Impaired Driving

Problem Identification

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department has committed itself to the enforcement and increasing of public awareness of the effects of impaired driving. The Airports Authority Police Department recognizes the danger that impaired drivers pose and considers it a top priority of our enforcement efforts.

Each year, the MWAA Police Department conducts saturation patrols in an effort to locate and remove impaired drivers from our roadways as well as participating impaired driving campaigns. Our department uses saturation patrols when attempting to detect impaired drivers, since our department prefers to not use impaired driver checkpoints due to safety concerns for our officers due to the types of roadways we have within our jurisdiction. We had no impaired driving fatality, and only 4 injury crashes during 2015 where impaired driving was identified as a factor.

Although we had very few injury and fatal crashes related to impaired driving during 2015, we recognize that it is still a problem and, if not monitored and controlled closely, it can become a much larger issue. During 2014, 5.9% of our fatal and injury crashes involved impaired driving as a contributing factor in the crash. Our goal was to increase the public's awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and reduce injury and fatality crashes with impaired driving as a contributing factor by at least 1.5% from 2014. We also set a goal of at least five saturation patrols focusing directly on impaired driving and to attend at least three public events to better educate persons within our jurisdiction to the dangers of impaired driving.

During 2015, a review of statistics found that the majority of our impaired drivers were located on the Dulles Toll Road, Route 28, and the West Entrance Road coming from the G.W. Parkway. It was also determined that the majority of these incidents were during the time period of 0100 to 0500 hour and on Friday, Saturday, or holiday.

Policy

The department has a policy in place directing that police officers shall stop any driver that they have reasonable suspicion to believe is an impaired driver. The Metropolitan

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Policy (continued)

Washington Airports Authority Police Department does consider impaired driving a top priority of our department.

Below is the portion of the Department General Orders referencing impaired driving use by the officers:

4-111.04 DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS

A. Officers must be familiar with the signs of alcohol/drug impaired driving; and use this information to establish probable cause to conduct a traffic stop.

1. Once the officer has observed driving behavior providing reasonable suspicion of impaired driving, he/she shall stop the suspect vehicle and conduct an initial interview with the driver to detect possible alcohol/drug use or to rule out a possible medical condition that would cause the driver to behave in such manner.

2. Upon suspicion of alcohol/drug impairment, the officer shall administer a variety of field sobriety tests which demonstrate the suspect's ability to divide attention between tasks, balance, coordination, and information processing.

B. Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) – The Alcosensor is helpful in establishing probable cause and officers are required to offer the test. Officers should not offer the PBT until after the initial interview and field sobriety tests have been completed.

1. Prior to administering the test, the driver must be advised that he/she does not have to take the test and the results are not admissible in court.

2. When administering the Alcosensor test, officers shall be familiar with the unit's operation and follow the instructions printed on it.

C. Implied Consent – Once probable cause has been established by the officer, he/she shall advise the suspect of the Virginia Implied Consent law regarding the analysis of blood or breath for alcohol content and the consequences of unreasonable refusal to allow the testing.

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Policy (continued)

1. **Implied Consent does not apply when the vehicle being operated is on private property.**

2. **The Commonwealth does not proceed under the Implied Consent Statute for DUI related fatal crashes.**

3. **Implied Consent should not be read to a suspect in a fatal crash case.**

Planning

Traffic safety is regularly conducted by officers during patrols and special enforcement efforts. The special enforcement details are planned operations of selective enforcement and are often scheduled during corresponding local, state or national campaigns. The department conducted seven different enforcement efforts in support of goals to increase both enforcement and public awareness of impaired driving. Enforcement details included participating in "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Buzzed Driving Campaigns" as well as conducting department-only saturation patrols. The department also evaluates trends in recent accidents to look for changes or increases in crashes related to alcohol or drug involvement and subsequently conducts enforcement efforts in areas where a need presents itself.

During 2015, a review of statistics found that the majority of impaired drivers were located on the Dulles Toll Road, Route 28, and the West Entrance Road coming from the George Washington Parkway. It was also determined that the majority of these incidents were between 0100 and 0500 hours and during Friday, Saturday, or a major holiday. Based on this information, it was determined that the MWAA PD would focus saturation patrols on these roadways during these target days and timeframes. The goal was to schedule five saturation patrols, using two to six officers, focusing exclusively on impaired driving and independent of routine patrol. A review of officer summary logs, crash data and arrest numbers determined the level of impact of the saturation patrol.

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Training

The department encourages officers to apply for training pertaining to impaired driving at the regional academy and makes every effort to ensure that the requesting officers are able to attend. During 2015, all of officers received some level of impaired driver training such as roll call refresher training on impaired driving to help them better understand what to look for and how to properly deal with an impaired driver. There were 44 officers who volunteered for impaired driver training ranging from refresher DWI training, DWI and SFST certification training, DUI involving Drugs training and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training (ARIDE). Two officers assigned to the regional academy also attended the DWI Detection and SFST Instructor Development course to be able to provide in-house training and certification to additional MWAA officers. Two officers were certified as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

During 2015, the department also had 17 recruits pass the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Basic Academy. This included DWI and SFST training and certification as required coursework of the academy. They received further DWI training and real-world scenario training during the Field Training Program. The Police Training Section used experienced Field Training Officers set-up mock impaired driving scenarios so new officers had an opportunity to observe and practice the entire process in more realistic environment. The department also conducted roll call training for all officers during 2015 on current impaired driving laws within the Commonwealth of Virginia, to include commercial motor vehicle and aircraft DWI laws.

