



MAINE STATE POLICE
"SEMPER AEQUUS"



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Testimony of Major Lucas Hare

**Neither For nor Against LD 461 and LD 477
An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol
and Policing Services**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Lucas Hare, the Operations Major of the Maine State Police, and I am here today to testify on behalf of the Department neither for nor against LD 461 and LD 477 as they are not included in the Governor's budget package.

The Maine State Police makes a significant contribution to the rural patrol makeup in the State of Maine. As the largest single police agency in the state, the State Police provide various services to the greater public safety platform, one of which is rural patrol coverage. The State Police has a long standing and productive relationship with its county, municipal, federal, tribal, and other state partners to make Maine a safe place to live, visit and conduct business. It is this collaborative effort which provides rural patrol coverage and a law enforcement response to the wide variety of calls for service or 911 calls. Rural law enforcement services in Maine are a patchwork of formal and informal agreements and the cooperation of all Maine law enforcement entities. The State Police bring patrol services, specialized assets and investigative units coupled with support services to the frontline to protect its citizens and the motoring public. Along with rural patrol coverage in certain communities, the State Police provide the only statewide coverage of specialized services like homicide and child exploitation investigations, along with specialty teams such as a Tactical Team, Crisis Negotiation Team, Bomb Team, and Underwater Recovery Team. These services are referred to as rural policing. The State Police have provided rural patrol and rural policing services despite significant capacity and staffing issues which have become a challenging and compounding issue over time. The agency had approximately 40 sworn positions eliminated in the late 1980's into the early 2000's resulting in a complement ceiling decrease from over 370 sworn members to the 335 sworn complement in 2024. As part of her 2024 budget, Governor Mills requested an additional 32 State Police positions. The 131st Second Regular Legislative Session funded 16 of those positions, increasing the State Police complement to 351. To put this in perspective, in 1974 then Colonel Nichols cited a staffing study that showed Maine needed 100 more Troopers and at that time the State Police had a complement 319.

During the last 35 years while the state police has seen its complement decrease, our mission has only grown. 35 years ago, the computer crimes unit did not exist. Our specialty teams were collateral duty and responded to a fraction of the calls for service they do today. For example, our Crisis Negotiation Team and Tactical Teams responded to over 130 calls for service in 2024 and were requested to respond over 300 times. Over 70% of all our specialty team calls for service are for outside agencies. Our K9 unit trains more than 20 county and municipal teams at no cost. Many of these teams are funded by grants given by the Stanton Foundation which require them to attend State Police K9 training in Maine.

Criminal investigations have continued to become more complicated and take far longer due to the proliferation of cellular devices and social media. A search warrant on a single social media account can result in over a terabyte of data that needs to be painstakingly reviewed for evidence. Despite the increased workload, our Major Crimes Units have the same number of Detectives they had in the 1990s.

This committee is here today to review bipartisan bills drafted by Representative Ducharme and Senator Moore that would fund additional sworn positions for the State Police. LD 461 funds 4 positions for Washington County and LD 471 Funds 24 positions that would be assigned to Troop F and the Northern, Central and Southern Field Troops. These proposed Trooper and Corporal positions are front line, uniform patrol positions that would have a direct impact not only in the communities they are assigned to patrol but also statewide. They would be allocated to counties that have the least amount of law enforcement resources in the state. The benefits of these additional positions would not end at the county lines. For example, Troopers patrolling Aroostook County, the largest county east of the Mississippi, can be called to respond to any emergent situation anywhere in the state. An increase in the number of Troopers becomes a force multiplier for all law enforcement agencies in Maine. A state that is seeing law enforcement agencies dwindling due to many small agencies having to close their doors for a myriad of reasons.

From responding to protests in York and Cumberland Counties, to fatal crash investigations in Washington County to assisting the Aroostook County Sherrif's Office when Deputy Shane Campbell was shot and our K9 Preacher was killed, Maine Troopers are a statewide resource that are dynamic and prepared to respond on a moment's notice.

I have attached a copy of the 2024 Maine State Police and Rural Policing Services report for your reference.

I would like to thank Senator Moore, Representative Ducharme and the co-sponsors of these bills for their support and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Major Lucas Hare
Maine State Police
Operations Division

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Nichols Wants More Troopers

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP) — State Police Chief Donald E. Nichols says he will ask the 17th Maine Legislature to authorize an additional 100 troopers to augment the force.

"We just don't have the bodies to carry out the mandates of the state," Nichols said.

The chief made the comment after a ceremony Monday at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy marking the enrollment of 32 new cadets in a 15-week training course to become troopers.

If all 32 complete the course and meet the force's standards, the present limit of 319 troopers will be met.

Nichols said a recent internal manpower study showed a minimum need of 105 more troopers.

"People have called saying they have traveled the length of the Maine Turnpike and

haven't seen a single trooper," he said. "That comes as no surprise to me."

He said as few as six officers are assigned to patrol the turnpike, and there are even fewer on "court days" when up to three of these officers may be testifying.

