Georgia Bureau of Investigation
August Monthly Report
FY2024

Presented to the Board of Public Safety
October 12, 2023

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Director

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Noteworthy Cases & Operational Support

- GBI Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) -- On September 7, 2023, Megan Lowery, age 36, of Morganton, Laura Kilgo, age 55, of Ooltewah, TN, and Amanda Lang, age 41, of Blue Ridge were arrested following an investigation into the selling of pressed fentanyl pills.

  Lowery, Kilgo, and Lang were pulled over for a traffic violation on Highway 5 in McCaysville, GA. Police found about 75 suspected fentanyl pills in Lang's possession. Kilgo had about 250 suspected fentanyl pills and suspected methamphetamine. Further investigation revealed that the women had driven to a home in Tennessee to pick up the pills. Tennessee law enforcement authorities later executed a search warrant at the TN home. Police seized over 500 suspected fentanyl pills, money, & two firearms, arresting 10 people on drug related charges.

  Lowery was charged with Possession of Drug Related Objects. Kilgo was charged with Trafficking Fentanyl, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Possession of Drug Related Objects. Lang was charged with Trafficking Fentanyl and Possession of Drug Related Objects. All three women were booked into the Fannin County Adult Detention Center.

  The Fannin County Sheriff's Office, Gilmer County Sheriff's Office, Dalton Police Department, Cleveland (TN) Police Department, 10th Judicial (TN) Drug Task Force, and GBI's Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office all participated in this investigation.

- Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit – On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, after a joint investigation involving the Echols County Sheriff's Office and the GBI's HEAT Unit, Genara Juan-Ramos, age 30, of Lake Park, GA, was charged with two counts of 1st degree Cruelty to Children and one count of Human Trafficking.

  On February 8, 2023, the Echols County Sheriff's Office requested GBI's HEAT Unit assist with a human trafficking case involving a minor. The investigation revealed that the minor was a victim of human trafficking for labor servitude. The offender was the victim's aunt, Genara Juan-Ramos. After entering the U.S., the minor victim was forced to work in produce fields. Juan-Ramos was also physically abusive to the minor victim. The victim eventually ran away and sought help from law enforcement.

  This investigation is another example of interagency collaboration between multiple law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking.

- Commercial Gambling Unit (CGU) - On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the GBI's CGU, along with the GBI's Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office, the Tifton Police Department, and the Tift County Sheriff's Office served arrest warrants for six of seven people indicted on multiple gambling related charges. A Tift County Grand Jury returned true bill indictments on Monday, September 11, 2023, for violations of Georgia's gambling laws and related offenses.

  Based on the indictments, arrests warrants were secured for the following: Dron Modi, 29, of Tifton; Prajakta Modi, 51, of Tifton; Tarunkumar Modi, 52, of Tifton: Mukeshkumar Patel, 55, of Tifton; Sunny Patel, 22, of Tifton; Jagatpal Singh, 48, of Tifton; and Charles Monroe, Jr., 38, of Tifton. Six are being held at the Tift County Jail. Charles Monroe, Jr. is not in custody, but there is an active warrant for his arrest.

  During the course of a lengthy investigation, agents discovered businesses operating Coin Operated Amusement Machines (COAMS) where customers were receiving cash payouts for winning credits. In

Georgia, COAMS must be properly licensed by the Georgia Lottery and credits may only be redeemed for non-cash prizes such as lottery tickets and/or store merchandise.

- Office of Special Investigations (OSI) - Cold Case Unit (CCU) – The Coleman-Baker Act (CBA) request webform has been on the GBI website Home page since June 30, 2023. Sixteen (16) cold cases are being reviewed at this time. Six (6) were requests from designated family members and ten (10) were self-initiated.

- From January 1 to September 30, 2023, the GBI has investigated a total of 71 Officer Involved Shootings (OIS). OIS number 71 was on September 23, 2023. GBI's Region 2 Field Office was requested by Muscogee County Sheriff's Office to investigate an OIS that occurred in a hotel in Columbus, GA. The subject had multiple warrants out of Lee County, Alabama. As officers approached the hotel room, the subject began firing at the officers, at which time several officers discharged their firearms at the subject. The subject is deceased, no officers were injured.

