



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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HAL TAYLOR
SECRETARY

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

Dear Governor Ivey:

It is my honor and privilege to present you with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023. This report reflects the devotion and commitment of 1,391 ALEA employees who proudly embody the true spirit of public service.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and the Alabama Legislature for the continued support of law enforcement. The necessary resources you and the legislature constantly provide for both sworn and civilian employees are instrumental in completing the Agency's mission of providing quality service, protection, and a safe environment for all. Legislative changes in 2023 that improve retirement benefits for ALEA's sworn officers not only enhances the Agency's ability to attract and hire new law enforcement officers, but also increases benefits for our active sworn personnel who faithfully continue to serve and protect.

While we remain dedicated to ensuring effectiveness, maximizing resources, and streamlining services, we are equally committed to exploring new and innovative ways to modernize and enhance our ability to promote public safety. One product of this commitment was the extensive and crucial task of modernizing the State's driver license system. The new Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Driver License System, simply known as LEADS, successfully launched in April 2022. LEADS has greatly impacted customer experiences and operations within our driver license offices across the state and it is a tangible example of ALEA's continued focus on improving customer service, communication, and technology.

Again, I thank you for your continued support and I hope that you find this report a basis for satisfaction and pride in the operation of state law enforcement and all of its support services. It is an honor to serve you and the great State of Alabama alongside the dedicated men and women of ALEA.

Kind Regards,

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

Hal Taylor
Secretary of Law Enforcement



**Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's
Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report**

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

Office of the Secretary

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

Office of Homeland Security

The Office of Homeland Security works with federal, state, and local partners to prevent and respond to terrorism in Alabama. This office also works closely with public and private sectors in law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire services, agriculture, public health, public safety, communications, environmental management, military, and transportation. Homeland Security administers the State Homeland Security Grant Program, which not only supports state and local efforts to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events, but also helps the state prepare for threats and hazards that pose great risks to national security. In FY2023, the Homeland Security Office allocated \$4,847,500 in grants to state and local partners.

Protective Services Division

The Protective Services Division consists of two units, Dignitary Protection and Capitol Patrol, and is responsible for providing law enforcement services within the Capitol Complex in Montgomery, as mandated by § 32-2-100, Ala. Code 1975; and protection to and for certain state officers and visiting dignitaries as mandated by § 36-33-2, Ala. Code 1975, as well as various other law enforcement duties.

Dignitary Protection Unit

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

The unit also provides security for other persons designated as “protectees” by the Governor or ALEA Secretary. Throughout FY2023, the Protective Services Division, along with personnel from Highway Patrol and the State Bureau of Investigation, assisted other state and federal agencies with visiting dignitaries as requested.

Capitol Patrol Unit

ALEA Troopers assigned to the Capitol Patrol Unit provide security at the Alabama State Capitol building, Executive Mansion, Alabama State House, and other executive office locations within the Capitol Complex in Montgomery. Troopers assigned to the Capitol Patrol Unit also provide a law enforcement presence on state roadways and respond to calls for service while keeping citizens and state employees safe within their area of responsibility. In addition to their unit responsibilities, Troopers assigned to the Capitol Patrol Unit also investigate traffic crashes and assist other divisions within the Agency, with special details, training, and enforcement initiatives.

During FY2023, the Capitol Patrol Unit conducted 15,500 building checks within the complex, managed 36 special events, responded to 91 building alarms, and completed 38 Incident/Offense reports. The unit also made 17 felony arrests, served 11 warrants, issued 3,116 traffic citations/warnings, investigated 41 vehicle crashes, conducted 24 Commercial Vehicle Inspections, and made one DUI arrest.

Personnel Unit (Human Resources)

The Personnel Unit manages and coordinates the Agency's human resources operations for approximately 1,391 employees. Primary areas of responsibility include strategic planning; employee recruitment, selection, onboarding, and retention; training; policy and procedure interpretation, development, and implementation; EEO/legal compliance; performance appraisal and progressive discipline guidance and oversight; payroll and benefits; and job description preparation and maintenance. In addition, the Personnel Unit provides direction regarding workers' compensation, the Employee Assistance Program, donated/military leave authorization, Family and Medical Leave Act and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and COVID-19 leave and benefits. During FY2023, the Personnel Unit handled 133 appointments (18 law enforcement officers), 166 promotion raises, 49 retirements (28 law enforcement officers), 123 resignations (22 law enforcement officers), 325 probation raises, and approximately 1,100 annual raises.

ALEA Administrative Bureau

The Administrative Bureau is composed of professional and administrative staff members who are responsible for providing essential services in the following units: Information Technology (IT), General Services, Radio Engineering, Fleet Management, Aviation, and Training.

Information Technology Unit (IT)

The Information Technology Unit is responsible for operating, maintaining, and securing all networks, applications, systems, devices, and electronic data specific to the ALEA mission; conducting annual and reoccurring cybersecurity awareness training; auditing and reporting; coordinating, consulting, and helping implement new technology; and modernizing, consolidating, and enhancing other IT-related services for the Agency. In FY2023, the IT Unit closed 24,000 work requests in support of local, state, and federal agencies at more than 350 locations across Alabama.

General Services Unit

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

Facilities and Professional Services coordinates lease management and facility maintenance; including electrical, plumbing, and HVAC. Other services provided by this unit include maintenance and repair of elevators, boat lifts, general maintenance, and construction services. Facilities and Professional Services personnel also work with the state Office of Risk Management and insurance companies to provide coverage for ALEA buildings and contents, as well as filing claims. This unit also provides professional services for ALEA personnel and facilities such as alarm monitoring, garbage pickup, lawn care, janitorial services, and pest control.

