



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Biloxi Police
Department
Comprehensive
Report

*John B. Miller,
Director of Police*

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Biloxi Police Department, I am presenting our 2020 Annual Report. This report serves to highlight areas such as crimes reported, traffic data, operational expenditures and service oriented accomplishments.

When reviewing this report, you will see how Biloxi Police Officers are responding to more calls for service each year while reducing serious criminal activity.

Our patrol officers continue to be the backbone of the police department by saving lives, arresting violent criminals, and engaging in community projects while working 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

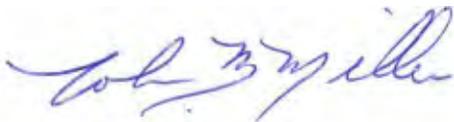
The Biloxi Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division investigated a multitude of serious crimes this past year and established a solvability rate much higher than the national average. On-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, these dedicated Investigators leave no stone unturned while investigating criminal activity.

Our Communications Center personnel also work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are often the first contact between the public and the police department. They seamlessly coordinate the response of police officers, while offering reassurance to the caller.

Through the years, I have worked closely with these exceptional men and women, and witnessed the sacrifices and the efforts they have made to serve our community. I extend to them my profound gratitude, admiration and pride to serve as their Chief.

The mission of the Biloxi Police Department is always to provide professional law enforcement services to our constituents and to preserve and improve the quality of life for those who live in, work in, or visit our city. Our vision is to help make Biloxi, Mississippi a safe destination, and to be viewed as a fair, respectful, transparent, and well-trained department of men and women who serve their community with Justice with Dignity.

Sincerely,



John B. Miller
Chief of Police

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Biloxi Police Department's ongoing mission has been to provide the city with progressive, reliable, and timely citizen-oriented service. Our organization is defined by the community's culture, interdependent beliefs, and values. In the department's pursuit of effectiveness, it uses its ability to solve problems with flexibility and create a positive sense of identity and vision through its goals and what is needed to accomplish them. The organization has developed its capacity to review performance, and its capacity to accurately interpret real-world impacts of its enforcement strategies to make it a success.

During 2020, Biloxi Police officers responded to 102,287 calls for service, 62% of which were self-initiated. Officers' responses resulted in 11,041 reports generated for a variety of offenses. During those calls for service, there were 6,447 arrests with 256 responses to resistance, also referred to as "uses of force".

Recruitment and retention have been a struggle within law enforcement for the past several years. The Biloxi Police Department continues to be no exception, specifically with the department's recruiting numbers and applicant pools having dropped significantly during prior years – a 45% decrease from the previous year. In 2020, the department experienced the retirement of five officers and resignation of two. Three sworn officers were hired; the total number of allocated sworn officers was 134. The Communications Center operated with a staff of 23, the same number as the previous year, and one new dispatcher was hired.

The department continued implementing a strategic reorganization during 2020. Organizational development is important to maintain basic services within a law enforcement organization undergoing logistical renewal, to reinforce standards, and to acquire the employee buy-in needed for future success. For organizations, performance models like continuity of operations and strategic planning emerge as important frameworks.

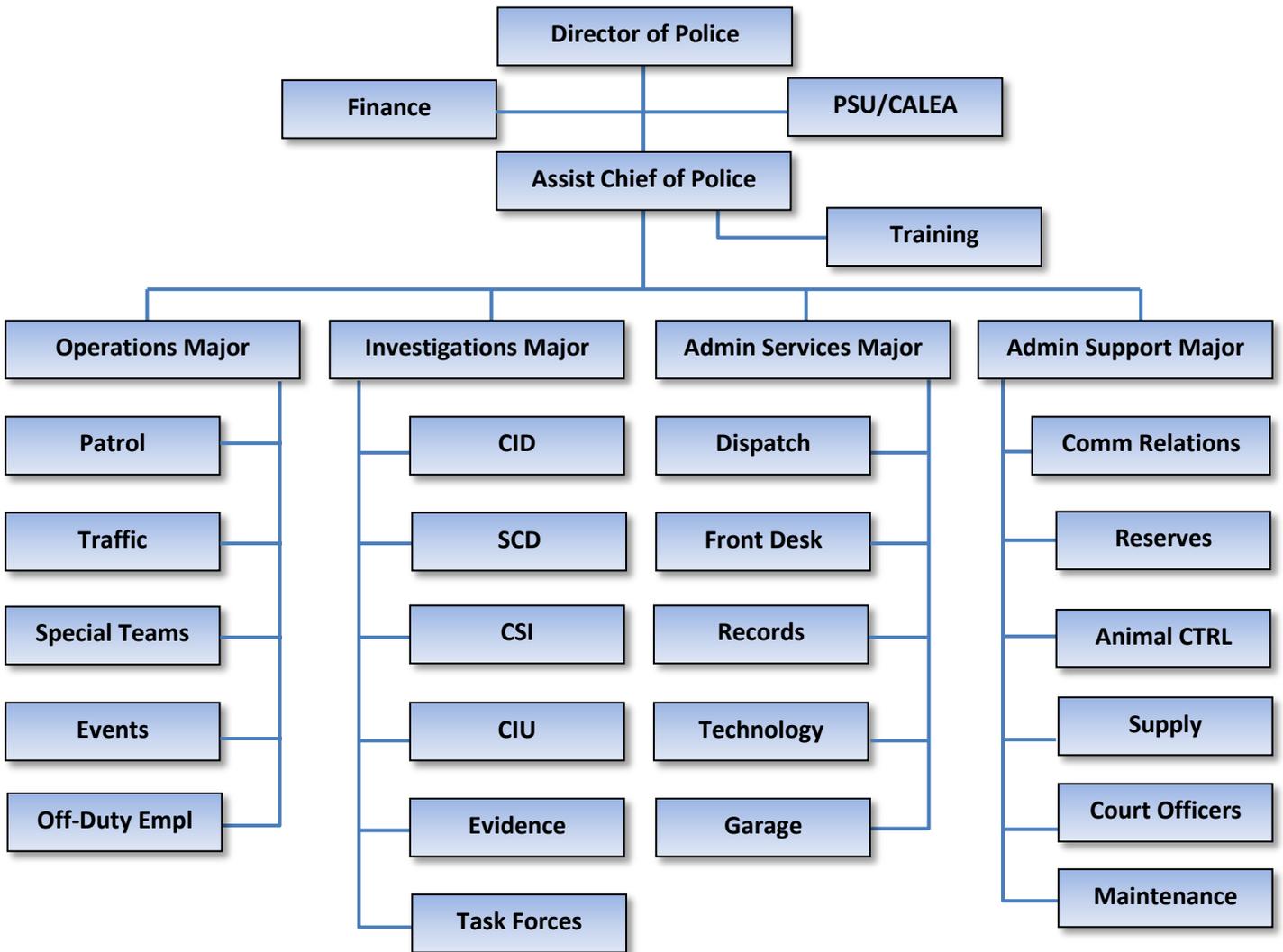
In pursuing positive change within a department, there are three dimensions that affect performance: *managerial effectiveness* – accomplishment of departmental goals and objectives; *managerial efficiency* – encouraging efficiency through accountability; and *motivational climate* – developing employee attitudes and morale to influence performance. The Biloxi Police Department has committed to a sustained strategy of managerial workforce development through extremely demanding academic programs such as the Northwestern Center for Public Safety – School of Police, Staff & Command, the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville, and the FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute.

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As required by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), each officer must maintain a certain level of training. The Training Division supervised or conducted approximately 9,975 hours of training in 2020 to ensure officers met the standard and continued to bring online training to officers. Computer-based training was considered a value-added resource with a primary benefit to officers being the ease of access and to the department having additional information resources available to all employees.

A variety of opportunities are available at the Biloxi Police Department to enhance the careers of officers and offer more services to the citizens of Biloxi. The Bomb Squad is one of those career paths that not only aids in retention but also sheds positive light on the police department and the City of Biloxi. The Bomb Squad is recognized by the FBI, BATFE, and Mississippi Office of Homeland Security as the state's premiere Bomb Unit. Other paths include the Investigations Section, which was able to resolve 49.7% of all felony crimes, well above the national average. Quality public service the Biloxi Police Department provides seeks to develop confidence from the public. The public's confidence allows the department to focus on improving quality of life issues for the citizens served.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Chief John B. Miller, Director of Police

Assistant Chief Michael Wills

Personnel

During 2020, five officers retired and two resigned from the Biloxi Police Department. The Department was allocated 134 sworn officers and 54 civilians were employed. Three sworn officers were hired through the year but failed to increase overall manpower due to the retirements and resignations. The department continued to suffer the effects of attrition and forged ahead with strategic restructuring initiated in 2018. The police department is currently allocated 129 sworn-officer positions, a 3.7% decrease from the previous year, and continues to accept applications to fill vacant slots.

One dispatcher was hired during the reporting period. The Communications Center operated with 23 dispatchers, one less than authorized levels and 9 less than recommended by two different studies^{1,2}.

See the following page for details regarding *Personnel Gains and Losses for 2020*.

