The Fairfax County Police Department will shortly be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on July 1, 2015. With this date pending, one of the questions I am asked often is about our earliest days ranging from 1923 up to 1940, and how that adds up to “75” years of service. Many who are history buffs are aware that the FCPD was established as a “stand-alone” Agency on July 1, 1940. The term “stand-alone” is the “operative” phrase here.

The FCPD existed before July 1, 1940, however it was under the oversight of the Traffic Engineer of Fairfax County (Fairfax had its own County Highway Department to build roadways during the 1920s and early 1930s). It was then moved to control of the Sheriff, after an ongoing dispute with the Board over consolidation of control of all law enforcement functions in 1932.

For whatever reason, those before us running the FCPD chose to use the July 1, 1940 date as the official “starting” date for the Fairfax County Police Department. This date is representative of our current Agency, under the direction of the Chief of Police, being separate and apart from direct control of the Board or Sheriff of Fairfax County. It is fitting this date was chosen, as we continue to mark the age of our Department from the time we became a stand-alone Agency.

To demonstrate the ties between the early and post July 1, 1940 FCPD, we need to look back to our very beginnings in the 1920s. Traffic was beginning to be an issue with the improvement of the roadways in Fairfax County, and complaints were coming in from some of the population of 20,000 residents about it. On August 17, 1923, the Fairfax County Constable F. J. Wease was appointed as a “Traffic Officer.” This was a new position, and was the first use of the term “Officer” here in Fairfax County in a law enforcement position. He remained in this job a brief time before returning to the Fairfax County Constable position in 1924.

Our current Day Gang Unit Detective Harry Foxwell is the Great Grandson of Constable Wease.

Also in 1923, Haywood Durrer joined the Fairfax County law enforcement ranks. He had run against Fairfax County Sheriff James Allison in the 1923 Democratic primary for Sheriff, however lost that election, and returned to be appointed as a Fairfax County Traffic Officer that year. He would remain a brief two weeks as Alexandria offered him the position of “Chief” of their Department, where he had originally come from.
75th Anniversary Scheduled Events

**Reception for Active and Retired Members**
Friday, June 19th, 5 PM to 9 PM
Police Association Hall
5625 Revercomb Court
(Museum open 2 PM to 4 PM)

**Anniversary Ceremony and Tribute to Fallen Heroes**
Saturday, June 20th, 10 AM to 1PM
Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium
12000 Government Center Parkway

**Police Family Picnic**
Saturday, June 20th, 2 PM to 6 PM
Police Association Hall, 5625 Revercomb Court

75th Anniversary Lecture Series

- **January 23rd** – Guided tour of the FCPD historic museum, 1 PM at the FCPD Museum (1st Floor Massey Building)
- **February 20th** – The FCPD Crime Scene Section, 1 PM at DPSC Meeting Room followed by Crime Scene Facility tour
- **March 18th** – FCPD Narcotics – Investigations, Trends, and Public Awareness; 1 PM at the Sully District community Room
- **April 20th** – Public Safety Communications – Call Taking, Dispatching & Technology; 2 PM at MPSTOC community room
- **May 22nd** – The Police Canine (K-9) Team, 1 PM at OSB
- **June 11th** – 2002 Washington Area Sniper Task Force Investigation, 10 AM at Massey A Level conference room
- **July 23rd** – The Department’s Growth in Relation to the County’s Development, 11 AM at the Criminal Justice Academy
- **August 10th** – Helicopter Division, 1 PM at the Criminal Justice Academy
- **September 16th** – The Development of the FCPD Badge, 12 PM at the Massey Building A Level conference room
- **October 2nd** – Early days of Diversity, 11 AM at the Massey A Level conference room
- **November 4th** – Criminal Justice Academy, 11 AM at the Criminal Justice Academy
- **December 14th** – Crisis Negotiations Team, 11 AM at the Criminal Justice Academy

Please be aware that while the schedules for the lecture series are accurate as of the publication date, they are subject to change due to changes in circumstances.

A Tradition of Excellence
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Fairfax County Police Department:
Chiefs of Police - A Historical Summary

By PFC Tawny Wright

Background

To tell the story of FCPD’s history, we start in the 1920s. Geographically, two newly completed roads—United States Route 1 and Little River Turnpike—connected big cities like Washington, D.C., and Alexandria to little rural agricultural towns further west. Additionally, plans were underway to bring electricity to towns between Alexandria and Herndon. The little town of Fairfax fell right along these paths. What was Fairfax County’s population and size in 1921? It was approximately 20,000 people and 417 square miles.

Law enforcement fell under the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office. With vast modernization on the horizon, and Fairfax County set right in the middle of it, the Sheriff and local government leaders expected the population to flourish, bringing heavier traffic and more homes and businesses. Traffic concerns and a greater need for police services became top priority. In 1925, the sheriff’s office established a traffic unit (“road police”): one motorcycle cop who, according to one news report, was expected to “put a stop” to couples parking at night on the Chain Bridge Road and “to look after speeders and road hogs.”

The county population continued to grow through the 1930s, modernization boomed and many rural agricultural areas were quickly replaced by suburban developments. Demands for police services increased in variety and volume. The sheriff had implemented round-the-clock service to residents, not previously provided, and arrests were up; although, the jail was deteriorating and overcrowded.

By the late 1930s, community members urged their local government to hire more officers to reduce crime in the lower part of the county and be available to respond and patrol at night. Many officers worked off-duty at nightclubs to deal with issues there, which greatly alleviated the burden of regular shift officers. And the road police, initially assigned to handle traffic, were more and more handling criminal police work and covering night shifts.

The sheriff’s office had eight police cars. In the 1930s, each car was equipped with a one-way receiver set so calls could be dispatched directly to the vehicles, even though the officers could not respond back. Additionally, calls were routed through the Metropolitan (D.C.) Police Department as Fairfax County had no communications tower. There was no training school or academy for newly hired officers. New hires received their gun, badge and equipment and learned everything on the job.
By 1940, the county population had grown to about 40,000 with no indication of slowing. Agricultural areas were now intertwined with rural, residential, general business and industrial business districts. The sheriff asked the Board of Supervisors for a separate and independent police department to focus on criminal police work and other police services so his agency could tend to civil tasks and manage the jail and court systems. His request was granted and in July 1940, the Fairfax County Police Department came into existence.

**McIntosh Years (1940-1957)**

Carl R. McIntosh was born and raised on a farm in Fairfax County near McLean. He became a Fairfax County Sheriff’s Deputy in 1921, when he was 21 years old. He became one of the Road Police in 1927 to address growing traffic issues and later was one of the three Road Police who provided 24-hour service to the county. When discussion of an independent police department arose, McIntosh was part of the advising committee that worked to establish it. After the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a separate police entity, the Circuit Court named Carl R. McIntosh Chief of the newly established Fairfax County Police Department.

McIntosh believed strongly in training and education. His top command attended the FBI National Academy, a 12-week course. Officers and Detectives were often sent to advanced police procedure and investigative schools, such as accident prevention and investigation, scientific crime detection, evidence analysis, firearms identification and specialized crime scene processing.

