

ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2005



Serving Alexandria Since 1870

Message from the Chief



Once again, I am proud to report a decrease in serious crime. This is the fourth consecutive year that Part I crime has fallen in Alexandria.

While per capita crime continues to fall as the City and the region's population increases, the overall number of offenses has decreased too. Both violent crime and property crime fell last year, though the number of robberies increased slightly.

I attribute this continuing success to the strong partnership our department has with its citizens and business people.

We have had the critical support from the City Council and City Manager's Office to ensure that financial resources are available to hire more personnel and obtain specialized equipment when necessary.



The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney ensures that victims receive justice and through effective prosecution, criminals are taken off the streets.

Together, we all make Alexandria a safe place to live and work.

I would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Alexandria Police Foundation.

Organized just three years ago and headed by business and community leaders throughout the City, the APF has raised money to fund unique projects that benefit our officers and our work.

When you see an officer traveling on a Segway this summer, you can thank the APF, which purchased it for us last year.

I hope that when you read our annual report you will take

particular note of the exceptional people of the Alexandria Police Department.

Some dedicated themselves to participating in the strenuous Police Unity Tour and others eagerly volunteered to work in the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.

But all consistently provide the highest level of commitment to the people of Alexandria.

We promise to maintain that level of service as we focus on improving the safety of all of Alexandria's neighborhoods.

Charles E. Samarra
Chief of Police



City Council

William D. Euille, Mayor

Redella S. Pepper, Vice Mayor

Ludwig P. Gaines

K. Rob Krupicka

Andrew H. Macdonald

Paul C. Smedberg

Joyce Woodson

James K. Hartmann, City Manager

Annual Report Credits

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Statistical data from Supervisory Crime Analyst Mary Garrand.

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Cover Photo

Lawrence Padgett, circa 1923. Lieutenant Padgett died in 1957, after serving more than 35 years. He was one of Alexandria's first motor officers.

Staffing and Budget

To ensure efficient service to the people of Alexandria, the police department depends on adequate funding and staffing.

That means anticipating vacancies so that police officer positions are promptly filled. In 2005, there were 30 new officers hired, filling new positions and those left open due to attrition and retirement.

By December, 312 of 316 officer positions were filled.

The civilian workforce supports the efforts of the sworn officers, serving in the 911 center, records section, parking enforcement, crime analysis, and property unit, among other places.

There are 140 full-time and 30 part-time civilian positions, and by December there were 22 vacancies.

The department budget increased 6.2%, from \$42,317,562 in FY2005 to \$45,136,508 in FY2006.



Part I Crime

For the fourth consecutive year, serious crime decreased in Alexandria. Part I crime has fallen in nine of the last ten years and fell 9.5% from 2004 to 2005.

Part I crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and vehicle larceny, both attempted and actual.

Violent crime decreased slightly, down 1.8% from 433

offenses in 2004 to 425 in 2005.

Rape and aggravated assault both fell and of the 23 rape offenses, only one was committed by a person unknown to the victim.

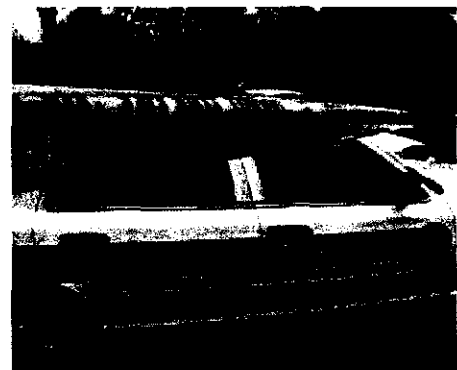
Both homicide and robbery rose in 2005. The rise in robberies is attributed to more commercial robberies, which increased by ten offenses in 2005.

Property crime decreased 10.4%, from 3,998 cases in 2004 to 3,583 in 2005. Of reported burglary and theft offenses, the greatest drop occurred in stolen vehicles, which fell nearly 20%.

Did you know...

The police department's mobile command unit, CP-1, was purchased with money recovered in drug raids.

