

**Special Crimes Investigation Unit
(SCIU)
Status Report
January 2015**

Located in Anchorage, the SCIU is comprised of 1 Sergeant and 2 Investigators with the primary responsibility to respond on a statewide basis to interact with and provide assistance to AST Detachments and municipal police agencies that have identified an investigative need to target criminal activities associated with human trafficking and/or sex trafficking.

The main purpose of this unit is to attempt to locate and rescue juvenile victims that are being forced to work as prostitutes in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. This unit will also work cases involving other forms of human trafficking such as adults being forced to work in the sex trade and adults and juveniles being forced to work in servitude.

Human trafficking cases can be complex and, as a rule, cannot be handled by one agency alone. Typically, the investigating law enforcement agency and at least one victim services provider will be involved. Routinely, cases can involve both local and federal law enforcement agencies, local (or state) and federal prosecutors, immigration and civil attorneys, and several victim services providers who each provide for the various needs of the victims. The SCIU is tasked with maintaining current communication with the appropriate prosecutorial authority and engages regularly with our federal partners.

The unit is relied upon for a variety of roles to support and augment investigative activity among the other ABI/SDEU units and Detachments throughout the state-

- Surveillance and technical assistance;
- Crime scene processing in conjunction with the SCDL Crime Scene Response team;
- Work overflow support for units experiencing periods of unusually high activity or extended vacancies
- Emergent critical incidents that require an initial influx of investigative resources
- Longer term investigative strategies, such as targeting specific burglary/auto theft serial/related incidents
- Sensitive and/or investigations with a likelihood of intense public scrutiny

-Targeted Secondary Offenses

- Address criminal activity that occurs in such a nature or manner that a standard patrol or investigative unit would be unable or significantly challenged to adequately investigate it.
- Whether person and/or property crimes, the offenses are of such a nature that they cause a significant, ongoing threat to life or property in the state of Alaska.

-Special Projects

- Large scale or high monetary value property crime rings. Over \$25,000 non-vehicular/\$100,000 vehicular.
- Criminal conduct that involves public/state employees.

Additionally, the unit will be developed and prepared to undertake the role of case responsibility for OIS investigations, relying on the localized ABI personnel to undertake an investigative support role.

This effort is conceived in order to:

- Relieve the ABI major Crimes Units from the immense amount of case work associated with these events
- Develop a small team of investigators experienced and familiar with the investigative requirements
- Address and eliminate any associated “discomfort” that might arise from localized investigators having to interview and collect items from Troopers they see and work with on a daily basis.

Significant Cases in 2014

- Sex Trafficking Case AK14004921, defendant Jeron Batts – arrested for Sex Trafficking 1st, two counts Sex Trafficking 2nd and Sex Trafficking 3rd
- Missing Person / Homicide Case 10-44654, defendant Simon D. Smith, indicted on Murder 1st & Murder 2nd charges.
- Crime Lab Tampering Case, AK13051101, defendant Stephen Palmer – arrested for Scheme to Defraud, MICS 2nd, Tampering w/ Physical Evidence (x4) and Official Misconduct (x4).
- Assist PALI w/ Homicide AK13092406. Case is still unsolved, assisted by tracking down suspects and running informant(s) for apparent drug related homicide.
- Assist CSU w/ Robbery 1st Case AK13087726, worked in UC capacity, in conjunction with running a CS. Defendant William Beasley Jr. arrested for Robbery 1st.
- Prostitution / MICS Case AK14028201, defendant Sarah Enox, arrested for MICS 4th & Prostitution
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14044441, defendants Amber Batts & Quinn Batts – arrested for Sex Trafficking 1st, Sex Trafficking 2nd & Sex Trafficking 3rd.
- MICS 4th Case AK14051217 – defendant Steven Yarnot. Charged with four counts of MICS 4th.
- Double Trooper Homicide AK14030015, defendants Nathaniel Kangas & Arvin Kangas. Nathaniel arrested for Murder 1st (x2) and Murder 2nd (x2) and Tampering w/ Physical Evidence. Arvin arrested for Tampering w/ Physical Evidence, Hindering Prosecution, Assault 4th and DWLS.

- Soliciting Prostitution Case AK14064616, defendant Kelton Oliver, arrested for Prostitution.
- VCOR Case AK14066886, defendant Kelton Oliver – arrested for VCOR.
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14026405, defendant Leroy Straker – arrested for Sex Trafficking 2nd and Sex Trafficking 3rd.
- Assist FAII w/ Homicide AK14086037, Case is still unsolved, assisted by tracking down suspects and running informant(s) for apparent drug related homicide.
- VCOR & DWLR Case AK14078876, defendant Timothy S. Baker – arrested for VCOR and DLWR (stemmed from Sex Trafficking investigation)
- Hindering Prosecution Case AK14088398, defendant Louis Spencer – arrested for Hindering Prosecution 1st & DWLR (stemmed from Sex Trafficking investigation)
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14095539, defendant Coytez Clark – indicted for Sex Trafficking 2nd, Sex Trafficking 3rd (x3) and Failure to Stop at the Direction of a Peace Officer 2nd.
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14076825, suspects Tani Osterman & Xavier Benson – pertinent case info passed along to FBI as they have pending Sex Trafficking case on Benson.
- Sex Trafficking Case AK14095539, case still pending...
- Sex Trafficking case AK14079946, case still pending...