



Florida Department of
Law Enforcement



ANNUAL REPORT to the LEGISLATURE

By the

***FLORIDA VIOLENT CRIME &
DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL***

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A Message from Commissioner Guy M. Tunnell

This report presents the activities and accomplishments of the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council for 2003. As required by Statute, this report is being presented to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to inform them of these activities. Additionally, this report presents FDLE's responses to the Council's recommendations for its activities and funding for the year 2004.

During 2003, the Council continued to redefine its role in aiding the law enforcement community in combating violent crime, drug control, and money laundering in the state of Florida. An example of this is the Council's renewed interest in unsolved violent crime cases. At the summer 2003 meeting, the Council heard a presentation regarding Operation SMART (Specialized Multi-Agency Review Team). This operation is the Orlando Regional Team's response to cold case homicides and sexual batteries. The concept is to provide local law enforcement agencies with a forum to present, discuss and follow-up on cold cases that have remained unsolved after many years. The SMART Team consists of local and state law enforcement representatives as well as individuals with expertise in the medical and legal disciplines. This multi-agency, multi-specialty team approach provides assistance to agencies that may not otherwise have the resources or time to re-investigate unsolved cases. New leads and investigative techniques are developed and explored by these Teams. In addition, through advances in science, specifically DNA testing, new life can be breathed into cases that otherwise might remain unsolved. As a result of the successes presented by the Orlando Regional SMART Team, the Council unanimously decided to amend the funding rules to allow for violent crime incidents that occurred before 1993 to become eligible for Violent Crime Investigative funding.

The funding provided to agencies during 2003 proved to be more critical than ever to the success of Florida law enforcement agencies investigating those organizations and individuals that are most dangerous to our citizens and visitors. During 2003, the Council provided nearly \$2 Million in drug control funding to 26 cases involving partnerships between over 70 local, state and federal agencies. These cases resulted in the dismantling of over a dozen major drug trafficking organizations, hundreds of arrests, significant seizures of weapons and drugs including cocaine, marijuana, heroin, MDMA, methamphetamine and prescription drugs. Furthermore, nearly \$300,000 was expended on 14 major violent crime investigations. Examples of these funded investigations are highlighted at the end of this message. It should be noted that the success of these cases became the focus of a press conference by Governor Bush in August. During this conference, newly appointed Council members were introduced and standing members of the Council were recognized for their on-going commitment to the mission and goals of the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council.

On behalf of all of those law enforcement agencies in Florida, local, state and federal, that have benefited from the funding provided through the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, I would like to express my thanks to the Legislature and to Governor Bush for their continued support of these funds. The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council is committed to reducing violent and drug-related crime in the state of Florida. FDLE recognizes the outstanding contributions made to the criminal justice community by Council members and the members of the regional violent crime and drug enforcement coordinating teams that support the Council's activities. We encourage them to continue their efforts.

Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council
Press Conference – August 14, 2003



Governor Jeb Bush and several members of the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council.

Tallahassee – Governor Jeb Bush announced three new appointments and three reappointments to the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council (VCDCC). The Council develops and implements initiatives to combat violent crime, drug trafficking and money laundering in Florida.

“I applaud the commitment of the Council in lowering the incidence of drug abuse and the supply of illegal drugs in Florida,” Governor Bush said. “Under the leadership of the Office of Drug Control and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Council has undoubtedly played a significant role in Florida achieving its lowest historical violent crime rate.”

The Governor appointed Sheriff Robert “Bob” White of Pasco County, Dr. Margarita “Maggie” Arruza, Medical Examiner of Duval County, and State Attorney Jerry Hill, as new Council members. Governor Bush re-appointed Sheriff Charles W. Morris of Okaloosa County, Chief Daniel M. Davis of Williston, and Chief Fred A. Maas of Sunny Isles Beach.

Since its creation in 1993, the Council has funded the investigation of 155 violent crime cases, 48 major drug trafficking and money laundering cases, as well as 124 victim/witness protection and relocation cases. The Council has spent \$8.4 million combating violent crime since its inception. This money, let out in small increments, has fueled a number of major successes taking down criminal organizations, seizing illicit property and drug money, and reducing crime.

The 14-member Council meets quarterly to review requests for case specific funding from law enforcement agencies across the state. The funding provided from the Council is geared to offset costs or otherwise reinforce expenditures by specific agencies. In the drug enforcement arena, minimal investments by the Council subsidize major operations aimed at buckling significant criminal drug networks that impact Florida's citizens. In the last twelve months, the Council supported several significant drug operations that netted successful results. Four of the operations spotlighted by Governor Bush were: Operation Bahama Breeze, Operation Family Affair, Operation End of the Line, and Operation Bushwacker.

Jim McDonough, the Director of the Office of Drug Control said, "What the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council has done is foster intelligence-driven, joint operations focused at a level where they promise to break major illegal organizations. Local law enforcement operations get the lion's share of the credit, and by funding and supporting their efforts we've been able to drive a spike into drug trafficking and other criminal activity. The bad guys can expect to see a lot more of this."



Director James McDonough, Council member, shown with (from left to right) Statewide Prosecutor Peter Williams, Council member; State Attorney Jerry Hill, 10th Judicial Circuit, newly appointed Council member; Sheriff Robert White, Pasco County, newly appointed Council member; Interim Commissioner Daryl McLaughlin, FDLE; Governor Jeb Bush; and Sheriff Charles Morris, Okaloosa County, Council member and newly elected VCDCC Chairman.

"The funds provided by the Council are critical to local and state agencies working major drug and violent crime cases. We have seen significant returns on our investment as major drug trafficking organizations are dismantled and violent crime is at an all time low rate," according to Daryl McLaughlin, Interim Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

**SUCCESS STORIES:
CASES FUNDED VIA THE
VIOLENT CRIME INVESTIGATIVE
EMERGENCY
and
DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY
IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT**

Miami's Serial Rapist Apprehended

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council provided reimbursement funding to the Miami Police Department at its September 2003 meeting in the amount of \$100,000. The Council voted to fund the request from Miami Police Department for the *Serial Rapist Investigation*. According to a press release, Miami's "Serial Rapist" was captured and taken into custody by the Miami Police Department on September 19, 2003. The suspect, identified as Reynaldo Elias Rapalo, terrorized the city from September 2000 through September 2003. Rapalo is responsible for at least ten (10) rapes during this time period. The victims in these cases ranged from ages 11 to 77. DNA evidence linked the man to most of the attacks. Police are continuing their investigation of Rapalo who is of Honduran decent and in the United States illegally on an expired visa. The Miami Police Department was commended for its investigative efforts to identify the suspect and bring him to justice.

