



# Moorhead Police Department

## INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION 2008 Year in Review

2008 led to some changes within the Investigative Division. Former Investigative Division Commander Monroe was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief of Police, General/Computer Forensics Investigator Detloff was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and Narcotics Investigator Krone was also promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In September, these positions were filled by Lt. Penas (Investigative Division Commander), Detective Voxland (General/Computer Forensics Investigator), and Detective Torgerson (Narcotics Investigator).

The division is made up of General, Juvenile, Narcotics, and Computer Forensics Investigators. General Detectives investigate cases such as crimes against persons (adult) and property crimes. Juvenile Detectives investigate crimes against children and vulnerable adults such as physical and sexual abuse and financial exploitation. Narcotics Detectives investigate local drug trafficking cases, gang related cases, and historical conspiracy cases with one detective that is attached to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). We have 8 full-time detectives with two in General, two in Juvenile and four in Narcotics. Computer forensics investigations are performed by one of our General and one Juvenile Detectives. Computer Forensic Investigators perform forensic examinations on computers in child pornography cases, narcotics cases, and others including the location and arrest of online predators.

We currently participate in four different task forces. We are a small financial contributor to the West Central Drug Task Force and head up the Red River Valley Gang and Drug Task Force whose member detectives are attached also to the DEA Drug Task Force out of Fargo, ND. We are also members of the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC).

Other responsibilities of the division include maintaining local Predatory Offender files by tracking offenders and ensuring compliance of over 150 Clay County offenders. They register with the department and we track residence, vehicle, school, and employment changes. Each patrol officer and detective is assigned specific offenders that are

randomly checked for compliance on at least a quarterly basis. The division is also responsible for conducting background investigations for most city licenses and permits including firearms, liquor, pawn, masseuse, and used car dealers.

The Division is commanded by Lt. Brad Penas and assisted by Executive Secretary Corinne Lien who also supervises 5 ½ part-time typist positions that transcribe the department's dictated reports.

### **High Profile Case Activity**

- 1993 unsolved murder of Sharron Stafford – Case is one of 52 statewide featured on playing cards the Minnesota Department of Corrections distributed to prisons and jails.
- Kerry Ronning entered a guilty plea on 15 counts of possessing child pornography and was sentenced to 75 months in prison. Over 17,000 images of child pornography were found on Ronning's computer.
- Stephen Sopko case resulted in a guilty plea for secretly videotaping the Concordia College women's basketball team in the showers of the locker room.
- The arrest of husband and wife, Kristofer and Yolanda Davis, for two separate incidents involving Robbery and Felony Theft from Casey's General store. Yolanda Davis was employed at Casey's at the time of the incident.
- Rodney Trudeau was sentenced to 12 years in prison for sexually assaulting two sisters 20 years earlier.
- Prostitution sting led to the arrest of three subject's for solicitation of prostitution.
- Arrest of gang member Sitha Puth, Sean Willert, and Carson Newgard led to the seizure of 16 pounds of marijuana and approximately \$28,000.00 in cash.
- Arrest of Ryan Utvick, Forrest Fuller, and Craig Richards led to the seizure of 5 pounds of marijuana and approximately \$3,300.00 in cash.
- Arrest of Eduardo Gonzalez, Lea Gonzalez, Pedro Molina and Rey Molina led to the seizure of 1 3/4 pound of cocaine, 12 pounds of marijuana, a 9 mm handgun and approximately \$10,000.00 in cash.
- Byrne Blitz narcotics operation on March 5th resulted in five warrants served, 8 subjects charged with narcotics violations, 8.6 pounds of marijuana, 23 Hydrocodone tablets, 3 grams of cocaine, and approximately \$10,000.00 seized.
- Randall Hegeholz sentenced to 59 months in prison for narcotics trafficking and witness tampering regarding threats made against a confidential informant.
- Dale Lott (34) sentenced to 8 years and 5 months in prison for having sexual contact with a 15 year old runaway.
- Four subjects charged with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Controlled Substance for the burglary of Moorhead Drug where several thousand prescription medications including over 2000 tablets of Hydrocodone.

### **MPD Cases Taken Into Federal Court**

- Vincent Degidio entered a plea agreement and faces 29 years in prison for the attempted murder of a police officer and violent kidnapping and pistol whipping of a woman in Fargo. Degidio was apprehended in Moorhead after an exchange of gunfire with officers that resulted in him being struck twice during the shootout.
- Julian Ulloa-Venegas conspiracy case led to the seizer of 1 pound of methamphetamine, \$3000.00 cash, and 6 federal indictments.
- Ignacio Mata conspiracy case where over 100 pounds of marijuana was distributed in the F-M area. This led to the seizure of approximately \$35,000.00 in cash.
- Larry Schrader indicted federally regarding a liquid fertilizer scheme. Schrader faces up to 10 years on the charge of transportation of stolen goods. Schrader grossed nearly \$650,000.00 over a 10 year period.
- Nokthida Koumalasy and Cuong Nguyen indicted federally for bank fraud and possession of counterfeit identity for defrauding financial institutions in the F-M area as well as the Twin Cites area out of thousands of dollars.

