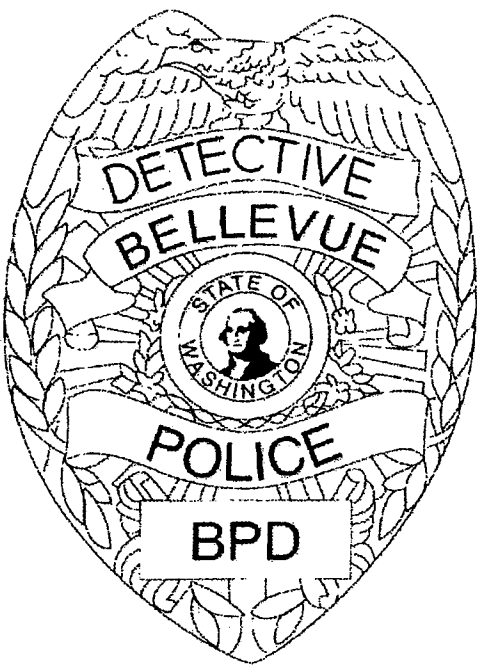


# ANNUAL 1997 REPORT

## Bellevue Police Department Investigations Section



**Chief of  
Police**



**James  
Montgomery**

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Deputy Chief of Operations  
Larry Lorack

Traffic Section

Patrol Section

Detective Section

Persons Crimes  
Unit

Narcotics  
Unit

Property Crimes  
Unit

White Collar  
Crimes Unit

Forensic  
Sciences

Crime Analysis  
Unit

# Bellevue Police Department Investigations Section

Detective Major  
Dave Gans

Captain  
Bob Baker  
Eastside Narcotics  
Task Force

Lieutenant  
Bill Quinn  
Persons Crimes

Lieutenant  
Ed Mott

White  
Collar  
Crime

Crime  
Analysis

Lieutenant  
Jim Gasperetti  
Property Crimes

Administrative Clerk  
Sheila Evans

Forensic Specialist  
Carl Nicoll

Bellevue Police  
1997 Annual Report  
Detective Section

During 1997 the Detective Section of the Police Department underwent several changes in the sectional organization. Three unit Supervisors (Person, Property, and White Collar Crime units) were rotated within the Section to give balanced leadership and experience. This has been a positive step, both for the Supervisors and Detective's in those units. The Narcotics Captain was also rotated as part of the normal rotation of Commanders.

The Detective section also joined the rest of the department in a four-ten work schedule in an attempt to reduce overtime cost. During the last quarter of 1997 overtime costs as they relate to shift extensions were reduced by more than 70%, with an overall 40% reduction in total overtime cost. During 1997 the Detective Supervisors put in place an effective case management system which allows the Lieutenants to meet at least once a month with each Detective to discuss case load and investigative direction. While this has reduced overall excessive case load for individual Detectives, it has increased the number of arrest and the number of cases solved via reducing a high case load and increasing the quality of the investigation.

Community needs and demands for service are also very important to the Section. During 1997 several highly publicize homicide cases created a high level of fear and lack of safety in several neighborhoods. Numerous neighborhood meetings were held and communities were reassured of their safety. Adding to our workload were several new laws' regulating the release of sexual offenders' back into the community. This has increased a demand to disseminate information and hold public meetings to assure and inform neighborhoods.

The demand for customer service with quality investigations continues to need adjustments. The Section moves forward with the ability to make these adjustments, while continuing to put out a better product of investigation, customer service and case closure. 1998 will be an even more challenging year as we move into advance records management system, advance A.F.I.S. and use of technology to resolve more investigations.

## FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT

The Forensic Services Unit is charged with the responsibility of identifying criminal perpetrators through the analysis and identification of trace evidence left by such individuals at crime scenes. Although substantially involving the identification of latent prints, the unit's peripherals extend to include major crime scene examinations for trace evidence of any kind; in-house laboratory analysis of evidence items to locate trace material such as fingerprints, footwear impressions, physiological fluids and toolmarks; surveillance video enhancement and other digital imaging contingencies.

