

**FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2000**



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PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division of the Findlay Police Department experienced a year of transition and change. The Division saw the promotion, transfer, and retirement of several Officers. Two different Lieutenants directed the Patrol Division for the year 2000, with one (1) being promoted to Captain. Two Sergeants were promoted to Lieutenants with two (2) Patrol Division Officers and one (1) Vice Narcotic Detective being promoted to the rank of Sergeant, making a total of three (3) new Sergeants in the Division. There were also five (5) new Officers that started their careers with the Findlay Police Department in the Patrol Division in 2000.

The year of change continued into other areas as well. The year 2000 saw the implementation of the Computer Aided Dispatch-Records Management System or CAD-RMS. This system came on line and, by years end, was in complete use within the Division and the Department.

Almost every cruiser had a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) or laptop computer installed, giving Officers the ability to complete a report in the cruiser and download it later. This drastically reduced the amount of paper forms used by the Patrol Officers, with most forms being completed on the computer, instead of being handwritten. Also, these changes in record keeping will prove to be a more accurate system for information gathering and analysis.

Since the implementation of this system, goals outlined for 2000 in this area have been accomplished.

In regards to other goals made for this past year in the previous report, traffic crashes were again reduced in number. There were 2,145 crashes reported in 2000 compared to 2,282 in 1999. This would make the fourth consecutive year that traffic crashes have decreased in number. In relation to that, OMVI enforcement kept an even pace with 152 OMVI arrests being made in 2000 compared to 149 in 1999. However, there was a decrease in the number of traffic citations (4,860) in 2000 when comparing them to the number issued in 1999 (5,886) as well as a decrease in the number of written warnings (1,745) in 2000 versus (2,412) in 1999.

There are various possibilities for this, with one being a reduced number of Officers in the Patrol Division at various times of the year due to retirements and promotions. There also was a renewed emphasis on Patrol Officers conducting thorough investigations and follow up of incidents. Officers' time was spent on conducting investigations, interviewing people, and trying to bring the incident to a conclusion, up to the point of making an arrest or submitting a request to the Prosecutor for charges to be filed.

The Findlay Village Mall Enforcement Program was again put into place this year at the beginning of the Christmas season. This marked the fourth consecutive year that Patrol Officers in plain clothes were assigned to the mall at various times when the building was open for business. The Officers' purpose was to be an immediate response to any situation that arose in or around the mall that called for Police intervention. Another purpose was to be proactive in the suppression of any potential criminal activity, being a presence at the mall and trying to provide a safe environment for mall visitors.

The K-9 Officer continued to be an effective component of the Patrol Division. K-9 Beaux was used on several occasions for drug sniffs. The Vice Narcotic Unit also used him on six (6) search warrants while seven (7) other occasions he was used to track suspects.

Other Departments found the Findlay Police Department K-9 Program to be beneficial as well. The Ohio Highway Patrol was aided in their enforcement efforts when Beaux indicated on a vehicle a Trooper had stopped and several pounds of marijuana was recovered. Beaux was also used to assist authorities from Hardin County when a juvenile prisoner being transported to Bowling Green escaped near the edge of Findlay. Beaux was able to track the prisoner to the area where he was hiding, with the prisoner turning himself in while Beaux was on the track.

Beaux not only aided Officers and other Departments, but was also useful in other areas such as Crime Prevention where he was used for numerous demonstrations to various age groups throughout the year.

The Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team (ERT) continued its growth during 2000. The unit received valuable training in the form of two (2) schools conducted by the internationally known and respected National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA). The first training

session entitled Basic SWAT was conducted in May with them returning in September to host Hostage Rescue Training.

The ERT also received updated and much needed equipment to allow it to effectively perform its function within the department. These two (2) components allowed the ERT to be used in the service of several narcotic search warrants, including a role in the drug round up involving Federal, State, and local Law Enforcement Agencies.

