

# Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

## *At a Glance*

**James C. Rovella, Commissioner**

**Brenda M. Bergeron, Deputy Commissioner**

**Colonel Stavros Mellekas, Deputy Commissioner**

**DESPP Headquarters, 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT 06457-2389**

**Established July 1, 2011, by PA 11-51**

**Statutory authority CGS Titles 28 and 29; Section 7-294a et seq.; and Section 7-323j et seq., as amended**

**Number of positions authorized: 1,557**

**Current number of employees: 1,429 full and part time staff**

**Recurring operating expenses, FY2022: \$195 million**

**Organizational structure: DESPP is comprised of six divisions including the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Division of Scientific Services, and the Division of State Police.**

### **Office of the Commissioner**

The Office of the Commissioner is responsible for providing a coordinated, integrated program for the protection of life and property and for statewide emergency management and homeland security. The office oversees administrative and management functions of the department and includes Fiscal Services and Grants Administration, Human Resources, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Equal Employment Opportunity, Legislative Affairs, Public Information, Legal Affairs, Facilities, and Constituent and Victims Services.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Office**

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office ensures that all DESPP employees, contractors and applicants are guaranteed rights and protections without regard to age, ancestry/alienage, civil union status, color, criminal record (in state employment and/or licensing), gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, harassment (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, national origin, past or present history of mental disability, physical disability, previously opposed discrimination (retaliation), race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, veteran's status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems. The responsibilities of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office includes investigating all internal employee allegations of employment discrimination, overseeing the Americans with Disabilities Act requests for reasonable accommodations, educating all DESPP employees through various diversity training sessions,

providing employees with information regarding Upward Mobility and Career Counseling, monitoring the Department's Contract Compliance Program, managing DESPP's Title VI program, as well as developing and implementing State and Federal Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity Plans.

## **COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

### **Office of State Fire Administration**

The Office of State Fire Administration provides overall coordination, management and support of division activities and facilities including the administration of grants. The Office offers consulting services to communities regarding fire department administration and operations. Oversight of the Statewide Fire Rescue Disaster Response Plan continued as a priority with staff serving as Fire Service Liaisons to the State Emergency Operations Center during statewide emergencies and exercises. The Office actively supports the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard, ensuring Connecticut honors its fallen firefighters and their family members consistent with the profession's highest standards. Communication, collaboration and coordination continues with the nine independent Regional Fire Schools. Further, we coordinate the state's Regional Foam Trailer program with eight local fire departments hosting these resources and responding to emergencies requiring firefighting foam. We are actively engaged with DEEP in research, outreach and guidance regarding the environmental impact of AFFF firefighting foam containing PFAS. The AFFF Foam Take-Back Program for municipalities was completed removing over 35,000 gallons of foam containing PFAS. Also, a pilot project was completed during the year to drain and decontaminate 3 of the state's 8 Regional Foam Trailers and fire apparatus of AFFF foam. Information learned from this pilot will be used to guide the state in the next phase on how best to remove foam product from over 400 municipal fire apparatus on-board foam systems. A new Statute was enacted banning the use of AFFF foam effective October 1, 2021. Communications and information dissemination to fire service constituents continued primarily through expanded use of social media and the CFPC email Listserv.

During FY22 participated in the CT Fire 2025 Statewide Strategic Planning Initiative that culminated in a Summit in December, 2021. Funded with a grant from the State Emergency Response Commission, published and distributed 5700 Traffic Incident Management Pocket Guides to fire departments and other emergency response organizations statewide. Distributed approximately \$70,000 in funding to volunteer fire departments located in distressed communities for entry level Firefighter I training. Also, received a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) totaling \$304,333 to procure a new Learning Management System expected to go live in December 2022 and a replacement tractor tow vehicle. Further, we serve as the point of contact with fire departments receiving state funding for projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$8.6 Million.

In the fall of 2021, four full time staff members retired from state service. To date, one of the four vacancies has been refilled. Efforts continue to refill the remaining positions. While still impactful, COVID-19 had a reduced influence upon division operations as compared to the previous two fiscal years and is evidenced in our service delivery metrics.

## **Training Unit (Connecticut Fire Academy)**

The Training Unit delivers a wide range of training and education programs extending from the comprehensive 17-week resident Recruit Firefighter Training program to Fire Officer and technical specialty level courses, many with collegiate transfer credits. Courses are available for delivery throughout the state at local fire stations, Regional Fire Schools and at the Connecticut Fire Academy (CFA) campus in Windsor Locks.

During FY22, the Training Unit delivered 249 training programs reaching 4,331 students, providing 185,896 contact hours. In addition to training activity, the Unit continued administration of N-95 respirator fit testing services supporting the COVID response by health care professionals. A total of 3,687 respirator fit tests were administered at 176 separate scheduled sessions statewide. The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) continued to be offered to municipalities to assist in identifying future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. This past year, 1671 candidates registered with 1051 passing for an overall passing rate of 62.8%. The Academy's Introduction to The Fire Service (ITTFS) and the Advanced Skills and Concepts (ASAC) programs were designed to provide high school students with an opportunity to learn more about the profession by attending a residential camp and performing training evolutions at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Over the last 25 years, the program has evolved from the two original five-day sessions each summer to three, six-day residential sessions each summer. Many alumni have moved on to become full members of their fire departments, have attended college in Fire and EMS programs and have earned employment as career Firefighters. During FY22, 78 cadets benefited from attendance at these residential camps.

The CFA was proud to host the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute Fire Dynamics Boot Camp providing training and education in modern fire dynamics to state fire academy instructors from all six New England states.

Charter Oak State College continues to approve 22 CFA training programs for collegiate transfer credit adding value to our students. Collaboration with the Military Department and Department of Public Health at the New England Disaster Training Center (Camp Hartell) located in Windsor Locks provides unique training opportunities for all emergency responders.

## **Certification Unit**

The Certification Unit assesses fire service personnel in areas ranging from basic firefighting skills to technical rescue specialties and from instructional methodology to executive officer leadership, curriculum development, public education and fire prevention. This knowledge and skills evaluation of specific competencies legitimizes the pre-requisite training requirements and instruction associated with fire service-related training courses and education. The certification process is an independent third-party evaluation of requisite firefighter skills developed from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in support of the statewide fire service educational framework developed from the same standards. The certification process ensures emergency

services personnel are better qualified to conduct significant incidents while routinely operating in highly hazardous exposure areas when serving the citizens of Connecticut.

The Certification Units retains accreditation by two international entities, The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Accreditation of the certification process validates the professionalism and commitment of full and part-time staff and provides portability to our customers as they pursue careers in the fire service. The Certification Unit Registrar represented the agency at the annual IFSAC Accreditation Conference in Oklahoma City, OK in April 2022.

As with training, we saw certification activities begin to expand after being negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In FY2022, the Certification Unit conducted 33 NFPA 1403 compliant Live Fire Training audits, 2 Pump Operator Audits, 25 Vehicle Extrication Audits, 105 psychomotor skills examinations, 171 cognitive examinations, and 24 ADA compliant examinations; including foreign language examinations, assessing 3357 candidates resulting in 2773 Pro Board and IFSAC accredited certifications. The overall written examination success rate was 82.25 percent. The Unit also developed and administered five (5) promotional examinations for municipalities. Lastly, Reciprocity was awarded to Connecticut fire service personnel certified by other accredited entities for 86 levels of certification.

## **DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

The Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is charged with developing, administering and coordinating a comprehensive and integrated statewide emergency management and homeland security program that encompasses all human-made and natural hazards, and includes prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery components to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Connecticut.

The duties of DEMHS are outlined in Connecticut General Statutes Title 28 and Title 29 and include coordination with federal, state, tribal, and local government personnel, agencies, authorities and the private sector to ensure adequate planning, equipment, training and exercise activities with regard to emergency management and homeland security; coordination and as may be necessary, consolidation of homeland security communications and communications systems of the state government with state and local government personnel, agencies, authorities, the general public and the private sector; coordination of the distribution of information and security warnings to state and local government personnel, agencies, authorities and the general public; establishing standards and security protocols for the use of any intelligence information; and providing a coordinated, integrated program for state-wide emergency management and homeland security. DEMHS maintains an Emergency Management and Homeland Security Statewide Strategy, developed in coordination with stakeholders from state and local governments, as well as private sector and other nongovernmental partners.

Critical missions of DEMHS include terrorism prevention, information sharing and analysis, coordination of emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation, and administration of federal emergency management and homeland security grant programs, including FEMA disaster aid. DEMHS also administers a number of state grants, including for school security and

non-profit security. DEMHS also coordinates the drafting and review of the school safety and security plan standards required by state law, as well as working with local school districts and municipal officials to assist in the filing of school security plans with DEMHS.

DEMHS puts into place measures to respond to emerging threats, including operating the State Fusion Center, known as the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC), which works in collaboration with the Division of State Police and other state, local, federal, tribal, and private sector partners. DEMHS coordinates the state's response to emergencies, working with municipalities, tribal nations, other state agencies and federal and nongovernmental partners, including operation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) when activated by the Governor.

In 2015, DEMHS led the State of Connecticut's effort to attain accreditation as part of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). The State of Connecticut received full accreditation for its emergency management program. In 2019, DEMHS coordinated with partners to prepare for EMAP Reaccreditation. The EMAP on-site assessment was conducted in February of 2020. In June of 2020, the State was notified that full accreditation of the emergency management program was again granted.

### **Office of the Deputy Commissioner**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 29-1b(b), the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection appoints a Deputy Commissioner to oversee the activities of the Division. Currently, the Deputy Commissioner also serves as a Deputy Homeland Security Advisor (DHSA).

The Deputy Commissioner also chairs the DEMHS Advisory Council, established by the DESPP Commissioner as an Emergency Support Function-based advisory board with designated supporting working groups. The DEMHS Advisory Council meets quarterly. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner chairs the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) Executive Board, as well as co-chairing the State Cyber Security Committee.

### **Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC)**

The Connecticut Intelligence Center is led by a Director who leads a team of co-located federal, state and local partners which includes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Attorney's Office, New England HIDTA, CT State Police, CT Department of Correction, CT National Guard, CT Motor Vehicle Department, CT Department of Transportation, CT Department of Consumer Protection, CT Judicial Branch, and municipal police departments. CTIC collects, analyzes, and disseminates both criminal and terrorism-related intelligence to law enforcement officials throughout the state, and pertinent vetted information to authorized and appropriate agencies within the first responder and private sectors. In addition to federal and state partners listed previously, CTIC's staff includes three Intelligence Analysts, five Regional Intelligence Liaison Officers (RILOs), and two Fire Intelligence Officers (FILOS). CTIC operates under a privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protection policy. CTIC staff may help to staff the State EOC as needed during emergencies to assist in preparedness,

response, protection, and recovery issues, including those related to the state's critical infrastructure.

One of the areas of focus for the CTIC intelligence analysts is infrastructure security. DEMHS coordinates infrastructure security partners through the DEMHS Infrastructure Coordination Group (ICG), which is overseen by both the CTIC Director and the State Emergency Management Director. The ICG works to assess and protect Connecticut's public and private critical infrastructure assets and key resources, both physical and cyber-based. The ICG identifies these key assets, assesses their vulnerabilities, participates in multi-agency deterrence and protection activities, and develops a mitigation strategy designed to improve security at those sites. The ICG includes federal, state and private sector partners, as well as staff from CTIC, the DEMHS Office of Emergency Management, and the Division of State Police.

