



SOUTH CAROLINA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Law Enforcement, Criminal and Civil Justice
Subcommittee

Chairman Chris Wooten

The Honorable William H. Bailey
The Honorable Kambrell H. Garvin
The Honorable Leon Douglas “Doug” Gilliam
The Honorable Jefferey E. “Jeff” Johnson

A G E N D A

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Room 110 – Blatt Building

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. Discussion of the Study of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
 - Criminal Justice Information Services
 - Office of Homeland Security
- III. Adjournment



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Chair Jeffrey E. “Jeff” Johnson

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MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Room 427 – Blatt Building

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.7, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly’s website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on Committee Postings and Reports, then under House Standing Committees click on Legislative Oversight. Then, click on Video Archives for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

The Law Enforcement and Criminal and Civil Justice Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Wooten on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, in Room 427 of the Blatt Building. Representative Leon D. “Doug” Gilliam, Representative Kambrell H. Garvin, and Representative William H. Bailey were present for all or a portion of the meeting. Representative Jeffrey E. “Jeff” Johnson was not present.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.

Approval of Minutes

- I. Representative Gilliam made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from prior meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Garvin's motion to approve meeting minutes.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Wooten	✓		
Rep. Johnson			✓
Rep. Garvin	✓		
Rep. Gilliam	✓		
Rep. Bailey	✓		

Discussion of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

- I. Prior to beginning today's testimony, Chair Wooten asks if there are any SLED agency representatives who may address the subcommittee today or at future meetings who have not been placed under oath. Major B. Douglas Mazyck, Lieutenant Kevin Preston, and Captain Kukila Wallace were all sworn.
- II. Major Mazyck begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:
 1. SLED Office of Regulatory Services Overview.

Throughout his presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Major Mazyck questions and he responds.

- III. Lieutenant Kevin Preston begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:
 1. Office of Regulatory Services.

Throughout his presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Lieutenant Preston questions and he responds.

- IV. Captain Kukila Wallace begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:
 1. Office of Regulatory Services.

Throughout his presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Captain Wallace questions and she responds.

Adjournment

- I. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (SLED)



ABOUT

On May 14, 1935, the General Assembly created the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to enforce the state liquor law, assist any law enforcement officer in the detection of crime, along with the enforcement of the state's criminal laws. Funding was provided for 21 new officers to the existing three members of the State Constabulary.

MISSION

The primary mission of SLED is to provide quality manpower and technical assistance to all law enforcement agencies in South Carolina to ensure that every citizen in the State of South Carolina is afforded an equal level of law enforcement service. SLED is also tasked with protecting and preserving the safety, integrity, and security of South Carolina's citizens and all statewide public resources, infrastructure, and data. SLED also conducts timely, thorough, and professional criminal investigations on behalf of the State of South Carolina along with many other statutory roles and responsibilities.

VISION

SLED seeks to be the premier law enforcement agency in the State of South Carolina so as to ensure every citizen in South Carolina is provided an equal level of law enforcement services.

SUCCESSSES

- ❖ Experienced staff with a wide range of talents capable of handling a variety of tasks and projects.
- ❖ Collaboration and coordination with regional and federal counterparts to provide the highest quality of service.
- ❖ Personnel's dedication, ability and involvement in the law enforcement profession as subject matter experts in their own individual areas of expertise.
- ❖ Commitment to maintaining accreditation to ensure law enforcement partners have access to the best forensic analysis possible.

DEPARTMENTS

- ❖ Alcohol, Narcotics & Vice Services
- ❖ Criminal Justice Information Services
- ❖ South Carolina Information and Intelligence Center
- ❖ Counterterrorism
- ❖ Forensic Services
- ❖ Homeland Security
- ❖ Investigative Services
- ❖ Regulatory Services

EMPLOYEES

758

Authorized FTEs

FUNDING

\$148,137,395

Total Funds

CHALLENGES

- ❖ Personnel turnover
- ❖ Succession planning issues
- ❖ Reliance on others and outside factors causing a delay in case progress.
- ❖ High volume of plant material testing cases has caused a time delay in receiving results.
- ❖ Continued use of an outdated case management system.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES (CJIS)

House Legislative Oversight Committee

Major Charles M. Coats, Jr.

Director, SLED-CJIS | South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

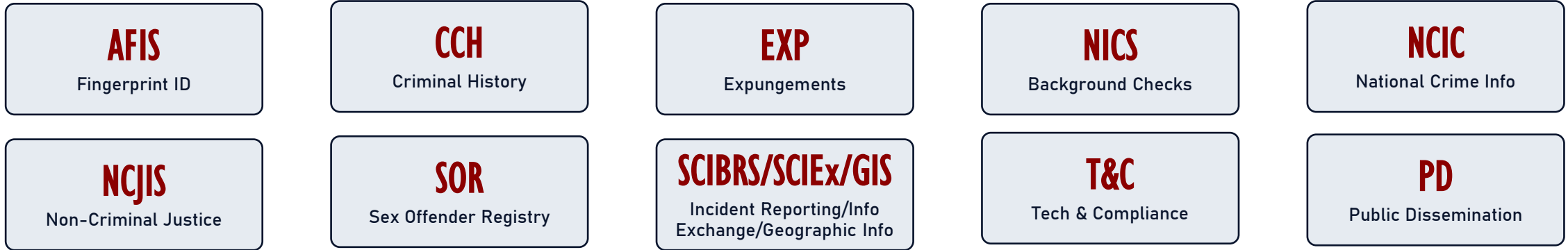
WHAT IS SLED-CJIS?



The backbone of criminal justice information in South Carolina

SLED-CJIS is the only agency in South Carolina authorized to manage and disseminate criminal history information. Under S.C. Code § 23-3-15 and § 23-3-110, we operate the state's central criminal justice database — connecting every law enforcement agency, court, and authorized employer in the state.

NICS moved under CJIS April 17, 2026 | Direct reports: Michelle Moore, Captain Natalie Crosland, Captain Bryan Ridgeway



Ten units. One mission: accurate, timely, secure criminal justice information for every officer, court, and background check in South Carolina.

OUR PEOPLE



80 professionals. Critical infrastructure. A workforce at risk.

80

Total Personnel

49

Permanent State Nonsworn FTE

10

State Temporary

21

Grant-Funded

39% OF POSITIONS ARE NON-PERMANENT

26% Grant-Funded

Grant employees cannot be cross-trained due to grant restrictions. These positions do essential, ongoing work — NICS data entry, CCH corrections, NCIC auditing, fingerprint training. The work does not stop when a grant cycle ends.

13% State Temporary

Subject to renewal cycles with no guarantee of continuity. These roles take months to train and years to master. When we lose experienced staff, that capacity takes real time to rebuild.

