

GCIC Operations

The Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) is the chief provider of criminal justice information in the state of Georgia. With a staff of 127 employees, GCIC assists criminal justice agencies statewide and nationwide by providing round-the-clock access to needed information.

INFORMATION Services

The Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) is a computerized network that provides law enforcement with access to important criminal justice information. Various databases make up the system, and the network is accessible 24 hours a day. GCIC services include:

- The Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
- Computerized Criminal History (CCH) record
- Uniform Crime Reporting

(UCR) records.

CJIS also contains information on:

- Wanted and missing persons
- The Sexually Violent Offender Registry
- The Protection Order Registry
- Stolen property (vehicles, guns, boats, and securities, etc.)
- Access to other local, state and national files.

FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS: Electronic submissions refer to technology using "livescan" or a "card scan" device to electronically capture fingerprints at local booking stations and then transfer them to the GCIC's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). This process saves time and effort during the booking process and significantly improves the quality of post-arrest fingerprints. In addition, fingerprint checks for non-criminal justice purposes (e.g. employment, licensing, adoptions, etc.) may also be submitted electronically via such devices.

During FY'03, 21 additional local law enforcement and

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applicant agencies began transmitting electronic fingerprint images and data to the state's AFIS via livescan and card scan devices. A total of 96 agencies currently submit arrest and applicant fingerprints electronically for their respective agencies and others for which they provide booking and applicant services. Electronic transmissions represent 78 percent of criminal and 13 percent of applicant fingerprint cards received for processing. The average processing time for electronic transmission is 15 minutes. This includes identification, transmission of responses to the booking agency, and where applicable, update and creation of a Georgia computerized criminal history record and electronic submission to the FBI.

REMOTE ACCESS: Remote terminals connected to the host AFIS are used to extend AFIS technology to the local agency for identification of arrested offenders and to allow for local searching of latent fingerprints lifted from crime scenes. Twenty-two local agencies access and search the state's fingerprint database via an AFIS remote fingerprint workstation. These agencies also may extend this service to surrounding jurisdictions.

A total of 11,079 tenprint and latent print searches were initiated from these AFIS remote terminals during FY'03. These inquiries resulted in 839 tenprint (offender identification) hits and 817 hits on latent prints left at crime scenes.

FY'03: Local Agencies with Remote Access

- Athens-Clarke Police Department
- Atlanta Police Department
- Bibb County Sheriff's Office
- Chatham County Police Department
- Clayton County Sheriff's Office
- Cobb County Police Department
- Cobb County Sheriff's Office
- Columbus Police Department
- DeKalb County Police Department
- DeKalb County Sheriff's Office
- Dougherty County Sheriff's Office
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Fulton County Sheriff's Office
- Glynn County Sheriff's Office
- Gwinnett County Police Department
- Lowndes County Sheriff's Office
- Marietta Police Department
- Macon Police Department
- Richmond County Sheriff's Office
- Savannah Police Department
- Thomas County Sheriff's Office
- Whitfield County Sheriff's Office

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FY'03 OPERATIONAL

ACTIVITY: The chart (to right) represents significant operational activity associated with criminal, applicant and juvenile fingerprint identification services. AFIS matches represent the total number of hits made against stored fingerprints of previous offenders. Tenprint to latent inquiries are those automated searches made against the Unsolved Latent Print file from criminal arrests and applicant prints processed daily. These are in addition to the direct latent search queries performed by GBI's Division of Forensic Science or from AFIS remote sites.