### **The Office of Emergency Management**

The State Emergency Management Director heads the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and as such is the state's liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The mission of the OEM is to provide a coordinated, integrated program for state-wide emergency management, including strategic and operational all-hazards planning, community preparedness, exercise, training, and grants planning and management. This mission includes: coordination and collaboration with state, local, federal, tribal, and private sector partners, as well as the public, to develop, maintain, exercise, and train on a comprehensive state-wide emergency management plan and program; to direct and coordinate all available resources to protect the life and property of the residents of Connecticut in the event of a disaster or crisis, through a collaborative program of prevention, planning, preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and public education; maintain, operate, and oversee the Governor's State Emergency Operations Center; and; administer the State's volunteer Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team, and; activate volunteer civil preparedness forces in accordance with Title 28.

OEM consists of three Units, divided into a number of sub-sections. The Units are: Training and Exercise; Operations and Logistics, and; Community Preparedness, Strategic Planning, and Grants. OEM includes the DEMHS Regional Offices.

### **DEMHS Regional Offices**

In 2007, DEMHS, working with local partners, developed emergency preparedness regions. These regions were created to facilitate emergency management planning and regional collaboration in lieu of county government. The Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) in each Region operates under bylaws which address its mission, membership and procedures. The multi-jurisdictional REPTs are supported by Regional Emergency Support Functions (RESF). These RESFs are discipline- oriented workgroups that provide collaborative planning and resource support within each discipline.

To support the regional model, DEMHS maintains five regional offices. Regional Coordinators serve as the primary interface with local chief elected officials/executive officers and emergency

management directors. The Regional Offices are also supported by Emergency Management Program Specialists and processing technicians or secretaries. The five DEMHS Regional Offices serve as direct points of contact to local jurisdictions. As such, each provides: distribution of warning and emergency information to local jurisdictions; onsite monitoring of localized emergencies; collection, verification and consolidation of local emergency situation reports and requests for assistance; assistance in regional budget development and funding requests; assistance in training and exercise development; guidance and assistance regarding Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) development, review, and revision, including school safety and security plans; oversight of the development of Regional Emergency Support Plans, and; coordination of a regional response to ongoing emergency situations.

**The Training and Exercise (TE) Unit** is overseen by a manager and is responsible for the establishment of training programs and the development, delivery and evaluation of exercises, in accordance with federal Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidance. The TE Unit coordinates and plans the Governor's annual Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) statewide exercise. The TE staff works collaboratively with local, state, tribal and federal partners to coordinate and conduct training and exercises in accordance with the state strategic plan developed and maintained by DEMHS. The TE Unit also maintains the State Agency Training and Exercise Plan (SATEP), and the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Program (MYTEP).

The substance of training and exercises is developed through the identification of local and regional needs, the DEMHS statewide strategy, and federal guidance. Current focus areas include training in cybersecurity, identifying and reducing domestic violent extremism, and the Incident Command System. The TE Unit also provides training on school security, WebEOC (the state's real-time situational awareness platform), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and local emergency management operations.

**The Operations and Logistics (OL) Unit** is overseen by a manager and works under the Incident Command System of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and includes the five DEMHS Regional Offices. This unit is also responsible for the Division Duty Officer Program.

A critical function of the OL Unit is the operational readiness and coordination of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). It coordinates and is responsible for: monitoring emergency situations as they develop and/or threaten communities; disseminating watches, warnings and emergency information to state agencies and local jurisdictions; collecting and consolidating emergency-related data and situation reports; assigning tasks to state agencies, including coordinating deployment of state resources to support local emergency response operations; requesting and coordinating mutual aid assistance from other states or the Eastern Provinces of Canada through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or the International Emergency Assistance Compact (IEMAC); providing situation analysis and reporting to FEMA Region 1, and; requesting and coordinating Federal assistance through FEMA Region I.

The OL Unit is also responsible for the administration and deployment of the Connecticut Urban Search & Rescue Team, which is a volunteer civil preparedness force, trained to locate, extricate, and preserve life in the event of any large-scale structural collapse, regardless of the cause.

The DEMHS Duty Officer program, maintained by the OL Unit, is made up of DEMHS employees who also serve as on call employees. The Duty Officers rotate through a two-week period of being the primary on-call contact person after regular hours, notifying DEMHS Command staff of requests for state assistance, and monitoring potentially significant incidents including adverse weather conditions for situational awareness. The Duty Officer may staff the State EOC in a monitoring capacity during events at the request of the DEMHS leadership.

The OL Unit also performs functions designed to enhance and support field operations. This includes statewide interoperable communications in collaboration with the DESPP Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications. The Unit also provides direct communications from the State Emergency Operations Center to the five DEMHS Regional Offices and to every municipality in Connecticut as needed. This unit is responsible for logistics for the Division on a daily basis and during activations of the SEOC

**The Community Preparedness, Strategic Planning, and Grants (CPSPG) Unit** is overseen by a manager and is responsible for all-hazards planning, program design and development, administration, coordination, development and maintenance of plans and programs to enhance Connecticut's mitigation and resiliency, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities. CPSPG staff draft and revise the state's emergency management plans, including the State Response Framework. DEMHS staff members also work with other states, as well as the Eastern Provinces of Canada, to provide coordinated, collaborative emergency planning and preparedness. The Unit also works closely with the agency's Fiscal Unit on program management and financial management of grant programs. Other CPSPG Unit responsibilities include: providing oversight and direction for regional collaboration planning initiatives; coordinating the execution of regional spending plans that address identified preparedness and planning needs; supporting various DEMHS committees, working groups and task forces; overseeing the implementation of federal and state grant programs, including the Emergency Management Performance, Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Nonprofit Security and Homeland Security Grants, and the state school security and nonprofit grant programs; administering federal disaster assistance programs to state and local governments, eligible non-profit organizations and individuals, and; drafting and implementing various strategic planning documents.

The CPSPG Unit includes a Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) section, whose work includes planning, coordination, development, maintenance, exercises, and training for the State's Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) for Millstone's Nuclear Power Station.

The Connecticut RERP details the steps that would be taken to protect the public in response to an emergency Millstone Nuclear Power Station in Waterford. This plan is continually under review and is exercised with local, state, and federal agencies as well as the neighboring States of New York and Rhode Island. FEMA and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission evaluate REP preparedness plans and exercises annually. The REP staff ensures that key partners, notably the



10 communities around Millstone, the Host Communities, the Transportation Staging Area, and support towns, receive training, and have up-to-date plans and procedures.

The CPSPG Unit includes a Disaster Recovery section and a Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency section that work with other DEMHS personnel to facilitate preliminary damage assessments and Presidential Declaration requests, and then coordinate federal Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation disaster relief and non-emergency mitigation funds for state and federal governments, eligible non-profit organizations, and individuals. This Unit also coordinates with other state agencies and partners to convene and operate the state Interagency Debris Management Task Force.

## **DIVISION OF STATEWIDE EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (DSET) provides for the development and maintenance of coordinated statewide emergency service telecommunications for public safety organizations and the residents of the State of Connecticut.

DSET provides for statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 planning and implementation, public safety telecommunicators training and certification, as well as public safety frequency coordination.

DSET, like all other state and local agencies, experienced numerous challenges due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Measures to ensure the safety of staff, vendors and public safety answering point (PSAP) employees, included: working remotely, employing safety measures including social distancing for all staff, adapting current training and certification program to an online, remote platform, providing technical support for temporary relocation of PSAPs to allow for social distancing and compliance with state and CDC guidelines, weekly virtual meetings with PSAPs and stakeholders for situational awareness and report of ongoing operations and safety measures, and distribution of state COVID written guidelines for public safety telecommunicators and first responders.

DSET provides funding for numerous projects and agencies including funding for five regional communications centers, 22 cities with populations greater than 40,000, nine multi-town Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), eight State Police dispatch centers, and 13 coordinated medical emergency direction centers (CMEDs), as well as transition grants for regionalization and capital expenses. DSET's FY2021 budget for services, equipment and grants is \$33,463,213. DSET provides all state and local public safety agencies with street centerline and street address information, geographic information systems (GIS) for emergency response purposes. Statewide mapping initiatives continue to ensure that street centerline data is accurate for all emergency responders.

Activities for 2021 include:

### **9-1-1 Call Counts**

During calendar year 2021, Connecticut's 106 public safety answering points and four State Police Secondary Answering Points processed a total of 2,012,310, 9-1-1 calls, an increase of 4.7% over the total 9-1-1 calls made in 2020.

## **Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network**

DSET also oversees the Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network (CLMRN) which provides mission critical communications for the State Police as well as municipalities, federal and other state agencies, with over 15,000 radios in use. DSET manages and maintains the microwave transport system for the statewide radio network as well as over 70 state-owned and leased tower facilities including licensing, contracts, security and structural requirements. DSET is also responsible for the Network Control Center (NCC) which monitors the network 24/7/365.

DSET recently completed a complex statewide upgrade of the CLMRN. This \$64.5 million, 4-year project replaced end of life equipment with the latest IP-based architecture technology increasing much needed capacity and added features in order to enhance radio communications for first responders and other public safety entities. This was an extremely complex deployment involving multiple vendors and partners, stringent project management control, effective contract compliance, managing radio licensing requirements, negotiating tower agreements, tower structural analysis and strict fiscal management. During the next round of improvements to the statewide radio system, commonly referred to as Phase V, DSET will be enhancing both coverage and capacity in year 2022 and beyond.

DSET has been sharing the CLMRN with municipalities saving millions of dollars compared to towns purchasing their own radio systems. By sharing the state system, towns and other public safety entities save significant costs on radio infrastructure, gain interoperability with statewide users and enhanced the coverage for users in their area. Recently almost all major cities have transitioned to the CLMRN including Stamford, Bridgeport, New Britain and the Hartford Fire Department

## **Next Generation 9-1-1**

DSET has completed the replacement of Connecticut's obsolete E9-1-1 System with a Next Generation 9-1-1 platform (NG 9-1-1). NG 9-1-1 is an Internet Protocol based system, which provides the infrastructure to allow text to 9-1-1, and the future ability to send images, video, and data from telematics and crash notification systems with the NG911 calls when the telecommunications service providers make these features available.

The AT&T ESINet platform provides a robust, flexible and scalable NG 9-1-1 call delivery system that is the next step in the evolution of 9-1-1 service to the State of CT. It will provide the enhanced capabilities of a compliant i3-based protocol which includes a pathway to future capabilities such as photo and video delivery, interstate interoperability, and compatibility with a nationwide i3 Network-of-Networks. When migration to the ESINet is completed, estimated to be in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2022, individual carriers will connect directly to the AT&T ESINet platform, eliminating the need for connection through the Legacy Selective Routers.

## **Public Safety Data Network (PSDN)**

The PSDN is an ultra-high speed and flexible fiber optic data network that serves as a base transport infrastructure and interconnectivity pathway for public safety related applications and

services throughout the State. Its primary purpose is to provide the connectivity for NG911 services. Additionally, the network provides connectivity to allow for the integration of systems and applications so that vital information and resources can easily be shared among various public safety entities throughout the State.

Phase One of the PSDN encompasses connections to the following locations: 109 PSAPs, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Headquarters, DESPP Rocky Hill, DESPP Meriden campus, and Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology/DAS in East Hartford, via a fiber optic network. The network provides the connectivity needed for optimal 9-1-1 services, deliver greater reliability and speed, enable improved interoperability (including radio interoperability), and reduce costs to the State for the delivery of criminal justice information system services such as Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communication Teleprocessing and National Crime Information Center. Phase Two extends the network to another 403 public safety sites using the Federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Grant (BTOP) awarded in 2012, Governance is required to manage the connections, expectations, service level and costs related to other public safety organizations taking advantage of the PSDN. In order to manage that process, the PSDN Governance Board has been created to review and approve applications for use as well as setting policy. The Board is coordinated by DSET. An online application process has been implemented. Over 185 applications for use of the PSDN have been submitted with over 160 working public safety applications in use by municipalities and other state agencies.