The Bike Patrol saw use during the year 2000. However, due to the previously mentioned manpower constraints, their riding time was greatly reduced as the need for them arose to be in the marked Police cruisers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Get to full strength
- Get all new Officers trained to be out on their own
- Utilize Bike Patrol on all shifts
- Become more efficient in use of the new CAD-RMS and use of inter-linking feature
- Continue and increase use of K-9

SUMMARY

The Department saw much change in the year 2000. The Division worked to manage this change in personnel and all of the needs that are associated with that change. The overall goal of the Division, however, did not change. That goal was to provide professional, efficient, and effective service to the citizens of the community, which will continue to be the goal of the Patrol Division for the year 2001.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division's primary responsibility is major crime investigations. Major crimes may be classified as homicides, rapes, robberies, burglaries, assaults, financial crimes, computer crimes, and thefts. Other crimes that may require extensive investigative time or talents may be assigned in the Detective Division. The majority of cases originate in the Patrol Division, but may also develop from other sources, such as social services agencies, courts, prosecutors, anonymous tips, etc. Another task of the Detective Division is to conduct background investigations on potential new hires of the department.

The Detective Division Lieutenant reviews all criminal events that originate in the Patrol Division. He then assigns those cases to the investigators based upon solvability factors. Cases are reviewed with the investigators monthly to determine their progress and status. Cases may only be closed by the Detective Lieutenant during this process, or through the prosecution phase.

The Detective Division was staffed with one Lieutenant and 7 investigators during the year 2000. The Sergeant that was assigned to the Vice Narcotics Unit within the Detective Division retired in January 2000. The senior investigator also retired in May of 2000. The Division finished the year staffed with one Lieutenant and 6 investigators.

Several changes were implemented within the Department and the Detective Division in the year 2000. The implementation of an afternoon shift began on January 2, 2000. Two investigators are assigned to the afternoon shift Monday through Friday. This has given the investigators greater flexibility in scheduling interviews, locating suspects, victims, and witnesses, and allowed the investigators to serve in a greater support capacity for the Patrol Division during the evening hours. Even though the Division is not at full staffing levels, the continuation of this afternoon shift will remain a priority. The implementation of the Department's new record management system has had a great impact within the Detective Division. Greater efficiency in report writing has been achieved. Although there are still adjustments to be made, the benefits to this new system are far reaching.

There were a total of 361 cases assigned to investigators within the Detective Division in the year 2000. The average number of cases assigned to each investigator was 60 for the year. This was an increase from 1999, when the average was 46 cases per investigator, but at the same level as 1998, when the average was also 60 per investigator. Of the 361 cases assigned during the year 2000, 58 remain open and currently under investigation. The remaining 303 cases received closure codes, as depicted in the accompanying chart titled: "Detective Division Case Dispositions-2000." Based upon those closure codes, the rate at which sufficient evidence was obtained to prosecute was 39%. This was down somewhat from 41% in 1999.

Some of the higher profile cases the Division investigated in the year 2000 included the homicide of an elderly gentlemen in his home. This case is still under investigation and remains a high priority investigation. Several large embezzlement cases were investigated, as well as Internet schemes and computer crimes. The case of a local teenage girl meeting an older man on the internet, then running away with him to live out of state, emphasizes the dangers of the internet and how it can effect local citizens. This girl was found during the execution of a search warrant by federal authorities, and returned home.

Background investigations on prospective employees consume many man-hours within the Division. Considering that 10 people are interviewed for every opening within the Department, and the number of new employees hired within the Department in 2000, this was a large task.

Goals that were outlined for 2000 included enhanced training for the investigators. This was accomplished through advanced training by 3 of the investigators in the area of interview and interrogation, and computer crimes investigation. The continued training of investigators in advanced investigative techniques and technology remains a high priority. Increasing the "charged rate", or that rate at which sufficient evidence was obtained to prosecute a case, was a priority for 2000. This rate actually reflected a decrease by 2% in the year 2000. Increased caseloads, time spent on background investigations and the types of cases assigned may have played a part in this slight decrease. Improving upon this charge rate will remain a goal of the Division. The final goal of 2000 was training any new personnel assigned to the Division. With the restructuring of the command staff and their responsibilities, there were no new personnel assigned to the Detective

