

**HEAT**  
HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT  
1-800-947-HEAT

Virginia Department of State Police  
P.O. Box 27472  
Richmond, VA 23261-7472  
[www.heatreward.com](http://www.heatreward.com)

In partnership with the Department of Motor Vehicles  
and law enforcement agencies throughout Virginia

Eric got his car by stealing it.

Janet got her car by reporting Eric.

**HEAT**  
HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT

Up to \$25,000 for auto theft tips. Call 1-800-947-HEAT

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2003 Annual Report



## H.E.A.T. Program

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Auto Theft Hotline and Auto Theft Unit Funded Positions Data Only						
<b>Arrests For Auto Theft Related Offenses</b>		45	74	94	178	76
<b>Value of Vehicles, Parts &amp; Recovered Property</b>		\$181,309	\$641,675	\$2,620,450	\$2,590,525	\$2,244,575
Statewide Data						
<b>Number of Auto Thefts</b>	21,284	19,488	18,533	18,205	19,366	18,454
<b>Decrease Since 1991</b>		-8.44%	-12.93%	-14.47%	-9.01%	-13.30%
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft Rate Per 100,000 Inhabitants</b>	338.5	304.8	286.3	277.9	292.7	276.8
<b>Decrease Since 1991</b>		-9.96%	-15.41%	-17.91%	-13.54%	-18.22%

## Progress Report

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	164	103	137	60	116	76	36
	\$1,758,150	\$1,389,150	\$1,428,762	\$3,057,363	\$1,950,000	\$2,901,795	\$1,973,520
	18,663	17,769	16,120	16,172	18,257	18,388	17,566
	-12.31%	-16.51%	-24.26%	-24.02%	-14.22%	-13.61%	-17.47%
	277.0	261.7	234.5	228.5	254.0	252.1	237.8
	-18.16%	-22.68%	-30.71%	-32.50%	-24.96%	-25.52%	-29.74%

# Message from the Superintendent



There is no question as to the extraordinary accomplishments of the Help Eliminate Auto Theft program. To refer to the H.E.A.T. annual report as just another publication of yearly facts and figures is truly an understatement. Inside these covers are snapshots of the lives, challenges, and incredible triumphs of Virginia's finest. For every number cited and percentage listed is a life that has been changed forever.

This report introduces us to those law enforcement professionals who have taken a committed stand towards the prevention, reduction, and recovery of stolen vehicles and equipment. For their tremendous efforts and accomplishments, I commend each and every one.

I remember all too well how determined Virginia's law enforcement was back in 1991 to convince the Virginia General Assembly of the need for a statewide program that would serve every citizen and every law enforcement agency and officer in eliminating and preventing the rapidly growing number of auto thefts.

It was that same year that Virginia set an all-time high record for auto thefts. In 1991, 21,284

vehicles were stolen from the homes, parking lots, and lives of Virginia's citizens. What a difference the H.E.A.T. Program has made over the years. Since 1991, auto thefts have decreased by almost 18 percent. From just 2002 to 2003, Virginia experienced a 5 percent drop in thefts.

Who is to credit for the H.E.A.T. Program's success? You will find those individuals in the pages of this report. You will find them among the past winners of the LEO Awards, Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE, and Summer H.E.A.T. Amazing results occur when people set a course, pursue it with relentless passion and keep their mind focused on the desired result.

I find an observation made by noted lecturer, author, and consultant Denis Waitley to be especially applicable to law enforcement professionals: "Success is not reserved for the talented. It is not in the high I.Q., not in the gifted birth. Not in the best equipment. Not even in ability. Success is totally dependent on drive, focus, and persistence!"

Typically, when someone praises a law enforcement officer for a job well done, that officer simply responds with "I was just doing my job." From the moment law enforcement professionals mark on for their shift, they are asked to perform under some of the most incredible conditions even without the best and newest

equipment or unlimited supply of resources. Yet, the job gets done, lives are saved, and criminals are put where they belong.

Taking down a motorcycle theft ring in the Hampton Roads area, achieving an auto theft recovery rate of almost 95%, or still having the enthusiasm and ambition at the age of 70 to recover 75 vehicles is truly remarkable. Winchester Police Corporal Eric Cutter was able to track down a stolen vehicle and make an arrest within four minutes of the actual report being taken. Roanoke City Police Detective James Price ranked first in the city for the total number of vehicles recovered in 2003.

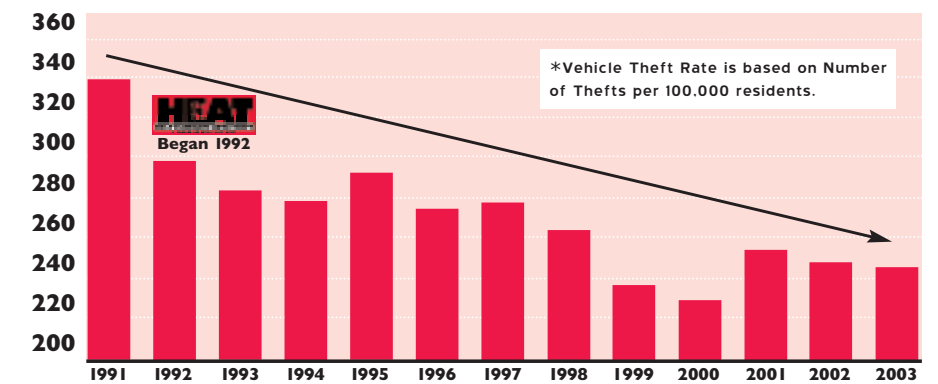
It is also outstanding to see the efforts taken by so many men and women in law enforcement to incorporate the H.E.A.T. Program's mission into their daily patrols and department activities. Southside Virginia Training Center Police Captain William Newsome specifically requested to have the H.E.A.T. logo displayed on his patrol car. The H.E.A.T. Program was the Marion Police Department's first crime prevention program. No driver leaves a Portsmouth Sheriff's Office motor carrier safety inspection without a H.E.A.T. brochure.

Naturally, I am proud of the many State Police troopers and special agents assigned to the H.E.A.T. Program and Auto Theft Unit. I thank each of them for their exceptional hard work and dedication. It is also a privilege to see so many other State Police personnel taking that extra step to combat auto thefts within their communities.