Crime	2004	2005	Change	% Change
Homicide	2	4	2	100.0%
Rape	31	23	-8	-25.8%
Robbery	187	197	10	5.3%
Aggravated Assault	213	201	-12	-5.6%
Burglary	426	371	-55	-12.9%
Larceny	2,937	2,699	-238	-8.1%
Grand Larceny Auto	635	513	-122	-19.2%
Total	4,431	4,008	-423	-9.5%



Calls for Service



For another consecutive year, calls for service decreased, down 6% from 65,471 in 2004 to 61,547 in 2005.

Some call types decreased significantly, like 911 hang-ups down 20.3%, calls for drunk subjects down 27.3% and traffic problems down 66.9%.

One notable increase occurred in weapon calls, which include suspected gunfire and brandishings. Those rose 33.1%, from 329 in 2004 to 438 in 2005.



Call Type	2004	2005	Change
Abandoned Auto	924	786	-14.9%
Accident	6,725	6,437	-4.3%
Alarm	6,749	5,539	-17.9%
Ambulance/Fire	868	856	-1.4%
Animal Case	2,339	1,977	-15.5%
Assault	794	731	-7.9%
Auto Theft	1,030	871	-15.4%
Auto Theft Recovery	306	220	-28.1%
Bomb Threat	10	9	-10.0%
Burglary	795	670	-15.7%
Citizen Assist	2,025	2,083	2.9%
Disorderly	5,450	5,733	5.2%
Domestic Trouble	3,192	2,991	-6.3%
Drugs	747	802	7.4%
Drunk	1,818	1,322	-27.3%
911 Hang-up Calls	2,962	2,360	-20.3%
Escort	126	109	-13.5%
Fight	729	682	-6.4%
Homicide	1	1	0.0%
Larceny	3,471	3,334	-3.9%
Locked in Auto	95	58	-38.9%
Loud Party / Radio	198	167	-15.7%
Missing Person	420	373	-11.2%
Noise Complaint	2,946	2,872	-2.5%
Other	3,902	4,754	21.8%
Parking	4,249	4,588	8.0%
Phone Calls	501	502	0.2%
Property Lost / Found	1,016	1,074	5.7%
Prowler	44	48	9.1%
Public Service	812	737	-9.2%
Robbery	218	233	6.9%
Sex Offense	202	185	-8.4%
Suspicious Event	3,527	3,170	-10.1%
Traffic Hazard	466	567	21.7%
Traffic Problem	1,417	469	-66.9%
Trespass	788	693	-12.1%
Trouble Unknown	1,658	1,635	-1.4%
Vandalism	1,622	1,471	-9.3%
Weapon	329	438	33.1%
Totals	65,471	61,547	-6.0%

Quality of Life Crimes

Though not major offenses, quality of life crimes remain a priority for the police department.

If left unreported or unchecked, nuisance and alcohol-related crimes generally lead to more serious offenses, like theft, assault and even robbery.

Quality of life crimes are more likely to impact people in an urban environment and must be addressed quickly

and consistently to ensure the safety of a neighborhood.

These offenses fell 7.9% from 2004 to 2005 and the decrease was even greater in neighborhoods with community-based officers.

Those communities experienced a drop of 33%, from 973 reports in 2004 to 652 last year.

Crime Type	2004	2005	Change
Vandalism	1,657	1397	-15.7%
Disorderly Conduct	149	150	0.7%
Driving While Intoxicated	391	435	11.3%
Drug Offenses	451	453	0.4%
Drunkenness	951	890	-6.4%
Gambling Offenses	7	5	-28.6%
Liquor Law Violations	680	604	-11.2%
Prostitution Offenses	5	19	280.0%
Total	4,291	3,953	-7.9%

Arrests	Adult			Juvenile		
	2004	2005	Change	2004	2005	Change
Homicide	2	3	50.0%	0	0	n/a
Rape	9	12	33.3%	1	3	200.0%
Robbery	62	50	-19.4%	18	31	72.2%
Aggravated Assault	106	92	-13.2%	24	35	45.8%
Burglary	93	65	-30.1%	31	24	-22.6%
Larceny	405	446	10.1%	121	138	14.0%
Grand Larceny Auto	25	31	24.0%	6	12	100.0%
Total Part I Arrests	702	699	-0.4%	201	243	20.9%

Arrests

Overall arrests increased slightly last year, up 1.3% from 5,974 in 2004 to 6,049 in 2005.

