



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 2022. This report epitomizes the devotion and the commitment of more than 1,400 ALEA employees who proudly serve both the citizens, as well as the visitors of our great state.

The Agency's mission is to efficiently provide quality service, protection, and safety for the state of Alabama by utilizing consolidated law enforcement investigative and support services. While we are dedicated to ensuring effectiveness, maximizing resources, and streamlining our existing services, we are equally committed to exploring new and inventive ways to integrate technology in an effort to modernize and enhance our ability to promote public safety.

The resources you and state legislators have consistently provided ALEA have been extremely instrumental in the Agency's ability to successfully achieve our goal of creating a safer environment for the public who live and travel within the state. We are able to effectively patrol state roadways and waterways, maintain and protect sensitive criminal data, issue driver and vessel licenses, and assist local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our pledge to continuously strive to improve every aspect of the Agency in order to reach our ultimate goal of zero lives lost. Regardless of the situation, we want to ensure all Alabamians make it home safely.

Sincerely,

HAL TAYLOR
Secretary of Law Enforcement



**Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's
Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report**

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

Office of the Secretary

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

Homeland Security

The 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 FY2022, the Homeland Security Office allocated \$4,002,679 in grants to state and local partners.

Protective Services Division

The Protective Services Division consists of three units (Dignitary Protection, Capitol Patrol, and Aviation) and is responsible for providing (1) law enforcement services within the Capitol complex in Montgomery, as mandated by § 32-2-100, Ala. Code 1975, and (2) protection to and for certain state officers and visiting dignitaries as mandated by § 36-33-2, Ala. Code 1975, as well as various

other law enforcement duties.

Dignitary Protection Unit

The Dignitary Protection Unit provides security and transportation 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 FY2022, the unit, along with personnel from Highway Patrol and the State Bureau of Investigation, provided assistance to other state and federal partners with visiting dignitaries as requested.

Capitol Patrol Unit

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

During FY2022, the Capitol Patrol Unit conducted 12,772 building checks within the complex, managed 88 special events, responded to 152 building alarms, and completed 58 Incident/Offense reports. The unit also made 32 felony arrests, served 46 warrants, issued 1,754 traffic citations/warnings, investigated 51 vehicle crashes, conducted 175 Commercial Vehicle Inspections, and made seven DUI arrests.

ALEA Aviation Unit

The Aviation Unit operates a mixed fleet of airplanes and helicopters, which is comprised of eight Pilots, four Tactical Flight Officers (FLIR operators, rescue operators, and pilot trainees), four in-house Maintenance staff and includes one 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. The unit currently operates eight Bell OH-58 helicopters, five of which have Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR), and daylight cameras, searchlights and other equipment specially designed to optimize searches in day and night conditions. The helicopter fleet also consists of 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. The unit also operates three single-engine aircraft primarily used for in-state transport and surveillance missions.

Operating from three bases (Montgomery, Cullman, and Fairhope) in FY2022, the Aviation Unit received 1,335 requests for service with 1,116 responses for a total of 2,033 hours of flight time. The following is a general breakdown of the missions by number of flights:

Searches/Missing Persons and Manhunts	221
Investigative	182
Rescues	7
Training	370
Executive/Transport	77
Storm, Fire Suppression and Disaster	11
Other (Maintenance, Ferry, Static Display, etc.)	207
Special Detail	41

The Aviation Unit applied for but was not awarded any Homeland Security or Port Security grants for FY2022 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 cost 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, we are also able to acquire many parts when available. The unit also has an exceptional maintenance staff to perform most of the maintenance and equipment installs 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 lead to wandering. With multiple donors, bracelets are provided at no charge to individuals in need. This project was spearheaded many years ago to reduce the number of searches and increase the chance of finding these individuals. The unit'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.

