



Florida Department of
Law Enforcement



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE #</u>
A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER	ii-iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iv-v
➤ Funding Success Stories.....	vi-xii
COUNCIL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES	1-6
STATUS AND PROGRESS MADE TOWARD 2005 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	7-8
DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006.....	9-14
DETAILED SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES	15-18
➤ Violent Crime Cases	16
➤ Drug Cases.....	17
➤ Victim/Witness Protection Cases.....	18
-	



A Message from Commissioner Guy M. Tunnell

During 2005, the funding provided by the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council was especially important to the investigative efforts of two high-profile cases, the Sarah Lunde and Jessica Lunsford abductions. The horror of these two crimes in Florida spurred both our state and our nation to retool how we monitor sexual predators and offenders. After the offenders in these cases were captured, the work of the Council was just beginning. In June of 2005 the Council granted the application of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for Violent Crime Investigative Reimbursement relative to the Jessica Lunsford Abduction/Homicide investigation. The funding request and subsequent award for overtime expenses relieved the Citrus County Sheriff's Office of a significant financial burden. Then again in September 2005, the Council granted the application of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for Violent Crime Investigative Reimbursement relative to the Sarah Lunde Abduction/Homicide investigation.

The work of the Council often goes unrecognized when these high-profile cases are solved and arrests are made. It is easy to forget that without the Council funds, local agencies would be fiscally overburdened when engaged in these types of investigations. For many such cases, the funding provided by the Council has made a critical difference in the investigative tools that an agency can afford to utilize to solve especially heinous violent crime. An example of one such case is the Marianna Quadruple Homicide, wherein Danielle Baker and her three children were brutally murdered. The Council provided emergency funding to the Marianna Police Department to ensure that the investigation could proceed without an interruption to regular police services. This case is one of the many success stories highlighted in this report. These stories provide only a thumbnail sketch of the investigative efforts supported by the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council.

Another important component of the Council funding that is routinely overlooked is for victims and witnesses that agree to aid law enforcement in the prosecution of serious violent criminals. The victim/witness protection/relocation funds are one of the only sources of funds to support services provided by F.S.S. 914.25. Local agencies and State's Attorney's do not have a budget for these items and often rely exclusively on funding from the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council to support services needed to protect subjects that, as a result of cooperating in an investigation or prosecution of a serious felony offense, have been subjected to violence or other forms of intimidation.

And finally, the major drug and money laundering investigative monies from the Council have funded 25 cases in support of over 60 local 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 collaboration of multiple agencies at both the local, state and federal level to dismantle these drug organizations through lengthy and complex investigative effort. 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 (published 1999).

I should stress that the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council serves as much more than just a mechanism for funding. This highly dedicated and organized group solicits the input of experts to brief them on emerging criminal trends and patterns that could impact the safety of Florida's citizens and visitors. From these briefings, the Council discusses and proposes solutions in the form of resolutions and tasking to FDLE staff. This year the Council's voice clearly and positively impacted a potential crime wave with the release of thousands of federal detainees into Florida.

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 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of Funding and Council Meetings

During the past year the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council funded 82 cases totaling \$2,809,543.53 to support local and state agencies working violent crime investigations, major drug and money laundering investigations, and victim/witness protection and relocation efforts. The Council met on a quarterly basis to review these funding requests and to discuss crime issues having the most impact on Florida's citizens and visitors. At these meetings, experts in various disciplines on emerging crime trends and issues in Florida briefed the Council. Members of the Council and the Regional Coordinating Teams collectively discussed solutions to combat drug and violent crime; these solutions often included legislative recommendations, technology innovations, improved investigative techniques, enhanced communication, and advanced training for law enforcement officers and criminal justice agencies.


In 2005, the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council heard numerous presentations regarding approaches to combating violent crime, drug control, and money laundering. These included:

- Diversion Program Update
- Overview of State and Local Authority to Enforce Immigration Law in Florida
- Presentation of a VCDCC Funded Case: Bartow Police Department's 1997 Quadruple Homicide
- Violent Crimes Clearinghouse: A Project of the Regional Violent Crimes Coordinating Team
- Release of Mariel Detainees: Florida's Response to the Problem
- John and Linda Dollar Child Abuse Case
- Tampa Regional CART Team: An Overview of Its Response to Jessica Lunsford and Sarah Lunde Abductions
- Sex Offender Apprehension Program (SOAP) Initiative
- A Recap of the Legislative Session
- MDMA Lab Briefing
- 2004 Drug Summit Highlights
- Legislative Drug Update
- 2004 Medical Examiners Report
- Sarah Lunde Case Briefing
- Human Trafficking
- Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) Gang
- Lake County Police Shooting
- Justice eXchange Network
- The Florida Gang Investigators Association
- The Impact of Gambling on Crime
- The Role of DNA in Criminal Investigations
- Medicare Infusion Fraud

The Council continued to hear best practices and case success stories from multiple disciplines and members of the Regional Coordinating Teams. The networking of these Regional Teams provides for coordinated case review and intelligence sharing. This communication effort is enhanced through the Violent Crime and Drug Control website hosted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office

of Statewide Intelligence. This website, which was originally launched in October 2002, has been greatly enhanced with new features 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. The website is maintained by the Office of Statewide Intelligence (OSI) within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The site may be accessed via <http://osiweb.fdle.flcjn.net/>

