

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of State Police



Annual Report

1973

013777

Commonwealth of Virginia  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE  
Richmond, Virginia


May 1, 1974

The Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.  
Governor of Virginia  
State Capitol  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Godwin:

Enclosed is a report of the activities of the  
Department of State Police for the calendar  
year 1973.

Sincerely,

  
Superintendent

HWB/rs1

Enclosure

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PERSONNEL

There was a total of 1,469 authorized positions in the Department at the end of the year. This included 1,057 police positions and 412 civilian. Final vacancies existed in 19 civilian and two police positions.

There was an improvement in recruiting, resulting in 91 police employments. Police losses were 63. Of these, there were 10 retirements, four deaths, 17 left for other employment and 32 left for other reasons.

There were 79 civilians employed and 30 losses. Of those losses, 28 resigned and two retired.

Average police strength for the year was 1,048 with a turnover rate of 6.01%. The 1972 turnover rate was 6.73%.

TRAINING

The Training Facility continued to operate at peak capacity throughout the year.

Two basic schools were completed. In-service classes were attended by all experienced police personnel and dispatchers, and additional sessions were conducted for supervisors, investigators, scuba divers, canine handlers, polygraph examiners, breath-test operators and aircraft pilots.

During 1973, the Department had seven additional breath-test instructors trained under the auspices

of the Department of Health. The total is now 470 operators and 14 instructors. We continue to conduct our Instructor's Course for the Law Enforcement Officers Training Standards Commission and it continues to be used in the regional schools over the State.

The Central Police School conducted two five-week sessions, training 152 police officers. Our Training Facility was host to two instructor courses for the Law Enforcement Officers Training Standards Commission, 13 sessions of one-week duration each for 390 personnel of the Division of Motor Vehicles, and firearms training for the ABC Board, Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the Burns Detective Agency.

During 1973, there were 75 training sessions conducted at the Training Facility for our Department and 28 for other agencies. These totaled 6,119 hours of instruction in 103 sessions for 3,057 officers.

### ENFORCEMENT

The records maintained by the Investigations and Records Division reflect that members of the Department reported 278,199 arrests which cleared the courts during the 1973 calendar year. Arrests for offenses involving the highways totaled 268,677 or 96.57% of the total reported. Arrests for traffic offenses totaled 265,180 or 95.32% of the total reported, and resulted in a conviction rate of 92.5%.

In adjudicating these cases, the courts imposed \$6,015,011.19 in fines, assessed \$2,557,470.45 in court costs, assessed \$2,176,899.35 in liquidated

damages in overweight cases and imposed jail sentences totaling 7,460 years, 7 months and 27 days.

Arrests for traffic offenses involving commercial vehicles totaled 71,031 or 26.78% of the total traffic offenses charged, whereas commercial vehicles accounted for 22.41% of the average daily traffic flow for the year on interstate, arterial and primary routes. Arrests for moving hazardous offenses totaled 53,525 or 75.35% of the total traffic offenses charged against commercial vehicle operators.

Members of the Department also conducted 14,577 investigations during the year. As a result of these investigations, 756 stolen vehicles valued at \$1,138,394.00; 3062 abandoned vehicles valued at \$2,559,259.00; 927 vehicles seized with \$13,292.00 accruing to the Commonwealth as result of sales, and other stolen property valued at \$106,815.00 were recovered. This property valuation added to the fines, costs and liquidated damages assessed by the courts totals \$14,567,140.99.

### CENTRAL CRIMINAL RECORDS EXCHANGE

Accomplishments in Central Criminal Records Exchange toward microfilming and automation of these files, along with the daily workload, contributed to making 1973 one of the most productive years.

The Central Criminal Records Exchange processed 74,562 sets of fingerprints and 131,519 indices to the master name index. Additionally, 49,443 inquiries from federal, state and local agencies were answered and five deceased persons were identified.

ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC CRASHES

During the year, there were 157,636 crashes in which 1,220 persons received fatal injuries and 52,378 persons received nonfatal injuries. Total crashes increased 1.5%, injury crashes increased 1.3% while fatal accidents decreased 4.7%.

The mileage death rate per 100 million miles traveled in Virginia reflects a decrease from 3.8 in 1972 to 3.4 in 1973, and remains somewhat lower than the national rate of 4.2 for the year. This decrease becomes more significant when compared with a 6.0% increase in miles traveled and an estimated 6.0% increase in vehicle registration.

In addition to the routine analysis of Virginia's 1973 motor vehicle crash experience to provide meaningful information for enforcement, engineering and educational purposes, the logging operation of the Accident Records Section identified 2,866 crash-prone locations.

