GCIC
Operations

*T*he Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) is the chief provider of criminal justice information in the state of Georgia. With a staff of 123 employees, GCIC assists criminal justice agencies statewide and nationwide by providing round-the-clock access to needed information.

INFORMATION
Services

*T*he 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.

CJIS 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.

GCIC services also include:

• The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)

• Computerized Criminal History (CCH) File

• Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) records.

FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS: Electronic submissions refer to technology using "live scan" or "card scan" devices 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'04, ten additional local law enforcement and

Command Staff
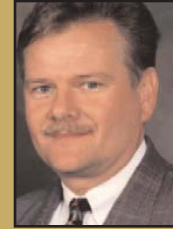
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applicant agencies began transmitting electronic fingerprint images and data to the state's AFIS via live scan and card scan devices. A total of 107 agencies currently submit arrest and applicant fingerprints electronically for their respective agencies and others for which they provide booking and applicant services. Electronic transmissions represent 83 percent of criminal and 15 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 10,814 tenprint and latent print searches were initiated from these AFIS remote terminals during FY'04. These inquiries resulted in 785 tenprint (offender identification) hits and 924 hits on latent prints left at crime scenes.

FY'04: 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'04 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'04, backlogs of non-electronic criminal fingerprint cards have been created. At the close of FY'04, the average processing time for non-electronic criminal cards was nine days from receipt. Applicant fingerprint cards were processed within 15 days of receipt throughout FY'04.
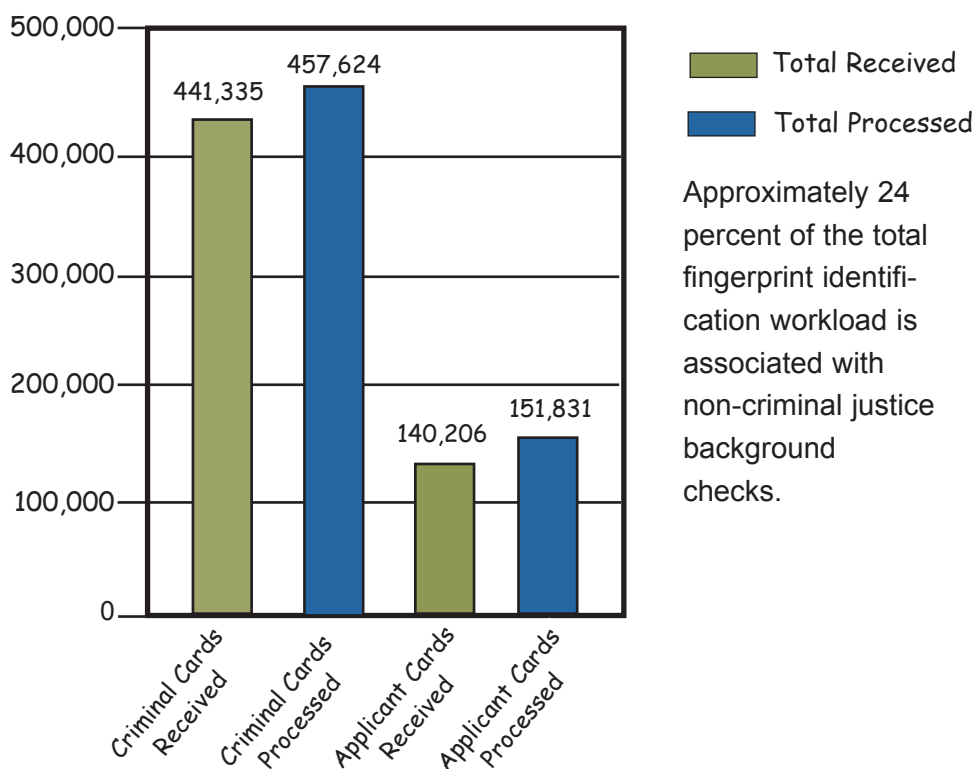
During FY'04, total submissions of criminal fingerprint cards – including live scan transmissions – increased two percent, while submissions of applicant fingerprint cards decreased 16 percent over FY'03 totals.

FY'04: AFIS Production

Activity	Production
AFIS Searches	584,030
AFIS Matches	359,580
Tenprint to Latent Inquiries	531,129
Tenprint to Latent Hits	100

FY'04: Production & Receipts

- Total Received
- Total Processed

Approximately 24 percent of the total fingerprint identification workload is associated with non-criminal justice background checks.

Criminal Cards Received: 441,335
Criminal Cards Processed: 457,624
Applicant Cards Received: 140,206
Applicant Cards Processed: 151,831

CRIMINAL HISTORY REPOSITORY

At the close of FY'04, GCIC maintained fingerprint and criminal history records on 2,597,405 individuals. An additional 111,400 individuals were added to the Georgia Computerized Criminal History (CCH) file during the year, which represents a 4.3 percent growth rate. An additional 819,401 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 362,051 final disposition reports were posted to CCH records during FY'04, with 31 percent reported electronically from courts and prosecutors.

