

# **NYSP BCI - FORENSIC INVESTIGATION SUPPORT SERVICES (BCI-FISS)**

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** To meet the challenges posed by today's mobile, technically sophisticated criminals, the State Police has developed and adopted an array of specialized BCI Forensic Investigative Support Services. Based at the Division's **Forensic Investigation Center and Headquarters Crime Laboratory in Albany**, these bench scientists and BCI investigative personnel provide the State's entire law enforcement community with a multifaceted, "one-stop-shopping" approach to criminal evidence examination and analysis.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** NA

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors offices; local and county governments.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Varies.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

- **Medicolegal Investigation Unit** - This unit provides expert support in the forensic investigation of homicides, suspicious deaths, skeletal remains, assaults, and interviews of living victims of sexual assaults. Its scientific experts and consultants are board-certified experts in forensic anthropology, photogrammetry, behavioral sciences, psychiatry and medicolegal jurisprudence. They conduct forensic case examinations, analyses, referrals and consultations, help investigators with forensic case coordination and review, and render opinions on current and old cases. Services also include skull photo superimposition, radiological identification, trauma and bite mark/pattern injury analyses.
- **Violent Crime Case Review** - NYSP scientific and investigative experts routinely perform Violent Crime Case Reviews of long-unsolved crimes to determine if any possible leads can be uncovered through the application of new technology. Cases being readied for prosecution and other elaborate investigations also can be evaluated to suggest possible investigative and prosecutorial strategies.
- **Computer Crimes Unit (CCU)** - Originally established to examine evidence stored in computers seized in criminal investigations, the CCU now devotes much of its efforts to other emerging areas of technology-based crime: pornography, use of computers by predatory pedophiles, consumer and credit card fraud, theft of funds through electronic transfers, money laundering, cellular telephone cloning, theft of services and cyber-terrorism related activity.
- **Crimes Against Children** - The Division's Child Abuse & Exploitation (CAE) Unit works to prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes against children, supports all law enforcement/social welfare agencies that need assistance with child abuse, neglect, exploitation or domestic violence cases, and serves as a contact point for inquiries from the law enforcement community.
- **New York State Violent Crime Analysis Program (NYS VICAP)** - NYS VICAP works closely with the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program to help police identify or link cases involving crimes committed by serial offenders. Services are available to any criminal justice agency wishing to participate. The program provides information management assistance and case-specific analyses to law enforcement agencies investigating potentially related homicides, missing persons suspected of being victims of foul play, unidentified human remains and sexual assaults. Cases are analyzed and cross-searched. If matches are made, VICAP puts the lead agencies or investigators in touch so they can exchange information and coordinate their investigations.
- **Forensic Imaging** - This section performs such diverse services as updating age progressions of wanted or missing persons, enhancing blurred or distorted photographs, reconstructing skulls, developing scaled illustrations and large demonstration displays of crime scenes for courtrooms or command posts, and preparing hand-drawn illustrations from the interviews with crime witnesses or victims.

## NYSP COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** Provides communications and dispatch services and support to local and county law enforcement and emergency services agencies. The NYSP also provides command and communications equipment during natural and man-made disasters, civil disturbances and events involving mass gatherings.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** NA

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Law Enforcement and Emergency Service Agencies, Local and County Governments.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** E-911 and cellular 911 public service answering points and dispatch, emergency command and communications vans, dispatch for local police departments, and disaster and emergency planning.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

The State Police provides public service answering points for E-911 and cellular 911 calls and works with local law enforcement and government bodies to develop 911 programs. The State Police support dispatch of the closest available unit with jurisdiction, without regard to agency affiliation. The State Police provides assistance with developing coordinated response plans for disasters, mass gatherings and emergencies. The Division, likewise, provides emergency command and communications vans and equipment.

# **NYSP COMMUNITY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAMS (CNET)**

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** To help local police departments clean up areas blighted by drug trafficking and related street crime.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** 1990

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** The Chief Executive of any local or county law enforcement agency, or any district attorney, may request CNET assistance.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Available to assist any police agency north of New York City.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

Five regional Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams (Capital, Hudson Valley, Central, Southern Tier, Western) are deployed across the State, providing specially trained State Police undercover narcotics enforcement personnel to local law enforcement authorities upon request. CNET personnel fill a critical void for many rural, suburban and small city police departments, which typically lack the personnel or resources to maintain their own trained undercover narcotics units. CNET investigators also target illegal gun dealing.