Trainings and Projects

Legal Division

- During the month of September, four Gang Database Training sessions were held -- Douglas, Georgia on September 7; Appling, Georgia on September 12; Douglasville, Georgia on September 19; and Perry, Georgia on September 27.

Division of Forensic Sciences

- GBI's Crime Lab Director and Human Resources Recruiter attended Emory University's Rollins School of Public Heath Career Day on September 15, 2023, where students were exposed to careers in forensic science at the GBI.

- GBI's Crime Lab Director and Investigative Division Director, along with the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) Director, traveled to Amman, Jordan to discuss establishing an exchange program to further training and best practice initiatives.

- Two GBI Medical Examiners attended Emory's Career Day. Multiple students, who previously were not considering forensic pathology, have since contacted our Medical Examiner's Office to set up shadowing experiences.

- Members of GBI Command Staff and Medical Examiner's Office attended the Georgia Coroner's Association Meeting on September 22, 2023.

Georgia Crime Information Center

- The GCIC Staff attended the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) Conference held September 11 - 15, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia.

- The Georgia Applicant Processing Service (GAPS) transaction fee increase has been postponed. All agencies impacted were notified.

Investigative Division

- The Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes (CEACC) Unit facilitated an Undercover Chat course the week of August 14, 2023, for 23 Georgia ICAC Task Force affiliates. The CEACC Unit also facilitated an Introduction to ICAC Investigations course the week of September 4, 2023, for 28 Georgia ICAC Task Force affiliates.

- GBI's Leadership Academy, Level 1 - Class 1, graduated on August 17, 2023, after completing three training modules over the course of three weeks. The modules are comprised of eight leadership pillars and other pertinent aspects of leadership, such as Teamwork Pillar, Communication Pillar, Media Relations, and Employment Issues. The 25 graduates were a combination of promotable Special Agent 3s and Assistant Special Agents in Charge.

- GBI's Investigative Division personnel facilitated a Resiliency Training course for 18 Crime Lab Managers August 22 - 24, 2023.

- Twenty-two Special Agent applicants are in the hiring process, polygraphs and backgrounds are ongoing. Command Staff Interviews are scheduled for mid-October.

- Twenty-six new Special Agents started Basic Agent Academy on September 24, 2023.

Personnel Matters

- On September 18, 2023, Special Agent Rebecca Herold was presented the National Task Force Officer of the Year Award for her work on the FBI Safe Streets Task Force.

- During the 60th International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Annual Training Conference held in September 2023, GBI Inspector Eve Rodgers was presented the 2023 International Association of Women Police Mentoring and Coaching Award.

Promotions Effective October 2023

- Bonnie Slaney was promoted to CJIS Compliance Program Manager in the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC), effective October 1, 2023.

Facilities Update

- GBI-77 New Region 1 Field Office – Preconstruction meeting scheduled for mid-October.

- Mausoleum – Metal Canopy fabrication in process, 6-8 weeks until installation.

- HQ Facility Hardening Project – Manufacturer is currently refabricating the glazing material.

- HQ Main Building – Main Building Switchgear Replacement Phase 1 was completed September 30, 2023.

- HQ Green Room – Ceiling, HVAC, and painting complete.

GBI Employment Opportunities
FY2024

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
DOFS	61	61										
Scientist Positions	18	19										
Investigative Division	43	46										
Sworn Agent Positions	29	32										
GCIC	2	4										
Admin	9	8										

