

that are on hold pending resource availability.

During 2008

The sections and units of Information Services were involved in the following activities:

- ▶ 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 2008, NYSPIN processed:

- More than 451 million messages, 8 million more than in 2007
- More than 39 million queries for DMV information
- 53 million combined transactions to the FBI’s National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and other state information repositories via International Justice and Public Safety Information System (NLETS)

- More than 58 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 2008, 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 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.

- ▶ The **NYSP Intranet website** is an internal information resource for NYSP employees.

In 2008 it continued to grow with updates and additions to content and applications. New reports were added to the Intranet site. These include:

- Operation IMPACT reports,
- Time and Attendance, and
- Administrative Messages.

- ▶ The **Division’s Internet website** is an external information resource for anyone inside or outside the NYSP.

This year brought updates to the

Specialized Services section, which includes Division Aviation, Bicycle Patrols, Bomb Disposal Unit, Canine Unit, Marine Detail, Mobile Response Team, Motorcycle Unit, SCUBA Unit, and Snowmobile Patrols.

Another important system improvement gave applicants who took the NYSP Trooper Exam the ability to view their scores online. Persons who want to be placed on a list for a future exam now can submit their information on-line.

- ▶ The **Spectrum Justice System (SJS)** is a statewide repository for police records.

Since its implementation in 2001, SJS has recorded more than 2,820,000 incidents and 333,000 arrests.

In 2008, an average of approximately 8,700 incidents and 1,100 arrests were entered into SJS each week.

More than 4,400 investigators and troopers used SJS to store and retrieve information on incidents and arrests.

- ▶ The New York State Police has deployed **Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS)** to more than 1,400 vehicles.

More than 3.5 million tickets and 314,000 accidents have been recorded since its inception, with more than a million tickets written in 2008.

New forms were implemented in 2008 for the Administrative Message System, Commercial Vehicle Inspections and Radiation Incidents.

Others included the Incident, Field Interview Card, Vehicle Search, Vehicle Inventory, Traffic Deposition,

Arrest package — which includes an Appearance Ticket, Deposition Information, Complaint and Statement forms, and a DWI arrest package.

In addition to the NYSP, more than 25 new local law enforcement agencies began implementing TraCS during 2008, bringing the statewide total to more than 400 agencies, — a 33% increase in the volume of tickets and accidents being submitted electronically.

- ▶ Information Services assisted **New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC)** with release of the first phase of a multi-phased **Criminal Intelligence and Analysis System (CIAS)** in July 2008. The CIAS incorporates federated search technology and strict security protection.

NYSIC and Information Services participated in several data-sharing projects with federal, state and local criminal justice agencies throughout 2008.

Greater use of analytical tools and further sharing of digital information with local law enforcement, New York State Crime Analysis Centers, and other nationwide fusion centers is expected throughout 2009 and beyond.

- ▶ Information Services wrapped up the latest expansion of the **Casework Laboratory Management System (CLIMS) System** — a two-year project to implement process automation in the Bioscience DNA Lab in 2008.

Sophisticated system enhancements included 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 receives annually.

The DNA Databank also implemented a new instrument system that performs up to 90% of the DNA analyses 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 2008, Information Services worked closely with the FIC administration, scientists, and staff preparing for **American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board's (ASCLD/LAB) 2008** accreditation audit.

To address accreditation requirements, IS reviewed, refined, and documented processes and procedures to ensure that all services and support comply with accreditation standards.

Employee Relations

Employee Relations oversees:

- Human Resources
 - Employee Staffing
 - Employee Benefits
- Employee Assistance Program and
- State Police Academy.

At the agency level it administers the collective bargaining agreements between the State of New York and Division employees represented by the:

- Police Benevolent Association of the New York State Troopers (PBA),
- New York State Police Investigators Association (NYSPIA),
- Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA),
- Public Employees Federation (PEF), and
- New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA).

Employee Relations also represents the Division in grievance hearings and improper practice proceedings before the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), and represents the Division in contract negotiations and interest arbitration proceedings between the State and the various employee organizations.

