

## PART ONE CRIME STATISTICS SUMMARY

Anne Arundel County citizens experienced an overall 3.4% *decrease* in the number of Part One crimes committed in 2003 as compared to 2002 figures. A total of 17,925 Part One Crimes were reported to the Anne Arundel County Police Department during the calendar year 2003, down from 18,565 in 2002. Leading the increases were homicides up by seven, followed by only an increase of six robberies, and arson up by 11. The balance of Part One crimes decreased with thefts down by 327, leading the way. Other decreases included aggravated assaults down by 138, auto thefts down by 123, burglary down by 68, and rape down by eight. Overall in 2003, Violent Part One Crime *decreased* by 5.6%, while Property Part One Crime *decreased* by 3.1%.

The CID Homicide Unit investigated eighteen homicide cases in 2003. Four cases were successfully closed by arrest and seven cases were closed by exception. Seven cases remain open. The case clearance rate was 61%, compared to the 2002 statewide average clearance rate of 64% and the nationwide average clearance rate of 66%.

The CID Sexual Offense Unit investigated a total of 127 reported rape cases in 2003, of which 61 were first and second-degree rapes. Of these 127 cases, 111 were closed: 36 by arrest, 49 by exception, one case was suspended, and 25 cases were determined to be unfounded. Sixteen cases remain open for investigation. The Sex Offense Unit realized a 87% clearance rate (including unfounded) compared to a 57% statewide and a 49% nationwide average clearance rate. Continued educational efforts, including self protection lectures and demonstrations conducted by the Department's Training Academy and the Crime Prevention Section, have helped in promoting awareness among women to reduce their susceptibility to rape through avoidance of potentially threatening or dangerous situations. The Criminal Investigation Division Sex Offense Unit has also formed a partnership with the Rape Crisis Unit, who offers victims counseling, and the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (S.A.F.E) Unit at North Arundel Hospital. The S.A.F.E. nurses perform all the rape and sexual assault exams that are administered to victims of sexual assaults.

In 2003, there was a significant rise in the number of robberies committed, with highway robberies (criminal contacts made on streets and parking lots) and commercial robberies topping the list. Other robberies committed may be attributed to bank robberies, chain store robberies, pizza delivery robberies, and gas station robberies. Included in this category are "strong arm" robberies, or those where use of force without weapons is used. Northern, Eastern, and Western Patrol Districts have sustained the greater portion of robbery activity partially attributed to greater population within these districts. Contributing factors to these robberies include the ease with which these types of robberies are committed, the proximity of patrol districts to major urban areas where a number of suspects travel into the county to commit such robberies, and the desire for finding ways to obtain money to purchase illegal drugs. Utilizing such solvability factors as the extent of suspect descriptions, available vehicle information, and modus operandi of similar robbery cases, the Robbery Unit investigated 188 robbery cases. Sixty-five cases were closed by arrest, 58 were suspended, 27 cases were cleared by exception, 3 were unfounded, and 33 cases remain open. The Robbery Unit was successful in closing 51% of cases investigated. That ranks well above the latest national and statewide average clearance rates of 24% and 26% respectively. Juvenile arrests for robbery increased 15.5% from 2002 figures, rising from 71 to 82 for 2003. Adult robbery arrests increased 10.1% in 2003 from 149 to 164.