GBI Administration

Office of Privacy & Compliance/Open Records

	August 2023	Total FY 2024
Open Records Requests	477	925
Archives	23	32

Investigative Division

Investigative Hours Expended - YTD FY2024
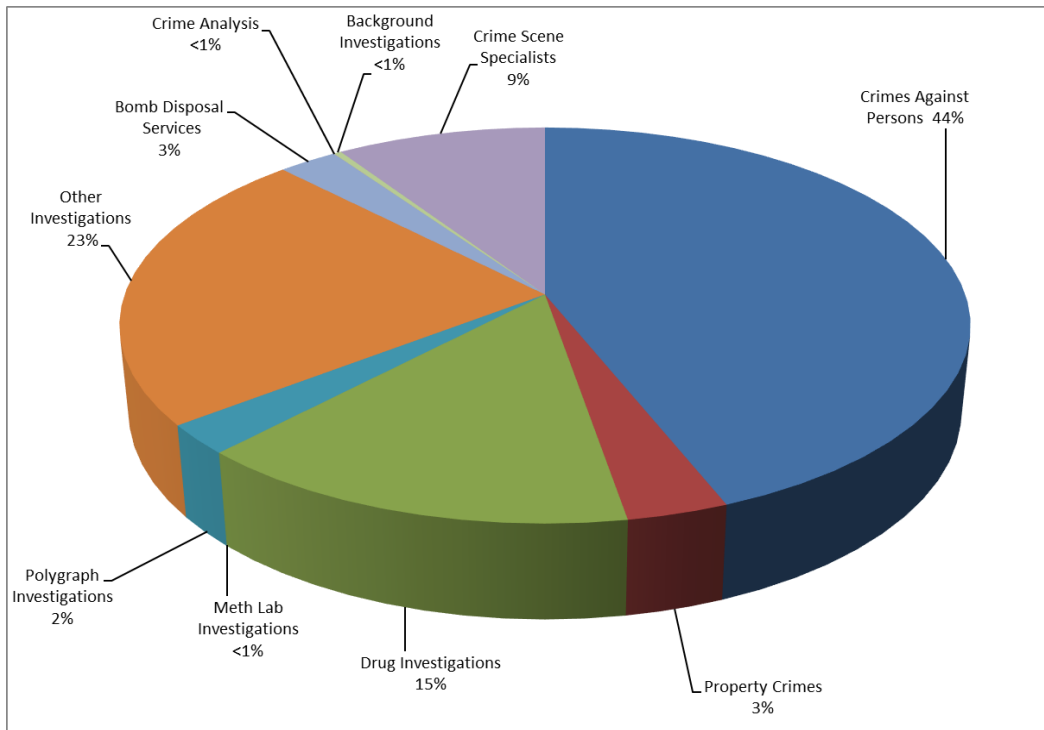
Crime Lab

Medical Examiners (includes all laboratories)

	August 2023	FY2024 YTD
Autopsies	421	855
Consultations	205	395
Total ME Cases Managed	**626**	**1,250**

Percentage of Cases Released in 90 days: 63.3%

Medical Examiner Activity, FY2024

Consultations 32%

Autopsies 68%
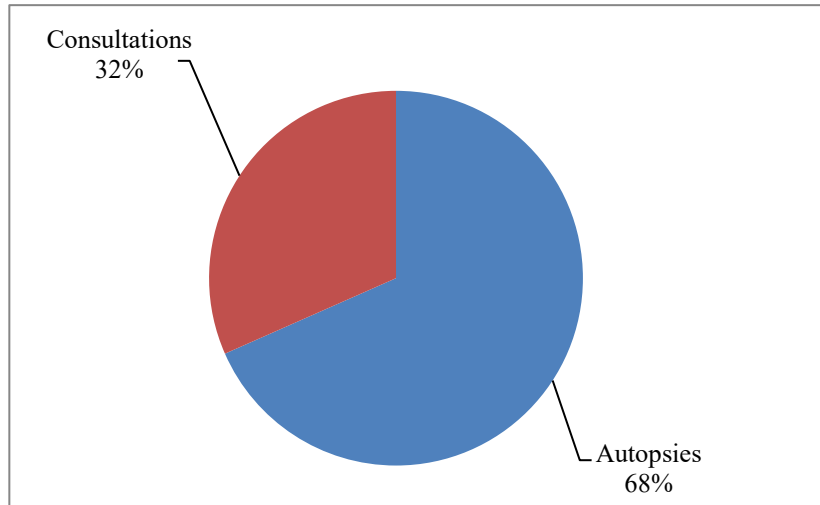
Confirmed CODIS Hits for August 2023

State Offender Hits	53
State Forensic Hits	12
National Offender Hits	28
National Forensic Hits	1
Total	94

