



*William "Bill" Davenport*

## Gang Prevention Will Be Key Goal Of New Bureau of Investigative Operations

William "Bill" Davenport, who has just taken the reins of DJJ's recently renamed Bureau of Investigative Operations, has a new goal he and his expanding staff wish to achieve: "I want to have a gang prevention program in place in every community in the Commonwealth to help keep the kids safe, and the community safe," he says. "We are going to work to reduce the number of kids ever getting involved with gangs, and we hope to increase the number of kids separating from gangs."

Davenport will bring 34 years of police and investigative experience to the table as he begins this effort. His career started in 1988 with the Wall Township Police Department in New Jersey, moving to Virginia in 1993 to continue his career in law enforcement. He joined DJJ as a special agent, and was promoted in 2011 to investigator supervisor within the newly created DJJ Gang Unit. In 2018, DJJ's Investigative Unit was reclassified, and Bill assumed the position of Investigative Unit

deputy chief. He has wide-ranging experience in law enforcement, including as a patrol officer, patrol supervisor, investigator, supervisory investigator and various management positions. He is a graduate of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy, and the Justice Transformation Institute's Cohort V.

Under the direction of DJJ's recently appointed director, Amy Floriano, DJJ's Bureau of Investigative Operations was created. Under Bill's leadership, the new unit will continue with conducting investigations as it always has, including Gang Prevention and Intervention functions and the new Gang Intervention Specialist Program. Chief Intelligence and Intervention Officer Hamlet Hood, Gang Deputy Chief Brian Russell, Office Manager Judy Reeder, other supervisory staff and special agents will be assigned all over the Commonwealth.

To address youth gang involvement, "we're significantly expanding our gang prevention and intervention responsibilities," Davenport says. "It's all about preventing youth from joining gangs and becoming involved in local gangs. We'll be cooperating with local police agencies and community groups to make this program a success."

Davenport says he will also seek accreditation for the Bureau of Investigative Operations through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professionals Standards Association. Gaining this distinction will "prove our level of professionalism and our level of integrity," he says. "Those things will become much more difficult to question when we obtain that accreditation."