Public Safety Institute Annual Report

Northern Michigan University

"Excellence Through Training"

Public Safety Institute

2023

Public Safety Institute

The Public Safety Institute is centrally located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on the campus of Northern Michigan University. The institute has five major functions; provide in-service training for the police officers of the Upper Peninsula, operate the NMU Regional Police Academy, conduct the MCOLES Reading/Writing Exam and the Physical Fitness Exam, provide the LCOPAT and EMPCO Corrections testing and operate a local corrections officer academy.

The Public Safety Institute is staffed by a full time Director of In-Service Training/Regional Police Academy and a part time Department Secretary. The institute also employs approximately 50 contracted instructors from various specialty areas.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of the Public Safety Institute is to provide in-service law enforcement training for the law enforcement officers of the Upper Peninsula. Law enforcement agencies including the Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, United States Forest Service, Sheriff departments and local police departments look to the Public Safety Institute to evaluate, schedule and present in-service training for their personnel.

Participants in these training programs have included all ranks from patrol officers to chief administrators (Chiefs, Directors, Sheriffs and Post Commanders). The programs are directed toward Public Act 302 eligible officers. However, if space is available, non-eligible officers are permitted to attend. The goal is to provide training to all levels of the law enforcement community in the Upper Peninsula.

The geographical area served by the Public Safety Institute extends from Ironwood and Gogebic County on the West to Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County on the East. On the Southern end of the service area are Menominee City and County and to the North is Keweenaw County. The area is served by numerous small law enforcement agencies (the smallest are one officer departments to the largest department which has 37 officers with the exception of the Michigan State Police). The limited size of these departments precludes them from having specialized units for traffic/alcohol enforcement, evidence collection, major crimes investigation and other specialty areas. These departments assist each other when the need arises. The distances between the Eastern and Western most agencies are 308 miles. From the Public Safety Institute to Ironwood is 146 miles, to Sault Ste. Marie is 162 miles, to Menominee is 119 miles.

The service area is bordered by Canada on the East, Lake Superior on the North, Wisconsin on the West and the southwest and Lake Michigan on the South. The main East/West two lane highways provide major travel routes to and from Canada,

Wisconsin, and Minnesota. This, when coupled with a high year-round tourism rate, leads to higher incidences of crime.

In 2023, the Public Safety Institute had 26 member agencies, with an officer membership of approximately 470 officers. The number of agencies slightly fluctuates year to year depending on the courses offered. At the beginning of the year, each department is sent a schedule of trainings for the year which includes the member rate and non-member rate for the courses offered. This allows the department to determine if it is cost effective for the department to join the consortium based on their training needs for that particular year. They are also sent a Memorandum of Understanding where upon they agree to pay the member rate and the consortium agrees to provide the training. Member agencies pay $150.00 per certified officer and $75.00 per part-time officer per year. The Michigan State Police and Michigan Department of Natural Resources do not pay this fee. In lieu of payment, they provide instructors for various programs at no cost to the consortium. These funds are specifically used to supplement the administrative duties, room rentals, audio-visual equipment rentals, and any other expenses associated with providing training.   A daily rate is set for each program to also cover expenses not covered in the grant. This rate is set for $20.00 per day for members and $70.00 per day for non-members. This fee is used to purchase coffee, rolls, pop and various other items.

Much of the training is specialized and therefore not cost effective for small agencies to provide for themselves. It is more effective to provide a trainer in proximity to pockets of departments in the Upper Peninsula than it is to send an officer to one central location or the Lower Peninsula for certain classes. In addition, these small agencies cannot afford to release officers for extended periods in order to attend training programs downstate. For an officer to attend a one-day training session downstate, it requires a minimum of three days away from the department. A one-day training session hosted by the Public Safety Institute would require just that, one day. It is more cost effective for the Public Safety Institute to bring the classes to the departments of the Upper Peninsula than it is to send officers downstate.

The Public Safety Institute coordinates its training schedule with the law enforcement agencies of the Upper Peninsula to ensure that the training needs are being met. A survey is sent out and the results are used to develop the following year's training. This survey showed a common theme; more training locally. The ability to offer training locally provides the department the opportunity to train most of their officers. This has been a positive comment in the survey process.