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Personnel Gains and Losses	2020	2019	2018
Sworn Officers Hired	3	12	20
Sworn Officers Retired	5	6	4
Sworn Officers Resigned	2	6	5
Sworn Officer Resigned In lieu of Personnel Action	0	2	0
Communication Personnel Hired	1	3	3
Communications Personnel Retired	0	0	0
Communications Personnel Resigned	0	0	3
Communication Personnel Resigned In lieu of Action	0	0	0
Non-Sworn Employees Hired	3	2	5
Non-Sworn Employees Retired	1	0	0
Non-Sworn Employees Resigned	3	4	8
Non-Sworn Employees Resigned In lieu of Personnel Action	0	1	0

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

Recruitment and Retention. Recruiting continues to be an item of interest for the Biloxi Police Department. In efforts to improve our applicant pool, members of the recruiting team have been diligently attending job fairs. They have participated in several job fairs hosted by the Governor of Mississippi, as well as events hosted by Goodwill and Tele South Media. In an attempt to reach a wider and more diverse pool of talent, the recruiting team traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana as well as Montgomery, Alabama to participate in recruiting events. There were several job fairs scheduled in and out of state, but were eventually cancelled due to COVID-19.

Officer retention continues to be a hot topic surrounding law enforcement and the Professional Standards Unit is looking to address this matter creatively. The unit is working to re-implement the process of conducting exit interviews with officers as they are retiring or leaving due to other reasons. This method is being restarted in an attempt to obtain critical information about the agency, ways to increase morale, as well as ideas to make the overall department better.

The Professional Standards Unit is also actively working on a Career Enhancement Program, which aims to generate interest with our younger officers, but also re-energize

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our junior and senior officers. This program will serve to mentor younger officers as they look to navigate through the profession. The program is a work in progress, but the unit is looking to have the rough draft submitted at the beginning of 2021.

Vehicle Pursuits. Vehicle pursuits are considered high liability events for any police department and often attract media attention. Therefore, each pursuit is tracked and evaluated by supervisory personnel to ensure compliance with department policy and an annual report is compiled for management’s review. During 2020, there were 35 documented vehicle pursuits. During the course of the year, seven policy violations were documented related to those pursuits. In each circumstance, violations were addressed by supervisory personnel and included but were not limited to, remedial training and other corrective personnel actions.

Vehicle Pursuits by Year	2020	2019	2018
Total # of Pursuits	35	26	13
Policy Violations	7	5	3

Response to Resistance. Like pursuits, Response to Resistance (RTR) incidents are high liability events for any police department and a police action is likely to attract media attention. Annually, each RTR incident is tracked and evaluated by supervisory personnel to ensure compliance with department policy. Furthermore, department command staff meet semi-annually to review RTR incidents, the totality of circumstances, data from the preceding months to identify trends, and reviews procedures. The group then makes necessary recommendations and formulates appropriate corrections for the department and its policies.

Officers responded to 102,287 calls for service and made 6,447 arrests; out of those arrests, there were 168 RTR incidents with 256 specific RTR actions during 2020 – encompassing 2.6% of all arrests. Those RTR incidents involved 201 individuals: 171 were male, 90 White, 73 Black, & 8 Hispanic; and, 30 were female, 18 White and 11 Black, and 1 Asian. The Type of Force used is listed in the following table.

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Response to Resistance Actions	2020	2019	2018
Empty Hand Control	79	88	55
Firearm Deployment	58	77	40
Firearm Discharge	3	4	2
Taser Deployment	32	77	28
Taser Discharge	36	24	26
Passive K9 Apprehension	39	6	23
Active K9 Apprehension	8	4	2
Chemical Spray	2	1	0
Asp/Baton	0	0	0
Total RTR Actions	256	281	196

All Response to Resistance measures were determined to be “Justified” by the reviewing supervisory and administrative personnel, with the exception of two. Disciplinary action was taken by supervisory personnel.

Citizen Complaints. The Biloxi Police Department investigated 15 citizen complaints in 2020 and 7 Internal Investigations.

Complaints/Internal Investigations	2020	2019	2018
Total Number of Investigations	22	29	10
Citizen’s Complaints	15	28	4
Internal Investigations	7	1	6
Sustained	2	3	2
Not Sustained	3	3	1
Unfounded	6	15	3
Exonerated	6	4	1
Partially Sustained	1	1	1
Pending	4	3	2

ACCREDITATION

The law enforcement accreditation process is designed to enhance professionalism, reduce liability and increase accountability by requiring strict adherence to nationally established policy, practice and training standards. The National Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA) and the Mississippi State Accreditation Commission first recognized the Biloxi Police Department as an accredited agency in March 2010. The department underwent a re-accreditation inspection in 2016 and was again recognized and certified through the state. The department is one of only 28 state accredited Law Enforcement agencies. The accreditation procedures were last inspected on January 29, 2019. The inspection was completed by members of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and no discrepancies were noted. The next inspection is due by January 2023.

TRAINING DIVISION

In 2020, the Biloxi Police Department Training Division facilitated, supervised, or conducted approximately 9,975 hours of law enforcement and accreditation training for employees, a 45% decrease from the previous year. The courses also provided training opportunities to several outside agencies.

Recruit Training. During 2020, the division received 4 full time hired officers. Two of the officers had prior law enforcement experience and were classified as “lateral” officers; two were “new hire” officers with no prior experience. All of the officers completed the department’s Certification and Orientation Program and two new hire officers completed the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Four police officer trainees entered or completed the Department’s Field Training Program. One Officer was deployed during the year and has not completed FTO Training.

Advanced Schools & In-service Training. The Training Division facilitated numerous outside training seminars and conferences throughout the year. Classes provided initial and continuing training for officers in a variety of critical law enforcement skills.

Significant training events, included:

- 64 sworn & non-sworn employees attended outside agency training in over 43 different advanced law enforcement training subjects, resulting in the completion of 3,422 training hours. The volume of training decreased 39% from the previous year.
- Approximately 6,252 basic and refresher in-service training hours were conducted for Response to Resistance topics, such as: Firearms Training and Qualifications, Less Lethal weapons and tactics, and Taser refresher. Other required training included legal updates, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle

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operations, Stop Stick deployment – vehicle pursuit intervention, and domestic violence reporting.

- Over 45-hours of Roll-Call in-service training was conducted, further reducing training costs.
- Non-sworn employees received over 150-hours of advanced training.

Response to Resistance (Firearms, Less Lethal, Electronic Weapons, Defensive Tactics). Eighty-nine officers completed 564 hours of firearms training. 13 officers received approximately 104 hours of Less Lethal Weapons Proficiency training. Training included defensive tactics, handcuffing and subject control, impact weapon refresher training, chemical weapons (OC pepper spray), and Taser refresher training.

Biloxi Police Department Sponsored Training. Ten sponsored or co-sponsored training courses benefiting department and local law enforcement agencies, included:

- Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police Training Conference
- Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers Conference
- ROCIC Summer Conference
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- Autism Awareness for Law Enforcement
- Public Safety Media Class
- Intoxilyzer 8000 Training
- Anti-Terrorism Training
- Launcher Instructor Course
- Certified Voice Stress Analysis

Computer Based Training. With the implementation of the PowerDMS training delivery module complete, the Training Division constructed 14 on-line courses for accreditation-required training. During the reporting period, police employees completed 825 hours of on-line training. On-line training saved an estimated \$24,750 in personnel overtime man-hours, in the form of projected days off compensated as a result of required continuing training.

GRANTS

The Biloxi Police Department actively seeks state and federal monies in support of mission objectives. During 2020, six federal grants were awarded, eight were active, and four were closed after exhausting all authorized monies during the same reporting period. The eight active grants provided for reimbursements in the amount of \$407,531.

The Biloxi Police Department is also reimbursed funds for its support of the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program (HIDTA) and the U.S. Marshals Service. Those are open-ended projects with no anticipated closing date.

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Grants	2020	2020	2019	2018
Total Awards*	6	\$764,999	\$202,329	\$233,571
Active	8	\$869,451	\$179,708	\$177,076
Closed	4	\$48,711	\$22,621	\$56,495
Pending	0	\$0	\$149,900	\$50,000
Denied	0	\$0	\$30,510	\$0

*Total awarded monies may reflect values carried over from fiscal year-to-year, depending on the terms of the individual grant lifespan.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Major Ronald Lessner, Commander of Operations

PATROL DIVISION

Patrol officers were dispatched-to or generated 102,287 calls for service during 2020, with an average response time to “Very High” priority calls of 4 minutes and 9 seconds¹. As a result, 11,041 reports were published, and 7,580 traffic stops were conducted. There were 5,516 traffic citations issued and another 2,858 written or verbal warnings communicated to motorists.

- Calls for Service – 102,287
 - 37% were Dispatched (38,356)
 - 62% were Officer-Initiated (63,931)
- Motor Vehicle Crashes – 2,512
 - There were 30 requests for Crash Reconstruction services during the year.
 - There were 14 vehicle crash-related fatalities; six involved serious injuries, and 10 were assistance requests from outside agencies.

Officer Response Activity	2020	2019	2018
Total Number of Calls	102,287	105,129	117,112
Dispatched	38,356	39,488	39,818
Self-Initiated	63,931	65,635	77,294
Self-Initiated Percentages	62%	62%	66%
Self-Initiated Percentages Less Traffic Stops	55%	52%	56%
Dispatched Percentages	37%	37%	33%

¹ Call response times are affected by several factors, such as call priority, location, and whether officer initiated. The following times were observed based on the designated priority: “Very High” 4m 9s; “High” 2m 39s; “Medium” 3m 42s; and “Low” 1m 1s.