NICS ADDS 9 MORE GRANT POSITIONS

8 data entry specialists + 1 EDMS Systems Administrator. 8 of 9 NICS positions are grant-funded.

This is the most grant-dependent unit in CJIS by ratio — and it provides information for every firearm background check in South Carolina.



THE FINGERPRINT FOUNDATION

A criminal record cannot be created without a fingerprint. Everything begins here.

WHY FINGERPRINTS MATTER



S.C. Code § 23-3-120 — the law that holds it all together

The Law: Any individual subjected to a lawful custodial arrest must be fingerprinted at booking, and those prints submitted to SLED within three days (excluding weekends and holidays).

WITHOUT A FINGERPRINT

No criminal record can be created or updated.

The arrest and any subsequent conviction will not appear on a background check.

Disqualified individuals may bypass safeguards:

- Unlawfully purchase or transfer a firearm
- Secure sensitive employment — teachers, nurses, social workers, law enforcement
- Receive judicial decisions based on an incomplete record

Latent prints stored in AFIS let examiners link suspects to crime scenes years after an offense.

THE COST OF GAPS

Emanuel AME Church — 2015

The shooter had a disqualifying drug arrest. The relevant incident report was not accessible to NICS within the federally mandated determination window.

Nine people were murdered.

Every missing fingerprint, every unattached disposition, every unsubmitted print on a livescan machine is a gap in the record. Gaps have consequences.

AFIS — THE FOUNDATION SYSTEM



Cloud migration complete — new capabilities we've never had before

Oct 7, 2025

AFIS Cloud Go-Live

Azure Gov

Evergreen Platform

First in U.S.

DHS Latent ID

Our Automated Fingerprint Identification System confirms who a person actually is at booking. People lie about their identity. Fingerprints don't. On October 7, 2025, we completed the most significant technology upgrade CJIS has done in years — a cloud migration to the Microsoft Azure Government cloud.

Iris Capture

A first for South Carolina. Building the state iris repository through court-level pilot programs.

Scars, Marks & Tattoos

Digital SMT capture significantly assists state law enforcement investigations.

Deceased ID Pilot

Partnered with coroners statewide to identify unknown individuals and support cold-case resolution.

DHS IDENT Integration

Latent cases can now be submitted to Homeland Security — producing the first DHS latent ID in the U.S.

AFIS — HARD CARDS & TRAINING



Digitizing decades of records while training the agencies who feed the system

149,417

Hard Cards Prepared

137,282

Shipped to Mentalix

101,239

Fully Processed

2,419

CJA Prints (2025)

THE HARD CARD PROJECT

A multi-year effort to digitize decades of physical fingerprint cards. We've prepared 149,417 cards, shipped 137,282 to our vendor Mentalix, and fully processed 101,239 into AFIS. This work is critical for improving identification rates across criminal, civil, and latent-hit investigations — and we have several more years of it ahead.

TRAINING & STAFFING

1 Supervisor + 13 Positions

7 state FTE | 3 grant-funded | 3 state temp

20 Training Classes — 265 Students (2025)

AFIS trainers work directly with local agencies to ensure fingerprint quality, review error reports, and conduct monthly dashboards.

A FIRST IN THE NATION



What the AFIS investment produced — a real case

NOVEMBER 29, 2025 — RICHLAND COUNTY

A homicide occurred in Richland County. Investigators could not identify the victim at the scene. Postmortem fingerprints were obtained at autopsy and forwarded to the RCSD Forensic Sciences Laboratory.

The left thumb was searched in the state AFIS system. No match. Then searched through the FBI's Next Generation Identification system. No match.

Then searched through the Department of Homeland Security IDENT system — a capability that only exists because of our AFIS upgrade.

Hit received. Victim identified.

This was the first successful latent identification using the DHS IDENT system in the United States.

SLED insisted on DHS integration during the AFIS upgrade negotiation. That decision made this identification possible.

THE FINGERPRINT COMPLIANCE CRISIS



§ 23-3-120 requires submission within 3 days. **Agencies are not complying.**

7%

Direct Indictments Fingerprinted

12%

2025 Arrests Missing

1,000+

Unsubmitted on Livescans

4

Pilot Counties

THE PROBLEM

In 2025, only 7% of roughly 4,300 direct indictments were represented in the state criminal history repository — because fingerprints were never submitted.

Some detention facilities have more than 1,000 fingerprints sitting unsubmitted on their livescan machines — taken, but never transmitted to SLED.

The critical gap: no penalty mechanism. SLED cannot hold agencies accountable when audits find non-compliance. Without legislation that includes penalties, audits are advisory only.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Solicitor Pilot Program

Launched 2025 in Cherokee, Richland, York, and Charleston, along with the SLED Grand Jury Unit— capturing prints at the moment of conviction to close the direct-indictment gap.

Booking Audits

Systematic audits of every submitting agency began April 2026 — identifying unsubmitted prints and classifying agencies as compliant or non-compliant under § 23-3-120.

COMPUTERIZED CRIMINAL HISTORY



A 40-year-old COBOL system, fully rebuilt — and SLED owns the code

240,708

CCH Searches (2024)

73,566

Modifications (2024)

88,992

Expungements (2024)

1,424

Gun Flags Set (2025)

THE REBUILD

Completed March 2025 with vendor Kopis. SLED owns the product code — modifications and integrations no longer require paying a vendor each time.

\$1M+/yr → tens of thousands. That's the drop in annual maintenance cost from the old system to the new one.

The new system enables mass disposition uploads, county-level reporting, and a web portal where agencies submit corrections electronically.

WORKLOAD SURGES

Pardons: 991 → 3,623 (+266%)

Summary Court Exp: 14,444 → 32,422 (+124%)

NICS Challenges: 540 → 2,462 (+356%)

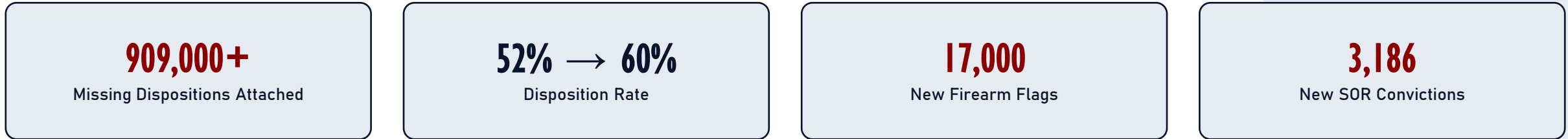
CCH Unit: 8 positions (6 FTE, 1 temp, 1 grant). Expungements: 8 positions (3 FTE, 3 temp, 2 grant).

Both units flagged 'critical' in the CALEA workload assessment.