Recent study showed that 105 more troopers needed in 1974



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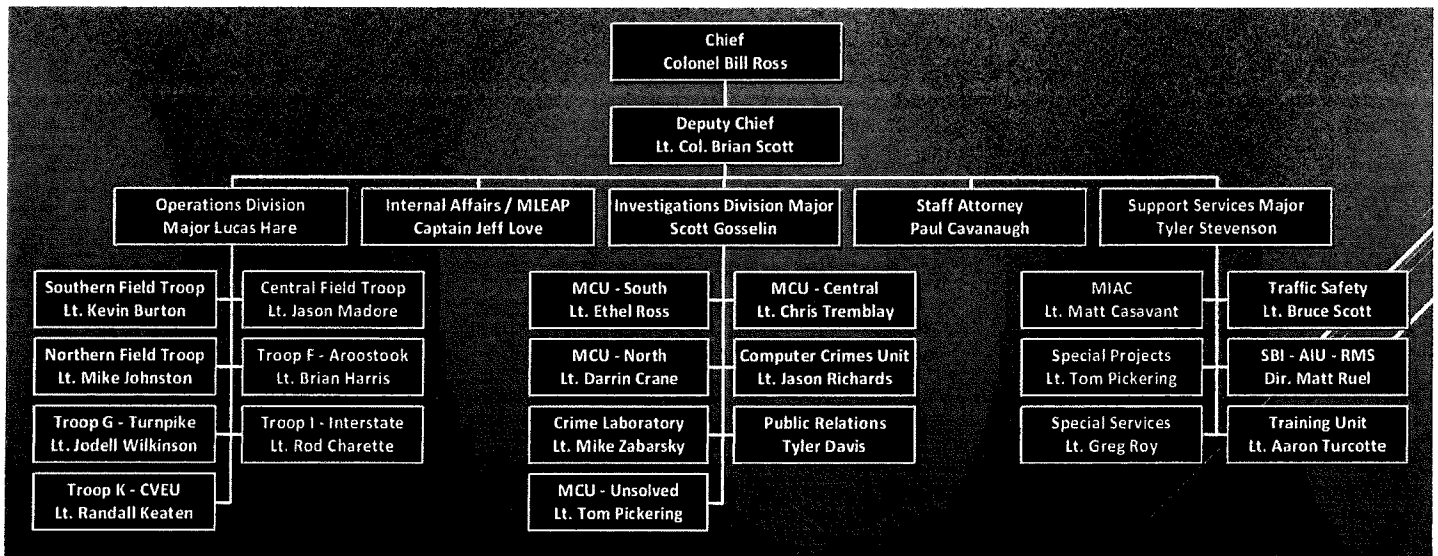
Rural Patrol and Rural Policing Services

January 30, 2025

The Maine State Police make a significant contribution to the rural patrol makeup in the State of Maine. As the largest single police agency in the state, the State Police provide various services to the greater public safety platform, one of which is rural patrol coverage. The State Police has a long standing and productive relationship with its county, municipal, federal, tribal, and other state partners to make Maine a safe place to live, visit and conduct business. It is this collaborative effort which provides rural patrol coverage and a law enforcement response to the wide variety of calls for service or 911 calls. Rural law enforcement services in Maine are a patchwork of formal and informal agreements and the cooperation of all Maine law enforcement entities. The State Police bring patrol services, specialized assets and investigative units coupled with support services to the frontline to protect its citizens and the motoring public. Along with Rural Patrol coverage in certain communities, the State Police provide the only statewide coverage of specialized services like homicide and child exploitation investigations along with specialty teams such as a Tactical Team, Crisis Negotiation Team, Bomb Team, and Underwater Recovery Team. These services are referred to as Rural Policing and are discussed in detail later in this document.

The State Police have provided rural patrol and rural policing services in spite of significant capacity and staffing issues which have become a challenging and compounding issue over time. The agency had approximately 40 sworn positions eliminated in the late 1980's into the early 2000's resulting in a compliment ceiling decrease from over 370 sworn members to the 335 sworn compliment in 2024. As a result of the 131st Second Regular Legislative Session, the Maine State Police were

given funding for 16 more sworn positions increasing the compliment to 351. As a means to cover the shortcomings in staff allotment, the State Police have needed to use thousands of hours of added overtime to fulfill our obligations. Using overtime to make up for compliment and capacity deficiencies has hit its saturation point and isn't the best model but meeting basic functions is necessary to the safety of our employees, the greater law enforcement community and public safety in Maine. The agency has begun to make wide strides against these challenges by hiring 49 officers in 2024 and we are on track to having all of our vacancies filled in 2025. Our new employment contracts, marketing campaign, additional pay rate increases due to reclassifications as well as an improved recruit training model and fresh recruitment strategies have had a marked improvement in recruit applications and has kept some current members from retiring.