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Response to Calls	2020	2019	2018
Average Response Time to Calls	4 min 9 sec	5 min 41 sec	4 min 52 sec
Time of Day with the Highest Dispatched Call Volume	07:00 – 23:00	10:00 – 24:00	10:00 – 24:00
Time of Day with the Highest Self-Initiated Call Volume	18:00 – 02:00	19:00 – 04:00	19:00 – 04:00
Beat with Greatest # of Calls	Beat 6 (15,569)	Beat 2 (18,669)	Beat 2 (19,286)
Beat with Greatest # of Accidents	Beat 6 (469)	Beat 6 (602)	Beat 6 (570)
Beat with Greatest # of Arrests	Beat 3 (1,524)	Beat 2 (1,649)	Beat 3 (1,559)

Citation Activity	2020	2019	2018
Traffic Stops	7,580	10,898	10,990
Traffic Citations	5,516	5,830	4,371
Warning Citations	2,858	4,452	3,962
DUI Citations	153	213	461

Vehicle Crashes	2020	2019	2018
State Accident Report	812	838	761
Minor Accident Report	1,699	2,154	2,335
Total	2,512	2,995	3,096

Arrest Data	2020	2019	2018
Capias/Warrant Arrests	3,442	3,566	2,878
On View/On Call Arrests	2,525	2,943	2,777
Citizen's Arrests	436	428	516
Post Arrest Release	44	26	21
Total	6,447	6,963	6,192

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Officer Injuries	2020	2019	2018
Line of Duty Related Injuries	16	18	8
Crash Related Injuries	1	0	8
Other Related Injuries	15	16	0
Exposure Claims	0	2	6
Minor Injury Entries	110	71	63
LEOKA* Line of Duty Death	0	1	0

*LEOKA is “Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted” in the line of duty.

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Biloxi Police Department Traffic Unit is currently staffed with five officers. The Traffic Unit’s duties included the enforcement of traffic infractions and the investigation of all major motor vehicle, rail, and pedestrian crashes. The unit also aided in the coordination and implementation of traffic plans for all major events and performed vehicle escorts throughout the year.

Citation Activity	Traffic Unit	% Change v. 2019
Speeding	980	-36%
Reckless/Careless	265	-39%
DUS	98	-22%
DL Violation	113	-35%
Disregard Device	78	-83%
Safety Restraint	56	270%
Tag Violation	138	-69%
No Insurance	588	-2.9%
DUI	5	---
All Other	465	-53%
Total Citations	2,786	-42%
Arrests	7	-58%

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Crash Response	Count	% Change v. 2019
State Crash	339	92%
Minor Crash	368	-19%
Total	707	11%

Traffic Inv. Call Outs	Count	Change from 2019
Fatality Crashes	14	+11
Serious Injury Crashes	6	+2
Other Agency Asst.	10	---
All Other	0	---
Total	30	42%

Misc. Unit Activity	Count	% Change / 2019
Escorts	331	-10%
Est. Escort Man-Hours	248	-10%
Details	84	-31%

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is comprised of highly trained officers who specialize in high risk operations. Their purpose is to minimize risk to officers, citizens, and suspects during high risk events using specialized weapons and tactics. During 2020, SWAT operations included dynamic-entry warrant services and high-risk warrant services.

Entry Team. To enhance continuity of operations, the Entry Team (element) consists of two squads with individual squad leaders for each and a Sergeant responsible for the entire element. Each designated squad leader was cross-trained in the various element responsibilities to minimize impacts to team transitions during continuing events and to support the Sergeant during planning phases.

The Entry element provided support for the following events during 2020:

- Provided support during two, armed suspect barricade events.
- Served two high-risk arrest warrants in apprehension of felony suspects.

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Entry Element Activity	Count
Special Operations Call-out Incidents	2
High-Risk Arrest Warrant Service	2
Enhanced Security Operations	0
Assisted Other Agencies	0
Special Teams Demonstration	0

Entry Element Training Activity	Hours
Outside Training	0
Departmental In-service Training	629
Average Training Hours per Member	57.2
Total Training	629

Counter Sniper/Observer Team. The Counter Sniper/Observer Team (SOT) is an element of the SWAT team. The SOT's mission is to provide actionable intelligence during major events or incidents to command staff, security over-watch, and, if necessary, precision rifle support.

Counter-sniper teams are generally deployed as two-person teams, consisting of one primary sniper and one primary observer with each member cross-trained and fully qualified on specific weapons systems. Multiple teams may be deployed to cover a designated area. Operational concepts suggest teams may be deployed in either overt or covert capacities during long periods of time and may provide support for over-watch and security operations.

The team conducted four training events, totaling 96 man-hours, which focused primarily on marksmanship skills. The team also continued to evaluate perspective team candidates during two evaluation cycles and was expected to complete selection and training of new members by mid-2021.

Crisis Negotiations Team. During the reporting period, the Crisis Negotiations Team played vital roles in de-escalating significant events that involved barricaded and suicidal suspects. During their four callouts, Negotiators supported special operations events aiding in the resolution of the highly emotional scenes. Negotiators were able to successfully defuse three situations that did not result in the use of force or entry, and potentially saved lives while preventing further damage to property.

K9 UNIT

The Biloxi Police Department K9 program consisted of eight canines with handlers, six dual-purpose, used for narcotics detection, and two used for explosives detection. At peak staffing, the unit deployed eight canines but due to pending retirements, the unit was projected to be reduced to four by mid-2021. One new canine and handler was undergoing training and will enter service during the first quarter of 2021.

K9 Unit Activity		Count
Searches	Narcotics	79
	Explosives	132
Deployments	Passive Apprehensions	39
	Active Apprehensions	8
	General*	70
	Total Arrests	392
Miscellaneous	Assist Other Agency	16
	Community Outreach	5
	General Call Response	13,850
Training	Total Hours	1,014

*It should be noted that *General Deployments* consisted of K9 tracks of missing persons or criminal suspects, area searches for articles or evidence, and other unique deployment circumstances.

DIVE TEAM

The Dive Team is comprised of six fully trained officers who specialize in search and rescue operations and safe boating practices in support of law enforcement activities. The team operates, inspects and maintains three watercraft, as well as dive equipment and assorted tools to aid during searches; all valued in excess of \$100,000.

The team often responds to neighboring cities at the request of law enforcement officials who are in need of underwater evidence recovery. Working alongside both state and federal agencies, such as the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the United States Coast Guard, the Biloxi Dive Team is frequently requested to launch vessels during public safety responses around the city. The most notable events during 2020 were: the rescue of two individuals from a sinking vessel; and, the response to a

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boat collision and recovery of two victims from the water. The Team also assisted the lead agency with that investigation.

Operational activity for the year included:

- Provided water safety and perimeter security for the 4th of July fireworks display held off Deer Island, Biloxi's Blessing of the Fleet, and the Biloxi Christmas on the Water Parade.
- After receiving updated equipment, divers will now be able to attend monthly training.
- Conducted a search within an inland pond for an identified victim.
- Conducted a rescue operation for two occupants of a sinking vessel.
- Responded to a boat collision with injuries and recovered two victims from the water.
- Assisted patrol with the apprehension and treatment of seven subjects who fled officers during mental health crises.

BOMB SQUAD

The Bomb Squad is composed of six sworn officers trained by the FBI in explosives and explosive materials. They are responsible for explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) and Hazardous Device Mitigation in the lower 24 counties of Mississippi from the Gulf Coast, north to Jones County, and are a key element in the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and Regional Response Team.

Significant events during 2020, included:

- Demonstrated superior performance while handling the majority of the Hazardous/Suspicious Device responses in the state of Mississippi. Recognized by the FBI, Bureau Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE), and the MS Department of Homeland Security (MOHS) as the state's premiere unit.
- The team's exceptional capabilities resulted in several team members being requested, by name, to provide operational assistance and instructional support to classes hosted by the MOHS, BATFE, and the FBI.
- Supported the BATFE and the FBI with explosives related callouts.
- Taught first responder explosives hazards recognition courses to cadets at the Harrison County Law Enforcement Training Academy and other local agencies.
- Provided Bomb Technician support to the US Secret Service, MOHS, the John C. Stennis Space Center and the FBI during several events to include the Space Launch System Test Run at Stennis as part of the NASA Artemis Program.
- Provided Bomb Technician support to the National College Athletics Association Football Program during several games, supported the FBI – New Orleans during the 2020 Sugar Bowl, and supported multiple details during the week of the 2020 National College Football Championship, also in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Bomb Squad Activity	2020	2019	2018
Call Outs / Details	16	23	20
Special Event / Dignitary Support	9	6	12
Community Functions	0	14	17
Suspicious / Hoax Devices	5	9	4
Explosive Devices Rendered Safe	4	6	5
Military Ordnance Cleared	4	10	11

HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard consisted of 11 officers that represented the department during special events, such as: the Mississippi Municipal League, Association of Chiefs of Police Conference, National Association of Alcohol Enforcement Officers, and the Mississippi Crime Stoppers Conference. In addition to special events, the Honor Guard supported funeral services for active and retired officers being escorted to their final rest. Funeral support services included casket and home watches for fallen officers, 21-gun salutes, flag-folding services, and funeral logistics and planning support.