CLOSING THE DISPOSITION GAP



January 2026: 33 million dispositions cross-referenced



WHAT THIS MEANS IN PLAIN TERMS

- 909,000+ dispositions attached: convictions, acquittals, and other outcomes that existed in court systems but were never connected to the arrest record. Until January 2026, those records were effectively invisible.
- 17,000 new firearm disqualification flags: individuals who should have been flagged as prohibited — but weren't. For months or years, their background checks returned incomplete results.
- 3,186 new Sex Offender Registry convictions: qualifying sex-offense convictions not previously reflected in the SOR, identified for the first time.

*None of this analysis could be performed on the old COBOL system. **This is what investing in modern infrastructure delivers.***

NATIONAL INSTANT BACKGROUND CHECK



South Carolina is a Point of Contact state — every FFL contacts SLED directly



AUTHORITY & HISTORY

Mandated by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993, operational since November 1998. SLED established its NICS Unit in 2013 after S.C. Code § 23-31-1010 required probate courts to report mental-health adjudications.

As a Point of Contact state, South Carolina runs its own checks rather than relying on the FBI — faster and more thorough, but SLED carries the full operational load.

8 of 9 NICS positions are grant-funded. One state FTE supervisor; everyone else on grant money.

SC STATE DISQUALIFIERS

Applied in addition to the 9 federal prohibiting categories:

- § 16-23-30 — Violent crime conviction
- § 16-23-500 — Crime of violence
- § 16-25-30 — Domestic violence (PDAA)
- § 44-23-1080 — Mental health adjudication

NICS challenges: +356% (540 in 2022 → 2,462 in 2024). Eight employees do nothing but this work.

BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT



Under-21 enhanced background checks — a federal mandate with a state-law conflict

5,799

U21 Checks (2025)

1.58%

SC Denial Rate

9%

National Rate

21,012

U21 Since BSCA

THE MANDATE

Enacted June 25, 2022 after Buffalo and Uvalde — the first major federal gun legislation in 30 years. For transfers to 18-to-20-year-olds, NICS must contact the state repository, the state mental-health custodian, and local law enforcement, with up to 10 business days to complete the check. SC's 1.58% denial rate runs well below the 9% national rate — reflecting either fewer disqualifying records or gaps in juvenile-record availability.

U21 totals: 6,195 (2023), 6,061 (2024), 5,799 (2025).

STATUTORY CONFLICT

SLED's Title 23 requires fingerprints for all custodial arrests. DJJ's Title 63 restricts juvenile fingerprint submission to the FBI unless the juvenile is tried as an adult.

Juvenile cards can't be submitted electronically — they must be mailed or hand-delivered. SLED does not receive court disposition information for qualifying juvenile offenses.

These statutes must be reconciled for the BSCA to function as intended.

NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER



Operational since 1967. Available 24 / 7 / 365.

55,362

Wanted Persons

1,072

Missing Persons

7,911

Protection Orders

1,022

Violent Persons

SLED's ROLE

- ✓ SLED is South Carolina's CJIS Systems Agency. Under § 23-3-15(4), we operate and maintain the state's criminal justice database and data communication system.
- ✓ We audit every agency with NCIC access — 450+ agencies on a triennial cycle. If South Carolina falls out of compliance with FBI standards, the FBI can revoke our access.
- ✓ That would go dark on the national information network for every officer in this state.

VIOLENT PERSON FILE

Created by the FBI in 2012 to track individuals who pose significant threats to law enforcement. Searched automatically during every Wanted Person query.

SC had just 329 entries before our pilot. We added 500 in 2024 and 320 in 2025 — **now 800 total.**

When an officer runs someone with a VPF entry, they know what they're walking into. That's an officer-safety tool.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY — PURPOSE



One of South Carolina's most important public safety tools

THE MISSION

The Registry is a centralized statewide resource for collecting, maintaining, and analyzing offender information. It gives law enforcement immediate access to identify, monitor, and locate individuals convicted of qualifying offenses — and strengthens communication between local, state, and out-of-state agencies.

STATUTORY FOUNDATION

S.C. Code § 23-3-400 through 555 established the Registry in 1994 as a vital public safety measure to protect communities, aid investigations, and deter recidivism.

Article 7, Chapter 3 (amended 2025) sets a three-tier classification with different registration, re-registration, and removal rules per tier.

THE FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

1994 Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children & Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act

1996 Pam Lychner Sexual Offender Tracking & Identification Act

2006 Adam Walsh Act — SORNA; establishes the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website

2016 International Megan's Law

South Carolina's registry is built to align with this federal framework.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY — OPERATIONS



8 positions. 46 Sheriff's Offices. A registry that must stay accurate.

8

Unit Positions

46

Sheriff's Offices

137

Removal Petitions (2025)

44

Offenders Removed

WHAT THE UNIT DOES

- Maintain the Registry and ensure Sheriff's Offices enter offender information correctly; maintain the registering-agency protocol manual (§ 23-3-530); train new Sheriff's Office points of contact; and audit every agency entering data into the Sex Offender Registry Tool (SORT) for compliance with state statutes and SORNA.
- Process removals (§ 23-3-462) and court orders, address checks, name changes, and adoptions; complete SORNA Exchange Portal messages from other states, territories, and tribes; and maintain NCIC certifications to run records on out-of-state offenders. Quarterly POC meetings and a Regional Representatives Program keep agencies aligned.

8 positions: 3 state FTE (incl. Supervisor Amanda Threatt), 2 state temporary, 3 grant-funded.

MODERNIZATION

Topaz Signature Tablets

Procured and distributed to all 46 Sheriff's Offices through grant funding — enabling digital documentation and eliminating paper forms.

SORT Automation

SORT now requires manual dual-entry to transmit updates to the FBI's National Sex Offender Registry. SLED requested a \$124,925 scope change to the 2023 AWA grant to build a secure, automated near-real-time interface.

Status: pending AWA scope-change approval.

SCIBRS — CRIME DATA REPORTING



The state's incident-based crime reporting hub

91%

Participation (2024)

85%

Use of Force (from 40%)

80

Training Sessions

10–11

Agency Audits / Year

AUTHORITY & ROLE

SCIBRS collects, manages, and analyzes incident-based crime data statewide, ensuring submissions are accurate and complete to state and federal standards. Authority comes from S.C. Code of Regulations § 73-21 (organization and function) and § 73-30 (mandatory incident and arrest reporting).

FIVE VOLUNTARY FBI COLLECTIONS

Beyond UCR / NIBRS, SCIBRS promotes and collects:

- Hate Crime Statistics
- LEOKA — officers killed or assaulted
- National Use of Force Data Collection
- Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection
- Lawful Access — encryption barriers to investigations

SCIBRS — THE STANDARDIZATION CHALLENGE



Why inconsistent reporting hurts every CJIS unit — and what would fix it

THE PROBLEM

- **Data verification is still manual:** our auditor must contact each agency's point of contact for complete incident reports. Responses are slow, and the reports we get back are often heavily redacted or incomplete.
- Because there is **no standardized incident report**, SCIBRS must constantly adapt to each agency's format. Agencies often discover errors only during the annual publication — forcing last-minute rewrites that delay the public report.
- **Location data is captured only as broad categories** — hotel, residence, parking lot — not coordinates. That limits crime mapping to the county or municipal level.