Inventory Control is responsible for identifying, tracking, and the disbursing of state property following statutory requirements outlined in the State Property Manual. Employees use various computer applications to actively track and account for approximately 26,610 items with an original cost of approximately \$113 million. Employees coordinate with the State Auditor's Office and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Surplus Property Division to adhere to statutory inventory control requirements. During FY2023, Inventory Control added 1,390 items with an original cost of approximately \$9 million to inventory, removed 2,658 items with an original cost of more than \$9 million and completed approximately 6,000 internal equipment transfers using approved disbursement methods. A new proprietary inventory control application, known as Equipment Tracking, went into effect Feb. 1, 2023. This new application has improved the tracking of assets and supply items throughout the Agency.

Mail employees process more than 3,000 pieces of incoming/outgoing mail each week and facilitate the shipping/receiving of packages for ALEA. They also handle shred service and pickup for ALEA headquarters, as well as maintain and track four loaner vehicles used by headquarters staff.

Supply coordinates with inter/intra-agency entities to procure, receive, and maintain adequate inventory levels and to process supply requests from business units to sustain operations. The Supply Unit is responsible for equipping sworn personnel and civilian staff with equipment and supplies needed for day-to-day work requirements. A new online application for ordering supplies was developed internally by the Information Technology Unit and became effective Oct. 1, 2023, the beginning of FY2024.

Radio Engineering Unit

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

In coordination with the ALEA Fleet Management Unit, Radio Engineering staff members provide additional services, including installing and removing radio and computer system peripherals (e.g., radios, radar, computer docking stations, printers, card readers, inverters, gun locks, and cameras); troubleshooting and repairing radio communication issues, programming radios for internal and external business units; supporting law enforcement officials during special/emergency operations; serving as a strategic partner with emergency response entities to ensure readiness for emergency situations; and providing expert guidance and counsel to the Commissioner of the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission. Radio Engineering completed 1,471 work orders during FY2023.

Fleet Services Unit

The Fleet Services Unit is responsible for enhancing ALEA's ability to fulfill mission-critical functions by researching, procuring, issuing, maintaining, and selling all vehicles, vessels, and associated systems, equipment, and peripherals. Due to advancements in motor vehicle technology, fleet staff members continue to function as field service representatives who provide maintenance guidance and services to ensure safe and reliable transportation for ALEA personnel. The unit currently manages approximately 1,569 pieces of inventoried equipment including 1,369 vehicles.

During FY2023, Fleet Services purchased 141 new vehicles, equipped new employees with vehicles, held two vehicle auctions netting \$1,027,143.30 in sales; deployed Mobile Command vehicles 41 times to various locations; made 147 wrecker trips covering 17,800 miles to recover seized vehicles or pick up vehicles requiring repair.

Aviation Unit

The Aviation Unit operates a mixed fleet of airplanes and helicopters, with eight Pilots, four Tactical Flight Officers (Forward Looking Infrared operators, rescue operators, and pilot trainees), four in-house maintenance staff members and an Administrative Assistant. In addition to the Agency staffing, there are two Tactical Flight Officers employed with other law enforcement agencies to reduce costs and foster interagency cooperation in law enforcement. Aviation's goal is to aid law enforcement officers on the ground with an air asset that serves as a force multiplier.

The aircraft are used to conduct a variety of missions ranging from searches for missing persons, including children, adults, Alzheimer's patients and fleeing felons, to natural disasters and personnel rescues. Flights in the helicopter fleet make up approximately 75 percent of the total flights of the unit. Aviation currently operates eight Bell OH-58 helicopters, five of which have Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR), daylight cameras, searchlights and other equipment specially designed to optimize searches in day and night conditions. The helicopter fleet also includes a Bell UH-1H with a rescue hoist, a Bell 407, and a Bell 206L-1. These aircraft are an integral part of the rescue program, tactical operations, and storm/disaster response. Its fixed-wing fleet is composed of two twin-engine aircraft used for prisoner transport and executive transport. Aviation also operates three single-engine aircraft primarily used for in-state transport and surveillance missions.

Operating from three bases (Montgomery, Cullman, and Fairhope) in FY2023, the Aviation Unit received 1,245 requests for service with 1,083 responses for a total of 1,755 hours of flight time. The following is a general breakdown of the missions by number of flights:

Searches/missing persons and manhunts	230
Investigative flights	58
Rescues	4
Training	439
Executive transport	76
Storm, fire suppression, wildfire search, and disaster	28
Other (maintenance, ferry, static display, etc.)	215
Special details	17
Beach rescue swimmer	16

The Aviation Unit applied for but was not awarded any Homeland Security or Port Security grants for FY2023 and continues to operate solely within the Agency's operating budget. In previous years, the unit has received grants for some exceptional equipment still in operation today. It has maintained low operating costs for many years for a variety of reasons: most of the aircraft utilized are military surplus aircraft received through the 1033 Program at no cost to the taxpayers of Alabama. Through this program, Aviation is also able to acquire many parts when available. The unit also has an exceptional maintenance staff to perform most of the maintenance and equipment installations in-house, drastically reducing the cost of operation.

The Aviation Unit participates in Project Lifesaver International, a program that uses bracelets and transmitters to help search for individuals with Alzheimer's and other cognitive disorders that may lead to wandering. With multiple donors, bracelets are provided at no charge to individuals in need. The Unit spearheaded the project many years ago, taking it to all 67 counties in the state, to reduce the number of searches and increase the chance of finding these individuals. Aviation's current goal with regard to Project Lifesaver is to continue to train and equip the local Sheriffs' Offices to carry on the program in their home counties.

ALEA Training Center (ATC)

The ALEA Training Center (ATC) is a regional state law enforcement training academy accredited by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC) and is located on Wallace Community College Campus in Selma.

The ATC is responsible for providing basic training to student officers from various municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies who attend the APOSTC basic police academy classes; basic training for ALEA Trooper trainees in the Trooper trainee academy classes; advanced training for annual prior-certified Trooper academy classes; and continuing education training for arresting officers from various law enforcement agencies, as well as ALEA officers.