### **Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP)**

Part of the American Reinvestment Recovery Act, BTOP awarded the State of Connecticut \$93 million of federal funds to upgrade and expand Connecticut's broadband network. DSET matched this grant with \$24 million from the E9-1-1 surcharge. This joint effort between the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and DAS' Bureau of Enterprise Services and Technology included installation of over 5,500 miles of fiber to connect to 555 public safety agencies, which serve 25,000 first responders. Additionally, in conjunction with the Connecticut Education Network (CEN), it provides broadband service to 120 educational institutions.

### **Backup PSAP and Training Center**

In April 2019, (DSET), applied for the 911 Grant Program, administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The grant was approved in the amount of \$1,081,603. Connecticut's funding is being used to build multi-functional training room and disaster recovery PSAP. The Connecticut Statewide Emergency Communication Center (CSECC) will be co-located with the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden. Site selection was based on: its central location, onsite parking, 24 x 7 accessibility, building security, code compliance and ease of access. The space provides interior space needed to function as both a training center and as a disaster recovery center. Connecticut's telecommunicator training and certification program, incorporates all training elements required for regulatory and statutory compliance, and identified in the National 911 Program's Recommended Minimum Training Guidelines.

*Training Lab Requirement:* In order to improve training and provide a “real world,” fully functional environment for telecommunicators, a working PSAP environment is needed. Connecticut does not currently have an equipped space available.

This fully functional training lab PSAP will operate like a live PSAP. It will have eleven dispatch consoles with room at each for two trainees and NG911 equipment. A working telephone system, capable of routing with ANI and ALI will be provided. NG 911 equipment will include Automatic Notification Information/Automatic Location Information (ANI/ALI), Text-to-911, GIS mapping, statewide aerial photography and headset and handset interfaces. Positions will have an Internet Protocol (IP) radio console connected to Connecticut’s P25 radio core system using Connecticut’s Public Safety Data Network (PSDN).

*Disaster Recovery PSAP Requirement:* The proposed Training Lab could be repurposed on a moment’s notice to backup or replace any PSAP in Connecticut. The features, installed to provide a realistic training environment, could be used as a fully functional PSAP. This allows a PSAP or multiple PSAPs to relocate in the event of an emergency or operational overload. The radio consoles enable use of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection’s (DESPP) radio system to provide radio coverage on statewide interoperability channels.

Construction was completed in October 2021, procurement, delivery and installation of all equipment is ongoing, expected completion, following testing and final walkthrough, is expected March 2022.

As an additional measure, to ensure continuity of PSAP operations, DSET has procured ten laptops, which can be deployed if a PSAP needs to temporarily relocate its emergency telecommunications. The laptops are for use with the 911 Call Handling Platform; they include the necessary hardware, software, and network access. Testing, training, and development of written policies and procedures has begun and will be completed first quarter 2022.

### **Regionalization**

There are currently 106 PSAPs serving the 169 towns and cities of Connecticut. The cost of equipping these PSAPs with hardware, software and technology is the state’s responsibility. Next Generation 9-1-1 improvements make this requirement one of significant proportions. It has long been a goal of DSET and the Enhanced 9-1-1 Commission to reduce the number of PSAPs by encouraging consolidation. To achieve this goal DSET has funded several studies requested by local governments to consider mergers of dispatch and 9-1-1 centers. DSET also provides several financial incentives, such as grant funds to relocate telephone and radio equipment, as well as to design and plan new communications centers, for the purpose of consolidation. The towns of Fairfield and Westport are currently in the process of combining their emergency communication with an expected completion date in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022.

### **The Connecticut Emergency Notification System: CTAlert**

The State of Connecticut CTAlert Everbridge Program also includes database management, training and ongoing technical support. The CT Alert Emergency Notification System allows public safety officials to help protect lives and property by providing critical information to

residents during emergencies and dangerous situations. The system is managed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and is part of a comprehensive program to ensure public safety in Connecticut. The system is available for use by several state agencies and most of the PSAPs in the state.

CT Alert has two main components:

- A geo-notification function allows for alerts to be sent to the public in any geographic area in the state. The system provides powerful map-based GIS capabilities enabling users to quickly target residents in affected geographic areas that could include part of a town, an entire town or towns, or a large area of the state.
- A public safety employee notification function which allows public safety agencies to send messages improve the coordination of emergency response personnel.

CT Alert utilizes the NG911 database for geo-notifications to the public for life-threatening emergencies. The NG911 data includes only traditional wireline telephone numbers in the state.

A Citizen Opt-In Registration Web Page (CTAlert.gov) is available to the public that allows for communication pathways not included in the 9-1-1 database such as mobile phones / smart phones, VoIP landlines, email, short message service (SMS), and instant messaging to be included in the CT Alert system. Individuals can specify the contact path order for multiple communication devices and the system will cycle through each communication device until messages are delivered and confirmed.

At the end of 2021 more than 232,381 households have registered their communication pathways via the Citizen Opt-In Web Page or through the community engagement portals.

During 2021, 133 Emergency Citizen Notifications were sent thru CTAlert to Connecticut citizens. Over 1.3 million text messages, 2.4 million voice calls, and 500,000 emails were sent.

### **Geographic Information Services (GIS)**

DSET provides a critical Geographic Information System function for the State. GIS uses a computer-based tool to store, manipulate, manage and analyze spatial/geographic data. GIS is the backbone of the NG 9-1-1, as the system relies on the location accuracy of the map to ensure prompt dispatching of emergency services to 9-1-1 callers. In addition to 9-1-1, the GIS group provides and supports the mapping data for the State Police Computer Aided Dispatch system, the CT Alert Emergency Notification system, the State Emergency Operations Center during disaster exercises and activations, and other state and municipal entities as required. They also coordinate and manage statewide ortho-imagery flights, which provide high-resolution aerial images.

#### *9-1-1 GIS Metrics*

Street Centerline Updating — DSET continues to collect and process street and address updates that have been provided by the towns and PSAPs. DSET has verified the street names of 237,285 street segments, updated the address ranges of 13,484 street segments, and updated the location of 104,939 street segments since taking over the updating process from Tele Atlas.

These updates help improve the locating of and dispatch of emergency services to 9-1-1 callers,

Address Points added to NG 9-1-1 system — DSET has added GIS building and tax parcel center address points (total of 1,168,489, as of December 31st, 2021) for all of Connecticut's municipalities to the new NG9-1-1 system, this new GIS dataset is be used in conjunction with the GIS street centerline to further improve call location accuracy,

ALI Geocoding Results —DSET continues to increase the number of 9-1-1 ALI address records that can be mapped, or geocoded, in the 9-1-1 system. As of December 31st, 2021, the percentage of mapped ALI records has reached 99.37% using the street centerline data and 99.48% using a combination of address point and street centerline data. This is up from 99.33% and 99.44%, respectively in 2020.

Call volume maps DSET has created PSAP-based 9-1-1 call volume maps to complement the 2021 call volume data. The five-map set consists of total call volume, wireline call volume, wireless call volume, VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) call volume, and Text to 9-1-1 call volume.

### **Telecommunicator Training and Certification**

In 2021 eleven certification classes were held, 127 telecommunicators were trained and certified in 9-1-1 emergency telecommunications. In addition, 215 telecommunicators were recertified, NG 911 equipment training was provided to 167 telecommunicators. Most classes were presented online, however, when it was safe to do so, classes were held in person at the Cromwell Fire Station.

### **Translation Services**

DSET provides translation services to Connecticut PSAPs, which provides the critical link between non-English speaking callers (nearly one in five in Connecticut) and public safety responders. DSET contracted with Voiance to provide interpretation of over 175 languages.

### **Frequency Coordination**

The Region 19 current 700MHz plan allows distribution of 700 MHz general use frequency spectrum. The Committee is the clearing house for the 700MHz "State Licensed" channels used in New England. Applications for other public safety entities are provided from the CAPRAD County, on a first come first serve basis, when spectrum is exhausted, the reserve channel pool will be allocated. It requires all New England Public Safety services, compliance with written procedures, coordinating and sharing resources and eliminating duplicate facilities. In 2021 it received several applications from New England States, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and local Connecticut municipalities The Region 19 800MHz Committee received multiple applications for system modifications in 2021 from several New England States and Connecticut municipalities as well.

### **Public Education**

DSET engaged an advertising agency to develop a comprehensive public education campaign to support the deployment of the Text-to-911 feature within NG9-1-1. In 2020-2021, DSET made the decision to put public education efforts on hold to ensure all messaging, education and outreach was focused on the state's response to COVID 19.

### **Emergency Medical Dispatch**

Each PSAP is required to provide emergency medical dispatch (EMD) directly or by a private safety agency. EMD refers to instructions provided to the 9-1-1 caller by emergency telecommunicators prior to the arrival of medical services. DSET provides funding to all PSAPs for the training, certification and ongoing education for this critical service. DSET will continue to stress the importance of quality improvement and reviewing of EMD calls to ensure the highest degree of professionalism and service to 9-1-1 callers.

The Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (DSET) provides for the development and maintenance of coordinated statewide emergency service telecommunications for public safety organizations and the residents of the State of Connecticut.

DSET provides for statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 planning and implementation, public safety telecommunicators training and certification, as well as public safety frequency coordination.

### **POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL**

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) has a three-fold mission. First, POSTC is committed to providing innovative, credible, and responsive high quality basic, advanced, and specialized training to Connecticut police officers in an economical manner and in quantities sufficient to enable them to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to serve the public with commitment, empathy, and competence. Second, the POSTC is committed to adopting and enforcing professional standards for certification and for decertification of Connecticut's police officers, in a manner consistent with the law, considerate of the regulated community and uncompromising to basic values and ethics. Third, the POSTC develops, adopts, and revises a comprehensive Accreditation Program for law enforcement units, to confer Accreditation to those units that demonstrate their compliance with such Standards, and to conduct assessments to determine such unit's continued compliance with such Standards.

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) consists of 21 members appointed by various members of the Legislature and the Governor. There are also two ex-officio members who serve by virtue of their position: the Special Agent in Charge for Connecticut of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). There are several standing subcommittees of the Council: Accreditation, Action, Certification, Curriculum, Personnel, and the Social Justice Advisory committee. The Police Academy Administrator manages the POST Academy, which consists of

four functional units: Basic Training, Field Services, Certification/Compliance, and Accreditation.

## **POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING DIVISION**

The Division of the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) works collectively with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) to carry out its three-fold mission. The POST Division is centrally located at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, Connecticut. POST provides basic police recruit training as well as in-service police training and works with the council to set entry-level educational, licensing, and training standards for all police officers. It certifies training programs offered to police recruits in seven (7) satellite police academies and controls the certification of police instructors. POST also establishes procedures for certified review training, oversees and awards credit for certified review training of veteran officers, and recertifies, triennially, those who qualify and encourages the growth of professional development, and continuing education programs for police officers.

The Comprehensive Municipal Police Training Plan on average trains approximately 400 municipal Recruit police officers per year at the Connecticut Police Academy as well as the satellite academies. The seven (7) satellites are currently located in Bridgeport, Hartford, Milford, New Britain, New Haven and Waterbury as well as the Connecticut State Police Training Academy in Meriden. The basic training division is responsible to certify, inspect and audit the seven (7) satellite police academies.