Prior to the 1940s, training for newly hired officers occurred on-the-job. There was no academy. McIntosh began a two-week police training course or “rookie school.” He brought in instructors from the FBI, Virginia courts, ABC and the state police. He also ensured new officers were trained in public relations as he felt:

> "Public relations to be the most important factor in good police work." He continued to say, "Our men are taught the proper methods of approach to all public problems... to be tolerant...kindly...to be friends of the public. And why not, they are public servants."
By the mid-1950s, the rookie school grew to a four to seven week course; although many new hires in either decade were sent straight to the street to fill staffing needs and waited until there were enough officers hired to host a training session.

When reflecting on the department after its first decade, Carl McIntosh said he felt “a great deal of satisfaction... like the father of a big family...” He fell ill in June 1957 and retired in September. Around that time, he told a story to a Washington Post reporter, expressing how vastly the county changed since the department’s inception in 1940. He said:

“In the old days, when a chicken disappeared, we’d check first to see if a guy...was still in the penitentiary or not. If he was out, we’d know where to look... And we wouldn’t have known a shoplifter if we saw one. There simply weren't any shops. But we found out real quick these past few years.”

Chief McIntosh had grown the department from 6 to 127 officers, served 207,000 residents and established four formal bureaus: Detective, Juvenile, Traffic and Administrative, plus a School Safety Unit. He established and pushed new and current officers to learn and train as much as possible. McIntosh served a total of 36 years in county law enforcement and passed away in October 1957.

Over time and based on demand, Chief McIntosh:

- Worked quickly to increase staffing levels and expand the department. At the time of his retirement in 1957, the department had 127 employees
- Grew the fleet to include 18 motorcycles and 26 cars equipped with two-way radios; A radio tower was built in the county so dispatches were no longer routed through Washington, D.C.
- Formalized and expanded department bureaus: Detective, Traffic, Administrative and Juvenile. There was also a School Safety Unit
- Structured patrol officers into platoon-style squads; incorporated more stringent hiring standards
- Implemented police and recruit training schools for new and veteran officers

Other accomplishments noted under McIntosh’s term include:

School-related

- Establishment of the schoolboy patrol unit, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce (1940). Boys were selected to listen to talks by the Chief and the American Automobile Association (AAA) and
learned to patrol county schools. The goal of the program was to reduce the number of vehicle accidents involving students and proved highly successful
  o The program evolved over time into the safety patrol program, formally instituted in 1944. Regional departments and school systems participated in hosting special events and activities throughout the year and a summer camp for safety and school patrol training
- Establishment and success of the first school zone warning devices (1940). Called “dummy policeman,” they were signs to warn motorists to watch for students and pedestrians around schools
- Enforcement campaign targeted motorists passing loading/unloading school buses (1943). It significantly reduced the number of accidents involving school-children to about one a year

Women in FCPD
- The first woman, Inez Oliver, was hired with the FCPD (1944). Initially hired as a desk clerk and dispatcher, she attended Police School in 1946 and became a sworn officer. She remained at the desk but her duties expanded to warrant services and walk-in complaints
- 10 female crossing guards were hired (1951) to “relieve policemen for other work.” 10 more were hired in 1955 and in the same year, a woman was hired to supervise the crossing guards, Sergeant Doris Bear

Traffic, Crime and Demand for More Services
- Traffic, an ever-increasing problem in the 1940s, led to several developments and expansions:
  • Creation of the accident prevention squad to investigate and reduce the amount of injury and death that occur on county roadways
  • FCPD acquired one radar unit (1955), a major advancement in traffic enforcement
  • As traffic problems spread from Fairfax County to the whole region, a regional traffic training school for new officers was set up and regional agencies partnered to crack down on traffic violations that repeatedly caused crashes (1954). DWI, speeding and disregarding red lights were among the top causes. Subsequently, a formal Traffic Bureau was formed (1955)
  • The county population continued to boom through the 1950s, which brought in more types of crime, including a significant spike in juvenile crime. A formal Juvenile Bureau was established (1955)
  • FCPD opened its first substation, Groveton, to provide faster and better service in the lower part of the county (1948); new types of crime flourished with rapid suburban development, (burglaries, larcenies and violent crime) and so did requests for police services (home checks, foot patrols, funeral escorts and traffic control)

Miscellaneous
- Set up Auxiliary policemen (1942) to balance the loss of men to the Armed Forces and prepare the area for bombing or raids, in response to the Pearl Harbor incident
- FCPD took on a new role: Animal Services, Rabies Vector (1944). Its first dog pound was built and a truck, equipped to hold stray dogs, was brought into the fleet
- The official “General Orders” came into existence. First edition published in 1951
- Promotions would be done by an examination process (1951)
• Creation of the Fairfax County Police Beneficiary Association, also known as the “Bluefit Society” (1941), to provide financial assistance to sick or injured officers or families of officers who died. Benefits provided have grown with the department and is known today as the Fairfax County Police Association.

• Dispatched was centralized (1957). Prior to this, two separate dispatch stations (lower and upper county) shared one channel, which periodically led to confusion when both needed to communicate to officers at the same time.

Durrer Years (1957-1975)

Captain William “Bill” Durrer was appointed as the acting Chief of Police when Carl McIntosh fell ill. After McIntosh’s retirement, Bill Durrer was promoted to Major and named the new Chief of Police. Durrer was 35 and the youngest police chief in the region at the time but he had been one of the former chief’s top command officers. McIntosh had prepared them to step into his role and carry the young police department forward.

Bill Durrer joined the Fairfax County Police Department around 1947 after serving in the Army Air Corp during World War II. His father was Haywood Durrer, the first Road Police officer for the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office in the 1920s.

The Fairfax County Police Department was the largest local law enforcement agency in the region in 1958. With a new Interstate highway cutting right through it (I-495), a new international airport (you might have heard of it: Dulles International) and numerous government facilities built in the county, the population exploded and so did the development of suburban subdivisions and commercial business and shopping areas. Women were leaving traditional roles behind and joining the workforce in greater numbers and youth drug use became rampant in suburban middle-class homes. The 1960s and 1970s also brought on drastic changes in technological advancements and political, legal and socio-economic environments across the nation.

Chief Durrer’s vision, as he told a local newspaper upon opening of the new headquarters, was “more of everything.” He said in order to keep up with the county’s astounding growth, there would be “more men, more substations, and more equipment will be added.”
Chief Durrer said in an interview for the Fairfax County Police Department history book that when he was chief, he “didn’t have a plan. We needed more men, better equipment, and I flew by the seat of my pants.” Yet, he managed to keep up with the new and vastly changing technology, emerging crime trends and population growth for nearly 20 years.

Chief Durrer, at the time of his retirement, had brought the Fairfax County Police Department to 636 personnel serving about 585,000 residents from police headquarters and five operational substations. He established a more complex and formalized organizational structure to meet demands of an evolving community. He continued the value and drive for continuous officer training and education. Durrer served a total of 28 years in county law enforcement and retired in January 1975.

