



Nags Head Police Department

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR
SUMMARY

The men and women of the Nags Head Police Department are committed to the town vision of a:
“legacy rooted in shared values, including our most recognized common bond - a love for the Outer Banks. We recognize that the town must be a good place to live before it can be a good place to visit. We strive to preserve and protect the Nags Head character, environment, tourism-based economy, and sense of place in order to ensure a high quality of life for residents and a memorable family vacation experience for present and future generations”.

We work hard every day in a partnership with our community, visitors, fellow law enforcement and public safety agencies throughout the Outer Banks to create an environment of safety.

You will see in this report the rewards of hard work and dedication of your police department. In addition, your department has met the challenges posed by COVID-19 and remained consummate professionals.

J Phillip Webster, Chief of Police

MISSION STATEMENT

We are the guardians of life and property in our coastal community. We will deter crime and disorder and be resilient in times of peril.

VISION

We will provide excellence in service through proactive law enforcement initiatives in partnership with our community, town departments, and our Outer Banks neighbors. We will utilize law enforcement strategies that are fair, equitable, and transparent to all. We will ensure the Town of Nags Head remains a great place to live, work, and play.

VALUES

Members of the Nags Head Police Department are committed to professionalism through:

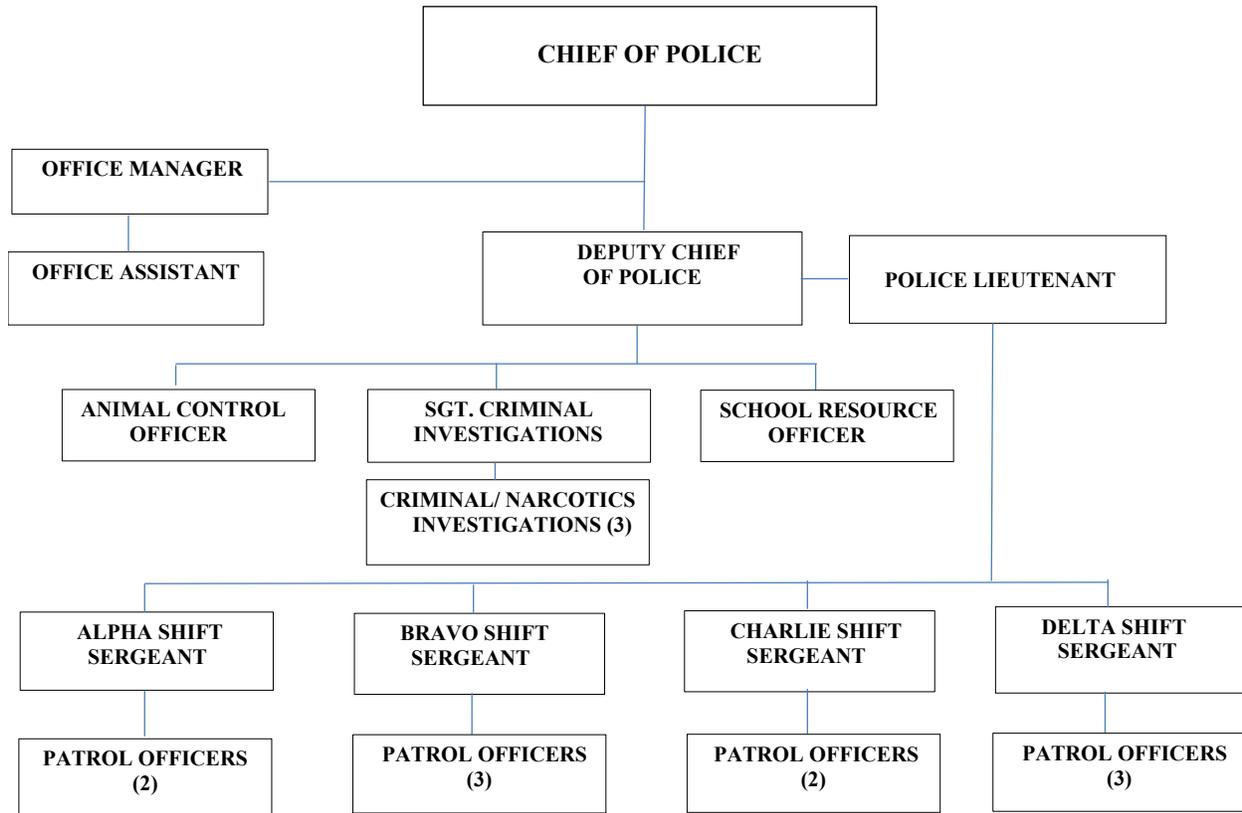
SERVICE- by partnering with those in our community in need of law enforcement assistance and addressing their concerns.

