



# 2015 Annual Report Vermillion Police Department



Written by the Vermillion Police  
Department

Edited by M. Betzen

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## Greetings from the Chief



2015 has come and gone. Throughout the year we at the Vermillion Police Department have continued to strive for excellence as we provide public safety services for the City of Vermillion. The first to respond to the City's emergencies, the officers are highly trained professionals who continually strive to improve the quality of service to the community. This year we saw several projects designed to improve our service, including but not limited to: Crisis Intervention Team Training, Tactical Medical Training, adoption of Body Worn Cameras, substantial improvements in property and evidence management, and improvements in community outreach. Details on these projects and other efforts are detailed by the officers who have worked to develop these resources in this report.

Nationwide, law enforcement has struggled dealing with a series of negative events that have led to a generally negative perception of our profession. While these events are far away and few in number they bring forward important questions and issues. I and the other members of our department seek to find the balance between the media's sensationalist painting of these events and the lessons that can be applied to our corner of the world. Finding the balance between providing public safety services and protecting the community while protecting individual rights has always been the challenge, and we will continue to find ways to improve safety and security while respecting individual rights. We, as a department, continue to strive to meet our core values: Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Service and Teamwork.

The primary way that we seek to maintain our department's high ethics standard and excellent technical skills is by developing our team members. We work hard to find and hire the best available people to become officers. Then we put them through an extensive training program focused on making them problem solvers. We continue to develop them by encouraging and promoting training and education. Finally, we work to retain our employees.

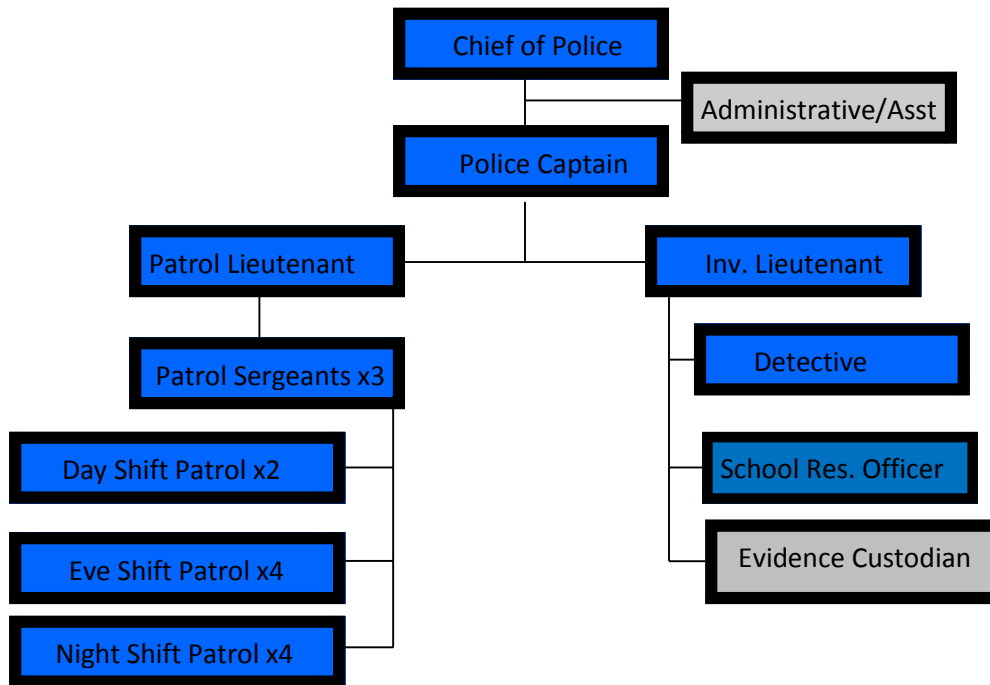
This report has details regarding the type, quantity and quality of the training our officers receive. Additionally, the City provides tuition assistance for advanced education. Regarding retention, the department lost two of its team members in 2015, and a part time position in 2014. So, we have lost an average of 1.25 positions per year for the last two years. From 2011-2013, our loss rate was 4.75 positions a year. This substantial improvement results in better trained employees who have made a commitment to the City of Vermillion.

The members of the Vermillion Police Department are dedicated to serving the people of Vermillion. If you have questions, concerns, or comments please let me know. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Chief of Police.

## Fast Facts

Total number of sworn officer Positions with the Vermillion Police Department	19
Total number of non-sworn Employee positions authorized	2 (1 is part-time)
Total Calls For Service (CFS) in 2015	7,044
Average Monthly CFS in 2015	587
Busiest Month of the Year (based on CFS)	April (693)
Slowest Month of the Year (based on CFS)	December (489)
Busiest Day of the Week	Friday (1,139)
Slowest Day of the Week	Monday (878)
Number of Marked Patrol Vehicles	5 (and 3 unmarked)
Number of Patrol Miles Driven	97,281
Total Number of Officer Training Hours	2,127
Number of Parking Tickets Written	1,825
Actual Total Cost of Department-2015	\$1,644,483

## The Organizational Chart for 2015:



Above is the organizational chart for the Vermillion Police Department. In broad terms, the Chief, Administrative Assistant and the Police Captain perform the planning, logistics, financial, and information systems efforts for the department. The patrol side of the chart are the uniformed officers who respond to calls, perform traffic enforcement and do the majority of the day to day work. The investigative side is responsible for major case investigations, coordinating with other agencies, drug investigations, alcohol compliance checks, school safety, and community outreach. The Lieutenants and Sergeants also share responsibility for quality control, resource management and personnel development.

In addition to these specific assignments, all department members are encouraged to be problem solvers and find innovative community friendly methods of addressing issues.

# Community Engagement

## Crisis Intervention Team by Sgt. Isaac Voss

In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with the deinstitutionalization of several state mental health hospitals throughout the country, the law enforcement community began to see an influx of persons with severe mental health disorders living in their communities. A natural consequence of the transition from inpatient care to community-based, outpatient care was an increase in the frequency law enforcement officers and persons with mental health disorders came into contact with each other. Traditionally, law enforcement officers handled mental disturbance calls in one of three ways; if a crime was committed the person went to jail, if not, the person was taken into protective custody. Or on occasions, law enforcement officers found themselves playing the role of “street-side psychiatrist”. It soon became evident that law enforcement officers needed specialized training to help them better serve the ever growing population of persons with mental health disorders.

The Vermillion Police Department found that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) had a training program which helped communities develop a Crisis Intervention Team. According to NAMI, a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a model for community policing that brings together law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency departments and individuals with mental illness and their families to improve responses to people in crisis. CIT programs enhance communication, identify mental health resources for assisting people in crisis and ensure that officers get the training and support that they need.

In February of 2014, the Vermillion Police Department sent two of its officers to Crisis Intervention Team training in Sioux Falls. During the 40-hour course, the officers learned from mental health professionals, had personal interaction with people who experienced and recovered from a mental health crisis, spent time with family members who have cared for loved ones with mental illness, learned verbal de-escalation techniques, and experienced scenario-based training on responding to crises.

The two VPD officers returned from the training in Sioux Falls and created a Crisis Intervention Team training program for the Vermillion Police Department. The curriculum they created mirrored the training they received in Sioux Falls. In September of 2014, the Vermillion Police Department and the Yankton Police Department hosted its first Crisis Intervention Team training course in Yankton at the State Hospital. The Vermillion Police Department sent six officers who successfully completed the 40-hour course. The Vermillion Police Department’s Crisis Intervention Team was formed, comprised of seven officers and one sergeant. In March of 2015, a second Crisis Intervention Team training course was held in Vermillion and the VPD had five more officers complete the 40-hour course. We anticipate a third CIT training class to be held in April of 2016 where up to five more VPD officers will receive the training.

