



PARTNERS IN POLICING

HALIFAX

Drug Exhibit Audit: Final Report

January 15, 2018

Overall Process & Timeline

- The initial Drug Exhibit Audit, triggered by a personnel matter, was initiated by HRP and conducted between mid-June and November 2015.
- Further information on the Drug Exhibit Audit was requested by Management in May 2016. The audit was approved and finalized on June 22, 2016.
- Secondary Review to the 2015-16 Drug Audit was ordered in June 2016 and its results were presented to the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) on February 27, 2017.

Overall Process & Timeline (Contd.)

- Regular updates were submitted to the BOPC between February and December 2017.
- The audit's latest phase involved completing a full inventory of the drug exhibits.
- All 34 recommendations from the audit have been implemented leading to significant improvements in process, policy and adherence. Additional initiatives have also been rolled out.

Trends Related to Missing Exhibits

- Past and present Officers of the Drug Unit were not familiar with migration of the drug exhibits into the new RMS in 2005; tracking of these exhibits was not completed.
- Inadequate recording and tracking of exhibits movement at all levels (including initial tagging, data entry, exhibit storage, destruction)
- Group exhibit movement for destruction or storage was completed without verifying the actual physical presence of each exhibit.

Trends Related to Missing Exhibits (Contd.)

- Lack of electronic or written documentation.
- Duplicated exhibits in the RMS caused reports to identify exhibits as missing when they were not.
- Non-standardized training and lack of adherence to policy and procedures resulted in informal and inconsistent practices.
- Requests for *Destruction Orders* were not being completed as per Health Canada process. Some exhibits were left in the vaults for extended periods and some were destroyed without proper documentation.

Summary of Exhibits Inventory

Cash

- Of the 293 missing/misplaced cash exhibits, 255 were located

Large Drug Exhibits

- Of the 331 missing/misplaced large drug exhibits, 68 were located

Small Drug, Paraphernalia and Non-Drug Exhibits

- Of the 2,628 missing/misplaced small drug exhibits, 140 were located

Key Changes & Progress

- All 34 recommendations have been implemented.
- A new Exhibit Custodian has been hired.
- With the move to the new CID building in Dartmouth, the drug unit now has access to improved facilities for analysis, packaging and temporary storage of drug exhibits.
- Chief of Police (or designate) will ensure ongoing annual internal review.
- SES Sergeants now complete quality assurance on all files to ensure written documentation and inventory control.

Key Changes & Progress (*Contd.*)

- An enhanced electronic tracking system was created and it's now mandatory to track the movement of each exhibit and maintain continuity and accountability.
- HRP training document and policy revisions will ensure consistency of training on a go-forward basis.
- Oversight on storage and destruction of any exhibits has been significantly tightened.