

VICE SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS



House Oversight Committee Presentation

Matt Downey, Captain, Special Operations and Investigations Vice

SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



Captain Matt Downey

- Captain Matt Downey has been in law enforcement for twenty-two years and with SLED for eighteen.
- Captain Downey began his career at SLED in 2007 in Alcohol Enforcement Vice as a Special Agent.
- In 2011, Captain Downey became a Narcotics K9 handler.
- In 2021, Captain Downey was promoted to Lieutenant in Narcotics.
- In 2024, Captain Downey was promoted to Captain of Vice Special Operations and Investigations.

INTERDICTION





INTERDICTION UNIT

Authorizing statutes, relevant laws governing the units work, or regulations

South Carolina's laws on narcotics and controlled substances are primarily found in Title 44, Chapter 53 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, titled "Poisons, Drugs, and Other Controlled Substances." This chapter is extensive and covers various aspects of narcotics regulations, including:

- Definitions of controlled substances
- Classifications and schedules of drugs
- Penalties for possession, trafficking, and distribution
- Regulations regarding the prescription and dispensation of controlled substances
- Civil forfeiture laws related to drug offenses

INTERDICTION UNIT LAWS



Specific statutes dealing with narcotics enforcement

- 44-53-370 Possession, PWID, and Trafficking Marijuana, Cocaine, Fentanyl, Heroin, MDMA
- 44-53-375 Possession, PWID, and Trafficking Meth, Crack Cocaine
- 44-53-420 Attempt/Conspiracy
- 16-23-490 Poss. of Firearm or Knife During the Commission of a Violent Crime
- 44-53-379 Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Person Convicted of PWID, Dist, Trafficking, Manf.
- 16-23-500 Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Person Convicted of a Violent Crime
- 44-53-445 Proximity within ½ mile of a school/park
- 44-53-480 Enforcement - SLED Narcotics
- 44-53-530 Civil Forfeiture Procedures
- 46-55-10 Hemp Farming Act
- 46-55-20 Hemp licenses
- 46-55-60 Unlawful conduct relating to marijuana in proximity to industrial hemp



INTERDICTION UNIT

Staffing

- The Interdiction Unit currently consists of one Lieutenant, five Special Agents, and four narcotics detection canines. Agents are distributed throughout the four regions of the state with one Upstate agent, two Midlands agents, and two Pee Dee agents. The Low Country Region does not currently have an agent assigned to it.

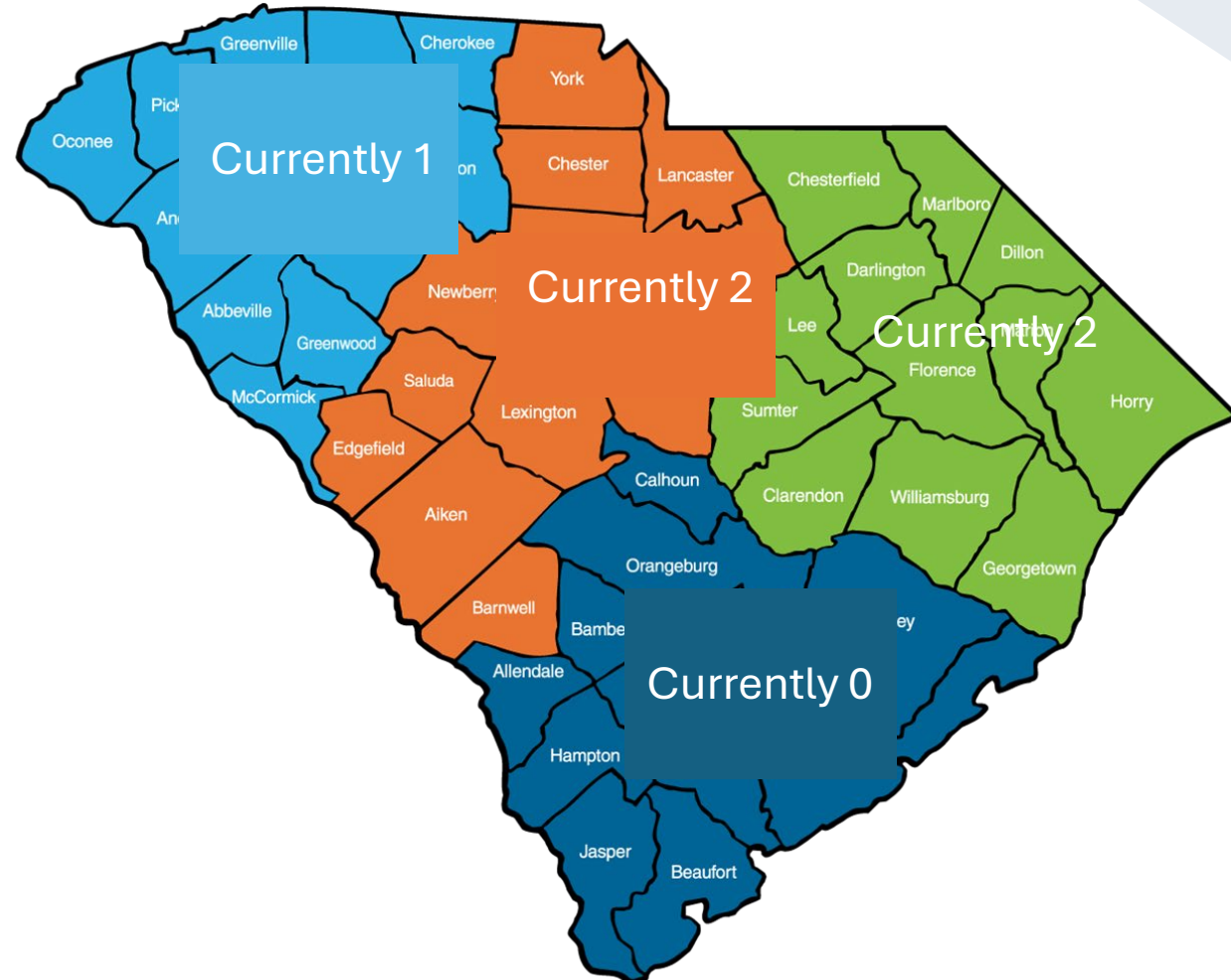
Caseload

- The average caseload for an interdiction agent is 90 cases a year.

INTERDICTION UNIT



The unit currently has no agent assigned to the Low Country Region of the state.





INTERDICTION UNIT

Why our work is important:

- The Interdiction unit is responsible for **stemming the flow of illegal drugs entering South Carolina via commercial parcel shipping facilities and airports.** The team regularly intercepts large amounts of marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl destined for communities throughout the state. Without the unit, shipments of dangerous drugs would flow freely into South Carolina, which would result in increased crime and death. Through the efforts of the interdiction unit, the availability of these drugs is increasingly challenging to obtain for drug trafficking organizations throughout the state. The Interdiction unit also seizes high-concentration THC edibles, which can end up in the hands of children. A large majority of the THC edibles are packaged in a manner that resembles food products you would find in any retail grocery store (see photos). Much of these products resemble common candies and snacks that are traditionally marketed towards children.
- The Interdiction Unit also **intercepts shipments of currency destined for people attempting to financially scam citizens of South Carolina.** Often the victims are people in our elderly population. The interdiction unit can intercept and return the funds back to the victims of these crimes. These types of scams are becoming more prevalent, and the interdiction unit is aware of the lasting effects of these types of scams and is working to recognize, investigate, and prosecute these crimes.



INTERDICTION UNIT

Specialized Training or Certifications

- All agents in the interdiction unit have specialized training in the detection and interdiction of drug parcels, freight LTL loads, bulk cash smuggling, counterfeit identification, and airport interdiction.
- Four of the six agents are HSI TFO officers, who require a federal background check to obtain a level of security clearance and must complete bi-annual training to maintain their certification.
- The interdiction unit currently has four drug-detection K9s assigned to the unit, and the interdiction handlers are certified through the North American Police Working Dog Association (NAPWDA). The initial training to be a certified drug-detecting k9 team is currently four months and requires yearly recertification.

Specialized Equipment

- TruNarc Device (4): 2-4 years old
- Sprinter Van (2): one new, one approx. 10 years old
- Box tracker (4): one year old



INTERDICTION UNIT

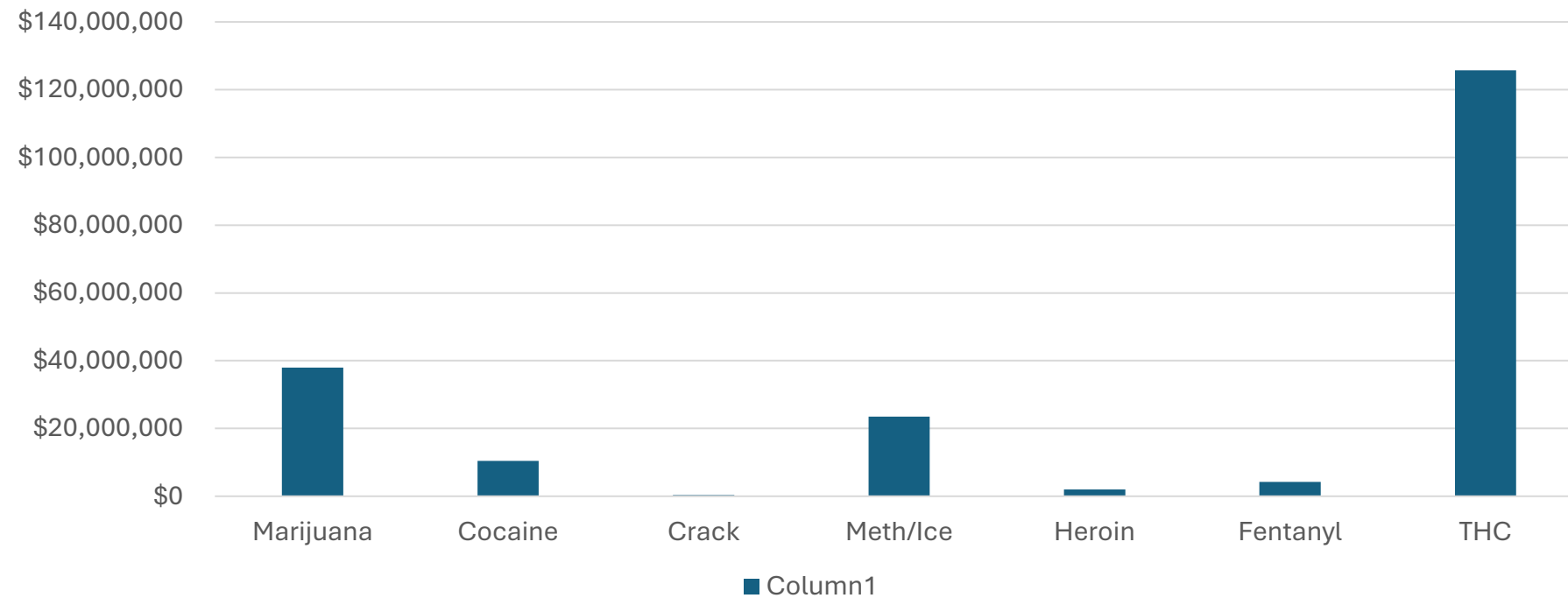
Statistics

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025(May)		
Arrest	44	46	63	22	86	44	15		
								TOTAL	Street Value
MJ (lbs)	394	955	1,662	1,817	3,595	3,158	1,075	12,656	\$37,968,000
Cocaine (gr)	2,508	5,733	19,272	27,549	31,557	14,915	2,633	104,166	\$10,416,600
Crack (gr)	298	31	0	2,793	94	100	0.00	3,316	\$331,600
Meth/Ice (gr)	8,033	23,232	22,906	85,694	74,101	53,922	25,362	293,249	\$23,459,920
Heroin (gr)	956	1,506	1,056	16,235	156	0	0	19,908	\$1,990,810
Fentanyl (gr)	0	7,090	3,131	14,618	4,927	3,860	0	33,626	\$4,203,250
THC	304	4367	1,456,158	6,069	39,295	35,716	29,655	1,571,563	\$125,725,040

INTERDICTION UNIT



Dollar Value of Drugs Taken from the Streets of SC 2019 – May 2025



INTERDICTION UNIT



Suggested Regulation Changes

- Adjust the law to eliminate THC consumables being sold in South Carolina.



2023 INIA Interdiction Team of the Year



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



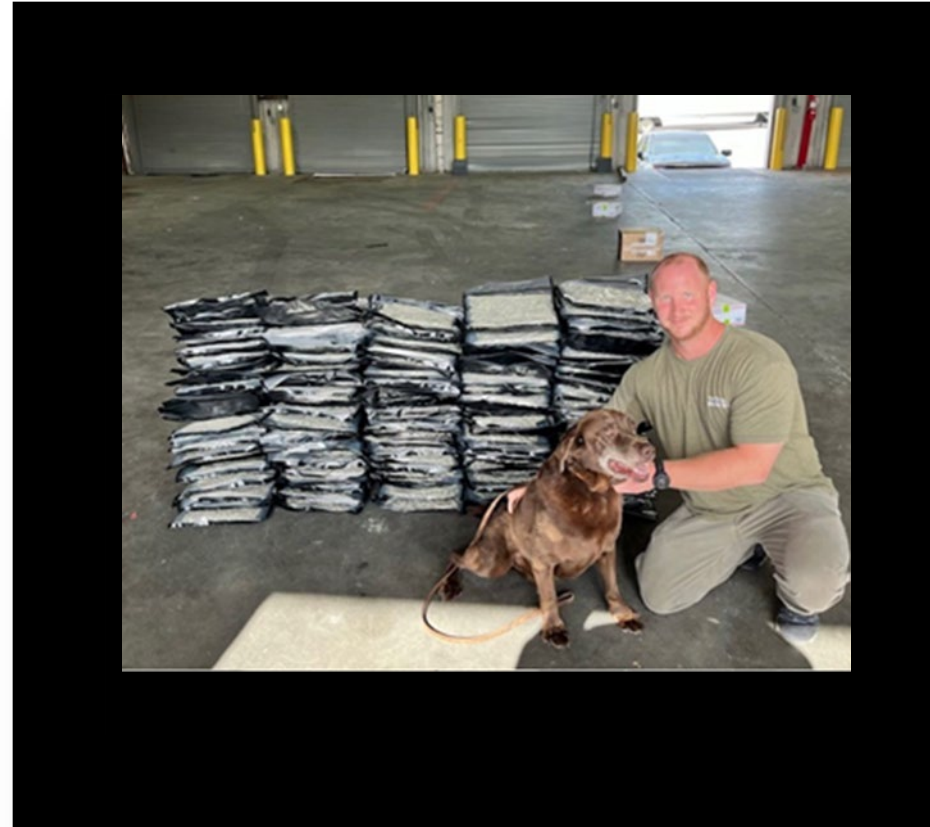
Parcel Interdiction – 24 pounds of ice



Parcel Interdiction 2 Kilos of Fentanyl



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



4 pounds of Marijuana, AR-15 Rifle, \$3,829 Cash



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



Parcel Interdiction – Controlled Delivery resulting in seizure of 4 pounds of marijuana and 5 firearms



Parcel Interdiction – Controlled Delivery resulting in 5.5 pounds of Marijuana

INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



Parcel Interdiction and Controlled Delivery



- 13 pounds of marijuana



- 10 pounds of Methamphetamine



- 2 kilos of Cocaine

INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



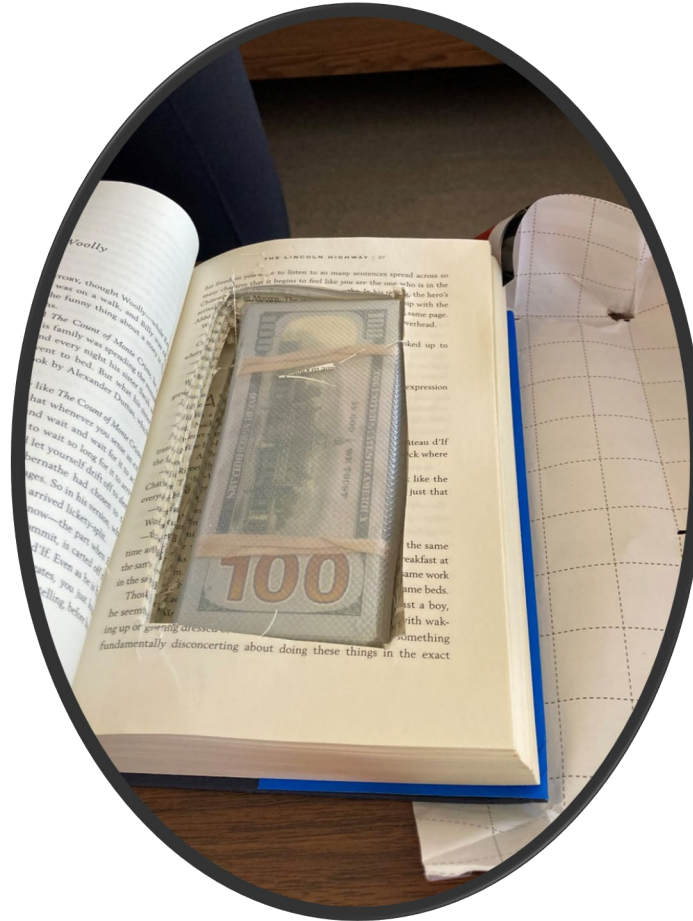
INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



HUMAN TRAFFICKING



HELP

ME

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Authorizing statutes, relevant laws governing the units work, or regulations 16-03-2050(B)(5) — Formation of The Human Trafficking Task Force which states that SLED be a member of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force under the direction of the South Carolina Attorney General.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Most Common HTU Charges:

- Criminal Sexual Conduct – 16-3-652; 653; 654
- Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor – 16-3-655
- First Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 16-15-395
- Second Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 16-15-405
- Third Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 16-15-410
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor – 16-15-342
- Kidnapping – 16-3-910
- Trafficking in Persons – 16-3-2020
- Sexual Extortion 16-15-0430

Miscellaneous HTU Charges:

- Prostitution – 16-15-90
- Unlawful Communication – 16-15-250
- Unlawful Dissemination of Obscene Material – 16-15-305



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

Staffing

- 4 FTEs Special Agents (1 Assigned to each region; Midlands, Upstate, Low Country, Pee Dee)
- 1 FTE Supervisor (Housed in Columbia)
- 2 Temporary Grant Special Agents (2 Assigned to the Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester area focused primarily on adult victims and labor trafficking)
- 1 Temporary Grant Victim's Advocate (Assigned to the Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester area focused primarily on adult victims and labor trafficking).

Caseload

- Currently, agents are averaging six new tips or complaints each month. Additionally, agents self-generated or law enforcement or community referred cases that require fact finding and coordination with local and/or federal partners as well as other multidisciplinary team members.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Why our work is important

Training Local Law Enforcement

- Human trafficking is often hidden and can be challenging for local law enforcement officers to recognize, especially given its subtle nature and the diverse ways it can manifest. The SLED Human Trafficking Unit plays a critical role in:
 - Educating Officers - They provide specialized training for local law enforcement to enhance their ability to identify and respond to trafficking situations. This includes recognizing signs of trafficking, understanding the dynamics of exploitation, and knowing how to handle cases involving victims through trauma informed policing.
 - Standardizing Practices - By sharing knowledge and best practices, they help ensure that local agencies are using consistent and effective methods when dealing with trafficking cases.
 - Building Capacity - They equip local officers with the tools and knowledge needed to effectively conduct investigations and support victims, thereby increasing the overall efficacy of law enforcement efforts across the state in this area.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Combating Sex Trafficking Across the State

- Sex trafficking is a particularly severe form of human trafficking that involves the exploitation of individuals for commercial sex. The Human Trafficking Unit's efforts in this area include:
 - **Coordinated Operations** – They organize and conduct operations to identify and dismantle sex trafficking networks. These operations may involve undercover work, surveillance, and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies.
 - **Victim Recovery** – The unit focuses on locating and rescuing victims who are trapped in sex trafficking situations, providing them with immediate support and resources.
 - **Preventative Measures** – They work to prevent sex trafficking by targeting known hotspots, educating potential victims about the risks, and engaging with communities to raise awareness.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Handling Complex Criminal Investigations

- Human trafficking cases often involve intricate criminal networks and require sophisticated investigative techniques. The unit's involvement in complex investigations includes:
 - Specialized Investigative Techniques - They utilize advanced tools and methods to unravel complex trafficking operations. This can involve digital forensics, financial investigations, and tracking trafficking routes.
 - Victim-Centered Approach - They employ strategies that prioritize the safety and well-being of victims, recognizing the trauma and vulnerability associated with trafficking situations.
 - Collaboration with Other Agencies - The unit often works alongside federal agencies, other state law enforcement bodies, and non-profit organizations to tackle trafficking networks and build comprehensive cases against perpetrators.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Working with the State and Regional Task Forces

Human trafficking is a widespread issue that transcends local jurisdictions, making collaboration essential. The unit's role in working with state and regional task forces includes:

- **Coordinated Efforts** - They participate in and support task forces that bring together multiple law enforcement agencies, governmental bodies, and community organizations to address trafficking comprehensively.
- **Information Sharing** - They facilitate the exchange of intelligence and resources between different entities involved in combating trafficking, enhancing the effectiveness of operations and investigations.
- **Strategic Planning** - By working with task forces, they help develop and implement strategic plans to address trafficking trends and challenges on a broader scale.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Overall Impact

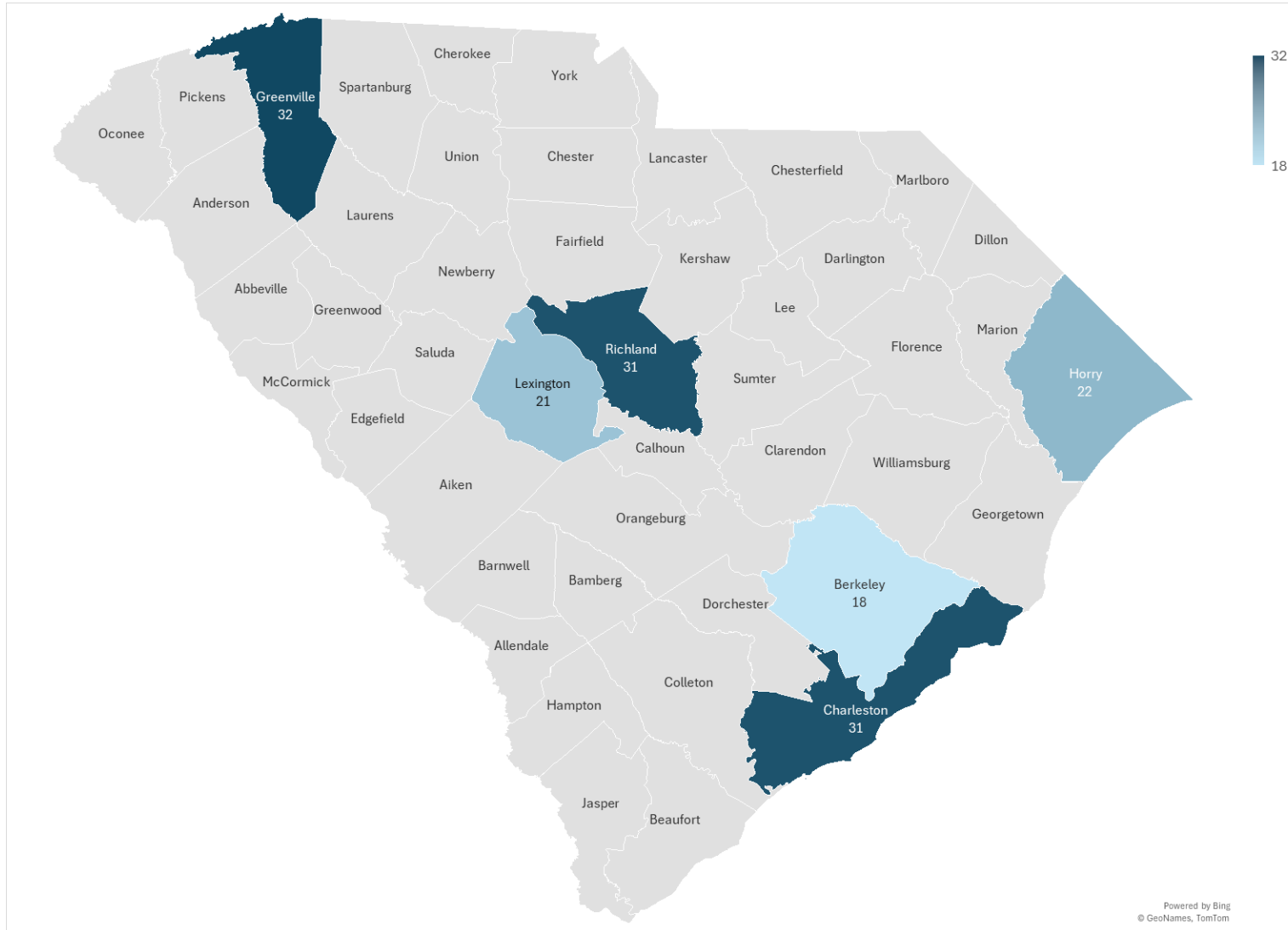
- The work of the SLED Human Trafficking Unit is vital for several overarching reasons:
 - Protection of Vulnerable Populations - Their efforts directly contribute to safeguarding individuals who are at risk of or who are currently experiencing trafficking.
 - Disruption of Trafficking Networks - By targeting and dismantling trafficking operations, they help reduce the prevalence of this crime and the associated harm.
 - Strengthening Community and Law Enforcement Capacity - Their training and collaborative efforts enhance the overall capability of the state's law enforcement agencies to handle human trafficking effectively.
- The Human Trafficking Unit is essential for addressing the multifaceted issue of human trafficking through training, operations, complex investigations, and collaboration with broader task forces. Our work not only combats trafficking but also builds a more informed and prepared law enforcement community, contributing to a safer state. Personnel assigned to the unit continuously seek out and continue their own education and training to remain on the forefront of current trends in this area and are counted on to be the subject matter experts for law enforcement and their many partners across the state.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

DATE	ARRESTS	ASSITED ARRESTS	CLASSES TAUGHT		JUVENILE RECOVERY	
			Law Enforcement	Non-Law Enforcement	Primary	Assist
2023	12	15	3	5	4	9
2024	11	23	14	8	6	4
January – May 2025	7	14	4	2	5	6

TOP COUNTIES BY TIPS 2024



- 1. Greenville (32)
- 2. Charleston / Richland (31)
- 3. Horry (22)
- 4. Lexington (21)
- 5. Berkeley (18)

TIPS BY COUNTIES 2024



County	Number of Tips
ABBEVILLE	2
AIKEN	7
ALLENDALE	1
ANDERSON	6
BAMBERG	2
BARNWELL	1
BEAUFORT	5
BERKELEY	18
CALHOUN	0
CHARLESTON	31
CHEROKEE	8
CHESTER	4
CHESTERFIELD	3
CLARENDON	2
COLLETON	2
DARLINGTON	2

County	Number of Tips
DILLON	0
DORCHESTER	8
EDGEFIELD	2
FAIRFIELD	1
FLORENCE	6
GEORGETOWN	2
GREENVILLE	32
GREENWOOD	2
HAMPTON	1
HORRY	22
JASPER	4
KERSHAW	2
LANCASTER	5
LAURENS	8
LEE	0
LEXINGTON	21

County	Number of Tips
MARION	1
MARLBORO	0
MCCORMICK	0
NEWBERRY	4
OCONEE	4
ORANGEBURG	4
PICKENS	1
RICHLAND	31
SALUDA	1
SPARTANBURG	16
SUMTER	3
UNION	1
WILLIAMSBURG	0
YORK	9

TIPS 2024



285

Tips Investigated

392

Potential Victims

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORM



Human Trafficking Tip Form

English (United States) ▾

Important

If you are in immediate danger or if someone's life is at risk, please dial 911 or contact your local police department immediately.

Next

Page 1 of 8

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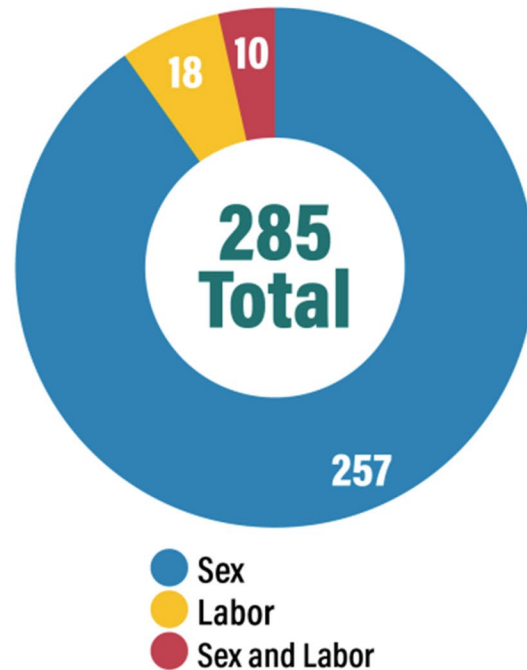
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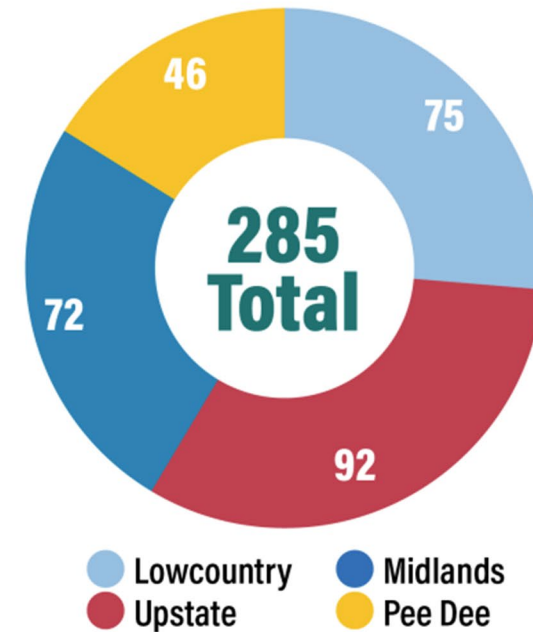
TIPS INVESTIGATED 2024



Tips Investigated in 2024



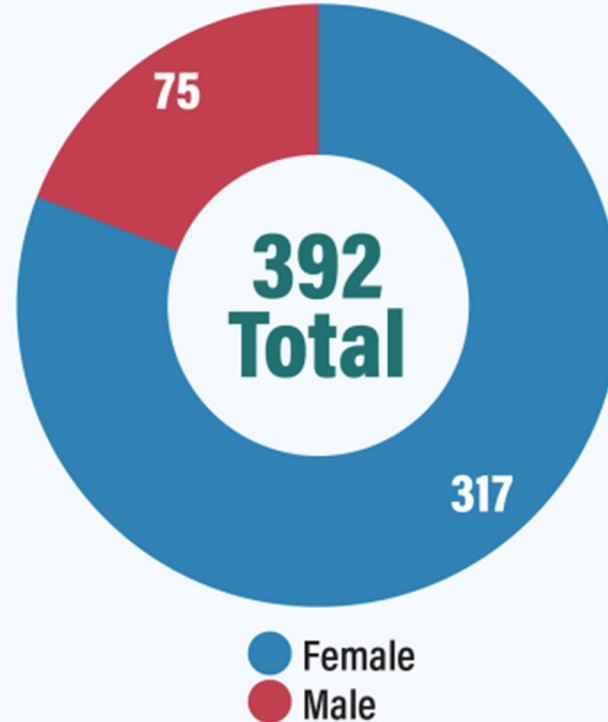
Tips by Area



MALE AND FEMALE VICTIMS 2024



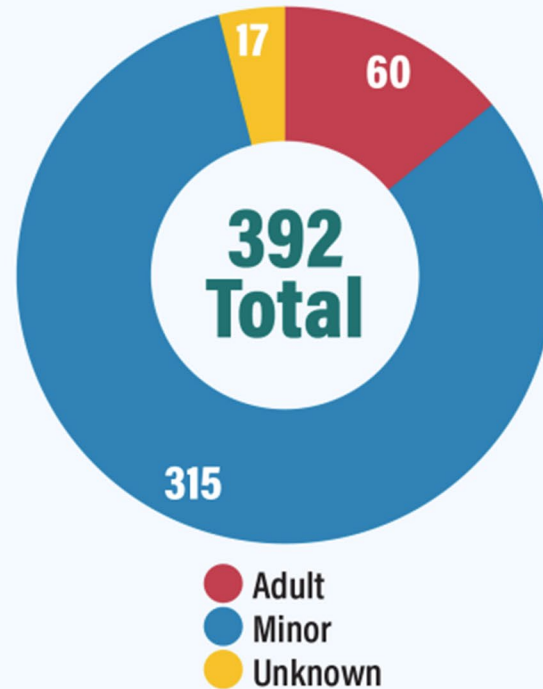
Male and Female Victims



ADULT AND MINOR VICTIMS 2024



Adult and Minor Victims



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Task Force Assignments

- S/A Logan Fey – TFO with HSI Charleston
- S/A Kason Gardner – TFO with FBI Columbia
- Lt. Jade Roy – TFO with HSI Columbia

Board Assignments

- Lt. Jade Roy – Chair of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee for the SC Human Trafficking Task Force

Specialized training or Certifications

- One agent and victim advocate are certified child forensic interviewers. Each agent has multiple hours of training specific to crimes against children, special victims, exploitation and trafficking related courses and are subject matter experts in the fields of labor and sex trafficking.

