

*MCA 44-2-117, "The department of justice shall make periodic reports to the law and justice interim committee regarding the degree of compliance by municipal, county, consolidated local government, and state law enforcement agencies with the requirements of this section."*

### Montana Highway Patrol Division Summary

On May 1, 2002 the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) implemented a Biased-Based Policing Policy (MHP Policy and Procedure Manual, Chapter III, Section GR-5, Biased-Based Policing). This manual is issued to each recruit when they are employed by our agency, and is also maintained with current updates on the MHP intranet site. Our policy meets the requirements set forth in **MCA 44-2-117**. A copy is attached.

In accordance with **MCA 44-2-117(3)(b)** the Montana Highway Patrol collects and reviews the data obtained on traffic stops by our troopers. This data is compared to the population statistics within Montana, to ensure our troopers are not stopping a disproportionate number of minorities. Our agency maintains these statistics on the state website, <http://www.doj.mt.gov/enforcement/highwaypatrol/forms/default.asp>, and is available to anyone wishing to review the data. The current month's report is attached.

To date, our reviews of data have indicated only one possible issue. This was a trooper conducting a unusually high number of traffic stops in the Box Elder area in 2008. Based upon the data, we required the trooper to limit activity in the area unless he observed a violation while traveling through, or was dispatched to an incident. Since that time we periodically checked our data and followed up the State Representative for that area, and no further issues have been noted.

All sworn MHP personnel currently employed have attended Cultural Awareness training at various locations in the state. Beginning in Jan 2005, each trooper attending MLEA Law Enforcement Basic Course and MHP Advanced Academy attended Cultural Awareness/Diversity training. In addition, many of our troopers stationed on or near a reservation attend periodic "Indian Country Training" provided on the reservations that educates them on the specific cultural issues of individual nations

Finally, the MHP has applied for and expects to receive a grant to fund a comprehensive study of the data and how we gather it at various levels to ensure that we have the "real picture" instead of just numbers. Ideally, we would like to use researchers from one of our Universities or Tribal Colleges within Montana to perform this study.

The MHP is committed to serving the citizens of Montana and those using the highway traffic system of our state. We strive to provide highest level of professionalism based on Service, Integrity, and Respect.