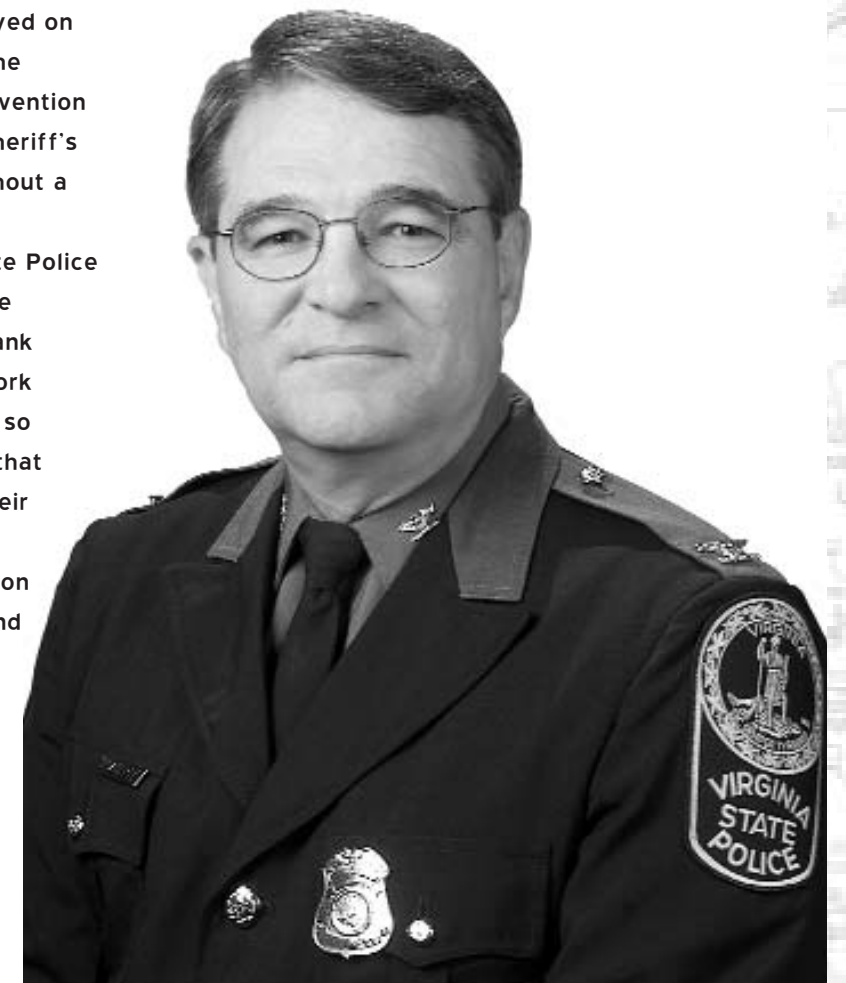
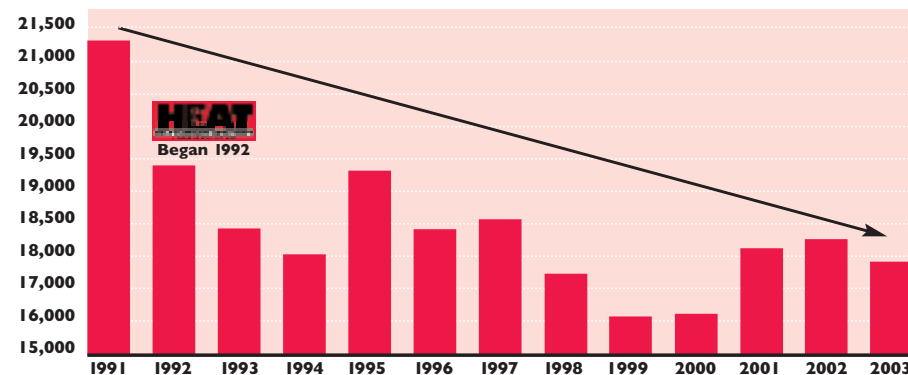
But we need to realize, as James Meston said, that "Success has a price tag on it, and the tag reads courage, determination, discipline, risk taking, perseverance, and consistency - doing the right things for the right reasons and not just when we feel like it."

The men and women of Virginia's law enforcement agencies featured in this publication have proven that they do indeed possess the courage, determination, discipline, and perseverance to make a difference in the lives of those we serve and protect. They took the risks and have been consistent in their purpose. They put in the long hours, many of them on their own time, to accomplish their goals. They have done all the right things for the right reasons.

## Virginia Motor Vehicle Theft Rate\*



## Virginia Motor Vehicle Thefts



Colonel W. Steven Flaherty  
Superintendent

# Program Administrator's Report

## "Randy, what's new with the H.E.A.T. Program?"

Need money? Investigative resources? Specialized training? Want to win awards and special recognition? Interested in helping the public help you combat crime? If yes, then I encourage you to continue reading.

Since the H.E.A.T. Program's inception in 1992, we have sought to provide Virginia's local and state law enforcement with the necessary tools to prevent and ultimately eliminate auto theft. I am always amazed at the tremendous progress we -- the law enforcement community and citizens -- have made over the years in achieving our goals. But, there is still so much more that we can do.

We, as law enforcement, must never forget how traumatic having one's car or truck stolen can be for a person. The vehicle suddenly disappears leaving a person stranded, at a complete loss, and victimized. A vehicle is a very personal possession for many and having a complete stranger violate that prized domain of privacy is truly devastating for people.

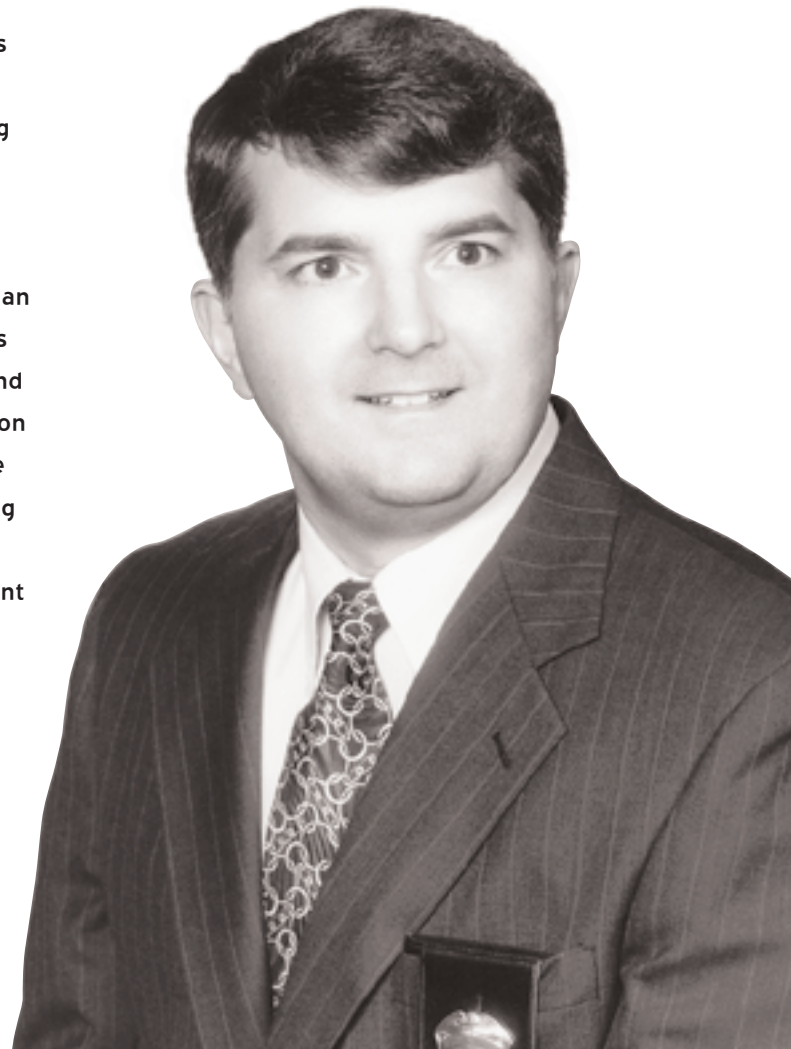
Oftentimes I will hear fellow law enforcement professionals say that their agencies just don't have the money, the people, or the training to focus on motor vehicle thefts and prevention.

Yes, coordinating a VIN etching event takes time and manpower, as does taking the extra investigative steps to close down a local chop shop. But it's worth every penny and

*Senior Special Agent Randy D. Beeson  
Program Administrator*

additional minute because cracking down on auto thefts helps make Virginia a safer place to operate a motor vehicle. Plus, investigating auto thefts frequently uncovers and eliminates other criminal activity, making the community a safer place to live.

So, how do you make it all happen? By simply getting involved with the H.E.A.T. Program. I think City of Fairfax Police Sergeant David M. Tucker said it best when he stated, "H.E.A.T. is a 'turnkey' program -- ready and available for use anywhere in Virginia."



The H.E.A.T. Program can provide you and your department with all the "keys" you need to battle auto thieves within your community: specialized training, grants, support resources, brochures, promotional materials, a teenage driver's education curriculum, toll-free tip hotline, investigative tip referral system, \$25,000 monetary reward system, and various award opportunities for officers and agencies.

H.E.A.T. is a cooperative effort of the Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the insurance industry, and 165 Virginia police and sheriffs' departments. Even though the number of participants has been steadily growing over the years, one of our goals for 2004 is to significantly increase that list.