► **PBA contract status**

On Aug. 16, the state and the PBA agreed to terms on a new four-year collective bargaining agreement for the Troopers' and Supervisors' units for 2007-2011.

Employee Relations

Human Resources: Employee Staffing (including Recruitment), EEO, Employee Benefits
Employee Assistance Program

NYSP Academy: Training, Seminars and Meetings, Tours, State Police Summer Program

► **NYSPIA contract status**

On Nov. 6, the state and NYSPIA agreed to terms on a new four-year collective bargaining agreement for the unit representing Investigators and Senior Investigators for the period 2007-2011.

► **CSEA and PEF contract status**

Employees of the Division represented by CSEA and PEF are operating under collective bargaining agreements covering the period 2007-2011. These agreements are set to expire March 31, 2011.

► **NYSCOPBA contract status**

Currently, employees of the Division represented by NYSCOPBA are operating under a collective bargaining agreement covering the period 2003-2007.

Human Resources

Established in 1994, Human Resources is responsible for the oversight and delivery of an array of essential programs and services to existing and potential employees through the offices of Employee Staffing and Employee Benefits.

Employee Staffing

Member Hiring Unit

During 2008, the Member Hiring Unit:

- Processed the appointment of an Academy class that graduated 141 new Troopers in February.
- Administered the selection process and appointment of 104 recruits to the Academy class that commenced in April and graduated in October.
- Conducted Trooper Candidate Processing in September in preparation for the Winter 2008 Basic School.

A total of 458 Trooper candidates attended both sessions, resulting in the initiation of 276 background investigations.

Additionally, 45 background investigation updates were conducted for candidates who were processed but not reached for the Academy class held in April.

The September 2008 Trooper Candidate Processing was the first to be conducted since the establishment of a new competitive list for the position of State Trooper.

In recent years, the usual selection process, from the candidate processing weekend to medical processing and appointment of a

recruit class, typically has taken six months.

In an unprecedented accomplishment, the selection process for the Winter 2008 Basic School was successfully completed in a only two months.

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 Sept. 6, an open-competitive examination was held for the position of SP Communications Specialist (SG-8).

A total of 956 eligible candidates applied for the examination statewide, of which 648 participated in the examination at State Police test sites.

A resulting eligible list will be established in 2009.

- On Oct. 25, a statewide promotional examination was conducted for the competitive position of Keyboard Specialist 2 (SG-9).

A total of 123 eligible candidates applied to take the test, of which 115 participated in the exam.

A resulting eligible list will be established in 2009.

The Civilian Hiring Unit is working with the Department of Civil Service to prepare written test instruments for promotional examinations for the positions of Clerk 2 (SG-9), Calculations Clerk 2 (SG-9) and Principal Clerk (SG-14).

Recruitment

During 2008, recruitment efforts resulted in 27,963 candidates applying to take the examinations.

The recruitment detail assisted with the administration of more than 70 entrance examination sessions at locations throughout New York State between Jan. 19 and Feb. 9.

A supplemental examination was held at the Academy in October for military personnel who were unable to take an original exam due to active duty status.

More than 19,000 applicants took the entrance examination, with 15,677 successfully passing.

In conjunction with the Member Hiring Unit, recruiters then helped successful candidates at the top of the list prepare for the initial processing and background stages of the selection process for the Academy Basic School.

Recruiters also attended numerous college and community job fairs, out-of-state career and county fairs, the New York State Fair in Syracuse, community events and high profile parades, and were hosted by several civic and community leaders throughout the state.

In a continuing effort to maximize military applicants, supplemental military exams were scheduled for 2009.

Promotional Examinations

The written portions of the promotional examinations for the positions of Uniformed Lieutenant and Sergeant are scheduled for February and March 2009.

The process of preparing for the examinations began in June 2008, with surveys of incumbent Sergeants and Lieutenants.

The surveys included ratings of how specific information sources (e.g., Division Manuals, Penal Law, Selected Laws, etc.) are used in performing duties associated with those positions.