The training plan includes a process of reviewing recruit training curriculum to reflect advancements in police training nationwide and to provide current, comprehensive, and meaningful training to recruits. The curriculum is currently undergoing a full review and evaluation including all instructional areas. This approach incorporates a partnership with community members and multigovernmental agencies to collaborate on content delivery and review of lesson plans, goals, and objectives. Additionally, the training plan includes providing and or sponsoring in-service training programs to accommodate approximately 8,200 (+/-) sworn members of Law Enforcement with in-service and advanced training. In-service and advanced training assists officers in complying with the POSTC mandated 60-hour review training cycle every three years and provides necessary training to assist them in serving their communities.

### **Public Service**

Recognizing the lasting effects, a Police Officer's interaction has on citizens, and to demonstrate what a day in the life of a recruit is, POST Basic Training Division has expanded the availability of staff guided tours of the facility during business hours to groups of young people interested in law enforcement. These tours have been provided in the last 12 months to groups expressing interest in police careers, education, and training. The tours permit students to observe the daily routine of Academy life including hands-on training and academics. Some of the younger groups are often integrated into a recruit class itself for hands-on realistic experience at the academy. Feedback from those groups has been positive with return visits are often requested. In addition, we have hosted visits from State and Local political leaders as well as international law enforcement agencies.



The agency's portal website ([www.ct.gov/post](http://www.ct.gov/post)) represents the four (4) Divisions of the POST Training Academy. It is a significant resource in providing updated information in changes to law, polices and/or mandates relative to police officers and the law enforcement community, municipalities, state agencies, and the public. General Notices, Advisories, or Press Releases communicate these important announcements which are posted and published as they are issued. The site is continually updated with new training course announcements made available to all certified law enforcement officers of all ranks. Police departments hiring new officers can easily find all the necessary forms and documents required to register their recruits in upcoming training sessions. The Certification Division page of our website updates the list of POSTC certified law enforcement instructors monthly. The Accreditation page highlights the program, process, and phases of the accreditation program as well as a list of the agencies awarded accredited status.

Local law enforcement agencies actively recruiting for police officers frequently include their job announcements on the "*Career Opportunities in Law Enforcement*" page of our website for executive, entry-level, and certified officer positions.

### **Facility Improvements/Achievements**

Over the past twelve months, the Academy has added cameras and microphones to all in-service training rooms. This allows trainings to be performed remotely in real time should another pandemic type of event occur. The equipment installed in the auditorium allows recording of certain courses for future use. The Academy is now set-up to hold trainings and meetings remotely from several locations within our facility.

Improvements have also been made to the firing range. These improvements include new outdoor tables, repairs to older structures used for equipment storage, and the addition of a lean-to structure, between the range building and the firing line, to offer some protection from the elements.

### **Training Achievements**

The 2-year DOJ grant for *Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness* is ending August 31, 2022. The first of two Peer Support training sessions promulgated under this grant was held in June 2022 and was attended by 65 participants. The attendees included Troopers, municipal officers, and dispatchers. A second session of this training is scheduled for August 2022 and has approximately 55 participants from those same disciplines.

The current Basic Training Course Curriculum now requires successful completion of 1,345 hours of Basic Training with a minimum of 400 hours (Statutory) of Field Training before Certification is conferred. The entire Basic Training Curriculum, including the evaluation of current goals and objectives, evaluation of training modules, reviewing new trends and developments in policing as well as legislative changes, is under review by the POSTC Curriculum Committee and staff.

Charter Oak State College recently completed a review of our curriculum. The POSTC basic training curriculum has been accredited by Charter Oak College since 2009 and Recruits receive college credit for their work at the POST Academy. This review consisted of a full review of the academic classes to assure the POST Academy maintains the standards and quality to be accredited by Charter Oak State College. Currently Charter Oak College awards 26 college credits to each recruit who successfully completes the Basic Police Recruit Training Program.

The Basic Training Division completed three recruit training sessions over a 12-month period comprising 128 recruit officers representing police agencies statewide. In addition, the Basic Training Division oversaw seven (7) POSTC approved Satellite Academy training sessions comprised of a total of 202 recruit officers.

The Basic Training Division continually evaluates its role as ambassadors for individuals interested in the law enforcement field. Staff routinely collaborate with local universities to provide classroom instruction in the field of law enforcement. In 2022, the Academy collaborated with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Police to provide a second annual training for their seasonal Ranger's program. The program was designed to provide DEEP Rangers with an overall understanding of police functions such as police officer protocol, patrol techniques, and medical response directives. Over the past year, staff has assisted outside agencies in the role the Academy plays in educating law enforcement recruits and officers through instruction, tours, and committees. The training staff at the academy have provided instruction at local community colleges, facilitated tours for high school and college students, and have participated in committees aimed at expanding the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Ongoing use of the "Wilcox Township" training village and the Multiple Interactive Learning/Training Objectives (MILO) firearms and driving simulator for practical skills demonstrations provided recruits with the ability to test their understanding of trained techniques and laws in live, interactive scenarios. These simulated scenarios utilizing both experienced officers in actual buildings and skill focused modules are valuable in allowing the recruit to experience live situations and demonstrate decision making skills. This also allows instructors time to evaluate the absorption of classroom materials and how it transfers into the field. The Academy also accommodates many local, state, and federal agencies at the training site for police exercises, training scenarios, and related activities.

POST instructors and staff are continual participants in state and local committees that focus on issues facing law enforcement and community relations. Staff recently assisted with the development of training for Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Peer Support Training, and Elder Abuse. In addition, Staff are active participants in committees including but not limited to, Elder Abuse Coalition, Human Trafficking Council, Impaired Driving Task Force, Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Eyewitness Identification Task Force. This continual collaboration has assisted the Basic Training Division by expanding the use of non-sworn persons in providing practical skills training.

Because of the ongoing presence of COVID, POST staff continues to utilize online platforms to provide necessary training to police recruits and resources to local agencies while adhering to health guidelines. The use of online training platforms has allowed for an expansion of training in both the Basic Training Division and Field Services Training Division and has opened opportunities for broader remote learning in the future. Two dedicated online training rooms have allowed staff to record and disseminate training materials. The academy has also installed upgraded audio and video technology components to each of the academy classrooms for greater efficacy of training and remote access to trainees.

### **Field Services Training Division:**

The Field Services Training Division provided (113) in-service training courses in the past 12 months. The courses included executive, supervisory and management development, Basic Instructor Development, Drug Evaluation and Classification Training (DRE), Responding to People with Developmental Disabilities, Armed School Security pursuant to Public Act 13-188, Police Response to Mental Health Crisis, Responding to Situations Involving People with Mental Illness, Law Enforcement Active De-escalation Strategies (L.E.A.D.S), Use-of-Force “Train the Trainer” and many more.

The Division Director continues to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Office of Highway Safety, to provide DRE, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement (Standardized Field Sobriety Testing) courses. Pursuant to State law, the Division and DOT’s Office of Highway Safety offered the ARIDE course monthly and continues to do so.

### **Certification, Recertification, and Decertification of Police Officers:**

The Certification/Compliance Division works in partnership with the Academy Administrator, DESPP legal team, and the POST Council to enhance the quality of police training and certification.

Currently there are approximately 8,244 certified police officers in the state representing 159 law enforcement agencies which statutorily report to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. POST Council granted an automatic extension for all police officer certifications that expired June 30, 2021, to June 30, 2022, because of COVID restrictions and new requirements. As a result, there were approximately 3,772 officers were scheduled to renew their certification on June 20, 2022. POST Council granted 52 extensions because of injury/illness, 13 because of administrative issues, 10 because of military leave. There were four (4) officers who were decertified for violation of Connecticut General Statute Section 7- 294d during 2022. POSTC has received 42, CGS 7 -291(C) departures since July 2021. POSTC has received eight (8) requests for officer decertification in 2022.

POST staff are currently reviewing the United States Air Force curriculum for possible adoption of a comparative certification.

### **Certification of Field Training Officers (FTO):**

Certification of an FTO is conferred after verifying that the officer has at least three years of certified police service, has completed a Field Training program of at least 32 hours and has the backing of their Chief Law Enforcement official that they are in good standing. The program has expanded over the past year to provide Train-the-Trainer classes to expand the number of instructors throughout the state. Additionally, an FTO class is conducted concurrently with each recruit class so that the new FTO's have the skills necessary to conduct on site practical skills training with current recruits and are made aware of current training trends so there is a more seamless transition for recruits in field training.

Over the past year several Officers have been certified as Field Training Officers. The POSTC database currently reflects 3,430 certified FTO's statewide.

### **Certification Committee Meetings:**

The Certification Compliance Officer is responsible for Certification Committee meetings, setting the certification-related issue agenda items, making written recommendations to the Certification Committee for a vote, and preparing the Certification Committee recommendations to the full Council agenda for their vote. The Certification Compliance Meetings are held 7 months of the year (opposite months of the POST Council meetings).

The Certification Unit has attended various training meetings at the Law Enforcement Council (LEC), Capital Region Training Officers Association, South Central Training Officer Associations, Fairfield County Police Training Officers Association (FCPTOA), and the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA).

### **Performance of Pre-inspections and Continued Unannounced Inspections:**

POST staff have completed Inspections of the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden and the 7 council-approved satellite basic police recruit training academies hosted by the Bridgeport, Hartford, Milford, New Britain, New Haven and Waterbury Police Academies as well as the Connecticut State Police Training Academy in Meriden. These inspections ensure operational compliance (required curriculum, hours to be completed, proper learning environment, and certification of instructional staff) per Council regulations.

### **Academy's National Accreditation**

The primary function of the Accreditation Unit is to maintain the Police Academy's International Accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Academy has been accredited through CALEA since March 15, 2008. Since the initial accreditation award in 2008, the Academy has continued, without interruption, to earn reaccreditation 4 times, the latest occurring in March 2021. The Academy underwent its most recent annual review in April 2022.

## **State Accreditation Program**

The second responsibility of the Accreditation Unit is to administer and manage the POST Council's State Accreditation Program. During the past year, 6 law enforcement units have been reaccredited and 3 agencies became accredited for the first time.

Presently, there are 50 police agencies accredited in Connecticut; 18 of these are dually accredited through CALEA and the State Accreditation Program. During the past year, the Unit has conducted one Accreditation Manager training session.

The Accreditation Manager is responsible for Accreditation Committee meetings, setting the accreditation-related agenda, making written recommendations to the Accreditation Committee for a vote and preparing the Accreditation Committee recommendations to the full Council for their vote.

## **Compliance to Law Enforcement Standards and Practices Program (CLESP)**

Public Act 18-161 POST-C developed the Compliance to Law Enforcement Standards and Practices Program (CLESP). The program consists of 16 standards that each law enforcement unit in the state of Connecticut must implement unless they were maintaining a higher level of accreditation standards developed by the Council or CALEA or the State Accreditation Program. Evaluations of each Law Enforcements Unit's policies and proofs-of-compliance are reviewed annually by POST Academy Staff. With the passing of new legislation Public Act 22 -119, requiring all law enforcement agencies to become accredited either through the State Program or CALEA, the CLESP program standards will be reflected in the state tiered program. As a result, CLESP is scheduled to sunset.

## **DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC SERVICES**

The Division of Scientific Services (DSS) provides forensic support to local, state and federal agencies throughout Connecticut. This Division is divided into three analytical sections. They are the Chemical Analysis Section (including Toxicology, Controlled Substances, Gunshot Residue and Fire Debris), the Forensic Biology/DNA Section, and the Identification Section (including Computer Crimes/Multimedia, Latent Prints, Firearms, Imprints and Questioned Documents). The laboratory also has two non-analytical sections. They are the Quality Section and Laboratory Support Services (including Administration, Evidence Receiving and Case Management).