Administrative Bureau

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

Personnel Unit (Human Resources)

The Personnel Unit manages and coordinates the Agency's human resources operations for approximately 1,415 employees. Primary areas of responsibility include strategic planning; employee recruitment, selection, onboarding, and retention; training; policy and procedure interpretation, development, and implementation; EEO/legal compliance; performance appraisal and progressive discipline guidance and oversight; payroll and benefits; and job description preparation and maintenance.

In addition, the Personnel Unit provides direction regarding workers' compensation, the Employee Assistance Program, donated/military leave authorization, Family and Medical Leave Act,

Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and COVID-19 leave and benefits. During FY2022, the Personnel Unit handled 135 appointments (five law enforcement officers), 336 promotion raises, 52 retirements (40 law enforcement officers), 148 resignations (32 law enforcement officers), 354 probation raises, and 788 annual raises.

Information Technology Division (IT)

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

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

Alabama Geographic Information Office (AGIO)

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

General Services Unit

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

Facilities Management coordinates lease management and facility maintenance, including electrical, plumbing, HVAC, janitorial services, lawn care, and pest control. The unit works with the state Office of Risk Management, landlords, and insurance companies to ensure appropriate insurance coverages are applied, processes claims, and facilitates repairs.

Highlighted accomplishments for FY2022 include management of the preventative maintenance and repair program for more than 300 air-conditioning and heating units located at various facilities across the state; managing the CJC Complex Renovation Project; coordinating the construction and renovation design planning and bid award for the Orange Beach Marine Patrol Post; coordinating with various ALEA departments to lease two new property locations; and coordinating with the Office of Risk Management to collect more than \$610,000 in insurance claims.

Inventory Control is responsible for identifying, tracking, and disposing of state property following statutory requirements outlined in the State Property Manual. Employees use various computer applications (ALEANet and Asset Works) to actively track and account for approximately 27,000 items with an original cost of approximately \$114 million. Employees rely on the State Auditor's Office and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Surplus Property Division to adhere to statutory inventory control requirements.

During FY2022, the unit added 2,356 items to inventory having an original cost of approximately \$7 million; removed 1,198 items having an original cost of more than \$8 million using proper disposal methods; and completed approximately 4,600 internal equipment transfers. Employees are working with other divisions and units within the Agency to establish an application that will improve ALEA's ability to track personal inventory and ultimately serve as a proprietary inventory control system.

Mail employees process more than 3,000 pieces of incoming/outgoing mail each week and facilitate the shipping/receiving of packages for ALEA. The staff also handles shred service

and pickup for ALEA headquarters.

Supply coordinates with inter/intra-agency entities to procure, receive, and maintain adequate inventory levels and to process supply requests from business units to sustain operations. Highlighted accomplishments during FY2022 include procuring and issuing new ballistic vests to more than 300 law enforcement officers.

Radio Engineering Unit

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

In coordination with the ALEA Fleet Management Unit, Radio Engineering staff members provide additional services, 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 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 1,041 work orders during FY2022.

Fleet Services Unit

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

and services to employees and vendors and ensure safe and reliable transportation for ALEA personnel. The unit currently manages approximately 1,500 pieces of inventoried equipment (1,300 vehicles).

During FY2022, Fleet Services purchased new vehicles; equipped new employees with vehicles; held an auction netting \$576,650 in sales; deployed the Mobile Command 32 times to various locations; made 145 wrecker trips covering 18,975 miles to recover seized vehicles or pick up vehicles requiring repair; coordinated with Agency divisions to develop and implement a fuel application to manage payment of the Agency's Wright Express bill (approximately \$8.9 million annual expenditures); and completed the repowering of two vessels.

Legal Division

Attorneys in the Legal division represent the Secretary and Agency personnel in various legal matters including federal, state, and administrative litigation. The division 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. In addition, division attorneys advise the Secretary and Agency leadership, help develop and enforce Agency policies, negotiate contracts and interagency agreements, litigate Board of Adjustment claims and driver license appeals, teach at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, and generally help the Agency solve problems. The division consists of five attorneys and three support staff.