Since the inception of the Vermillion Police Department’s Crisis Intervention Team in September of 2014, the VPD has responded to 47 calls that involved a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Of those 47

calls, only seven required the VPD to place the person in emergency protective custody. The 7 calls where the person was placed into emergency protective custody generally involved a suicide attempt, which left the officers with no other options to successfully resolve the situation. The low percentage of emergency protective custody placements is directly related to the Crisis Intervention Team training. The VPD officers are successful because they are using their advanced training to identify the possible mental health disorder the person is experiencing, properly using de-escalation techniques, and they are identifying the appropriate resources in the community to assist the person.

For example, an officer responded to an elderly woman's residence because she was contemplating suicide. The officer responded, spoke with the woman, and determined a member of the Crisis Intervention Team was needed on scene. The CIT member responded and, using techniques learned in CIT training, the CIT member was able to bring the woman out of a mental health crisis. The CIT member and the woman partnered to formulate a plan to resolve the issue that originally caused her mental health crisis. Another example involved a teenage male who was threatening suicide and who had a history of mental illness. A CIT member responded, used techniques to de-escalate the situation, and arranged for a mental health counselor to meet with the teen.

Prior to CIT training, the people in these two examples could have very likely been taken into emergency protective custody and the officers would have spent several hours completing the process. Historically, when officers have placed people into emergency protective custody the entire process averaged between 4-6 hours per incident. That would often put a significant strain on manpower and require officers to work overtime.

Police officers have become first line responders to people with serious mental illness who are in a psychiatric crisis. When these crises occur, officers often have no options other than to arrest the individual, due to the lack of protocol or coordination between law enforcement and the mental health system. By creating relationships between law enforcement and mental health services, CIT can facilitate agreements that get people quickly transferred to mental health treatment, while reducing the burden on police and corrections. Speedy transfers to treatment save police time and money, and reduce the need for costly emergency psychiatric services. More importantly they reduce potential negative consequences for the patient. The Vermillion Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team has had great success with the CIT program and plans to provide the CIT training to all of its officers.

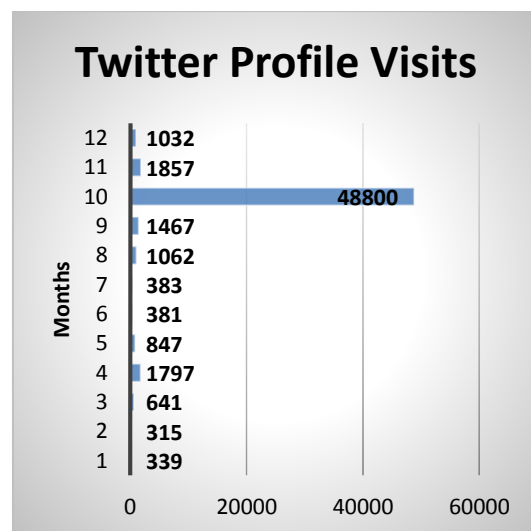
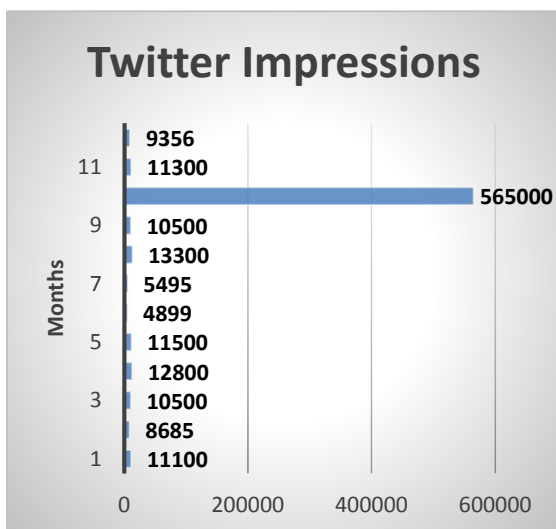
#### Social Media by Captain Chad Passick

Policing cannot be effective when an agency's only efforts to communicate with those it serves comes once adversity strikes. Policing is most effective when relationships are built and maintained continually, and where trust is established long before adversity is encountered. One way the VPD has endeavored to build relationships and inspire trust is through social media outreach. While our efforts continue to be a work in progress, results have been generally positive.

The Department maintains a presence on multiple online social platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nixle. While there are similarities in the ways different social media platforms are used, there are also differences. Differences in platform tend to equate to differences in user base and/or the suitability of a service relative to our goals. By recognizing this, we are better able to develop objectives and strategies for engaging elements of our community. Our ultimate objective is to engage, as inclusively as possible, all elements of our community. In striving for engagement, we seek to earn the public’s confidence so that when we communicate it is not only heard, but, more importantly, it is also trusted.

Aside from surveys of public opinion or anecdotal examples, how do we measure our success in using social media? One way is by evaluating statistics for information that indicates where we are doing well or not so well. While we have a presence on four social media (SM) platforms, to date we have primarily utilized Twitter and Facebook for engagement. What follows are some statistics that help to illustrate some of our successes (and failures) in using these social platforms to engage the community in 2015.

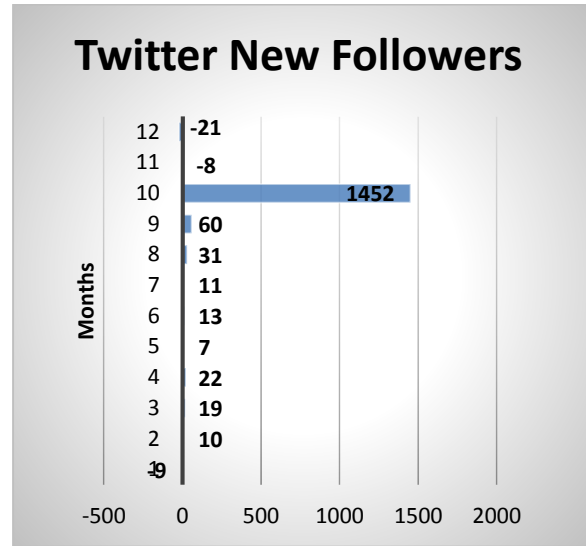
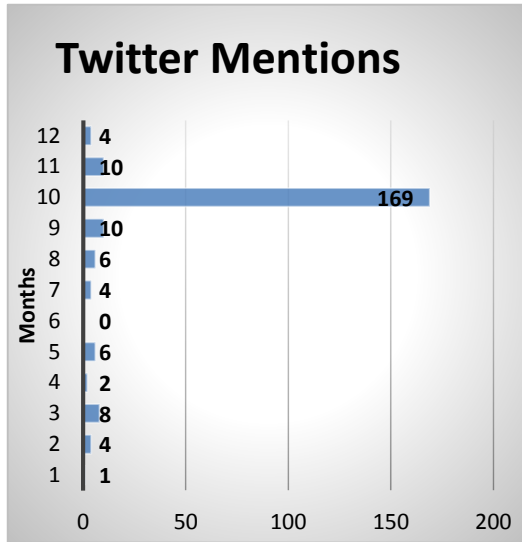
Our Twitter statistics show an obvious spike attributed to our activities during USD’s homecoming celebration. Spikes in activity on our Facebook page correspond with occasionally routine posts. (It is fair to note that even though Virtual Ride-Along messages are no longer cross-posted onto Facebook, we do see some bleed-over in Facebook following during that event.) To a certain extent, much of our growth in followership on Twitter can be attributed to the Virtual Ride-Along event in October, while growth in Facebook following should be attributed more to occasional posts and calls-to-action. For both platforms, followership and engagement directly correlate with our sharing of information.