OPERATIONS DIVISION

The **Maine State Police Operations Division**, overseen by the Operations Division Major Lucas Hare, provides rural patrol functions throughout the State of Maine as well as line patrol functions and traffic enforcement on Maine's interstate highways and state roads. This division is made up of 6 field Troops as well as the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit.

The 6 field Troops in the Operations Division provide rural patrol coverage and rural policing services in the following capacity:

Southern Field Troop:

York, Cumberland, Oxford and Androscoggin Counties

Troop A barracks is in Alfred and the assigned Troopers patrol 6 towns in York County out of the fourteen towns which do not have police departments. This is accomplished through a Cooperative Agreement between the York County Sheriff's Office and the Maine State Police. The 6 towns are Dayton, Hollis, Limerick, Cornish, Limington and Parsonsfield.

Troop B barracks is in Gray and the assigned Troopers patrol Oxford, Androscoggin, and Cumberland counties. There is no longer a formal agreement between the Oxford County Sheriff's Office and the State Police. Each agency handles the calls for service which come into their respective dispatch centers.

Cumberland County has a Memorandum of Understanding between the Maine State Police and the Cumberland County Sheriff's office. The Troop will cover all the calls for service they receive in the towns of New Gloucester, North Yarmouth and Pownal and refer all other calls to the Sheriff's Office.

Androscoggin County has a Memorandum of Understanding between the Maine State Police and the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office. Each agency will cover the calls for service received by their respective dispatch centers.

The State Police conduct traffic enforcement and assist all other state, county and municipal agencies in southern Maine.

The Southern Field Troop is staffed with a Troop Commander (Lieutenant), 6 Sergeants, 5 Corporals and approximately 20 Troopers.

Central Field Troop:

Franklin, Somerset, Kennebec, Waldo, Lincoln, Knox and Sagadahoc Counties

Troop C barracks is in Skowhegan and the assigned Troopers patrol Franklin, Somerset, and part of Kennebec counties.

There is no formal agreement between the Somerset County Sheriff's Office and the Maine State Police. By informal agreement with the Sheriff's Office, the State Police will be the primary agency to respond to calls for service generated in Somerset County that are related to the Interstate system. If a call for service is generated in Somerset County and comes into the State Police dispatch center, if the State Police has a unit available, they will respond, if a unit is not available the call will be referred to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office handles the calls for service which come into their dispatch center.

There is an agreement between the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office and the Maine State Police where the county is divided into 6 patrol zones. Two of the patrol zones are covered by the State Police and 4 zones are covered by the Sheriff's Office. The patrol zones rotate throughout the calendar year, this agreement is documented in a memo dated May 6th, 2020, but is still being honored presently.

Franklin County has a Memorandum of Understanding between the Maine State Police and Franklin County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will handle all the calls for service and will refer calls to the State Police when they are unable to respond.

Troop D barracks is in Augusta and the assigned Troopers patrol Sagadahoc, Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, and part of Kennebec County.

Waldo County has a Resource Coordination Agreement between the Waldo County Sheriff's Office and the Maine State Police. Waldo County is divided into three patrol zones, in the past the State Police covered all three zones every fourth day. Currently the Central Field Troop and Waldo County have a trial agreement so that Maine State Police Covers 1 patrol zone per shift, alternating between zones 1 and 3 weekly.

The counties of Sagadahoc, Knox, and Lincoln County do not have agreements with the State Police; however, the State Police will periodically conduct traffic enforcement and respond to calls for service as needed in these counties.

The State Police conduct traffic enforcement and assist all other state, county and municipal agencies in central Maine.

The Central Field Troop is staffed with a Troop Commander (Lieutenant), 5 Sergeants, 4 Corporals and approximately 20 Troopers.

Northern Field Troop:

Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington and Hancock Counties

Troop E barracks is in Bangor and the assigned Troopers patrol Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. Penobscot County has a Resource Coordination Agreement between the Maine State Police and Penobscot County Sheriff's Office. The County is divided into 6 patrol zones on a rotating basis. The State Police cover two zones with the Sheriff's Office covering four zones.

There is currently no agreement with Piscataquis County, although the State Police will periodically conduct traffic enforcement and respond to calls for service as needed.

Troop J is in Ellsworth and the assigned Troopers patrol Hancock and Washington counties. Hancock County has a Resource Coordination Agreement between the Maine State Police and Hancock County Sheriff's Office. The county is divided into 3 patrol zones with the State Police covering 1 zone and the Sheriff's Office covering the remaining 2 zones. The patrol zones rotate throughout the calendar year.

Washington County has a Resource Coordination Agreement between the Maine State Police and the Washington County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will handle all the calls for service and will refer calls to the State Police when they are unable to respond. All fatal motor vehicle crashes will be the responsibility of the State Police as the primary investigative agency.

The State Police conduct traffic enforcement and assist all other state, county and municipal agencies in northern Maine.

The Northern Field Troop is staffed with a Troop Commander (Lieutenant), 5 Sergeants, 4 Corporals and approximately 20 Troopers.

Troop F:

Aroostook County

The Troop F barracks is in Houlton and the assigned Troopers patrol Aroostook County, in addition to Interstate 95.