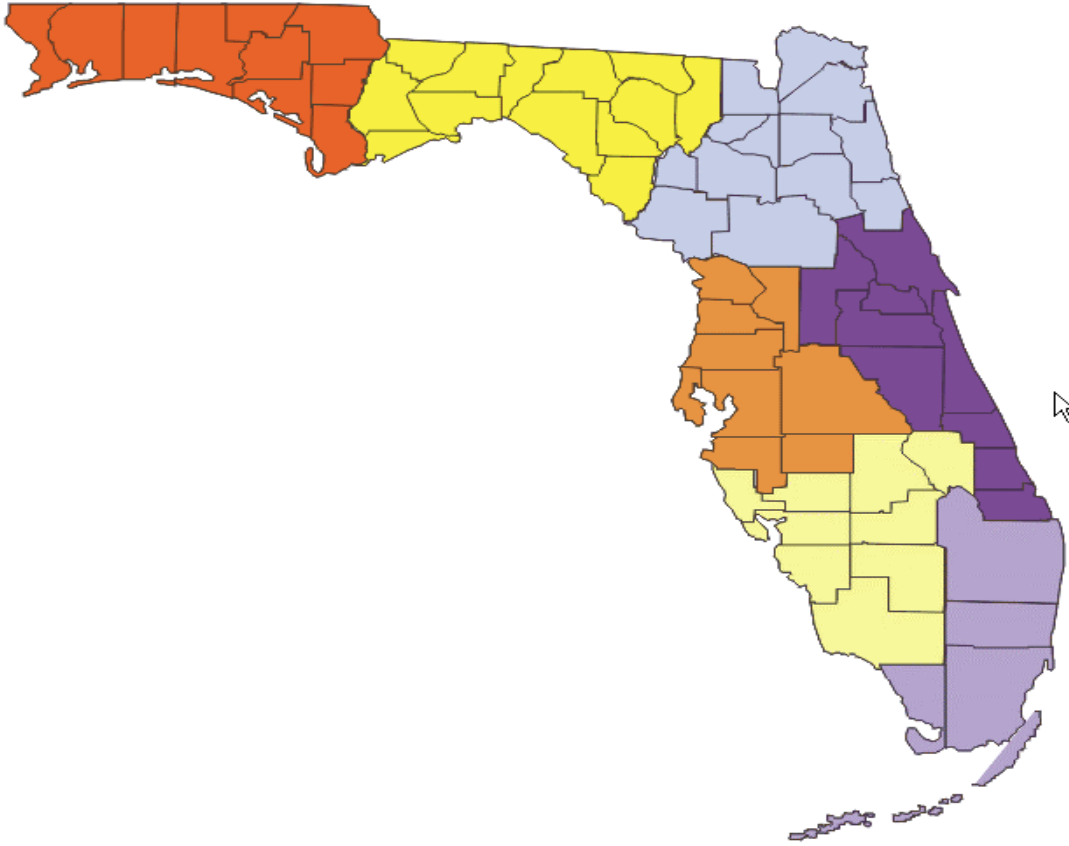
VCDCC



[Violent Crime Cases](#) [Victim Witness Cases](#) [Drug Cases](#) [Regional Teams](#) [News](#)

Regional Teams

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:



- FMROC
- JROC
- MROC
- OROC
- PROC
- TBROC
- TROC

[VCDCC Home](#)

FUNDING SUCCESS STORIES

VIOLENT CRIME CASES

During the calendar year of 2005, the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council funded 22 violent crime investigations for a total of \$524,829.08. Several of these cases are highlighted on the following pages.

Adam Kirkirt Abduction

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council provided reimbursement funding to the Marion County Sheriff's Office at its June 2005 meeting granting a Violent Crime Reimbursement Application in the amount of \$34,130.52 for the *Adam Kirkirt Abduction Investigation*.

On January 18, 2005, the Marion County Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation into the alleged abduction of an 11 year-old white male from his elementary school in Dunnellon, Florida. The victim's father reported that a subject who had been staying at the residence of the victim normally dropped off and picked up the victim from school. However, on this date, the victim's father received voice-mail message from the alleged suspect indicating that he'd picked up the child victim but had experienced car trouble, but provided no further information as to their whereabouts. The time lapse between voicemail message and father receiving message was approximately two and a half hours. After approximately two more hours, the Sheriff's Office was notified that the subject and child had not returned. An immediate response by the Sheriff's Office to locate the allegedly disabled vehicle and subject/victim yielded negative results. Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect, Fredrick Fretz was a registered sex offender in Pennsylvania and Arizona.

An Amber Alert task force was developed consisting of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the FDLE, the FBI and the Ocala Police Department. Approximately 60 other members responsible for pursuing and documenting leads supported lead investigators throughout this investigation. Approximately 3 days after the initial report, the suspect's vehicle was spotted abandoned in Bartow County Georgia on Interstate 75. An extensive search by Georgia authorities of the area around the vehicle resulted in a tip by a trucker who had seen the suspect and the victim walking along side of the roadway. Law enforcement responded to the specific area, ultimately locating the victim and suspect, however the suspect escaped into heavily wooded terrain. The victim was recovered in good health. The suspect was apprehended in the same area a few days later. In May, Fredrick Fretz pled guilty to kidnapping, and on September 22, 2005 was sentenced to 20 years in prison and 5 years subsequent probation.

Baker Quadruple Murders

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council provided reimbursement funding to the Marianna Police Department beginning in March 2005, granting a Violent Crime Reimbursement Application for an initial Emergency Funding of \$20,000. The Council granted two (2) subsequent reimbursement applications for a total reimbursement in 2005 of \$56,930.00 for the *Baker Quadruple Murder investigation*.

On Thursday, March 17, 2005, Danielle Baker was found dead inside her apartment by a worker conducting regularly scheduled maintenance. Ms. Baker died from gunshot wounds. When EMS and

Marianna Police Department responded, the bodies of three male children were discovered in the bathroom. The children had been bound with duct tape and appeared to have suffocated. The children's ages ranged from three weeks old to just under four years of age. One female child, aged two, survived and was located at the scene. She did not appear to have suffered from any physical trauma.

A task force was established and a wide variety of investigative techniques have been employed throughout the investigation. Exhaustive hours have been spent investigating the as yet unsolved crime. The case is ongoing.

In this violent crime investigation the emergency funding and subsequent reimbursement funding was crucial to the ability of the Marianna Police Department to mount an investigation this complex in nature. The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council was essential in creating the conditions under which such a case could be investigated. The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council will continue to support the investigative efforts of the Marianna Police Department in any future reimbursement requests to ensure that a lack of financial resources does not impede the progress of the investigation.

Jessica Lunsford Abduction & Murder

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council provided reimbursement funding to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office in June 2005, granting a Violent Crime Reimbursement Application for \$100,000.00 for the *Jessica Lunsford Abduction and Murder Investigation*. The Citrus County Sheriff's Office fiscal resources were especially hard hit during early 2005 with three (3) unusual violent crime cases occurring within days or weeks of each other.

On February 24, 2005, 12 year-old Jessica Lunsford was reported missing from her home when her father discovered her missing from her bedroom when he went to wake her for school. The investigation that followed involved personnel from the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, FDLE, FBI, Hernando County Sheriff's Office and multiple civilian agencies. The investigation resulted in the arrest of a convicted sex offender, John Couey, for multiple crimes including kidnapping and murder. Couey was ultimately located in Georgia. Investigators and agents of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, and FDLE responded to Georgia to question Couey regarding Jessica's disappearance. During the questioning the suspect confessed to her death and indicated where her body would be found. A search warrant executed at the property where Couey had been staying revealed a grave very near the mobile home where Couey resided with his half-sister and others. Jessica's body was discovered there.

