



True Blue Report

Quarterly Newsletter of the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit

Volume III, Issue II
July 2007

Louisiana State Police
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UPCOMING SIU MEETINGS

August 1, 2007 10:00am
Bossier PD Training Academy

September 5, 2007 9:30am
Baton Rouge LSP HQ

October 3, 2007 10:00am
Bossier PD Training Academy



Field Office Highlights:

Alexandria	2
Baton Rouge	2
Lafayette	2
Monroe	3
New Orleans	3
Shreveport	3
SSA/CDI	4
Statistical Information	4

Chop Shop Live

On May 23, 2007 The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit participated in a live event with a Baton Rouge News Station, WAFB 9news, during their 10 o'clock news called "Chop Shop Live". During the event viewers were able to watch as a team of professionals stripped apart a 1997 Ford Mustang GT. The team of professionals included Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit, NICB, Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office and Baton Rouge Police Department. During the 10

o'clock news they where in the news station's parking lot, where they stripped the Mustang of its parts while a clock was running to show the viewers how fast it can be done.

Although the vehicle appeared to be in great condition, it had previously been involved in a traffic accident and had significant damage to the frame. The insurance company "totaled" the



vehicle after determining the cost of repairing it exceeded its actual value. Vehicles like this can often

be much more valuable when their individual parts are sold on the black market, rather than selling the entire vehicle. As the team stripped apart the vehicle, Greg Meriwether, reporter for 9news, interviewed Kate Hollcraft with Allstate, Tom Zimmer with NICB and Lt. Allen Carpenter with the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit, who gave tips on how to prevent their vehicle from getting stolen and how to know if they're potentially buying a stolen car.



More pictures from Chop Shop Live on page 4.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

NICB:
The Mega Special Investigations Academy will be held September 24 - 28, 2007 at the Marriot City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, California 94607
www.nicb.org

VIN Switching Scheme

Subjects steal a vehicle from a dealership by swapping keys, cutting keys, or by using traditional methods. In the case of key cuts, the subjects will have a contact at the dealership that cuts a duplicate set of keys for monetary gain. In the case of the key swap, subjects distract a salesperson while pretending to be interested in purchasing the vehicle and then swap the key for the vehicle with a different key of the same manufacturer. Subjects then return to the dealership after hours and steal the vehicle.

Either prior to or after the vehicle is stolen, subjects or their associates purchase a salvaged vehicle that is the same make and model, not always the same year. The Public VIN plates are then switched so the stolen vehicle can assume the identity of the salvaged vehicle. The stolen vehicle, with the salvaged vehicle's identity, is sold to a consumer as a salvaged rebuilt vehicle and the salvaged vehicle is destroyed.

True Blue Report

Alexandria - 3654 Government St., Alexandria LA 71302, (318) 484-2423

Bail Bondsman Lands In Jail

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit concluded a two month investigation into allegations of Insurance Fraud and Theft being conducted by a bail bondsman in the Rapides Parish Area.

The State Police investigation began in March 2007 after the Louisiana Department of Insurance forwarded a complaint alleging the bail bondsman had written and accepted payment

for bonds, but never remitted the payments back to the bail bonding company's home office. Bail bonding is an act of insurance and is therefore monitored by the Louisiana Department of Insurance.

After a review of the company's records by State Police investigators, it was discovered that the bail bondsman had failed to remit premium payments to the bail bonding company and failed to account for prepaid bonds which were issued to him by the bail bond-

ing company.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Rapides Parish Bail Bondsman was arrested and charged with 124 counts of Theft and 108 counts of Failure to Remit Insurance Premiums.

If convicted, he faces a term of imprisonment, with or without hard labor, not to exceed five years on each count.



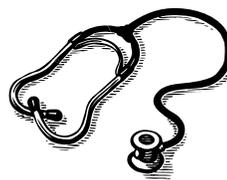
Baton Rouge - 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge LA 70806, (225) 925-3818

Misrepresentation To Receive Health Care Benefits

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/ Auto Theft Unit Baton Rouge Office received a complaint from an insurance company that alleges one of their policy holders had signed and submitted fraudu-

lent health care enrollment forms to obtain medical benefits.

