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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Virginia

Department of State Police



85239

Annual Report

1981

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

85239

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Commonwealth of Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
Richmond, Virginia

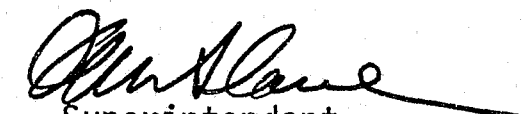
August 2, 1982

The Honorable Charles S. Robb
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Robb:

Enclosed is a report of the activities of the
Department of State Police for the calendar year 1981.

Sincerely,


Superintendent

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Enclosure

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PERSONNEL

There was a total of 1,905 established positions in the Department at the end of the year which included 1,329 police and 576 civilian positions. Final vacancies existed in 11 police and 16 civilian positions.

A total of 59 police and 71 civilian personnel were employed during the year as opposed to a loss of 40 police and 68 civilian personnel. The turnover rate was 3.04% for police and 12.21% for civilians as compared to a turnover rate in 1980 of 4.40% for police and 10.05% for civilians. Average police strength for the year was 1,315.

During the year, six fully trained troopers were reemployed and one former trooper was reinstated from disability retirement.

An expanded effort in recruitment of minorities and females was maintained during the year through the recruiting staff, media advertising, and field personnel. The expanded effort resulted in 1,179 applications for trooper being received.

Of the 59 police employments, 3 were Special Agent Accountants, which required critical skills, and 7 were reemployments of fully trained members. Of the 49 initial employments in the trooper position, 6 were minority and 6 were female, which constituted 12.2% for each category. Of the civilian employments, 14 were minority, which constituted 19.7% of total civilian employment.

TRAINING

The State Police Academy staff provided a full training program throughout the year.

One basic school was graduated during this period while 44 men and women entered the trooper trainee

program. In addition, training sessions were conducted for supervisors (sworn and civilian), special agents, scuba divers, canine handlers, polygraph examiners, breath-test operators, tactical team members, firearms instructors, first-aid instructors, secretaries, accident investigators, former members, and others.

The training facility was used by a host of agencies such as the Henrico County Police Department, Chesterfield County Police Department, Department of Commerce, ABC Board, Criminal Justice Services Commission, and others. There were 19 training sessions conducted for these officers.

During the year, 261 members of the Department attended 102 outside schools where they received 13,660 hours of instruction.

Upon request from the criminal justice academies, community colleges, and police departments, the Department furnished 342 instructors who provided 1,880 hours of instruction.

There was a total of 187 sessions of training conducted at the Academy resulting in 5,795 hours of instruction for 4,265 officers.

ENFORCEMENT

The records maintained by the Records and Statistics Division reflect that members of the Department reported 407,478 arrests during the 1981 calendar year. Arrests for offenses involving the highways totaled 391,643 or 96.1% of the total reported. Arrests for traffic offenses totaled 388,242 or 95.3% of the total reported. The 389,154 traffic cases that cleared the courts resulted in a conviction rate of 89.1%.

In adjudicating traffic cases, the courts imposed \$10,921,635 in fines, assessed \$6,001,402 in court

costs, assessed \$2,087,214 as liquidation damages in overweight cases, and imposed jail sentences totaling 737 years.

In adjudicating criminal cases, the courts imposed \$404,077 in fines, assessed \$253,365 in court costs, and imposed jail sentences totaling 3,465 years.

Arrests for traffic offenses involving commercial vehicles totaled 125,719 or 32.4% of the total traffic offenses charged, whereas commercial vehicles accounted for 26.8% of the average daily traffic flow for the year on interstate, arterial, and primary routes. Arrests for hazardous violations totaled 97,407 or 77.5% of the total traffic offenses charged against commercial vehicle operators.

Members of the Department also conducted 10,127 investigations during the year. As a result of these investigations, 871 stolen vehicles valued at \$2,966,710; 38 vehicles seized with \$5,066 accruing to the Commonwealth as a result of sales; and other stolen property valued at \$814,469 were recovered. This property valuation added to the fines, costs, and liquidation damages assessed by the courts totals \$23,453,938.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL RECORDS EXCHANGE

The Central Criminal Records Exchange processed 105,803 sets of fingerprints and added 32,076 individual criminal history records to the repository. Additionally, 163,773 inquiries from federal, state, and municipal agencies, and individuals were answered and 945,600 criminal history document images were produced on microfilm.

ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC CRASHES

During the year, there were 117,981 crashes in which 1,012 persons received fatal injuries and 59,788

persons received nonfatal injuries. Total crashes increased 1.4%, injury crashes increased 3.4%, and fatal crashes decreased 3.3%.

The mileage death rate per 100,000,000 miles traveled in Virginia reflects a decrease from 2.81 in 1980 to 2.78 in 1981, and remains somewhat lower than the national rate of 3.27 for the year.