Specialized Equipment

- Microwave Surveillance Equipment (approximately 5 years old)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Partnerships

- South Carolina Department of Labor (SCLLR)
- South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS)
- South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ)
- South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
- South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW)
- United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Wage and Hour Division
- Other State Law Enforcement Investigative Agencies to include Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI), Tennessee Bureau of Investigations (TBI), North Carolina Bureau of Investigations (SBI), Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA)

Grants

- Private foundation funding to the Lincoln Tubman Foundation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



- Unit Focus Areas
- Training Local Law Enforcement
 - **Challenges:**
 - **Knowledge Gaps:** Not all local law enforcement officers may be aware of the signs of human trafficking or understand the nuances of trafficking cases. Overcoming these knowledge gaps requires continuous education and training.
 - **Resource Constraints:** Smaller or underfunded departments may struggle to allocate resources for specialized training and may lack the necessary tools or personnel to implement what they've learned effectively.
 - **Resistance to Change:** Some officers or departments might be resistant to adopting new methods or protocols, particularly if they are accustomed to traditional approaches or if there is a lack of immediate visible results.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

Unit Focus Areas

- Combating Trafficking Across the State

- **Challenges:**

- **Hidden Nature of the Crime:** trafficking often occurs in clandestine environments, making it difficult to identify and disrupt. Perpetrators are skilled at concealing their activities, which complicates enforcement efforts.
 - **Jurisdictional Issues:** Coordinating efforts across different jurisdictions can be challenging, especially when trafficking operations span multiple counties or states. Variations in local laws and practices can also hinder effective intervention.
 - **Victim Reluctance:** Victims may be unwilling to come forward due to fear of retaliation, mistrust of authorities, or psychological manipulation by traffickers. This reluctance can impede rescue and support efforts.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Unit Focus Areas

- Handling Complex Criminal Investigations

- **Challenges:**

- **Resource Intensity:** Investigations into human trafficking are resource-intensive and require significant time, expertise, and financial investment. Limited resources can stretch the capacity of the unit and affect the thoroughness of investigations.
 - **Trauma-Informed Care:** Investigators must balance the need for evidence collection with a trauma-informed approach, which can be challenging given the emotional and psychological trauma experienced by victims.
 - **Complexity of Networks:** Trafficking operations often involve sophisticated and clandestine networks that are difficult to penetrate and dismantle. Unraveling these networks requires advanced investigative techniques and collaboration with other agencies.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

Unit Focus Areas

- **Lack of Victim Services**

- **Challenges:**

- **Minor Victims:** There is often a significant lack of specialized services for minor victims of trafficking. These minors require distinct care and support, including trauma-informed counseling, educational services, and legal protection. The absence of dedicated resources and facilities for minors is severely impacting their recovery and reintegration.
 - **Adult Victims:** For adult victims, there is insufficient access to long-term support services such as housing, job training, and mental health care. Many adult victims face barriers to accessing these services due to stigma, lack of awareness, or financial constraints.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS TECHNICAL SERVICES



TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



Staffing

The Technical Services Unit currently consists of one Lieutenant and four special agents. The coverage areas for the technical Services Unit are not geographically assigned.

Caseload

The Technical Services Unit does not carry a traditional caseload.

Why your work is important

The Technical Services Unit (TSU) provides a unique service for not only SLED but our local law enforcement agencies. The TSU has the only full-time technical investigators in South Carolina. While the job description of the TSU covers a wide range of services, the primary function of the unit is obtaining covert audio and video evidence in criminal investigations. Traditionally, the TSU primarily supported narcotics investigations. However, the unit now supports every division of SLED, providing equipment, support, and assistance in gathering valuable evidence in a wide range of cases. The unit gives SLED the expertise and the means to monitor and protect undercover agents during dangerous operations, providing safety for agents acting in an undercover role while capturing crucial audio and video or criminal activity that can aid in the prosecution of suspects.

TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



The following are three examples of important missions that the TSU supports outside of traditional undercover investigations.

- SLED has a full time **Human Trafficking Unit** that frequently conducts undercover operations targeting sex trafficking. The TSU installs covert audio and video equipment in hotel rooms used for these operations. The equipment is not only expensive but requires an extensive amount of technical knowledge to operate. Once the installation is complete the TSU monitors the audio and video during the operation. This equipment not only protects the undercover agents involved in the operation but captures audio and video recordings of criminal activity that can be used for prosecution.
- **The SLED Narcotics Unit** regularly conducts undercover narcotics investigations where a confidential informant or undercover agent is utilized to purchase illegal contraband from suspects. The TSU provides, trains, deploys and maintains the technical equipment utilized in these operations. This is not a task that cannot be delegated outside of the TSU. The TSU's role in these operations not only provides safety to those at risk, but aids in the prosecution of suspects.
- **SLED has a full-time fugitive unit** that focuses on locating and arresting suspects with arrest warrants for violent crimes. These suspects are all extremely dangerous and many of them are evading capture. The TSU aids with covert cameras and GPS tracking to allow the law enforcement to covertly track the suspects so that arrest can be made in the safest way possible.

TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



Partnerships

The TSU supports investigations in each county (46) within South Carolina and/or the municipalities within the respective County. The TSU works closely with our federal partners agencies while conducting criminal investigations, including the ATF, FBI, HSI, CBP, DEA, USPIIS. The TSU also works closely and maintains relationships with the electrical and power companies that service South Carolina.

Specialized Equipment

The TSU operates a vast inventory of technical equipment. The majority of the equipment is covert in nature. The TSU currently maintains an inventory of approximately \$1,000,000.00 in equipment



TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



Specialized Training and Certifications

Specialized training is paramount for agents assigned to the Technical Service Unit (TSU). While SLED can provide some direct training, neither SLED nor the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy can provide the training needed to properly conduct the duties of a technical investigator. Not only can SLED not provide this training, but it is also rare that applicable training is offered in South Carolina. The following covers two examples of specialized training but does not cover all the training needs:

- National Technical Investigators Association (NATIA)
- Certified Technical Investigator (CTI)

TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



The TSU set a goal that all agents assigned to the unit obtain qualification as a Certified Technical Investigator (CTI) through NATIA, The National Technical Investigators Association. NATIA is the only organization that offers a nationally recognized standard for technical investigators and there are only two training options approved by NATIA to become a CTI. The first is through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, GA and the second is through Covert Track in Phoenix, AZ. The FLETC course is not subsidized, and state and local attendees are charged for the course.

In addition to the examples given for the purpose of this outline, all agents assigned to the TSU are expected to attend the National Technical Investigators conference annually, attend IP programming training, basic electronics, regular vendor specific training and learn 3d printing and CAD design. Training is a major factor in determining budget needs for the TSU.



CONCLUSION & QUESTIONS

SLED COUNTERTERRORISM UNIT



**South Carolina House of Representatives-
Legislative Oversight Committee**

Stewart Robertson- Major - Counterterrorism Unit

MAJOR STEWART ROBERTSON'S BIOGRAPHY



- 1998-Present at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
- Intern, Forensics Lab-Implied Consent Department, Arson Investigations Unit, Bomb Squad (FBI Hazardous Devices Technician, Master Breacher, and Bomb Squad Commander), SWAT Team (Entry Team), WMD Team member and Team Leader, BAT member, Air Rescue Team, Clandestine Lab Team, Counterterrorism Dive Unit (CDU) (FBI UHDT #8), ATF TFO, FBI TFO, Special Deputy US Marshal Commission/TFO, Higher Education Adjunct Instructor, Captain, Major, and an SME in an array of CBRNE disciplines.
- Education
 - Bachelors- Sociology and Criminal Justice - Lander University
 - Master of Arts- Criminal Justice - Columbia College
 - PhD- Criminal Justice/Homeland Security - Liberty University (8/2025)
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy (FBINA #269)
 - Excellence in Policing and Public Safety (EPPS)-Inaugural Class/Cohort
"University of South Carolina's Joseph F. Rice School of Law"



MAJOR STEWART ROBERTSON'S BIOGRAPHY



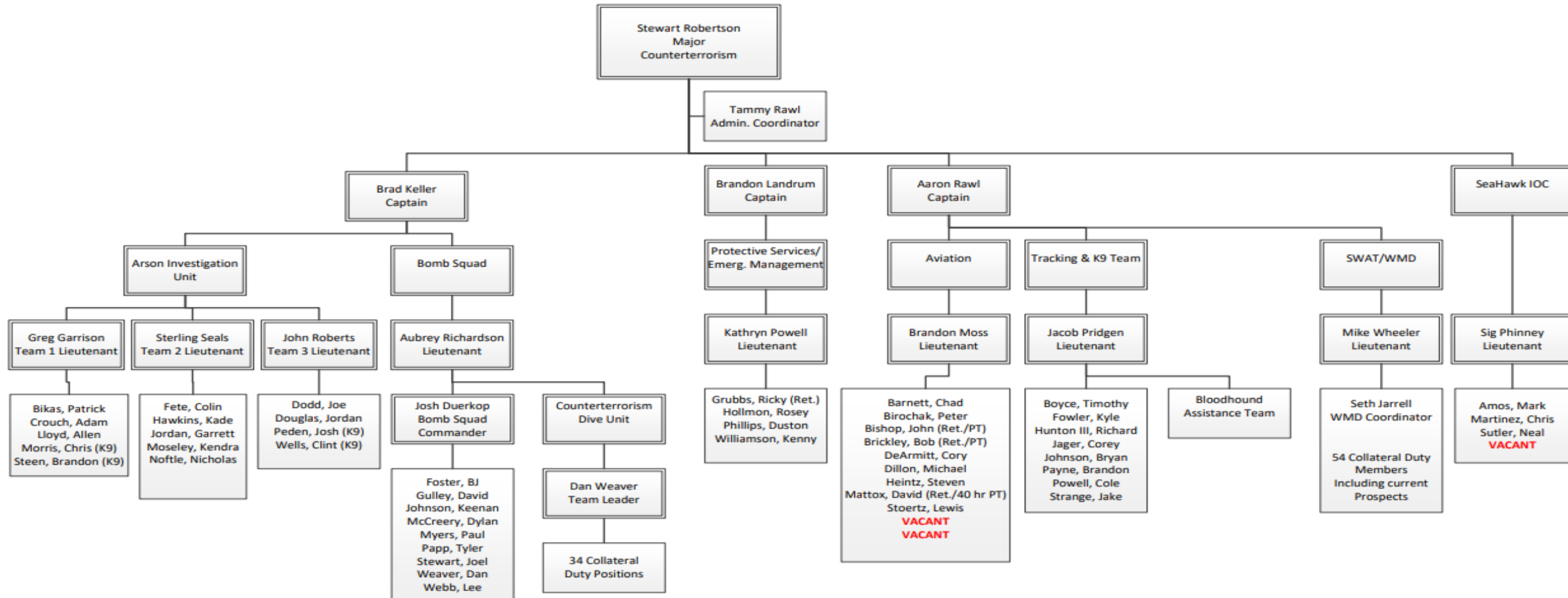
Notable Accomplishments:

- In 2019, Lead Team South Carolina in the Search for 6-Year-Old Nevaeh Adams in a Richland County Landfill.
- Appointed by Governor Haley and reappointed by Governor Henry McMaster to the South Carolina Board of Pyrotechnic Safety (2016 to present)
- (5) year chairman and current past chairman of the South Carolina Preventive Radiological, Nuclear Detection (PRND) Program
- Past Regional Director of Region VI for the International Association for Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI).
- Committee member for the 17th National Congress on School Transportation (NCST) Security and Emergency Preparedness.
- Committee member for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Arson and Explosive Committee.
- Master Mason at the Lexington 152 Masonic Lodge and a Shriner at the Jamil Temple.
- Mentor throughout several midlands area schools throughout my career.
- Alumnus of the United States Navy's Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security



SLED COUNTERTERRORISM UNIT

Organizational Chart



SLED COUNTERTERRORISM UNIT



Unit Organizational Structure

- Aviation Unit
- Arson Investigation Unit
- “Bloodhound” Tracking and Canine Team
 - BAT (Bloodhound Assistance Team) *
- Bomb Squad
- Counterterrorism Dive Unit (CDU) *
- Protective Services/Emergency Management (PSEM) Unit
- SeaHawk Interagency Operations Center (IOC)
 - Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) Program Coordinator *
 - Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program Coordinator *
- SWAT Team *
- WMD Team *

*Note: * Signifies collateral duty units for those assigned agents*

ARSON INVESTIGATION UNIT



- The SLED Arson Unit's Mission is to provide quality manpower, assistance and expertise to local agencies throughout the State of South Carolina. Members of the SLED Arson Investigations Unit are trained in numerous disciplines related to the field of fire/explosion investigations. Arson Agents process each individual scene and render an expert opinion as to the origin and cause of the fire. If the fire is found to be "Incendiary," Agents investigate the case from the initial crime scene until the case is adjudicated in a court of law. In addition to responding to calls for assistance, these Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in the Arson Investigations Unit provide training to local agencies throughout the state in coordination with the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA) and the South Carolina Fire Academy (SCFA).
- Lead by a Captain, three regional Lieutenants, 14 agents, and 3 Ignitable Liquid Detection (ILD) Canines all located throughout the state separated into multiple regions.

BOMB SQUAD



- The SLED Bomb Squad responds to all types of explosives - related calls for service, such as; improvised explosive devices (IED's), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) missions, explosives recoveries, military ordnance, bomb threats, and pyrotechnics. The Bomb Squad also conducts routine proactive protective sweeps for special events, dignitary protection details, large gatherings, mass transit locations and other public safety venues. The Bomb Squad provides support and technical training to Federal, State and local law enforcement / public safety agencies in South Carolina and throughout the United States. In addition, the SLED Bomb Squad consists of team members certified as; Underwater Hazardous Device Technicians (UHDT), Explosive Detection Dog Handlers (EDD), Breachers, Tactical Bomb Technicians (TBT), and subject matter experts (SMEs) in an array of specialized areas throughout the explosives industry. The Bomb Squad is an integral part of SLED's Weapons of Mass Destruction Team (WMD), Counterterrorism Dive Unit (CDU) and SWAT Team.
- Lead by a Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Bomb Squad Commander, 9 agents (*3 of which are ATF TFOs*), and 11 Explosive Detection Dogs (EDDs) all located throughout the four regions of the state.

COUNTERTERRORISM DIVE UNIT (CDU)



- The SLED Counterterrorism Dive Unit's (CDU) mission is to protect the State of South Carolina's maritime infrastructure through explosive, radiological and hazardous device detection sweeps and mitigation of incidents at those locations. Additionally, through the use of certified specialized divers, underwater robotics and other search and recovery — type equipment, the CDU provides manpower and support to our Federal, State and Local partners in the maritime environment.
- Specialized Coverage Area NC/VA state boarder south to Jacksonville, FL
- One of five teams in the country authorized and tasked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to render safe and mitigate surface and subsurface explosive related threats.
- (34) Personnel which includes Divers, Coxswains, Support Personnel
- (2) Vessels, (1) Underwater Robot, Hardhat Surface Supply Diving System, Underwater Sonar Capability
- Counter-Drone/UAS Capability

SEAHAWK INTERAGENCY OPERATION CENTER (IOC)



- The SeaHawk Interagency Operations Center (IOC) is the coordinating body of government agencies focused on the safety, security, and prosperity of the South Carolina maritime domain. It utilizes a systematic approach to facilitate information sharing; conducts a thorough analysis of risks and threats; plans for emergent, potential, and upcoming incidents; and coordinates operation between federal, state, and local partners. Currently, there are approximately sixteen partners that comprise the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) and numerous additional stakeholders.
- (1) Lieutenant and (4) SLED Agents- (*One agent assigned to the FBI's Maritime JTTF*)
- Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) Program Coordinator
- Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program Coordinator

TACTICAL OPERATIONS UNIT

AVIATION



- The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Aviation Unit provides 24-hour a day aviation assets to all Law Enforcement agencies in the State of South Carolina. The Aviation Unit has provided assistance throughout the state in; missing persons, fugitive searches, narcotics operations, surveillance, personnel and asset transport, tactical operations/SWAT support, hoist and lift operations, natural disaster response, Bambi bucket operations (aerial water delivery), executive/ presidential details, national security operations, port security operations and transport operations
- **Four Helicopters-** (2) MD 500s, (1) Bell 407, (1) Bell Twin Engine 412 with Hoist Capabilities
- 6 Current FTE Pilots
- 1 Full- Time Temporary Employee Pilot
- 1 Part-Time Temporary Pilot
- **Two Current FTE Pilot Positions are in the Process of Being Filled**
- All Lead by a Chief Pilot/SLED Lieutenant

TACTICAL OPERATIONS UNIT

“BLOODHOUND” TRACKING and CANINE TEAM



- The SLED “Bloodhound” Tracking and Canine Team is a specialized tactical unit that assists federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement in locating wanted and missing individuals by utilizing bloodhound-mix tracking dogs. The team also provides patrol/apprehension canines in support of SWAT and fugitive operations to include apprehension, building search, tracking, and article search. Finally, this unit also maintains one Human Remains Detection (HRD) canine. The team also promotes positive public relations throughout the state by conducting presentations to the community. Members of the Tracking & K9 Team hold Special Deputy status with the US Marshal’s Carolina Regional Fugitive Task Force
 - (8) Canine Handlers lead by 1 Lieutenant
 - (6) Bloodhounds
 - (3) Patrol Canines
 - (1) Human Remains Detection (HRD) Canine

TACTICAL OPERATIONS UNIT

SWAT TEAM



- The SLED Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is a specialized team whose members are recruited, trained, and equipped to respond and resolve critical incidents that are generally out of the capabilities of standard law enforcement function(s) and first responders. The mission of the SLED SWAT Team is to SAVE LIVES and increase the likelihood of safely and peacefully resolving critical incidents. Within the SLED SWAT Team are smaller specialized units: Entry Team, Precision Long Rifle/Sniper, Containment, Negotiations, EOD, EMT, and support. Operations that the SWAT Team performs range from but are not limited to: Security/Protective Details, High Risk Warrant Services, Barricaded Subjects, Hostage Rescues, and an array of additional scenarios and situations. The SLED SWAT Team's focus is to respond quickly, utilize tactical solutions, and mitigate casualties through specialized training, equipment, and tactics to greater serve the public of South Carolina and support all local, state, and federal agencies upon request.
- (54) Team Members and 10 support personnel located throughout the state and supervised by a Captain and a Lieutenant.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS UNIT

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD) TEAM



- SLED WMD Response Team is comprised of operators from the SLED SWAT Team, Bomb Squad, as well as personnel from the SLED Clandestine Laboratory Team and various other Hazardous Material Technicians throughout the state. The members of the SLED WMD Response Team are on call and available for response to calls for service anywhere within the state of South Carolina at a moment's notice. The operators on the SLED WMD Response Team are capable of dealing with threats emanating from a wide array of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive categories and work hand-in-hand with the Federal Government and other JTTF/PRND partners to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of South Carolina.
- 1 Agent tasked as the SLED WMD Coordinator (FBI's WMD JTTF)
- State WMD Team- SLED, SCDPH and SCDES (*Formally SC DHEC*), 43rd Civil Support Team (CST), and FBI

PROTECTIVE SERVICES/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT



- **Provide support** to local, state, and federal agencies by planning, coordinating, or executing responses for planned special events, emergency situations, disasters, and critical incidents; Coordinate, support, plan, and respond to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) for all-hazard planning for critical incidents, natural or human-made disasters, and planned events in concurrence with the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). **Provide personnel** to the Emergency Support Function 13 (ESF-13) cell during exercises and activation of the South Carolina Emergency Operations Center (SEOC); Provide support to United States Department of Energy (DOE) by planning, coordinating, or executing armed escorts of special nuclear material through South Carolina; and Provide support to local, state, and federal agencies by planning, coordinating, or executing responses for law enforcement protection and security for dignitaries, juries, and other identified persons.
- Lead by a Captain, a Lieutenant, (4) Agents and an Administrative Coordinator

CONCLUSION & QUESTIONS



SLED ARSON

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

House Oversight Committee

Captain William B. Keller

Arson, Bomb, & CDU



SLED ARSON UNIT



OVERVIEW

- The SLED Arson Unit's Mission is to provide quality manpower, assistance and expertise to local agencies throughout the State of South Carolina. Members of the SLED Arson Investigations Unit are trained in numerous disciplines related to the field of fire/explosion investigations. Arson Agents process each individual scene and render an expert opinion as to the origin and cause of the fire. If the fire is found to be "Incendiary," Agents investigate the case from the initial crime scene until the case is adjudicated in a court of law. In addition to responding to calls for assistance, these Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in the Arson Investigations Unit provide training to local agencies throughout the state in coordination with the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA) and the South Carolina Fire Academy (SCFA).

SLED ARSON UNIT



▲ Arson Agent
★ Supervisor

SLED ARSON UNIT



- Captain William B. Keller (24/24)

- Team #1

Lt. Greg Garrison (16/8)
S/A Patrick Bikas (12/4)
S/A Adam Crouch (13/2)
S/A Allen Lloyd (14/6)
S/A Chris Morris (K9) (12/2)
S/A Brandon Steen (K9) (10/6)

- Team #2

Lt. Sterling Seals (25/18)
S/A Colin Fete (7/1)
S/A Garrett Jordan (2/2)
S/A Kade Hawkins (13/1)
S/A Kendra Moseley (20/1)
S/A Nicholas Noftle (10/2)

- Team #3

Lt. John Roberts (20/20)
S/A Joe Dodd (10/1)
S/A Jordan Douglas (11/6)
S/A Josh Peden (18/5)
S/A Clint Wells (K9) (17/5)

Note: Beside each name, in parenthesis, is the Agent's total years of Law Enforcement experience followed by their total years at SLED. In total, the average years of experience in the Arson Unit is slightly less than 5 years (4.76 years)

SLED ARSON UNIT

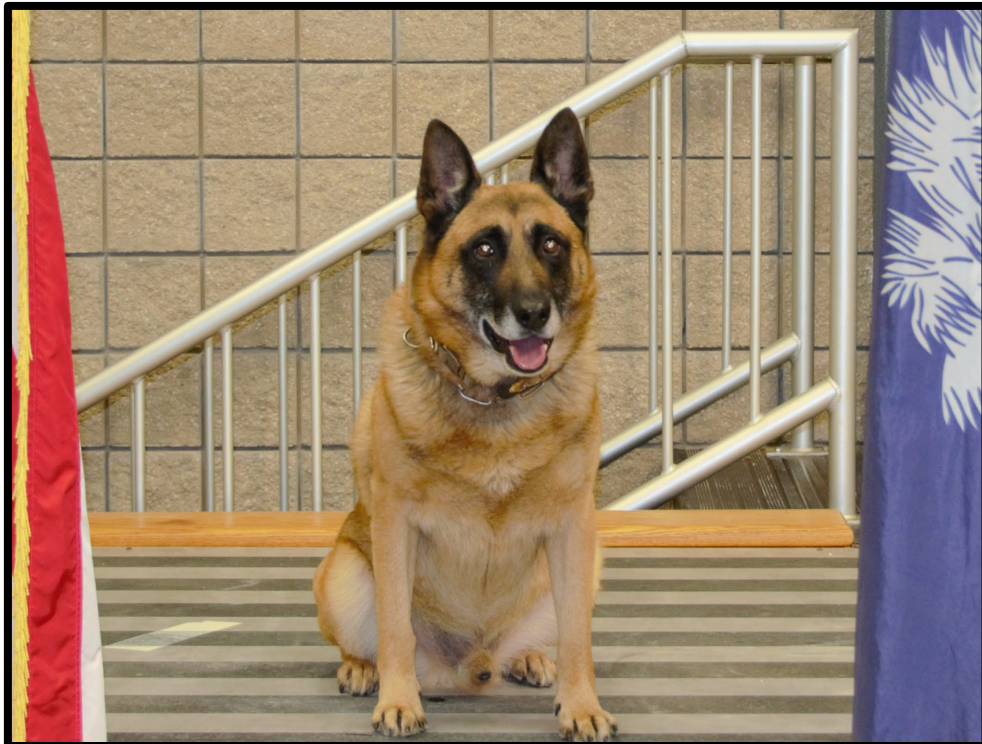


SLED ARSON CANINES

Note: On June 16, 2025, the Arson Unit added two additional ILDC K9s (“OSO” and “Diesel”). Both K9s are projected to be in service on September 11, 2025.



- ILDC “Iso” *(expected to retire FY25-26)*



- ILDC “Cinder”



SLED ARSON UNIT PARTNERSHIPS



- The SLED Arson Unit exists to provide assistance to Law Enforcement and Fire Service partners across the state to include:
 - Fire Departments
 - Sheriff's Offices
 - Police Departments
 - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms (ATF)
 - SC State Fire Marshal's Office

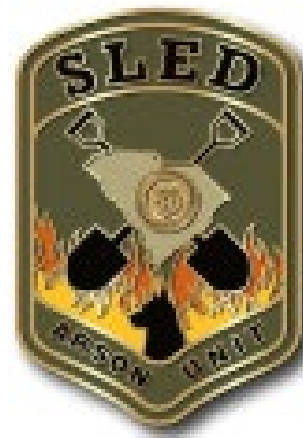


SLED ARSON UNIT PARTNERSHIPS



The SLED Arson Unit partners with Local Law Enforcement, Fire, and Coroners Offices across the state. Agents also provide inhouse training on fire investigation for local agencies.

SLED Arson Agents work closely with the State Fire Marshals Office in data collection and providing a one-week basic fire investigation course at the South Carolina Fire Academy. SLED Arson Investigation Unit Agents are instructors and have played a major role in training fire investigators throughout the State Since 2008.



SLED ARSON UNIT PARTNERSHIPS CONT.



- Shares a partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). SLED Arson unit has worked closely with the ATF National Response team on several large-scale fire investigations and fire investigations at federal buildings
- Incorporates candidates for the ATF CFI program into their callouts to provide necessary scene examination experience.
- The ATF Fire Research Laboratory has aided in several cases to include providing electrical and fire protection engineers, buildings scale models of homes for testing, providing expert opinions and testifying in court.



MULTI AGENCY RESPONSE TO MAJOR COMMERCIAL LOSS



Carolina Poly Inc. Chester, SC



MULTI AGENCY RESPONSE TO A CHURCH FIRE



Powdersville Community Church Greenville, SC





MULTI AGENCY RESPONSE GREENVILLE LANDFILL

Twin Chimneys Landfill, Greenville, SC

On September 9, 2020, Vernita L. Jones, age 27, was sentenced to thirty (30) years in prison for the killing of her 6-month-old son, Anthony Frost. In an interview with Johnston Police Chief Lamaz Robinson (on or about *November 28, 2018*), Jones admitted that she had “suffocated” Anthony. She stated that she had placed his body in a dumpster outside of her apartment complex in Johnston, SC. SLED Agents were able to trace the trash disposal to the Twin Chimneys landfill in Greenville, SC. The SLED Arson Unit ultimately coordinated a search of the landfill, aided by SLED Crime Scene Agents. During the morning hours, of the second day of the search, the body of Anthony Frost was located. Members of the SLED Arson Unit were utilized due to their ability to work in hazardous conditions and many of the same skills utilized in processing a fire scene were also used to locate baby Anthony.



MULTI AGENCY RESPONSE



Lancaster County Courthouse, Lancaster, SC



SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-110. Arson.

(A) A person who wilfully and maliciously causes an explosion, sets fire to, burns, or causes to be burned or aids, counsels, or procures a burning that results in damage to a building, structure, or any property specified in subsections (B) and (C), whether the property of the person or another, which results, either directly or indirectly, in death or serious bodily injury to a person is guilty of the **felony of arson in the first degree** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not less than thirty years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

(B) A person who wilfully and maliciously causes an explosion, sets fire to, burns, or causes to be burned or aids, counsels, or procures a burning that results in damage to a dwelling house, church or place of worship, public or private school facility, manufacturing plant or warehouse, building where business is conducted, institutional facility, or any structure designed for human occupancy including local and municipal buildings, whether the property of the person or another, is guilty of the **felony of arson in the second degree** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not less than three nor more than twenty-five years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

(C) A person commits a violation of the provisions of this subsection who wilfully and maliciously:

(1) causes an explosion, sets fire to, burns, or causes a burning which results in damage to a building or structure other than those specified in subsections (A) and (B), a railway car, a ship, boat, or other watercraft, an aircraft, an automobile or other motor vehicle, or personal property; or

(2) aids, counsels, or procures a burning that results in damage to a building or structure other than those specified in subsections (A) and (B), a railway car, a ship, boat, or other watercraft, an aircraft, an automobile or other motor vehicle, or personal property with intent to destroy or damage by explosion or fire, whether the property of the person or another.

A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of the **felony of arson in the third degree** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than fifteen years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

D) For purposes of this section, "damage" means an application of fire or explosive that results in burning, charring, blistering, scorching, smoking, singeing, discoloring, or changing the fiber or composition of a building, structure, or any property specified in this section years.

SECTION 16-11-125. Making false claim or statement in support of claim to obtain insurance benefits for fire or explosion loss.

Any person who wilfully and knowingly presents or causes to be presented a false or fraudulent claim, or any proof in support of such claim, for the payment of a fire loss or loss caused by an explosion, upon any contract of insurance or certificate of insurance which includes benefits for such a loss, or prepares, makes, or subscribes to a false or fraudulent account, certificate, affidavit, or proof of loss, or other documents or writing, with intent that such documents may be presented or used in support of such claim, **is guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than five years or both in the discretion of the court.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-130. Burning personal property to defraud insurer.

Any person who (a) wilfully and with intent to injure or defraud an insurer sets fire to or burns or causes to be burned or (b) aids, counsels, or procures the burning of any goods, wares, merchandise, or other chattels or personal property of any kind, whether the property of himself or of another, which is at the time insured by any person against loss or damage by fire is guilty of a **felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than one nor more than five years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-140. Burning of crops, fuel or lumber.

It is unlawful for a person to (a) wilfully and maliciously set fire to or burn or cause to be burned, or (b) aid, counsel, or procure the burning of any:

- (1) barracks, cock, crib, rick or stack of hay, corn, wheat, oats, barley, or other grain or vegetable product of any kind;
- (2) field of standing hay or grain of any kind;
- (3) pile of coal, wood, or other fuel;
- (4) pile of planks, boards, posts, rails, or other lumber.

A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a **misdemeanor** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than three years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-150. Burning lands of another without consent.

It shall be unlawful for any person without prior written consent of the landowner or his agent to intentionally set fire to lands of another, or to intentionally cause or allow fire to spread to lands of another, whereby any woods, fields, fences or marshes of any other person are burned. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished as follows: (a) For the first offense, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, (b) for a second or subsequent offense, by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than five years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-170. Wilfully burning lands of another.

It is unlawful for a person to wilfully and maliciously set fire to or burn any grass, brush, or other combustible matter, causing any woods, fields, fences, or marshes of another person to be set on fire or cause the burning or fire to spread to or to be transmitted to the lands of another, or to aid or assist in such conduct.

A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years. A person convicted under this section is liable to any person who may have sustained damage.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-180. Negligently allowing fire to spread to lands or property of another. *(Due to recent catastrophic wildland fires across the state, this particular statute should be reviewed to assess appropriate penalties.)*

Any person who carelessly or negligently sets fire to or burns any grass, brush, leaves, or other combustible matter on any lands so as to cause or allow fire to spread or to be transmitted to the lands or property of another, or to burn or injure the lands or property of another, or who causes the burning to be done or who aids or assists in the burning, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than five days nor more than thirty days or be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars. For a second or subsequent offense the sentence must be imprisonment for not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-190. Attempts to burn.