In addition to considerable local responsibilities, during 1997 the Unit extended assistance to the FBI, the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory, other local law enforcement agencies and the Boeing Aerospace Company, relevant to various criminal matters they were investigating.

In October the Unit was awarded approximately \$154,000 in no match grants for the purchase of various equipment pieces. This included Live Scan, an inkless digitized fingerprinting system for the Police Station booking room, upgrading the Department's current AFIS capacity to AFIS 21 technology, a new high resolution digital camera and a Forensic Light Source.

The daily diligence of officers and evidence technicians in developing latent prints at crime scenes during 1997, saw 83 separate case identifications effected by years end. This figure, however, is minuscule by comparison to the actual case numbers cleared by these identifications. As an example, in one incident a single identification from a car prowler resulted in multiple arrests and to the clearance of more than 100 additional auto related offences throughout King County.

The real time identification advantage of Bellevue's Automated Fingerprint Identification System, (AFIS) was demonstrated numerous times throughout the year, facilitating criminal identification and arrest, often within hours of an offence being committed. This benefit was clearly shown in an incident of residential burglary where, among other items, seven loaded handguns were stolen. A fingerprint recovered from the scene was identified the same day, culminating in the expeditious arrest of several suspects and recovery of the loaded weapons. The guns had been hidden in various backyard residential locations where they could easily have been found by children with tragic consequences.

In August, the Unit's image enhancement capability was utilized in extending assistance to the FBI in a bomb manufacturing case. Following the examination of over 60 duct tape pieces a partial latent fingerprint was developed on the sticky side of one of the pieces. Utilizing digital imaging technology, the value of the duct tape was reduced, effectively enhancing the print. The process culminated in an identification being effected and the filing of felony charges against the individual identified, a first for this offence type in Bellevue. Of further interest was the fact that the device had been submerged in water for some time prior to recovery.

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In November assistance was provided to the Boeing Aircraft Company, relating to an ongoing internal investigation at their Everett plant involving the theft of computer parts, a loss amounting to half a million dollars. Digital enhancement of a surveillance tape provided by company investigators culminated in the photographic reproduction of a suspect of sufficient clarity to effect an identification. Confronted with this evidence, the suspect admitted the offences.

The grants awarded this Department in August provide equipment pieces and technology that firmly position the Bellevue Police Department at the forefront in the field of forensic identification, providing the platform that will ensure continued successes in this specialized arena into the 21st century



Bellevue Police Department  
Investigations Section

Eastside Narcotics Task Force  
Detective Captain Bob Baker

Special Investigations  
(Drugs and Vice)  
Lieutenant Bill Bryant

Detective John Manning  
Detective Kurt Rasco  
Detective Mark Jordan  
Detective Chris McOmber  
Senior Police Specialist  
Jean Mickschl-Johnson

Representative  
Detectives from:  
Mercer Island PD  
Kirkland PD  
Redmond PD  
Issaquah PD

**EASTSIDE NARCOTICS TASK FORCE**  
***SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR 1997***

The Eastside Narcotics Task Force is comprised of law enforcement officials from five communities located east of Seattle. The Task Force also includes a King County Deputy Prosecutor, a secretary and a Washington National Guard Intelligence Officer.

The Task Force has the responsibility to investigate narcotic trafficking within its jurisdictional boundaries and/or within King County when that activity impacts the Task Force cities. Task Force member cities include: Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Issaquah.

The primary focus of the Task Force in 1997 was to detect and arrest mid and upper-level narcotic dealers on the Eastside. Also, to identify and eradicate Marijuana Growing operations on the Eastside and to impact these organizations through aggressive property forfeiture investigations where possible.

