



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

**Special Conservators of the Peace (SCOP)
Program**

Virginia Crime Commission
October 21, 2014



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SCOP Task Force

- **Background**
- **SB 495**
- **Four sessions**
- **Focused on four program areas**



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SCOP Task Force Members **Secretary Brian Moran, Chair**

- **Victoria Cochran**
- **Tonya Vincent**
- **Del. Lingamfelter**
- **Senator Lucas**
- **Senator Norment**
- **Delegate Surovell**
- **Fran Ecker**
- **Richard Conway, ACA**
- **Chief Meyers**
- **Dana Schrad**
- **Chief Tarasovic**
- **Sheriff Hines**
- **John Jones**
- **Colonel Flaherty**
- **Judge McGinty**
- **Judge Snukals**



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SCOP Task Force Members

- **John Hall**
- **Edward Macon, Esq.**
- **Kevin Carroll**
- **Chief Olah**
- **Chief Hinkley**
- **Edward Jewett, Clerk**
- **Clair Cardwell, Esq.**
- **Jane Chambers, Esq.**
- **Rick Pleasants**
- **Chief Harmon**



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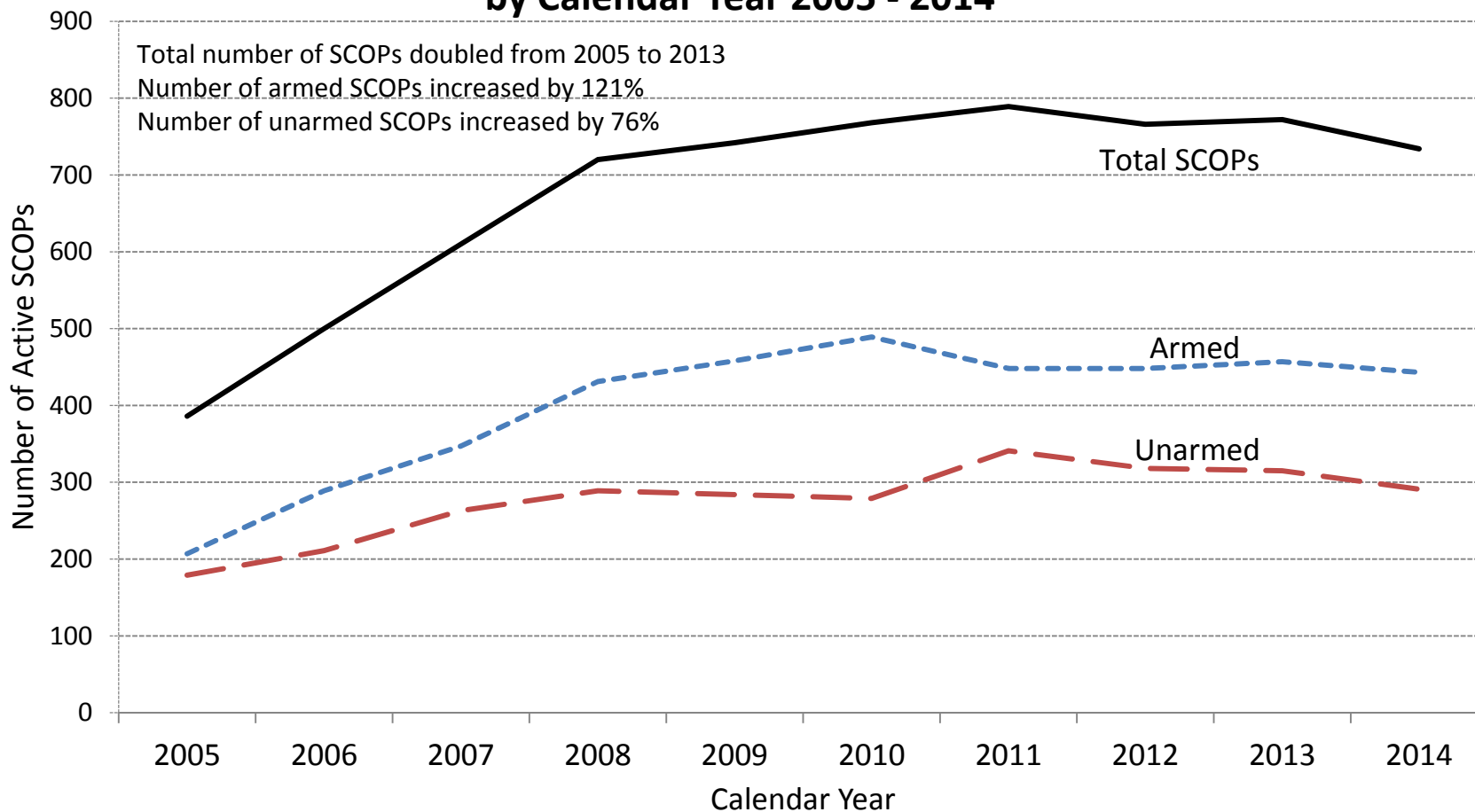
Virginia Code § 19.2-13

- Statutory program for citizens to obtain law enforcement arrest authority through circuit courts.



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Number of Active SCOPs by Calendar Year 2005 - 2014





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Overview

Four Key Program Areas

- Training
- Jurisdiction and Appearance
- Registration
- Appointment Process and Court Orders



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Training

What training is necessary to protect SCOPs from harm and to adequately protect the public?

Should training depend on SCOP duties?