It is unlawful for a person to wilfully and maliciously attempt to set fire to, burn, or aid, counsel, or procure the burning of any of the buildings or property mentioned in Sections 16-11-110 to 16-11-140 or commit an act in furtherance of burning these buildings.

A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a **felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than ten thousand dollars.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16-11-200. Placing or distributing combustible materials and the like in buildings and property as constituting attempt.

The placing or distributing of any inflammable, explosive or combustible materials or substance or any device in any building or property mentioned in Sections 16-11-110 to 16-11-140 in an arrangement or preparation with intent eventually wilfully and maliciously to set fire to or burn the same or to procure the setting fire to or burning of the same shall for the purposes of Section 16-11-190 constitute an attempt to burn such building or property.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE & EXPLOSIONS

SECTION 16-23-720. Use, counseling or soliciting others to use, possessing, or threatening to use destructive device; harboring terrorist.

(A) It is unlawful for a person intentionally to use a destructive device or cause an explosion, or intentionally to aid, counsel, solicit another, or procure the use of a destructive device. **A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction:**

(1) in cases resulting in the death of another person where there was malice aforethought, must be punished by death, by imprisonment for life, or by a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for thirty years;

(2) in cases resulting in the death of another person where there was not malice aforethought, must be imprisoned not less than ten years nor more than thirty years; and

(3) in cases resulting in injury to a person, must be imprisoned for not less than ten years nor more than twenty-five years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE & EXPLOSIONS

B) A person who intentionally causes an explosion by means of a destructive device or aids, counsels, solicits another, or procures an explosion by means of a destructive device, which results in damage to a building or other real or personal property, or a person who attempts to injure another or damage or destroy a building or other real or personal property by means of a destructive device, is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than ten years nor more than twenty-five years.

(C) A person who knowingly possesses, manufactures, transports, distributes, or possesses with the intent to distribute a destructive device or any explosive, incendiary device, or over-pressure device or toxic substance or material which has been configured to cause damage, injury, or death, or a person who possesses parts, components, or materials which when assembled constitute a destructive device is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than two years nor more than fifteen years.



STATE LAWS PERTAINING TO FIRE & EXPLOSIONS

(D) A person who threatens, solicits another to threaten, or conspires to threaten to cause damage, injury, or death or to cause damage to or destroy a building or other real or personal property by means of destructive device is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than fifteen years.

(E) A person who knowingly protects, harbors, or conceals another who is known by the person to have planned, executed, or committed any violation of the provisions of this article is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than fifteen years.



ARSON UNIT PERSONNEL AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Members of the Arson Investigations Unit obtain and hold multiple national and international certifications in arson investigations and post-blast investigations. Certifications are obtained through classes and testing provided by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), the National Association of Arson Investigators (NAFI), the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Arson Agents hold the following certifications:



ARSON UNIT PERSONNEL AND CERTIFICATIONS

- IAAI Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI) – 4
- NAFI Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) – 10
- IFSAC Fire Investigator – 15
- NAFI Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) – 7
- IAAI Fire Investigator Technician (FIT) – 6
- NAFI Certified Fire Investigation Instructor (CFII) – 2
- IABTI/FBI/ATF Post-Blast Investigator – 4
- **Note** – *The IAAI-CFI is the most prestigious professional certification. Candidates must have five (05) years of full-time fire investigation experience and obtain 150 points from a myriad of categories just to be able to test for the certification. SLED currently has four (04) IAAI-CFI who are also CFEI, CVFI and two that are CFIs.*



SLED ARSON UNIT STATISTICS 2021-2025

Year	Cases	Incendiary	Undetermined	Accidental	Natural	Arrests	% Cleared	#Agents taking cases
2021	135	49	83	2	0	28	57	12
2022	171	51	117	2	0	19	37	13
2023	137	47	92	4	1	30	64	19
2024	149	52	88	6	0	30	58	17
2025	160	66	89	1	0	25	38	15

***NOTE:** Since 2019 the National average clearance rate for arson offenses was approximately 23.8%. In most years, the SLED Arson Unit has almost doubled the national average for cases cleared by arrest. The arrest rates only reflect cases closed by arrest that year and not those carried over to and cleared the following year.



SLED ARSON UNIT OVERTIME FY2024-2025

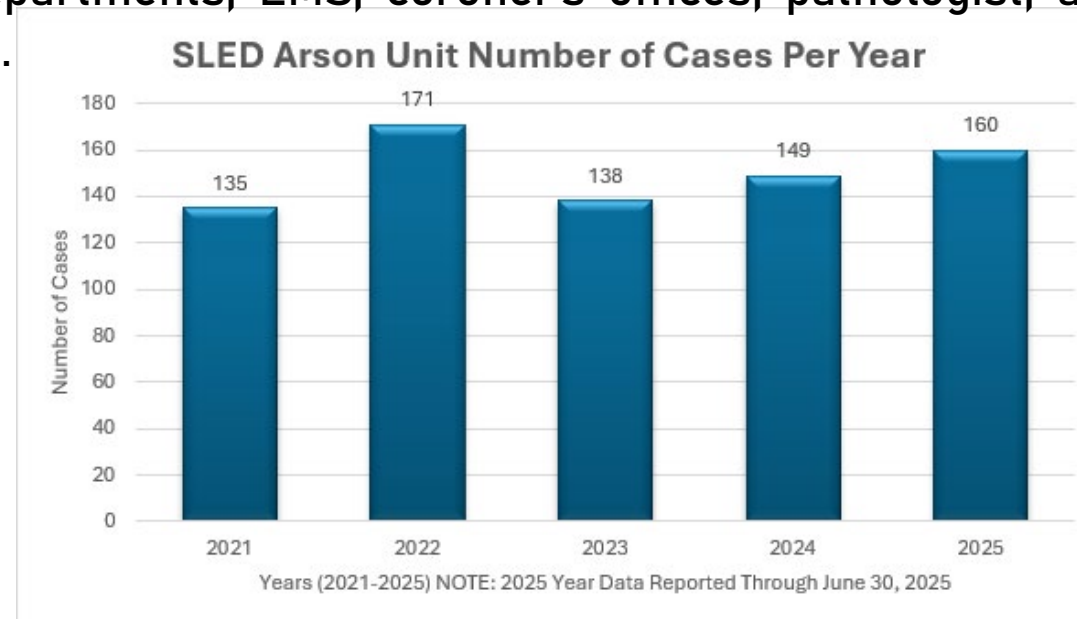
- For FY2024-2025, there were fourteen (14) Agents in the Arson Unit
 - A total of 1,546.55 hours of overtime were worked
 - The 1,546.55 hours of overtime equated to \$75,322.41
 - In order to receive overtime, Agents must work in excess of 86 hours during a 2-week pay period
 - In addition to responding to fire scenes, Agents in the Arson Unit also assist the Protective Services Emergency Management (PSEM) Unit with special assignments
 - There is currently one (01) Agent on the Counterterrorism Dive Unit (CDU) and four (04) Agents on the SLED SWAT Team
 - Supervisors manage overtime for their assigned Agents and all overtime in excess of ten (10) hours requires the Major's approval.



SLED ARSON INVESTIGATION UNIT CASELOAD

On Average the SLED Arson Investigation Unit caseload is approximately 160 cases per year for the last five (5) years, in almost all of South Carolina's 46 counties.

- The SLED Arson Unit is unique in that Fire Departments and Coroner's Offices may request our assistance, not just Law Enforcement.
- Many of these in-depth investigations require months for completion and involve local law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, coroner's offices, pathologist, autopsies, and results from forensic laboratories.





SLED ARSON INVESTIGATION UNIT CASELOAD Cont.

- Historically an arson agent has carried an approximate case load of 12 cases a year. This number has increased in times of agent reductions and increasing requests for service.
- The current caseloads allow agents to conduct thorough follow-up and quality origin and cause reports. However, due to labor-intensive multi-day scene examinations, agents will typically respond as an assisting agent to 20 or more additional fire scenes a year.





SLED ARSON UNIT STATISTICS DETAILED 2024-2025

- From July 2024 through June 2025, the SLED Arson Investigative Unit received **168 requests for investigative assistance** and there were **160 responses**. The breakdown of requests is as follows: one hundred eight (108) requests were received from law enforcement agencies/departments of public safety, fifty (50) requests were received from the fire service/emergency services, six (6) requests were made by other units at SLED, one (1) request was made by the SC Department of Public Safety, one (1) request from the SC Department of Corrections, and one (1) request from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
- **Of the 168 total requests**, seven (7) requests were withdrawn by the requesting agency. One (1) request was declined because the scene was left unsecured for an extended period of time.



SLED ARSON UNIT STATISTICS DETAILED 2024-2025

- Of the 160 responses, sixty-six (66) were determined to be arson (Incendiary), one (1) was determined to be Accidental, and eighty-nine (89) were classified as Undetermined*. There was one (01) Unfounded. One (01) response was for explosives. Two (02) responses were not classified.
- **Per NFPA 921 (The Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, states, "Whenever the cause cannot be proven to an acceptable level of certainty, the proper classification is Undetermined"). For example, if a building or vehicle were burned to the point where there is little or nothing left to examine, it would be classified as Undetermined, because not enough was left to make a proper examination for an exact cause."*



SLED ARSON UNIT STATISTICS DETAILED 2024-2025

- Between the dates of July 2024 – June 2025, twenty-five (25) of sixty-six (66) cases determined to be arson have been cleared by arrest for the following charges: Arson 1st Degree, Arson 2nd Degree, Arson 3rd Degree, Accessory to Murder, Attempted Murder, Burglary 2nd Degree, Desecration of Human Remains, Domestic Violence High & Aggravated and Murder.
- SLED's Arson Investigations Unit consistently tops the nation's average clearance rate on Arson cases. According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report, in 2019 the National average clearance rate for arson offenses was approximately 23.8%. SLED's Arson Investigative Unit's clearance rate, between the dates of July 2024 – June 2025, was approximately 38%, which was significantly higher than the reported national average.



SLED ARSON UNIT STATISTICS DETAILED 2024-2025

- The SLED Arson Investigations Unit responds to and investigates a large number of fires that involve the death of individuals. From July 2024 – June 2025, the SLED Arson Investigations Unit investigated forty-four (44) fatal fires involving a total of forty-seven (47) deaths. Each of these cases was handled with extreme care and coordinated with local law enforcement agencies, fire service, emergency services and local coroner's office.
- The SLED Arson Investigative Unit currently has a total of two (2) specially trained Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine (ILDC) Teams, and the teams have proven to be a very valuable asset to the State of South Carolina. The SLED ILDC Teams assisted with a total of fifty-eight (58) fire scenes throughout the State of South Carolina. Two additional ILDC Teams are currently in training, with planned deployment in September 2025. One of the current ILDCs will retire once the new K9s are certified, bringing the total number of ILDCs in the Arson Unit to three (03).



SLED ARSON UNIT STATISTICS DETAILED 2024-2025

➤ The SLED Arson Investigations Unit handled a wide variety of fires in the last year, to include but not limited to the following:

• Dwelling/Residential Fires	69
• Mobile Home	28
• Vehicle Fires / Vehicle Fires w/Dwelling or Body	13
• Commercial Fires	17
• Outdoor/Trail/Wildland Fires	06
• Detention Center/Prison/Jail	03
• Camper/Motorhome	03
• Church / Church Property	03
• Apartment/Townhome/Duplex	03



SLED ARSON UNIT SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

All fire scenes present countless hazards and are considered Haz-Mat responses as all contain known or potential carcinogens. The majority of specialized equipment utilized by the Arson Unit is used to protect the health and safety of Agents.

- **Half-face air purifying respirator (APR)** - The half-face APR is used by the Arson Agent to provide protection for his/her lungs and respiratory system. Each APR has two cartridges designed to filter a range of fire scene contaminants. APRs are purchased in bulk once per year at a cost of about **\$25/each**. The specialized cartridges are purchased as needed (usually twice per year), and cost about **\$30-\$50/pair**.
- **Helmets** - Each Arson Agent is issued a light-weight helmet, designed to protect the wearer from falling debris. Current helmets have been in use for approximately 4 years, and cost **\$185 each**.



SLED ARSON UNIT SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

- **Fire boots** - Agents are issued structural firefighting boots, equipped with steel toes, shanks and reinforced soles. Fire scenes are rife with hazards around floor or ground level, including nails, screws, broken glass and hot/smoldering fire debris. Structural firefighting boots help to protect the Agent's feet from dangers at floor level. Boots are purchased approximately once every two years for each Agent, at a cost of approximately **\$600/pair**.
- **Long sleeve wildland firefighting shirts** - Agents are issued long sleeve shirts, designed for wildland firefighting, that are water and heat resistant. Some of the hazards on the fire scene can be absorbed into the skin, and the shirts help to prevent that. The shirts are also lighter weight than traditional firefighting bunker gear, which aids in keeping the Agent able to work effectively on long fire scene examinations. Current shirts were purchased approximately two years ago, for about **\$180/each**.



SLED ARSON UNIT SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

1. **MiniRAE 3000 Volatile Organic Compound Detector (VOC)** - The MiniRAE 3000 VOC detects small amounts of volatile organic compounds, some of which are present in ignitable liquids. Agents utilize the MiniRAE when scenes are not safe for an Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine (ILDC), or when an ILDC is not available. If the MiniRAE alerts, Agents can collect a sample and submit it to the SLED Forensic Laboratory for analysis. Several of the MiniRAEs in the Unit are approximately eight (8) years old. The most recently purchased MiniRAE detectors were bought two (2) years ago for approximately **\$3500 each**.
2. **Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine (ILDC)** - The ILDC is a dog that has been trained to alert to ignitable liquids. Each ILDC and his handler provide a more rapid search function on fire scenes than a VOC detector. Each handler is responsible for the transport, care and training of the ILDC, as well as being responsible for determining if the ILDC can work the scene that they've been called to assist with. One of the ILDC's is ten (10) years old, and the other is two (2) years old. ILDCs are approximately **\$20,000 each** *(Two additional ILDCs are projected to be in service on or about September 11, 2025, after completing their prescribed 400-hour training course).*



SLED ARSON UNIT SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

- **Arson Sampling Cans** - The Arson Unit utilizes two sizes of lined metal cans to collect samples of possible ignitable liquids: Gallon and quart. Each can is lined with a non-reactive polymer, which increases the lifespan of the can. The lid is grooved to prevent any vapors from escaping. The SLED Forensic Laboratory provides the cans, after ensuring that they are contaminant-free, to the Arson Unit.
- **Arson SKID Steer** - The Arson Unit has a SKID Steer that is used on large fire scenes and commercial structures. There is also a dedicated truck that is utilized to haul the SKID Steer to fire scenes. Having access to our own equipment as proved to be an invaluable asset and has allowed Arson Agents to process scenes in a day that would have taken multiple days without the use of said equipment.
- **Drones** - The Arson Unit is in the process of integrating Drones into the Unit and Agents will be trained/certified to use them in the field. In the past, when working a large fire scene, Agents would have to request a helicopter from the Aviation Unit to take aerial photos. Having access to a Drone will be more cost effective and more efficient.

FATAL FIRE STATISTICS IN SC

data for FY 2025)

(Data is compiled on a yearly basis and there is no complete



- 2024
 - 60 Fatal Fires involving 66 Fatalities (10% incendiary)
 - SLED Worked 35 Fatal Fires involving 40 deaths
 - 6 of the 35 fires (17%) were classified as incendiary
- 2023
 - 84 Fatal Fires involving 98 Fatalities (4% incendiary)
 - SLED Worked 36 Fatal Fires involving 48 deaths
 - 4 of the 36 fires (11%) were classified as incendiary
- 2022
 - 86 Fatal Fires involving 96 Fatalities (8% incendiary)
 - SLED Worked 48 Fatal Fires involving 54 deaths
 - 7 of the 48 fires (15%) were classified as incendiary



FATAL FIRE STATISTICS IN SC

- In S.C., most fatal fires involved only 1 victim and the majority of incidents occurred in single-family dwellings, followed by mobile homes and then vehicles (not related to MVAs)
- Victims were mostly male, and the majority of victims (42%) were over the age of 50.
- Cooking fires (followed closely by heating fires) are a leading cause of residential fires. Cigarette smoking is a leading cause of fire related deaths.
- Men are 1.6 times more likely to die in a fire
- Children under the age of 4 and adults over the age of 65 are at an increased risk of death in fires.

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IMPACT OF FIRE INVESTIGATIONS ON FIRE INVESTIGATORS



- ✓ Each year, fire investigators respond to and process scenes involving fatal fire victims. In many instances, multiple victims are involved, to include small children.
- ✓ Often, it can take hours to properly excavate a victim from a fire scene. Once the victim is removed from the scene, the fire investigator will also attend the victim's autopsy and will eventually interview members of the deceased's family.
- ✓ The cumulative exposure to fatal fire victims takes a tremendous toll on all who work these types of scenes.
- ✓ Long ago, SLED recognized this and provides counseling sessions through SCLEAP which currently take place twice a year. Members of the peer support team are also available for additional counseling sessions in the event of a particularly devastating scene.

IMPACT OF FIRE INVESTIGATIONS ON FIRE INVESTIGATORS



On September 28, 2020, the Governor signed into law the "Firefighters Cancer Bill"

- 2) 'Fire department' means any organization located and based in this State that provides rescue, fire suppression, and related activities including any public or government-sponsored organizations, excluding federal agencies, engaged in rescue, fire suppression, and related activities.
- (3) 'Firefighter' means any person, paid or unpaid, who is a resident of this State and engages in rescue, fire suppression, or related activities, under the supervision of a fire chief or fire department in this State or who is employed by the State Commission of Forestry or a forestry district for the purpose of fire protection.
- The Bill covers firefighters in the State of South Carolina and even members of the State Commission of Forestry. However, fire investigators with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are not covered under the bill even though their daily duties clearly fall under the "related activities" as stated in the legislation. SLED Fire Investigators spend more time on scene investigating the origin and cause of a fire and are exposed to the hazardous effects of the fire for a longer duration than any other group covered under the Bill.

CHALLENGES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE ARSON UNIT



The number one challenge for the Arson Unit has and will always be **employee retention**. In the past five years (05), the SLED Arson Unit has not been able to hire one Agent with previous experience as a fire investigator. In most cases, it takes approximately two (02) years to train an Agent with no previous experience to a level where they will be capable of working a fire scene on their own. The fire investigator's job is always physically and mentally demanding and requires Agents to be on call on a regular basis. **Burnout among Agents is common, and many Agents in the Arson Unit seek to transfer to another Unit after 4-5 years of service.**

CHALLENGES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE ARSON UNIT



The inability to recruit and retain qualified Agents in the Arson Unit is the number one obstacle. Despite the countless professional certifications and dollars spent on training new Agents, there is currently no way to incentivize a long-term career in the Arson Unit. As stated earlier, it takes five years of full-time fire investigation experience to even qualify to take the exam for the IAAI-CFI. Once an Agent obtains that certification, they would be considered an expert in their field. Having qualified personnel helps fulfill the mission of SLED to provide quality manpower and assistance to local departments.

CHALLENGES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE ARSON UNIT



Another challenge that has plagued the Arson Unit since its inception is the ability to prosecute cases. It is commonly known that Arson cases are one of the most difficult to prove as much of the evidence is consumed in the fire. Many Arson cases are either circumstantial or rely on very technical data that must be relayed to a jury in a way they can comprehend. There have been several examples in recent years when SLED had the assistance of ATF in investigating high profile cases. In those cases, ATF was able to rebuild the entire structure and conduct testing that was eventually presented to a jury at trial in both narrative format and through the introduction of video evidence of the testing. Very few Solicitor's Offices across the state have attorneys who are dedicated to working arson cases. Despite the best efforts of the members of the Arson Unit to educate them, members of the Solicitor's Offices have a difficult time preparing for and prosecuting cases of such a specialized and scientific nature.

CONCLUSION



- The SLED Arson Unit is comprised of highly skilled SMEs in the field of Fire and Post Blast Investigation.
- The SLED Arson Unit is currently the only Unit of its kind in the State of South Carolina at the Local, State, or Federal Level.
- Members of the Arson Unit have the sole task of assisting agencies across the state with the investigation of fire and post blast scenes. By having such a unit, with such a narrow focus, the Agents are able to provide unsurpassed manpower and expertise as they do not divide their time or resources among other types of crimes or investigations.
- While all cases begin as a fire or post blast, Agents are capable of and prepared to investigate any/all other related crimes to include, but not limited to: homicide, insurance fraud, burglary, CDV, etc. Agents in the Arson Unit work each case from "Crime to Court." Agents process the scene, collect their own evidence, conduct their own interviews, prepare investigative/origin and cause reports, meet with Solicitor's, and testify as expert witnesses in court.

CONCLUSION & QUESTIONS



Overview of the SLED Arson Unit for the South Carolina House Oversight Committee





BOMB SQUAD & COUNTERTERRORISM DIVE UNIT

House Oversight Committee

Lieutenant Aubrey P. Richardson III

Bomb & CDU



SLED's ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY

SECTION 23-3-15

- (A)(1): the investigation of organized criminal activities or combined state-federal interstate criminal activities, all general criminal investigations, arson investigation and emergency event management pertaining to explosive devices;
- (A)(8): the coordination of counter terrorism efforts, including prevention against, preparation for, response to, and crisis management of acts of terrorism, in or affecting this State; coordination of federal grants associated with homeland security; creation of councils appropriate to its mission; and service as the Governor's representative to the United States Department of Homeland Security;

SLED BOMB SQUAD



OVERVIEW

- The SLED Bomb Squad responds to all types of explosives - related calls for service, such as; improvised explosive devices (IED's), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) missions, explosives recoveries, military ordnance, bomb threats, and pyrotechnics. The Bomb Squad also conducts routine proactive protective sweeps for special events, dignitary protection details, large gatherings, mass transit locations and other public safety venues. The Bomb Squad provides support and technical training to Federal, State and local law enforcement / public safety agencies in South Carolina and throughout the United States.
- The SLED Bomb Squad consists of team members certified as; Underwater Hazardous Device Technicians (UHDTs), Tactical Bomb Technicians (TBTs), Explosive Detection Canine Handlers (EDCs), Explosive Breachers, and subject matter experts (SMEs) in numerous specialized areas throughout the explosives industry.



SLED BOMB SQUAD

OVERVIEW

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has assigned SLED a Target Staffing Level (TSL) of 12 Public Safety Bomb Technicians.

- The SLED Bomb Squad is currently compromised of 11 total personnel: 1 Lieutenant, 1 Bomb Squad Commander, and 9 Agents throughout the State and all are paired with an EDC.
- Agents are divided into 4 geographical regions, which allows for quicker response times.
 - The regions are staffed as follows:
 - 5 in the Midlands (including the Bomb Squad Commander)
 - 2 in the Upstate
 - 2 in the Lowcountry
 - 2 in the Pee Dee (including the Bomb Squad Lieutenant)

SLED BOMB SQUAD

AGENTS



- Lieutenant Aubrey Richardson: 14 Years LE, 5 Years at SLED, 6 Years as Bomb Technician
- Bomb Squad Commander Joshua Duerkop: 11 Years Total LE, 6 Years at SLED, 6 Years Bomb Technician
- Senior Special Agent Robert "BJ" Foster: 20 Years Total LE, 10 Years at SLED, 14 Years Bomb Technician
- Counterterrorism Dive Unit Team Leader Daniel Weaver: 18 Years LE, 4 Years at SLED, 8 Years Bomb Technician
- Senior Special Agent David Gulley: 16 Years LE, 9 Years at SLED, 1 Years Bomb Technician
- Special Agent Lee Webb: 11 Years LE, 2 Year at SLED, 4 Years Bomb Technician
- Special Agent Keenan Johnson: 10 Years LE, 2 Years at SLED, 4 Years as Bomb Technician
- Special Agent Joel Stewart: 12 Years LE, 2 Years at SLED, 3 Years as Bomb Technician
- Special Agent Tyler Papp: 13 Years LE, 2 Years at SLED, 3 Years as Bomb Technician
- Special Agent Paul Myers: 22 Years LE, 1 Year at SLED, 4 Years as Bomb Technician
- Special Agent Dylan McCreery: 1 Year LE, <1 Year at SLED, 0 Years Bomb Technician (*4 years NAVY EOD)

SLED BOMB SQUAD



Average Service

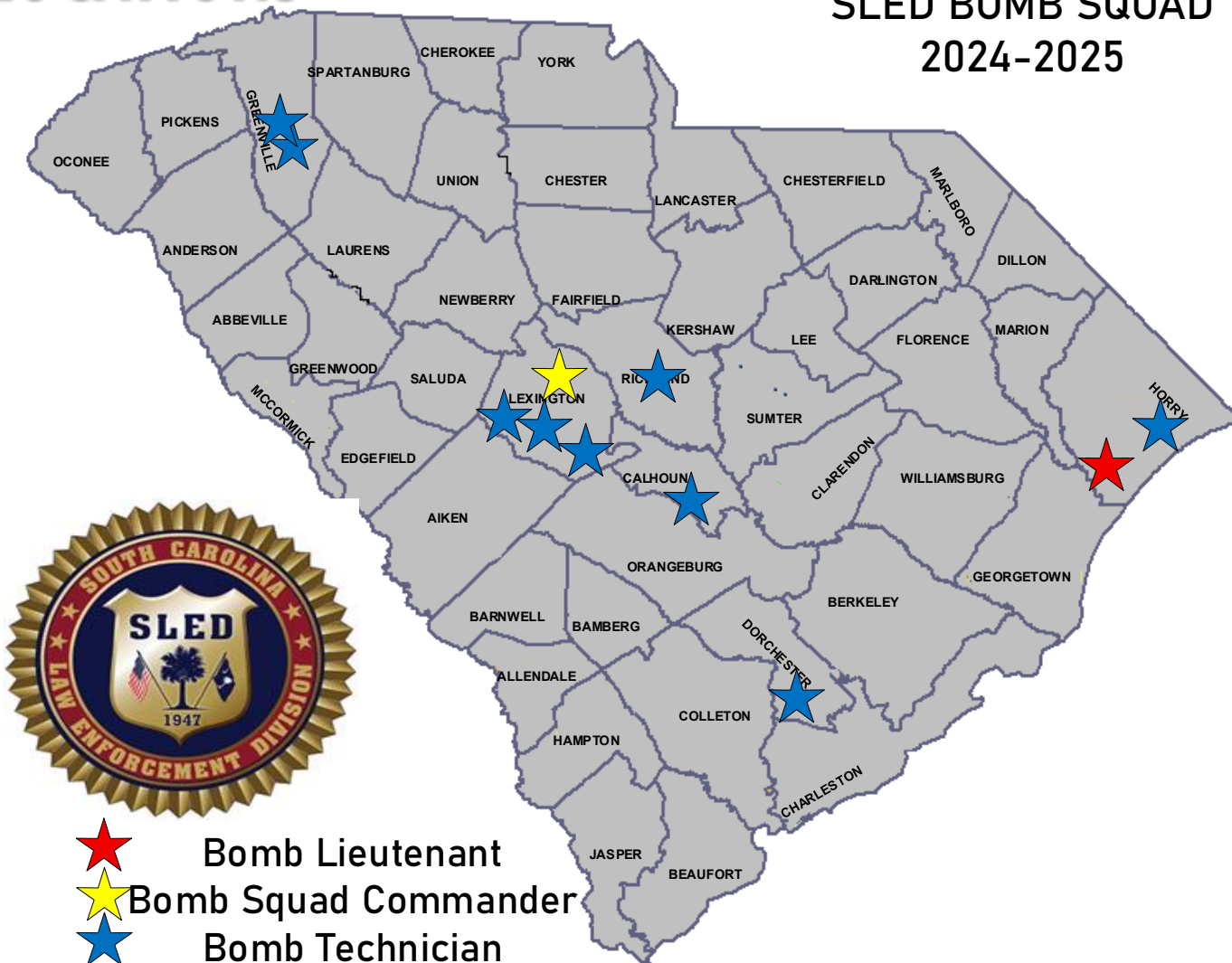
Average Years in Law Enforcement: 14 years

Average Years at SLED: 4 years

Average Years as Bomb Technician: 4.81 years

AGENT LOCATIONS

SLED BOMB SQUAD
2024-2025

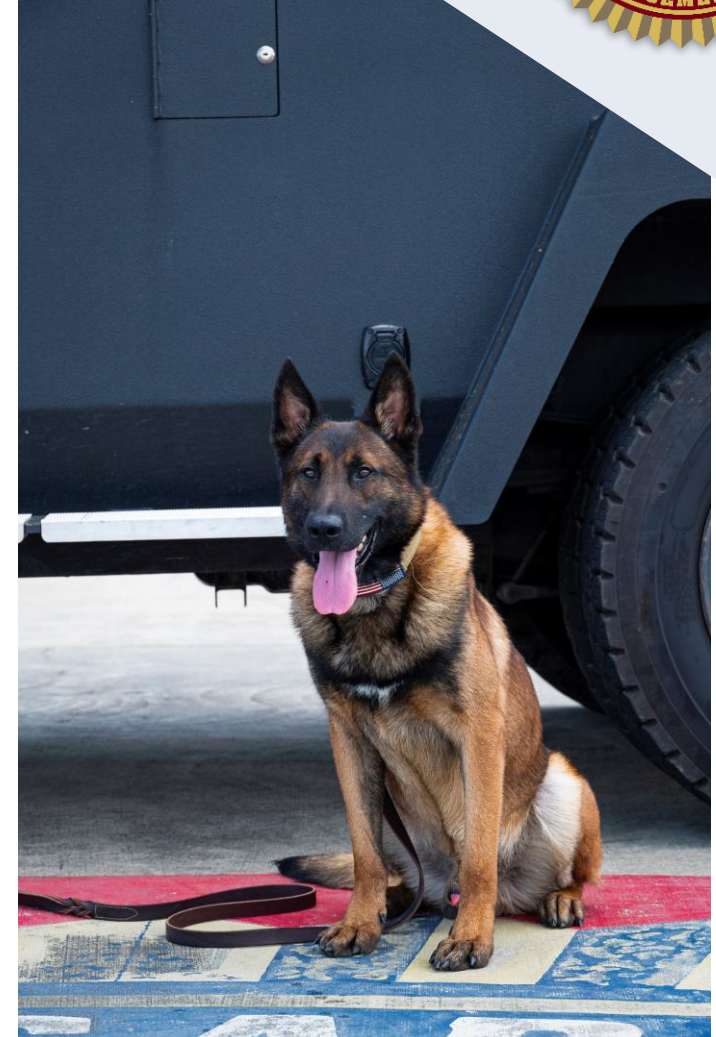
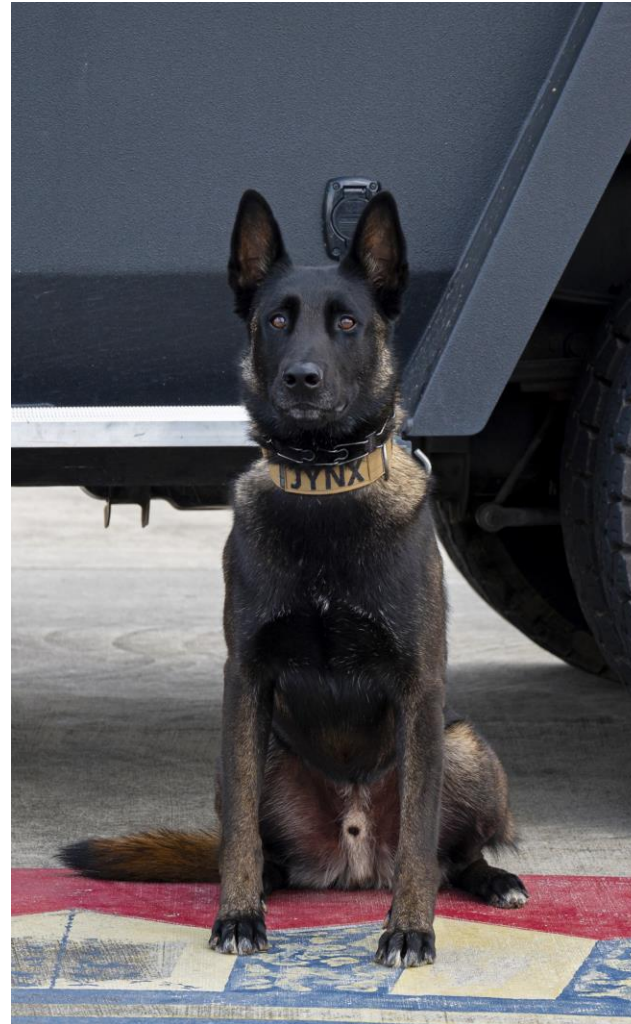


- ★ Bomb Lieutenant
- ★ Bomb Squad Commander
- ★ Bomb Technician

SLED BOMB SQUAD



SLED BOMB SQUAD Explosive Detection Canine (EDC)



SLED BOMB SQUAD



Initial Training and Continuing Education

- All personnel assigned to the Bomb Squad complete an initial two hundred and forty (240) hour U.S. Public Safety Bomb Technician course sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hazardous Devices School (HDS) in Huntsville, Alabama which must be recertified every three (3) years.
- Each Public Safety Bomb Technician is responsible for a minimum of two hundred and forty (240) hours of continuing education each year (to include 40 hours of external training).
- **Total Training Hours July 2024 – June 2025:** 3,704 hours

SLED BOMB SQUAD



Additional Training and Certifications

- All SLED Bomb Squad Agents are also assigned an Explosive Detection Canine (EDC).
 - All canines are certified by the North American Police Working Dog Association (NAPWDA) yearly.
 - Agents and canines are responsible for a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of monthly training.
- All SLED Bomb Squad Agents are also certified as Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) Divers and assigned to the SLED Counterterrorism Dive Unit (CDU).
 - SLED's CDU is one of only five (5) teams in the United States recognized by the FBI and the National Bomb Squad Commander's Advisory Board (NBSCAB) as an Underwater Hazardous Device Countermeasures Team, covering from VA/NC line to Jacksonville, FL.
 - SLED currently has three (3) certified Underwater Hazardous Devices Technicians (as of 06/2025) with one (1) Agent scheduled to complete the course in FY25-FY26.