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

FINANCES

Funds available, expenditures and balance for the calendar year 1973 were:

Funds Available	\$21,621,694.16
Expended	<u>20,649,630.18</u>
Unexpended Balance	\$ 972,063.98

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Division consists of the Virginia Criminal Information Network with a terminal connected to the National Law Enforcement Teletype-writer System (LETS), seven radio base stations, located at Melfa and the six field division headquarters, and several portable base stations.

Radio contact is maintained with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Kingsport; West Virginia State Police, Beckley; and Kentucky State Police, London, through the Wytheville Division Headquarters. The Melfa base station has direct radio communications with the Maryland State Police at Salisbury. The Norfolk Division Headquarters has radio contact with most of the jurisdictions in the Norfolk metropolitan area. The Culpeper Division Headquarters has contact with most of the jurisdictions in the Washington area, including the Maryland State Police, the Metropolitan Police Department and U. S. Park Police through the Metro Radio System.

The Virginia Criminal Information Network, a computer controlled communications facility, is composed of 93 terminals maintained by 69 agencies. These terminals are in 43 municipal police departments, 16 sheriffs' offices, seven State Police offices, five county police departments, three Federal Bureau of Investigation offices, and one each in the Division

of Motor Vehicles and Army provost marshal's office. The State Police Administrative Headquarters acts as the control center, and all computer switching equipment is located and controlled from this point.

During 1973, this Network handled approximately 7,411,850 transactions. There were 692,770 messages to the National Crime Information Center's computerized data base and 984,405 transactions initiated with the State Computer Resource Center. The remainder of the activity included replies to these data base transactions and other police communications.

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

Radio dispatch service was furnished to approximately 220 mobile units of other governmental agencies, including the Governor's Office; sheriffs' offices; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; Virginia Military District; U.S. Marine Corps; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the U.S. Treasury Department; Department of Highways, and the Bureau of Correctional Field Units.

The State Police Radio System handled 1,469,481 radio messages during the year.

The Communications Division maintains and provides special equipment for use in connection with special events, investigations and disasters.

The Communications Division maintained all radio and electronic equipment operated by the Department of Highways, the Enforcement Division of the ABC Board, the Bureau of Correctional Field Units, the

Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Division of Forestry, mobile and base station equipment operated by the Office of Emergency Services, and the Department of State Police.

### MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION

Virginia's periodic motor vehicle inspection program received recognition as outstanding. Numerous inquiries from other states were received concerning the administration of it. Over the years several states have seen fit to pattern their programs after Virginia's. During 1973, representatives from other states visited Virginia in order to make a study of our program. Various members of the Department were called upon to serve on motor vehicle inspection forums and explain Virginia's system. Motor vehicle inspection continued to be one of the best preventive maintenance measures since it does not rely on voluntary compliance.

The Department supervised 2,670 inspection stations and 8,495 mechanics. More than 5,704,844 inspections were conducted. Supervision of the program required 1.89% of all trooper man-hours, and the total cost of administering the program amounted to seven cents for each inspection. The percentage of defective vehicles found on inspection amounted to approximately 27.1%. This was an increase of approximately 1.9% over 1972.

Interest in the inspection program on the part of repair garages desiring to qualify as official inspection stations was at an all-time high. As a result of the many applications received, 241 new inspection stations were appointed.

### APPROVAL OF SAFETY DEVICES

The approval, or waiver of approval, procedure enabled us to retain control of safety devices installed on motor vehicles covered by our statutes. The simplified identification procedure is of tremendous aid to inspectors in expediting their work, as well as to our enforcement people. Most original, as well as after-market, producers of motor vehicle devices are now following this identification procedure. The increase in imported vehicles continued to require the issuance of many formal approval certificates since some of the foreign manufacturers have not yet tooled for waiver identification.

There were 455 applications for formal approval and waiver of approval processed during 1973.

### NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTICIPATION

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

### INTRADEPARTMENTAL SAFETY

The Department's procedures for compiling reportable crashes involving its vehicles and the resultant standards of responsibility for our operators continued to be far stricter than those applied to the general public. Departmental vehicles were operated a total of 32,907,191 miles and the mileage rate for reportable crashes amounted to one in each 119,662 miles.

### STATE-OPERATED MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Following the pattern established in 1949, a progress report was prepared for the Governor covering the administration of the safety program for all State-owned vehicles. The Accident Prevention Committee was composed of representatives from 11 State agencies. Committee members met each month and reviewed all crashes involving State-owned and operated equipment. Special attention was given to trends and patterns so proper recommendations could be given agency administrators to assist them in programs designed to improve State drivers. Cooperation of all State departments has remained extremely high, as evidenced by their continuing efforts to make improvements.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY PROMOTION

During 1973, the Department continued to work very closely with the Virginia Highway Safety Division on matters of mutual interest.

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

**END**