

MORGANTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from Chief Scott

This is a very exciting time in Morgantown history, as the City continues the experience of becoming a point of destination through unprecedented growth. The deployment of the workforce is geared to accommodate the influx of visitors as the City hosts a variety of events throughout the year. Typically, one of the challenges created by such activity and growth is an increase in crime; however, with the mindset of “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” the staff and officers of the Morgantown Police Department remain committed to maintaining a safe community for residents and visitors.

With the ever changing nature of law enforcement, the Police Department faces challenges and difficult decisions. The Department will continue to pursue collaboration with other agencies to increase effectiveness, continue with self assessment and strategic planning to meet increasing challenges, and strive for a strong partnership with our leaders and citizens.



CHIEF SCOTT

Department Resources and Data

The Morgantown Police Department has an authorized strength of fifty nine sworn law enforcement positions and eleven civilian support personnel. The Police Department has an operating budget of just over \$5,000,000. In addition, the Department seeks funding sources to enhance services, technology, training, and equipment. Additional grant funding of approximately \$370,000 was obtained this fiscal year to strengthen public safety.

GRANTS AWARDED

Transportation Security	\$90,000 (Airport Security)
Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force.....	\$112,000 (Drug Task Force)
Drug Enforcement Administration.....	\$31,708 (Drug Investigation Overtime)
WV. Highway Safety Program.....	\$46,250 (DUI Enforcement/Digital In-car Video)
U.S. Department of Justice.....	\$4,258 (Protective Vest Grant)
U.S. Justice Assistance Grant.....	\$44,000 (Public Safety/Technology Enhancement)
West Virginia University.....	\$ 32,000 (Athletic Event Security)
Rape and Domestic Violence.....	\$12,000(Investigation/Enforcement Reimbursement)
Wal-Mart	\$1,000 (Public Safety Equipment)

Statistics

Calls for Service (911)	42,883
Arrests.....	878
DUI.....	164
Accidents.....	1,382
Traffic Citations... ..	4,146
Criminal Citations.....	1,653
Parking Citations.....	12,700

Current Programs and Services

The Police Department under the direction of the Chief of Police is divided into two divisions, Administration/Staff Services Division and Operations/Patrol Division.

Administrative/Staff Services

Captain Brett Watson

Often thought of as everything not related to field or patrol operations, the Staff Services Division is the administrative arm of the Police Department and support mechanism responsible for many critical functions that are necessary for the Morgantown Police Department to be an effective law enforcement agency. These functions range from planning, budgeting, purchasing, training, records, grants management, and the ever increasing number of special events. Several units within the Police Department such as Traffic, Detectives, Street Crimes, and Records operate under the direction of Staff Services.

Traffic Unit

The objective of the Traffic Unit is to help reduce traffic crashes and to facilitate the safe flow of vehicle traffic within the City. The objective is accomplished with a blend of strategic planning, education, and enforcement. The Traffic Unit has made a positive contribution toward safer roadways by taking an active role in the “Click it or Ticket” seatbelt campaign, child safety seat education, and speed awareness and enforcement within residential neighborhoods. The officers assigned to the Traffic Unit coordinate the Volunteer Community Service Officer Program, have primary responsibility for all traffic related special events and the Downtown walking beat.

A new program initiated in 2006, the Volunteer Community Service Officer Program, is coordinated by officers in the Traffic Unit. Public safety is enhanced by using volunteers to supplement police officers in non-enforcement related activity. The Community Service Officers (C.S.O.’s) continue to assist with neighborhood watch, residential and business security patrols, special events, and security of the rail-trail.

Street Crimes Unit

Sergeant Stephen Ford

The newest enforcement unit within The Department was activated in 2005. The Street Crimes Unit continues a mission to reduce the threat of violent crime by proactive and aggressive enforcement of street level drug, firearms, and alcohol violations. Currently the Street Crimes Unit (S.C.U.) is comprised of a Sergeant, four patrol officers, and a K-9 officer. The unit is assigned to address specific crime or traffic issues throughout the City. Working non-traditional 10 hour shifts from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. four days a week, the Street Crimes Unit has the primary responsibility for security of the Downtown business area during peak night time hours.