The Wells Homicide Investigation

On May 25, 2003, five (5) people were found dead inside a mobile home where a man held police at bay for more than 12 hours. William Wells surrendered to police, who then discovered the bodies scattered in various rooms of Wells' home. During the standoff, Wells held his 4-year-old son hostage for several hours prior to releasing him unharmed.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office SWAT team negotiated with Wells during the standoff until his surrender. The Sheriff's Office conducted a thorough investigation once Wells was removed from the scene and was able to piece together the events that led to the deaths of those five (5) victims.

During the September 15, 2003 meeting in Tampa, Florida, the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council approved a funding request from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for investigative expenses associated with the *Wells Homicide* in the amount of \$18,247.44.

The Quinn Homicide

The Sanford Police Department responded to the residence of bail bondsman, Scott Quinn, only to discover that Quinn had been brutally murdered. During a search of Quinn's residence, a large arsenal of weapons and unstable explosives were located inside the home. As a result, the residence was evacuated, as were the homes surrounding Quinn's, in order for the weapons and explosives to be defused and stabilized. The Sanford Police Department provided security for the site and surrounding area while the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Army tended to the situation inside Quinn's home. Once the area was deemed safe, the investigation resumed.

The Sanford Police Department's investigation led to the arrest of a suspect for the First Degree Murder in the death of Scott Quinn. During its December 9, 2003 meeting held in St. Augustine, Florida, the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council awarded funding to the Sanford Police Department for the *Quinn Homicide* in the amount of \$6,512.78.

Operation End of the Line Dismantles Major Trafficking Organization May 1, 2003

The Tri-County Narcotics Task Force located at the FDLE St. Augustine Field Office has arrested members of a narcotics trafficking organization with distribution points in St. Johns and Putnam Counties. Participating agencies include the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, the St. Augustine Police Department, the Palatka Police Department, the Seventh Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the United States Customs Service.

Operation "END OF THE LINE" began in August of 2002. This investigation targeted a narcotic trafficking organization that was headed by Dereck Borom. Borom's base of operation was in the St. Augustine area with ties to sources of narcotics supply in both Tallahassee and South Florida. This organization was believed to be distributing in excess of 7 to 8 kilos of cocaine and over 50 pounds of marijuana per month in the St. Johns and Putnam County areas.

On April 8, Dereck Borom, 24, Derrel Hannah, 30 and Linden Adams, 30, were in the process of conducting a narcotics transaction in a wooded area located behind Borom's St. Augustine residence. After a brief foot chase by agents, all three were taken into custody. At the scene, agents seized \$286,000.00 in cash and four kilograms of cocaine. Agents executed a search warrant on Borom's residence and seized additional cash, cocaine, and marijuana. A second team of agents searched Borom's Putnam County residence and seized cash and two firearms.

On May 1, 2003, the second phase of Operation End of the Line kicked off with authorities seeking to arrest at least 17 additional organizational members. By the end of the day's operation only three organizational members remained to be arrested. One of those arrested, Ulysses (Ulyesse) Grace had been featured several times since October 2002 on the weekly-televised JROC THUGS program. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office wanted him for Armed Robbery and Armed Burglary of a Dwelling. In December 2001, Grace entered a residence occupied by three individuals. Using a firearm, he stole property from one individual and locked all three victims in a closet. Grace threatened the three individuals during the robbery and one victim was transported to the hospital in fear of a heart attack. Grace was considered armed and dangerous.

Total cash seized in this investigation exceeds \$386,000.00, and in excess of 5 kilos (11 lbs) of cocaine, with a street value of over \$427,000.00, was also seized. The organizational head, Dereck "D" Borom, was charged with Trafficking in Cocaine, which if convicted, carries a 15-year minimum mandatory prison sentence and \$250,000 fine.

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council funded operation End of the Line under another case name at the December 2002 meeting for \$50,000. The case name was changed to protect the name of a subject associated with the investigation.

Operation Bushwacker Stop Mexican Pipeline of Drugs July 1, 2003

Seminole County Sheriff's Office, working in partnership with Sanford PD, Lake Mary PD, Longwood PD, Winter Springs PD, Casselberry PD, Oviedo PD, Altamonte Springs PD, FDLE and DEA culminated a yearlong investigation by making 14 arrests. Among those arrested was David Roland Scott of Geneva, a 39-year-old Seminole County firefighter. He faces charges of conspiracy to traffic cocaine. The arrests were coupled with the seizure of 10 pounds of cocaine, 220 pounds of marijuana and over \$200,000. The marijuana was found hidden in a case of mangos at a truck stop at State Road 46 and Interstate 4 in Sanford. Search warrants were served on four residences in Seminole County, one in Orlando and one in Deltona. According to law enforcement investigators, the organization was moving between \$1-\$2M worth of cocaine and marijuana per month from Mexico to Central Florida.

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council funded operation Bushwacker for \$65,000 at the Spring 2003 meeting.

Operation Bud Busters (Operation LA Express) Dismantles Diverse Trafficking Group July 31, 2003

FDLE's Jacksonville Regional Operations Center, working in partnership with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Statewide Prosecution, culminated a yearlong investigation with the issuance of arrest warrants for 25 people. The investigation, initially dubbed Operation "Bud Busters," is now known as Operation LA Express due to the fact that the investigation targeted drug traffickers funneling cocaine from California. Later the case expanded to include traffickers of Ecstasy and marijuana from South Florida. According to law enforcement investigators, the size of the organization and the diversity of the drugs being trafficked were unique. The organization was trafficking 4 to 8 pounds of cocaine, more than 100 pounds of marijuana and thousands of Ecstasy pills each week. The group was also dealing in the prescription drug OxyContin. So far, items seized include \$40,000 in cash, 6 1/2 pounds of cocaine, 1,000 Ecstasy pills, 10 vehicles, a motorcycle and two personal watercraft.



The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council funded Operation Bud Busters for \$60,000 at the Spring 2003 meeting.

Ten vehicles, a motorcycle and two personal watercraft were among the items seized during drug arrests as part of Operation LA Express. Police also seized \$40,000 in cash, 6 1/2 pounds of cocaine and 1,000 Ecstasy pills.

Operation Bahama Breeze Nets 24 July 30, 2003

Federal, state and local law enforcement agents fanned out throughout the New Port Richey area of Pasco County looking for two-dozen suspects indicted on federal drug charges. Operation “Bahama Breeze” began in August of 2002 when law enforcement officers began looking at the drug trafficking of both powdered and crack cocaine in Pinellas and Pasco County. Investigators estimated that upwards of 25 kilos of cocaine a month were being trafficked by the organization through the Bahamas into Miami and to Tampa.