SLED BOMB SQUAD



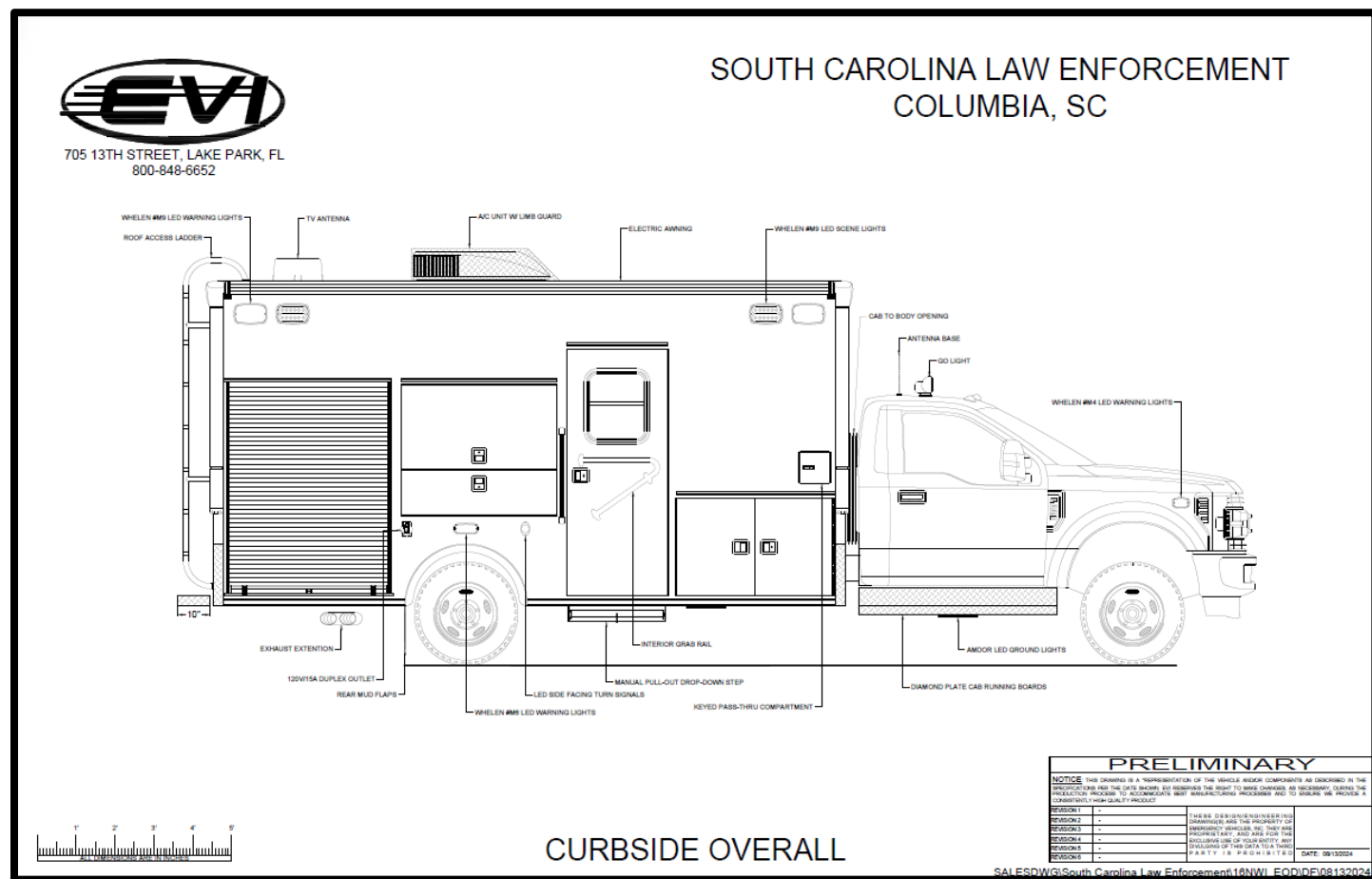
Specialized Equipment

- Multiple Fully NIJ Certified Public Safety Bomb Suits
- Multiple Robotic Platforms positioned throughout the State
- Multiple Digital Radiography (DR) X-Ray Systems
- Multiple Computed Radiography (CR) X-Ray Systems
- Three (3) Regional Response Trailers
- One (1) Custom Bomb Response Vehicle (*expected delivery FY2025-FY2026*)
 - *The funding for the Custom Bomb Response Vehicle was received in the FY24-25 Budget year.*
- One (1) WMD Capable - Total Containment Vessel
- The Bomb Unit also has a variety of CBRN detection equipment

SLED BOMB SQUAD



Custom Bomb Response Vehicle (expected delivery FY25-26)





SLED BOMB SQUAD

Large Robots

- Multiple Robots with an approximate cost of \$400,000/ each strategically located throughout the State.



SLED BOMB SQUAD



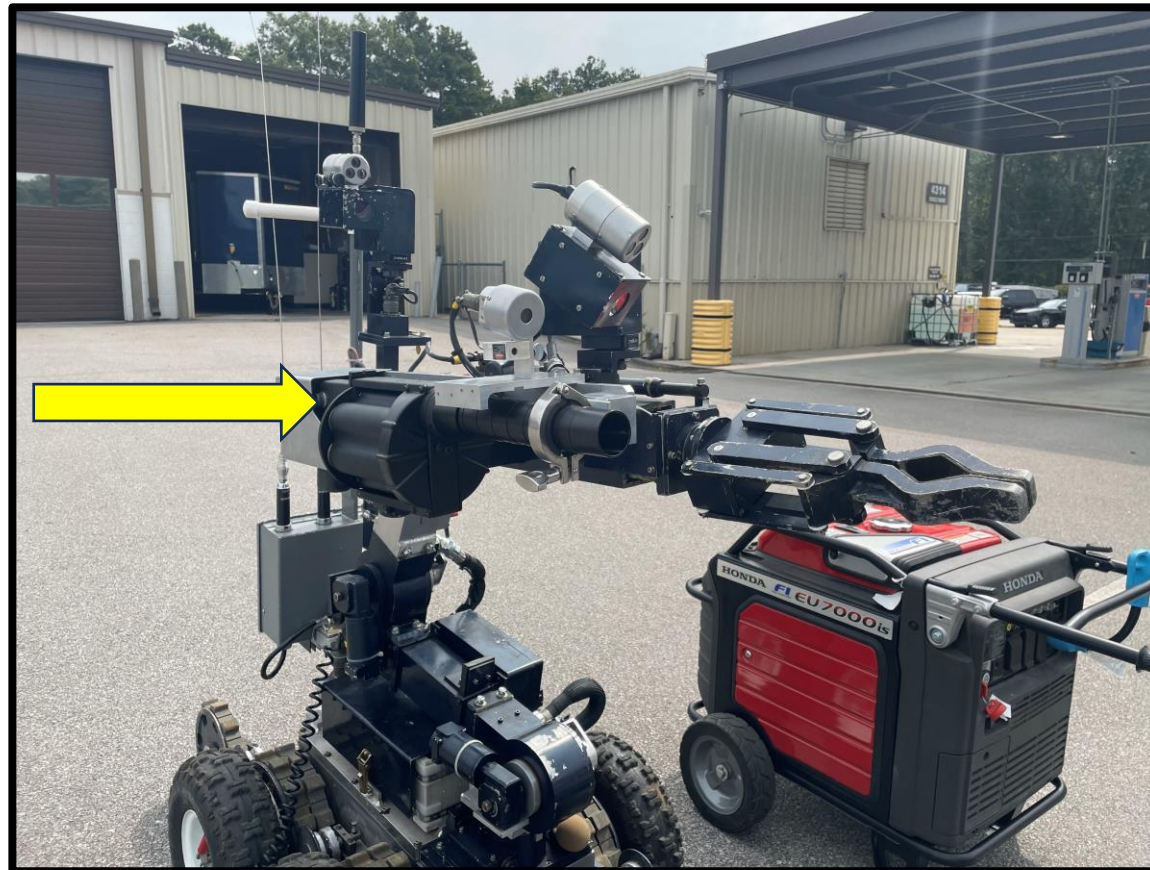
Robots

- SLED robots can be used for traditional explosive calls.
 - “Start Remote, Stay Remote”
- SLED robots have been deployed numerous times with the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. Numerous robots have been damaged by gunfire during SWAT calls. On one occasion, a robot was completely destroyed during a SWAT call that resulted in a structure fire. There is no doubt that the use of this equipment has saved the lives of countless Agents and helped bring many of these situations to a peaceful resolution.
- **SLED Robots can be used to deliver lethal or less lethal munitions to include:** chemical irritant (CS), OC spray, and have 40mm kinetic impact capability.

SLED BOMB SQUAD



Robot with 40mm attachment



SLED BOMB SQUAD

Robot Damage

- Horry County PD SWAT Assist.
- The suspect fired at police officers from a barricaded position inside the residence. The robot was sent to locate the suspect but was shot on the stairs. The suspect set the house on fire and the robot was unable to be retrieved before being consumed in the fire.

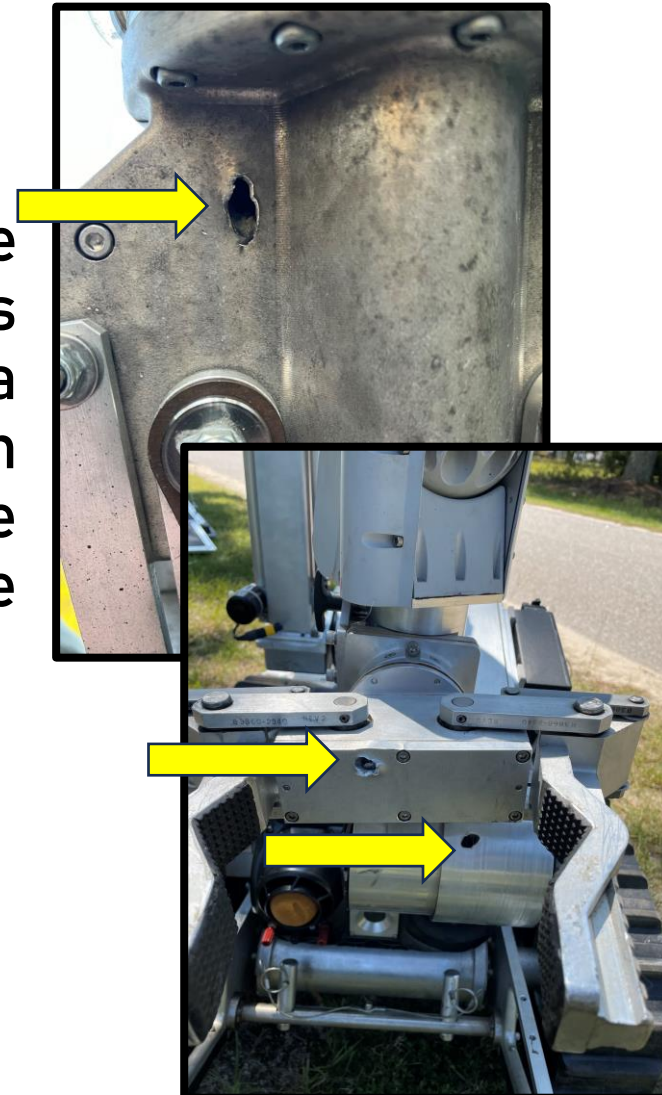


SLED BOMB SQUAD



Robot Damage

- SLED SWAT call in Pageland, SC – The suspect fired at 3 local police officers before barricading himself inside a residence. The robot was used to breach the front door and deliver multiple rounds of gas. The suspect shot the robot numerous times.





FY 24-25 BOMB SQUAD REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

Total Number of Calls July 2024- June 2025

• Protective Sweeps (Special Events/VIP)	103
• Suspicious Package	14
• Post Blast Investigation	1
• Proactive Mass Transit Sweeps	19
• Disposal	1
• SWAT Support	15
• Bomb Threats	8



FY 24-25 BOMB SQUAD REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

Total Number of Calls July 2024- June 2025 (continued)

• Render Safe IED or Hoax	9
• Military Ordnance	11
• Illegal Explosive Possession	7
• WMD/CBRN	5
• Community Relations	37
• Miscellaneous	11

Total - 241



BOMB SQUAD REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

Total Number of Calls

- FY 2020-2021: 189 *COVID*
- FY 2021-2022: 269
- FY 2022-2023: 239
- FY 2023-2024: 238
- FY 2024-2025: 241



BOMB SQUAD OVERTIME FY24-FY25

Hours

- 2225.14

- Overtime compensation is awarded for all hours worked over 86 in a specified two (2) week work period.
- According to a recent study, seventy five percent (75%) of OT hours are directly related to canine care and maintenance in addition to normal assigned duties.
- Additionally, all members of the Bomb Squad are assigned to the Counterterrorism Dive Unit (CDU) and four (4) members are assigned to the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team as operators. The remaining Bomb Squad members respond with SWAT as support.

Cost

- \$119,405.71

BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS



77-22-0146 - Found Dynamite



July 2022 - The Horry County Police Department and SLED received a call for found dynamite in the attic of an abandoned home. The call was made by the owner who stated that his grandfather kept dynamite in the attic in a sealed metal container.

BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS

77-22-0146: Found Dynamite

The container was located in the attic. Diagnostic testing was completed to include X-Ray and Raman Spectroscopy (commonly used in chemistry to provide a structural fingerprint by which molecules can be identified). A liquid was seeping out of the container and was confirmed to be nitroglycerin, the main ingredient in dynamite.





BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS

77-22-0146: Found Dynamite

A countercharge known as a FfRED (Fast Forming Reliable Explosive Device) was constructed and placed over the top of the container since the item was too dangerous to be transported.





BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS

Items Recovered

- World War 1 “Cooper Bomb” Located in Myrtle Beach.
 - The bomb was 24 lbs. in weight, of which 20 lbs. was the bomb casing and 4 lbs. was an explosive charge of Amatol (mixture of TNT and Ammonium Nitrate) with a flash powder primary charge fuzing system.
- Joint operation with SLED, Horry County Police Department, and the United States Air Force (Shaw EOD). Item was buried and destroyed in a neighborhood due to the extreme hazard.





EXPLOSIVE LAWS & DEFINITIONS

(S.C. CODE 6-23-720)



EXPLOSIVE RELATED DEFINITIONS

Explosive

A chemical compound or other substance or a mechanical system intended for the purpose of producing an explosion capable of causing injury, death, or damage to property or an explosive containing oxidizing and combustible units or other ingredients in such proportions or quantities that ignition, fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonation may produce an explosion capable of causing injury, death, or damage to property. Explosives include, but are not limited to, the list of explosive materials published and periodically updated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

EXPLOSIVE EXAMPLES



BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS



Items Recovered

- Union County - Military TNT located in a family barn. Item was collected and disposed of by SLED Bomb Technicians.





EXPLOSIVE RELATED DEFINITIONS

Destructive Device

- (a) a bomb, incendiary device, or anything that can detonate, explode, be released, or burn by mechanical, chemical, or nuclear means, or that contains an explosive, incendiary, poisonous gas, or toxic substance (chemical, biological, or nuclear materials) including, but not limited to, an incendiary or over-pressure device, or any other device capable of causing damage, injury, or death;
- (b) a bacteriological weapon or biological weapon; or
- (c) a combination of any parts, components, chemical compounds, or other substances, either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device which has been or can be assembled to cause damage, injury, or death.



EXPLOSIVE RELATED DEFINITIONS

Bomb

Includes a destructive device capable of being detonated, triggered, or set off to release any substance or material that is destructive, irritating, odoriferous, or otherwise harmful to one or more organisms including, but not limited to, human beings, livestock, animals, crops or vegetation, or to earth, air, water, or any other material or substance necessary or required to sustain human or any other individual form of life, or to real or personal property.

Parts

A combination of parts, components, chemical compounds, or other substances, designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device.

BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS



Item Recovered

- Clarendon County - Improvised clothespin switches located during a search warrant. Due to the suspect's age and mental condition, the suspect was not prosecuted.





EXPLOSIVE RELATED DEFINITIONS

Incendiary Device

A destructive device, however possessed or delivered, and by whatever name called, containing or holding a flammable liquid or compound, which is capable of being ignited by any means possible. Incendiary device includes, but is not limited to, any form of explosive, explosive bomb, grenade, missile, or similar device, whether capable of being carried or thrown by a person acting alone or with one or more persons but does not include a device manufactured or produced for the primary purpose of illumination or for marking detours, obstructions, defective paving, or other hazards on streets, roads, highways, or bridges, when used in a lawful manner.

Over Pressure Device

A container filled with an explosive gas or expanding gas or liquid which is designed or constructed so as to cause the container to break, fracture, or rupture in a manner capable of causing death, injury, or property damage, and includes, but is not limited to, a chemical reaction bomb, an acid bomb, a caustic bomb, or a dry ice bomb.

EXPLOSIVE EXAMPLE

Incendiary Device



EXPLOSIVE EXAMPLE

Over Pressure Device



BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS

Items Recovered

- PVC Pipe Bomb dropped off at Clarendon County Sheriff's Office. The suspect was located but due to age and mental condition was not prosecuted.





EXPLOSIVE RELATED DEFINITIONS

Terrorism

includes activities that:

- (a) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of this State;
- (b) appear to be intended to:
 - (i) intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
 - (ii) influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
 - (iii) affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping;
and
- (c) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of this State.



EXPLOSIVE RELATED DEFINITIONS

Weapon of Mass Destruction

- (a) any destructive device as defined in item (7); (Destructive Device)
- (b) any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors;
- (c) any weapon involving a disease organism; or
- (d) any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.

TERRORISM



SECTION 16-23-715

Possession, threatened or attempted use of weapon of mass destruction for act of terrorism; penalty.

A person who, without lawful authority, possesses, uses, threatens, or attempts or conspires to possess or use a weapon of mass destruction in furtherance of an act of terrorism is guilty of a felony and upon conviction:

- (1) in cases resulting in the death of another person, must be punished by death or by imprisonment for life; or
- (2) in cases which do not result in the death of another person, must be punished by imprisonment for not less than twenty-five years nor more than life.

USE OF DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE WITH DEATH OR INJURY



SECTION 16-23-720

(A) It is unlawful for a person intentionally to use a destructive device or cause an explosion, or intentionally to aid, counsel, solicit another, or procure the use of a destructive device. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony and, **upon conviction**:

- (1) in cases resulting in the death of another person where there was malice aforethought, must be punished by death, by imprisonment for life, or by a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for thirty years;
- (2) in cases resulting in the death of another person where there was not malice aforethought, must be imprisoned not less than ten years nor more than thirty years; and
- (3) in cases resulting in injury to a person, must be imprisoned for not less than ten years nor more than twenty-five years.

USE OF DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE



SECTION 16-23-720

(B) A person who intentionally causes an explosion by means of a destructive device or aids, counsels, solicits another, or procures an explosion by means of a destructive device, which results in damage to a building or other real or personal property, or a person who attempts to injure another or damage or destroy a building or other real or personal property by means of a destructive device, **is guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than ten years nor more than twenty-five years.

POSSESSION, MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION, ETC.



SECTION 16-23-720

(C) A person who knowingly possesses, manufactures, transports, distributes, or possesses with the intent to distribute a destructive device or any explosive, incendiary device, or over-pressure device or toxic substance or material which has been configured to cause damage, injury, or death, or a person who possesses parts, components, or materials which when assembled constitute a destructive device is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than two years nor more than fifteen years.

BOMB SQUAD: ACTUAL CALLS

Items Recovered

- Pipe Bomb in Florence, SC
 - 2 suspects live streamed the construction of the device on Facebook.
- Both Suspects were charged with Possession / Manufacturing of a Destructive Device.



THREATS



SECTION 16-23-720

(D) A person who threatens, solicits another to threaten, or conspires to threaten to cause damage, injury, or death or to cause damage to or destroy a building or other real or personal property by means of a destructive device is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than fifteen years.



PROTECTION, HARBORING, CONCEALMENT

SECTION 16-23-720

(E) A person who knowingly protects, harbors, or conceals another who is known by the person to have planned, executed, or committed any violation of the provisions of this article is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than fifteen years.



HOAX OR REPLICA DEVICE

SECTION 16-23-730

A person who knowingly manufactures, possesses, transports, distributes, uses or aids, or counsels, solicits another, or conspires with another in the use of a hoax device or replica of a destructive device or detonator which causes any person reasonably to believe that the hoax device or replica is a destructive device or detonator is **guilty of a misdemeanor** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

A person who communicates or transmits to another person that a hoax device or replica is a destructive device or detonator with the intent to intimidate or threaten injury, to obtain property of another, or to interfere with the ability of another person to conduct or carry on his life, business, trade, education, religious worship, or to interfere with the operations and functions of any government entity is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than two years nor more than fifteen years.



HINDERING EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE TECHNICIAN

SECTION 16-23-740

A person who knowingly and willfully hinders or obstructs an explosive ordnance technician, bomb technician, law enforcement officer, fire official, emergency management official, public safety officer, animal trained to detect destructive devices, or any robot or mechanical device designed for or utilized by a law enforcement officer, fire official, emergency management official, public safety officer, or bomb technician of this State or of the United States while in the detection, disarming, or destruction of a destructive device is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than one year nor more than five years.



CONVEYING FALSE INFORMATION

SECTION 16-23-750

A person who conveys or causes to be conveyed false information, knowing the information to be false, concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made or to be made to kill, injure, or intimidate any person or to damage or destroy any building or other real or personal property by means of an explosive, incendiary, or destructive device or who aids, employs, or conspires with any person to do or cause to be done any of the acts in this section, is **guilty of a felony** and, upon conviction, for a first offense must be imprisoned for not less than one year nor more than ten years. For a second or subsequent offense, the person must be imprisoned for not less than five years nor more than fifteen years. A sentence imposed for a violation of this section must not be suspended and probation must not be granted.

REPORTING



SECTION 16-23-780

All state, county, and municipal law enforcement officers who encounter a known or suspected destructive device, biological or bacteriological weapon or a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon of mass destruction in the course of their employment must immediately report the existence and location of the device or weapon to the State Law Enforcement Division for purposes of disseminating the information to law enforcement agencies, and to the appropriate state and local public health officials for purposes of enabling public health officials to assess the nature and extent of the threat of the device or weapon to public health.



COUNTERTERRORISM DIVE UNIT (CDU)

COUNTERTERRORISM DIVE UNIT (CDU)



MISSION

- The SLED Counterterrorism Dive Unit's (CDU) mission is to protect the State of South Carolina's maritime infrastructure from terrorism through explosive, radiological and hazardous device detection sweeps and mitigation of incidents at those locations. Additionally, through the use of specialized divers, underwater robotics and other search and recovery equipment, the CDU provides manpower and support to our Federal, State and Local partners in the maritime environment supporting the Global War On Terror (GWOT).
- The SLED CDU has been part of the FBI Maritime Working Group Partnership since the groups inception in 2010, tasked with drafting and implementing policies for Maritime Counter-IED Operations nationwide.
- The SLED CDU also assists with high profile SLED cases (*State v. Murdaugh*), critical infrastructure explosive sweeps, cruise ship escorts, and large events (Cooper River Bridge Run).



COUNTERTERRORISM DIVE UNIT (CDU)

MISSION

- The SLED Counterterrorism Dive Unit hosts a yearly Underwater Post Blast Investigations Course at Lake Murray (Lexington, SC) with the Federal Bureau of Investigations Hazardous Devices School (HDS) and Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Unit.
- SLED has hosted the course for 13 years for Federal, State, Local, Military and International partners to include the US Navy, Royal Navy (UK), Japanese Coast Guard, Ukrainian Military, and FBI.
- The most recent course was completed in August 2024, training 24 students from across the world [Nineteen (19) from the United States, four (4) from Ukraine, and one (1) from Japan].

COUNTERTERRORISM DIVE UNIT (CDU)

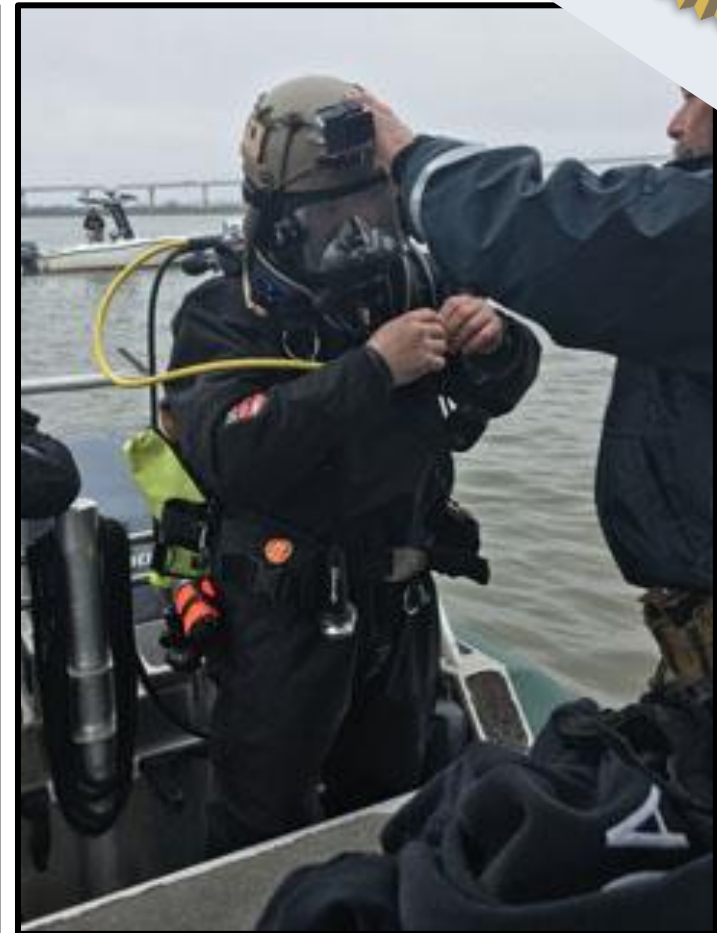




CDU TEAM STRUCTURE

- Maritime Team Leader- 1
 - Bomb Technicians - 10 (3 hold FBI Underwater Hazardous Device Technician (UHDT) certifications)
 - *Projected to be 4 certified UHDTs by the end of FY25-26*
 - SCUBA Instructor Trainer - 1
 - SCUBA Instructor - 4
 - Dive Masters - 7
 - Supplied Air Divers (Helmet Divers) - 3
 - Supplied Air Tenders - 4
 - Advanced Open Water Diver - 14
 - Basic Open Water Diver - 24
 - NASBLA Certified Boat Crewman / Coxswains - 9
 - FBI Underwater Hazardous Devices Countermeasures Course Instructor - 2
 - FBI Underwater Post Blast Investigations Course Instructor - 4
 - FBI Maritime Operations Bomb Technician Course Instructor- 3
 - Dive Medical Officer (MD) - 1
 - EMT Advanced - 3
 - EMT Basic - 2
- **Many members hold multiple certifications**

CDU TEAM STRUCTURE





SLED CDU EQUIPMENT

Specialized Equipment

- 34ft Munson Vessel
- 23ft SafeBoat Vessel
- Zodiac 4.7-meter Inflatable Boats
- Equipment Trailer
- SABB Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle (Robot)
- Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Detection System
- Handheld Sonar System
- Surface Supplied Air Diving System
- Full SCUBA Diving Ensemble for Divers
- Two (2) Portable Dive Compressors and One (1) Fixed Compressor

SLED CDU EQUIPMENT

Specialized Equipment



- 34ft Munson Vessel (*purchased with FY20 Port Security Grant money and 25% State match*)





SLED CDU EQUIPMENT

Specialized Equipment

- 23ft SafeBoat

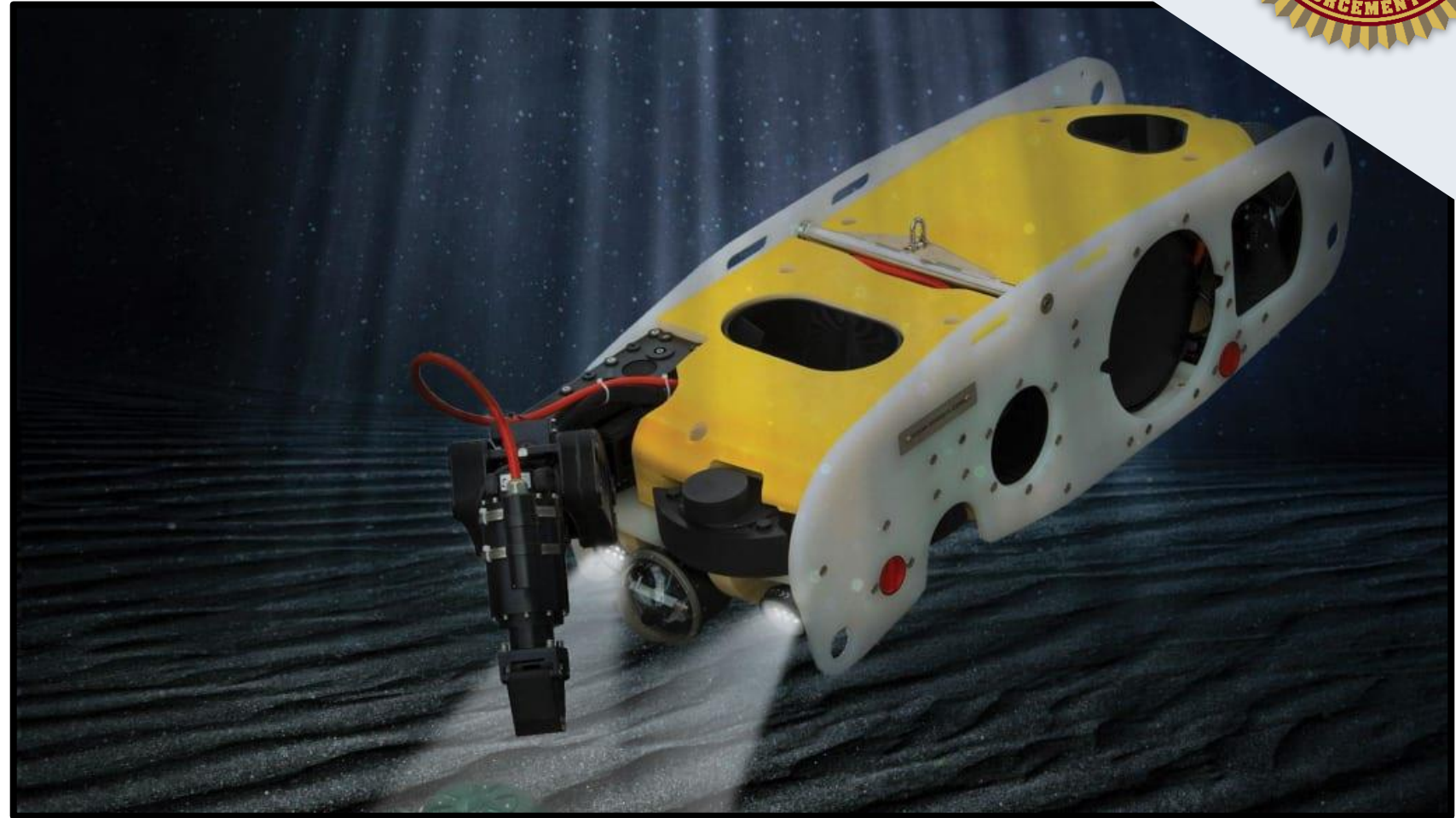




SLED CDU EQUIPMENT

Specialized Equipment

- SAAB Sea Wasp
 - Used for underwater search and Explosive mitigation.



