



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



**News Release**

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

July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004

During the past two months, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office requested indictments for 46 individuals from Multi-Jurisdictional Grand Juries meeting in Hanover and Henrico. Based on probable cause presented, 104 indictments were issued for these individuals in reference to major narcotics distribution in and around the Town of Ashland.

In March of 2003, the Chief Rick Pleasants, of the Ashland Police Department, requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office in regards to a growing drug trafficking problem. Investigators from the Sheriff's Office conducted multiple surveillance and covert operations focused on "Open Air Drug Markets" that existed along the corridors of South Taylor St., Randolph St., Arlington St. and the apartment communities of Ashland Woods, Misty Pines, and Henry Clay. Motels along the U.S. Route 1 were also sites of multiple drug transactions.

Between March 2003 and October 2003, operations focused on combating these crimes netted an additional 77 drug distribution charges on 35 individuals. During these operations, it became very clear to the investigators that many of the suppliers were traveling from City of Richmond, Henrico County, and Caroline County to peddle their products on the streets of Ashland. Many of those involved who had Ashland addresses were in fact new residents to the area.

"We are very appreciative of the assistance provided to us by the Sheriff's Office," said Chief Pleasants. "Street level narcotics distribution is a quality of life issue, and we will continue to take extraordinary measures to combat this problem."

Investigators conducted nine search warrants and recovered quantities of narcotics with a street value of over \$26,000.

Investigators also seized \$22,000 in U.S. Currency, four weapons, and five vehicles.

“We are very pleased with the results of this investigation, but the continuing trend of narcotics entering the Town from outside jurisdictions is deeply troubling,” said Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff of Hanover County. “We will continue to work with the Ashland Police Department on strategies to stem the tide of these criminal enterprises and strive to mitigate the environmental factors that are conducive to street level drug dealing.”

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call on Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6312.

Colonel V. Stuart Cook  
Sheriff