The initial investigation centered around the activity of JOSEPH SCHAEFER, age 24, and MICHAEL ARLINE, age 24, both of New Port Richey. Further investigation identified several other suspects who were allegedly involved in assisting SCHAEFER and ARLINE in the transportation and distribution of cocaine. All 24 individuals indicted face a minimum of 10 years’ imprisonment and up to life imprisonment. The following agencies assisted in this two-year investigation:

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Pasco County Sheriff’s Office

Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office

New Port Richey Police Department

Polk County Sheriff’s Office

Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office

Hernando County Sheriff’s Office

Tampa Police Department

Lakeland Police Department

Clearwater Police Department

Zephyrhills Police Department

Operation Bahama Breeze was funded for \$100,000 at the January 2002 meeting of the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council. This case has resulted in a successful spin-off investigation, Bahama Breeze II, which was recently funded by the Council at the December 2003 meeting.

Operation Family Affair Nets 12 Arrests, Seven Search Warrants July 28, 2003

Florida Department of Law Enforcement along with Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms; Drug Enforcement Administration; State Fire Marshall's Office; Internal Revenue Services; and Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office had 27 RICO warrants to serve.

This multi-agency investigation that has been underway for more than one year has resulted in the execution of seven search warrants and 12 arrests. Over a kilo of cocaine was seized along with 7 firearms and 8 vehicles. All defendants with the exception of two have been charged under Florida's "Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization," or "RICO" Statute. The investigation is ongoing and more arrests are pending.

The Florida's Violent Crime/Drug Council funded this case "Operation Family Affair" in April of 2002 for \$45,000. An additional supplement of \$25,000 was later sought by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Operation Speedway Leads to Arrest of Biker Gang Member November 20, 2003

FDLE's Daytona Beach Field Office, working in partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Volusia County Sheriff's Office and the Daytona Beach Police Department, culminated a nine-month investigation Nov. 20 with the execution of seven search warrants and 11 arrests. The investigation, dubbed Operation "Speedway," focused on the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Central Florida. The primary target of this investigation was Rodney Hipp, a.k.a. Tim Brian, who owns and operates a motorcycle shop identified as Jack Head Motors, in Ormond Beach, Fla. Hipp is associated with the Mongols Outlaw Motorcycle Gang in Los Angeles, Calif. And has several prior drug arrests. Hipp is also a fugitive from California where he is facing methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution charges.

In addition to the seven search warrants, agents obtained 13 federal arrest warrants and six state arrest warrants for charges that include possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and conspiracy. During the execution of two of the search warrants, two clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were identified and seized. One of the labs was "cooking" at the time it was seized. The lab was located in a residential neighborhood. DEA's clandestine laboratory interdiction team secured the labs. Approximately 150 law enforcement officers from 11 different agencies assisted in this operation. Several defendants cooperated leading to two additional consensual searches, one in Lake County. The U.S. Attorneys Office in Orlando and the Volusia County State Attorney's Office are prosecuting this case.

The aggregate weight of the methamphetamine seized in this case is approximately three pounds. Two active clandestine labs were seized. Several assets were seized for forfeiture including a motor home, two motor vehicles, three motorcycles and approximately \$118,000. Numerous firearms and assault weapons were also seized. One assault weapon was equipped with a suppressor.

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council originally funded this case for \$95,000 at the December 2002 meeting.

Operation Book End Nets 14 Arrests

November 25, 2003

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Manatee County Sheriff's Office, North Port Police Department, Sarasota Police Department, Venice Police Department, United States Postal Inspector's Office, and the Office of Statewide Prosecution announce the arrests of 14 individuals and the seizure of more than 200 pounds of marijuana. The arrests are the culmination of a five-month, multi-agency narcotics and money laundering investigation called "Operation Book End" which started in July 2003. Agents and Detectives utilized intelligence information and surveillance operations that determined the flow of marijuana from Tucson, Arizona to the Sarasota area through the mail. Investigators further identified numerous members of the criminal organization responsible for the transferring of money back to the Tucson, Arizona area for payment of the drugs.



Statistics for Operation Book End:

14 individuals arrested	\$649,000 in seized cash	7 weapons
7 vehicles	7 bulletproof vests	400 lbs. Of Marijuana

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council originally funded this case for \$100,000 at the September 2003 meeting. This case was initiated through a proactive financial lead provided by FDLE Financial Crime Analysis Center (FCAC).

Operation Sandshaker Nets More Than 30

December 10, 2003

The Escambia County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the State Attorney's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office announced the indictment of some 40 people who have been charged with conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms – roughly 11 pounds – of cocaine. If convicted, they face prison sentences of 10 years to life and fines of up to \$4 million. The list of state or federal defendants includes a millionaire businessman, a mental health counselor and a former soccer coach. Law Enforcement authorities had search warrants for 12 locations in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, including a popular restaurant and bar, the Sandshaker Lounge and Package Store, where cocaine deliveries are alleged to have occurred.

This case was funded for \$65,000 at the Spring 2003 meeting of the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past year, the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council has heard numerous presentations regarding approaches to combating violent crime, drug control, and money laundering. These include:

- Strategic Efforts to Retain VCDCC Funding
- Implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods In the State of Florida
- The South American Jewelry Theft Ring
- The Role of Drug Enforcement Administration in Methamphetamine Investigations
- Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion and Pain Management Clinics
- Findings of the 17th Statewide Grand Jury
- Update on VCDCC Membership and Future Meetings
- The Cold Case Review Initiative
- Update on DNA Database as An Investigative Tool
- Overview of Drug Summit Recommendations
- Review of DrugNet System
- Narco-Terrorism
- The Medical Examiner Commission's 2002 Report and 2003 Semi-Annual Report of Drug-Related Deaths
- VCDCC Rules Update
- A Comprehensive Report on the Middle District Project Safe Neighborhoods Program
- Regional Update: What's Happening in the Bay
- An Update on Central Florida's Cold Case Review Initiative
- Operation Predator
- A Recap of the Governor's VCDCC Press Conference
- Drug Abuse: A National and Florida Perspective
- Florida Amber Alert System and DNA Initiatives
- Implementation of Central Florida's Child Abduction Initiative
- Operation Pain Compliance
- The Florida Methamphetamine Strategy
- A Pharmacy View of Prescription Drug Abuse and Prescription Monitoring Programs

In 2003, the Council continued to utilize the meeting format implemented in the previous year regarding presentations made by both the Violent Crime and Drug Enforcement Coordinating Teams. From these presentations and the intelligence briefings provided by the Office of Statewide Intelligence, certain criminal trends and patterns became evident. Presentations made by experts on adulterated/counterfeit drugs, methamphetamine, prescription drugs, child abuse/abduction, DNA and other emerging investigative techniques were especially useful to the Council and the Regional Coordinating Teams. After each presentation by the subject matter expert, the regional teams were allotted time to discuss with the Council how these issues were specifically impacting their particular region. Group discussion often followed and solutions for both regional and statewide problems were frequently formulated from this open exchange of ideas.