As stated above, the number of member agencies slightly fluctuates year to year with regard to course offerings. The ability to offer courses at various locations has spurred interest for some of the agencies to join the consortium that have not been members in the past. Currently we have member agencies throughout the entire Upper Peninsula.

The second function of the Public Safety Institute is to provide educational and administrative support to the other arm of the institute, the Regional Police Academy. The Regional Police Academy is an intensive sixteen-week training program for

prospective law enforcement officers. The academy's core curriculum is mandated by MCOLES but is expanded on almost doubling the required hours for completion. A recruit who completes the academy and passes the MCOLES certification examination is then licensable as a law enforcement officer in Michigan.

The third major function is the operation of a pre-employment testing. The Public Safety Institute offers the MCOLES and EMPCO law enforcement pre-employment reading and writing tests as well as the MCOLES and LCOPAT (Local Corrections Officer Physical Agility Tests) physical agility tests. This testing benefits local Law enforcement, County Jails and Michigan DNR Law Enforcement and Park Rangers by allowing testing without travelling out of the Upper Peninsula. Both reading and writing and physical agility tests are scheduled on the same day to allow minimal cost to the individual or department. The funding source for this aspect is the fees collected from the participants.

The fourth function of the NMU PSI is to provide Local Corrections Officer Physical Agility testing and EMPCO corrections reading a writing exam.

Due to the inability to secure instructors the Northern Michigan Public Safety Institute no longer conducts a Local Corrections Academy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING FUNCTIONS

During 2023, the Institute offered 24 training sessions at various locations throughout the Upper Peninsula.

These training sessions included the following training programs:

> Basic Radar/Lidar Operator Training
> Evidence Technician 80 hour Course
> Scenario Based Death Investigation
> Legal Update Training
> Strategies of Low Light Tactics
> REID Basic and Advanced Interview and Interrogations
> Precision Driving –
> CIT (Crisis Intervention Team)
> Instructor Development Course
> PPCT-Recertification Course (Pressure Point Control Tactics)

Training Sessions Offered 2019-2023

Figure 1 depicts the number of training sessions offered by the PSI over a five year period.

Figure 1

Year	Sessions
2019	31
2020	6
2021	33
2022	17
2023	24

Training Hours Offered 2019-2023

Figure 2 depicts the number of total training hours offered by the PSI over a five year period.

Figure 2

Year	Hours
2019	312
2020	100
2021	210
2022	208
2023	328

Program Attendances 2019-2023

Figure 3 depicts the program attendance over a five year period.

Figure 3

Year	Attendees
2019	646
2020	104
2021	627
2022	389
2023	405

Training Hours 2019-2023

Figure 4 depicts the amount of training hours for the year. The training hours is calculated by taking the number of students attending a program by the number of required hours for the class. The training hours for a five year period are represented below

Figure 4

Year	Hours
2019	6,384
2020	1,724
2021	6,744
2022	3,748
2023	4,136

As in past years, funding from MCOLES competitive grant process is a critical component for the training offerings to be cost effective. A comparison of prior year's grant funding is displayed in figure 5.

Figure 5   **Law Enforcement Grant Funding 1992-2024**

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1992	$54,423	2006	$328,640.00
1993	$82,530	2007	$336,891.00
1994	$63,926	2008	$212,819.00
1995	$66,380	2009	$237,173.00
1996	$76,684	2010	$176,843.00
1997	$82,472	2011	$152,577.00
1998	$85,323	2012	$170,487.00
1999	$102,048	2013	$119,830.00
2000	$94,064	2014	$117,640.00
2001	$98,030	2015	$160,640.00
2002	$123,842	2016	$0.00
2003	$222,044	2017	$62,999.00
2004	$304,513	2018	$0.00
2005	$260,936	2019	$0.00
2006	$328,936	2020	$0.00
		2021	$158,917.00
		2022	$68,858.82
		2023	$128,030.83
		2024	$138,866.50
		Total	**$4,288,207.10**

One of the services provided to member departments by the institute is the yearly training summary. This report is designed to expedite the preparation of the department's law enforcement (PA 302, LED) report, which must be submitted to MCOLES annually. This report also allows the institute to evaluate a member's usage of training to assist in determining if that department's training needs are being met.