Over time and based on demand, Chief Durrer:

- Met his goal of having one officer for every 1,000 residents (1970)
- Opened a new police headquarters, specifically built for police operations (1961). It was considered a state-of-the-art structure and housed everything a police department needed, including a bombproof room, in the event of a nuclear attack
- Expanded the department with six substations to cut response time and provide faster service to the ever-increasing population:
  - McLean (opened 1963)
  - Annandale (opened 1966; closed its doors in 1976)
  - Chantilly (opened 1970)
  - Franconia (opened 1973)
  - Mason (ground-breaking 1974; opened 1976)
  - West Springfield (ground-breaking 1974; opened 1976)
- Reorganized and restructured the department several times
- Formalized and structured the General Orders Manual (1973); the department had grown to about 600 officers, working out of five stations. Chief Durrer felt it was necessary to issue an extensive and detailed manual to maintain consistency in operations and administration
- Federal grants in the 1970s allowed for significant expansion and testing of new technology and ideas
- Instituted mandatory annual physical examinations for officers

Other accomplishments noted under Chief Durrer’s term include:

Training
Like his predecessor, Chief Durrer believed strongly in training and education.

- Formalized in-service training (1958); tenured officers attended a one-week class to stay current on police procedure, department policy and legal updates
- FCPD was the first department to have its own complete training facility; built at the county landfill off Popes Head Road (1958-59) by officers who volunteered their time and construction skills; many materials and services were donated by businesses and residents
  - Facility housed a firearms range and repair shop, training building, drill field and fitness obstacle course
  - Select personnel were sent to various schools and returned to instruct new recruits and veteran officers. Schools included the FBI National Academy, Northwestern Traffic Institute and the University of California Delinquency Institute
(1965) Chief Durrer coordinated with Arlington and Alexandria Police to formalize a tougher and longer training academy than any had hosted before (12 weeks) at the new facility; though, many new officers still hit the street prior to attending.

Recruitment and Hiring

- Competition became fierce in the region to hire highly qualified candidates
- Cadet program implemented in 1967 to recruit eligible but young candidates (18 to 20 years old); once of age (21), men would attend the academy and graduate as officers
- Police Ride-Along program began for 16 to 18 year-old-youths (1970)
- Department launched a large recruitment drive via regional newspaper, radio and television ads (1968). Campaign brought in 1,000 inquiries
- Police-community relations unit formed (1968) to take a pro-active approach in impoverished areas, rather than just respond to complaints in those areas. This unit later became the Community Relations Division (1970); officers reached out to youth and attempted to build trust and rapport in poorer communities through recreation.

Technology

Advancements in computer technology evolved at lightning speed and the Fairfax County Police made every effort to harness it for more efficient operations, record keeping and communications.
- Automated Data Processing (ADP), leased from IBM, compiled stats and provided statistical reports on trends and problem areas in minutes (1964). FCPD was the first in the region to modernize data processing this way
- Fairfax County public safety phone lines and command centers were consolidated to create the Emergency Operations Center (1970); this coordinated effort provided faster police and fire services to residents and increased and facilitated communication between the two agencies

Minority Officers join FCPD

- Second female officer, Joyce Harvell, graduated in 1958. She became the first woman detective after assignment to the Juvenile Bureau
- First black officer, Christopher Stokes, hired (1967); he was a five-year veteran of the Richmond Police Department. Officer Stokes was later involved in community outreach programs with youth in low-income areas (1970)
- First women patrol officers, Karen Blackmon and Gertrude Thompson, hired (1972).
  - The department was not initially equipped to provide equipment and uniforms to women. One female officer, Bonnie Kraut (hired in 1972) recalled she was issued a crossing guard uniform, complete with Crossing Guard patch. She joked: “I was probably the first and only armed crossing guard in the history of Fairfax County.”

Trending Crime

- Spikes in burglary, narcotics crimes and youth offenses in the late 1960s and 1970s spurred the creation of small, specialized units to
deal with them. Many of these units led to the creation of targeted enforcement teams, like shopping center units or bike teams

- Organized crime and racketeering became issues in the 1950s and carried through Chief Durrer’s term. Criminals fluidly crossed jurisdictional boundaries throughout the region, especially for certain offenses such as bank robbery. President Herbert Hoover had once encouraged law enforcement agencies at all levels to work together to apprehend them and reduce regional crime
  - Real-time computer systems like the upgraded teletype system (1963) and the Washington Area Law Enforcement System (1967-68) enabled direct and faster communication among regional agencies. It became critical for departments to share and receive timely information in order to defeat them
- First “hot pursuit policy” put into effect for traffic pursuits (1971); although FCPD was operating under these rules prior to the policy going into effect

**Specialty Units and Services**

- Civil Disturbance Unit (“riot squad”) formed in 1958; first one in the region. Despite few instances in the county, the unit was established to quell race riots, teenage rumbles, disaster emergencies and armed criminals
- K-9 section established (1963). K-9 Frostie, an all-white German shepherd, and K-9 Rebel become department’s first service animals; Section re-established in 1972 with a federal grant to train and test dogs on detecting explosives in airports
- FCPD received first helicopter (1972); equipped only for observation, not rescue or medevac functions; later crashed in 1975, program would not be reinstated until early 1980s
- Former Army Special Forces demolitions team member, turned Fairfax County Police Officer, took on role of agency’s first bomb technician (1972). Robert K. Reis responded on an on-call basis and provided basic explosives training and response at the academy
- Narcotics unit increased in size and became a full-time unit (1967) to deal with widespread drug use among suburban middle-class youth, a trend previously only seen amongst urban youth
- First command bus was purchased and equipped with police and fire radio channels and telephone capabilities (1967). Bus could be closer to major scenes and used for more effective communication in the field
- FCPD received mobile crime lab for more advanced and efficient crime scene processing (1973); truck was equipped with exterior lights, power cables, sink for making casts or handling chemical reagents and space to fingerprint or write.
- Tele-serve was implemented in 1974. Non-emergency reports were taken over the phone. Tele-serve took care of 17% of all reports received between 8 a.m. and midnight in its first week in operation
- Throughout the 1970s, several specialty units were designated to investigate specific types of crime (Auto Squad, major crimes, property crimes, game warden, park police, etc.); the Planning and Research Section was also created to keep FCPD on the cutting edge of policing, law and technology

**Miscellaneous**

- Chief Durrer supported new loitering law (1960) to deal with continuing problems of juvenile crime
- Door-to-door solicitors became a problem with the installation of suburban residential developments (1960); a Washington Post report noted “some solicitors, following the housewife into the growing suburbs, have...sales tactics that range from rudeness to punishable assault.” Chief Durrer supported new laws requiring solicitors to register and obtain a vendor’s license.

- Officers sought out union assistance to negotiate better pay and benefits (1973).

- Blue and gray colors still used on county cruisers today were selected in 1964; vehicles were also equipped with air conditioning.

- Chief Durrer requested an independent managerial audit on the department (1973-74) to determine areas in need of improvement and reassess the organizational structure; results indicated the department needed a change in organizational structure, it spent “more time on public relations than on solving crime,” there were deficiencies in the new county computer system, spotty radio coverage, weak mid-level management and a need for overlapping shifts during peak times.