SLED CDU EQUIPMENT

Specialized Equipment

- DeDrone Counter UAS System
 - Used to detect/locate drones and their operators.
 - Stationary and Boat Mounted Sensor.





FY 24-25 CDU REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

Total Number of Calls July 2024- June 2025

- Maritime Security Details – 7
- Maritime Evidence Recovery Mission – 3*
- Maritime Protective Sweeps – 41
- Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (cUAS) Deployment – 10

Total – 61

**Nearly \$100 billion passes through the Port of Charleston each year. Even the smallest shutdown of normal operations would represent a drastic financial impact to South Carolina.*

CDU REQUESTS FOR SERVICE



Total Number of Calls

- FY 2020-2021: 102
- FY 2021-2022: 42
- FY 2022-2023: 22
- FY 2023-2024: 22
- FY 2024-2025: 61





QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?

SLED BLOODHOUND



TRACKING & CANINE TEAM

UNIT OVERVIEW

Aaron Rawl / Captain / Tactical Operations

Jacob Pridgen / Lieutenant / Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team

MISSION STATEMENT



The SLED Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team is a specialized tactical unit that assists federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement in locating wanted and missing individuals by utilizing bloodhound-mix tracking dogs. The team provides Patrol K9s in support of SWAT and fugitive operations to include, but not limited to: apprehension, building search, tracking, and article search. The team also provides a Human Remains Detection (HRD) canine to assist in the location of deceased individuals. The team promotes positive public relations throughout the state by conducting presentations to the community.



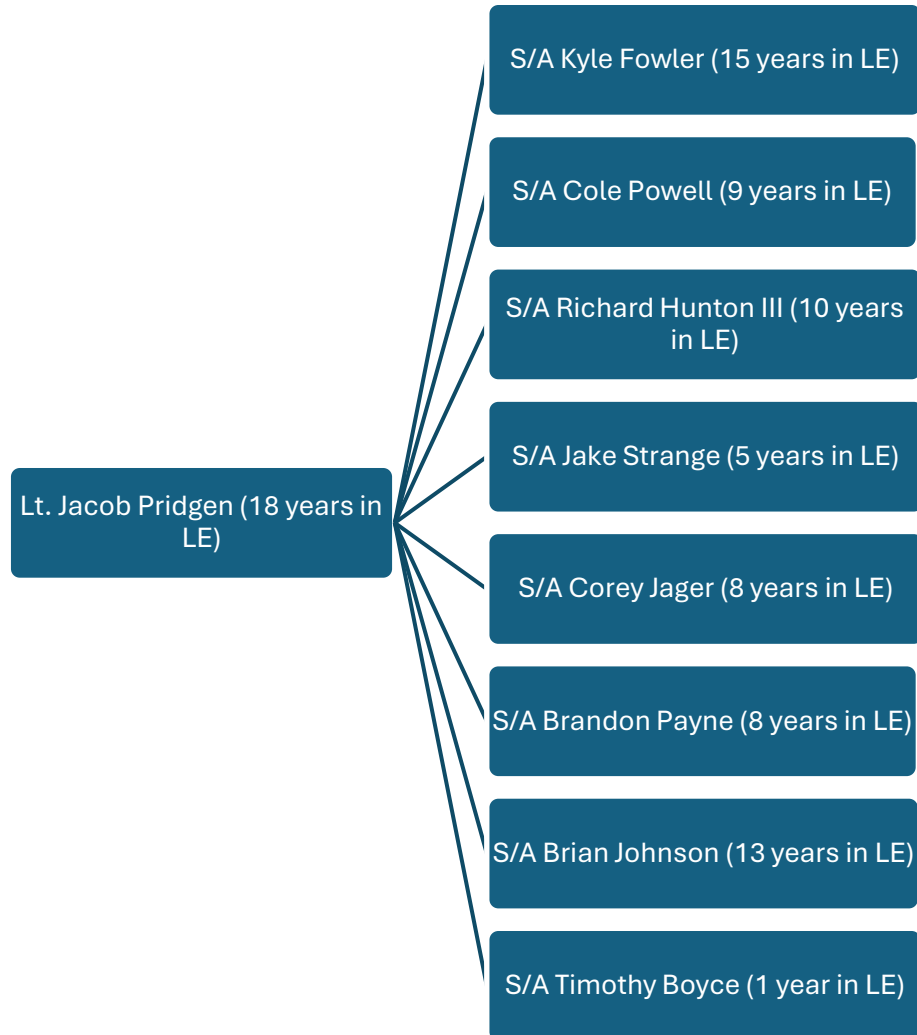
HISTORY OF THE TRACKING TEAM



- Shortly after the SLED's formation in 1947, Sgt. JP Strom (later Chief of SLED) bought the first two bloodhounds in 1949.
- This began a rich history of the bloodhound program at SLED in which the hounds were bred and trained at Headquarters.
- In the beginning, Department of Corrections inmates would assist agents on calls, but was later discontinued as team's personnel grew.
- The Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team continues to breed and train a Bloodhound, Redbone and Blue Tick mix hounds for utilization within the program because this mix works best for South Carolina's climate and terrain.



ORGANIZATION



- The Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team is comprised of highly trained Special Agents and one Supervisory Lieutenant.
- Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team has two personnel on rotating 24 hour call 7 days a week 365 days a year.
- Members of the Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team hold Special Deputy status with the US Marshals Carolina Regional Fugitive Task Force.

OPERATIONS

- Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team is centrally located at SLED headquarters in Columbia, which allows for rapid deployment to all areas of the state.
- Tracking calls can happen day or night and in any weather conditions to include extreme conditions.
- Tracking calls also occur in some of the toughest terrains throughout our state's diverse environment.
- Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team K9s consist of five Bloodhound mix canines and three K9 Malinois and Malinois/Shepherd mix.



BREEDING PROGRAM



BREEDING

- Intense training of new pups begins at around 8 weeks old.
- As the pups mature, they are moved into more difficult training scenarios and environments.
- The pups are graded for the next 6 to 12 months.
- Out of the litter, only 1 to 2 pups make the team.
- Pups that do not make the team are offered to other local law enforcement to continue training.

BLOODHOUND TRAINING



- Once a Bloodhound mix dog makes the team, their rigorous training continues throughout their lifetime.
- The Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team trains the Bloodhound mix dogs for all environments and all situations.
- Agents often recreate actual calls so that the agents gain a better understanding of the dog's behavior in certain situations.
- The Bloodhound mix dogs typically have a working life span of 8 to 10 years.
- Agents often attend outside training courses and seminars to learn new techniques and increase knowledge.



TRACKING AND CANINE MISSIONS



- Types of Tracking Calls

- Fugitive
- Escape
- Bushbond
- Missing Person
- Murder
- Burglary
- Home Invasion
- Armed Robbery
- Warrant Service
- Warrant Round up
- SWAT Call

PATROL CANINES

- SLED Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team's Patrol K9s are utilized for SWAT and Fugitive operations.
- K9s are used as a deterrent to encourage suspects to peacefully surrender.
- The following are the type of Canine deployments:
 - Apprehension
 - Building Search
 - Article Search
 - Tracking
- SLED K9 Rico (2023) and K9 Coba (2024) have been killed in the line of duty.
- K9s have a monthly requirement of 16 hours of training every month in all deployment disciplines.



K9 RICO

- K9 Rico was killed in the line of duty in September of 2023.
- K9 Rico was clearing a building in front of an Entry Team during a manhunt/SWAT call in Charleston County when an a subject armed with a rifle shot and killed K9 Rico.



K9 COBA

- K9 Coba was killed in the line of duty in June of 2024.
- K9 Coba was engaged in an apprehension on a subject's arm during a fugitive call in Newberry County when the subject shot K9 Coba with a shotgun.



HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION (HRD) CANINE



- The Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team utilizes the HRD K9 for the detection of deceased human remains as well as for search and rescue missions.
- The K9 was obtained on June 9, 2025, and will go through a 6-month training and certification course with Master Trainer Doug Wannemacher and should be certified in December of 2025.
- The HRD K9 will be the first law enforcement certified HRD K9 at SLED.



COLLATERAL DUTIES (SWAT)



- Each member of the Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team also has the following assignments on the SLED SWAT team:

- Entry Team
- Sniper Team
- EMT
- Containment Team
- WMD Team
- Aerial Overwatch



BLOODHOUND ASSISTANCE TEAM

- The Bloodhound Assistance Team (BAT) assists the Bloodhound Tracking & K9 Team on calls in which a higher possibility of danger exist.
- BAT is comprised of SWAT team members who were formally assigned to the Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team or have received specialized training by the Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

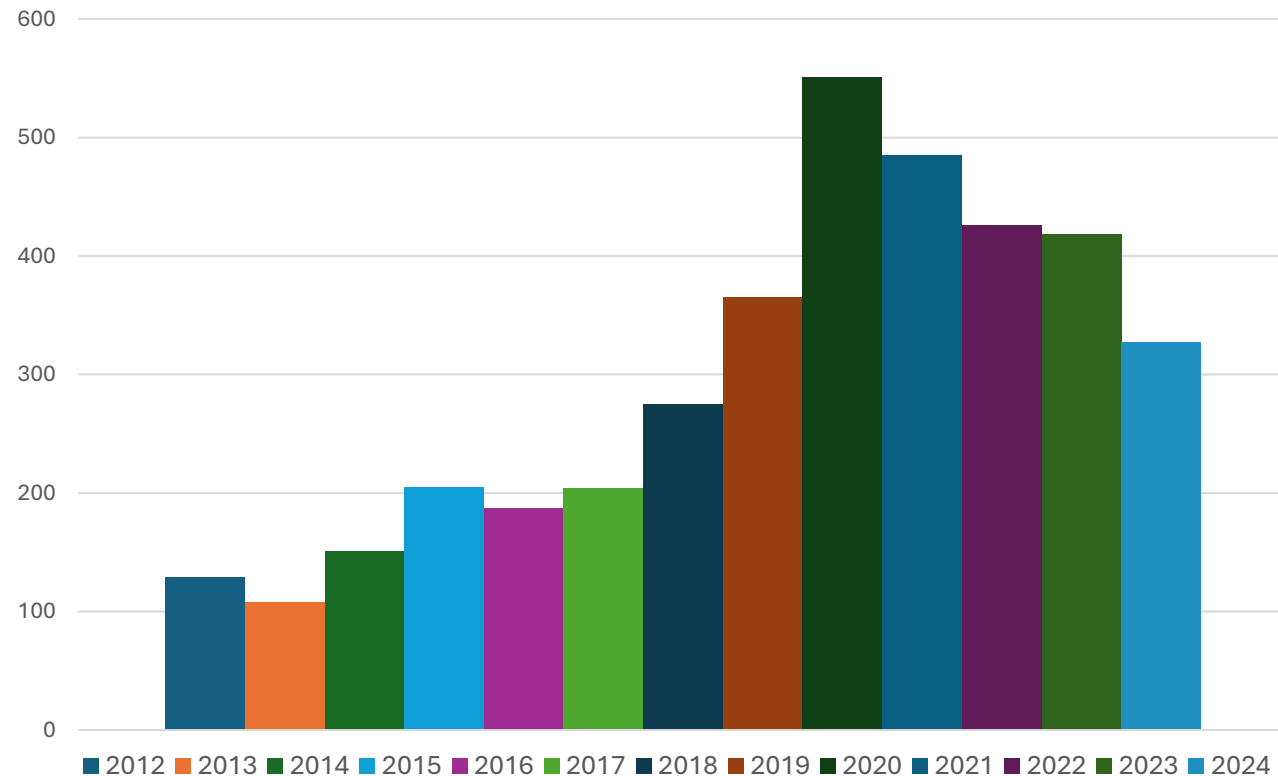


- The Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team attends community events and conduct tours of the kennels at headquarters.
- Types of community events attended:
 - National Nights Out
 - Schools
 - Crime Stoppers
 - Junior Leagues
 - City, State, and Federal Leadership

CALL VOLUME

Year	Call Total
2012	129
2013	108
2014	151
2015	205
2016	187 (1 st K9)
2017	204
2018	275
2019	365
2020	551
2021	485
2022	426
2023	485
2024	327

BLOODHOUND TRACKING & CANINE TEAM TOTAL CALLS BY YEAR



CALL VOLUME

- Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team call volume in 2025 is on pace to match the equally high call volume as years past.
- Calls have dramatically increased due to fugitive investigation specifically requesting K9 support.
- K9s have proven to be an effective tool in keeping law enforcement safe by encouraging suspects to surrender.



OVERTIME



- Fiscal year 2024-2025, the Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team accrued \$38,733.08 in overtime.
- Even on days off, team members can be called in on a moments notice for both tracking and SWAT calls.
- Bloodhound Tracking & Canine Team members work special SWAT details and crime suppressions throughout the year.

NOTABLE CALLS

- May 2021, seven-day manhunt and capture of Tyler Terry a multi-state violent criminal that included the murders of five individuals.
- May 2023, two-day manhunt and capture of Michael Burnham a federal murder fugitive.
- February 2024, three-day manhunt and capture of Charles Britt a violent fugitive wanted also for shooting at law enforcement.



GOALS



- Certify first SLED HRD K9 in South Carolina.
- Increase training evolutions of both bloodhounds and other specialized canines when fully staffed.
- Conduct more BAT training courses for assistance on calls.
- Continue to foster relationships with other agencies to build associations and cooperation.
- Develop continuous improvement methods to increase effectiveness of the SLED Tracking Team.

SLED TRACKING & CANINE TEAM MOTTOS



ISAIAH 6.8

“Here am I, send me”

ROMANS 13.4

“If thou do that which is evil, be afraid”





CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION AND QUESTIONS



SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (SWAT) & WMD TEAM



House Oversight Committee

Captain Aaron Rawl

Tactical Operations

Lieutenant Michael Wheeler

SWAT

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS & WMD TEAM (SWAT & WMD TEAM)



Unit Personnel

Supervisors:

- Captain Aaron Rawl (18 years LE service)
- Lieutenant Michael Wheeler (27 years LE service)

Agent:

- Senior Special Agent Martin "Seth" Jarrell – WMD Coordinator (16 years LE service)

UNIT MISSION



- The SLED Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is a specialized team whose members are recruited, trained, and equipped to respond and resolve critical incidents that are generally outside the capabilities of standard law enforcement and first responders. The mission of the SLED SWAT Team is to SAVE LIVES and increase the likelihood of safely and peacefully resolving critical incidents. Within the SLED SWAT Team are smaller specialized units: Entry Team, Precision Long Rifle, Containment, Negotiations, Less Lethal, and EMT. Operations that the SWAT Team performs range from but are not limited to: Security/Protective Details, High Risk Warrant Services, Barricaded Subjects, Hostage Rescues, and a variety of other critical incidents. The SLED SWAT Team's focus is to respond quickly, utilize tactical solutions, and mitigate casualties through specialized training, equipment, and tactics to greater serve the public of South Carolina and support all local, state, and federal agencies upon request.

PERSONNEL

54 Agents assigned to SWAT in a collateral duty capacity and 26 support personnel that range from vehicle driver, negotiators, behavioral science agents, etc.

- **Maintaining specialties in:**
 - Entry
 - Precision Rifle
 - Crisis Negotiations
 - Containment
 - Less Lethal
 - Medical
 - Aerial Overwatch
 - Air Rescue
 - WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction)
 - Rappelling
 - Breaching
 - K9/Apprehension
 - EOD/Bomb





SWAT SELECTION AND TRAINING

Selection

- Application with Supervisors approval
- Physical Fitness Qualification
- Stress Course
- Firearms Qualification
- Background Review
- Interview
- Basic SWAT School
- Prospect Year / Mentor
 - Teammate Evaluations
 - Mid-Year Review
 - Commander's Board
- All standards are the same for male and female

Training

- 16 hours per month (Two Days)
 - SWAT Team
- 8 hours per month (Additional to the 16 hours)
 - Precision Rifle
 - Entry Team
- Quarterly training (Additional to the 16 hours)
 - Negotiators
 - Less Lethal
 - Aerial Overwatch
 - Air Rescue
- Monthly Training for EMTs
 - With the support of Richland County EMS
- 40-hour SWAT In-Service (yearly)

OPERATIONS



WMD/CBRNe

Hostage Rescue

Barricaded Suspects

High-Risk Warrant Service

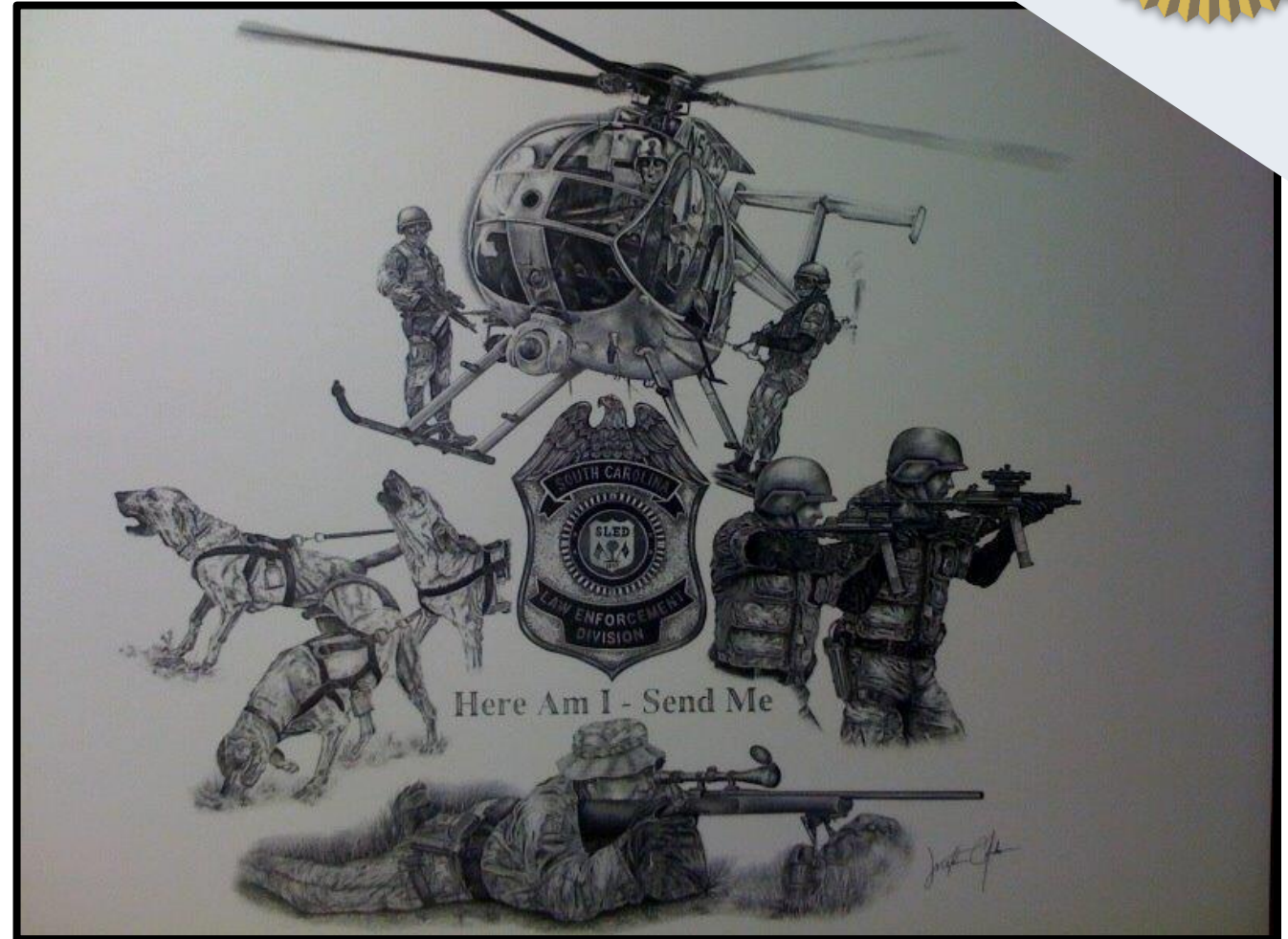
Security Details (Dignitary, POTUS, etc.)

Air Rescue

Aerial Overwatch

Tactical Assistance

Civil Disturbance/Riots





WMD (WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION)

Capable of responding statewide to any Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive (CBRNE) environment.

Team: Sixteen (16) HAZMAT Technician Level Eight (8) HAZMAT Operations Level, Twenty-six (26) HAZMAT Awareness Level operators.

WMD Coordinator in conjunction with SLED Bomb Squad responds to white powder or suspicious substance calls.



HOSTAGE RESCUE

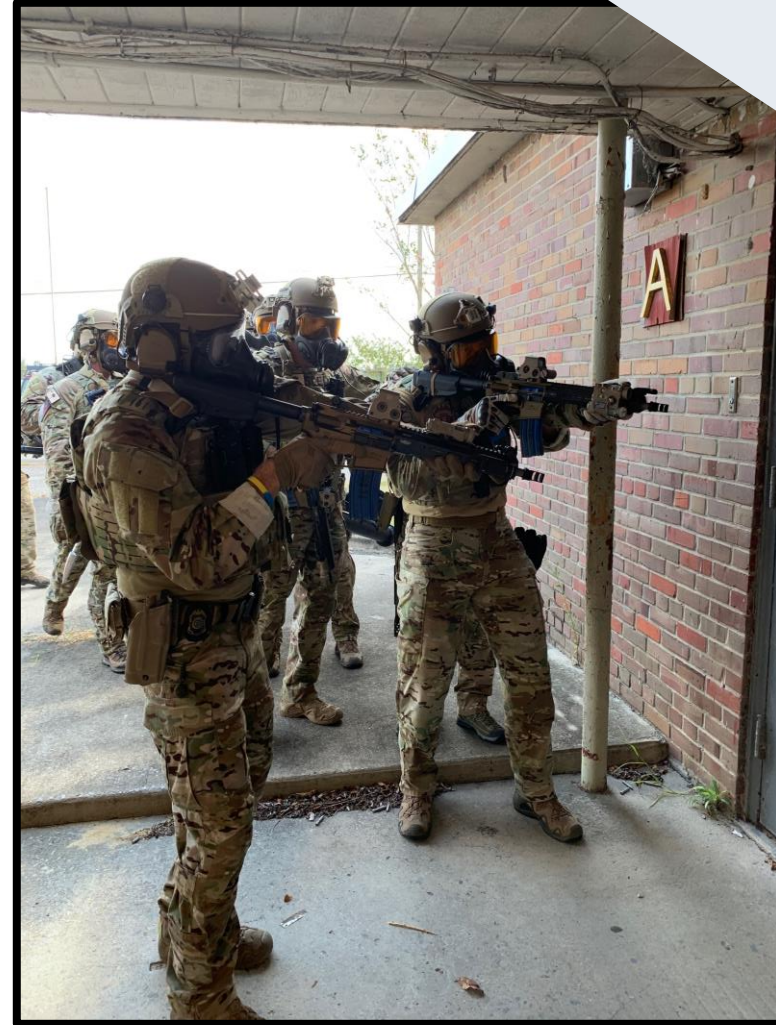


- Capable of responding to any critical incidents involving the taking of hostages or innocents where the threat of death or great bodily harm is threatened or apparent.
 - Dillon
 - Eviction with Daughter Hostage
 - Clarendon (2)
 - Mail Carrier Hostage
 - Robot Negotiations Hostage



BARRICADED SUSPECTS

- At the request of local law enforcement, the team applies the procedures and tactics suitable to the resolution of an armed and barricaded suspect(s) situation.
 - Laurens
 - Officer Involved Shots Fired in Shed
 - West Columbia
 - Hotel Domestic Dispute
 - Chesterfield
 - Officer Involved Shots Fired



HIGH-RISK WARRANT SERVICE



Capable of serving high-risk search and arrest warrants by applying the concepts involving warrant planning; intelligence gathering; target site scouting; uses of diversion and breaching; and methods of executing the warrant inclusive of breach and hold, limited penetration, and contain and call out.



SECURITY DETAILS



Preplanned operations requiring the team to be on standby to rapidly deploy to critical incidents.

Typical Operations:

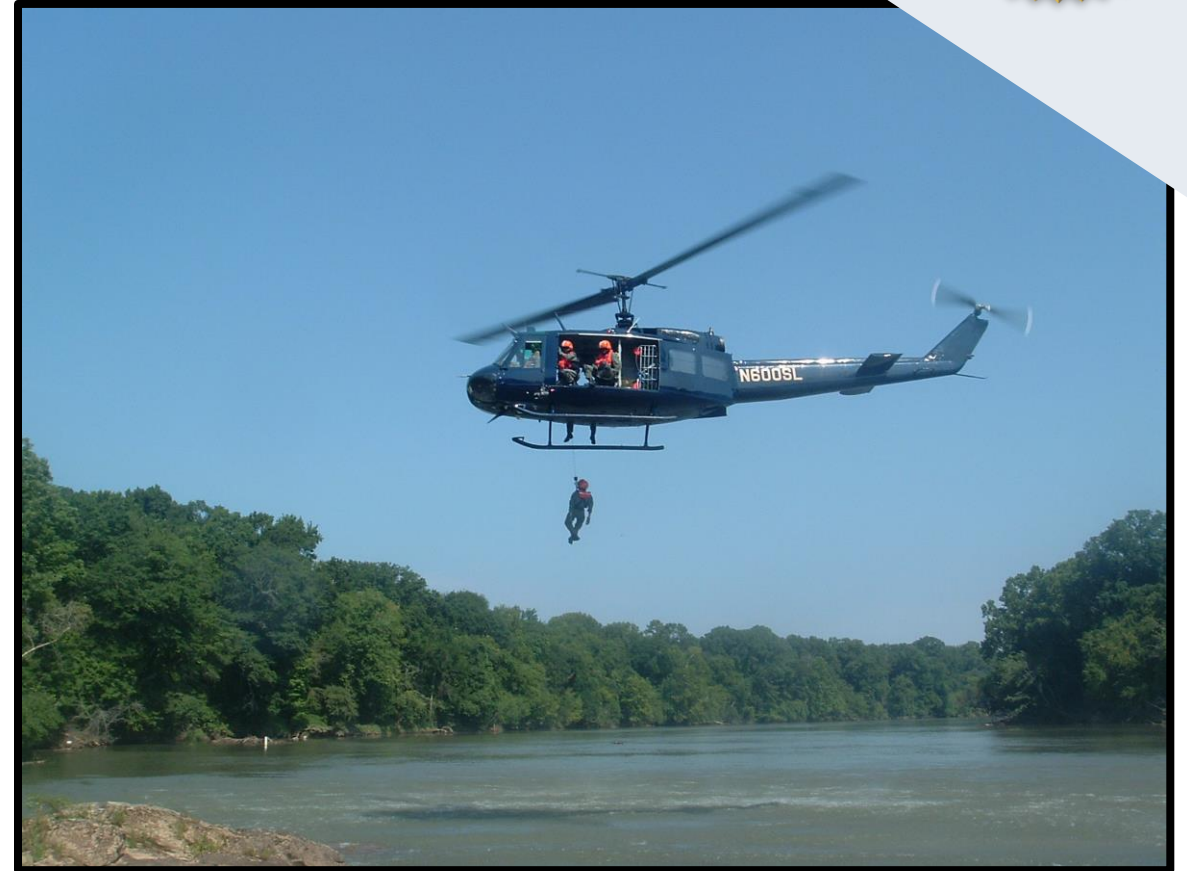
- USC Football Games
- Clemson Football Games
- Any event at the Statehouse
- Memorial Day Bike Week
- Myrtle Beach Weekend
- POTUS/VPOTUS visits
- Dept. of Energy Shipments



AIR RESCUE



In conjunction with SLED Aviation, SLED EMTs and crew chiefs possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to affect the rescue of civilians trapped or isolated due to natural disaster where traditional rescue efforts are insufficient.



AERIAL OVERWATCH

- In conjunction with SLED Aviation, specifically trained SLED operators are deployed to provide surveillance, intelligence, reconnaissance, and interdiction from SLED aircraft during critical incidents.
 - York County
 - Implementation of Aerial Overwatch



CIVIL DISTURBANCE/PROTESTS/RIOTS



Predominantly deploying with less lethal options, the team responds to incidents of civil disturbance with local agencies and riots at correctional facilities.



FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS



<u>FY Statistics</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
WMD Response	12	14	5	1	7
Hostage Rescue	1	1	3	2	1
Barricaded Suspect	17	13	14	6	10
High-Risk Warrants	18	37	45	35	67
Security Details	63	74	55	79	84
Aerial Overwatch	7	1	2	11	6
Tactical Assistance	2	7	16	14	11
Protest/Riot	2	4	7	2	1
Active Shooter		1			1
Total	122	152	148	150	188



CURRENT SWAT FLEET OF SPECIALIZED VEHICLES

1. Lenco Bearcat
 - New Bearcat has been purchased from 24-25 budget and is currently 10 months from arrival.
2. Armet Balkan
3. Armored Chevrolet Tahoe(s)
4. Armored Mercedes Sprinter Van
5. International SWAT Support Truck
 - A new SWAT Truck has been purchased from 24-25 budget and is currently 6 months from arrival.
6. Chevrolet Suburban Support Truck
7. Freightliner Command Post
8. PRND/RAD Deployment Vehicle
9. Polaris RAZORs (1033)

LENCO BEARCAT



- 2013, 6.7L Ford Diesel, 4-Wheel Drive
- Armor Rating:
 - Armor = Up to multiple .50 Caliber (ball) rounds (capable of stopping a .50 Caliber AP round at less than 30-degree angle).
 - Windows = Up to one .50 Caliber (ball) rounds (Window delamination affects window clarity, not armor capability)

LENCO BEARCAT (continued)



- Seats up to 10
- Armored Turret
- WMD Capable with on-board air to support SCBAs
- Primary Armored Vehicle for SWAT Calls
- **Cost: \$417,570.00** (2024-2025 budget new purchase price)

ARMET BALKAN



- 2006, 6.0L Ford Diesel, 4 Wheel Drive
- Armor Rating
- Armor = Up to 3 hits of 7.62 x 51 NATO AP
- Window = Up to 3 hits of 7.62 x 51 NATO AP
- Seats up to 10
- Armored Turret
- Primary Armor for additional SWAT Calls
- **Cost: \$187,500.00** (2006 purchase price)

ARMORED CHEVROLET TAHOE(S)



- Two Identical vehicles
- 2013, 5.3L Chevrolet Gas, 4 Wheel Drive
- Armor Rating
 - Vehicle rated up to 7.62 x 51 rifle rounds for 360 degrees around the vehicle
- Seats up to 5
- Secondary Vehicle for SWAT Calls
- **Cost: ~\$150,000.00** (purchased on DoE grant)





ARMORED MERCEDES SPRINTER VAN



- 2022, 3.0L Mercedes Benz Diesel, 2 Wheel Drive
- Armor Rating
 - Armor = Multi-hit capable of up to 7.62 x 51 NATO FMJ M80
- Windows = Same as Armor
- Seating capacity for up to 12
- Primary Vehicle for Search Warrant Operations
- Great for Low Visibility Staging
- **Cost: \$169,880.00** (Sled purchased vehicle and DOE grant paid for up-armorings)

INTERNATIONAL SWAT SUPPORT TRUCK



- 2004
- 9.3L Diesel
- 2 Wheel Drive
- Unarmored
- Responsible for transporting and charging some of the SWAT Team's larger equipment



CHEVROLET SUBURBAN SUPPORT TRUCK



- 2015
- 5.3L Chevrolet Gas
- 4 Wheel Drive
- Seating for up to 5
- Primarily operates as 'Heavy Truck' on preplanned operations. Can also operate as a mini-support truck for preplanned SWAT operations.
- **Cost: \$60,000.00**

FREIGHTLINER COMMAND POST



- 2005
- Freightliner
- Primarily deployed to large scale events for command and control.
- Conference room with computer and communication equipment.