PROFESSIONALISM- by providing effective and efficient police services via; qualified, trained, and equipped officers.

INTEGRITY- by operating in an ethical, and honest manner towards our partners, peers, and the Nags Head Community.

STRENGTH- by being courageous and perseverant in times of adversity.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Police Department includes 25 sworn and non-sworn personnel. The department is divided into three divisions:

Administration- Includes the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, Police Lieutenant, Office Manager, and Office Assistant.

Criminal Investigations- Includes a Sergeant, two Investigators, and one Narcotics Investigator

Uniform Patrol- Includes four sergeants, each supervising a patrol squad. Each squad contains two officers. Two K9 Officers are assigned to uniform patrol along with the School Resource Officer and Animal Control Officer.

COVID-19 Impacts

COVID-19 has impacted the department significantly.

In March 2020, we cancelled all in house training, out of town travel and meetings.

We changed the way we respond to calls for service including triaging calls by phone and attempting to conduct business outside. We require persons being transported to wear a mask and for cars and touch surfaces to be cleaned post transport.

All officers are required to wear a mask and other appropriate PPE.

We all must take pre work temperatures checks.

We have limited officer-initiated activity. This included proactive traffic enforcement and non-enforcement community contacts.

The department was not able to participate in this year's J-1 Student program and Bike-Ped Coalition activity due to cancellations. Both of these programs are critical components in our safety and relationship building outreach.

Programs such as our community watch meetings and citizens academy have been placed on hold.

Since March we have addressed over 50 calls for COVID related issues including complaints on businesses. We have addressed these issues via education. Officers also proactively addressed many groups on social distancing issues during the spring on our ocean front.

As we move forward, we will begin to train once again this fall to meet state mandated requirements. Officers will also be able to attend state training in person or via video conferencing as directed by the state.

We are incrementally resuming officer-initiated activity with the safety of staff as a top concern.

Statistics

Group A Crimes

In 2012, the federal government implemented a new crime reporting system and changed from Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary Reporting System (SRS) to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In late 2018, the State along with Nags Head Police Department began reporting its crime data to NIBRS.

Group A Crimes in NIBRS are grouped into Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property and Crimes Against Society. In the fiscal year 2019-2020, 401 Group A crimes were committed in Nags Head.

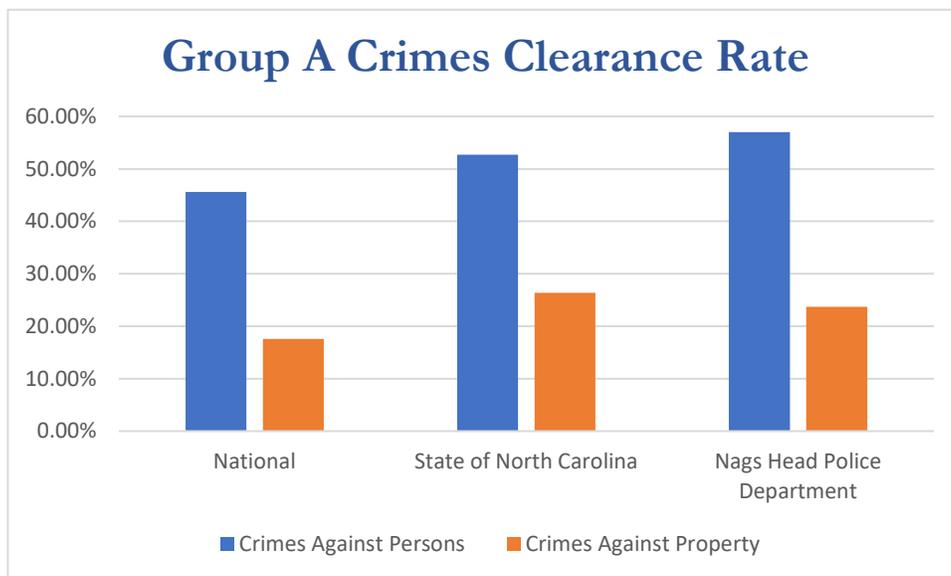
Clearance Rate

The clearance rate is essentially defined as, was the crime solved. Did we develop suspects or make arrests? The Nags Head Police Department clearance rate in fiscal year 2019-2020, for Group A crimes was 60%. Crimes against person was 57%, and crimes against property, 23.7%.

In comparison the 2017, national average clearance rate for Group A offences was 45.6% for crimes against persons and 17.6% for crimes against property.