King Years (1975-1981)

Richard A. King became a Fairfax County police officer in 1955. He was serving as Chief Durrer's deputy chief and was called upon to replace him as the new Chief of Police when Durrer retired in 1975. As in all the previous years, the county continued to expand rapidly and Chief King's goal was to keep growing the department to keep pace; however, the national economy in the mid-1970s had become quite stagnant, so funds were tough to find.
Just before Chief King’s retirement in 1981, the department had 1,070 sworn and civilian personnel and the county was up to about 562,700 residents. The police department fleet was up to 300 vehicles, with the Ford Torino as the main cruiser model in the late 1970s. All were equipped with a shotgun and the Torino had a 460 cubic inch engine, most had a federal light bar instead of the old “bubble gum” light.

Chief King faced significant budget and staffing limitations during his tenure. This limited the amount of time and effort his officers could put into proactive police work as critiqued by the managerial survey. Despite these obstacles, the department maintained satisfactory response times, provided excellent service to its residents and still aggressively pursued criminals in the county.

Accomplishments noted under Chief King’s term include:

Response to managerial survey
- Implemented time-saving measures for officers to address managerial audit critique that officers were too busy handling complaints to solve crime (1975); summonses issued for misdemeanor offenses, no house checks, private officers did not have to investigate property crashes, officers could use a 99 code for events not requiring a report and tele-serve continued to handle non-emergency complaints over the phone
- Strengthened mid-level management with autonomous commanders at each station (1974)
- Department reorganized from three bureaus to five (1980): Administrative, Patrol, Technical Services, Staff Services and Criminal Investigations
- Shift schedules changed so overlap would occur between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., the busiest time of the day (1980)

New programs
- Citizen’s Advisory Committee (1979)
- Crime Solvers (1979)
- Neighborhood Watch (1979)
- Explorer Post program (1976)
- Police Chaplain program (1978); earlier version existed in 1973
- Honor Guard established (1980)

Specialized units
- Special Operations Command (equivalent to SWAT) unit established to handle high-risk and volatile situations in light of global and local terrorist attacks (1975); became standing full-time unit in 1980
- Community-Oriented Patrol (COP) program commenced to build rapport with residents and deter crime (1980)

Crime
- Crime up 18.8% (1975); violent crimes were more prevalent than earlier years; burglaries and larcenies had increased the most and juveniles were responsible for most of the burglaries
  - The rising value of precious metals spurred increased thefts to pawn for quick cash. Later, these issues led to implementation of new laws for pawn shop
  - Fairfax County was noted as one of the wealthiest counties in the nation; a Washington Post article deemed it the third most profitable county “to hit” (for burglary) out of 15 local areas (1980)
- Chief King attributed the jump to a declining economy and rapid population/county growth
• Organized crime activities remained present in the county (cigarette smuggling, prostitution and gambling); FCPD obtained a federal grant to train and create an organized crime unit (1975)

Miscellaneous
• Emergency Operations Center transitioned from all sworn to mostly civilian personnel (1970s-1980)
• State required in-service training for law enforcement officers every two years (1975)
• Academy extended to 16 weeks (1976)
• Reston substation opened (1976)

County facility expansion
• New jail (Adult Detention Center) completed in 1978
• Construction began for new Circuit and General District courts location (1979)

First FCPD Line of Duty Deaths
• Officer Karen J. Bassford died in a single-vehicle crash responding to a burglary in progress (1977)
• K-9 Bandit shot and killed while chasing escaped convicts (1975)

Buracker Years (1981-1985)

Lieutenant Colonel Carroll Buracker took over as acting chief after Chief King retired and was named official Chief of Police in late 1981. He joined the Fairfax County Police Department in 1966. Chief Buracker believed in the idea of increasing employee productivity through individual development, participation and recognition—a notable change in ideology about the workplace.

Crime rates nationally were down in the early 1980s and in Fairfax County; they dropped more than 20% despite a small population increase. Burglaries, which had been rampant in previous years, dropped 44% between 1980 and 1983. Washingtonian Magazine reported the Fairfax County Police to be one of the top two big police departments in the region. Chief Buracker attributed this trend to:
• The formation of hundreds of Neighborhood Watch programs; in 1983, 14,000 residents were involved with about 450 Watch programs countywide
• Resident participation to lock doors, secure valuables and report suspicious activity
• Targeted undercover and aggressive pro-active policing
Newly formed laws with regard to precious metals and pawn shops

Chief Buracker retired in 1985. He left to start a consulting firm for law enforcement and industrial security but felt he had been in charge of the “top police department in the country.” He left with 1,175 sworn and civilian personnel, a county population of 609,640 residents and 449 fleet vehicles that included cars, wagons, vans, trucks, motorcycles and two helicopters.

Accomplishments noted under Chief Buracker’s term include:

Organizational Changes
- First black officers promoted to Sergeant (1982)
- Second deputy chief added to organizational structure; one would oversee Administration and the other Operations (1983)
- Improved police services through optimized use and movement of personnel, cutting-edge technology and resident volunteers; developed a five-part program with the County and Deputy County Executives (1982)
- Moved to slow and reduce attrition with upward mobility programs; he added a P-II and MPO rank (1982, 1983) to provide line officers with increased pay and recognition for their experience
- Park Police section was dissolved (1983); responsibilities were absorbed back into regular patrol operations
- County adopted no-smoking policy prohibiting employees from smoking to protect its pension liability (1984); all smoking areas in police facilities to be removed after 1993
- Fairfax County Police established independent academy (1984-85); criticized by some agencies as “empire building,” FCPD benefitted because it was more cost-effective and the agency held complete control over its training curriculum

Technology
- 9-1-1 system went live (1981); later enhanced to automatically link phone numbers with a physical address for faster response
- NOVARIS (Northern Virginia Regional Identification System) revolutionized latent fingerprint matching throughout the region (1983-84); Chief delivered a message to undetected and would-be criminals everywhere:
  “You might want to stand by the phone, because you might be getting a call from us. And crooks thinking about committing crimes might want to think twice. We’re going to catch you.”
- Taser added to officers’ tool belts (1982)
- VCIN terminals installed at each station (1982)
- Emergency Operations Center moved to a new location and plans were underway to completely computerize dispatch (1983)
- Planning and design underway to computerize dispatch for calltakers, dispatchers and officers (1984); with CAD (computer-aided dispatch), patrol officers would receive information about dispatches and vehicle or person queries from their vehicles; system would not go live until 1987

Specialized Units
- Hostage Negotiation Team separated from Special Operations Plan (1981); non-standing unit, members received specialized equipment and training
- EOD (Explosives Ordnance Disposal) unit became a full-time unit (1983); team members were provided specialized equipment and an explosives detection dog
- Dive team (Underwater Search and Recovery) added to FCPD in 1983 after incident at the Black Pond at Madeira School; Fire department relinquished operational dive responsibilities to PD; team members trained as underwater crime scene specialists
- Accident Reconstruction Unit established (1984)
- Police helicopter program and unit established (1983); first helicopter crashed in 1975. County acquired two helicopters, now equipped with medevac and water rescue capabilities; to enhance police missions the aircraft were also equipped with a large spotlight and FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) systems to detect heat emissions; heliport built to store aircraft (1984)
- CIB added child services unit to investigate child abuse and neglect cases and focus on missing or runaway juveniles (1984-85)
- Modern-day Auxiliary Police Officer program swore in eight women and 31 men, aged 21 to 71 years old (1983); new program utilized community member volunteers to support patrol and police administrative functions