The networking and communication facilitated during these Council meetings is continued on-line throughout the year via the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council website. This website was originally launched in October 2002 and continues to be a viable source of information for the law enforcement community. The website is accessible through the Criminal Justice Network (CJNET), a secure platform for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies within Florida to communicate. The website contains information on upcoming Council meetings, minutes/agendas from prior meetings, all applications and procedures for applying for funding, and success stories from funded cases. Most importantly, the site contains a contact “map” where one can click on any county in Florida and locate regional contacts for the violent crime and drug enforcement coordinating teams (*Please see screen shot below*). The website is maintained by the Office of Statewide Intelligence (OSI) within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. From the OSI home page, law enforcement members can access a wealth of information and intelligence on a variety of topics as well as retrieve a host of investigative tools. The site may be accessed via <http://osiweb.fdle.flcjn.net/>

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council is committed to supporting the criminal justice system. It will continue to aggressively pursue its mission; advise the Florida Department of Law Enforcement about violent crime, drug control, and significant illicit money laundering investigative efforts; communicate with the Legislature on the need for new resources and creative solutions to the violent crime, drug-related, and money laundering problems in Florida.

The screenshot shows the VCDCC website interface. At the top left is the VCDCC logo. To its right is a navigation bar with links for Violent Crime Cases, Victim Witness Cases, Drug Cases, Regional Teams, and News. Below the navigation bar is the heading "Regional Teams" and a sub-heading that says "Click on a region or one of the links on the left to find out who the Violent Crime and Drug Control team members are:". The main content area features a map of Florida divided into several colored regions: orange (northwest), yellow (central), light blue (northeast), dark purple (southeast), and light purple (southwest). On the left side of the map, there is a vertical menu with links for FMROC, JROC, MROC, OROC, PROC, TBROC, and TROC, and a "VCDCC Home" link at the bottom. In the top right corner of the website screenshot, there is a small inset image showing a meeting room.

STATUS AND PROGRESS MADE TOWARD 2003 RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ **The Appropriation of \$1 Million to Replenish the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account.** \$500,000 was funded to the General Revenue Funds and \$500,000 was authorized for expenditure from Trust Funds.
- ✓ **The Appropriation of \$2 Million for Match Drug Funding to Replenish the Violent Crime and Investigative Emergency Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account.** An appropriation of \$2 Million was authorized for the Matching Drug Funding. Given the increased difficulty for local agencies to obtain federal funds for drug investigations, it is critical that state funding for these efforts does not lapse or diminish. Every year these funds have been appropriated, they have been expended prior to close of fiscal year.
- ✓ **The Appropriation of \$75,000 to Continue a Criminal Profiling Program.** \$75,000 was funded to provide assistance in ongoing investigations and train investigators on techniques to aid in developing a “profile” of a perpetrator of a violent crime.
- ✓ **The Appropriation of \$500,000 to Continue the Victim/Witness Protection Program.** An appropriation of \$500,000 was authorized for the Victim/Witness Protection Program.
- ✓ **The Council’s Continued Endorsement of the Enhancement to the Convicted Offender DNA Database.** The Council offered its continued support of laws relating to the collection and analysis of samples processed through the Database. The increasing number of DNA submission and “hits” are evidence of the utility of this Database to the law enforcement community.
- ✓ **The Continuation of Status Reports on Computerized, Statewide Programs.** The Council received a status report on the Convicted Offender DNA Database, the GangNet Database, the ThreatNet Database, the DrugNet Database and the “THUGS” (Taking Hoodlums Using Guns Seriously) program. Several presentations by local, state and federal agencies stressed the importance of information sharing at all levels of law enforcement. The Council also decided to implement, by Rule, that all drug cases receiving funding must be entered into DrugNet.
- ✓ **The Continuation of the Council’s Education on “Futures” Related Topics.** The Council supported new programs like *Project Safe Neighborhoods in the State of Florida* and *Central Florida’s Cold Case Review Initiative*. The Council also heard about the emerging epidemic of methamphetamine abuse and trafficking. Law enforcement, treatment, education and prevention professionals made presentations on methamphetamine topics. Based on these presentations the Council supported resolutions and legislative recommendations aimed at combating this emerging drug problem.
- ✓ **The Council’s Support of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and Data Base.** The Council heard multiple presentations on the topic of prescription drug diversion to include findings

from the 17th Statewide Grand Jury. While the legislation for the establishment of the Prescription Validation Program did not pass during the Spring 2003 legislative session, the Council recognizes the continued need to support this program. This year, for the first time, the Council funded several cases involving prescription drug trafficking. The Council continues to endorse the prescription drug legislation supported by the Florida Office of Drug Control.

- ✓ **The Council’s Continued Education on “Crime Demographics” to Ensure Proper Reaction to Significant Problems.** The Council received statewide overviews on violent crime and drugs at each meeting that included statistical data on crime trends, arrest data, drug-related deaths and drug abuse figures.

- ✓ **The Council’s Continued Endorsement to Keep Weapons Out of the Possession of Felons and Others Who Have the Propensity for Committing Violent Crimes.** The Council supported the statewide “THUGS” initiative. *Taking Hoodlums Using Guns Seriously* (T.H.U.G.S.) is a program designed to identify, arrest and prosecute the “worst of the worst” offenders. The program utilizes the provision of the 10-20-Life Statute and other options to maximize the effect in an attempt to reduce gun violence in Florida. The FDLE, Office of Statewide Intelligence has developed a tracking database containing those individuals that have been targeted in order to monitor the progress of Operation T.H.U.G.S.

- ✓ **The Council’s Endorsement of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative.** The Council heard a presentation from the United States Attorney’s Office regarding the implementation of *Project Safe Neighborhoods In the State of Florida*, with emphasis on Florida’s Middle District. *Project Safe Neighborhoods* is a nation-wide commitment to reduce gun crime in America by networking existing local programs that target gun crime and providing those programs with additional tools to be successful. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, newly appointed U.S. Attorneys have established strategic partnerships between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in an intensive offensive against gun crime.

- ✓ **The Council’s Continuation to Formulate Strategies for Taking a Proactive Approach to Violent Crime, Drug Trafficking, and Illicit Money Laundering.** The Council has taken a more proactive approach to combating violent crime via the solicitation of presentations that address the use of new technological advances to solve cold case investigations. Furthermore, all of the drug cases funded by the Council are proactive in that they are on-going investigations seeking funding for the use of additional investigative techniques.