The results 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 Exam Detail, comprised of a Uniform Captain and four Uniform Lieutenants assisted by a testing consultant, use this information to construct a fair and job-related exam.

The promotional examination process consists of three components: a closed- and open-book technical knowledge written exam; a written assessment center exercise; and an oral assessment center exercise.

Performance on the first two components determines whether a member qualifies to participate in the oral assessment center exercise.

For the 2009 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, will qualify to participate in the Oral Assessment Center Exercises (OACE).

Each candidate participating in the OACE will address assessor boards consisting of a commissioned officer from the New York State Police, and two commissioned officers from other state police agencies.

Candidates are required to perform two different exercises tailored to the types of duties that might be required of each position.

New promotion eligibility lists for the positions of Lieutenant and Sergeant should be established by August 2009.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The Division of State Police has approximately 99 sworn and civilian Human Resources Counselors, 13 EEO Specialists, and three regional 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 an objective representative of the Office of Human Resources.

During 2008, Human Resources Counselors handled 25 separate cases, most of which were resolved satisfactorily through the informal dispute resolution process.

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

- The NYSP Maternity Policy for all employees

Approximately 550 employees statewide participated in OHR-related training programs administered during 2008.

Domestic Violence and the Workplace

Members of the Office of Human Resources worked with the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) to develop an agency policy concerning domestic violence and the workplace, as mandated by Executive Order 19.

Designated as resource personnel for victims of workplace-related domestic violence, members from the Office of Human Resources and Employee Assistance Program attended the OPDV-sponsored Domestic Violence and the Workplace training program.

The Office of Human Resources has developed a training program for the new Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy, which will be made available to all employees utilizing the e-Academy Geo Learning process in 2009.

Employee Benefits

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.

Leave Unit

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
- The Productivity Enhancement Program

Guidance and assistance also 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 LATS (Leave and Accrual Tracking System) project.

Workers' Compensation Unit

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 prepares annual statistical reports required by the Department of Labor pertaining to on-the-job injuries.

Both the Leave Unit and the 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

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential early intervention system designed to help employees and their families.

The EAP unit is staffed with full-time, specially trained regional coordinators who provide assistance around-the-clock, and who identify and motivate for treatment employees whose job performance is impaired by alcoholism, alcohol and substance abuse, emotional problems, mental illness, workplace or personnel issues, gambling problems, grief and loss issues, financial or legal issues, military activation issues, relationship problems, critical incident stress, and other problems that may affect the employee in his or her work.

The EAP also provides service by helping employees and families select appropriate resources in the community for treatment and rehabilitation, and follows up to ensure quality care is provided.

An additional feature of the New York State Police EAP is a Peer Counseling Unit, staffed by sworn and civilian employees trained in peer counseling skills.

Over the years, the EAP has experienced tremendous growth and a steady increase in the number of cases it receives.

In 2008, its caseload increased to more than 590 cases from 450 cases in 2006.

In addition to handling all cases referred to the EAP, the unit also receives many lecture requests.

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The staff has lectured at the Academy for the State Police Basic School, the new NCO School, the new Senior Investigator School, and the new Investigator School and Member Citizen Interaction School.

The regional coordinators have been requested to do regional training for dispatchers, the SORT, returning military personnel, other local police academies and chiefs of police meetings.

NYSP Academy

The New York State Police Academy provides training resources to approximately 14,000 people 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.

During 2008, Academy personnel assisted the New York State Office of Homeland Security by hosting numerous meetings and presenting several seminars on the subject of counter-terrorism. It also hosted seminars for DCJS and the NYS Prosecutors Training Institute.

Training

Basic School

A total of 233 Recruit Troopers graduated from two **Basic School Sessions** during 2008.

- The 195th Session completed its Academy training Feb. 19 and graduated 141

troopers.

- The 196th Session graduated 92 troopers on Oct. 21.

In-service & specialized training

During 2008, expandable batons were issued to all Uniform Force members below the rank of Zone Sergeant.

