

Annual Report

***Huron
Undercover
Narcotics
Team***

2016



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Introduction

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (HUNT) is a multi-jurisdictional task force dedicated to the reduction of narcotics and narcotics related crimes, as well as providing general detective support to other law enforcement agencies. HUNT provides these services primarily to the counties of Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, in Northeastern Michigan.

HUNT was established in 1990 and is governed under an inter-local agreement between the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, the cities of Alpena and Rogers City, and the Michigan State Police. HUNT is overseen by a board of directors made up of the prosecuting attorneys from the four counties and the law enforcement officials from the member departments.

The team is comprised of undercover officers/detectives from local police agencies as well as a detective sergeant and a detective lieutenant from the Michigan State Police. All of those detectives have been specifically trained in narcotics and special investigations, undercover operations, surveillance, and raid entry. They are also trained in meth lab response as those trainings are available.

During the team's 26 years of service, HUNT has removed over 9.6 million dollars worth of illegal drugs from the streets of the community, as well as 456 illegal firearms. A total of 3,981 investigations have been initiated by the team, resulting in the arrest of 3,290 people.



Board of Directors

Chairman	Mr. Edward Black Alpena County Prosecuting Attorney
Vice Chairman	F/Lt. John Grimshaw Michigan State Police Alpena Post Commander
Legal Advisor	Mr. Thomas Weichel Alcona County Prosecuting Attorney
Secretary/Treasurer	Chief Joel Jett Alpena City Police Department Sheriff Doug Atchison Alcona County Captain Mike Caldwell Michigan State Police 7th District Commander Ms. Vicki Kunding Montmorency County Prosecuting Attorney Sheriff Donald Edwards Montmorency County Sheriff Steve Kieliszewski Alpena County Sheriff Robert Paschke Presque Isle County Chief Matthew Quaine Rogers City Police Department

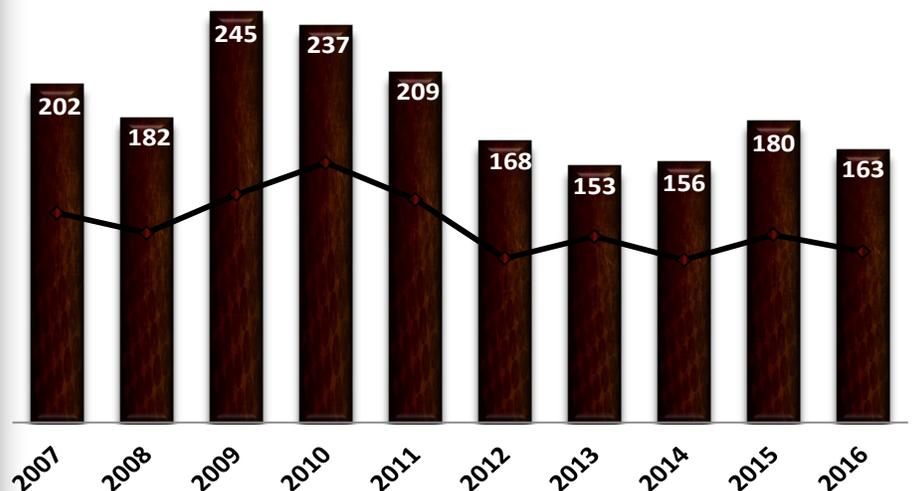


Investigations

HUNT initiated 163 new investigations in 2016. Of those, 99 were drug related, 38 involved the location and arrest of fugitives, 22 were providing assistance to other departments, and the remaining cases included witness intimidation, sex offender registration violations, operating while license suspended, and various other crimes.

ANNUAL INVESTIGATION TRENDS

The chart below depicts the number of annual investigations for the past 10 years, as well as a trend line (1%) of officer hours. A total of 10,241 hours were spent during the year by officers investigating the 163 complaints, as well as handling intelligence reports, tips from the web site or other agency officers, training, court, and public awareness campaigns.