There is no formal agreement with the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office and the Maine State Police, although an informal agreement does exist where the county is divided into 5 patrol zones. Each agency covers 2 patrol zones which alternate throughout the calendar year. The fifth zone is Interstate 95 which all calls for service are covered by the State Police.

Troop F also assists in calls for service in northern Penobscot County and shares calls with the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office for calls received in the towns of Van Buren and Limestone where local police departments recently closed their doors due to staffing and capacity issues.

Troop F is staffed with a Troop Commander (Lieutenant), 4 Sergeants, 3 Corporals and about 17 Troopers.

Troop G:

I95 from Kittery to Augusta

The Troop G barracks is in Portland and the assigned Troopers patrol the Maine Turnpike from the Maine / New Hampshire State line to mile marker 109. There exists an agreement between the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Maine

Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police, for Policing Services on the Maine Turnpike.

Troop G is staffed with a Troop Commander (Lieutenant), 5 Sergeants, 5 Corporals and 24 Troopers.

The State Police cover all calls for service on the Maine Turnpike.

Troop I:

I295 from Scarborough to Gardiner & I95 from Augusta to Sherman

The Troop I barracks is in Pittsfield and the assigned Troopers patrol all of I295, I95 north of exit 109 and I395. The interstate system is exclusively patrolled by the Maine State Police.

The Troop is staffed with a Troop Commander (Lieutenant), 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals and approximately 24 Troopers.

Troop K:

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit

Troop K or otherwise known as the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit (CVEU) exists to ensure that commercial vehicles operating on all of Maine's roadways comply with state size and weight laws and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. ***The State Police is the only police agency in the state of Maine that enforces these laws and regulations.*** The focus is the safety of the motoring public. The goals of our enforcement efforts are to reduce crashes, injuries, and deaths involving commercial motor vehicles. We aim to accomplish these goals through focused enforcement efforts and proactive enforcement patrols. Per statute the State Police also responds and assists with every serious bodily injury or fatal crash involving a commercial motor vehicle throughout the entire state regardless of the location.

Troop K consists of sworn state troopers and civilian motor carrier inspectors. All are specially trained in the complex and highly technical regulations governing commercial vehicle regulations. In addition to the federal regulations, sworn State Troopers are also charged with enforcing Maine's complex size and weight laws. Civilian motor carrier inspectors conduct administrative safety audits and safety reviews of Maine based Motor Carriers.

Troop K is staffed with a Troop Commander (Lieutenant), and 3 Sergeants, 3 Corporals and 23 Troopers, in addition to 9 Motor Carrier Inspectors.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The **Maine State Police Support Services Division**, overseen by Support Services Division Major Tyler Stevenson, *provides not only logistical and informational assistance to the Operations Division, the Investigations Division as well as all Law Enforcement agencies throughout the state.* This division also oversees the Training Troop which coordinates Maine State Police academy training, recruiting and onboarding for the entire organization.

The Support Services Division is the backbone of the State Police and provides the following units to assist all law enforcement services and rural policing efforts throughout the state to every community in Maine:

Special Services Unit:

The Support Services Division also oversees the **State Police Special Services Unit** which houses most of the Maine State Police Specialty Teams, which mobilize and respond to a variety of incidents in the field, usually high risk, and dangerous situations. These teams are force multipliers for our field Troops and law enforcement partners in the Sheriff's Offices and municipal agencies. Most of these team members have full time, primary duties in the state police in various assignments like, patrol, Computer Crimes Unit, Major Crimes, and the MIAC and participate in their specialty as an additional duty. About 85% of Maine Troopers have a specialty in addition to their primary duties. These specialized services are overseen by a Lieutenant, 5 sergeants and 3 corporals. The following specialty teams respond to these high-risk situations on a regular basis at no cost to the agencies:

- **State Police Tactical Team:**
 - This is the only statewide Tactical Team that will respond to any community in Maine that needs their assistance
 - Most agencies in Maine do not have a Tactical Team and rely exclusively on the State Police for this highly trained, skilled, and specially equipped Team
 - In 2024, the Maine State Police Tactical Team handled 133 calls for service where they were activated and an additional 175 calls where they were requested or consulted but did not respond.
 - **62% or 83 of the Tactical Team calls in 2024 were for agencies other than the Maine State Police**

- **Crisis Negotiation Team:**
 - This is the only statewide Crisis Negotiation Team that will respond to any community in Maine that needs their assistance