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

the Alabama Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Program, as well. Staff members are also responsible for all special-services training for ALERRT, Run/Hide/Fight, and the Alabama Sentry Program, as well as for documenting, recording, and entering all annual continuing education units into the APOSTC system and ALEA Personnel Training Record File for all ALEA arresting officers. The ATC recently assumed the responsibility of supervising the ALEA Communications Training Officers.

ATC Staff Training Operations during FY2023 - Alabama Police Academy (APA):

APA 175	Sept. 12 – Dec. 15, 2022	34
APA 176	Jan.16 – April 20, 2023	26
APA 177	May 15 – Aug. 17, 2023	22
APA 178	Sept. 11 – Dec. 14, 2023	31

Alabama Impaired Driving Enforcement Program

COURSES	SESSIONS	TOTAL TRAINED
Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Basic Course		
• ALEA Training Center	3	85
• Northeast Academy	3	203
• Jefferson County Sheriff's Training Academy	3	67
• Tuscaloosa APOSTC	3	99
• Birmingham Police Department Academy	3	20
• Huntsville Police Department Academy	2	20
• Mobile Police Department Academy	3	64
• Montgomery Police Department Academy	3	82
○ Statewide SFST Basic Training Totals	23	640
SFST Refresher/Update	10	87
SFST Instructor Course	1	20
SFST Instructor Update	14	101
Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)	11	122
Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) Pre-School	2	14
DRE Main School	2	13
DRE Field Certification	2	13
DRE Instructor Course	1	6
DRE In-Service	1	43
Recognizing Cannabis Impairment	8	88

Legal Division

Attorneys in the Legal Division advise and represent the Secretary and Agency personnel in various legal matters including federal, state, and administrative litigation. The division also works closely with state, county, and municipal agencies and serves the public by timely responding to hundreds of subpoenas and open records requests each year. The division consists of five attorneys and four support staff members.

During FY2023, Division attorneys zealously represented Agency personnel in litigation matters, advised the Secretary and Agency leadership; helped develop, implement, and enforce Agency policies; negotiated and executed contracts and interagency agreements; litigated Board of Adjustment claims and driver license appeals; assisted with employment law and procurement-related matters; taught at the Agency's Training Center; presented at conferences on behalf of ALEA; and generally helped the Agency achieve its mission.

External Affairs Division

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

Recruiting/Public Affairs Officers

The division includes ALEA Troopers that serve as Public Affairs Officers (PAO), each of whom is assigned to one of the Agency's seven Troops. Along with assisting the division with local media relations, each PAO also serves as an ALEA Recruiting Coordinator and works closely with individuals who apply to become ALEA Troopers and Special Agents. During FY2023, the External Affairs Division and its PAOs made 14,143 contacts with media outlets via on-camera interviews, phone and/or e-mail, news releases on various topics, and requests for information. Both sworn and civilian members of the External Affairs Division assist with statewide safety campaigns and coordinate all posts for ALEA's social media accounts (Facebook, Nextdoor, Instagram, and X, formally known as Twitter).

Photo Services Unit

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

During FY2023, the unit comprised of one full-time Manager, Photo Tech II and one Retired State Employee. Photo Lab personnel processed 20,005 prints and received and archived 8,842 CDs of images during this period. The unit generated \$161,551 in revenue from photo sales, mostly to law firms and insurance companies.

Governmental Affairs Unit

The Governmental Affairs Unit actively engages with Legislators and various entities to provide assistance to constituents, in addition to collaborating with ALEA units and divisions to rectify issues and address the unique challenges faced by those this Agency serves. This hands-on involvement reflects ALEA's dedication to being a resource for citizens, always mindful of the collective impact that these collaborative efforts can have on improving the lives of constituents.

In FY2023, the Agency's Governmental Affairs Unit contributed to positive Legislative changes that had a direct impact on ALEA's dedicated workforce and enhanced the safety of Alabama citizens.

One notable success during this period was shepherding through legislation that improves benefits for Tier II State Police Retirement. The streamlined retirement tiers not only simplify administrative processes, but they also contribute to a more equitable and efficient retirement system for the Agency's personnel. Another noteworthy accomplishment was the comprehensive update to marine safety laws. These much-needed updates provide clarity for officers and citizens, as well as contributing to a safer environment on state waters.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is composed of three divisions: Highway Patrol, Marine Patrol and Driver License. DPS's primary functions are to enforce the law on roadways and waterways, along with administering the Alabama driver license and ensuring its integrity.

Highway Patrol Division

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

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

In FY2023, ALEA Troopers worked 32,517 crashes that resulted in 7,837 injuries and 513 fatalities. ALEA Troopers issued 290,636 citations and 161,048 warnings to gain compliance with traffic laws and reduce crashes, specifically those that could result in injury or death.

Top 10 Types of Citations/Violations:

Speeding	155,765
No seat belt	36,781
Tag violations	15,305
Driving suspended/revoked	15,726
No insurance	15,548
No driver license	13,579
Weight violations	8,347
Improper lights	3,570
Child restraint	3,157
DUI	2,399

Top 10 Primary Contributing Circumstances for Trooper-investigated Crashes (accounting for 58 percent of all crashes statewide):

Unseen object/person/vehicle	3,189
Following too close	2,807
Improper Lane change/usage	2,490
Driving too fast for condition	1,875
Failed to yield right-of-way from stop sign	1,781
DUI	1,675
Over speed limit	1,450
Fatigue/asleep	1,356
Swerving to avoid vehicle	1,162
Other distraction inside vehicle	1,075

During FY2023, the Highway Patrol Division used 11 retired state employees to complete many Highway Patrol tasks, thus reducing the burden on ALEA Troopers of working such enforcement as Superload escorts and wrecker inspections. This allowed Troopers and supervisors to focus their attention on reducing crashes and working to save lives.

To coordinate assets and focus on reducing traffic crashes (specifically fatalities), targeting impaired and aggressive drivers, and creating a safe, crime-free environment, the Highway Patrol Division partnered with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to receive grants for enforcement and equipment.