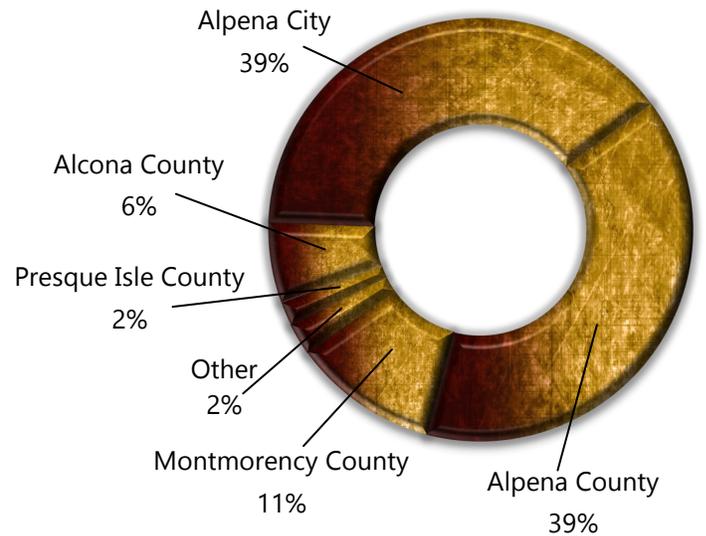
DRUG RELATED INVESTIGATIONS

Cocaine Trafficking	2
Cocaine Possession	1
Heroin Possession	1
Heroin Trafficking	13
Heroin Overdose	2
Marijuana Manufacturing	17
Marijuana Possession	9
Marijuana Trafficking	8
Meth Lab	22
Meth Trafficking	2
Opiate Pills Trafficking	19
Psilocybin Trafficking	2
Maintain Drug House	1

OTHER AGENCY ASSISTS

Alcona County Sheriff Dept.	1
Alpena City Police Dept.	3
Child Protective Services	2
Dept. of Human Services	4
Michigan Liquor Control Comm.	1
Michigan State Police	9
Montmorency Co. Sheriff Dept.	1
SANE	1

INVESTIGATIONS BY JURISDICTION

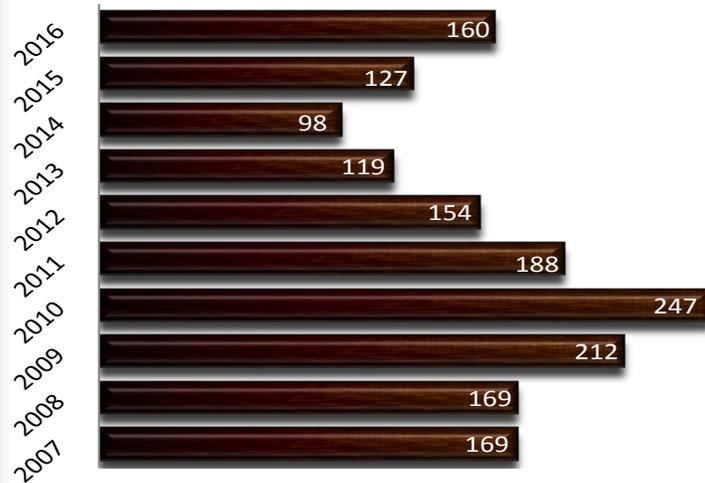


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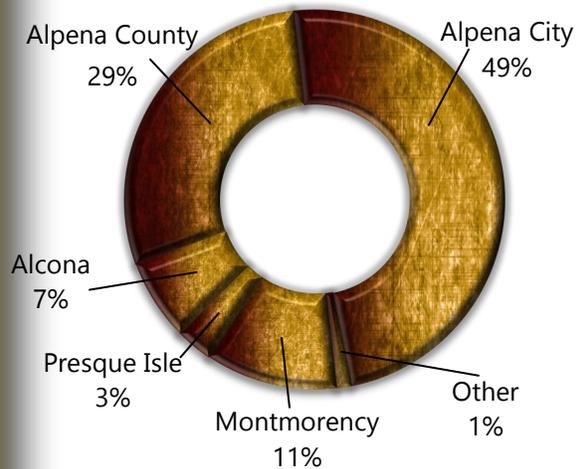
Arrests

HUNT arrested 160 people in 2016. Of those arrested, 84 were felons, 25 were misdemeanants, and 51 were fugitives or other agency warrants.