- Most agencies in Maine do not have a Crisis Negotiation Team and rely exclusively on the State Police for this highly trained, skilled, and specially equipped Team
 - This team responds to the majority of Tactical Team callouts, but also responds to other calls when the Tactical Team is not needed
 - In 2024 the Maine State Police Crisis Negotiation Team handled 100 activations
 - **74% of all Crisis Negotiation Team calls were for agencies other than the Maine State Police**
- **Underwater Recovery Team:**
 - Most agencies in Maine do not have an Underwater Recovery Team and rely exclusively on the State Police for this highly trained, skilled, and specially equipped Team
 - This team deploys to conduct search and rescue operations, recovery operations and evidence searches
 - In 2024 the Maine State Police Underwater Recovery Team handled 30 activations
 - **86% of all Underwater Recovery Team calls were for agencies other than the Maine State Police**
- **Bomb and Explosives Unit:**
 - This is the only statewide Bomb Explosives Unit that will respond to any community in Maine that needs their assistance
 - Most agencies in Maine do not have a Bomb Explosives Unit and rely exclusively on the State Police for this highly trained, skilled, and specially equipped Team
 - This Unit mobilizes for calls of suspicious packages, Improvised Explosive Devices and other dangerous devices that need proper handling to ensure that an explosion does not occur
 - In 2024 the Maine State Police Bomb Team handled 83 activations
 - **92% of all Bomb Team calls were for agencies other than the Maine State Police**
- **Canine (K9) Unit:**
 - The Maine State Police K9 Unit provides the initial and ongoing training for K-9 teams *at no cost*.
 - In 2024 the Maine State Police K-9 Unit was responsible for training and certifying 52 K-9 teams; **27 of those teams worked for agencies other than the Maine State Police**
 - The Maine State Police K-9 Unit provides K-9 training for:
 - Tracking of persons;

- Drug Detection;
 - Handler Protection; and
 - Cadaver location.
 - In addition to training K-9 teams in Maine, as noted above, the State Police has several K-9 teams throughout the state that provide services that are often self-initiated by the handler or at the request of a field troop or any police agency
 - In 2024, Maine State Police K-9 Units were requested 639 times throughout the state.
- **Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT):**
 - This unit responds statewide at the request of a Troop, Major Crimes Unit, or any law enforcement agency to provide support for large scale events or those that are complex and need a team to assist with incident management.
 - Some of the major deployments in 2024 included:
 - Incident Command for the solar eclipse;
 - Incident Command for the University of Maine Commencement;
 - Incident Command for the Dempsey Challenge;
 - Incident Command for the funeral of fallen Biddeford Officer, Sgt. Wolterbeek
- **Honor Guard:**
 - This team mobilizes to assist with the planning, preparation and execution of ceremonial activities often associated with the passing of an officer, fire fighter or other first responder and other times such as a funeral for a retired officer or dignitary
 - This team assists at the request of a Troop or other agency anywhere in the state and at times in other states as well
 - The Honor Guard was activated 58 times in 2024
- **Motor Unit:**
 - This team provides escort services, traffic control and performs at ceremonies throughout the state at the request of field Troops or other agencies
 - The Motor Unit was activated 28 times in 2024
 - ***75% of all Motor Unit requests for service were for agencies other than the Maine State Police***
- **Member Assistance Team:**
 - This team provides wellness services to Maine Troopers and many other agencies that seek the services of our Member Assistance Teams

- They are commonly deployed after critical events such as officer involved shootings, baby or child deaths, homicides, suicides and other horrific crime scenes and fatal car crashes. These types of calls can impact the well-being of the first responders exposed to these types of traumas.
- **Pipe and Drum Unit:**
 - This is a multi-agency unit, led by the State Police, including some retirees that perform at ceremonies statewide to include State Police, County and Municipal academy graduations, large conferences, funerals, parades, and other functions
 - The Pipe and Drum Team was activated 33 times in 2024
 - ***48% of all Pipe and Drum activations were for agencies other than the Maine State Police***
- **Crowd Management Team:**
 - This is the only statewide Crowd Management Team that will respond to any community in Maine that needs their assistance
 - Most agencies do not have Crowd Management Teams and rely upon the State Police for this highly trained, skilled, and specially equipped Team
 - This team mobilizes for large scale events such as demonstrations with or at times without counter demonstrations, some college graduations, and outdoor locations likely to draw large crowds
 - The Crowd Management Team was activated 7 times in 2024
 - ***100% of all Crowd Management activations were for agencies other than the Maine State Police***

Executive Protection Unit:

The Lieutenant of the Special Services Unit also oversees the State Police's **Executive Protection Unit** which provides security for the Governor and other dignitaries living in or visiting Maine. The Unit collaborates and coordinates with other police agencies in Maine and our federal partners towards the overall goal of dignitary protection efforts throughout the state of Maine.

The Executive Protection Unit consists of a Sergeant, a Detective Corporal and several detectives.

Training Unit:

The **Training Unit** is based out of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro and provides all of the training for Maine Troopers and also provides ***two full time Sergeants who help to oversee the training for all new police officers in Maine.*** The Unit also helps to coordinate thousands of hours of instruction at the academy

for the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP), which is attended by all officers in Maine.

In 2024, the Maine State Police as a singular agency provided specific classroom instruction for the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program as follows:

- 4015 hours of instruction provided by two full time sergeants/cadre; and
- 5492 hours of instruction provided by other Maine State Police instructors.

