Washington State Patrol
Media Release

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"Computer Crimes Unit Year to Date Statistics"

The State Patrol's Computer Crimes Unit provides city, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies computer and other high technology forensic support and procession on criminal cases involving alleged allegations of felony misconduct. Computer forensics results in the recovery of relevant evidence that may exist on computer hard drives and other storage media devices.

During the first six months of 2005, the Computer Crimes Unit closed 51 cases and analyzed 2,434 gigabytes of data which is a 17 percent increase in comparison to the previous year. To put this information in perspective, a megabyte is roughly equal to a full length novel of information and a gigabyte is equal to 1,000 megabytes. So to translate the 2,434 gigabytes of data examined into books, this would be the equivalent of 2,434,000 books of information that were examined by Computer Crimes personnel while searching for evidence. At the current pace, Computer Crimes will examine over 5,000 gigabytes of data in 2005.

The Computer Crimes Unit case load continues to grow as technology and use of computers increases. The use of computers in crimes is growing exponentially as criminals increasingly use the Internet and computers to facilitate and/or document their criminal activity. Typical investigations include:

- Stalking
- Homicide
- Forgery
- Theft
- Child Exploitation
- Financial Fraud
- Narcotics
- Embezzlement

"In many cases, the evidence forensically examined is the critical evidence needed by the case officers and prosecutors to successfully charge, prosecute, and convict criminals," stated Investigative Assistance Division Commander Mark Couey.

Further information regarding the State Patrol's Computer Crimes Unit may be obtained by calling Lieutenant Marc Lamoreaux or Detective Scott Jarmon at (360) 753-0315, ext. 134.