

Huron Undercover Narcotics Team
Annual Report

2009



Overview

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (HUNT) was established in 1990 as a multi-jurisdictional task force. The mission of the team is the enforcement of controlled substance laws, and the reduction of associated criminal activity, in the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, in Northeastern Michigan. The team is operated under the direction of the HUNT Board of Directors, consisting of the prosecuting attorneys and top law enforcement officials in the four counties and the 7th District of the Michigan State Police.

The team consists of six detectives/undercover officers from local police agencies, as well as a detective sergeant and a detective lieutenant from the Michigan State Police. All of these detectives have been specifically trained in narcotics and special investigations, undercover operations, surveillance, and raid entry.

During the team's 19 years of service, HUNT has removed over 6.6 million dollars worth of illegal drugs from the streets of the community, as well as 353 illegal firearms. 2,714 investigations have been initiated resulting in the arrests of 1,461 felons, 406 misdemeanants, and 282 fugitives.

In addition to its law enforcement activities, the team maintains a web site at www.huntteam.net, where information can be gleaned regarding controlled substance use/abuse, annual reports, press releases, and anonymous tips can be left regarding narcotics activity.

The team also produces "The HUNT Insider", a periodic newsletter, highlighting drug trends and related information, which is disseminated to law enforcement agencies and public officials throughout the team's coverage area.

Contents

Board of Directors	1
Investigations	2
Persons Arrested	3
Arrest Counts	4
Search Warrants	5
Property Seizures	5
Forfeiture Proceeds	5
Drug Seizures	6
Significant Activity	7-9
Funding Sources	10
Commander's Message	11
Contact Information	12

Board of Directors

1

Tom Weichel Prosecuting Attorney, Alcona County	Chairman
F/Lt. Mike Caldwell Alpena Post Commander, Michigan State Police	Vice Chairman
Rick Steiger Prosecuting Attorney, Presque Isle County	Legal Advisor
Steve Kieliszewski Sheriff, Alpena County	Secretary/Treasurer
Doug Atchison Sheriff, Alcona County	
Edward Black Prosecuting Attorney, Alpena County	
Terri Case Prosecuting Attorney, Montmorency County	
Donald Edwards Sheriff, Montmorency County	
Kim Miller Chief, Alpena City Police Department	
Robert Paschke Sheriff, Presque Isle County	
Matthew Quaine Chief, Rogers City Police Department	
Captain Tim Rod 7th District Commander, Michigan State Police	

Investigations

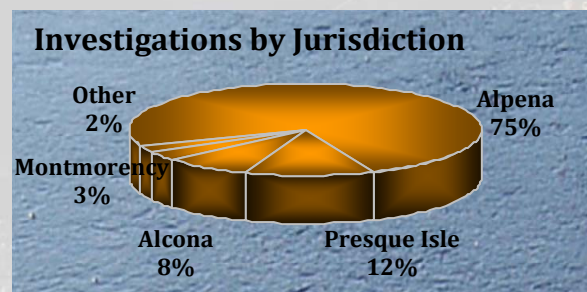
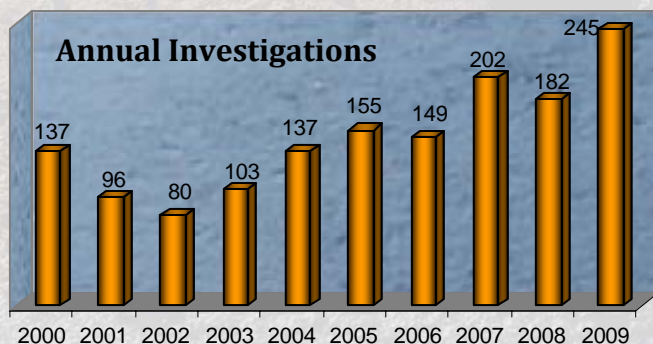
2

HUNT initiated a record number of 245 new investigations in 2009, which is 39% over the average for the past ten years. 143 of those investigations were drug related, with the distribution of marijuana being the most commonly found in our area. In addition to the drug related cases, 67 cases involved the location and arrest of fugitives, 22 cases were providing assistance to other departments, and 13 investigations such as witness intimidation, child endangerment, receive/conceal stolen property, sex offender registration violations, etc.