The Training Unit also has a full-time Sergeant / Lead Firearms instructor and several adjunct instructors responsible for all of the initial and ongoing training and qualifications for state police personnel. ***This Unit also provides firearms instruction and qualifications at every Basic Law Enforcement Training Program for all new officers***, attending the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

The Training Unit is also home to **Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC)** training and the Maine State Police instructors who provide the training. ***The State Police provides this EVOC training to every police officer in the state attending the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.***

The Training Unit is staffed by a Unit Commander (Lieutenant), 3 Sergeants, 2 Corporals, a trooper and 2 civilian support staff members who help with hiring and onboarding.

State Bureau of Investigation (SBI):

SBI, Sex Offender Registry (SOR), Records Management (RMS) and Access Integrity Unit (AIU). The **State Bureau of Identification (SBI)** is based out of Augusta and is responsible for providing the following services:

- Receipt, archival and appropriate dissemination of criminal records in Maine to include working with the judicial system to ensure accurate distribution of the appropriate records;
- Overall administration and maintenance of the Sexual Offender Registry to which the public has access; and
- Maintains the conduit for law enforcement agencies and officers in Maine to have access to the METRO System that provides critical data from the National Crime Information Center court records such as protection orders, bail conditions and warrants, criminal history records, those prohibited from firearms, stolen vehicles and other stolen property, driver license status and traffic violation history information, missing and endangered persons, wanted persons, Amber and Silver Alerts along with other important public safety information.

These services are provided to all agencies and officers in the state at no cost. This Unit is also responsible to provide the training for ***all officers attending the Maine***

Criminal Justice Academy and beyond pertaining to the laws, rules, regulations and use of the METRO System.

This Unit is staffed by a civilian Director, civilian supervisors and several civilian employees with various duties and responsibilities.

MIAC:

The **Maine Information and Analysis Center (MIAC), Professional Licensing and Concealed Handgun Permits**, is based out of Augusta and provides the only statewide information sharing hub between **all Maine law enforcement agencies** and our federal and private sector partners, licenses and provides administrative oversight to all Private Investigators, Polygraph Examiners and Private Contract Security Companies, and processes concealed handgun permit requests.

The MIAC is staffed by a Director (Lieutenant), Deputy Director (Sergeant), a Sergeant overseeing Professional Licensing and concealed handgun permits, a Detective and several analysts along with other civilian support staff.

Traffic Safety Unit:

The **Traffic Safety Unit** is based out of Augusta and provides robust traffic safety related services throughout the state at the request **of any officer at any agency**. The Unit is responsible for housing the **Crash Reconstruction Team** to include the **training for all police agencies in Maine** and the peer review for most reconstruction experts in the state, forensic mapping, drone operations, Event Data Recorder retrieval and analysis, the motor vehicle autopsy program, and the Maine Crash Reporting System that houses all reportable crashes in the entire state regardless of the investigating agency. The Unit also provides the **basic crash investigation training to all officers** attending the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

The Unit also oversees **Maine's Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Program** providing the licensing, regulatory and administrative oversight for the 2,500 plus licensed Inspection Stations who employ over 8,000 licensed Inspection Technicians who conduct over 1.3 million safety inspections annually. In addition to the regulatory oversight the unit also fields all complaints regarding improper inspections **anywhere in the state**. This Unit also inspects **every school bus in Maine** at least once a year. The Unit provides the **training and instruction on motor vehicle safety inspection standards for all officers in Maine** attending the Maine Criminal Justice Academy along with providing training to every inspection station and technician statewide.

The Traffic Safety Unit also oversees our **Fleet Services and Supply**.

The Traffic Safety Unit houses the state police **Air Wing** that ***provides air support for all law enforcement agencies***, including but not limited to, search and rescue operations, speed enforcement, suspect apprehension assistance, aerial photography for outdoor crime scenes, vehicular pursuits, and personnel transport.

The Traffic Safety Unit has a full time Impaired Driving Reduction Trooper (Specialist) who oversees the states **Drug Recognition Program** along with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. This trooper also collaborates with Academy staff to coordinate and deliver the ***OUI training at every Basic Law Enforcement Training Program for all new officers.***

The Unit is staffed by a Unit Commander (Lieutenant), 2 Sergeants, a Chief Pilot, a pilot, a Motor Vehicle Inspection Supervisor, several specialists, and many civilian support staff members.