- ✓ **The Council’s Continued Request to Task Regional Coordinators With Coming Up With Strategies to Attack Violent Crime and Drug-Related Crime.** The Regional Coordinating Teams provided the Council with quarterly reports on violent crime and drug-related investigations and training. As indicated, the Office of Statewide Intelligence is now interfacing with the Regional Teams to develop these quarterly briefings for the Council, on both violent crime and drug crime.

- ✓ **The Council’s Continuation to Develop Strategies to Market the Victim/Witness Protection Program.** The Office of Statewide Intelligence provided Nancy Tanner, former President of the Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services, Inc., with an article regarding the Victim/Witness

Protection Program for publication in the *Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services Newsletter*. The article outlined the Council's role in protecting Florida's victims/witnesses, the criteria needed to apply for reimbursement funding from the Council, and how to apply for reimbursement funding. The *FNVWS Newsletter* was sent to law enforcement agencies and state attorney's offices throughout the state of Florida.

2004 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ **The Continued Total Appropriation of \$1 Million to Replenish the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account (\$500,000 General Revenue and \$500,000 Trust Fund).**
- ❑ **The Continued Appropriation of \$500,000 to Replenish the Victim/Witness Protection Program.**
- ❑ **The Continued Total Appropriation of \$2 Million for Match Drug Funding to Replenish Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account.**
- ❑ **Support Continuation and Enhancement of the Convicted Offender DNA Database.**
- ❑ **The Continued Support for Legislation Endorsed by the Office of Drug Control that Would Create a Prescription Validation Program in the State of Florida.**
- ❑ **Support Continued Networking and Enhancement of Databases Relevant to Violent Crime and Drug Investigations: DrugNet, ThreatNet and GangNet.**
- ❑ **Support Expanded Involvement of State and Local Agencies in Methamphetamine Lab and Methamphetamine Trafficking Investigations.**
- ❑ **Support Further Funding and Provisions for Prosecutors and Investigators in Specialized Areas such as Money Laundering, Clandestine Lab Identification and Response, Terrorist Financing, Prescription Drug Diversion and Emerging Street Drugs.**

THE FLORIDA VIOLENT CRIME ACT

In order to address the critical statewide issues of violent crime in Florida, the 1993 Legislature passed the Florida Violent Crime Act of 1993. Chapter 943.031, Florida Statutes, created the Florida Violent Crime Council within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to address the violent crime occurring in Florida and to develop strategies to combat it. The 2001 Legislature amended the statute, renaming the Florida Violent Crime Council as the *Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council*. The legislation provides for the implementation of eight (8) major initiatives intended to produce meaningful and effective results in Florida's effort to curtail violent crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

Status of the Eight (8) Basic Components of the Violent Crime Act of 1993

1. Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council:

a. Membership of the Council

As prescribed by the statute, the *Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council* membership comprises 14 members to advise the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Commissioner and make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of initiatives to combat violent crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

Eight (8) members of the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council are standing members by virtue of their positions, and six (6) are appointed by the Governor. Council members receive no compensation but are reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses. Members appointed by the Governor serve two-year terms and the standing members serve as long as they hold office or employment that was the basis for their appointment to the Council. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement provides the Council with the support necessary to assist in the performance of its duties. The standing members are:

The Chief Financial Officer of Florida: Tom Gallagher – Designee: Director Randall W. Napoli
The Attorney General, Charlie Crist – Designee: Statewide Prosecutor Peter Williams
The Commissioner of Education, Jim Horne – Designee: K-12 Chancellor Jim Warford
The Director of the Office of Drug Control, Executive Office of the Governor: Director Jim McDonough
The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, William Bankhead – Designee: North Regional Director Perry Turner
The Secretary of Corrections, James V. Crosby, Jr. – Designee: Director Paula Hoisington
The Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services: Former President Nancy Tanner
The FDLE Commissioner, Guy M. Tunnell – Designee: Former FDLE Executive Director/Attorney at Law Robert Dempsey

The Governor's appointments to the Council (two sheriffs, two police chiefs, one state attorney and one medical examiner) are:

Sheriff Charles Morris – Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Robert White – Pasco County Sheriff's Office
Chief Fred A. Maas – Sunny Isles Beach Police Department
Chief Daniel M. Davis – Williston Police Department
State Attorney Jerry Hill – Tenth Judicial Circuit
Dr. Margarita Arruza – District 4 Medical Examiner

b. Duties of the Council

The statutory duties of the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council include, but are not limited to, the following responsibilities:

- Advise the executive director of FDLE on the creation of Regional Violent Crime Investigation Coordinating Teams (RCTs) and Regional Drug Enforcement Coordinating Teams (RDECTs).
- Monitor the activities of the regional coordinating teams that review cases involving violent crime investigations, drug related crimes, and investigations of significant money laundering activities.
- Develop criteria for the disbursement of funds from the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account.
- Review and approve all requests for disbursement of funds from the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account. In addition, establish an expedited approval procedure for rapid disbursement of funds in emergency situations.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on analyzing and approving those funding requests that meet the criterion from the Victim-Witness Protection/Relocation Account.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on the development of a statewide violent crime information system.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on establishing a program, which provides grants to criminal justice agencies for violent crime prevention and investigative programs. This includes enhanced community-oriented policing and additional undercover officers and other investigative officers to assist with violent crime investigations in emergency situations.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on creating a criminal justice research and behavioral science center.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on expanding the use of automated fingerprint identification systems at the state and local level.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on identifying methods to prevent violent crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on enhancing criminal justice training programs that address violent crime.

- Advise the executive director of FDLE on developing and promoting crime prevention services and educational programs that serve the public. This includes enhanced victim and witness counseling services and a rewards program for the apprehension and conviction of violent criminals.
- Advise the executive director of FDLE on enhancing information sharing and assistance by expansion of community partnerships and community policing, including the use of civilian employees or volunteers.

2. Regional Coordinating Teams:

a. Regional Violent Crime Investigation Coordinating Teams:

The Regional Violent Crime Investigation Coordinating Teams (RCTs) are used to respond to violent crimes as requested by a sheriff, police chief or other law enforcement official. These teams provide forensic, investigative and technical expertise and facilitate communications and cooperation among law enforcement entities.