This funding allows Troopers to work before and after shifts and on off days to further create visual presence, as well as to aggressively enforce traffic laws, to gain voluntary compliance with and obedience to traffic laws.

Highway Patrol K-9 Officers

Highway Patrol deployed and used six Highway Patrol K-9 Officers during FY2023, thereby assisting Highway Patrol, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, ALEA State Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Postal Inspections, Alabama Department of Corrections, Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, and other municipal and county law enforcement agencies. Highway Patrol trained two new canine handlers who are now operating with their canines. The K-9 Unit retired one member, Kilo, due to age and health-related issues.

ALEA Honor Guard

The Honor Guard is a group of dedicated officers who volunteer their time to honor the lives of our fallen, often missing family events and traveling great distances to assist. The Honor Guard is composed of approximately 24 members statewide. During FY2023, the ALEA Honor Guard presented ceremonial honors at 26

memorial services, including funerals for retired ALEA arresting officers and outside agency line-of-duty deaths. They also participated in several memorial and presentation of colors ceremonies at various locations across the state.

Traffic Homicide Investigation Unit (THI)

The Traffic Homicide Investigation (THI) Unit investigates traffic crashes in Alabama that warrant criminal charges, including reckless murder, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, assault, felony DUI, and felony leaving the scene of an accident. THI personnel are located at each of the seven ALEA posts and are responsible for the complete investigation, from mapping the initial crime/crash scene to final court disposition. They receive intensive, detailed training, including Commercial Vehicle Crash Investigation, Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation, Crash Data Retrieval Systems, and Traffic Reconstruction, as well as how to use FARO Drawing Software with Agency drones.

During FY2023, the THI Unit trained 25 ALEA Troopers and 18 outside agency officers as Traffic Homicide Investigators and worked 236 case files. All THI Unit officers are trained in the use of FARO drawing software to utilize the information produced by the ALEA State Bureau of Investigation Drone program. In addition, all members of ALEA DPS have completed the 10-hour Crash Scene Response/ Evidence Collection/ Mapping and Diagramming Course.

Motor Carrier Safety Unit (MCSU)

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

During FY2023, the Motor Carrier Safety Unit employed 69 sworn officers, two civilians, and two retired state employees/law enforcement officers. In addition, the unit used 55 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Troopers, as well as 19 City Officer Program officers from 13 different law enforcement agencies to help reduce Commercial Motor Vehicle-related crashes across the state. During this period, the

unit discovered 11,548 out-of-service driver and vehicle violations.

FY2023 Motor Carrier Safety Unit Activity

Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV) inspected	50,760
Hazardous-Materials Vehicles inspected	1,641
Bus/Passenger Vehicles inspected	257
CMVs weighed by fixed scales	189,229
CMVs weighed by portable scales	83,354
CMVs weighed by weight in motion	740,289
New entrant safety audits	1,105
Compliance reviews	0

Motor Enforcement Unit

The Highway Patrol Division employed 11 Motor Enforcement Officers who, in addition to other duties, worked more than 242 days on their motorcycles conducting aggressive enforcement, as well as providing escort assistance at the University of Alabama and Auburn University home football games, Talladega Superspeedway races, Mardi Gras, Trail of Tears, and funerals for fallen officers and family members. Unit officers assisted at many community and public relations events, including Toys for Tots escort, memorial rides requesting escorts, and numerous school visits for special safety events.

Communications Unit

As of Oct. 1, 2022 (FY2023), the Communications Unit is composed of 52 Police Communications Officers (PCO), including six Communications Supervisors (PCO III) and 46 Communications Officers (PCOs I and II). ALEA Communications Centers are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in Decatur, Dothan, Jacksonville, Mobile, Montgomery, Sheffield, and Tuscaloosa. PCOs answer calls from the public and other agencies and dispatch the appropriate first responders as required to a wide variety of emergency situations, including traffic crashes, reports of reckless drivers, vehicle

pursuits, calls from motorists who require assistance, roadway blockages, and *HP calls (calls from anywhere in the state via cell phones).

PCOs dispatch ALEA personnel to assist other law enforcement agencies upon request and during coordinated multi-agency responses, as well. They also serve as the first point of contact for citizens who need ALEA's services. During FY2023, the Communications Unit dispatched ALEA Troopers to a total of 32,517 traffic crashes statewide, of which 7,813 reported injuries and 513 reported fatalities.

Marine Patrol Division

ALEA's Marine Patrol Division and Driver License Division provide primary oversight of the State of Alabama's United States Coast Guard-approved Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) program. A U.S. Coast Guard-approved RBS Program must contain several core elements: a valid vessel identification numbering and registration system; marine safety law enforcement; an acceptable boating safety education program; an approved marine casualty reporting system; an aids-to-navigation program; and a cooperative agreement in place with the Coast Guard to facilitate law enforcement, search and rescue, and educational efforts on joint-controlled public waters in Alabama.

Marine Patrol works in tandem with the Driver License Division on the vessel identification numbering and registration system and is responsible for implementing and maintaining the remaining components. With the RBS Program function in mind, the division's mission is to enhance safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through law enforcement, educational activities, and community-oriented initiatives.

The division serves the Alabama boating public by operating three districts that encompass all of Alabama's waterways (including small rivers, lakes, and streams) that align in coverage with the natural, geographical layout of Alabama's river systems and coastal waters. Alabama has more than 1,700 square miles of navigable water throughout the state.

- Northern District covers 28 counties with major waterways along the Tennessee and Coosa rivers, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes, including Gunter'sville, Logan Martin, and Wiess Lakes.

- Central District covers 22 counties in the central portion of the state with major waterways along the Alabama, Black Warrior, Coosa Tallapoosa, and Tombigbee Rivers, as well as numerous smaller rivers and lakes including Lake Martin and Lake Tuscaloosa.
- Southern District covers eight counties in southwest Alabama with the Alabama, Mobile, and Tombigbee rivers, all coastal waters, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes.