Division in 2000. However, the Lieutenant that was placed in charge of the Vice Narcotics Unit is being cross-trained to command the Detective Division in the absence of the Detective Division Lieutenant.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Obtain advanced training for investigators in the area of computer and Internet crimes, sexual assault investigations, homicide investigations, and financial crimes investigations.
- Modernize and update the infrastructure within the Detective Division
- Increase the charge rate from the current level of 39%.
- Bring the staffing level to full strength of 7 investigators
- Training new personnel assigned to the Division during 2001

VICE/NARCOTICS UNIT HANCOCK METRICH DRUG TASK FORCE

The year 2000 was a year of change for the Hancock Metrich Drug Task Force. The retirement of Sergeant Tom Davis was a great loss for the unit, but also signaled the beginning of a new era.

In July of this year Chief Renninger decided to make the former Vice Narcotics Unit a division within the Police Department. He along with Sheriff Mike Heldman met and this resulted in a recommitment on the part of both Departments. It was decided that Lieutenant Greg Horne would head this division with his responsibilities including all drug related activity in both the City and County and all activities being centered in the Task Force office on Clinton Court with greater cooperation and information sharing between both.

The Task Force consists of one (1) Lieutenant, three (3) City Of Findlay Police Department Detectives, and two (2) Hancock County Sheriff's Office Detectives. The Task Force is working hard at increasing its activity. Since July, it has utilized the Emergency Response Team (ERT), comprised of both City and County Officers, to serve several search warrants and to supplement the Task Forces manpower on surveillance details. At present the Task Force has one (1) Detective on ERT and he is used to provide advanced intelligence to Lieutenant Dunbar to streamline ERT assistance. In the future, we hope the combination of the Task Force and ERT will be used more frequently.

Also with the guidance and cooperation of the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office, the Task Force has begun to write and apply for search warrants on its own. This is a new area and the entire process combines the resources of the Task Force, the Prosecutor's Office, and ERT. This process streamlines the obtaining of search warrants enabling the Task Force to shut down and arrest countywide drug dealers quicker. Each time this process is being improved and has been quite successful so far. There have been seventeen (17) search warrants served with cash, drugs, and weapons being confiscated.

The crowning achievement of this year was the conclusion of a three-year, multi-jurisdictional conspiracy case on a thirteen-year old drug ring, which

resulted in the arrests of fifty-three individuals on September 7, 2000. In 1997 the Ohio BCI&I (Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Identification) and the Findlay Police Department began investigating the ring, which distributed thousands of pounds of cocaine and marijuana across Michigan and Northwest Ohio. The ring was responsible for funneling more than 510 kilograms of cocaine and crack cocaine and more than 2,000 pounds of marijuana into Findlay and Northwest Ohio since 1987. The Task Force and Ohio BCI&I were also assisted by the Federal DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), Ohio State Highway Patrol, Michigan State Police, and Marion County Sheriff's Office. Members of the Task Force spent countless hours working this case often at the expense of their own personal time to get the job done. Their dedication has led to one of the most significant drug trafficking crackdowns in the history of the state.

In 2000 \$5,594.00 Furtherance of Justice funds were utilized to purchase drugs and information on drug activity. Specifically \$1,300.00 was used to purchase marijuana, \$120.00 to purchase cocaine, \$216.00 to purchase alcohol, \$100.00 for guns, \$45.00 for drug paraphernalia, and \$3813.00 for the purchase of information and related expenses of drug operations.

Also in 2000 \$13,101.00 Metrich Task Force funds were utilized. Specifically \$3,400.00 was used to purchase marijuana, \$3,545.00 to purchase cocaine, \$985.00 to purchase crack cocaine, \$20.00 to purchase LSD, and \$5,151.00 to purchase information and related expenses of drug operations.