To demonstrate its commitment to the H.E.A.T. mission, the Virginia State Police added two more positions to the program in the fall of 2003. Trooper-Agent Mark Dehart is serving the State Police divisions in Wytheville and Salem, and the position for the Richmond and Chesapeake divisions is in the process of being filled. That places a total of 11 State Police officers around the Commonwealth solely dedicated to auto theft investigation, reduction and prevention.

Virginians are enjoying the benefits of more than 3,718 fewer auto thefts in 2003 than in 1991. This one year reduction saved Virginians \$26.0 million. In 2003, Virginia's auto theft rate dropped by nearly 5% in comparison to 2002. That means that 822 fewer vehicles were stolen



in Virginia. I encourage and welcome our police and sheriffs' departments to take advantage of the H.E.A.T. Program. Imagine what an impact we could have if every law enforcement agency in Virginia took the keys to "test drive" the H.E.A.T. Program and all it has to offer!

**We, as law enforcement, must never forget how traumatic having one's car or truck stolen can be for a person. The vehicle suddenly disappears leaving a person stranded, at a complete loss, and victimized. A vehicle is a very personal possession for many and having a complete stranger violate that prized domain of privacy is truly devastating for people.**

## **H.E.A.T. is Virginia's comprehensive attack on auto theft through enforcement, recoveries, intelligence gathering, and preventative initiatives.**

### **Auto Theft Training:**

- Basic Auto Theft Investigation (16 Hours)
- Advanced Auto Theft Investigation (40 Hours)
- Auto Theft Prevention (16 Hours)

All H.E.A.T.-sponsored training is offered free of charge to law enforcement personnel and is DCJS certified for general law enforcement in-service credit. The Auto Theft Prevention Schools are held in conjunction with the Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA). Course dates and locations are listed on the H.E.A.T. web site at [www.heatreward.com](http://www.heatreward.com).

### **Grants for Prevention, Enforcement, and Training**

Opportunities for enforcement, prevention and training grants are announced in writing to all H.E.A.T. WAVE Chiefs, Sheriffs and Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE coordinators. Applications for the H.E.A.T. Program's prevention, enforcement, and training grants are available on-line. Agencies receiving enforcement grants have been able to purchase such specialized equipment as bait cars, night-vision scopes, laptop computers, and bar code scanners to assist with auto theft investigations. Training grants enable departments with auto theft units to send their investigators to specialized training provided by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI).

### **Teen Driver Education Resource Curriculum**

Revised in 2003, this resourceful curriculum serves driver education teachers and law enforcement officers working with new, young drivers. Available on CD-ROM, the updated curriculum is currently being piloted in Henrico County public schools in conjunction with the Henrico County Division of Police.

### **H.E.A.T. Brochures and Publications**

Three brochures focusing on auto theft prevention tips, VIN etching, and new drivers and their parents are available free of charge through the H.E.A.T. Program. The "Stop Auto Theft in its Tracks" is even available in Spanish. New posters targeting teen drivers are also available for display.

### **1-800-947-HEAT**

This toll-free, 24-hour tip hotline is for citizens to report information concerning auto theft-related crimes. Callers can remain anonymous and information received is forwarded to the local agency where the crime is reportedly to have occurred. Tips involving theft rings, chop shops, or multiple jurisdictions are referred to the Virginia State Police Auto Theft Unit.

### **\$25,000 Reward**

Citizens who provide auto theft related information that leads to an arrest to the hotline becomes eligible for a reward of up to \$25,000. Through a formula of five criteria, the H.E.A.T. Rewards Committee determines the value of the tips and amount of money to be distributed.

### **Awards:**

- Law Enforcement Officer (LEO)
- Summer H.E.A.T.
- Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE

These annual award contests recognize law enforcement officers and agencies for their extraordinary efforts towards the prevention and reduction of auto thefts. The LEO Awards recognize law enforcement officers for their individual efforts. Operation Summer H.E.A.T. honors the top 50 patrol officers and deputies for their arrests and recoveries during the months of June, July, and August. Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE acknowledges the efforts put forth by law enforcement agencies to promote the H.E.A.T. Program and reduce auto thefts.

Want more information? Check out the H.E.A.T. web site at [www.heatreward.com](http://www.heatreward.com) or contact Mr. Laurence Neathawk, Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE coordinator, at 804-783-8140 or 1-800-847-2674.

# Turning Up The H.E.A.T. On Auto Thieves

Big money, eye-catching billboards and flashy cars. No, it's not the Las Vegas Strip. Instead, they are all strategic elements of the H.E.A.T. Program's 2003-2004 marketing blitz.

"Keeping the H.E.A.T. message fresh and at the forefront of folks' minds are paramount to the program's success," said Senior Special Agent Randy Beeson, H.E.A.T. Program Administrator. "Our law enforcement partners do an outstanding job of promoting auto theft awareness and prevention, but public participation also plays an important role in the program's overall effectiveness."

## Show Me The Money

Thanks to an increase in the H.E.A.T. Program's reward, citizens now have 15,000 more reasons to tip off H.E.A.T. investigators to suspected auto theft-related crimes and activity. On January 1, 2003, the amount of money available to tipsters rose to \$25,000. This was the first increase since the \$10,000 reward was established in 1992.

"The H.E.A.T. Advisory Board recognized that it was time to boost the reward in order to keep up with inflation and to maintain an attractive incentive for people to notify law enforcement of suspicious activity," said Beeson.

And, it's working. According to Beeson, people are seeking out the larger reward. "Calls to the H.E.A.T. hotline have noticeably increased since word has gotten out about the new \$25,000 reward," Beeson said. "We now average 100 calls a day on the hotline, with many of them providing us with valuable information about auto theft-related crimes."

"Just as the amount has grown in significance, so has the information we're getting from individuals' calls. We're getting more high quality tips that include locations and names which help investigators strengthen existing cases or open new ones."

## Getting the Message Across in a Big Way

Beeson also credits the recent surge in hotline tips to a new crop of billboards that circulated throughout the Roanoke, Tidewater, and Richmond regions. The five month campaign was a two-pronged approach towards reducing and preventing auto thefts: advertise the newly increased reward and target teens.

"In tracking our hotline calls, people said they found out about the \$25,000 reward after seeing the new billboards," said Beeson. Neathawk Dubuque & Packett, the H.E.A.T. Program's marketing agency, unveiled the new poster and Flexface billboard units November 5, 2003. The billboards were rotated around the various cities through March 5, 2004.

The H.E.A.T. Program also took a different approach with its billboard advertisements by identifying the population most responsible for stealing motor vehicles in Virginia.

"We used teens in this billboard campaign since they commit up to 60 percent of all auto thefts," said Laurence Neathawk, Neathawk Dubuque & Packett, Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE Coordinator. "The creative rationale behind this particular marketing strategy was to make turning in car thieves as cool, as opposed to stealing cars as being cool."

With 14 locations spaced in three of Virginia's most populous regions, the billboards have attracted a great deal of interest and results.

## The Triple Threat

One might say that H.E.A.T. racing team driver Burton H. Martin spent 2003 going in circles. When not chasing the checkered flag, Martin was busy making his way around the Commonwealth to promote the H.E.A.T. Program.

A trooper assigned to the Virginia State Police Safety Division office in Wytheville, Martin took the wheel of the H.E.A.T. Program's racing team in 2002 and has made quite a name for himself as a first-rate driver. His 2003 racing schedule included runs at Lonesome Pine, New River Valley, Langley, Southampton and South Boston speedways.

Martin also clocked as many miles off the track by appearing at numerous VIN etchings and racing events, including the Richmond International Raceway spring and fall races.



Martin along with his red-white-and-black #7 H.E.A.T. Mercury Cougar racecar and the #11 late-model Chevrolet Monte Carlo know how to attract a crowd.

