

2006 Natick Police Department Annual Report



I am pleased to report the significant activities, accomplishments, and events of the Natick Police Department for 2006. What follows is a brief narrative review of the several divisions and units that comprise the Natick Police Department. This report includes crime statistics as reported to and published annually by the FBI. Natick enjoys a relatively low crime rate, but there is no crime that is insignificant when you are the victim. And as I have often reported through these town reports, and what is annually stated in the FBI Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), the factors contributing to a community's crime rate are myriad, and the police department by itself cannot significantly reduce the overall crime rate. What we do try to do is work with our community partners to address those conditions that do contribute to the crime rate. My responsibility as chief is to ensure that you are provided with a police department that is professional, and by that I mean responsive, community oriented, well trained, and well equipped to effectively respond to criminal events and services required of the police department on a day-to-day basis.

The FBI Uniform Crime Reports is a statistical compilation of crimes committed in communities of all population sizes across the country in all 50 states. The UCR contains and explanation of so-called "part one" crimes, including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Investigative clearance rates collectively and by region are also listed in this report. While the police department cannot take all the credit or all the blame for a rise and fall in the crime rate, we can measure the effectiveness of our response by comparing our crime clearance rates against the benchmark region, in our case the northeast region. In the tables below, I have included our clearance rate and collectively that of the departments that comprise the northeast region of the United States. Using our benchmark for comparison purposes provides a

Natick Part I Crimes

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Murder | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 6 | 11 | 4 |
| Robbery | 6 | 15 | 4 |
| Aggravated Assault | 23 | 48 | 43 |
| Burglary | 79 | 82 | 92 |
| Larceny | 556 | 576 | 565 |
| MV Theft | 72 | 36 | 40 |
| Total | 743 | 768 | 748 |

| Clearance Rates – Natick vs. Northeast Region (2004) | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| | Natick | Northeast Region |
| Murder | 100% | 66% |
| Rape | 17% | 46% |
| Robbery | 17% | 30% |
| Aggravated Assault | 87% | 63% |
| Burglary | 25% | 17% |
| Larceny | 28% | 22% |
| MV Theft | 18% | 15% |

| Clearance Rates – Natick vs. Northeast Region (2005) | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| | Natick | Northeast Region |
| Murder | N/A | 64% |
| Rape | 45% | 47% |
| Robbery | 40% | 28% |
| Aggravated Assault | 77% | 61% |
| Burglary | 16% | 16% |
| Larceny | 32% | 22% |
| MV Theft | 25% | 14% |

starting point for the continuous improvement we strive for in providing you with police services.

Frederick C. Conley Public Safety Training Center

In September, our public safety training center was formally named the “Frederick C. Conley Public Safety Training Center.” We think it entirely appropriate to name this important local and regional training center after our late Town Administrator since his commitment to excellence through education was evident throughout his tenure as administrator. We were pleased and honored to have his family and friends present at the dedication ceremony.



Executive Officer

Lieutenant Peter Mason serves as Executive Officer and second-in-command on the Natick Police Department. His duties include, in addition to being the officer-in-charge of the police department in my absence, the responsibility for coordinating recruit, in-service, and specialized training for the department, 911 municipal coordination for the town, the 911 database liaison, and the system manager for the department’s computer aided dispatch and records management system. Lieutenant Mason is also responsible for coordinating professional standards investigations, investigating both internal and external complaints against the department and/or its officers and employees.

In-service training is conducted in the Frederick C. Conley Public Safety Training Center. Officers receive at least 40 hours training in motor vehicle and criminal law, Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and first-response, defensive tactics, and incident command training. Specialized training conducted in the center included arson investigation, OUI detection and apprehension, telephone crimes, internal affairs, police leadership, homicide investigations, criminal investigations, background investigations, credit card fraud, street crimes, and criminal interview and interrogations. Members of the traffic unit received training in crash investigation, reconstruction, and pedestrian bicycle crash investigations.

Information Services and Communications Division (IS&C)

Lieutenant Brian Grassey serves as the commander of the IS&C division. An element of the IS&C division is the records unit. The records unit continues to strive to increase efficiency in the production of police reports. Proper documentation and retention of pertinent documents help to ensure successful prosecutions as well as assist those who depend upon the police to conduct various investigations. In 2006 we saw a 20% increase in criminal complaints and a 10% increase in offense reports which we hold as a testament to the professional commitment to duty by the members of the Patrol and Investigative Divisions. Throughout the year we have received positive comments from the Court, the District Attorney's office, insurance companies, and private law firms regarding our reporting and level of customer service. In addition to criminal complaints, we processed and catalogued over 5,400 citations and nearly 1,000 motor vehicle accidents. Although not quantified, requests for various types of information exceed both these numbers and remain an essential service that we provide.