Special Projects:

The Support Services Division also oversees the State Police **Special Projects Unit**, which consists of one Lieutenant who is responsible for carrying out special projects and assignments as assigned by the Command Staff. Recent projects include the Body-Worn Camera project, liaison to the Independent Lewiston Commission, Taser replacement for the department, creation of a motorist traffic stops data collection system using EWarning and ECitation software necessitated by the racial profiling legislation passed by the 130th legislature.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The **Maine State Police Investigations Division** is overseen by Investigations Division Major Scott Gosselin, ***provides investigative and forensic assistance to the Operations Division as well as investigative and forensic support all Law Enforcement agencies throughout the state.***

Major Crimes Units:

The State Police Investigations Division has four separate Major Crimes Units:

- Major Crimes Unit - South
- Major Crimes Unit - Central
- Major Crimes Unit - North
- Major Crimes Unit - Unsolved

These units specialize in Major Crimes investigations including but not limited to homicides, gross sexual assaults, embezzlement cases, missing persons cases and DHHS/APS referrals. Per the Office of the Attorney General as outlined in the Death

Investigation Protocol, Maine State Police Major Crimes Units are **responsible for Homicides in all parts of Maine (but for the cities of Portland and Bangor), deaths while in custody or confinement** (including mental health facilities), **deaths of all children under the age of 3 and the suicides of all persons under age 17.**

2024 Maine Homicide Cases
35 Total Homicides as of 1/2/25

Portland Police Department	5 Homicides or 14%
Maine State Police MCU - South	9 Homicides or 26%
Maine State Police MCU - Central	13 Homicides or 37%
Bangor Police Department	5 Homicides or 14%
Maine State Police MCU - North	3 Homicides or 9%

The Maine State Police shares the responsibility to investigate homicides in the State of Maine with both the Portland Police Department and the Bangor Police Department. **Maine State Police investigated 70% of Maine's 35 homicides in 2024.**

Excluding the deaths which resulted from the active shooter in the City of Lewiston, Maine's homicide numbers for 2024 were equal to the number of homicides from 2023. These two years represent the deadliest two-year combination in Maine history. Moreover, the homicides from 2022 (31), homicides from 2023 (51) and homicides from 2024 (35) all combined represent the deadliest three year combination in Maine History.

Each of the three traditional Major Crimes Units (South, Central and North) have a Lieutenant and three 3 Detective Sergeants, 2 Detective Corporals, 1 State Police Investigator and several Detectives including a Polygrapher. The Polygraph Unit is incorporated within the Major Crimes Units. The Major Crimes Units have offices throughout the state.

Despite not being required to do so by the Death Investigation Protocol, the Major Crimes Units also coordinate with local and County law enforcement to screen many unattended deaths and missing persons cases in those respective areas. In addition to these responsibilities many of the Major Crimes Units also participate in local resource sharing agreements as identified below.

Major Crimes Unit – South is headquartered out of the barracks in Gray. Many detectives have offices in the various District Attorney facilities throughout their area of jurisdiction. The unit covers Major Crimes and Cold Cases originating out of the Southern Maine counties of York County, Oxford County, Cumberland County,

Androscoggin County and Franklin County. In addition to assisting with investigating suspicious deaths and being primary investigators in all homicides originating in those five counties, (but for Portland) they participate in call-sharing agreements for DHHS/APS referrals as follows:

- York County - MCU-S handles all DHHS/APS referrals for the six towns of Dayton, Hollis, Limerick, Cornish, Limington and Parsonsfield;
- Cumberland County Sheriff's Office does not participate in any efforts to share DHHS/APS referrals;
- Androscoggin County - MCU-S shares DHHS/APS referrals with the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office for the towns of Turner, Livermore, Minot, Greene, Leeds, Durham and Wales every other month;
- Oxford County - MCU-S shares handling DHHS/APS referrals with the Oxford Sheriff's Department by switching responsibility for these calls every other month; and
- Franklin County - MCU-S handles an occasional DHHS/APS referral as referred by the Franklin Sheriff's Office/DA's Office on an ad-hoc basis.

Major Crimes Unit - Central is headquartered out of the barracks in Augusta. Many detectives have offices in the various District Attorney facilities throughout their area of jurisdiction. The unit covers Major Crimes and Cold Cases originating out of the Central Maine counties of Kennebec, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Somerset, and Sagadahoc. In addition to assisting with investigating suspicious deaths and being primary investigators in all homicides originating in those six counties, they participate in call-sharing agreements for DHHS/APS referrals as follows:

- Kennebec County - MCU-C has an understanding with the local District Attorney to handle DHHS/APS referrals as necessary and determined by the local DA;
- Waldo County - MCU-C shares the responsibility for DHHS/APS referrals with the Waldo County Sheriff's Office;
- Knox County - MCU-C handles an occasional DHHS/APS referral as referred by the Knox County Sheriff's Office on an ad-hoc basis;
- Somerset County - MCU-C handles an occasional DHHS/APS referral as referred by the Somerset County Sheriff's Office on an ad-hoc basis; and
- Lincoln County and Sagadahoc County Sheriff Offices do not participate in any efforts to share DHHS/APS referrals.