# NYSP CRIME LABORATORY SYSTEM SERVICES

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** Provides investigative and laboratory services to local, county, State and federal agencies.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** 1936

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Law enforcement agencies throughout the State.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Varies.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

Since its inception in 1936, the New York State Police Crime Laboratory System has made quality service to the law enforcement community its fundamental mission. Over the years, the lab has grown in complexity and size, and now incorporates four facilities:

- The **Southern Tier Regional Lab** in Binghamton specializes in drug chemistry;
- The **Western Regional Lab** in Olean specializes in trace, drug chemistry and toxicology;
- The **Mid-Hudson Regional Lab** in Newburgh provides analyses of drug chemistry and toxicology; and
- The **Headquarters Laboratory**, located in the Division's **Forensic Investigation Center** in Albany, provides the entire State criminal justice system with forensic science services in the areas of questioned documents, fingerprints, Bioscience (serology and DNA), toxicology, drug chemistry and firearms toolmarks. The Forensic Center also maintains the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and the Combined Ballistic Imaging System (COBIS) for New York State.

## **NYSP CRIME VICTIM SPECIALISTS (CVSs)**

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** Provides direct assistance and support to the victims of crime.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** 1999

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Crime victims and their families.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Varies. Federal VOCA restrictions apply.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

Under an agreement with the State Crime Victims Board, the NYSP has trained Crime Victim Specialists (CVSs) in each of its eight upstate troops. These specialists work closely with sworn NYSP members and local police officers to provide liaison with local/regional crime victim service providers. They assess the specific needs of victims, provide training in intervention techniques and services, provide crisis intervention, short-term counseling and follow-up support, assist victims in obtaining compensation, explain legal options and procedures, help obtain protective orders and case status information, and secure emergency housing, legal services, medical treatment and specialized counseling.

# **NYSP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION UNIT (DVI)**

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** To improve access to services for domestic violence victims.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** 1998

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Local law enforcement, criminal justice and community service agencies, local and county governments.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Varies.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

The DVI Unit helps field personnel with issues related to domestic violence cases or issues, and helps clarify recent changes in law and policy. DVI field coordinators work with local service providers to improve access to victims' services, work in partnership with the State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to provide enhanced training to State Police and other criminal justice personnel, conduct follow-up contacts with domestic violence victims, and cooperate with service providers to ensure victims are aware of, and have access to, available services.

# NYSP INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT SERVICE

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** The NYSP's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) has approximately 900 plainclothes investigators and senior investigators dedicated full-time to the suppression and eradication of violent crime in the community

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** NA

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, local and county governments.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Varies.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

- **Violent Crime Investigative Teams (VCIT)** - Teams in each of the Division's upstate troops work with local authorities to investigate serious violent crimes, particularly those that might be part of an ongoing series. VCITs make skilled, experienced NYSP investigators available to assist police agencies statewide. This helps improve case solvability and facilitates prosecutions. The full resources of the State Police, including crime scene technicians, the NYSP Crime Laboratories, the Medicolegal Investigations Unit, and the NYS VICAP and Crime Analysis Unit, are available to communities receiving VCIT assistance.
- **Community Stabilization Teams (CSTs)** - The State Police supports local community policing efforts by providing supplemental investigators and uniform troopers to help localities build upon the gains made during CNET and VCIT operations. Community Stabilization Teams (CST) offer local police patrols a highly visible NYSP presence to help local departments develop their own effective community policing initiatives and maintain long-term stability once CNET and VCIT operations have been completed. Troopers assigned to CSTs work closely with local jurisdictions to prevent the return of drug dealers, and to develop effective, long-term, local community policing programs.
- **Special Investigations Unit (SIU)** - SIU combats organized crime and racketeering, specializing in complex investigations that require inter-departmental cooperation, technological expertise and a long-term commitment of personnel and resources. SIU field offices in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Newburgh, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica and White Plains work closely with New York's Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF), federal prosecutors, district attorneys and local law enforcement agencies to target all forms of organized crime, gambling, money laundering, drug trafficking, industry corruption and Internet child pornography.
- **Auto Theft Initiative** - SIU also provides the framework for a statewide initiative aimed at combating auto theft. State Police investigators assigned to SIU Auto Theft Units in Albany, Buffalo, Long Island, Rochester, Syracuse and White Plains can help requesting local law enforcement agencies attack and dismantle auto theft rings, chop shops, exporters of stolen vehicles and other automobile-related criminal operations. They are backed by the full complement of NYSP technical resources, forensic identification capabilities, agency personnel assigned to the Department of Motor Vehicles and the NYSP Computer Crimes Unit..
- **Auto Theft Equipment Loan Program** - The NYSP also administers an initiative designed to provide law enforcement agencies sophisticated investigative and theft-prevention equipment they otherwise might not be able to afford. Both specialized equipment and trained investigators are available on long-term loan to requesting agencies. Available equipment includes audio/video gear, auto theft ID devices, body-wire recorders, cameras, intercept/detect equipment, tracking devices and state-of-the-art surveillance vans equipped with tracking, cellular and microwave technology.
- **Violent Felony Warrant (VFW) Squad** - Seven regionally based VFW Squads are responsible for apprehending violent criminals who flee prosecution or evade arrest. They assist local departments which lack the resources or staff to conduct their own warrant enforcement efforts, and will pursue any violent felony warrant anywhere in the State, if requested. VFW Squads accept all cases defined as violent felony offenses under New York's crime classification system: homicide, sexual assault, felony narcotics, and the most serious degrees of assault, robbery, burglary, arson and kidnapping. It also pursues prison escapees, felony parole violators and "major offenders" - persons whose individual offenses may not be violent, but whose collective criminal histories warrant special attention.

