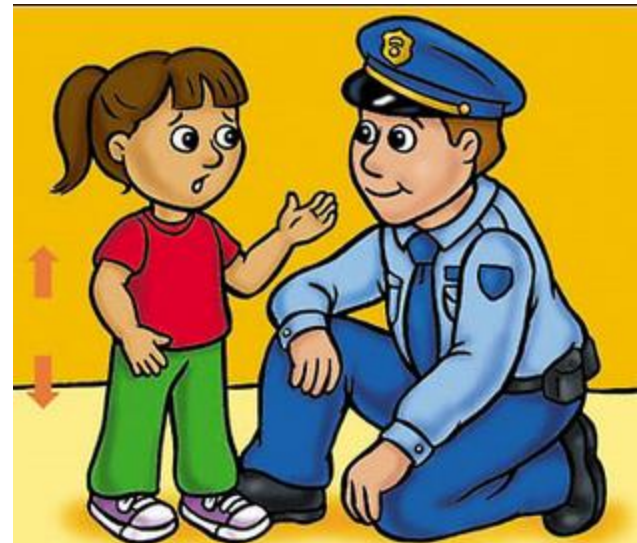# Interacting with Child Victims

Special Agent Kimberly Granich
FBI – Macon Resident Agency

August 28, 2018

Interacting w/ Child Victims

- Investigations w/ Potential Child Victims

- Victim Interviews

- Victim Services

Types of Investigations

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Cyber Crime
  - Online Child Enticement
  - Child Pornography
  - Sextortion
  - Cyber Bullying
- Missing Child/Child Abduction
- Witness to Violent Crime

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

CSEC is a form of Human Trafficking

- Sex Trafficking:
  - Commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud or coercion
  - Or the child is under the age of 18

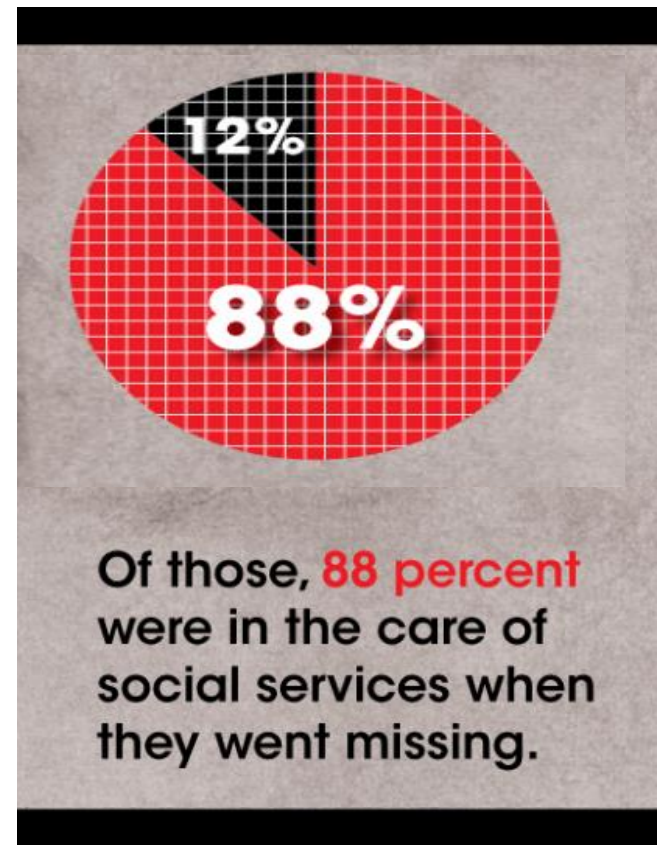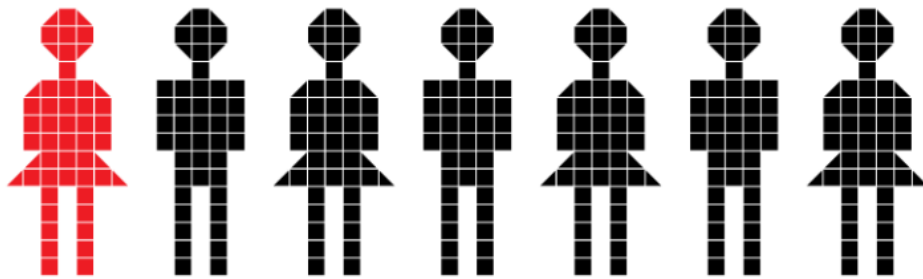- ANY child engaged in prostitution is a trafficking victim under the law.

