

ALBERT LEA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas D. Menning, Chief of Police

COMMUNITY SAFETY: STRIVING FOR PEACE OF MIND

To the degree that citizens feel safe, secure, and protected in their homes and in their community is a subjective measure of "quality of life". The safety of residential and commercial neighborhoods has long been a primary objective of the police department.

Traditional law enforcement activities (such as responding to reports of crime, investigating, gathering evidence and making arrests) remain essential to public safety. Involving the community in the policing effort, however, is an important strategy for confronting crime and disorder. Emphasizing collaboration among community members, law enforcement, and government officials results in a shared responsibility for creating solutions to crime. Identifying and removing sources of crime, drugs, and juvenile delinquency is critically important. Our aim is to lower current crime rates and deter future crime.

Community policing does *not* turn officers into social workers. It does recognize that social-economic conditions can give rise to crime, and that working with other community members to come up with solutions has better and more long-lasting results than solely reacting to crime after the fact. The movement towards community policing is placing more responsibility in the hands of individual officers by increasing their opportunities to exercise discretion.

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

For the first time in quite a long time we did not have a retirement or resignation in the preceding year (2002). By the end of the year we no longer had any probationary officers on the force. Our department does, however, remain relatively young and inexperienced with 17% of our departmental personnel with less than three years of law enforcement experience.

Although we did not add any new officers to our department, we did add a K-9 dog, Neiko. Neiko and the K-9 Officer, Andy Johnson, attended the 13 week certification course instructed by the St Paul Police Canine Unit. All training was in accordance with the standards set forth by the United States Police Canine Association. Neiko has also completed the certification training as a narcotics detector dog.

In January 2002, Officer Grangruth was assigned to the South Central Drug Investigative Unit (Task Force) as a field agent.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In 2002 the department made a significant training investment in the implementation of the K-9 unit. The K-9 handler and dog spent over 15 weeks attending certification programs for apprehension and control, and narcotics detection.

Our detectives continued to expand their knowledge by attending several important training sessions. The majority of training time and money continues to be spent on the required annual training programs. All officers need to stay proficient and up-to-date on matters that affect them daily.

Following is a summation of the training that officers of the police department received in 2002. Not included in these totals is the monthly tactical training received by members of the Emergency Response Unit, nor the periodic firearms training received by the officers.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ATTENDEES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>
<i>INITIAL RESPONDING OFFICER TRAINING</i>			
Pursuit Driving School	5	8	40
2-day Driving School	2	16	32
Use of force/baton training	28	8	224
CPR	27	4	108
Emergency Medical Technician Training	3	24	72
Accident Reports	17	3	51
DUI & Traffic Update	7	3	21
Intoxilyzer Certification	2	40	80
Fingerprinting	2	15	30
<i>SPECIALIZED TRAINING</i>			
Annual Juvenile Officers Institute	3	16	48
Police Mountain Bike School	1	40	40
Covert Narcotics Training	1	42	42
National Association of School Resource Officers	1	21	21
SWAT Training	1	60	60
Chemical Munitions Training	2	8	16
Women Police Issues	1	21	21
MN Sex Crimes Investigators Assoc Conference	2	15	30
Crime Scene Investigation	1	40	40
K-9 Certification	1	480	480
K-9 Drug Detection Certification	1	80	80
Crime Alert Association, NCIC	3	6	18
<i>MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT</i>			
MN Chief of Police Conference	1	26	26
K-9 Supervision	2	8	16
Public Safety Training	2	16	32
Tactical Team Leader	2	8	16
Police Supervisor Training	1	21	21

SCHOOL LIAISON/ DARE PROGRAMS

Having an officer assigned to the high school and junior high allows them to reach out to students in an effort to teach them crucial information on the prevention of crime and the dangers of drugs. The Police/Liaison Officer also serves as a sounding board for the students, an empathetic and understanding role model that can listen to concerns and direct students to the information they need to make good choices. The PLSO encourages the students to do the right thing, and in that process has the potential to help students resist negative influences.

2002 was the final year of a three-year COPS grant that allowed us to assign a second PLSO. During that three-year period the grant contributed \$125,000 toward the salary and benefit costs of the officer, whereas \$20,351 of local funding was used.