Crime and Specialized Enforcement Efforts
- Youth alcohol enforcement operation conducted to deter and penalize businesses for selling alcohol to underage youth (1983); first countywide effort; used plain-clothes Explorers
- Digital Alco-Sensors purchased to replace old Alcolyzer balloons (1984); FCPD added a full-time DWI Coordinator to oversee agency DWI programs; efforts significantly decreased number of DWI-related fatal crashes between 1980 and 1984
- Project Kaleidoscope (concluded 1982): FCPD, in partnership with various other law enforcement agencies, ran an 18-month sting operation to battle property crimes that plagued the county
  - FCPD opened two undercover storefronts that offered cash for property with no questions asked
    - The first was KB Associates (K for Chief King and B for Chief Buracker) and targeted mostly property stolen from homes
    - The second was Barcroft Bargain and purchases expanded to electronics, guns, jewelry and stolen vehicles
  - This operation was the first of its kind for FCPD, nearly 100 criminals were charged

Crime Prevention and Community Relations
- Missing children had become a national issue; FCPD, partnering with the public school system, initiated a program for parents to have their children fingerprinted (1983); officers, auxiliaries and Explorers participated
- A large influx of foreign-speaking communities created a new challenge for local government (1983); FCPD issued public safety publications in various languages and identified officers with foreign language skills to facilitate communication with these residents
- Officer TABS enlisted to speak to school children about crime prevention, drug awareness and other safety issues (1984) ... Did we mention Officer TABS was a robot?? He spoke four languages (English, Vietnamese, Korean and Spanish); a clever student came up with his name: Officer Think And Be Safe (TABS)
New Substations Replace Stations of Old
- Mount Vernon station built to replace FCPD's first, original substation: Groveton (1981-82); site at new location
- Fair Oaks substation built to replace the Chantilly station (1983-84); new station housed both fire and police personnel
- New Reston station built at new location (1983) and shared with the district supervisor's office

Granfield Years (1985-1992)

John Granfield joined the Fairfax County Police Department in 1969. He was one of the first K-9 officers of the re-established unit in 1972 and worked his way up the ranks to Lieutenant Colonel. Shortly after Chief Buracker retired in 1985, the Board of Supervisors named Granfield the new Chief of Police.

When Chief Granfield stepped into office, FCPD was the fourth largest police department in the region. The population had outgrown the county's roadways, which were now showing signs of age and wear and drugs continued to be a problem as usage changed and spread into the suburbs. Much of his focus while in office was on traffic safety and drug awareness education and enforcement.

Chief Granfield stepped down in 1992. He went on to work for the International Association of Chiefs of Police and became Chief of the Sanford (Maine) PD. During his tenure, burglary rates dropped dramatically, but the new issue had become rampant and serious drug abuse in big city suburbs among 20 to 40 year olds. Traffic had also become an ever-growing headache as population growth never slowed and roadways that were once hailed as new and modern were now old and overburdened. He left in 1992 with about 1,392 sworn and civilian personnel and about 850,600 residents.

Accomplishments noted under Chief Granfield's term include:

Traffic Safety and Enforcement
- Rush hour had become unbearable by 1987 with about 700,000 residents and countless other commuters coming into and leaving the county daily; FCPD created the Traffic Information Center (1988) to monitor traffic patterns, manage faster responses to clear crashes and conduct enforcement to keep traffic moving; FCPD coordinated with the state police and VA Department of Transportation

January 1985
Chief Granfield started with:
- 1,175 personnel
- Approximately 609,640 residents
- 449 mixed fleet vehicles
• 1986 had the highest number of fatalities to date (75 crashes with 85 deaths); FCPD targeted specific offenses and the following year fatalities were down more than 40%
• FCPD bought two crash test dummies, Vince and Larry (1987), for seatbelt safety education; new VA law went into effect in 1988 requiring seatbelt use
• Chief's Challenge debuted (1989); statewide campaign to get police departments involved in actively promoting seatbelt compliance
• FCPD created Fairfax chapter of the Saved by the Belt club (1989); statewide club promoted life-saving capabilities of the seatbelt
• June was proclaimed as "Buckle-Up Month" in the county (1989)
• FCPD purchased cruisers equipped with airbags (1990)

Crime and Policy
• Domestic Violence policy adopted (1990); State established a task force to recommend legislation and education initiatives (1990)
• Suburban drug use became an epidemic by the late 80s; Washington suburbs were noted as worst in the U.S. for cocaine and PCP drug abuse and 2nd worst for heroin use (1988); FCPD participated in a newly formed Northern VA drug task force, created drug enforcement teams at each station, increased education efforts at schools and in neighborhoods and established a new undercover unit in the narcotics section ("jump out")
• FCPD proposed new VA legislation to make harming police service animals a felony (1985) after the stabbing of K-9 Jake, the 3rd canine to be seriously injured in the line-of-duty; proposal initially denied but later, Winchester PD brought a similar bill forth and the law became effective in 1989
• K-9 Jake was stabbed by a suspect in 1985, treated and returned to duty
• K-9 Frostie, one of the original 1963 police canines, had been shot in the head pursuing a suspect but survived and was retired

Technology
• Color photo lab built in-house at HQ (1986)
• FCPD purchased a laser print-finder (1986); only 33 in the U.S. at the time, Fairfax County was only
agency in VA to have one; allowed for prints to be lifted off difficult surfaces, also able to locate trace evidence (fibers, blood, gun residue, etc.)

- CAD went live (1987); MDTs (Mobile Data Terminal) now in cruisers for officers on-the-go
- 2nd robot purchased in 1987; this robot was operational, not educational; equipped with special-purpose arms and attachments and a video camera; could be used for surveillance, hostage/barricade situations and explosives detection and handling
- Fairfax County judge allowed DNA evidence in FCPD criminal case for first time (1988), suspect pled guilty to rape; in 1988, only eight states in the U.S. accepted DNA evidence

Specialized Units and New Department Programs

- Motor Carrier Safety Inspections Unit established (1985); previously only state police certified to conduct inspections
- Victim/Witness Assistance Program began (1986)
- Police Marine Patrol unit created to enforce boater safety (1988); FCPD study (1985) showed about 19,000 boats were launched each summer in the Northern VA region and about half of the 15,000 boats registered in VA in 1988 were stored in Fairfax County
- Search and Rescue Team established (1990); program continues today
- Peer Support group re-established (1992) to support officers involved in traumatic incidents
- New “jump-out” team created within the narcotics section (1988); in less than the first six months of 1988, the team made 281 arrests compared to 290 made in all of 1987 using traditional methods

Training and Recruitment

- First independent FCPD academy session held at new Fairfax County Public Safety Academy (Pine Ridge facility; 1985); 16-week school for Fairfax County Police and Sheriffs and Town of Vienna PD
- FCPD bought 115 acres of land to build its own shooting range and state-of-the-art driving track (1987); intended to replace Popes Head Road facility; became operational in the 1990s
- Department boosted recruitment efforts (1987); competition fierce among area agencies, many applicants turned down for drug use and large number of current employees were soon to be eligible for retirement; FCPD ran radio ads, increased test dates from twice a year to twice a month and actively held recruitment drives and visited local colleges and universities

Miscellaneous

- Reston and Fair Oaks substations officially opened (1985)
- FCPD 7th agency in the country to receive professional, national accreditation (1985); the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies established 870 standards, with which participating agencies had to comply
- FCPD traditionally obtained new police canines by posting ads in the paper “looking for a few good dogs” (1987). In 1986, Fidelco, a business that specialized in breeding and training guide dogs, responded to one and donated one German shepherd puppy (1986); the department has purchased K-9s ever since from specialized breeders
Young Years (1992-1995)

Michael W. Young grew up in the Woodbridge-area, graduated from the University of Richmond and served two years in the Army before joining the Fairfax County Police Department in 1971. He worked his way up the police ranks to Deputy Chief and retired in 1991 for family reasons. He was asked to return in 1992 and became the new Chief of Police.

