

GEORGIA CRIME

Information Center



134 Positions
\$\$12,664,202 Budget

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 134 employees, GCIC assists criminal justice agencies statewide by providing round-the-clock access to needed information.

Criminal Justice — Information System

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 available through CJIS 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'02, 21 additional local law enforcement and appli-

Command Staff



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cant agencies began transmitting electronic fingerprint images and data to the state's AFIS via live scan and card scan devices. A total of 75 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 73 percent of criminal and 11 percent of applicant fingerprint cards received for processing. The average processing time for electronic transmission is ten 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 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 12,116 tenprint and latent print searches were initiated from these AFIS remote terminals during FY'02. These inquiries resulted in 1,315 tenprint (offender identification) hits and 914 hits on latent prints left at crime scenes.

FY'02: 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
- Dougherty County Sheriff's Office
- Fulton County Police Department
- 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

Research & Development



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Assistant Deputy
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Compliance Support



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Security Operations



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FY'02 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 searches are those automated searches made against the Unsolved Latent Print file from criminal arrest 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.

The processing of non-electronic criminal and

applicant fingerprint cards remained current throughout FY'02 with an average processing time of 48 hours for criminal cards and 72 hours for applicant cards. These turnaround times ensure a timely creation or update of Georgia computerized criminal history records or response to civil

background checks.

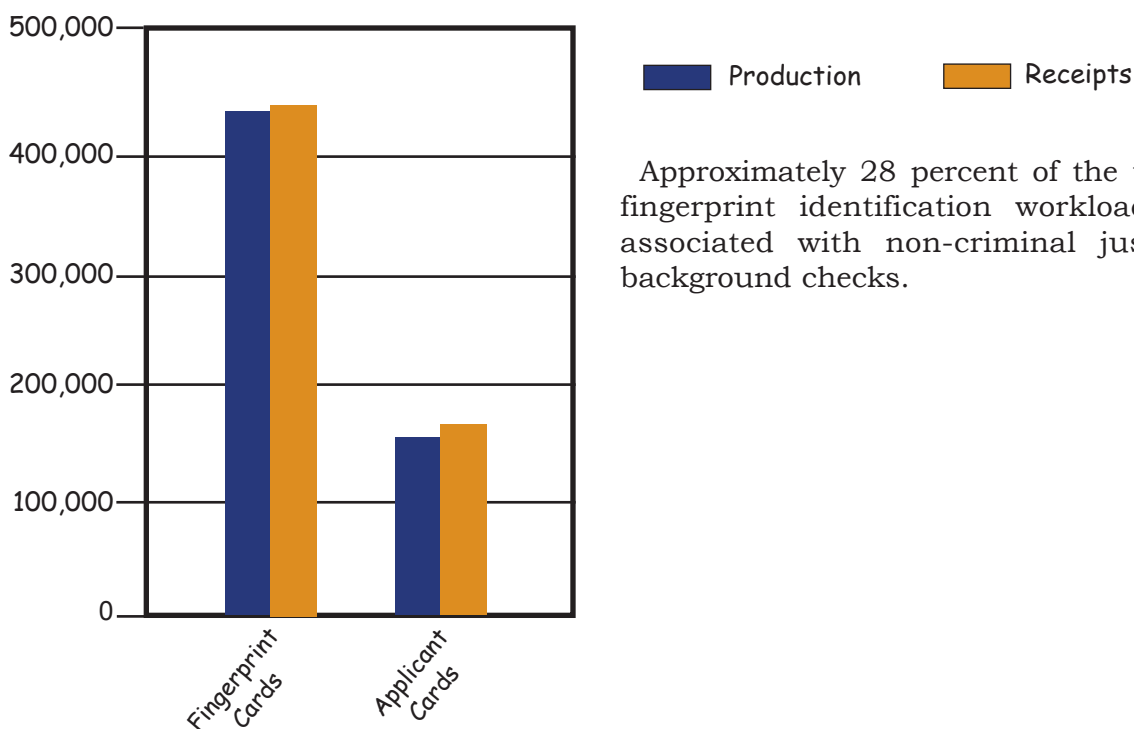
During FY'02, total submissions of criminal fingerprint cards (including live scan transmissions) decreased slightly (1.2 percent), while submissions of applicant fingerprint cards increased by nine percent over FY'01 submission totals.

