Impaired Driving

Problem Identification

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is committed to the reduction of property and personal injury vehicle crashes that occur within the County. The Police Department has placed impaired driving as a top priority.

The ACPD targets our enforcement efforts based upon our Traffic Accident Reduction Program (TARP). TARP areas are geographic locations that have experienced ten (10) or more accidents, two (2) years in a row. The list of the locations is shared with the District Policing Commanders, Patrol Commanders and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Transportation Engineering and Operations. The Police Department has created a Traffic Analyst position within the Systems Management Division to enhance our ability to assign personnel and assets where they will prove most effective. It is the responsibility of supervisors to assign officers to take strict enforcement action at the identified locations.

Data Review

Annually, the ACPD Impaired Driving Coordinator reviews the traffic accident (TARP) and DUI data stored in the Department's Record Management System. This guides our enforcement zones and directs our DUI checkpoint and Saturation Patrol locations.

During 2015, in Arlington County, 3% percent of all fatal and injury crashes were related to impaired driving.

Safety Campaigns

In 2015, the Police Department participated in the Checkpoint Strikeforce/Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaigns in August and December.

These organized efforts were publicized through our Media Office. Press releases and social media (Twitter and Facebook) were heavily used to promote each campaign. Our goal is to create redundancy in our message to continually remind the public of the dangers driving impaired and strongly encourage members of our community to designate a sober driver.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP)

The Special Operations Section Traffic Safety Lieutenant is an elected member on the all-volunteer Board of Directors of WRAP.

WRAP was founded in 1982 and is an award-winning, public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the Washington Metropolitan Area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents through the organization's popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide.

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Policy

The Arlington County Police Department places a priority on broad enforcement of alcohol-related violations. Although we have no direct policy that addresses how we prioritize alcohol-related violations, other than DUI, our Strategic Management Plan outlines the problem, measures of success and results. Over the last decade the county has seen incredible growth in restaurants catering to nightlife activities. As a result of these changes, District Policing Teams have taken a proactive approach to enforcing ABC and County Code violations. Each of the teams have developed open lines of communication with establishments in their districts. The teams contact owners in reference to alcohol-related incidents that are related to their businesses. These incidents may include driving under the influence, drunk in public, fights and assaults. Additionally, the team members promote establishments participating in Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) classes which educate and train those in the industry on responsible service, sale and consumption of alcohol. Five (5) TIPS classes were offered during the year. In addition to working with establishments, the District Policing Teams strive to remain visible during times when high numbers of alcohol-related incidents occur. The teams continue to work the Clarendon area, our largest area of growth in nightlife, on Friday and Saturday night patrols, as well as, patrols during planned bar crawls. As a result of these efforts, the officers working the Clarendon detail have handled 1,179 calls for service/incidents and made 146 arrests, in 2015.

The Arlington County Police Department Directive ***541.05 DUI Arrests*** outlines how officers are to investigate Driving Under the Influence incidents.

Below is an excerpt of the Department Policy:

"Enforcement of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) is a complex and demanding law enforcement responsibility. The objective of DUI enforcement is to detect, arrest, and sustain a conviction of all persons charged with driving or operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This is accomplished by a thorough investigation and an officer's ability to clearly articulate the gathering of evidence and probable cause in support of a decision to arrest for driving under the influence."

Planning

The mission of the Arlington County Police Department, in regards to traffic enforcement, is to safeguard life and property through traffic enforcement to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic through and around Arlington County.

Special Operations Section – Traffic Safety Unit (SOS – TSU) Goals for 2015

- ***Reduce the number of property damage and personal injury accidents that occur within the County.***
- ***Regular participation in traffic safety initiatives.***

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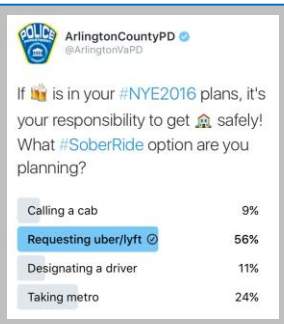
- ***Collaboration with and foster relationships with the public, other police sections/units and other agencies*.**
- *Conduct child safety seat educational events.*
    - *Conduct safety seat inspections.*
- ***To conduct training in DUI**, speed enforcement, child safety seat training and pedestrian/bicycle safety.*

Our goals serve as our annual guide to ensure we are continually prioritizing our resources in the most efficient and targeted manner. Supervisors are assigned to create, organize and oversee "mini-traffic safety" initiatives in addition to national and regional campaigns. Our traffic safety campaigns are prioritized in the following manner:

- School zones and school bus routes.
- High Accident locations and intersections (TARP).
- Problem areas identified by citizen complaints and other means.
- Problem areas identified by high volume of violations.