CROSS-UNIT IMPACT & THE FIX

Non-standardized reports don't just slow SCIBRS — they ripple into AFIS, the Sex Offender Registry, and Criminal History, forcing duplication of effort across SLED units.

What would fix it:

- Mandate standardized incident & booking reports
- Modernize to XML / web-services automated submission
- **Enforce penalties for non-compliance under § 73-30**
- Provide state records & jail management systems so smaller agencies aren't left behind

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES



Mapping, spatial analysis, and visualization across SLED

WHAT GIS DOES

ESRI-based mapping, spatial analysis, and data visualization. The unit joined CJIS in 2021 and serves SLED investigative units, external agencies, and executive command — five staff in all.

Statistical Research Analyst MD Atikur Rahman serves as the SCIBRS-GIS liaison, integrating GIS technology into crime-data reporting and delivering the visualizations that inform strategic planning.

The dependency: GIS crime mapping is only as precise as the location data SCIBRS receives — which is exactly why coordinate-level, standardized reporting matters.

2024 WORK

- Search-grid map for the Hilton Head missing-person case
- Interactive Chester County 911 CAD maps — shootings, overdoses
- Aviation-unit school maps for Lexington & Richland
- 3 use-of-force dashboards in the SLED Executive Site
- Sex-offender residence proximity-compliance tool
- Human Trafficking Task Force, GIC Council & State Grand Jury support

PUBLIC DISSEMINATION & CATCH



The public-facing side of CJIS

28,665

Apps Processed

16,262

Mail Checks

10–15%

CATCH Increase

WHAT PD HANDLES

The central hub for all mailed-in public requests: criminal history checks, name-change requests (§ 15-49-20), expungement orders (§ 17-22-940), SOR removals (§ 23-3-462), and regulatory applications.

Fee structure under § 23-3-115: \$25 standard, \$8 charitable, free for schools checking substitute teachers.

Half this unit is temporary — 3 of 6 positions

CATCH REBUILD

CATCH — Citizens' Access to Criminal History — was rebuilt and launched April 2025, aligned with the CCH redevelopment. The public, school districts, and charitable organizations get faster access with fewer false positives and false negatives.

Result: a 10–15% increase in transactions since the upgrade.

SOR removal applications (Jan 2025–Apr 2026): 145 processed, \$36,250 in fees.

CJIS TECHNOLOGY & THE MESSAGE SWITCH



LEMS — the backbone connecting every SC agency to national systems

122.4M

Messages (2025)

~335K

Messages / Day

15,459

Devices in LEMS

24/7/365

Always On

WHAT LEMS CARRIES

The Law Enforcement Message Switch routes every NCIC query, criminal history inquiry, DMV lookup, NLETS message, and BOLO alert for every agency in South Carolina — plus access to DHS-ICE, Interpol, and Canada. *When an officer runs a license at 2 a.m. on 1-26, that query runs through LEMS. It must be operational every minute of every day — and it is.*

2025 activity: 122,355,523 messages, 972 agencies served, 1,619 devices added.

CRITICAL STAFFING RISK

The Technology & Compliance unit has just 4 positions — 1 supervisor, 2 state FTE, 1 grant-funded. In 2025 they managed 19 vendors and completed 1,095 actions.

This unit requires a rare combination of CJIS operational knowledge and technical security expertise. The grant-funded position is essential to managing the volume of access requests.

Conversion of this position to state FTE is recommended.

MAJOR TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS



Five completed. Three in progress. Two awaiting funding.

PROJECT	STATUS	DETAIL
CCH System Rebuild	COMPLETE	March 2025
AFIS Cloud Migration	COMPLETE	October 7, 2025
CATCH System Rebuild	COMPLETE	April 2025
CWP Applicant System	COMPLETE	January 6, 2026
NICS Under CJIS	COMPLETE	April 17, 2026
NLETS NIEM Conversion	IN PROGRESS	~95% in production; in-house completion
NCIC NIEM Conversion	IN PROGRESS	Kickoff Nov 2025; FBI deadline Dec 2026
CJIS Applicant System	IN PROGRESS	User acceptance testing
SCIEx Rebuild	PENDING FUNDING	\$1.562M NCHIP requested
SORT Automation	PENDING	AWA scope change requested

NIEM XML CONVERSION



Not optional. The FBI's deadline is December 2026. We are on track.

All CJIS Systems Agencies must convert to NIEM XML format for NCIC and Interstate Identification Index data. Without conversion, new NCIC functionality — improved capabilities, new files, fields, and codes — becomes inaccessible to South Carolina.

NLETS CONVERSION

Vendor (Unisys): COMPLETE

Production ~95% complete. Remaining work is in-house, done in groups to minimize complications.

NCIC CONVERSION

Status: IN PROGRESS

Kicked off November 2025 with Unisys. ~300 unique transaction types identified.

FBI deadline: December 2026

IF WE MISS THE DEADLINE

We would lose access to enhanced NCIC capabilities as they roll out. New file types, fields, and codes would be available only in NIEM format — and South Carolina would operate with a degraded version of the national system while every compliant state moves forward. We are on track to meet the deadline.

SC INFORMATION EXCHANGE (SCIEx)



A statewide records exchange — and why it must be rebuilt

~80%

Agencies Can't Replicate

\$1.562M

Rebuild Requested

N-DEx

FBI National Feed

LInX

NCIS Exchange

WHY THIS MATTERS

SCIEx is SC's statewide repository of law enforcement records — incident reports, citations, case files — replicated from local agency systems and shared with the FBI's N-DEx and NCIS's LInX.

The Emanuel AME connection: the 2015 shooter had a disqualifying arrest, but the relevant incident report was not accessible to NICS within the determination window. SCIEx gaps contributed. The rebuild directly addresses this.

THE REBUILD PLAN

- Real-time access to incident reports, arrests, warrants, and citations
- A statewide replication specification so agencies can actually contribute
- NIEM-compliant XML for interoperability with NICS, III, N-DEx, LInX
- Connection to LEEP for federal data access

Staffing: one Special Agent runs this statewide system. It needs support.

FEDERAL GRANT LANDSCAPE



Four programs, now consolidated — the funding that keeps CJIS running

In 2026, NCHIP, BSCA, and NARIP were consolidated into a single Consolidated NCHIP grant capped at \$2,400,000 per request. This simplifies reporting but concentrates risk — if the consolidated grant is delayed or reduced, the impact is broader than any single program.