External Affairs Division

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

The division includes ALEA Troopers that serve as Public Affairs Officers (PAO), each of whom is assigned to one of the Agency's seven Troops. Along with assisting the Division with local media relations, each PAO also serves as an ALEA Recruiting Coordinator and works closely with individuals who apply to become ALEA Troopers and Special Agents. During FY2021, the External Affairs Division and its PAOs made 20,226 contacts with potential ALEA employees and media outlets via on-camera interviews, phone and/or e-mail, news releases on various topics, and requests for information. Both sworn and civilian members of the External Affairs Division assist with

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

Photo Services Unit

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

During FY2022, the unit comprised of one full-time Photo Tech II and one retired State employee. Photo Lab personnel processed 23,853 prints and received and archived 23,853 CDs of images during this period. The Unit generated \$174,074 in revenue from photo sales, mostly to law firms and insurance companies.

Department of Public Safety

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

Highway Patrol Division

The Highway Patrol Division is the largest DPS division and is composed of four Regions, seven Troops, 17 Highway Patrol posts, and seven 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, Felony Interdiction Strike Team, and Motorcycle Enforcement.

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

injuries and death.

In FY2022, ALEA Troopers worked 32,304 crashes that resulted in 10,445 injuries and 587 fatalities. ALEA Troopers issued 298,625 citations and 174,484 warnings to gain compliance with traffic laws and reduce crashes, specifically those that could result injury or death.

Top 10 Types of Citations/Violations:

Speeding	152,344
No seat belt	39,061
Tag violations	19,482
Driving suspended/revoked	17,542
No insurance	17,051
No driver license	13,576
Weight violations	8,387
Improper lights	4,101
Child restraint	3,467
DUI	2,536

Top 10 Primary Contributing Circumstances for Trooper-investigated Crashes (accounting for 46 percent of all crashes statewide):

Unseen object/person/vehicle	2,765
Failure to yield	2,286
Following too closely	1,858
Improper lane usage/change	1,794
Over the speed limit	1,608
Driving too fast for conditions	1,344
Fatigued/asleep	976
DUI	812
Swerving to avoid vehicle	799

During FY2022, 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 FY2022, thereby assisting Highway Patrol, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, ALEA State Bureau of Investigations, 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, Mary Jane, due to age and health issues.

ALEA Honor Guard

The Honor Guard is a group of dedicated officers who volunteer their time to honor the lives of our fallen, often missing family events and traveling great distances to assist. The Honor Guard is composed of approximately 22 members statewide. During FY2022, the ALEA Honor Guard presented ceremonial honors at 32 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 FY2022, the THI Unit trained 19 ALEA Troopers and 11 outside agency officers as Traffic Homicide Investigators and worked 235 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 began completing 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 FY2022, the Motor Carrier Safety Unit employed 67 sworn officers, two civilians, and two retired state employees/law enforcement officers. In addition, the unit used 64 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Troopers, as well as 19 City Officer Program officers from 11 different law enforcement agencies to help reduce Commercial Motor Vehicle-related crashes across the state. During this period, the unit discovered 8,045 out-of-service driver and vehicle violations.

FY2022 Motor Carrier Safety Unit Activity

Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV) inspected	38,526
Hazardous-Materials Vehicles inspected	1,193
Bus/Passenger Vehicles inspected	323
CMVs weighed by fixed scales	126,677

CMVs weighed by portable scales	74,776
CMVs weighed by weight in motion	699,726
New entrant safety audits	1,243
Compliance reviews	6

Motor Enforcement Unit

The Highway Patrol Division employed 12 Motor Enforcement Officers who, in addition to other duties, worked more than 200 days on their motorcycles conducting aggressive enforcement, as well as providing escort assistance at the University of Alabama and Auburn University home football games, Talladega Superspeedway races, Mardi Gras, Trail of Tears, and funerals for fallen officers and family members. Unit officers assisted at many community and public relations events, including Toys for Tots escort, memorial rides requesting escorts, and numerous school visits for special safety events.

