



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

201 SOUTH UNION STREET, SUITE 300 | P.O. BOX 304115 | MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-4115
PHONE 334.676.6000 | WWW.ALEA.GOV



HAL TAYLOR
SECRETARY

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama
Alabama State Capitol
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey:

It is my pleasure to present the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021, which is a summary of the dedicated work and tireless efforts of over 1,500 ALEA employees as they continue to serve the citizens as well the visitors of our great state.

The Agency's mission is to efficiently provide quality service, protection, and safety for the state of Alabama by utilizing consolidated law enforcement and investigative and support services. While we are dedicated to ensuring efficiency, maximizing resources, and streamlining our existing services, we constantly look for additional ways to promote public safety.

With the vital resources you and state legislators continue to provide and even with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, ALEA was able to successfully protect and serve Alabama's citizens and visitors during Fiscal Year 2021. We were able to patrol state roadways and waterways, maintain and protect sensitive criminal data, issue driver and vessel licenses, and assist local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

ALEA's dedicated employees, sworn and civilian, strive daily to fulfill this Agency's mission and serve the people of our state. It is my honor to serve alongside them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hal Taylor".

Hal Taylor
Secretary of Law Enforcement



**Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's
Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report**

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency ("ALEA") represents the consolidation of multiple state departments and bureaus into a singular State Agency and was established under Act 2013-67, codified by § 41-27-1 et seq., Ala. Code 1975. The legislation created the Office of the Secretary and the State Bureau of Investigation (formerly the Alabama Bureau of Investigation) and combined those divisions with the Department of Public Safety to establish ALEA.

Office of the Secretary

Section 41-27-1 et seq., Ala. Code 1975, authorizes the Secretary of ALEA to appoint and oversee the Directors of the Department of Public Safety and the State Bureau of Investigation. The Office of the Secretary is currently composed of the following divisions: Homeland Security, Protective Services, the Administrative Bureau, Legal Division, External Affairs, Governmental Affairs, and Integrity.

Homeland Security

The Homeland Security Division works with federal, state, and local partners to prevent and respond to terrorism in Alabama. This division also works closely public and private sectors in law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire services, agriculture, public health, public safety, communications, environmental management, military, and transportation. Homeland Security administers the State Homeland Security Grant Program, which not only supports state and local efforts to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events, but also assists the state prepare for threats and hazards that pose great risks to national security. In FY2021, the Homeland Security Unit allocated \$3,924,810 in grants to state and local partners.

Protective Services Division

The Protective Services Division consists of three units (Dignitary Protection, Capitol Patrol, and Aviation) and is responsible for providing (1) law enforcement services within the Capitol Complex in Montgomery, as mandated by § 32-2-100, Ala. Code 1975, and (2) protection to and

for certain state officers and visiting dignitaries as mandated by § 36-33-2, Ala. Code 1975, as well as various other law enforcement duties.

Dignitary Protection Unit

The Dignitary Protection Unit provides security and transportation to and for certain state elected officials and visiting dignitaries. Specifically, personnel assigned to this unit provide security for the Governor and his/her family (from the date of election through the term of office and five years after leaving office), Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Alabama Senate, Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, and the Attorney General.

The unit also provides security for other persons whom the Governor or the ALEA Secretary may designate as a protectee. Throughout FY2021, the unit, along with personnel from the DPS Highway Patrol Division and State Bureau of Investigation, assisted other state and federal partners with visiting dignitaries as requested.

Capitol Patrol Unit

ALEA Troopers assigned to the Capitol Patrol Unit provide security at the Alabama State Capitol building, Executive Mansion, Alabama State House, and other executive office locations within the Capitol Complex in Montgomery. Troopers assigned to the unit also provide a law enforcement presence on state roadways and respond to calls for service while keeping citizens and state employees safe within their area of responsibility. In addition to their unit responsibilities, ALEA Troopers investigate traffic crashes and assist other units/divisions within the Agency with special details, training, and enforcement activity. To assist DPS Highway Patrol Division's Motor Carrier Safety Unit, several ALEA Troopers in the unit received specialized training to conduct commercial vehicle inspections on Alabama roadways.

During FY2021, the Capitol Patrol Unit conducted 13,458 building checks within the Complex, managed 91 special events, responded to 154 building alarms, and completed 55 Incident/Offense reports. The unit also made 10 felony arrests, served 10 warrants, issued 1,705 traffic citations/warnings, investigated 33 vehicle crashes, conducted 103 Commercial Vehicle Inspections, and made 4 DUI arrests.

Aviation Unit

The Aviation Unit operates a mixed fleet of airplanes and helicopters with which it conducts a variety of missions that range from searches for missing persons to include children, adults, individuals with Alzheimer's Diseases and fleeing felons, to natural disasters and personnel rescues. Flights in the helicopter fleet account for approximately 80 percent of the unit's total flights.

The unit currently operates eight Bell OH-58 helicopters, five of which have Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) and daylight cameras, searchlights and other equipment specially designed to optimize searches in day and night conditions. The helicopter fleet also includes a Bell UH-1H (with a rescue hoist), a Bell 407, and a Bell 206L-1. These aircraft are an integral part of the rescue program, tactical operations, and storm/disaster response. The unit's fixed-wing fleet is composed of two twin-engine aircraft used for prisoner transport and executive transport. In addition, personnel operate three single-engine aircraft for in-state transport and surveillance missions.

The Aviation Unit is staffed by 10 Pilots, 3 Tactical Flight Officers (camera operators and rescue operators), 4 in-house Maintenance staff, and an Administrative Assistant. In addition to the Agency staffing, the unit uses four Tactical Flight Officers employed with other law enforcement agencies to reduce cost and foster interagency cooperation in law enforcement. The Aviation Unit's goal is to assist law enforcement officers on the ground with an air asset serving as a force multiplier.

The Unit operates from 3 bases (Montgomery, Cullman, and Fairhope) and received 1,282 requests for service with 1,089 responses, totaling 2,020 hours of flight time in FY2021. The following is a general breakdown of the missions by number of flights: Searches/Missing Person and Manhunt, 297; Investigative, 232; Rescues, 15; Training, 314; Executive Transport, 70; Storm, Fire Suppression and Disaster, 15; Other (Maintenance, Ferry, Relay, Static Display, etc.), 146.

The unit applied for but was not awarded any Homeland Security or Port Security grant funding for FY2021 and continues to operate solely within the Agency's operating budget. In previous years, the Aviation Unit received grants for some exceptional equipment still in operation today.

The unit has maintained low operating cost for many years. Most of the aircraft that unit personnel operate are military surplus aircraft, received through the 1033 Program, at no cost to Alabama's

taxpayers. Through this program, the unit acquired many parts when needed. Exceptional maintenance staff perform most of the maintenance and equipment installs in-house, drastically reducing operational costs.

