



## *Media Release* *Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force*

For Further Information Contact:

Chief John Keohane, Hopewell Police (804) 541-2282  
Chief Jeff Faries, Colonial Heights Police (804) 520-9311

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**MEDIA EMBARGO UNTIL 2:30 PM  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013**

**\*\* New Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force launches with Operation Summer Splash \*\***

On July 23, 2013, the newly formed Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force began their first initiative, Operation Summer Splash, a two-day joint operation to round-up fugitives within the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg, and the counties of Prince George and Dinwiddie.

This first initiative of the Strike Force is being spearheaded by the U.S. Marshals Service. Other Strike Force Agency partners in this operation are Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Prince George County Police, Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Strike Force also includes the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), United States Attorney's Office, Commonwealth's Attorneys from the cities of Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Hopewell and the counties of Prince George and Dinwiddie, Virginia Attorney General's Office, Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force is a pilot program that serves as a new element of the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety's business model. This model uses the platform to regionally convene State, Federal, and local public safety resources to collectively work to further improve the safety and quality of life of the citizens of the Commonwealth. Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker chose the tri-cities area for this model initiative and convened several planning meetings with the local partners in order to launch this new comprehensive regional partnership.

At the culmination of the operation, the Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force will hold a press conference. At that media event, members of the Strike Force will be present to discuss the formation, mission, and focus of the newly formed partnership, as well as the results of the first operation.

## Media Advisory

Please embargo this release until you arrive at the media staging area for the press conference or until after 2:30 p.m. on July 24, 2013.

### Press Conference Details:

WHO: Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force

WHEN: 2:30 pm – Wednesday, July 24, 2013

WHERE: Colonial Heights Police Department Parking Lot adjacent to the mobile command posts being utilized for this operation.

Thank you all in advance for your assistance in handling this active operation.