Chief Young stepped back into FCPD under rather heated circumstances. Dozens of female and minority (and several white) officers claimed promotions and preferred assignments were being handed out through the “good old boy” network rather than fair promotional and selection processes. Chief Young promised positive change and “set the tone, the climate and the attitude in the professional sense” as he believed a good leader should. The new chief moved swiftly to address employee concerns.

Youth violence spiked in the late 1980s and early 1990s. A county study showed a 53% increase in simple assaults, a 100% increase in serious personal assaults and a 114% increase in weapons violations. The study also showed that the average age of young violent offenders was 15 (consistent with earlier years) but numbers showed an alarming rise in offenders aged 8 and 12.

Chief Young retired in 1995. He may have served a short tenure but brought a tidal wave of change; though, he was still criticized for some of his efforts. Chief Young left telling one Washington Post reporter: “We’ve transformed the department...that is in a way a fresh team but also deeply experienced and deeply tested—strong and ready.” Upon his departure, the department had a force of about 1,426 sworn and civilian personnel and the population had reached about 891,373 residents.

Accomplishments noted under Chief Young’s term include:

Traffic Safety
- FCPD bought two SMART trailers in 1995 (speed-monitoring awareness radar trailer); trailers surveyed and openly displayed a motorist’s speed as they passed

Specialized Units and Training
- Bicycle Patrol established after test groups in the Mason and Reston police districts (1993); program continues today
• School Resource Officer program implemented to handle growing demand for the safety and security of students and staff in public schools (1994)
• Community Liaison Unit developed to address youth violence issues with a softer approach (1993); team members visited schools and neighborhoods to mediate rival groups and teach kids anger management, prejudice reduction and conflict resolution strategies; internally, the unit was labeled the “touchy-feely squad”
• Unit expanded in 1995 to target street-level drug dealers and neighborhood crime issues (Community Anticrime Team)
• Auxiliary Police Officers provided first shotgun training (1995)

Organizational Changes
• Employee Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) developed to include Fairfax County employees in agency planning and decision-making (1993)
• Police Headquarters moved to Massey Building (1992); department reorganized Patrol Bureau (1993)
• Ordered supervisors and commanders to attend sexual harassment classes
• Brought in outside law enforcement personnel to evaluate selection or promotion process candidates

Miscellaneous
• Phillip Powell Award started (1995); in honor of Sergeant Philip Powell whose agency pride and humanitarian efforts inspired both officers and residents; award recognizes 2nd Lieutenants
• FCPD joins VA Automated Fingerprint Identification System with state police in addition to participation with regional system (1993)
• Captain Preston Blackwell became the first black commander of a district station (Mount Vernon)
M. Douglas Scott started his Fairfax County Police career as a cadet in 1975. Twenty years later, he was named Chief after competing in a hiring process with about 100 other candidates. A Fairfax native, Scott was highly regarded within the department, viewed by his peers as a “cop’s cop.”

When Scott took office, youth violence was still a major concern. Gang activity had grown significantly and in 1997, Fairfax County Police had identified 22 youth gangs with about 1,000 juveniles listed as either suspected or actual gang members. The prevalence of gangs in the county reflected its continuing urbanization from what had been a highly populous suburban area. Chief Scott called for “stiffer penalties to punish young lawbreakers” and focused police efforts on tracking and monitoring members and activity and spreading public awareness to educate parents, youth and other residents.

Another area of concern was the growing number of diverse ethnic communities in the county. Language and cultural barriers were creating distance between the police and many communities, which provided a new and tough challenge for FCPD to overcome.

Chief Scott retired in 1998. Department staffing was around 1,500 sworn and civilian personnel and served a population of about 936,855 residents. He left to become the Chief of Police of Fairfax City.

Accomplishments noted under Chief Scott’s term include:

Crime and Policy
- FCPD and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court led the Serious or Habitual Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP) to target juvenile recidivism of violent crimes (1995)
- Chief announces initiative to investigate and prosecute “scavengers” who remove recyclable materials from people’s trash cans on curbs (1995)
- Policy enacted to allow for persons publicly intoxicated to be taken to a detox center in lieu of jail (1995)
- State law required mandatory arrests and emergency protective orders for all domestic violence cases; FCPD changed policies to reflect change (1997)
Response to Gangs
- Increased staff of Gang Unit to ten members (1997)
- Boosted anti-gang education with public forums for parents and kids
- FCPD recommended increasing recreational and employment opportunities for teens (1997)
- Local law enforcement agencies took a regional approach to combat gangs; formed the Northern VA Law Enforcement Gang Suppression and Intervention Program (1998); also began implementation of a regional computer system to track gangs and share intelligence (1998)

Technology
- County Information Technology department holds briefing on new global computer network called the Internet (1995); FCPD commanders and supervisors encouraged to attend
- Automated parking ticket devices issued (1996); hand-held devices issued tickets and recorded ticket information
- Teleconferencing capabilities installed at select stations (1998) by means of two-way speaker phones

Training and Employee Support
- FCPD started to recycle recruits in attempt to retain staffing (1995)
- Mentoring program implemented to assist in new hire assimilation into FCPD (1996)
- Mandatory re-training required for all officers in Emergency Vehicle Operations (1997); higher standard than state required
- Officers involved in on-duty shootings required to seek counseling through Employee Assistance Program (1997)

Specialized Units and New Equipment
- Bean bag shotgun round (less-lethal extended-range kinetic energy weapon) incorporated into FCPD arsenal (1997); serves as a less-lethal alternative in potentially violent or deadly encounters
- Independent Street Crimes Unit established (1996); role expanded to track gang activities and suppress neighborhood crime
- Chemical Irritant Foggers become new tool for FCPD to disperse disorderly crowds (1996); mandatory training for applicable personnel

Administrative Changes
- Snow Emergency Plan established to make officers more available for higher priority needs during snow emergencies (1996)
- FCPD discontinued participation in national accreditation due to budget constraints and directive to focus on mission-essential services (1997)
- FCPD incorporated Strategic Planning to annually review the agency mission, service and priorities and to set future goals (1996)
- Random drug screening of both sworn and civilian employees implemented in 1998 at recommendation from EQIP (Employee Quality Improvement Program)
- Chief Scott gave station commanders autonomy to develop independent solutions to their own station and community issues (1995)

Miscellaneous
- Criminal Justice Academy moved to new location on Lee Road
- Officers no longer allowed to use slim jims to unlock vehicles when assisting residents due to potential for damaging power lock and window mechanisms and side airbags in newer-model vehicles (1997)
- Kenny Fuller MPO Achievement Award created to recognize eligible Master Police Officers for their dedication and superior job skills and abilities
Manger Years (1998-2004)

Thomas Manger was a Baltimore native but joined the Fairfax County Police Department in 1977. He was selected as Chief of Police in 1998. Chief Manger was recognized for his many efforts toward Community Policing, outreach programs to engage diverse communities and taking action to reduce and deter bias crimes. He was also noted for promoting minorities and women in the department.

