



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Cyber Crimes Unit Update Before the Kansas Legislative Budget Committee

**Kirk D. Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation**

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Dear Chairman Waymaster and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kirk Thompson and I serve as the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on our Cyber Crimes Unit.

History

During the 2019 Legislative session, the KBI requested \$1,935,850 in funding for 15 new positions. Nine of those positions were to develop and implement a Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU) and six of the positions were to create a Financial Crimes Unit. Through Legislative budget negotiations we received a reduced amount in Fiscal Year 2020 of \$1 million to fund eight new positions. After receiving Legislative feedback we focused our efforts on the implementation of a CCU. The following information is an update regarding the startup of this Unit.

Mission and Scope of Work

The mission of the CCU is to conduct cyber-related investigations and gather cyber-related intelligence. The CCU, once fully trained and equipped, will focus their efforts on Cyber Investigations and Cyber Analysis. Cyber Analysis is the real-time analysis of cyber-attacks and cyber-related incidents to enable effective prevention and investigation efforts. Cyber Investigations includes the investigation of network intrusions, denials of service, fraud, identity theft and other cyber-related investigations. The funding provided to implement the unit is not sufficient to establish or add to efforts related to the other cyber tracks, such as technical support or exploitation investigations (ICAC).

Organization Structure

The CCU is organized under the direction of the Field Investigations Division (FID), SE Region and Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Randy Ewy. Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Greg Skelton directly manages the CCU and its personnel. The unit will staff personnel to the Wichita Regional Office in Kechi, to the Kansas City Office in Lenexa, and the Garden City Office in Garden City. Eventually, two of the CCU members will be assigned to the FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force and the US Secret Service Cyber Crimes Task Force in Kansas City. The CCU will be comprised of a first-line supervisor (ASAC), six special agents, and a criminal intelligence analyst.

Implementation: Staffing

- ✓ Transferred two special agents to the CCU from existing personnel.
- ✓ Initiated a hiring process to hire four additional special agents to fully staff the CCU. One special agent is already hired and in training and the three remaining candidates were given conditional offers November 13th.
- ✓ The candidates all have an IT background or education. Two special agent candidates, if successful, will be assigned to the Kansas City office and eventually assigned to the FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force and US Secret Service Cyber Task Force both in KC.
- ✓ The third person is a TSA candidate who will be assigned to the Wichita RO and will need to attend KLETC along with all the other basic KBI training.

Implementation: Training

- ✓ ASAC and 2 current special agents attended the “Digital Forensics for Investigators Annual Conference” put on by the FBI.
- ✓ ASAC and 2 current special agents have registered for the US Secret Service National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) in Alabama but await an assigned date for attendance.
- ✓ Once all personnel are hired, the CCU as a whole will attend the FBI week-long cyber investigations course in Kansas City.
- ✓ Other pending courses are:
 - Basic Network Investigation Course, March 2020
 - Social Networking Investigations Class, May 2020
 - Network Intrusion Response Program, March 2020
 - Digital Evidence Investigations Course, April 2020

Timeline

1. Current staff trained and ready to accept casework – July 2020
2. Newly hired agent out of Advanced Investigations Academy and cyber training program – October 2020
3. Two special agent candidates currently in hiring process, out of Advanced Investigations Academy and cyber training program, November 2020
4. Two special agent candidates assigned to FBI and US Secret Service cyber task forces, November 2021
5. One Technical Special Agent candidate currently in hiring process, out of KLETC, out of Advanced Investigations Academy, and cyber training program – December 2020.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to stand for questions.