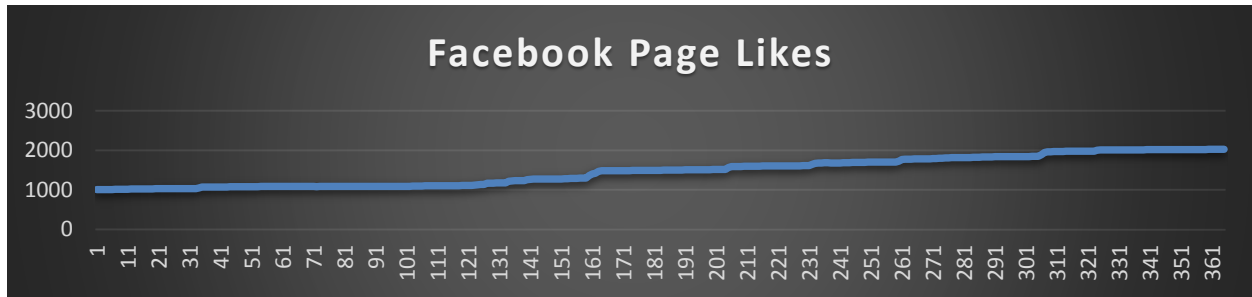
The first graph represents the total number, by month, of Twitter users on whose timeline our content appeared. October resulted in a very high number of impressions. The anomaly can be attributed to our “Virtual Ride-Along” event during the USD homecoming celebration. The second graph shows the number



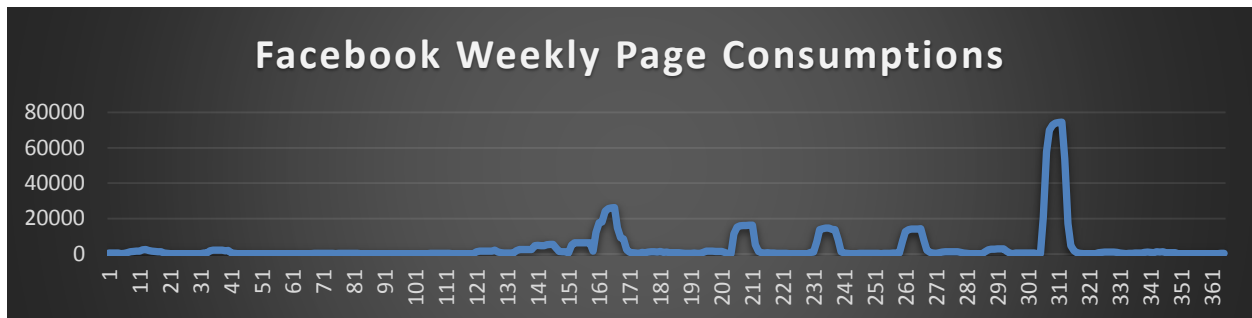
of users who actually viewed/visited our Twitter profile, either by seeking it out or by linking to it from their Twitter feed.



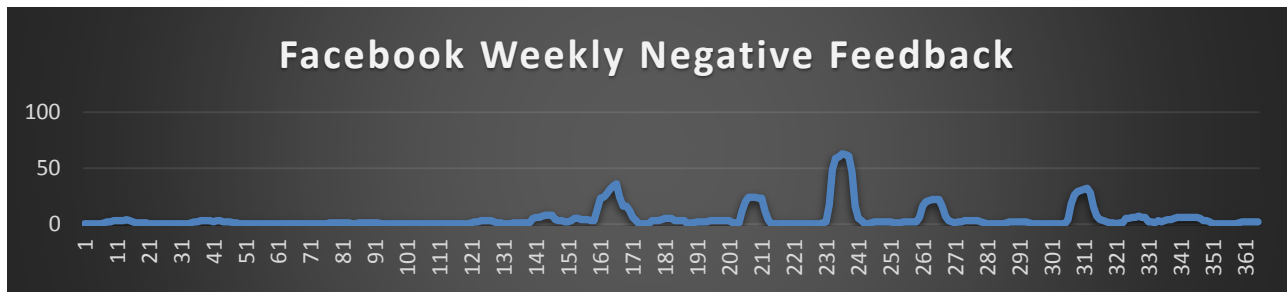
The first graph represents the number of times that Twitter users “mentioned” our Twitter username, while the second represents the monthly total of users who “followed” our Twitter account.



This graph represents the daily growth of our Facebook followers throughout 2015 where a “like” equates to a user following our account.



This graph represents the number of clicks on any of our content. Stories generated without clicks on page content (e.g., liking the page in Timeline) are not included.



*This graph represents user actions taken to “hide” a post, “hide all” of our page activity and posts (aka “unfollow”), or “unlike” our page.*

What other benefits can we derive from social media use? Our primary objective in social media use is to earn and develop the trust of our community, a derivative of that trust has been our ability to use social media to broadcast requests for information. For instance, several times in 2015 we published photographs of persons suspected of crimes and asked for the public’s help in identifying subjects. Social media helped us to disseminate information quickly and broadly, and we have received multiple tips, with some leading to the arrest and prosecution of criminals. Finally, our followership has grown to an extent that social media will undoubtedly be a primary method for delivering real-time messages in a large-scale emergency of any type.

Social media is but one avenue for the Vermillion Police Department to deliver information and engage our community. Notably, it is an avenue that has proven extremely effective at engaging at least one segment of our city, university students, with which we have historically struggled to engage. However, challenges still exist. Utilization of social media during critical events, ensuring regular sharing of information while maintaining consistency in philosophy and theme, navigating (hopefully avoiding) political “landmines,” and providing for continuity, both in the information we share and for the program in the long-term, are all issues that must be addressed. In general, though, social media represents a low-cost, high-reward method of community engagement that has both provided positive results and evolved into an important representation of our department’s collaborative relationship with those we serve.

#### Department Training by Captain Chad Passick

In order to achieve and maintain certification, law enforcement officers in South Dakota must meet certain requirements for initial and continued education. Within the first year of their employment, officers are required to be certified by the State Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre, SD. The current Basic Certification Course is 520 hours in length, completed over a period of thirteen weeks. Additionally, new Vermillion Police Officers receive at least sixteen weeks of in-house training with trained and certified VPD training officers, where methods and theories of adult learning are employed to develop both specific and more general problem-solving skills. As of this writing, one Vermillion Police Officer is currently pursuing Basic

Certification in Pierre and will return to complete field training upon completion of Basic Certification.

Beyond the academy, the State of South Dakota requires its officers to qualify annually on firearms and to receive a minimum of 40 hours continuing education every two years. These hours must be in the areas of program administration, police practices and procedures, legal aspects, and human behavior. Additionally, officers must attend approved continuing education related to domestic violence at least once every four years.