The division has a sworn strength of 41 officers and three civilian administrative employees. In FY2023, Marine Patrol Troopers investigated 96 boating incidents on Alabama waterways that resulted in 12 deaths, 53 injuries, and more than \$1 Million in property damage.

The following were the top contributing factors for boating crashes in FY2023:

- Improper lookout
- Operator inattention
- Operator inexperience
- Reckless/careless operation
- Operating too closely to other vessel/person in the water
- Alcohol impairment

In FY2023, ALEA Marine Patrol Troopers made 19,279 contacts with members of the public and conducted 8,522 vessel inspections. Troopers issued 7,268 citations and 12,722 warnings for water safety and highway safety violations. Marine Patrol Troopers also reported 733 boater assists and 577 motorist assists for the period.

Top water safety violations for the year:

	<u>Citations</u>	<u>Warnings</u>
Boating under the influence	56	0
Insufficient personal flotation devices	171	295
Vessel registration violations	179	2,247
Operating a vessel without a license	96	527
Careless operation of a vessel	68	378
Violation of restrictive signs or buoys	21	583
Child younger than 8 not wearing a PFD	40	29

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

Marine Patrol Troopers offered more than 100 Boat Alabama boating safety classes at numerous locations throughout Alabama, giving 722 citizens an opportunity to not only learn more about marine safety laws and regulations, but to also interact with their area Marine Patrol personnel. The division made full use of social media and traditional media outlets to convey its safe-boating message to the public, especially during Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holiday periods.

In addition, the division issued 182 permits for events on Alabama's public waters in FY2023. Troopers direct-patrolled many of these events, which included firework displays, boat parades, boat races, and on-water concerts.

Troopers conducted 296 vessel hull inspections, a service that provides help to boaters with older vessels or builders of homemade vessels secure the correct Hull Identification Number for their vessel for registration purposes.

The division has continued to work with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to identify and remove large marine debris from the waters of Mobile and Baldwin counties. Four of the division's supervisors attended and completed the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Leadership at NASBLA Headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky and six of the Marine Patrol supervisors attended the NASBLA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Driver License Division

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

Accomplishments for FY2023:

- Implemented new interfaces in LEADS (Law Enforcement Agency Driver System)
 - Alabama Registry for Involuntary Commitments (ARTIC)
 - Active Directory Authentication and Processing Tool (ADAPT)
 - Alabama Secretary of State
- Legislation Implemented
 - Speed Contest/Exhibition Driving
 - Failure to Appear/Failure to Pay
 - Boating Violations
 - Wakeboarding
 - Pretrial Ignition Interlock Legislation Sunset
 - Federal Regulation Update allowing Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) in lieu of Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HME) Threat Assessment
- Planning and testing for implementation of Alabama Department of Revenue's Alabama Vehicle Information Network (ALVIN) system impacting Vessel Registration
- State Department of Education PowerSchool automation implemented with LEADS for road test scores to post electronically. Discussions for knowledge testing in SDE driver education classes continue

- Full American Association of Motor Vehicle (AAMVA) State Pointer Exchange System (SPEXS) Driver History Record system implemented
- Alabama Department of Transportation Onsite Testing Program implementation completed
- Manual FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse downgrades implemented
 - Beginning stages of automation for this process underway
- Began initial discussions with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services to implement knowledge testing for their students
- Planning underway for a non-commercial skills testing pilot program with the Alabama Traffic Safety Center in Montevallo
- New LEADS Statistical Reporting implemented
 - FMCSA Commercial License Disqualifications
 - Annual DOT Licensed Driver Report by Age and Gender
 - REAL ID Compliance Rates by Age Groups
- Four CDL Examiner Certification Courses conducted
- Community Outreach efforts expanded
 - Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS) Partnership -- four events held to issue credentials to incarcerated youths at DYS facilities
 - Participated in multiple Homeless Connect events, taking identification services to homeless persons in Alabama
 - Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless
 - Housing First Annual Homeless Connect
 - Love, Inc., of Tuscaloosa

In FY2023, ALEA's Driver License Division also conducted 2,240 in-office vessel knowledge exams, 25,991 CDL skills exams, 76,248 CDL knowledge exams, 103,586 driver license skills exams, and 165,031 driver license knowledge exams. Driver License personnel also disqualified 600 CDLs, suspended 210,416 driver licenses, revoked 43,527 driver licenses, and canceled 12,611 driver licenses.

Safety Responsibility Unit

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

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

SR-31 Accident Report filing	2,681
SR-22 Mandatory Liability Insurance	18,070
SR-26 Cancellation of Insurance	9,428
Status reports	978
Civil Court Judgments filed	1,228
Security Deposits/Bonds	8
Releases	2,301
Telephone calls	13,995
Emails	4,061
Faxes	1,107

Commercial Driver License/Medical Unit

The Commercial Driver License (CDL) Unit processes DOT medical cards for CDL/CLP holders. Unit personnel work closely with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to ensure compliance. Hazardous Material Endorsement certification is added daily with information received from the Department of Homeland Security. Unit personnel also work closely with other state agencies to resolve CDLIS pointer and data issues.

The Medical Unit mails medical forms and reviews them upon return to ensure drivers are medically safe to operate a motor vehicle. Notifications alerting the unit to drivers needing review are received from law enforcement, driver license offices, and state-certified physicians. Follow-up reports are sent in accordance with state law and department policies.

Phone calls received	67,885
Letters mailed out	19,378
Walk-in customers served	66
Follow-ups worked	7,200
Paper Vision forms scanned	42,675
Haz-Mat background approvals entered	5,537
Faxes received	16,800
Emails received/answered	69,480
Returned documents received	382
Medical certifications processed	83,337
Self-certifications processed	2,806

Driver Improvement Unit and Review Officers

The Driver Improvement Unit and Review Officers work closely with Alabama drivers and courts to resolve issues with licensees’ records. Unit personnel process verdicts and sanctions relating to the withdrawal of driving privileges, Ignition Interlock orders submitted by courts, student enrollment violations, and Hardship License applications. Credentials are issued via mail requests, and ALEA employee IDs are also processed by this unit.