217 people have been arrested as a result of those investigations, with 7 still pending arrests, providing an arrest to case ratio of 91%

Throughout the year HUNT provided investigative assistance to other agencies such as the FBI, the Postal Inspector, the Alpena City Police Department, the Alpena County Sheriff Department, the Alcona County Sheriff Department, the Michigan State Police, and the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (SANE).

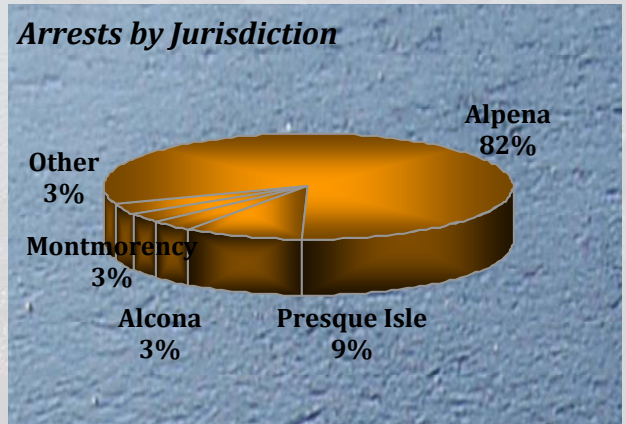
Cocaine Delivery	4
Ecstasy Delivery	1
Fentanyl Delivery	2
Heroin Delivery	9
Heroin Possession	3
Marijuana Delivery	30
Marijuana Manufacturing	16
Marijuana Possession	26
Methadone Delivery	4
Morphine Delivery	4
Oxycodone Delivery	2
Oxycodone Possession	4
Vicodin Delivery	3
Vicodin Possession	1
Prescription Fraud	10
Prescription Delivery	12
Prescription Unlawful Issuance	1
Overdose	10
Deliver Controlled Substance Causing Death	1



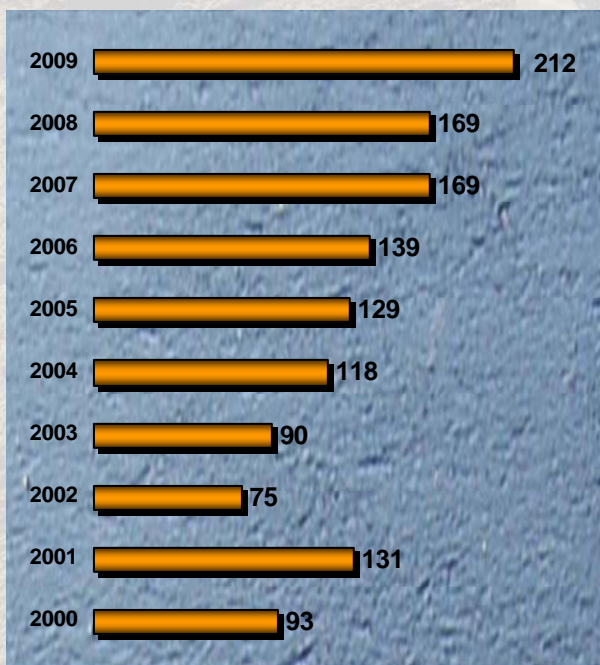
Persons Arrested 3

HUNT made 212 arrests in 2009, a record number in the team's history, and 37% over the average for the past ten years.

Of those arrested, 32% were repeat drug offenders, and 47% were habitual criminal offenders. The ratio of male to female arrests was 69% male and 31% female.