The Division is led by a Director and each of the three analytical sections is headed by a Deputy Director. Reporting to the Deputy Directors are various titles consisting of Assistant Directors, Forensic Science Examiners, CT Career Trainees, Lab Assistants, Evidence Control Officers and State Police Sergeants, Detectives, and Troopers. The Quality Section is comprised of the Quality Assurance Manager. Laboratory Support Services is managed by Scientific Services Administrative Manager

## **Evidence Receiving Unit**

The Evidence Receiving Unit of the DSS is the first point of contact for all agencies submitting evidence to the Division. This Unit plays an integral role in maintaining the proper storage and chain of custody of all evidence. The submitting agencies are divided between local, federal and state agencies. The majority of cases submitted to the DSS are from local agencies. The Division of Scientific Services has performed testing for out of state agencies in the areas of Fire Debris, DNA, GSR, latent prints and video analysis in special cases and circumstances.

## **Case Management Unit**

The Case Management Unit was created in 2013 as a LeanCT initiative. This Unit's main goal is to act as the primary conduit between submitting agencies and the forensic examiners. The Case Management Unit communicates with the submitting agencies for additional information or samples to complete analysis on the cases. This Unit is also in communication with the State's Attorney's Offices regarding cases requiring expedited casework, pending trials or dispositions, and Discovery/FOIA requests. In FY2022, the DSS received 281 requests for Discovery/FOIA, a 99% decrease from the previous fiscal year.

The Case Management Unit currently coordinates the flow of casework to the Forensic Biology/DNA Section and has begun expanding its case management coordination to the other units within the DSS. The creation of the Case Management Unit has allowed examiners to focus on performing examinations and analysis instead of administrative duties. The Unit also prioritizes cases according to pending court dates, arrests or other circumstances.

## **Forensic Biology Unit**

The Forensic Biology Unit examines evidence collected in sexual assaults, homicides, assaults, robberies, and property crimes. The Unit identifies the presence of blood, semen, and other body fluids, such as fecal material, saliva, or urine. In addition, examiners collect samples from objects for "touch DNA" examination. The forensic examiners in this Unit also use their training and experience to determine which samples will be forwarded to the DNA Unit for further analysis. The types of evidence examined by this Unit may range from swabs, bloody weapons, clothing and bedding to larger items.

Pieces of evidence routinely received and screened by the Forensic Biology Unit include 'CT 100' Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits. On October 1, 2015, the CT General Assembly enacted Public Act No. 15-207 (An Act Concerning Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases). Per the Public Act, law enforcement must submit sexual assault kits to the DSS within 10 days from date of collection. In turn, the DSS has 60 days from date of collection to test the sexual assault kits. Prior to the passing of the Public Act, the DSS would receive approximately 400 sexual assault kits annually. In FY2022, 590 sexual assault kits were submitted to the laboratory, a 3% increase from the previous fiscal year.

Efforts have been made to streamline and eliminate redundancy of paperwork, documentation and analyses as well as improve overall turn-around time. The Forensic Biology Unit currently prepares all of the samples for DNA extraction. The Unit will also examine submitted hairs

located in a case for human origin determination and for the presence of an attached tissue fragment. Human hairs with tissue are forwarded to DNA for analysis. This ensures that the best forensic samples are being forwarded for DNA testing. Using a recently implemented male screening procedure, during FY2022 the Forensic Biology Unit was able to successfully accession, and screen evidence collected during a sexual assault examination within an average of 2.8 days. Traditional serological testing was completed on average in 46 days in FY2022, a 13% decrease from the previous fiscal year.

The Forensic Biology Unit received 4,516 requests for analysis in FY2022, a 4% decrease from the previous fiscal year.

### **DNA Unit**

The DNA Unit is comprised of two sub-units, the Nuclear and Database Units. DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid, which is the genetic material that determines who people are, both as individuals and human beings. DNA is located in the nuclei and mitochondria of cells and can be isolated from various body fluids and skin cells sloughed from our bodies. The DNA Unit uses the type of DNA found in the nucleus of the cell. The majority of casework analyzed by the DNA Unit utilizes STR (short tandem repeats) analysis which has a high power of discrimination, can be automated, and successfully utilized with degraded samples.

Each DNA case may be comprised of multiple requests depending on the type of samples submitted and the type of DNA required to generate the most probative genetic information. In FY2022, the DNA Unit received 7,604 requests for analysis. This is a 4% increase from the previous fiscal year.

The DNA Nuclear Unit enters DNA profiles generated from evidentiary samples into Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) to generate matches (or 'hits') to convicted offender DNA profiles as well as DNA profiles from other criminal cases. Eligible profiles from forensic samples and CT convicted offenders are uploaded to the national database for searching against other state databases.

The DNA Database Unit's primary purpose is to process convicted offender samples and upload the DNA profiles generated from these samples into CODIS. In FY2022, 1,668 offender samples were processed by the DSS for upload into the CODIS database, a 53% increase from the previous fiscal year.

CODIS has multiple levels where DNA profiles can be stored and searched: the local level (for city and county DNA laboratories), state level and national level. Data stored at the state level is kept in the State DNA Index System, or SDIS. At the state level, an analyst can try to match a DNA profile from a local crime scene sample (also known as a 'forensic unknown') with an offender's profile within the state to solve cases that span throughout Connecticut. Data stored at the national level is kept in the National DNA Index System, or NDIS. At this level, an analyst can try to match a DNA profile from a local crime scene sample with an offender's profile from across the nation to try and solve cases that span various states.

The DNA Unit reports two types of hits. They are Offender Hits and Forensic Hits. Offender Hits are a match of a genetic profile from evidence to a known sample submitted from a convicted offender. A forensic hit is defined as a match between two forensic evidence samples from different cases, which include unidentified remains and missing persons. Forensic hits may provide the submitting agencies with an investigatory lead or can be used to track or establish serial-type crimes.

In FY2022, there were 2,258 forensic profiles entered into the CODIS database, a 2.5% decrease from the previous fiscal year. For FY2022 the Division obtained 1,118 CODIS hits, a 3.6% increase from the previous fiscal year.

In 2013, the DNA Unit developed a separate laboratory area and workflow to handle database convicted offender samples and “knowns” submitted for cases analysis. The separate laboratory area and workflow allows the database samples and “knowns” to be processed quickly and minimizes the possibility of cross transfer with evidentiary samples. “Knowns” are a forensic term used to describe a sample (blood or buccal) submitted from a known individual for comparison or elimination purposes. In the case of a property crime, the “knowns” may be from homeowners for elimination purposes. Due to the increased communication with the submitting agencies, there has been progress in the submission of elimination “knowns,” which has improved comparisons in DNA casework and has also eliminated the entry of profiles into the CODIS Database that may not be probative. In FY2022, the DSS processed approximately 3,000 “knowns” submitted for case analysis.

### **Chemistry Unit**

The Chemistry Unit within the DSS analyzes evidence related to fire debris and primer gunshot residue (pGSR)-type cases. Ignitable liquid and elemental pGSR examinations are the most common types of requests that are received within the unit. A combination of classical wet-bench chemical extraction techniques and instrumental analyses can be used.

The Chemistry Unit examines evidence for the presence of certain particles related to pGSR. Evidence is usually submitted in the form of GSR kits and includes stubs taken from law enforcement. Clothing can be submitted in order to determine if an individual may have been in close proximity of a recently discharged firearm. Evidence is examined by a technique called scanning electron microscopy using energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy. In FY2022 the Unit received 210 such requests for analysis. This is a 74% increase from the previous fiscal year.

Suspected arson and other cases involving ignitable materials are analyzed within the Chemistry Unit. A technique called headspace analysis is utilized to extract volatile chemicals from evidence. Such chemicals are trapped and subsequently analyzed by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) in order to identify chemicals/material which may have been used to either start or accelerate fires. In FY2022 the Unit received 62 accelerant-type requests for analysis.

### **Toxicology Unit**



The Toxicology Unit analyzes blood, urine, and other body fluids in support of driving under the influence (DUI), drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA), and postmortem cases in support of local, state, and federal agencies. The majority of work within the unit involves analyzing ante-mortem samples (e.g., urine and blood) for the presence of ethanol and/or other chemicals which may cause impairment within drivers of motor vehicles. For post-mortem sample analyses a variety of evidence (e.g., blood, vitreous humor, and urine) may be received. These cases are usually limited to analyzing samples from decedents as a result of motor vehicle crashes, homicides, and/or traumatic suicides.

Work performed within the Toxicology Unit utilizes immunoassay techniques, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry methodologies, and liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry. Extensive chemical libraries and certified reference standards are utilized for the identification of drugs and other chemicals. Headspace gas chromatography, liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry, and accurate-mass determination are all powerful instrumental techniques that are housed and available for use by toxicologists. The Toxicology Unit also provides a service for law enforcement related to serum conversions of ethanol data in situations where submitting agencies may only have hospital medical records indicating possible ethanol impairment of suspected DUI operators. In FY2022 there were 2643 requests received for a variety of analyses within the Toxicology Unit. This was a 1% increase in comparison to the last Fiscal Year.

The Breath-Alcohol discipline is a sub-unit of the Toxicology Unit and is responsible for training and certifying personnel as instructors, and subsequently operators, of breath-alcohol testing devices which are utilized throughout the state of CT. Staff instruct law enforcement trainers so that quality assurance and operational standards are followed by all law enforcement agency operators statewide when administering breath-alcohol tests. Evaluation and maintenance certification of breath-alcohol testing instruments is conducted within the sub-unit. Updates to documents offering proof that breathalyzer instructors are trained/certified, and that breathalyzer instrument's functionalities are maintained. Examiners are often summoned to provide educational certificates for instructors and/or maintenance records for instruments during either discovery or freedom of information act (FOIA) requests. In FY2022 there were 15 breath-alcohol training classes provided by the DSS laboratory resulting in 254 persons being certified as instructors/operators. This is about a 25% decrease in the number of certified instructors/operators who received training compared to the previous fiscal year.

### **Controlled Substances Unit**

Examiners within the Controlled Substances Unit receive, accession, and identify drugs of abuse. They mainly focus on substances that are controlled within the Controlled Substances Act. Bulk drugs, drug residue, and drug paraphernalia are readily received as evidence submitted for analysis. While the more commonly analyzed substances tend to be marijuana, cocaine, MDMA, fentanyl and heroin, newer drugs such as synthetic cannabinoids, bath salts, and fentanyl analogues have been increasing in frequency. Pills and tablets, both manufactured and counterfeit also comprise the evidence received within that unit. Recent trends include the continually expanding set of new synthetic analogue drugs commonly referred to as synthetic marijuana/cannabinoids and bath salts. Typical instrumentation used by analysts in this field

includes Fourier-transform infrared spectrophotometry (FTIR) and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS).

Occasionally personnel respond with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), as well as the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), to clandestine drug labs in the field. Analysts can provide both technical and safety support during the response, as well as answer questions that investigators might have regarding evidence collection and proper packaging. In FY2022 there were 363 requests for drug analyses received, approximately the same amount from the previous fiscal year. The DSS experienced an increase for fentanyl detected within cases. In FY2022 approximately 241 submissions and 33,662 items were reported to contain fentanyl. This was about a 141% increase in comparison to fentanyl detected in submissions reported within FY2021.

### **Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence Unit**

The Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence Unit is divided into two separate sub-units: The Investigations Unit and the Forensic Analysis Unit. In this Unit, State troopers investigate cases related to child pornography and other computer related offenses. The Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence Unit was one of the founding members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program (ICAC). The ICAC program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over 2,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. Since 1999, the Connecticut ICAC Task Force has continued to work with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in responding to cyber enticement, child exploitation and child pornography cases. Presently, the Connecticut ICAC Task Force consists of 52 affiliate local law enforcement agencies. As part of this Task Force, Connecticut is a recipient of ICAC funding from the United States Department of Justice.