Public Information and Education

During 2015, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department used many different ways to reach out to the public and inform and educate them about the importance of impaired driving. Our department participated in numerous impaired driving details and campaigns and we had officers attend multiple community events where they were able to educate the community on the importance and dangers of impaired driving. One of the events that officers from our department promoted this message was the Virginia Special Olympics Dulles Day Plane Pull which occurred on September 19th from 1030 to 1600 hours.

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Public Information and Education (continued)

Also included were multiple health fairs, such as the Dulles International Airport Health Fair on November 3rd, 2015 from 1130 to 1530 hours, and MWAA Job Fairs. The MWAA Police Department utilized these forums to educate members of the community on impaired driving laws within the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as provide training and information about the dangers of impaired driving.

The Airports Authority Police Department also utilized variable message boards to remind the public of ongoing impaired driving initiatives and campaigns that are taking place. Multiple variable message boards were placed around our jurisdiction displaying "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Buzzed Driving is Impaired Driving" messages attempting to increase public awareness. Our variable message boards are positioned in strategic locations throughout the Airports Authority's jurisdiction and moved to different locations in an attempt to produce the maximum exposure to the public. We also were able to form a partnership with the airport management which provided us an opportunity to arrange to have the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign message displayed on other variable message boards on Airports Authority roadways to increase the public's contact to this message. The Airports Authority Police Department also utilized portable "Checkpoint Strike Force" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" yard signs thorough out our jurisdictions to further promote the message about

Example of a "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" yard sign placed to increase awareness.

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Public Information and Education (continued)

the importance of preventing impaired driving. Many of the variable message boards and yard signs were concentrated within the target areas to attempt to have a greater impact where we have seen the most crashes involving impaired driving. Our department also utilized "DUI Selective Enforcement Team" magnets on police vehicles during special details to help increase the exposure of the enforcement effort and remind drivers it is underway within our jurisdiction. Our agency also partnered with other local jurisdictions in December for a regional impaired driving enforcement effort along with the Herndon Police Department, Fairfax County Police Department, and the Virginia State Police. With this partnership with other agencies, we were able to make a larger impact and cover more area with impaired driving messages and striving to make more members of the public aware of the dangers of this dangerous behavior.

Example of "DUI Selective Enforcement Team" Magnets utilized by our agency to increase Public Awareness of enforcement efforts.

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Enforcement

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department conducted its enforcement through routine and saturation patrol efforts. During 2015, the Airports Authority Police Department made 35 impaired driving arrests. The department accomplished this through the use of over 25,000 hours of routine patrols and 168 hours of saturation patrols. The MWAA PD did not use any grant-funded overtime during our impaired driving enforcement and education efforts. The department also participated in the national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaigns. During this enforcement effort, officers made four arrests for various impaired driving violations.

The MWAA PD made 21 arrests for impaired driving within our target areas during the target timeframes. We also charged six subjects with refusal to submit to a breath test, five persons with open container violations, and seven vehicle passengers with drunk in public charges. Two of the arrests involved impaired driving due to drug use.

The MWAA PD conducted seven saturation patrol details for the impaired driving outside of routine patrols. This exceeded our goal of at least five saturation patrols during 2015. The saturation patrols were assigned to the targeted areas during the targeted timeframes. Our agency does not conduct impaired driving checkpoints for safety reasons.

Ofc. Frank Etro conducts a traffic stop on a suspected impaired driver.

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Outcomes

Due to continual efforts of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department, we have experienced extremely low numbers of fatalities and injuries due to drivers that were driving while impaired. In 2015, we experienced no fatality crashes which involved a driver being impaired. We have been able to maintain 2 or less fatalities each year for the last 4 years due to impaired driving, which we attribute in part to our continued efforts to enforce and educate the public about impaired driving.

Cpl. Michael Kulle and other Officers conducting impaired driving patrols at the end of rush hour.

We also have seen a decrease in injury crashes involving vehicles with impaired drivers. Our department set a goal of reducing fatality and injury crashes that were related to impaired driving by 1.5% during 2015, when compared to 2014 statistics. In 2015, we had 93 total injury and fatality crashes, with only four reporting that there was an injury or death where a driver was impaired. This is only 4.3% of reported injury and fatality crashes. In 2014, we had 67 injury crashes with only four reporting that an occupant was injured where a driver was impaired. This was 5.9% of reported injury crashes for 2014. Due to our impaired driving

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Outcomes (continued)

enforcement and education efforts, we experienced a 1.6% drop in fatality and injury crashes involving a vehicle with an impaired driver, which exceeded our goal of a 1.5% reduction.

Cpl. Patricia Cox
8 Impaired Driving related arrests during 2015

Cpl. Irakli Nijaradze
5 Impaired Driving related arrests during 2015

Officers with 2 Impaired Driving related arrests during 2015

Cpl. Ameilo Artis

Cpl. Luis Castellon

Cpl. Chris Humady

Cpl. William Reid

Ofc. Ryan McNeeley

By analyzing crash and arrest statistics on a regular basis, we were able to gauge the success of goals and objectives while also assisting us to better plan the most effective ways to reduce impaired driving in the future. Enforcement efforts also produced additional alcohol and drug related charges beyond those which strictly involved with impaired driving. Due to our efforts, multiple compliments were received from members of the public recognizing our officer's efforts in dealing with impaired drivers.