For Part I offenses, arrests rose by 4.3%, up from 903 in 2004 to 942 in 2005. This increase is attributable to more juveniles being arrested for serious offenses.

While adult arrests for Part I crimes fell 1.6%, juvenile arrests for the same offenses

rose 26.4%, resulting in an overall increase for Part I arrests.

However, juvenile arrests declined 23.2% for alcohol and drug offenses, falling from 112 in 2004 to 86 in 2005.

Adult arrests for the same offenses fell only 7.6%, from 2,496 arrests in 2004 to 2,307 last year.



Traffic Enforcement



Enforcement of speed limits and traffic signs and signals is essential to ensuring safety on Alexandria's streets.

While police consider accident data in determining where to direct resources, the traffic unit also relies on input from citizens.

Three-quarters of all complaints are about drivers speeding or failing to obey traffic signs and many

address driving behaviors in residential areas.

The traffic unit shares citizen concerns with patrol officers over their mobile computers so that officers are promptly aware of traffic complaints on their beat.

An effective means of controlling speed and addressing complaints is the continuous deployment of Smart Trailers in locations

known for unacceptable violator and complaint rates.

Deployments increased last year by 31%, up from 547 in 2004 to 793 in 2005.

These trailers modify violator behavior while allowing accurate assessments of traffic rates and speeds, broken down by time of day, so that when staffing resources are deployed, they achieve maximum effectiveness.



Top Accident Sites in 2005	
Location	Crashes
Seminary Road & North Beauregard Street	31
Jefferson Davis Highway & East Monroe Avenue	25
Edsall Road & South Van Dorn Street	25
Duke Street & North Quaker Lane	24
Seminary Road & Mark Center Drive	21
Telegraph Road & Pershing Avenue	20
South Patrick Street & Gibbon Street	19
Jefferson Davis Highway & East Glebe Road	19
Duke Street & South Washington Street	18
North Beauregard Street & King Street	17
Duke Street & Jordan Street	17
Duke Street & West Taylor Run Parkway	17

Did you know...

You can use the police web site to make a complaint about traffic issues in your community.

Accident Overview

The accident rate fell 3.8% from 2004 to 2005, with crashes falling from 2,274 to 2,188. Alcohol-related accidents also decreased during the same period, down 16%, from 131 crashes in 2004 to 110 in 2005.

There were two fatal accidents in 2005, compared to three the year before. In both cases, the victims were pedestrians.

In the first case, a man walking his dog was struck in the 3800 block of Duke Street. The driver was charged with reckless driving and later pleaded guilty.

In the second case, a woman was crossing the 4500 block of Taney Avenue when she was hit by a delivery truck. The driver was not charged as the pedestrian was at fault.

In 2004, two of the three fatal accidents were determined to be alcohol-related. Neither fatal crash in 2005 was alcohol related.

Major Case Investigations

Though violent crimes have steadily decreased in recent years, they are the offenses that are most likely to capture headlines and create fear.

Detectives responsible for investigating homicides, robberies and other major cases try to identify and arrest suspects before they harm anyone else.

In 2005, detectives investigated four homicides and the suspicious death of an infant.

They closed three of the homicides with arrests. The

fourth murder, which occurred in December, remains under investigation.

The baby's death, determined to be accidental, was closed when the child's sitter was charged with manslaughter.

Detectives also closed all seven of the carjackings they handled in 2005, as well as three of five bank robberies.

Several robbery suspects responsible for multiple offenses were also apprehended last year, including two men who targeted pizza delivery

drivers and a group of juveniles who preyed upon people in parks.