Chief Manger’s term saw major historical events including Y2K, 9/11 and the sniper shootings in 2002. Chief Manger retired in 2004 to become the Montgomery County (MD) Chief of Police. Upon his departure, the Fairfax County Police Department had about 1,500 personnel and the county’s population had almost reached one million people.

Accomplishments noted under Chief Manger’s term include:

Technological Enhancements and Testing
- Booking, arrest, mug shot and fingerprint systems received an upgrade (1998-99): Judicial Arrest and Warrant System, Livescan 2000 and NOVARIS enhanced for greater sharing and faster processing
- Planning began for new MCTs to be installed in police vehicles (2000); user work group consisting of patrol officers established to contribute to new CAD system design (2001)
- FCPD adopts pilot program for in-car video recording system (2000)

Specialized Units and Department Programs
- Chief started program to donate old cell phones to domestic violence victims (1998)
- Volunteers in Police Service program created to save costs and provide support for various administrative needs (1999)
- Crime Analysis Unit established and staffed with civilian personnel (1999)
- Child Exploitation Unit formed to investigate Internet child predators and other computer-related crimes against children (1999)
- Citizen Reporting Section developed to continue tele-serve efforts (2002); non-emergency criminal, police service and traffic reports could now be made online or by phone
- Photo Red Light program implemented (2000)
- Patrol Rifle program initiated to equip patrol officers with heavier firearms in the event they are faced with similar weaponry (2002)
- FCPD authorizes Supplemental Crime Scene Unit to assist with growing demands and requests for evidence collection and processing (2003)
- FCPD expands K-9 section with two new bloodhounds (2003); new breed used to track missing persons and suspects

**Community Policing**
- Chief Manger designated work groups to develop a countywide Community Policing philosophy (1999); new trend steered away from traditional policing models
- Chief Manger defined Community Policing (2000): A proactive and cooperative partnership between the police department and the community to improve quality of life through mutual trust and respect, recognizing and solving problems, preventing crime and disorder and identifying and arresting offenders
- Conducted mandatory training for both sworn and civilian employees to instill a new mindset of collaborating with the community to identify and solve problems (2001)

**Organizational Changes, Addition and Policies**
- Suzanne Devlin became FCPD’s first female Deputy Chief (2000)
- Chief Manger rescinds requirement that officers must live within one-hour of HQ (1998); minimum staffing requirements for Patrol squads established (2000)
- Bias Crime General Order established to detail response and handling of bias crimes and incidents (2000)
- Bias Crimes Coordinator was designated (2000)
- Fairfax County Human Rights Commission honored FCPD for proactive efforts to reduce number of bias crimes and incidents (2001)

**Major Events Planning and Response**
- Iraq War Contingency Plan adopted in the event war is declared (2003); plan required all Patrol work 12.5 hour shifts to increase readiness and ease fear in the community
- Rise in number of criminals with gang affiliations led to FCPD partnerships with the Sheriff’s Office and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, related to the deportation of undocumented immigrants who commit certain offenses (1998)
- Detailed emergency operations plan developed for Y2K scare; led to formalized structuring of future Emergency Operations Plans (2000)
- Sworn personnel mandated to take weapons of mass destruction training to recognize and respond to threats (2001)

**Miscellaneous**
- Department reorganized to create Investigative Support Division to oversee FCPD’s various support units, such as Victim Services and Crime Scene Section (2000)
- Fallen Officers’ Memorial placed in Rose Garden at Headquarters (2002)
- Sully District substation opened (2003); FCPD's eighth substation

**Line-of-Duty Deaths**
- Hendrick “Sandy” Gideonse (1998); killed in a motor vehicle crash
- Captain Tommy F. Bernal (2001); killed in a motorcycle crash
Rohrer Years (2004-2013)

David M. Rohrer became a Fairfax County police officer in 1980. In 2004, he was selected as the new Chief of Police. A few issues he faced during the course of his term included a rapidly growing culturally diverse population, the 2006 Sully District Station shooting and the county continued to evolve from a suburban environment to an ever-more urbanized area.

Chief Rohrer stepped down in 2013 to become a Fairfax County Deputy County Executive, overseeing all public safety operations. At that time, there were about 1,707 sworn and civilian department employees and the population was around 1.131 million.

Accomplishments noted under Chief Rohrer’s term include:

Technology and Procedure
- Photographic Lineup procedures revised to reduce chance of mistaken suspect identification, which stemmed from recommendations of the State Crime Commission study (2005)
- FCPD moved away from handwritten and paper reports; implemented electronic records management system, I-Leads (2010); Central Records no longer accepted hard copy reports

Specialized Programs
- Pilot program launched to determine effectiveness of having a Domestic Violence Detective at each station (2004); placed detectives at five stations; today, each station has a “DomVio” detective
- Pilot program initiated for Language Immersion classes (2005) in an effort to increase the number of officers with language skills; nine officers and one supervisor attended a 22-week course
- Jail Diversion Program implemented to keep persons in need of mental health assistance out of jail and receive more appropriate care (2005); those who commit only non-violent criminal offenses are eligible
- Mobile in-car video program suspended due to lack of funds and deteriorating equipment (2009); testing for new in-car video systems began in 2012
Organizational Restructuring and Review

- Public Safety Communications Center (dispatch center) separated from the police department (2005); new independent entity renamed the Department of Public Safety Communications
- Information Technology Bureau formed to manage varied and diverse IT resources (2005); included computer/Internet networks, electronic records management system (I-Leads) and CAD systems, information security, wireless communications and relevant strategic planning
- Use of Force Review Committee established to review FCPD policies, practices, training and equipment (2007)
- (2009) Revisions included prohibiting officers from firing at moving vehicles unless circumstances justify use of deadly force, as outlined in General Orders, and also prohibited an officer from firing their weapon from a moving vehicle, except if necessary to save lives
- “Culture of Safety” coined to get FCPD refocused on safety measures in all aspects of the police department and policing (2012)

Miscellaneous

- During the course of his tenure, the crime rate dropped about 15%
- Chief Rohrer recognized by a Marymount University Forensic Psychology class, victim of Interpersonal Violence, for his sensitivity, understanding and effective response to the family members of fallen officers, Vicky Armel and Michael Garbarino, after the tragic Sully District Station shooting
- FCPD adopted the Leadership in Police Organizations course from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (2012); course replaced the previously offered West Point Leadership Course, both courses intended to teach leadership and conflict management at all levels of an organization
- FCPD instituted the Early Identification System (2012); system intended to detect early indicators that an employee could be in personal crisis and in need of assistance; created to support the well-being of officers who are often placed under significant emotional and mental stress
- Department transitions from 9mm ammunition round to the .40 caliber round (2008); officers allowed to purchase their 9mm Sig Sauer pistols

Line-of-Duty Deaths

- Detective Vicky O. Armel (2006); killed during an armed assault on the Sully District Station
- Master Police Officer Michael E. “Gabby” Garbarino (2006); critically wounded during the attack on Sully station; he died nine days later
- 2nd Lieutenant Francis “Frank” Stecco (2008); died during a water rescue/helicopter training accident
Roessler Years (2013-present)

The current chief, Edwin C. Roessler Jr., started his tenure with the Fairfax County Police Department in 1989 and became Chief of Police in 2013. A New York native, he first held a law enforcement position with the New York City Department of Investigation. As Chief of Police, Roessler is responsible for all police services in a county with a population in excess of 1.1 million residents in its 406 square miles.

