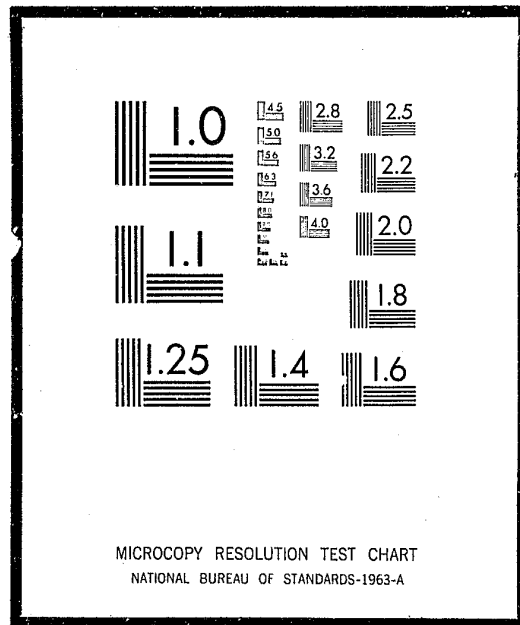


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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
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THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL CRIME SQUAD

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

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The South Central Connecticut Regional Crime Squad has been active now for two years. During this time the effectiveness and the value of the Regional Crime Squad concept has been proven over and over again, not only in South Central Connecticut but throughout the state as well. It's been proven not only by the sheer volume of arrests made but by the excellent conviction rate (demonstrating the value of the evidence gathered) and the quality on-the-job training that squad members receive.

The premise behind the Squad, to reiterate briefly, is that of mobility and flexibility. Individuals engaged in criminal activity have never recognized local political boundaries. Their illicit business has never stopped at the county or town line. Their position outside the law has provided them with the advantage of mobility, an advantage local law enforcement agencies were not able to enjoy. To nullify and erase that advantage, the concept of regional crime squads was developed. Here was an organization that could operate over a wide number of towns, with the added advantage of having individuals who were unknown to local criminals as law enforcement officers. Law enforcement personnel are no longer hampered by city or town boundaries in their attempts to detect, control, and apprehend criminal agents.

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The South Central Connecticut Regional Crime Squad operates separately from the local departments in its area but maintains close cooperation and liaison with them. It has demonstrated its ability to monitor and control organized gambling and traffic in narcotics and other dangerous drugs. Its investigations have led to the apprehension of a number of individuals alleged to be high up in the criminal hierarchy.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Crime Squad devotes most of its energies towards combating the narcotics traffic and illegal gambling activity. They have not proven reluctant however to go into other areas should their investigations lead them there.

Primarily however it is narcotics and gambling that occupy their attention. Narcotics is a large and lucrative enterprise for criminal organizations. Its tentacles reach around the globe from the poppy fields in the Near and Far East through Europe and South America into the streets of virtually every city in the United States. The profits are huge and the cost to the country and individual states is immense.

Gambling is the largest single source of revenue for organized crime, bringing in several million dollars annually in Connecticut alone. Money from this source is used to finance other criminal activities such as loan sharking, "enforcer" techniques, protection rackets against legitimate and illegitimate businesses.

Virtually no town or city in the region has escaped from such activity, yet local departments often lack adequate manpower and resources to effectively control or combat it. This lack of manpower hampers or prevents these departments from utilizing sufficient surveillance techniques or providing saturation-type investigations. The size of the department also aids the criminal in recognizing members of the local department. This manpower deficiency also prevents the departments from building a pool of specialized investigators in these fields. The South Central Connecticut Regional Crime Squad strives to fill this gap.

The objectives of the Regional Crime Squad have been stated in previous reports. Briefly they are:

- 1) To concentrate on prevention of crime and the detection and apprehension of persons engaged in crime.
- 2) To collect, store, and disseminate intelligence information.
- 3) To provide a mobile, organized, experienced source of manpower to the local departments that it serves.
- 4) To develop in its members investigatory skills and expertise.

OPERATIONS

The size of the Regional Crime Squad will vary depending on the local departments' ability to contribute manpower at any given

time. The squad has managed to maintain its strength between 7 and 10 full time personnel under the command of a Detective Sergeant from the New Haven Police Department. Harder, Milford, West Haven, Wallingford, North Haven, New Haven, Meriden, Orange and the Connecticut State Police have all contributed men at one time or another.

The Regional Crime Squad works closely with the New Haven Intelligence and Gambling and Narcotics Divisions and maintains liaison with the other departments through the Chief or a special liaison officer assigned by him. The Squad is designed to supplement, not supplant, investigations by the local departments. To this end, wherever and whenever possible, such investigations are left to local officials. Local departments are notified of squad operations in their respective towns.

In the fall of 1971, a reorganization of the Regional Crime Squads throughout the State was proposed and accepted. The Statewide Enforcement Coordinating Committee was devised. It was to act as recipient of all grant funds and centralize intelligence and staff operations. Because of the pending implementation of this unit, only partial funding was made available to local squads, so that the bulk of the funds would be available when SECC began operations.

Despite the necessary budget limitations, the South Central Connecticut Regional Crime Squad continued its operations, although the scale of its operations were reduced. In November of that year,

a long investigation into gambling activity throughout the region was culminated in the apprehension of numerous individuals, including many key figures in the operation.

As the tight financial situation continued, the Squad utilized this period to clear a backlog of cases and administrative details. A rotation of personnel occurred at the same time and the new members were given the needed orientation and introduction into the squads operation. In March, due to personnel reassignments within the New Haven Department, a new Sergeant assumed command of the Squad.

During the period of October, 1971 and March of 1972, the South Central Connecticut Regional Crime Squad made 112 arrests for sale, narcotics, gaming, pool selling and policy playing, 109 gambling investigations and 24 arrests for charges such as obscenity, sale of firearms, prostitution, etc. These arrests were made in 10 towns in the region, pointing out the wide coverage the squad gives to the region.

Also during this period, narcotic sales totaled 69, 31 of which were sales of heroin. Again this activity covered much of the South Central Connecticut Region. Warrants issued during this period number 280, 82 for gambling.

These statistics give a brief picture, by no means complete, of the activity of the Regional Crime Squad. It points out the basic soundness of the Regional Crime Squad concept. It shows the capability, given the proper leadership and support and it shows what the squad is capable of even in the face of monetary restrictions.

END