Annual Arrests



Arrested Person Profile

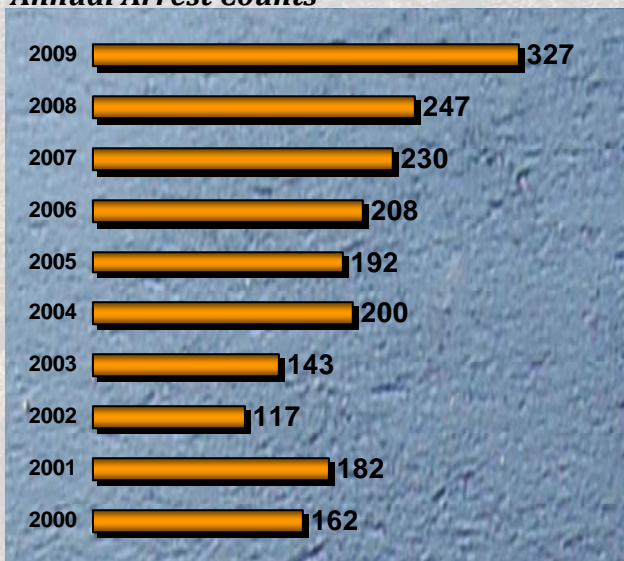
Total persons arrested	212
Male	146
Female	66
Over 18	207
Under 18	5
On Parole at time of Arrest	6
On Probation at time of Arrest	36
Out on Bond at time of Arrest	12
Repeat Drug Offender	68
Habitual Criminal Offender	99

Arrest Counts

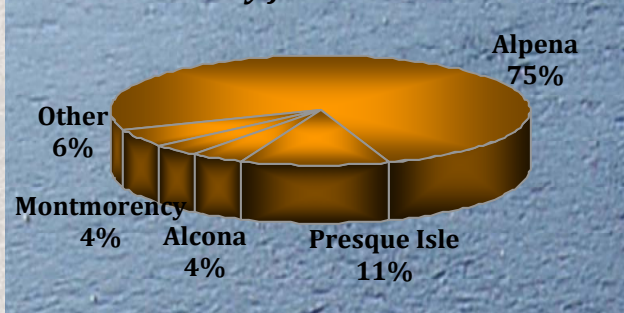
4

Of the 327 arrest counts, 174 were felony charges, 57 were misdemeanor charges, and 96 were fugitives. 205 of these were drug related as listed at the right. The other charges included identity theft, receive/conceal stolen property, perjury, food stamp fraud, larceny, bribing a witness, aggravated assault, and various others.

Annual Arrest Counts



Arrest Counts by Jurisdiction



Delivery of Cocaine	6
Delivery of Fentanyl	2
Delivery of Heroin	15
Delivery of Marijuana	65
Delivery of Methadone	5
Delivery of Morphine	2
Delivery of Oxycodone	2
Delivery of Prescription Meds	19
Manufacture Marijuana	8
Possession of Cocaine	3
Possession of Fentanyl	3
Possession of Heroin	4
Possession of Marijuana	30
Possession of Methadone	1
Possession of Morphine	1
Possession of Prescription Meds	4
Maintaining a Drug House	12
Prescription Fraud	23

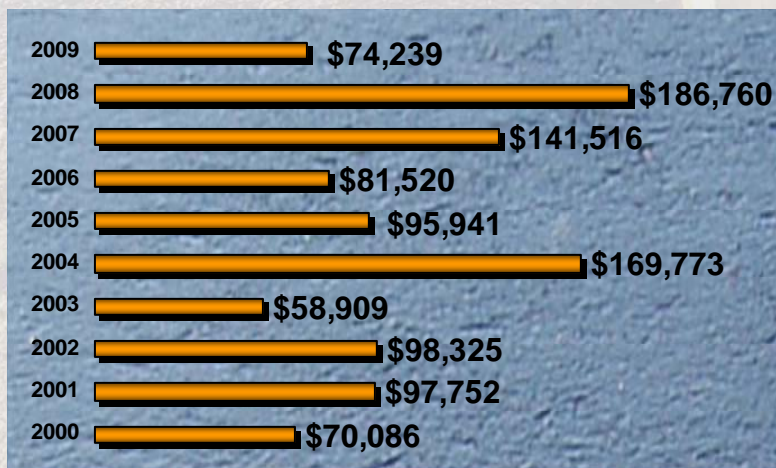
Search Warrants Property Seizures Forfeiture Proceeds