As commander of the IS&C division, Lt. Grassey is also responsible for the immediate supervision of public safety dispatching services for the town. With the expansion of the Natick Mall, we expect calls for service to continue to increase, perhaps significantly, with the opening of the new mall beginning in September, 2007. We anticipate installation of an upgraded enhanced 911 system in March, 2007. The Federal Communications Commission has determined that nearly 50% of 911 calls are generated by wireless callers. The new equipment will have the added capability of showing the dispatcher the location of the caller by displaying the nearest cell site or base station transmitting the call. We hope that advancements such as this coupled with the desire to continuously improve our skills will reflect in better customer satisfaction with the manner in which we deliver services to our residents.

Investigative Services Division



Commanded by Lieutenant Nicholas Mabardy, Natick detectives continued to conduct independent and follow-up investigations of crimes committed. Identity theft remains the most prolific crime as well as one of the most difficult to solve.

In January 2006, a Narcotics Investigative Unit was reactivated within the Investigative Services Division. Detectives Delehanty and Brogan are assigned to the unit.

Drug investigations have resulted in the arrest of 29 alleged drug users and dealers, some of significant sophistication within the hierarchy of the narcotics distribution chain. Working with state and federal investigators, their combined efforts have resulted in seizure of more than \$155,000 and two homes valued at more than one million dollars. Natick will receive a proportional allocation of these assets' proceeds once these cases are resolved in the courts. Both investigators have received extensive training throughout the year emphasizing the best practices in narcotics investigations available at this time. Feedback from those familiar with the drug trade here in Natick and elsewhere confirms a chilling effect on narcotics distribution since the unit has been activated.

Patrol Division

Commanded by Lieutenant Steven Pagliarulo, the largest division in the department is responsible for all uniformed officers performing patrol and support functions. Lieutenant Pagliarulo oversees the activities of all three areas (A, B & C), commanded by Sergeant Paul Thompson, Sergeant Thomas Lamont, and Sergeant Robert Dunlop, respectively.

All members of the patrol division and detectives completed the first cycle of responding to an active shooter in schools or businesses. With the cooperation of Superintendent James Connolly, Principal John Hughes, and the police explorers (as volunteer role players), the training was completed during the summer vacation period at Natick High School.

At the request of Wilson Middle School Principal Ruth Evans, a team from the police department including Sergeant Brian Lauzon, Detective Richard Halloran, and Lieutenant Pagliarulo participated in planning and exercise of the school's "lock down" procedure. Each school has a lock down or shelter in place plan to be followed when faced with an intruder or a building hazard when students would be safer locked into their classrooms, rather than being evacuated from the premises. The exercise gave everyone a sense of what to expect if it was necessary to exercise the plan in a real emergency.

During 2007, our goal is to implement a comprehensive school safety program called School Threat Assessment and Response System (STARS). Already in the planning stage, we expect to implement a plan prior to the end of the 2006-2007 school year, with training conducted jointly with the police and school personnel beginning in the summer of 2007. Our goal is to fully developed and operational with the school opening in the fall.

The town's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), in cooperation with the Soldier Systems Command, the Natick Fire Department, and the Natick Health Department, conducted a drill involving a release of a bio-hazard at the Natick Labs. While the emergency response was small in terms of response apparatus, the scenario allowed us to practice as a unified command among four agencies, a critical component of the Incident Command System.

In operations conducted in April and July, department officers participated in comprehensive warrant apprehension sweeps sponsored and paid for by a grant received by the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (MetroLEC), of which the Natick Police Department is a member. Offenders with multiple outstanding warrants throughout the MetroLEC area were targeted along with other locally wanted persons. Natick's three teams participating comprised one sergeant and one patrol officer per team. Many persons with outstanding warrants, hearing of the ongoing sweep, turned themselves in to local courts in order to avoid arrest.

Area Reports

Area A – Sergeant Paul Thompson, Commander

Area A officers are witnessing a transformation of their patrol responsibility. Area A comprises the retail areas adjacent to Route 9 and Speen Street. The Natick Mall expansion is well on its way to completion with the opening of major retail stores in the fall of 2007, and construction has begun on a new 10-story apartment complex in the Cloverleaf Mall. Sergeant Thompson regularly meets with the mall manager and their security director to exchange ideas on how to make the mall safer for all who shop there. In October, Detective John Doherty joined Sergeant Thompson at the mall in a presentation in identifying, apprehending, and successfully prosecuting shoplifting and larceny offenses. The holiday season presented the usual challenges, related to parking and traffic flow. Additionally the ongoing construction presented new challenges by restricting the number of parking areas available for holiday shoppers. Sergeant Thompson and area officers worked with General Growth (the mall's parent company) in developing alternative traffic flow and parking areas.