While certification requirements set a bar for an officer’s continuing education, that bar is actually set much higher for Vermillion Police Officers. Improvements and expansions in technology and methods of investigation, the increasing professionalism of law enforcement, the evolution of crime itself and a somewhat volatile national political climate all combine to make an officer’s personal and professional development more vital today than ever before. With that in mind, the Vermillion Police Department engages in continual training and development of its officers. The following statistics represent our efforts for the calendar year 2015.

Average number of hours required annually to maintain State Law Enforcement Certification	20
Average number of training hours logged by each Vermillion Police Officer	112
Total number of training hours logged by all VPD Officers	2127
Highest number of training hours logged by an individual VPD Officer	216
Number of VPD Officers who logged over 100 total hours of training	10
Average number of hours logged by individual officers to develop Firearms skill	14
Total number of VPD training hours specific to developing firearms skills	264
Average number of hours logged by individual officers to develop criminal investigation skills	11
Total number of VPD training hours specific to developing criminal investigation skills	210
Average number of hours logged by individual officers specific to developing patrol procedures and tactics	25
Total number of VPD training hours specific to developing patrol procedures and tactics	478

Of our 19 sworn staff, the average number of authorized positions used to meet training needs

1

Average hourly cost of training (not including wages)

\$5.00 per hour

More than ever, today's police officer must be a "jack of all trades." Nowhere is this truer than in a small college town in the middle of America. Whether counseling a pre-teen, teaching an elementary school class, instructing concepts in active shooter response, negotiating with the mentally-ill or substance-impaired, seizing evidence, arresting suspects or even making the decision to use lethal force, our officers require the most current and advanced training available. While we spend significant resources on these activities, both in time and in dollars, we are extremely confident that our officers and our community are better off because of it.

#### Girls State by Lt. Crystal Brady

Each spring, the University of South Dakota organizes Girls State. This program selects a limited number of girls from each school district in the state to come to USD for a week and learn about how government works. The girls selected have just completed their junior year of high school. The girls are separated into groups designated by a city name. They choose between taking a law enforcement exam or a bar exam. Their individual scores dictate whether they are put in the role of prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, sheriffs, deputies, or forensic investigators. These roles help them understand how each part of the government and the legal system work together. At the end of the week, the girls participate in a mock trial.

Lt. Brady has instructed the girls assigned to forensic investigation for the past nine years. She meets with the girls for approximately six hours throughout the week to teach them about collecting evidence, interpreting blood evidence, and what to look for at a crime scene. The girls participate in lifting their own fingerprints off pop cans, casting a shoe print, and distinguishing between different tool marks. They also study the facts of a high profile case or collect evidence from a mock crime scene.

Originally, 14 girls were selected for the forensic investigations team. These girls were the ones that scored the highest on the law enforcement exam. The forensic investigations portion has grown in popularity over the years. This past year, the team was increased to 21 girls. Each year, one girl from the forensic investigations team is selected to receive up to a \$1,000 scholarship. This program is a good way to encourage young girls to become interested in a career in law

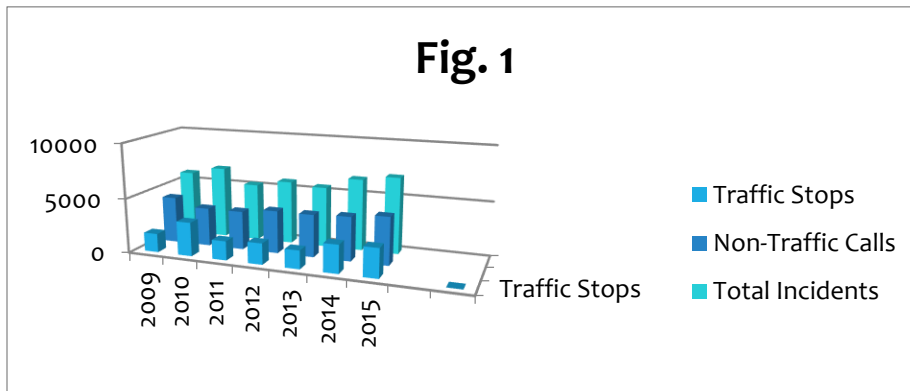
enforcement.



## Patrol Division by Lt. Luke Trowbridge

The Vermillion Police Department's Patrol Division consists of the officers in uniform that are out on the streets patrolling 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It consists of a Lieutenant, three Sergeants and ten Patrol Officers. The Patrol Officers are responsible for working one of three shifts: day shift, evening shift or night shift. Due to the nature of a 24 hour per day operation, many officers end up with varying schedules. Some may work Tuesday through Saturday while others might work Friday through Monday.

Currently, our Patrol Sergeants maintain static days off which allows for more supervisory coverage throughout the week. The Patrol Officers rotate their days off every four weeks which allows almost all officers to have a period of weekends off to spend time with their families and friends. Our evening and night shift Officers and Sergeants have a four hour overlap each night



which allows us to effectively double staffing to better suit the call volume and types of calls for service.

*Figure 1 is a chart outlining incident totals for the Patrol Division*

*2009 through 2015. The charts input includes the number of traffic stops performed by Patrol Officers each year as well as the number of calls for service the same officers respond to each year.*

The Patrol Division is responsible for responding to all emergency calls for service within the City of Vermillion to include police, fire and medical emergencies. Often times, we are the first responders to all emergencies within our community.

Though being first responders is an important aspect of the job, the Patrol Officers are jacks of all trades. While Officers often do things commonly associated with Police work such as conducting traffic and parking enforcement or investigating vehicle crashes, they also act as their own investigation unit performing interviews, collecting evidence, dusting for fingerprints or other activities required to complete investigations. While the aforementioned activities are ones universally thought to be police work, it only covers a small segment of the Patrol Officers responsibilities. Officers are also responsible in assisting with resolving personal disputes,

working with mentally ill, conducting welfare checks on people for various reasons and much more.

Aside from responding to calls for service, the Patrol Division staff also attends numerous training events throughout the year, both in-service and outside the agency. In-service training is usually completed to maintain various certifications such as defensive tactics, RADAR and LIDAR, firearms, and Emergency Vehicle Operations. We also complete in service training such as policy review or communications tactics to keep ourselves apprised of best practices in law enforcement. Outside agency training can range from instructor schools to become an instructor for our officers' in-service trainings or to specialized course that help to advance an officer's particular knowledge, skills and abilities.

Some of the outside agency training courses officers attended in 2015 include: Interview and Interrogation, Instructor Development, Leadership in Police Organizations, Tactical Medical Responder, School Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Drug Recognition Expert, DUI Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Motor Officer Operator, Advanced Crisis Negotiations, Crisis Intervention Team training, Armorer course, DARE Instructor, Cooper Fitness Instructor, Civil Liability and Use of Force, and Terry Stops and Searches.

All trainings are taken into consideration with regard to how they better develop officers, which ultimately benefits the Department and City by providing its citizens with the best possible police service we can offer to our community.

#### Drug Recognition Expert by Officer Jon Warner, DRE

The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program was developed in the 1970's by the Los Angeles Police Department in response to a growing awareness that many people arrested for impaired driving were under the influence of drugs rather than alcohol. The program was implemented at the Vermillion Police Department in 2009.

A DRE is a law enforcement officer specially trained to detect and evaluate individuals who are under the influence of drugs, whether or not these people are operating a motor vehicle. At the conclusion of the evaluation, Drug Recognition Experts are able to determine which drug category the individual has consumed. These Drug Recognition Experts are able to determine if a person is exhibiting signs of impairment or if the person has an underlying medical condition. Many substances can qualify as a drug. These substances may include *narcotics, alcohol, prescription pills, inhalants, and hallucinogens.*

The South Dakota Highway Patrol has been influential in assisting with the development of our local program. The cost of the training, travel, and class room materials were provided through the state from a federal grant.