## **NYSP PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES**

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** To provide a direct link between the NYSP and the localities it serves, ensuring communities receive the appropriate type and level of service they need.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** 1992

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Local and county governments.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Varies.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

**Safe Schools** - Since 1992, the NYSP *Safe Schools Program* has shown teachers and other school personnel how to identify, head-off, respond to and/or cope with the aftermath of school violence. Troopers deliver *Safe Schools* presentations in schools to adult supervisory personnel, including professional and paraprofessional staff. Today, more than 60 specially trained troopers work with nine regional coordinators around the State to make *Safe Schools* available to all schools, including those in New York City. The *Safe Schools* curriculum is flexible, enabling schools to schedule training in ways that meet their individual needs and time constraints. There are currently six components to the program: *Awareness, Prevention, Effective Response, Hostage Situation, Incident Command System, and Effects of Domestic Violence.*

# NYSP SPECIALIZED SUPPORT TO LOCAL AGENCIES

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** Provides specialized services and support to local law enforcement/emergency service agencies.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** NA

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Local NYSP Troop Commander

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Local and county law enforcement/emergency service agencies.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Varies.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact local NYSP Troop Commander.

**Description of Aid:**

- **Aviation** - The NYSP Aviation Unit operates a fleet of regionally based helicopters and fixed wing aircraft from bases in Albany, Batavia, Newburgh, Saranac Lake and Syracuse. Its highly experienced pilots search for lost persons and escaped criminals, conduct aerial speed enforcement details, assist in vehicle pursuits, transport NYSP SCUBA divers, Mobile Response Team members, bomb disposal experts and K-9 teams to emergencies, conduct seasonal marijuana eradication sorties, perform rescue and medevac missions, organ donor and recipient transfers, environmental conservation missions and other specialized functions.
- **Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU)** - Regionally deployed bomb technicians, many of whom are cross-trained as K-9 handlers, perform regular NYSP duties and respond as specialists to bomb-related calls and reports of found military ordnance, commercial explosives, fireworks and dynamite, improvised (homemade) devices and suspicious packages. Related specialized equipment includes bomb containment vessels, X-ray machines, "frag bags" and other devices used for the safe, temporary storage and transportation of explosives.
- **K-9 (Canine) Unit** - More than three dozen teams of specially trained dogs and handlers are assigned strategically throughout the State. Dogs are trained to detect explosives, narcotics and buried cadavers. The Division also maintains three bloodhounds, which are valuable for tracking or seeking out long-missing human beings.
- **Marine Detail** - Boat patrols are maintained on Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence River, Oneida Lake, Lake George, the Hudson River and along the Thruway's canal system to assist boaters in distress, investigate boating accidents, conduct narcotics interdiction operations and work with other police agencies, especially during BWI enforcement details. NYSP marine units promote boater safety by conducting inspections and training, and by enforcing the Navigation Law and other applicable laws.
- **Mobile Response Team (MRT)** - Specialists in operations, tactics and weapons, MRTs respond to situations requiring specialized training and equipment, such as high-risk arrests, seizures, searches, rescues, barricaded person incidents and narcotics raids. Some team members are cross-trained as SCUBA divers, firearms and defensive tactics instructors. Teams are deployed in three regions: North Team - Troops B, D and G; South Team - Troops C, F, and K; West Team - Troops A and E. Unless engaged in team operations or training, all MRT members are assigned to regular patrol or administrative duty.
- **Crisis Negotiation Program** - Deployed within each troop are teams of trained negotiators whose primary goal is to save lives. These specialists are networked for ongoing training.
- **SCUBA** - The NYSP has operated its own underwater diving detail since 1934, and today maintains SCUBA teams in all Troops except L, T and NYC. When not assigned to a dive detail, the Division's divers perform regular patrol and administrative duties.
- **Collision Reconstruction Program** - The Division's 60+ collision reconstructionists are specifically trained in the identification, collection and preservation of roadway and vehicle evidence. By evaluating and interpreting this material, they can estimate speeds or establish a series of events leading to the cause or causes of a crash. Their assessments often are used to determine if criminal action is warranted.