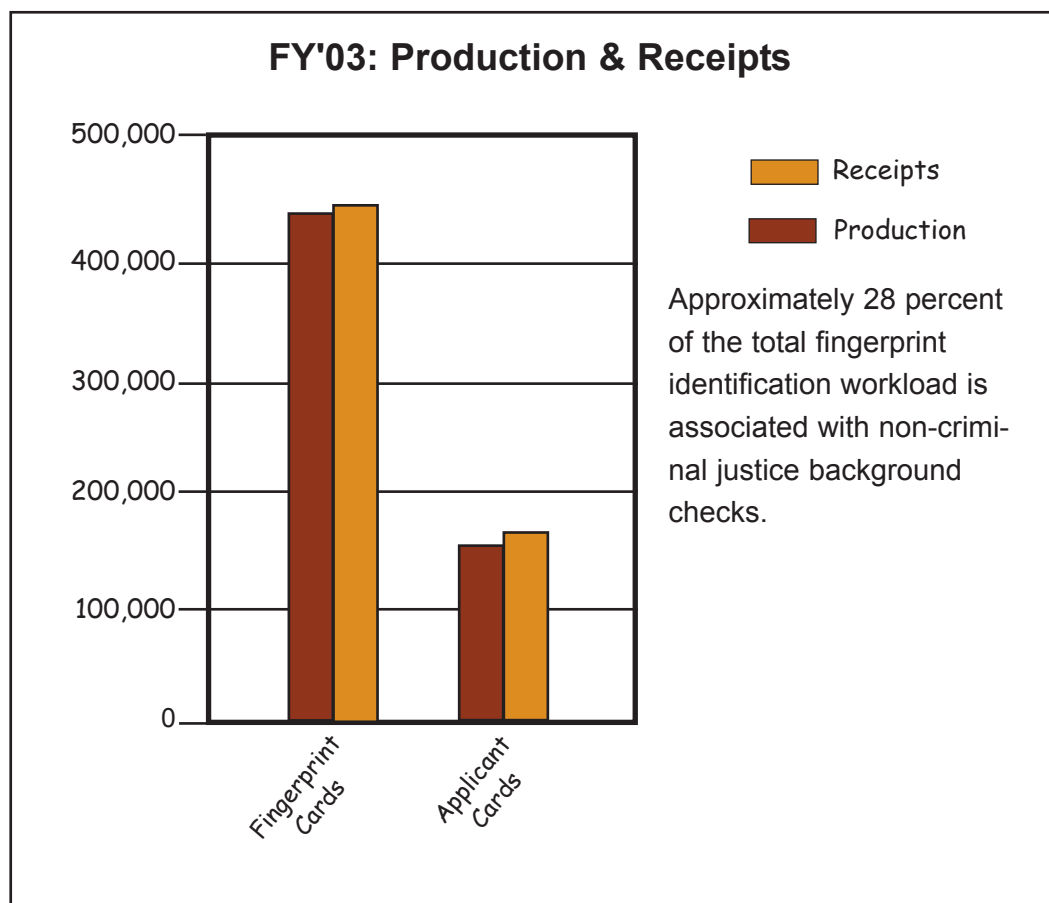
Due to budget cuts experienced in FY'03, backlogs of non-electronic criminal fin-

gerprint cards began to build. At the close of FY'02, the average processing time for criminal cards was two days from receipt. By the close of FY'03, the processing time had increased to more than six days. The processing of applicant fingerprint cards remained current within five days of

receipt throughout FY'03 due to reassignment of personnel, but increased submissions and additional budget cuts will create backlogs in FY'04.

During FY'03, total submissions of criminal fingerprint cards – including live scan transmissions – decreased 3.8 percent, while submissions of applicant fingerprint cards increased eight percent over FY'02 totals.

Activity	Production
AFIS Searches	547,851
AFIS Matches	328,716
Tenprint to Latent Inquiries	545,489
Tenprint to Latent Hits	79



CRIMINAL HISTORY REPOSITORY

At the close of FY'03, GCIC maintained fingerprint and criminal history records on 2,486,005 individuals. An additional 90,712 individuals were added to the Georgia Computerized Criminal History (CCH) file during the year, which represents a 3.8 percent growth rate. An additional 734,107

CCH records were updated with subsequent arrests or disposition information.

Approximately, 70 percent of all arrests dating from the early 1970s to the present have final dispositions reported.

Eighty percent of all felony arrests reported in the last two to seven years have a final disposition reported. A total of 326,548 final dispo-

sition reports were posted to CCH records during FY'03, with 22 percent reported electronically from courts and prosecutors.

A total of 22,721 requests for special record reviews and corrections were completed during the fiscal year. These requests came from law enforcement/crimi-

nal justice agencies as well as attorneys and private individuals requiring record updates or modifications to ensure complete and accurate records.

A total of 1,390,688 Georgia CCH records were disseminated via the CJIS network to in-state and out-of-state criminal justice agencies.

COMPUTER SERVICES

The CJIS Network is a telecommunications network that provides local and state criminal justice agencies access to a variety of person, property and information files. During FY'03, 10,936 CJIS network terminals processed more than 138 million messages in support of criminal justice agencies within Georgia, the nation and around the world. The CJIS network had availability in excess of 99 percent during FY'03.