The investigation revealed that the insured listed his two live-in companions as spouses on his health care enrollment forms. When the insurance



company requested proof of marriage and divorce, the insured admitted that he had not been married to neither companion whom he had listed on the medical enrollment form. As a result of the insured misrepresentation, his insurance company paid out \$764 in benefits to a person who was not entitled to such benefits.

Lafayette - 113 Borman Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 262-2051

Jump-In Crash

In May 2007, the Lafayette field office arrested an Evangeline Parish man on felony charges of Insurance Fraud and Injuring Public Records. The arrest

was the culmination of an investigation into a jump-in



crash which occurred in Ville Platte, Louisiana. After receiving a complaint from GEICO, the investigation revealed that the Ville Platte man's step-son, a juvenile, was a driver in an at fault crash on Martin Luther King Street. The juvenile jumped out of the vehicle after the crash and fled the scene on foot only to return a short time later with his step-father. Both step-son and step-father then told the investigating officer that the step-father was an

occupant in the vehicle at the time of the crash and the step-father took the opportunity to file a bodily injury claim against GEICO. Little did they know, however, that a witness "saw the whole thing." Given the heads up, GEICO denied the man's claim and reported the crime to LSP. Troopers investigated GEICO's complaint and arrested the man on a warrant issued by the 13th Judicial District Court of Evangeline Parish.

True Blue Report

Monroe - 3030 Aurora Ave., Suite 107, Monroe LA 71201, (318) 362-4588

Ouachita Parish Man Arrested for Forgery

An Ouachita Parish man filed three disability claims between November 03, 2004 and July 19, 2006. He received a total of \$13,366.67 on two of the claims and was denied on the third. The claim and medical forms he submitted to the insurance company

contained forged signatures for his employer, four doctors and a nurse.

LSP Investigators verified the forged signatures from the claimant's employer, who advised investigators that he was terminated from his job on November 03, 2004. Investigators also verified signatures from the doctors and

nurse and they confirmed that the signatures were all forged.

On June 27, the Ouachita Parish man surrendered himself at Ouachita Parish Correctional Center to Louisiana State Police personnel and was arrested.

New Orleans - 2400 Veteran's Memorial Blvd., Suite 200, Kenner LA 70062, (504) 471-2716

Producer Fraud

After being served a Cease and Desist order in 2000 by the Department of Insurance, a New Orleans agent was able to obtain another producer's license under false pretenses. In June 2006, he obtained another insurance license by submitting an application with incorrect personal information. It was not until after he was issued another producer's license that the Department of

Insurance discovered it was the same person they suspended in 2000.

During the course of investigating the agent's license application, the Insurance Fraud Unit discovered he was actively issuing policies for several companies. Furthermore it was discovered he was producing bogus life insurance policies to obtain advanced commission payments. He used the personal information

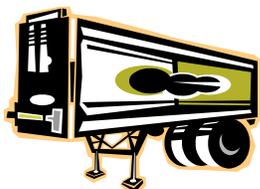
from previous customers and false information, to fabricate 18 life insurance applications. Individuals stated that they did not purchase the policies or give him permission to obtain the policies. The fraudulent policies were obtained through two insurance companies from August to September 2006 and he was advanced commission payments of \$12,857.39.

Shreveport - 3010 Knight St., Suite 220, Shreveport LA 71105, (318) 862-9913

What Really Happened Was.....

In early August 2005, Troop G dispatched TFC Paul Harris to rural Red River Parish to investigate a reported minor, one-vehicle crash involving a tractor trailer. As a trained accident reconstructionist, it didn't take TFC Harris long to realize the crash was staged. As documented during his crash investigation, the driver claimed she was driving at 45 mph when the flatbed trailer separated from the tractor. She further claimed once the trailer struck the tractor's rear tires, the tractor was forced off the road where it struck a

tree. Oddly enough, the separated trailer remained almost perfectly centered in the travel lane with all appearances it was parked there. Her passenger, a.k.a. boyfriend, claimed they were traveling at 55 mph when the trailer fell off the tractor. The conflicting stories didn't stop there however, the driver claimed her boyfriend was napping in the sleeper when the crash occurred, but the driver's seat was pushed back as if the boyfriend was driving.