Ignition Interlock orders processed	6,289
Emails received and responded to	56,834
Record corrections	9,204

Hardship applications reviewed	9,445
Records reviewed	34,220
Credentials issued via mail-in request	1,323
Student Enrollment Forms processed	2,337

Driver Services Unit

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

Telephone calls regarding no receipt of credential in mail	16,016
Emails answered regarding no receipt of credential in mail	3,908
Credentials returned by post office (not deliverable as addressed, etc.)	13,098
Credential reprint orders after no receipt of credential in mail	3,490
Documents scanned (received from individuals, law enforcement)	108,460
Address updates	4,498
Credentials emailed or picked up by individual	6,951

Reinstatement Unit

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

Phone calls	30,640
Reinstatements	46,267
• In-office reinstatements	29,712
• Online reinstatements	16,555
Credentials issued	5,621
MVRs sold	1,757
Address updates	1,374
Crash reports sold	384
Faxes and emails processed	12,151

Records Unit

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

Telephone calls answered	30,572
Court-requested driving abstracts processed	16,470
Crash reports via mail, walk-in service and from ALDOT	758
MVRs via walk-in service, mail, and email	4,265
Lifetime MVRs processed	491
In-state tickets processed	38,750
Out-of-state tickets processed	61,244
Tickets returned due to errors	550

Hearing Unit

The Hearing Unit processes requests for hearings from individuals whose licenses were suspended, processes various DUI correspondence for the state, and conducts hearings for suspended drivers. If a licensee receives notification of a pending withdrawal of driving privileges, the licensee or attorney may request a hearing online, by written request or in-

person notification. Once the request is received and the hearing is granted, Hearing Unit personnel conduct hearings at locations throughout the state. The Hearing Officer completes the appropriate case, and the information is forwarded to the Hearing Review Board, at which time a final determination is made. Notification of the decision is mailed to the licensee and the attorney, if applicable.

Hearing requests received	3,694
Hearings conducted	2,557
Hearings denied	1,048
Hearings discarded	89
AST-60s received	6,871
AST-60s rescinded	3,210
AST-61s received	3

Mandatory Liability Insurance Unit (MLI)

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

Telephone calls received	22,324
Initial MLI letters mailed out	23,547
MLI suspension letters mailed out	28,942
Fees collected	\$3,284,876

Breakdown of fees:

Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund	\$208,041.82
Motor Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$1,094,958.34
Highway Traffic Safety Fund	\$1,981,874.86

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Driver License System (LEADS) Help Desk

The LEADS Support Help Desk was created with the inception of the new LEADS modernized system in April 2022. This Unit supports all ALEA Driver License personnel and county partner users with LEADS work processes, financials, and hardware troubleshooting. The State Pointer Exchange System (SPEXS) was also implemented with LEADS, and the Help Desk is responsible for monitoring the S2S Support mail, processing Change State of Record (CSOR) and Possible Duplicate Pointer work items.

CSOR	6,780
Mark Unique	28,892
S2S support emails received	17,488
Track-it tickets opened	705
Phone calls answered	21,312

Vessel Registration Unit

The Vessel Registration Unit vessel registration renewals and processing boat education certificates submitted to ALEA by the State Department of Education.

Boating certificates issued	44,713
Vessel registrations issued	278,159
Total vessel license holders	834,849

State Bureau of Investigation

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

Criminal Investigation Division (CID)

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

Special Operations Group (SOG)

The Special Operations Group (SOG) is responsible for planning, budgeting, and implementing current and new initiatives intended to keep SBI on the cutting edge of technology and providing the section's working groups, as well as local agencies, with investigative tools and options that might not be readily available at the local level. These initiatives include the Unmanned Aerial Unit (Drones), Crime Scene Digital Scanning, Marijuana Eradication, Polygraph Examination, Digital Forensics, Hazardous Device Unit (HDU), and Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). Except for SWAT and HDU, the other services provided within SOG are considered an additional duty, meaning SBI Special Agents fulfill these services to other state and local agencies on a volunteer basis and without any additional compensation.

Hazardous Device Unit (HDU)

ALEA HDU's mission is to provide prompt and professional assistance in the prevention, detection, investigation, removal, and disposal of suspected hazardous devices, explosives, pyrotechnics, ammunition, ordnance, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) throughout the state of Alabama. The ALEA HDU responds to all explosives-related calls for service to render explosives, IEDs, and WMDs safe by mitigating the threat while ensuring the protection of lives and property and investigating explosives-related crimes.

The HDU provides hazardous device sweeps of state property, along with dignitary protection sweeps, and assists other local agencies in their investigations, and in certain instances that require statewide resources, the HDU will become the lead investigating agency.

The HDU provides training around the state in conjunction with our federal law enforcement partners to state and local law enforcement.

During FY2023, ALEA HDU responded to 4 bomb threats, five device disassembly/disposals, 70 Operational Security Events, 112 K-9 Sweeps and 21 suspicious packages, provided 22 training sessions to 1,191 students, and safely performed 39 explosive recoveries, investigated three post/blast explosions, and provided 13 tactical assists.

Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT)

The ALEA SWAT Team is a highly trained unit of individuals with specialized capabilities primarily responsible for serving high-risk search and arrest warrants; mitigating the removal of barricaded suspects, hostage rescue operations, dignitary protection and security details; and providing those services to agencies who do not have that capability.

During FY2023, ALEA SWAT responded to 159 calls for service. Those requests were a combination of high-risk narcotics search warrants, barricaded homicide suspects and hostage situations, internet predators, dignitary protection, and surveillance missions, which were in support of SBI units and local and federal agencies.