Samples entered CODIS for August 2023 – 2,766

Profiles in CODIS

Forensic Casework Profiles	29,401
Convicted Offender Profiles	432,548
Missing Person/Unidentified Human Remain Profiles	12
Staff/QC File	632
Total	462,593

Report Turnaround for August 2023

	# Released in 45 Days	Total Released	% Released in 45 Days
Laboratory			
Headquarters - Atlanta	3,311	6,551	51%
Central Regional - Macon	4	86	5%
Coastal Regional - Savannah	417	1,007	41%
Eastern Regional - Augusta	475	656	72%
Northeastern Regional	233	2,698	9%
Southwestern Regional - Moultrie	44	182	24%
Western Regional - Columbus	43	267	16%
System-wide Totals	**4,527**	**11,447**	**40%**

Note: 60.9% Casework Reports were released within 90 days.

Report Turnaround for Year-to-Date, FY2024

	# Released in 45 Days	Total Released	% Released in 45 Days
Laboratory			
Headquarters - Atlanta	6,263	13,502	46%
Central Regional - Macon	7	139	5%
Coastal Regional - Savannah	740	1,968	38%
Eastern Regional - Augusta	794	1,390	57%
Northeastern Regional	353	3,394	10%
Southwestern Regional - Moultrie	98	356	28%
Western Regional - Columbus	79	460	17%
System-wide Totals	**8,334**	**21,209**	**39%**

Crime Lab Reports Processed for August 2023

Department	Requested	Total Released
Chemistry (includes Drug ID)	3,658	4,058
Firearms	443	297
Forensic Biology	2,497	3,516
Impressions	2	1
Latent Prints	203	163
Medical Examiners	607	626
Operations Support	0	0
Toxicology	3,109	3,288
Trace Evidence	143	124
Total	**10,662**	**12,073**

Crime Lab Reports Processed FY2024

Department	Requested	Total Released
Chemistry (includes Drug ID)	6,279	9,084
Firearms	748	518
Forensic Biology	4,805	4,809
Impressions	7	4
Latent Prints	378	327
Medical Examiners	1,158	1,250
Operations Support	0	0
Toxicology	5,916	6,247
Trace Evidence	242	220
Total	**19,533**	**22,459**

DOFS Backlog Chart – FY 2024
Unworked Reports over 30 Days Old

Discipline	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Chemistry	33,667	32,688										
Data Conversion	0	0										
Firearms	2,933	2,914										
Forensic Biology	3,804	3,047										
Impressions	10	12										
Latent Prints	85	125										
Misc. Services	0	0										
Operations Support	0	0										
Toxicology	1,061	981										
Trace Evidence	394	387										
Total	**41,954**	**40,154**										

MEO Backlog Chart - FY2024
(Medical Examiner data is calculated as >90 days from the date of examination in accordance with National Association of Medical Examiner accreditation standards.)

Discipline	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Medical Examiners	979	969										

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Total DOFS & MEO	**42,933**	**41,123**										

Georgia Crime Information Center

August 2023

NCIC SERVICES

CJIS Network Statistics

System Uptime: 100.00%
Messages Processed: 93,188,077

CJIS Operations

1. Sex Offender Registry

	Month	FY2024	Database Totals
Records Added	148	283	37,806

2. Protection Order Registry

	Month	FY2024	Database Totals
Records Added	3,145	5,820	183,396

3. Off-Line Search Requests

Type of Request	Month	FY2024
Administrative (Criminal Justice Agency)	21	33
Open Records	1	1
Subpoena	0	0
Media	0	0
Possible CJIS Security Violations	3	4

CJIS Audits

	Month	FY2024
CJIS Audits	27	72

INFORMATION SERVICES
Criminal History Identification Services

1. Criminal Fingerprint Transactions Received

	Month	FY2024
Submissions	39,740	79,161
Submissions w/Palms	17,443	34,874
Submissions w/Photos	13,384	26,479

