

STATE POLICE ISSUE 10 MOST WANTED LIST

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Hope your name isn't in this story.

But if it is, you can start looking for your picture -- on the bulletin board at about 700 police departments in Michigan as the first poster of the state's " **Ten Most Wanted** Fugitives" begins to circulate.

After seven months of preparation, the State Police Fugitive Investigation Team began distributing the " **most wanted** " **list** late last week.

The all-male **list** includes relatively notorious people such as David Richard Davis -- **wanted** for murder in the 1980 death of his wife that state police said was a poisoning disguised to look like a riding accident. And there are **more** obscure people like Melvin Higgins, a 21-year-old southwestern Michigan resident who has never been arrested as an adult, but is a suspect in several armed robberies and burglaries, a bombing and a rape case.

State Police Lt. Chris Hogan said the Top **Ten** were selected from a field of about 1,500 candidates, all people **wanted** in Michigan for murder, robbery, rape, arson, extortion or kidnapping.

AFTER NARROWING the **list** to 50 finalists, members of the State Police fugitive team picked those who appeared **most** likely to pose a continuing threat to the community, Hogan said.

"We didn't want (fugitives) from the 1950s and '60s, because it is unlikely they're still out there doing crimes," Hogan said. "But we think **most** of these people probably are."

With one exception.

Alexander Martin, a prison escapee convicted of murder and armed robbery, was apprehended late last month. The Top **Ten** poster was already at the printer when he was nabbed in Highland Park.

Michigan's Top **Ten** is unranked. Hogan said it was impossible to determine which of the **most wanted** was the very **most wanted** and "we want all of them badly."

The Top **Ten** posters also will be distributed to police agencies in 32 metropolitan areas around the country, the FBI and the 49 other state police agencies in the nation. The Michigan **list** will be updated about three times a year, and Hogan said nominees from local police are welcome.

The goal of a **most wanted list** , police said, is to generate awareness at all levels of law enforcement and to alert the public.

State of Michigan's Ten **Most Wanted** Fugitives

David Richard Davis

Date of Birth: 9/27/44

Race/sex: White male

Height/weight: 6'0", 190 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Blonde, blue

In 1980, Davis allegedly murdered his wife by poisoning her. He was last seen in the Caribbean in 1981. He is an expert sailor. Police said some of the posters will go to Australia, where authorities believe Davis may be watching the America's Cup yacht races.

Thomas Dwight Carter

Date of Birth: 7/20/48

Race/sex: White male

Height/weight: 5'11", 220 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Brown, blue

Carter was convicted of seven counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of unarmed robbery in 1980. He escaped from the Wayne County Jail.

Ronald Edward Duvall

Date of Birth: 5/2/47

Race/sex: White male

Height/weight: 5'8", 157 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Brown, brown

In April 1986, Duvall allegedly broke into a Monroe County business, overpowered the guards, robbed the business and shot at one of the guards. He has previous violent crime convictions.

Wardell David Ford

Date of Birth: 5/10/56

Race/sex: Black male

Height/weight: 5'9", 151 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Black, brown

Ford escaped from prison in 1982. He is **wanted** on charges of murder and armed robbery in a 1983 armored car holdup in Detroit.

Melvin Lee Higgins

Date of Birth: 8/24/65

Race/sex: Black male

Height/weight: 5'8", 160 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Black, brown

Higgins is **wanted** for a series of crimes throughout southwestern Michigan. He has used firearms and explosives in these crimes, police said.

Alexander Martin

Date of Birth: 7/19/53

Race/sex: Black male

Height/weight: 6'3", 180 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Black, brown

Alias: Larry Martin, Jamaul Abuwi Rasool, Butch

Martin was convicted of armed robbery and murder in 1977. Martin escaped from prison in 1986. He was apprehended last month.

Johnnie David Whitt

Date of Birth: 9/27/55

Race/sex: Black male

Height/weight: 5'11", 165 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Black, brown

Whitt allegedly took part in a rape of two women in 1981 and is suspected of shooting and killing a man in Detroit in 1986.

William Franklin Ryder

Date of Birth: 7/12/48

Race/sex: Black male

Height/weight: 6'3", 195 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Black, brown

In November 1985, Ryder was charged in a \$215,000 bank robbery in Flint. He posted bond and has not been seen since. He is also **wanted** on a parole violation from a kidnapping conviction.

Charles Henry

VanDorsten

Date of Birth: 7/23/43

Race/sex: White male

Height/weight: 5'10", 165 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Brown, blue

He was convicted in Calhoun County in 1976 of selling five pounds of heroin. VanDorsten was released pending an appeal and subsequently was named a suspect in a 1983 Battle Creek rape.

Jeffrey Wright

Date of Birth: 9/28/59

Race/sex: Black male

Height/weight: 5'10", 200 lbs.

Hair/eyes: Black, brown

Wright is **wanted** in connection with a January 1985 armed robbery in Pontiac in which a party store owner was killed.

Caption: Photo

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