"With Burton's enthusiasm for the H.E.A.T. Program and his passion for racing, he and his cars are always a hit with the public," said Beeson. "Whether off or on the track, he's always hot on the trail of auto thieves."

Martin's 2004 racing and promotional program proves to be just as demanding, but the Virginia-native won't be going it alone. His 16-year-old son, Justin, will join the H.E.A.T. racing team in 2004 to drive the H.E.A.T. Program's newest addition, a #6 late-model Chevrolet Silverado truck.

Combining such a skilled father-and-son duo with three high-speed racing machines, the H.E.A.T. Program's new "Triple Threat" racing team will undoubtedly be a force to be reckoned with in 2004.

# LEO AWARDS 2003

FOR EVERY VEHICLE STOLEN IN VIRGINIA THERE IS A DEDICATED LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONAL COMMITTED TO ITS RECOVERY. IN 2003, 37 SUCH INDIVIDUALS WERE SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE H.E.A.T. PROGRAM'S ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (LEO) AWARDS FOR THEIR GENUINE COMMITMENT AND RELENTLESS PURSUIT TO PREVENT AND REDUCE AUTO THEFTS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES. SIXTEEN FIRST PLACE AWARDS, FIFTEEN SECOND PLACE AWARDS, AND SIX THIRD PLACE AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO THESE DISTINGUISHED MEN AND WOMEN REPRESENTING LOCAL AND STATE AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

ENTRANTS ARE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER BASED ON DEPARTMENT SIZE. VIRGINIA IS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS WITH THREE SUBCATEGORIES BASED ON DEPARTMENT SIZE WITHIN EACH DIVISION. THE VIRGINIA STATE POLICE AND VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES COMPETE IN SEPARATE DIVISIONS.

Brief summaries of each first place winner's accomplishments are provided below.

## **Division I Group 1: 401+ Officers**

### **FIRST PLACE:**

**Investigator Leroy C. Tyler  
County of Henrico,  
Division of Police**

Auto Theft Investigator Leroy Tyler is about as familiar to the list of LEO Award winners as he is to Henrico County residents. A LEO Award recipient in 2002, Investigator Tyler made tremendous strides in promoting

auto theft prevention on local television, the Internet, and within the Henrico County Public School system. Investigator Tyler arranged for a H.E.A.T. auto theft prevention slide to run on the Henrico County Government Access Channel and taped a 60 second public service announcement on VIN etching to circulate on the regional cable system. When the National Insurance Crime Bureau's annual top ten list of stolen vehicles went public, the veteran police officer recognized it as an opportunity to advise local television news viewers on auto theft prevention and was interviewed by one of the Richmond news stations.

In all, Investigator Tyler was able to get his H.E.A.T. message out to almost half a million television viewers and cable subscribers. Investigator Tyler also took steps to place a link to the H.E.A.T. Program's web site on both Henrico County's police and government web pages. As a result, approximately 400 Internet users each day are able to reach the H.E.A.T. Program's site.

Seeing an opportunity to introduce thousands of Henrico County teenagers to

the H.E.A.T. Program's new auto theft prevention curriculum, Investigator Tyler was instrumental in the coordination and dissemination of educational CD-ROMs to Henrico County School Resource Officers.

Investigator Tyler also proved himself in 2003 as a skilled investigator and effective trainer. Of the 224 auto theft cases assigned to him in 2003, he uncovered a theft ring involving stolen and stripped Hondas that has initiated an even larger investigation. Not only is Investigator Tyler responsible for instructing his department's basic recruits on the H.E.A.T. Program, but also secured a site for and taught at the H.E.A.T. Program's March 2003 Basic Auto Theft School.

## **Division I Group 3: 1-100 Officers**

### **FIRST PLACE:**

**Officer Christine L. Hunte  
Richmond International Airport Police  
Department**

Since becoming a H.E.A.T. representative for the Richmond Airport in the fall of 2002, Officer Christine Hunte's extraordinary efforts have truly taken off. The 2003 recovery rate for Officer Hunte's department was 94.75% with a majority of vehicles being recovered within one to four hours of the initial report. The quick recovery rate is attributed to Officer Hunte's strong ties and effective networking with neighboring jurisdictions.

Officer Hunte has also been instrumental in providing regional H.E.A.T. members with direct rental car agency contact numbers for investigative purposes.

Officer Hunte also took on the challenge of improving relationships with rental car agencies that work with the airport, thus streamlining the process of reporting unauthorized use cases to the airport police department. She was also able to expedite the procedure of vehicle information being entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN). Her persistence promptly resulted in two arrests and four recoveries. In April 2003, Officer Hunte made a presentation to the tenant airport rental car managers and provided them with a department brochure featuring auto theft prevention and unauthorized use reporting procedures and details. Officer Hunte routinely visited the rental car agencies to provide information on effective key control techniques and to inform management of the latest rental car thefts occurring in adjacent jurisdictions, including the method of the theft and suspect descriptions.

Officer Hunte organized the Richmond Airport's first VIN etching function. Not only was the October 2003 event a success with 32 vehicles being etched, but so was having the H.E.A.T. racecar on display in the Richmond International Airport Terminal Building for the week leading up to the VIN

etching. Officer Hunte also participated in staffing the H.E.A.T. trailer at the Richmond International Raceway during the September 2003 races and assisted with a VIN etching sponsored by Henrico Police in October.

## **Division II** **Group 3: 1-100 Officers**

### **FIRST PLACE:**

**Deputy Troy Wheeler**

**Orange County Sheriff's Office**

From Waugh's Harley-Davidson to the Village Feed Home & Garden store to the Montpelier Hunt Races, there was no mistaking Deputy Troy Wheeler's dedication to and enthusiasm for auto theft prevention. As stated by his sheriff, Deputy Wheeler reached thousands of Orange County residents in 2003 through his exemplary efforts to promote the H.E.A.T. Program. H.E.A.T. posters blanket local merchants' counters and bulletin boards. Making an appearance in Orange County with his #7 car in October 2003, H.E.A.T. racecar driver Burton Martin quickly became a popular celebrity with Orange County residents thanks to Deputy Wheeler.

Deputy Wheeler was also successful in securing from the Orange County Board of Supervisors an Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE Proclamation for the month of September. The certified crime prevention specialist was also proficient at acquiring donated locking devices that were distributed at various local businesses and area festivals. Deputy Wheeler and his department's auto theft prevention efforts were also recognized by the local media in a September 2003 article.

## **Division IV** **Group 3: 1-100 Officers**

### **FIRST PLACE:**

**Officer Raymond W. Thomas, Jr.**  
**Marion Police Department**

The fall of 2003 proved especially busy for Officer Raymond Thomas. While on patrol, Officer Thomas recovered three stolen vehicles in four months, with two of the vehicles' values totaling \$50,000. First Officer Thomas' persistence paid off when he was able to locate a stolen Ryder truck, reported missing by the Washington County Sheriff's Office. The following month, Officer Thomas recovered a stolen car within five days of the initial report. Then a simple traffic stop netted Officer Thomas a third stolen vehicle and three missing teenagers from Northern Virginia.

Officer Thomas also tracked down in March 2003 a truck stolen from a local company, bringing his recovery total to four for the year. Marion Police Chief Michael Roberts commended Officer Thomas for setting an excellent example for others and proving that patrol officers "can impact and make a difference in the big cases."