ADAM WALSH ACT

SORNA compliance, SOR systems
Cap \$300K | \$1,018,799 since 2020 | 2025: \$282,978

NCHIP

Criminal history, AFIS, personnel
2022: \$3.422M | 2024: \$2.340M | 2025: \$2.808M

BSCA

Records to NICS, applicant systems
2024: \$725K (\$500K applicant + \$225K NIEM)

2025 CONSOL. NCHIP

NCHIP + BSCA + NARIP combined
Cap \$2.4M | Requested \$2,375,323 | 16 temp + AFIS Yr 4

AFIS: THE FUNDED SPINE

A 7-year service contract with Idemia. Years 1–2 funded by 2023 NCHIP (\$3.422M); Year 4 in the 2025 request (\$1.246M/yr); SLED added \$500,000 in state funds. Without continued grant support, the cloud system we just migrated to would be at risk.

THE RISK OF GRANT DEPENDENCY



39% non-permanent workforce — what happens when a grant lapses

BY THE NUMBERS

80 total positions: 49 state FTE, 21 grant-funded, 10 state temp.

NICS: 8 of 9 grant-funded

The unit that provides information for firearm background checks in SC runs on grant money.

CCH Expungements: 2 of 8 grant-funded

Flagged critical in CALEA; already requires overtime.

CJIS Tech: 1 of 4 | AFIS: 3 of 14 + the \$1.246M contract

The critical access-management position lives on grant funding.

WHAT A GRANT LAPSE MEANS

Grant-funded employees cannot be cross-trained. When a grant ends, the position ends — and the work doesn't stop:

- Mental-health records stop flowing to NICS
- NCIC agency audits fall behind
- Fingerprint training visits stop
- Expungement and CCH backlogs build
- The AFIS cloud service contract goes unfunded

Convert the most essential positions to state FTE. The work is permanent. The workforce should be too.

NONCRIMINAL JUSTICE INFO SERVICES



The security vetting backbone — three people protecting all CJI access

962

CJA Personnel Vetted

195

Internal Vetted

357

AR Personnel Vetted

17

AR Agencies / 38 Auth.

THE VETTING MISSION

- As SC's CJIS Systems Agency, SLED must vet every person with physical or logical access to Criminal Justice Information. NCJIS manages this for all vendors, contractors, and authorized-recipient agencies.
- The process verifies submitted information, runs fingerprint-based checks through AFIS, conducts NLETS criminal-history checks, and reviews results for eligibility. In 2025: 4 new ORI requests, none denied.

AUTHORIZED RECIPIENTS

Public Law 92-544 authorizes the exchange of FBI criminal-history records for licensing and employment. AR agencies include SC Education, DSS, DPH, LLR (11 ORIs), DMV, Revenue, and the Supreme Court Bar Admissions.

Each of the 38 ORIs is audited every three years. During session, NCJIS reviews bills with background-check language before they pass to ensure FBI compliance.

3 state-funded FTE carry this entire workload.

NEW APPLICANT SYSTEM & RAP BACK



Modernizing how South Carolina processes applicant background checks

One unified platform replacing separate outdated systems for concealed weapons permits, security guards, private investigators, and 92-544 authorized recipients — with real-time status visibility, secure document storage, and payment processing.

CWP PHASE

LIVE: January 6, 2026

Processing began January 12. Minor launch issues were resolved in real time by SLED IT.

CJIS APPLICANT

IN PROGRESS

User acceptance testing. The CCH and CWP foundation accelerated development.

RAP BACK

FBI NGI Service

Ongoing monitoring — if a vetted employee is later arrested, the employer is notified automatically. Requires the applicant system + ANFF compliance.

THE NFF COMMITMENT

SLED is committed to implementing the Alternate National Fingerprint File per the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Act of 1998. ANFF programming is built into both the CCH and AFIS upgrades, and an NFF Onsite Readiness Assessment found no obstacles. We need only continued support from the FBI Compact Program Office.

2025 CJIS CONFERENCE & OUTREACH



The first CJIS conference since 2020 — training the agencies we depend on

350+

Participants

67

Vendors

2

Training Tracks

2020

First Since

WHY THIS MATTERS

- ✓ **CJIS systems only work as well as the agencies using them.** Training, outreach, and direct relationships with local law enforcement are what close compliance gaps, improve fingerprint submission rates, and ensure data accuracy.
- ✓ This year's joint conference with SCLEOA — our first since 2020 — offered two tracks with sessions from the FBI, NLETS, the SC Attorney General's Office, SLED IT, and SLED CJIS.

ONGOING TRAINING

- AFIS: 20 classes, 265 students (2025)
- SCIBRS: 80 sessions statewide
- NCIC: annual agency meetings + triennial audits
- SOR: 4 quarterly sessions + regional program
- CCH/AFIS: joint booking audits begin April 2026

WORKFORCE & INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES



Specialized roles. Aging buildings. A staffing model that needs change.

THE WORKFORCE REALITY

Pay Disparity

A significant sworn vs. non-sworn pay gap makes it hard to retain quality people. Most CJIS roles are non-sworn — staff pursue sworn positions or leave for the private sector.

Lost Investment

Examiners, analysts, and specialists take months to train and years to master. Every departure is institutional knowledge lost.

CALEA Findings

CCH and Expungements flagged **critical**. T&C device workload rose 56% (added) and 120% (removed) — during a staff reduction.

THE BUILDING PROBLEM

CJIS occupies some of the oldest buildings on SLED's campus. SLED IT recently renovated their portion of the shared building. The CJIS side was not renovated.

Our people do critical work in facilities that don't reflect its importance. That's a morale issue as much as a practical one.

LIVESCAN MODERNIZATION

New requirements: every agency system must support iris, SMT, palm prints, and mugshots — FBI-certified, SLED-approved, ANSI/NIST-compliant. That cost falls on local agencies.

STATUTORY GAPS



Two legislative fixes that would change public-safety outcomes

GAP 1: § 23-3-120 — NO PENALTY MECHANISM

The statute requires fingerprints within 3 days of a custodial arrest — but there is no penalty for agencies that fail to comply. The audits that began April 2026 will identify non-compliant agencies, but without statutory authority to impose consequences, those findings are advisory only.

What is needed: language authorizing penalties for agencies that fail to submit prints in time, and for direct indictments where prints were never ordered.

GAP 2: TITLE 23 VS. TITLE 63 — JUVENILE CONFLICT

SLED's Title 23 requires fingerprints for all custodial arrests. DJJ's Title 63 restricts submission of juvenile prints to the FBI unless the juvenile is adjudicated as an adult — even when the offense carries a maximum term of 5+ years.

What is needed: reconcile Title 23 and Title 63 so juvenile fingerprints for qualifying offenses are processed consistently. This directly impacts BSCA / U21 firearm eligibility determinations.