During the year 2000 a total of 119 cases were initiated involving 87 defendants. A total of 118 cases were closed involving 98 defendants. In addition the Task Force seized \$17,877.22 cash and three vehicles with an estimated value of \$18,000.00.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Addition of one new detective
- Combining of City and County computer systems for drug information as well as a Metrich System called Drug Track

- Reconfigure Task Force Office
- Addition of alarmed storage office for ERT equipment
- Creation of Metrich Drug Task Force Fund
- Revise and improve search warrant procedures
- Continue to improve investigative skills through education and training
- Improve intelligence gathering and information sharing
- Serve more search warrants
- Arrest more drug dealers

SUMMARY

Assuredly the year 2001 presents great opportunity and challenges for drug enforcement in Findlay/Hancock County. The Task Force will continue to streamline and improve its operational methods through education, training, and use of improved equipment and work to strive to make 2001 another banner year against the ever growing tide of drug activity.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Special Services Division is comprised of several smaller but vital and important units that contribute within the Police Department as a whole. These units include:

- Crime Prevention
- Fingerprinting
- Court Officer-Findlay Municipal Court
- Record Room Division
- Parking Division
- Property Officer
- Special Projects/Public Relations
- Training
- Crossing Guards

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The Crime Prevention Unit was in full stride during the 2000 year. Officer Tonya Miller was assigned by Chief Renninger in the fall of 1999 with her first full year being in 2000 to head up the duties of the Crime Prevention Unit. She has progressed very well and has become much more comfortable in her position.

During 2000 Officer Miller was very active in the public and private school system. One of her main duties is to educate school age children about Crime Prevention issues. A few of the topics covered were Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Prevention, Bike/Care Safety, Seatbelt Safety, Anger Management, Socialization Skills, Shoplifting/Theft, The Law, and Criminal Consequences.

There are also numerous programs and committees that the Special Services Division is involved with. Officer Miller attended monthly meetings and worked with the following: Triad, 4-H OSU Docu-Drama, File of Life, Red Ribbon Campaign, CODA, CUD, Harmony House, Adult Cluster,

Findlay/Hancock County Crime Prevention Association, OCPA, Hancock County Community Partnership, and the Just Say No Club.

A duty that is also performed by the Unit is that of fingerprinting persons on Friday afternoons. People come to the Crime Prevention Office and have their prints checked through our current computerized system called "WebCheck" or rolled if the prints are not readable by the scanner. The department purchased this system in September of 1998 for \$2,400.00. This system has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the Officer doing the prints by getting them done quicker and having less "waiting" time for the clients. The person's driver's license is scanned through a reader and the information from this along with four prints is sent via e-mail to BCI&I (Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification). All necessary results are sent via computer back to our department and the Crime Prevention Officer provides this information to the perspective employer requesting the check. This process takes approximately two (2) days as compared with four (4) to six (6) weeks with the previous system.

The Crime Prevention Unit is an integral part of the Special Services Division and the Police Department as a whole. Many important relationships within the community are established through this office. Presenting a positive and helpful image, the Crime Prevention Officer can instill trust and responsibility within our school age children and education for the adults of our community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continued training for Crime Prevention Officer
- Develop programs for all ages of children
- Continue progress as a public speaker
- Research new policing techniques and up to date community policing objectives

COURT OFFICER

The Police Department supplies the Findlay Municipal Court with a court officer. Officer Pete Sehnert took over the duties from now retired Officer Ron Meisner in May of 2000. These duties include Courtroom security, court paper service (summons, subpoenas, eviction notices), prisoner escort, and copying reports for other Officers and the Law Directors Office. The following report includes activity from January 3rd through December 29th for the 2000 year with the 1999 figures included for comparison purposes.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Total Papers Served	3,179	2,770
Paper Service Hours	1,161	1,015
Court Security Hours	604	759
Prisoners to Court	302	517
Copies to Prosecutor	463	482
Copies to Officers	35	33
Total Miles Driven	10,675	10,309

Due to a 71% increase in the number of prisoners that appeared in court, there was a 25% increase in the amount of security that had to be provided. Thus, having an effect on the time that was allotted to serve papers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Attempt to increase paper service
- Continue good relations between the Court and the Police Department

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Room is comprised of one (1) Supervisor and four (4) Clerks. Prior to October, 2000 the Records Clerks entered all incident reports, narratives, arrest reports, property supplements, and accidents reports in the computerized records system. There was a major change instituted in October of 2000 with the implementation of a new records management system software package called InterBadge. This program allows officers and clerks to make direct entries into the computer, creating less paper. Initially there were some minor technical software problems and some downtime during the implementation system due to training, but after some troubleshooting, the flaws seem to have been corrected.

