

# 2004 Annual Report

## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team



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The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (HUNT) is a multi-jurisdictional task force consisting of law enforcement officers who's mission is to remove drug dealers from our streets and reduce the availability of drugs in our communities. HUNT covers the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, in Northeastern Michigan. The team consists of five undercover officers from various local agencies, as well as a Detective Sergeant and a Detective Lieutenant from the Michigan State Police. All of these officers have been specifically trained in narcotics investigations, undercover operations, surveillance, and raid entry.

2004 was a year of new heights for the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team. HUNT arrested 118 people during the year, on 200 charges, all related to narcotics investigations, in addition to 23 fugitives, and removed almost a half million dollars worth of drugs from our streets.

HUNT launched a new web site during the year, to promote awareness of the team's activities, as well as provide information regarding narcotics trends. The web site also hosts an area where anonymous tips can be left, regarding drug activity, and has proven successful. The site has hosted 771 visitors since it's launching in August of 2004, and can be found at [www.huntteam.net](http://www.huntteam.net).

Also during the year, HUNT implemented a project called "Awareness" in which placemats were produced and distributed to local area restaurants. These placemats were an effort to provide information to the public regarding the use and abuse of drugs, treatment centers, and other bits of helpful information for concerned parents and/or loved ones. This project also consisted of the production of drug identification handbooks which were distributed to local law enforcement agencies and fire department/EMS crews. The Awareness project was funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan. HUNT also received a grant from the P I E & G Communities First Fund, to replace four outdated computers.

The following pages reflect the team's activities for the year, as compared to past years, and highlights of some significant cases, as well as the fiscal year funding sources and the Commander's Message.