Training for the new device was folded into a six-hour Winter In-Service Training Program, beginning Jan. 6. The curriculum consisted of a four-hour training block for the expandable baton and a defensive tactics refresher, together with a two-hour Active Shooter Refresher training session.

In 2008, the Division procured new “trauma bag” for all its patrol vehicles. The Academy administered a three-hour training course for all members in the proper use of first aid supplies contained in the trauma bags.

Fall Firearms Training in 2008 was modified to reduce emphasis on pure target-shooting and shift the focus to using and shooting from cover, close-range speed and accuracy.

On Sept. 16, the Division e-Academy rolled out the new Suicide Awareness 2008 Course distance learning application. A total of 5,686 employees successfully completed the course. A Workplace Violence e-Academy also was activated.

Outside agency training

The Marist College Masters Degree in Public Administration Program continued for its 12th year during 2008, with 32 students enrolled.

Seminars and meetings

The Academy hosted a total of 110 seminars

and meetings during 2008, including the following seminars and meetings:

- Annual Henry Williams Homicide Seminar
- Human Trafficking Seminar
- Annual Gang Seminar
- Annual Sex Offense Seminar
- Child Abuse and Neglect Seminar; Anti-Defamation League Extremist Seminar
- NYPTI Electronic Surveillance training
- Project North Star meetings
- Quarterly Trooper Foundation Board meetings
- Hispanic Heritage meetings
- GOER, Labor Management, and Troop Commander meetings

Tours

The Academy remains a point of interest for criminal justice students from area schools. In 2008, Academy personnel conducted 61 tours for 1,079 students, many of whom are considering careers in law enforcement.

State Police Summer Program

In August, the State Police Summer Program (SP/SP) completed its 32nd 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-two (142) children from across the state attended this year's program under the guidance and support of 12 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.

Wall of Honor

On November 20, the New York State Trooper Foundation unveiled and dedicated a newly redesigned and reconstructed "Wall of Honor" at the Academy to memorialize sworn personnel who died in the line of duty.

Supt. Corbitt accepted the gift on behalf of the State Police from Ms. Rachael Mincher, President of the Trooper Foundation, Mr. Bruce Stauffer, outgoing Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. John Egan, newly elected Chairman, and other trustees.

The new memorial occupies a room adjacent to the Academy entrance. It features maple columns and wall panels on which the photographs of the 122 Troopers who gave their lives are displayed.

Planning for the new memorial began in January 2008. It was designed by JCM Architectural Associates of Syracuse and constructed by Zandri Construction Company of Cohoes and entirely funded by corporate and private donations.

It was completed Sept. 10.

Internal Affairs Bureau

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 two sections:

- An Investigative Section oversees all investigations into allegations of misconduct by Division employees, and
- An Audit Section that manages 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 oversee 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.

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Internal Affairs Bureau

Investigative Section

Audit Section

Survey Analysis

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. After 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.

Office of Counsel

Attorneys assigned to the Office of 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, and 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 State Police Chief Counsel serves as the agency's ethics officer. He and other office members advise the Division and its employees regarding the requirements of ethics laws concerning reporting requirements, gifts and other matters.

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

Executive-level Support

Office of Counsel

Planning and Research

Member-Civilian Safety Committee

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 seek disclosure of privileged material.

Finally, the office oversees the prosecution of employee misconduct matters.

Planning and Research

The Planning and Research (P & R) Section supports all NYSP operations 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 documents for internal and external distribution

- Updating the agency's policy and operations manuals
- 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, evaluates, compares and recommends for or against products being considered for adoption or deployment to the field.

Section staff also support Division executives and field personnel with comprehensive briefings, statistical analyses, research, position papers and reports on 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.

P & R also responds to requests for information and policies received from other

criminal justice and governmental agencies

The section receives all e-mails addressed to the State Police Internet website's general e-mail address.

After evaluating each message, it responds directly or routes 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.

Product testing & evaluation

During 2008, P & R contributed its research and analytical skills to supporting the Division's program of pursuing initiatives that improve safety for field personnel.