In this investigation, the reimbursement funding by the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council was critical to allowing the Citrus County Sheriff's Office to do what was necessary to fully investigate this crime, but just as importantly to enable the Citrus County Sheriff's Office to continue to fully execute their services to the community for the remainder of the fiscal year.

This heinous crime resulted in legislation, the Jessica Lunsford Act, intended to tighten up the requirements on registered Sex Offenders and Sex Predators.

Violent Gang Activity (South Florida)

The Violent Crime and Drug Control Council provided reimbursement funding to the North Miami Beach Police Department granting two (June and September 2005) Violent Crime Reimbursement Applications totaling \$100,000 for the task force style investigation of *Violent Criminal Gang Activity*.

This investigative effort, a task force concept, was initiated in response to a very serious problem in the Northeast Miami Dade area relative to the violent criminal activities of street gangs conducting drug operations. By early 2005, the North Miami Beach Police Department together with law enforcement entities in the surrounding municipalities recognized that they must respond to the emerging problem without delay.

The current investigative effort focused on several violent criminal street gang cells and violent Haitian gangs. Distinct organizational leadership structures were identified. The organization and its associates utilize violent means to further their cause, including threats by intimidation, drive-by shootings, aggravated battery, and occupied home invasion robberies largely concentrated in the Northeast Miami Dade area. Gang members actively engage in counter-surveillance of law enforcement authorities, and in one case have attempted to intimidate a detective assigned to the task force effort.

Several agencies are actively participating in this task force effort, including, North Miami Beach Police Department, Miami Dade Police Department, Sunny Isles Police Department, Bal Harbour Police Department, FDLE, FHP, ATF and several other municipalities in Dade County. The complexity of the investigation is manifest in the nature and size of the gangs and their cultures. Efforts to investigate these individuals were previously limited due to the minimal available manpower by single agencies. The task force concept to include local, state and federal agencies is being undertaken in order to pool resources to effectively combat the target organization and their associated enterprises. While the investigation continues, other measures to improve the living conditions in the affected geographic areas are also being undertaken through code enforcement and community involvement. These efforts are already showing results.

The investigative efforts so far, since task force inception (March 2005), have included 1,836 criminal cases assigned to the State Attorney, Class I arrests include two arrests for homicide (1 a juvenile suspect), three (3) for robbery, (7) burglary, 15 larceny, and 7 auto theft. Other arrests include 527 felony arrests, 255 arrest warrants executed, 28 firearms seized, various types and quantities of illegal drugs (22 lbs. Marijuana, 2 lbs. Cocaine, 22 grams heroin, and 1,302 pills) and currency seizures (\$62,336). Firearms cases, which would normally not be pursued by the State Attorney's Office, are being adopted by the ATF for Federal prosecution. The task force expects to remain actively engaged in the investigative stage for the foreseeable future.

Reimbursement Funding from the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council has enabled these local jurisdictions to attack a violent threat to their communities, with the manpower necessary to be effective in combating violence. The Task Force will continue to operate and is seeking other funding sources for continuation of the very successful effort.

MAJOR DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CASES

During the calendar year of 2005, the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council funded 25 drug investigations for a total of \$2,143,214.00. These cases involved organizations distributing a variety of drugs throughout various regions of the state of Florida and beyond. Several previously funded cases came to a successful investigative closure resulting in significant arrests and seizures. Several of these cases are highlighted on the following pages.

Operation Full Circle

The investigative effort was awarded \$100,000 on September 21, 2004. *Operation Full Circle Participants:* Osceola County Investigative Bureau; Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation; Osceola County Sheriff's Office; Florida Department of Law Enforcement (*Orlando*); Kissimmee Police Department; U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; and Central Florida HIDTA Support Center

This investigation was a joint law enforcement effort by narcotics enforcement agencies and specialized units of the Osceola County Sheriff's Office and the Kissimmee Police Department that resulted in 26 arrest warrants for suspects that were involved in a large scale drug ring that was supplying crack cocaine and other narcotics to Central Florida dealers and drug abusers.

The investigation targeted a crack cocaine organization, which based the majority of their operation in the area of Kissimmee, Florida. A particular area in Kissimmee had developed a reputation among drug dealers and users as the place to go for crack cocaine.

This area has also experienced increased levels of violent criminal activity. Late last year there was a homicide at the McLaren Circle Apartments involving one of the suspects in this investigation, Cortez Lamar Edwards, who became involved in a verbal argument with a victim, which ended when Edwards allegedly shot the victim in the head. The victim later died on the scene and Cortez Lamar Edwards is now being sought for the homicide. Another incident occurred earlier this year when two suspects who were allegedly purchasing narcotics attempted to flee the area in their vehicle, and in the process, struck and killed the person that was allegedly selling the narcotics.

During the investigation, undercover agents from the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) and the Osceola County Investigative Bureau (OCIB), both a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, and the FDLE focused on making narcotics purchases from the upper level drug dealers. At the same time the Osceola County Sheriff's Office Street Narcotics and Gang (Snag) Unit and the Kissimmee Police Department Tactical Squad concentrated on making purchases from the numerous street dealers that supported the organization.

There is evidence to indicate that this organization was trafficking in excess of 10 kilograms of cocaine a month to the Central Florida dealers and users. One of the leaders of the organization, Johnny James Morris, Jr., faces life in prison after making three trafficking level crack cocaine sales to an undercover MBI Agent. An FDLE undercover agent also discovered that many of the narcotics transactions were occurring inside the nearby Key West Market, Kissimmee. The FDLE agent made several crack cocaine purchases inside the store and evidence reflects that the store's owner was aware of the drug transactions.

The case will be submitted to the State Attorney's Office for the Ninth Judicial Circuit and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Operation Bean Counter

The investigation was awarded \$92,747 on June 22, 2005. *Operation Bean Counter Participants:* Escambia County Sheriff's Office; Pensacola Police Department; Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office; Florida Department of Law Enforcement (*Pensacola*); and Drug Enforcement Administration.

