

Crime Control and Public Safety, Department of ^[1]

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by Wiley J. Williams, 2006; Revised December 2021



Department of Crime Control and Public Safety logo. Image from the North Carolina Digital Collections.

^[2]The 1977 General Assembly passed [legislation to restructure and rename](#) ^[3] the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) as the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. The new department received the powers and responsibilities of a number of state agencies. From the old DMVA were transferred the [National Guard](#) ^[4] and the [Adjutant General](#) ^[5], the Civil Preparedness Agency, and the Civil Air Patrol. The [State Highway Patrol](#) ^[6] was transferred from the Division of Motor Vehicles of the [Department of Transportation](#) ^[7]. The [State Board of Alcoholic Control's Enforcement Division](#) ^[8] was transferred from the [Department of Commerce](#) ^[9]. The [Governor's Crime Commission](#) ^[10] (created in 1967 as the Governor's Committee on Law and Order), the Division of Crime Control, the [Criminal Justice Information System Board](#) ^[11], and the Criminal Justice Information Security and Privacy Board all became part of the new department.

In 1981 the [Butner Public Safety Office](#) ^[12] was transferred to the department as the division responsible for police and fire protection for the state hospital facilities at Butner. Two years later the [Victim and Justice Service Division](#) ^[13] was established to administer community service programs as alternative punishments to prison. This division also operated the [North Carolina Center for Missing Persons](#) ^[14] and the [Rape Victim Assistance Program](#) ^[15]. In 1987 the state legislature established the [North Carolina Crime Victims Compensation Fund and Commission](#) ^[16] and placed it under the department's authority.

The modern Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, headed by a gubernatorially appointed secretary, oversees the many governmental areas involving the safety and well-being of North Carolinians, including response to terrorism, civil unrest, natural disasters, and other emergencies. Among its several boards and commissions are the [Governor's Advisory Commission on Military Affairs](#) ^[17], the Juvenile Law Study Commission, and the Office of [Homeland Security](#) ^[18].

In January 2012, the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, the Department of Correction, and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention were merged into a combined [Department of Public Safety](#) ^[19].

Additional Resources:

Department of Crime Control and Public Safety website: <http://www.nccrimecontrol.org> ^[20] (accessed December 3, 2012).

North Carolina General Assembly. "An act to restructure and rename the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety." *Session Laws*. Chapter 70. 1977. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/session-laws-and-resolutions-passed-by-the-general-assembly-1977/4020607?item=4024715> ^[3] (accessed December 3, 2012).

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"Ask Anything: 10 questions with N.C. Secretary of Crime Control & Public Safety." WRAL.com. September 23, 2008. <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/3588830/> ^[23] (accessed December 4, 2012).

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