ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Operation W.A.V.E.

Operation W.A.V.E. (Working Against Violent Elements) was implemented in response to a surge in violent crime in the East St. Louis, Illinois area. Operation W.A.V.E. is comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement officers. Operation W.A.V.E. began to work by saturating the area with investigators addressing street crimes through aggressive enforcement and intelligence collection.

VCI Unit – District Chicago

The Violent Crime Initiative Team is comprised of District Chicago Officers whose primary goal is to increase arrests, confiscate contraband, seize illicit funds and put a damper on the dealings of street gangs in response to an ever broadening threat of gang violence in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Firearm Initiative

The ISP continues to partner with other law enforcement agencies to attack gun violence. All investigative zones are committed to a strategy to combat gun violence and violent crime; however the ISP has two gun squads located in the Metro-East and Chicago that focus on gun trafficking and firearms-related investigations. Investigators trace all seized weapons to determine the original owner and the weapon's transfer history. ISP also has officers assigned to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF) Interstate Gun Trafficking Task Force and the Chicago Police Department's Chicago Anti-Gun Enforcement (CAGE) program.

Identified Offender Program

The Identified Offender Program is based upon provisions in the Nursing Home Care Act. If an incoming resident at a nursing care facility has been convicted of one of the offenses enumerated, a risk assessment is required. Under the authority of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Police (ISP), the ISP conducts an investigation of the patient, as well as the measures being taken by the facility to ensure the safety of patients, staff and visitors. The information is then relayed to an IDPH contractual forensic psychologist who assesses the degree to which a patient poses a threat. Based on that assessment, IDPH then dictates certain precautionary measures to be taken at the facility, which may include segregation from the general population, placing the patient in a single occupancy room, or placing the patient's room within close proximity to the nurses' station. If the nursing care facility is unable or unwilling to institute such measures, the patient must be moved to another facility.

Interstate Gun Trafficking Task Force (IGTTF)

Gun violence and illegal firearms trafficking have become a growing problem in the state of Illinois and throughout the nation. The Illinois General Assembly recognized this growing epidemic, and on October 29, 2009, adopted the Interstate Gun Trafficking Task Force within the Illinois State Police (ISP). Several different law enforcement agencies and state's attorneys throughout Illinois are members of this task force, developed to produce plans and recommendations on preventing and eliminating future interstate firearms trafficking in Illinois. The task force is currently holding monthly meetings and will provide a report of findings/recommendations to the General Assembly and Governor Pat Quinn by December 31, 2010.

Firearms Owners Identification Program (FOID)

The existence of the FOID card allows ISP to maintain FOID files. The hourly correlation of criminal backgrounds with the current FOID database indentifies prohibitors that occurred after a FOID card was approved. Daily mental health checks determine if current FOID applications need to be denied due to a mental health prohibitor, or if a card needs to be revoked due to a prohibitor that occurred after a card was approved. The FOID database makes notifications by checking Hot Files for warrants and Orders of Protection (OOP) on current FOID card holders. The FOID program also allows Clear and Present (C&P) Danger determinations to be made in a timely manner. FOID also forwards prohibited adjudicated mental defective information to the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Prohibited Persons database, and prohibited involuntary mental health admission information to the FBI NICS Prohibited Persons database.

Firearm Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP)

The primary function of FTIP is to conduct a point-of-purchase, real-time background check. Ammunition purchasers are required to present a FOID card to make the purchase. Persons making private sales of firearms are required to check for a FOID card, and have the additional assurance that the person they are selling the gun to is eligible. The relationship the Firearms Services Bureau (FSB) has built with federally licensed gun dealers has resulted in their appreciation of what goes on behind the scenes at FSB, and they are less likely to release a gun even if they do not receive an answer from FTIP within the 24 or 72-hour waiting period. Gun dealers routinely call FSB if they are uneasy about a particular customer and are more likely to walk away from a sale (even if there is no prohibitor), than they would have been without that knowledge. FSB works with State's Attorneys, Probation Officers and Circuit Clerks' Offices to educate them provide adequate and timely information in regard to court dispositions, and information to FSB including adequate personal identifiers so that prohibited persons can be accurately identified resulting in improved reporting that ultimately reduces or prevents violence. FTIP clearly has a positive impact on officer safety and public safety. Overall, one cannot accurately estimate the number of injuries and deaths that have been prevented on an annual basis as a result of the FOID and FTIP programs. Keeping firearms out of the hands of prohibited persons, be it a criminal or mental prohibitor, has a positive impact on public and officer safety.