Among the violent gang crimes detectives investigated in 2005 were eight assaults and one robbery. They made arrests in the robbery case and five of the assault cases.



A federal grant allowed the department to purchase new video enhancement equipment and software.

Hurricane Response

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, police officers and other employees were at the ready. Captain John Crawford was on the first regional team from Northern Virginia and worked with the mayor's press corps in New Orleans.

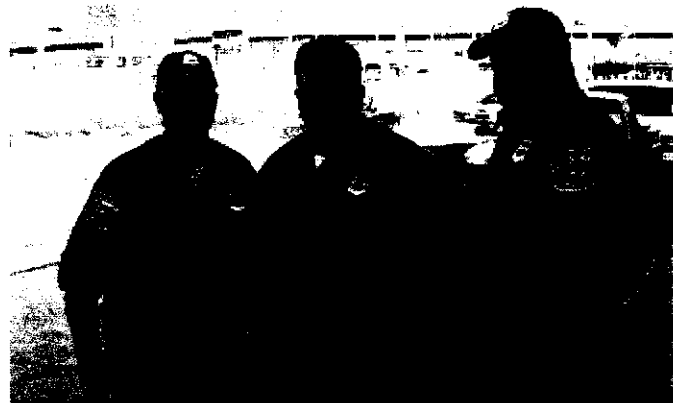
Then in October two waves of officers were deployed to Mississippi to supplement the patrol resources of the Picayune Police Department.

Lieutenant Jack Compton, Sergeant Joe Seskey, Officer Numa Landry, Officer Brunie Cofresi-Toro, Officer Eric Barnes, Detective Eric Ratliff, Detective Dave Hoffmaster and Officer Gerald Ford were teamed with officers from Prince William County and Virginia State Police.

Each visiting agency used its own marked cruisers and wore uniforms with their own patches and badges, but out-of-town police and fire personnel were not an unusual sight.

The officers from Northern Virginia performed traditional policing duties in Picayune, working 12-hour shifts and trying to provide some relief to the Picayune police. They conducted traffic stops, assisted with arrests, handled animal control calls, and responded to domestic situations, alarms and noise complaints.

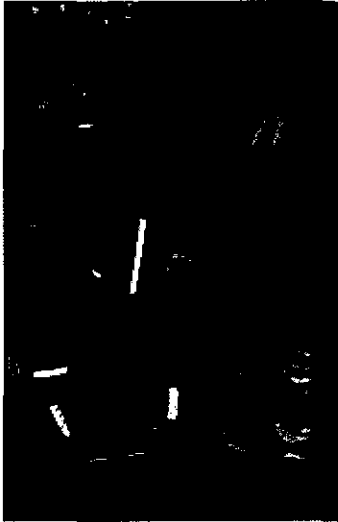
Each officer understood the challenge of the assignment but welcomed the opportunity to serve a community that had lost nearly everything.



Detective David Hoffmaster, Sergeant Joe Seskey and Officer Gerald Ford observed Katrina's devastation firsthand.



Segway



The Alexandria Police Foundation purchased a Segway for the police department last fall.

In November, the APF and Segway officials presented Chief Samarra and the officers an i180 Police Segway Human Transporter.

Equipped with emergency lights and a siren, the Segway provides officers with mobility and increased visibility.

The Segway's raised platform places an officer eight inches above the crowd, making it

ideal for use at parades, special events and festivals, as well as in areas with lots of foot traffic, like Old Town and Del Ray.

Right now, the Segway is assigned to the Community Support Section whose neighborhood officers spend more time on foot and on bicycle than officers in other units.

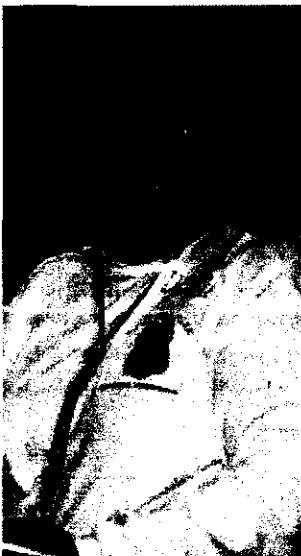
Alexandria was the first police department in Northern Virginia to deploy a Segway.