ANNUAL ARRESTED PERSONS



ARRESTS BY JURISDICTION



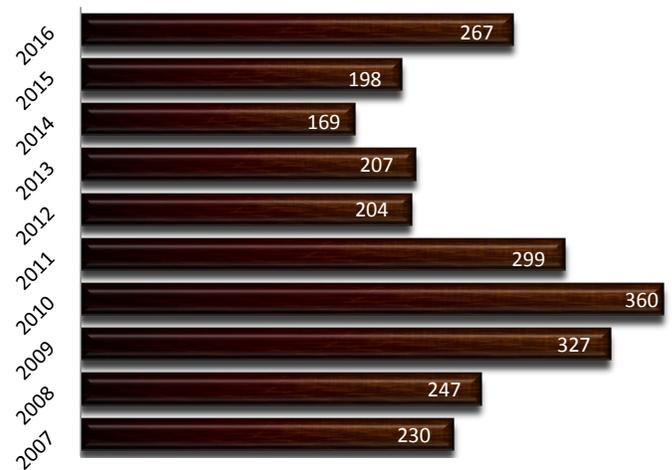
ARREST STATS

Persons Arrested	160
Male	120
Female	40
Over 18	157
Under 18	3
Repeat Offender	119
Habitual Offender	19

ARREST COUNTS

Of the 267 arrest counts during 2016, 167 were felony charges, 48 were misdemeanor, and 52 were fugitive related. A total of 196 of these were drug related as listed below. The other charges included felony firearm, carrying concealed, resist and obstruct, witness intimidation, prostitution, evidence tampering, sex offender registration violations, and driving while license suspended.

ANNUAL ARREST COUNTS



DRUG RELATED ARREST COUNTS

Cocaine Delivery	2	MDA Delivery	2
Hash Delivery Conspiracy	1	MDA Manufacture	1
Heroin Delivery	16	Methamphetamine Delivery	5
Heroin Delivery Conspiracy	9	Methamphetamine Delivery Conspiracy	4
Heroin Possession	1	Methamphetamine Lab	13
Imitation Substance Delivery	7	Methamphetamine Mfg.	2
Imitation Substance Conspiracy	2	Methamphetamine Possession	2
LSD Delivery	4	Prescription Opiates Delivery	26
Marijuana Delivery	21	Prescription Opiates Delivery Conspiracy	1
Marijuana Delivery Conspiracy	3	Prescription Diversion	15
Marijuana Production	14	Pseudoephedrine Illegal Purchase	18
Marijuana Production Conspiracy	2	Psilocybin Delivery	6
Marijuana Possession	13	Maintain a Drug House	6

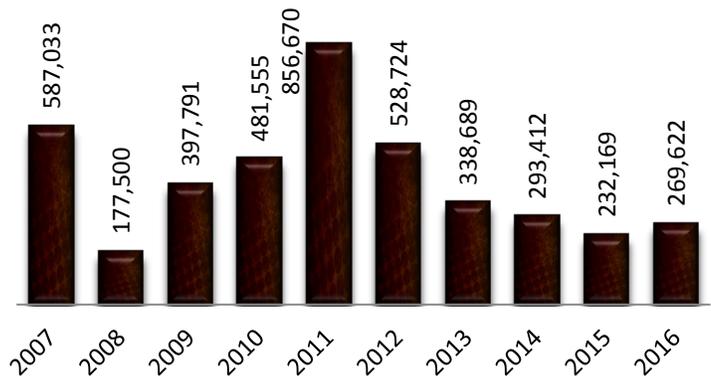
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Searches/Seizures