5



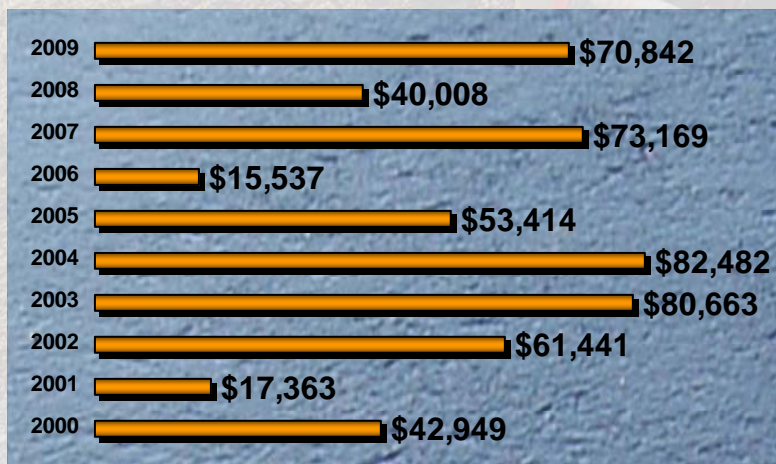
Search Warrants

HUNT conducted 24 search warrants in 2009. Most of the search warrants were conducted to obtain evidence of narcotics crimes, while some were conducted for medical records, cell phone records, and/or blood samples in overdose cases. 51 illegal firearms were seized as a result, as well as drugs and drug trafficking evidence.



Property Seizures

HUNT seized \$74,239 worth of property during the year. This property consisted of 7 vehicles, \$28,237 in cash, 50 cell phones, and other items used to facilitate drug trafficking operations. Some of these items will be sold at public auction, some will be destroyed, some retained by HUNT, and some will be returned in settlement agreements.



Forfeiture Proceeds

\$70,842 in forfeiture proceeds were adjudicated during the year. These proceeds were obtained through public sale of seized items, retention of seized funds, and settlement agreements. Some of the adjudicated property was seized during the previous year, and some during 2009.

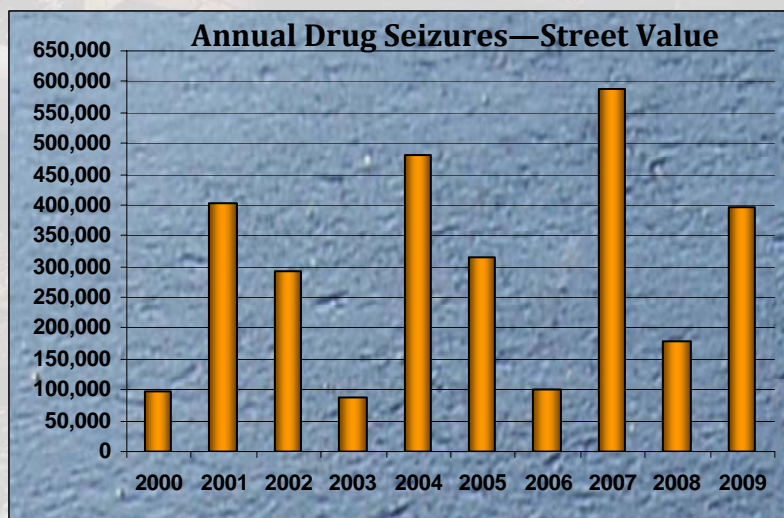
Drug Seizures 6

HUNT seized \$397,791 worth of illegal drugs during 2009, which is 26% over the average for the past ten years. Drugs are seized throughout the year by means of controlled/undercover purchases, possession during traffic stops, search warrants, HEMP (Help Eliminate Marijuana Planting) flights, consent searches, etc.

Marijuana remains the most commonly seized drug in Northeastern Michigan. 349 marijuana plants were eradicated during the year, with 263 of those being from indoor grow operations, and 86 being from outdoor plots.

Methadone was the most commonly seized prescription drug in 2009, as it was in 2008. Methadone is a synthetic opiate, prescribed for pain management, or for the treatment of heroin addiction. It is sought out in the narcotics community as a less expensive alternative to heroin or opiates as well as for the stimulant drug user who uses methadone to settle down in order to sleep. Methadone is blamed for an increasing number of drug overdose deaths in the United States, more so 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.

Drug	Seizures	Street Value
Cocaine	55.7 grams	6,127
Dilaudid	220 units	3,300
Ecstasy	25 grams	750
Fentanyl	15 units	225
Heroin	12 grams	3,600
Marijuana Plants	349	349,000
Marijuana (processed)	16.95 pounds	16,950
Methadone	459 units	6,885
Morphine	19 units	285
Oxycodone	295 units	5,900
Vicodin	106 units	530
Other	1,977 units	4,239
Total Street Value of Drugs Seized		\$397,791



Significant Activity **7**

TWO ARRESTED IN COCAINE TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY

A month-long investigation resulted in the arrest of two Alpena men. The men had allegedly been selling cocaine from within the Dry Dock Bar on River Street, where one of them was employed as a bartender. Numerous undercover purchases of cocaine had been made from the bartender, several of which were made while he was on duty.