Communications Unit

In May 2021, ALEA moved the Communications Unit back into the field, where the Unit reports and is supervised daily by local Troop and Regional Commanders. As of October 31, 2022, the Communications Unit is composed of 60 Police Communications Officers (PCO), including seven Communications Supervisors (PCO III) and 51 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.

PCOs also dispatch ALEA personnel to assist other law enforcement agencies upon request and during coordinated multi-agency responses. They also serve as the first point of contact for citizens who need ALEA’s services. During FY2022, the Communications Unit dispatched ALEA Troopers to a total of 32,304 traffic crashes statewide, of which 10,445 were with injuries and 587 fatalities.

Marine Patrol Division

ALEA’s Marine Patrol and Driver License Divisions 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 and community-oriented initiatives, and activities.

The division serves the Alabama boating public by operating four Regions 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.

- * Region 1 covers eight counties in southwest Alabama with the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, all coastal waters, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes.
- * Region 2 covers the southeastern part of Alabama, including 22 counties with major waterways along the Coosa, Tallapoosa, Alabama, and Chattahoochee rivers, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes.
- * Region 3 covers the central portion of the state and covers 18 counties with major waterways along the Alabama, Black Warrior, Coosa, Tallapoosa, and Tombigbee Rivers, as well as numerous smaller rivers and lakes.
- * Region 4 covers 19 counties with major waterways along the Tennessee and Coosa rivers, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes.

The division has a sworn strength of 48 officers and three civilian administrative employees. During FY2022, the division added three new 18-foot Silver Ships patrol boats to its fleet and was awarded three FEMA Port Security grants totaling \$675,000. The division will utilize those grant funds to purchase and place five new patrol boats in service in Coastal Alabama waters and on the Tennessee River.

In FY2022, Marine Patrol Troopers investigated 77 boating incidents on Alabama waterways that resulted in 11 deaths, 52 injuries, and more than \$2 million in property damage.

The following were the top contributing factors for boating crashes in FY2022:

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

In FY2022, ALEA Marine Patrol Troopers made 20,676 contacts with members of the public and conducted 10,793 vessel inspections. Troopers issued 4,701 citations and 12,678 warnings for water safety and highway safety violations. Marine Patrol Troopers also reported 1,019 boater assists and 734 motorist assists for the period.

Top water safety violations for the year were:

	<u>Citations</u>	<u>Warnings</u>
Boating under the influence	44	0
Insufficient personal flotation devices	300	1,171
Vessel registration violations	250	2,310
Other alcohol violations	213	40
Operating a vessel without a license	205	771
Careless operation of a vessel	164	493
Violation of restrictive signs or buoys	114	694
Child younger than 8 not wearing PFD	77	52

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 107 Boat Alabama boating safety classes at numerous locations throughout Alabama, giving 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 the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holiday periods.

In addition, the division issued 219 permits for events on Alabama's public waters in FY2022. Troopers direct-patrolled many of these events, which included fireworks displays, boat parades, boat races, and on-water concerts.

Troopers conducted 209 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 also began a new partnership with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to identify and secure federal funding to remove large marine debris from the waters of Mobile and Baldwin counties. Two of the division's command staff members attended and completed the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Leadership Academy at NASBLA headquarters in Lexington, Ky.

