



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE GUN STRATEGY



2024



The Illinois State Police (ISP) is dedicated to strategic gun trafficking enforcement and has a long history of working with local and federal law enforcement partners. The ISP's objective is to reduce and prevent illegal possession and use of firearms, firearms trafficking, firearm-related homicides, and other firearm-related violent crimes in Illinois.

This report illustrates the statewide coordination and strategy for firearm-related intelligence, firearms trafficking interdiction, and investigations of the relevant ISP Divisions (20 ILCS 2605/2605-35 (c)).

DIVISION OF JUSTICE SERVICES

DJS

The DJS comprises the duties and obligations of the Firearms Services Bureau (FSB). FSB oversees and administers the Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID), Concealed Carry License (CCL), Firearm Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP), Firearm Dealer License Certification (FDLC), and Firearm Record Challenge Unit (FRCU). Over the past year, FSB refined the FRCU which oversees the process for nondiscretionary FOID appeals not overseen by the FOID Card Review Board that was established January 1, 2023. FSB created the mechanism for Illinois citizens to complete the endorsement affidavit process as required by the Protect Illinois Communities Act. FSB maintains a usable database for the public to ensure a privately transferred firearm has not been reported stolen in Illinois, and the purchaser possesses a valid FOID card. This database may be accessed via the public ISP website (<https://verify.ispfsb.com/Public/Verification.aspx>).

The Investigative Support Unit conducts CCL instructor investigations, audits, and fraudulent application investigations. It acts as a liaison to law enforcement to support possible revocations or denials, programmatic assistance, and other intelligence gathering. As part of the FDLC Unit, code investigators conduct audits on FDLC holders for compliance with state laws and in conjunction with our federal partners to educate and inform FDLC holders on laws and regulations. The FSB also works with the Office of the Director, Office of Firearms Safety (OFS), which administers the Clear and Present Danger (C&PD) reporting process. These entities ensure all requests for C&PD are reviewed and receive an appropriate response promptly. Over the last year, through collaboration, OFS and FSB launched the modernization of Clear and Present Danger Reporting, which transitioned the process from a paper form to a dynamic online portal with connections to the Law Enforcement Portal to streamline the reporting process.

In the coming year, DJS will maintain compliance with statutory processing times regarding FOID, CCL, and FTIP, establish necessary system upgrades, and continue to provide customer support to Illinois citizens and local law enforcement agencies statewide.

DIVISION OF FORENSIC SERVICES

DFS

The DFS's role in firearm enforcement and intelligence falls within the Forensic Sciences Command (FSC) and Scene and Evidence Service Command (SESC). The FSC utilizes the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to investigate gun crimes. NIBIN allows evidence from shooting scenes and/or test shots from recovered firearms to be entered into and compared with a database of other recovered evidence and test shots across not only Illinois but nationally. Based upon a review of the correlation results by a trained forensic scientist,

associations between previously unrelated scenes may be made providing valuable investigative information. Currently, the ISP FSC has (4) NIBIN acquisition stations and (8) correlation review stations spread across (4) of the (6) operational ISP laboratories. Additionally, forensic scientists in the Firearms Section conduct serial number restorations on firearms with defaced serial numbers. The restored serial number can be used by investigating agencies to trace the firearms' first legal owner. DFS is also now analyzing fired cartridge casings for DNA on ISP cases that meet specific submission guidelines.

The FSC is working to procure up to (4) additional acquisition stations and up to (3) additional correlation stations to create greater efficiency and faster turnaround times within the Command. SESC will continue to strive to ensure firearms are submitted to an ISP laboratory for test firing within 24 hours from recovery. FSC will continue to maintain the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) recommendation of placing recovered casings and test-fired casings into NIBIN within 2 business days. Agencies partnering with SESC and/or ISP Major Crimes Task Force can access DNA-fired cartridge casing testing on qualifying cases.

DIVISION OF PATROL

The Division of Patrol (DOP) focuses uniformed officers on reducing violence along Illinois roadways. In doing so, the Division employs strategies to train and educate Troopers about crime trends while outfitting them with equipment, intelligence, and technology to refine crime reduction efforts further. In 2022, after witnessing increases in firearm-related violence along Illinois roadways during 2021, the DOP engaged multiple strategies to make Illinois roadways safer, including the activation of a Statewide Violence Suppression Initiative and the dedication of a uniformed workforce to areas hardest hit by violence.