Sex Trafficking in Georgia

- The most common age of entry into the commercial sex industry is 12-14 years old.

- The FBI named Atlanta as one of 14 cities in the nation with the highest incidence of children exploited in prostitution.

- Atlanta – "Human Trafficking Hub"
  - Top 5 cities for human trafficking
  - Top city for human trafficking of Hispanic females

NCMEC Statistics

Of the nearly 25,000 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2017, one in seven were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

12%

88%

Of those, 88 percent were in the care of social services when they went missing.

- In 2013, NCMEC "intaked" 10,094 missing children cases and helped resolve 10,531 missing children cases. NCMEC's resolution rate increased from 62 percent in 1990 to 97 percent in 2013.
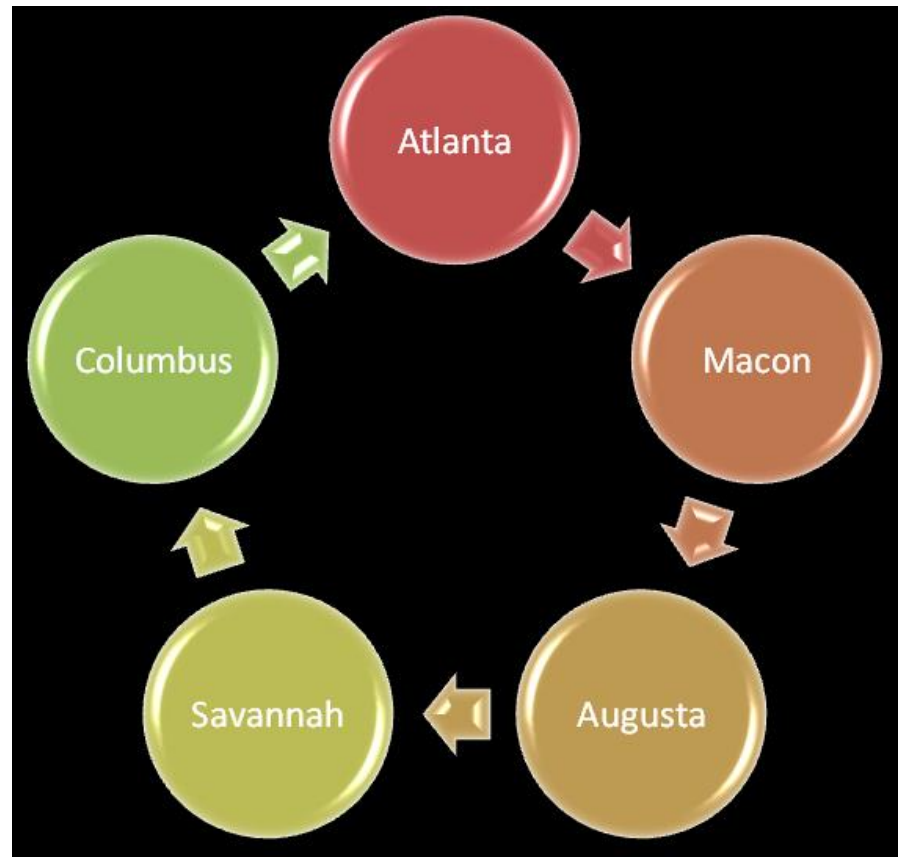
NCMEC Statistics for Georgia

As of 3/29/2018:

- 119 missing children from Georgia

- 25 have gone missing in 2018

- 4 endangered runaways

- 16 from Middle District (Macon, Milledgeville, Eatonton, Forsyth, Unadilla, Greensboro, Columbus, Hamilton, Americus, Colquitt, Donalsonville, Valdosta, Tifton)

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Location of Activity

•Pimps will travel circuits to reduce the likelihood that police will identify any juveniles working for them.