Criminal Investigations/Detectives
First Sergeant Harold Sperringer

The Detective Division consists of a supervisor and six detectives. The Division's primary responsibility is to thoroughly investigate crimes that are committed within the City of Morgantown. The detectives are responsible for processing major crime scenes utilizing a multitude of specialized equipment to include photographic equipment, electronic and chemical processing, and DNA/Biological collection kits and trace evidence collection. The detective division recently purchased digital photographic equipment with the primary piece of equipment being a Nikon D-80 digital SLR camera and accessories. The majority of the specialized equipment is maintained in a state of the art crime scene van. The detectives are responsible for identifying, documenting, collecting, packaging, preserving, and submitting evidence to the WV State Police Forensic laboratory. The detectives are also specially trained in interview and interrogation techniques. The detective's primary role in an investigation is to uncover the truth and the detectives spend a considerable amount of time interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects. The Detective Division also assists local County, State, and Federal Law Enforcement agencies in criminal investigations. Another aspect of criminal investigations is the examination of video surveillance. The Morgantown Police Department received a computer based video processing system from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center. The computer based system was received on a grant from the Technology Transfer Program and is valued at approximately \$27,000. The system is utilized to process and examine surveillance video from various types of video media.



CRIME SCENE VAN

The Detective Division investigated 197 criminal offenses from November 01, 2006, to November 1, 2007. During that time period, 47 arrests were made and numerous warrants were obtained. Some of these warrants were served by other law enforcement agencies.

The Detective Division has two detectives assigned to the Mon Valley Drug Task Force (MVDTF). The Task Force is a combined effort of the Mon County Sheriff Department and the Morgantown Police Department. Both Morgantown Police Task Force Agents are also assigned to the DEA to assist Special Agents in Drug/Narcotic investigations. The MVDTF opened 81 Drug/Narcotic investigations from November 1, 2006, to November 1, 2007. During that time period, 40 arrests were made.

Operations / Patrol Division

Lieutenant Joel Smith

With the now familiar, highly visible Black and White Police Cars, the Patrol Division, the largest unit of the Department, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, will answer in excess of 40,000 emergency and non-emergency calls for service in 2007. Performing a variety of law enforcement functions for the protection and service to citizens and visitors, uniformed officers of the Patrol Division have the basic mission to “PROTECT AND SERVE”. The Patrol Division has primary responsibility for the enforcement of all City ordinances and State laws involving criminal offenses, initial reporting and preliminary investigation of crimes, investigation of traffic accidents, and traffic and parking enforcement.

The Patrol Division is split into three shifts: A (Day), B (Afternoon), and C (Midnight) each under the direction of a Lieutenant who is the shift commander. Additionally, two patrol supervisors (First Sergeant and Sergeant) are assigned to each patrol shift. Patrol supervisors are responsible for patrol assignments, documenting daily activities, and coordinating the field activity of officers under their direction. The Patrol Division provides a myriad of services to the community including crime prevention and neighborhood watch programs. A proactive and responsive patrol force is the core of the Police Department’s efforts.

PATROL
DIVISION



Special Response Team

The Special Response Team (S.R.T.) is a voluntary assignment unit within the Department that responds to critical incidents in support of the Patrol Division and Detectives. The purpose of the S.R.T. is to respond to incidents that may require extra resources, equipment, or tactical training. Some of these types of incidents include the serving of high risk arrest or search warrants, apprehension of violent criminals, and responding to civil disturbances. The Special Response Team is made of several officers who must pass a rigorous assessment to be considered for selection. Members of the team have other primary assignments within the Department and are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Underwater Search/Recovery Team

The mission of the Underwater Search and Recovery Team is to provide underwater police assistance in respect to lifesaving emergencies, recovery of property and evidence, and as an aid in investigations. Much like the Special Response Team, the Underwater Search/Recovery Team is a voluntary assignment. Members of the team are specially trained, certified divers who in addition to regular assignments within the Department respond to incidents involving the rescue/recovery of drowning victims, search for and recover criminal evidence, and provide assistance to other agencies as requested. Additionally, the team provides support with the police boat for the many water related activities held each year on the waterfront.