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 FY2022:

- Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Driver System (LEADS).
 - ALEA Driver License has successfully modernized the driver license system and combined numerous legacy applications into a singular modernized system.
 - Hardware was replaced at 200+ offices across the state. Hundreds of users were trained in LEADS, which rolled out statewide April 26, 2022.
 - Rolled out updated Online Customer Services website alabamadr.alea.gov, more than 168,000 customers have utilized these services.
 - Online Reinstatement Services
 - Online Motor Vehicle Reports
 - Online DOT Medical Card System
 - Online License Renewal/Duplicate System
 - Allow customers to pre-apply for Alabama license
 - Numerous other new online functions
 - Implemented numerous new interfaces in LEADS
 - AAMVA State 2 State Interface with Driver History Reporting
 - AAMVA Digital Image Access Exchange
 - U.S. Passport Verification Service
- Implemented the Homeless Student Driver Free License Law
- Updated and Expanded Hardship License Program
 - Implemented FMCSA Entry Level Driver Training Program requirements for CDL Issuance
 - Began planning for implementation of FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse and National Registry of Medical Examiners regulations required to issue CDLs in the future
- Began discussion with Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission and planning to implement Driver License Suspension processes as it relates to Medical Cannabis Laws
- Opened a new Exam office: Shelby 280 Driver License Office in Shelby County

- Conducted two CDL Examiner Certification Courses
- Expanded Community Outreach efforts:
 - DYS Partnership – Issuing credentials to incarcerated youths at DYS facilities
 - Supported the State Legislature Re-Entry Commission
 - Supported Auburn University Securing Identification for Incarcerated Persons Project
 - Participated in Homeless Connect events, to take identification services to homeless persons in Alabama

In FY2022, ALEA’s Driver License Division also conducted 16,048 vessel knowledge exams, 14,263 CDL skills exams, 38,970 CDL knowledge exams, 78,154 driver license skills exams, 144,507 driver license knowledge exams, disqualified 635 CDLs, suspended 121,172 driver licenses, revoked 25,679 driver licenses, and canceled 43,791 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	3,279
SR-21 Insurance Verification reports	420
SR-22 Mandatory Liability Insurance	23,825
SR-26 Cancellation of Insurance	15,436
Status reports	1,416
Civil Court Judgments filed	1,681
Telephone calls	12,573

Emails	5,673
Faxes	2,359
Security Deposits/Bonds	19
Releases	2,116

Commercial Driver License/Medical Unit

The Commercial Driver License (CDL) Unit oversees and trains Driver License Examiners to conduct CDL road skills tests and processes medical card for all CDL holders. Unit personnel also work closely with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration on compliance regarding the posting of citations to CDL driver records. The Medical portion of the unit ensures that CDL drivers are medically safe to drive based on information from drivers, law enforcement, and/or state-certified physicians.

Phone calls received	66,354
Letters mailed out	16,354
Walk-in customers served	83
Drivers reinstated	2,204
Pieces of mail received	6,734
Follow-ups worked	9,642
Paper Vision forms scanned	86,424
Haz-Mat background approvals entered	4,317
Faxes received	19,377
Emails received/answered	67,324
Returned documents received	431
Medical certifications processed	81,560
Self-certifications processed	5,833

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	5,253
Emails received and responded to	16,248
Record Corrections	8,919
Hardship applications reviewed	6,823
Records reviewed	25,006
Credentials issued via mail-in request	741
Student Enrollment form processed	2,593

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 email from the public.

Telephone calls regarding no receipt of credential in mail	32,032
Emails answered regarding no receipt of credential in mail	7,500
Credentials returned by post office (not deliverable as addressed, etc.)	14,576
Credential reprint orders after no receipt of credential in mail	7,816
Documents scanned (received from individuals, law enforcement)	177,468
Address Updates	8,600

Credentials emailed or picked up by individual	5,614
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Reinstatement Unit

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

Phone calls	34,588
Reinstatements	4,466
Credentials Issued	4,375
MVRs sold	1,585
Address Updates	1,157
Crash Reports sold	299
Faxes and emails processed	11,980

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	46,002
Court-requested driving abstracts processed	16,382
Crash reports via mail, walk-in service and from ALDOT	6,335
MVRs via walk-in service and emails processed	6,317
Lifetime MVRs processed	1,036
MVRs ordered via telephone by credit card	4,919
In-state tickets processed	39,651
Out-of-state tickets processed	68,942