A total of 27,040 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 1,616,797 Georgia CCH records were disseminated via the CJIS network to in-state and out-of-state criminal justice agencies.

PROTECTIVE ORDER REGISTRY

In May 1997, the FBI established a National Protection Order File, and GCIC implemented the programs to access and update the 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-hours/seven-day-a-week access to protective orders issued by Georgia courts as well as courts in other states and jurisdictions.

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 49,907 orders have been received and approximately 1,198 authorized users have been granted access to the Web site.

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 registered 9,095 offenders, with 1,371 added during FY'04. More than 6,481 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'04, the SVO registry portion of the Web page received more than 7,230,562 hits.

FIREARMS PROGRAM

INSTANT BACK-GROUND CHECK: The Georgia Firearms Program (GFP) 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'04, the Firearms Program's policy on the retention period for data on "approved transactions" was changed to a 24-hour destruction policy. On January 23, 2004, President Bush signed the Consolidated Appropriations Bill, which required all identifying data on approved transactions be destroyed within 24 hours of notifying the firearms dealer of the approval.

The FBI National Instant Check System (NICS), Georgia Firearms Program, and other participating states were given 180 days to comply with the new mandate that became effective July 21, 2004. This meant that the GFP would not maintain any descriptive data pertaining to a firearm purchaser who was approved. All descriptive data is destroyed by the end of the busi-

FY'04: Firearms Program Activity

Total Telephone Calls Answered	82,625
Total Transactions	192,211
Total Transactions Approved	183,122
Total Transactions Denied	3,275
Total Transactions Delayed	5,814

Reasons for Denial:

Felony Conviction	1,689
Outstanding Warrant (Fugitive)	556
Mental Health Reasons	2
Family Violence	460
NICS Denials	275
Under Indictment	293

Reason for Delay:

Total Transactions Delayed	5,814
Felony Arrest (No Disposition)	5,320
Family Violence (No Disposition)	494

ness day and the remaining data moves to the history file after ten days. All data from transactions that have been "delayed" or "denied" remain on the system for 90 days before moving to the history file.

The Firearms Program processed 192,211 instant background checks from federally licensed firearms dealers during the 2004 fiscal year. This represents a one percent increase in volume over transactions processed in the previous fiscal year. Instant background checks resulted in 183,122 (95 percent) approved firearm sales. Of the total checks processed, 134,349 (70 percent) were approved instantly, requiring no further action. The remaining 57,862 required additional research, resulting in 42,959 (74 percent) transactions approved; 3,275 (six percent) transactions denied; and 11,628 (20 percent) transactions were either pending or unresolved.

During FY'04, there were a total of 71 gun retrievals required due to pending transactions where a firearm was released but subsequent research produced information that the buyer was prohibited. GBI, working with the firearms dealers and buyers, retrieved 36 of those firearms.

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.

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 jurisdiction 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'04:

• GCIC disseminated 432 messages regarding convicted forcible felons who attempted to purchase firearms.

• Thirty-one individuals were on active probation or parole.

• Law enforcement agencies have made 71 arrests for attempt to purchase and/or possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. There have been 298 arrests since January of 2001.

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-2003* and 89 special reports.

The UCR program also collects special family violence act (FVA) incident reports. A total of 38,499 family violence incident reports were processed during FY'04.

COMPUTER
Services

CJIS Network

T he Criminal Justice Information System 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'04, 11,328 CJIS network terminals processed more than 140 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 the year. GCIC Computer Services – Integrated CJIS Data Center provided 24-hour, seven-day-a-week support to agencies utilizing CJIS.

CJIS Connectivity Conversion

During FY'04, GCIC continued to work with the Georgia Technology Authority to finalize plans for major network developments including the Virtual Private Network (VPN) solution and the Multi-Protocol Layer Switching (MPLS) data line conversion – both are slated to be implemented in FY'05. VPN will provide a more secure overall network and insure the CJIS network meets stricter security standards set for connectivity to the FBI's National Crime Information Center databases. The conversion of the current CJIS Network's frame circuits will improve the speed of data transfer and provide lower cost options for agencies connecting to the CJIS network. MPLS will facilitate the conversion of the remaining CJIS terminals that have yet to switch to the TCP/IP protocol. TCP/IP allows agencies to take full advantage of expanded data capabilities, such as imaging of fingerprints and mug shots.

