



# FBI

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## Law Enforcement Bulletin

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### Aerial Surveillance



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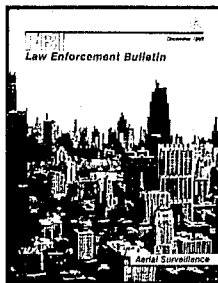
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**The Cover:** The use of aerial surveillance to obtain evidence and recent Supreme Court decisions are addressed in the Legal Digest. See article p. 18.

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## Police Practices

Review of the bank film clearly showed two gang members known to the postal inspectors for previous truck assaults. One of the members was also noted for his acrobatic prowess in crawling under and over teller cage doors during a larceny, seemingly unnoticed by bank staff or a lobby full of customers. After two bank larcenies of \$50,000 and \$100,000 in cash caused an alert along the Connecticut portion of I-95, three gang members were apprehended by the police in Stamford, CT, and turned over to the local FBI.

### CONCLUSION

The arrests of the members of each of these gangs are significant. However, the problem does not stop here. Statistical information covering the years 1983 through 1988, gathered by the New York FBI Office, reveals approximately 130 reported sneak theft incidents, with travelers cheque losses by banks and issuers amounting to \$3.5 million. These incidents represent approximately 10 percent of bank larcenies nationwide reported to the FBI. In view of these numerous occurrences, it is incumbent upon banks, financial institutions, and everyone involved to help instill a greater awareness toward possible security breaches, especially when faced with experienced and cunning sneak thieves who will surely attempt to make history repeat itself.

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#### Footnote

<sup>1</sup>Title 18 USC, Section 2113.

128001



### Police Substations: The Virginia Beach Experience

**T**he delivery of police services continues to be a concern of law enforcement agencies across the Nation. Governing bodies, civic groups, and individual taxpayers expect their agencies to protect them intelligently, efficiently, and cost effectively. However, many elements influence the manner in which law enforcement serves the people. One particular factor is the area patrolled within a given precinct. The size of the precinct and the number of people assigned to it can greatly effect the quality of law enforcement service.

The Virginia Beach, VA, Police Department realized this when one of their precincts experienced unprecedented growth in the early 1980s. Within this department, the first precinct covers an area of 124 square miles and has 124 sworn and civilian personnel assigned to it. Since much of this area was undeveloped rural land, the majority of the city's growth occurred there. Literally, residential developments, office parks, and commercial projects multiplied overnight.

One particular area within the first precinct which experi-

enced meteoric growth was the Kempsville Borough. In late 1985, the five patrol zones within this borough generated almost 50 percent of the calls for service within the precinct. Obviously, a change to enhance service delivery to this area was necessary. The question to be answered was, "What problems needed to be addressed to provide citizens the type of service they deserved and had a right to expect?"

The one problem immediately recognized was the location of the first precinct's facilities, which were located in the Public Safety Building at the city's municipal center complex. This building was located more than 11 miles from some points within the precinct. In addition, the rate of construction outpaced the city's road building and improvement program. This resulted in a dramatic increase in motor vehicle traffic and subsequent back-ups, making travel during peak times especially frustrating. The bottom line, however, was that response times suffered.

The idea to build a substation, or mini-precinct, was recognized as the most viable solution. Such a facility would allow units to get to their assigned patrol zones quicker and would reduce time spent away from their patrol area when handling administrative functions. At the outset, however, the substation was envisioned as only a staging area, not a facility prominently identified or designed to handle walk-in traffic. There would be no desk officers, and

the substation would be closed when officers and supervisors were "on the street."

After considering several places to lease, an existing fire station in the Kempsville Borough was chosen as the site for a police substation. The fire department allocated approximately 675 square feet for police operations, which was enough space for two offices, a muster area, and a supply room.

Initially, the substation operated on day and evening shifts, 5 days a week. Weekend and mid-night shift coverage continued to work out of the Public Safety Building, until a midnight shift was added to the substation 5 months later. At the end of 11 months, the reduction in mileage on substation patrol cars, coupled with an average additional patrol time of one-half hour per officer per shift, amounted to a savings of approximately \$26,000.

A year after opening, the substation's staffing was increased to provide complete coverage of Kempsville's five patrol zones 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Although the substation is part of the first precinct's overall operation, especially with regard to command and administration, it functions operationally as a separate precinct in many respects.

An additional benefit realized by housing the substation in an existing fire station has been the enhancement of the relations between police and fire personnel. The daily contact by the officers and firefighters helped developed both personal and professional friendships that continue to benefit both departments.

It has been substantiated that law enforcement agencies responsible for patrolling large areas can significantly enhance their operational effectiveness and efficiency by establishing substations. With shorter distances to travel, officers can decrease time needed to respond to calls for service. Further, if the site selected for a substation is shared with another public service department, even more benefits can be realized.

Police substations, like the one established by the Virginia Beach Police Department, can be a viable alternative for those departments looking for ways to better serve the citizens whom they are sworn to protect. **FBI**

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*Information for this column was submitted by Lt. A.M. Jacocks, Jr., Virginia Beach, VA, Police Department.*

**Police Practices** serves as an information source for unique or noteworthy methods, techniques, or operations of law enforcement agencies. Submissions should be no more than 750 words (3 pages, double spaced and typed) and should be directed to Kathy Sulewski, Managing Editor, *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, Room 7262, 10th & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20535.