



# HUNT INSIDER

Issue 3

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## HUNT SCOPE OF FOCUS WIDENED

Approximately 21% of the annual funding for the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team is provided via The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. Historically, the requirements for the provision of these funds to HUNT (a Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force), has been that the focus of the team's efforts be on the enforcement of controlled substance laws.

In a recent review of these restrictions, the eligibility requirements for the Byrne grant have been changed to "the investigation of illegal substance abuse, and associated criminal activity." In summary, HUNT can now expand their efforts to include the reduction of overall crime. Specifically drug related criminal activity, associated violent crime, and repeat offenders.

Because most law enforcement agencies are limited to specific jurisdictions, but criminal activity is not, it is possible for criminals to commit crimes beyond the scope of power of a particular law enforcement agency. Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces combine the talents and resources of a variety of agencies to eliminate those jurisdictional barriers. This advantage, coupled with the new, wider scope of focus allowed by the Byrne grant, provides HUNT with the strength to have a greater impact on crime in Northeastern Michigan. The team's efforts will continue to be largely focused on narcotics investigations, with the inclusion of those other criminal activities that often accompany narcotics trafficking.

## FEATURED BOARD MEMBER: F/LT. KEN HOLMES

F/Lt. Ken Holmes was reassigned to the Michigan State Police, Alpena post commander's position in April, 2007. Prior to that, he had been the commander of the Cheboygan and Petoskey posts. F/Lt. Holmes has been a member of the MSP since 1987. During that time he has worked as a trooper at the Brighton Post, as a polygraph examiner at the Grayling Crime Lab, as a uniform sergeant at both the Cadillac and Houghton Lake posts, and as an Internal Affairs investigator in Lansing.



F/Lt. Holmes is a 1986 graduate of Michigan State University, holding a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He served on active duty in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman and continues his military service to the present in the Michigan Army National Guard, as the First Sergeant of Camp Grayling's Maneuver Training Center.

F/Lt. Holmes, his wife Barbara, and their three sons have just recently completed the sale of their previous home in Indian River and have now established residency in Alpena County.

F/Lt. Holmes has assumed the position of Vice Chair on the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team Board of Directors.

### NOTABLE LAWS

When traveling around the country this summer, note these regional laws to avoid violations:

- In Oklahoma, it is illegal to wear your boots to bed.
- In California, it is against the law for women to drive while wearing house coats.
- In Texas, it is illegal to milk another person's cow.
- In Rhode Island, it is not permissible to own a cap gun.
- In Alabama, it is against the law to play Dominoes on Sundays.

### IN THIS ISSUE

HUNT Focus Widened

Featured Board Member — F/Lt. Ken Holmes

Criminal Justice System Too Lenient?

Featured Drug — Methadone

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TOO LENIENT?

According to the latest quarterly report by the Michigan Department of Corrections, more than 2,700 parolees in the state of Michigan are listed as absconders. This quarterly report is required by a 2006 statute written as a result of Patrick Selepak being mistakenly released after he violated his parole and was later convicted of committing three murders and multiple other violent crimes.

According to the report issued on July 1, 2007, more than 90% of these absconders are considered to be at "low risk" to commit an assaultive crime. The obvious question then, is with regard to the other 10%. Were they paroled while considered at "high risk" to commit an assaultive crime? The report states that once apprehended, 80% of these absconders will not be returned to prison, but will be continued on parole with greater supervision.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections 2005 Annual Report (latest available), there were 2,858 parole violation arraignments in 2005. Of those, 869 led to formal hearings, and 661 led to parole suspensions. This equates to 23% of parolees charged with parole violation, whose parole was suspended. On the flip-side, 77% of parolees who were charged with parole violation, were not returned to prison. What message does this send to someone who is considering violating the terms of his or her parole? Would stiffer penalties for parole violation be a deterrent from the crime?

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections 2005 Statistical Report, over the 15 year period from 1991 to 2005, the total number of felony dispositions steadily rose from 37,051 in 1991 to 49,467 in 2005, a 25% increase. The total dispositions to prison however reduced steadily from 32.1% in 1991 to 22.9% in 2005. More felony offenders are being convicted each year, with a smaller percentage being sent to prison. Again, wouldn't stiffer penalties for felonious crimes be a deterrent to committing them? Might Michigan be further ahead to focus on reducing overall crime, rather than simply reducing the number of people in prison via parole?

## Featured Drug:

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Methadone is a synthetic opiate. It is prescribed for pain management, and is also an effective treatment for heroin addiction (and other opiates). It is known to reduce the cravings associated with heroin addiction and also blocks the high from heroin, without providing the euphoric rush.

Methadone abuse can be initiated by friends and/or family members of people who have a legitimate prescription for medical reasons, as well as by those who become addicted to their own prescription.

Street methadone is normally found in pill or "wafer" form. It is sought out in the narcotics community as a lesser expensive replacement for addicts to heroin or opiates as well as for the stimulant drug user, who uses methadone to settle down in order to sleep. Adversely, the use of stimulant narcotics are sometimes used by methadone addicts to combat the lethargy.

A typical dose of methadone for someone with a tolerance or addiction to opiates, would quickly cause an overdose in someone without a tolerance. Another reason for overdose, is that methadone is a slower acting drug than heroin and most opiates, causing the user to believe that they haven't taken enough, and therefore take more.

Methadone is blamed for an increasing number of drug overdose deaths in the United States, more than any other prescription narcotic. In a recent study of overdose deaths in Northeastern Michigan, Methadone was by far the most cited drug, more than heroin, oxycodone, and cocaine combined.

Huron Undercover Narcotics Team, telephone 800-573-DRUG, or visit [www.huntteam.net](http://www.huntteam.net)