DRUGS SEIZED

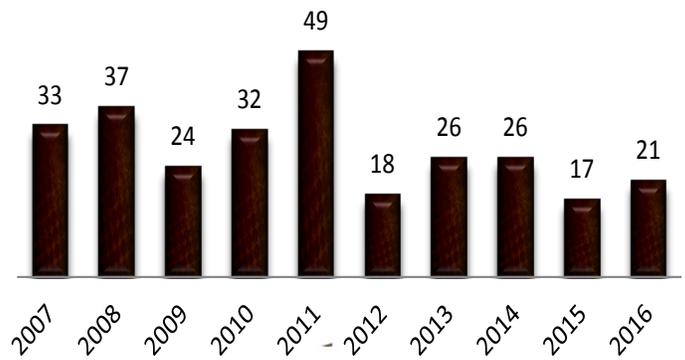
Drug	Seizures	Street Value
Cocaine	.9 Grams	\$90
Ecstasy	2 Units	\$50
Heroin	80.9 Grams	\$20,225
LSD	14 Units	\$42
Marijuana	Processed, Medibles, Wax	\$15,568
Marijuana	168 Plants	\$168,000
Methamphetamine	22.47 Grams	\$2,247
Prescription Opiates	121 Units	\$1,855
Prescription Stimulants	22 Units	\$330
Prescription Depressants	263 Units	\$526
Other Prescriptions	71 Units	\$125
Psilocybin	1,009 Grams	\$60,564
	Total	\$269,622

ANNUAL DRUG SEIZURES



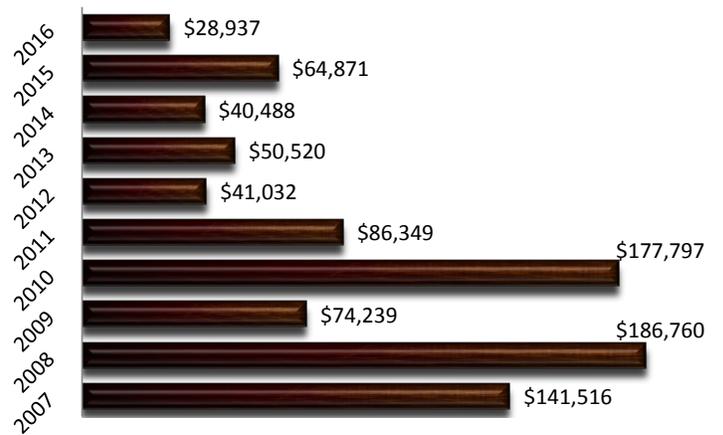
SEARCH WARRANTS

HUNT conducted 21 search warrants in 2016. Most of the search warrants were for residences/properties to collect evidence of narcotics activity, while some were for records. As a result, 5 illegal firearms were seized as well as drugs and drug trafficking evidence.



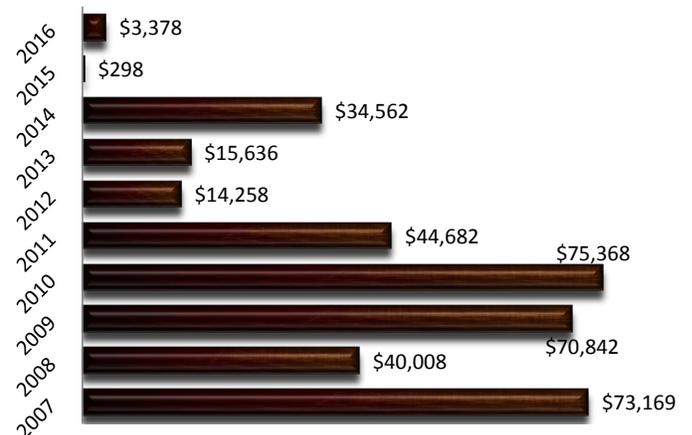
PROPERTY SEIZURES

HUNT seized \$28,937 worth of property during the year. This property consisted of 5 vehicles, \$14,137 in cash, 3 hand guns, 2 long guns, and other items used to facilitate drug trafficking operations. Some of these items will be sold at public auction, some will be destroyed, some will be retained by HUNT, and some will be returned in settlement agreements.