In addition to the routine analysis of Virginia's 1981 motor vehicle crash experience to provide meaningful information for enforcement, engineering, and educational purposes, the logging operation of the Accident Records Section identified 2,103 crash-prone locations.

These locations were brought to the attention of the enforcement and engineering personnel for such further analysis and corrective action as the existing conditions warranted in furtherance of our cooperative effort with the Department of Highways and Transportation to eliminate highway hazards and correct unsafe driver behavior.

VIRGINIA CRIMINAL INFORMATION NETWORK

The Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN), a computer controlled communications facility, is composed of 338 terminals maintained by 151 agencies. These terminals are in municipal police departments, sheriffs' offices, State Police offices, county police departments, judges' offices, Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices, Federal Bureau of Investigation offices, the Division of Motor Vehicles, and Army Provost Marshal's office. The State Police Administrative Headquarters acts as the control center, and all computer switching equipment is located and controlled from this point.

During 1981, this Network handled approximately 14,784,857 transactions. There were 1,815,007 transactions between the Network and the National

Crime Information Center's computerized data base. There were 3,496,321 transactions between the Network and the Department of Computer Services. The remainder of the activity included replies to these data base transactions and other police communications.

The Department serves as the Virginia point of entry in the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and is the Virginia control agency for the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) operation.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation answered 3,419 requests for assistance which resulted in 4,101 investigations during the calendar year 1981. Of these requests, 2,164 or 63% were pursuant to Section 52-8.1 of the Code of Virginia which permits the Governor, Attorney General, any Commonwealth's Attorney, sheriff, chief of police, or grand jury to request an investigation. Bureau arrests totaled 1,598.

Categories of crimes investigated in 1981 were:

Crimes Against Persons	715
Crimes Against Property	2,251
Statutory Crimes	1,410
Organized Crimes	30
White Collar Crimes	166

The Arson Investigation Division was involved in the investigation of 1,166 cases of which 920 were fire related. The remaining 246 cases were related to explosives, bomb threats, and removal and destruction of hazardous materials.

In our effort to apprehend major narcotics traffickers in 1981, 510 persons were arrested on 713 drug related charges. As a result of these efforts, narcotics with a street value of \$117,378,609, 21 vehicles, and \$151,136 in currency were seized.

During 1981, the Bureau contributed personnel and equipment in its participation with federal and local law enforcement agencies in an anti-fencing undercover operation. This involvement resulted in 75 individuals being indicted on 300 criminal violations. Stolen property valued at \$500,000 was recovered.

The Bureau conducted 2,383 hours of instruction at community colleges, the Forensic Science Academy, and various police academies throughout the Commonwealth. Its members also presented numerous drug and crime related lectures to 6,422 persons.

The Bureau, in an effort to maintain a high degree of expertise in the field of criminal investigation, continued its concerted effort in the field of training. In addition to the regular Special Agents' In-Service School, a Basic Agents' School was conducted for newly appointed agents. Two members were graduated from the Forensic Science Academy, bringing to 16 the number who have received this specialized training. Three agents graduated from the Backster School of Lie Detection and 12 agents successfully completed an Analytical Investigation Methods Course. Other related courses of instruction attended by members of the Bureau were: FBI National Academy and Computer Related Crimes Seminar, Quantico, Virginia; Frances Glessner Lee Seminar in Homicide Investigation, Baltimore, Maryland; Hostage Negotiation Seminar, Richmond, Virginia; Executive Protection Seminar, Richmond, Virginia; Art of Interrogation School, Washington, D. C.; and numerous Forensic Science Academy sponsored seminars.

FINANCES

Funds available, expenditures, and balance for the calendar year 1981 were:

Funds Available	\$57,789,446.40
Expended	<u>57,664,154.48</u>
Unexpended Balance	\$ 125,291.92

COMMUNICATIONS

The Department's radio communications are handled from eight radio dispatch centers, one located in each field division plus the additional one at Melfa in the Fifth Division.

Radio dispatch service was furnished to approximately 200 mobile units of other governmental agencies, including the Governor's Office; sheriffs' offices; Federal Bureau of Investigation; ABC Board; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division of the U. S. Treasury Department; U. S. Secret Service; Bureau of Mine Safety; U. S. Marshal's Office; Department of Highways and Transportation; and Division of Motor Vehicles.

Radio contact is maintained with the Maryland State Police at Salisbury through the Melfa dispatch center. The Norfolk Division Headquarters has radio contact with most of the jurisdictions in the Norfolk metropolitan area. The Culpeper Division Headquarters has contact with most of the jurisdictions in the Washington area, including the Maryland State Police, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the U. S. Park Police. The Wytheville Division has contact with the Tennessee Highway Patrol at Kingsport.