## Board of Directors

**Thomas Weichel—Chairman**

Prosecuting Attorney, Alcona County

**F/Lt. Jeffery Anthony—Vice Chairman**

Alpena Post Commander, Michigan State Police

**Donald McLennan—Legal Advisor**

Prosecuting Attorney, Presque Isle County

**Douglas Ellinger—Secretary/Treasurer**

Sheriff, Alcona County

**Captain Charles Bush**

SID Commander, Michigan State Police

**Terri Case**

Prosecuting Attorney, Montmorency County

**Terry Flewelling**

Sheriff, Presque Isle County

**James Gibson**

Chief, Onaway Police Department

**Dennis Grenkowicz**

Prosecuting Attorney, Alpena County

**Ron Karr**

Sheriff, Montmorency County

**James Marquardt**

Sheriff, Alpena County

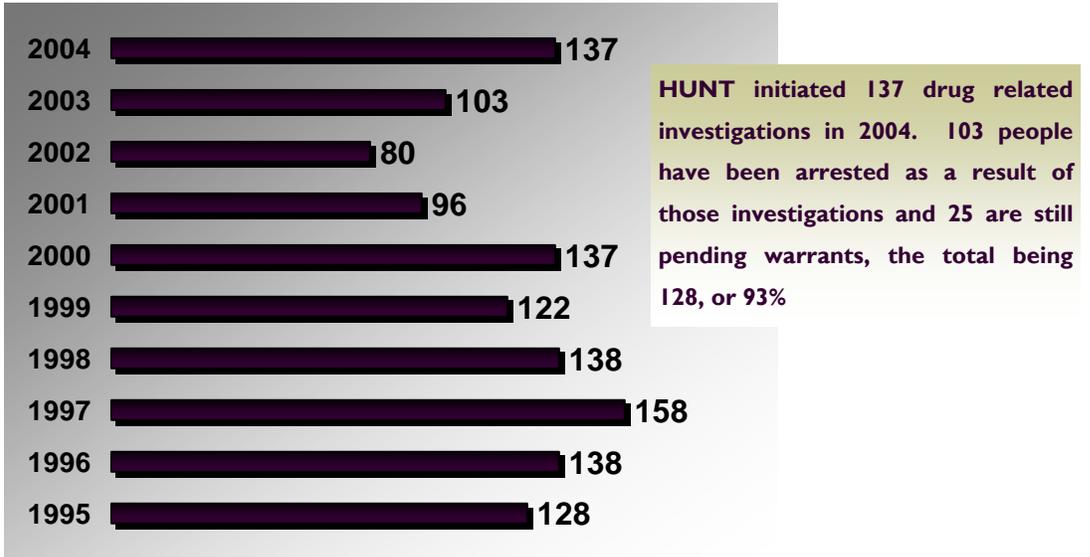
**Matthew Quaine**

Chief, Rogers City Police Department

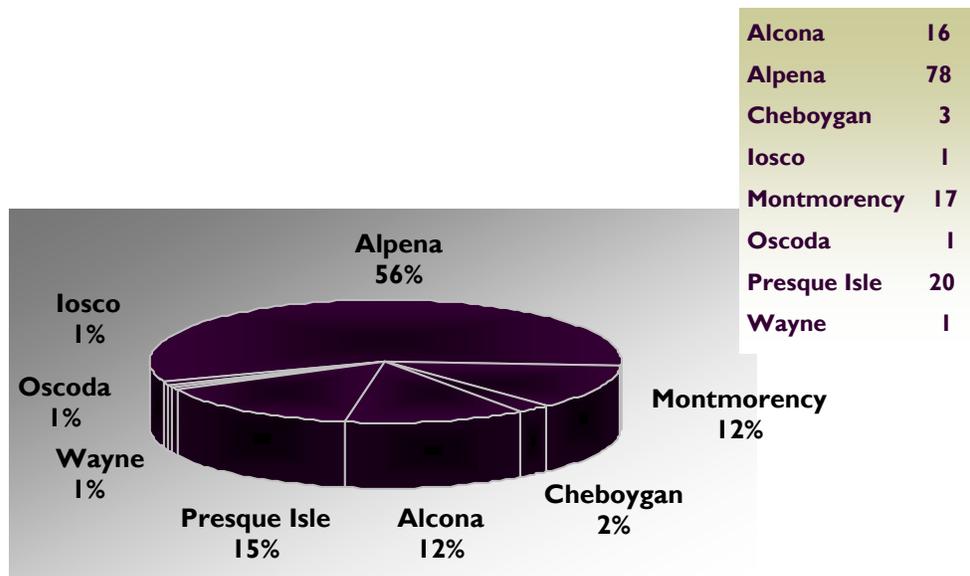
**Thad Taylor**

Public Safety Director, City of Alpena

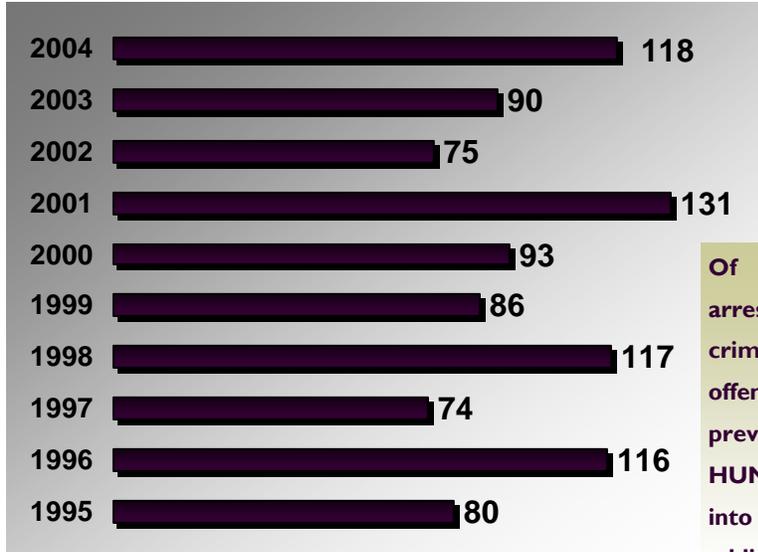