Bean Counter was an investigation that began just over one year ago. In this case, two separate supply and distribution networks with ties to the Pensacola area were identified. One originated from Houston, Texas, and the other from New Orleans, Louisiana. One target, Peter Thai Hoang, received cocaine, MDMA, and marijuana from two individuals in Houston – Mike Pham and Chieu Nguyen. Pham and Nguyen were associates as well as competitors in the drug market. Peter Hoang was supplied a minimum of 16 kilos of cocaine, 11,000 MDMA pills, 40 lbs of marijuana, and 900 Xanax tablets from Pham and Nguyen over a period of approximately two years. Hoang in turn sold the narcotics to a select group of people within Pensacola. This case ultimately led to the seizure of 4.25 kilos of cocaine and 9,000 MDMA pills, a 70' commercial shrimping vessel, 12 vehicles, as well as cash and jewelry.

A second source of MDMA was identified coming from New Orleans. Dang Nguyen (fugitive) was identified as an MDMA supplier to Pensacola targets Hai Minh Ho and Paul Thien Hoang (Peter Hoang's younger brother). Hurricane Katrina shut down the case in New Orleans, it also disrupted the flow of narcotics to some extent.

Each defendant was charged with conspiracy to distribute MDMA, commonly known as "Ecstasy", and 5 kilograms or more of cocaine. If indicted by the federal grand jury and convicted, each defendant faces from 10 years to life in federal prison and a fine of up to \$4,000,000.

The funds, along with federal funds and DEA funding, were used to pay for a wire intercept which ran twenty-four hours a day for the four straight months. The majority of the VCDCC funding went to pay for overtime costs incurred by all participating agencies. In addition, rental vehicles were used to facilitate long running surveillance operations.

This investigation has resulted in a significant impact on narcotics distribution in Northwest Florida. To date, 14 defendants have pled guilty to federal charges, including, Conspiracy to Traffick in Cocaine, Conspiracy to Traffick in MDMA, and Money Laundering. Most of these defendants are facing minimum/mandatory sentencing guidelines of ten years in federal prison. Federal grand jury indictments are pending for nine additional lower tier members of the distribution network. Several more people are being targeted for state arrest warrants for their participation with those indicted federally.

Operation Hang Over/New Millennium

The investigative effort was awarded \$100,000 on September 21, 2004. *Operation Hang Over/New Millennium Participants:* Manatee County Sheriff's Office; Florida Department of Law Enforcement (*Sarasota Field Office*); and Drug Enforcement Administration (*Tampa*).

In March 2004, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration initiated an investigation into an alleged drug trafficking organization controlled by Robert Masias operating primarily in Manatee County, Florida. During the initial stage of the investigation agents compiled criminal intelligence, reviewed associated arrest records, recruited and interviewed confidential sources and cooperating defendants, obtained and analyzed telephone tolls and dialed number recorder data for associated suspect telephones, reviewed related monitored Manatee County Jail inmate telephone calls, and conducted surveillance operations on suspected organization members. Information developed during this phase of the operation indicated that Masias and others known and unknown were operating a cocaine distribution organization involved in the smuggling and distribution of hundreds of kilograms of cocaine annually.



The case was submitted to the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council for funding by the Manatee County Sheriff's Office and approved. The funds were utilized primarily for the costs associated with four wire intercepts conducted between April and August 2005. The case is currently before a federal grand jury, Middle District of Florida, where the United States Attorney is seeking the indictments of in excess of thirty organization members on a variety of charges including conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute in excess of 150 kilograms of cocaine, money laundering conspiracy, and federal firearms and immigration violations (worked in conjunction with ATF and ICE).

The operation to date has resulted in the arrests of five subjects, and seizures in excess of 513 kilograms of cocaine, several pounds of methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, over \$1.3 million dollars in US currency, five vehicles, and numerous firearms. (*Above and Right: Seizures from Operation Hang Over/New Millennium*)

The seizures have been made throughout the United States and spin-off investigations are underway in North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas targeting others involved in the organization as a result of the Florida investigation.



Operation Maximum

The investigation was awarded \$100,000 on September 21, 2004. *Operation Maximum* Participants: Osceola County Investigative Bureau; Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI); Osceola County Sheriff's Office; Florida Department of Law Enforcement (*Orlando*); Kissimmee Police Department; U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); and Central Florida HIDTA Support Center.

On September 15, 2005, agents from the FDLE, MBI, DEA and Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) completed the first stage of an 18-month narcotics investigation of a Drug Trafficking Organization supplying and distributing cocaine. Agents used wiretap interceptions and surveillance to gather evidence, and subsequently executed two search warrants in Miami and Orlando.

Agents seized approximately 475 grams cocaine HCL, \$464,411.00 in cash, six firearms, and three vehicles: a Toyota Tundra, Lincoln Navigator & Lexus SUV valued at \$70,000 for forfeiture. Federal forfeiture proceedings are in process for the real property at 4942 Simmons Road, Orlando, Florida, and 16580 173rd Avenue, Miami, Florida with a combined seizure value of approximately \$857,912.
(Right and Below: Seizures from Operation Maximum)



Agents also successfully located and served arrest warrants on 10 subjects for Trafficking in Cocaine. Eight subjects were charged with Conspiracy to Traffic in Cocaine over 400 grams and two subjects were charged with Conspiracy to Traffic in Cocaine over 28 grams.



The South Florida Drug Trafficking Organization cell supplied the Central Florida Drug Trafficking Organization cell with approximately 10 kilograms of cocaine each month, which was distributed in Central Florida. The leader of the Central Florida Drug Trafficking Organization was identified as Maximo "Alex" Gonzalez, a well-known festival promoter in Central Florida and the former owner of the Palladium Nightclub located in Orlando, Florida. The leader of the South Florida Drug Trafficking Organization was identified as Rigoberto "Tico" Gato, a well-documented cocaine smuggler in the Miami area who has direct ties with the Machango Drug Trafficking Organization, a Colombian source of supply.

The Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council funded this investigation and investigative assistance was provided by the Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) support center.