Activity

Production

AFIS Searches	572,486
AFIS Matches	343,719
Tenprint to Latent Inquiries	529,984
Tenprint to Latent Hits	95

FY'02: Production & Receipts



Approximately 28 percent of the total fingerprint identification workload is associated with non-criminal justice background checks.

CRIMINAL HISTORY REPOSITORY

At the close of FY'02, GCIC maintained fingerprint and criminal history records on 2,395,293 individuals. An additional 106,612 individuals were added to the Georgia Computerized Criminal History (CCH) file during the year, which represents a 4.7 percent growth rate. An additional 821,269

CCH records were updated with subsequent arrests or disposition information.

Seventy percent of all arrests dating from the early 1970s to the present have final dispositions reported. More than 80 percent of all arrests reported in the last two to seven years have a final disposition reported. A total of 376,374 final disposition

reports were posted to CCH records during FY'02, with 20 percent reported electronically from courts and prosecutors.

A total of 16,868 requests for special record reviews and corrections were completed during the fiscal year. These requests came from law enforcement/criminal justice agencies

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

A total of 1,221,895 Georgia CCH records were disseminated via the CJIS network to in-state and out-of-state criminal justice agencies.

CJIS NETWORK

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'02, 10,600 CJIS network terminals processed more than 154 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'02.

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. This is critical for utilizing enhanced capabilities of NCIC 2000. 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'02, 12 percent of agencies had converted to TCP/IP. The final date for conversion is July 1, 2004. 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. These options will be explored in FY'03.

The extension of the conversion deadline date to July 1, 2004, will allow the GCIC/GTA design team more time to complete the evaluation, testing, and possibly implementation of alternative solutions, such as a VPN solution.

GTA will continue to order and install the data circuits and routers to support the TCP/IP protocol for the CJIS conversion. Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) has completed their contract for providing planning and guidance for network security requirements. GTA will provide the ongoing guidance and support for network security requirements for CJIS connectivity based on the FBI, GCIC, and GTA security requirements.

NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER (NCIC) 2000 PROJECT: A project team representing all relevant GCIC work groups was established to ensure that the FBI mandated deadline was met. Project work groups addressed the following areas: Infrastructure and connectivity; documentation and testing; data security; technical audit development and training.

Documentation and testing was completed and local warrants were uploaded to NCIC as part of the NCIC 2000 process. In addition, updated NCIC 2000 manuals were printed and mailed to local agencies and GCIC successfully implemented the NCIC 2000 formats on July 11, 2002.

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 6,157 offenders, with 1,126 added during FY'02. More than 2,300 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 FY98. During FY'02, the SVO registry portion of the Web page received more than 1,432,800 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 into law by Governor Roy E. Barnes. The law gave GCIC authority for the development and operation of a state protective order registry.

The Georgia Protective Order Registry (GPOR) is a Web-based system that tracks protective orders. The registry is populated with images of orders and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) data scanned and keyed in by Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) and then transferred to the GCIC server. From that data, GCIC creates and maintains the protective order database that contains images of orders, indexes to images and also includes an NCIC flag to display NCIC updates. GCIC subsequently

transfers data to NCIC for inclusion into the national registry.

Georgia's registry serves as a central repository providing law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys and the courts access to protective orders issued by Georgia courts as well as courts of other states and jurisdictions 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the courts are authorized to access information in the registry. To access the web page, local agencies must have Internet capabilities and log-on using an ID/Password.

The user will have the capability to search for an existing order and check the status of orders (e.g. active, inactive, continued or dismissed). The user can also enter vital information through the Web page such as the service date or other information the sheriff may acquire while serving the protective order. The user also can print a copy of the order.