Unmanned Aerial System Unit

The Unmanned Aerial System Unit, also referred to as the Drone Unit, operates on a 24/7 basis. The unit is currently composed of the Drone Unit Coordinator, a UAS Operator Manager, and 20 Drone Pilots located in all seven regions across the state, operating 30 drones. The Unit responds to natural disasters, various crime scenes, traffic homicide crash scenes, hostage negotiations, and search-and-rescue missions.

Unit personnel also monitor search warrant executions, scan for explosive devices, respond to officer-involved shooting scenes, and assist ALEA's SWAT, Special Operations, and Aviation Units. During these missions, drones are used to map scenes for investigative purposes to be used in court.

During FY2023, the Drone Unit completed 739 reports totaling 2,021 flights. This included 638 training flights and 1,383 mission flights, totaling 610 hours of flight time. These missions included 223 mapped crash scenes, 126 wrecker-yard vehicle flights, nine search-and-rescue missions, 19 community-relations flights, 32 mapped crime scenes, 39 investigative flights, six natural-disaster flights, eight searches for stolen property, 28 searches for suspects, and 51 surveillance details.

SBI uses FARO scanners for crime scenes, as well as traffic-homicide scene investigations.

FARO scanners are non-contact measurement laser systems used to accurately capture 3D data. The scanner preserves physical evidence in a three-dimensional setting, which ensures scenes may be used as a reference for accurate data measurements. Users can perform animations, which allows a jury to be placed in the middle of a crime scene when wearing virtual reality goggles. SBI currently has seven FARO scanners statewide.

Polygraph Examiners

Polygraph Examiners conduct criminal and pre-employment polygraph examinations for ALEA and other state and local agencies. SBI maintains 15 licensed examiners throughout the state. During FY2023, SBI Special Agents completed 21 pre-employment polygraphs and 14 criminal polygraph examinations.

Marijuana Eradication Unit

The Marijuana Eradication Unit is composed of five Special Agents and a Unit Coordinator. Its mission is to combat the growth of marijuana statewide. With the help of ALEA Aviation, the unit travels throughout the state to locate and confiscate marijuana plants. During FY2023, the team located 30 grow sites, seized 1,262 plants, and made 21 arrests.

Digital Forensics Unit

The Digital Forensics Unit performs forensic analysis on digital media including computers, storage media, optical media, drones, digital video recorders, GPS, video cameras, digital cameras, video collection, and image enhancements. The unit performs analysis for criminal investigations, internal affairs, child exploitation, and child sex abuse cases. Currently, SBI has two full-time Digital Forensic Technicians and one part-time Retired State Employee. The technicians are certified to testify in state and federal courts. Additionally, SBI has the only certified Forensic Composite Artist in Alabama. This service is available for investigators across the state to enhance low-quality surveillance photos, create an image of suspects from a victim's memory, produce age-progression photographs of suspects or missing persons for identification and reconstruction of human remains. During FY2023, Digital Forensics received 185 new cases and completed 146 cases, which included clearing some of the backlog pending cases.

Vice Unit

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

Alcohol & Rural Crime Unit

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

SBI Special Agents in ARCU partner with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Alabama Department of Public Health to enforce laws prohibiting minors from using and accessing tobacco. Additional legislative appropriations from the Children's First Trust Fund through the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education help to cover the costs of regulating and enforcing tobacco sales. Also, the unit meets requirements under federal SYNAR legislation to protect approximately \$40 million in federal funding for the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

During FY2023, Special Agents completed 570 SYNAR checks, resulting in 27 cases (with a 4.7 percent non-compliance rate); and completed 3,413 FDA checks, resulting in 353 buys (with a 10.3 percent non-compliance rate). Special Agents conducted approximately 5,000 tobacco compliance checks with a non-compliance rate of 5.1). Special Agents conducted approximately 9,000 Alcohol compliance checks (with a non-compliance rate of 4.2). Special Agents also conducted 56 livestock investigations, along with four cases on timber theft and 19 cases of theft of various farm equipment. In addition, Special Agents recovered 80 stolen vehicles.

Narcotics Unit

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

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

The unit also operates and is the custodian for the state's Clandestine Laboratory Waste Container Program, through which Special Agents log and audit containers around the state where hazardous waste from methamphetamine labs are held until a hazardous waste company can retrieve the waste. Also, SBI has been a prominent supporter of its federal partners during this fiscal year. SBI provided Special Agents to serve on the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force, the Drug

Enforcement Administration's (DEA) High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Safe Streets Task Force, FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Task Force. SBI Special Agents assisted with 206 fugitive arrests during this period.

SBI Narcotics Seizures FY2023

Cocaine	71,230.8 grams	\$7,123,080 street value
Crack	362 grams	\$36,200 street value
Fentanyl	16,967 grams	\$1,696,700 street value
Heroin	6,386 grams	\$638,600 street value
Marijuana	567,637 grams	\$22,705,480 street value
Methamphetamine	172,384 grams	\$5,171,520 street value
Pills	12,920 pills	\$133,456 street value

Major Crimes Unit

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

Major Crimes initiated a total of 733 investigations during FY2023. These instances ranged from officers responding to emergency calls for service (911 calls), executing arrest warrants, conducting traffic stops, processing crime scenes, interviewing witnesses/suspects, and handling other police/citizen encounters.

Major Crimes Activity FY2023

Criminal cases	264
Special inquiry investigations	79
Assists (local/federal agencies)	390
Use-of-force investigations	46
In-custody death investigations	22
Other investigations	35
Arrests	154

Latent Fingerprint Unit

The Latent Fingerprint Unit's certified latent print examiners are responsible for comparing fingerprints taken at crime scenes to the fingerprints in the state and federal repositories. In FY2023, the Latent Print Unit received 531 requests from local law enforcement agencies, processed 27 crime scenes and provided 718 positive identifications. Examiners also provided court testimony nine times and gave seven lectures on latent prints and fingerprinting. ALEA employs five certified examiners. Certified examiners must also complete continuing education hours each year and take a re-certification exam from the International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) every five years in order to keep their certification. There are approximately 1,100 certified examiners in the world.