Attorney General Charlie Crist's Office of Statewide Prosecution will prosecute the case because of multi-jurisdictional violations. This investigation is considered "on going" and additional arrests are anticipated.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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*. As part of a legislative requirement, the Council provides updates on 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) Major Initiatives 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, John Winn – Designee: K-12 Deputy Chancellor Mary Jane Tappen

The Director of the Office of Drug Control, Executive Office of the Governor: Director Jim McDonough

The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, Anthony J. Schembri – Designee: Assistant Secretary Perry Turner

The Secretary of Corrections, James V. Crosby, Jr. – Designee: Deputy Assistant Paula Hoisington

The Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services: President David Remer

The FDLE Commissioner, Guy M. Tunnell – Designee: FDLE Assistant Commissioner Scotty Sanderson

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

Director Robert L. Parker – Miami-Dade Police Department (*term expires June 30, 2007*)

Sheriff Robert White – Pasco County Sheriff's Office (*term expires June 30, 2006*)

Chief Samuel Williams – Ocala Police Department (*term expires June 30, 2007*)

Chief Daniel M. Davis – Williston Police Department (*term expires June 30, 2006*)

State Attorney Jerry Hill – Tenth Judicial Circuit (*term expires June 30, 2006*)

Dr. Margarita Arruza – District 4 Medical Examiner (*term expires June 30, 2006*)

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.
- Disburse reimbursement funds from the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account.
- Review and approve all requests for disbursement of supplemental 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.
- Review and approve 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 that 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 (*Miami Region*)
 Captain Mike Gandy, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (*Fort Myers Region*)
 Special Agent Supervisor Wayne Ivey, Orlando Regional Operations Center, FDLE
 Major Robert Shrader, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (*Tampa Bay Region*)
 Lieutenant Deborah Wheeler, Clay County Sheriff's Office (*Jacksonville Region*)
 Captain Michael Wood, Leon County Sheriff's Office (*Tallahassee Region*)
 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 Operations Center. Each team is under the direction of the FDLE Special Agent in Charge 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:

Major David Allen, Miami Beach Police Department (*Miami Region*)
Sheriff Rod Shoap, Lee County Sheriff's Office (*Fort Myers Region*)
Special Agent Supervisor Danny Banks, Orlando Regional Operations Center, FDLE
Major Gene Stokes, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (*Tampa Bay Region*)
Major Guy Howie, Ocala Police Department (*Jacksonville Region*)
Special Agent Supervisor Chris Hirst, Tallahassee Regional Operations Center, FDLE
Special Agent Supervisor 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 reimbursement funding to state and local law enforcement agencies involved in complex violent crime investigations and trials. It provides matching (supplemental) funding for drug-related investigations and investigations of significant money laundering activities. Since its inception, the Council has awarded nearly \$7.7 million to local criminal justice agencies for violent crime investigations.

During its fourth year of funding drug and money-laundering investigations, the Council has provided \$2,143,214.00 in drug control funding to 25 cases involving partnerships between 20 lead agencies and nearly 44 participating 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 efforts 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)

The ViCAP Unit is part of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group based at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. ViCAP is a nationwide data information center that collects, collates, and analyzes crimes of violence – specifically murder. The ViCAP database contains the following types of solved and unsolved crimes: Homicides and Attempts, Missing Persons/Kidnappings, Unidentified Dead Bodies and Sexual Assaults. Once a case is submitted to ViCAP, it is searched against the database to match cases based on similar characteristics. ViCAP provides law enforcement agencies with software that allows agencies to collect, collate and analyze their own cases, while allowing the agencies to upload their case data to the national ViCAP database. A revised ViCAP Crime Analysis Report Form is used in conjunction with the software system. Future enhancements of ViCAP are a Web-enabled system to allow for online searches and data upload.

The Web-enabled ViCAP system has yet to be completed although the project was projected to go live last year. The need for this new Web-enabled system is critical as a common concern regarding ViCAP is the inability of users to search the entire ViCAP database and the lengthy forms required for submission to the current database. A new version of the standard ViCAP reporting forms was released this year. These new forms include a section for sexual assault cases to be entered.

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, 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 following are statistics as of October 31, 2005, on juvenile criminal histories:

TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILE RECORDS	423,024
At time of first arrest juvenile age 5 through 9	44,405
At time of first arrest juvenile age 10 through 14	165,659
At time of first arrest juvenile age 15 through 17	212,960
TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILE ARRESTS PER INDIVIDUAL	
Number with 1 juvenile arrest	135,395
Number with 2 juvenile arrests	65,256
Number with 3 juvenile arrests	38,717
Number with 4 juvenile arrests	26,607
Number with 5 juvenile arrests	20,167
Number with 6 – 10 juvenile arrests	66,266
Number with 11 – 20 juvenile arrests	40,440
Number with 21 or more juvenile arrests	29,951
Total number of juvenile felony arrest charges (as opposed to arrest events)	1,116,305

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 continued to receive increased training on database technology. A significant upgrade to the FDLE databases was made this year. The new consolidated system, known as InSite, is a merger of the three databases previously available to law enforcement officers throughout Florida. GangNet, DrugNet and ThreatNet were migrated to one central operating system to better serve the information and intelligence needs of the law enforcement community. As

of November 29, 2005, the following total users and agencies were trained on the use of these systems:

GangNet*	Total Users	Total Agencies
	577	130

*Not all users for GangNet are contributing Intel at this time. The breakdown is as follows: 323 **View Only access**; 254 **Full access users** and of those 82 are **Active users**.

InSite	Total Users	Total Agencies
Major Drugs*	463	95
Domestic Security**	672	182

*The Major Drugs Module replaces the former DrugNet system.

**The Domestic Security Module replaces the former ThreatNet system.

8. Submission of DNA Specimens 2005

Florida Law requires any person who is convicted or previously convicted of a qualifying offense or attempted offense to submit a biological specimen 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, burglary, robbery, kidnapping, manslaughter and forcible felonies.

Currently all samples received for entry into the Convicted Offender Database are analyzed using Short Tandem Repeat (STR) technology. As of October 31, 2005, a total of 283,248 samples have been collected for entry into this database, and 279,397 samples have been analyzed utilizing the STR technology and entered into the database. The DNA Database unit currently receives approximately 3,500 to 4,000 samples per month. This makes Florida one of the states with the largest number of convicted offenders in the national DNA 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 3,690 “hits” or “matches” and a total of 4,058 investigations that have been aided using this technology.

STATUS AND PROGRESS MADE TOWARD 2005 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **The Continued 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 Continued 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 for multi-agency or statewide drug control or illicit money laundering investigative or task force efforts. Local agencies continue to have increased difficulty obtaining federal funds for drug investigations. Therefore, 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. However, this is the first year the Council was able to fund cases during the final quarter at the June meeting.
- **The Continued Appropriation of \$500,000 to Continue the Victim/Witness Protection Program and Increase Window for Providing Funds.** An appropriation of \$500,000 was authorized for the Victim/Witness Protection Program. Although legislation did not pass last year to increase the funding time limit from two (2) to four (4) years, FDLE will seek this extension again this year.
- **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 submissions and "hits" are evidence of the utility of this Database to the law enforcement community.
- **Support of the Prescription Validation Program and Database.** Legislation proposing a Prescription Validation Program for the state was not introduced in 2005.
- **The Continuation of Status Reports, Networking and Enhancement of Computerized Databases Relevant to Violent Crime and Drug Investigations.** The Council provided a copy of its Matrix/FACTS Resolution to the Statewide Homeland Security Board to encourage the Board's support to encourage law enforcement to utilize the database as a viable source of information. The Council also received status reports on the Convicted Offender DNA Database, the new InSite Database, and the "THUGS" (Taking Hoodlums Using Guns Seriously) program. The Council received status reports on the progress of the InSite system. The Council continued its support of new programs like *Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)*, *Child Abduction Response Teams (CART)*, *Child Abuse Death Review Teams*, and the emerging epidemic of methamphetamine abuse and trafficking. The Council also agreed to support legislation geared at protection and preventing the abduction and/or death of children by sexual predators/offenders (i.e., Jessica Lunsford Act).