Officers in the Natick Police Department once again distributed crime prevention tip cards to mall patrons before exiting their motor vehicles reminding them to lock their vehicle, keep valuables out of sight, and contact the police if they observe suspicious activity. Over 3500 cards were distributed. During the period from November 24 and December 31, there were no vehicles reported stolen from the mall, two stolen vehicles recovered at the mall, and only three vehicles broken into.

Area B – Sergeant Thomas Lamont

Area B officers were confronted with the reconstruction of both Route 135 and Speen Street for much of the year. Officers addressed increased complaints of restricted truck traffic on Hartford Street with directed patrols and deployment of the department's commercial vehicle enforcement team.

A series of housebreaks and vehicle break-ins in the west Natick area was a major cause for concern during the latter months of the year. Officers deployed on directed patrols identified several suspects and we are, at this writing, awaiting the results of our forensic investigation. These crimes may be the work of more than one person or persons, but for now they seem to have abated with the identification of these suspects.

Area C – Sergeant Robert Dunlop

Area C comprises mostly residential neighborhoods and complaints investigated heavily emphasize traffic violations. Officers detailed on directed patrols have addressed these problems as they arise.

Area officers addressed storage of unregistered motor vehicles in violation of town By-Laws comprehensively throughout the area. Standard notices of violations were distributed to violators, most resulting in voluntary compliance without any enforcement action.

Highway Safety

In 2006 the Department received \$32,000 from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau for traffic safety initiatives and equipment. These funds were used to purchase a variable message sign board, child safety seats and high visibility pedestrian crossing signs. Funds were also used for patrols dedicated solely to traffic enforcement and safety during six mobilization periods throughout the year.

Traffic Safety Sergeant Brian Lauzon continues to coordinate the Department's Child Safety Seat Installation program which is available to Natick residents by appointment. This program continues to be one of the most popular services provided by the Department as our 3 nationally certified technicians installed more than 130 child safety seats in 2006.

The following tables list traffic enforcement and crash data for 2006:

| 2006 Violation Breakdown | |
|---|-------|
| Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions | 2,869 |
| Written Warnings | 1,479 |
| Arrests Involving Motor Vehicle Infractions | 549 |
| Criminal Complaint Applications | 593 |

| 2006 Crash Particulars | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Total Crashes | 962 |
| Fatalities | 6 |
| Serious Injuries | 22 |
| Injured | 97 |
| Complaints Of Pain | 103 |
| Uninjured | 1,989 |
| Other | 14 |

Emergency Management

In the spring, the Board of Selectmen formally accepted the National Incident Management System as its guideline for handling emergency events. All emergency responders from the police and fire departments have achieved the required certifications in incident management as required by federal guidelines. Remaining emergency responders continue to receive the required emergency management training ensuring compliance with federal directives.

The Natick Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) convened twice during 2006. Copies of the recently developed comprehensive emergency management (CEM) plan were distributed to all members. The LEPC's primary charge is to develop, review, and update the CEM each year.



Officer of the Year

For his consistent excellence in police duty throughout 2005, Detective John W. Doherty Jr. was named Officer of the Year for 2006.

As lead investigator in many of the Department's high-profile cases Detective Doherty has demonstrated an exceptional level of determination and investigative ability while remaining aware of and sensitive to the needs of the victims.

Detective Doherty's dedication to duty, consistent reliability and competency, and wide range of investigative skills increase the overall effectiveness of the entire investigative division and reflect credit on himself and the Department.

Employees of the Month

Although each member of the Department continued to provide excellent police services to the community in 2006, the following Department members distinguished themselves and were recognized as Employees of the Month for their efforts:

- Detective John P. Haswell – For the excellence and thoroughness of his investigation that led to the withdrawal of a substantial and potentially fraudulent insurance claim
- Officer Jason D. Sutherland – For his exceptional understanding of felony stop protocol and execution of such which helped avert a potentially tragic outcome
- Detective Daniel R. Brogan – For his commitment to and success in identifying those responsible for an outbreak of unsightly graffiti in the downtown area
- Ms. Marsha Kelly – For her excellence in customer service displayed in the normal course of business and in her exchanges with Department members, Court personnel and the public at large
- Sgt. Paul W. Thompson – For his dedication to improving the appearance and professionalism of the Department
- Officer Allan W. Graham – For the personal initiative displayed in his investigation of motor vehicle crashes and his ability to set an example of high professional standards as a mentor to others
- Sgt. Robert A. Hoffman – For his recognition and removal of dangerous weapons displayed and available for sale at a large retail destination
- Sgt. Brian G. Lauzon – For consistently exhibiting a positive and helpful approach to the needs of the community
- Officer Robert J. White – For his proactive approach in dealing with a series of motor vehicle breaks in a large residential complex
- Officer Gregory M. Lanoue – For his efforts in securing and coordinating a grant from the Metrowest Community Health Care Foundation to replace the Police and Fire Departments' Automated External Defibrillators
- Sgt. Robert D. Dunlop – For his continuing interest and efforts in maintaining, promoting and coordinating the Department's Explorer Post #457
- Officer Jason D. Sutherland – A second time for his dogged determination in locating and apprehending in an expeditious manner a suspect in a breaking and entering