The DSS was a recipient of the ICAC Forensic Capacity Hiring Program for Wounded Veterans Grant Program. The funding for this grant was used to hire a wounded veteran as a consultant to conduct computer forensic analysis and assist in the evaluation and dissemination of Cybertips that are received by the Task Force regarding possible child pornography cases.

The goal of the Forensic Analysis Unit is to examine seized computers and other electronic storage devices (ESD) such as cell phones, tablets, iPods, and gaming devices, for evidentiary value. A significant number of cases involve the exploitation of children in the areas of human trafficking and child pornography and narcotics related offenses. For FY2022, this unit received approximately 355 requests, a 12.5% decrease from the previous fiscal year

In FY2022, the Computer Crimes Unit responded to 6 requests for the removal and acquisition of data from vehicle infotainment systems. The data extracted from these vehicles provided valuable GPS coordinate data and cellular device data to assist in timely investigative information.

In 2013, the Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence Unit, the Chemistry Unit, and members of the CSP Canine Training Unit, collaborated to train dogs with the ability to detect electronic storage devices (or ESD-K9). Currently, the State of Connecticut has two such canines in use and they have successfully aided investigators in the recovery of hidden electronic storage

media. This project has gained national attention and has resulted into a full-fledged training program.

In FY2022, K-9 Selma was deployed on 6 searches to assist Federal, State, and local agencies. During these searches, Selma alerted to 7 electronic storage devices which were concealed or previously not detected by human search. K-9 Walter was deployed on 28 searches to assist Federal, State, and local agencies. During these searches, Walter alerted to 16 electronic storage devices which were concealed or previously not detected by human search

### **Multimedia and Image Enhancement Unit**

The Multimedia and Image Enhancement Unit was created in 2007 and achieved accreditation in the fall of 2011. This Unit accepts analog and digital video, audio and photographic evidence, providing duplications and enhancements as requested. The majority of the cases submitted to this Unit are for driving under the influence related charges. Other casework can arise from a variety of investigations including homicides, sexual assaults or child pornography. The Multimedia and Image Enhancement Unit received 54 requests in FY2022 a 20% increase from the previous fiscal year.

The Multimedia and Image Enhancement Unit also assists law enforcement agencies with video retrievals from the crime scene or related locations or use of video evidence in police involved shooting reconstructions. In FY2022, this Unit responded to 4 calls for assistance in retrieving video at scenes or assisting in reconstructions, which was the same as the previous fiscal year. A contributing factor to this decrease was due to DSS limiting assistance at video retrievals due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Latent Print Unit**

The Latent Print Unit analyzes and compares latent prints to known prints of individuals in an effort to make identifications or exclusions. Latent prints are impressions produced by the ridged skin, known as friction ridges, on human fingers, palms, and soles of the feet. This Unit examines a variety of physical evidence utilizing the latest physical and chemical print development techniques. This Unit examines submitted photographs and lifts employing enhancement filters to bring out the best possible detail from latent evidence. Comparisons are conducted between the latent print and known impressions using the ACE-V (analysis, comparison, evaluation and verification) methodology. The DSS searches the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and currently uses the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system, which replaced the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS).

The Latent Print Unit is able to use the latent print system to search latent prints left at crime scenes or developed from submitted evidence against a centralized national fingerprint repository. Both the AFIS and NGI systems return a list of potential candidates with corresponding fingerprint images and other related information for comparison purposes. The Latent Print Unit also uploads all unidentified latent prints into an Unsolved Latent File located in the FBI's NGI and State Systems. In August of FY2022, the Latent Print Unit was transitioned

into using IDEMIA as the vendor for all latent print transactions. In FY2022, there were 814 latent prints entered/searched in the AFIS and NGI systems. As a result of these searches, the Unit received 621 hits (76% latent to database hit rate) to known fingerprint cards from arrested persons.

In FY2022, the Latent Print Unit received 608 requests for analysis, a 9% decrease from the previous fiscal year.

### **Questioned Document and Imprints Units**

The Questioned Document Unit routinely examines evidence to determine the authenticity of a document or writing. Comparison of rubber stamp impressions to signature/handwriting comparison can also be provided. The Questioned Document Unit also examines scratch-off lottery tickets prior to release into the Lottery System. Specifically, the Unit exams the test lots of the lottery games for quality of its “scratch coating” to make sure that tampering or detection of numbers is not possible until the ticket is purchased. In FY2022, the Questioned Documents Unit examined 56 lottery requests to include games and books of tickets which was the same from the previous fiscal year. The Questioned Document Examiner retired from State service at the end of the second quarter of FY2022 and DSS is assisting in sending out and questioned document cases to other accredited agencies if testing is necessary.

The Imprints Unit examines footwear and tire-tracks for characteristics that are unique or individualizing in nature. These characteristics may be used to make comparisons to known exemplars submitted for analysis. Known exemplars are tread or tire track patterns taken from known objects.

There is one examiner assigned to the Imprints Unit. These two Units received 17 requests in FY2022, a 51% decrease from the previous fiscal year.

### **Firearms Unit**

This Unit receives evidence consisting of various types and calibers of firearms, firearm components, ammunition, and ammunition components. The ammunition-type evidence is examined for microscopic markings to identify the possible make and model of the firearm that the ammunition evidence may have been used in. In addition, images taken of the cartridge casings submitted to DSS are entered into the National Integrated Ballistic Identification Network system (NIBIN), a database containing high resolution images of cartridge case evidence. These digital images can be compared to other images submitted by other Laboratories or police departments to determine if the same firearm was used, resulting in a database hit. The NIBIN database routinely searches thirteen NIBIN sites in the New England region and searches can also be conducted against specific sites nationwide. In May of 2020, the NIBIN correlation sites were expanded to search against entries on the entire East Coast of the United States. In FY2022, DSS launched two projects to assist law enforcement agencies in acquiring gun crime evidence into the NIBIN system. A kiosk was established in an anteroom outside of the laboratory to allow trained law enforcement officers 24/7 access to the NIBIN instrument to acquire their cartridge case images. Additionally, a van was built with a mobile NIBIN

acquisition instrument that can transported directly to a police agency or crime scene. In FY2022, 1157 images were acquired by ten law enforcement agencies using the kiosk and three law enforcement agencies acquired 544 casing images on the van.

In FY2022, the DSS entered 4,852 images/acquisitions into this system, 535 of which were from destruction guns. The DSS received 4,148 hits to the entries made in which 36 of these hits were to destruction guns.

This Unit conducts serial number restoration of obliterated serial number on weapons or other evidence as necessary. The analysts use various chemical methods to attempt to restore the serial numbers. The restoration of serial numbers on firearms is necessary for law enforcement agencies to trace the history of a firearm.

In FY2022, the Firearms Unit received 3,537 requests for analysis which include crime gun entries into DSS kiosk/van. This resulted in a 4% increase from the previous fiscal year. In FY2022, DSS placed online a kiosk and a mobile van equipped with NIBIN (National Ballistic Information Network) acquisition units that allowed for trained officers to use for the entry of crime gun evidence 24/7. Notification of investigative leads on crime gun evidence entered is sent directly via email to the officers. The addition of these two acquisition units assists in getting timely results relative to gun crime. In FY2022, these two resources resulted in 1,157 entries.

### **Successes and Challenges**

The Evidence Submission Guidelines that had previously reduced/restricted the number of cases and service requests submitted to the Division of Scientific Services were lifted in February of 2015. As a result, the DSS experienced an immediate increase in the number of requests submitted for analysis. A steady increase in the submission rate has continued for each subsequent year. For FY2022, there was a 9% decrease in the number of requests submitted compared to FY2021. The DSS has cross trained analysts in other disciplines to assist in reducing unit specific backlogs and to remove redundancies in evidence documentation and collection where possible.

The majority of forensic cases submitted to the Division of Scientific Services consist of evidence for Forensic Biology/DNA, Toxicology/Controlled Substances, Latent Prints, and Firearms examination. These cases are derived from sexual assaults, property crimes, homicides, weapons possessions/shots fired and DUI related incidents.

Re-engineering of the evidence submission area to decrease physical contact due to COVID-19 also reduced time for law enforcement on-site, resulting in a faster return to the field.

The Laboratory acquire and begin validation on (2) DNA RapidHIT ID Instruments to promote real-time analysis of crime scene samples for police agencies. An investigative lead can be given within 2 hours. The program launched in early FY2022. To date Rapid DNA statistics for the KIOSK area:

- 1820 evidence samples processed

- 332 evidence samples gave investigative leads
- 220 law enforcement personnel trained and authorized

DSS provided training (virtual) for the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners through the Office of Victim Services. This included presentations, demonstrations and pre-recorded laboratory tours.

Two additional BrassTrax Acquisition Units purchased to be used in part by local police departments.

Units routinely assess their workflows to include the evaluation of emerging technology to improve efficiencies while still maintaining the highest level of quality. In FY2020, the DNA Unit replaced outdated equipment and acquired instrumentation specifically aimed at reducing bottlenecks during the testing process. Examiners within the Forensic Biology and DNA Units began cross-training in additional analyses providing future flexibility of staff assignments. In addition, federal funding was used to support forensic genetic genealogy investigations which led to arrests in Connecticut serial sexual assault cases.

Within the fiscal year federally funded toxicological analytical instrumentation was acquired and used for the detection of a wide variety of potentially impairing drugs within the systems of drivers. An expanded headspace-gas chromatography/mass spectrometry instrument was acquired which has twice the detection capability (dual detectors) for identifying ethanol and other potentially impairing volatile drugs. The ultrasensitive Q-Exactive liquid chromatograph/mass spectrometer (LC/MS) allowed toxicologists to detect drugs at a sensitivity that greatly improved detection. The instrument was designed to perform both screening and confirmation of drugs simultaneously through the use of accurate mass technology. These instruments both improve and streamline toxicological analyses.

The Laboratory underwent an assessment by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and the FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) in May 2022 which is expected to result in the continuation of the laboratories international accreditation.

## **DIVISION OF STATE POLICE**

The Division of State Police is charged with the protection of the state's residents and the promotion of public safety through the appropriate enforcement of the state's criminal, motor vehicle, narcotics, and liquor laws. The Connecticut State Police (CSP) has an authorized sworn strength of 1,201 troopers, but currently consists of 880 sworn troopers. Established in 1903, the CSP is proud to be the first state police agency in the nation. The CSP received initial accreditation status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in 1988 and received reaccreditation most recently in March 2020. This accreditation demonstrates the agency's ongoing compliance with the most stringent of administrative and operational standards, which are recognized and accepted both nationally and internationally. The CSP remains one of the larger CALEA accredited agencies. The CSP is also accredited in Connecticut by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC).

The Division of State Police is divided into three offices. The largest office is the Office of Field Operations, which provides direct law enforcement services to the residents of the state. The Office of Administrative Services provides logistical support to the department while maintaining several registries and licensing bureaus, and the Office of Professional Standards and Support Services investigates complaints against department personnel, inspects the personnel and the facilities of the division, ensures ongoing agency accreditation with national and state accreditation standards, conducts recruitment, selection and training of State Police personnel, and provides investigative support services. Under CGS Section 29-1b(a), the Colonel of the State Police serves as a Deputy Commissioner.

### **Office of Field Operations**

The Office of Field Operations is responsible for the delivery of police services statewide through three geographical districts (Western, Central and Eastern), which includes a total of 11 Troops and three Major Crime Units. Troopers from State Police Troops provide primary law enforcement services for 78 of the 169 towns in Connecticut and most state property, and patrol approximately 7,000 miles of state highway. The Office also includes the Bureau of Special Investigation, the Traffic Services Unit, the Emergency Services Unit, the Counterterrorism & Cyber Crime Unit, the Governor's Security Unit, Bradley International Airport, Rentschler Field Stadium Operations, and the Communications Center.