Tickets returned because of errors 1,494

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	3,592
Hearings Conducted	2,446
Hearings denied	429
Hearings rejected	717
AST-60s received	5,740
AST-60s rescinded	2,689
AST-61s received	1

Mandatory Liability Insurance Unit (MLI)

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

Telephone calls received	24,300
Initial MLI letters mailed out	30,152

MLI suspension letters mailed out	31,450
Fees collected	\$2,798,802
• Breakdown of fees:	
○ Motor Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$932,933.72
○ Highway Traffic Safety Fund	\$1,688,610.26
○ Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund	\$177,257.18

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	3,590
Mark Unique	5,814
S2S support emails received	4,209
Track-it tickets opened	316
Phone calls answered	15,570

Vessel Registration Unit

This unit is responsible for vessel registration renewals and processing boat education certificates submitted to ALEA by the State Department of Education.

Boating certificates issued	35,707
Vessel registrations issued	269,593
Total vessel license holders	783,443

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's Selma campus.

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

ATC staff members also supervise and manage the ALEA Field Training and Evaluation Program, which includes conducting annual certifications and recertifications for arresting officers and classes to meet the training needs and requirements in the seven ALEA troops. ATC personnel also manage the Alabama Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Program. In addition, the ATC is responsible for all special-services training for ALERRT, Run/Hide/Fight, and the Alabama Sentry Program, as well as for documenting, recording, and entering all annual continuing education units into the APOSTC system and ALEA Personnel Training Record File for all ALEA arresting officers. The ATC recently assumed the responsibility of supervising the ALEA Communications Training Officers.

ATC Staff Training Operations in FY2022 (some of which began prior to the fiscal year, with others ending following FY2022)

Basic Police classes

○ APA 172	Aug. 23, 2021-Nov. 24, 2021	20
○ APA 173	Jan. 17, 2022-April 21, 2022	28
○ APA 174	May 167, 2022-Aug.18, 2022	37
○ APA 175	Sept. 11, 2022-Dec.15, 2022	34

Trooper classes

○ 2021-B	Aug. 23, 2021-Feb. 8, 2022	19
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Other training classes

○ APOSTC FIDC	23
○ Commercial Driver License	20
○ Communications Training Officer	30
○ Defensive Driving	24
○ DMT recertification	24
○ E-Crime	8
○ Emergency Field Operations	1
○ Farozone 3-D software	75
○ Field Training Officer update	39
○ Field Training Officer	17
○ Human Trafficking	547
○ Implicit Bias	21
○ Legal Update	1
○ NCIC/MDT	38
○ New APOSTC First-Aid	12
○ Night Vision	8
○ PT Specialist (new certification)	7
○ PT Specialist (recertification)	34
○ PT Specialist and Defensive Tactics	10
○ PAFA	15
○ Patrol Rifle	29
○ PCO in-service	48
○ Realistic De-escalation	9
○ SFST Instructor	13
○ Southern Linc update	21
○ Stinger Spike	16
○ Taser Instructor	18
○ Taser, OC, PPCT in-service	23
○ Traffic Homicide Investigation	30
○ Use of Force remedial training	25

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Other agencies that used the ATC in FY2022:

Alabama Forestry Commission	12
Selma Fire Department	10
Selma Police Department	13

Alabama Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Program for FY2022

COURSES	SESSIONS	TOTAL TRAINED
SFST Basic Course		
• ALEA Training Center	4	104
• Northeast Academy	3	192
• Jefferson County Sheriff's Training Center	4	114
• Tuscaloosa APOST	3	91
• Birmingham PD Academy	2	20
• Huntsville PD Academy	2	33
• Mobile PD Academy	3	60
• Montgomery PD Academy	3	82
Statewide SFST Basic Training Totals	24	696
SFST Refresher/Update	19	292
SFST Instructor Course	4	51
SFST Update		
Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)	17	199
DRE Pre-School	2	18
DRE Main School	2	18
DRE Field Certification	2	36
DRE Instructor Course		
DRE In-Service	1	38
Recognizing Cannabis Impairment	8	73