FIREARMS PROGRAM

INSTANT GUNCHECK:

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 persons prohibited by either state or federal laws are barred from the purchase of firearms. 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.

The program processed 205,607 instant background checks from federally licensed firearm dealers during FY'02. This represents a less than 1 percent decrease in

The Firearms Program processed 205,607 instant background checks from federally-licensed firearms dealers during the fiscal year. Of those, 197,159 or 68 percent resulted in approved firearms sales. Approximately, 139,025 were approved instantly, requiring no further action.

FY'02: Firearms Program Activity

Total Telephone Calls Answered	96,650
Total Transactions	205,607
Total Transactions Approved	197,159
Total Transactions Denied	8,420

Reasons for Denial:

Felony Conviction	1,652
Felony Arrest (No Disposition)	5,402
Outstanding Warrant (Fugitive)	366
Mental Health Reasons	13
Family Violence	824
NICS Denials	163

volume over transactions processed in the previous fiscal year. Instant background checks resulted in 197,159 or 96 percent approved firearm sales. Of the total checks processed, 139,025 or 68 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 FY'02, VeriFAX processed 108,957 transactions or 53 percent of the total transactions.

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'02:

- GCIC disseminated 452 messages regarding convicted forcible felons who attempted to purchase a firearm.
- Thirty-six (36) individuals were on active probation or parole.
- Law enforcement agencies have advised that 93 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-2001" and 133 special reports.

The UCR program also collects special family violence act (FVA) incident reports. During FY'02, a total of 47,802 family violence incident reports were processed.

COMPLIANCE & Security

CJIS COMPLIANCE AUDITS

GCIC, as Control Terminal Agency for the State, is responsible for biennial audits of Georgia criminal justice agencies operating computer terminals on the CJIS net-

work. During FY'02 GCIC's CJIS Audit staff conducted 452 audits of local agencies. Audit production successfully closed the current biennial audit cycle. In addition, audit staff provid-

ed advisory services to local agencies. The Georgia CJIS audit program is regarded as exemplary by the FBI Access Integrity Unit.

CCH COMPLIANCE AUDITS

Utilizing federal funds awarded under the Edward Byrne Program for criminal history record improvement, GCIC grant staff conduct performance audits of Georgia criminal justice agencies, which focus on the reporting to GCIC of arrest fingerprint cards and corresponding final disposition information as required by state statute. In addition, grant staff research 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'02, grant staff:

- Conducted 138 CCH compliance audits
- Researched 28,986 reported arrests sent to GCIC without a corresponding final disposition
- Located final disposition information in 10,740 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.

The grant staff also conducted a comprehensive audit of GCIC processes designed for handling criminal record documents for inclusion to the central criminal record database. This six-month project yielded beneficial results and further strengthened the procedures and practices underway to handle criminal record documents. The CCH Compliance program was in its sixth year at the close of FY'02. With continued federal funding uncertain passed FY'03, GCIC management is evaluating the inclusion of these programs into its ongoing operations as of FY'04.

SECURITY OPERATIONS

During FY'02, GCIC received requests from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for computerized investigative support in more than 2,369 high priority cases. A total of 5,883 reports were produced as a result of these requests. GCIC produced 601 reports, detailing inquiries of CJIS databases, in response to 502 requests for such assistance. GCIC also provided 4,458 criminal history records to attorneys for use in pending criminal cases or for their clients in other matters.

CUSTOMER Support

GIC'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'02, 4,061 criminal justice employees received training within 1,749 hours of instruction. Each staff member of this section is a certified POST Instructor. In addition, the Customer Support Section provided core

planning and development work for an annual conference for CJIS Network Terminal Agency Coordinators (TACs). The August 2001 conference had more than 800 conferees that met to receive instruction on issues current to the operation of Georgia's criminal justice community. Planning and support for this annual conference requires resources from all GCIC operating components.