CONNECTIVITY CONVERSION: While maintaining normal network operations, GCIC, along with its CJIS customers, continued implementation of the upgrade to TCP/IP protocol for all connections. GCIC staff continued to work closely with terminal agency coordinators (TACs) and other personnel as agencies continued to plan for system upgrades. A critical part of the CJIS network conversion was the close working relationship that GCIC had with

the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA). CJIS customers connect through the state frame relay backbone managed by GTA. By the end of FY'03, 15 percent of agencies had converted to TCP/IP. The TCP/IP protocol provides GCIC and GTA with new possibilities for connectivity that may lower the cost, improve performance and provide for greater network security.

In FY'04, the evaluation of the Virtual Private Network (VPN) will achieve several objectives: meet FBI standards for data security; allow agencies much greater flexibility in connecting to the CJIS network; and allow lower cost option for CJIS network connection.

Also in the next fiscal year, GTA will be evaluating the new Multi-Protocol Layer Switching (MPLS) as a replacement for frame relay. MPLS offers significant improvement in increased bandwidth and lower costs for data connections.

SEXUALLY VIOLENT OFFENDER REGISTRY

The Georgia Sexually Violent Offender (SVO) Registry was enacted by the 1996 Georgia General Assembly and became operational during FY'97. Since that time, the GBI has reg-

istered 7,683 offenders, with 1,257 added during FY'03. More than 4,345 images of registered sex offenders have been placed on the Web site. As a public service, the

GBI Web page was launched on the Internet in FY'98. During FY'03, the SVO registry portion of the Web page received more than 6,213,936 hits.

PROTECTIVE ORDER REGISTRY

In May 1997, the FBI established a National Protection Order File, and GCIC implemented the programs to access and update this federal file. During the 2001 session of the Georgia General Assembly, a bill passed the legislature and was signed giving GCIC authority to develop and operate a state protective order registry. The registry was operational effective July 1, 2002.

The Georgia Protective Order Registry (GPOR) is an online, Web-based service that stores protective orders issued by the Superior Courts of Georgia. The goal of this registry is to enhance victim safety by providing law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys, and the courts 24-hour/seven-day-a-week access to protective orders issued by U.S. and international courts.

The registry process begins with the victim filing a protective order. A judge then issues the order and it is given to a court clerk to process. The clerk indexes the required data, electronically scans a copy of the order and also sends a hard copy of the order to the local sheriff's offices. The scanned copy is transmitted to the Georgia Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) server. GSCCCA compiles the orders and transmits them nightly to the GPOR. The GPOR system processes these orders, making them available on the Georgia Protective Order Registry secured

Web site. Order information is then transmitted to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for inclusion in the national files.

Law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the courts are authorized to access information in the registry. To access protective order registry information, agencies must have Internet capability and log on to the secured Web site using an assigned user ID and password.

There are currently ten standardized forms that are included on the registry:

- Family Violence Ex Parte
- Family Violence Six Month
- Family Violence Permanent
- Stalking Ex Parte
- Stalking Six Month
- Stalking Permanent
- Stalking Criminal
- Dismissal
- Continuance
- Modification.

Since implementation, more than 23,300 orders have been received and approximately 718 authorized users have been granted access to the Web site.

FIREARMS PROGRAM

INSTANT BACKGROUND CHECK:

The Firearms Program provides instant background checks pursuant to Georgia law and provisions of the federal "Brady Act" on persons wishing to purchase firearms from federally licensed firearms dealers. Background checks ensure that people prohibited by either state or federal laws from possessing firearms are barred from purchasing them. The program is operational six days a week from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. The program is closed on Christmas Day.

During FY'03, the Firearms Program changed its policy on delaying the approval of firearms sales to individuals whose final dispositions for potentially disqualifying offenses could not be immediately located. Prior to the change in policy, GCIC could delay the firearms transaction until the status of the case was thoroughly researched. Now, the sale can only be delayed for three business days. If the disposition cannot be determined, then the gun purchase is neither approved nor denied by GCIC and the sale of the weapon is left to the dealer's discretion.