Additionally, the state average for crimes against persons was 52.7%, and crimes against property 26.4% according to the 2017 report.

We attribute our clearance rate to a combination of excellent work by the first responding officer in securing the scene and investigative follow up and examination by our investigators.



Recent Case Highlights

Three recent cases were indicative of the hard work and dedication of our officers and investigators.

Cooler Caper

On 7/30/2020 over 10 larcenies occurred on the beach road. The larcenies consisted mainly of coolers, fishing equipment, and beach accessories. Captured on a surveillance camera were two white males who were actively checking properties.

A vehicle description was developed. While on patrol officer Danny Harris spotted the vehicle at a residence. Further investigation was conducted, and the stolen property was located. One suspect was arrested, and warrants have been issued for a second individual. A third person involved received a juvenile petition.

The Jewelry Return

Another recent case involved great investigative work by Det. Brandon Bostick. A suspect entered a local jewelry store and using a false credit card purchased a bracelet valued at \$6,000.00. Det. Bostwick utilized several investigative methods to identify and track down the suspect. These methods included fingerprinting, utilizing multiple databases, and solid interview techniques.

The suspect was in Norfolk VA. Det. Bostwick was able to convince the suspect to return the merchandise the store. Det. Bostwick went on seek warrants against multiple individuals involved in the crime.

Life Saving Effort

Not all work involves arrest. Recently, Officer Christian Aguirre responded to a medical call in South Nags Head. During the call Officer Aguirre worked tirelessly performing CPR on a gentleman who lost consciousness and a detectable pulse. While this incident was unfolding, Officer Ben Jadoff comforted the gentleman's wife.

Unfortunately, the gentleman did not survive. Many times, these calls go unheralded. In this case I received a message from a neighbor who praised the officer's efforts. She praised the officer's empathy and kindness.

Task Force Investigators

Homeland Security Investigations

Nags Head Police Department has committed a full time Task Force Officer (TFO) dedicated to work with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). Through our participation in the task force we can partake in region wide narcotic investigations with the goal of interdicting the flow of narcotics into our town.

Since 2018, our task force officer has participated in:

Wire case - 5 kilos of cocaine, 1.5 kilos of heroin, 1 kilo of fentanyl, \$262,000, and firearms.

Nags Head traffic stop - small amount of marijuana and \$37,250 seizure. As an aside, this case began as a traffic stop by one of our patrol officers and was taken federally by our TFO due to its impact and scope.

Nags Head drug case - synthetic drugs and \$7,190 seizure.

Wire case - approx. 50 kilos of heroin and \$600,000 seizure.

Nags Head initiated case – 4.9 kilos of heroin, 3.8 kilos of cocaine, 1.4 kilos of fentanyl, 326 grams of crack, 212 grams of methamphetamine, \$272,414, and 3 firearms.

Several controlled deliveries of packages containing illegal drugs that were intercepted by US Customs and Border Protection at US Ports of Entry with a destination in Dare County.

Nags Head patrol call – two firearms and suppressor recovered by a convicted felon. Case adopted by HSI and Barnwell federally indicted.

Current Cases:

Wire case with OBX connections

Fentanyl case out of Elizabeth City

Nags Head overdose death, three indicted federally and more indictments pending

 Barnes – 9 count indictment

 Boone – 3 count indictment (**Guilty plea, awaiting sentencing**)

 Jones – 11 count indictment

 Miller – state charges (**Pending federal indictment**)

Joint Case with the FBI:

Dare County initiated case – 8 kilos of cocaine and \$473,723 seizure

Internet Crimes Against Children

This year we partnered with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) in a task force program that targets the investigation and prosecution of persons involved in child sex abuse and exploitation. In all there are over 4,500 federal, state and local agencies involved.

Our participation gives us access to expedited processing of warrants and subpoenas from certain social media and cellular providers, as well as direct access to the SBI cybercrime unit which lends support to the investigations. Our investigator has received an abundance of free training due to his participation on the Task Force. Being a member of the Task Force has also opened a vast network of resources between other participating agencies that act as a force multiplier for our efforts here in Nags Head.

Our investigator has received five cyber tips leading to three investigations here locally. Two of the three investigations have been turned over to federal authorities for investigations in other localities.

Animal Control Officer (ACO)

Our animal control officer provides an excellent service to the town not only in his primary ACO assignment but also in his ancillary duties as a law enforcement officer.

During the past year our ACO handled 196 animal related calls. These calls included 15 animal bites, 3 which ended in the declaring 3 dogs as dangerous and potentially dangerous animals. The ACO also supervises our coyote depredation program which ended the season with the capture of 7 coyotes.