STATUS AND PROGRESS MADE TOWARD 2005 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **The Council Continued its Support to Expand the Involvement of State and Local Agencies in Methamphetamine Lab and Methamphetamine Trafficking Investigations.** The Council heard presentations and agreed to support efforts of the 2005 Legislature to enhance Methamphetamine laws.
- **The Council Expressed its Continuing Support for Greater Funding of, and Increased Persons for Efforts Focusing on Specialized Areas such as Money Laundering, Clandestine Labs, Terrorist Financing, Prescription Drug Diversion and Emerging Street Drugs.** FDLE did receive four positions during the last legislative session to enhance the effectiveness of the Diversion Response Teams. While increased funding has not been received for many of these efforts, federal grants for training in these areas, in particular terrorist financing investigations, have been received.
- **The Council Continued its Efforts to Develop Strategies to Increase Awareness of the Victim/Witness Protection Program and Enhance Visibility of the Duties of the Council.** The Office of Statewide Intelligence used several venues to enhance the Council's visibility including: **1)** shared success stories with the law enforcement community and the general public via press releases/conferences; **2)** maintained and updated the VCDCC website on a regular basis; and **3)** had OSI personnel attend Regional Team meetings and educate attendees (Regional Team Coordinators and agency representatives) on the Council and funding criteria for case submissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

- **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 12 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*. From January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, the Council has funded 22 violent crime cases to 14 agencies totaling \$524,829. 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 per year.

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 may 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, illicit money laundering, or task force efforts.

From January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, the Council has funded 25 matching drug control and illicit money laundering investigations to 20 lead agencies and nearly 44 participating agencies totaling \$2,143,214. 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.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

- **Request a total appropriation of \$500,000 to Replenish the Victim/Witness Protection Program and increase from two (2) to four (4) years the window for providing funding.**

The Council requests an appropriation of \$500,000 to replenish the Victim/Witness Protection Program and seeks to increase the length of time such funding can be provided.

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 within the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council is responsible for reviewing and either approving or denying, in whole or part, each of the requests for this type of funding. From January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, the Council has funded 32 victim/witness protection cases to nine (9) agencies totaling \$141,500.

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. FDLE concurs with the Council's recommendation and will initiate legislation to increase the time limit for funding victim/witness cases from two (2) years to four (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 relative to the continuance for the FDLE effort with the Convicted Offender DNA Database and its enhancement, as appropriate, to ensure 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. This database has proven to be an invaluable tool for identifying repeat offenders and solving cold cases. Furthermore, as all felony offenders are added to this database, the potential for solving crimes of a serial nature will increase. This database also offers the prospect of exonerating wrongly accused or convicted subjects.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

- **Support and Promote Law Enforcement and Legislative Initiatives Aimed at Identifying and Dismantling Human Trafficking Organizations.**

The Council will support FDLE recommendations regarding potential legislation relative to this emerging problem in the Florida immigrant community. The Council will continue to solicit knowledgeable input regarding the scope of human trafficking in Florida, and best practices for effective investigation, prosecution, and victim assistance. The Council will encourage coordination of the state and local effort in conjunction with federal entities including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE).

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's recommendation and applauds the Council's recognition of this emerging crime problem in Florida. FDLE will continue to work with those local, state and federal agencies actively investigating human trafficking organizations. Furthermore, FDLE will support task forces and legislative solutions that materialize to dismantle these criminal networks that prey on vulnerable immigrant communities.*

- **Support and Promote Legislative Enhancements Aimed at Quantifying the Existing Problem and Reducing Violent Street Gang Development in Florida.**

The Council will support FDLE recommendations regarding potential legislative changes necessary to enhance and facilitate the appropriate use of Chapter 874 (Criminal Street Gang Prevention Act of 1996). The Council will monitor efforts in the development of a Statewide Gang Control Strategy to including but not limited to: 1) a comprehensive and coordinated statewide assessment; 2) law enforcement and prosecutor training in the proper application of Chapter 874; and 3) the coordination with federal and local counterparts, Florida's effort in eradicating the emerging violent criminal street gang issues to include the formation of task forces.

Commissioner's Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's recommendation and acknowledges that a reassessment of Florida's gang problem is due. Newly formed federal gang task forces have been enhanced by the participation of FDLE agents whom are experts in this area. An important component in dismantling these widely dispersed groups is information sharing. To that end, FDLE will continue to work with federal efforts to establish a national gang database while maintaining the gang module of the InSite system. FDLE, in partnership with the Office of Statewide Prosecution and several State Attorney's Offices, was one of the first law enforcement agencies to successfully pursue RICO prosecutions of gangs over 15 years ago. FDLE will work with prosecutors across the state to enhance and revitalize this effort and the utilization of this strategy to dismantle these violent gang organizations*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

- ❑ **Continue to Support Effective Legislation in the Protection of Florida’s Citizens, Especially Children, Against Violence With Particular Emphasis on Violence by Known Sex Offenders and Predators.**

The Council will support recommendations from FDLE regarding potential legislative enhancements necessary to facilitate the effective monitoring of registered sex offenders/predators. The Council will also continue to support statewide expansion and enhancement of the CART program in the investigation of child abduction occurring within the state.

Commissioner’s Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council’s recommendation. FDLE efforts in combating crimes against children have been modeled by many other states and have received national recognition and awards. FDLE continues to make incredible progress in the implementation of the Jessica Lunsford Act. FDLE will continue to assess the need for additional state and local resources required to effectively monitor sexual offenders/predators. As always, FDLE members seek ways to improve our investigative and information sharing effort as well as the training we offer in this arena.*

- ❑ **Continue to Monitor the Effects of the Return to Florida of Hundreds of “Mariel Detainees” Released From Custody in 2005 by United States Supreme Court Decision.**

The Council will continue to request status updates relative to the impact on law enforcement and social services agencies in Florida resulting from the return to Florida of hundreds of violent criminals previously “detained” past their criminal incarceration because of their immigration status. The Council will offer recommendations, as deemed appropriate.