## **NYSP TRAINING SUPPORT SERVICES**

(Technical Assistance Program)

**Objective:** To provide specialized training in support of law enforcement and criminal justice programs.

**Administering Agency:** NYS Division of State Police

**Specific Program URL:** [www.troopers.state.ny.us](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us)

**NYS Object Code:** NA

**Year Established:** NA

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.:** NA

**Legal Authority:**

**Law:** NA

**Regulation:** NA

**Program Contact:**

Director of Training  
NYSP Academy  
State Office Campus  
Albany, New York  
(518) 457-7254  
E-Mail: NA

**Fiscal Contact:**

NA

**Eligibility:** Varies.

**Type of Program and Special Restrictions:** Training.

**Action Required to Receive Aid:** Contact NYSP Academy.

**Description of Aid:**

- o **HFW Homicide Seminar** - The NYSP Medicolegal Investigation Unit is prominently involved in conducting the Division's world-renowned **Col. Henry F. Williams Homicide Seminar (HFW)**. The premiere training event of its kind in this hemisphere, HFW attracts top homicide investigators from around the world. Training of the caliber featured at the Williams Homicide Seminar is rarely available to local police agencies, and the contacts and resources that participants develop will be invaluable in future investigations of violent crime. Seminar participants hear from a diverse group of speakers who are recognized leaders in the field of criminal investigations and forensic science. More than 2,190 homicide investigators from around the world have attended the annual seminar since its inception; each is a member of the Williams Homicide Associates, a network of homicide investigators who can quickly contact each other for case assistance.
- **Sex Offense Seminar** - The Division's Child Abuse & Exploitation/Domestic Violence (CAE/DV) Unit organizes and coordinates the annual 40-hour **Sex Offense Seminar**, featuring instruction by leading experts in such areas as interview techniques, sensitivity to victims and their needs, victimology, new technology, photographic documentation and legal perspectives. Unit members also lecture at law enforcement academies, and to school, adult, service and community organizations.
- **Laboratory/Forensic Training** - In addition to providing forensic training seminars for State Police personnel, the Division's Laboratory System also opens its training programs to hundreds of law enforcement officers annually from city, county and federal agencies and laboratories throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic states. These seminars promote interagency relations, develop operating procedures and update current training curricula. Among these training seminars are:
  - **The New York Prosecutors Training Institute** - Together with the NYS Prosecutors Training Institute, the State Police Crime Laboratory at the Forensic Investigative Center annually co-hosts a three-day **DNA Capital Trial Advocacy Training Program** at the State Police Academy in Albany. Representatives from district attorney's offices throughout the State take part in this exercise, which includes presentations on the effective trial presentation of physical evidence and several DNA mock trial training sessions.
  - **Major Crimes Seminar** - The Major Crimes Seminar grew out of a recommendation from the Forensic Investigation Center's Advisory Committee to establish basic instruction that would help law enforcement agencies improve the quality of crime scene processing. The resulting Major Crimes-RESPOND (Respond, Evaluate, Secure, Protect, Observe, Notifications, Document) training program incorporates a series of crime scene skits representing the "right" and "wrong" way to handle evidence and give Miranda warnings, and provides a forum for discussing the legal issues involved.

## NYSP TRAINING SUPPORT SERVICES (cont.)

Other courses include: Wood Identification; FBI Latent Print Identification School; FBI Gunshot Residue Analysis; Advanced Fire Debris Analysis Course, Introduction to Microscopy; Advanced Microscopy, and the New York State Toxicology Seminar.

- **Safe Schools** - Before conducting *Safe Schools* training for local school district personnel, State Police program presenters coordinate with local law enforcement agencies to make the training available to local police.
- **State Police Academy Training** - Additionally, training in a wide variety of police-related disciplines is available to law enforcement officers from other departments at the New York State Police Academy. This specialized training includes instruction in:
  - **Firearms;**
  - **Emergency Vehicle Operators Instructor Courses (EVOC);**
  - **Polygraph Operation;**
  - **Collision Reconstruction Certification;**
  - **Defensive Tactics; and**
  - **Instructor Development.**