DARE is a drug-education curriculum being taught by police department officers to District #241 fifth-graders. The curriculum, which is based on the latest drug-abuse prevention research, permits the police officer to act as a facilitator for classroom discussions that focus on lifelike problems. Active learning is encouraged, and the reasoning behind decisions is examined in depth.

CRIME

The following statistics are representative of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program to which the Albert Lea Police Department is a contributing agency. Our Records Unit reports local criminal offense statistics to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for compilation of state statistics. That agency in turn submits Minnesota statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for inclusion in nation crime statistics.

All criminal offenses reported within Albert Lea are categorized according to the standardized definitions developed for the UCR program. A single crime is carried for each incident. The UCR program does not include traffic violations. UCR statistics include only jurisdictional population figures along with reported crime, clearance, or arrest data.

At any time it is difficult to specifically isolate the factors that have caused a fluctuation in crime rates. It is probably not wise for police to claim that the improvement in crime statistics was solely the result of improvement in law enforcement operations. Other factors, such as the economy, the weather, jobless rates, human behavior patterns, incarceration rates, and change in the way drug dealers do business must be included as potential reason for fluctuation in crime statistics. Analyzing social trends takes time, and, even in the best of times, one never really has a clear and convincing picture of which factors are most important in causing shifts in behavior patterns. The UCR clearance rate was simply not designed to provide a complete assessment of law enforcement effectiveness.

***ALBERT LEA 2002 CRIME STATISTICS**

There were *19,483 calls-for-service* in the City of Albert Lea in 2002
(Calls-for-service are not synonymous with criminal acts.)

Class I Crimes

Murder	0
Rape.....	1
Robbery	2
Assault	13
Burglary.....	43
Theft	425
Vehicle Theft	25
Arson	0

Class II Crimes

Simple Assault.....	100
Fraud/Forgery	430
Vandalism.....	149
Sex Offenses	5
Drug/Liquor.....	177
D.U.I.	142
Disorderly	96
Other	166
Adults Arrested.....	1173
Juveniles Arrested.....	393

**Class I and Class II crime statistics are from January through November due to a delay in receiving statistical data from the state.*

We have the capability within our records department to breakdown our total calls for service into 107 categories. The yearly totals on some of the more noteworthy categories, not reported as a class one or class two crimes, are as follows:

Vehicle Hit & Run Accidents	152
Traffic Accident, No Injury	504
Injury Traffic Accidents	106
Juvenile Problems	469
Domestics	435
Animal Control Complaints	942
Attempt to Locate	120
Bar Checks	637
Child Abuse/Neglect Report	69
Child in Need of Protection	24
Harassment/Stalking Complaints	299
Liquor Law Violations	35
Medical Assistance	612
Missing Person	26
Noise Complaint/Disturbance	377
Permit to Carry Handgun	56
Permit to Purchase Handgun	83
Juvenile Runaway Report	79
Suspicious Person or Vehicle	482
Traffic Stops	4,494
Violation of Order For Protection	86

ANIMAL CONTROL

The Albert Lea Animal Shelter received 441 animals in the year 2002, a decrease of 152 animals, which is a record low. Owner surrendered dogs were down 34 from last year.

There were 23 feral cats trapped. Adoption was at 25%, down 5%. The number of animals claimed was 22% down 7% from 2001. The decrease in the local economy seems to be a factor for lower numbers of animals adopted and redeemed.

The Frances Curran Foundation provided the animal shelter with a \$3000 spaying and neutering grant. Private donations amounted to \$1280. Six dogs were neutered, twelve dogs were spayed. Eleven cats were neutered, and eleven cats were spayed with the grant money in 2002.

Animal control gave four bite prevention workshops to area pre-schools. There has been a considerable increase in dogs declared potentially dangerous.

Below are the 2001 statistics:

Animals Licensed (1 st of 2 years)	756
Dogs impounded	226
Cats impounded	209
Rabbits impounded	3
Wildlife impounded	0
Domestic Birds impounded.....	0
Ferrets	<u>3</u>
 Total impounded	 441
 Animals Adopted	 112
Animals Claimed	98
Animals Euthanized	227
 Income	 \$5616