## Investigations



## Investigations by County

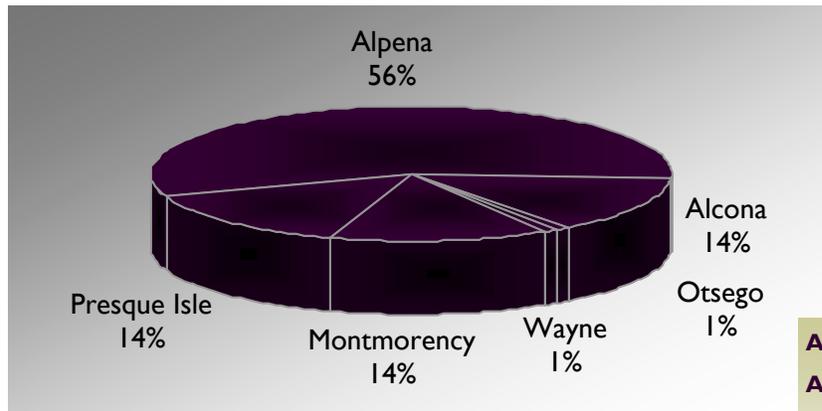


## Persons Arrested



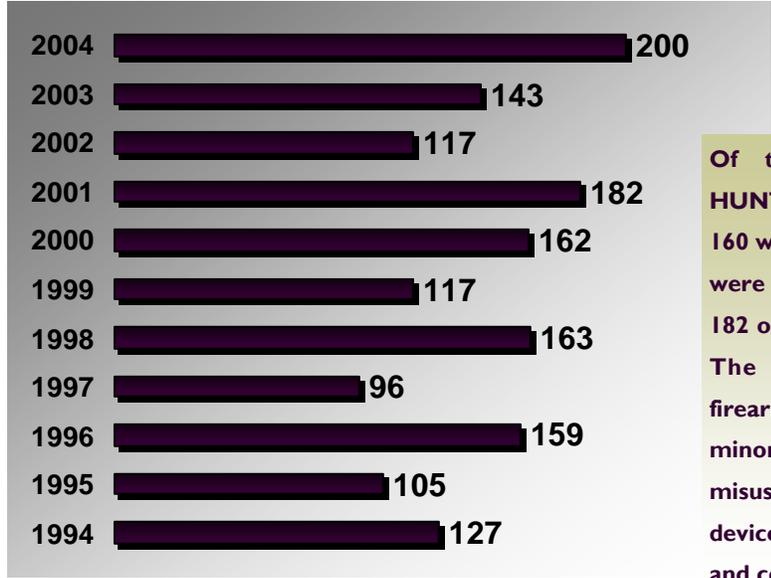
Of the 118 people HUNT arrested in 2004, 75 had previous criminal histories (64% repeat offenders), and 27 of those had previously been arrested by HUNT. 23 Fugitives were taken into custody by the team, in addition to the 118 due to HUNT investigations.

## Persons Arrested by County



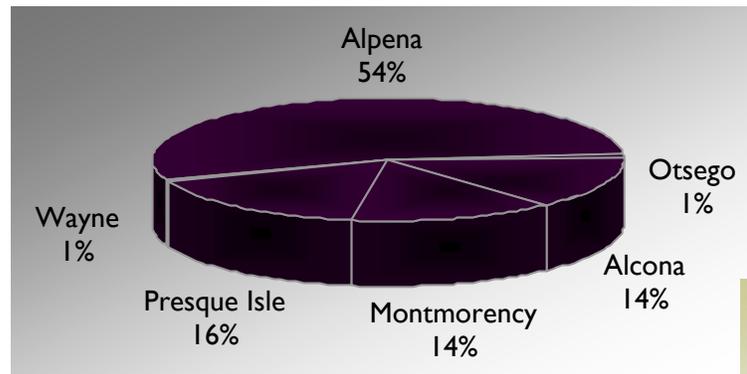
Alcona	16
Alpena	67
Montmorency	16
Otsego	1
Presque Isle	17
Wayne	1

## Arrest Counts



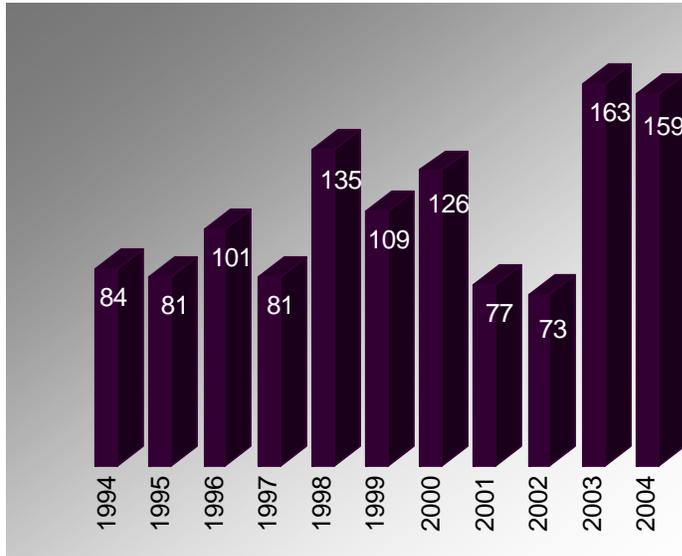
Of the 200 arrest counts HUNT obtained warrants for, 160 were felony charges, and 40 were misdemeanor charges. 182 of these were drug related. The others were felony firearms, larceny in a building, minor in possession of alcohol, misuse of a communications device, burglary, and receive and conceal stolen property.