PRND/RAD DEPLOYMENT VEHICLE

- 2023 Freightliner
- Diesel powered
- Mission Set
 - Mobile Outreach Vehicle
 - Mobile Command Post
 - Radiological/Nuclear Detection
- **Cost: ~\$550,000.00** (Purchased through a partnership with Dept. of Energy and Office of Radiological Security)



POLARIS RAZORs



- Two deployable all-terrain vehicles
- 4-Stroke SOHC Three Cylinder Turbo Diesel
- 12" Ground Clearance
- Quick Rail Cargo System
- Payload Capacity: 1,500 lbs.
- Towing Capacity: 1,500 lbs.
- **Cost: 1033 (DRMO) program**



PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Federal

- United States Secret Service
- United State Capitol Police
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Department of Energy and Office of Radiological Security
- Department of Defense
- 43rd Civil Support Team

State

- South Carolina Department of Public Safety
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- South Carolina Probation, Pardon and Parole Services
- South Carolina Department of Corrections
- South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
- South Carolina Emergency Management Division

Local

- Sheriff's Offices
- Police Departments



CONCLUSION AND QUESTIONS

SLED AVIATION



House Oversight Committee

Captain Aaron Rawl

Tactical Operations

Lieutenant Brandon Moss-Chief Pilot

Aviation

SLED AVIATION UNIT



The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Aviation Unit provides **24-hour a day aviation** assets to all public safety agencies in the state of South Carolina. The Aviation Unit has provided assistance throughout the state in; missing persons, fugitive searches, narcotics operations, surveillance, personnel and asset transport, tactical operations/SWAT support, hoist and lift operations, natural disaster response, Bambi bucket operations (aerial water delivery), executive/presidential details, national security operations, port security and transport operations.



AVIATION PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS

SLED Aviation Unit Personnel (June 2025):

- Lieutenant Brandon Moss – 21 years of law enforcement
- Six full-time pilots
 - Chad Barnett – 21 years of law enforcement
 - Michael Dillon – 28 years of law enforcement
 - Peter Birochak – 2 year of law enforcement
 - Cory DeArmitt – 7 years of law enforcement
 - Russell Heintz – 9 years of law enforcement
 - Lewis Stoertz – 12 years of law enforcement
- One full-time 40-hour temporary pilot
 - David Mattox – 43 years of law enforcement
- One part-time pilot
 - John Bishop (capped at \$10k) – 35 years of law enforcement



AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY SLED

- **One Bell 407** (N500SC)
- Manufactured in 2009
- Seating for two pilots and four passengers.
- Equipped with Forward Looking Infrared camera (FLIR), search light and moving map system.
- Flight endurance of approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes.





AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY SLED

- **Two MD 500E** (N502SL and N504SL)
- Manufactured in 1987 (N502SL) and 2014 (N504SL)
- Seating for two pilots and two passengers.
- Equipped with Forward Looking Infrared camera (FLIR), search light and moving map system.
- Flight endurance of approximately 2 hours.





AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY SLED

- One Bell 412EPX
- Manufactured in 2023
- Seating for two pilots and thirteen passengers.
- Equipped with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera, search light, moving map system, hoist and cargo hook.
- Flight endurance of approximately 3 hours.
- Can be utilized to assist with rescue missions and firefighting.

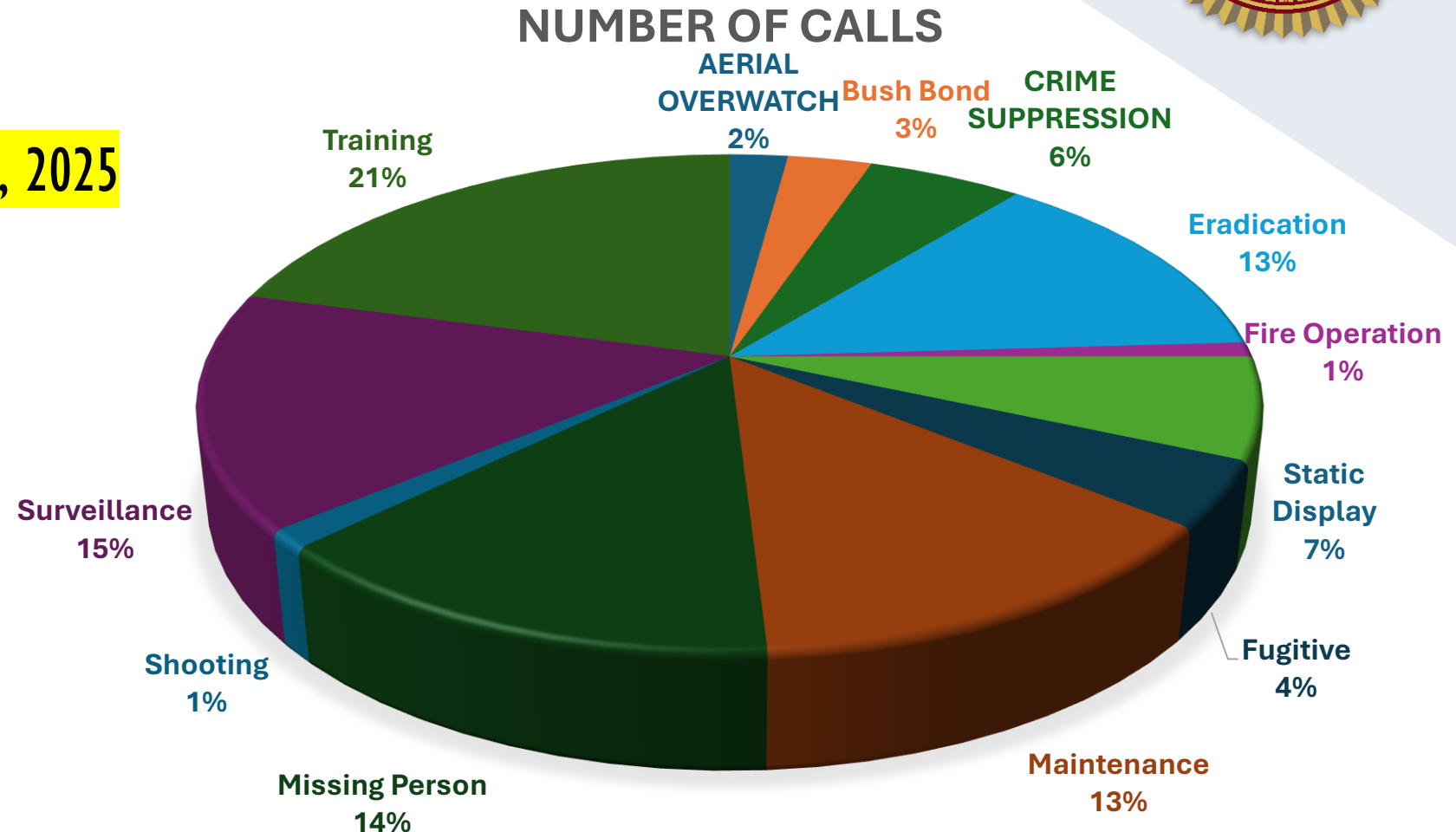


MISSION REQUESTS AND FLIGHT HOURS — FISCAL 24/25



July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

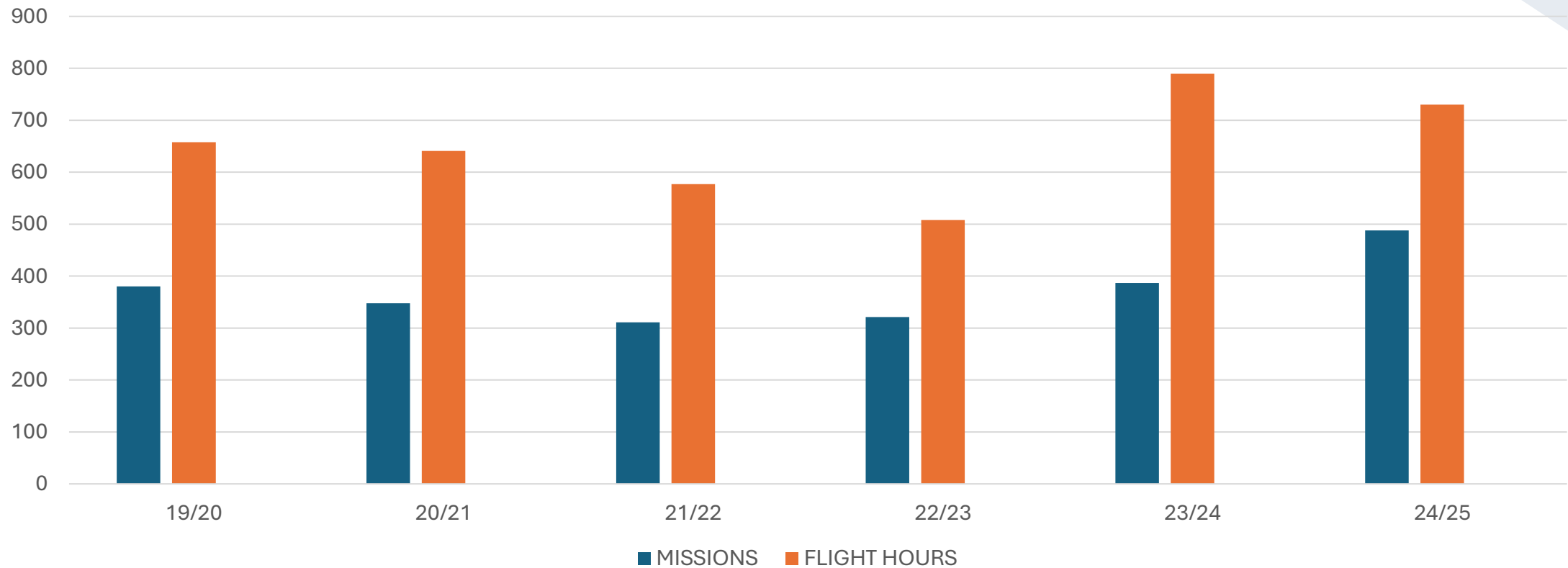
- 488 missions
- 730 flight hours
- 55 arrests



MISSION REQUESTS AND FLIGHT HOURS 2020-2025 FISCAL YEARS



MISSION REQUESTS AND FLIGHT HOURS



*2020-2022 had a reduction in mission requests and flight hours during the COVID-19 pandemic.



AVIATION HELICOPTER COSTS

- SLED500 (Bell 407) - ~\$1,173.00/hour
 - Engine Overhaul - \$270,022.43
 - General Maintenance - \$39,479.04
- SLED502 (MD 500) - ~\$729.00/hour
 - General Maintenance - \$34,600.35
- SLED504 (MD 500) - ~\$729.00/hour
 - General Maintenance - \$96,550.00
- SLED600 (Bell 412) - ~\$3,483.00/hour
 - Annual Inspection - \$63,450.10
 - Pratt & Whitney CAMP - \$80,822.06
 - Bell CAP - \$84,128.80
 - General Maintenance - \$58,185.02
- Insurance: \$485,068.00/year for all air frames

MISSION REQUESTS AND FLIGHT HOURS



- In recent years, the Aviation Unit has expanded its mission capabilities, as well as the complexity of the aircraft that are being operated.
- In 2023, the Aviation Unit increased flight hours by 66% and mission requests by 19.6% over calendar year 2022. This trend has continued through the current date.
- In 2023, the Aviation Unit partnered with the Columbia Police Department and Richland County Sheriff's office to launch a successful patrol flight program.
- The Aviation Unit has partnered with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Forestry to assist in aerial water delivery.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS



- SLED Pilots are trained to hold a minimum of a FAA commercial pilots license and instrument rating.
- SLED currently has two FAA Certified Flight Instructors on staff.
- SLED Pilots attend Bell and MD Helicopters factory training.
- SLED Pilots are trained to utilize night vision goggles for low light flight conditions.

PILOT OVERTIME FOR FY 2024/2025



- \$17,798.49
- 334.8 HOURS
TOTAL OT TIME



YORK COUNTY



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



DOG FIGHTING



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY



RICHLAND COUNTY AND CITY OF COLUMBIA



RICHLAND COUNTY AND CITY OF COLUMBIA



AREAS FOR GROWTH



- Replace aging MD Helicopters with Bell 407's.
- Increase pilot pay to assist with pilot retention.
- Continue to expand capabilities.
- Acquisition of new/existing hangar and office space to house all personnel and airframes or construct a new hangar and office space.
- Utilize existing resources available within the state.



CONCLUSION AND QUESTIONS

SEAHAWK INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (IOC)



House Oversight Committee

Lieutenant Sigrid Phinney

LIEUTENANT SIGRID PHINNEY

BIOGRAPHY



Certified officer in the state of South Carolina for 27 years. She has been employed with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division for 20 years. Prior to that, she worked for Summerville Police Department for 7 years.

LT Phinney was also an active-duty member for the United States Coast Guard for four years in New York and then continued in the USCG Reserves for another four years in South Carolina where she worked in law enforcement and search and rescue.

She is the SeaHawk Interagency Operations Center (IOC) Coordinator and Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) for the state and overseas daily operations among interagency partners.

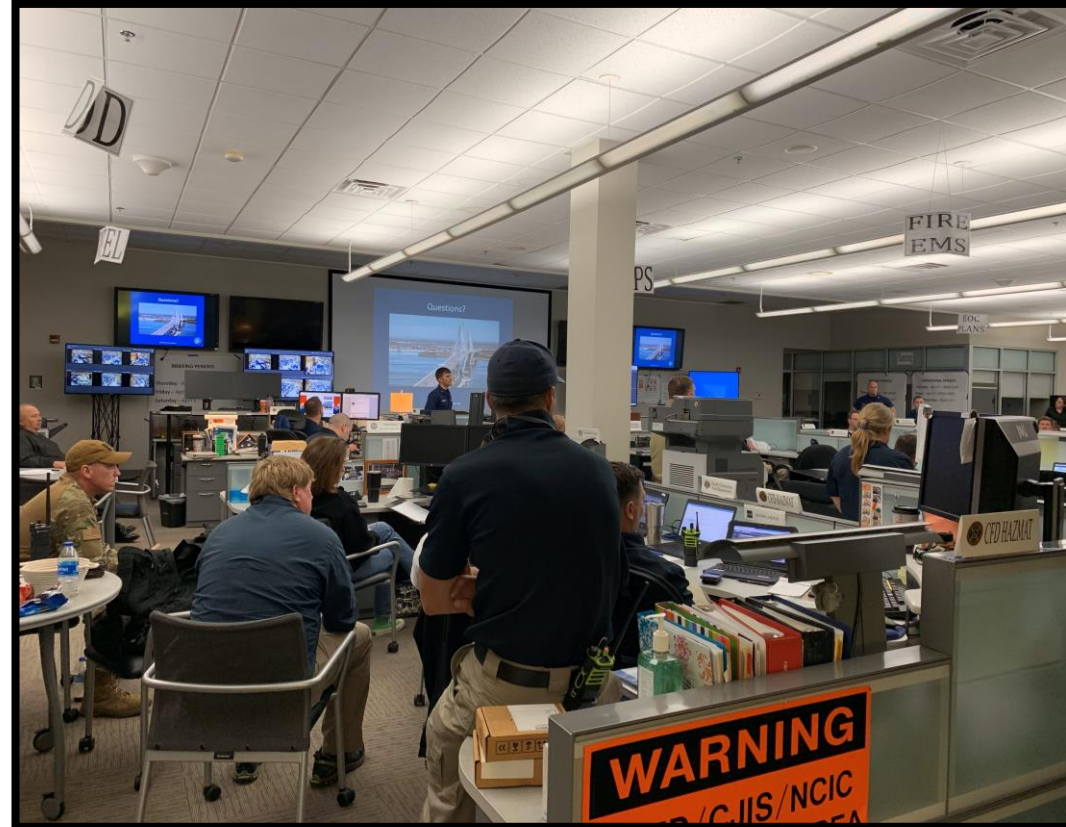


SEAHAWK IOC



- The SeaHawk Interagency Operations Center (IOC) is the coordinating body of government agencies focused on the safety, security, and prosperity of the South Carolina maritime domain. It utilizes a systematic approach to facilitate information sharing; conducts a thorough analysis of risks and threats; plans for emergent, potential, and upcoming incidents; and coordinates operation between federal, state, and local partners.
- SLED has assigned a Lieutenant as the IOC Coordinator and there are four SLED agents assigned to the IOC. One of those agents are hired under a Department of Homeland Security grant. This grant also helps fund the Alastar program which is utilized as a real time common operating picture and the FLO Collaboration app.
- In April 2024, the SeaHawk IOC was moved under SLED's Counterterrorism Division. Prior to that the IOC was under the fusion center.

SEAHAWK IOC



LT Phinney –	certified LE for 27 years
SSA Amos –	certified LE for 17 years
S/A Martinez –	certified LE 1.5 years/ JTTF - prior USCG enlisted officer
S/A Sutler –	certified LE for 17 years
Vacant -	DHS grant Position

SEAHAWK IOC HISTORY



= DOJ 2005 to 2009



= DHS 2009 to present



- FEDERAL
- STATE
- LOCAL

	Then	Now
Name:	Project SeaHawk	SeaHawk IOC
Oversight:	DOJ (est. 2003)	DHS (as of 1 Oct 2009)
Mission:	Terrorism Focused	All threats all hazards
Budget:	\$27M	\$0
Personnel:	Reimbursed	Agencies' budget
Technology:	Research & Development	Continued R&D

SOUTH CAROLINA PORTS



Wando Welch
Hugh K. Leatherman
North Charleston
Columbus Street
Union Pier
Inland Port Dillon
Inland Port Greer
Passenger Terminal

SEAHAWK EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE (ESC)



- **Federal** – United States Coast Guard, Homeland Security Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Customs and Border Protection, and United States Border Patrol.
- **State** – South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and South Carolina Port Authority.
- **Local** – Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, City of Charleston Police and Fire Department, North Charleston Police and Fire Department and Mount Pleasant Police and Fire Department.
- **Stakeholders include but are not limited to:**
- 43rd Civil Support Team, Joint Base Charleston, Charleston Airport PD, Army Corp, Charleston County EMS, Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center and EOC, Coast Guard Investigative Services, Citadel PD, Colleton County SO, Department of Criminal Investigative Services, Dorchester County SO, Drug Enforcement of Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Protective Services, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Folly Beach PD, Isle of Palms PD, Monks Corner PD, MUSC PD, Naval Criminal Investigative Services, National Insurance Crime Bureau, National Park Service, SC Highway Patrol, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, SC Transport Police, Summerville PD, State Department, Sullivans Island PD, Transportation Security Agency.

SEAHAWK IOC REORGANIZED



- 2024 the SeaHawk ESC has reorganized the IOC.
- More collaborative effort to mimic the earlier models of the SeaHawk IOC. More operational tempo and adding additional partners to the ESC.
- Updating the SeaHawk IOC Charter with new partners and updating the SeaHawk IOC standard operating procedures to align with the increased operational tempo. The updated charter is authorized under the provisions of 14 U.S.C 141 which allows the Coast Guard to enter into cooperative agreements with other government agencies (OGAs). This charter is also authorized under the provisions of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (SAFE Port), Public Law 109-347, which permits the establishment of a maritime interagency operations center to facilitate federal, state, and local incident management response to a transportation security incident or transportation disruptions.

SEAHAWK IOC BEST PRACTICES



- Weekly Regional Coordinating Mechanism (ReCOM) meetings.
- Monthly all hands briefs with all partners.
- Multi-agency gate strike operations on the ports.
- Multi-agency statewide and multi-state surge operations on the water.

SEAHAWK IOC REQUESTS



- January 2020 to June 2025–
- IOC analysts assisted with 14,498 requests from over 109 different agencies (Facial recognition, DMV requests, partial tag, photo line ups, automated license plate recognition etc).
- Note SeaHawk was under the fusion center until April 2024.

SHORESIDE OPERATIONS AT THE PORT GATE STRIKE/Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO)



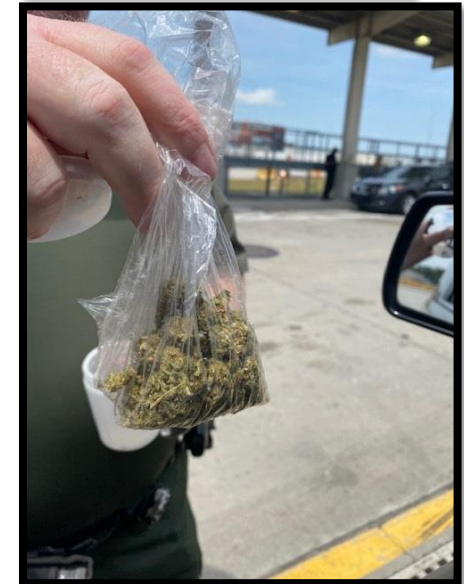
January 2020 – June 2025 Gate Strike/MASFO
73-Gate Strikes/MASFO

- Anywhere from 4-15 different agencies and 7-40 personnel assisting
- 4,728 vehicles stopped.
- 13-wanted and 11-arrested.
- 53-gun violations.
- 56-alcohol violations.
- 19-drug violations.
- 5,069 radiation scans – 2 alerts.
- 5,076 TWIC scans – 27 violations.

SHORESIDE OPERATIONS AT THE PORT OF CHARLESTON (GATE STRIKE/MASFO)



SHORESIDE OPERATIONS AT THE PORT OF CHARLESTON (GATE STRIKE/MASFO)



WATER OPERATIONS

OPERATION HAMMERHEAD = HEIGHTENED ACTIVITY MARITIME RESPONSE —
HARBOR ENFORCEMENT AND DETERRENCE

OPERATION FRIED SHRIMP N' GRITS = FISHERIES, RECREATION, IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, DRUG —
HARBOR REACH ON INTELLIGENCE FOR MULTI-STATE PARTNERSHIPS N' GUARDING RESPONSIBLE INTERESTS FOR
TARGET SAFETY

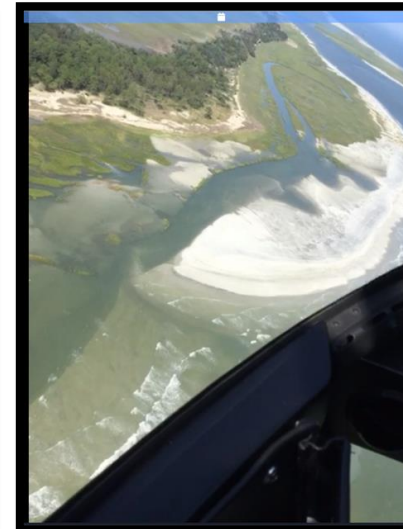
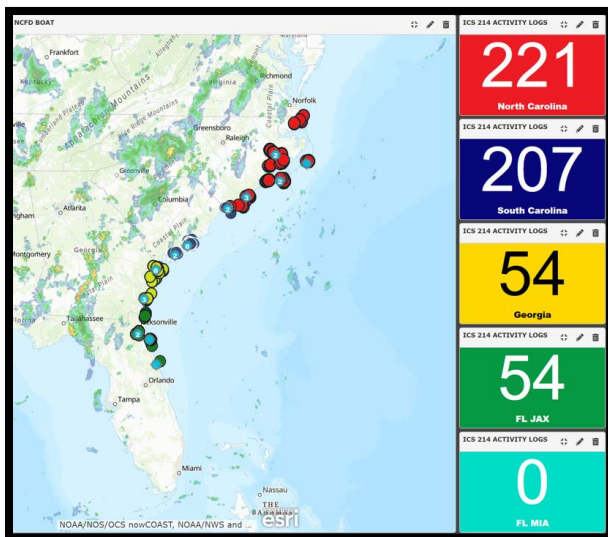
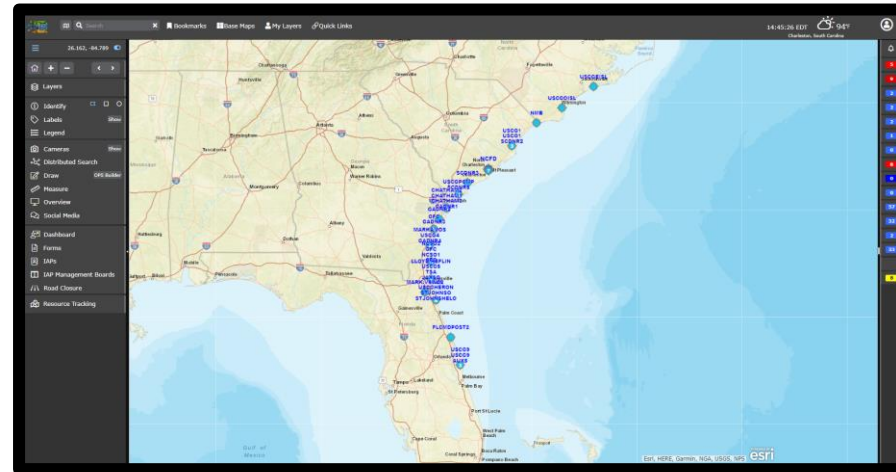
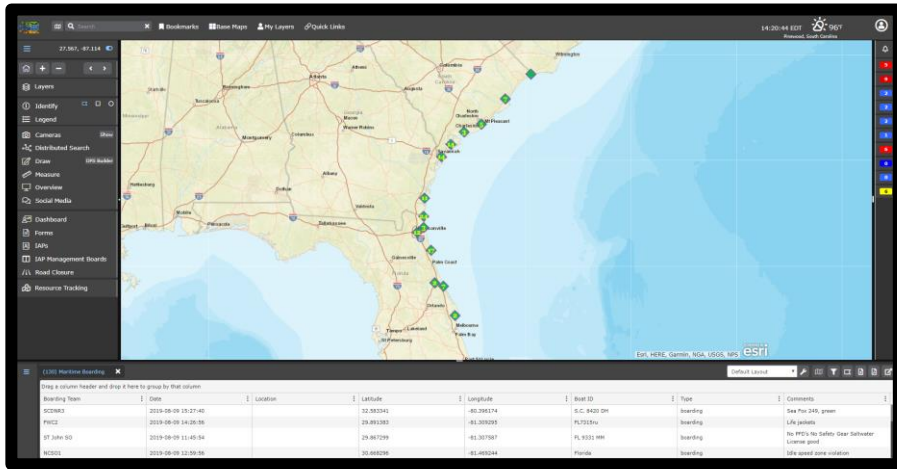


January 2020 — June 2025 Hammerhead/Fried Shrimp n' Grits Operations

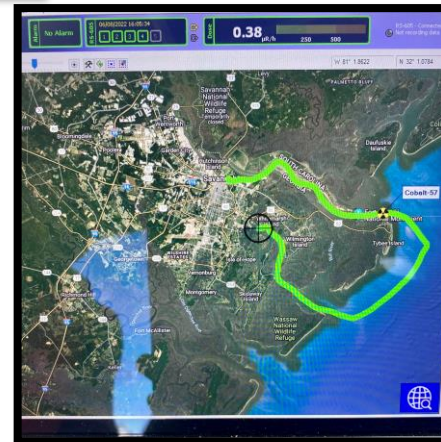
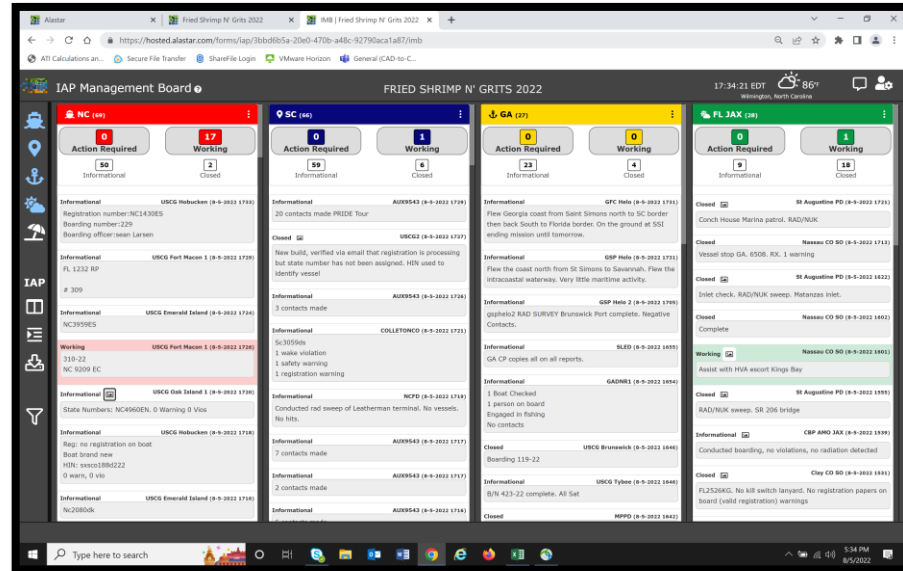
II - Operations

- Overarching goal is to encourage boating safety and maritime security.
- 28-104 different agencies and 94-461 personnel assisting – 4 State, 2 USCG District and 5 COTP zones
- 1,396 boardings conducted.
- 136 written violations – 318 warnings issued.
- 27 voyages terminated.
- 7 CBP failure to report.
- 5,651 radiation scans – 0 alerts.

WATER OPERATIONS (HAMMERHEAD/FRIED SHRIMP N' GRITS)



WATER OPERATIONS (HAMMERHEAD/FRIED SHRIMP N' GRITS)




WATER OPERATIONS (HAMMERHEAD/FRIED SHRIMP N' GRITS)



JOINT BASE CHARLESTON

Home News Article Display



NEWS | Aug. 14, 2018

Operation SHRIMP and GRITS: boating safety, maritime security

By Senior Airman Terrell Long 628th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — When someone mentions "shrimp and grits," what comes to mind: a traditional dish in the Lowcountry of coastal South Carolina? In 2016 the U.S. Coast Guard gave "SHRIMP and GRITS" a whole new meaning. Save Harbor Reach on intelligence for Multi-state Partnerships and Guarding Responsible interests for Target Safety.

Operation SHRIMP and GRITS is an annual multi-jurisdiction and multi-state maritime enforcement operation which took place Aug. 11, 2018. The operation targets recreational and commercial boaters traveling along the water in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. One of the objectives of this operation is to unify and coordinate investigative efforts between federal, state and local agency assets.

"This is a huge operation for us and it's all about our inter-agency partnerships," said Cmdr. Matt Baer, chief of response at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston and the incident commander for Operation SHRIMP and GRITS. "This is our third year conducting Operation SHRIMP and GRITS, and the first year we've expanded it down to Florida. The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for over 95,000 miles of coastline around this country and over 360 different ports around the nation. We cannot do it alone. Joint operations like this allow us to ensure a unified response should an unknown or an unfortunate event occur in ports or waterways."

There are approximately 35 different agencies and 400 people in the states of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina that are participating in the operation with the U.S. Coast Guard. The agencies cover about 430 to 440 miles of coastline and about 500 miles of internal waterways.

"It's a unique blend of authorities, and jurisdictions," explained Lt. Lloyd Heflin, enforcement division chief at USCGC Sector Charleston. "As the Coast Guard, we have pretty broad authority and jurisdiction, but with some of the state and local laws which the local partners can enforce, it gives them the opportunity to expand the scope of the operation. While we all bring something unique to the table, we're a lot stronger when we bring everybody together."

The main objective of Operation SHRIMP and GRITS is ensuring maritime security and boating safety. The Coast Guard, along with the helping agencies, accomplishes this by conducting searches on the water. During these operations, they conduct boardings to make sure everyone follows the rules and stays safe on the water.

"We respond to events that occur on the water through search and rescue as well as law enforcement, but we're also about preventing these things from happening," Baer said. "It's important for us to get out there, educate and inform the boating public, while also learning from them about what's normal and what's not."

The overall goal is boating safety and maritime security, but this mission also allows the Coast Guard to strengthen their relationships, not only with other agencies, but with the boating public.