Honor Guard Activity		Count
Presentation of Colors		5
Retired Officer Funerals		3
Active Officer Funerals		2
LEOKA Funerals*		1
Detail Hours	House Watch	0
	Casket Watch	1
	Total Training	28

*LEOKA is “Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted” in the line of duty.

BIKE TEAM

The Bike Team is a Community-Oriented Policing tool, staffed by 23 officers; it promotes individual interaction among officers and citizens. The flexibility of individual contact facilitates citizens' abilities to speak with officers without the distraction of a marked police car. The team encourages citizens to speak freely about criminal conduct in their area, and provides the one-on-one attention the community deserves.

The team participated in the Bike Biloxi program, logging 24-hours of seat time with citizens during the cosponsored rides. During the Cruisin' the Coast Block Party, the team was deployed and provided out of town guests with information and directions.

MAJOR EVENTS

With an eye towards strategic planning in hospitality and economic development, the City of Biloxi has positioned itself as a premier destination along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As a result of its diligence, Biloxi now hosts several large-scale events with varying levels of impact to municipal operations and quality of life throughout the city. Many continue to grow year-after-year, and each year more and more associations find a great matchup with the City of Biloxi to host their events. In order to facilitate these events, contingency operations, traffic and crowd control, escorts, and many other details must be planned. Many of these events require extensive manpower, which incurs overtime costs. Some of the more prominent events this year included:

- On 20 Jan 2020, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade utilized 11 officers to monitor the event and traffic through east Biloxi.
- On 22 Feb 2020, the Second Liners Mardi Gras Parade attracted an estimated crowd of 5,000 people. 46 officers monitored the event and aided in traffic and crowd management as needed.
- On 22 Feb 2020, the Neptune Mardi Gras Parade drew crowds numbering 25,000. Due to the sheer volume of spectators, the event required all available sworn police officers to manage the event. Additional officers from surrounding agencies were also requested as all available man-power was spread-out along the route to ensure safety and efficient traffic flow for both the float riders and spectators.
- On 25 Feb 2020, the Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade drew crowds of over 80,000 people to view and participate in the festivities which required not only all available officers from our department, but other agencies from along the coast. The additional aid provided a safe and orderly event that went without incident.
- 3-5 Apr 2020, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Spring Break (MGCSB) event returned to Biloxi. The event required 101 officers on its peak day of operations that were

spread-out along US 90 to monitor traffic flow and to respond to public safety concerns.

- 26-28 Jun 2020, the Scrapin' the Coast event had also grown each year and required all available sworn officers to be deployed along the route including officers hired in from outside agencies.
- 4-11 Oct 2020, the Cruisin' the Coast event may have the largest impact on public safety operations in terms of resources and duration. It was considered Biloxi's premier event with well over 50,000 attendees. All available sworn officers and additional officers from outside agencies were posted along the route. Cruisin' the Coast continued to grow and was expected to move into a second week in the future.
- 12-13 Dec 2020, the third annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon ended in Biloxi. The event, a Boston Marathon qualifying event, began in Pass Christian, ran along US 90 and ended at the MGM Park in Biloxi. The event required more than 35 officers to man posts to keep runners safe.

NATURAL DISASTERS

In its commitment to emergency preparedness as a process and component of the Emergency Management philosophy, the City of Biloxi previously identified hazards and implemented plans to reduce potential losses, thereby allowing mitigation programs to be developed³. Three primary hazards were identified that posed the greatest individual and compounding impact to the community. Those hazards were: Coastal Storms (Hurricanes, Tropical Storms, and Subtropical Storms); Flooding; and Severe Thunderstorms (including heavy rains, high wind, and lightning).

The Biloxi Police Department supported the City of Biloxi Emergency Management function through its preparedness and response efforts. During 2020, the city experienced six potential disaster events in the form of Tropical Storms or Hurricanes Beta, Cristobal, Delta, Laura, Sally, and Zeta. Although the city was not classified as the direct landfall site of the eye of the storms, it was still impacted by the storms; Hurricane Zeta caused significant damage along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and Biloxi. The department maintained its response capabilities to handle any situation nature brought by analyzing public safety calls for service for the occurrence and location of flooded areas, evacuations & evacuation refusals, and high-water rescue events. During the annual reporting period, the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency (HCEMA) issued no-less-than 320 severe weather alerts.

Storm surge proved to be one of the most damaging aspects of coastal storm events and when compounded with excessive rainfall amounts, contributed to the majority of (coastal) storm-related flooding events. With regard to thunderstorm events, several factors combined to influence the potential for, and likelihood of flood events. Biloxi is

situated between the Biloxi and Tchoutacabouffaha Rivers with their confluence at the western-most end of the Biloxi Back Bay and contributes to a significant floodplain that covers a significant majority of the city, while East Biloxi experiences the propagation of impermeable developed surfaces with overwhelmed catchments systems.

OFF-DUTY DETAILS AND EVENTS

The Biloxi Police Department brokers security arrangements between off-duty police officers and citizens (contractors) hosting private events. Interested contractors communicate their needs to the police department’s off-duty event coordinator who determines security needs based on established guidelines, and schedules officers. During 2020, events ranged from additional security, to traffic control at large or specialized events, shopping centers, entertainment complexes, school & civic organizations and/or private functions. It should be noted, the following off-duty employment activity table does not include resource expenditures incurred during reoccurring major event operations such as Biloxi Mardi Gras, MS Gulf Coast Spring Break, Scrapin’ the Coast, Cruisin’ the Coast, or any other ‘all-hands’ event officers may work during their scheduled off-duty time.

Off Duty Employment	2020	2019	2018
Number of Events Scheduled	1,084	791	849
Number of Hours Worked by Officers	7,868	6,475	4,665
Number of Officers Assigned to these details	112	88	75

UNSHeltered POPULATION ACTIVITY

Understanding the unique challenges specific to socio-economic and community quality of life conditions, no panacea exists within law enforcement, alone. Holistic approaches are required in most circumstances. One such circumstance is unsheltered populations’ interactions with the community as a whole, and officers’ interaction with those same populations; special detail officers initiate intervention contacts with the members of the community. With a ‘Help & Shelter First’ philosophy, officers engage with those individuals to bring awareness to available resources. Health services, mental health services, crisis intervention, transient shelter services, and food assistance are a few of the non-government organization resources available in the area. The special details also incorporate Crisis Intervention Officers as part of the Crisis Intervention Team, as yet another strategy.

Officers’ interactions with unsheltered populations accounted for approximately 29% of all case numbers generated during 2020 (including incident reports, field contacts, and citation case numbers). Excluding instances when unsheltered subjects were listed in

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police reports as suspects or victims, officers' field-contacted or arrested subjects approximately 4,891 times related to vagrant and panhandling complaints initiated by community members, a 3.7% decrease from the previous year. However, that same population incurred 4% more arrests than the previous year.

Unsheltered Population Enforcement Activity	2020	2019	2018
Unsheltered Population, Field Contacted / Arrested	1,245	507	819
Percent of Total Annual Arrests	27%	23%	21%
Panhandling Calls for Service	384	531	723

INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

Major Christopher DeBack, Commander of Investigations

The Investigations Section is comprised of five sections which include, Criminal Investigations, Special Crimes, Task Force Officers, Criminal Intelligence, and Investigative Support Section (Crime Scene Unit and Evidence Unit). Each of the units conduct specialized functions for the department and when needed, work together as a team to complete the assigned task. All five units are commanded by a Division Major and Captain.

In addition to every day listed duties, officers assigned to the Investigations Section assisted with several large city events and smaller details throughout the year. These events included Mardi Gras, Spring Break, Gulf Coast Marathon, Scrapin the Coast and Cruisin the Coast. Several assigned personnel are also active members of different organizations where some hold board positions. During the 2020 Hurricane season, investigators were assigned to aid in storm related assignments multiple times.

One of the most taxing assignments for the entire department was during the two-month period when a state-wide shut down was implemented in an attempt to combat the COVID-19 outbreak. During that time, all but five investigators were tasked with performing extra patrol during the overnight hours throughout the city. The day-to-day operations of investigations were left to the remaining Investigators; however, those assigned to patrol still handled a majority of the felonious incidents which occurred while they were working. They also managed to continue their efforts on all of the previously assigned cases. This aided in ensuring the high standards of case resolution was maintained.

While ensuring their normal assignments were completed, investigators aided in various community-based projects during the year. Investigations Section personnel participated in the following activities as members; the Biloxi Police Department's Cadet Post (Advisory Board and Post Leadership), Special Olympics Mississippi (State Board member and State Torch Run Director), Biloxi Unsheltered Resource Partnership Committee, member of Elks Lodge, Board of Directors for the Bethel Free Health Clinic, Board of Directors for the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, various youth sports activities as coaches, Cub Scout leaders, members of Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Advisory Council, and members of Knights of Columbus.

Along with day-to-day operations, several investigators were members of various special teams within the department which included; CVSA Operators, Hostage Negotiation, SWAT, Bomb Squad and the Dive Team. In support of their primary and ancillary duties, investigators attended various major schools to include the National Forensic Academy, Northwestern Staff and Command College, Southern Police

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Institutes Administrative Officers Course, FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Command College, CVSA Recertification, First Line Supervisor courses, and Celebrite Certification.