The ACPD Impaired Driving Coordinator, in collaboration with the Special Operations Section's Traffic Safety Lieutenant, plans our saturation patrols and DUI checkpoints around holidays and information garnered from our arrest and TARP data. The majority of our increased efforts take place during the December/January holiday season and on Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Halloween.



12/31/15 – Twitter Poll used as part of our overall anti-DUI message for New Year's Eve.

Arlington has a prosperous nightlife corridor in the Clarendon area of the County. This area is routinely staffed with District Team, Clarendon Detail and DUI enforcement officers during the nighttime hours between 2100-0400.

Officers who are assigned to work DUI enforcement in an overtime or DMV Grant funded capacity are required to submit a "DUI Enforcement Report", to the Impaired Driving Coordinator, at the conclusion of their shift. The Impaired Driving Coordinator is responsible for reviewing the officer's efforts and ensuring the Department's DUI enforcement objectives are being met.

Data captured from highway safety programs and DMV Grant funded DUI enforcement is submitted to the Commonwealth on a quarterly basis or at the conclusion of a planned enforcement effort (such as Checkpoint Strike Force). By submitting this data, the Virginia Highway Safety Office (VAHSO) is able to analyze our data and identify behavioral trends that assist us in directing our resources to meet the Virginia Strategic Highway Plan. Additionally, this data is reviewed to ensure our plan(s) are being effective and implemented properly.

In 2015, the Department coordinated 283 special DUI enforcement details (DUI checkpoints, saturation patrols, DMV funded DUI patrols and Department funded DUI patrols).

The department's Media Office is heavily involved in every planned detail and event coordinated. Prior to each event or detail a Media Release is distributed to all local media outlets. Additionally, we utilize our social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor) to ensure our message reaches a broad spectrum of our community.

Training

DUI Refresher

In 2015, 238 officers received training related to Impaired Driving detection. Officers attended courses on new legislative updates, breath alcohol equipment operation, and basic and advanced DUI detection and field testing. Officers were trained in the operation of preliminary breath testing devices by testing subjects and performing accuracy checks. All patrol officers received roll call training in July 2015 on new and amended laws passed by the General Assembly that pertain to impaired driving.

Breath Analysis

There are 83 officers and one (1) auxiliary officer certified by the Commonwealth to perform alcohol breath analysis. In 2015, five (5) officers completed the basic Intoxilyzer 5000 operation training and 32 were recertified.

Sobriety Checkpoint

Officers received additional training prior to participating in sobriety checkpoints. As part of the operational procedure for conducting a sobriety checkpoint, officers must review federal, state and local laws, the ACPD's policies and procedures, indicators of intoxicated drivers, the proper administration of field sobriety tests, and the use of preliminary breath test devices. Pre-checkpoint training lasts approximately two (2) hours and includes time for questions and answers. Officers receive a copy of the checkpoint operational plan, their assignment, and a diagram of the checkpoint.

- Standardized Field Sobriety Tests – Refresher Training
    - May 1 and September 17, 2015 – 53 officers

Recruit Officer

All sworn ACPD officers receive extensive training in the detection of impaired drivers and the administration of standardized field sobriety testing procedures while attending the Basic Law Enforcement School at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy (NVCJTA). The curriculum emphasizes the importance of being able to skillfully recognize and properly evaluate DUI suspects. As part of our recruit officer's training program they receive instruction on Impaired Driving, Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, accident investigation and emergency vehicle operations. In 2015, a total of 27 (Arlington County Police) recruit officers received this training.

All police recruit officers receive 820 hours of training at the NVCJTA.