•Georgia circuit identified as:

Offender Demographics

Gender
- Majority of offenders are male (81%)

Age
- The average age is 18-34 years old (77%)

Race
- The most common race is African American (62%)

Nationality
- U.S. Citizens (86%)

Background
- Majority of offenders have a previous criminal history

Unlike other child sex offenders, child sex traffickers typically have extensive criminal histories for a variety of violent offenses.

-FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Intelligence Unit

Victim Demographics
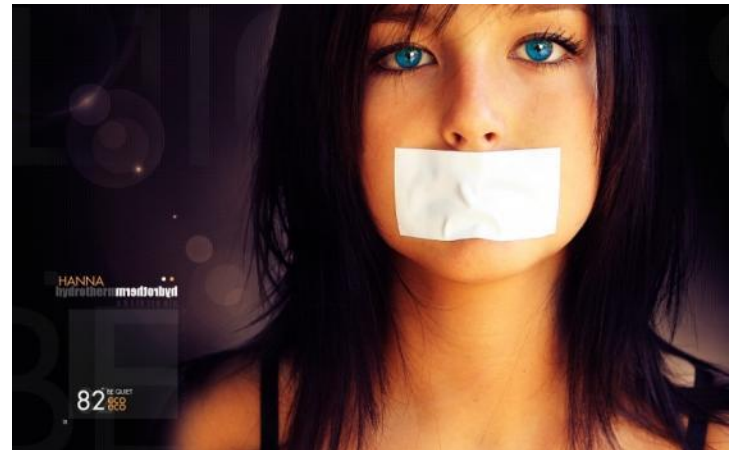
Gender
- Majority of victims are female

Age
- The average age of entry is 12 years old

Nationality
- Approximately 85% are U.S. Citizens

Background
- Runaways or "throwaways"
  - Estimated that 1.6 million children run away each year.
  - Children are approached by exploiters within 48 hours.
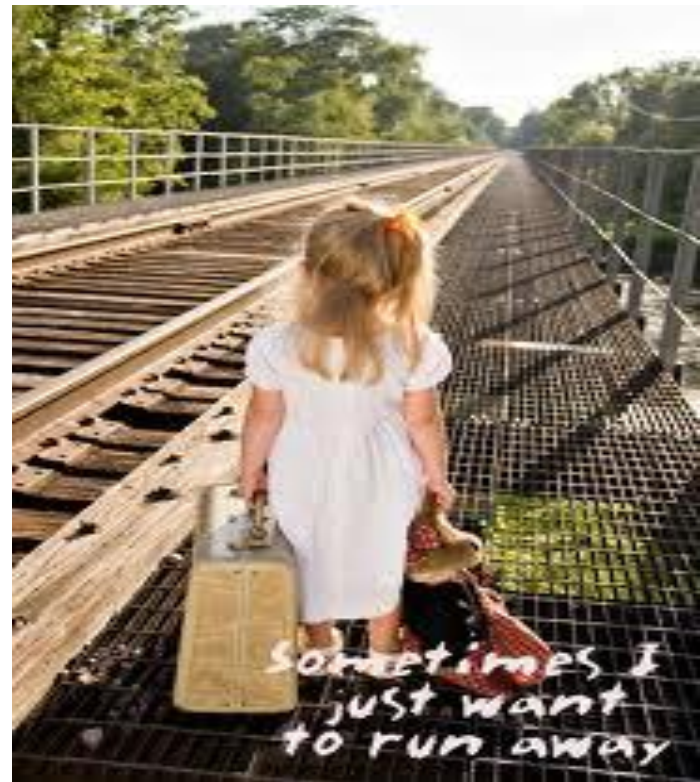 - 90% have a history of sexual abuse

293,000 American youth are at risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking.

