What Is The Violent Crime Support Unit?

The Violent Crime Support Unit (VCSU) is a mobile unit within the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control. VCSU is available for on-site analytical, intelligence, and case management support during the investigation of serious violent crimes. Trained criminal intelligence analysts provide products and services such as timelines, link charts, and telephone toll analysis, tailored to the specific needs of the investigation. VCSU can also provide an investigation case file in an electronic format with full-text search capabilities.

Case review services are available whereby unsolved, violent crime cases can be submitted to a panel of experienced investigators from agencies throughout the state. This panel will re-examine reports, leads, and evidence, and make recommendations for action. Funding is available through the Violent Crime Support Unit for expert professional services, non-conventional laboratory testing, and/or technical assistance if deemed appropriate after case evaluation.

Contact Information:

Division of Drug and Crime Control
Missouri State Highway Patrol
P.O. Box 568
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0568

Toll Free: (800) 877-3452
Telephone: (573) 751-3452
Fax: (573) 526-5577

For the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop Headquarters nearest you, consult your local phone directory.

Emergency Highway Assistance
(800) 525-5555

Road Conditions
1-888-275-6636

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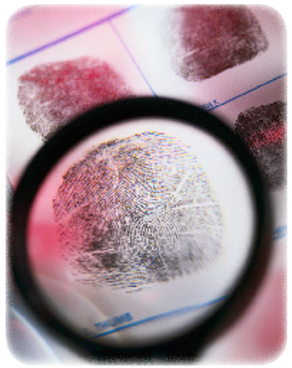
VIOLENT CRIME SUPPORT UNIT

HOW CAN VCSU HELP?

CASE MANAGEMENT

The Violent Crime Support Unit can provide an agency with on-site civilian criminal intelligence analysts during the first three days of the investigation of a serious, violent crime. This time can be extended as needed on a case-by-case basis.

The criminal intelligence analysts will:



1. Provide analytical services and develop link charts, flow charts, time lines, case progress visuals, and/or courtroom graphics.
2. Enter reports and leads into a case management system which allows the analysts to:
    a. Identify commonalities using full text searches.
    b. Identify missing report narratives & attachments.
    c. Identify potential leads for follow-up.
    d. Make and note corrections to name spellings & dates.
    e. Create timeline entries, evidence listing, and personal profiles for all persons identified during the investigation.
3. Process requests for information and provide:
    a. Telephone subscriber information.
    b. Telephone toll analysis & mapping.
    c. Employment checks.
    d. Criminal history records.
    e. Intelligence data from international, national, state, & local databases.
    f. Department of Revenue access to search:
        i. Title histories,
        ii. Driver histories,
        iii. License plate partial number checks,
        iv. Vehicles and licensed drivers by address, and
        v. Specific types, makes, models, or years of vehicles registered in a certain area.
    g. Off-line MULES and NCIC searches.
    h. Missouri and out-of-state driver license photos.

4. Provide the appropriate case agent, commanding officer, prosecuting attorney or administrative officer with the case file in an electronic, searchable format.
5. Other analytical products and services as needed.

CASE REVIEWS

The Violent Crime Support Unit can coordinate a formal review of an unsolved violent crime. A panel of experienced investigators from criminal justice agencies around the state that have agreed to participate in case reviews will provide this service. Expenses for case reviews will be paid from the Violent Crime Support Unit Fund.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Funding has been established to assist criminal justice agencies in obtaining professional services necessary during the investigation of a serious violent crime, but not commonly available within the criminal justice community. Such services might include professional and technical forensic services and special laboratory testing.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Who oversees the Violent Crime Support Unit?
The Violent Crime Support Unit is supervised by the director of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control.

2. Who can request the services of VCSU?
Any major case squad during activation, and any local, municipal, county, or state criminal justice agency can request VCSU assistance. Priority will be given to multi-agency investigations.

3. When should VCSU be asked for their assistance?
VCSU should be contacted **as soon as possible** after discovery of the crime or upon activation of the major case squad.

4. How long will VCSU assist with the investigation?
VCSU stays on site for the activation of the major case squad and continues to provide support throughout the entire investigative process.

5. Who can submit cases for review?
Any criminal justice agency within the state with originating authority on an unsolved, violent crime can submit cases for review.

6. Who can request funds for professional services?
Any criminal justice agency involved in a violent crime investigation in which the Missouri State Highway Patrol or VCSU has assisted, and a need exists for special services not commonly provided free-of-charge, can request funds. This does not include prosecution services.

7. How can the services of VCSU be obtained?
During normal business hours, call (800) 877-3452, OR call the nearest Missouri State Highway Patrol troop headquarters. Requests for case reviews and professional services must be submitted in writing to:

Director, Division of Drug and Crime Control
Missouri State Highway Patrol
P.O. Box 568
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0568
Fax: (573) 526-5577