WHAT WE NEED FROM THE LEGISLATURE



Six clear asks. Real consequences if left unaddressed.

1 **AMEND § 23-3-120 — ADD ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES**
Audits without consequences don't change behavior. Agencies with 1,000+ unsubmitted prints need accountability.

2 **RECONCILE TITLE 23 AND TITLE 63**
Conflicting statutes create NICS gaps affecting firearm eligibility for 18–20-year-olds under the BSCA.

3 **MANDATE & ENFORCE STANDARDIZED INCIDENT AND BOOKING REPORTS**
One standard serves SCIBRS, AFIS, CCH, and the SOR at once — with penalties for non-compliance under Reg. § 73-30.

4 **CONVERT ESSENTIAL GRANT-FUNDED POSITIONS TO STATE FTE**
NICS data entry, CCH corrections, NCIC auditing, fingerprint training — permanent work needs permanent positions.

5 **SUPPORT THE SCIEX REBUILD — \$1.562M NCHIP**
80% of agencies can't replicate data into SCIEx. The rebuild closes the gap that existed in 2015.

6 **ADDRESS CJIS FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE**
CJIS works in the oldest buildings on campus. The IT side was renovated; CJIS was not.

BY THE NUMBERS



Key statistics at a glance — all from 2025 CJIS operational data

FINGERPRINTS & AFIS

149,417

Hard cards prepared

101,239

Fully processed

2,419

CJA prints (2025)

265

Students trained

CCH & EXPUNGEMENTS

240,708

CCH searches (2024)

88,992

Expungements (2024)

1,424

Gun flags (2025)

3,623

Pardons (+266%)

NICS & BSCA

159,726

SC NICS records

5,799

U21 checks (2025)

2,462

NICS challenges (+356%)

333

BSCA denials

PUBLIC SAFETY & DATA

55,362

Wanted persons

122.4M

LEMS messages

91%

SCIBRS participation

44

SOR removals (2025)



WHEN OUR SYSTEMS WORK, NOBODY NOTICES.

When they don't, everyone notices immediately.
Our goal — every single day — is to make sure they always work.

Major Charles M. Coats, Jr. | Director, SLED-CJIS | House Legislative Oversight Committee

THANK YOU | QUESTIONS WELCOME



SLED OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & THE ACTIVE ATTACK/TARGETED VIOLENCE/ MEDICAL SUPPORT UNIT

**South Carolina House Oversight Committee
Presentation**

Major Richard Hunton, MPH, MA

SLED Active Attack/Targeted Violence/Medical Support



SLED OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SLED Office of Homeland Security Financial and Programmatic Units



- Homeland Security Grants from DHS — Approx. \$100M +/- Active Grant Funds via ~ 300 subgrants and pass-through grants supporting capability development statewide**
- Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) Coordination**
- Regional WMD SWAT Team & WMD Bomb Squad Coordination**
- Regional WMD HazMat Team Coordination**
- Regional Collapse Search and Rescue Team (CSAR) Coordination**
- Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) Coordination**
- Regional Medical Assistance Team (RMAT) Coordination**
- Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)**
- Homeland Security/Counterterrorism Exercise Coordination**
- Training Point of Contact (TPOC)**



SLED ACTIVE ATTACK/TARGETED VIOLENCE TRAINING UNIT



ACTIVE ATTACK/TARGETED VIOLENCE TRAINING AND THE SC CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

A brief overview of active attack/targeted violence training at SLED and activities at the SC Center for School Safety and Targeted Violence.

Wayne Freeman, Captain, AA/TV/MS Unit



HISTORY OF ACTIVE ATTACK/TARGETED VIOLENCE TRAINING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

UNIT MISSION AND HISTORY

- **The SLED Active Shooter Training Program** was founded in 2012 as a platform to increase active shooter preparedness, response, and recovery for businesses, schools, and first responders. Overwhelming interest in the program has resulted in constant requests for service and the program was awarded one of 29 Federal Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) Grants for outstanding national active shooter response programs in 2017.
- This award allowed the program to expand to several full-time temporary federal grant employees for the next few years. **When the Federal program closed out, Chief Keel requested state funding for these temporary grant employees, making these full-time SLED positions in an effort to continue providing these vital services to the state.** Governor McMaster and members of the SC General Assembly generously supported this initiative.
- Since 2013, The SLED Active Attack Unit has provided well beyond \$2.5 million worth of training at no cost to other agencies, schools, houses of worship, civic organizations, and others.
- Since 2017, the South Carolina Active Attack Training Program has taught more than 210,000 students in more than 5,700 training sessions.



SLED ACTIVE ATTACK/TARGETED VIOLENCE TRAINING PROVIDED

Since 2017, through May 15, 2026, the SLED Active Attack/Targeted Violence Training Unit has:

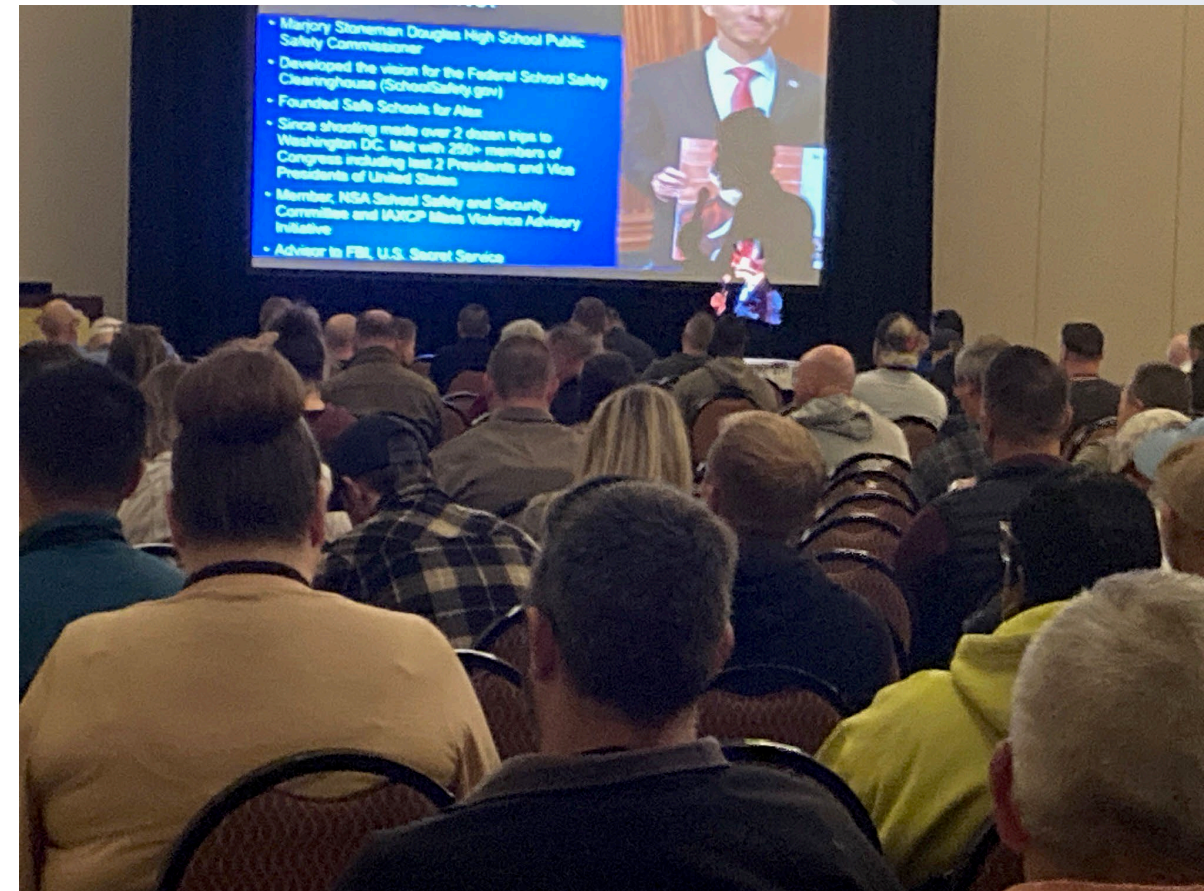
- ✓ Trained over 1,900 organizations, in over 5,700 classes with a total of over 210,000 students, to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an Active Attack;
- ✓ Provided over 200 Active Attack consultations; and
- ✓ Provided security assessments to over 100 clients.