The Aviation Unit participates in Project Lifesaver International, a program that uses bracelets and transmitters to search for individuals with Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, and other cognitive disorders that may lead to wandering. With multiple donors, the unit can provide bracelets at no charge to individuals in need. This project was spearheaded many years ago to reduce the number of searches and increase the chance of finding lost individuals. The current goal of the Aviation Unit regarding Project Lifesaver is to continue to train and equip the state's 67 Sheriff Offices to carry on the program in their home counties.

Administrative Bureau

The Administrative Bureau Division is composed of professional and administrative staff who are responsible for providing essential services in the following units: Accounting, Personnel (Human Resources), Information Technology, General Services, Radio Engineering, and Fleet Management.

Accounting Unit

The Accounting Unit is responsible for the Agency's overall financial health. In compliance with the State of Alabama Fiscal Policies and Procedures, Accounting employees work with interagency and intra-Agency departments in areas of budget, procurement, payables, receivables, and grant/contract compliance.

Personnel Unit (Human Resources)

The Personnel Unit manages and coordinates the Agency's human resource operations for approximately 1,500 employees. Primary areas of responsibility include strategic planning; employee recruitment, selection, onboarding, and retention; training; policy and procedure interpretation, development, and implementation; EEO/legal compliance; performance appraisal and progressive discipline guidance and oversight; payroll and benefits; and job description preparation and maintenance.

In addition, the Personnel Unit provides direction regarding workers' compensation, the Employee Assistance Program, donated/military leave authorization, Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and COVID-19 leave and benefits.

During FY2021, the Personnel Unit handled 158 appointments (52 law enforcement officers), 245 promotion raises, 98 resignations, 357 probation raises, and an estimated 1,427 annual raises.

Information Technology Unit

The Information Technology (IT) Unit is staffed by a combination of ALEA civilian employees and government contractors. The Unit is responsible for operating, maintaining, and securing all networks, applications, systems, devices, and electronic data specific to the ALEA mission; conducting annual and reoccurring cybersecurity awareness training; auditing and reporting; and coordinating, consulting, and helping implement new technology; and modernizing, consolidating, and enhancing other IT-related services for the Agency.

In addition, the IT Unit's applications, support center, and infrastructure services allow ALEA to accurately, timely, and securely deliver law enforcement information to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies handling criminal justice and citizen safety in Alabama and across the nation.

- **Alabama Geographic Information Office (AGIO).** AGIO provides statewide coordination of geographic information, geographic information systems, and other geospatial-related technologies all Alabama state agencies use. AGIO identifies, plans, and implements efficient and effective ways to use and integrate geographic information as a strategic management resource for the state. The Office acts as the operational arm of the Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council, chaired by the ALEA Secretary. The AGIO established a statewide interactive platform - the Alabama GeoHub – to provide for discovery, access, exploration, and visualization of geospatial data in a collaborative environment. The GeoHub is used to provide important geospatial and analytical resources to support investigations and operations. GIS technology is also deployed with the school safety dashboard, reflecting threats and events taking place at or near schools across the state. The collected information is reflected geospatially on a map in a real-time

environment to provide situational awareness to school administrators and law enforcement agencies.

General Services Unit

The General Services Unit provides professional services in the areas of facilities management, inventory control, mail services, and supply acquisition and distribution.

- **Facilities Management** coordinates lease management and facility maintenance, including electrical, plumbing, HVAC, janitorial services, lawn care and pest control. The unit works with the state Office of Risk Management, landlords, and insurance companies to ensure appropriate insurance coverages are applied, processes claims, and facilitates repairs.
- **Inventory Control** is responsible for identifying, tracking, and disposing of state property following statutory requirements outlined in the State Property Manual. Employees use various computer applications (ALEANet and Asset Works) to actively track and account for approximately 27,000 items. Employees rely on the State Auditor's Office and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Surplus Property Division to adhere to statutory inventory control requirements.

During FY2021, the unit added 2,192 items to inventory, removed 2,458 items using proper disposal methods, and completed approximately 6,000 internal equipment transfers. Employees are working with other Administrative Bureau units to establish an application that will improve ALEA's ability to track personal inventory and ultimately serve as a proprietary inventory control system.

- **Mail** employees process over 3,000 pieces of incoming/outgoing mail each week and facilitate the shipping/receiving of packages for ALEA. The staff also handles shred service and pickup for ALEA headquarters.
- **Supply** coordinates with inter/intra-agency entities to procure, receive, and maintain adequate inventory levels and to process supply requests from business units to sustain operations. Highlighted accomplishments during FY2021 include equipping two Trooper

classes, a Special Agents class, and distributing personal protection equipment throughout the state to assist in providing resources necessary to combat COVID-19.

Radio Engineering Unit

The Radio Engineering Unit is responsible for configuring, installing, maintaining, and repairing ALEA's statewide emergency communications infrastructure and associated equipment and peripherals. Employees offer "24/7 support" for the Agency's Communications Centers, in-car, and handheld radio systems infrastructure licensed by the FCC to provide public safety communications for ALEA personnel.

In coordination with the ALEA Fleet Management Unit, Radio Engineering staff members provide additional services, which include but are not limited to installing and removing radio and computer system peripherals (e.g., radios, radar, computer docking stations, printers, card readers, inverters, gun locks and cameras); troubleshooting and repairing radio communication issues, programming radios internal and external business units; supporting law enforcement officials during special/emergency operations; serving as a strategic partner with emergency response entities to ensure readiness for emergency situations; and providing expert guidance and counsel to the Commissioner of the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission.

Radio Engineering completed 1,089 work orders during FY221.

Fleet Services Unit

The Fleet Services Unit is responsible for enhancing ALEA's ability to fulfill mission-critical functions by researching, procuring, issuing, maintaining, and selling all vehicles, vessels, and associated systems, equipment, and peripherals. Due to advancements in motor vehicle technology, Fleet personnel shifted from hands-on mechanic work performed by Agency employees to vendor management services. Fleet staff members are assigned to various locations across the state and function as field service representatives who provide maintenance guidance and services to employees and vendors and ensure safe and reliable transportation for ALEA personnel. The Fleet Unit currently manages approximately 1,500 pieces of inventoried equipment (1,300 vehicles).

During FY2021, the Fleet Services Unit purchased 165 new vehicles; equipped approximately 60 new employees with vehicles; held an auction netting \$750,000 in sales; coordinated with intra-agency divisions to develop and implement a fuel application to manage payment of the Agency's Wright Express bill (approximately \$6.5 million annual expenditures); and completed the refurbishing and procurement of approximately 10 vessels.

Legal Division

The Legal Division represents the Agency and its personnel in all legal matters that arise from performing their duties. The division's duties are diverse and complex, and they include federal, state, and administrative claims such as responding to Department of Justice inquiries, reviewing and drafting numerous contracts and agreements with outside agencies, representing ALEA on Board of Adjustment claims, teaching classes at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, responding to hundreds of subpoena requests in both state and federal courts, and providing legal advice to Agency members.

External Affairs Division

The External Affairs Division is responsible for Agency marketing and branding and for providing information and records to the public, media outlets, other law enforcement agencies, constituents, ALEA personnel, and others concerning ALEA operations and all aspects of law enforcement and public safety.