## **Division V** **Group 2: 100-400 Officers**

### **FIRST PLACE:**

**Sheriff Gary W. Waters**  
**Deputy Leon B. Whitehurst, Sr.**

**City of Portsmouth Sheriff's Office**

Thanks to the exemplary role of Sheriff Gary Waters and his department in promoting auto theft prevention, more than 2,600 Portsmouth residents, young and old, were introduced to

the H.E.A.T. Program in 2003 and potentially hundreds of vehicles safeguarded from an auto thief. Sheriff Waters and Deputy Leon Whitehurst, both awarded LEO Awards in 2002, were instrumental in the coordination of the department's 15 auto theft and crime prevention presentations in which approximately 1,277 auto theft prevention brochures and materials were distributed to the public. H.E.A.T. materials and brochures were on display at such events as Portsmouth's Neighborhood Enhancement and Action Team Summit, Whooping Against Drugs Annual Event, National Night Out picnic, a gas station's grand opening, various senior citizen programs, and civic group meetings.

Sheriff Walters has even incorporated H.E.A.T. materials into his department's Motor Carrier Safety Unit. Brochures are routinely distributed to drivers during safety inspections.

## **Division V** **Group 3: 1-100 Officers**

### **FIRST PLACE:**

**Officer Johnny R. Guy**  
**Smithfield Police Department**

There is nothing more frustrating for law enforcement than knowing someone is committing a crime and not having enough evidence to prove it. That all changed for Officer Johnny Guy after he attended the H.E.A.T. Program's Basic Auto Theft School. Proficient in auto theft detection and prevention techniques, Officer Guy went to work and successfully shut down a motorcycle theft ring operating out of Smithfield, Virginia Beach, and points in between. Through his

diligent surveillance and investigation, much of it done on his own time, Officer Guy was able to coordinate with numerous other jurisdictions and arrest in 2003 a primary operator of the complex criminal network. The theft ring was targeting high-performance, high-speed motorcycles, one of which was recovered by Officer Guy. The investigation also led to searches of the suspect's house and storage facility in which several stolen motorcycle parts and frames were also recovered. The investigation is still ongoing and additional arrests and charges are pending.

## **Division VI** **Group 2: 100-400 Officers**

### **FIRST PLACE:**

**Officer Richard Woodruff**  
**Roanoke City Police Department**

Officer Richard Woodruff's time spent in the classroom proved well worth the effort in the months to follow. On his own initiative, Officer Woodruff enrolled himself in both a Basic Auto Theft School and an Auto Theft Suppression class. With his newfound knowledge and enhanced skills, Officer Woodruff in 2003 recovered 11 stolen vehicles in six months. His tremendous hard work earned him special recognition from his chief and a law enforcement award from the Fincastle Resolutions Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

One of Officer Woodruff's most impressive recoveries was made while off duty. In September 2003 while driving through Roanoke, he spotted a car that had been reported stolen from Valley View Mall.

As Officer Woodruff followed the car in his personal vehicle, he notified dispatch and directed the responding officer to his course of travel. Officer Woodruff then assisted the responding officer in preventing the auto thief from escaping and subsequently the suspect was charged with possession of a stolen vehicle. A Roanoke City Police Department press release concerning the incident reported that the suspect was initially believed to have been armed. "Officer Woodruff was aware of this fact and acted on the crime in an off-duty capacity," stated the press release.

**Division VI**  
**Group 3: 1-100 Officers**

**FIRST PLACE:**

**Officer Todd R. Cheyney**  
**Salem Police Department**

For Officer Todd Cheyney, recovering a stolen vehicle was simply all in a day's work. In May 2003, Officer Cheyney was dispatched to a local convenience store to take a stolen vehicle report. The victim had left her car running in the parking lot and gone into the store. After obtaining a suspect description, Officer Cheyney then received a report of the stolen vehicle being abandoned in a nearby neighborhood. Officer Cheyney immediately responded to the second call only to find the stolen vehicle empty. Fortunately several residents were able to direct the officer in the direction of the suspect, who had fled on foot. Once Officer Cheyney spotted the suspect in some adjacent woods, a foot pursuit followed. Officer Cheyney quickly apprehended the suspect and was even able to obtain a confession to the car theft. The suspect,

who was well intoxicated beyond the state's legal limit, was charged with grand larceny of an auto. Acknowledging Officer Cheyney's efforts, Salem Police Chief James Bryant credits the officer with having possibly prevented additional crimes from being committed by the suspect and recognized Officer Cheyney "for his quick and safe response to both scenes."

**Division VII**  
**Group 3: 1-100 Officers**

**FIRST PLACE:**

**Corporal James M. Moore**  
**Herndon Police Department**

During 2003, Corporal James Moore became a well-known officer among those in the auto theft and chop-shop communities of Herndon. Not only did Corporal Moore make multiple arrests as a result of three auto theft investigations, he also recovered approximately \$31,000 in stolen property. The first case began in May 2003 when Corporal Moore responded to a larceny in progress. His investigation led him to the local residence of one of the suspects involved in the initial call. At the residence, Corporal Moore found the suspect as well as a wide variety of auto parts scattered about the exterior of the property. Corporal Moore was granted consent to search the house and ended up recovering more than \$10,000 worth of stolen property. This particular investigation led to the closure of numerous open larceny-auto cases and the termination of a local stolen auto parts shop.

Then, in October 2003, Corporal Moore was keeping an eye on a local motorcycle dealership that had been repeatedly targeted

by burglars. One evening during patrol he entered the dealership parking lot and encountered an occupied vehicle oddly parked next to a chain link fence. The dealership's all-terrain vehicles were stored inside the fence. Corporal Moore confronted the driver and in the process of questioning the individual, discovered the chain link fence had been cut open and noticed two additional individuals inside the fence line. Single-handedly, he took all three individuals into custody. Further investigation led to the arrest of a fourth burglar, who had initially escaped. Corporal Moore's diligence and decisive action resulted in four arrests and the recovery of \$15,000 worth of all-terrain vehicles the thieves were attempting to steal.

Corporal Moore's third case occurred in December 2003 when he stopped a vehicle that was attempting to evade an alcohol checkpoint. The vehicle proved to be stolen from Fairfax County. Through interviewing the vehicle's two occupants, Corporal Moore was able to recover a second stolen vehicle. The two occupants were arrested that night and additional arrests are pending.

**Division VIII**  
**Virginia State Police**

**FIRST PLACE:**

**Senior Special Agent Bobby K. Rakes**

After 15 years of investigating and preventing auto thefts, one might say that Senior Special Agent Bobby Rakes knows a thing or two about stolen vehicles. As an active member of the Richmond Metropolitan Automobile Theft Investigators Group since its inception, Senior Special Agent Rakes is

highly regarded and greatly respected among his fellow law enforcement officers. During 2003, Senior Special Agent Rakes investigated 51 auto-theft related cases. His investigative efforts enabled him to identify and recover 45 stolen vehicles and pieces of heavy equipment valued at \$336,825. Senior Special Agent Rakes also facilitated the arrests of 18 individuals for auto-theft related offenses. In addition to his regular caseload, the State Police veteran was called upon 78 times by other law enforcement agencies to assist with their investigations, which led to numerous state and federal indictments of individuals.

Most notably during 2003, Senior Special Agent Rakes coordinated a multi-state investigation leading to the recovery of 20 stolen all-terrain vehicles and stolen motor vehicles in the Central Virginia region. This particular case also resulted in multiple indictments in Virginia and West Virginia. The success of this case received significant media attention as well as highlighted the cooperative role of law enforcement in auto-theft investigations. Senior Special Agent Rakes also earned a LEO Award in 2002.

**Division VIII**  
**Virginia State Police**

**FIRST PLACE:**

**Trooper Michael A. Sponheimer**

In Northern Virginia, rarely is there a dull moment on Interstate 95, especially for Trooper Michael Sponheimer. His first of three stolen vehicle recoveries in 2003 occurred in the predawn hours of March 18. A carjacked vehicle being pursued by Maryland police had made its way through Washington, D.C., and

into Virginia via I-95. The high-speed pursuit safely came to an end with Trooper Sponheimer taking two of the vehicles' occupants into custody. His next recovery resulted from a routine traffic stop. The car Trooper Sponheimer pulled over on I-95 had been reported stolen eight hours earlier in Massachusetts. The thief and his girlfriend had been on their way to Florida. Then in December as Trooper Sponheimer was approaching a vehicle he had stopped on I-95, the vehicle's driver took off and was pursued for the next 20 miles before running out of gas. The vehicle came back stolen two months prior from a Northern Virginia car dealership. Sponheimer recovered the vehicle and arrested the driver.

