

Our Mission

It is the mission of the Mountain Home Police Department to provide professional, courteous public safety services to all residents and guests of the City of Mountain Home.

13.G.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

The Mountain Home Police Department is a professional, well-organized, progressive community-oriented police organization that provides around-the-clock law enforcement in the city of Mountain Home. The department serves all residents within the City limits, in addition to a myriad of other constituents. As the County Seat, the Department also serves Mountain Home Air Force Base's population 12 miles southwest of Mountain Home; the Department also has jurisdiction over and serve four state highways and one interstate which run through the city limits.

In 2018, Mountain Home Police responded to 14,490 calls for service, worked 2,746 cases, issued 991 citations and made 633 adult and 55 juvenile arrests.

The Department's Vision:

It is the Department's Vision to always provide professional, compassionate, dedicated service which generates confidence and trust, and fosters community partnerships. In their dedication and Values, they promise to diligently uphold the laws that protect both life and property of the citizens of Mountain Home through fairness and consistency. They pledge to conduct ourselves, both professionally and personally, in ways which clearly show that honesty and integrity are their code of honor.



13.G.2 WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Mountain Home Police Department currently enjoys a high degree of cooperation and partnership for the detection and apprehension of criminal offenders with the Elmore County Sheriff's Office, United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations, United States Air Force Security Forces, Idaho State Police, Internet Crimes Against Children and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

*This Chapter is excerpted from a comprehensive narrative with citations attached as **Appendix K**.



13.G.3 COMMUNITY

Mountain Home Police participate in dozens of community-related events each year to help the community thrive and strengthen personal bonds with the children and citizens of the community. Proactive community support programs provided, such as the prescription drop-off box program is just one of the programs that exemplifies the commitment of the Department to a safe community. The Department has collected over 3,500 pounds of unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications since 2011 when the program was implemented.



13.G.4 DEPARTMENT MAKE-UP

The Mountain Home Police Department currently employs 29 commissioned officers (a ratio of 2.03 officers per 1,000 population, below the national average of 2.4) and nine civilian employees.

The Patrol division serves day to day law enforcement needs. It is also the department's largest division consisting of several units including Patrol, Traffic Enforcement (Motors), K9 Narcotic Support, Community Services, Professional Standards and Training, School Resources, D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program, Reserves, COPs, Police Chaplain Services, and the Animal Shelter.



13.G.5 FUTURE

As the Mountain Home Police Department looks to the future and prepares to serve continued growth within the community, changes will need to be made. Between 2014 and 2018 our calls for service increased by over 38% (reference **Table 13.G.1**).

If the Department continues to respond to calls in the same manner as trends have shown, by 2028 it could reach as many as 28,000 annual calls for service. As this occurs, it will be necessary for Mountain Home Police to expand the current sworn officer staffing to match the safety needs of the community and the citizens it serves.

Table 13.G.1

Mountain Home Police Department Activity Statistics			
	2014	2016	2018
Calls for Service	10,484	13,966	14,490
Cases	2,065	2,235	2,746
Citations	1,222	1,150	991

13.G.6 GOAL 1

To provide the highest possible level of public services in a professional, efficient and economic manner in order to preserve, protect and enhance the safety and welfare of the residents and visitors of Mountain Home.

- A. Continue to maintain adequate facilities, equipment and well-trained personnel.
- B. Maintain and improve existing level of services and response times through periodic reviews.
- C. Guide day-to-day operations with department directives and priorities.
- D. Review police policies to determine if modifications are needed.
- E. Review and update city ordinances as needed.
- F. Explore additional ways to team build and administer collaborative programs to ensure open channels of communication with implementation partners including city departments, Elmore County, Idaho State Police, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Homeland Security, Emergency Management Services, various state agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation furthering the efficient delivery of public safety services to the community.
- G. Continue to support community policing with pro-active approaches to law enforcement methods by creating and fostering community partnership programs.
- H. Partner with various state and federal organizations for grant opportunities by providing reimbursable overtime opportunities to officers to implement effective programs to reduce traffic safety problems that result from individuals driving while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, driving while distracted, and implement effective programs to reduce the number of single and multi-vehicle crashes.

13.G.7 GOAL 2

Monitor population and community growth to appropriately respond to changing needs, in order to efficiently and effectively provide public safety services.

- A. Expand current sworn officer staffing to at least 2.29% ratio per 1,000 population by 2025 to match the needs of our growing population and allow for one additional officer per team.
- B. Facilitate continued open and regular communication with stakeholders and citizens to reduce incidents with certain public housing communities, particularly as the population grows.
- C. Continue to improve the department's social media to effectively communicate public safety information, maintain a personal approach with members of the community, connect with new members of the community and to humanize officers.
- D. Provide support in implementing capital improvement planning efforts.



13.G.8 GOAL 3

Ensure proper staffing, training, and commitment to excellence in service to the community by providing advanced training of police officers, and encouraging the acquisition of modern crime prevention and investigation equipment within the bounds of economic conditions.

- A. Continue to employ the most productive, courteous and efficient staff and compensate them appropriately in an effort to remain competitive with surrounding agencies.
- B. Maintain a high level of knowledge and experience among staff and encourage longevity through the annual review of benefits, wage evaluations, and promotional processes.
- C. Focus on officer recruitment by offering hiring incentives, focus on lateral transfer candidates, attend career fairs at colleges and military installations, and produce a recruitment video to attract candidates to our organization and community.
- D. Provide annual training to ensure officers perform to established competency levels and stay informed on current case law and police practices. Invest heavily in advanced, specialized training to recognize and cultivate individual interests, encourage individual career development and retain personnel.
- E. Encourage and promote overall health and wellness by offering annual wellness benefits, providing access to a training center, and incentivizing healthy choice programs.
- F. Institute a program to raise awareness around the importance of officer mental wellness. Provide corresponding resources and skill sets to help individuals recognize and manage known stressors and incidents that can be immediately applied to everyday life and strengthen one's ability to overcome adversity and challenges, manage stress, maintain peak performance and thrive in their personal and professional life while ensuring their own mental wellbeing.
- G. Upgrade vehicle fleet to replace older, high maintenance vehicles with new ones to reduce vehicle maintenance expenses and vehicle-out-of-service times. Provide take-home units for each member of patrol as a hiring incentive, increase visibility and maintain a constant presence within neighborhoods in our community.
- H. Partner with Idaho Department of Transportation for grant opportunities by providing statewide electronic ticketing systems for our patrol division.
- I. Partner with various state and federal organizations for grant opportunities to acquire advanced equipment for the investigation of criminal activity, tactical equipment and special operations equipment.