FORFEITURE PROCEEDS

A Total of \$3,378 in forfeiture proceeds were adjudicated during the year. These proceeds were obtained through public sale of seized items, retention of seized cash, and settlement agreements.





Public Affairs

PRESENTATIONS

HUNT personnel conduct presentations throughout the year, in an effort to inform the public regarding drug trends, the use, abuse, and trafficking of illegal narcotics, and the recognition of clandestine labs. This year those presentations were given to the Alpena Corrections Officers, the Exchange Club, Alpena City Council, the Alcona County Republicans, the Alpena Lions Club, the local Coast Guard, the Citizen Academy, Hubbard Lake Citizen's Watch, Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Lincoln Senior Center, Hillman New Beginnings, and the Alpena Township Fire Dept. In addition, the team commander did a television spot on Insights WBKB, and Sunrise Cable Community Television. The team also participated in Trunk or Treat and Stuff a Blue Goose.

PREVENTION

The team commander participates in the Alpena County Prevention Policy Board, in cooperation with Up North Prevention. The mission is to advance substance abuse prevention efforts. The focus is on current substance abuse issues such as prescription drug diversion, meth lab awareness, community education, etc. The team's assistant commander participates in Alpena County's drug court, which is a program aimed toward reducing the number of repeat drug offenders.



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Significant Activity

MDA LAB

In September of 2016 an investigation began with controlled purchases of psilocybin mushrooms. As the investigation continued it was learned that the suspect was producing the mushrooms at his residence in Alpena County that he shared with his girlfriend. During one of the purchases, the suspect provided a "sample" pill of a drug he described as Molly. Subsequent investigation suggested that this individual was producing MDMA (Molly) in an outbuilding at his residence, as well as producing psilocybin mushrooms, and in addition, was planning a trip downstate with his girlfriend to procure heroin for distribution in the Alpena area.

A search warrant was conducted at the residence, which did in fact reveal a clandestine Molly lab in a detached garage, as well as a large quantity of psilocybin mushrooms both growing and processed, ready for sale. Laboratory analysis determined that the substance being produced in the lab was in fact 3,4 Methylendioxyamphetamine or MDA which is an MDMA analog. Because of the extremely dangerous substances used in the manufacturing process of MDA, the 7th District Methamphetamine Response Team and a DEA officer from Flint assisted with the search warrant. Due to the highly volatile nature of the chemicals and waste products, Chemical Pack Services traveled to the scene from Vermilion Ohio to remove the hazardous waste.

Both MDA and psilocybin mushrooms are a schedule 1 controlled substance with a high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use. It is believed that this was the first MDMA lab discovered by law enforcement in the state of Michigan.

Significant Activity Continued

PROSTITUTION

HUNT detectives received an anonymous tip of solicitation in the Alpena area being advertised on a web site. Detectives confirmed the advertisement and made contact via the instructions on the web site. Arrangements were then made for an appointment the following day when a HUNT detective posing as a "John" was able to develop probable cause for arrest. The female suspect had traveled to the Alpena area with her daughter (22 years), son (5 years) and grandson (5 years) from Bay City to pick up a 49 year-old male who was being released from the Alpena County Jail on unrelated charges. While staying in a local hotel/motel she had posted her occupational endeavor online. The subsequent investigation revealed that she had had contact with at least 4 males in the past 48 hour period and had also been involved in marijuana trafficking. The 49 year-old male who had been released from jail only hours earlier, was found to be in possession of marijuana. The female, a 44 year-old from Bay City, was arrested and charged with prostitution and delivery of marijuana.