-University of Pennsylvania

Recruitment

- Who
  - Child with no purpose or direction; child with a void

- How
  - Social Media
  - Text Messaging
  - Schools, Bus/Stations
  - Dating/Messaging Apps

•Macon Area pimp stated he recruited girls who were interested in sex. He told them "if you're going to have sex anyway, you might as well get paid." Also looked for girls who "needed help" – were from Section 8 housing, and didn't have a job.

Victimology

"Why didn't she just leave?"

- Sex traffickers "condition" their victims through starvation, confinement, beatings, physical abuse, rape, gang rape, threats of violence to the victims and the victims' families, forced drug use and the threat of shaming their victims by revealing their activities to their family and their families' friends.

Victimology

Physical Trauma

- Drug and alcohol addiction, physical injuries (broken bones, concussions, burns, vaginal/anal tearing); traumatic brain injury resulting in memory loss, dizziness, headaches, numbness, sexually transmitted diseases, sterility, miscarriages, menstrual problems, other diseases and forced or coerced abortions.

Psychological Trauma

- Mind/body separation, disassociated ego states, shame, grief, fear, distrust, hatred of men, self-hatred, suicide, and suicidal thoughts.
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – acute anxiety, depression, insomnia, physical hyperalertness, self-loathing that is long-lasting and resistant to change.

Victims may also suffer from **traumatic bonding** – a form of coercive control in which the perpetrator instills in the victim fear as well as gratitude for being allowed to live.
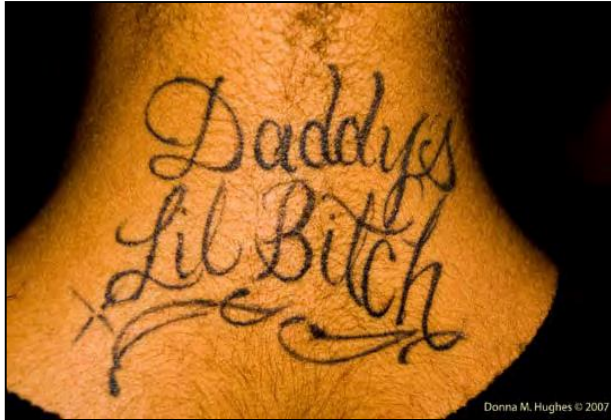
Signs to Look For:

1. Signs that a child is underage
2. Inconsistent personal information
3. No identification
4. **Signs of physical or sexual violence**
5. **Emotional distress**
6. **Truancy from school**
7. **Dominating or controlling relationship**
8. Not in control of money
9. **Inability to make eye contact**
10. Repeated contact with youth in prostitution areas
11. **Runaway and homeless youth**
12. **Sexually provocative and/or weather inappropriate clothing**
13. **Tattoos or branding**
14. **Use of slang associated with sex industry**

Tattoos:

"Daddy's Lil Bitch"

"Cash Money"

"Money's all I think about"

"Cash Only" (14 year old CSEC victim)
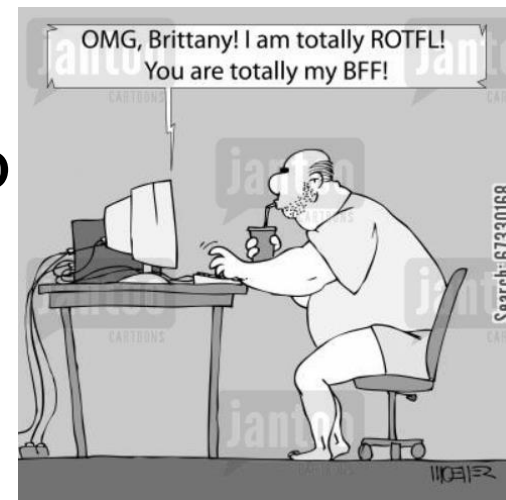

"King Tae" (the name of victim's street pimp)

"Mafia's Property"

Online Child Enticement

- Offenders use the internet to gain access to children.
- Offenders create and share "how to" guides that discuss how to groom children to be sexually exploited.
- Often referred to as "Traveler" cases because the offender travels to engage in a sexual encounter with the child.