### **Major Crime Units**

Each District has a Major Crime Unit that includes a Criminal Investigation (CI) Unit at each Troop and a Major Crime Van that serves the entire district. Their primary role is to investigate serious crimes that include but not limited to; homicides, serious assaults, bank robberies, kidnappings, sexual assaults, suspicious deaths, suspected arsons, and other felony investigations that would be likely to require extensive or complicated investigative efforts beyond the capabilities of the Troops or municipal police investigators. The State's Attorney Offices frequently call upon the Major Crime Units to investigate police-related uses of force. The Missing Persons Team is comprised of veteran Major Crime Unit Detectives. CSP formed the team to investigate complex and/or cold missing persons' cases. The team works with federal and local partners including the State's Attorney Offices and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, focusing on both State Police and local police jurisdictions' missing persons' cases, and achieving significant investigative success.

### **Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI)**

The Bureau of Special Investigation consists of nine specialized units. They are the Statewide Narcotics Task Force (SNTF), the Statewide Organized Crime Investigative Task Force (SOCITF), the Statewide Urban Violence Cooperative Crime Control Task Force (SUVCCCTF), the Connecticut Regional Auto Theft Task Force (CRATTF), the Gun Tracing Task Force (GTTF), the Central Criminal Intelligence Unit (CCIU), the Fire and Explosion Investigation

Unit (FEIU), the Electronic Surveillance Lab (ESL), and the Extradition Unit (EU). These units conduct both long and short-term criminal investigations concerning the detection and suppression of various criminal enterprises. While primarily staffed with State Police personnel, some of the Bureau's units and task forces are augmented with personnel from municipal police departments, federal agencies, and the Connecticut National Guard. Many investigations are enhanced by established partnerships with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE), U.S. Coast Guard, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as well as other local, state and federal agencies.

### **Statewide Narcotics Task Force (SNTF)**

SNTF is comprised of Connecticut State Troopers, municipal law enforcement officers from police departments across the state, federal law enforcement officers from the FBI, DEA, and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and is also supported with personnel from the Connecticut National Guard. SNTF has an administrative office in Meriden and has four field offices spread across Connecticut. SNTF investigators conduct a wide variety of investigations concerning the illegal sales, trafficking, distribution, cultivation, diversion, and manufacturing of narcotics in Connecticut.

In addition to enforcement initiatives, SNTF, through a COPS – Anti-Heroin Task Force Grant, developed and implemented a pilot community outreach program related to the heroin / opiate epidemic. This new community-oriented police outreach program, named CRISIS (Connection to Recovery through Intervention, Support & Initiating Services), is currently focused within Troops D, E, and F, as a result of the high number of NARCAN deployments due to the opioid epidemic.

The CRISIS Initiative established a partnership between the Connecticut State Police, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – Southeastern Mental Health Authority, Griswold PRIDE, Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR), Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE), as well as other non-profit organizations and community members. This collaboration provides healthier outcomes for people and families struggling with addiction and mental health issues, enhances the community's relationship and trust with law enforcement and provides a fast track into recovery services.

### **Statewide Organized Crime Investigative Task Force (SOCITF)**

SOCITF has the responsibility of conducting investigations into complex criminal organizations that conduct illegal activities in Connecticut. The nature of these investigations is characteristically intricate and often involves cooperation with various law enforcement agencies such as the FBI, DEA, HSI, and other Connecticut municipal law enforcement agencies.



### **Statewide Urban Violence Cooperative Crime Control Task Force (SUVCCCTF)**

SUVCCCTF is comprised of Connecticut State Troopers, federal and municipal law enforcement officers whose primary mission is targeting urban violence by conducting and coordinating investigations in connection with crimes of violence and other criminality that negatively impact quality of life issues both in and around Connecticut's urban communities.

### **Connecticut Regional Auto Theft Task Force (CRATTF)**

CRATTF is charged with the responsibility of investigating crimes involving the theft of automobiles and other vehicles. Personnel from this task force have specialized skills in the detection and identification of stolen vehicles. They conduct a myriad of investigations including vehicle theft, chop shop operations, and insurance fraud. CRATTF is staffed with Connecticut State Troopers, municipal law enforcement officers, and members of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) with assistance from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

### **Gun Tracing Task Force (GTTF)**

GTTF investigators are responsible for the investigation of illegal sales, trafficking, and transfer of firearms in Connecticut. This task force is currently comprised of Connecticut State Troopers who work closely with federal investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE).

### **Statewide Firearms Trafficking Task Force (SFTTF)**

SFTTF investigators are responsible for the investigation of illegal sales, trafficking, and transfer of firearms in Connecticut. This task force is currently comprised of Connecticut State Troopers who work closely with federal investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE).

### **Central Criminal Intelligence Unit (CCIU)**

CCIU provides investigative support to Connecticut State Police personnel, including access to on-line investigative support software and services upon request. For example, CCIU assists with employment background queries for state appointments and positions and can access certain information from the State of Connecticut Departments of Labor and Revenue Service and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCen).

### **Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit (FEIU)**

FEIU investigators conduct cause and origin of fire and arson investigations; circus, carnival ride and amusement park inspections; hazardous materials and explosives licensing and investigations; licensing and permits of fireworks and special effects displays; and training in all of these areas.

### **Electronic Surveillance Lab (ESL)**

The Electronic Surveillance Lab (ESL) assists investigative and intelligence gathering units within the Division of State Police. Additionally, ESL provides technical collaboration and support to other state, local and federal law enforcement agencies in the region. The Electronic Surveillance Lab procures and distributes audio and video surveillance equipment for the Division of State Police and is tasked with the maintenance of that equipment. In the course of supporting criminal investigations, ESL members supply detectives with specialized electronic equipment needed to capture evidence for a successful case conclusion and prosecution.

### **Extradition Unit (EU)**

This unit facilitates the coordination of documents between the judicial system, the Governor's Office, and the Secretary of State's Office for the extraditions and renditions of prisoners for both state and local law enforcement agencies and facilitates the transfer of prisoners to out of state law enforcement entities. The unit also coordinates efforts to locate fugitives wanted in other states that may be residing in Connecticut for any state or local law enforcement agency.

### **Traffic Services Unit (TSU)**

TSU is responsible for the administration of specialized traffic enforcement activities statewide. The Commanding Officer of TSU serves as the State Traffic Coordinator. The sworn personnel assigned to the Traffic Services Unit conduct both traffic enforcement duties and commercial enforcement across the State of Connecticut.

TSU Troopers make up the Commercial Vehicle Teams (CVTs) and they conduct weight and safety inspections of commercial vehicles at all fixed weigh stations. CVT Troopers also conduct Safety Inspections and utilize portable scales to weigh commercial vehicles at locations across the state. CVT personnel are certified to conduct federal motor carrier safety inspections of commercial vehicles and are individually equipped to inspect and weigh these vehicles in any location.

TSU frequently provides enforcement and/or commercial vehicle assistance to all State Police Troops and to municipal police agencies. During these operations, TSU troopers will address enforcement in areas experiencing a high incidence of violations and accidents. In addition, the TSU works jointly with Inspectors from the Department of Motor Vehicles' Commercial Vehicle Safety Division in programs to strictly enforce laws related to commercial vehicles. This enforcement effort centers around commercial vehicles that are committing moving violations or operating with safety deficiencies.

There are several other components contained within the Traffic Services Unit that provide specialized services to State Police Troops and municipal police departments. For example, the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Squad (CARS) provide collision analysis and reconstruction services to State Police commands and municipal police agencies. The Motorcycle Unit provides motorcycle officer training for State Police Troopers and municipal police officers, and conducts special enforcement, operational, and ceremonial escorts for special events.

The TSU operates the Breath Alcohol Testing Vehicle, which is deployed for state and local police DUI field sobriety checkpoints to increase their operational efficiency by providing an on-site location to process prisoners. The Seatbelt Convincer and Rollover Demonstrator devices are used frequently to educate the public in the importance of utilizing seat belts and are available for public relations and safety programs. TSU regularly serves as liaison and de facto protective detail for dignitary and high priority personage movements within the state. TSU is tasked with operational plan creation and implementation regarding any procession arrangements, as well as escort details for these movements.

### **Emergency Services Unit (ESU)**

ESU is comprised of the Bomb Squad, Dive Team, Marine Unit, Tactical Team (SWAT), Crisis Negotiators, Aviation Section, Hazardous Materials Technicians, the Mass Transit Security Unit, and the K-9 Unit. ESU is located at the Fleet Administration building in Colchester and provides specialized assistance to all State Police Troops/Units as well as local, federal, and other state agencies.

### **Bomb Squad**

The Bomb Squad responds to incidents involving explosives, K-9 searches for explosives, fireworks seizures, storage of explosive evidence (not including IEDs) as evidence, technical assistance for post blast investigations, and the destruction of old ammunition, flares and chemical munitions. State Police Bomb Technicians also assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation as members of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Joint Terrorism Task Force.

### **Dive Team / Marine Unit**

The Dive Team and Marine Units respond to emergencies in marine environments, including lost boaters, search and rescue, underwater evidence recovery, and hull and pier sweeps.

### **Tactical Team**

The Tactical Team (SWAT) responds to high-risk incidents including barricaded subjects, hostage situations, searches for armed and dangerous subjects, high-risk warrant services, special transportation protection (i.e., high-risk prisoners, narcotics, and firearms), dignitary protection, and civil disturbance situations.

## **Crisis Negotiations**

Crisis Negotiators are deployed during tactical situations relative to negotiating with barricaded subjects, hostage takers, and or suicidal individuals threatening the use of physical force against themselves or others.

## **Aviation Section**

The Aviation Section maintains three Cessna 182 fixed wing aircraft, one Bell 407 Helicopter and one OH58 Helicopter. The section renders assistance to federal, state, and local agencies for searches, aerial speed enforcement, photographic missions, surveillance, evidence transportation and prisoner transportation, marijuana field location and eradication, tactical operations, and forest fire suppression.

## **Drone Section**

The Drone Section maintains three drone platforms with various outdoor and indoor capabilities. The section renders assistance to federal, state, and local agencies for searches, photographic missions, surveillance, and tactical operations/building clearing.

The Unit also maintains mobile anti drone equipment. This equipment has anti drone technology that encompasses a wide range of countermeasures that can detect, identify and track UAV systems. These systems can provide assistance to federal, state, and local agencies.

## **Hazardous Materials**

Hazardous Materials technicians assist for any incident involving the use or threatened use of a Weapon of Mass Destruction including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosive incidents.

## **Mass Transit Security Unit**

The Mass Transit Security Unit provides radiological detection capabilities as well as explosive detection K-9s at mass transit venues throughout the state. They play an integral role with the Transportation Security Administration's VIPR (Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response) mission, and work closely with other federal, state and local partners including CTRail (DOT), AMTRAK and MTA Police along Connecticut's rail lines and ferry terminals.

## **Canine Unit**

Assistance from the K-9 Unit is available for tracking, building searches, criminal apprehensions, search and rescue, body recovery, and searches for explosives, narcotics and evidence of accelerants in suspected arson situations. Training is also available for authorized

municipal departments. The unit provides training for a majority of the municipal K-9 officers throughout the state.

### **Office of Administrative Services**

The Office of Administrative Services is divided into two bureaus: The Bureau of Strategic Information Services and the Bureau of Business Development. These Bureaus provide training, planning, and support services to the division, and the agency in its entirety, through a number of specialty units including Reports and Records, Fingerprint Identification, Crimes Analysis, Field Technology, Research and Planning, Fleet Administration, Facilities Management, Bond Management and Capital Improvement, Criminal Justice Information Services, the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing system, Special Licensing and Firearms, Offender Registry, and the State Police Bureau of Identification.