The division includes ALEA Troopers that serve as Public Affairs Officers (PAO), each of whom is assigned to one of the Agency's seven Troops. Along with assisting the Division with local media relations, each PAO also serves as an ALEA Recruiting Coordinator and works closely with individuals who apply to become ALEA Troopers and Special Agents. During FY2021, the External Affairs Division and its PAOs made 27,750 contacts with media outlets via on-camera interviews, phone and/or e-mail, news releases on various topics, and requests for information. Both sworn and civilian members of the External Affairs Division assist with statewide safety

campaigns and coordinate all posts for ALEA's social media accounts (Facebook, Nextdoor, Instagram, and Twitter).

Photo Services Unit

The Photo Services Unit is part of the External Affairs Division and is responsible for archiving photographs and videos; providing photography and videography services at ALEA functions, including receptions, graduation ceremonies, funerals of sworn personnel (and some civilians), and news conferences; photographing portraits of Agency staff members, as well as for other State agencies; assisting the Governor's Office and other State agencies upon request; and equipping and training ALEA personnel with camera kits and coordinating repairs.

During FY2021, the unit employed one full-time Photo Tech II and three retired State employees (two of whom only worked until May 2021). Photo Lab personnel processed 21,313 prints, including 8,922 proof sheets, and received and archived 10,391 CDs of images during this period. The Unit generated \$142,610 in revenue from photo sales, mostly to law firms and insurance companies.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is composed of four divisions: Highway Patrol, Marine Patrol, Driver License, and the ALEA Training Center. Civilian personnel in these divisions work to support the efforts of uniformed ALEA Troopers, whose primary function is to enforce the law on roadways and waterways.

Highway Patrol Division

The Highway Patrol Division, which is the largest DPS division, is composed of 4 Regions, 7 Troops, 17 Highway Patrol posts, and 7 Communications Centers across the state. The Division has specialized units within its ranks, including Motor Carrier Safety, Traffic Homicide Investigation, K-9 Officers, Honor Guard, and Motorcycle Enforcement.

Highway Patrol’s primary goal is to preserve the safety of those who travel Alabama’s roadways. Troopers seek to gain motorists' voluntary compliance with and obedience to traffic laws through visual presence on the roadways and by aggressively enforcing primary offenses that cause crashes resulting in death or injury.

In FY2021, ALEA Troopers worked 34,572 crashes that resulted in 11,056 injuries and 564 fatalities. Also during FY2021, ALEA Troopers issued 336,926 citations and 209,188 warnings to gain compliance with traffic laws and reduce crashes, specifically those resulting in death or injury.

Top 10 Types of Citations/Violations:

Speeding	151,813
No seat belt	42,867
No insurance	22,630
Driving suspended/revoked	21,298
No driver license	13,812
Tag violations	11,491
(Continued on next page)	
Running stop sign	4,427
DUI	4,167
Child restraint	3,486
Improper lights	3,408

Top 10 Primary Contributing Circumstances/causes for Trooper-investigated Crashes, which account for 59 percent of all crashes statewide, were as follows:

Unseen object/person/vehicle	3,194
Following too closely	2,905
Driving too fast for conditions	2,784
Improper lane usage/change	2,320
DUI	2,064

Failure to yield	1,736
Over the speed limit	1,663
Fatigued/asleep	1,584
Swerved to avoid vehicle	1,251
Other distraction inside vehicle	1,124

During FY2021, the Highway Patrol Division used 16 retired State employees to complete many Highway Patrol tasks, thus reducing the burden on ALEA Troopers by allowing the retirees to conduct tasks such as super load escorts and wrecker inspections. This allowed both Troopers and supervisors the ability to better focus their attention towards reducing crashes to save lives.

To coordinate assets and focus on reducing traffic crashes (specifically fatalities), targeting impaired and aggressive drivers, and creating a safe, crime-free environment, the Highway Patrol Division partnered with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to receive grants for enforcement and equipment. This funding allowed Troopers to work before and after shifts and on off days to further create visual presence, as well as to aggressively enforce traffic laws, to gain voluntary compliance with and obedience to traffic laws. These grants allowed the division to purchase Portable Breath Testers, LIDAR, Spike Strips, floor jacks, RADARs, and Accident Reconstruction Drawing Software to benefit the motoring public.

Highway Patrol K-9 Officers

The Highway Patrol Division deployed and used seven Highway Patrol K-9 Officers during FY2021, thereby assisting Highway Patrol, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, ALEA State Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Postal Inspections, Alabama Department of Corrections, Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, and other municipal and county law enforcement agencies.

The K-9 Unit retired two K-9s because of age and health issues.

ALEA Honor Guard

The Honor Guard is a group of dedicated officers who volunteer their time to honor the lives of our fallen, often missing family events and traveling great distances to assist. The Honor Guard is

composed of approximately 47 members statewide. During FY2021, the ALEA Honor Guard presented ceremonial honors at 24 memorial services, including funerals for retired ALEA arresting officers and outside Agency line-of-duty deaths. They also participated in several memorial and presentation of colors ceremonies at various locations across the state.

Traffic Homicide Investigation Unit

The Traffic Homicide Investigation (THI) Unit investigates traffic crashes in Alabama that warrant criminal charges, including but not limited to reckless murder, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, assault, felony DUI, and felony leaving the scene of an accident. THI personnel are located at each of the seven ALEA posts and are responsible for the complete investigation -- from mapping the initial crime/crash scene to final court disposition. They receive intensive, detailed training, including Commercial Vehicle Crash Investigation, Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation, Crash Data Retrieval Systems, Traffic Reconstruction, and how to use FARO Drawing Software with Agency drones.

During FY2021, the THI Unit trained 29 ALEA Troopers and 15 outside Agency officers as Traffic Homicide Investigators, instructed more than 70 recruits in Basic Accident Investigation and 18 current reconstructionists as HVEDR Technician (Commercial Vehicle), and worked 285 case files. The Unit was represented by 40 THI Troopers at the 2021 Alabama Prosecutorial Traffic Homicide Investigators Conference in Pelham.

The entire THI Unit was trained in the use of FARO drawing software to utilize the information produced by the ALEA State Bureau of Investigation Drone program. All members of ALEA DPS began completing the 10-hour Crash Scene Response/ Evidence Collection/ Mapping and Diagramming Course.

Motor Carrier Safety Unit

The Motor Carrier Safety Unit works with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to reduce traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles and passenger coaches.

During FY2021, the Motor Carrier Safety Unit employed 67 sworn officers, 2 civilians, and 2 Retired State employees/law enforcement officers. In addition, the unit used 67 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Troopers, as well as 20 City Officer Program officers from 12 different law enforcement agencies to help reduce Commercial Motor Vehicle-related crashes across the state. During this period, the Unit discovered 9,606 out-of-service driver and vehicle violations.