Child Enticement Victim Indicators

- Certain online behaviors make youth vulnerable to seduction by predators.
  - Accepting unknown friend requests
  - Seeking pornography
  - Active on multiple social networking sites
  - Gaming w/ unknown persons
- Children are targeted by what they say online… predators review social media accounts.
- Interactive behaviors appear to carry more risk than posting personal information or maintaining social networking sites.
- Youth who engage in a high number of different risky online activities are also more at risk.

Sextortion

- Offenders coerce or blackmail victims into providing sexually explicit images or videos of themselves, often in compliance with the offender's sexual demands and threats of posting the images publicly or sending the images to the victim's friends and family.
  - Extortionist seeks a Sexual Favor
  - Extortionist uses a Sexual Item as leverage

Sextortion Victim Indicators

- Children who already engage in risky behavior online, such as communicating with strangers via webcam or exposing their bodies on live-streaming video sites, are particularly vulnerable to offenders seeking to sexually exploit them.

- A 2015 FBI investigation found that offenders were specifically seeking out those children they considered <u>easy targets</u> because of their demonstrated willingness to post personal content online and engage in live-streaming video activity, whether the content was sexually explicit or not.

Sexting Statistics from 12-17 yoa

- 12% sent an explicit image of themselves to another person at some point in their lifetime.
  - 20% of 17 year olds had sent an explicit image.
  - 6% of 12 year olds had sent an explicit image.
- 19% received a sexually explicit image from someone else at some point in their lifetime.
- 70% sext with their girlfriend or boyfriend.
- 15% sent an explicit image to people they have never met, but know from the Internet.
- 61% were pressured to do it at least once.
- 17% share the messages they receive with others.
  - 55% of those share them with more than one person.

Effect on Victims

- Sexual and emotional abuse
- Engage in cutting
- Other forms of self-harm
- Depression
- Drop out of school or have their grades decline

- At least **28%** of FBI sextortion cases in 2015 had at least one victim who committed or attempted suicide.

Child Pornography

- Images/Videos depicting the lewd and lascivious exhibition of the genitals of a person who has not reached the age of 18.
- The production of child pornography creates a permanent record of a child's sexual abuse.

Child Pornography Victim Indicators

- Days old to 17 years
- Male and female
- All ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds

- 40% of all child pornography victims are between infancy and "tween" years.

- Ages of victims depicted in child pornography have significantly decreased in the past few years.

Effect on Victims

- Suffer a lifetime of re-victimization by knowing the images of their sexual abuse are on the Internet forever.
- Lasting psychological damage
- Disruptions in sexual development
- Lowered self-image
- Inability to develop trusting relationships

Online Offenders

- Represent any age, race, sex, occupation, socio-economic status, geographical area, or education level
- May know their victims well, or not at all.
- Some specifically seek positions to gain direct access to potential child victims, such as a teacher, day care provider, member of the clergy, medical professional, or coach.
- Demonstrate a high capability to groom and control their victims through the appearance of love, by preying on a child's need for acceptance, validation, and understanding, or through fear, manipulation, promises, lying, extortion, physical violence, or threats to avoid disclosure or discovery of their child sexual exploitation activities

Online Offenders

- Often gather in communities over the Internet fostering the worldwide demand for new child pornography and providing their members with encouragement, validation, training, and status within these online organizations.
- Some online group members also physically meet in person to share actual victims and their child pornography collections.

Online Offenders

- Purport to be like-aged peers to gain a child's trust and groom them to produce child pornography online.
- Trick victims by representing themselves online as either the same sex as the victim, or as the opposite sex.
- Typically threaten minors ages 10-17, the typical age range for juvenile Internet users.
  - It has been observed where the offender manipulates the victim to abuse younger siblings or friends, extending the threat to even younger and more vulnerable victims.

Cyber Bullying

- When a person is tormented, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by any other person using the Internet or other digital communication or technology.

- Generally perpetrated by similar-aged offenders to the victims.