Special Victims Unit

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

Special Victims Unit Activity FY2023

Investigations opened	1,777
Search warrants executed	667
Cyber tips received	9,234
Subpoenas served	3,216
Arrests	294

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division

SBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division has 52 employees responsible for providing and maintaining mission-critical criminal justice information systems and services for the state. CJIS provides guidance and training to local law enforcement agencies on the information systems provided by ALEA and governed by the FBI and the Alabama Justice Information Commission (AJIC). The division oversees the state's Criminal History Repository, Fingerprint Repository, Sex Offender Registry, Incident Reporting Program, and Compliance Section.

Criminal History Repository

The Criminal History Repository receives disposition information from state and municipal courts. This section is responsible for processing expungement requests from circuit courts and pardons from the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles. The unit received 62,937 dispositions and processed 4,811 requests for expungements and 710 pardons in FY2023.

Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) Unit

The Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) Unit receives fingerprint cards from law enforcement agencies taken at the time of arrest, applicant cards submitted for background checks, and employment and sex offender registry cards. The unit then processes and digitally or manually submits the fingerprint cards. In FY2023, the ABIS system processed 323,042 fingerprint cards. 221,950 cards were captured because of an arrest, 246 were captured from sex offender registrations, and 100,846 were captured from applicant background checks requested by citizens.

Sex Offender Registry Unit

The Sex Offender Registry Unit maintains state sex offender information submitted by local law enforcement agencies into the state-approved Offender Watch database system. The unit is also responsible for ensuring accuracy of entered records submitted into the FBI's National Criminal Information System (NCIC). The sex offender information submitted to NCIC is available nationally and subject to public notification on the State of Alabama's Sex Offender Registry. The Sex Offender Unit created 978 new sex offender records, updated 15,600 records, and entered or modified 5,377 records in NCIC in FY2023. At the end of this fiscal year, there were 11,319 active sex offenders registered in the system, 9,452 of whom required public notification. There were 170 offenders listed as absconded.

Incident Reporting/Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program

The Incident Reporting Program Unit is Alabama's repository for crime reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The UCR Unit collects information on incident/offense reports, arrest reports, full-time law enforcement employees, asset forfeitures, bias crime reports, and law enforcement officers killed or assaulted in the line of duty. The collected data is published in Crime in Alabama, and the data is submitted to the FBI for Crime in the United States. The Incident Reporting Section trained 156 law enforcement personnel, instructing them to properly report UCR information. Also, there were 1,619 seizure cases entered or modified in the asset forfeiture system electronically. In addition, this unit is responsible for the National Instant Criminal History Check System (NICS) records for the state. NICS checks are conducted at the point of sale for firearm purchases. The unit entered 1,399 involuntary commitment records to the NICS indexes and completed 15,677 criminal record disposition requests for NICS.

Criminal Justice Compliance Unit

The Criminal Justice Compliance Unit ensures criminal and non-criminal agencies comply with rules created by the FBI and AJIC. Criminal Justice Compliance Specialists travel to local law enforcement agencies to provide training on information systems and to conduct audits to ensure compliance. The unit conducted 544 agency visits and 51 audits in FY2023. Section personnel also provided 90 training sessions to local law enforcement agency employees and responded to

2,797 calls for service.

Firearms Prohibited Person Database

In 2021, the Legislature passed Act 2021-246 requiring ALEA to create a database containing persons forbidden for possessing a firearm. This Firearms Prohibited Person Database (FPPD) receives data from two systems, has the ability for all 67 sheriff's offices to enter records, and the results are displayed for law enforcement officials in ALEA's Law Enforcement Tactical System. At the end of FY2023, there were 192,256 persons accounting for 383,572 records in the FPPD. All persons in the FPPD are entered based on federal and state law prohibiting persons from owning a firearm.

Alabama Fusion Center

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

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

Intelligence and Criminal Case Support

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

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

During FY2023, the AFC produced 34 intelligence bulletins, created four threat assessments, and provided and/or attended 29 training sessions.

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

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

RFIs involve database searches and inquiries, or location and retrieval of records (often from other fusion centers). RFAs are more involved and include mapping/linking criminal intelligence or raw data, working on-site at a major-event command center, or responding to crime scenes to provide analytical support. The AFC fulfilled 1,576 RFIs/RFAs during FY2023.

Alabama Center for Missing & Exploited Children

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

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

In FY2023, the AFC issued two AMBER Alerts, 24 Emergency Missing Child Alerts, 83 Missing & Endangered Person Alerts, and zero Blue Alerts. In addition, ACMEC had 90 website-only postings for missing children and 47 for missing adults.

Joint Terrorism Task Force

The AFC provides a direct link to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) by way of a dedicated terrorism analyst and the AFC's Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) program. The AFC is responsible for vetting and routing SARs received from the public, private sector security, public safety, and other AFC partners. SARs are similar in nature to tips and leads, and many of those the AFC receives typically find their way back to ALEA's public safety partners in this form.

However, some SARs vetted by AFC analysts are determined to contain a nexus to terrorism and are then shared with the JTTF for follow-up and preliminary assessment.

In FY2023, the AFC identified four terrorism-related SARs and 822 SARs the AFC provided to its public safety partners in the form of tips and leads.

Alabama Fusion Center School Safety Initiative Team

During FY2023, the School Safety Initiative Team documented 106 school threats to schools throughout the state. The threats included, but are not limited to, school shooting threats, bomb threats, weapons on school premises, and shooting incidents. Two dozen logged threats were confirmed swatting calls, 20 of which happened in a single day. When swatting calls were excluded from the data, weapons on school premises was the largest threat logged to Alabama schools in FY2023. Because of the growing issue of swatting calls, the AFC produced and published a joint bulletin with FBI Mobile about the characteristics of swatting calls to K-12 schools. The bulletin was sent to law enforcement, educators, and other school safety stakeholders at the beginning of the 2023 academic year.



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