State Bureau of Investigation

The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) functions as the investigative, non-uniform division of ALEA and is composed of the following divisions: Criminal 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/investigation; auto theft investigations; human trafficking; crime-scene processing; searches for missing persons and escaped inmates; polygraph examinations; technical surveillance; hostage negotiation; marijuana eradication; child and elder exploitation; in-custody death investigations; and special inquiries requested by outside agencies. This Division is divided into separate working units: Special 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 FY2022, ALEA HDU responded to 14 bomb threats, 11 device disassembly/disposals, 81 Operational Security Events, 142 K-9 Sweeps for state buildings and 16 suspicious packages, provided 39 training sessions to 2,390 students, and safely recovered explosive devices found throughout the state on 39 occasions.

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 FY2022, ALEA SWAT responded to 141 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 Operations

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 7 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, unit personnel use drones to map scenes for investigative

purposes to be used during court proceedings.

During FY2022, the Drone Unit completed 838 reports totaling 2,080 flights. This included 680 training flights and 1,400 mission flights, totaling 697 hours of flight time. These missions included 223 mapped crash scenes, 121 wrecker-yard vehicle flights, nine search-and-rescue missions, 14 community-relations flights, 31 mapped crime scenes, 42 investigative flights, three natural- disaster flights, 18 searches for stolen property, 35 searches for suspects, and 62 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 six Faro scanners statewide. During this fiscal period, the FARO system was used to map 23 scenes 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 FY2022, SBI Special Agents completed nine pre-employment and 30 criminal examinations.

Marijuana Eradication

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 FY2022, the team located 20 grow sites, seized 521 plants, and made 10 arrests.

Digital Forensics

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 FY2022, Digital Forensics received 159 new cases and completed 151 cases, which included some backlog.

Vice Unit

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

Alcohol & Rural Crime

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

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

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

During FY2022, Special Agents completed 570 SYNAR checks, resulting in 50 cases (with an 8.8 percent non-compliance rate), and completed 2,133 FDA checks resulting in 189 buys (with a 4.2 percent non-compliance rate). Special Agents also conducted 104 livestock investigations, along with 10 cases on timber theft and 28 cases of theft of various farm equipment. In addition, Special Agents recovered 90 stolen vehicles.

Narcotics

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, DEA's High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force, FBI Safe Streets Task Force, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Homeland Security Investigation Task Force. SBI Special Agents assisted with 206 fugitive arrests during this period.

SBI Narcotics Seizures FY2022

Cocaine	45,653 grams	\$4,565,300 street value
Crack	1,634 grams	\$163,400 street value
Fentanyl	8,274 grams	\$827,400 street value
Heroin	43,298 grams	\$4,329,800 street value
Marijuana	1,114,594 grams	\$44,583,760 street value
Methamphetamine	192,689 grams	\$5,780,655 street value
Pills	16,391 pills	\$169,310 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 1,065 investigations during FY2022. 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 FY2022

Criminal cases	420
Special Inquiry investigations	87
Assists (local/federal agencies)	558
Use-of-force investigations	46
In-custody death investigations	24
Other investigations	62
Arrests	177

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 FY2022

Investigations opened	540
Search warrants executed	665
Cyber tips received	7,188
Subpoenas served	4,004
Arrests made	17

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 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Alabama Justice Information Commission (AJIC).

The division oversees the state's Criminal History Repository, Fingerprint Repository, Sex Offender Registry, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Latent Fingerprint Section, and Compliance Section.

Criminal History Repository

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 62,634 dispositions and processed 906 requests for expungements and 556 pardons in FY2022.

CJIS was unable to complete 470 orders because the arresting agencies failed to submit fingerprint cards at the time of arrests.

Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS)

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 FY2022, the ABIS system processed 185,394 fingerprint cards; and cards were captured because of an arrest, 234 were captured from sex offender registrations, and 104,948 were captured from applicant background checks requested by citizens.

Sex Offender Registry

The Sex Offender Registry Unit maintains state sex offender information submitted by local law enforcement agencies into the state-approved database Offender Watch. 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 478 new sex offender records, conducted 7,316 record checks, updated 4,529 records, validated 5,351 records, and entered or modified 913 records in NCIC in FY2022. At the end of this fiscal year, there were 11,312 active sex offenders registered in the system, 9,346 of whom required public notification.

There were 167 offenders listed as absconded.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Unit is Alabama's repository for crime reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The UCR Unit collects information on incident/offense reports, arrest reports, full-time law enforcement employees, asset forfeitures, bias crime reports, and law enforcement officers killed or assaulted in the line of duty.

The collected data is published in Crime in Alabama, and the data is submitted to the FBI for Crime in the United States. The UCR Section trained 107 law enforcement personnel, instructing them to properly report UCR information. Also, there were 820 seizure cases entered into the asset forfeiture system electronically. In addition, this unit is responsible for the National Instant Criminal History Check System (NICS) records for the state. NICS checks are conducted at the point of sale for firearm purchases. The unit entered 1,418 involuntary commitment records to the NICS indexes and completed 6,383 criminal record disposition requests for NICS.

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 FY2022, the unit received 501 requests from local law enforcement agencies, processed 25 crime scenes, and provided 708 positive identifications. Examiners also provided court testimony seven times and conducted 11 lectures on fingerprinting. ALEA employs four certified examiners and two examiner trainees. Examiners must complete a training program that takes up to two or three years to complete. Trainees must take an eight-hour certification exam, with only one opportunity to pass. There are fewer than 1,000 certified examiners worldwide.

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 432 agency visits and 66 audits in FY2022. Section personnel also provided 135 training sessions to local law enforcement agency employees and responded to 3,418 calls for service.

Firearms Prohibited Person Database

The 2021 Legislature passed Act 2021-246 requiring the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) to create a database containing persons forbidden for possessing a firearm. This Firearms Prohibited Person Database (FPPD) receives data from two vendors 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. A 16-month project requiring hours of planning and testing, it allowed Alabama to be one of the first states in the nation to have implemented FPPD. As of November 30, there were 189,506 persons accounting for 379,733 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 FY2022, the AFC produced 41 intelligence bulletins, created nine threat assessments, and provided and/or attended 46 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 FY2022.

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 FY2022, the AFC issued three AMBER Alerts, 26 Emergency Missing Child Alerts, 64 Missing & Endangered Person Alerts, and four Blue Alerts. In addition, ACMEC had 110 website-only postings for missing children and 42 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 FY2022, the AFC identified five terrorism-related SARs and 1,204 SARs the AFC provided to its public safety partners in the form of tips and leads.

Alabama Fusion Center School Safety Initiative Team

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

One of the recommendations for the Governor's consideration outlined the AFC's approach at triaging threats directed at education facilities in Alabama, as well as across the nation. The AFC team collects information, triages, and logs threats at schools while comparing the findings to patterns nationwide. When a threat to an Alabama school is identified, a team member will offer to assist the local jurisdiction in investigating the threat with full-case assistance until the threat is over.

During FY2022, the School Safety Initiative documented and assisted with dozens of school threats throughout the state. In the year prior, the threat of cyberattacks overshadowed physical threats due to the increased reliance on virtual learning environments after the COVID-19 pandemic; however, FY2022 saw a shift back to the traditional threats to schools. The shift in Alabama followed the larger nationwide trend, specifically the dramatic increase in swatting calls at the beginning of the academic year. The AFC, along with the National Network of Fusion Centers, provided intelligence to SLTT partners about the increase while also offering case assistance to those affected.