## Arrest Counts by County



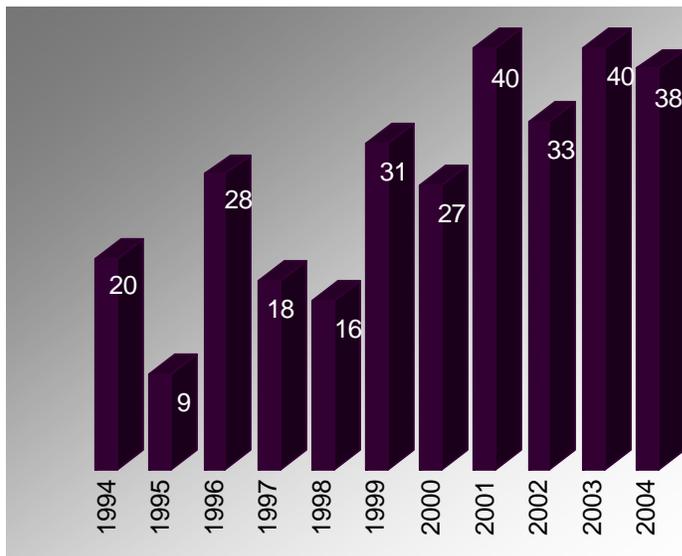
Alcona	28
Alpena	108
Montmorency	28
Otsego	2
Presque Isle	33
Wayne	1

## Intelligence Reports



Intelligence Reports are entered into the State-wide Information System (STATIS), which is a computerized system for the sharing of criminal investigatory information among state, federal, county, and local law enforcement agencies.

## Search Warrants



HUNT conducted 38 search warrants during the year 2004, during which 6 minor children were present, with follow-up reports being sent to Protective Services, 7 weapons were encountered, and 16 firearms seized.

# Drug Seizures

**Cocaine** **329 grams** **\$ 36,146**



**Ecstasy** **6 tablets** **\$ 180**



**Heroin** **1.16 grams** **\$ 348**



**Marijuana** **11.44 pounds** **\$ 11,440**



**Marijuana Plants** **429 plants** **\$ 429,000**



**Methamphetamine** **14.5 grams** **\$ 1,450**



**Oxycodone** **5 tablets** **\$ 100**



**Other Drugs** **\$ 3,853**

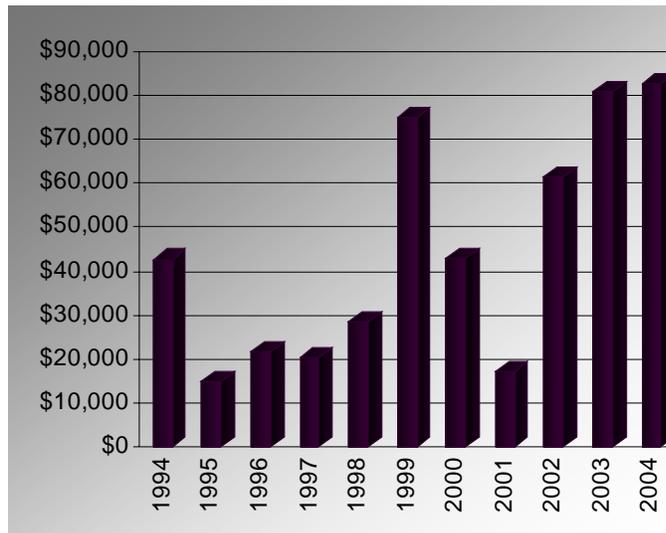
**Total** **\$ 482,517**

## Property Seizures



**HUNT** seized \$169,773 worth of property during the year. This property consisted of 7 vehicles, \$25,858 in cash, one residence, 16 firearms, and other items that were being used to facilitate drug trafficking operations. Some of these items, when/ if adjudicated, will be sold at public auction, some will be destroyed, and some will be returned, in settlement agreements.

## Forfeiture Proceeds



\$82,482 in forfeiture proceeds were adjudicated during the year. These proceeds were obtained through public sale of seized items, retention of seized funds, settlements on property, and forfeiture sharing (received from other drug teams, or state/federal law enforcement agencies).