FY2021 Motor Carrier Safety Unit Activity

Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV) inspected	40,974
Hazardous-Materials Vehicles inspected	1,311
Bus/Passenger Vehicles inspected	352
CMVs weighed by fixed scales	155,525
CMVs weighed by portable scales	71,120
CMVs weighed by weight in motion	1,080,290
New entrant safety audits	658
Compliance reviews	16

Motor Enforcement Unit

The Highway Patrol Division employ 15 Motor Enforcement Officers who, in addition to other duties, worked more than 200 days on their motorcycles conducting aggressive enforcement, as well as providing escort assistance at the University of Alabama and Auburn University home football games, Talladega Superspeedway races, Mardi Gras, Trail of Tears, Alabama National Fair, and funerals for fallen officers and family members. Unit officers assisted at many community and public relations events, including Toys for Tots escort, memorial rides requesting escorts, and numerous school visits for special safety events.

Communications Unit

In May 2021, ALEA moved the Communications Unit back into the field under the supervision of the local Troop and Regional Commanders. It is staffed with 59 Police Communications Officers (PCO), including 9 Communications Supervisors (PCO III), 50 PCOs I and II, and one Retired

State Employee. ALEA Communications Centers are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in Decatur, Jacksonville, Sheffield, Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, Dothan, and Mobile. These professional telecommunicators answer calls from the public and other agencies and dispatch the appropriate first responders as required to a wide variety of emergency situations, including traffic crashes, reports of reckless drivers, motorists who require assistance, and roadway blockages.

In addition, PCOs back up other law enforcement agencies upon request and coordinate multi-Agency responses. They also serve as the first point of contact for citizens who need ALEA's services. During FY2021, the Communications Unit dispatched ALEA Troopers to a total of 34,572 traffic crashes statewide (564 fatalities, 11,056 injuries, and 22,952 property-damage reports).

Marine Patrol Division

The mission of the Marine Patrol Division is to enhance safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through law enforcement, educational and community-oriented initiatives, and activities.

In FY2021, the division realigned its patrol territories to serve the boating public more efficiently, going from three "Districts" to four "Regions" that align in coverage with the natural, geographical layout of Alabama's river systems and coastal waters.

The Marine Patrol Division's four patrol Regions encompass all of Alabama's waterways, including small rivers, lakes, and streams. Region 1 covers eight counties in southwest Alabama with the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, all coastal waters, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes. Region 2 covers the southeastern part of Alabama, including 22 counties with major waterways along the Coosa, Tallapoosa, Alabama and Chattahoochee rivers, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes. Region 3 encompasses the central portion of the state, covering 18 counties with major waterways along the Alabama, Black Warrior, Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tombigbee Rivers, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes. Region 4 covers 19 counties with major waterways along the Tennessee and Coosa rivers, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes.

The division added 5 Troopers during the year, bringing the division's sworn strength to 52 officers. The new Marine Patrol officers -- composed of new ALEA Troopers and transfers from the Highway Patrol Division -- underwent an additional 11 weeks of Marine Patrol-specific training prior to beginning patrol as solo units. The division also added two new 18-foot Silver Ships patrol boats to its fleet and was awarded two FEMA Port Security grants totaling \$161,988. The division is utilizing these grant funds to repower its two largest patrol boats currently in service in Region 1, extending the patrol lives of those vessels by six to seven years. Five other Silver Ships 8-meter patrol boats in Region 1 soon will receive new and updated electronics navigation packages.

In FY2021, Marine Patrol Troopers investigated 70 boating crashes on Alabama waterways, resulting in 10 deaths, 44 injuries, and \$443,065 in property damage, representing a five-year low for the Division.

Top contributing factors for boating crashes in FY2021:

- Improper lookout
- Operator inattention
- Operator inexperience
- Operating too close to other vessel/person in water
- Alcohol impairment

Top ALEA Marine Patrol Troopers issued 9,236 citations and 16,129 warnings for water safety and highway safety violations. Top water safety violations for the year were:

	<u>Citations</u>	<u>Warnings</u>
Boating under the influence	38	0
Insufficient personal flotation devices	351	1,319
Operating a vessel without a license	264	702

Emergency shut-off switch violations	222	937
Vessel registration violations	187	2,625
Violation of restrictive signs or buoys	169	723
Other alcohol violations	154	77
Careless operation of a vessel	103	496
Child younger than 8 not wearing PFD	89	38

The Division also participated in Operation Dry Water during the Independence Day holiday period as part of a nationwide campaign designed to raise awareness about the dangers of boating under the influence. Operation Dry Water, a national initiative sponsored by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, saw over 700 local, state, and federal agencies participate in the effort, which featured on-water saturation patrols, directed details, safety checkpoints, and a national media campaign that utilized all major social media platforms.

Marine Patrol Troopers resumed in-person public education efforts during this reporting period, offering a number of Boat Alabama boating safety classes around the state while following COVID-19 protocols. The division made full use of social media and traditional media outlets to convey its safe-boating message to the public, especially during the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holiday periods.

The Marine Patrol Division encouraged citizens to take online boating safety courses and issued 38,728 new boating safety certificates in FY2021. There are now over 700,000 licensed vessel operators and 252,678 registered vessels in Alabama. In addition, the division issued 154 permits for events on Alabama’s public waters in FY2021. Troopers assisted with many of these events, which included fireworks displays, boat parades, boat races, and on-water concerts.

Driver License Division

The Driver License Division is responsible for testing and maintaining records on Alabama's licensed drivers, including crash reports, traffic arrest forms, driver license applications, and traffic-violation convictions. In addition to administering knowledge and road-skills examinations to commercial and non-commercial drivers, the division is responsible for applying penalties that may result in a driver license being revoked or suspended.

Accomplishments for FY2021:

- Continued to offer driver services throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by adjusting customer service processes in all locations/offices/HQ. Examples: Curbside procedures, CDL and Class D Road test safety changes, and office process changes to deliver services to customers. More customers served each day compared to previous years.
- Began developing the ALEA Driver System (LEADS). The division began modernizing the Driver License system, which is over 16 years old. Numerous legacy applications will be combined into a singular modern system set to roll out statewide in April 2022.
- Deployed modernized Vessel Registration System, thereby unifying vessel registration systems across the state.
- Developed/implemented ATV/UTV registration process within the Vessel Registration Unit.
- Completed two much-needed exam office moves (newer facilities, to service more customers) – Bay Minette and Pell City.
- Implemented new Appointment System to allow customers to obtain appointments at 22 Exam Offices throughout the state.
- Conducted 3 CDL Examiner Certification Courses and certified 47 examiners to administer CDL Skills exams.
- Resumed Community Outreach efforts:
 - CDL Mobile Testing Vehicle deployed numerous times to service customers (Ingram Community College, Department of Youth Services, and other locations).
 - Tiger Transit Project – CDL Unit worked with Auburn University to process 50-plus drivers skills testing for new buses used for campus transportation.

- Resumed participation in Homeless Connect events, to bring identification services to homeless persons in Alabama.
- Deposited a total of \$68,300,407.75 into the state’s General Fund.
- Conducted 33,209 vessel knowledge exams, 1,330 CDL skills exams, 41,701 CDL knowledge exams, 64,016 driver license skills exams, 142,111 driver license knowledge exams, disqualified 500 CDLs, suspended 42,594 driver licenses, revoked 15,470 driver licenses, and canceled 48,229 driver licenses.