In the fall of 2015, the Vermillion Police Department sent Officer Anthoney Klunder to Drug Recognition Expert Training School in Rapid City. The intensive two-week classroom training instructs officers on the clinical and physical indicators of impairment from drugs. As part of the training, the officers complete two “wet-labs” or alcohol workshops, where volunteer drinkers are dosed to specific blood alcohol levels. As the students perform evaluations of the volunteer drinkers, they look for both the physical and clinical indicators of impairment.

Upon completion of the two-week course, Officer Klunder attended a field certification process with the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Department in Arizona. A minimum of 12 drug evaluations must be administered by each officer during this training week. Part of the evaluation process includes the collection of a urine or blood sample. Results of the collected samples are compared to the officer’s findings during the evaluation process to confirm their observations and their ability to correctly identify the type(s) of substance(s) that have been ingested. The evaluating officer’s opinion must maintain a minimum of a 75% accuracy rate with the blood/urinalysis results.



Officer Klunder’s completion of the Drug Recognition Expert training program brings a second Drug Recognition Expert to the Vermillion Police Department. Officer Jonathan Warner completed the intensive training program and acquired his certification in 2014.

In 2015 a total of 81 DUI arrests were made and ten drug impaired evaluations were completed. This is a slight reduction in arrests and evaluations as compared to 2014, where 85 DUI arrests were made and eight drug evaluations were completed. We credit the patrol division and the DRE program with the decrease in DUI arrests. The patrol division performed approximately 150 hours of saturation patrol, paid for through a Highway Traffic Safety Grant. Included in the saturation effort, officers performed 50 hours of impaired driving saturation, resulting in several drug impaired driving arrests and drug influence evaluations.

In 2015, DRE officers researched potential ways to purchase a digital recording camera system to be used for drug influence evaluations. A grant application will be made to the South Dakota Attorney General’s Drug Control Fund to purchase this equipment. Currently, officers use a handheld camera. The quality of the video is often poor and does not allow for the multiple camera angles needed to effectively complete a drug influence evaluation. The camera system will consist of three cameras with audio recording capability as well as a computer. The cost to purchase this equipment will be approximately \$7,000.



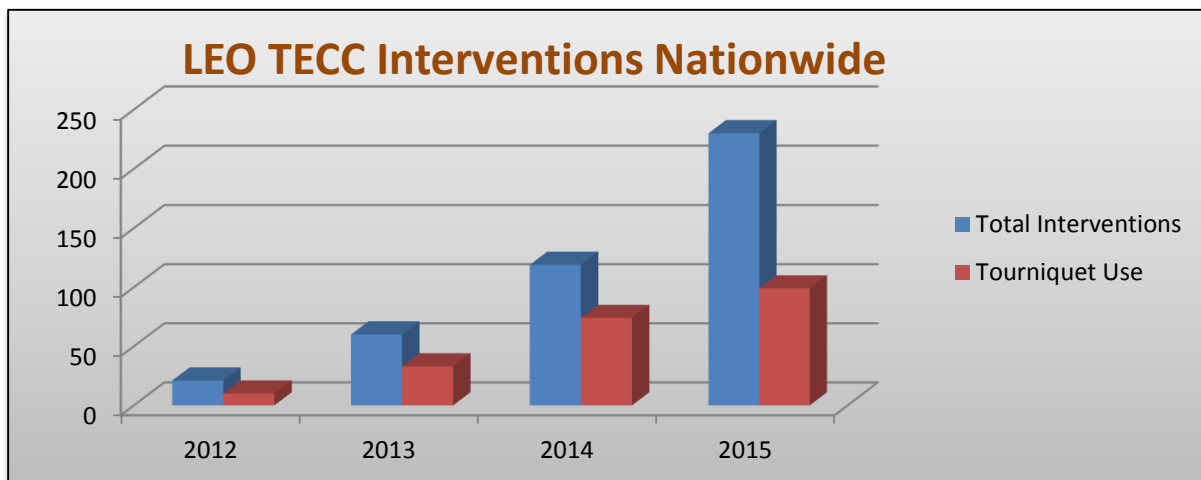
This camera system will be useful due to the fact that the legalization of both medical and recreational marijuana is on the verge of a tipping point and will likely spread to South Dakota. As a result, officers have to stay well-informed on the latest state statutes and case law in regards to the legalization of currently illicit substances and drug impaired driving. In 2016, Officer Warner will be attending training in Colorado specifically related to detecting, investigating, and prosecuting marijuana impaired driving.

By identifying the individuals who have abused drugs, we are able to get them the necessary help with addiction they need through the legal system. Our program goals are to provide drug awareness education, reduce the number of drug induced related crimes and ultimately make the community safer.

### Tactical Medical by Officer Tony Klunder

The duty of a Police Officer has been evolving from exclusively enforcing the laws to being community problem solvers. Since 2004, law enforcement officers nationwide have greatly increased the chances of survival for fellow officers and the public they have sworn to protect. Nationwide, law enforcement officers have had 464 “interventions”, ultimately saving lives. These interventions were taught on the recommendations of the Tactical Emergency Combat Casualty Care (TECC) and the Hartford Consensus. These interventions include the use of a tourniquet or dragging a victim to safety.

2012, Vermillion Police Officers have been training on the use of tourniquets. In 2015, the State of South Dakota made “Downed Officer Kits” (DOK) available for each sworn Law Enforcement Officer within the state. These DOK’s were intended for officers to self-administer first aid in the event they become injured in the line of duty. DOK’s includes a SOFT-T tourniquet, Oales wound dressings, tape, and scissors at no cost to their department. These kits are funded by the South Dakota Department of Homeland Security through a grant.



Source: Tampa TacMed

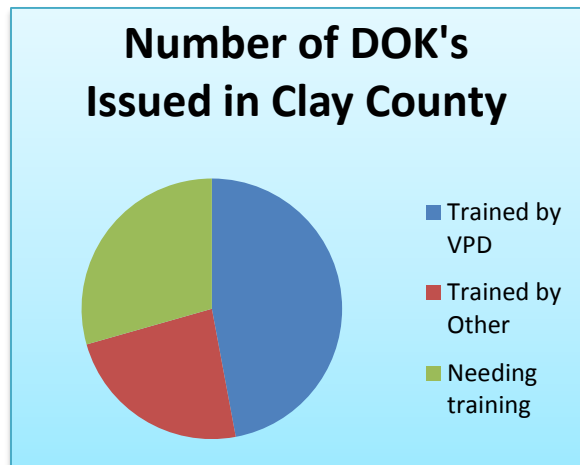
Vermillion Fire/Emergency Medical Service Division has provided simple airway adjuncts intended for self-administration. The department would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to EMS Chief Callahan and Vermillion Fire/Emergency Medical Service Division for their continued support of the officers. VPD Officers are encouraged to carry their kits with them in the event someone could benefit from the supplies.



Officer Klunder attended several classes with the intent to create an in-service course where the VPD could provide training. The training focuses on stopping bleeding, ensuring open airways, breathing, circulation, hypothermia and head injuries. The class is currently six hours long. During the class, participants learned how to properly apply the tourniquet. The tourniquets were left for a length of time on their participants. Hands

on practical exercises allow the participants to feel discomfort when applying the tourniquets so if the tourniquet is ever needed, they know what to expect. Other drills during the class involved bandaging, treating injuries to the chest and even eye injuries. Participants learned how versatile the Oales bandage is. The Oales bandage can be used to treat open soft tissue injuries and eye injuries. The class ended with reality based drills in assessing the situation and applying the appropriate treatments.