The Regional Violent Crime Investigation Coordinating Teams report to the Council on trends in each region, training provided to law enforcement agencies and summaries of the Violent Crime Emergency Account funding requests at every quarterly meeting. The Regional Violent Crime Investigation Coordinating Chairs are:

Major Al Lamberti, Broward County Sheriff's Office
 Captain Mike Gandy, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
 Special Agent Supervisor Wayne Ivey, Orlando Regional Operations Center, FDLE
 Major Doug S. Potts, Palm Bay Police Department
 Captain Paul Fafeita, Indian River County Sheriff's Office
 Major Robert Shrader, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
 Major Guy Howie, Ocala Police Department
 Captain Michael Wood, Leon County Sheriff's Office
 Special Agent Jeanine Williams, Pensacola Regional Operations Center, FDLE

b. Regional Drug Enforcement Coordinating Teams (RDECTs)

The Regional Drug Enforcement Coordinating Teams are used to coordinate the identification and development of multi-agency or statewide drug control or illicit money laundering investigative or task force efforts that significantly contribute to achieving the state's goal of reducing drug-related crime as articulated by the Office of Drug Control, that represent a significant illicit money laundering investigative effort, or that otherwise significantly support statewide strategies developed by the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council established under s. 397.333, F.S.

The Department of Law Enforcement has established a Regional Drug Enforcement Coordinating Team in each geographic area of the state served by a FDLE Regional Office. Each team is under the direction of the FDLE Regional Director for the region in which the team operates. The Teams are made up of representatives of state, local, and federal law enforcement and prosecuting entities working within the area. All requests for matching drug investigative effort funds from the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council must be developed in conjunction with, and approved by, the team in the region in which the lead requesting agency is located. The Council

will consider no request submitted without the endorsement of the team. The Regional Drug Enforcement Coordinating Chairs are:

Special Agent Supervisor Steve Donoway, Miami Regional Operations Center, FDLE
Sheriff Rod Shoap, Lee County Sheriff's Office
Special Agent Supervisor Jack Bisland, Orlando Regional Operations Center, FDLE
Major Gary Terry, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Chief George Lueders, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Special Agent Supervisor Chris Hirst, Tallahassee Regional Operations Center, FDLE
Special Agent Ed Hudson, Pensacola Regional Operations Center, FDLE

3. Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account

The Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account provides funding to state and local law enforcement agencies involved in complex violent crime investigations and trials; drug-related investigations; and investigations of significant money laundering activities. Since its inception, the Council has awarded approximately \$6.1 million to local criminal justice agencies for violent crime investigations. During its second year of funding drug and money-laundering investigations, the Council has provided nearly \$2M in drug control funding to 26 cases involving partnerships between over 70 local, state and federal agencies. These cases target major drug trafficking organizations located in the state of Florida engaged in the distribution of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA, prescription drugs and cannabis. These funds support the cooperative collaboration of multiple agencies at both the local, state and federal level to dismantle these drug organizations through lengthy and complex investigative efforts, including pen registers, wire intercepts, undercover operations, surveillance, controlled purchases and financial analysis. The cases significantly contribute to achieving the state's goal of reducing drug-related crime as articulated by the Florida Office of Drug Control and the Governor's Drug Control Strategy.

4. Implementation of the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP)

During the last quarter of 2002, the VICAP program received renewed attention and interest from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. In September 2002, a VICAP training program was held in Orlando to train local and state law enforcement officers and analysts on the latest version of the program. At the December 3rd meeting of the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, a special session was held for representatives from the Regional Violent Crime Coordinating Teams to discuss future versions of VICAP with analysts and programmers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This group endorsed the VICAP programs and voiced the concern that VICAP should be tailored to fit the needs of law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Florida.

The Office of Statewide Intelligence provided a VICAP update to the Council at the September 2003 meeting. Next to the FBI, Florida's VICAP usage under the new software system was the second highest in the nation. As a result, Florida will be considered for participation in the pilot project when VICAP goes online. This online system will enable users to search the entire VICAP database, make case entries directly online, and will include a section for sexual assault cases to be entered. The projected date for the pilot project is April 2004 with a possible fully functional online system in September 2004.

5. Submission of Fingerprint Cards for Felony Juvenile Arrests

FDLE's criminal history database was created to serve as a valuable tool in the fight against violent crime. With more juveniles committing violent crimes, the criminal justice system must have information concerning the criminal activities of these offenders. To aid in this effort, this legislation mandated that juveniles charged with a felony or one of the following misdemeanors must be

fingerprinted and the fingerprints sent to FDLE: assault, battery, carrying a concealed weapon, unlawful use of a destructive device, child abuse, negligent treatment of children, assault or battery on a law enforcement officer, open carrying of a weapon, exposure of sexual organs, unlawful possession of a firearm, petit theft, cruelty to animals and arson. The total number of juvenile records has increased 10% since 2002. The total number of juvenile felony arrest charges has increased almost 17% since last year. The following are statistics as of December 2, 2003, on juvenile criminal histories:

TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILE RECORDS	370,776
At time of first arrest juvenile age 5 through 9	22,425
At time of first arrest juvenile age 10 through 14	146,635
At time of first arrest juvenile age 15 through 17	201,716
 TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILE ARRESTS PER INDIVIDUAL	
Number with 1 juvenile arrest	131,495
Number with 2 juvenile arrests	59,727
Number with 3 juvenile arrests	34,462
Number with 4 juvenile arrests	23,806
Number with 5 juvenile arrests	17,458
Number with 6 – 10 juvenile arrests	55,184
Number with 11 – 20 juvenile arrests	30,909
Number with 21 or more juvenile arrests	18,496
Total number of juvenile felony arrest charges (as opposed to arrest events)	863,464

6. Collection of Juvenile Criminal Histories:

Fingerprint cards for juveniles arrested on felony and misdemeanor criteria charges are submitted to FDLE as required by section 943.051 of the Florida Statutes. FDLE maintains the information on file until 5 years after the offender has reached 21 years of age (age 26) for Serious Habitual Juvenile Offenders or those committed to a juvenile prison, and until 5 years after the offender has reached 19 years of age (age 24) for other juvenile offenders. If the offender commits a forcible felony as an adult, prior to his juvenile record being destroyed or is treated as an adult while still a juvenile, the juvenile criminal history will be merged with the adult record.

7. Basic and Advanced Violent Crime Training:

In compliance with the requirement to establish standards for basic and advanced training programs for law enforcement officers in the investigation and prevention of violent crime, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Division of Criminal Justice Standards and Training established a work group to develop a job task analysis (JTA) describing how law enforcement officers investigate violent crimes. One essential skill for these officers is familiarity and proficiency in emerging technology and databases.

This past year, local law enforcement officers have received increased training on database technology. Three (3) databases critical to the investigation of violent and drug-related crime are GangNet, DrugNet, and ThreatNet. During 2003, the following total users and agencies were trained on the use of all three of these systems:

Database	Total Users	Total Agencies
GangNet	660	171
DrugNet	422	139
ThreatNet	605	185

The above totals reflect actual “active” users of these systems.