HEROIN/OPIATE TRAFFICKING

Heroin and prescription opiates continue to be the most common drugs of abuse in our area. The heroin is typically transported to the area from downstate Michigan, with the opiates most commonly being diverted from local prescriptions. HUNT arrested 13 people through the year for trafficking heroin and 18 for trafficking opiates, on a total of 52 counts.

METH LAB OFFENDER IMPRISONED

Prior to 2016, HUNT detectives conducted an investigation which culminated in a search warrant at a residence in the Spratt area of Alpena County. The search warrant resulted in the seizure of numerous precursors, components, and containers used in meth labs, as well as the remnants of multiple "one-pot" labs. The suspect, a 45 year-old Lachine man, was arrested and charged with several counts of operating a lab and conspiracy to operate a lab. The man's daughter, a 24 year-old, was arrested and charged with multiple counts as well, including conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Following those arrests, and while the male was out on bond awaiting trial, a second search warrant was executed at his new residence near the village of Lachine. Again, evidence of multiple one-pot labs were seized as well as finished product of methamphetamine. This residence, the man shared with his wife and 4 year-old granddaughter, whose mother was serving time in prison on charges from the first meth lab.

In June of 2016 a jury found the man guilty of 11 counts involving the production of methamphetamine on two separate occasions. He was sentenced in August to 2 consecutive prison terms of 6-40 years.

METH LABS

HUNT was able to identify 5 locations throughout 2016 where meth labs were being operated on a regular basis. Most of these situations involved multiple people who were using the meth and assisting in the production process in some way. 9 people were arrested as a result of those 5 labs, on a total of 34 counts ranging from purchasing precursors to operating/maintaining a lab.

These investigations are time intensive, sometimes spanning months before establishing the location of the lab and the identity of the individuals involved. In several of the cases, the remains of the labs (hazardous waste) were being disposed of in regular trash removal systems (dumpsters, weekly pickups, etc). In 2 of the cases, minor children were in the residence while there were active labs on the premises.



Funding Sources

FISCAL YEAR 2016 FUNDING SOURCES

Monetary Funding

Alcona County	\$	11,193
Alpena City	\$	8,250
Green Township	\$	1,000
Montmorency County	\$	14,924
Byrne Jag Grant	\$	84,000
Restitution/Recovered Funds	\$	4,208
Interest	\$	175
Adjudicated Forfeitures	\$	2,062

In-Kind Funding

Alpena City Officer	\$	63,751
Alpena County Deputy	\$	70,666
Alpena County Fiduciary Services	\$	8,931
Montmorency County Deputy	\$	65,059
MSP Rent/Utilities	\$	19,631
MSP Officers	\$	657,959

Total Operating Costs \$1,011,809

- * The listed figures reflect the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.
- * In-Kind officer expenses may or may not reflect a full year, and may include more than one officer.
- * The adjudicated forfeitures expended during the year were those required for operational expenses and do not reflect the total adjudicated forfeiture proceeds.

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Conclusion

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team's 2016 annual report is respectfully submitted as a reflection of the team's accomplishments throughout the year. In keeping with the trends of narcotics use and abuse over the past several years, opiates and heroin continue to be the biggest threat and the production of methamphetamine is still gaining momentum.

The 99 drug related cases that were initiated during the year resulted in 196 drug related charges. This is an indication of the complexity of the investigations in order to identify multiple individuals participating in the web of narcotics trafficking and production.

The team was able to send 1 officer to basic and advanced narcotics training, 2 to surveillance training, 1 to raid entry training, and 3 to meth lab response training. Each of these officers from various agencies are now better equipped to safely and efficiently conduct the investigative and undercover operations required.