The radio system handled 1,345,051 radio messages during the year.

The Communications Division maintained on a continuing basis approximately 20,000 pieces of radio and electronic equipment operated by the Department of State Police, the Department of Highways and Transportation, the Enforcement Division of the ABC Board, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the State Division of Forestry, the Division of Motor Vehicles, and mobile and base station equipment operated by the Office of Emergency and Energy Services.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION

Virginia's periodic motor vehicle inspection program on two occasions has been rated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the Federal Department of Transportation as being outstanding and the only one which was one hundred percent in compliance with the federal highway safety standard on motor vehicle inspection. During 1981, representatives from other states contacted Virginia in order to secure information on our program. Various members of the Department were called upon to serve on motor vehicle inspection forums and explain Virginia's system.

Motor vehicle inspection continued to be one of the best preventive maintenance measures since it does not rely on voluntary compliance.

The Department supervised 3,637 inspection stations and 21,506 mechanics. More than 7,268,778 inspections were conducted. Supervision of the program required 2.5% of all trooper man-hours, and the total cost of administering the program amounted to 13 cents for each inspection. The percentage of defective vehicles found on inspection amounted to approximately 21.4%. This was an increase of approximately .2% compared with 1980.

Interest in the inspection program on the part of the repair garages desiring to qualify as official inspection stations continued to be high during the year. As a result of the many applications received, 262 new inspection stations were appointed.

APPROVAL OF SAFETY DEVICES

The approval, or waiver of approval, procedure enabled us to retain control of safety devices installed on motor vehicles covered by our statutes. The simplified identification procedure is of tremendous

aid to inspectors in expediting their work, as well as to our enforcement people. Most original, as well as after-market, producers of motor vehicle devices are now following this identification procedure.

The increase in imported vehicles continued to require the issuance of many formal approval certificates since some of the foreign manufacturers have not yet tooled for waiver identification. There were 488 applications for formal approval and waiver of approval processed during 1981.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTICIPATION

Members of this Department actively engaged in many outstanding national and local organizations' promotion of traffic safety programs. This has been a source of great value in improving Virginia's traffic position by increasing public awareness and interest in our efforts.

INTRADEPARTMENTAL SAFETY

The Department's procedures for compiling reportable crashes involving its vehicles and the resultant standards of responsibility for our operators continued to be far stricter than those applied to the general public. Departmental vehicles were operated a total of 38,755,309 miles and the mileage rate for reportable crashes in which the Department operator was deemed to be negligent amounted to one in each 267,278 miles.

STATE-OPERATED MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Following the pattern established in 1949, a Progress Report was prepared for the Governor covering the administration of the safety program for all State-owned vehicles owned by the Central Garage Pool. The Accident Prevention Committee was composed of

representatives of 12 State agencies. Committee members met each month and reviewed all crashes involving State-owned and operated equipment. Special attention was given to trends and patterns so proper recommendations could be given agency administrators to assist them in programs designed to improve State drivers. Cooperation of all State departments has remained extremely high, as evidenced by their continuing efforts to make improvements.

Additionally, in keeping with the provisions of Executive Order Number Fifty-one (81), uniform guidelines were prepared and forwarded to the head of each State agency, department, institution or school on August 3, 1981, for the establishment of an Agency Accident and Safety Program to include the operation of all agency-owned motor vehicles.

TRAFFIC SAFETY PROMOTION

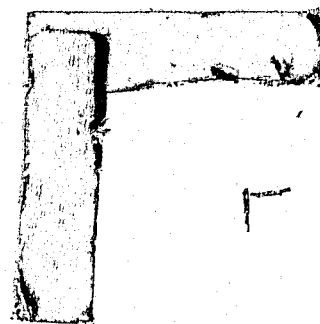
During 1981, the Department continued to work very closely with the Department of Transportation Safety on matters of mutual interest.

The Department also maintained very close liaison with the Traffic and Safety Division of the Department of Highways and Transportation. Through these cooperative efforts, several highway hazards and accident-prone locations were corrected.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION/MAINTENANCE

House Bill No. 116 was enacted by the 1980 General Assembly and charged the Department of State Police with the responsibility of adopting rules and regulations for the administration and implementation of a Vehicle Emissions Inspection/Maintenance Program. These rules and regulations were adopted by the Superintendent on December 16, 1980, and received high praise from consumer groups, local governmental agencies, other states, garage owners, and the federal government as being fair and well written.

Virginia began inspecting vehicles on December 11, 1981. To date, over 175,000 motor vehicles have been inspected by approximately 300 official emissions inspection stations. The program has been well received by the public, members of the General Assembly, and the news media. This fact is supported by the minimal number of complaints received from the public concerning this program. To date, the Department has investigated approximately 25 complaints, four of which were substantiated, and the appropriate corrective action taken.



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