As a Division, there was a total of 401 felony case files sent over to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution consideration. Of those that were presented to Grand Jury, 81% were indicted for further prosecution. The remaining 19% were either not indicted or remanded to a lower court for further prosecution.

During the year, all court proceedings were affected due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Despite several cases being reset due to court closings, 219 Biloxi Police Department cases were prosecuted, and convictions were ordered by a judge. As with court, many departmental training and special projects were adjusted, abbreviated, or rescheduled during 2020 due to various COVID-19 mandates.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Investigations unit was supervised daily by a Lieutenant and a Sergeant. There were eight investigators assigned to handle a variety of felony cases and follow-ups. In addition to the eight investigators, there were two Patrol officers assigned to follow-up misdemeanor reports. All follow-ups were investigated until resolved by an arrest or other means. If all leads were exhausted and the case was unresolved, then it would be suspended pending new information.

Supervisors for the Criminal Investigations Unit reviewed all reports generated during the reporting period. Of those reports, 1,471 felony incidents were assigned for further investigative work resulting in the resolution of 49.7% of the cases (NOTE: A resolution would mean an arrest was made in the case or it was resolved by other means and no further Criminal Investigation was needed). This was a 4% increase of the resolvability rate compared to 2019. Of the files assigned during the time frame covered by this report, 20.9% were still being actively worked.

Misdemeanor crimes and other general reports were assigned based on resolvability factors. Resolvability factors look at the amount of information initially provided and if that information could be used to generate additional leads. The two Patrol officers assigned to follow-up on misdemeanors were also responsible for finding missing persons and runaways.

By focusing on resolving as many reported crimes as possible, the Biloxi Police Department was able to ensure every possible step was taken to facilitate improving the quality of life for all citizens and visitors of Biloxi. During the year, 774 misdemeanor reports were assigned for further investigation. Of those, 335 or 43.2% were resolved by arrest or other means. There were 830 report supplements generated during the course of 2020 to document misdemeanor officers' findings.

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Case Management	2020	2019	2018
Cases Received	1,471	1,705	1,678
Cases Assigned	355	351	300
Follow-Ups Assigned	1,116	1,354	1,378
Active Cases	118	58	254
Cases Closed	232	203	369
Cases Suspended	13	22	58
Cases Cleared by Arrest	280	252	229
Resolvability Rate	49.7%	34.7%	31%

Felony Crime Trends	2020	2019	2018
Burglaries	548	661	646
Robberies	57	79	64
Sexual Assaults	49	55	51
Aggravated Assaults	75	69	62
Murder/ Manslaughter	11	2	4
Traffic Fatalities Assigned	4	*	*

* Traffic Fatalities investigated by CID were not tracked in prior annual reports.

Misd. Assignments	2020	2019	2018
Misd. Assigned	774	977	838
Misd. Cleared	173	274	161
Misd. Closed	162	193	123
Misd. Suspended	384	485	309
Resolvability Rate	43.2%	47.7%	33.9%

As reflected in the preceding tables, Biloxi experienced a 17.1% reduction in burglaries, a 28% reduction in robberies, and an 11% reduction in reported sexual assaults. Aggravated assaults increased by 8% and murder/manslaughters increased by 82%.

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The number of murders & manslaughters was especially significant when compared with the previous 10-year mean average of 2.6 incidents per year with the highest four-years recording three, each. In all but three of the recorded 2020 cases, the suspects were known to the victims. Specific causal factors regarding the increase in felonious assaults and homicides were not determined. Of the 15 reported death investigations, 11 were investigated either as homicides or manslaughters. Four of the investigations involved motor vehicle crash fatalities.

A brief description of each of the cases follows.

In February, a juvenile was shot and killed at a residence on Nixon Street when another juvenile was playing with a handgun. The suspect was charged with manslaughter and has been indicted. The case was pending further action in Circuit Court.

In February, a juvenile was shot and killed in her home on Rustwood Drive while being robbed by known associates. Evidence related to the case was pending at the Mississippi Crime Lab, and therefore pending completion for Grand Jury.

In March, Jennifer Reis was killed in her home on Popp's Ferry Road by her husband during an altercation. He subsequently notified the police and turned himself in. That case was presented to the Grand Jury and the result was pending.

In March, Gulfport resident Davon Williams was shot and killed on Stennis Drive by an unknown suspect. That case was still being actively worked in an attempt to identify those responsible.

In May, Micah Harrington was killed and partially dismembered while doing laundry near his residence at a location on West Oaklawn Road. Evidence related to the case was still pending at the Mississippi Crime Lab, and therefore pending completion for Grand Jury.

In May, Tasia La Rae Lynch died as a result of injuries sustained during a vehicular crash at Beach Boulevard and the ramp of I-110. The investigation revealed the driver of the vehicle was impaired. He was charged with DUI Causing Death. The case was presented to Grand Jury and the results were pending.

In May, Michael Lepoma died as a result of injuries he sustained while at a residence on Moni Vista Drive. During the investigation, the suspect was identified and charged with murder. The case was completed and sent to the District Attorney's Office to be presented to Grand Jury.

In July, Gulfport resident Cordaryl Weathersby was killed in a parking lot, located on Beach Boulevard. He was shot by a known subject he was meeting with from New

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Orleans. Evidence related to the case was pending at the Mississippi Crime Lab, and therefore pending completion for Grand Jury.

In July, a juvenile was shot by a homeowner on Old Bay Road when the juvenile was attempting to burglarize the home during the early morning hours. An arrest was not made in the case due to the circumstances surrounding the incident. The case was completed and sent to the District Attorney's Office to be presented to Grand Jury.

In July, Elliot Richardson was shot and killed at his apartment complex located on Lawrence Street. Elliot's friend was also shot and wounded at the same time after the two had an altercation with two other males. The suspects were later apprehended and charged with one count of murder and one count of aggravated assault. Evidence related to the case was still pending at the Mississippi Crime Lab, and therefore pending completion for Grand Jury.

In August, a juvenile was shot and killed while at a juvenile friend's residence, located on Covenant Square Drive. The friend was playing with a loaded rifle when he pulled the trigger and shot the victim. Evidence related to the case was pending at the Mississippi Crime Lab, and therefore pending completion for Grand Jury.

In August, Gary Yarberry was killed when his vehicle collided with another in the 1900 block of Beach Boulevard. During the course of the investigation, the driver of the other vehicle was determined to be impaired. He was charged with DUI Causing Death. The case was completed and sent to the District Attorney's Office for presentation to Grand Jury.

In September, Gerald Benish was shot and killed in the parking lot outside of his residence, located on Beach Boulevard. After a pursuit, the suspect was shot and killed by a Hancock County Sheriff's Deputy. The suspect's death in Hancock County was pending Grand Jury review in that judicial district. The Biloxi homicide case was exceptionally cleared and closed due to the positive identification and death of the suspect.

In October, Ollie Armstrong and her grandson were traveling on Beach Boulevard. As they were turning, a vehicle traveling east bound struck their vehicle, killing Armstrong and her grandson instantly. During the course of the investigation, it was determined the driver of the vehicle was traveling recklessly at a high rate of speed. He was charged with manslaughter. The case was being actively investigated for presentation to Grand Jury.

In November, William Gryder was traveling east on Beach Boulevard when he was struck by another vehicle. The investigation was ongoing but the driver of the other vehicle was determined to be impaired and traveling at a high rate of speed. He was charged with manslaughter and the investigation was on-going.

SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT

Currently, the Special Crimes Unit is supervised by a Lieutenant and a Sergeant. Four investigators are assigned to work narcotics and other vice crime cases. They are also responsible for the oversight of officers assigned to a Task Force. There is one officer assigned to the FBI Task Force and one assigned to the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Fugitive Task Force. During various investigations in 2020, the unit seized \$88,581 and was awarded \$54,245. Of that, and after profit sharing amongst law enforcement agencies, \$26,687 was deposited into the Biloxi Police Department's Asset Forfeiture account to be spent on purchases directly involving the war on drugs. These monies can only be used as a budgetary supplement.

Case Management Activity	2020	2019	2018
Cases Assigned	309	268	214
Felony Narcotics Violations	322	292	227
Other Felony Violations	57	12	9
Total Arrests	386	300	305
Clandestine Drug Lab Clean-ups	0	0	0
Search Warrants	32	27	29
Initiated Calls	3,714	1,324	703

Seized & Forfeited Property	2020	2019	2018
Value of Currency & Assets Seized	\$88,581	\$72,171	\$52,288
Value of Currency & Assets Forfeited	\$54,245	\$25,644	\$61,329
Vehicles Seized	2	0	2
Vehicles Forfeited	0	0	1
Seizures/Forfeitures Pending	\$44,398	\$87,385	\$5,487

The Special Crimes Unit budgeted for and obtained specialized equipment to aid them with all of their investigations. The equipment provided key evidence which will aid in prosecution. Along with the ability to further their investigations, they assisted several Federal and State agencies during 2020.

Task Force Operations. The Biloxi Police Department provides one individual officer to two separate task forces in an effort to facilitate investigations in and around

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the City of Biloxi. These task forces include the FBI Task Force and the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Fugitive Task Force. Both officers assigned to their respective task force have made remarkable progress in multiple Biloxi investigations and work together well.