Commissioner’s Response: *FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council’s recommendation. FDLE will seek the necessary expert speakers on this issue to keep the Council updated on the status and impact of this release situation.*

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

Based on expert testimony, the Council agrees to continue to endorse 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 continue to warrant the need for this program. FDLE continues to aggressively investigate prescription drug abuse through the use of multi-disciplinary Diversion Response Teams, which would be greatly supplemented through a Prescription Validation Program (PVP). FDLE supports the PVP as a health and safety issue first and secondly as an investigative tool.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

- ❑ **Support Revisions to the Methamphetamine Bill sponsored by the Florida Office of Drug Control and FDLE that was Passed by the Legislature in 2005.**

The Florida legislature passed a comprehensive methamphetamine package in 2004 that limited retail access to pseudoephedrine, created a penalty for endangering children and created a penalty for injuring an officer in the enforcement of state drug laws. The Council agrees to endorse a proposed addendum to that law initiated by FDLE to: 1) include the addition of first responders such as firefighters EMTs, and paramedics to the officer endangerment section. This revision is requested and endorsed by the State Fire Marshal; and 2) change the definition of “anhydrous ammonia” to “liquid condensed ammonia.” This is a technical change requested by the FDLE crime laboratory system.

Commissioner’s Response: FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council’s recommendation. The new law, which limits the sale of pseudoephedrine products, is just beginning to have some impact on methamphetamine manufacturing in Florida. Despite this, Florida law enforcement as well as firefighters and EMT have continued to respond to hundreds of hazardous labs this year. The language supported by the Council will add important legal protections for many of our first responders. It will also provide the technical language necessary to facilitate the testing of hazardous chemicals sampled at these meth labs as part of the investigative and prosecutorial process.

- ❑ **Support Legislation and Funding for Data Integration Projects (FLEX) and the maintenance of the InSite system.**

Various law enforcement regional data integration projects are currently under development in Florida. These projects will share law enforcement information between sheriff’s offices and police departments within their regions. The FDLE has developed a system that will be the node to connect of all these disparate systems into a single statewide sharing system, the Florida Law Enforcement eXchange (FLEX). This system will provide law enforcement across the state with the ability to quickly and easily access and analyze the thousands of records found in individual city, county and state law enforcement agencies records management systems. The FLEX project technology has already been developed and full implementation is expected by Spring of 2007.

The InSite system has combined the three databases known as GangNet, ThreatNet and DrugNet. The core entities of all three systems are now accessible to any law enforcement officer that queries InSite. Funding for upgrades and maintenance to the InSite system, as well as more training for officers statewide will be necessary in the coming year.

Commissioner’s Response: FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council’s recommendation as well as the Council’s continued solicitation of reports concerning the databases currently in operation as well as those that may be developed in the future. FDLE is also interested in learning from the Council ways to increase the efficiency of these databases while ensuring that privacy concerns are integrated into the operational policies of these systems. FDLE would also welcome ideas from the Council on how to make these databases more accessible to local law enforcement agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

□ **Support Legislation Creating a Methamphetamine Remediation Trust Fund.**

The cost to the state for remediation of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories is creating a fiscal burden on law enforcement, child protective services and agencies involved in the removal and clean up of sites associated with these labs. The Council agrees to endorse a proposed bill initiated by FDLE, DCF and DOH to establish a state trust fund funded through court charges levied on any defendant convicted of a violation of FSS 893. Those funds would be available to agencies incurring expenses for clandestine lab investigation, removal or clean up, as well as those involved in the care and disposition of drug endangered children found at these labs.

Commissioner's Response: FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council in its efforts to establish a trust fund to aid in 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. However, given the increasing number of meth labs found and dismantled in Florida coupled with the instability of the federal funding earmarked for the remediation of these sites, Florida must be prepared to incur some portion of these costs in the future.

□ **Support Expansion and Funding of the State's Drug Court Program.**

The Drug Court program has enjoyed considerable success throughout Florida. Funding is provided through various state, county and federal funding sources. The Council agrees to endorse: 1) the expansion of the Drug Court Program to all 67 counties of Florida; and 2) additional state funding directly to the counties for administration and operation of Drug Courts.

Commissioner's Response: FDLE concurs with the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council's recommendation regarding the expansion and funding of this critical component of the drug control strategy in Florida.

**SUMMARY OF ALL CASES FUNDED
BY REGION
JANUARY 1, 2005 – DECEMBER 31, 2005**

JANUARY-MARCH	Violent Crime	Drug Cases	Victim/Witness
Tampa Bay	0	0	0
Fort Myers	0	0	0
Orlando	0	0	0
Tallahassee	0	1	0
Pensacola	1	1	0
Miami	0	2	14
Jacksonville	1	3	0
TOTALS	2 Cases/\$30,950.00	7 Cases/\$330,000.00	14 Cases/\$41,052.57
APRIL-JUNE	Violent Crime	Drug Cases	Victim/Witness
Tampa Bay	3	1	0
Fort Myers	1	0	0
Orlando	0	2	1
Tallahassee	1	0	0
Pensacola	1	1	0
Miami	1	0	4
Jacksonville	6	1	1
TOTALS	13 Cases/\$283,259.62	5 Cases/\$442,757.00	6 Cases/\$26,051.19
JULY-SEPTEMBER	Violent Crime	Drug Cases	Victim/Witness
Tampa Bay	2	0	0
Fort Myers	2	0	0
Orlando	0	0	1
Tallahassee	0	2	0
Pensacola	1	1	0
Miami	1	2	7
Jacksonville	1	2	0
TOTALS	7 Cases/\$210,619.46	7 Cases/\$605,000.00	8 Cases/\$41,730.31
OCTOBER-DECEMBER	Violent Crime	Drug Cases	Victim/Witness
Tampa Bay	0	1	0
Fort Myers	0	0	0
Orlando	0	3	1
Tallahassee	0	1	1
Pensacola	0	3	0
Miami	0	0	2
Jacksonville	0	1	0
TOTALS	No Requests Received	9 Cases/\$765,457.00	4 Cases/\$32,666.38
YEAR END TOTALS	22 Cases/\$524,829.08	25 Cases/\$2,143,214.00	32 Cases/\$141,500.45

Note: The Council funds are appropriated July 1 to June 30. However, the Council's Annual Report captures funding dispersals from January 1 to December 31.

