

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 119 state and grant-funded 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.

CJIS contains information on:

- Wanted and missing persons
- The Sexually Violent Offender Registry

- The Protective Order Registry
- Stolen property (vehicles, guns, boats, and securities, etc.)
- Access to other local, state and national files.

GCIC services also include:

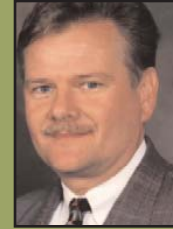
- The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
- Computerized Criminal History (CCH) file
- Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) records.

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 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'05, 29 additional local law enforcement and

Command Staff



Paul Heppner
Deputy Director

Computer Services



Gib Heuett
Assistant Deputy
Director

Information Services



Terry Gibbons
Assistant Deputy
Director

applicant agencies began transmitting electronic fingerprint images and data to the state's AFIS via live scan and card scan devices. A total of 136 agencies currently submit arrest and applicant fingerprints electronically for their agencies and 375 other agencies for which they provide booking and applicant services. Electronic transmissions represent 83 percent of criminal and 24 percent of applicant fingerprint cards received for processing. The average processing time for electronic transmission is 19 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 sub-

mission 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 10,311 tenprint and latent print searches were initiated from these AFIS remote terminals during FY'05. These inquiries resulted in 775 tenprint (offender identification) hits and 814 hits on latent prints left at crime scenes.

FY'05: Local Agencies with Remote Access

- Athens-Clarke Police Department
- Atlanta Police Department
- Bibb County Sheriff's Office
- 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
- Fayette 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/Chatham County Metropolitan Police Department
- Thomas County Sheriff's Office
- Whitfield County Sheriff's Office

Plans & Program Development



Terri Fisher
Assistant Deputy
Director

Compliance & Customer Support



Shirley Andrews
Assistant Deputy
Director

Chief of Staff



Neil Gerstenberger

FY'05 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'05, backlogs of non-electronic criminal fin-

gerprint cards have been created. At the close of FY'05, the average processing time for non-electronic criminal cards was two days from receipt. Applicant fingerprint cards were processed within 15 days of receipt throughout FY'05.

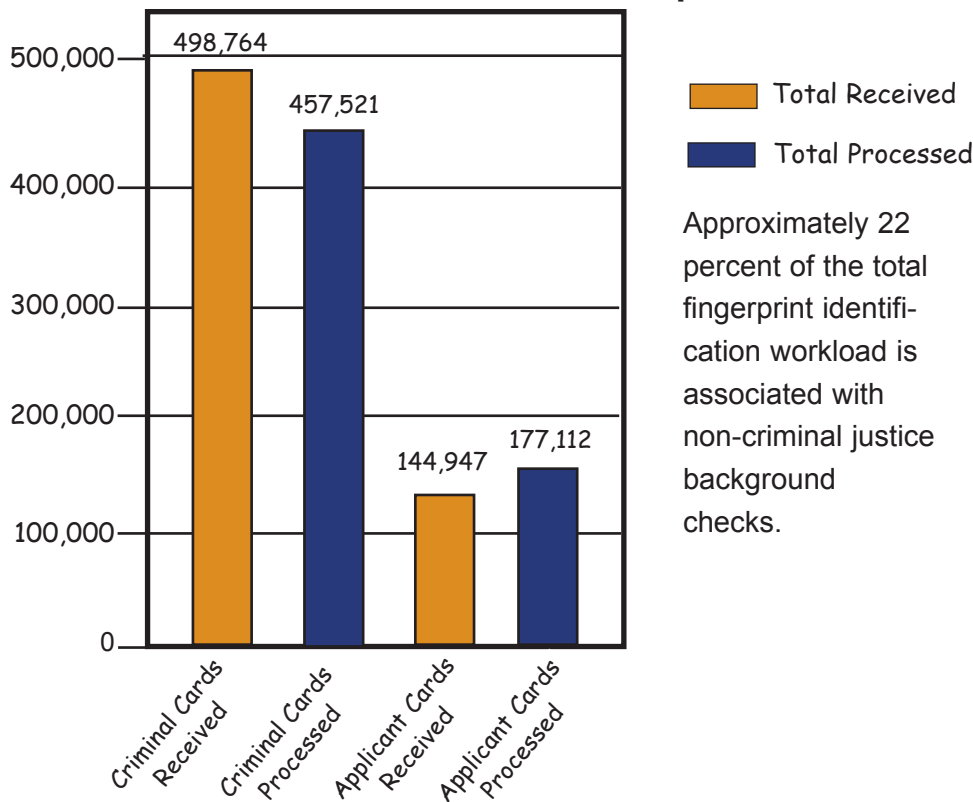
During FY'05, total sub-

missions of criminal fingerprint cards – including live scan transmissions – increased 13 percent, while submissions of applicant fingerprint cards increased three percent over FY'04 totals.