As 2023 arrived, the Division aggressively advanced further to reduce violent crime by reallocating and missioning the workforce to confront violent crime. The Division completed a historic reorganization, which had not been done in 60 years. The Division transitioned the former patrol "Districts" to patrol "Troops" while expanding boundary lines and created the Strategic Operations Command (SOC) to house Special Enforcement Groups (SOGs). SOGs were then filled with approximately 10% of the uniformed workforce and given the mission to employ data-driven decision-making to focus enforcement in the high crash, high crime, and areas known for the transportation and illegal trafficking of firearms and drugs.

As a result, the Division witnessed a 32% reduction in expressway/interstate-related shooting incidents compared to 2022 and a 58% reduction compared to 2021. Importantly, injury-related shooting incidents along expressways/interstates were reduced by 55% compared to 2022 and 67% compared to 2021. Troopers seized 992 firearms from prohibited individuals, a 12% increase in firearms seized and a 3% increase in total arrests for crimes. Troopers also recovered 7% more stolen motor vehicles, many of which were reported to be taken by way of hijacking. Overall, the Division witnessed a 28% increase in overall enforcement-related stops, rounding out the Division's overall commitment to increasing public safety by addressing unsafe driving behaviors and removing crime from Illinois roadways and communities.

Moving forward, the Division remains committed to deploying resources to areas impacted by firearm-related crime. The Division will ensure enforcement missions continue to be precise and strategic, utilizing traffic and crime trends while increasing the use of available technology, tools

such as air operations, and intelligence to coordinate the saturation of Troopers where needed to enhance public safety.

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

DCI

DCI created the position of Statewide Firearm Enforcement Coordinator in 2022, which ensures all firearm-related enforcement/intelligence is shared across all ISP Divisions for continuity of operations. A Gun Liaison Officer (GLO) program was established, creating a primary GLO in each of the (7) investigative Zones, including a Statewide Gun Liaison Officer Coordinator and a Firearm Trafficking Special Projects Officer. These GLOs ensure all recovered crime guns are submitted for an eTrace promptly and that firearms are submitted to an ISP laboratory for NIBIN entry. Additionally, GLOs conduct crime gun investigative follow-up from all ISP Divisions, conduct and coordinate both small-scale and Zone wide quarterly firearm safety enforcement details, investigate stolen firearm hits from the DJS person-to-person private firearm transfer portal, investigate fraudulent FOID applications, place Illinois citizens into compliance with the FOID Act if deemed a Clear and Present Danger and continually assist partner agencies with a multitude of firearm-related topics. The DCI sought funding and completed the acquisition of 338 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) in Cook County, 4 ALPRs in Winnebago County, 4 ALPRs in Morgan County, and 78 ALPRs in St. Clair County. A crime gun analyst was hired for the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) and will be attached to the BATFE Chicagoland Fusion Center. STIC also started a pilot program called Central Illinois Crime Gun, which partners with law enforcement agencies and federal partners within Central Illinois and correlates daily gun crime arrests for analytical workups and information sharing for casework. The DCI Firearm Enforcement Unit distributed a one-million-dollar Violent Crime Intelligence Task Force (VCITF) grant to local law enforcement agencies to fund and conduct firearm safety enforcement details in their jurisdictions for FY23. A Memorandum of Understanding was fully executed with the BATFE to use the NIBIN Enforcement Support System (NESS). NESS allows DCI agents and analysts to view NIBIN correlation hits of firearm casings recovered from crime scenes and test fired casings from crime guns. The DCI oversees an internal and public-facing Firearm Trafficking dashboard, providing viewable firearm offense data. Additionally, all Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEG) and ISP Task Forces (TF) were given statutory authority to investigate gun crimes as part of their enhanced proactive enforcement strategies.

The DCI will continue formulating internal standard operating procedures across all ISP Divisions for firearms trafficking investigations, eTrace submissions, and NIBIN entries, with follow-up of casework being a top priority. The continued distribution of VCITF grant funding to local law enforcement agencies for firearm-related enforcement and the seeking of additional funding to continue to grow the well-established ALPR program across other strategic metropolitan areas of the state. The STIC will continue to be the leader in intelligence collection and seek to increase the number of crime gun analysts, modernize intelligence sharing programs and systems about firearm trafficking, and local law enforcement gun crime liaison work. STIC will also continue to expand its crime gun program to other geographical areas throughout the state. The DCI will also look to continue the modernization of the internal and public-facing dashboards to include how the collection and distribution of data. The GLO program will continue to look for new investigative techniques and training to remain at the forefront of investigating crime gun activity.



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