SUPPORTING OTHER STATES AND AGENCIES



SLED has a long history of supporting other states whenever possible; the unique training offered by the Active Attack/Targeted Violence Training Unit is highly sought after by other agencies and groups. Since the unit's inception, the program has:

- ✓ Taught students from all 50 states
- ✓ Taught students from 10 countries
- ✓ Supported more than 1,900 agencies and groups
- ✓ Presented at the most prestigious nationally and internationally important conferences where the focus is active violence, including Wisconsin Active Shooter Conferences, ALERRT Conferences, Oklahoma Active Shooter Conferences, the North American Active Attack Training Conference, and hosting of the South Carolina Active Shooter Conference.





ONGOING INNOVATION AND TEAM GROWTH

COURSES OFFERED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING PROGRAM

South Carolina is a national leader in the field of active violence preparation, response, and recovery. Our offerings are provided at no charge to requesting entities and include:

- Active Shooter for Businesses
- Active Shooter for Healthcare
- Active Shooter for Churches
- Active Shooter for Schools
- Active Shooter for Special Education
- Active Shooter for Bus Drivers
- Active Shooter for Security Personnel
- Active Shooter for Telecommunications – Basic Course
- Active Shooter for Telecommunications – Advanced Course
- Active Shooter for Military Personnel
- Response training for Law Enforcement
- Rescue Task Force training for Fire and EMS
- First Responders Working with Special Education Students



ONGOING INNOVATION AND TEAM GROWTH

COURSES OFFERED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING PROGRAM (Con't)

South Carolina is a national leader in the field of active violence preparation, response, and recovery. Our offerings are provided at no charge to requesting parties and include:

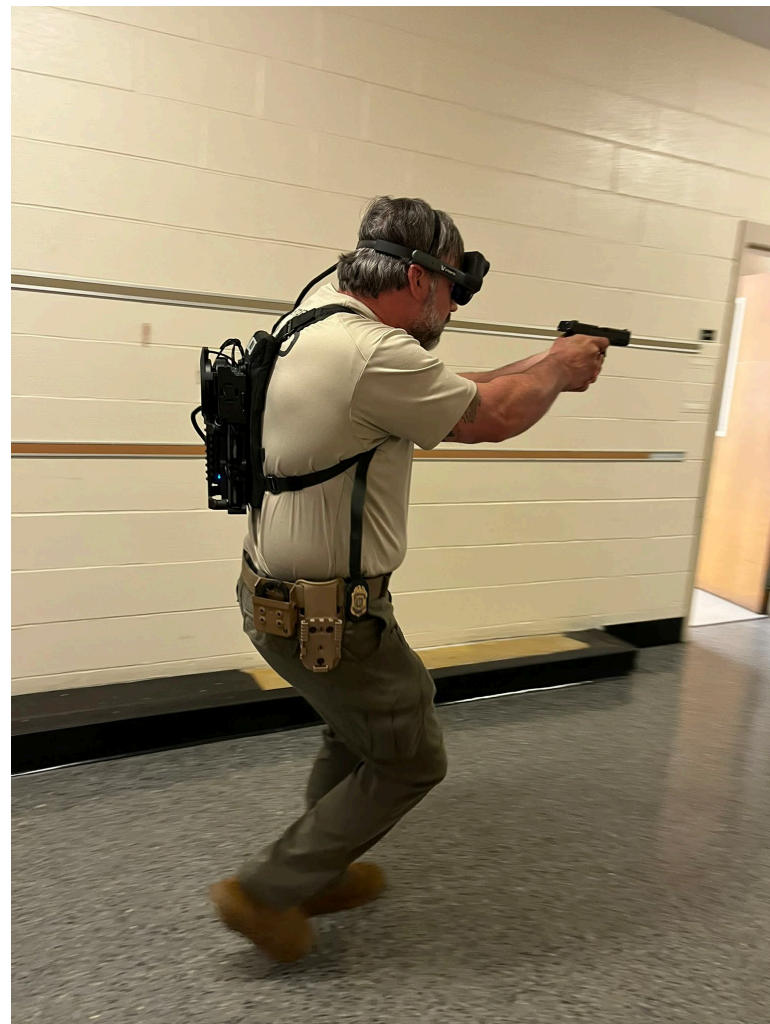
- Aggressive Greeting for Church Safety
- Behavioral Threat Assessment Training
- Mental Health First Aid
- Basic Reunification Training
- Reunification for Special Education students
- Bleeding Control Training
- Citizen Responder Basic Trauma Response
- Mechanical Breaching for active shooter response
- Advanced Instructor development
- Workplace Violence Basic Training for the Executive Professionals
- Workplace Violence policy and procedure development
- Threat Management and Behavior Assessment Basic Training the Workplace
- Active Violence tabletops
- Full-scale exercise offerings

CIVILIAN TRAINING & EDUCATION





ACTIVE ATTACK/TARGETED VIOLENCE TRAINING



Virtual Reality Simulation Test & Evaluation.

Showcasing cutting-edge training technology for Law Enforcement response during critical incidents.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY NEW TRAINING TECHNOLOGY



SUPPORTING OTHER STATES AND AGENCIES



The South Carolina AA/TV/MS Program has supported...