- Chief among its contributions in this area was the section's work related to the subject of patrol rifles. P & R:
 - Performed exhaustive research into the many types and models of patrol rifles available to law enforcement agencies;
 - Surveyed Division sworn personnel regarding their perceived needs and preferences in such weapons, and
 - Conducted hands-on testing, and evaluation of different models, leading to the selection of a particular weapon that will be purchased and deployed to field personnel in 2009.
- P & R performed a similar process in support of the selection and acquisition

of new First Aid kits and high-visibility, reflective raincoats, both of which were selected, purchased and deployed to the field during 2008.

Manual revision

Throughout 2008, P & R

- Performed the painstaking process of rewriting and updating the Division's Members Manual, a task last conducted in 1994.
- Solicited input throughout the Division and substantial progress was made in the editorial process.

The finished product should be ready for distribution in 2009.

The new manual will replace the antiquated and readily overloaded loose-leaf binder publication with 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 them 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.

Also during 2008, P & R:

- Conducted a variety of surveys to improve Division procedures and equipment, and to assist command staff in policy development.

These surveys included:

- Efforts which gathered — and shared with other agencies — information on voluntary community service participation by Division employees.
- A three-part examination of interaction between Division field personnel, crime victims and victims' service providers, the results of which subsequently formed the basis for a pilot program in Troop F.
- 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 a variety of data analysis and project management activities designed to improve electronic record-keeping for warrants, incidents and arrests by all law enforcement agencies through the Spectrum Justice System.
- Developed intranet-based e-learning programs for Division employees on the subjects of hazardous materials, workplace violence and blood-borne pathogen exposure control.

Member and Civilian Safety

The executive-level Division Safety Committee reviews agency policy, procedures, equipment and training to improve safety throughout the agency.

Several safety-related training courses were implemented during the 2008:

- Trauma Kit training
- Active Shooter Refresher
- Defensive Tactics Refresher
- In-Service Tactical Firearms Training Program
- Tactical and Wanted Person Roadchecks
- Building Entry and Organized Searches
- Suicide Awareness Training

Other issues addressed by the committee included:

- Undercover Fictitious Plate Check Program
- Kel-Kit interference problems
- Pistol lockers
- Automatic Vehicle Location Program
- New sidearms issued to undercover members
- Patrol rifles
- Improved patrol vehicle video cameras
- Chevrolet Tahoe blower resistor module connector problems
- Traffic safety vests.



2008 Statistical Review

*Part 1 Offenses Reported

Non-Criminal Investigations

*Part 2 Offenses Reported by Troop

Activity Summary

(*Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services)

Part 1 Offenses Reported

	Known or Reported		Closed by Arrest		Closed by Investigation		Closed Unfounded	
	Felonies	Misd/LO	Felonies	Misd/LO	Felonies	Misd/LO	Felonies	Misd/LO
Violent Crimes								
Murder	28	0	6	0	1	0	2	0
Manslaughter (Non-negligent)	15	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	400	0	117	0	143	0	64	0
Robbery	132	0	58	0	19	0	14	0
Assault	813	1,079	531	378	135	273	46	11
Sub-total Violent Crime	1,388	1,079	724	378	298	273	126	11
Property Crimes								
Burglary	4,404	36	1,033	32	2,004	4	55	0
Larceny	3,047	9,986	1,272	2,932	1,490	6,836	54	204
Motorvehicle Theft	399	107	127	28	174	71	16	8
Sub-total Property Crimes	7,850	10,129	2,432	2,992	3,668	6,911	125	212
Part 1 Crime Totals	9,238	11,208	3,156	3,370	3,966	7,184	251	223