Additionally, our ACO assisted with training, managing the department range, traffic enforcement, community policing, beach patrol and this year COVID-19 related issues on our ocean front.

K9 Unit

Our K-9 unit continues to deliver outstanding service to the Town of Nags Head. During the past fiscal year our dogs, Ami and Bak were deployed 186 times resulting in 93 misdemeanor and 27 felony charges, hitting on every narcotic they are certified on, including: marijuana, cocaine, heroin, meth, and MDMA.

Our teams conducted 5 tracks, 21 building searches, and 16 apprehensions. Our K-9's assisted our neighboring jurisdictions, DCSO, KDH PD, Manteo PD and on the state level with SBI, further strengthening our partnerships.

Training for teams are certified at a national level and exceed mandated training.

Our teams have also performed a key role in our community-oriented policing outreach. Our teams conducted multiple presentations for Nags Head Elementary School and National Night Out.

Governors Highway Safety Program (GHSP)

GHSP is focused on the reduction of automobile crashes and fatalities. The program depends on local and county participation to be effective in reducing these numbers. Throughout the year our department participates with local and state agencies in saturation patrols and safety check points to bring awareness and provide education.

In return our department accrues points which we can utilize to obtain a variety of traffic related equipment from DWI blood kits to in-car camera systems.

Special Events

Our officers have continued to support both, town sponsored and privately organized special events.

This past year of course was significantly impacted by COVID-19 related cancellations. In the calendar year 2019, 112 officers participated in 44 events for a total of 704.5 hours.

Our town sponsored events, St. Patrick's Day Parade and 4th of July Fireworks, utilized a total of 28 officers for a combined 119 hours.

School Resource Officer (SRO)

Highlights of SRO Duties

The School Resource Officer is first and foremost responsible for providing safety and security to the students and staff at Nags Head Elementary School.

The SRO patrols on foot throughout the school grounds and engages students and school employees. He conducts investigation on incidents that happen during school activities (assaults, larcenies, etc.). This has an additional effect of freeing up on duty patrol officers.

The SRO builds lasting relationships with the students and shows them that police officers are a trusted friend in times of need.

The SRO teaches a twelve-week D.A.R.E program to the 5th grade class and conducts additional D.A.R.E. talks to the lower grade levels throughout the school year.

The SRO assists with extracurricular activities. These events include, field trips, bike rodeo, walk/bike to school, after hour school and family events, and school reading nights. It appears the school activities are constantly growing.

The school year was cut short this year due to COVID-19.

Beach Patrol

At the end of the school year the SRO is assigned to the beach for patrol functions. This year's Beach Patrol began earlier than normal.

COVID-19 initially drove the early assignment as beach patrol assisted by other officers addressed mass gathering and social distancing issues.

Beach Patrol responsibilities include observing for criminal activities, providing education on various ordinances, and assisting Nags Head Ocean Rescue as needed.

This summer patrol has assisted with numerous water rescues. The officer has provided support by observing the victim and guard in the water, as well as handling radio traffic for Ocean Rescue as needed. The officer has assisted with several EMS calls, including leg injuries (sprains and fractures), jellyfish and stingray stings, seizures, heat related illness, and others.

21st Century Policing Task Force

In 2015, The task Force on 21st Century Policing produced a Final Report. This report quickly became the seminal guidance for law enforcement throughout our nation. The report is meant to provide departments with a road map to improve community relations as well as more effective and efficient police service. The report provides a framework of achievable recommendations. The report itself is divided into 6 pillars; building trust and legitimacy, policy and oversight, technology & social media, community policing & crime reduction, training & education, and officer wellness and safety.

The following is an overview of the progress our department has made under the 21st Century Task Force Report framework:

Pillar 1- Building Trust and Legitimacy

A citizen's willingness to obey the law or follow directives of the police is dependent on the view of their police department as being procedurally just. Is the department fair, transparent, providing an opportunity for voice, and impartial in decision making?

The department is moving forward with the adoption of processes that improve transparency and trust both internally and externally with our community.

Part of this process included the adoption of a new mission statement which follows the task force recommendation to embrace a "guardian" over "warrior" philosophy:

We are the guardians of life and property in our coastal community. We will deter crime and disorder and be resilient in times of peril.

In addition, we are laying the foundation for imbedding procedural justice and legitimacy as a guiding principle. To this end officers are encouraged to make non-enforcement community contacts in their discretionary time.

Future work in this arena includes training on Procedural Justice and Legitimacy as well on-going policy development.

