


Atlanta Police Department – Standard Operating Procedure			
	APD.SOP.5142 – Violent Crime Interdiction Section (VCIS) Effective Date: November 4th, 2025		
Chief Darin Schierbaum	Signature by: DS	Date Signed: 11/4/2025	Expires:2029

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

APD Staff,

The Policy and Standards Section is dedicated to providing the department, and its employees, with accurate, understandable and transparent policies. In order to publish policies that reflect the most up-to-date standards, the Policy and Standard Section regularly reviews all policies to ensure that they are reflective of the current mission and objectives of the Atlanta Police Department.

Minor changes were made during the review and renewal of APD.SOP.5142 – Violent Crime Interdiction Section, to include:

- Changes to language to ensure it reflects the operational procedures within each team.
- Reorganization of the team and their responsibilities.
- Clear outline of operational objectives.

Thank you and stay informed!

Policy and Standards Section
Planning, Research, and Accreditation Unit



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1. PURPOSE

This directive establishes policies and procedures for the Violent Crimes Interdiction Section (VCIS) that operate under the Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

2. POLICY

2.1 VCIS is charged with utilizing intelligence led policing concepts coupled with proactive law enforcement operations aimed at detecting, investigating, and prosecuting individuals involved in violent crimes within the City of Atlanta.

2.2 VCIS Crime Strategy:

1. Identify crime patterns, hot spot locations and offenders involved in criminal activity through analytical data methods and traditional policing concepts.
2. Coordinate intelligence with key stakeholders internal and external of APD.
3. Leverage and deploy collaborative partnership resources aimed at violent crime reduction.
4. Arrest violent criminals and seek adjudication within the judicial system.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Commander will monitor the implementation of this directive.

3.2 The VCIS Commander and Assistant VCIS Commander will be responsible for the successful implementation of this directive to ensure effective operations of the section.

3.3 VCIS Unit Commanders and Supervisors will enforce and ensure compliance with this directive. The Unit Commanders and supervisor(s) within VCIS are responsible for identifying real time crime patterns with the assistance of the crime analyst and statistical officer assigned to the VCIS. They will ensure the proper training of their personnel and monitor the safe and efficient use of equipment used by their employees. They will be also responsible for the maintenance of documentation and records produced by the enforcement practices, including documentation or training completed by unit members not limited to concurrent APD polices that must be adhered to. Unit commanders and supervisors will ensure that officers assigned or working within their purview understand the mission, objectives, and safety protocols related to their details or operations.

3.4 The Investigators, Senior Police Officers, and Officers assigned to VCIS will adhere to the policy and procedures of this section as well as the specific directives of their unit. They will ensure the proper care and maintenance of the equipment they use.

3.5 The VCIS Commander and Assistant VCIS Commander will:

1. Establish clear operational goals.
2. Create measurable performance objectives.
3. Foster partnerships with internal/external stakeholders aimed at reducing violent crime.
4. Utilize evidence-based intelligence-lead policing concepts aimed at reducing violent crime.



4. ACTION

4.1 VCIS - GENERAL

4.1.1 The Violent Crimes Interdiction Section (VCIS) will consist of the following units:

1. APEX Unit.
2. Gangs Unit.
3. Narcotics Unit.
4. Narcotics K-9 Unit.
5. Airport Drug Interdiction Unit.

4.1.2 The APEX Unit primary focus will be proactive interdiction in areas of the City of Atlanta experiencing a high number of incidents of violent gun related crimes and illegal street level narcotics crimes. The APEX Unit secondary focus will be assisting with uniformed crowd control/management of incidents as they may arise citywide and executing high-risk warrants that does not rise to the level of SWAT activation.

4.1.3 The Gang Unit is responsible for investigating criminal activity by local street gangs as well as collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information and data related to criminal activity by street gangs.

4.1.4 The Narcotics Unit is responsible for the investigation of narcotics trafficking that occurs within the City of Atlanta as well as the investigation of crimes that result from the manufacture, distribution, and sale of illegal narcotics.

4.1.5 The Narcotics K9 Unit will provide support to Department personnel with trained and certified police K9s in the areas of narcotics detection, article detection, tracking lost or missing persons, and fleeing felons. K9 teams are deployed daily based on crime trends to support APD personnel.

4.1.6 The Airport Drug Interdiction Unit (ADIU) is tasked with monitoring, tracking and deterring the flow of Narcotics through Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

4.1.7 The Narcotics Unit Commander will be responsible for the operations of K-9 and Airport Drug Interdiction Unit.

4.2 OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

4.2.1 The four components of VCIS are:

1. Crime & Intelligence Analyst Support
2. Investigative Support
3. Tactical Support Operations
4. Inter/Intra-Agency Criminal Justice Local, State, and Federal Support

4.2.2 VCIS will analyze crime and intelligence data to identify crime hot spots and crime offenders.

4.2.3 VCIS will deploy resources based on intelligence to hot spot locations in order to deter, detect, and prevent individual/s involved in violent crime offenses or engaged in illegal gangs or narcotics activity.



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4.2.4 Once crime trends and operational areas have been identified, VCIS Unit Commanders or Supervisors will develop operation and/or tactical plans of action that must address the following:

1. **Situation:** relevant contextual information.
2. **Mission:** task to be accomplished.
3. **Execution:** plan, timeline, and specific actions.
4. **Administration:** Support needs or logistics.
5. **Command:** who is in charge and communication protocols.

Other considerations for this plan will be further addressed with a

1. Type of operation.
2. Location of the operation.
3. Types of illegal activity or intelligence collection.
4. Technology and equipment to be utilized if applicable.
5. Ensure the appropriate number of personnel is available for safety considerations.
6. Operational method.
7. Officers in charge of case management.
8. Hours of operation (determined by intelligence gathered).
9. Tactical Coordination & Deconfliction.
10. Operational security will be maintained until investigation and prosecution are adjudicated.

The aforementioned criteria is not exhaustive and does not preclude VCIS personnel from deviating to concurrent polices related to tactical plans of actions, deconfliction, and warrant service requests.

4.2.5 Specific operational and training criteria for each unit within VICS will be outlined as dictated by their specific unit-based standard operating procedure. Additionally, VCIS personnel will adhere to concurrent policies as dictated by our written directive system.

4.3 COMMUNITY LIAISON

4.3.1 VICS Unit Commanders and/ or supervisor(s) will attend neighborhood meetings upon request by Zone Commanders. VCIS Unit supervisor(s) will document those meetings in a memorandum to the VCIS Commander and CID Commander. Additionally, VCIS Unit Commanders and/or Supervisors will attend the following meetings as requested:

1. Violent Repeat Offender (VRO) meeting.
2. Repeat Offender Commission work group meeting.
3. Neighborhood Planning Unit.

5. DEFINITIONS

N/A

6. CANCELLATIONS

APD.SOP.5142 Atlanta Proactive Enforcement and Interdiction Unit (APEX); effective 8/13/2020

7. REFERENCES

APD.SOP.3020 Search and Seizure