

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Gary E. Moore, *Chief*

653-4214

The Special Operations Bureau performs specialized investigation functions, specific industry regulatory activities, and certain statewide law enforcement support functions. The Bureau oversees eight divisions: Airport, Automotive Safety Enforcement, Aviation, Crime Laboratory, Criminal Investigation, Executive Protection, Licensing, and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.

AIRPORT DIVISION

By contractual agreement with the State Aviation Administration, the State Police supplies security and investigative and patrol services for Baltimore/Washington International Airport.

AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Established in 1977, the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division licenses Motor Vehicle Inspection Stations (Chapter 14, Acts of 1977). The work includes investigation of complaints, initial certification, routine inspections, and revocations. The Division also processes all safety equipment repair orders issued by police agencies to ensure compliance or vehicle registration suspension (Code Transportation Article, sec. 23-102).

AVIATION DIVISION

Throughout Maryland twenty-four hours a day, the Aviation Division provides helicopter service to evacuate those seriously injured on highways and other persons requiring immediate transport to medical assistance. Its other missions include search and rescue, criminal investigation support, traffic control, and support in disasters and civil disturbances.

CRIME LABORATORY DIVISION

The Crime Laboratory Division analyzes evidence submitted by all Maryland law enforcement agencies investigating or prosecuting a criminal or motor vehicle offense. Division personnel analyze controlled dangerous substances, blood alcohol, arson propellants, questioned documents, and other physical evidence. The Division maintains mobile evidence collection units in each troop area.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Criminal Investigation Division initiates its own criminal investigations, assists all headquarters and field units with investigations, and conducts motor fuel and fuel tax fraud investigations. The Division contains nine units: State Prosecutor's Office, White Collar Crimes, Environmental Crimes, Warrant/Fugitive, General Assignment, Special Assignment, Vehicle Theft, Organized Crime, and Polygraph.

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION DIVISION

The Executive Protection Division provides security for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller of the Treasury, and State Treasurer as required. The Security Services Unit provides security to the members of the Executive Branch and the leaders of the General Assembly.

LICENSING DIVISION

The Licensing Division licenses private detectives and security guards (Code 1957, Art. 56, secs. 543-606). It conducts investigations and makes recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding railroad police commissions (Code 1957, Art. 23, secs. 256-266). The Division also issues special police commissions (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 4-901 through 4-913). The Division investigates all applicants desiring to wear, carry, or transport a handgun (Code 1957, Art. 27, sec. 36) and registers firearms (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 441-448). The Division also operates a voluntary firearms registration service for persons who acquire or own firearms that are not controlled by other statutes.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division enforces Motor Vehicle Code provisions on size, weight, and load of vehicles (Code Transportation Article, secs. 24-101, 24-112). It also enforces laws governing motor fuel tax (Code 1957, Art. 56, secs. 135-157) and fraud resulting from the sale of motor fuels and lubricants (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 231-233). Also within the Division is the Motor Carrier Safety Program.

BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Thomas H. Carr, *Commander*

290-0050

Formed in 1990, the Bureau of Drug Enforcement investigates violations of narcotics and dangerous drug laws. The Bureau concentrates on long-range and covert investigations that affect large scale dealers and distributors.

STATE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC DRUG ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

The State Office of Strategic Drug Enforcement Coordination (SOSDEC) develops and recommends strategies to coordinate State law enforcement efforts to reduce the supply of and demand for controlled dangerous substances. The Commander of the Bureau of Drug Enforcement serves as the chairperson of the Office, which is composed of representatives from numerous criminal justice agencies and associations. The Strategy and Program Development Section serves as staff to the Office.