The department has also worked on our hiring processes and future recruiting efforts to promote diversity and fairness. As part of this development we have sponsored two BLET recruits and hosted an intern from First Flight High School.

Pillar 2-Policy and Oversight

In this area it is suggested that departments develop policies that provide "clear and comprehensive" guidance for high risk/ low frequency police activities. Our current policies do address these issues.

However, a process is underway with guidance from IACP model policies, and the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Network to update to review and update policies.

Although covered in our current policy, this update will include current mandates from the NC Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice. These mandates are Duty to Intervene, and Prohibition of Neck Holds.

Pillar 3- Technology & Social Media

The use of technology and social media helps build “trust and legitimacy” within communities.

Nags Head Police Department has implemented a body worn camera program that has already demonstrated success. Success in the prosecution of criminal cases and success in defusing a negative citizen encounter.

The department began its own social media footprint this year with Facebook and Instagram. The use of social media has allowed the department to create its own brand and messaging. Social media use for the department is still in its infancy but already we have been able to high light the good works of our personnel and gain valuable tips in solving crimes. The page is now over 1,700 followers and growing. In the future we hope that our social media outreach will assist with our recruiting efforts.

The neighbor’s app has also been utilized by the department this year. The app allows officers to interact with members of the platform to share video captured by their home security cameras in Nags Head.

Communication is the most important tool for law enforcement. Radio communication directs officers to calls for service and is used to by officers to call for assistance. The department has taken delivery of new Motorola radios. These radios will make the department compliant for P25 Phase II radio communications.

The department is constantly seeking new technology to help assist in our delivery of services.

Pillar 4- Community Policing & Crime Reduction

Community policing is a philosophy the department adheres to. The department has a record of collaboration with our citizens to assist with crime and problem solving. The department has

historically opened the door to relationship building. Programs to this end are, Coffee w/ a Cop, National Night Out, Community Watch, J1 Students and a host of school related events.

The department is increasing its problem-solving involvement. Officers have identified areas of repeat calls for service and have attempted to find longer term resolution. Officers became involved in a long-standing neighborhood dispute and supplied help and guidance to the community. Another longer-term project is currently underway.

Pillar 5-Training & Education

The department has always encouraged officers to seek additional training. Training in a variety of subjects from state mandated courses to crisis intervention training. Our level of focus on training was evidenced in the newly implemented career progression plan. The plan allows officers to progress in rank dependent on experience and training benchmarks. In addition, officers are encouraged to complete their state intermediate and advanced training.

Officers have been completing online community oriented policing training via the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation (VCPI). Officers have now taken the courses, Community Policing Defined and Ethical Decision Making: Policing with Principled Insight.

Future community oriented policing training will include fair and impartial policing, as well as the aforementioned procedural justice and legitimacy.

Pillar 6- Officer Wellness and Safety

This final pillar focuses on providing the tools necessary for the care and welfare of the officer. Officer health is extremely important not only for safeguarding the individual officer but the department and the public as well.

Pillar 6 suggests every officer should carry an Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) and be provided a bullet proof vest. Nags Head does this along with mandating officers wear lap and shoulder restraints while operating vehicles.

This past year the department joined a growing trend in law enforcement to move equipment from being carried on the officer's waist to a load bearing vest. The goal being to mitigate back injuries and strains.

We updated our annual wellness physical by partnering with a local provider. Our annual physical focuses on more than just measurements and readings but how to become more fit and healthy. Additionally, we are providing officers a whole-body assessment including mental wellness.

Positive Public Comments

Our family just wants to say THANK YOU all for being amazing and helping make a very scary time less so. My son was hit by a car today and the response time was unbelievably fast, the officers were concerned and sensitive, and Officer Jadoff visited my son in the hospital bearing gifts that cheered my son up and that he will likely keep forever.

Officer Shane Allen was able to assist a veteran with a newly assigned service dog. “This may not seem as a big deal to some, but to a disabled veteran with a service dog, that avoids public interactions and functions, this was HUGE in my view. It has given me some additional confidence in going out in public. Please extend my greatest and most sincere gratitude to Master Officer Allen.”

You have wonderful officers working in your department. The officer who took care of my situation was extremely nice! Officer Bruce

Finally

Your police department has worked diligently this year, continuing to provide the level of service the Town of Nags Head has become accustomed to. The department is continuing to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and now entering a new environment for policing nationally. We will continue to build upon the progress made in adhering to guidelines offered by the 21st Century Policing Task Force in a building and increasingly fair and transparent police department to our citizens and visitors. We will continue to employ technology to become a more effective and efficient law enforcement agency. We will continue to provide and employ best practices to safeguard our officers and staff.