CJIS UPGRADES

Integration

UNISYS MAINFRAME

During FY'02, critical groundwork was laid to upgrade GCIC's Unisys mainframe computer that supports GCIC's legacy applications including the CJIS network and the CCH database. The upgrade scheduled for completion in the fall of 2002 will provide faster processing, greater storage, and establish a platform that will support future CJIS integration needs.

CCH SYSTEM REDESIGN & MODERNIZATION

The current Computerized Criminal History (CCH) System is 35 years old and utilizes obsolete software as well as an outdated database schema. Redesign is essential to move the system to a new platform with graphical interfaces and a relational database so as to increase ease of access and use, provide greater flexibility in retrieval and presentation of data and allow for more effective and efficient processing. In redesigning the state's CCH system, the goal is to provide a faster

and more user-friendly system for users in the field, including officers on patrol, prosecuting attorneys and judges on the bench.

Due to the complexity of the current CCH database and the age of the system, several incremental steps must be taken to redesign and modernize it. First, the current Georgia CCH System and database must be fully analyzed, mapped and documented. As a 35-year-old system, it has become a patchwork of changes, modifications, and

dissemination limitations. GCIC entered into a contractual agreement with Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) to provide the analysis and documentation of the current CCH system. GTRI provides the research and analytical capability to develop documentation of the database, data definitions and the various programs and modules. In addition, they will develop database conversion rules to aid in the migration of the current CCH database to its new schema.

COURTS AUTOMATION

GCIC continues to be heavily involved with court disposition automation efforts, and as a result of these efforts, 122 courts representing 65 counties in Georgia now have automated 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 trans-

mission of disposition data to the GSCCCA. The GSCCCA will then transmit the disposition data to the 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

GBI awarded the Image Archive System contract in July 2000. The Image Archive System stores documents containing fingerprint images, mugshot images, miscellaneous images, document images and text data. Images are stored as substantiation for criminal history record events and can be retrieved for review or printing by GCIC and eventually, by local criminal justice

agencies. The system was fully implemented in June 2001, with the final acceptance test completed in July 2001. Currently there are more 1,088,980 images stored within the system. The number of images on file represents only images processed since the system became operational in July 2001.

VICTIM NOTIFICATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Victim Notification Information System (VNIS) will be a fully-automated system developed to notify all registered victims of any changes in the offender's custodial status. Notification is initiated by an automated call to the phone number provided by the victim when one of the following custody changes occur – release from imprisonment, transferred to work release, release on extended furlough, released by mandatory release upon expiration of sentence, escape from confinement or the offender has died.

In addition to providing victim notification, the system also will function as a Jail Locator Index Record System (JLIRS). Entries of Georgia warrants will check the JLIRS to determine if the subject of the warrant is already in jail. This capability will help law enforcement agencies identify the location of wanted persons. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being prepared with the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA).

RETRIEVAL & REPORTING SYSTEM

An RFP was written and released for a new Retrieval & Reporting System (RRS). The Unisys Corporation was chosen from a list of eight vendors bidding for the RRS contract. The installation of the software and all the components necessary for the upgrade completes Phase I of the project.

Phase II completion will include the implementation of the required design modifications, development, testing, documentation and training of the RRS system. Phase II of the RRS project has begun and is pending COBOL program changes. The COBOL program extracts transactions from

the audit trail file and sends the transactions to a log file that will be downloaded daily onto disks for storage. Once the program changes have been completed, these changes will be implemented into the new system. The system will be tested and documented followed by training of GBI personnel.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

GCIC is actively involved in the development of a plan and process to integrate and improve the sharing of criminal justice data among local, state and federal agencies. A Strategic Plan has been approved that provides a framework for the coordination of

an integrated statewide criminal justice information effort where accurate, precise and comprehensive criminal justice information is collected, processed, shared and evaluated in a timely manner.

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

GCIC, in conjunction with the GTA is in the process of developing an RFP for a Virtual Private Network (VPN) for the State's criminal justice community. With the implementation of the VPN, the State of Georgia will meet federal requirements mandated for the security of criminal justice data.