Police foundation president Shawn McLaughlin presents Chief Samarra and Officer Michael Sprague with a new Segway.

Did you know . . .

About 1 in 5 of personal crimes against the elderly were thefts compared to about 1 in 33 for persons age 12-49.



Dottie Stepp (above) coordinated the first Senior Citizens Police Academy.

Senior Citizens Police Academy

Recognizing that as the population of senior citizens is growing, the Volunteer and Community Relations units organized a new outreach program to specifically educate older residents about crimes that are more likely to impact them.

In the fall, they hosted the first session of the Senior Citizens Police Academy and welcomed about two dozen seniors to the day-long

training. Officers covered a variety of topics including fraud, identity theft, personal safety, emergency preparedness and crime prevention.

Detectives explained how easily people of all ages can be conned and since most seniors are on a fixed income, it was even more important for them to remember that if something sounds too good to believe, then it probably is.

Officers also asked the class to take steps to be safe by keeping important phone numbers nearby and porch lights on at night and encouraging them to call police when they do see something suspicious.

At the end of the program, Chief Samarra presented each student with a certificate. The effort was well received and additional sessions will be held in the future.



Police Unity Tour

Thirteen members of the department paid tribute to fallen officers by participating in the Police Unity Tour, a 250-mile bicycle trek through Virginia.

Eleven cyclists and two support officers helped raise awareness and money by honoring the memories of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.

Cycling from Chesapeake on their way to Washington, D.C., the 2005 tour stopped in

Alexandria at Hopkins Court. Sergeant Jesse Harman spoke briefly and then shared a moment of silence at the site where two officers were lost after a 1989 hostage situation.

The Police Unity Tour, held during the annual National Police Week in May, raises thousands of dollars to benefit Concerns Of Police Survivors which provides support and services to families of fallen officers.

Through the Unity Tour, Alexandria officers have raised more than \$30,000.



City resident and then governor Mark Warner met with Alexandria's team in Richmond.

Group C

Following September 11, many agencies faced the challenge of balancing traditional police duties with homeland security demands. Existing personnel and equipment could be strained unless adequate resources were available.

In 2003, the department was awarded federal funding for a unit whose mission includes homeland security and rapid response.

A sergeant and eight officers now make up Group C, a squad of specially-trained officers who are responsible for security at high-profile events, dignitary protection, and education for terrorism responsiveness, both for the department and the public.

Group C members have conducted dozens of threat assessments on facilities throughout the City, upgraded protective equipment for

WMD for all officers, conducted surveillance and executed outstanding warrants.

They have also provided enhanced security at the federal courthouse, special events and areas experiencing increased criminal activity. Their flexibility ensures that resources are not pulled from critical patrol functions.



Honors and Awards



Officer Charlette Mitchell-Young celebrates her award at the Salute to Women (above) and Officers Tara May, Kevin Jobe and Richard Harrell proudly wear their silver medals at the Valor Awards (below).

Police employees perform outstanding work on a daily basis, but several earned special recognition for their service.

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards

Gold Medal
Officer Brian Fromm
Officer Frank Powers
Officer Steve Pagach

Silver Medal
Officer Todd Branson
Officer Tara May
Officer Kevin Jobe
Officer Richard Harrell

Bronze Medal
Officer Chuck Seckler
Officer Mark Morgan

Certificate of Valor
Officer Monica Lisle
Officer Kevin Thomas
Officer Terrence Bridges
Officer Lorenzo Hardy

Life-Saving Award
Officer Jennifer Mogford

Salute to Women
Youth Community Services Award
Officer Charlette Mitchell-Young
Vola Lawson Award
Sergeant Scott Gibson