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Training Requirement Comparisons

- 24 hours = Unarmed SCOP
- 40 hours = Armed SCOP
- 50-53 hours = Armed Security Guard
- 580-1,200 hours = Law Enforcement
- 80 hours = Auctioneer
- 150 hours = Nail Technician



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Training Requirements – SCOP (24 hours)

8 hours - legal procedures, civil law, criminal and constitutional law;

4 hours - basic and juvenile law;

4 hours - obtaining an arrest warrant and issuing a Uniform Summons;

4 hours - Use of Force and Liability issues;

1 hour - rules of evidence;

1 hour - court room testimony;

2 hours - orientation



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Training Requirements – Armed SCOP (+ 16 hours)

Armed SCOPs must take:

- introduction to handguns,
- care of handguns,
- range safety,
- principles of marksmanship,
- use of deadly force, and
- justifiable deadly force



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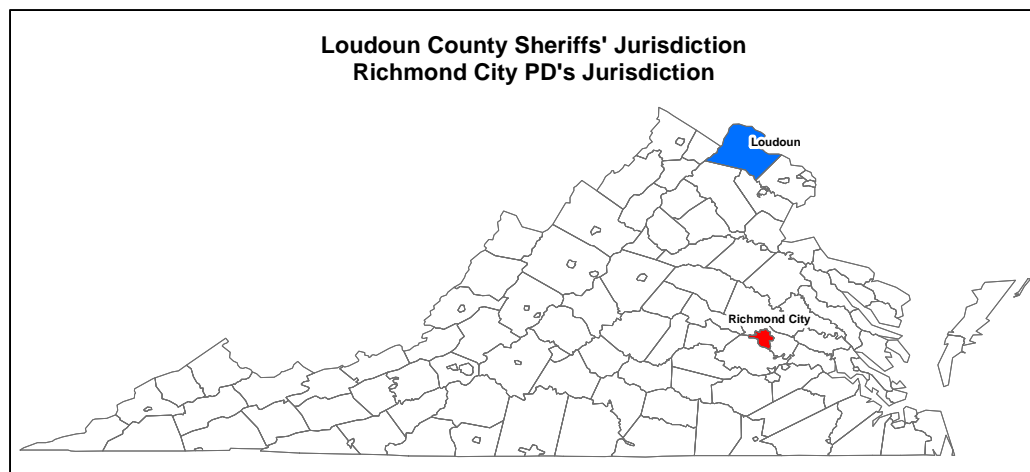
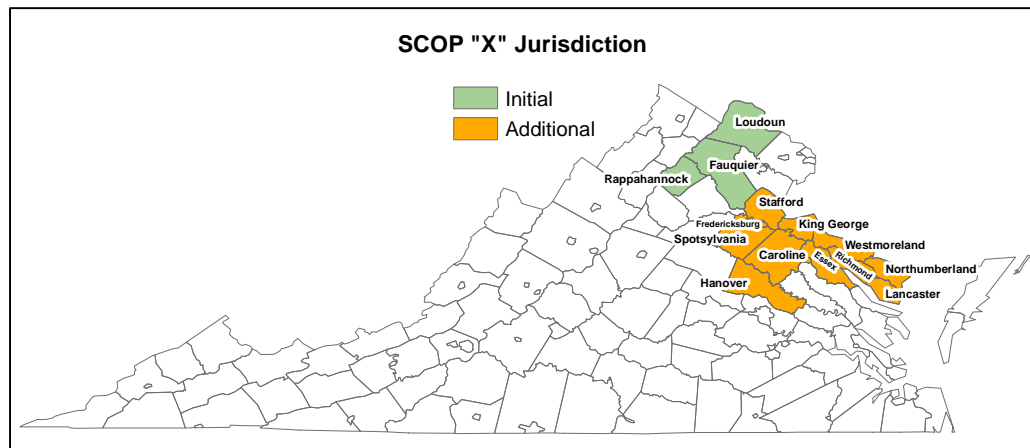
Jurisdiction





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Jurisdiction





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Jurisdiction

Should SCOPs working for private corporations be limited to enforcing laws on the corporation's real property?

Should courts in one jurisdiction be authorized to appoint SCOPS in another jurisdiction?



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Appearance

What insignias/badges should be displayed on SCOP uniforms and vehicles?

Should an SCOP wear the Seal of the Commonwealth if they work for a private employer?



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Appearance





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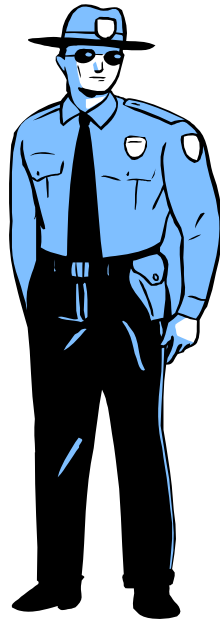
Appearance



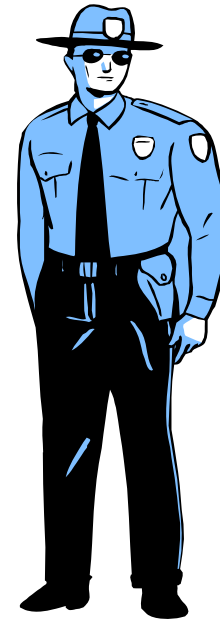


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Appearance + Training



24/40 hours
SCOP



580-1,200 hours
Law Enforcement



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Registration

Should anyone be exempt from registration?

Should companies employing SCOPS be registered?

Should companies that provide contract SCOP services be regulated?



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Appointment Process and Court Orders

Who should be involved in the appointment process?

What information is helpful to determine the necessity of peace and security?

How long should courts retain jurisdiction over appointment orders? (21 day rule)



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Future Concerns

Liability for SCOPS, employers, and
Commonwealth

Government responsibility – state actors? Who
is responsible for them?

Constitutional questions

Policy – do we want private police officers?

Potential for Abuse (ex: Sovereign Citizens)