Mainframe Computer Support

GCIC Mainframe Programming Unit programmers developed and maintained hundreds of programs that support key systems such as the Criminal History File, Sex Offender Registry, Protection Order Registry, Uniform Crime Reporting, connectivity to NCIC, and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (NLETS) to list a few.

Microcomputer Support

GCIC's Microcomputer Unit supports GBI's internal IT (Information Technology) infrastructure in more than 30 facilities housing over 900 employees statewide. In addition, the unit developed case management systems plus provided critical IT support to the GBI and other agencies at both security centers operating at the G-8 Summit.

GCIC's Computerized Investigative Support Unit extracts information to assist criminal justice agencies with criminal investigations as well as administrative management of the CJIS network. In FY'04, the unit assisted agencies with 7,424 network/database search projects.

COMPLIANCE
& Customer Support

CJIS COMPLIANCE AUDITS

GCIC, as the CJIS Systems Agency for the state, is responsible for biennial audits of Georgia criminal justice agencies operating computer terminals on the CJIS network. During FY'04, GCIC's CJIS audit staff conducted 519 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 248 hours of training and testing to 700 criminal justice personnel.

The FBI Access Integrity Unit regards the Georgia CJIS audit program as one of the best in the nation. All GCIC auditors are certified instructors through the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.).

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'04, grant staff:

• Conducted more than CCH compliance audits

• Researched more than 19,000 reported arrests sent to GCIC without a corresponding final disposition

• Located final disposition information in more than 9,000 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.

CUSTOMER
Support

GCIC'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'04, 5,713 criminal justice employees received training from 1,724 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 1,031 criminal justice agencies while providing consultative services.

The Customer Support Section also planned and coordinated the 2003 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.

Customer Support staff completed 378 statewide training sessions.

PLANS & PROGRAM
Development

CCH SYSTEM REDESIGN & MODERNIZATION

GCIC entered into a contractual agreement with the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) to analyze and document the current Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system. GTRI was responsible for providing the research and analytical capability to document the database, data definitions and 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. This first phase of the CCH project was completed on October 31, 2002. GCIC is currently working on the second phase, which consists of the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP).

COURTS AUTOMATION

GCIC continues to be heavily involved in court disposition automation efforts. There are now 184 courts representing 114 Georgia counties with automated reporting capabilities. In addition, GCIC continues to work with the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) to automate court disposition data from all 159 Superior Court Clerk's offices. To date, six vendors have met the GCIC requirements for electronic transmission of final disposition information.

AFIS UPGRADE

Georgia's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) has the ability to electronically capture and send all fingerprint cards to the FBI's (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) and return state and federal identification responses to agencies that electronically submit transactions. In addition, GCIC has the capability to electronically receive arrest-booking photos (mug shots) and juvenile arrest records submitted by local law enforcement agencies.

GCIC is in the process of upgrading AFIS so that it will support the electronic receipt of court dispositions and custodial information, allowing a timelier update of criminal history record information. In addition, the upgrade will ensure that comprehensive data is available to support background checks on persons employed in or licensed for sensitive positions and support the increasing need for criminal history record information available for authorized non-criminal justice purposes, such as background checks on persons with responsibility for children or the elderly. New hardware has been delivered and program code is currently being written.

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

The current state router network, to which all Georgia Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) users are migrating, does not provide for the new security measures to the extent required by the FBI. Therefore, Georgia is in the process of implementing a virtual private network (VPN). The VPN will employ 3DES encryption for CJIS data and provide secure access for criminal justice agencies. In addition, identification and two-factor authentication will be utilized to ensure that the CJIS network recognizes a valid user's identity and verifies the claimed identity of the user, thereby providing an enhanced level of both system and data security.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MESSAGE SWITCH

The current Law Enforcement Message Switch (LEMS) software enables criminal justice agencies to interface with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), as well as with computer systems of other vital agencies. This LEMS

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 coordination 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.

software is over 25 years old and cannot support the new demands of the criminal justice community for real-time images/data on criminal offenders and suspects.

Currently, approximately 11 million transactions are processed monthly through the GCIC message switch system. The expansion of NCIC and NLETS functionalities place additional demands on the GCIC message switch system.

Georgia is in the process of replacing the current message switch software, which will support newer capabilities and mixed image/text responses. This is the first step to ensure that a modern electronic delivery capability will exist for law enforcement, judicial and correctional agencies to access and update criminal history data more efficiently. Detailed specification work has been conducted and a Statement of Need will soon be issued.

LIVE SCAN / MUG SHOT

Georgia is in the process of implementing the capability for live scan/mug shot submission. The mug shot system will have the capability to send data and images in the prescribed format, to the transmitting live scan system that will act as a pass through for the facial images to the GBI and FBI. Live scan systems that electronically submit to the state must comply with the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) Image Quality Specifications (IQS) and those amended by the GBI. This project is in the pilot phase.