### **Division VIII Virginia State Police**

#### **FIRST PLACE:**

#### **Senior Special Agent William H. Wagner**

Senior Special Agent William Wagner, a 2002 LEO Award recipient, has also made a name for himself in the law enforcement community due to his extensive experience as an auto theft investigator. Assigned to the Northern Virginia region, Senior Special Agent Williams is especially recognized for his expertise in restoring obliterated identification numbers, the location and meaning of other subtle identifiers, and the various methods by which a vehicle can be stolen, re-plated, and placed back on the street. Of the 67 auto-theft related cases assigned to Senior Special Agent Wagner in 2003, he recovered 56 stolen vehicles and pieces of heavy equipment valued at \$431,479. Senior Special

Agent Wagner also facilitated in the arrest of one individual for a related auto-theft offense and was called upon 110 times by other law enforcement agencies to assist with their investigations in 2003. Senior Special Agent Wagner is also an active member of the DELMARVA Auto Theft Group.

### **Division IX Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

#### **FIRST PLACE:**

#### **Senior Special Agent William Sexton**

According to DMV Special-Agent-in-Charge Gabriel Morgan, one might mistake Senior Special Agent William "Bill" Sexton for a 21 year old. The septuagenarian is renowned in the Hampton Roads region for his unwavering energy, diligence, and enthusiasm for the job. In 2003, Senior Special Agent Sexton led DMV's Portsmouth District Investigative Services Office in stolen vehicle recoveries. He personally recovered 29 vehicles with a net worth of approximately \$175,000. Plus, Senior Special Agent Sexton directed his investigative team, which consisted of two other agents, to recover another 46 stolen vehicles, valued more than \$325,000. He also individually conducted 199 salvage examinations in 2003 to ensure that stolen auto parts were not being used to rebuild other vehicles. Special-Agent-in-Charge Morgan commended Senior Special Agent Sexton for his "untiring devotion to duty and tenacious approach" and for serving as an ideal role model for "others to emulate."

### **Division IX Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

#### **FIRST PLACE:**

#### **Patricia Hannas, Customer Service Generalist Senior**

Keen insight and quick thinking on the part of DMV Customer Service Generalist Patricia Hannas put the brakes on two auto thieves wanted by the FBI. It was lunchtime when a couple walked into the Military Circle DMV Office in June 2003 and approached Ms. Hannas to obtain Virginia titles for three motorcycles. Ms. Hannas was provided with a Tennessee Certificate of Title and bill of sale for each motorcycle. A National Crime Information Center (NCIC) inquiry alerted Ms. Hannas that one of the three motorcycles was stolen. The couple told her that they would check with the originating police department about the motorcycle and return the next day. Ms. Hannas promptly notified the DMV Investigative Services Office about the couple's transaction. After further investigation, the Tennessee titles proved to be fraudulent and Ms. Hannas was instructed to keep an eye out for the couple if they did in fact return to the office. Sure enough, the two came back the next day. Ms. Hannas spotted them, notified her manager and investigative services, and made sure the pair were directed to her. This time the couple presented her with a Tennessee title and bill of sale for a Corvette. Ms. Hannas expertly stalled the couple until the investigative services agents arrived. As a deputy led the couple away, the man became violent, struggled with the deputy, and escaped the office. He was later apprehended in another

state. The woman was taken into custody on site. An inventory search revealed the couple had a stack of blank, fraudulent, Tennessee titles. Investigators also found evidence that the pair were involved in identity theft and were wanted by the FBI for trafficking stolen, vehicle airbags.

### **Division IX Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

#### **FIRST PLACE:**

#### **Meleta Leonard, Program Support Specialist Senior**

Without Program Support Specialist Meleta Leonard on the job, Virginia's auto theft investigators would have an even tougher time locating stolen vehicles. Ms. Leonard is a true asset to the H.E.A.T. Program's mission to reduce and prevent vehicle thefts. In January 2003, Ms. Leonard assumed the responsibility of administering Virginia's vehicle "stolen stop" and case management program, located at DMV's Criminal Investigations Division headquarters in Richmond. Her responsibilities include reviewing and analyzing all stolen vehicle data generated from inquiries made by DMV customer service centers, Internet users, and use-agreement customers. Ms. Leonard is then responsible for scrutinizing and verifying the information before forwarding it to either the Virginia State Police Auto Theft Unit or DMV's Investigative Services Office for appropriate action. Handling an average 20 stolen vehicle "hits" a day, Ms. Leonard responded to approximately 400 such "hits" in 2003.

# LEO AWARDS WINNERS

Winners for the year ending December 31, 2003

## Division I

### Group 1: 401+ Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Investigator Leroy C. Tyler  
Henrico Division of Police

#### SECOND PLACE

Investigator James D. Hunte, Sr.  
Henrico Division of Police

### Group 3: 1 - 100 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Officer Christine L. Hunte  
Richmond International Airport Police  
Department

#### SECOND PLACE

Captain W.J. Newsome  
Southside Virginia Training Center Police  
Department

## Division II

### Group 3: 1 - 100 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Deputy Troy Wheeler  
Orange County Sheriff's Office

### Group 3: 1 - 100 Officers

#### THIRD PLACE

Corporal Eric Cutter  
Winchester Police Department

## Division IV

### Group 3: 1 - 100 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Officer Raymond W. Thomas, Jr.  
Marion Police Department



**Division I Group 1** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Investigators J.D. Hunte and Roy Tyler, Henrico County Division of Police and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division I Group 3** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Captain William J. Newsome, Southside VA Training Center Police Department, Officer Christine L. Hunte, Richmond International Airport Police Department and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division II Group 3** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Deputy Troy Wheeler, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Corporal Eric Cutter, Winchester Police Department and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division IV Group 3** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Sheriff Fred Newman (for Lt. Gary Coleman), Washington County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Jeff Freeman and Anthony Cline, Wythe County Sheriff's Office, Officer Raymond W. Thomas, Jr., Marion Police Department, Deputy Ray Danner and Corporal Stacy Dixon, Wythe County Sheriff's Office and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division V Group 1 & 2** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Deputy Leon B. Whitehurst, Sr., Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Detectives L.R. Hand and R.P. Laurent, Norfolk Police Department and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division V Group 3** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Officer Johnny R. Guy, Smithfield Police Department and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance

## Division IV (continued)

#### SECOND PLACE

Deputy Anthony Cline  
Wythe County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Ray Danner  
Wythe County Sheriff's Office

Corporal Stacy Dixon  
Wythe County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Jeff Freeman  
Wythe County Sheriff's Office

#### THIRD PLACE

Lieutenant Gary Coleman  
Washington County Sheriff's Office

## Division V

### Group 1: 401+ Officers

#### SECOND PLACE

Detective L.R. Hand  
Norfolk Police Department

Detective R.P. Laurent  
Norfolk Police Department

### Group 2: 101 - 400 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Sheriff Gary W. Waters  
Portsmouth Sheriff's Office

Deputy Leon B. Whitehurst, Sr.  
Portsmouth Sheriff's Office

### Group 3: 1 - 100 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Officer Johnny R. Guy  
Smithfield Police Department

## Division VI

### Group 2: 101 - 400 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Officer Richard Woodruff  
Roanoke City Police Department