FBI Task Force	2020	US Marshals TF	2020
Arrests	24	Total Arrests	454
Indictments	13	Arrests/Biloxi Cases	26
Interviews	166		
Case Files Generated	23		
Search Warrants	18		

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

The Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) serves an All-Hazards/All-Crimes intelligence support function for the Biloxi Police Department and City of Biloxi’s Emergency Management response. It works to synthesize local public safety priorities with wider domestic, homeland security interests. The CIU works closely with the state’s designated fusion center, the Mississippi Analysis and Information Center (MSAIC), and other local, county, state, and federal stakeholders to accomplish the mission of gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information to prevent, mitigate, and detect criminal activity and other acts that threaten Biloxi’s public safety.

The CIU tracks a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), quantifiable measures used to evaluate the performance of the unit in meeting objectives, and to gauge and compare performance in terms of meeting its goals. The CIU has four primary goals: provide exceptional and personalized investigative assistance for all officers, investigators, and partner agencies; maximize information sharing among the Biloxi Police Department and its partner agencies through the development and dissemination of intelligence products; inform law enforcement decisions by turning information into intelligence insight; and, strengthen partnerships and enrich intelligence through outreach.

For its purposes, the CIU identified eight KPIs: the number of Crime Stopper tips received; the number of Election Background Requests received; the number of General Law Enforcement Tips received; the number of Intelligence Research Files generated; the number of Officer Tips received; the number of Public Safety Background Requests received; the number of Regulated Use Background Requests received; and, the number of Requests for Information received.

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During 2020, the CIU added a Problem Oriented Policing program function to its menu of Criminal Intelligence investigative support, Real Time Crime Center tactical support, Crime Camera community support, and License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology investigative support. In total, the CIU was staffed with four sworn officers and one civilian criminal intelligence analyst with access to local, state, regional, and national level information databases. Information provided by databases, intelligence validated by investigators and analysts, and established analytic techniques provided structural foundation for various intelligence work products published by the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

The CIU conducted 622 criminal intelligence inquiries during 2020. Significant KPI increases were observed with (general) intelligence files and requests for information – with increases of 55% and 62%, respectively. Significant reductions in Crime Stoppers Tips and Regulated Use & Public Safety application background requests were observed as 34%, 45%, and 82%, respectively. Although the CIU self-published only 34 intelligence work products for local, county, state, regional, and national consumers (stake-holders) during 2020, it supported or directly investigated a number of high-impact criminal cases including what was believed to be the largest “Nigerian” Romance Scheme in Mississippi’s history. It also continued to maintain an intelligence case-management database to facilitate supervisory oversight.

Key Performance Indicators	2020	2019	2018
Crime Stoppers Tip	137	209	178
Election Background Requests	0	0	0
General Law Enforcement Tips	19	30	42
Intelligence Research Files	148	95	98
Officer Tips	5	3	6
Public Safety Background Requests	64	117	87
Regulated Use Background Requests	20	78	115
Requests for Information	229	141	115
Total	622	673	645

Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). Real Time Crime Centers (RTCCs) are centralized tactical intelligence operations that leverage available technologies to support field officers, investigators, supervisors, and incident commanders, and provide instant information to support public safety operations and strategies.

RTCCs leverage all-source information from both open and closed sources, such as: calls for service, incidents, warrants, arrests, national crime records, federated data-marts, commercial comprehensive background information services, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), geospatial analysis services and tools, and other disparate information silos.

The RTCC concept was utilized during joint operations events, and specifically during the Mississippi Gulf Coast Spring Break, Scrapin the Coast, and Cruisin the Coast' events to supplement event operations as a centralized technology center, utilizing resources from the Biloxi Police Department, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the Mississippi Department of Revenue, and the MSAIC. It proved to have significant impact in terms of the speed and access to relevant information critical for the success of the events' operations traffic mitigation plans.

Community Crime Camera Program. With the implementation and deployment of the Community Crime Camera Program utilizing internet protocol pan-tilt-zoom (IP-PTZ) digital crime cameras within areas of the city, RTCC cameras archive historical recordings to off-site servers for later retrieval. RTCC operations exemplify the philosophy of Intelligence-Led Policing and its impact on the public's safety through recognition of the severity of potential criminal acts, certainty of enforcement action needed, and the swiftness of that action. The RTCC received 187 requests for assistance for the retrieval, review, and storage of video evidence related to criminal investigations.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR). The availability and use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology has provided opportunities for the enhancement of productivity and increased effectiveness of public safety strategies. The use of ALPR technology is restricted to public safety-related missions, only, and utilizes Optical Character Recognition to record digital images of license plates and vehicles with the associated metadata, such as date, time, and the geographic coordinates associated with the vehicle. ALPR technology directly contributed to a significant number of high-priority criminal investigations and the detection of 151 stolen vehicles between March and November 2020. 63 stolen vehicles were recovered with an estimated combined value of \$603,343. Assuming that recovered value in the calculation of a Return on Investment (ROE) for ALPR technology, it suggested the City of Biloxi observed an ROE of more than 4,000 percent by investing in ALPR technology.

Problem Oriented Policing. The Biloxi Police Department cultivates a proud tradition of service to its citizens, businesses and visitors. The men and women of the Department are dedicated to their profession and hold themselves to the highest ethical standards. Through those standards, they earn the trust and support of the community and city leaders; a trust they do not take lightly and strives to renew on a daily basis.

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While the Department continually evaluates the service it provides and identifies clear, measurable, and attainable goals, the CIU has implemented the Problem Oriented Policing Squad with the goal of reduction and prevention of crime. The framework in which the CIU strives to accomplish the Department and Community's safety goals is based on work ethic that is proactive, professional, and working in partnership with the community, itself. Proactive means deploying Intelligence-Led Policing strategies to interdict crime, not waiting for crime to occur. The CIU through the POP Squad seeks to prevent crime before it happens.

CRIME SCENE & EVIDENCE UNIT

Crime Scene Investigations and Evidence was a combined unit that was managed by a Lieutenant and a Sergeant. It was comprised of two Evidence Technicians, two Electronic Forensic Investigators, one Sergeant, and Crime Scene Investigators. In 2020, the Crime Scene Unit identified the need for upgrading applied investigative technologies and upgraded the unit's Cellebrite program. This upgrade allowed the department to keep up with technology while giving Investigators the ability to further multiple investigations.

Crime Scene personnel also saw the need for a bullet trap which will allow them to process evidence related to guns in a timelier manner while at the same time maintaining a higher standard for evidence chains of custodies.

Over the course of the year, evidence technicians continued to audit the property room ensuring all evidence was accounted-for. During that process, they identified items that were no longer needed and could be submitted for disposal. Once identified, they took the proper steps to obtain the proper documents for disposal.

To support the community, they participated in several events during the year which allowed them to show case the unit's capabilities. Additional community based activities included their initiative to coordinate with DEA and set up the annual drug take back day.

The unit is currently in the process of reorganizing evidence and how it is stored. They are also constructing various products, e.g., shelving and workstations, in order to maximize their effectiveness.

Evidence Vault Activity	2020	2019	2018
Evidence submitted	5,716	5,088	4,019
Evidence disposed of	6,025	5,695	1,642
Disposal rate	106%	112%	40%

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CSI Unit Activity	2020	2019	2018
Latent Print Cards from Patrol	649	541	568
Latent Prints from CSI	622	752	944
AFIX Tracker Entries	210	246	328
Latent Print Identifications	2	7	7
Evidence Items Processed	670	577	418
Crime Scenes in Biloxi	69	47	49
Assisting other Agencies	4	2	8
Evidence Brought to MCL	868	886	565
Evidence Returned from MCL	803	954	615

CSI Electronics Activity	2020	2019	2018
Cell Phone Extractions	78	49	93
Computer Data Recovery	26	30	2
Other Device Extractions	8	13	43
Video Evidence Processed	43	37	91

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

The Biloxi Police Department has one full time Public Information Officer (PIO) and four part time officers who assist. Currently, information is distributed to the public from the department through local media stations, Facebook and B-Alert.

Keeping the public informed is a key element for a police department to build legitimacy and maintain their relationship and transparency with the citizen's they serve. The Biloxi Police Department generated over 280 press releases during the course of the year on a variety of topics ranging from community events, public service announcements, event planning details, and criminal incidents. As a result, the public was able to plan accordingly and prepare themselves for things like traffic, or they were kept informed on criminal activity around them. Throughout the year, citizens responded to dozens of press releases where the assigned investigator was attempting to locate or identify persons of interest, or additional information pertaining to the crime. That assistance eventually led to multiple arrests for a variety of crimes.

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The releases, along with information or photos from a community event officers were involved in, were posted on the Biloxi Police Department's Facebook page. This aided in the generation of multiple tips giving the information needed to resolve more reported crimes.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS (CIT)

A Crisis Intervention Officer is one who has attended a specialized 40-hour course in which he or she was taught how to deescalate a situation and recognize the need for medical assistance when dealing with a subject in mental crisis as opposed to initiating an arrest. That type of training and the approach to mental health has been the trend across the nation in law enforcement. Professionals have recognized those who need mental help are not receiving the mental health service they need while in jail and subsequently often become repeat offenders.

The Biloxi Police Department continues to support the program and currently has seven certified CIT Officers. In November 2020, the first CIT training was held for Dispatchers in the state. Biloxi Dispatch was able to send two through the course. At the end of the course, a train the trainer certification was offered. One of the original CIT officers along with both dispatchers attended that training. More training is being scheduled for 2021.