MORGANTOWN POLICE BOAT

Records Division
Christina Wade

To better serve the public, the Records Division underwent a complete reorganization in 2007. Combining what was known as “police dispatch” with the existing records function, the unit operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a staff of eight. Seven civilian clerks under the direction of the division supervisor are responsible for computer entry of all arrests, police reports, and citations generated by officers in the field. The data is subsequently stored and used for mandatory reporting requirements to both the State and Federal governments. The Records Division also processes thousands of requests yearly for copies of reports or crime data from a wide variety of requestors including the law enforcement/legal community, insurance companies, crime victims, and the media.

Records employees also help people at the front counter of the Public Safety Building and serve as a non-emergency answering point for the Police Department as well as other City services after hours, fielding hundreds of phone calls daily.



Significant Accomplishments

2007 has been significant in many ways. Most important, many Department goals that were set for 2007 were realized. None could have been met without the cooperative effort of each and every employee of the Department. A continued decrease in violence surrounding late night activity in the Downtown business district is a positive sign that Morgantown culture is changing. Fair, firm enforcement coupled with education, cooperation, and community involvement has resulted in a reduced number of contacts and citations for alcohol related offenses. A continued proactive approach and cooperative effort will be needed to keep the Downtown area safe.

A continued Department wide approach to community involvement has enhanced police/citizen relations. Officers interact cooperatively with citizens, neighborhood associations, and service organizations to address residential neighborhood concerns. Additionally, Officers serve on numerous boards and committees in an effort to strengthen community relationships.

As anticipated last year, the Police Department completed a total communications upgrade. The Department's aging and outdated radios were replaced with state of the art digital interoperable mobile and portable radios. The new communications system gives officers the ability to have instant direct contact with every law enforcement agency and other first responders in a three County area. Statewide communication will be possible as the system continues to expand.

A cooperative partnership between the schools, police, courts, probation, and the Boys and Girls Club resulted in the opening of the Monongalia County Truancy Center. Located within the magistrate court building, the program goal is to reduce truancy, return out of school youth to school, and reduce crime committed by school age youth.

The Department completed the hiring and training of a full time civilian evidence/property technician, relieving two police officers of working in non-enforcement assignments.

The combining of what was formally known as Police Dispatch with the Records Division was completed in 2007. This merger enhanced the records management function by cross training all employees while still providing walk-in assistance to the public 24 hours, 7 days a week.

The Department began an additional phase of security enhancements. Additional keyless entry and security cameras were added and new fire, security, and panic alarms were installed within the Public Safety Building.

Training of Department employees continues to be a priority. The Department surpassed State requirements for mandatory in-service training for officers and supervisors. Some of the advanced level training included command level supervisors receiving advanced

training through the U.S. Department of Justice on issues of policy, managing, and investigating missing child cases. The field supervisors have received advanced training in leadership skills. All supervisors and officers completed training in liability issues relating to emergency vehicle operations and responding to an active shooter.

Through grant funding, The Department received two pieces of state of the art equipment. "Search Cam 2000", a search camera, which enables officers to view areas from a safe distance enhancing officer safety and a "Star Witness" video processor, a computer-based system that is capable of examining, enhancing and processing various types of video media were acquired.

Goals for 2008

As one goal is achieved, a new challenge becomes apparent. Plans and goals serve as the foundation for how the Department will provide services in the future. The critical aspect of policing is problem solving that focuses on service and community partnerships.

With continued growth, there will be an increase in service expectations. Recruitment, training, and retention of additional law enforcement officers will be a challenge and priority in the coming year.

Never before has the Police Department been so impacted by complex technology and more sophisticated criminal activity. Information technology systems will play an integral part in the Department's ability to continue to provide professional and consistent services to the community. The Department must use advanced technology to improve its work efficiency and effectiveness by implementing in car computers to increase officers time spent in the field, improve quality of reports and give officers instant access to information.

The Department will continue crime reduction efforts by focusing on alcohol and drug related incidents.

The Department must achieve greater success by developing new programs for problem solving endeavors within residential areas to address criminal activity. The Department will conduct quarterly community meetings to promote safety and exchange information with residents.

The Department will take part in collaborative efforts with a continued and strengthened focus to deal with traffic issues.