#### SECOND PLACE

Detective James W. Price, Jr.  
Roanoke City Police Department

Detective Mark W. Lovern  
Roanoke City Police Department

### Group 3: 1 - 100 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Officer T.R. Cheney  
Salem Police Department

## Division VII

### Group 3: 100 Officers

#### FIRST PLACE

Corporal James M. Moore  
Herndon Police Department

## Division VIII

### Virginia Department of State Police

#### FIRST PLACE

Sr. Special Agent Bobby K. Rakes  
Virginia Department of State Police

Trooper Michael A. Sponheimer  
Virginia Department of State Police

Sr. Special Agent William H. Wagner  
Virginia Department of State Police

#### SECOND PLACE

Trooper Ronald L. Grammer, Jr.  
Virginia Department of State Police

Trooper K.B. Highland  
Virginia Department of State Police

Special Agent Ted C. Homiak  
Virginia Department of State Police

Special Agent Ronnie W. Tiller  
Virginia Department of State Police



**Division VI Group 2** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Detectives Mark W. Lovern, James W. Price and Officer Richard Woodruff, Roanoke City Police Department and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division VI Group 3** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Officer T.R. Cheney, Salem Police Department and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division VIII Virginia State Police** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Trooper Michael A. Sponheimer Sr., Special Agents Bobby K. Rakes and William H. Wagner and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division VIII Virginia State Police** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Trooper Franz Mahler, Trooper Derek A. Young, Trooper A.C. Henderson, Sergeant Kevin Barrick (for Trooper Ronald L. Grammer, Jr.), Trooper Michael A. Sponheimer, Trooper Kenneth B. Highland and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Division IX DMV** Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Sr. Special Agent William Sexton, Generalist Senior Patricia Hannas, Program Support Specialist Senior Meleta Leonard, Sr. Special Agent Kelly Flowers and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance



**Distinguished Service Awards** (left to right) Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Detective Sergeant Patrick Gough and Wade Wickre, Nationwide Insurance

## Division VIII (continued)

#### THIRD PLACE

Trooper D. Scott Charles  
Virginia Department of State Police

Sr. Trooper A.C. Henderson  
Virginia Department of State Police

Trooper Franz G. Mahler  
Virginia Department of State Police

Trooper Derek A. Young  
Virginia Department of State Police

## Division IX

### Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

#### FIRST PLACE

Generalist Senior Patricia Hannas  
Norfolk

Program Support Specialist Senior  
Meleta Leonard  
Richmond

Sr. Special Agent William Sexton  
Norfolk

#### SECOND PLACE

Sr. Special Agent K.F. Flowers  
Roanoke

### Distinguished Service Awards

Detective Sergeant Patrick Gough  
Virginia Beach Police Department

Chief Dennis Mook  
Newport News Police Department

# Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE 2002 - 2003 Winners

**INGENIOUS:** Who would have put together flu shots and VIN etchings? The Henrico County Division of Police did and with great success.

**INNOVATIVE:** The Newport News Police Department chose to go to the root of the problem by conducting research on juveniles incarcerated for auto theft.

**IMPRESSIVE:** The Herndon Police Department took its preventative message from the highway to the runway during a "Plane Pull."

Each year the H.E.A.T. Program recognizes Virginia's police and sheriffs' departments committed to reducing and eliminating auto thefts in the Commonwealth. Each year the entries are more and more remarkable for their creativity and dedicated efforts.

The 2002-2003 winners of the Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE Award are no different. From the largest police department to the smallest, each one made a difference in the lives of those they serve and protect. The H.E.A.T. Program and its advisory board commend each Operation H.E.A.T. WAVE winner and encourage them to continue in their efforts to combat auto thefts in Virginia. Information about the first place winners follows.

## Division 1

### FIRST PLACE

Henrico County Division of Police

### SECOND PLACE

Southside Virginia Training Center Police Department

### THIRD PLACE

New Kent County Sheriff's Office  
Town of West Point Police

## Division 2

### FIRST PLACE

Town of Culpeper Police Department

### SECOND PLACE

Culpeper County Sheriff's Office  
Town of Orange Police Department

### THIRD PLACE

Warren County Sheriff's Office

### CERTIFICATES

Front Royal Police Department

## Division 3

### FIRST PLACE

Lynchburg Police Department

### THIRD PLACE

Amherst County Sheriff's Office

## Division 4

### FIRST PLACE

Wythe County Sheriff's Office

### SECOND PLACE

Buchanan County Sheriff's Office

### CERTIFICATES

Marion Police Department  
Town of Pulaski Police Department  
Rural Retreat Police Department  
Wytheville Police Department

## Division 5

### FIRST PLACE

Newport News Police Department

### SECOND PLACE

City of Suffolk Sheriff's Office

### THIRD PLACE

Portsmouth Sheriff's Office  
Smithfield Police Department

### CERTIFICATES

Chesapeake Police Department  
Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office  
Norfolk Police Department  
Virginia Beach Police Department

## Division 6

### FIRST PLACE

Roanoke City Police Department

### SECOND PLACE

City of Salem Police Department

### THIRD PLACE

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

### CERTIFICATES

Bedford City Police Department  
Blacksburg Police Department  
Christiansburg Police Department  
Franklin County Sheriff's Office  
Rocky Mount Police Department  
Vinton Police Department

## Division 7

### FIRST PLACE

Herndon Police Department

### THIRD PLACE

Alexandria Police Department

### CERTIFICATES

Arlington County Police Department  
Fairfax County Police Department  
Prince William County Police Department

## Division 1

### Henrico County Division of Police

What do auto theft and influenza have in common? One would assume nothing, but last October "prevention" brought the two initiatives together. The Henrico County Police Department teamed up with the Instructive Visiting Nurses Association for their first annual "Flu Thru," where more than 300 people received flu shots and 60 people had their cars VIN etched. This was just one of the innovative ways Henrico fought auto theft in last year. They also participated in the Mustang Club Show, National Night Out at Skate Nation, and the NASCAR races at Richmond International Raceway in May and September, events which reached more than 400,000 people. A news story on the local CBS affiliate, a 60-second commercial on the cable channels and a slide on the government access channel reached another 400,000 people.

## **Division 2**

### **Culpeper Police Department**

The Culpeper Police Department's ever-popular H.E.A.T. Cart had another busy year with appearances throughout the area including the Sycamore Park Elementary School Fun Fair, Culpeper Fireman's Parade, Rappahannock Middle School DARE Day, Governor's Fishing Day, Madison County Parade, 4-H Camp, Little Fork VFD Community Day and Orange Church Community Day. The 4th of July was particularly busy with appearances at the Car Show, Parade, and Fun in the Park, reaching 11,000 people. Auto theft prevention information was distributed at all of these events as well as at others including Mt. Zion Baptist Community Day, Culpeper Christian School, Highview Neighborhood Watch Meeting, Community Day for Fashion Bug and the Children's Health Fair. Continuing efforts include a H.E.A.T. poster in the department's lobby and a link on the web site.

## **Division 3**

### **Lynchburg Police Department**

The Lynchburg Police Department reaches out to area educational institutions, including Sweet Briar College and Lynchburg College, to provide H.E.A.T. and auto theft prevention information. They also participate in numerous events including the Festival by the James, City Stadium 9-11 Ceremony, National Night Out and the Exchange Club Pancake Jamboree, which attracted 5,000 people. H.E.A.T. and auto theft prevention are a part of the curriculum for the Citizens' Police Academy and topics included in frequent personal safety talks. Intelligence information

is shared regionally via telephone and teletype and through a monthly breakfast meeting of investigators from throughout the Central Virginia region. This is similar and in addition to the Central Virginia Law Enforcement Association and the Regional Association of Sheriff's and Chiefs. A H.E.A.T. link is featured prominently on the department's web site.