Regardless of their inconsistencies in how the

"crash" occurred, the investigation revealed the evidence at the scene did not support their statements.

Soon after the boyfriend's bodily injury claim in July 2006, Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit investigators reviewed the overwhelming evidence gathered during the crash investigation. Despite their inconsistencies in how the crash occurred, not to mention the evidence gathered against them, both maintained their stories. At the conclusion of the investigation in June 2007, investigators arrested the driver and her boyfriend on one count of insurance fraud each.

Trooper Spotlight: Wayne Vidrine



Senior Trooper Wayne Vidrine is a veteran of the department for thirteen years. He started his service with the Louisiana State Police on June 19, 1994. Prior to his employment with LSP he was employed as a Detective for the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office. While being a road trooper at both Troop A in Baton Rouge and Troop I in Lafayette, he often served as a Field Training Officer. He is certified in Accident Reconstruction and has been tenured as an expert in both Evangeline and St. Landry Parishes. He has testified as an expert in Occupant Kinetics (the study of an occupant's motion during a crash). He was assigned as a Gaming Agent to the Grand Casino Coushatta, where he investigated all criminal activity at the casino and performed background checks on all key employees. He was recognized by the department by receiving the following awards; Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service Award, and a Unit Citation. Trooper Vidrine transferred into Insurance Fraud on December 04, 2006.

Outside of the world of State Police, Wayne enjoys spending time with his family; wife, Jenny, and their three children; Jordan (13), Emily (10) and Hailey (8). Wayne also enjoys duck hunting with his three children.

Aside from being a State Police Insurance Fraud Investigator, he along with his wife, owns and operates a cow-calf operation as well as a hay baling company. They raise and sell Angus cattle and produce bales of hay. Wayne's children compete at the local, state and national level in shows with some of the calves they raise.

Most Frequently Stolen Vehicle in Louisiana

A vehicle is stolen in the United States every 27 seconds. In Louisiana, the vehicle most frequently stolen in recent years is the 2003 Dodge Ram. Here's the complete list of Louisiana's most frequently stolen vehicles:

1. 2003 Dodge Ram Pickup
2. 1994 Chevrolet Full Size C/K 1500 Pickup
3. 2001 Ford F150 Series
4. 1995 Honda Accord
5. 2003 Dodge Caravan
6. 1994 Oldsmobile Cutlass
7. 2000 Dodge Intrepid
8. 1998 Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee
9. 1991 Toyota Camry
10. 1997 Ford Taurus



2003 Dodge Ram Pickup



We're on the Web!

www.lsp.org/ifu.html

True Blue Report

Social Security Admin/Cooperative Disability Investigations

4354 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd. D-125, Baton Rouge LA 70816, (225) 298-5566

The SSA/CDI Unit received 48 new allegations and opened 34 cases. The unit closed 19 cases. One defendant was found guilty and sentenced to serve 5 years probation and was ordered to pay \$18,641 in restitution.

SSA/CDI	
SSA Savings	\$1,045,360.00
Non SSA Savings	\$607,535.00
Total Savings	\$1,652,945.00
Fraud Losses	\$340,672.00

Pictures From Chop Shop Live (continued from page 1)...



BEFORE



AFTER







Sgt. Rickie Guhman and Tpr. Joe Cuccia participate in Chop Shop Live



to see the video of chop shop live:
<http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?s=6560221>

Statistically Speaking - Quarterly IFU Statistics

	2nd Qtr 2006	2nd Qtr 2007	YTD 2007
Cases Opened	43	55	108
Cases Closed	53	51	94
Arrests	31	44	81