During 2020, each of the certified CIT Officers responded to multiple calls to assist with deescalating a given situation. Over 54 individuals were referred to Gulf Coast Mental Health for further treatment or transported to a local hospital at the time of the incident in order to receive immediate mental health treatment instead of being charged criminally.

In an effort to bring the most effective resolution to every call we respond to, the Biloxi Police Department will continue to adapt with the CIT initiative in 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

Major Larry Murphy, Commander of Administrative Services

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center remains the 24-hour nucleus of operational information for the Police and Fire Departments, as well as other city resources afterhours. The center processes critical information from many sources and directs Police, Fire and Medical services as needed. Operators answer the Public's questions and concerns, directing them to the proper agency, department, or resource to resolve their issue.

The center was staffed by 23 highly trained personnel. Staff includes one Communications Supervisor, four Floor Supervisors, 16 dispatchers, and two trainees. The center is currently authorized 24 full-time positions. Due to several years of budget cuts, staffing positions have remained at 24 authorized positions. That allocation was considered far below the needs of the department based on two divisional manpower assessments, in 2011 and 2013, which applied the 2003 NENA PSAP Staffing Guidelines; the assessments suggested a minimum staffing level of 32 to 33 dispatchers was required.^{4,5} The assessed allocation recommendations were based on the actual volume of E-911 calls, general service calls, and radio call volumes serviced by communications personnel. When compared with currently funded personnel allocations, a deficit of at least nine dispatcher positions was observed. Staffing shortages continue to persist.

The referenced assessments did not account for upcoming staffing challenges presented with the implementation of the (national) Next Generation 911 (NG911) program. "NG911 is new technology that allows the public to share richer, more detailed data — such as videos, images and texts — with 911 call centers. It also enhances the ability of 911 call centers to communicate with each other and improves system resiliency."⁶ NG911 will require even more highly skilled individuals and equipment as the "Next Gen" components are added. The updated phone system to support NG911 has been installed.

It should be noted that the Biloxi Communications Center is the designated emergency backup public-safety answering point (PSAP) for many of Harrison County's public safety agencies. During the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, the Center serviced several jurisdictions along the Mississippi Gulf Coast as the designated emergency PSAP for E-911 roll-over calls as a result of critical infrastructure damages sustained during natural disasters. Specifically, during Hurricane Zeta, the Center serviced emergency calls from Long Beach, Pass Christian, D'Iberville, Gulfport, and Harrison & Jackson Counties for several-hours. The added roll-over calls caused a significant increase in call volume and proved to be extremely labor intensive for communications personnel.

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Funding limitations and the retention of qualified personnel remain a critical challenge to staffing. One new employee was hired in 2020 and the Center did not lose any personnel to resignations, retirements, or terminations during the year. However, losing veteran communications personnel to retirements was forecast as a critical issue for the upcoming year. During 2020, 26 potential candidates applied to the Center with one hired.

Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) calls initiated by the Communications Center during 2020 totaled 132,225 calls for service to Biloxi public safety agencies: 77% were serviced by the police department, 5.8% by the fire department, and 16.8% were serviced by other departments or jurisdictions. The total number of calls for service reflected for police, fire, and 'other' (calls often related to the coroner's office); duplicate calls later canceled, and calls for service attributed-to and transferred-to other public safety agencies (often during the aforementioned mutual aid PSAP roll-over periods), amounted to 22,313 and were not reflected in the total CAD calls for service counts.

As part of a holistic community policing strategy, Communications Center personnel continued to directly engage with the public through programs designed to identify and interact with specific vulnerable populations. The RUOK Telephone Reassurance Program services vulnerable elderly populations, often homebound with little other support. Division personnel excelled at having a positive impact on their community members and took the initiative to attempt home visits with as many RUOK clients as possible.

Communications personnel's community support also extended to the national stage. The Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials, APCO International, is the oldest and largest public safety communications professional organization in the United States. Their support for the organization provided key guidance for best practices with nationwide impact. Some significant training and community outreach events included:

- Two telecommunicators were trained as Communications Training Officers (CTO).
- One telecommunicator was trained in NECI Basic and EMD Instructor
- Three floor supervisors attended Crisis Intervention Training, (Train the Trainer)
- Four telecommunicators attended training for Veterans with PTSD (considerations).
- Two telecommunicators attended Communications Training Officer Courses.
- 23 telecommunicators completed the standard in-house training requirements.
- Telecommunicators participated in eight job fairs.

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Communications Center Activity	Count
Police Calls for Service	102,285
Fire Calls for Service	7,625
Other Calls for Service	21
NCIC Message Traffic	2,121
NCIC Wanted File (Hits)	836
Criminal History Checks	2,090
Case Numbers Issued	27,767

Radio Transmissions	Count
Police Officers	1,815,582
Police Dispatch	1,662,022
Fire Fighters	242,944
Fire Dispatch	233,040
Total Transmissions	3,953,588

Telecomm Trends	2020	2019	2018
Administrative	182,960	207,901	Unavailable
911	45,661	44,104	Unavailable
Total	228,621	252,005	Unavailable

CAD Activity	2020	2019	2018
Police	102,285	105,129	117,112
Fire	7,625	7,942	8,324
Other	2	25	8
CAD	132,222	113,096	125,444

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National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS). The NLETS database is a national level communication system designed to transmit information between various public safety entities. The database contains a wide variety of information on wanted persons and property and provides public safety agencies with advance warning of potential threats. Biloxi Police received 1,298 *NCIC*⁷ messages during 2020.

NLETS Messages	2020	2019	2018
In-State	979	950	922
Out-of-State	376	348	307
Total	1,298	1,298	1,229

Year	2020	2019	2018
Criminal Histories by Count	2,090	2,408	2,408

NCIC Hits (Biloxi Entries)	2020	2019	2018
Wanted People	83	126	89
Missing People	81	89	57
Stolen Vehicles	64	63	44
Guns	16	9	12
Boats	0	0	1
Tags	18	8	8
Articles	41	40	19
Parts	1	0	0

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NCIC Hits (Other Agencies)	2020	2019	2018
Wanted People	340	351	283
Missing People	44	32	31
Stolen Vehicles	102	95	52
Guns	28	25	21
Boats	0	0	2
Other	15	10	13

It should be noted, of the 44 people listed as Missing Persons recovered in Biloxi, 26 were adults and 18 were juveniles.

Biloxi NCIC Entries	2020	2019	2018
Wanted People	143	212	152
Missing People	109	136	89
Stolen Vehicles	198	186	216
Guns	95	92	102
Boats	2	0	4
Tags	106	145	172
Articles	206	262	317
Parts	0	3	1
Securities	0	0	0

It should be noted, there were 859 *NCIC* entries by Biloxi dispatchers during the reporting period for items stolen, missing, or lost in the jurisdiction – a 17% decrease when compared with the previous year.

Vehicle Tows. There were 2,745 vehicles towed, an 11% decrease from the previous year’s total. Police and/or Code Enforcement towed 1,873 vehicles, repossessions accounted for 481 tows, and private property tows accounted for the remaining 391 tows.

FRONT DESK & RECORDS SERVICES

The Records Management System (RMS) provides input, query, and reporting capabilities for all police activity. During 2020, Front Desk and/or Records Clerks entered 9,847 police and/or court related documents into RMS, completed 4,794 background requests, and completed 191 public records requests.

RMS Activity	2020	2019	2018
Annual Reports Taken at the Front Desk	1,334	1,654	1,620
Annual Warrant entries	1,533	1,960	1,444
Annual Custody entries	6,980	6,495	6,229
Background Checks Performed	4,794	5,588	7,377
Public Records Requests Processed	191	230	267

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Administration Services Section’s Technology Officer coordinated the technology needs for the Police Department with other city departments and outside vendors. The duties of the position included: Records Management System (RMS) administrative user maintenance, coordinating installation of in-car camera systems, end-user desktop workstation hardware movement and configuration, assigning user profiles and appropriate user permissions within RMS, and facilitating end-user configurations for any other digital system within the department. The following information reflected the annual activities.

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Technology Officer Activity	Count
Mobile Data Terminals Repaired / Updated	30
Mobile Data Terminals new Install programing	11
Body Worn Cameras &/or Dongle Repaired	109
L3 Camera Serviced /Repaired	14
L3 Camera New install programming	11
Vehicle Rocket Serviced /Repaired	25
Vehicle Rocket New install programming	11
E Ticket Writer Serviced /Repaired	1
IT Tickets Generated	55
Patrol Operation / Major Events manpower	4

FLEET MANAGEMENT

The department currently maintains 245 vehicles including motorcycles, patrol cars, trucks, large special purpose vehicles, and four rescue/patrol boats.

The Biloxi Police Department logged 2,071,329 operational miles in 2020, which consumed 178,976 gallons of fuel at a total cost of \$307,755.

In 2020, the Police Department purchased 11 new patrol units and one General Purpose truck.

26 units were retired from service based on assessed maintenance costs, age, and condition. Four units were reclassified parts cars. 21 units and five damaged trailers were sold at the last city auction. In total, the Department reduced its fleet by 8.6%.

The average age of the fleet is currently 9.8 years-old. The average operational rating is 3.1⁸. The average unit mileage is 105,442. The highest active unit mileage is 285,213 miles. The number of fleet units over 100,000 miles is 125, more than 1.7 times that of the previous year; and there were 21 units with more than 200,000 miles, compared with none in 2019.

