



Hanover County Sheriff's Office
Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff



News Release

Contact Lt. Doug Goodman (804)-365-6312

June 20th, 2003

Yesterday, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office along with the Henrico Division of Police and the United States Postal Inspector's raided a motel room in northern Henrico in connection with a check fraud investigation.

The raid netted 11 arrests and officer seized equipment to produce fraudulent checks.

Investigators have been following a string of fraudulent checks in the Richmond Metro area for the past two months. Their investigation reveals that a ring of six individuals from North Carolina were obtaining checking account numbers from mail stolen from businesses across central Virginia.

Then using a laptop personal computer, accessories and readily available software programs, these individuals would print new checks using the victim businesses checking account and bank routing numbers. This group interacted with other individuals in the Richmond area, to cash these checks that total over \$150,000 at this time. Investigators are still tracking financial leads to determine a total value taken.

"The Sheriff's Office is working with Inspectors from the Postal Service and local jurisdictions in not only the central Virginia area, but also as far south as Atlanta, Georgia to determine the extent of this criminal enterprise," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff of Hanover County.

If you have any questions, please contact Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6312.

Colonel V. Stuart Cook,
Sheriff