8. Submission of DNA Specimens

Florida Law requires any person who is convicted or previously convicted of a qualifying offense or attempted offense to submit two blood specimens to FDLE for DNA testing and subsequent entry into the Florida Convicted Offender Database. These qualifying offenses include; murder, sexual battery, lewdness, aggravated battery, car jacking, home invasion robbery, and burglary. Effective in July 2005, subjects convicted of any felony will be added to the database.

Currently all samples received for entry into the Convicted Offender Database are analyzed using Short Tandem Repeat (STR) technology. As of November 30, 2003, a total of 195,893 samples have been collected for entry into this database, and 191,259 samples have been analyzed utilizing the STR technology and entered into the database. This makes Florida one of the states with the largest numbers in the national database.

The FDLE DNA Database has experienced a great deal of success since it began collecting samples in 1990. Currently, Florida leads the nation with over 1,522 “hits” or “matches” and a total of 1,919 investigations that have been aided using this technique.

2004 Legislative Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2004

- **Request Replenishment of \$500,000 from the General Revenue Funds and \$500,000 from the Operating Trust Fund for the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account**

The Council will request an appropriation of \$1 Million to replenish the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account for investigative efforts.

During the past ten (10) years, the Council has provided either partial or full funding for investigations or trials of many high profile cases. The funds for this came from the *Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account*. The amount of funds provided to date to local entities totals \$4.5 million to support their investigations and/or trials. An agency or community that experiences one of these types of crimes and that lacks sufficient funds to provide the proper investigation or trial conditions can apply for reimbursement of up to \$100,000.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's recommendation for a total appropriation of a \$1 million replenishment of the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account for use in emergency violent crime investigations. It should be noted that trial expenses covered by these funds would need to be reviewed and revised in conjunction with the Article V funding efforts.*

- **Request Replenishment of \$2 Million from the General Revenue Funds for the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account**

The Council will request an appropriation of \$2 Million to replenish the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account for multi-agency or statewide drug control or illicit money laundering investigative or task force efforts.

From January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003, the Council has funded 26 matching drug control and illicit money laundering investigations to over 70 agencies totaling \$1,939,405. The successful investigation of major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations is dependent on the availability of funds to support the costly investigative techniques necessary to dismantle these groups. The nexus between these funds and the achievement of these investigations is clearly evident by the arrests and prosecutions that quickly follow within months of agencies receiving these monies.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's recommendation for a \$2 million replenishment of the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account for matching grants for drug control and illicit money laundering investigations.*

❑ **Request a total appropriation of \$500,000 to Replenish the Victim/Witness Protection Program**

The Council will request an appropriation of \$500,000 to replenish the Victim/Witness Protection Program.

The Victim/Witness Protection Program authorizes law enforcement agencies to provide protective services, including temporary relocation services, under specified circumstances. The law enables the lead law enforcement agency to seek reimbursement from the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council for expenses incurred in providing protective services for victims/witnesses certified by the prosecuting State Attorney or Statewide Prosecutor on or after July 1, 1997. A Victim and Witness Review Committee has been established within the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council and is responsible for developing the criteria for disbursing the funds and reviewing and either approving or denying, in whole or part, each of the requests for this type of funding. From January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003, the Council has funded 39 victim/witness protection cases to seven (7) agencies totaling more than \$121,000.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's recommendation for \$500,000 to replenish the Victim/Witness Protection Program. It should be noted that funding to victims/witnesses is currently limited to two (2) years yet these cases often take 3-4 years to resolve. It would be the recommendation of FDLE that the time limit for funding victim/witness cases be extended to 4 years with the continued requirement of State Attorney certification and Council approval for each additional year of renewal.*

❑ **Support for the continuation and enhancement of the Convicted Offender DNA Database**

The Council will continue to offer its support for the continuance of the FDLE effort with the Convicted Offender DNA Database and its enhancement, as appropriate, to make sure the laws relating to the collection requirement are as inclusive as possible while not limiting the abilities of the Database to analyze the samples.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's recommendation for the continued support for the Convicted Offender DNA Database.*

❑ **Support the Prescription Validation Program and Database**

The Council will continue to seek solicitations for presentations at its meetings on this topic area.

The Council will support proposed bills initiated by the Governor's Office of Drug Control designed to: **1)** establish a prescription validation (monitoring) program that would include the use of counterfeit-proof serialized scripts; **2)** establish an electronic database registry for prescriptions for Schedule II, III, and IV drugs; **3)** allow limited access to the database for law enforcement purposes; and **4)** ensure that the all records from the database are exempt from public record and that access to such records conforms with Federal law (HIPPA compliant).

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council in its efforts to support the Prescription Drug Validation Program and database. The continued rise in prescription drug related deaths in Florida clearly warrant the need for this program.*

❑ **Support Continued Networking and Enhancement of Databases Relevant to Violent Crime and Drug Investigations: DrugNet, ThreatNet and GangNet.**

The Council will solicit regular status reports on database activities, such as VICAP, AFIS, DNA Database, GangNet, ThreatNet, and DrugNet, and make recommendations to the criminal justice community on how these databases can better be utilized by the community.

The Council will make recommendations regarding potential legislative changes necessary to encourage and facilitate the use of these systems and to enhance the utility of these systems.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's solicitation of reports concerning the databases currently in operation as well as those that may be developed in the near future. FDLE is also interested in learning from the Council ways to increase the efficiency of these databases as well as how to make them more accessible to local law enforcement agencies. FDLE will provide speakers on whatever database that it is developing, as well as seek the assistance and support of other agencies to provide the necessary information.*

❑ **Support Expanded Involvement of State and Local Agencies in Methamphetamine Lab and Methamphetamine Trafficking Investigations.**

The Council will continue to seek solicitations for presentations at its meetings on the Methamphetamine problem in the state of Florida.