Help Eliminate Auto Theft
Law Enforcement Award
Officer Stephen Parker

City Stars!
City Employee of the Month
Detective Russell Peverell

Optimists
Officer of the Year
Detective Thomas Durkin

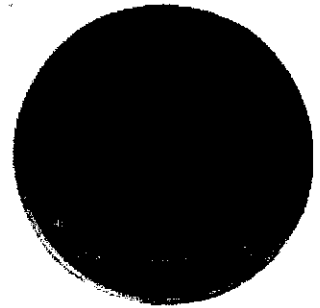
Jaycees
Officer of the Year
Officer Todd Branson

Kiwanis
Officer of the Year
Officer Angel Semidey

Sons of the American Revolution
Officers of the Year
Detectives Irv Ellman and Victor Ignacio

Sunrise Optimists
Officer of the Year
Officer Michael May

FBI National Academy
Captain Scott Ogden graduated from the FBI National Academy, a ten-week professional training program for law enforcement executives.



Promotions

Seven officers and two civilians were promoted in 2005.

Captain
David Huchler
Hassan Aden

Lieutenant
Scott Gibson

Sergeant
Shahram Fard
Shirl Mammarella
Delton Goodrum
Dennis Andreas

Records Supervisor
Cathy Gary
Christall Marshall

Saluting a Pioneer

In October, the police department honored Albert Beverly, the first African-American to serve as an Alexandria law enforcement officer.

The ceremony recognized the ground-breaking career of retired Officer Beverly forty years after he joined the department.

Officer Beverly, a native of King George County and an Air Force veteran, was sworn in on October 1, 1965, becoming the first person of color to be a police officer in

any of the major Washington, D.C., suburbs. Officer Beverly served in patrol, community relations and the youth bureau before retiring in 1985.

At the anniversary ceremony, Mayor William D. Euille, members of City Council, the City Manager, community leaders, and current and former police officers saluted Officer Beverly.

Former colleagues traveled from as far away as Florida and Georgia to pay tribute to him. Mayor Euille presented him with a proclamation

declaring October 1, 2005, "Albert Beverly Day," and thanked him for his commitment and courage.



Police leaders, City officials and former colleagues honor Al Beverly (standing) at a special ceremony last fall.

Police Explorers

In addition to her regular patrol assignment, Officer Dana Mitchell oversees the Explorer program, a law enforcement leadership effort for residents age 14 to 21.

In the summer, Officer Mitchell made plans to revitalize Post 810 after membership had dropped to just six Explorers. By year's end the post was full with 25 active members.

The Explorers meet monthly and participate in special events, assisting with traffic direction and crime prevention efforts.

In November they took part in a mock disaster training exercise for first responders in Bowie, Md. In the City, they volunteered at the Breast Cancer Walk, Turkey Trot, Scottish Walk and a

Halloween parade. Most recently they helped visitors at a Revolutionary War reenactment at Fort Ward Park.

Through Explorers, young Alexandrians learn important leadership skills while receiving a basic introduction to law enforcement work.



Motorcycle Rodeo

In September, the police department hosted the Mid-Atlantic Police Motorcycle Riding Committee's annual skills competition known as the Motorcycle Rodeo.

More than eighty officers, including six from Alexandria, competed on a closed course in Cameron Run Regional Park

before a crowd of hundreds. Officers rode on ten different courses and in three categories determined by their years of experience.

Two Alexandria officers earned top honors with Sergeant James Bartlett placing first and Officer Delton Goodrum taking third

overall in the novice category.

The competition challenged the precision skills officers need for their work in traffic control, escorts and enforcement. Officer Brian Thompson serves as the MAPMRC's director.



GET INVOLVED

The Alexandria Police Department hosts community events throughout the year.

Memorial Service to Honor Alexandria's Fallen Officers

Baptist Temple Church
700 Commonwealth Avenue
May 18

National Night Out

Neighborhoods across the City
August 1

Youth Citizens Police Academy

Ages 13-17
August 7 through 11

Citizens Police Academy

Wednesday evenings
September 6 through November 15

Please contact the Community Relations Unit at 703.838.4520 for more information about these and other programs.



ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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