Before the implementation of the new system in October, January through September the Clerks entered the following into the "COPS" database:

- 5,336 Incident Reports
- 1,128 Accident Reports
- 264 Private Property Accident Reports
- 161 Accident Waiver Forms
- 155 Felony Charges
- 5,866 Misdemeanor Charges
- 2,196 Pieces of Property (worth \$114,242.00)
- 4,712 Traffic Citations

Police Officers began entering all their own reports starting October 1, 2000.

The total amount of money brought into the Records Room amounted to \$56,996.75. A breakdown of those amounts is as follows:

• Fingerprinting Fees	\$8,236.88
• Solicitor Fees	42.00
• Taxi Fees	95.00
• Report Copies	2,378.80
• Bicycle Licenses	164.00
• Witness Fees	614.30
• Miscellaneous Bad Checks	80.96
• Miscellaneous Fees	9.25

• Credit Check Fees	154.50
• Impound/Tow Fees	16,156.00
• State Reimbursement	140.00
• Pager Reimbursement	2,012.00
• Restitution	827.00
• Cone Rental Fees	950.00
• Parking Bad Check Fees	65.96
• Parking Lot Rent Meter Fees	8,441.00
• Parking Lot Rental	13,179.00
• False Alarm Fees	<u>3,450.00</u>
Grand Total	\$56,996.75

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue progress and training in operation of Badge
- Streamline work system

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The handheld ticketwriters, which were established in 1999, were finally put into use in June of 2000 along with the accompanying “AIMS” (Automated Issuance Management System) software. After a few minor problems were worked out, the system became functional and a worthwhile investment.

The total number of parking tickets issued by the Department in 2000 was 8776 of which 6910 were written by one (1) Parking Meter Violations Representative for 79% of all tickets issued.

A new Parking Representative was hired at the end of 2000 and will begin February, 2001.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue use of handheld ticketwriter system
- Train new Parking Representative
- Continue to work with downtown business people in alleviating parking problems

PROPERTY OFFICER

All property such as impounded vehicles, evidence from crime scenes, or recovered bicycles are the responsibility of the Property Officer. Another of the Property Officer's responsibilities is the semiannual "Police" auction. The total proceeds from the two (2) auctions this year amounted to \$37,292.25.

The breakdown of the Police Departments' contribution to the total are as follows:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Unclaimed Items	\$2,233.75	7,221.00	6,426.50
Impounded Vehicles	\$6,420.00	12,090.00	16,395.00
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 456.00	169.75	70.50
Police Vehicles	<u>\$8,625.00</u>	<u>16,650.00</u>	<u>1,550.00</u>
Total	\$17,734.75	36,130.75	24,442.00

Twenty-five percent of the total funds obtained from the unclaimed items are donated to the Crime Stoppers Program.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Attempt to streamline handling of property
- Implement a bar-coding system for property inventory

SPECIAL PROJECTS/PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Special Services Division is always continuing to develop and establish partnerships with our community. By doing so, we feel that Findlay will always be an excellent community to live, work, and raise a family in. In December of 2000, the Division was involved with the "Drink and Drive You Lose" national campaign. Public service announcements, newspaper articles, and radio programs were done in trying to educate the public on the dangers of drinking and driving. The Division will strive to continue to develop other programs where we can work with the community in establishing strong partnerships.

TRAINING

The year 2000 involved many changes within the Department. Many new officers came on board and were involved with either being sent to a Police Academy within the state and or being assigned to a FTO (Field Training Officer) for 10 weeks. This was a constant process throughout 2000. Officers also attended group programs throughout 2000, which included BAC/DataMaster requalification and ADAP (Alcohol Detection and Prevention). The ERT (Emergency Response Team) also attended monthly training sessions on various topics along with various officers attending schools throughout the year covering a wide range of law enforcement topics.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To improve the amount of training given to officers
- To produce sharp, intelligent, and efficient methods of training new officers