The investigation culminated on November 10, 2009, when the bartender's alleged cocaine supplier, who was believed to be in route to the bar with cocaine intended for a HUNT agent, was pulled over and taken into custody. A search warrant for his person and his vehicle was executed and he was ultimately found to have cocaine, packaged in individual street sale amounts, hidden in his rectal cavity. An additional search warrant was then conducted at the suspect's residence on Cathro Road in Maple Ridge Township, where additional quantities of cocaine were seized, along with a firearm and a substantial amount of cash.



Following that arrest, HUNT officers went to the Dry Dock Bar and arrested the other suspect as he was tending bar. HUNT was accompanied by an investigator from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, who conducted an inspection of the premises and bar operation. The employee was taken into custody without incident.

Detectives from the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (SANE), troopers from the Michigan State Police, Alpena Post, and officers from the Alpena City Police Department, as well as their K-9 Unit, assisted HUNT with the arrests and searches.

FUGITIVES ARRESTED

HUNT was able to locate and arrest 80 fugitives during 2009, that were wanted on a total of 249 charges from other agencies. Of those charges, 73 were felony and 176 were misdemeanor. The majority of those were bench warrants for contempt of court, absconding, or probation violations, as well as charges such as witness intimidation, narcotics related charges, assault and battery, disorderly conduct, forced entry, and varying others.

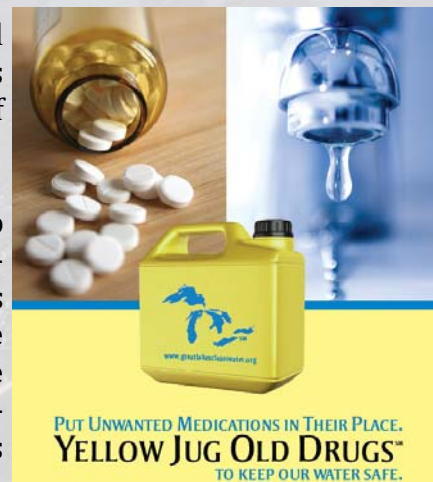
Significant Activity

8

YELLOW JUG OLD DRUGS

In May of 2009, HUNT began participating in the “Yellow Jug Old Drugs” program. The program is sponsored by the Great Lakes Clean Water Organization as a means for people to dispose of unused, unwanted, and/or expired prescription medications.

Past practices of flushing the drugs has proven to be harmful to the environment. A study by the U.S. Geological survey concluded that 80% of streams sampled contained detectable levels of compounds found in common medications. According to the DEQ, wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove many compounds found in medications, which end up being discharged into our surface and ground water. These compounds can have a negative impact on our ecosystem including fish, birds, and other wildlife. Some of these compounds can also destroy the beneficial bacteria necessary in a septic system.



From the criminal drug abuse standpoint, many unused and unwanted medications are being stored in people's homes, and are not monitored. These situations are often taken advantage of by individuals interested in using the drugs illegally, and/or selling them for profit. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, abuse of prescription drugs has become increasingly prevalent among teens and young adults. Abuse of prescription drugs now ranks second, only behind marijuana, as the nations leading illegal drug problem.

Although the Yellow Jug is now available in many pharmacies across northern Michigan, narcotics/controlled substances, are not accepted for disposal in the jugs. The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team was approached by Chris Angel, the Project Director of Yellow Jug Old Drugs, and asked for HUNT's participation in the program, as a means for people to dispose of those narcotics/controlled substances that can't be put in the jugs. Those wishing to dispose of their unwanted medications simply drop them off at the Michigan State Police Post in Alpena during the published times, and the drugs are collected and properly disposed of by HUNT.

From May through the end of the year 2009, over 4,150 doses of prescription narcotics/controlled substances were collected by HUNT. The drugs were then documented and destroyed in a process that meets all regulations. HUNT plans to continue their participation in the program during 2010, and has also partnered with the Presque Isle County Sheriff Department, where controlled substances can be dropped off for subsequent disposal by HUNT.