### **Bureau of Strategic Information Services**

The Bureau of Strategic Information Services is tasked with enhancing the regulatory support, policies, and law enforcement technology of the agency, and is divided into the Regulatory Services and the Research, Development, and Planning Sections.

### **Regulatory Services – SLFU**

The Regulatory Services Section includes the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU), which is comprised of two segments: the firearms section and licensing section. The Firearms Section of SLFU is responsible for the issuance and revocation of state pistol permits, advocacy at pistol permit revocations hearings, eligibility and ammunition certificates, the approval of all firearms transfers, firearm registration, central repository for tracking all protective and restraining orders, subject matter experts for firearm laws and identification, expert witnesses to testify in court, instructors of firearm law and database access, central repository for the collection and destruction of court ordered firearms, instructors for Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA), and conduct Federal Firearms License (FFL/Gun Dealer) compliance inspections. The Licensing Section of SLFU is responsible for the issuance of permits, licenses, and registrations relating to security services and security guards, private detective agencies, private detectives and private investigators, pawn shops, secondhand and precious metal dealers, explosives and fireworks, professional bondsmen, bail enforcement agents, and the regulation and licensing pertaining to professional boxing and mixed martial arts. The licensing section oversees licenses and regulates and inspects all facets of these professional licensures.

### **Regulatory Services – SOR/DWOR**

The Regulatory Services Section also includes the Offender Registry Unit, which is comprised of the Sex Offender Registry (SOR) and the Deadly Weapon Offender Registry (DWOR). The SOR ensures the tracking of the current 5283 registered sex offenders in the state. Of those registered

sex offenders 3492 have at least one open registry violation. There are a total of 8421 open violations. The Registry works with state and local agencies on investigations and regulatory violations as well as supervisory reviews of convicted sex offenders from foreign jurisdictions moving into Connecticut and supervisory reviews of current Connecticut registrations to establish the validity of the registration to mitigate risks in accordance with state statute and the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act. The SOR unit is responsible for applying and implementing Federal and State Grants, and the development of special projects in keeping with the requirements and objectives of the Federal Adam Walsh Act. The SOR assigns representatives to the DNA oversight committee (statutorily required of DESPP) and the Interstate Compact Committee. The DWOR unit registers and tracks any person convicted of a deadly weapon offense who is released into the community. The DWOR unit currently has 2236 offenders. Of the total number of registrants 1011 have at least one open violation. There are a total of 1450 open violations. The legislation identifies 48 qualifying statutes which require registration of the offender's names, identifying factors, criminal history records, residential addresses, and electronic email addresses, as well as the annual renewal of registrant information. The DWOR is responsible for providing representation to the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative established by Connecticut State Parole.

### **Research, Development, and Planning**

The Research, Development, and Planning Section works to support field operations through updating and expanding policies and procedures, and automating how we collect, analyze, and disseminate data to better deploy resources and improve the safety and effectiveness of Troopers in the field. This is accomplished through continual enhancements to statewide law enforcement computer systems, research and development of department policies and procedures that reflect current research and nationally recognized best practices, as well as development of effective field technologies that aid field personnel to be safer and more effective.

### **Bureau of Business Development**

The Bureau of Business Development (BBD) oversees three critical functions of the Office of Administrative Services: Infrastructure Planning and Development, Fleet Administration, and Identification and Records. Each of these areas represents a critical function in supporting the needs of the field as well as the statutory requirements placed upon the agency. A detailed description of the functions of each area follows:

#### **Fleet Administration**

The Fleet Administration Unit is responsible for the procurement, outfitting, and maintenance of approximately 1684 total motorized assets within all six divisions of the DESPP. Fleet Administration oversees the long-term planning and development of the fleet within the agency ensuring that the needs of the field are met in both the short- and long-term plans of the agency. Fleet Administration is also tasked with completing and making all arrangements for vehicles at the end of life to be prepared and sent to surplus which entails removing all our added equipment. As a cost savings measure to the State and our agency, Fleet Administration has implemented a program for utilizing used parts from vehicles that are slated for surplus to repair existing vehicles. Since 2015 Fleet Administration has exceeded \$1,594,255.10 in savings from supplying new and used parts to vendors mostly for auto body repairs.

### **Quartermaster**

The quartermaster is responsible for the procurement, inventory, dissemination and collection of State Police equipment, uniforms and accessories. This excludes firearms, tasers, capicum spray certain medical equipment and vehicles. The quartermaster coordinates with the Training Academy on supplying Recruits their initial uniform and equipment issue. The quartermaster's office is implementing a software package specific to tracking all serialized and non-serialized state issued materials.

### **Identification and Records**

The Identification and Records Unit consists of four areas that provide clerical support, data analysis, and criminal history services to the Connecticut State Police, the citizens of the state, as well as individuals and agencies nationwide. The State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI) maintains and provides criminal histories of individuals in Connecticut within statutorily mandated requirements and limitations. The Fingerprint Identification Unit supports SPBI and the Division of Scientific Services by providing fingerprint identification services to allow for positive identification of individuals for both criminal and non-criminal purposes. Crimes Analysis is responsible for statutorily mandated crime reporting, ensuring accurate criminal activity statistics and trends throughout the State and reporting those figures to the FBI. Finally, the Reports and Records Unit is responsible for dissemination of all case reports generated by the Connecticut State Police, to include all Resident Trooper towns and other specialized units, to all governmental and individual requests while complying with all applicable general statutes.

### **Office of Professional Standards and Training**

The Office of Professional Standards and Training is composed of the Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance, the Bureau of Selections, Training and Support Services, and the Labor Relations Unit.

### **Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance**

The Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance consists of the Internal Affairs Unit, the Accreditation Unit, and the Inspections Unit.

### **Internal Affairs Unit**

The Internal Affairs Unit conducts investigations of sworn and civilian employees of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, constables under the supervision of Resident State Troopers and occasionally other municipal police departments. The Unit also investigates and processes other complaints, inquiries and commendations from the public. Additionally, the unit reviews and maintains statistics on agency Uses of Force and conducts an annual review of racial profiling complaints made against department personnel.

### **Accreditation Unit**

The Accreditation Unit maintains the required standards of compliance for the department with respect to accreditation. The Connecticut State Police has been accredited with CALEA as a nationally accredited law enforcement agency since 1988 and is also accredited in Connecticut by POSTC. The unit also acts as a liaison with other agencies nationwide concerning departmental policies, rules, and regulations.

### **Inspections Unit**

The Inspections Unit conducts staff inspections of all Department commands and facilities and maintains data on the condition of facilities and results of such inspections.

### **Bureau of Selection, Training and Investigative Support Services**

The Bureau of Selection, Training and Investigative Support Services is comprised of the State Police Training Academy (including the Firearms Training Unit and the Photo/Video Production Unit), Recruitment and Selection Unit, Background Investigative Unit and the Polygraph Unit.

### **State Police Training Academy**

The Training Academy trains qualified applicants as State Police Trooper Trainees and provides mandatory in-service training and specialized law enforcement training for the department. The Training Academy Staff also publishes training bulletins and updates the department on relevant changes to law and best practices for law enforcement personnel. They provide support to other department units such as Professional Standards, Legal Affairs, Labor Relations and Research and Planning in the areas of training and assessment of department policies and procedures. The Training Academy Staff also provides training to other state agencies in law enforcement and safety-related curriculum on a regular basis. The Firearms Training Unit (FTU) provides weapons qualification and certification courses and other training related to the use of force. The members of the FTU also provide training and assistance to other State Agencies in the areas of firearms training and Use of Force as well as the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit in legal



actions regarding firearms laws. The Training Academy and Firearms Training Unit Troopers are also responsible for remedial training and back to duty training for department personnel. The Training Academy staff provides Emergency Vehicle Operation training to troopers as well as local police officers training through the POST academy. The Training Academy also works with POSTC on issues relevant to law enforcement policy and procedure for continuity and similarity of training where applicable.

### **Photo / Video Production Unit**

The Photo/Video Production Unit provides photographers and photographic services to all divisions of DESPP as well as the State's Attorney's Offices and other local, state and federal agencies. They provide photographers for case work, public relations, documentation, recruitment and other agency needs, and have the capacity to produce photographs, posters, and image discs for use on cases and other agency purposes. They are responsible for archiving image discs generated within the agency for future use and work closely with the Training Academy staff on documenting the training of State Police recruits with the use of video.

### **Recruitment & Selection Unit**

The Recruitment and Selection Unit is dedicated to recruiting and selecting qualified candidates for appointment as State Police Trooper Trainees. This process includes administering and/or assisting in all testing phases from registration to the appointment of applicants to the Training Academy for recruit training. Members of the Recruitment and Selection Unit actively participate in varied private and college career fairs throughout the New England area. The Recruitment and Selection Unit regularly attend high school and local civic functions addressing careers associated with law enforcement. The Recruitment and Selection Unit also assists the Public Information Office as needed with various speaking engagements at local functions, as well as assisting the PIO office with coordinating and manning the Connecticut State Police booth at the Eastern States Exposition ("The Big E"). The unit also holds general informational sessions for the public at the academy. It has also sponsored specific informational sessions geared towards the role in women in law enforcement. This unit has created and instituted the Applicant Prep Program designed to provide perspective recruits with an overview of the academy environment, both in terms of physical and academic criteria. Each session has included an introduction to various specialized units within the agency. The Selections and Recruitment Unit participates alongside non-profit organizations serving homeless organizations and under-served communities. The Recruitment and Selection Unit also coordinates the Recruit Mentor Program, which provides support to help new recruits assimilate into the Training Academy environment and their careers as Connecticut State Troopers.

### **Background Investigative Unit**

The Background Investigative Unit conducts background investigations of applicants, prospective employees, and appointees for the department and other agencies. Background

investigations are done not only to ensure quality employees but to be in compliance with the employment and security guidelines set forth by DESPP. In addition to State Police Trooper Trainee and State Police dispatcher applicants, the Background Investigation Unit also conducts background investigations on state police civilian employees, sub-contractors, college interns, POSTC Academy Instructors as well as Fire Academy Instructors. Other background investigations include Governor's Background Investigations which are submitted directly from the Office of the Governor to the Background Investigative Unit. These background investigations are for Judicial and/or Executive branch appointments executed by the Governor. Additionally, background investigations for special gaming and licensing purposes (i.e., casino and lottery) are conducted for the Department of Consumer Protection.

### **Polygraph Unit**

The Polygraph Unit conducts fair and impartial polygraph examinations for criminal investigations and pre-employment examinations for the State Police as well as municipal police agencies. Polygraph examiners maintain membership with the Connecticut Polygraph Association and must also maintain membership in at least one nationally recognized polygraph association, such as the American Association of Police Polygraphists or the American Polygraph Association. Additionally, each examiner must maintain the required level of training to hold the titles, "Certified Polygraph Examiner," "Certified Forensic Law Enforcement Examiner," and "Certified Forensic Psycho-physiologist."

### **Labor Relations Unit**

The Labor Relations Unit is the agency representative with respect to the negotiation, implementation and oversight of the numerous bargaining unit contracts of employees of every division of the Department. The responsibilities of the Unit include representation of the agency in all phases of collective bargaining, oversight of the disciplinary process in all disciplinary matters, processing grievances filed on behalf of agency employees by their respective collective bargaining unit, advising agency managers regarding contract interpretation and policy recommendations, and annual reporting on all grievances filed. In addition, the Labor Relations Unit also provides guidance to agency managers on such things as performance evaluations, supervisor/employee issues, and maintaining relationships with each of the employee unions.