Personnel

Officer James M. Linton retired in March after almost 40 years of service. A familiar fixture in the downtown area, Officer Linton personified community policing in its purest form.



After more than 30 years of service, Officer Howard L. Harper retired in July. Officer Harper was known for his involvement in the community and served on the midnight to 8:00 AM shift.

Joseph N. Hayes was promoted to Sergeant in January. A member of the Department since 1978, prior to his promotion Sergeant Hayes served on the midnight to 8:00 AM shift.

Officer Daniel R. Brogan was assigned to the Investigative Services Division in January to team with Detective Kevin J. Delehanty in focusing on narcotics investigation and enforcement.

Officers Ryan T. Hall, Chad M. Howard and Scott R. Lacerra graduated from the Weymouth Police Academy in March, and after completion of the Department's eight week field training joined the Department's regular patrol force.

Officer Joseph J. Thurston joined the Department in April after more than eight years with the Hull Police Department.

Toan V. Nguyen and Ryan E. Payne entered the Boylston Police Academy in August and are expected to graduate in early 2007.

Sean D. Munger was extended a conditional offer of employment and is expected to enter the Boylston Police Academy in January 2007.

Dispatcher Christopher P. Biuso left the Department in September to pursue another career opportunity in the criminal justice system.

Dispatchers Jennifer E. Scanlon and Anthony J. Nigro, who originally joined the Department as part time dispatchers, became full time in September and November respectively.

Meter Enforcement Officer Susan A. Biggieri resigned in October to pursue an alternate career interest.

Citizen Police Academy

The ninth session of the Natick Police Citizen Police Academy graduated 15 members of the community in spring 2006. Topics covered included patrol procedures, crime scene investigations, dispatch operations, and domestic violence. Members were also offered the opportunity to ride along on patrol with sworn personnel and test their firearms prowess in the Department's indoor range.

Animal Control

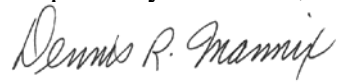
Animal Control enforces state regulations and town bylaws applicable to wild and domestic animals and administers to the sick and injured animals within the town's borders. The following is a list of Animal Control activity during 2006:



| Domestic | | Wildlife | |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|----|
| Unrestrained Dog Complaints | 116 | Sick Raccoons Reported | 68 |
| Barking Dog Complaints | 61 | Deceased Raccoons | 23 |
| Dogs Struck By Motor Vehicles | 11 | Sick Skunks Reported | 28 |
| Stray Dogs Recovered | 85 | Deceased Skunks | 27 |
| Dog Bites Reported | 32 | Sick Possums Reported | 3 |
| Lost Dogs Reported | 52 | Deceased Possums | 13 |
| Lost Cats Reported | 66 | Sick Woodchucks Reported | 3 |
| Stray Cats Recovered | 36 | Deceased Woodchucks | 2 |
| Cats Struck By Motor Vehicles | 31 | Sick Squirrels Reported | 0 |
| Cat Bites Reported | 0 | Deceased Squirrels | 44 |
| Livestock Complaints | 18 | Deer Struck By Motor Vehicles | 27 |
| Lost/Found Exotic Birds | 5 | Sick/Injured Rabbits | 11 |
| | | Sick/Injured Waterfowl & Birds | 41 |
| | | Sick/Injured Birds Of Prey | 8 |
| | | Wild Turkey Sick Or Sighted | 4 |
| | | Coyote Sick Or Sighted | 37 |
| | | Fox Sick Or Sighted | 38 |
| | | Turtle Assistance | 12 |
| | | Snake Issues Reported | 6 |
| | | Bee Problems | 2 |
| | | Deceased/Injured Beavers | 3 |
| | | Fisher Cat Issues | 5 |

| Informational Statistics | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated | 38 |
| Wild Animals Removed From Dwellings | 23 |
| Citations Issued | 21 |
| Written Warnings Issued | 53 |
| Mutual Aid To Other Communities | 11 |
| Assistance Calls For Service | 77 |
| Informational Calls | 81 |

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis R. Mannix
Chief of Police