**COCAINE/MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY UNCOVERED**

HUNT officers were contacted by law enforcement authorities in Houston County, Georgia, and informed that they had seized a large shipment of cocaine and marijuana from a motorist. This motorist was a current resident of West Palm Beach, Florida, but had once lived in Presque Isle County, Michigan. The motorist had admitted that he was en route to Presque Isle County, Michigan to deliver these narcotics. The HUNT team made arrangements to receive the narcotics and the suspect (motorist), who had agreed to assist the team in a controlled delivery.

A controlled delivery of this cocaine and marijuana was then conducted, in Gaylord, Michigan, where subsequently a Presque Isle County resident was arrested.

Subsequent investigation revealed that this narcotics trafficking conspiracy had resulted in approximately \$46,380.00 of wire transfers from the Presque Isle suspect to West Palm Beach, Florida, in addition to cash exchanging hands during the deliveries. An additional accomplice, in Presque Isle County was also revealed. The West Palm Beach individual admittedly made 7 trips to Michigan to deliver narcotics, over an 11 month period. The marijuana added up to over 13 pounds, and the cocaine about 18 ounces.

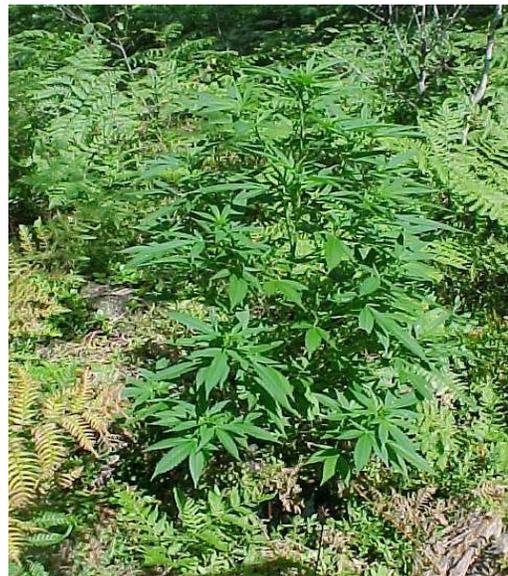
The suspect from Presque Isle, Michigan, was charged with conspiracy to deliver cocaine in excess of 1,000 grams, possession with intent to deliver 50-450 grams of cocaine, and possession with intent to deliver marijuana. His accomplice was charged with the same three charges. The original suspect (motorist) was charged in Houston County, Georgia. Both Presque Isle County cases are still pending in Circuit Court.



2 of the 5 packages of drugs originally seized from the motorist in Georgia

### **METHADONE TRAFFICKER/MARIJUANA GROWER ARRESTED IN MONTMORENCY COUNTY**

In April of 2004, a controlled purchase of methadone pills was conducted by a confidential informant, from a suspect in Montmorency County. During this purchase, a discussion was overheard regarding the growing of marijuana plants. A HUNT detective requested that the property be flown over while the Montmorency County Sheriff Department and the Michigan Air Corps were conducting HEMP flights. During the HEMP flights, officers did in fact locate marijuana plants growing on this individual's property.



Prior to the HEMP flights, HUNT had obtained a warrant for the suspect's arrest, for the previous controlled delivery of methadone. Officers were then informed by the air crew that someone was pulling the suspected marijuana plants. Officers then entered the property in an attempt to arrest the suspect on the outstanding warrant. A subsequent K-9 search revealed this individual hiding near a river on his property. The suspect was arrested, and later confessed to having sold the methadone, as well as growing the marijuana plants. A search warrant was then obtained, and a search conducted of this individual's property, where 70 marijuana plants, 5 firearms, and numerous other items of contraband were seized.

This individual was ultimately charged with 11 counts, including delivery of Methadone, maintaining a drug house, manufacture 5-45 kilograms of marijuana, and multiple felony firearms charges. Forfeiture proceedings were initiated on the suspect's property. The case is still pending in Montmorency County.

**ALCONA COUNTY DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION LEADS TO THE SEIZURE OF OVER A POUND OF MARIJUANA.**

In September of 2004, the HUNT team conducted a controlled purchase of ¼ pound of marijuana from a subject in Alcona County, who in turn bought the marijuana from a second suspect. A controlled purchase of ¼ pound of marijuana was then conducted from the second suspect, immediately followed by a search warrant being obtained and executed at his residence. Both suspects were in the residence at the time of the search warrant, as well as a third individual, who was found to be in possession of marijuana.