Misd/LO: Misdemeanor and Lesser Offenses

Part 2 Offenses Reported by Troop

Troop:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	K	L	T	Total
Arson	8	27	15	27	22	25	17	4	7	0	152
Kidnapping	2	0	1	3	1	2	2	3	0	0	14
Control Sub. Sale	164	90	138	194	86	134	195	87	24	4	1,116
Controlled Sub. Possession	230	110	141	199	225	627	355	229	179	144	2,439
Marijuana	919	776	560	885	856	1,309	1,292	499	277	575	7,948
Dangerous Weapons	77	145	87	128	131	107	97	60	48	10	890
Bribery	6	4	4	0	5	5	5	1	0	0	30
Sex Offenses	215	434	388	783	577	294	468	156	7	0	3,322
Extortion	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	5
Forgery	275	241	158	391	498	263	612	344	71	7	2,860
Prostitution	4	1	6	2	0	7	1	3	0	0	24
Stolen Property	101	74	77	104	143	97	103	126	18	7	850
Coercion	5	5	3	1	2	0	8	5	0	0	29
Criminal Mischief	611	789	853	1,312	852	823	902	1,154	18	40	7,354
Fraud	406	364	458	749	499	351	525	555	29	13	3,949
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	8
Public Order	80	14	82	84	54	171	40	56	8	6	595
Embezzlement	15	17	25	30	21	29	30	18	0	0	185
Simple Assault	312	499	1,215	1,119	702	386	667	264	18	7	5,189
Family Offenses	191	294	307	467	558	242	357	147	10	1	2,257
Unauth. Use Vehicle	53	42	58	123	67	79	62	48	4	9	545
Burglary Tools	2	2	0	3	2	16	10	2	0	0	37
Liquor Law Violation	122	92	70	67	100	94	129	68	4	27	773
Disorderly Conduct	409	1,092	1,114	1,293	1,151	916	1,183	1,708	27	38	8,931
Public Intoxication	8	2	7	84	90	7	0	24	1	0	223
Loitering	3	3	1	5	3	22	11	4	1	4	57
All Other	3,598	4,944	5,543	5,394	4,702	4,948	5,333	5,141	338	589	40,530
Part 2 Crime Totals	7,818	10,061	11,311	13,447	11,348	10,954	12,412	10,708	1,089	1,481	90,629

Non-Criminal Investigations

Classification of Investigation	Matters Reported	Closed by Investigation	Converted to Criminal Case	False or Unfounded
Accidents	352	347	1	5
Animals - No Crime	11,529	11,474	6	57
Assists Motorists	76,774	76,123	21	767
Assists to Police Departments	26,229	26,232	3	4
Attempts to Locate	3,959	3,947	8	4
Civil Matters	13,033	13,004	0	30
Deaths (Natural)	453	453	0	0
Drownings	218	218	0	0
Electronic Intrusion Device	29,586	20,660	21	8,936
Firearms - Weapons	290	287	1	3
Fires / Floods / Other	1,969	1,939	3	46
Lost / Missing Persons	2,526	2,505	7	16
Medica Assistance	7,425	7,318	0	184
Parking Complaints	1,371	1,371	0	2
Posted Property	2,621	2,623	0	0
Prisoner Relay	1,991	1,993	0	0
Property Lost / Found	6,061	6,063	7	19
Road Hazards	9,830	9,743	0	132
Suspension / Revocation Orders	936	954	2	0
Spills (Chemical / Fuel)	62	63	0	0
Suicides and Attempts	294	285	8	4
Suspicious Person / Vehicle	15,983	15,822	9	172
Traffic Control	8,539	8,534	1	4
Vehicle Impounds	3,743	3,878	0	0
All Other Non-criminal	82,308	82,765	65	193
Non-criminal investigatons turned over to other enforcement agencies	300	269	0	0
Totals	308,382	298,870	163	10,578

2008 Activity Summary

Vehicle and Traffic Activity	1,059,752
Criminal Cases Reported:	
Originated by the Division (Part 1 & 2 Crimes)	111,203
By a state correctional facility, state mental health institution or adopted by Division at the requests of another agency	7,856
BCI Lead Investigations	13,910
Non-criminal Investigations	308,382
Workload Units Total	1,501,103

Credits

The Annual Report 2008 was produced by the NYSP Planning and Research Section with written and photographic contributions from all NYSP sections, troops and details.

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