### **Juvenile**

Two of our detectives are specially trained in Corner House and First Witness child forensic interviewing techniques. This training is specific to this position so detectives; working as a team with social services, medical staff, and counseling services, can effectively receive non-leading information from child victims for court purposes and limit redundancy that leads to further exposing the victim to trauma. We continue our collaborative work efforts with the Red River Child Advocacy Center and the Nemzek House to accomplish these efforts.

The following chart is a three year display of case activity. We saw a reduction in tobacco and runaway reports however there was an increase in victims of sexual abuse.

### **Juvenile Victims**

<b>Case Types</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Criminal Sexual Assault</b>	81	56	74
<b>Physical Abuse</b>	108	96	94

### **Juvenile Offenders**

<b>Alcohol</b>	74	90	96
<b>Tobacco</b>	49	67	38
<b>Drugs</b>	16	36	28
<b>Runaway(s)</b>	116	121	88

## Narcotics

2008 drug investigations have shown the availability of methamphetamine reduced in our area. Efforts by local law enforcement working in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office has led to the dismantling of several large scale methamphetamine trafficking organizations and reduced the supply. This has caused the street level price of methamphetamine to more than double in the last year. 2008 has led to an increase of high grade marijuana in the F-M area. Past investigations and intelligence reports indicate Asian gangs based from Canada are responsible for large scale trafficking of high grade marijuana to the region as well as several other communities in the United States. These hydroponic marijuana grow operations have been found in several homes in Canada. Similar operations have recently been found in homes in the Twin Cities area as well. We are increasing our efforts and training to focus on identifying the source of and dismantling these indoor facilities.

As a part of education and prevention, our detectives conducted 11 narcotics/gang presentations to approximately 300 people in this past year.



The following chart displays narcotics enforcement activity that Moorhead Police Detectives worked on over a three year period.

<b>Seizures</b> (in grams unless stated)	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Marijuana	28,769	18,991	48,869
Methamphetamine	2952	1446	457
Cocaine	4332	1344	869
Crack	16	119	3.3
Ecstasy	25 (pills)	295 (pills)	67 (pills)
Autos	38	15	24
Cash	\$179,877	\$112,943	\$113,798
Search warrants	76	54	34

## **Computer Forensics**

We continue to see computer related crimes where computer forensics is necessary. With the promotion of Sgt. Detloff we are currently in the process of training Detective Voxland in this field. As members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force a large portion of Detectives Voxland's training will be grant funded. We provided 39 computer related educational presentations to approximately 3100 people of various organizations and ages. We also assisted other law enforcement agencies with computer related crimes.

## **Power Typing Staff**

The officers and detectives of the police department complete reports and investigations which are documented in writing. To maximize licensed officer's use of time, the department has the officers dictate the reports into a digital dictation system for later transcription by Power Typing Staff.

Our current system allows officers to dictate reports into a desktop computer or personal digital assistant (PDA) which is uploaded by software that allows the supervisor to manage, track, and prioritize jobs to ensure timely completion.

- With the addition of five new officers in 2008, Power Typing Staff have been busy.
- Late in 2008, Moorhead Police Department had a vacancy in a full-time Office Specialist position. Realignment of two part-time typists, Deanna Hogenson and Tania Molden, to fill this vacancy resulted in a cost savings to the City in salaries and benefits for the year. In addition to this savings, the Moorhead Police Department gained an additional 5 hours per week in transcription services. This resulted in no lost time in productivity as both employees were currently employed by the Police Department. The adjustment will ensure the needs of the respective departments are being met effectively as the duties are split between the Records Department and Power Typing.
- The Power Typist Staff transcribed 7900 jobs in 2008.
- This was over 1050 hours of dictation which translates into approximately 2100 hours of transcription time.
- In addition, over 400 transcription jobs consisting of suspect/victim/witness recorded statements, mobile video recordings and court requests were completed by Power Typing Staff and Records Staff.

### Division Statistics

Total Case Assignments: 844

Search Warrants Executed: 33

Administration	32
Arson	0
Assault	56
Assist	48
Burglary	34
Computer Forensics	11 (5-Child Pornography)
Criminal Sexual Conduct	58
Death	18
Missing Persons	8
Narcotics	123
Other Activity	187
Permits	35
Predatory Offender	160
Robbery	5
Theft	69

### New in 2008

Officials on both sides of the river from local police departments, hospitals, city government and the Rape & Abuse Crisis Center signed a proclamation to coordinate efforts in responding to victims of sexual assault. The goal of the proclamation is to make sure everyone is working together to meet the needs of sexual assault victims and holding offenders accountable.

# Moorhead Police Department Investigative Division

## Division Organization Chart & Primary Duties