- Alabama
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin





SUPPORTING OTHER COUNTRIES

The South Carolina Active Shooter Program has supported...

- Australia
- Brazil
- England
- Germany
- Iceland
- Ireland
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- South Korea
- Wales





ONGOING INNOVATION AND TEAM GROWTH

ACTIVE SHOOTER FOR DISPATCHERS

This unique training program was created at the request of South Carolina telecommunications personnel, following a challenge issued by a dispatch supervisor who responded to the Sandy Hook School Shooting. **Ms. Maureen Will of Sandy Hook challenged the state of South Carolina to create a training course for dispatchers to be more prepared for active violence calls and to make that training free to all attendees.** SLED met that challenge and has since revised the material many times and delivered it across the country. Courses are requested nationally on a regular basis and deliveries include:

Colorado
Idaho
Illinois
Iowa
Michigan
Minnesota
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Texas
Utah
Washington
Wisconsin



ONGOING INNOVATION AND TEAM GROWTH

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAM

This more recently-created program that focuses on increasing the safety and preparedness of special education students, teachers, and assistants in the educational and workplace environments. **The program trains School Resource Officers and other first responders with special education personnel as classmates.** This collaborative classroom setting provides vital understanding of the many challenges communities can face when interacting with special education students.

This training program is receiving tremendous interest in South Carolina and in other states and has been delivered in several states already. (Minnesota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Wisconsin). The long-term intent is to host instructor courses for any requesting agency and to provide all of the training material to those newly-created instructors at no cost to any group, agency, or school system.

Additionally, SLED has created a reunification training program that focuses solely on students with special needs. This program is being met with national interest and has been presented to several thousand students in various states.

ONGOING INNOVATION AND TEAM GROWTH



CHURCH SAFETY TEAM TRAINING

Chief Keel asked for the creation of an Active Shooter for Churches program following significant events in houses of worship in other states. **That program has been in effect for more than five years and has become highly requested.** In order to keep up with that demand, SLED hired a retired Lieutenant who travels the state and provides training and consultation to houses of worship. Since inception, the program has...

- Presented the core program over 350 times
- Trained more than 16,000 participants
- Provided the instructor material to many agencies in the State of Oklahoma at their request
- Provided the instructor material to many agencies in the State of Wisconsin at their request
- Created a training supplement for church safety that teaches greeting techniques centered around direct interactions with guests and visitors.

CHURCH SAFETY TEAM TRAINING





VITAL PARTNERSHIPS IN SC SCHOOL SAFETY

SLED maintains regular interaction with the South Carolina Department of Education and works toward improving the safety environment for all school districts in the state.

Examples of partnerships include:

- Active violence training implementation and updates
- Reunification training and family assistance support functions
- Mental health first aid and crisis counseling
- Behavioral threat assessment training and district implementation
- Policy development regarding safety and security in schools
- Campus security assessments
- Basic medical training for the educational environment



VITAL PARTNERSHIPS IN STATE SAFETY



SLED regularly interacts with SC DOE and performs the following functions as part of their regular duties:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) physical security assessments on school campuses
- Anti-bullying and criminal activity in schools
- Targeted violence in school districts
- Active violence training in schools





SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL SAFETY

Ballistic protection doors are designed to increase the safety and security of vulnerable populations and have been placed in schools with self-contained special education classrooms.



THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY AND TARGETED VIOLENCE



SLED has unique training needs and often requests the use of schools throughout the state as training locations. For many years the Active Shooter Training Program struggled to find locations due to classes being in session, summer school, extra-curricular activities, sporting events, and other issues associated with the normal functions of schools. SLED had been using an abandoned school in Gilbert for many years in partnership with Lexington School District One which allowed us to train first responders and educators throughout the year.

In 2023, Lexington District One worked with SLED to create a training center for first responders and educators that allows SLED to train year-round and to host advanced training that benefits our state and many others. This resulted in a 25-year lease with an optional 5-year extension.



THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY AND TARGETED VIOLENCE



Once the Center location was finalized, support for this project has been exceptional. With Governor McMaster supporting the program mission and the South Carolina General Assembly providing unwavering support, in 2024, a generous budget allocation allowed SLED to move forward with rehabilitating the site, upgrading the location for training, and for creating a location on par with other sites around the state for educators to gather and train.

Renovations have begun (with an estimated completion date of August 2026). During renovation, the Center is still being utilized for training law enforcement, EMS, corrections, and other personnel.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY RENOVATIONS



Cafetorium renovation and creation of the Conference Center – will accommodate large training events, meetings, conferences, etc. for law enforcement, fire, EMS, educators, medical personnel, etc.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY RENOVATIONS



Conference Center Restroom Progress

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY RENOVATIONS



Gymnasium cleaning and improvements to enable Field Force Training, Night Operations Training, Combatives Training, etc. Future moveable wall purchase with grant funds will provide further flexibility for this space.



THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY



SLED has occupied the School Safety Center for the last 2-3 years and is forging partnerships with agencies and groups throughout the state. Training continues even during renovation activities. **Location partners include:**

- Lexington County EMS
- Lexington County Sheriff's Department
- Lexington School District One
- SC Department of Education
- SC LEAP Program
- SLED K9 Training Program



VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS



Agents have conducted Vulnerability Assessments at Fort Sumter for the National Parks Service and for other locations throughout the state.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS



Vulnerability Assessments for industry and courthouses.

SCHOOL SAFETY/TACTICAL TRAINING



**SLED Aviation Rapid
Response Training**

SCHOOL SAFETY/TACTICAL TRAINING



SLED Breaching Training for first responding officers to active attacks and other critical incidents.



SLED MEDICAL SUPPORT



SLED MEDICS

25 BASIC EMTs

7 ADVANCED EMTs

1 PARAMEDIC

CERTIFIED, TRAINED, EQUIPPED



SLED SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAM PHYSICALS

- **SWAT TEAM**
- **BOMB SQUAD**
- **DIVE TEAM**
- **CRIME SCENE TEAM**
- **CLANDESTINE LAB TEAM**
- **OVER 100 PHYSICALS COMPLETED – 2026**



SLED AGENT FITNESS SCREENING PROGRAM

- **“PROJECT READINESS 2.0”**
- **GOAL: HEALTH, WELLNESS, DISCOVERY/TREATMENT OF UNDETECTED MEDICAL CONDITIONS FOR SLED AGENTS**
- **HEALTH HISTORY/FAMILY HISTORY**
- **BLOOD TESTING (CMP, CBC, LIPID PANEL)**
- **AGE/HISTORY BASED HEALTH PHYSICALS**
- **ADDITIONAL MEDICAL TESTING AS APPROPRIATE**



QUESTIONS?

**South Carolina House Oversight Committee
Presentation – SLED Active Attack/Targeted
Violence/Medical Support Unit**