FY'05: AFIS Production

Activity	Production
AFIS Searches	611,081
AFIS Matches	362,248
Tenprint to Latent Inquiries	593,691
Tenprint to Latent Hits	71

FY'05: Production & Receipts



CRIMINAL HISTORY REPOSITORY

At the close of FY'05, GCIC maintained fingerprint and criminal history records on 2,701,719 individuals. Approximately 104,314 individuals were added to the Georgia Computerized Criminal History (CCH) file during the year, which represents a four 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.

Seventy-four percent of all felony arrests reported in the last two to seven years have a final disposition reported. A total of 391,165 final dis-

position reports were posted to CCH records during FY'05, with 42 percent reported electronically from courts and prosecutors.

A total of 33,697 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 1,546,548 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 twelve standardized forms that are included on the registry:

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

Since implementation, more than 73,191 orders have been received and approximately 1,342 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 reg-

istered 11,391 offenders, with 1,697 added during FY'05. More than 10,170 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'05, the SVO registry portion of the Web-page received 11,653,193 hits.

FIREARMS PROGRAM

INSTANT BACKGROUND CHECK:

During the 2004 General Assembly, Senate Bill 175 was passed and signed into law. The law repealed Georgia's Brady Bill (O.C.G.A. 16-11-170), which authorized the GBI to conduct background checks on people purchasing firearms in Georgia. When the law took effect on July 1, the Georgia Firearms Program (GFP) was terminated and all federally-licensed firearms dealers are now required to contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NCIS) directly for a "Brady" background check. Employees assigned to the GBI program were reassigned to other areas within GCIC.

The GFP processed 194,598 instant background checks from federally-licensed firearms dealers during the 2005 fiscal year. This represents a one-percent increase in volume over transactions processed in the previous fiscal year. Instant background checks resulted in 184,117 (95 percent) approved firearms

FY'05: Firearms Program Activity

Total Telephone Calls Answered	89,169
Total Transactions	194,598
Total Transactions Approved	184,117
Total Transactions Denied	3,252
Total Transactions Delayed	7,229

Reasons for Denial:

Felony Conviction	1,627
Outstanding Warrant (Fugitive)	597
Mental Health Reasons	3
Family Violence	436
NICS Denials	370
Under Indictment	219

Reason for Delay:

Felony Arrest (No Disposition)	6,588
Family Violence (No Disposition)	641

sales. Of these, 136,584 (74 percent) transactions were approved requiring no further action. The remaining 58,014 required additional research which resulted in 47,533 (82 percent) approved; 3,252 (six percent) denied; and 7,229 (12 percent) were either pending or unresolved.

During FY'05, there were 62 gun retrievals

due to pending transactions where a firearm was sold but subsequent research produced information that the buyer was

prohibited. The GBI, working with the firearms dealers and buyers, was able to retrieve 46 of those firearms.

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 when an instant background check determines that a person convicted of a forcible felony is attempting to purchase a firearm.

Within four to eight hours of a final determination that a potential purchaser is dis-

qualified 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'05:

- GCIC disseminated 411 messages regarding convicted forcible felons who attempted to purchase firearms.
- Nineteen individuals were on active probation or parole.
- Law enforcement agencies made 42 arrests for attempt to purchase and/or possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. There have been 331 arrests since January of 2001.

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-2004* and 79 special reports.

The UCR program also collects special Family Violence Act (FVA) incident reports. A total of 35,641 family violence incident reports were processed during FY'05.

The Georgia Crime Information Center

(GCIC) continues to develop a Web-based UCR Reporting system. This new program will allow and require reporting of all UCR monthly, supplemental, and FVA reports via the Internet. Once the Web-based program is implemented, GCIC will no longer accept and process paper reports. Plans

are to begin testing in November 2005 and implementation in July 2006. Law enforcement agencies will be converted to this new system in phases to ensure that all are properly registered with a UCR Web user identification, password and security code.

COMPUTER Services

CJIS Network

The 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'05, 12,093 CJIS network terminals processed more than 156 million messages in support of criminal justice agencies within Georgia, the nation, and around the world. The CJIS network had availability 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'05, 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 to be implemented in FY'06. VPN will provide a more secure overall network and insure the CJIS network meets stricter security standards 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, Protective 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 more than 900 employees statewide. In addition, the unit developed case management systems plus provided critical IT support to the GBI in major cases.

Investigative Support

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'05, 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 triennial audits of Georgia criminal justice agencies operating computer terminals on the CJIS network. During FY'05, GCIC's CJIS audit staff conducted 394 audits and 18 follow-up audits of local agencies. In addition, audit staff provided on-site advisory services to 203 local agencies. The audit team also administered 321 hours of training and testing to 670 criminal justice personnel.

The FBI Access Integrity Unit regards the Georgia CJIS audit program as one of the best in the nation. The FBI conducted a biennial audit of GCIC/GBI as well as selected local agencies in January 2005. This audit was one of the best for GCIC. All audited agencies as well as GCIC audit staff responsibilities were fully compliant.

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'05, grant staff:

- Conducted 134 CCH compliance audits
- Researched more than 23,340 reported arrests sent to GCIC without a corresponding final disposition
- Located final disposition information in more than 4,972 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

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'05, 8,133 criminal justice employees received training from 1,973 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 1,159 criminal justice agencies while providing consultative services.

