The Maine Computer Crimes Task Force was established in 1999 by the Brunswick and Lewiston Police Departments, the Maine State Police and the Maine Office of the Attorney General. It was created in response to the growing number of law enforcement to examine computers seized during criminal investigations. The Maine Computer Crimes Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional entity who is there to help with investigations in computer crimes. The task force also encourages, promotes, aids and accomplishes the voluntary interchange of data, information, experiences, ideas and knowledge about methods, processes and techniques which relate to computer crime investigations. (www.mcctf.org)

The mission of the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force is to investigate and assist those law enforcement agencies who investigate crimes involving computers. The MCCTF falls under Maine Criminal Code Title 25 Subsection 1521-A. The code states that the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force, referred to in this chapter as “the task force,” is established under the auspices of the Department of Public Safety as a collaborative partnership among the department, the Bureau of State Police within the department, the Department of the Attorney General and local law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the task force is to investigate and assist those law enforcement agencies in the State that investigate crimes involving computers. The task force is supposed to make an annual report regarding development, implementation and effectiveness of programs. Then they have to present it to the joint standing committee of the Legislature. (janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/25/title25sec1521-A.html)
The Maine Computer Crimes Task Force operates two forensics lab facilities in the state of Maine to examine computers. There is one facility in Lewiston, where there is one full-time and one part-time technician. There are five people who work at the Vassalboro facility. The individual in charge is Sergeant Glenn Lang. The Vassalboro forensics lab is located at the Maine State Police Training Center. The funding that they receive to operate these two labs comes from being a partner in the Northern New England Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Vermont and New Hampshire belong to this partnership as well. The MCCTF’s only source of revenue comes from this partnership and they receive $135,000 every 18 months. The amount of money they receive helps to cover basic operating expenses, which includes training and equipment, and costs associated with keeping the computer forensics labs running in Lewiston and Vassalboro. Personnel costs are not funded by money received from the partnership.

There are representatives of local law enforcement agencies who are designated by their Chief or Sheriff to investigate computer crimes. They get their training from the task force staff to do investigations on simple complaints and process computer crime scenes, so it can later be forensically examined at the lab. A major focus of the members of the task force is to provide outreach training in their communities. They offer courses on protecting children online to teachers, community groups, and school children (www.mcctf.org). The education that is required for an individual to work at the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force is virtually nothing. Once you are hired within the task force, they provide all the training for their employees. They train forensic technicians to use two tools, Encase and Forensic Tool Kit.
The number of requests for computer forensics examinations, according to mcctf.org, in 2001-2002 was 217. In 2003 through 2004 there were 351. The number of reported Internet crimes against children went from 409 in 2001 – 2002 to 1117 cases in 2003-2004. There was also a significant jump in criminal investigations from 2001 to 2004, almost double (www.mcctf.org). For this year, 2005, the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force has dealt with 283 crimes against children. This includes child pornography. The number of crimes against people is 52 and fraud is 30. They have received 191 hard drives to be analyzed by forensic technicians. It was stated that it takes between 60 to 80 hours to analyze each hard drive. According to a map on the task force website, there seems to be more cases of computer crimes in the southern part of Maine compared to the northern part of the state. I think that this is attributed to how many law enforcement personnel are aware of the computer crimes in Maine. I am sure there are more cases of computer crimes out there that are just not reported or yet investigated.

Doing this capstone project has enlightened me on what the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force does. At the beginning of this course it was only just a statement, but now it has become an educational experience. I was given the opportunity to speak with Sergeant Glenn Lang at the Vassalboro forensic lab. He gave me some great insight as to what crimes they are investigating and what education is needed to work there. There are several students in this class that would definitely get hired with the task force. There is a great need in Maine for computer investigations and this class has better prepared students to help this growing necessity.
http://www.mcctf.org

http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/25/title25sec1521-A.html

Sergeant Glenn Lang – Maine State Police and the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force; Vassalboro, Maine