From July 2002 through December of the same year, a "delayed" response was issued 3,350 times. Despite the change in law, GCIC staff continues to research transactions for 21 days in an attempt to locate a final disposition. If the status of the case still cannot be obtained, the transaction becomes "unresolved." Follow-up research later resulted in approval or

FY'03: Firearms Program Activity

Total Telephone Calls Answered	85,576
Total Transactions	190,969
Total Transactions Approved	181,231
Total Transactions Denied	3,292
Reasons for Denial:	
Felony Conviction	1,690
Outstanding Warrant (Fugitive)	656
Mental Health Reasons	9
Family Violence	429
NICS Denials	301
Under Indictment	207
Total Transactions Delayed	6,466
Reason for Delay:	
Total Transactions Delayed	6,466
Felony Arrest (No Disposition)	5,975
Family Violence (No Disposition)	471

denial of 51 percent (1,700) of the delayed firearms purchases. Of those transactions, 89 percent were approved, while 11 percent were denied. The majority of the purchases denied were due to felony convictions and outstanding indictments for felony charges.

In the cases where firearms are sold to individuals who were prohibited from possessing them, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is notified and the weapon retrieved. Since the policy change, 17 retrievals were initiated, with five weapons recovered.

The Firearms Program processed 190,969 instant background checks from federally licensed firearms dealers during the 2003 fiscal year. This represents a seven percent decrease in volume over transactions processed in the previous fiscal year. Instant background checks resulted in 181,231 (95 percent) approved firearm

sales. Of the total checks processed, 135,104 (71 percent) were approved instantly, requiring no further action.

Envoy Automated Licensing Systems of Nashville, Tennessee, through their VeriFAX program, provides a point-of-sale instant background check service to large volume firearms dealers in Georgia. This service allows dealers to enter and receive the same information they would receive from a firearms program operator, without going through the operator, saving both the dealer and the firearms program time and expense. During

FORCIBLE FELON NOTIFICATION PROGRAM: A 2000 amendment to O.C.G.A. 16-11-131 made it a felony for any person convicted of a forcible felony or on first offender probation for a forcible felony, to attempt to purchase a firearm.

Subsequently, in January 2001, GCIC implemented procedures to notify local law enforcement authorities when an instant background check determines that a person convicted of a forcible felony has attempted to purchase a firearm.

Within four to eight hours of a final determination that a potential purchaser is disqualified from buying a gun because of a forcible felony conviction or first offender probation, GCIC sends an Administrative Message via the CJIS network to the county sheriff and city police chief of the county and city in which the attempted purchase occurred. Copies of this message are sent to the district attorney and probation or

parole office (if appropriate for individuals currently on probation or parole as identified by the Department of Corrections' Offender Status file).

This message contains information on the subject and location of the dealer where the attempt occurred. Information is provided for possible criminal investigation and/or any further law enforcement action deemed appropriate.

During FY'03:

- GCIC disseminated 415 messages regarding convicted forcible felons who attempted to purchase firearms.
- Thirty-one individuals were on active probation or parole.
- Law enforcement agencies have advised that 82 arrests have been made for attempt to purchase and/or possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program continued to provide crime and arrest statistics to local law enforcement agencies, the Governor and General Assembly, the Criminal Justice Coordinating


Council, county and municipal officials, media representatives and to interested citizens through the publication of "Crime in Georgia-2002" and 90 special reports.

The UCR program also col-

lects special family violence act (FVA) incident reports. A total of 41,455 family violence incident reports were processed during FY'03.

COMPLIANCE & Security

CJIS COMPLIANCE AUDITS

 GCIC, as the Control Terminal Agency for the state, is responsible for biennial audits of Georgia criminal justice agencies operating computer terminals on the CJIS network. During FY'03, GCIC's CJIS Audit staff conducted 643 audits of local agencies. Audit production successfully closed the current biennial audit cycle. In addition, audit staff provided advisory services to local agencies. The Audit Team also administered 268 hours of training and testing to 1,115 criminal justice personnel.

The FBI Access Integrity Unit regards the Georgia CJIS audit program as one of the best in the nation. This year's FBI audit results were unprecedented for Georgia. Not only was GCIC found in full compliance with all FBI issues, but also the composite error rate of 1.57 percent for locally-audited hot files was far below the current national average of 3.02 percent.

CCH COMPLIANCE AUDITS

The Computerized Criminal History (CCH) Compliance Audit is a valuable program that Georgia relies on to keep its CCH database up-to-date. New CCH audit requirements make continuation of this program imperative for Georgia's criminal justice system.