Safety Responsibility Unit

The Driver License Division's Safety Responsibility Unit implements state law by requiring every operator/owner involved in a traffic (vehicular) crash in Alabama to establish financial responsibility when it is determined the operator/owner is answerable for damages and injuries resulting from his/her negligence.

The unit received and/or processed the following forms and other activity:

SR-31 Accident Report filing	4,137
SR-21 Insurance Verification reports	962
SR-22 Mandatory Liability Insurance	21,158
SR-26 Cancellation of Insurance	18,207
Status reports	521
Civil Court Judgments filed	1,643
Telephone calls	14,398
Emails	4,310
Faxes	2,259

Commercial Driver License/Medical Unit

The Commercial Driver License (CDL) Unit oversees and trains driver license examiners to conduct road skills tests and processes medical card for all CDL holders who are required to have them. Unit personnel also work closely with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration on compliance

regarding the posting of citations to CDL driver records. The Medical portion of the unit ensures that CDL drivers are medically safe to drive based on information from drivers, law enforcement, and/or state-certified physicians.

Phone calls received	62,136
Letters mailed out	17,283
Walk-in customers served	76
Drivers reinstated	5,415
Pieces of mail received	6,917
Follow-ups worked	10,125
Paper Vision forms scanned	87,592
Haz-Mat background approvals entered	5,277
Faxes received	25,756
Emails received/answered	65,359
Returned documents received	512
Medical certifications processed	83,720
Self-certifications processed	11,666
Driver licenses verified	40,959

Driver Improvement Unit and Review Officers

The Driver Improvement Unit works closely with courts to resolve issues with residency and/or citations. Additionally, the unit processes Ignition Interlock orders submitted by courts concerning drivers with DUIs.

School Enrollment Act violations processed	2,520
Emails received	10,325

Errors on driving records corrected	4,631
Licenses for individuals temporarily out of state renewed	1,274
Hardship applications reviewed	1,208
Records reviewed and processed	24,499
Ignition Interlock removals added	4,584

Driver Services Unit

The Driver Services Unit handles all inquiries from driver license applicants who have not received their licenses by mail, processes all renewals by mail for individuals who are out of state temporarily, and monitors email from the public.

Telephone calls regarding no receipt of licenses/IDs in mail	30,683
Emails answered regarding no receipt of license/IDs in mail	6,800
Licenses/IDs received after being returned by post office	13,227
Addresses released after no receipt of licenses/IDs in mail	6,700
Documents scanned (received from individuals, law enforcement)	88,559
Records updated with new addresses	6,000
Licenses/IDs returned/remailed to individuals	5,158

Reinstatement Unit

The Reinstatement Unit assists customers who either walk in, call, or mail requests to have their driving privileges reinstated and are prepared to pay the necessary fees.

Walk-in customers assisted	9,715
Credit card payments processed for Motor Vehicle Records (MVR)/ crash reports via telephone	3,180

Telephone calls answered	21,106
Records reinstated	11,844
Refund requests processed	43
MVRs sold	2,141
Lifetime MVRs sold	259
Accident Reports sold	608
Faxes and emails processed	11,534

Records Unit

The Records Unit works closely with insurance companies and the public to provide driver license records, and process citations received from both Alabama and out-of-state courts.

Telephone calls answered	45,689
Court-requested driving abstracts processed	18,159
Crash reports via mail, walk-in service and from ALDOT	6,587
MVRs via walk-in service and emails processed	9,004
Lifetime MVRs processed	1,462
MVRs ordered via telephone by credit card	10,634
In-state tickets processed	45,627
Out-of-state tickets processed	49,298
Tickets returned because of errors	3,183

Hearing Unit

The Hearing Unit processes requests for hearings from individuals whose licenses were suspended, processes various DUI correspondence for the state, and conducts hearings across the state for suspended drivers.

Hearing requests using online request system processed	3,788
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Hearings conducted	947
AST-60s checked	8,348
AST-60s rescinded	2,345

Mandatory Liability Insurance Unit

This unit works closely with the public on matters concerning the Alabama Mandatory Liability Insurance Law, which provides that no person shall operate, register, or maintain registration of a motor vehicle designed to be used on a public roadway without liability insurance coverage. The MLI Unit’s personnel respond to phone calls and emails from Alabama’s licensed drivers who have received letters of suspension or have questions concerning their coverage.

Telephone calls received	26,208
Initial MLI letters mailed out	19, 111
MLI suspension letters mailed out	20,894
Fees collected	\$2,989,358

Breakdown of fees

Motor Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$999,452.59
Highway Traffic Safety Fund	\$1,803,579.25
Peace Officers Annuity & Benefit Fund	\$189,325.93

ALEA Training Center

The ALEA Training Center (ATC) is a regional state law enforcement training academy accredited by the Alabama Peace Officers’ Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC) and is located on Wallace Community College’s Selma campus. Seventeen ALEA arresting officers and 11 civilians comprise the ATC staff.

The ATC is responsible for providing basic training to student officers from various municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies who attend the annual APOSTC basic police academy classes; basic training for ALEA Trooper trainees in the annual Trooper trainee academy classes;

advanced training for annual prior-certified Trooper academy classes; and continuing education training for arresting officers from various law enforcement agencies, as well as ALEA officers.

ATC staff members also supervise and manage the ALEA Field Training and Evaluation Program, which includes conducting annual certifications and recertifications for arresting officers and classes to meet the training needs and requirements in the seven ALEA Troops. ATC personnel also manage the Alabama Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Program.

In addition, the ATC is responsible for all special-services training for ALERRT, Run/Hide/Fight and the Alabama Sentry Program, as well as for documenting, recording, and entering all annual continuing education units into the APOSTC system and ALEA Personnel Training Record File for all ALEA arresting officers. The ATC recently assumed the responsibility of supervising the ALEA Communications Training Officers North/South.

ATC staff training operations in FY2021 (some of which began prior to the fiscal year, with others ending following FY2021)

Basic Police classes

○ APA 169	Sept. 7, 2020-Dec. 3, 2020	26
○ APA 170	Jan. 25, 2021-April 29, 2021	46
○ APA 171	May 10, 2021-Aug. 12, 2021	35
○ APA 172	Aug. 23, 2021-Nov. 24, 2021	20

Trooper classes

○ 2020-E	Aug. 30, 2020-Nov. 5, 2020	44
○ 2020-D	June 1, 2020-Nov. 5, 2020	12
○ 2020-F	Sept. 7, 2020-Dec. 3, 2020	4
○ 2021-A	March 22, 2021-May 27, 2021	13
○ 2021-B	Aug. 23, 2021-Feb. 8, 2022	19