Transactions processed within 2 hours of receipt: 93%

2. Applicant Fingerprint Transactions Received

	Month	FY2024
Submissions	52,440	97,812

Transactions processed with 24 hours of receipt: 99%

3. Final Dispositions Received

	Month	FY2024
Local Agency	66,673	125,780
GCIC	582	1,377
TOTAL	67,255	127,067

4. Rapid Identification (Rapid ID) Transactions

	Month	FY2024
Submissions	1,425	2,613
AFIS Hits	57%	52%
NCIC Hits	53%	52%
FBI RISC Hits	15%	14%

5. Non-Criminal Justice Audits, Visits and Trainings

	Month	FY2024
In Compliance	26	54
Out of Compliance	17	31
TOTAL AUDITS	43	85
Agency Visits	8	20
Training Attendees	200	212
Trainings	6	13

6. Rap Back Activity

	Month	FY2024
Subscriptions Created	6,372	11,169
Triggering Events	692	1,359

7. Latent Print AFIS Activities

	Month	FY2024
Latent Hits	24	67

PLANS AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

CUSTOMER SUPPORT & TRAINING

Project Description - The Customer Support Training group provides training in GCIC programs, GCIC applications, and GCIC/FBI compliance to criminal justice agencies across the State of Georgia.

CJ Training Tasks

Training Staff Tasks	Month	FY 2024
Emails	1210	3,086
Phone Calls	407	648
Agency Visits	0	0
Virtual/Classroom Trainings	0	1
Individuals Trained	113	236

GBI Learning Management System (LMS)

Course	Month	FY 2024
Georgia Criminal Street Gang Database	17	32
Security Awareness Training and Awareness Statement	5,277	7,555
CJIS Network Operator Certification	1,831	3,277

GEORGIA APPLICANT PROCESSING SERVICE (GAPS) PROJECT

Project Description - The Information Services section of GCIC is seeking to obtain the services of a qualified and experienced vendor to provide an applicant fingerprinting solution that will electronically capture and submit applicant fingerprints to the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and provide Rap Back services. The selected vendor shall also handle receiving fingerprint search results and disseminating results to the requestor.

Monthly Update - Weekly project calls continue between GBI and Fieldprint. Several change order requests are being reviewed and addressed by both entities.

GEORGIA LAW ENFORCEMENT MESSAGE SWITCH (GLEMS)

Project Description - The message switch provides a means of communication between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Georgia, the United States, and other countries, and to take advantage of new features and advances in technology. GCIC is looking to upgrade or replace this system.

Monthly Update - GCIC continues to work with Datamaxx and other SOG Stakeholders to test production connections and prepare for a third quarter deployment date.

HUMAN RESOURCE (HR) TIMESHEET PROJECT

Project Description - Enhancement of the application used by non-sworn units of the GBI for tracking time.

Monthly Update - The developer reviewed new policies related to the Timecard Application for possible changes.

NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY (NSOR) NOTIFICATION PROJECT

Project Description - The NSOR project will provide Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) the ability to receive NSOR responses as a part of the criminal history background check, in compliance with Federal, state, and local laws to make complete/accurate fitness determinations.

Monthly Update - The NSOR project is moving forward. The project teams meet to discuss various high and business level aspects of the project, including gathering requirements, connections, and end-to-end information exchange for DECAL to send and receive NSOR Notifications. GBI is in receipt of the vendors change request order and work is being completed to finalize the MOU and SOW.

RAP BACK PROJECT

Project Description - The Rap Back (RB) project will provide the ability to receive ongoing status notifications of criminal history activity reported on individuals holding positions of trust. Georgia's Rap Back System will include the retention of applicant fingerprints, the implementation of an FBI Rap Back Subscription on such prints, and the creation of a validation process for authorized entities to manage such subscriptions. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) is requesting proposals for the Georgia Applicant Processing Service (GAPS) with the Federal Rap Back Subscription Service. The objective of this procurement is to obtain the services of a qualified and experienced vendor to provide real-time, end-to-end, on-line submission of fingerprint images and data, designed to ensure high performance combined with high availability and reliability to the GBI Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

Monthly Update - Evaluation team members selected a vendor for GAPS. GBI has provided DOAS with an impending contract for review and approval.