- 12 hours – Virginia State Code which includes DCJS requirements that require the student to identify the elements of impaired driving.
- 24 hours – DUI (Workshop)/SFST
- 57 hours – Emergency Vehicle Operations

Advanced DUI for Prosecutors and Law Enforcement
The Advanced DUI for Prosecutors and Law Enforcement was held August 26-28, 2015. Attendees were provided relevant and unique DUI related training that is pertinent to law enforcement, prosecutors and traffic safety professionals.

The Department assigned two (2) officers to attend this conference. Upon their return these officers provided roll call training to the Operations Division – Patrol Section – Midnight Shift.

Department Training Cycle
The Police Department relies upon a training cycle that repeats every six (6) months. Training consists of Tactical, Defensive Tactics, Vehicle Stop Tactics and Firearms blocks of instruction.

This method of training exceeds the minimum standards established by the Department of Criminal Justice Service (DCJS). Each course is vetted through the appropriate chain-of-command and approved by our Internal Affairs Section prior to submission to the NVCJTA for in-service credit. Our officers far exceed the minimum standard of 40-hours over a 2 year period.

This redundancy permits a continual platform to instruct on department policies and procedures, local ordinances, state and federal laws.

Additional Courses

- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
  - February 3-4, 2015 – four (4) officers
  - Refresher training - 0
- Conducting the Complete Traffic Stop
  - July 14-15, 2015 – 12 officers
- Complete Criminal Interdiction
  - September 2-3, 2015 – one (1) officer
- Drug Interdiction
  - November 9-10, 2015 – two (2) officers

Public Information and Education

During 2015, the ACPD took a three-pronged approach to Impaired Driving: public awareness, education and strict enforcement.

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Public Awareness

As previously noted the ACPD incorporates a wide approach in raising public awareness through the traditional media outlets (media release) and through social media; Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor and to a lesser extend the use of the Arlington County YouTube and Vimeo accounts. The SOS – Traffic Safety Unit routinely deploys variable message boards at strategic locations within the County which display safety reminders.

During the Checkpoint Strikeforce campaigns, and designated saturation patrols, messages on the department's variable message boards and social media sites remind citizens of dangers of driving under the influence and "to designate a sober driver". We advise the community of our enforcement efforts, consequences and ramifications of not "driving sober".

- Twitter – Widely used by all ACPD Divisions and Sections as an effectual method of distributing public awareness and traffic safety messages. Currently, the ACPD has 8,619 followers.
- Facebook – The ACPD Media Office continually seeks new and efficient methods of reaching our community. One of the many goals of using Facebook is to remind motorists of safe travelling practices (vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian). Since joining Facebook in 2011 we have gained 5,119 likes. As the media office has become savvier the graphics and use of Facebook have increased dramatically in 2015
- Instagram – The ACPD Media Office launched this in December 2015. In a short amount of time we gained 165 followers.
- Nextdoor – This is a private social media site that allows the PD to disseminate information to anyone who has joined in Arlington County. In order to join, Nextdoor must verify their address. There are no followers but we are able to reach 12,450 people signed up in Arlington County.
- SoberRide – The ACPD partners heavily with WRAP and consistently participates in raising public awareness of SoberRide. WRAP's SoberRide, called one of the nation's most successful free cab ride programs for would-be impaired drivers, has helped to ensure greater Washington, DC residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays. Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 64,641 safe rides home. Currently, SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and Halloween.
    - WRAP is known as a key player among the Virginia decision makers in effectively championing public policies combating drunk driving and underage drinking.
    - Arlington has benefitted from WRAP's outreach programs. Alcohol awareness education utilizes a multi-media outreach program using an interactive PowerPoint presentation, video and Fatal Vision Goggles to educate teenagers and young adults about the dangers and

Pictured above is a flyer promoting an anti-DUI event in partnership with WRAP.

consequences of underage drinking and impaired driving as well as the importance of making safe, healthy decisions.

- Chooser Cruiser – The ACPD teamed up with WRAP and donated an old police cruiser to make a bold statement. The Chooser Cruiser is half police cruiser, half taxi-cab. The message is simple, “Choose Your Ride”.
- Second District Policing Team – Set up interactive displays, to include Fatal Vision Goggles, during bar crawl events.