Other training classes

○ E-Crime	11
○ First-Aid/CPR refresher	13
○ Use of Force remediation	3
○ Driver Training remediation	3
○ Stinger Spike System instructor	10
○ 2021 Field Training Officer	25
○ Taser Axon certification	10
○ PPCT instructor	13
○ Use of Force instructor	13
○ STOPS instructor	20
○ CDL Examiner	22
○ Southern Linc	4
○ Super Load	4
○ Special Operations	4
○ Radar (initial training)	4
○ Marine safety laws and vessel inspection	18
○ SBI new agent orientation	11
○ Basic Narc	305
○ LE Officers Flying Armed (LEOFA)	6
○ Senior Leadership & Standard Operations	28
○ CTEP/LEFTA for Communications supervisors	7
○ Basic Police Communications	12
○ Stinger Spike	10
○ Emergency vehicle operations	10
○ Senior Leadership & Standard Operations	22

Alabama Bureau of Pardons & Paroles' Firearms Week	40
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Breakdown of classes/training sessions

Basic Police classes (127 students)	4
Trooper Trainee classes (73 Troopers)	4
Field Training and Evaluation Programs (73 officers)	4
In-service training sessions in the field	58
PAFAs completed	847
Retiree handgun qualification sessions (87 retirees)	8
APOST-C FIDC classes (60 officers trained)	4
ALEA patrol rifle classes (25 officers trained)	4
Basic Police sniper courses taught with outside agencies (30 trained)	2
RDS handgun operator course (6 officers trained)	1
ALERRT Level I (831 officers trained)	34
ALERRT Level II (43 officers trained)	2
ALERRT ERASE course (28 officers trained)	1
Run/Hide/Fight classes (97 students trained)	3
Legal update for ALEA arresting officers (700 officers trained)	
SFST basic courses (743 students trained)	12
ARIDE courses (246 officers trained)	26
DRE pre-school (16 officers trained)	3
DRE main school (15 officers trained)	3
DRE field certifications (32 officers trained)	2
DRE instructor course (8 officers trained)	1
DRE in-service (36 officers trained)	1
Recognizing cannabis impairment (85 officers trained)	1

In addition, ATC staff entered continuing education unit records for 829 ALEA arresting officers in APOSTC and the ALEA Personnel Training Record File, conducted 231 training sessions/classes, and trained 4,033 officers.

ATC canceled several scheduled training events during the year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

State Bureau of Investigation

The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) functions as the investigative, non-uniform division of ALEA and is composed of the following divisions: Criminal Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services, and the Alabama Fusion Center.

Criminal Investigation Division

The Criminal Investigation Division is responsible for conducting investigations and providing assistance to city, county, state, federal and international law enforcement agencies including the following services: criminal investigations related to felony offenses; police use of force; misuse of criminal justice information; agriculture, forestry, and rural crime investigations; alcohol, narcotics, and tobacco enforcement/investigation; auto theft investigations; human trafficking; crime-scene processing; searches for missing persons and escaped inmates; polygraph examinations; technical surveillance; hostage negotiation; marijuana eradication; child and elder exploitation; in-custody death investigations; and special inquiries requested by outside agencies. This Division is divided into separate working units: Special Services and Projects (Director's Office), Vice & Special Operations, and Major Crimes.

Director's Office/Special Services and Projects Group

Director's Office/Special Services and Projects Group is responsible for planning, budgeting, and implementing current and new initiatives intended to keep SBI on the cutting edge of technology and providing the section's working groups, as well as local agencies, with investigative tools and options that might not be readily available at the local level. These initiatives include the Unmanned Aerial Unit (Drones), Crime Scene Digital Scanning, Marijuana Eradication,

Polygraph Examination Unit, Digital Forensic Unit, Bomb Squad, and SWAT Team.

Unmanned Aerial System Unit

Unmanned Aerial System Unit also referred to as the Drone Unit, operates on a “24/7” basis. The unit is currently composed of the Drone Unit Coordinator, a UAS operator manager, and 19 drone pilots located in all 7 Troop areas across the state, operating 18 drones. The unit responds to natural disasters, various crime scenes, traffic homicide crash scenes, hostage negotiations, and search-and-rescue missions. Unit personnel also monitor search warrant executions, scan for explosive devices, respond to officer-involved shooting scenes, and assist ALEA’s SWAT, Special Operations, and Aviation Units. During these missions, unit personnel use drones to map scenes for investigative purposes to be used during court proceedings.

During FY2021, the Drone Unit completed an additional 1,804 flights, which included 328 training flights and 1,377 mission flights, totaling 653.15 hours of flight time. These missions included 271 mapped crash scenes, 6 search-and-rescue missions, 9 community-relations flights, 30 mapped crime scenes, 54 investigative flights, 8 natural-disaster flights, 11 searches for stolen property, and 16 searches for suspects.

SBI uses FARO scanners for crime scenes, as well as traffic homicide scene investigations. FARO scanners are non-contact measurement laser systems used to accurately capture 3D data. The scanner preserves physical evidence in a three-dimensional setting, which allows scenes to always be referenceable for accurate data measurements. Users can perform animations, which allows a jury to be placed in the middle of a crime scene when wearing virtual reality goggles. SBI currently has six Faro scanners statewide. During this fiscal period, the FARO system was used to map 56 scenes statewide.

Polygraph Examiners Unit

Polygraph Examiners Unit conducts criminal and pre-employment polygraph examinations for ALEA and other state and local agencies. The unit is currently composed of 11 licensed examiners throughout the state. Five new examiners recently completed polygraph school and began a six-month internship culminating with the state board exam. During FY2021, the Polygraph Unit

completed 224 pre-employment and 34 criminal examinations.

Marijuana Eradication Unit

Marijuana Eradication Unit is composed of five Special Agents and a Unit coordinator. Its mission is to combat the growth of marijuana statewide. With the help of ALEA Aviation, the unit travels throughout the state to locate and confiscate marijuana plants. During FY2021, the team located 43 grow sites, seized 24,426 plants, and made 30 arrests.

Digital Forensics Unit

Digital Forensics Unit performs forensic analysis on digital media including computers, storage media, optical media, drones, digital video recorders, GPS, video cameras, digital cameras, video collection, and image enhancements. The Unit performs analysis for criminal investigations, internal affairs, child exploitation, and child sex abuse cases. Currently, SBI has two full-time digital forensic technicians and one part-time Retired State Employee. The technicians are certified to testify in state and federal courts. Additionally, SBI has the only certified Forensic Composite Artist in Alabama. This service is available for investigators across the state to enhance low-quality surveillance photos, create an image of suspects from a victim's memory, produce age-progression photographs of suspects or missing persons, for identification and reconstruction of human remains. During FY2021, the Digital Forensics received 134 new cases and completed 119 cases, which included some backlog.

ALEA Bomb Squad

The ALEA Bomb Squad provides prompt and professional assistance in preventing, detecting, investigating, removing, and disposing suspected hazardous devices, explosives, pyrotechnics, ammunition, ordnance, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) throughout the state. The ALEA Bomb Squad responds to all explosives-related calls for service to render explosives, IEDs, and WMDs safe by mitigating the threat, ensuring the protection of lives and property, and investigating explosives-related crimes. The Unit also assists other local agencies in their investigations and can take the lead when necessary.