"Joint operations like this help with our relationships with local law enforcement, and it brings us together for one common goal," said Seaman Nathan Gullot, boat crewman at USCGC Station Charleston. "We're strengthening our relationship with the public, and they're really thankful for what we do. This shows the community that we're here for them, they don't see us as people who are here to ruin their day."

"We want people to be comfortable sharing information they see on the waterways if something looks strange to them. We want them to be confident in reporting to law enforcement what they see, because they are our eyes and ears on the water," Baer said. "We're always excited to get out there and talk to the boating public. We want people to enjoy the water, but we want folks to do so safely."




United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

PHOTO RELEASE: Coast Guard, partner agencies conduct law enforcement operation throughout 430 miles of coastline
U.S. Coast Guard sent this bulletin at 08/15/2018 11:28 AM EDT

U.S. Coast Guard 7th District PA Detachment Jacksonville
Contact: Coast Guard PA Detachment Jacksonville
Office: 904-714-7666/766
After Hours: 305-318-1384
PA Detachment Jacksonville online newsroom

Photo Release

Coast Guard, partner agencies conduct law enforcement operation throughout 430 miles of coastline



Editor's Note: Click on images to download a high-resolution version.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Coast Guard and partner agencies conducted a law enforcement operation Saturday from Horry County, South Carolina, to Brevard County, Florida covering approximately 430 miles of coastline.

Coast Guard crews conducted the operation in coordination with 89 partner agency units from several federal, state and local agencies. The operation focused on the education and enforcement of boating safety and maritime security throughout the Southeast.

"We want to thank each individual and organization for the level of coordination and collaboration in planning and executing this iteration of this operation," said Capt. Todd Wiemers, commander, Sector Jacksonville. "We are grateful to each and every agency and the individuals involved who made this possible."

During the operation, 54 law enforcement fire vessels, 33 auxiliary vessels, one fixed wing law enforcement aircraft, four auxiliary fixed-wing aircraft, three helicopters, four Air Force strike teams, one aircraft mounted Mobile Detection System and one Transportation Security Administration surface inspection team were used.

During the operation, 368 vessel boardings were conducted resulting in 26 violations, 65 warnings, 15 local police department citations, 77 local police department warnings and six vessel terminations.

"Their contributions to our collective maritime safety and security, as well as living marine enforcement, go a long way toward achieving the objectives of our agencies and we trust the collaborative nature of these types of operations will also contribute to our ability to respond holistically in times of crisis," Capt. John Reed, commander, Sector Charleston.

For more breaking news follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

MSC MICHIGAN VII — 997FT CONTAINER SHIP STUCK THROTTLE — 17 KNOTS OUTBOUND



FUSION LIAISON OFFICER (FLO) PROGRAM



Benefits of the FLO program are to expand the awareness of the terrorism and criminal indicators and warnings, increase awareness of the established reporting protocols with the fusion centers area of responsibility, opening communication channels and fostering subject matter experts.

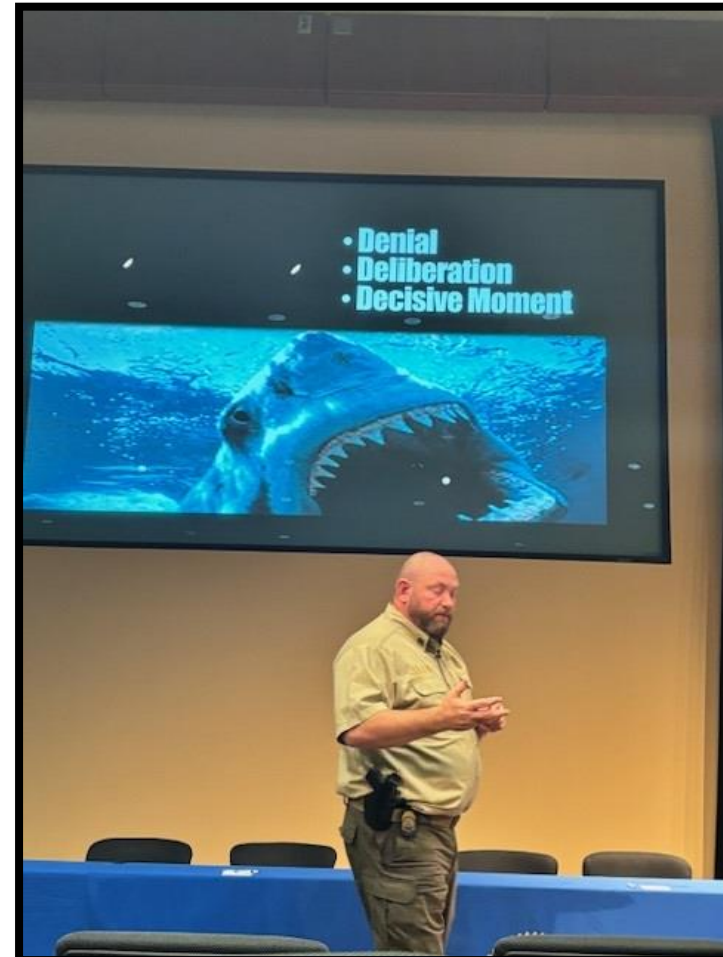
FUSION LIAISON OFFICER (FLO) PROGRAM



January 2020 — June 2025 FLO Program

- January 2020 SLED revitalized the FLO program.
- Went from 0 FIO's to currently 512 FIO's.
- FIO's consist of Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Systems, Emergency Management personnel, School District Security and select Private Sector.
- 33 training classes provided around the state to the FIO's.
- 224 intelligence documents or information were shared with FIO's.
- 4 - one day seminars with guest speakers were facilitated.
- In April 2024, was restructured and placed under counterterrorism.


FUSION LIAISON OFFICER (FLO) PROGRAM



FUSION LIAISON OFFICER (FLO) PROGRAM

FLO COLLABORATION APP



**Alastar Collaboration Admin - SLED**

UsersGroupsPostsAbout

USERS

GROUPS

POSTS

ABOUT

PRND

DOCUMENTS

EMAIL BUILDER

EMS

6 Contacts

Created 6/2/2022
Updated 6/2/2022

FD

104 Contacts

Created 6/3/2022
Updated 6/3/2022

LE

203 Contacts

Created 6/2/2022
Updated 6/13/2022

NC Fusion Center

0 Contacts

Created 7/8/2022
Updated 7/8/2022

PRND

93 Contacts

Created 8/8/2022
Updated 8/8/2022

EMD

38 Contacts

Created 12/12/2022
Updated 12/12/2022

NYPD Intelligence Bureau

2 Contacts

Created 12/16/2022
Updated 12/16/2022

Private Sector

16 Contacts

Created 2/21/2023
Updated 2/21/2023

SCIIC/SC Fusion Center

14 Contacts

Created 7/1/2022
Updated 2/21/2023

SE Region FLO's

18 Contacts

Created 8/21/2023
Updated 8/21/2023

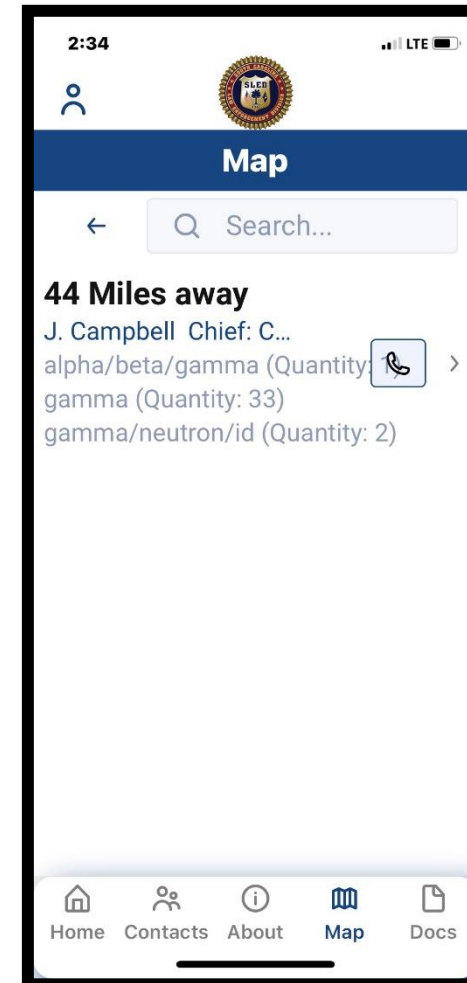
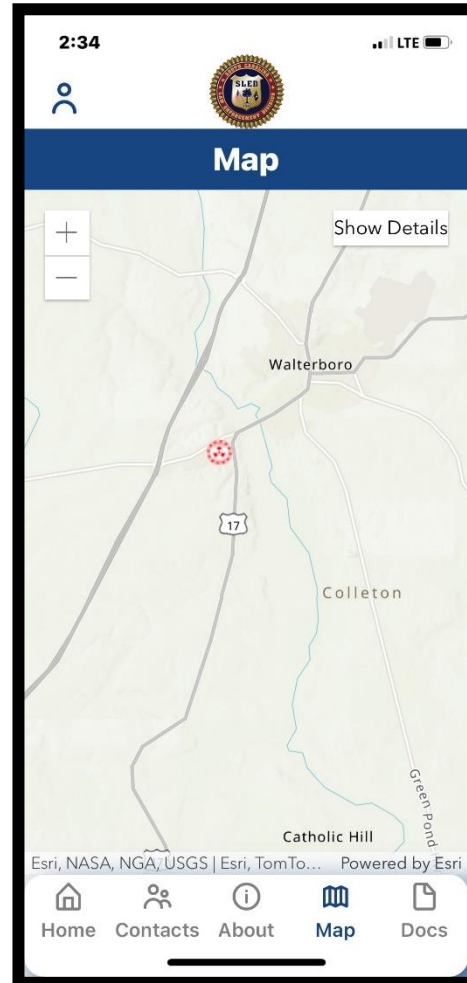
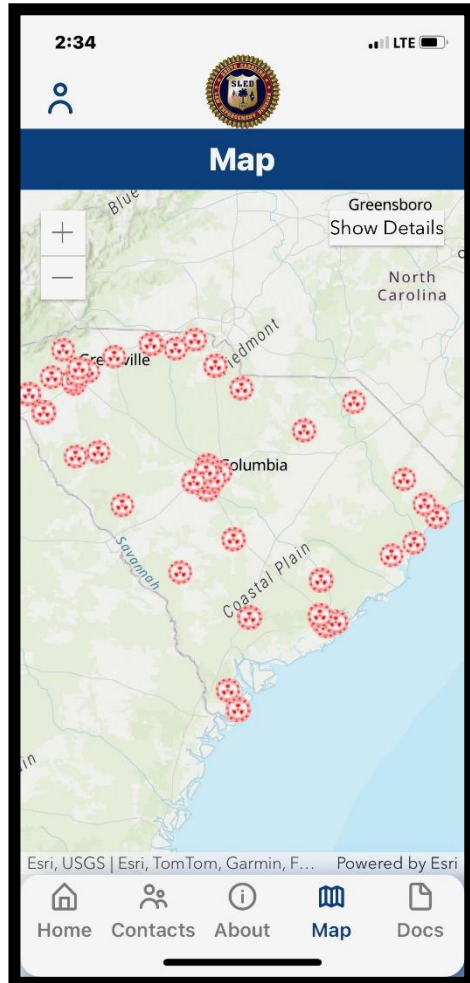
School Security

21 Contacts

Created 10/25/2023
Updated 10/25/2023

FUSION LIAISON OFFICER (FLO) PROGRAM

FLO PRND COLLABORATION APP



AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATED READER (ALPR) PROGRAM



AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATED READER (ALPR) PROGRAM



ALPR TRAILERS

- SLED has 5 ALPR trailers they provide to agencies around the state for various events, around critical infrastructure, incidents etc.



SEAHAWK IOC SHORT FALLS

- USCG personnel **turnover every two to three years**. Difficult to maintain consistency.
- Obtaining security clearances and title 19 authorities – slow process in obtaining from Federal partners.
- Not a line item in the DHS - USCG budget. Unsure future of office and dock space as Charleston is becoming a USCG super base.

CONCLUSIONS & QUESTIONS



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT



House Legislative Oversight Committee

Captain Brandon Landrum

Lieutenant Kathryn Powell

PROTECTIVE SERVICES/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT (PSEM UNIT)



Supervisors:

- Captain Brandon Landrum (20 years LE service) – SWAT Support
- Lieutenant Kathryn Powell (11 years LE service) – CDU Member

Agents:

- Senior Special Agent Charles Hollmon (31 years LE service) – SWAT Member, Negotiator Team Leader
- Senior Special Agent Kenny Williamson (21 years LE service)
- Senior Special Agent Duston Phillips (12 years LE service)
- Senior Special Agent Ricky Grubbs (41 years LE service) – Full-time temporary agent

Administrative Coordinator:

- Tammy Rawl (34 years) – Incident Tactical Dispatcher

UNIT MISSION



Provide support to federal, state, and local agencies by planning, coordinating, and/or executing responses for planned special events, emergencies, disasters, and critical incidents. In addition, the Protective Services/Emergency Management Unit also plans for and provides security for dignitaries, juries, and other VIP's.

Coordinate, support, plan, and respond to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) for all hazard planning regarding critical incidents as the Emergency Support Function 13 (ESF-13) lead agency.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



The Chief of SLED may approve the use of security resources for dignitaries, officials of government entities, "Very Important Persons" (VIP), or other persons for which a significant threat is perceived. Responsibilities for VIP security may include, but are not limited to, the following (CALEA 46.2.6):

- a) Establishment and inspection of travel and alternate routes as necessary
- b) Timeline of events
- c) Advance inspections of sites and facilities
- d) Limited access and egress as necessary during the event
- e) Identification of emergency first-aid capabilities, ambulance services, and medical facilities

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



- f) Identification of fire department facilities
- g) Intelligence gathering on individuals or groups hostile to the VIP
- h) Notification to local hospital(s) and Level 1 Trauma Centers
- i) Consideration of equipment requirements, to include vehicles, body armor for VIP's, special weapons
- j) Notification and coordination with other assisting agencies

As part of a dignitary visit, the PSEM Unit is also responsible for the coordination of operations both within SLED and with outside agencies, to include air support, communications (radios, telephones, etc.), and tactical team support.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Dignitary Protection Details:

The PSEM Unit is responsible for coordinating and overseeing dignitary protection details for two current US Congressional Delegates while in South Carolina.

- Two Senior Special Agents (SS/A) in the PSEM Unit are responsible for the day-to-day operations and scheduling within each detail.
- Each detail is comprised of approximately 15 agents who are assigned a primary job duty at SLED and also work the dignitary protection details as a collateral duty.
- PSEM provides training to all agents on the two details with United States Secret Service (USSS) and SLED's Executive Protection Unit.
- All agents of the PSEM Unit have attended a dignitary protection school.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Dignitary Protection Assistance:

The PSEM Unit plans for, assists with, and oversees dignitary visits within the state, including, but not limited to:

POTUS

VPOTUS

FPOTUS

FLOTUS

Senator John Thune

Governor Ron DeSantis

NAACP President

Secretary of Commerce

Secretary of Transportation

Small Business Administration

Secretary of Homeland Security

Presidential Candidates

President of Dominican Republic

Secretary of Labor

Secretary of Transportation

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jefferies

Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy

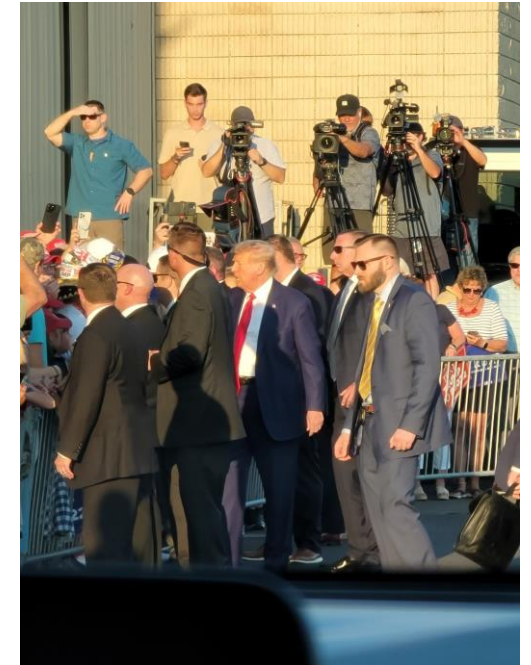
Former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley

Secretary of Housing & Urban Development

Secretary of Energy

Secretary of Treasury

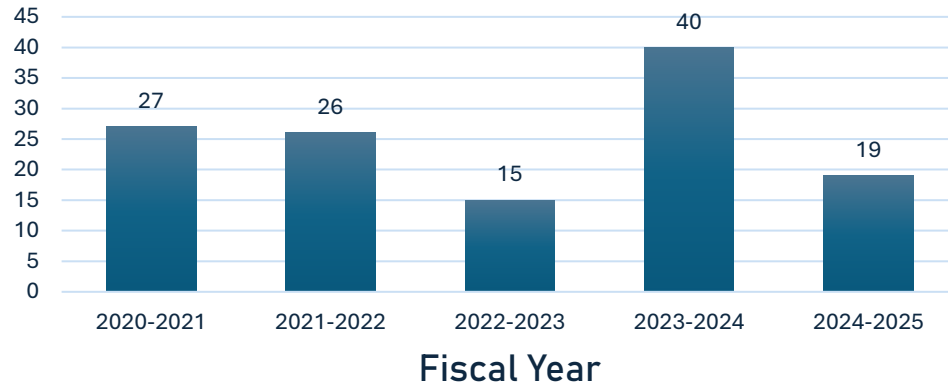
Secretary of Agriculture



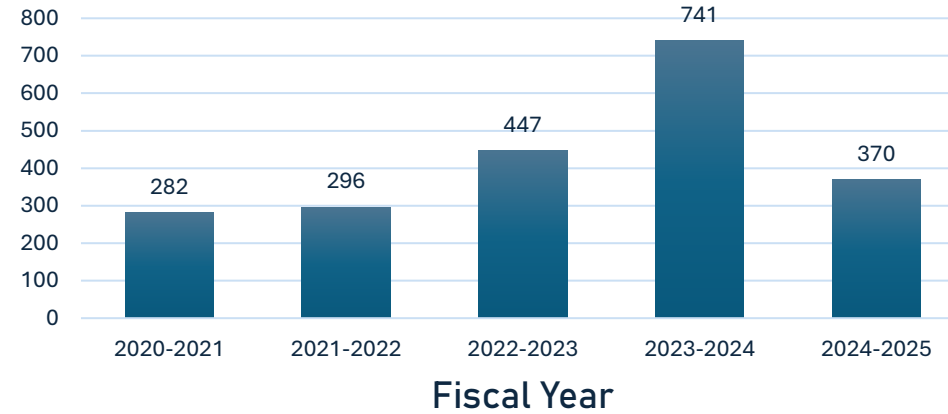
PROTECTIVE SERVICES STATISTICS



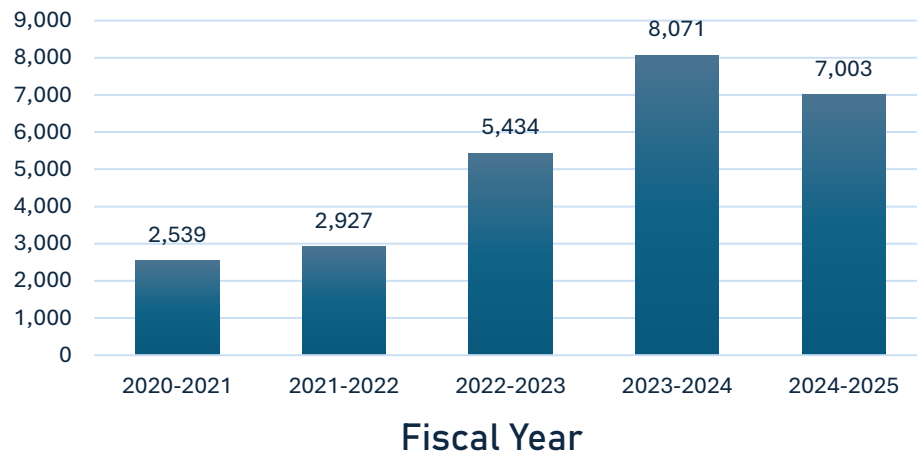
Requests



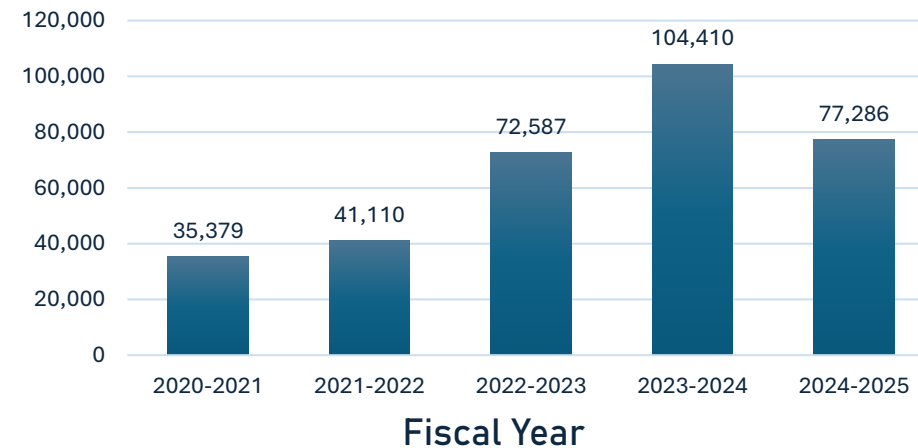
Personnel



Hours



Mileage



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



- In accordance with the Legislative Act 199 of 1979, Section 21, the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan (SCEOP), SLED is the coordinating agency for state law enforcement in man-made and natural disasters as it pertains to general law enforcement issues.
- The SCEOP covers major hazards including hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, severe winter and summer storms, flooding, major urban/industrial fires, explosions, transportation spills of oils and toxic chemicals, forest fires, nuclear facility incidents, dam failures, terrorism, and war.
- By statutory authority, SC Code of Laws Sections 23-3-15 and 54-17-20 as amended provides for the Governor's designation of SLED as the lead state agency in the Counterterrorism effort. These statutes also provide for the Chief of SLED to be the state's representative to the United States Department of Homeland Security.
- The SCEOP and associated annexes as approved by the Governor provides that SLED is the lead state agency for general law enforcement and security for all natural or man-made disasters under Emergency Support Function 13 (ESF-13).
- This document also provides that the Division is the lead state agency with regards to coordinating response to civil disturbances in Appendix 7; however, the SC Department of Public Safety provides the front-line civil disturbance teams.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



SLED's responsibilities:

- **Coordinate** state level law enforcement (i.e., enforcement of criminal laws and Executive Orders) and law enforcement protective measures for essential facilities, materials, and officials.
- **Act as liaison** with other law enforcement agencies to coordinate responses to local needs.
- **Advise and assist** EMD in the coordination of public safety operations with other emergency activities.
- **Monitor and report** to EMD the disaster assistance actions of all state law enforcement agencies.
- **Direct** the deployment of resources during civil unrest.
- **Provide for the coordination** and communication with the Department of Homeland Security when applicable.
- **Staff** ESF-13 at the SEOC during an activation.
- **Assist** the Department of Energy with escorting Foreign Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments (FSNFS) through the state to Savannah River Site (SRS).
- Responsible for maintaining several statewide plans as they pertain to SLED's response.
- Participate in all exercises and tabletops throughout the state (dams, nuclear plants, plans, etc.)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



- **Plans:**

Hurricane Base Plan

Earthquake Plan

Terrorism Operations Plan

FBI Integrated Response Plan

Continuity of Operations Plan

Medical Counter Measures Plan

SC Repatriation Plan

Winter Storm Plan

Election Plan

Civil Disturbance Plan

SC Ports Response Plan

Sequestered Jury Plan

Steris Plan

Ebola Plan

- **Dam Plans:**

Saluda, Fairfield, Santee, Pinnopolis, Wateree, Steven's Creek, Parr

- **Fixed Nuclear Site Plans:**

Oconee, Catawba, HB Robinson, VC Summer, Vogtle, Savannah River Site

- **Power Company Plans:**

Santee Cooper, Dominion, Duke Energy



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REQUESTS



Types:

- Natural Disasters
- Special Events
- Sporting Events
- Department of Energy (DOE) Escorts
- CrimeSuppressions/Saturations
- Law Enforcement Support
- Protests
- Incidents



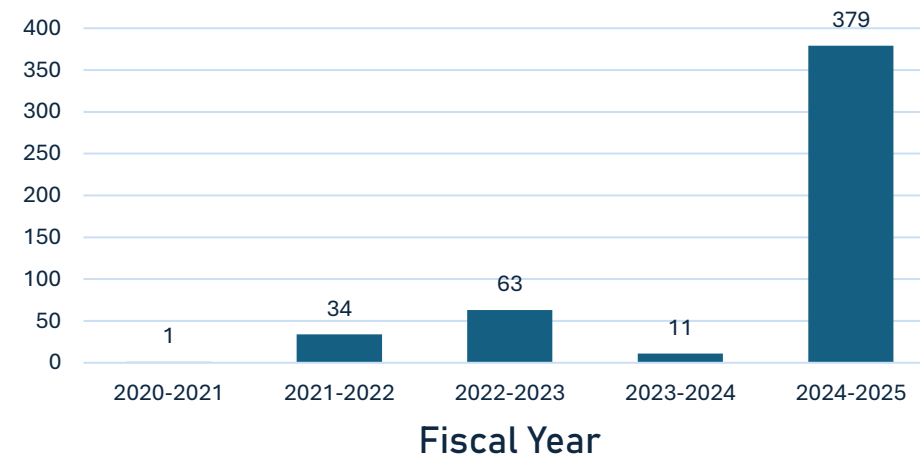
NATURAL DISASTERS



- **2020** – Hurricane Isaias
- **2022** – Hurricane Ian
- **2023** – Hurricane Idalia, Bamberg County Tornadoes
- **2024** – Tropical Storm Debby, Orangeburg Floods, Hurricane Helene
- **2025** – Winter Storm Enzo



Personnel



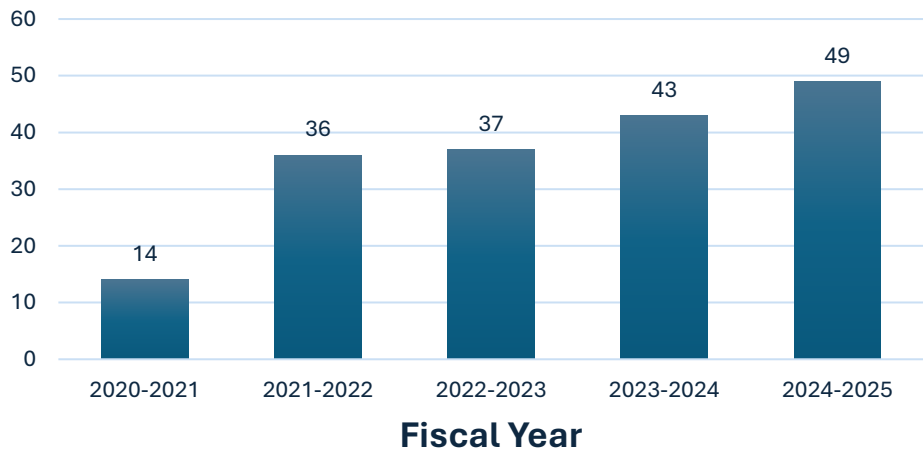
SPECIAL EVENTS



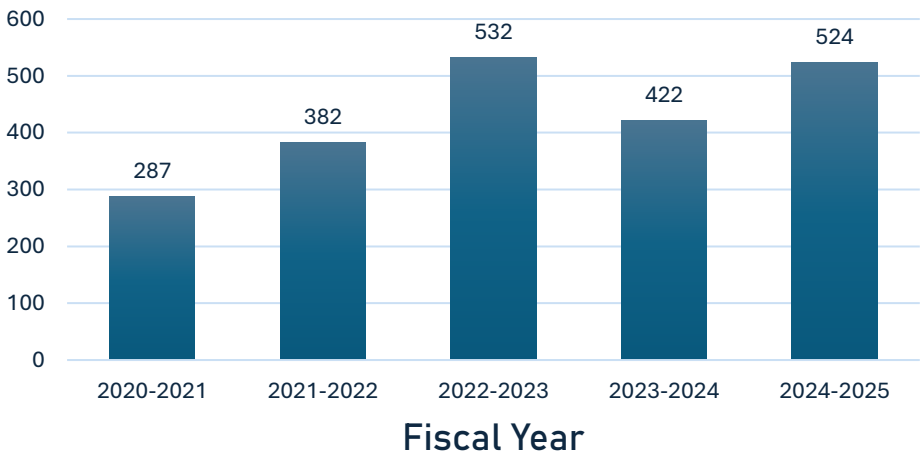
- National Governor’s Association Conference
- Republican Lieutenant Governor’s Association Conference
- South Carolina Circuit Court Judges Conference
- South Carolina Judicial Branch Seminar
- South Carolina Mental Health Summit

- Southern Legislative Conference
- Governor’s Inauguration
- Republican Governor’s Association Conference
- South Carolina Bar Convention
- Medal of Honor Conference

Requests



Personnel



ANNUAL LARGE-SCALE SPECIAL EVENTS



Cooper River Bridge Run (Charleston)

MLK March to the Dome (Columbia)

Memorial Day Weekend Bike Fest (Myrtle Beach)

PGA Golf Tournaments (Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head, Ridgeland)

Carolina Country Music Festival (Myrtle Beach)

Field and Stream Music Festival (Winnsboro)

Carolina Cup (Camden)

NASCAR Races (Darlington)

College Football Games (Benedict, Clemson,
Coastal Carolina, South Carolina, and SC State)

State of the State (Columbia)

Governor's Open House (Columbia)

Governor's Carolighting (Columbia)



SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNING



Camden Burials
Honor Ceremony



Southern
Legislative
Conference
Youth Activities

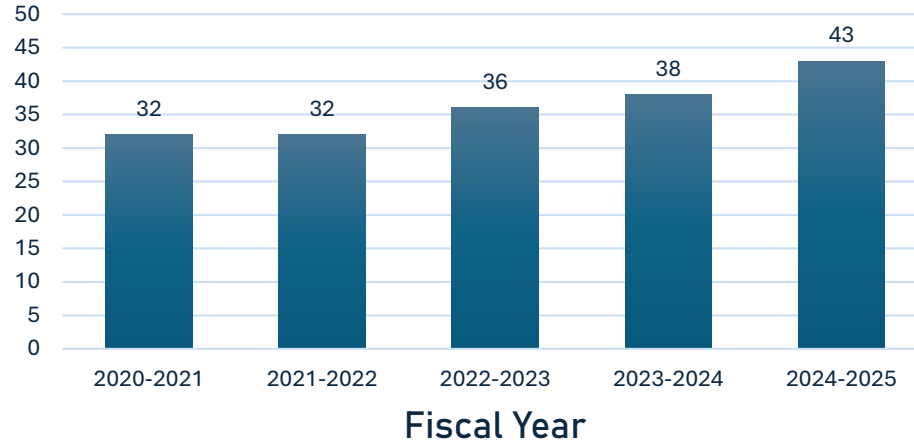


Southern Legislative
Conference
Command Post

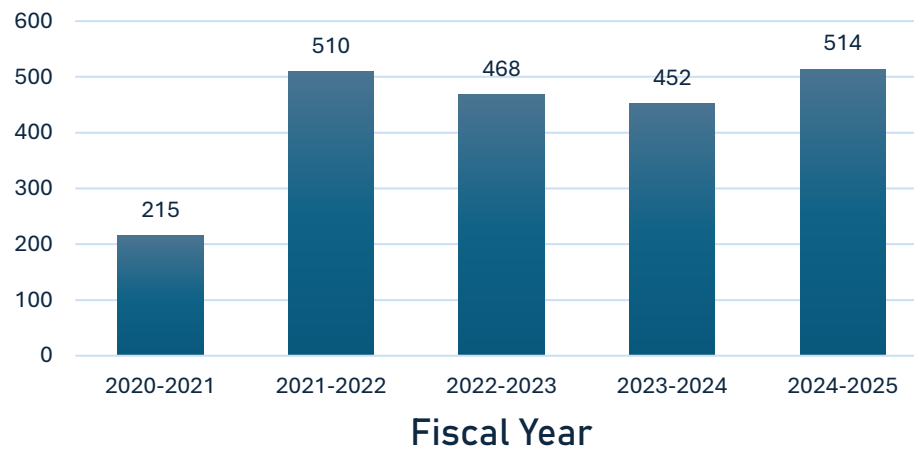
SPORTING EVENTS



Requests



Personnel

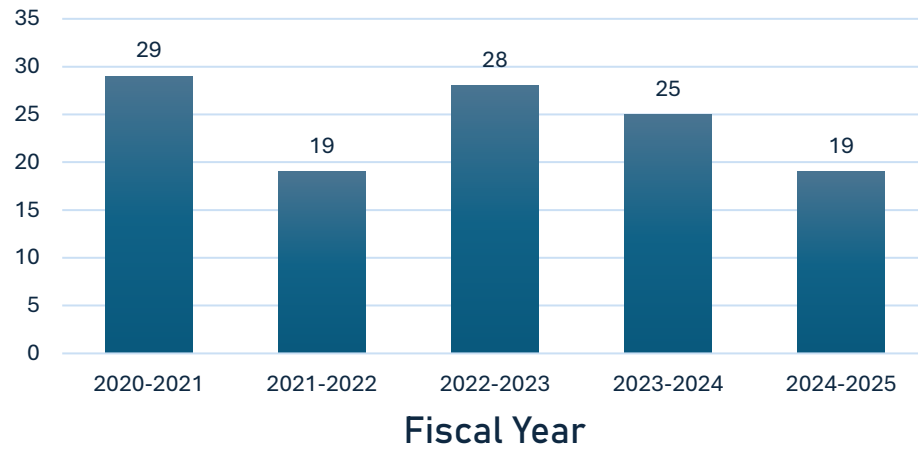


DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) ESCORTS

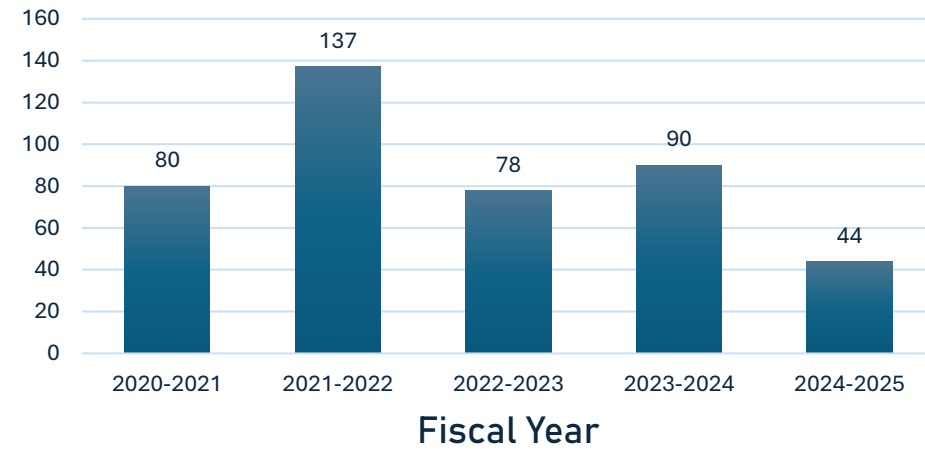


As outlined by Proviso Part 1B Section 62.9 – D100 – State Law Enforcement Division, (SLED: Hazardous Materials Security Detail), SLED is authorized to be reimbursed for security related law enforcement services provided to entities authorized to transport sensitive materials within the borders of South Carolina.