NMU Regional Police Academy 1996-2023

The Regional Police Academy function is to provide an MCOLES certified program for the Upper Peninsula. The academy has students from all three universities in the Upper Peninsula along with the three community colleges. The number of recruits attending the police academy is displayed in Figure 6.

Figure 6

Year	April	May	June	August	September	November	December	Total
1996	18			21				**39**
1997		20			15			**35**
1998		27	16				36	**79**
1999		11					27	**38**
2000				15			11	**26**
2001	14						21	**35**
2002						32		**32**
2003				23				**23**
2004				49				**49**
2005				26				**26**
2006				22				**22**
2007				18				**18**
2008				15				**15**
2009				26				**26**
2010				32				**32**
2011				19				**19**
2012				16				**16**
2013				23				**23**
2014				13				**13**
2015				14				**14**
2016				21				**21**
2017				14				**14**
2018				15				**15**
2019				32				**32**
2020				31				**31**
2021				22				**22**
2022				26				**26**
2023				32				**32**
							TOTAL	**773**

MCOLES Pre-Employment Testing Function

The Pre-Employment Testing function of the institute was changed in 2002. The six event physical fitness exam was replaced with a four event test. The Reading/Writing exam was computerized and is administered separately from the physical fitness portion. Figure 7 depicts the attendance since the new testing procedures have come into effect.

Figure 7

Year	Written Test	Physical Test
2002	48	98
2003	35	78
2004	55	102
2005	33	37
2006	34	54
2007	30	27
2008	33	42
2009	38	53
2010	29	24
2011	26	32
2013	26	34
2014	17	22
2015	16	24
2016	37	39
2017	19	20
2018	18	32
2019	34	50
2020	35	53
2021	25	57
2022	24	26
2023	43	43

EMPCO Law Enforcement Pre- Employment Reading and Writing Test

EMPCO has collaborated with several police departments in Michigan to develop a system to assist candidates for entry-level positions as police officers. The test is offered to current police recruits and given on an as needed basis during the year. Figure 8 depicts the year and number of participants.

Figure 8

Year	Written
2014	4
2015	6
2016	6
2017	3
2018	4
2019	4
2020	0
2021	2
2022	0
2023	0

EMPCO Michigan Local Corrections Pre – Employment Test

The NMU PSI offered the EMPCO Local Corrections Pre-employment test on a monthly basis. Each local corrections officer candidate is required to demonstrate his or her mental fitness by successfully completing both of the following requirements:

> Prior to employment, a written examination which tests the candidate's mental fitness in the areas of reading comprehension, writing skills, and situational reasoning.

It is the candidate's responsibility to provide proof of successful completion of these requirements to a potential employer. The test results are valid for three (3) years from successful completion of the test. Figure 9 depicts the attendance since the new testing procedures were adopted in 2013.

Figure 9

Year	Written
2013	32
2014	23
2015	26
2016	42
2017	20
2018	36
2019	30
2020	38
2021	46
2022	36
2023	56

Michigan Sheriffs' Coordinating and Training Council (MSCTC) Pre-Employment Physical Fitness Test (LCOPAT).

Each local corrections officer candidate is required to demonstrate his or her physical fitness by successfully completing a physical fitness evaluation performed by a licensed physical fitness or medical professional, or a sheriff or sheriff's designee. Figure 10 depicts the attendance since the new testing procedures were adopted in 2013.

Figure 10

Year	Physical
2013	14
2014	23
2015	34
2016	37
2017	24
2018	34
2019	33
2020	40
2021	46
2022	38
2023	56

MDOC Facility Use

The Northern Michigan University Public Safety Institute provides facilities and equipment to the Michigan Department of Corrections to conduct several different trainings. Figure 11 depicts the number of officers and hours of training conducted each year by MDOC at the NMU PSI.

Figure 11

Year	Officers	Hours
2019	460	256
2020	30	40
2021	356	256

| 2022 | 436 | 1,200 |
| 2023 | 339 | 136 |