During this fiscal year, the Bomb Squad responded to 8 bomb threats, 15 device

disassembly/disposals, 47 operational security events, 102 K-9 sweeps for state buildings, and 9 suspicious packages. Bomb Squad personnel safely recovered explosive devices found throughout the state on 21 occasions.

ALEA SWAT Team

ALEA SWAT Team is primarily responsible for serving high-risk search and/or arrest warrants, mitigating the removal of barricaded suspects, conducting hostage-rescue operations, working on dignitary protection/security details, and providing those services to local police and sheriff's offices that lack that capability.

During FY2021, ALEA SWAT responded to 93 calls for service. Those requests were a combination of high-risk narcotics search warrants, barricaded suspects, Internet predators, and surveillance missions, which supported SBI units or outside agencies.

Vice and Special Operations Division

This division's mission is to perform investigations into the illicit alcohol and narcotics trade, as well as investigate crimes against the agriculture industry by conducting specialized investigations using methods, equipment, and tactics that target specific criminal behavior. This division is composed of the Alcohol & Rural Crimes Unit and the Narcotics Unit.

Alcohol & Rural Crime Unit

Alcohol & Rural Crime Unit is tasked with investigating and enforcing the laws and regulations governing the use and consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, along with investigating agricultural, timber, livestock, and farm-equipment theft within Alabama.

SBI Agents in this unit partner with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and the Alabama Department of Public Health to enforce laws prohibiting minors from using and accessing tobacco. Additional Legislative appropriations from the Children First Trust Fund through the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs help to cover the costs of regulating and enforcing tobacco sales.

Also, the unit meets requirements under federal SYNAR legislation to protect approximately \$40 million in federal funding for the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

Since returning to normal operations in June of FY2021, Agents completed 570 SYNAR checks, resulting in 30 cases (with a 5.3% non-compliance rate), and completed 679 FDA checks resulting in 76 buys (with a 11.2% non-compliance rate). Agents also conducted 104 livestock investigations, along with 12 cases on timber theft and 36 cases of theft of various farm equipment. In addition, Agents recovered 156 stolen vehicles.

Narcotics Unit

Narcotics Unit is responsible for combating the threat facing Alabama's citizens from the increased sale and distribution of illegal narcotics such as methamphetamine, heroin, crack, cocaine, marijuana, pharmaceuticals, and synthetic drugs.

SBI's Narcotics Unit heads up the Alabama Drug Enforcement Task Force (ADETF), with partners from local law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The ADETF allows local law enforcement to follow drug activity outside of their normal jurisdiction, providing Task Force Agents opportunities to disrupt and/or dismantle drug operations. The Unit supervisors serve as commanders for the regional task force.

The Unit also operates and is the custodian for the state's Clandestine Laboratory Waste Container Program, through which Agents log and audit containers around the state where hazardous waste from methamphetamine labs are held until a hazardous waste company can retrieve the waste.

Also, SBI has been a prominent supporter of its federal partners during this fiscal year. SBI provided Agents to serve on the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force, DEA's High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force, FBI Safe Streets Task Force, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and Homeland Security Investigation Task Force. SBI Agents assisted with 274 fugitive arrests during this period.

FY2021 Narcotics Seizures – Alabama Drug Enforcement Task Force

Cocaine	66,200 grams	\$6,620,000 street value
Crack	647 grams	\$64,700 street value
Heroin	59,500 grams	\$6,545,000 street value
Marijuana	2,300,000 grams	\$69,000,000 street value
Methamphetamine	183,700 grams	\$4,592,500 street value

Pills

3,100 pills

\$31,000 street value

Criminal Investigation Division

Criminal Investigation Division is to pursue justice by providing premiere investigative services, building trusting relationships with its law enforcement partners, and meeting criminal investigative needs with excellence. This division is composed of the Major Crimes Unit and the Special Victims Unit.

Major Crimes Unit

Major Crimes Unit is responsible for investigating complex felonies and violent crimes such as financial theft and murder, but the most complex investigations performed involve those of police use of force. Many agencies across the state rely upon Special Agents assigned to the Major Crimes Unit to conduct investigations of their officers, especially when officers use lethal force, including officer-involved shootings. These investigations attract tremendous attention from the media, the public, and the federal government, and require Special Agents to be meticulous, thorough, and exhaustive in their investigation.

Major Crimes Activity FY2021

Cases worked	386
Special inquiry investigations	83
Use of force investigations	40
In-custody death investigations	26
Arrests	225
Other investigations	97
Assists (local/federal agencies)	913

Special Victims Unit

Special Victims Unit mission is to aggressively perform investigations to identify, apprehend, and prosecute perpetrators of technology-facilitated crimes against children, as well as human trafficking. Included in this unit is the Alabama Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which SBI manages. The task force consists of local law enforcement agencies across the state that investigate and prosecute these crimes.

Special Victims Unit Activity FY2021

Investigations opened	1,317
Search warrants executed	666
Cyber tips received	5,081
Subpoenas served	3,452
Arrests made	260

Criminal Investigation Division

Criminal Investigation Division opened 1,479 investigations in FY2021, 49 of which pertained to police use of force. Thirty-nine investigations were the result of officers using lethal force in the performance of their duty.

These instances ranged from officers responding to emergency calls for service (911 calls), executing arrest warrants, traffic stops, and various other police/citizen encounters. While all 39 investigations involved one or more officers' use of lethal force, 18 resulted in the deaths of the subjects.

Criminal Justice Information Services Division

SBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division has 62 employees responsible for providing and maintaining mission-critical criminal justice information systems and services for the state. CJIS provides guidance and training to local law enforcement agencies on the information systems provided by ALEA and governed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Alabama Justice Information Commission (AJIC). The division oversees the state's

Criminal History Repository, Fingerprint Repository, Sex Offender Registry, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, the Latent Fingerprint Section, and the Compliance Section.

Criminal History Unit

Criminal History Unit receives disposition information from state and municipal courts. This section is responsible for processing expungement requests from circuit courts and pardons from the Alabama Bureau of Pardons & Paroles. The Unit received 59,809 dispositions and processed 993 requests for expungements and 203 pardons in FY2021. CJIS was unable to complete 209 orders because the arresting agencies failed to submit fingerprint cards at the time of arrests.

Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) Unit

Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) Unit receives fingerprint cards from law enforcement agencies taken at the time of arrest, applicant cards submitted for background checks, and employment and sex offender registry cards. The Unit then processes and digitally or manually submits the fingerprint cards. FY2021 saw the implementation of the new Next Generation Identification (NGI) biometric identification system.

The ABIS section successfully submitted the first iris capture to the FBI, becoming the first state repository to do so. Since implementing this system on May 25, 2021, the ABIS system processed 120,913 fingerprint cards, and 73,099 cards were captured because of an arrest, 60 were captured from sex offender registrations, and 47,754 were from applicant background checks requested by citizens.