Major Crimes Unit – North is headquartered both out of the barracks in Bangor and the barracks in Houlton. As with MCU-S and MCU-C, many detectives have offices in the various District Attorney facilities throughout their area of jurisdiction. The unit covers Major Crimes and Cold Cases originating out of the Northern Maine counties of Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, Washington and Aroostook. In addition to assisting with investigating suspicious deaths and being primary investigators in all homicides originating in those five counties, (but for Bangor) they participate in call-sharing agreements for DHHS/APS referrals as follows:

- Penobscot County – no official agreement with the DAs Office currently for DHHS/APS referrals but the agreement is likely to reflect the current agreement with the Penobscot Sheriff’s Office in consideration of the equitable distribution of cases;
- Piscataquis County Sheriff’s Office does not participate in any efforts to share DHHS/APS referrals;
- Hancock County – MCU-N shares the responsibility for DHHS/APS referrals with the Hancock County Sheriff’s Office;
- Washington County – Depending on the status of current homicide investigations at the time, MCU-N shares the responsibility for DHHS/APS referrals with the Washington County Sheriff’s Office; and
- Aroostook County - Depending on the status of current homicide investigations at the time, MCU-N shares the responsibility for DHHS/APS referrals with the Aroostook County Sheriff’s Office.

Major Crimes Unit – Unsolved - This Unit was created from legislation in 2016 and is currently based out of Headquarters in Augusta. The original legislation included funding for 2 detectives and 1 Forensic Chemist. Since that time, the Maine State Police has committed to expanding the unit by adding 1 Unit Lieutenant, 1 Unit Sergeant, and 1 additional Detective so that there are three detectives assigned to the unit. Each of the 3 detectives now correspond to one of the traditional Major Crimes Unit geographies (south, central and north). Additionally, the Maine State Police has reclassified and added funding to one of the original detective positions and created a Detective Corporal position to assist with unit supervision and leadership as well as reclassified and funded the Forensic Chemist position to a Forensic Chemist II to create an incentive within the Crime Laboratory to do this especially tedious and meticulous work. Finally, the Maine State Police has also temporarily assigned a Criminal Intelligence Analyst to the Unit to help organize complicated old case files and provide trained analysis in some of these old cases.

These detectives continue the special investigations of those homicides and missing persons cases yet to be solved. The sworn members of this Unit collaborate and

coordinate with the specially assigned Forensic Chemist II from the Maine State Police Crime Lab as well as the specially assigned Cold Case prosecutor and victim witness advocate from the Maine Office of the Attorney General.

Currently, the Lieutenant of the Major Crimes Unit - Unsolved is also the Lieutenant of the Special Projects Unit but is under reclassification review to create its own separate Commander position.

Maine State Police Crime Laboratory:

The **Maine State Police Crime Lab** is based out of Augusta and provides forensic evidence processing and testing for ***all police agencies in Maine at no cost***. These services include, DNA, biology, chemistry, latent print and impressions, and firearms.

The Crime Lab also oversees the Maine State Police **Evidence Response Team** that ***respond to major crime scenes anywhere in the state at the request of our field troops, Major Crimes Units, or any other police agency in Maine***. This highly trained, certified, and skilled team examines these crime scenes and establishes the interrelationships of physical evidence involved at the scene. This involves developing, identifying, documenting, collecting, and preserving evidence for purposes of identifying suspects and establishing sequence of the events' possibilities.

The Crime Lab also instructs at every Basic Law Enforcement Training Program class at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for ***all full-time officers***, as well as instructs all troopers in crime scene processing, evidence collection and preservation. The Crime Lab also maintains the State inventory of Sexual Assault Kits providing them to Health Care Partners and is currently working with several advocacy groups related to the collection and retention policies, department inventories, best practices and care as well as the tracking of these kits from their inception.

The Crime Lab is staffed by a Director (Lieutenant), 2 Sergeants, 1 Trooper and several civilian supervisors, and many civilian lab employees with various duties.

Computer Crimes Unit:

The Maine State Police **Computer Crimes Unit** is based out of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro and is ***the only referral location in Maine for all Cybertips regarding child exploitation cases***. The Unit is responsible for the identification, investigation, and apprehension of those who possess, disseminate and manufacture child pornography. The Unit also ***provides technological assistance to all law enforcement agencies in Maine*** regarding electronic mediums such as

computers, tablets, cell phones and other devices that may contain evidence in criminal cases.

In 2024, the Maine State Police also added a small team of sworn personnel to target the online solicitation of sex with minors. Currently, this team is collaborating with other municipal and federal partners in this venture and are having strong success with the project.

The Unit also conducts forensic examinations of these electronic devices. The Unit provides **training and assistance to all officers** on the safe handling of electronic devices to ensure valuable data is not lost while securing these devices for forensic examinations that are later conducted at the Unit.

The Computer Crimes Unit is staffed by a Director (Lieutenant), 3 Sergeants, 3 Detective Corporals, several Detectives and Special Agents, along with Analysts and other civilian support staff with various duties.

OFFICE of PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Office of Professional Standards (OPS) is a stand-alone unit and investigates any and all complaints against sworn personnel and conducts audits of the department's operations at the direction of Lt. Col. Brian Scott.

The OPS is currently staffed by a Captain and a Sergeant but should have at least another Sergeant in order to provide inspectional services and assist the agency with gaining MLEAP accreditation.

INTEGRITY * FAIRNESS * COMPASSION * EXCELLENCE

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