The Council will support proposed legislation initiated by the Governor's Office of Drug Control to enhance Florida laws aimed at reducing methamphetamine abuse and trafficking. In particular, the Council has heard recommendations for legislation to facilitate the following changes to Florida law: **1)** add to the list of precursor and essential chemicals defined under F.S. 893; **2)** add trafficking quantities for the possession of bulk amounts of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine; **3)** enhance the penalties for the possession of dangerous chemicals like anhydrous ammonia; and **4)** add language making it a felony for a child under the age of 16 to be present at a clandestine lab. The Council has also noted that there needs to be increased support for training of first responders in the identification and safe response to clandestine labs. The Council supports increased training opportunities for clandestine lab and site safety officers in the state of Florida.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council in its efforts to support curbing methamphetamine abuse and trafficking. With the new Statewide Methamphetamine Strategy it is expected that local, state and federal response to clandestine methamphetamine labs would be greatly improved. The state of Florida should be aware of the chemical disposal and site stabilization costs associated with methamphetamine and other types of clandestine drug labs. These costs should continue to be covered by grants and other sources and should not be sought through state funding mechanisms like the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council.*

- **Support Further Funding and Provisions for Prosecutors and Investigators in Specialized Areas such as Money Laundering, Clandestine Lab Identification and Response, Terrorist Financing, Prescription Drug Diversion and Emerging Street Drugs.**

The Council will continue to seek information from the Regional Violent Crime and Drug Enforcement Coordinating teams and the Office of Statewide Intelligence regarding emerging crime trends and patterns. The Council will also continue to seek more information regarding available training for prosecutors and law enforcement regarding those crimes on the rise in Florida.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council in its efforts to support enhanced training opportunities on emerging topics critical to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of newly emerging crimes in the state of Florida.*

- **Continue to Develop Strategies to Market the Victim/Witness Protection Program and Enhance Visibility of the Council**

The Council will continue to increase efforts to enhance the visibility of the VCDCC.

Several venues to enhance the Council's visibility include, but are not limited to, the following: **1)** share success stories with the law enforcement community and the general public via press releases/conferences; **2)** maintain/update the VCDCC website on a regular basis; **3)** disseminate brochures at law enforcement and criminal justice conferences; **4)** offer presentations at the Florida Police Chiefs Association and Florida Sheriffs Association conferences; and **5)** have OSI personnel attend Regional Team meetings and educate attendees (Regional Team Coordinators and agency representatives) on the Council and funding criteria for case submissions.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's marketing of the Victim/Witness Protection Program and the enhanced visibility of the overall Council. The VCDCC website is actively populated with success stories and news clips which has facilitated an increasing number of calls to OSI requesting information on the funding process. Over the past year we have seen a noticeable increase in the number of victim/witness protection requests. Also, for the second year in a row, drug funding is expected to be expended well in advance of the fiscal year conclusion. We believe this increase is a direct result of the efforts of Regional Team members and OSI personnel to market the services provided by the Council.*

**TOTAL CASES FUNDED
(BY REGION)**

✓ **THE VIOLENT CRIME
INVESTIGATIVE EMERGENCY
and
DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY
IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT**

and

✓ **THE VICTIM/WITNESS
PROTECTION TRUST ACCOUNT**

Funded Violent Crime Investigative Cases
 (By Region – January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003)

Tampa Bay Region

Polk County SO	Serial Armed Robberies	\$ 7,439.67
		\$ 7,439.67

Fort Myers Region

No funds awarded

Orlando Region

Sanford PD	Williford/Williams Homicide	\$ 13,881.56
Sanford PD	Rodriguez Cold Case	\$ 1,856.46
Sanford PD	Quinn Homicide	\$ 6,512.78

Total for Region \$ 22,250.80

Tallahassee Region

No funds awarded

Pensacola Region

No funds awarded

Miami Region

Pembroke Pines PD	J. Cummings Homicide	\$ 45,777.93
Miami PD	Serial Rapist Task Force	\$ 100,000.00

Total for Region \$ 145,777.93

Jacksonville Region

Jacksonville SO	Zone One Homicides	\$ 11,401.59
Jacksonville SO	Triple Homicides	\$ 27,200.01
Ocala PD	November Homicides	\$ 37,513.35
Marion County SO	Lord Homicide	\$ 4,654.50
Levy County SO	Bomb Case	\$ 812.90
Jacksonville SO	Wells Homicides	\$ 18,247.44
Neptune Beach PD	Stewart Homicide	\$ 667.08
Neptune Beach PD	Carasquillo Homicide	\$ 1,444.24

Total for Region \$ 101,941.11

TOTAL Violent Crime Investigative cases awarded funding during 2003:

\$ 277,409.51

Funded Drug Cases
(By Region – January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003)

Tampa Bay Region

Operation Rough Riders	\$ 45,000
Operation Roadrunner	\$ 90,000
Operation Pirates Cove	\$100,000
Operation Bahama Breeze II	\$100,000
Total for Region	\$335,000

Fort Myers Region

Operation Book End	\$100,000
Total for Region	\$100,000

Orlando Region

Operation Bushwacker	\$ 65,000
Operation Dog Fight	\$ 80,000
Total for Region	\$145,000

Tallahassee Region

Operation Field of Dreams	\$ 75,000
Operation FSU Boyz	\$ 40,000
Total for Region	\$115,000

Pensacola Region

Mendez Organization	\$ 45,000
Operation Sandshaker	\$ 65,000
Johnson Organization	\$100,000
Operation Meth Sweep	\$ 50,000
Mendez Organization	\$ 25,000
Operation Speedball	\$ 55,820
Total for Region	\$340,820

Miami Region

Blackmon/Linares Organization	\$ 60,000
Castro Organization	\$ 40,000
Reflections Organization	\$ 50,000
Sears/Barfield Organization	\$100,000
Operation Goldrush	\$100,000
Operation Zombie	\$100,000
Operation Oxycon	\$100,000
Total for Region	\$550,000

Jacksonville Region

Operation Bud Busters	\$ 60,000
Operation Little Joe	\$ 43,585
Operation Crank Down	\$100,000
Operation Ghost rider	\$100,000
Operation Last Call	\$ 50,000
Total for Region	\$353,585

**TOTAL Drug cases awarded
funding during 2003: \$1,939,405**

Funded Victim/Witness Protection Cases
 (By Region – January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003)

Tampa Bay Region

Polk County SO \$ 450.00

Total for Region \$ 450.00

Fort Myers Region

Okeechobee County SO \$ 227.79

Okeechobee County SO \$ 378.92

Okeechobee County SO \$ 141.96

FDLE/Sebring Field Office \$ 3,791.23

Total for Region \$ 4,539.90

Orlando Region

Sanford PD \$ 3,830.00

Sanford PD \$ 4,896.00

Total for Region \$ 8,726.00

Tallahassee Region

No funds awarded

Pensacola Region

No funds awarded

Miami Region

Miami PD (10 cases) \$ 41,963.01

West Palm Beach SAO \$ 8,463.00

Miami PD (6 cases) \$ 19,873.00

Miami PD (9 cases) \$ 23,711.22

Miami PD (4 cases) \$ 6,449.00

Total for Region \$100,459.23

Jacksonville Region

Jacksonville SO \$ 2,720.00

Jacksonville SO \$ 4,133.60

Total for Region \$ 6,853.60

**TOTAL VWP cases awarded
 funding during 2003:**

\$121,028.73