Utilizing federal funds awarded under the Edward Byrne Program for criminal history record improvement, GCIC grant staff conducts performance audits of Georgia criminal justice agencies, focusing on the reporting to GCIC of arrest fingerprint cards and corresponding final disposition information as required by state statute. In addition, grant staff researches local court and other criminal justice files seeking final disposition information that has not been

previously reported for arrests that are on the CCH file/database.

During FY'03, grant staff:

- Conducted 272 CCH compliance audits
- Researched 30,028 reported arrests sent to GCIC without a corresponding final disposition
- Located final disposition information in 11,620 cases.

Such activity benefits not only criminal justice officials investigating criminal activity and adjudicating criminal cases, but also benefits the GCIC Firearms Program by providing information needed to properly process record check requests on persons attempting to purchase firearms.

COMPUTER SERVICES SECURITY OPERATIONS

During FY'03, GCIC received requests from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for computerized investigative support in more than 2,026 high priority cases. A total of 5,277 reports were produced as a result of these requests. GCIC produced 370 reports, detailing inquiries of CJIS databases, in response to 404 requests for such assistance.

CUSTOMER Support

G CIC's Customer Support Section is responsible for providing training and consultative services for Georgia's criminal justice agencies on all GCIC programs and services. During FY'03, 6,431 criminal justice employees received training from 1,643 hours of instruction. Each staff member of this section is a certified P.O.S.T. (Peace Officers Standards & Training) instructor. In addition, the Customer Support representatives visited 773 criminal justice agencies while provid-

ing consultative services.

The Customer Support Section also planned and coordinated the 2002 Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) Conference hosted by GCIC. More than 830 TACs attended the conference, receiving instruction on issues current to the operation of Georgia's criminal justice community. Planning and support for this annual conference requires resources from all of GCIC's components.

PLANS & PROGRAM Development

CCH SYSTEM REDESIGN & MODERNIZATION

G CIC entered into a contractual agreement with the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) to analyze and document the current Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system. GTRI is responsible for providing

the research and analytical capability to document the database, data definitions, and the various programs and modules. In addition, GTRI developed database conversion rules to aid in the migration of the current CCH database to its new

schema. The first phase was complete on October 31, 2002.

The second phase consists of creating business rules for the new system. These rules provide greater detail on how the new system will operate.

COURTS AUTOMATION

GCIC continues to be heavily involved with court disposition automation efforts, and as a result of these efforts, 129 courts representing 69 counties in Georgia now have automat-

ed court disposition reporting capabilities. In addition, GCIC is working with the Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) to automate court disposition data

from all 159 Superior Court clerks' offices. Georgia Superior Court clerks are responsible for providing electronic collection and transmission of disposition data to the

GSCCCA. The GSCCCA then transmits the disposition data to GCIC. Court automation vendors must meet the GCIC and GSCCCA guidelines. Four vendors have met the GCIC requirements for

transmission of final disposition data as outlined in the GCIC Automated Disposition Guide. As a result, these vendors have been approved to send final disposition data from their local court sites to the GSCCCA server and to GCIC.

IMAGE ARCHIVE SYSTEM

The Image Archive System stores documents containing National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) fingerprint images, mug shot images, miscellaneous images and document images. Images, which serve to substantiate criminal history information, are stored as

events and can be retrieved for review or printing by GCIC and eventually by local criminal justice agencies. The system was fully operational in July 2001. In June 2003, more storage space was added to meet the growth in fingerprint image and mug shot submissions.

RETRIEVAL & REPORTING SYSTEM

In April 2003, GCIC completed installation of a new Retrieval & Reporting System (RRS). This system provides investigative data to assist local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in developing leads and/or identifying potential suspects. The system stores network activity data that is

considered as public information and subject to the Open Records Act. The system also enables agencies throughout the state to have rapid response to inquiries for criminal network traffic data stored by the GBI.

The RSS currently has nine months of logged data

transactions. Network activity data is logged and stored for the current year plus the previous four. Therefore, this new system will operate in combination with the prior system for the next four years. The GCIC Computer Services group operates and maintains this system.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

GCIC is actively involved in an effort to improve the sharing of criminal justice data among local, state and federal agencies. An Integrated Justice Strategic Plan is being updated to provide a framework for the coordina-

tion of integrated statewide criminal justice systems where accurate, precise, and comprehensive criminal

justice information will be shared and evaluated by all components of the criminal justice system.

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

The State of Georgia is in the process of implementing a virtual private network (VPN). With the statewide implementation of the VPN, Georgia will meet all federal requirements mandated for the security of criminal justice data.