

**AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT  
DIVISION**

R. Joel Underwood, *Commander*  
(410) 768-1735

Established in 1977, the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division licenses motor vehicle inspection stations (Chapter 14, Acts of 1977). The work involves initial certification, routine inspections, investigation of complaints, 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).

Formerly under the Special Operations Bureau, the Division transferred to the Field Operations Bureau in 1994.

**COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT  
DIVISION**

Charles E. Shue, *Commander*  
(410) 974-2042

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division originally organized under the Special Operations Bureau. In 1994, it transferred to the Field Operations Bureau.

The Division enforces the Motor Vehicle Code as it relates to size, weight, and load of commercial vehicles (Code Transportation Article, secs. 24-101, 24-112). The Division also enforces laws governing motor fuel tax and fraud resulting from the sale of motor fuels and lubricants (Code 1957, Art. 56, secs. 135-157; Art. 27, secs. 231-233). Within the Division is the *Motor Carrier Safety Program* and, since 1995, the Gasoline Tax Unit.

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS SECTION**

Houston E. Karnes, Jr., *Commander*  
(410) 799-4548

The Emergency Operations Section includes the Special Tactical Assault Team Element and the Hostage Recovery Team. Skilled in special tactics, these teams respond to barricade and hostage situations, sniper incidents, rescue operations, and other extraordinary occurrences.

The Section also uses canine teams. A canine team consists of a dog trained to perform police support functions and the police officer to whom the dog is assigned. Throughout the State, canine teams prevent and detect crime. All teams are trained in basic police procedures, and some in detecting explosive substances, narcotics, and firearms. Bloodhounds also are used to search for lost or fugitive persons.

*OPERATION PEOPLE*

[MARYLAND STATE POLICE STRIKE FORCE]

Contact: Vernon R. Herron (410) 799-0284

In June 1993, the Governor created the Maryland State Police Strike Force (Executive Order 01.01.1993.17). Since 1994, the Force has been known as Operation People. This unit, formerly assigned to the Criminal Intelligence Division, was transferred to the Emergency Operations Section in 1996.

Assigned to high crime areas, Operation People may enforce the law in all areas of the State, including incorporated municipalities that have police forces.

**STATE POLICE BARRACKS**

The Department has twenty-three barracks around the State. Through these units, the Department works locally on traffic control; crime reporting, reduction, and prevention; and public safety.

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**DEFUNCT DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES**

**BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT**

In 1995, merged with the Special Operations Bureau to form the Bureau of Drug Enforcement and Special Operations.

**BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT  
& SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

In November 1995, renamed Bureau of Drug and Criminal Enforcement.

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION**

Formerly under the Bureau of Drug Enforcement and Special Operations, absorbed into Special Operations and Support Services in 1995.

**DIVISION OF CORRECTION  
INVESTIGATIVE UNIT**

Formerly under the Special Operations Bureau, Unit duties were assumed by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in 1996.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

Formerly under the Bureau of Drug Enforcement and Special Operations, Division functions dispersed throughout Bureau of Drug and Criminal Enforcement in 1995.

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU**

In 1995, merged with the Bureau of Drug Enforcement to form the Bureau of Drug Enforcement and Special Operations.

**SUPPLY DIVISION**

Under the Administrative Services Bureau, renamed Quartermaster Division in 1994.