Source: Chris Kasurak

Profiles of Cyber Bullies

Vengeful Angel

- Right Wrongs
- Protect others
- Take justice into their hands
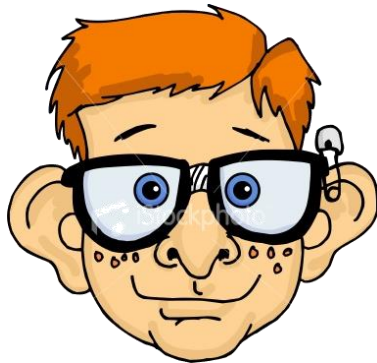- Don't see themselves as a bully

Power Hungry

- Exert authority
- May want to hurt an individual
- Control others
- Frighten and Embarrass
- Need an audience-feeds the ego

Profiles of Cyber Bullies

Revenge of the Nerd

- Exert authority
- May want to hurt an individual
- Control others
- Frighten and Embarrass
- May be victim of traditional bullying
- Physically smaller
- Not popular
- Empowered by anonymity

Mean Girls

- Typically bully other girls
- Bored
- Ego-Based
- Done in Groups
- Establish Power
- Group admiration feeds this behavior
- Dies without audience

Profiles of Cyber bullies

Inadvertent Cyberbully

- Not Intentional
- Reaction
- Experimenting
- Respond in Anger/Frustration
- Lack of knowledge

OOPS!

Cyberbullying Statistics

- **58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online.**
  - **More than 4 out of 10 say it has happened more than once.**

- **53% of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful to another person online.**
  - **More than 1 in 3 have done it more than once.**

*Based on i-SAFE survey of 1,500 students grades 4-8

Statistics continued

- 35% of kids have been threatened online.
  - Nearly 1 in 5 have had it happen more than once.

- 21% of kids have received mean or threatening e-mails or other messages.

- **58% have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online.**

Bullying Victim Indicators

1. Stops using computer/cell phone
2. Nervous w/email or text
3. Angry, depressed, frustrated
4. Avoids discussions about the computer
5. Abnormally withdrawn
6. Decline in grades
7. Ditching classes
8. Avoids activities

Bullying Offender Indicators

1. Switches screens
2. Always uses the computer
3. Gets upset when he/she cannot use the computer
4. Laughing a lot while using the computer
5. Avoids discussions about the computer
6. Has multiple accounts
7. Refuses to show screen
8. Falling out with friends

Missing Child/Child Abduction

- In 1932, Congress gave the FBI jurisdiction under the "Lindbergh Law" to immediately investigate any reported mysterious disappearance or kidnapping involving a child of "tender age"—usually 12 or younger.
- There does not have to be a ransom demand, and the child does not have to cross state lines or be missing for 24 hours.
- These cases are generally worked jointly with state/local agencies.

Types of Cases

Most frequent:
- Runaways
- Family abductions
- Lost, injured or otherwise missing children

Least frequent:
- Non-family abductions

FBI Crimes Against Children Stats*

4,146

Total Investigative Cases Opened

3,382

Total Arrests

1,305

Total Children Located

*Fiscal Year 2018

Victim Interviews

- "Best Practice" is to conduct forensic interview of child victims and witnesses.
- 11 Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewers (CAFI)
- 1,466 child interviews conducted during FY 2017 by the FBI CAFIs.

Victim Services

- Victim Specialists provide various services to the victims.
  - Assess immediate needs
  - Coordinate w/ parents/guardians/DFCS
  - Mental health referrals
  - Refer to specialized placement
  - Assist with Crime Victim Compensation
  - Notify status of investigation

Interaction within School Systems

- Preventative - Presentations/Career Day
  - Cyber Safety
  - Human Trafficking/Pimpology
- ID victims
  - Leads from NCMEC
  - Other victim referral
- Requests by administration/teachers
  - Specific concerning behavior
  - Notification of victimization