## **Division 4**

### **Wythe County Sheriff's Office**

The Wythe County Sheriff's Office has been successful in enlisting the aid of the media in its efforts to prevent auto theft and promote the H.E.A.T. Program. The local newspaper published a front-page article on the office with arrest and recovery information along with helpful auto theft prevention tips. One of the local radio stations aired a live interview about H.E.A.T. and the awards won by the office. Other efforts have included: a H.E.A.T. awareness day along with a child safety seat checkpoint at the local State Farm Insurance office; a National Operation Safe Kids and H.E.A.T. awareness event at the Huff Ford dealership, which reached over 350 children and their parents; posters at truck stops, gas stations and schools; and a both at the Wythe County Community Hospital. The office continued to give talks and hand out key chains when new drivers receive their operator's licenses.

## **Division 5**

### **Newport News Police Department**

Recognizing the high number of young people involved in auto theft, the Newport News Police Department distributed H.E.A.T. posters to all middle and high schools in the city. They also were successful in having an intern from Christopher Newport University assigned to the department to conduct research on juveniles incarcerated for auto theft. The department also developed and printed 70,000 copies of a new pamphlet to promote auto theft prevention, H.E.A.T. and the agency's NNCAT program. This literature proved to be a valuable tool in addressing the problem of vehicles and motorcycles stolen from apartment complexes. The flyers were given to apartment managers, who distributed them to residents. Other efforts included three VIN etching events, presentations at 28 Crime Watch meetings and training transportation specialists at Fort Eustis.

## **Division 6**

### **Roanoke Police Department**

The Roanoke Police Department wanted a television public service announcement to promote auto theft prevention and the H.E.A.T. Program, but didn't have the funds to produce one. So they approached RVTV-CH3, the local government access channel that airs through Cox Communications. RVTV responded positively, producing not one, but two original spots. The department also sponsored two VIN etching events at Valley View Mall -- one in April and another in August -- with a total of 90 vehicles etched. They returned to the same shopping center in November for "Survivor

Saturday," an event which urged citizens to be the "ultimate survivor." In addition to information about occupant protection, drunk driving and speeding, the department promoted auto theft prevention and gave away steering wheel locks as door prizes.

## **Division 7**

### **Herndon Police Department**

More than 15,000 people saw the Town of Herndon Police Department's display at the Dulles Airport's "Plane Pull" event in September. The eye-catching display included a seized BMW car, which is owned by the department, along with a H.E.A.T. banner. A display also was used at the Herndon Police Law Enforcement Day as was the Warrenton Police Department's crime prevention train, reaching another 10,000 people. The numbers continued to climb, with 50,000 plus residents and businesses receiving the Town of Herndon yearly calendar, which includes a H.E.A.T. advertisement. Other department efforts include public awareness on the Herndon cable television station, a H.E.A.T. link on the town's web site and posters in local stores.

# 2003 Summer H.E.A.T. Awards

There were no lazy, hazy days of summer for the 24 Summer H.E.A.T. Award winners in 2003. In just three months, these top law enforcement professionals from throughout Virginia set new record totals in the number of arrests and recoveries of stolen vehicles. Of the eight first-place winners and 16 second-place winners, 66 stolen vehicles were recovered and 28 thieves were put behind bars.

Norfolk Police Officer A.T. Harper earned first place recognition for single-handedly recovering 14 vehicles and making four arrests. The City of Roanoke Police Department secured seven first and second place awards with a combined total of 19 vehicle recoveries and arrests. Between Richmond Police Officers John Kelly and Thomas H. Davis, 13 stolen vehicles were recovered and five individuals arrested.

Because auto thefts traditionally increase in the months of June, July, and August, the H.E.A.T. Program established in 2000 a special initiative to promote auto theft prevention and recovery efforts by Virginia's law enforcement. The Summer H.E.A.T. Awards recognize those law enforcement personnel who demonstrate outstanding achievement for auto theft arrests and vehicle recoveries from June 1 through August 31.

Summer H.E.A.T. is open to all law enforcement officers assigned to patrol. Arrests and recoveries for thefts of vehicles licensed to operate on the highway, construction equipment, and marine vehicles qualify for the awards program.

The H.E.A.T. Program congratulates these 24 outstanding professionals for turning up the summer heat.

## First Place Winners

Officer Thomas H. Davis - Richmond Police Department  
Corporal Stacy S. Dixon - Wythe County Sheriff's Office  
Officer A.T. Harper - Norfolk Police Department  
Officer John F. Hoover - Roanoke City Police Department  
Officer Sherrie L. Johnson - Petersburg Bureau of Police  
Officer John Kelly - Richmond Police Department  
Corporal Steve Long, Sr. - New Kent County Sheriff's Office

## Second Place Winners

Officer Ablimona Wael - Leesburg Police Department  
Officer R.A. Bower, Jr. - Roanoke City Police Department  
Deputy Dustin Bowers - Frederick County Sheriff's Office  
Sgt. Raiford Clemons - Portsmouth Sheriff's Office  
Officer J.B. Crigger - Roanoke City Police Department  
Officer M.T. Cunningham - Roanoke County Police Department  
Officer Chad Custer - Vinton Police Department  
Officer C.G. Davis - Roanoke City Police Department

Patrol Officer Jeffery C. Freeman - Wythe County Sheriff's Office  
Officer T.A. Huff - Roanoke City Police Department  
Deputy Barry Kittoe - Frederick County Sheriff's Office  
Investigator Donald Long - Frederick County Sheriff's Office  
Officer Clarence J. Seemster, Jr. - Smithfield Police Department  
Officer Chris Welch - Roanoke County Police Department  
Officer Mark Whitefleet - Smithfield Police Department  
Officer R.T. Woodruff - Roanoke City Police Department



# H.E.A.T. Committees

## H.E.A.T. Rewards Committee

Senior Special Agent Randy D. Beeson  
Virginia State Police  
H.E.A.T. Program Administrator

First Sergeant Joseph W. Walters  
Virginia State Police  
Supervisor - Auto Theft Unit

Mr. Tim J. Perry, LUTCF  
Farmers Insurance Group of Companies

Ms. W. Gail Morykon  
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles  
Director of Investigative Services

E. Frank Dunton  
Farm Bureau Insurance Company  
Supervisor - Investigative Unit

Detective Albert B. Mason  
City of Richmond Police Department  
Auto Theft Unit

Senior Special Agent Howard J. Cook, Jr.  
Virginia State Police  
Auto Theft Unit

Senior Special Agent Edward C. Weil  
Department of Motor Vehicles  
Investigative Services

## H.E.A.T. Grants Committee

First Sergeant Joseph W. Walters  
Virginia State Police

Senior Special Agent Randy D. Beeson  
Virginia State Police

E. Frank Dunton, CFI  
Farm Bureau Insurance Company

Sheriff Raleigh H. Isaacs, Sr.  
City of Suffolk Sheriff's Office

Chief Dennis A. Mook  
Newport News Police Department

J. David Rigler  
Chesterfield Commonwealth's  
Attorney Office

Ms. W. Gail Morykon  
Department of Motor Vehicles

Mr. Wade Wickre  
Nationwide Insurance Company

Mr. Jeff Spencer  
State Farm Insurance Company

## H.E.A.T. LEO Awards Committee

Co-Chairs

Senior Special Agent Randy D. Beeson  
H.E.A.T. Program Administrator

First Sergeant Joseph W. Walters  
Virginia State Police Supervisor  
Auto Theft Unit

Members

E. Frank Dunton, CFI  
Farm Bureau Insurance Company

Investigator Roy Tyler  
County of Henrico, Division of Police

Sheriff Raleigh H. Isaacs, Sr.  
City of Suffolk Sheriff's Office

Officer Julie Brooking  
Culpeper County Police Department

Senior Special Agent Paige Green  
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

## 2003 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
SHERIFF RALEIGH H. ISAACS, SR.  
CHIEF DENNIS A. MOOK  
MS. W. GAIL MORYKON  
MR. WADE WICKRE  
CHESTERFIELD COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY OFFICE  
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CITY OF SUFFOLK SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
NEWPORT NEWS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
NATIONWIDE INSURANCE