

Niagara Regional Police Service

Evidence Management Unit (EMU)

Police Services Board Meeting

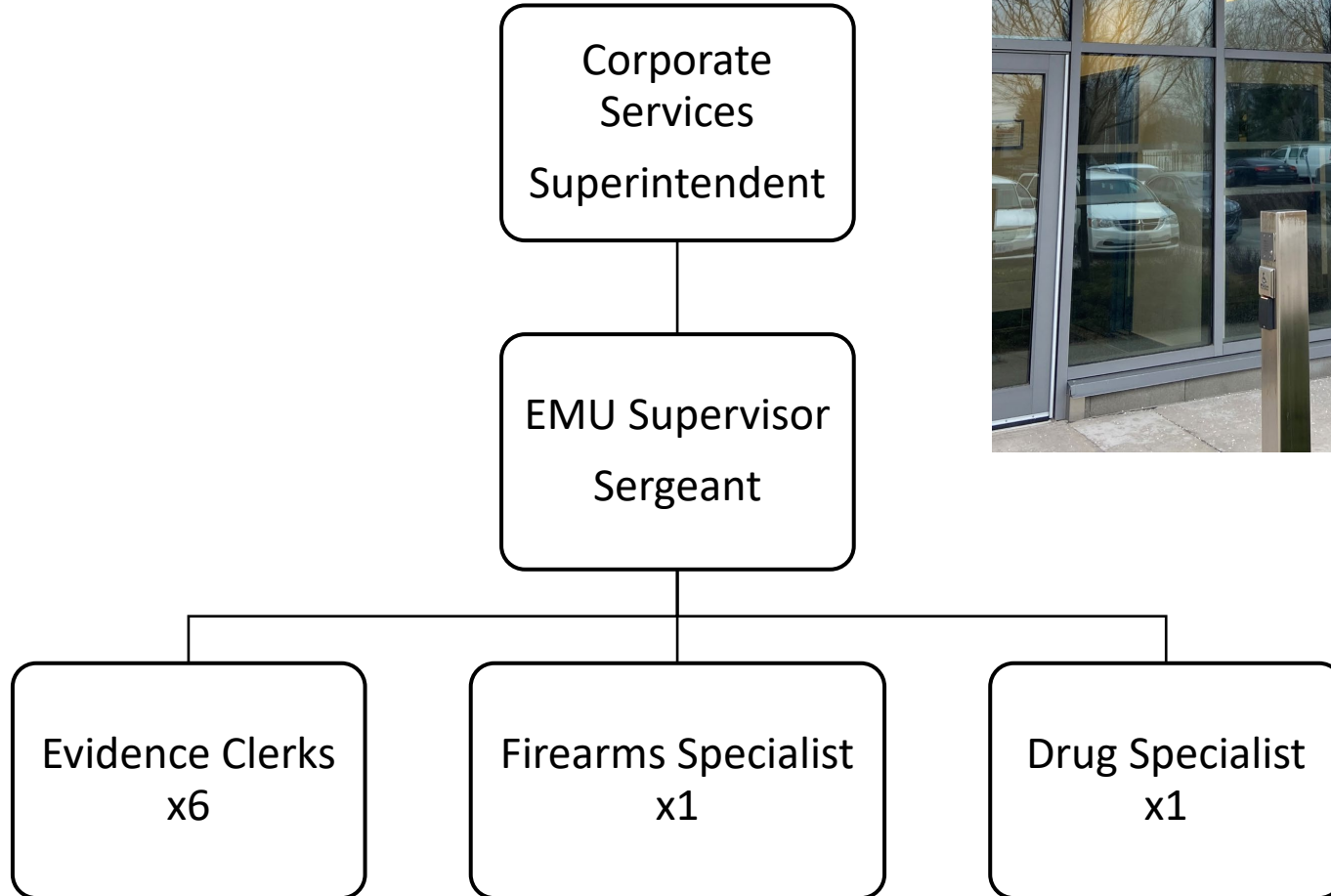
April 2024

Brief Background

- Decentralized model prior to 2016
 - Multiple standards
 - Multiple storage locations
 - Vulnerable to staff illnesses/holidays
 - Where is my stuff?
- Centralized model once new HQ opened
 - One standard
 - One point of contact
 - Redundancy in the staff
 - One storage location*



Who we are



What We Do - Generally

Guided by General Orders, statutes and industry best practices we:

- Receive, process, store, manage, and dispose of all property/evidence
- Oversee the inventory of general evidence and property
- Oversee the inventory of firearms, drugs, and cash
- Ensure that all evidence/property is properly packaged
- Forward certain evidence to other agencies (Health Canada, RCMP)
- Conduct regular stocktaking and quality assurance checks
- Liaise with other Evidence Units
- Return property to rightful owners
- Follow the standards of the International Association for Property and Evidence.



What We Do - Day to Day

- Gather seized property and evidence from the various Divisions/Districts
- Ensure packaging materials are available at each Division/District
- Provide evidence to Officers attending court
- Return property to owners
- Dispose of property by other means (garbage, biohazard, handover to other agencies, auction, etc.)
- Liaise with various officers and units within the service
- The EMU does not handle cloud-based digital evidence



The Numbers

- Currently holding 44,347 tagged items
 - 1003 firearms tagged
 - 8490 drugs tagged
 - 2398 securities tagged
- Average of 1500 items in each month
- Average of 1464 items out each month
- Goal of the EMU:
 - 1 item in, 1 item out
 - Goal achieved in 2022 and 2023
- Homicide and Sex Assault cases tend to stay for longer periods



The International Association for Property and Evidence (IAPE)

- IAPE is the largest property and evidence association in the world
- Offer evidence training, certification and service accreditation
- Act as a resource by providing books, publications, best practices and current trends
- Sets the industry standards utilized by Services throughout North America and the world



Accreditation

- The NRPS is Canada's only accredited agency
- One of 12 accredited agencies in the world
- International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands is accredited
- In 2024 we will renew our accredited status by:
 - Renewing General Orders
 - Renewing standard operating procedures
 - Re-issuing our evidence packaging manual
 - Undergoing audit by the IAPE
 - 800-point questionnaire*
 - 1 weeklong on-site visit
 - Follow up to "critical requirements" identified



Accreditation (Why?)

- Accreditation displays a commitment to excellence
- Accreditation demonstrates commitment to the community
- Accreditation helps ensure the integrity of criminal justice process



Questions?

Evidence Management Unit

Supervisor

Sergeant Bruce Mair

bruce.mair@niagarapolice.ca

(905) 688-4111 ext. 1025723