Contact

Atlanta: 770-216-3000
Albany: 229-434-1489
Athens: 706-549-6477
Augusta: 706-722-3702
Brunswick: 912-265-2560
Columbus: 706-596-9603
Dalton: 706-272-7909
Gainesville: 770-534-5111
Macon: 478-745-1271
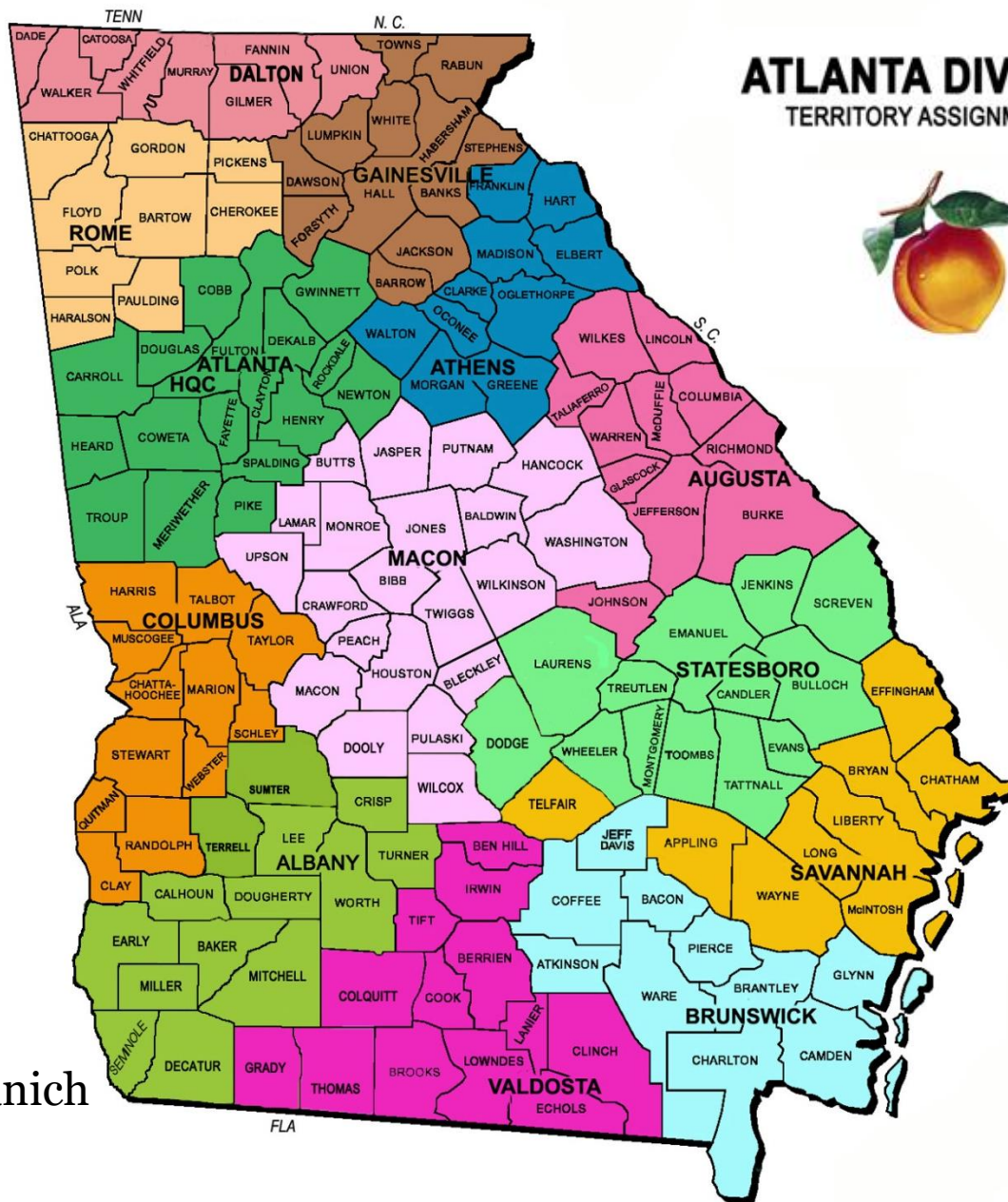Rome: 706-291-7364
Savannah: 912-790-3100
Statesboro: 912-764-6311
Valdosta: 229-247-2292

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ATLANTA DIVISION
TERRITORY ASSIGNMENTS

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