Sex Offender Registry Unit

Sex Offender Registry Unit maintains state sex offender information submitted by local law enforcement agencies into state-approved database OffenderWatch. The unit is also responsible for ensuring accuracy of entered records submitted into the FBI's National Criminal Information System (NCIC). The sex offender information submitted to NCIC is available nationally and

subject to public notification on the State of Alabama's Sex Offender Registry. The Sex Offender Unit created 549 new sex offender records, conducted 5,502 record checks, updated 9,454 records, validated 2,803 records, and entered or modified 5,546 records in NCIC in FY2021. At the end of this fiscal year, there were 11,355 active sex offenders registered in the system, 9,261 of which required public notification. There were 132 offenders listed as absconded.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Unit

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Unit is Alabama's repository for crime reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The UCR Unit collects information on incident/offense reports, arrest reports, full-time law enforcement employees, asset forfeitures, bias crime reports, and law enforcement officers killed or assaulted in the line of duty. The collected data is published in Crime in Alabama, and the data is submitted to the FBI for Crime in the United States. During FY2021, reporting requirements were changed from summary reporting to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by the FBI. The UCR Section trained 243 law enforcement personnel, preparing them for the transition to NIBRS. Also, there were 1,240 seizure cases entered into the asset forfeiture system electronically.

In addition, this Unit is responsible for the National Instant Criminal History Check System (NICS) records for the state. NICS checks are conducted at the point of sale for firearm purchases. The Unit entered 2,940 involuntary commitment records to the NICS indexes and completed 1,380 criminal record disposition requests for NICS.

Latent Fingerprint Unit

Latent Fingerprint Unit has certified latent print examiners responsible for comparing fingerprints taken at crime scenes to the fingerprints in the state and federal repositories. In FY2021, the unit received 648 requests from local law enforcement agencies, processed 14 crime scenes, and provided 446 positive identifications. Examiners also provided court testimony 6 times and conducted 16 lectures on fingerprinting.

ALEA employs four certified examiners and two examiner trainees. After they complete a two/three-year training program, trainees take an eight-hour certification exam, with only one opportunity to pass it. There are fewer than 1,000 certified examiners worldwide.

Criminal Justice Compliance Unit

Criminal Justice Compliance Unit ensures that criminal and non-criminal agencies comply with rules created by the FBI and the AJIC. Criminal Justice Compliance Specialists travel to local law enforcement agencies and provide training on information systems and conduct audits to ensure compliance. The Unit conducted 902 Agency visits and 164 audits in FY2021. Section personnel also trained 1,664 local law enforcement Agency employees and responded to 3,133 calls for service.

Alabama Fusion Center

The Alabama Fusion Center (AFC) is the intelligence center for all Alabama law enforcement. A true force multiplier, the AFC is an invaluable tool as it researches, analyzes, drives collection, and disseminates mission-critical information between federal, state, and local government, private-sector entities, and the intelligence community. It provides real-time research support for law enforcement throughout the state in various areas, including cybercrime, terrorism, narcotics, and human trafficking.

Additionally, the AFC coordinates and facilitates issuing AMBER, Emergency Missing Child, Blue, and Missing & Endangered alerts for the state.

Intelligence and Criminal Case Support

At a fundamental level, fusion centers most often produce situational awareness reports, officer safety bulletins, intelligence analysis, threat assessments, Officer Safety and BOLO (Be-on-the-Lookout) products to assist law enforcement and private-sector security entities.

The AFC shares information with its law enforcement and private-sector partners through training sessions, intelligence bulletins, threat assessments, and pass-throughs (products from other intelligence entities in which the AFC sends on their behalf).

During FY2021, the AFC produced 69 intelligence bulletins, shared approximately 100 pass-through intelligence bulletins, created 3 threat assessments, and provided and/or attended 205 training sessions.

AFC personnel also provide intelligence and analytical resources to AFC partners within the state. Alabama law enforcement agencies continually rely on AFC analysts, who may provide link analysis where criminal activity in one area may be linked to the same criminal activity in another area or to assist on a dormant “cold case.”

AFC analysts have the technical capability to produce products to assist agencies lacking similar resources within their organizations. These analysts provide investigative services by fulfilling requests for information (RFI) or requests for assistance (RFA).

RFIs involve database searches and inquiries; or location and retrieval of records (often from other fusion centers). RFAs are more involved and include mapping/linking criminal intelligence or raw data, working on site at a major-event command center, or responding to crime scenes to provide analytical support. The AFC fulfilled 1,388 RFIs/RFAs during FY2021.

Alabama Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The Alabama Center for Missing & Exploited Children (ACMEC) serves as a liaison between citizens, private organizations, and law enforcement officials regarding missing and exploited children and adults. It also serves as a central repository for information regarding missing persons and unidentified deceased persons, as an analytical resource for law enforcement, and as an information-sharing hub regarding missing person alerts.

In addition, ACMEC serves as the administering Agency of the Alabama AMBER Alert, Emergency Missing Child Alert, Blue Alert, and Missing & Endangered Person Alert systems. These systems are instrumental and irreplaceable mechanisms in recovering missing or abducted persons.

In FY2021, the AFC issued 5 AMBER Alerts, 23 Emergency Missing Child Alerts, and 61 Missing & Endangered Person Alerts. In addition, ACMEC had 74 website-only postings for missing children and 43 for missing adults.

Joint Terrorism Task Force

The AFC provides a direct link to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) by way of a dedicated terrorism analyst and the AFC's Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) program. The AFC is responsible for vetting and routing SARs received from the public, private sector security partners, public safety partners, and other AFC partners. SARs are similar in nature to tips and leads, and many of those the AFC receive typically find their way back to our public safety partners in this form. However, some SARs vetted by AFC analysts are determined to contain a nexus to terrorism and are then shared with the JTTF for follow-up and preliminary assessment. In FY2021, the AFC identified 8 terrorism-related SARs and 231 SARs that the AFC provided to our public safety partners in the form of tips and leads.

Alabama Fusion Center School Safety Initiative Team

In April 2018, Governor Kay Ivey formed the Securing Alabama's Facilities of Education Council (SAFE Council), which helps provide Alabama students a safe environment in which to learn and grow.

One of the recommendations for the Governor's consideration outlined the AFC's approach at triaging threats directed at education facilities in Alabama, as well as across the nation. This AFC team collects information, triages, and logs threats at schools daily. If the threat is within Alabama, a team member will offer to assist the local jurisdiction in investigating the threat with full-case assistance until the threat is over. During FY2021, the School Safety Initiative assisted in various school threats in the state, but the number was significantly lower than in previous years because of school closures from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the traditional school safety threats involving physical violence or threats of violence, the COVID-19 pandemic created a shift in the types of threats to school safety that the AFC may offer case assistance.

As school systems implemented virtual learning opportunities, and traditional threats were temporarily mitigated, the threat of cybercrime victimization rose sensationally. Alabama schools and schoolchildren were high-value targets for cybercriminals looking to exploit vulnerabilities.

The ransomware attacks that plagued Alabama school systems in FY2021 is only one illustration of the evolving nature of school safety to which the AFC's School Safety Initiative Team is prepared to respond to and assist in the coming years.