Education

Prior to each detail (DUI Checkpoint or Saturation Patrol) officers are briefed on the objectives, goals, premise and procedure(s) of the safety campaign. This is conducted as roll call training where applicable laws are reviewed and assignments are given.

WRAP Reporter

The article shown above depicts a joint effort by ACPD and WRAP to promote sober driving and SoberRide. This event took place in Clarendon on May 5, 2015.

Typically, enforcement location(s) are based upon the frequency of alcohol-related crash/historical data.

The ACPD coordinates our public educational efforts with WRAP. Through this collaboration we are able to maximize community outreach to encourage persons to plan ahead and designate a sober driver, use SoberRide or take a cab home.

In 2015, WRAP expanded their Sober Ride program to include the Cinco de Mayo celebration. Through community partnerships, the use of a bi-lingual Spanish speaking ACPD officer and a strong showing from our local media we were able to host a well-publicized press conference announcing this life saving service. The objective of this effort was to reach our target audience and persuade them to focus on making advance plans. Polls show that only two-thirds of our target audience make such plans and this particular Sober Ride effort resulted in record numbers using this service.

December 31, 2015 – Officer Merhar and WRAP President Kurt Erickson appearing on WJLA ABC7 reminding people to make a plan, take a sober ride home or face arrest for Impaired Driving.

Strict Enforcement

DUI enforcement is an ongoing effort by members of the ACPD. Unlike our other traffic safety campaigns, warnings are never issued when impaired drivers are identified.

This approach, public awareness and education coupled with strict enforcement, has led to a consistent, methodical and effective approach to the reduction of impaired driving in Arlington County.

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Enforcement

The vast majority of our traffic safety programs are centered on our Traffic Accident Reduction Program (TARP). DUI enforcement officers (checkpoints, saturation patrols, department overtime DUI patrol and DMV Grant funded DUI Patrols) are assigned primarily to areas that are shown to be problematic by analyzing DUI data stored in the Department's Record Management System and TARP locations. These officers are directed to enforce every violation of the Virginia State Code that is observed; with emphasis placed on Impaired Driving enforcement.

In 2015, ACPD dedicated approximately 23,000 regular duty hours directed at Impaired Driving enforcement. The regular duty efforts were supported by 2602 hours of department overtime DUI enforcement and 479 hours of DMV grant funding. The ACPD, through our combined efforts (Patrol, DUI checkpoints, Saturation Patrols, Department Overtime DUI enforcement and DMV Grant funded DUI enforcement), which included 283 Special Enforcement Efforts, arrested 510 impaired drivers. Countywide, during our time targeted enforcement efforts (2100-0400 hours) officers arrested 419 impaired drivers.

TARP Locations

During our targeted enforcement efforts at our TARP locations officers arrested 24 impaired drivers (0600-1000, 1500-1900 and 2100-0400).

Enforcement	0600-1000	1500-1900	2100-0400	Total
DUI Arrests	2	0	22	24

Checkpoint Strikeforce

During the two Checkpoint Strikeforce campaigns in 2015, at total of 78 impaired drivers were arrested in Arlington County.

Checkpoint Strikeforce	August	December	Total
DUI Arrests	27	51	78

ABC Checks

Arlington County officers assigned to the midnight shift and District Policing Teams are assigned ABC-licensed establishments to check on a regular basis. These checks include walking into the establishment, checking crowd capacity levels, alcohol consumption, and intoxication levels of the patrons, as well as servers' practices. The officers also check with on-duty ABC managers and bouncers to ensure open communications are maintained.

