

AROOSTOOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
PRESS RELEASE  
1/2/2014

From: Chief Deputy Sheriff Darrell Crandall

On January 4, 2014, Aroostook County Sheriff's Deputies will resume patrolling all of Aroostook County on a daily basis, leaving behind a call sharing agreement that has been in place with the Maine State Police since 2002. The Sheriff's Office announced this decision in late December after meeting with the state police to ensure a smooth transition to the new deployment of resources. Under the former agreement, Sheriff's Deputies and State Troopers were separated into five, geography based patrol areas. While the agencies still cooperated and worked together, they were not able to regularly collaborate on investigations and special projects because of this separation. Given that Deputy Sheriffs working in Southern Aroostook one week would be deployed to the St. John Valley the following week was also creating hardships for efficiently completing investigations and follow-up efforts on citizen complaints.

Sheriff James Madore and Chief Deputy Darrell Crandall discussed a number of options for enhancing the service Aroostook County citizens were receiving from the Sheriff's Office and settled on this new, widespread deployment of resources in September. "We have limited resources and we need to be diligent in our efforts to best apply those resources for the benefit of all Aroostook County citizens." While the call sharing agreement made sense at the time it was conceived, it had outlived its effectiveness. Under the new plan, four Deputy Sheriffs and four to five Troopers will be available each day to respond to calls for service in Aroostook County's vast rural area. There are only ten (10) municipal police departments in Aroostook's 6,700 square miles. It is estimated that the State Police and Sheriff's Office have about 22,000 citizens they are directly responsible for protecting. Both agencies also provide assistance to those local agencies and various other state and federal agencies, as needed.

Both agencies will experiment with the distribution of 911 calls for the month of January and make some final decisions on the best way to distribute those calls between the two agencies going forward. The people of Aroostook County will not see this going on, as it is merely juggling calls, behind the scenes, at the 911 public safety answering points in Bangor and Houlton. The idea is to come up with a plan that equitably distributes these emergency calls.

"On a daily basis there will be more coverage throughout Aroostook County in those areas not served by a local police department." "Without question, this will increase the likelihood of our being able to prevent crises and will also improve our ability to deter and solve crime." This is a positive thing for the Sheriff's Office, the State Police and most importantly the people of Aroostook County.