The 21st century has seen continued rapid urbanization of Fairfax County with the Metro Silver Line extending through Tysons Corner and Reston, and eventually through Dulles Airport into Loudoun County. New urban development projects are ongoing and planned for the future in multiple Fairfax County locations. The Police Department keeps pace with urbanization through strategic processes which include a staffing plan, a capital improvement plan, and initiatives which modify our modes of policing to conform to the needs of a major metropolitan jurisdiction characterized by an ever increasing diversity of cultures and economic opportunity.

During the last few years, the following are some notable Department accomplishments:

- Creating a new vision statement which requires engagement with the community to prevent and fight crime, improve the culture of safety, and keep pace with urbanization
- Increasing transparency in a multitude of business operations to hold all Department members accountable to the communities we serve to increase the public trust we have enjoyed since our creation in 1940
- Establishment of a second Police Explorer Post in the South County. Post #2252 reflects 2nd Lieutenant Frank Stecco’s badge number and his vision of helping diverse youth achieve success.
- The Chief’s Council on Diversity Recruitment established to achieve organizational objectives of hiring and retaining a workforce reflective of the culturally and linguistically diverse communities served by the Department
- Creation of the Tyson’s Urban Team to eventually develop a ninth district station to meet the needs of a new urban center in Tysons Corner and Reston
- Supported an independent, comprehensive review of FCPD Use of Force, hiring and training policies to be shared with the community to ensure a culture of safety in our lines of business.
- Partnered with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies to obtain national accreditation
- Coordinating with local, state and federal agencies, formed the Heroin Operations Team to combat the rising use of heroin and related overdoses
• Increased the ability to train officers in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to take the Department to 100% CIT trained. Currently, 43% of Patrol Officers are CIT trained
• To find out more about the FCPD, please visit our annual report at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/inside-fcpd/pdf/2014annualreport2.pdf

As we reflect on the past 75 years, it’s important to remember the values of our past: training, continuous personal and professional development, utilizing the most cutting-edge technology and providing the best police services possible to each and every resident, visitor and community in Fairfax County. During our 75 years of service to the community, each and every member of the Department along with the community and our political leaders have teamed together to continue to make Fairfax County the safest place to live, work, play, and grow old. As we look to the future, let us celebrate the traditions and foundations established by those who came before us, then carry those memories throughout our lives and look forward to making new ones.
Source Materials


The Evolution of the FCPD Cruiser

By
MPO Rick Miller (Ret.), PFC Debi Cruger, MPO Jimmy Groves (Ret.), Major Gun Lee, Lt. Charlie Bond (Ret.) and Kelly Willett. Photos provided by Dan Courtney

1940’s

The Department’s first cruisers were solid black in color. Emergency equipment included a single flashing red light and a mechanical siren with an electric motor. The markings were hand painted on either the hood or side doors of the cars. The bottom photo at left shows a 1941 Plymouth sedan that was restored based upon the black and white photo on the right featuring Officer Jim Mahoney. The sedan was restored by retiree Elden Yates and donated to FCPD for its 50th Anniversary in 1990.

1950’s

Cruisers in the 1950’s remained solid black in color. “Fairfax County Police” was painted on the side doors. The big innovation was the use of an electric motorized revolving red light on the roof. For younger readers who may be wondering what the white-looking lines on the sides of these cars are, they are not safety striping. They are chrome trim pieces, common in auto manufacturing during that era.

1960’s

In the 1960’s you see the beginnings of real progress toward the Department’s current look. The introduction of the two-toned paint scheme. Also, the first usage of reflectorized decals to mark our cruisers. On each door “Fairfax County” is arched in block letters above the County seal (commonly referred to as “the meatball”). Below in 12 inch letters is the word “POLICE”. Reflective lettering helps make the cruisers more visible to approaching traffic at night.
1970’s

In the early 1970’s, the first use of bar lights with electronic sirens was introduced. The top photo shows a Ford Grand Torino with a Twin Sonic bar light. The bottom photo is a 1978-79 Chevrolet Impala. It has a Yankee SignalStat bar light with alley lights. By the end of the 1970’s, FCPD had added the 3 inch reflectorized safety stripe (aka: skunk stripe) down each side of the cruiser. Fairfax County was growing: more traffic, more traffic signals, and more accidents. This increased the officers’ exposure to roadway hazards. The safety stripe increased visibility of the vehicle to other motorists and fit the decor.

1980’s

The 1980’s were marked by the downsizing of vehicles. The photos on the top and lower left show a marked 1980 Plymouth Gran Fury. The lower right photo shows a 1985 Ford Crown Victoria, the first introduction of the Crown Victoria body style. You will also notice the word “POLICE” is smaller on the Ford because the size of the door is smaller. Another cosmetic change was the extension of the safety stripe onto the front side doors up to the lettering.

1990’s & 2000’s

In the 1990’s and 2000’s, FCPD drove the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (CVPI) as its mainstay cruiser. Pictured on the top is a 1993 CVPI with the “meatball and skunk stripe” design. Below it is a 1994 CVPI with FCPD’s current graphics design. Both of these cars have Tomar bar lights using all strobe lights and no moving mechanical parts. At bottom is the CVPI body style most people recognize as police cars. Both of these cruisers have the Tomar Blade bar lights that use LED’s and greatly reduce drag due to their ultra thin design.
Next Generation

In 2011 Ford discontinued production of the Crown Victoria. After months of research and testing, FCPD decided to use the new, purpose built for law enforcement, Ford Police Interceptor Sedan and Utility vehicles. These vehicles feature all-wheel drive, advanced traction control, back up cameras, and a boron steel safety cage incorporated into the unibody chassis. These vehicles are more fuel efficient and perform almost identical giving maximum versatility to FCPD’s patrol operations. These are by far the most sophisticated vehicles FCPD has ever put on the street to protect its citizens.

Currently, FCPD is considering changing its vehicle graphics design. A process is underway to decide among six new designs or to keep the current look. Once again, FCPD is evaluating the present and looking to its future.

The Evolution at a Glance

![1940s Car](image1)

![1950s Car](image2)

![1960s Car](image3)

![1970s Car](image4)

![1980s Car](image5)

![1990s - 2000s Car](image6)