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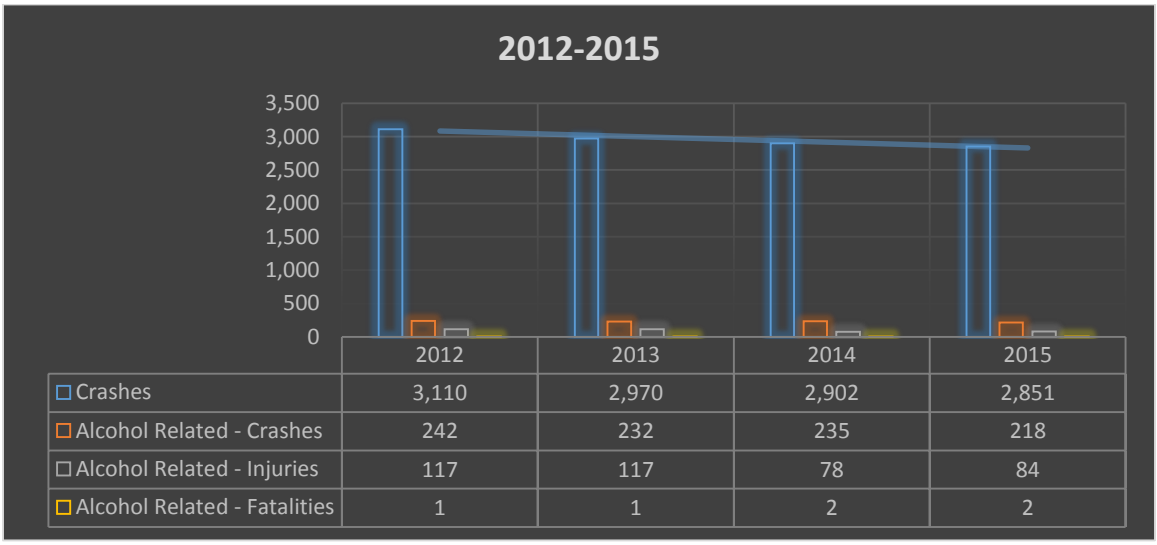
Outcomes

The Arlington County Police Department has a systematic methodology towards traffic enforcement. As previously stated we prioritize our efforts in four (4) areas: 1) School zone and bus routes, 2) TARP locations, 3) Citizen complaints and 4) High volume of violation locations. Each section within the Operations Division are utilized to accomplish our goal of safe and efficient movement of vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic through and around Arlington County. The ACPD deploys our personnel in these areas to ensure the community observes a high police presence, which is a center piece of our mission; "*the reduction of incidence of crime and the improvement in the quality of life in Arlington County by making it a place where all people can live safely and without fear."*

In 2015, there were 2,851 reported vehicle crashes in Arlington County; 86 injuries and two (2) fatalities were attributed to impaired driving.

The graph shown below, data from 2012-2015, depicts a continued downward trend in total crashes and injuries related to impaired driving. In 2015, alcohol related injuries increased slightly (from 78 to 84) and our vehicle-on-vehicle alcohol related fatality crash rate has remained the same at two (2). The ACPD TARP, aggressive Impaired Driving public education and enforcement efforts are directly attributed to this continued low rate of injury and fatality crashes. In 2011, TARP was created to better allocate and deploy our resources, based on current, evolving and ever changing crash data. TARP data is reviewed quarterly to ensure our plan(s) are being effective and implemented properly.



	2012	2013	2014	2015
Crashes	3,110	2,970	2,902	2,851
Alcohol Related - Crashes	242	232	235	218
Alcohol Related - Injuries	117	117	78	84
Alcohol Related - Fatalities	1	1	2	2

**Data shown above is captured through the ACPD Records Management System and TREDS (Virginia DMV data).*

During the last four (4) years, Arlington County has continued to see a downward trend in our vehicle crashes, injuries and continued low fatality rate. This trend is a direct reflection of the positive impact our public awareness, education and data driven enforcement efforts are having in our community; making Arlington a safer place. Conversely, our "high crime" areas overlap with our TARP locations and we have seen a positive impact in reducing incidents of crime in these same areas.

Awards and Recognition

May 1, 2015 – Officer Tatiana Hernandez is presented with the VASAP – MADD Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety Award.

VASAP- MADD Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety Award – In May 2015, Officer Tatiana Hernandez was the recipient of this award for her hard work and dedication in regards to DUI enforcement.

October 16, 2015 – Ret. Chief M. Douglas Scott is presented with the WRAP LE Award for his efforts for Impaired Driving Prevention.

2015 WRAP Law Enforcement Award – In October 2015, ACPD Retired Chief M. Douglas Scott was the recipient of this award for his career long efforts in fighting impaired driving.

December 11, 2015 – Officer Michael Merhar is presented with the WRAP LE Award for Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

WRAP Law Enforcement Award of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention – In December 2015, Officer Michael Merhar was the recipient of this award for his outstanding efforts in DUI enforcement