Requests



Personnel



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) ESCORTS



- In the fall of 2020, DOE completed the campaign to repatriate 161 kilograms of spent nuclear fuel from Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario, Canada, to the Savannah River Site. This campaign began in 2017 and involved 115 separate truck shipments. During this time, SLED provided safe and secure escorts for these shipments without incident to the shipments.
- In the spring of 2022 and winter of 2023, SLED completed the campaign to repatriate spent nuclear fuel from Japan to the Savannah River Site by train.
- The PSEM Unit has presented at both the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) and the Transportation Security Unified Stakeholders Group (TSUSG) conferences.
- DOE provides a 5-year grant to assist with equipment, supplies, and training to conduct these escorts.



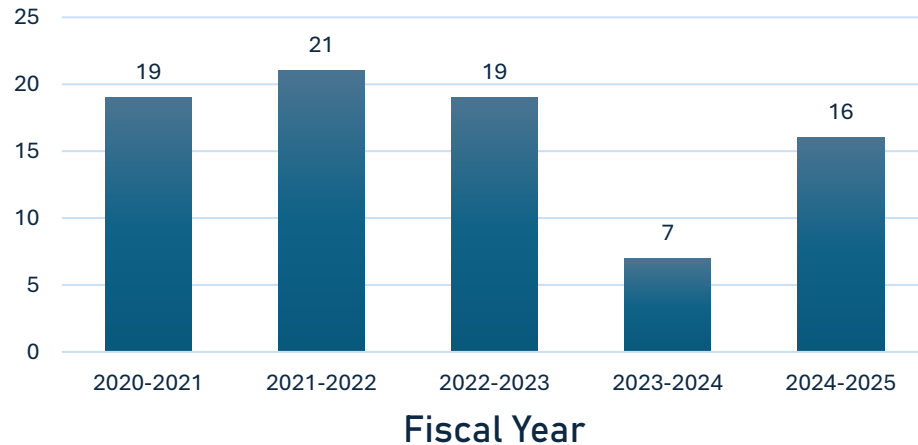
CRIME SUPPRESSIONS/SATURATIONS



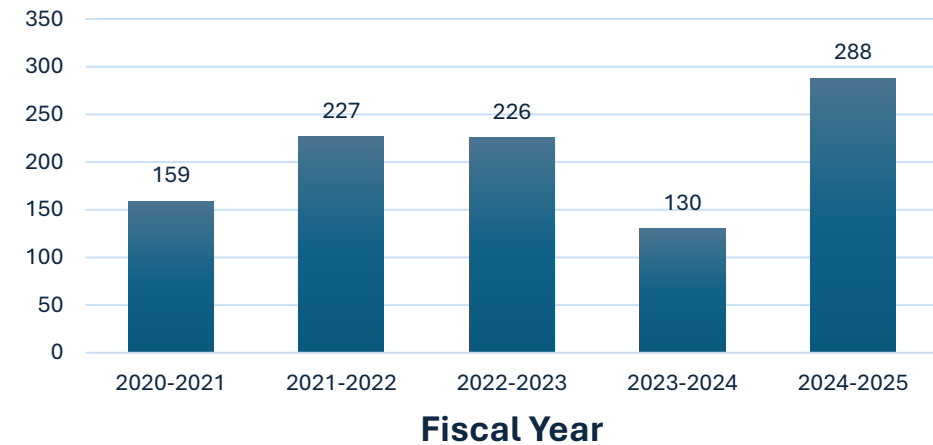
Counties:

- Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Chester, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Fairfield, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lancaster, Marion, Marlboro, Newberry, Orangeburg, Sumter, Union

Requests



Personnel



CRIME SUPPRESSIONS/SATURATIONS



According to Sumter PD, below is a snapshot of their crime statistics taken from May 2024 and May 2025. Major crimes significantly decreased during the planned crime suppressions from June 2024 to June 2025:

Juvenile stats

MAJOR CRIME BREAK DOWN TOTALS (YEAR TO DATE 2024/2025)			
	May-24	May-25	% Change
Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter	1	0	-100.00%
Sexual Assault	1	0	-100.00%
Aggravated Assault	5	4	-20.00%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	4	4	0.00%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	16	2	-87.50%
Motor Vehicle Theft	14	2	-85.71%
General Larceny	9	6	-33.33%
Weapon Law Violations	8	4	-50.00%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	8	4	-50.00%
Robbery	1	4	300.00%
Overall Totals	67	30	-55.22%

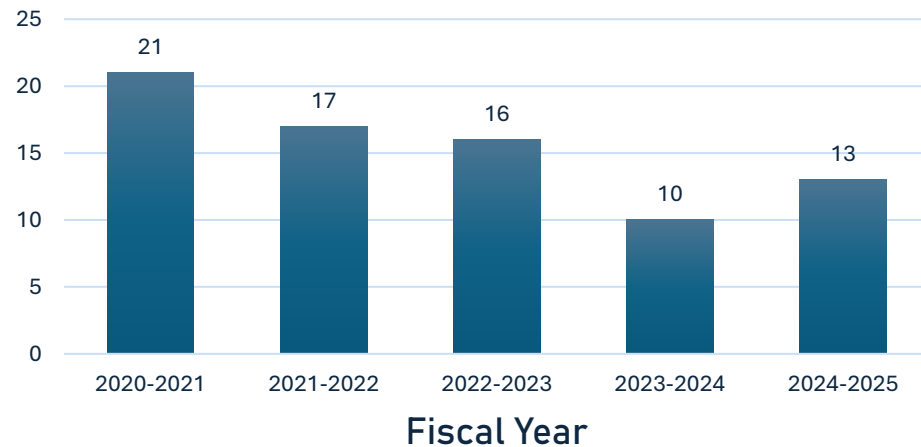
MAJOR CRIME BREAK DOWN TOTALS (YEAR TO DATE 2024/2025)			
	May-24	May-25	% Change
Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter	6	3	-50.00%
Sexual Assault	1	3	200.00%
Aggravated Assault	102	72	-29.41%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	59	50	-15.25%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	146	51	-65.07%
Motor Vehicle Theft	89	26	-70.79%
General Larceny	94	61	-35.11%
Weapon Law Violations	28	19	-32.14%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	137	64	-53.28%
Robbery	11	24	118.18%
Overall Totals	673	373	-44.58%

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

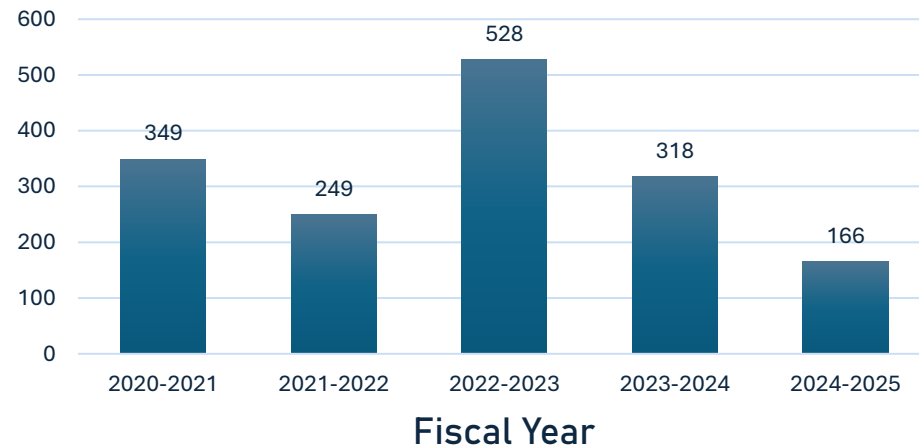


- Provided law enforcement coverage and answer calls for service in the following jurisdictions:
 - Allendale City, Chester County, Chester City, Estill, Blackville, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Provided election security during ballot recount (Dorchester County)
- Assisted with courtroom security, prisoner transports, and inmate security at hospitals

Requests



Personnel

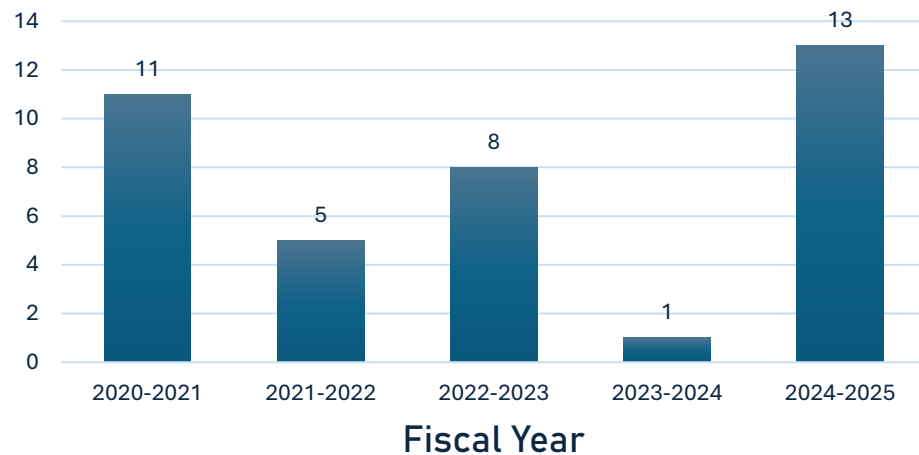


PROTESTS

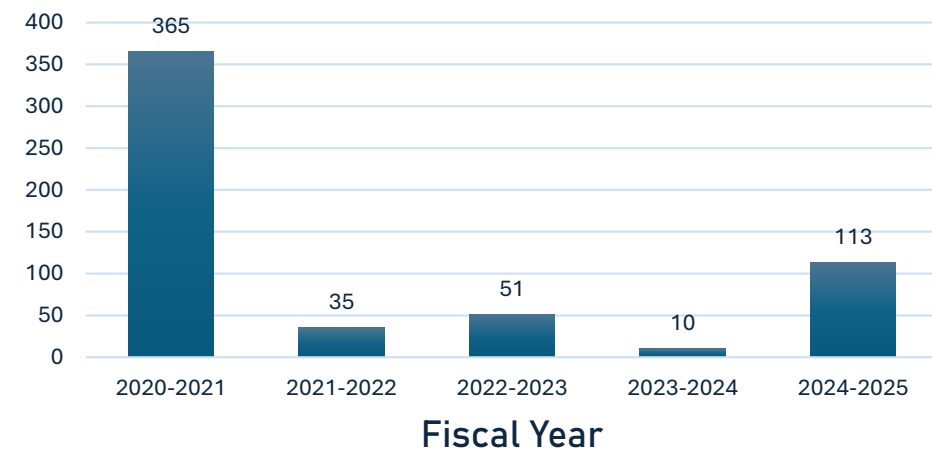


- 2020 – State House Protests, Breonna Taylor Protest
- 2021 – Sutherland Protest in Charleston, Back the Blue at Clemson, SCOTUS Ruling on Roe v. Wade
- 2022 – State House Details for House/Senate Abortion Legislation
- 2023 – Gaza Ceasefire Protest at State House
- 2024 – Longshoremen’s Union, Carolina People’s Red Line Tour
- 2025 – Stand Up For Life, Stop Deportation Against Immigrants, National Day of Protest, No Kings

Requests



Personnel



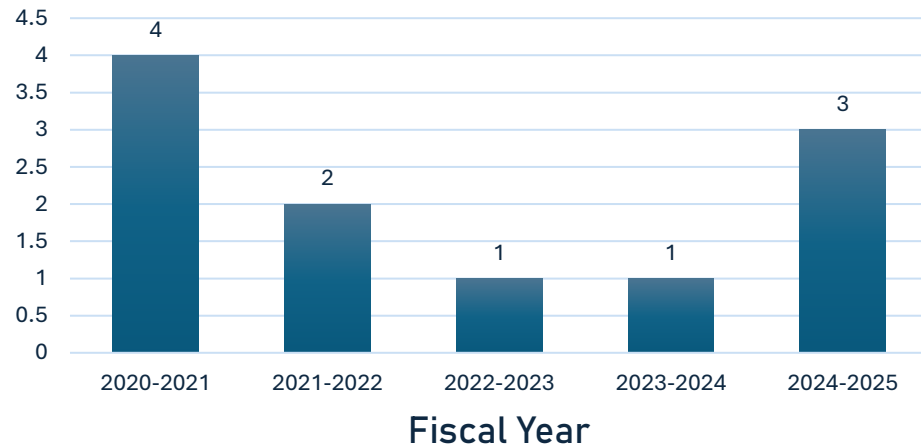
INCIDENTS



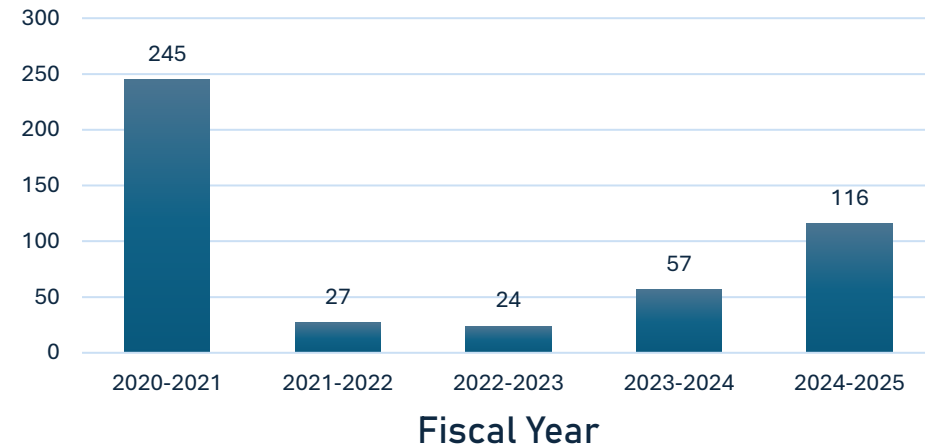
Multi-agency response:

- 2020 – Covid-19 vaccine escorts, Tyler Terry Manhunt (Chester County)
- 2021 – Columbiana Mall Shooting
- 2022 – Michael Burham Manhunt (Berkeley County)
- 2023 – Ernest Burbage III Manhunt (Charleston County)
- 2024 – Alston Modin Manhunt (Lee County)
- 2025 – Missing Hiker at Table Rock, Upstate Wildfires

Requests



Personnel



INCIDENTS



Tyler Terry Manhunt
Chester County
May 2021



Table Rock Missing Hiker
Pickens County
March 2025



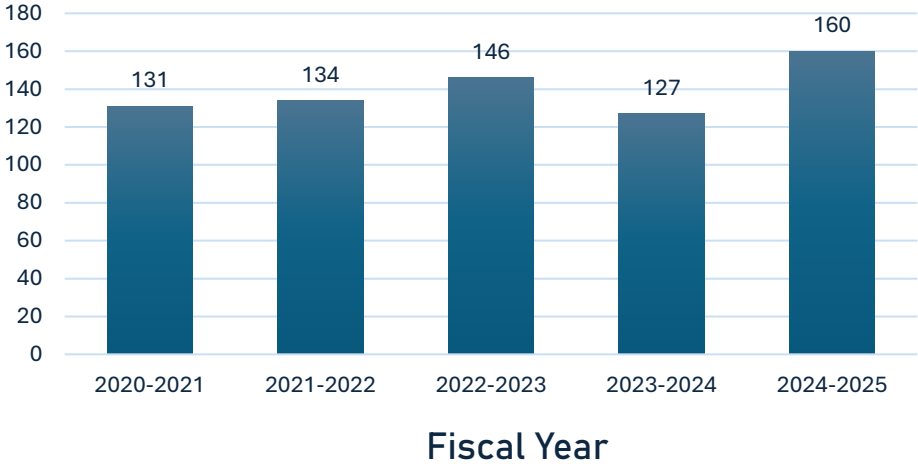
Upstate Wildfires
Pickens County
March 2025



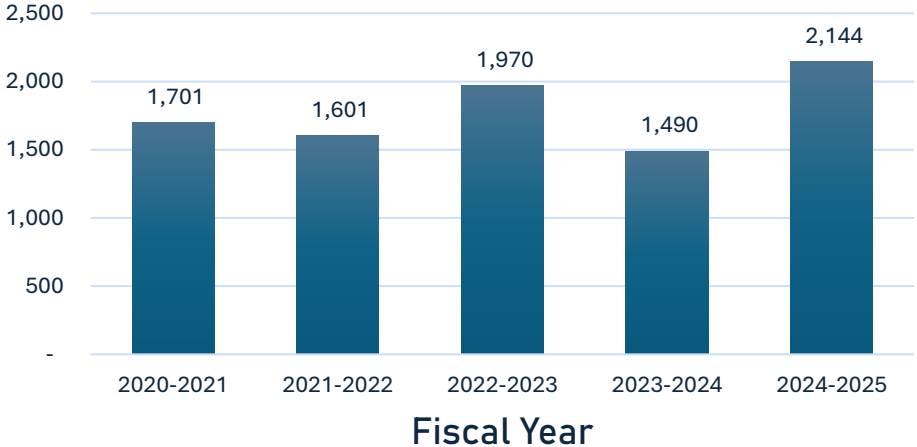
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REQUESTS



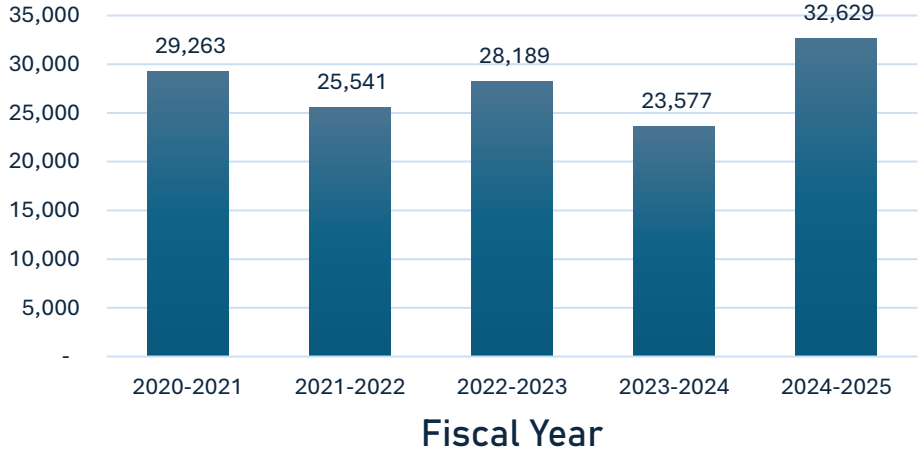
Requests



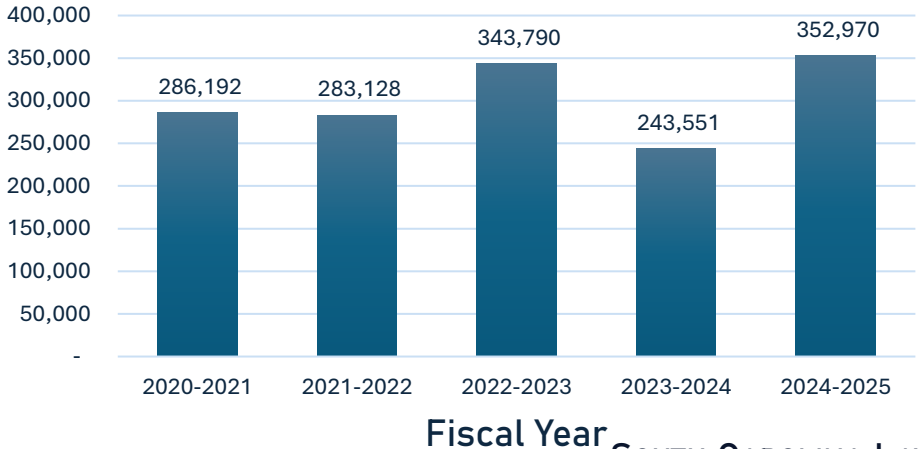
Personnel



Hours



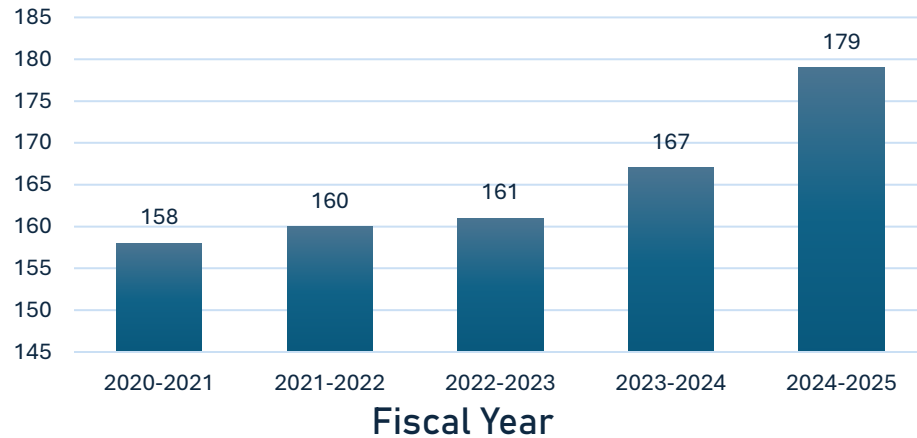
Mileage



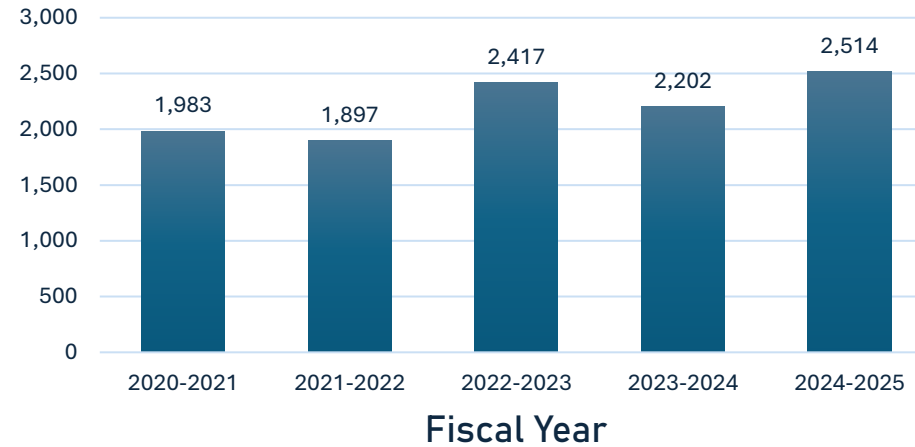
OVERALL FIVE YEAR STATS



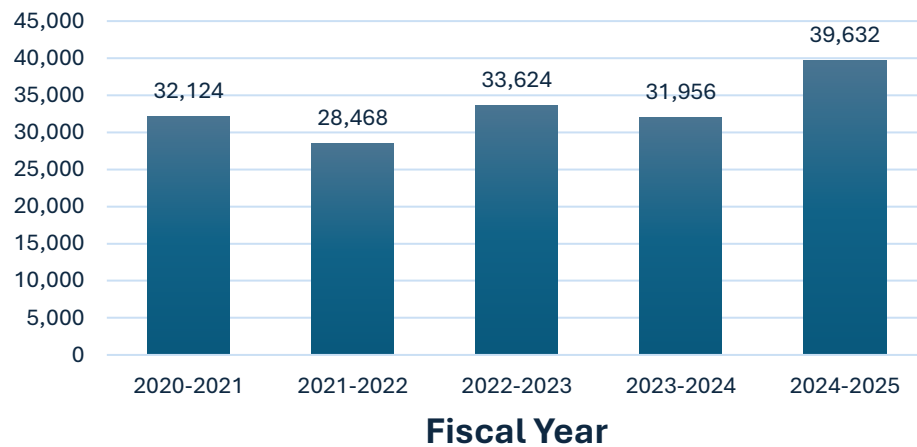
Requests



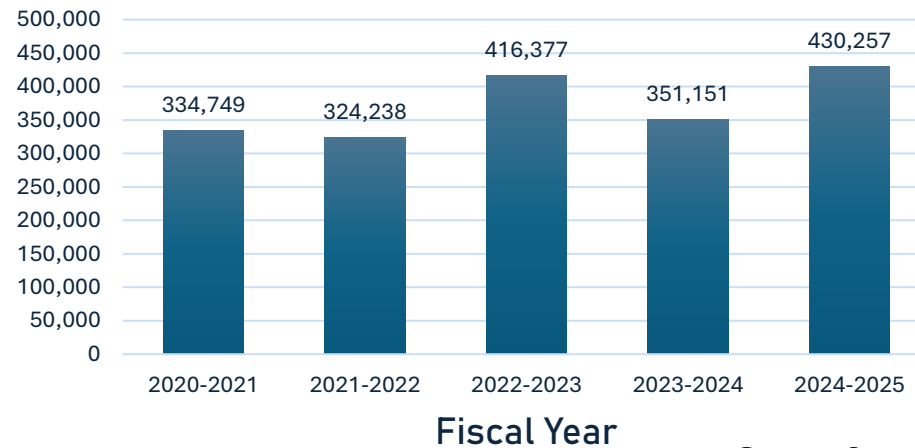
Personnel



Hours



Mileage



PARTNERSHIPS



Federal

- United States Secret Service, United States Capitol Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Energy, US Marshals Service, Diplomatic Security Services

State

- South Carolina Department of Public Safety, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, South Carolina Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, South Carolina Emergency Management Division, South Carolina National Guard, State Election Commission, Department of Transportation, Department of Commerce, Office of Regulatory Services, Department of Environmental Services, Department of Public Health, Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health, Universities and Colleges

Local

- Sheriff's Offices, Police Departments, K-12 Schools



CHALLENGES



- **Personnel:**

- As local law enforcement agencies continue to struggle staffing shortages, the number of requests for SLED to provide an array of assistance will continue to increase.

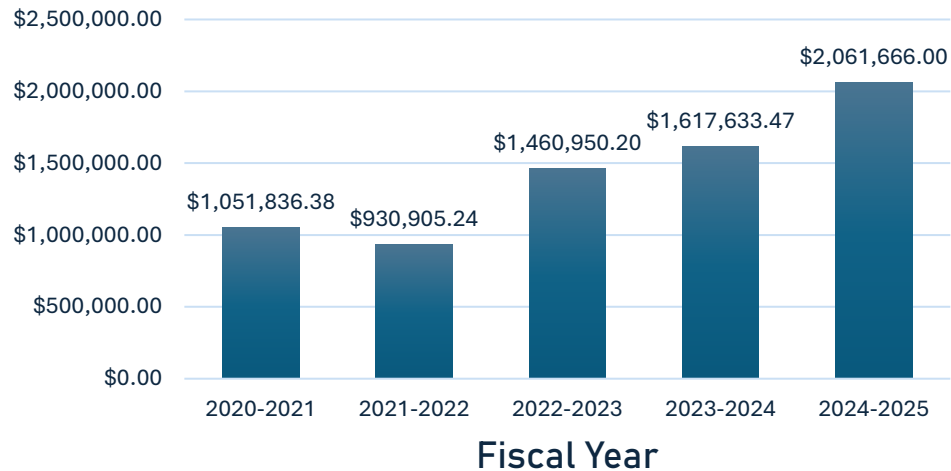
- **Funding:**

- Additional funding due to increased resource requests
- Funding for specialized training within the PSEM unit

OVERALL COSTS FOR DETAILS

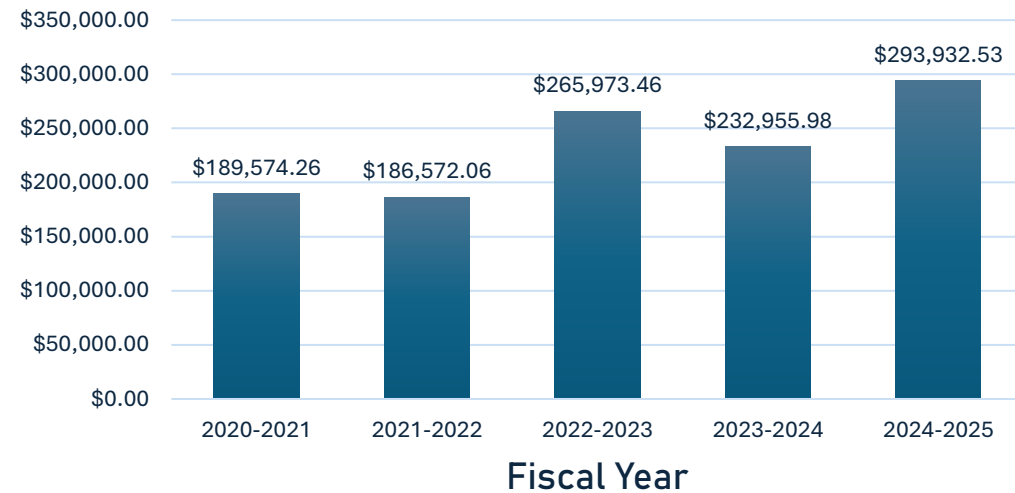


Estimated Five Year Salary Costs



*Five-year salary costs are estimated based on a Senior Special Agents hourly rate each fiscal year.

Five Year Mileage Costs



*Five-year mileage costs are based on the federal mileage rate per year.

QUESTIONS?

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