In January 2016, Vermillion Police Officers completed the requirements set forth by the state and have been issued their own DOK's. These kits are carried with each officer whenever they are on duty. To date 28 law enforcement officers have been trained in Tactical First Aid by the Vermillion Police Department. We have trained four other regional law enforcement agencies to include Union County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson Police Department, University of South Dakota Police Department, and the South Dakota Highway Patrol. We look forward to training with these agencies in the future. The goal of 2016 is to train the remaining officers within the VPD and get the supplies issued to them for 100% compliance.



## Uniformed Officer Body Cameras

In 2014, Chief Matt Betzen and Sheriff Andy Howe applied for a grant through the South Dakota Attorney General's Office to purchase body cameras for the Vermillion Police Department and the Clay County Sheriff's Office. In January of 2015, the Attorney General approved the grant.

Managers in both departments developed policies to govern body camera use. They selected the camera system to be used, the Taser Axon Body Camera, which has been in use in several South Dakota departments for years. The cameras were ordered and paid for through the grant.

The body camera system is a camera that each uniformed officer wears while working. The camera is activated when required by policy and records a vast majority of the officers' enforcement contacts. This system supplements the existing car camera system that the Department has used for over ten years.

The body worn camera systems improve the collection of evidence by officers while investigating, assisting in resolving complaints against staff members, and help in developing training going forward on how to improve an officer's interaction with the public.

The Department selected a cloud based evidence management system to store and manage the video officers obtain on the body worn cameras. That system is Evidence.com. All video taken by officers is uploaded daily and stored in a massive database. The video is sorted and can be easily retrieved and reviewed by the officers and management staff. Control over editing, deleting, and storage is accessible through management privileges. Currently, video that is not identified as being of evidentiary value is stored for 60 days before being automatically deleted.

The use of the body worn cameras by all uniformed patrol officers was launched on July 15, 2015. Below are some statistics of the video collected in 2015.

### Total Video Uploads

Number of Videos	4863
Hours of Videos	968.63
GB of Videos	733.65

### Average Video Per Day

Number of Videos Uploaded	28.61
Hours of Video Uploaded	5.70
GB of Video Uploaded	4.32

## Investigations Division

The Investigations Division is led by Lieutenant Crystal Brady. Lt. Brady has been with the Vermillion Police Department since 2000. This division also includes one detective, one school resource officer, and one evidence clerk. Det. Robin Hower has been with the Vermillion Police Department since 2002. Officer Isaac Voss was selected as the new School Resource Officer in 2015. He was also promoted to the role of Sergeant at the end of 2015. Meg Anthony was hired this past year as the new evidence clerk. She came to the Vermillion Police Department with a background in library science which has made her organizational skills a great asset to the department. Det. Hower and Sgt. Voss were both trained in D.A.R.E. this year and are sharing in the responsibility of teaching the City's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, along with Deputy Paul Pederson.

Lt. Brady and Det. Hower are responsible for investigating all of the felony cases, serious misdemeanor cases, death investigations, coordinated drug investigations (with DCI) and alcohol compliance checks. The investigators receive many hours of specialized training to learn how to handle in-depth investigations, such as processing and photographing crime scenes, collecting and analyzing evidence, interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses, writing and executing search warrants, conducting controlled drug buys, and managing large case files. Technology has made suspects and their crimes much more complex. The detectives need to stay current on all the latest information to more efficiently combat crime. Unfortunately, television has led our society to believe that each crime committed is wrapped up and solved in a short period of time and then the detectives move on to the next crime. In reality, the detectives spend long hours working on multiple cases simultaneously with limited investigative leads and tangible evidence to go on. The Investigations Division is dedicated to making Vermillion a safer community. In 2015, the Investigations Division received 242 cases for review and investigation. This was an increase from 222 cases in 2014. Those cases include forgeries, thefts, assaults, sex crimes, burglaries, death investigations, drug investigations, and other felony crimes. Below is a summary of a few of those cases.

On 3/6/15, officers received reports of several vehicle burglaries that occurred in various parts of town. Along with personal property, the investigation showed that some of the items taken involved the victims' credit cards being stolen and later used at various businesses in town. Det. Hower obtained video of the suspects from these businesses. On 3/7/15, officers responded to a welfare check at a local residence. The officer who responded detected the odor of marijuana emanating from the residence. A search warrant was later applied for and granted for the residence. Upon searching the residence the officers on scene recognized items found inside the house as items stolen from several of the vehicles on 3/5/15. There were four suspects located inside the residence. The suspects were later interviewed and admitted to their involvement in the vehicle burglaries and to using the victims' credit cards. The suspects were arrested and charged with the various crimes and eventually plead guilty for their part.

On 5/8/15 Det. Hower investigated a rape case involving a 15-year-old juvenile female and a 20-year-old male having sex. Det. Hower interviewed the victim and suspect. He learned the juvenile female and

adult male had sex on three separate occasions. The suspect was arrested and charged with 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Rape.

On 6/1/15, the Clay County Sheriff's Office responded to a suspicious death at Myron Grove Boat Landing. Lt. Brady and Capt. Chad Passick assisted in the investigation at the scene that day. The death of the young woman was determined to be a homicide. Lt. Brady and Det. Hower continued to assist with the investigation for several months and uncovered several key pieces of evidence to help determine what happened before and after the homicide. The investigation determined that the female was fishing at the boat landing. She suffered blunt force trauma to her head, a large laceration to her neck, and she ultimately drown in the river. This case is under investigation.

On 8/19/15, one garage was burglarized and there were at least six vehicles that were criminally entered near the 500 block of Elm St. All of these crimes took place within a block of each other. The garage and four of those vehicles had items stolen from them. A bike was stolen from the garage. On 8/19/15, the owner of the bike located a suspect riding it. The owner confronted the suspect and took the bike back. On 8/22/15, a stereo stolen from one of the vehicles was located during a traffic stop. The driver stated that he purchased the stereo from the same suspect that was found on the bike. Lt. Brady interviewed the suspect's cousin. The suspect admitted to the cousin that he stole the bike from the area near the 500 block of Elm St. On 8/23/15, the same suspect stole a vehicle from the 1000 block of W Clark St. The suspect was located in that vehicle on 8/26/15 in Sioux Falls and was arrested. The suspect was also charged for the thefts from the garage and the vehicles.

On 9/30/15, Det. Hower assisted the University of South Dakota with the investigation of a reported rape case that occurred on their campus during the early morning hours of 9/28/15. The victim and some witnesses were interviewed. The suspects were also interviewed. After gathering all the facts for the case, the report was forwarded to the States Attorney's Office seeking criminal charges.