Significant Activity 9

THREE ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES

In December of 2009, The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team participated in a joint investigation being conducted by the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The investigation involved the trafficking of large quantities of cocaine from the Pontiac area, to northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It began when a suspect from the Pontiac area arranged to sell a large amount of cocaine to a man being investigated by UPSET detectives. The FBI's Violent Gang Task Force in Pontiac joined the operation once it became known that one or more of the suspects were figures in a federal investigation involving violent gang activity and cocaine trafficking, and they were members of the criminal street gang, Latin Kings, based in Pontiac. The Latin Kings are known to be involved in the distribution of narcotics, firearms, and other criminal activities.

Arrangements were made for these Pontiac suspects to deliver a kilo of cocaine to an undercover officer and a confidential informant, in the parking lot of Wal-Mart in Alpena. Once the suspects arrived in the parking lot, they were joined by an Alpena man, who was then present during the transaction. Following the narcotics transaction, two suspects from Pontiac were arrested, as was the Alpena man (co-conspirator). A subsequent search of the Alpena man's home resulted in the seizure of cocaine, marijuana, scales, and multiple firearms. The man was a convicted sex offender who had been consistently in trouble for failing to register as such, and had also been convicted of marijuana trafficking in a 2008 HUNT investigation.



The Alpena man and both Pontiac men were arrested that evening and lodged in the Alpena County Jail. They were later taken into federal custody and transported to Detroit to face federal charges. The arrest phase of the operation was assisted by troopers from the Michigan State Police Post, as well as their K-9 unit.

According to D/Lt. Schultz, "We had a man living right here in Alpena, with a direct connection to a well-known and violent street gang, who linked our community to an atmosphere of violence and large scale cocaine trafficking."

Funding Sources **10**

Alcona County	80,961
Alpena City	83,009
Alpena County	67,574
Montmorency County	5,316
Presque Isle County	70,456
Alpena Township	1,000
Green Township	1,000
Ossineke Township	600
Sanborn Township	500
Michigan State Police	293,421
O.D.C.P. Grant	75,802
PIE&G Grant	1,500
CFNEM Grant	500
Forfeiture Proceeds	74,597
Interest	930
Recovered Funds	550
Restitution	4,964
Stipends	550
Total Operating Costs	763,230

*The above figures reflect the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009

Commander's Message 11

As commander of the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team, I respectfully present the 2009 Annual Report. 2009 was a dynamic year for the team, with the inclusion of a detective (deputy) from Montmorency County late in the year, bringing the total number of detectives on the team to 8. This position completes the cycle of having an officer on the team from each respective county in the team's jurisdiction, as well as the city of Alpena. That presence contributes to the success of the team as each officer has experience with the local drug atmosphere, and has a relationship with the officers from their local department.

A record number of 245 new complaints were initiated, a 39% increase over the past 10 year average, and 212 persons arrested, a 37% increase over the past ten year average. The team conducted 83 controlled/undercover purchases of drugs through the year, with marijuana being the most common, at 47%, prescription drugs being next at 35%, followed by heroin and cocaine.

On 20 occasions, the team was called to assist other local agencies in the investigation of such cases as criminal sexual conduct, domestic assault, breaking and entering, home invasion, robbery, etc. Those same agencies responded to assist the HUNT team for uniform presence at activities such as search warrants, traffic stops, K-9 searches, etc. That unity of efforts has increased the effectiveness of not only the HUNT team, but the other agencies as well.

I am proud of the team's accomplishments, and their efforts to reduce the availability of drugs on the streets of our community, as well as to decrease the overall crime that so often accompanies narcotics activity. As commander of the team, I will strive to continue those efforts in order to improve the quality of life for the people of Northeaster Michigan.

Sincerely,



D/Lt. Rick Schultz
Team Commander

Contact Information

12

HURON UNDERCOVER NARCOTICS TEAM

Mailing Address	486 S. Ripley Blvd. PMB #224 Alpena, MI 49707
Local Phone	(989) 356-3395
Toll Free Phone	(800) 573-DRUG
Fax	(989) 356-4774
Web	www.huntteam.net