During the execution of the search warrant officers learned that the suspect was expecting a delivery of another ¼ pound of marijuana from his source. HUNT detectives then awaited the arrival of the source, who did in fact arrive, and was found to be in possession of ¼ pound of marijuana. This led to another search, at the source's residence, which revealed yet another ¼ pound of marijuana.

The original suspect was charged with delivery/manufacture of marijuana and conspiracy to deliver marijuana. The second suspect was charged with three counts delivery/manufacture marijuana, maintaining a drug house, and conspiracy to deliver marijuana. The third suspect (source) was charged with two counts delivery/manufacture marijuana. These cases are still pending in Alcona County. Forfeiture of the suspect's property is also pending.

**HUNT INVESTIGATION OF FEDERAL PAROLEE LEADS TO HIS RETURN TO PRISON AND ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

In April of 2004, a controlled purchase of a substantial amount of cocaine was conducted from an individual in Alpena County. This individual had been the target of a previous HUNT investigation (conspiracy to deliver marijuana and cocaine) that had become a cooperative effort with the DEA. He had been sentenced in December of 2000, to 2 years in federal prison, and was still on parole at the time of this controlled purchase. Following this controlled purchase, a search warrant was conducted at his residence, where another substantial amount of cocaine was seized, as well as drug paraphernalia, a vehicle, cash, and numerous other items. During his arrest on the parole violation, over ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) in cash was revealed, which the suspect admittedly planned to use to flee the state, to avoid prosecution. He was subsequently returned to federal prison on the parole violation, and is still awaiting court activity in Alpena County, on charges of delivery of cocaine, and possession with intent to deliver cocaine.

### MARIJUANA GROW OPERATION DISCOVERED IN PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY



In late August of 2004, Operation HEMP (Help Eliminate Marijuana Production) flights were being conducted by the HUNT team and the Michigan Air National Guard Counter Drug Unit. During one of the flights, a large marijuana plot was discovered on a piece of property in Presque Isle County. When officers responded to the property, they discovered two individuals at a fire, burning suspected marijuana plants. Ultimately discovered/seized were approximately 170 marijuana plants, some growing in outdoor plots on the property, as well as some in an indoor grow operation. Both

individuals were subsequently arrested, and charged with delivery/manufacture of 5-45 kilograms of marijuana. Forfeiture proceedings regarding the property and several other seized items, resulted in a cash settlement of over fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), which the HUNT team will utilize for continued operating expenses.

## Funding Sources

Alcona County	54,089
Alpena City	33,000
Alpena County	42,164
C.F.N.E.M. (Grant)	3,224
Forfeiture Proceeds	81,232
Green Township	1,000
Greenbush Township	1,000
Gustin Township	1,000
Hawes Township	1,000
Long Rapids Township	500
Metz Township	200
Michigan State Police	230,803
O.D.C.P. (Grant)	145,000
P.I.E.G. (Grant)	4,102
Presque Isle County	24,633
Private Contribution	225
Restitution	2,661
Rogers City	45,931
Sanborn Township	366
Stipends	950
Wellington Township	1,000
Total Operating Costs	\$ 674,080

(Above figures reflect the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004)

## Commander's Message

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team, in 2004, was one to be reckoned with. With the number of narcotics investigations being 10% over the average for the past ten years, persons arrested being 17% over the average, and arrest counts being 21% over the average.

While marijuana and cocaine still seem to be the drugs of choice, now on scene, is methamphetamine. Counties across the state have seen an alarming increase in methamphetamine clandestine labs and meth related activities. I encourage you to become aware of the dangers associated with methamphetamine, and to report any suspicious activities, in an effort to help HUNT officers keep this drug from devastating our community. Heroin, Ecstasy, and Oxycodone, all continue to be drugs of concern as well, and have all increased in use/abuse in the past several years.

This annual report reflects the team's commitment to improve the quality of life in our community by reducing the number of drug traffickers and the availability of drugs. As commander of the team, I am particularly proud of the work we have done. Narcotics use, abuse, and trafficking, however, will continue to infiltrate our area, and will continue to demand the attention/enforcement of the team. On behalf of the team, I assure you that we accept the challenge of combating these activities. The team will continue to put a strain on the narcotics community, and will be prepared to take on any new drug trends as they arise.

Sincerely,



Huron Undercover Narcotics Team  
Unit Commander