On 11/18/15, Lt. Brady responded to Wells Fargo to speak with a female that was attempting to withdraw \$5,000 from her account. The bank felt the circumstances were suspicious. Lt. Brady learned that a female in North Carolina deposited the money in the female's account earlier that morning. The female in Vermillion told the bank that she was withdrawing the money to wire to her husband in Nigeria. Lt. Brady spoke with the female about her relationship to the male she was sending the money to. The female first stated that the male was her boyfriend and had been living with her for the past several months. The female later admitted that she met the male on a dating website a couple months ago and only communicated with him through text messages. The male told her he was having people put money into her account so she could wire it to him for traveling expenses in Africa. The female claimed she did not know where the money was really coming from. The female in North Carolina was also contacted. She was also in a texting relationship with a male she met on a dating website for the past three years. This female estimated that she had wired approximately \$750,000 to Nigeria over the past three years. The \$5,000 from the account at Wells Fargo was seized by the Secret Service. The female in Vermillion was not charged with a crime, but was directed to stop all communication with the male she was texting.

### Alcohol Compliance Checks

The Investigations Division conducted 40 alcohol compliance checks at businesses in Vermillion in 2015. As always, the detectives utilized confidential informants between the ages of 18 and 20 years of age to enter businesses that sell alcohol and attempted to purchase alcohol. The confidential informants had their actual identification to present when asked. Our goal is to get employees at these establishments to request identification from everyone purchasing alcohol and for them to actually read the dates of birth and determine if the person is over the age of 21. Out of the 40 business checks in 2015, seven of those businesses sold alcohol to the confidential informants. Some of the employees requested to see the identification of the confidential informants and sold the alcohol anyway, while some of the employees did not even ask to see their identification. The Vermillion Police Department's goal is to reduce the number of businesses that are selling alcohol to people under the age of 21. The compliance check effort took about 50 officer hours, employed two confidential informants, and cost just over \$3,000 for informant pay and buy money (purchase alcohol and food during compliance checks). These officer hours are paid at overtime rates as this is an extra duty on top of the investigative work load.

The Investigations Division also utilized the confidential informants during Dakota Days to locate house parties that were serving alcohol to persons under the age of 21. We located three houses where this was occurring. Officers approached these houses and issued citations to the renters holding the parties and to the individuals that served alcohol to the confidential informants.

### Drug Investigations

Investigations Division has continued to work with the Division of Criminal Investigation to be proactive in dealing with the drug problem in Vermillion. No one wants to admit that their community has a drug problem because they do not see it on a daily basis. Vermillion is no different than any other community in that we have people bringing drugs into our neighborhoods and selling or providing these drugs to our kids. The drugs being used in our community are no longer limited to small amounts of marijuana. The Investigations Division has been seizing drugs such as morphine, Amphetamine, LSD, Methamphetamine, and MDMA (Ecstasy). Drug cases take a lot of teamwork and man hours. These cases require the detectives to conduct multiple weeks of surveillance, collect intelligence information, develop leads, utilize confidential informants, conduct controlled drug buys, and execute search warrants.

Although these activities are a huge part of keeping drugs out of Vermillion, they are all proactive steps. This means they take a backseat to other cases when the detectives have large caseloads. In 2015, the Investigations Division assisted the DCI with ten controlled drug buys and numerous drug investigations. The increase in property and persons' crimes in 2015 made it more difficult for the Investigations Division to dedicate as much time to work drug cases.

### Property and Evidence by Property/Evidence Manager Megan Anthony

In accordance with the Vermillion Police Department's policy for new Evidence Managers as they take control of the Property and Evidence Room (P&E), it is mandatory to take inventory of all evidence being

held. During this four-day project, it became obvious that organization was going to be the first project. Digging for evidence is not only inefficient, but under-utilizes valuable resources, and increases the risk of losing or mishandling evidence. Our three largest problems were: no logical order in how or where items were stored, inconsistent storage solutions and too few assigned locations utilized in our record management system (RMS).

### **Managing Unruliness:**

To address the problem, it was important to understand what materials would need to be most easily or most frequently accessed. Most important were interviews and field recordings on CD/DVD, and evidence from our most recent cases. Then a four step plan was developed:

1. Arrange evidence by year
2. Arrange evidence by case number
3. Standardize storage containers
  - a. Size
  - b. Economy
  - c. Sustainability
4. Assign locations and shelving numbers

Choosing to group everything by year first, and then going back to organize by case number (rather than simultaneously organizing by year and case) helped to find evidence more quickly while continuing standard everyday duties, and assessed how much storage space would be necessary. This also provided insight for decisions in steps three and four.

Aside from putting items in chronological order, standardizing the storage containers is important for reducing visual clutter, thus making evidence even easier to locate. Throwing a small object in a small bag and putting it on the shelf among other larger, weird shaped items is a perfect scenario for overseeing and misplacing potentially vital evidence. The solution is banker boxes. These boxes have been around for almost 100 years and have changed very little. They are abundantly available for purchase, are relatively inexpensive, reusable, and make planning for future storage needs (i.e. shelving space, room expansions, moving) a bit simpler. Granted we are always going to get something oversized and oddly shaped, but in general Banker Boxes are a great solution.

Going back to those small pieces of evidence - we obviously do not want to use an entire box for three teeny objects. For these 12" x 15" envelopes are being used to keep case evidence together, and are then stored among other cases (in chronological order) within the aforementioned Banker Boxes.

### **New Technology**

In November, we updated to a new bar-coding system. This would be the spark that finally ignited the unavoidable task to update location names within P&E and in the RMS. Until this point, P&E had been strictly organized by year and case number. As evidence is moved and released, and the laws pertaining to evidence preservation and retention change, the size of the collection fluctuates. Bar-coding allows for

convenient specificity in a constantly changing storage environment as it tracks a piece of evidence's "movements" not just between personnel and labs, but within P&E.

The most exciting benefit of bar-coding our evidence is that it will cut back on the time it takes to conduct inventory. As mentioned earlier, it was a four-day event. We are predicting that inventory for P&E will take no more than a few hours. This means that aside from taking stock during the "changing of the guard," we will be able to inventory the collection more frequently throughout the years without devoting resources to a days-long process. More inventory audits means better evidence security.

VPD currently holds over 3,600 articles of which a little over 1,900 have been bar-coded since we have updated our record management system. In two months' time, just over 50% has been labeled, bar-coded, and updated in the RMS. It should be understood though that evidence and records that have been updated, have primarily included police CD/DVD recordings that will be kept. The remaining 50% of evidence belong to new cases, and cases needing review (i.e. dispositions and laws affecting evidence retention/destruction), which will add significant time to the bar-coding project.

As for the physical space itself, the before and after pictures reveal a much roomier, and neater Property and Evidence Room that is conducive to managing and safeguarding evidence.



Picture "A" shows first step in organizing the P&E arranged by year only.

"B" shows P&E as it is now, organized by year, case number, and assigned shelving number.





**C**



**D**

“C” shows P&E organized by year alone.

“D” shows P&E arranged by year, case number, and assigned shelving number.

These projects have been productive in its physical and virtual organization as there has been an overhaul on how our evidence is organized. Going forward we will continue adding bar-codes and updating records, and eventually a scheduled and standard procedure for monitoring inventory on a regular basis will be implemented. Efforts will also be made to use our RMS to its fullest by incrementally shifting towards a paperless environment.

## Statistics

The department maintains a database that can be mined for a variety of statistical information. For the purpose of this report, we have generated three different views of this information to provide a picture of our activity. Five years of statistics have been represented for these views. The table below lists the categories of CFS and the number received each year in each category. CFS stands for Calls For Service, and represents all efforts by Citizens to call for assistance.

