

Office of the Auditor General
Preliminary Survey Summary

Special Operations Division
Michigan Department of State Police

August 2016

The auditor general shall conduct post audits of financial transactions and accounts of the state and of all branches, departments, offices, boards, commissions, agencies, authorities and institutions of the state established by this constitution or by law, and performance post audits thereof.

Article IV, Section 53 of the Michigan Constitution



OAG

Office of the Auditor General

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Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA
Auditor General

August 10, 2016

Colonel Kriste Kibbey Etue, Director
Michigan Department of State Police
7150 Harris Drive
Dimondale, Michigan

Dear Colonel Etue:

I am pleased to provide this preliminary survey summary of the Special Operations Division, Michigan Department of State Police. Because we did not identify significant concerns that would warrant the additional use of our audit resources, we have decided to terminate this performance audit.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us during our preliminary survey. If you have any questions, please call me or Laura J. Hirst, CPA, Deputy Auditor General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Ringler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Ringler
Auditor General

PRELIMINARY SURVEY SUMMARY

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

RESULTS

Our preliminary survey did not identify significant concerns that would warrant the additional use of our audit resources to complete a performance audit. Therefore, we have terminated this project and did not conduct sufficient testing to conclude on the Special Operations Division's (SOD's) overall effectiveness and efficiency.

FACTORS IMPACTING AUDIT TERMINATION

- All SOD members reviewed were properly licensed, certified, qualified, and/or trained, as required.
- SOD properly maintained and accounted for the weapons, explosives, narcotics, and equipment inventories reviewed.
- All SOD vehicles reviewed were properly maintained and inventoried.

BACKGROUND

Description: SOD's Field Support and Aviation Section and State Security Operations Section provide specialized assistance services throughout the State of Michigan. In total, SOD responded to 20,243 calls for service between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2016.

Field Support and Aviation Section includes:

- Aviation Unit - Provides essential aviation support to all Michigan law enforcement agencies and to the citizen community at large. The Unit employs 5 full-time pilots and 2 mechanics and has a fleet of 2 airplanes, 3 helicopters, and 2 unmanned aircraft. Between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2016, they responded to 2,420 calls for service.



(All photographs provided by the Michigan Department of State Police.)

- Bomb Squad - Responds Statewide to suspected explosive devices and weapons of mass destruction incidents. The Bomb Squad consists of 15 members assigned to seven regional teams. Between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2016, the Bomb Squad responded to 1,264 calls for service.



- Canine Unit - The Unit's 48 German shepherds are trained in tracking; building, area, and property searches; obedience and aggression training; and detection of narcotics, explosives, cadaver, and accelerants. Between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2016, the Unit responded to 14,544 calls for service.



- Emergency Support Team - Utilizes equipment and training necessary for extremely difficult or dangerous tasks, such as hostage rescue, barricaded gunmen, high-risk arrest and search warrant service, VIP security, and counterterrorism. The Team is also responsible for deploying chemical munitions and providing specialized training for the Michigan Department of State Police (MSP). The Team has two full-time employees and approximately 60 additional specially trained team members, including troopers, sergeants, and lieutenants

stationed throughout the State. Between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2016, the Team responded to 797 calls for service.



- Marine Services Team (formerly Underwater Recovery Unit) - Provides diving expertise in the areas of body recovery, evidence collection, and recovery of stolen property and assists other State, local, and federal agencies with various activities. The Team has one full-time employee and has various watercraft and specially trained troopers and sergeants stationed throughout the State. Between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2016, the Team responded to 228 calls for service.



State Security Operations Section includes:

- Capitol Security Unit - Provides manned patrols, oversight, and security of all downtown State of Michigan properties. From January 2014 through March 2016, the Unit responded to approximately 990 complaints and logged over 62,200 patrol hours.



- Executive Protection Detail - Provides protection for the Governor and visiting dignitaries 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Expenditures: SOD expended approximately \$42.8 million from October 1, 2013 through April 30, 2016, nearly all of which is funded through General Fund/general purpose appropriations.

Employees: As of May 31, 2016, SOD had 56 full-time employees. SOD also utilizes specially trained MSP troopers, sergeants, and lieutenants assigned to various posts throughout Michigan as members of the various teams.

SCOPE

Our preliminary survey generally covered the period October 1, 2013 through April 30, 2016 and included a limited review of SOD's processes related to:

- Specialized employee training.
- Weapons, explosives, narcotics, and equipment inventory controls.
- Employee certification and licensure.
- Equipment maintenance.

PURPOSE

Within a performance audit, we design the preliminary survey to obtain an understanding of the core activities within an entity or a program and to identify potential program improvements and/or deficiencies that could impair management's ability to conduct its

operations in an effective and efficient manner. If the results of a preliminary survey do not identify significant concerns, our practice is to terminate the planned performance audit.

Preliminary survey procedures are limited in nature and should not be considered a completed performance audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. In addition, our preliminary survey procedures would not necessarily disclose the presence or absence of any material conditions and/or reportable conditions. Given that the procedures we employed did not constitute a performance audit, we will not issue a performance audit report and we do not express conclusions regarding the effectiveness or efficiency of SOD.