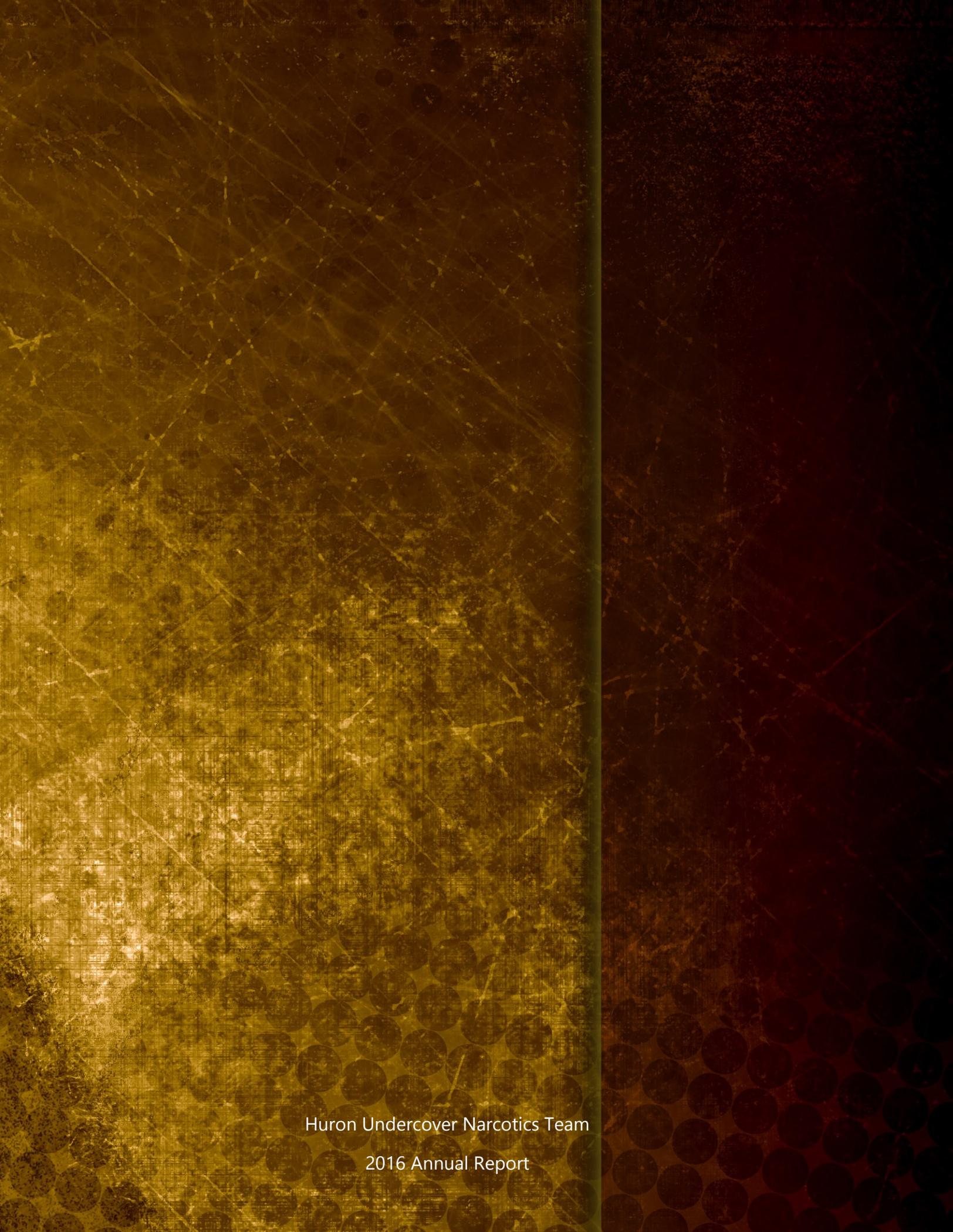
The team will continue to push forward in the efforts to combat narcotics trafficking and availability in our area, thereby reducing the number of lives affected by drug use and abuse as well as the violent crime that accompanies it.

Respectfully,



D/Lt. Stuart Sharp

Commander, Huron Undercover Narcotics Team



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