The Customer Support Section also planned and coordinated the 2004 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 457 statewide training sessions.

PLANS & PROGRAM Development

CCH SYSTEM REDESIGN & MODERNIZATION

The current Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system is 35 years old and is based on technology from the 1970s. The **G** CCH database contains approximately 2.7 million offenders with 2.7 million identification records, 10 million arrest records, 7 million judicial records and

892,000 custodial records. The system utilizes COBOL software and operates on a Unisys proprietary database management system (DMS). GCIC is seeking to replace the current CCH system with a modern, robust and real-time system. The CCH system redesign and modernization project will be accomplished in

phases. The first phase was completed in October 2002 with the analysis and documentation of the current CCH system by the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). The second phase is selecting a vendor for the implementation of the new system. A Request for Proposal (RTF) was released in June of 2005.

COURTS AUTOMATION

GCIC continues to be involved in court disposition automation efforts. There are now 223 courts representing 138 Georgia counties with automated

reporting capabilities. In addition, GCIC continues to work with the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA)

to certify vendors/case management systems that will allow the automation of court disposition data from all 159 superior court clerks'

offices. To date, eight vendors/case management systems have met the GCIC and GSCCCA requirements for transmission final disposition data.

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 (mugshots) and juvenile arrest records submitted by local law enforcement agencies.

GCIC is in the process of upgrading the Transaction Management System (TNET) of AFIS. The upgrade includes enhancement that provide for faster identification responses for criminal and applicant finger-

print records submitted to GCIC and the FBI. In addition, the TNET upgrade allows for the acceptance of an electronic FBI rap-sheet that local agencies can request through live scan submissions.

A future upgrade to AFIS will support the electronic receipt of court dispositions and custodial information, allowing a quicker 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.

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

The GCIC Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) network is undergoing an extensive, system-wide conversion and upgrade.

Distinctive features of the new system will include a Virtual Private Network (VPN), employing SSL and IP/sec protocols and 128-bit encryption for CJIS data to meet or exceed the FBI's

information security requirements. Two-factor authentication will be used to ensure that the CJIS network validates and authenticates the user's identity and authorizations, providing an enhanced level of both system and data security. In addition, agencies will be converting to a more

efficient multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) environment, virtually eliminating the requirement for expensive, dedicated communication lines. Agencies are now in the process of migrating to a MPLS. The current migration schedule is to have all sites converted to the MPLS by March 2006.

LIVE SCAN / MUGSHOT/RAPSHEET

Georgia has implemented the capability for live scan systems to electronically submit mugshot images with each fingerprint submission to GCIC. The mugshot system has the capability to send data and images in the prescribed format to the transmitting

live scan system, which acts as a pass-through for the facial images to the GBI and FBI. All live scan vendors have upgraded their existing software to be compliant with the requirements of the AFIS TNET upgrade.

An exciting feature of this upgrade is the capability to

accept electronic FBI rapsheets. For each fingerprint record submitted electronically, local agencies have the option of requesting an FBI rapsheet. The rapsheet will be returned to the agency's live scan system.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MESSAGE SWITCH

Unisys Corporation has been awarded the contract to implement the new message switch software, replacing the current Law Enforcement Message Switch (LEMS) software. Unisys will migrate the current LEMS to the new LEMS/JX which is a Windows-based server environment. LEMS/JX will interface with the FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and the other vital

state systems. LEMS/JX supports the new features of the NCIC 2000 System, such as messages with graphical images and binary file attachments. It also provides improved access from mobile and wireless devices.

In addition, LEMS/JX uses Graphical User Interface (GUI) screens with a Microsoft Windows look, making the application more user-friendly.

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.

SECURITY & INTEGRITY ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

In April 2005, GCIC contracted with a company to design a Web-based training and testing system for the Security and Integrity (S&I) Criminal Justice Information Training course. This course is required by the FBI and GCIC for all criminal justice employees who handle/access criminal history record information. Regulations require that these individuals receive S&I training within 60 days of the date of hire. In order to assist in fulfilling this mandated training requirement, GCIC's Compliance and Customer Support unit in conjunction with the Plans and Program Development unit, developed a Web-based learning management system to meet the demands of certification requirements.

The purpose of the S&I online training course is:

- To increase ease of access and use

- To provide greater flexibility in the testing process
- To achieve a more effective and efficient certification process.
- To provide a fast and user-friendly Web-based training system to criminal justice agency personnel throughout Georgia, while creating an intrastate standard of education and learning for compliance and training.

This online learning approach will benefit both GCIC and all of the state's criminal justice agencies. Agencies will be able to access the training program any hour of the day, which will ease scheduling and overtime issues. GCIC will benefit by having more time and resources to provide customer support and training in other important areas.

With the online training program, users

are able to receive certification training and testing at their convenience without the burden of travel and cost of attending training in a classroom setting. The course takes approximately two hours, and the S&I certification test is administered online. All test scores are automatically

logged for each user completing the certification process. In addition, the S&I system registers each user for the training course and automatically notifies the local terminal agency coordinators (TAC) when individuals are required to recertify.