

## METRO/STATE

# FBI's top agent in S.C. retires after 27-year career

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Dodge Frederick ended his career with the FBI where it started 27 years ago, when he applied for a job at the agency's Columbia office.

Frederick, 56, who fostered strong cooperation between local and state police, retired Friday as the FBI's top agent in South Carolina.

He hasn't decided what he will do during retirement, but he plans to stay at his home near Lexington.

In mid-February, George Burttram will replace Frederick as special-agent-in-charge of the Columbia office and will run FBI operations in South Carolina. Burttram currently is special-agent-in-charge of the FBI's Anchorage, Alaska, office.

Frederick earned the respect of local and state law enforcement officials across South Carolina, said Robert Stewart, chief of the State Law Enforcement Division.

"He always went the extra mile in promoting cooperation among the different levels of law enforcement," Stewart said. "You never questioned where you stood with him."

## Dodge Frederick

*Dodge Frederick retired Friday as the FBI's top agent in South Carolina, ending his FBI career where it began 27 years ago.*

■ **Position:** Special-agent-in-charge of Columbia office. He ran all agency operations in South Carolina. He previously was associate-special-agent-in-charge of the FBI's Philadelphia office.

■ **Career:** Previously was a principal in Springfield. Joined the FBI in 1971, holding various jobs including service as a field agent and supervisor and work in foreign counterintelligence and Mafia surveillance.

■ **Personal:** Born Jan. 6, 1943, in Pittsburgh, Pa. Grew up in Daytona, Fla. Married, with three daughters ages 26, 24 and 19. Lives near Lexington.

■ **Education:** Graduated from Seabreeze High School in Daytona in 1960. Graduated from Presbyterian College in 1964 with a degree in psychology.



Frederick placed great emphasis on regional task forces that the FBI formed with local police to arrest career criminals.

"A small percentage of the people commit a large percentage of the crimes," Frederick said. "We targeted repeat, violent offenders."

Frederick asked FBI agents to use their informants to help local police

solve bank robberies, break-ins and drug cases, said Lexington County Sheriff James Metts. He also assigned agents to help local police on major investigations, such as kidnappings.

"He fostered an unparalleled relationship between local law enforcement and the FBI," Metts said. "He was quick to provide assistance but allowed local agencies to get credit for

solving cases."

Frederick developed a close relationship with graduates of the FBI National Academy, said Lexington County Assistant Sheriff Tim James, president of the state chapter of the academy's graduates.

Each year, 12 law enforcement administrators from South Carolina are selected for a three-month management training program at the FBI academy in Quantico, Va. They receive instruction about budgets, legal liability and supervising employees.

"Dodge Frederick has been there to give us resources," James said.

"One of the things I enjoyed most about my assignment here was the level of dedication and cooperation among law enforcement agencies," Frederick said. "We have not had a serious dispute with any other agency about an investigative matter."

Frederick also took great pride in the hard work done by the more than 70 FBI agents in South Carolina, one of the nation's smallest FBI contingents.

This fiscal year, FBI agents in South Carolina obtained 388 indictments and 390 convictions, Frederick

said. That's a higher total than those for offices in large, metropolitan areas, such as Boston and Newark, N.J.

Frederick was promoted in January 1995 to run FBI operations in South Carolina. He previously was associate-special-agent-in-charge of the FBI's Philadelphia office.

Frederick held a variety of jobs, including service as a field agent and work in foreign counterintelligence and Mafia surveillance. He moved 11 times during his career, which has included stints in San Antonio, Texas, Los Angeles, Newark, Peoria, Ill., and Washington, D.C.

Frederick attended Presbyterian College on a tennis scholarship and graduated with a degree in psychology.

After graduation, Frederick taught at the former Springfield Elementary School and former Springfield High School for six years. He was principal of the elementary school when he decided to change careers after FBI agents came to school to recruit students.

"The agents had on their white dress shirts and blue suit coats. They looked clean-cut and very professional," Frederick said. "I succumbed to the lure of the FBI."