VIOLENT CRIME CASES FUNDED BY REGION

Tampa Bay Region

Citrus County SO	Dollar Abuse Case (June)	\$ 10,066.99
Citrus County SO	Lunsford Homicide (June)	\$100,000.00
Citrus County SO	Double Homicide (June)	\$ 10,221.64
Hillsborough County SO	Lunde Abduction/Homicide (Sept)	\$100,000.00
Total for Region		\$220,288.63

Fort Myers Region

Fort Myers PD	Road Rage Homicide (June)	\$ 15,083.82
Fort Myers PD	Joseph Homicide (Sept)	\$ 4,444.70
Fort Myers PD	Hart Homicide (Sept)	\$ 4,203.19
Total for Region		\$23,731.71

Orlando Region

No Funds awarded

Tallahassee Region

Madison PD	Garvey (Attempt) Homicide (June)	\$ 25,000.00
Total for Region		\$ 25,000.00

Pensacola Region

Marianna PD	Baker Homicides (March)	\$ 20,000.00
Marianna PD	Baker Homicides (June)	\$ 27,166.00
Marianna PD	Baker Homicides (Sept)	\$ 9,764.20
Total for Region		\$56,930.20

Miami Region

North Miami Beach PD	Violent Gang Activity (June)	\$ 31,160.01
North Miami Beach PD	Violent Gang Activity (Sept)	\$ 68,839.99
Treasure Island PD	Hunt Homicide (Sept)	\$ 14,592.76
Total for Region		\$114,592.76

Jacksonville Region

Marion County SO	Gaffney Homicide (March)	\$ 10,950.00
Palatka PD	Paradise Homicide (June)	\$ 5,904.70
Flagler County SO	Romana Spree (June)	\$ 2,556.48
Jacksonville SO	Hispanic Victim Robbery/Homicide (June)	\$ 8,376.47
Jacksonville SO	Middleton Sexual Battery (June)	\$ 7,356.99
Marion County SO	Ryder Homicide (June)	\$ 6,236.00
Marion County SO	Kirkirt Abduction (June)	\$ 34,130.52
Gainesville PD	Sweat Homicide (Sept)	\$ 8,774.62
Total for Region		\$84,285.78

TOTAL Violent Crime Investigative cases awarded funding during 2005:

\$524,829.08

NOTE: The Council exercised its discretion in denying two (2) Violent Crime Investigative cases from two (2) agencies totaling \$52,890.85. One application was not considered for failure to submit before the deadline. The other was denied finding the criteria were not satisfied.

DRUG CASES FUNDED BY REGION

Tampa Bay Region

Operation Fantasy Relations (<i>Supplemental</i>)	\$ 50,000.00
Operation Rock	\$ 100,000.00
Total for Region	\$ 150,000.00

Fort Myers Region

No funds awarded

Orlando Region

Operation Crack Down	\$ 100,000.00
Operation Deltropolis	\$ 100,000.00
Operation Lado Oeste	\$ 100,000.00
Operation Hammer	\$ 100,000.00
Operation Street Sweeper	\$ 100,000.00
Total for Region	\$ 500,000.00

Tallahassee Region

Operation My Ty	\$ 50,000.00
Operation V-12	\$ 60,000.00
Operation Gateway Snow Wash	\$ 100,000.00
Operation V-12 (<i>Supplemental</i>)	\$ 40,000.00
Total for Region	\$ 250,000.00

Pensacola Region

Operation Family Ties	\$ 50,000.00
Operation Bean Counter	\$ 92,757.00
Operation Wannabe	\$ 100,000.00
Operation Dinner Out	\$ 87,000.00
Operation Undertaker	\$ 88,457.00
Operation Family Ties (<i>Supplemental</i>)	\$ 50,000.00
Total for Region	\$ 468,214.00

Miami Region

Operation Dr. Feelgood	\$ 60,000.00
Operation Reflections (<i>Supplemental</i>)	\$ 50,000.00
<i>(AKA: Operation Creole)</i>	
Operation Dred	\$ 100,000.00
Operation Crystal City	\$ 100,000.00
Total for Region	\$ 310,000.00

Jacksonville Region

Operation Beach Boys	\$ 50,000.00
Operation Flip Side	\$ 50,000.00
Operation Full House (<i>Supplemental</i>)	\$ 20,000.00
Operation Foxx Den	\$ 100,000.00
Operation West Wing	\$ 75,000.00
Operation Rolling Stone	\$ 70,000.00
Operation Old School	\$ 100,000.00
Total for Region	\$ 465,000.00

TOTAL Drug cases awarded funding during 2005: \$2,143,214.00

NOTE: All cases presented to the Council were funded.

VICTIM/WITNESS PROTECTION CASES FUNDED BY REGION

Tampa Bay Region

No Funds awarded

Fort Myers Region

No Funds awarded

Orlando Region

Sanford PD (June)	\$ 2,015.00
Sanford PD (Sept)	\$ 7,720.00
Sanford PD (Dec)	\$ 3,860.00
Total for Region	\$ 13,595.00

Tallahassee Region

FDLE (<i>Live Oak Field Office</i>) (Dec)	\$8,590.00
Total for Region	\$8,590.00

Pensacola Region

No funds awarded

Miami Region

West Palm Beach SAO (March)	\$ 4,614.00
Miami-Dade PD (March)	\$ 2,159.50
Miami-Dade PD (March)	\$ 1,350.00
Miami-Dade PD (March)	\$ 800.00
City of Miami PD (10 cases) (March)	\$ 32,129.07
West Palm Beach SAO (June)	\$ 1,856.37
West Palm Beach SAO (June)	\$ 4,415.00
West Palm Beach SAO (June)	\$ 3,409.07
Miami-Dade PD (June)	\$ 2,160.75
Delray Beach PD (Sept)	\$ 18,451.24
Miami-Dade PD (Sept)	\$ 2,157.00
City of Miami PD (5 cases) (Sept)	\$ 13,402.07
Miami-Dade PD (Dec)	\$ 2,754.88
West Palm Beach SAO (Dec)	\$ 7,461.50
Total for Region	\$117,120.45

Jacksonville Region

Ocala PD (June)	\$ 2,195.00
Total for Region	\$ 2,195.00

TOTAL VWP cases awarded funding during 2005: \$141,500.45

NOTE: All cases presented to the Council were funded.