Gang Suppression

The Statewide Gang Coordinator, assigned to the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC), interacts with local agencies and ensures they are familiar with and participating in the LEADS Gang File, a database available to all local law enforcement. The system is designed to share information across jurisdictions for officer safety, as well as track the movement of identified street gang members. The Coordinator also offers training to community groups as well as law enforcement, and regularly teams up with state and local correctional agencies to interview and gain information from identified gang members. The ISP also employs gang analysts who are assigned to the STIC. These analysts track gang activity to include members, leaders, locations and known activity and movement. The analysts also enter any known gang intelligence into LEADS system for further identification and tracking.

CRIMPAT

Criminal Patrol (CRIMPAT) efforts are aimed at removing illegal drugs and weapons from our communities, deterring criminal activity and increasing homeland security efforts. Several Illinois State Police (ISP) officers have been trained in criminal interdiction with more training being scheduled. The Division of Operation's goal is to train more ISP officers within the districts and zones on the concept of "Looking Beyond the Traffic Stop".

Sex Offender Registration and Child Murderer & Violent Offender against Youth Registration

This requires individuals who have been convicted or adjudicated of various sex crimes and crimes against children to register as an offender in Illinois for either ten years or for lifetime. The ISP is required by law to place convicted offenders on a public website. The intention of the website is to prevent future acts of violence against innocent victims by informing the general public of who are registered offenders and to educate the general public on the laws associated with offenders.

NetSmartz

The NetSmartz Workshop was established to extend the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online. The ISP Safety Education Officers present this to middle and high school students throughout the state of Illinois.

The goals of NetSmartz include how to:

- enhance the ability of children to recognize dangers on the Internet
- enhance the ability of children to understand that people they first "meet" on the Internet should never be considered their friend
- encourage children to report victimization to a trusted adult
- support and enhance community education efforts
- increase communication between adults and children about online safety

National Precursor Log Exchange

The National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx), is an investigative tool which is a real-time pseudoephedrine tracking program. NPLEx allows officers to identify persons attempting to purchase pseudoephedrine for the purpose of meth manufacturing. The tool also allows officers to obtain pseudoephedrine logs in a centralized location as opposed of having to travel from store to store in

order to obtain paper logs. This program is instrumental in our ability to detect and arrest dangerous meth cooks before they injure themselves or others in the community. It also assists the ISP by giving us another tool to protect children living in dangerous methamphetamine laboratories according to ISP's Drug Endangered Children Protocol. The name, address and date of birth of the purchaser are obtained at pharmacies as the pseudoephedrine is purchased, and instantly checked against the nationwide database to ensure the buyer has not purchased an excess of the state's legal limit, which is 7.5 grams in a 30 day period.

Meth Manufacture Registry

The Meth Manufacture Registry is a program which provides the public information on persons convicted of methamphetamine manufacturing. The information contained in the Methamphetamine Manufacturer Database is provided to the ISP by the Office of the Clerks of the Court in each county and by the Illinois Department of Corrections. The information provided in the Methamphetamine Manufacturer Database is the offender's name, date of birth, offense or offenses requiring inclusion in the Methamphetamine Manufacturer Database, and the conviction date and county of each such offense. This information is useful because it educates the public about people living in their community who have been involved in meth manufacturing. With this information, members of the public can report any suspicious activity to law enforcement. This partnership is useful to preventing additional methamphetamine laboratories in communities across Illinois.

Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center

The STIC serves as a multi-functional fusion center used by local, state, and federal agencies to assist with gathering information related to critical terrorism and criminal intelligence, and then sharing the found data with all necessary law enforcement agencies.

South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force

The South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF) is made up of the Illinois State Police (ISP), Cook County Sheriff's Office and 58 local municipalities. The U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshal's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) are also involved on a needed basis. The SSMCTF works in the south suburbs of Chicago. The SSMCTF handles major crimes, namely homicides, throughout the 58 plus communities that are located within Cook and Will Counties. The purpose of the task force is to supplement the smaller towns that only have one or two detectives who handle major crimes such as homicides.