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Fleet Inventory		Average Age
Total Fleet Average	235	9.8 years
Motorcycles	8	5.0 years
Marked Police Sedan	52	13.8 years
Marked Police SUV	108	7.3 years
Unmarked Police Sedans	8	12.0 years
Unmarked Police SUV	31	7.4 years
General Purpose Vehicles	8	13.4 years
ATVs (7) & UTVs (5)	12	13.2 years
Marked and Unmarked Truck	36	9.2 years
Special Purpose Vehicles*	7	28.7 years
Seized Vehicles	6	15.2 years
Repair Parts Vehicles	5	12.8
Retired / Auction Vehicles and Trailer	28	18.3

**Special Purpose Vehicles* consist of one military surplus 2.5-ton truck, two 5-ton trucks, and four Humvees. Those vehicles were generally staged and deployed during high-water response events. Unit 6801, a 1968 2.5-ton military truck was retired from service; the cost of repair far exceeded the cost to replace. Unit 9001, a 1990 2.5-ton military truck, was quickly becoming unsustainable as well.

GARAGE SERVICES

Vehicle Maintenance Expenditures	2020	2019	2018
Replacement parts	\$144,325	\$91,824	\$72,509
Maintenance Cost	\$80,953	\$104,549	\$140,424
Tires	\$44,257	\$29,133	\$36,616
Annual Fuel Costs	\$308,791	\$364,287	\$364,044

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Accomplishments for the Police Garage during 2020:

- Installed new equipment in 11 new police vehicles – Marked Patrol Unit
- Replaced four vehicle transmissions
- Replaced three engines
- Replaced two rear ends
- Replaced approximately 371 damaged and worn tires
- Performed 530 vehicle oil changes
- Performed 95 vehicle brake services

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SECTION

Major Harold Windom, Commander of Administrative Support

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION

The Biloxi Police Department is defined by its community's culture, beliefs, values, and behaviors. Through its outreach activities, the Community Relations Division seeks to effectively promote positive culture, promote flexibility in identifying community problems, and cultivate a positive community public safety vision. COVID-19 best practices restrictions presented challenges to community outreach efforts in 2020 and greatly reduced the number of organized community events in which the Division participated, some included:

- Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference
- Mardi Gras events at Jeff Davis and Gorenflo elementary schools

In addition to reoccurring events, the Division provided support for Neighborhood Watch meetings throughout the city and attended several virtual meetings to assist ongoing programs.

The Community Relations Division coordinated local Feed-the-Needy programs during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and serviced as many as 723 vulnerable individuals – a 47% reduction in persons serviced compared with the previous year, attributed to prevailing COVID-19 restrictions. Other programs included Halloween and fall festivals such as Halloween on Howard this year's effort to encourage social distancing protocols and still give the children of Biloxi a Halloween event. The Community Relations Division has continued to engage in fostering community partnerships through many outlets including the Triad Broadcasting media group.

The Community Relations Division was also responsible for managing the Reserve Police Officer program, supply services, misdemeanor warrants officers, and building maintenance.

Law Enforcement Cadet Program. The Biloxi Police Cadet Program is a career-oriented program that served the community's youth by providing exposure to police careers. Biloxi's Cadet Program is in its 19th year of providing young adults with a positive environment for developing life skills. Sworn officers worked in a volunteer capacity to provide teenagers with a disciplined social organization dedicated to fostering leadership skills, creating better citizen's for tomorrow's work force, and preparing potential candidates for a career in law enforcement.

The Community Relations Division is a principle supporter of the law enforcement cadet's annual Southeastern Law Enforcement Explorer Academy (SLEEA). SLEEA

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served law enforcement explorer and cadet posts throughout the United States and England by providing training, guidance and mentorship to community youth. Life skills such as self-discipline, ethical behaviors, and fostering relationships with peers, staff, and the public are reinforced through a supportive environment. Unfortunately this year's Academy was canceled due to COVID-19.

Biloxi Community Festival against Crime. The 2020 Annual Biloxi Community Festival against Crime was to be held at the Point Cadet Plaza, to showcase police special teams, unfortunately it too was canceled by COVID-19.

Special Olympics Mississippi Annual Games. The annual games at Keesler Air Force Base support special Olympians through several events during the year. The annual event in Biloxi was canceled due to COVID-19.

D.A.R.E. The Community Relations Division continued to partner with the Biloxi Public School District and private school districts in the area to offer D.A.R.E. classes for 968 students during 2020, a 2% decrease from the previous year.

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

During 2020, Biloxi Animal Control officers captured 189 animals, a 75% decrease from the previous year, and transported them to the Humane Society of South Mississippi. Officers also recovered 541 deceased animals from the streets of Biloxi, a 15% decrease.

MUNICIPAL COURT LIAISON OFFICERS

Two sworn police officers were assigned as liaisons to the Biloxi Municipal Court, a department independent of the police. There were 982 bench and capias warrants served by the Biloxi Police Department in 2020; 465 of those were served by the court liaison officers.

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Biloxi Municipal Court Activity	2020	2019	2018
Warrants/Capias' Served	465	467	380
Cash Collections by Court	\$786,281	\$901,025	\$1,017,332
Funds Held Locally	\$432,486	\$493,896	\$569,492
Funds Sent to the State	\$337,427	\$388,000	\$422,984
Fees Collected for PD	\$16,367	\$19,129	\$24,400

Information regarding cash collections, funds held locally, funds sent to the state, and fees collected for the Police Department were maintained by the Municipal Court Department, independent from the police.

End Notes

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- ¹ APCO *Project RETAINS Compiled Report*. August 2009.
- ² *NENA PSAP Staffing Guidelines Report*. August 2003.
- ³ "Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment." Biloxi Mitigation Plan, Chapter 4, 8 Feb 2013.
- ⁴ *NENA PSAP Staffing Guidelines Report*. August 2003
- ⁵ "Feasibility Study for Harrison County Consolidation of Public Safety Dispatch Centers – Key Findings." DELTAWRX, July 16, 2014.
- ⁶ Understanding Next Generation 911.
https://www.911.gov/project_ng911publicsafety/ems/understandingng911.html
- ⁷ National Crime Information Center
- ⁸ Biloxi Police Department's Vehicle Operational Condition Grading Scale. (NAAA modified)
- Grade 5 - Vehicle in excellent condition
 - Grade 4 – Vehicle is better than average
 - Grade 3 – Normal wear and tear
 - Grade 2 – Shows signs of excessive wear and tear. Recommended for removal from active service. May be used for limited spare or Reserves. May be auction based on retained fleet numbers)
 - Grade 1 – Shows signs of severe use (Parts donor vehicle or auction)
 - Grade 0 – Vehicle is unserviceable (auction)

BILOXI POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

In 2020 the Biloxi Police Department accomplished the following:

- Dispatch generated 132,225 combined CAD calls for service.
 - 102,287 police calls for service.
 - 7,625 fire calls for service.
 - 22,313 transferred calls for service.
- Police responded to 102,287 calls for service.
 - 62% of which were self-generated by officers.
 - 189 animals rescued by Animal Control.
 - Assigned 355 felony investigations.
 - 11 homicides, with all but one resolved.
 - 1,116 felony follow-up investigations initiated.
 - Resolved 49.7% of felony cases, which is above national average.
- Continued mentoring teens through the Law Enforcement Cadet Program.
- Coordinated the distribution of over 723 meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas days in the City of Biloxi.
- Biloxi Police Department Bomb Squad recognized by FBI, ATF, and MS Department of Homeland Security as the premiere Bomb Unit in state. Requested 16 times. Provided techs to support national sporting events and multiple training events.
- Organized security and traffic for more than eight major events, some of which required the procurement of additional sworn-personnel from other agencies to fully staff posts.
- Supported the City's Emergency Management function through preparedness and response efforts during six Tropical Storms & Hurricanes.
- Officer schedules adapted to ensure rescue equipment and man-power was in place for COVID-19 response efforts, as well as Tropical Storms & Hurricanes Beta, Cristobal, Delta, Laura, Sally, and Zeta. During the annual reporting period, the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency (HCEMA) issued no-less-than 320 severe weather alerts.

Community partnerships

- The annual Community Festival Against Crime, the Southeastern Law Enforcement Explorer Academy, and the Special Olympics Mississippi Annual Games were all canceled due to COVID-19.
- However, the annual summer Mississippi Chiefs of Police Summer Conference did continue as scheduled.
- Biloxi Police officers are current board members on the following community oriented programs:
 - Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, E-911 Commission, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, CrimeStoppers, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking

Area Task Force, and the Attorney General's Task Force on Mental Health, and MS Special Olympics.

- Biloxi Police officers also hold Executive Committee positions in the following organizations:
 - Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police, Regional Organized Crime Information Center, MS DARE Program, Southern Association of Chiefs of Police, and the MS Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International, MS Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit MS Special Olympics, and Board of Directors Southern Coastal Federal Credit Union.

Preparations for 2021

- Continued analysis of trends in anticipation of additional reductions in crime.
- Additional methods being explored to tackle the mental health and unsheltered populations in Biloxi.
 - Crisis Intervention Team, continuing training and deployment.
 - Continued further development of the Public Information Office; reinforcing community service through positive media relations and proactive use of social media.