The Task Force was very successful in these efforts conducting 39 Marijuana grow investigations, yielding in the takedown of 26 operations, which resulted in the seizing of 2901 plants and 22,251 grams of processed *marijuana*. These seizures had a street value of \$4,461,778. In addition, the Task Force seized: 2,766 grams of *cocaine* valued at \$276,600.00; 1037 grams of *methamphetamine* valued at \$103,720.00 and 385 grams of *heroin* valued at \$57,705.00. Assets seized by the Task Force amounted to \$580,216.84; overall drug and asset seizures totaled \$5,480,674.84, which was nearly twice the amount of 1996.

The Task Force has been a very successful endeavor. Future success in 1998 is expected as it begins its seventeenth year of existence.

## **EASTSIDE NARCOTICS TASK FORCE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR 1997**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE TASK FORCE**

The Eastside Narcotics Task Force was formed in 1981 and is comprised of Law Enforcement officers from five cities located East of Seattle. These cities include: Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Issaquah.

The Task Force consists of a Commander, a Lieutenant, eight detectives, a King County Deputy Prosecutor, a Washington Army National Guard Intelligence Officer, and a Secretary.

The unit has the responsibility to investigate narcotic trafficking within its jurisdictional boundaries and/or within King County when narcotic trafficking impacts the Task Force cities.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE NARCOTIC PROBLEM**

Unlike large metropolitan cities, where narcotics are openly distributed on street corners, Eastside narcotic transactions are not typically one-time street contacts. Eastside narcotic transactions usually occur in private homes, apartment buildings, hotels/motels, or in common parking lots at commercial complexes.

Eastside transactions are much more mobile and dealers typically use cellular phones and pagers to conduct business. Because of this, narcotic transactions are less open and more difficult to detect. By their very nature these investigations require more than one contact and are extremely labor intensive to reach mid and upper-level dealers.

### **PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE TASK FORCE**

In 1997, the Task Force continued strong focus upon the identification and eradication of Marijuana Grow operations.

Improvements in indoor Marijuana cultivation has prompted faster plant growth. Typical Eastside growers use sophisticated filtration systems to mask odors and often use power diversion techniques to mask electrical consumption. These investigations are extremely labor and resource intensive.

Because of its location along the I-5/1-405 Corridors and Interstate 90, the Eastside is a likely target for large-scale Cocaine distribution organizations. Much of the Cocaine destined for the Eastside is transported along I-5 and frequently, Cocaine coming from Mexico enters through Eastern Washington and is transported to suppliers along I-90.

Although cocaine is still a popular drug on the Eastside, it is being strongly challenged by the increasing popularity of methamphetamine. This is due to the fact that the newer form of methamphetamine has a "high" that lasts much longer than cocaine and the prices are similar.

Because narcotics trafficking is enormously profitable, the Task Force continued to focus on aggressive drug-related property forfeiture investigations. The objectives of these investigations are three-fold:

1. Make drug dealing on the Eastside less profitable.
2. Reduce the number of dealers in the communities of the Eastside.
3. To enhance law enforcement's ability to address the effect of drug dealing on the communities and their law enforcement agencies by transferring the proceeds to drug investigations and other law enforcement efforts.

#### OVERALL TASK FORCE ACTIVITY FOR 1997

The task force is charged with the investigation of vice and narcotics complaints. Narcotics investigations were predominant and are the primary focus of the task force. Total arrests were down 4% from last year. The task force served 15% less search warrants than in 1996. This can be attributed to the fact that the task force was short handed an average of two of the eight detectives during the latter half of the year.

Marijuana and cocaine continued to be the narcotics of choice on the Eastside. Methamphetamine and heroin are rapidly gaining in popularity.

Specific seizures include the amount in grams of drugs seized and the street value of those drugs.

Although cash seizures were down, *the task force enjoyed a record year regarding the seizure of 101 guns.* Vehicles seizures were also up over the previous year. Narcotics seizures increased dramatically, *rising 114% over the previous year.* **Total drug and asset seizures were up an impressive 86% over 1996.**