<b>Description</b>	<b>CFS Year</b>				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
911-Other	280	282	301	300	334
Accident w/Injury	14	14	14	17	21
Accident w/out Injury	221	208	221	213	194
Alarm	53	49	69	75	78
Alcohol Incident (non-traffic)	81	78	56	97	67
Animal Complaint	125	136	152	110	134
Assault	39	44	52	39	37
Assist other Agency	82	70	81	86	102
Burglary	44	66	75	45	64
Check Welfare	115	158	169	199	235
Damage to Property	119	138	125	138	145
Death Investigation	3	1	3	0	1
Dispute Between Persons	156	146	165	157	196
Domestic Incident	99	107	107	116	102
Drug Related	25	27	31	45	42
Found Property	173	185	156	161	199
Fraud	45	45	57	61	73
Funeral Escort	8	15	7	17	13
Information Item	572	511	399	415	410
Juvenile Delinquency	14	11	12	10	21
Lost Property	68	53	75	71	86
Medical Incident	275	323	276	316	326
Mental Illness	11	16	15	26	19
Missing Person	36	24	37	22	20
Noise Complaint	158	147	125	134	128
Public Disorder	63	88	64	90	87
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Crimes	12	9	14	15	15
Suspicious Activity	235	278	319	357	417
Theft	223	200	209	232	212
Traffic Incident	1,898	2,346	2,092	2,958	3,128
Transport	2	1	1	1	1
Violation of Court Order	8	12	20	28	26
Wanted Person	21	18	30	20	40
Weapons Related Incident	1	6	4	5	6

**National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS):** is a federally standardized system of categorizing crimes known to police. While these numbers often appear to conflict with other statistics because of varying definitions of crimes between state and federal agencies, they are a view of the community that is standardized nationwide. This report can be produced automatically through our agency’s records management system (LEDS).

NIBRS	Description of NIBRS Code	Incident Start Year				
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
100	Kidnapping/Abduction	1	1	0	0	2
11A	Forcible Rape	8	4	6	4	4
11D	Forcible Fondling	5	8	7	9	4
120	Robbery	0	1	0	2	0
13A	Aggravated Assault	16	23	26	21	20
13B	Simple Assault	97	96	77	84	94
13C	Intimidation	20	30	27	11	14
200	Arson	3	0	0	0	0
220	Burglary/Breaking and Entry	29	33	20	28	25
23A	Larceny/Theft	2	1	0	2	0
23B	Purse-snatching	3	1	1	0	0
23C	Shoplifting	14	26	22	24	21
23D	Theft from Building	36	40	38	46	52
23E	Theft from Coin-Operated Machine	0	0	0	0	2
23F	Theft from Motor Vehicle	33	54	49	36	47
23G	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	5	7	3	8	3
23H	Other Larceny	99	97	113	95	96
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	18	10	4	12	11
250	Counterfeiting/Forgery	16	23	17	19	17
26A	Fraud/Swindle,False Statement	1	1	0	0	0
26C	Fraud/Impersonate	1	0	1	0	0
270	Embezzlement	0	0	1	0	0
280	Stolen Property Offenses	6	0	0	0	0
290	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	98	140	101	103	116
35A	Drug/Narcotic Violation	107	128	84	89	104
35B	Drug Equipment Violation	42	47	25	37	40
36A	Incest	0	0	0	1	0
36B	Statutory Rape	1	2	3	1	1
370	Obscene material	0	1	3	2	1
40A	Prostitution	0	0	0	0	1
40B	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	1	0	0	0	0
520	Weapons Law Violation	3	6	0	1	1
90A	Bad Checks	7	0	0	1	1
90C	Disorderly Conduct	130	196	133	134	155
90D	Driving Under the Influence	95	127	38	74	83
90F	Family Offenses/Nonviolent	4	3	6	6	8
90G	Liquor Law Violation	207	244	146	206	192

90H	Peeping Tom	1	3	0	0	1
90I	Runaway	9	2	6	2	1
90J	Trespass of real property	27	36	27	32	43
90Z	All Other Offenses	164	145	151	115	184

**Disposition Codes:** Calls for service that generate an incident report are eventually cleared using a final disposition code. These dispositions are:

Closed – Charges Filed: These are cases that resulted in criminal charges being filed

Closed – Prosecution Declined: These are cases that were referred to the States Attorney, and charges were declined.

Closed – Resolved: These are cases where the complaint was resolved, and did not result in charges.

Closed – Unresolved: These are cases where the issue remains unresolved. One example would be an unsolved vandalism.

Forward to Investigations: These are cases that are forwarded to the Detectives for additional investigation.

Forward to Other Agency: These are cases where the event occurred outside our jurisdiction or the crime involves special agencies.

Under Investigation: These are cases that have not been closed and are still actively being investigated.

Under Prosecutor Review: These are cases that have been referred to the States Attorney and a final determination has not been recorded in the case file. Some of these numbers reflect a process glitch, where old cases are not always updated with final dispositions from the S.A.

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Incident Start Year</u>				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Case Incorrectly Opened	4	0	0	0	0
Closed - Charges Filed	910	932	904	1,025	1,055
Closed - Prosecution Declined	58	70	69	62	44
Closed - Resolved	3,875	4,292	4,256	5,037	5,458
Closed - Unresolved	700	711	588	685	598
Forward to Investigations	151	172	191	210	224
Forward to Other Agency	136	107	87	60	53
Under Investigation	343	350	340	354	362
Under Prosecutor Review	155	154	175	331	372

In 2015, 249 cases were referred to or initiated by the Detectives for additional investigation. These tend to be cases that involve significant resources to investigate and tend to be more serious offenses.

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Incident Start Year</u>				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Closed - Charges Filed	27	45	43	42	21
Closed - Prosecution Declined	7	9	14	7	3
Closed - Resolved	62	69	77	82	101
Closed - Unresolved	24	25	32	42	30
Forward to Investigations	8	8	5	1	1
Forward to Other Agency	11	38	31	28	31
Under Investigation	0	8	11	24	54
Under Prosecutor Review	1	1	5	42	8
<b>Totals</b>	140	203	218	268	249

## Budget vs. Actual Expenditures

The following Table provides a financial picture of the department's expenditures during 2015. The total cost for the Police Department in 2015 was \$1,644,483.

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Budget	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947
Monthly Exp. - Admin	\$28,725	\$28,746	\$35,232	\$33,129	\$28,202	\$45,064
Monthly Exp. - Patrol	\$95,621	\$92,570	\$90,798	\$94,975	\$91,970	\$100,573
Dept. Monthly Expenses	\$124,347	\$121,317	\$126,029	\$128,104	\$120,172	\$145,636
YTD Expenses	\$124,347	\$245,663	\$371,693	\$499,797	\$619,969	\$765,606
% of Year	8.3%	16.7%	25.0%	33.3%	41.7%	50.0%
% Expended	7.0%	13.9%	21.0%	28.3%	35.1%	43.3%

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Budget	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947	\$1,767,947
Monthly Exp. - Admin	\$44,988	\$29,233	\$30,419	\$35,107	\$42,081	\$60,181
Monthly Exp. - Patrol	\$122,892	\$98,703	\$90,047	\$89,954	\$92,459	\$142,812
Dept. Monthly Expenses	\$167,880	\$127,936	\$120,466	\$125,061	\$134,540	\$202,994
YTD Expenses	\$933,486	\$1,061,422	\$1,181,888	\$1,306,949	\$1,441,489	\$1,644,483
% of Year	58.3%	66.7%	75.0%	83.3%	91.7%	100.0%
% Expended	52.8%	60.0%	66.9%	73.9%	81.5%	93.0%