



SUCCESS STORY

University of North Dakota Police Department

The University of North Dakota or “UND” in midwestern parlance, is the state’s “flagship university.” UND is home to the state’s only medical and law schools and a highly respected aerospace program. It offers 54 masters and 27 doctoral programs, and fields Division 1 athletic teams that compete on the national stage. The men’s ice hockey team has a long history as one of the best in the U.S. The “Fighting Hawks” have won eight national championships, and play in the famed Ralph Engelstad Arena.

The city of Grand Forks is home to about 55,000 people, some 12,000 of whom reside on UND grounds at any given hour. UND police officers also assist the 92-member Grand Forks Police Dept. and Grand Forks County deputies regularly, according to Lt. Danny Weigel.

Before discovering Aladtec, officer scheduling was done with ink on plastic, said Weigel.

“Our patrol schedule was a whiteboard in the squad room. Vacation was turned in on a (Portable Document Format) form, and our lieutenant in charge of the Patrol Division would go in the back and write on there. One color meant vacation. Another color meant sick leave, so it was a very simple system, but at the same time, if you weren’t working and weren’t able to walk back there, you didn’t know what officers were working at that time.” From a supervisor’s perspective, “it made it difficult when you were trying to get ahold of somebody.”

Filing open shifts presented a challenge.



I think the biggest thing was how easy it was to use. And we liked how organized it was. The officers are literally able to see their schedule.

— Danny Weigel, Lieutenant



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DEPARTMENT INFO

ROSTER

20 FT- , 4 PT- sworn officers, plus civilian employees

CALLS

8,419 calls in 2018

MISSION

Protecting lives and property on a 548-acre campus in northwest Grand Forks that hosts 15,000 students, plus faculty and staff. Coverage area includes 14 residence halls and 850 student apartment units amid some 220 buildings. They also protect other UND satellite facilities in the area

UNIQUE SKILLS

The staff comprises two canine units, members of regional SWAT and water rescue teams, two FBI-certified bomb technicians, two certified UAS pilots, and crisis negotiators. They also engage in special operations across 14 counties in North Dakota and eight in Minnesota.

Aladtec users since 2019



Lt. Danny Weigel

Danny Weigel holds an Associate degree in criminal justice from Lake Region State College and a Bachelor’s in communications from UND. He’s finishing a Master’s in executive leadership at Liberty University. With two years as a sheriff’s deputy in Walsh County, he joined UND PD in 2012, became Detective Sergeant in 2014, and Lieutenant in 2017. He’s also a Grand Forks City Councilman and president of the Valley Officials Assoc., officiating high school and NCAA games.



Neighboring agencies also using Aladtec

First Care Medical Services EMS, Fosston, MN; LifeCare EMS, Roseau, MN; Kindred Ambulance Service, Kindred, ND.

"It was a lot of phone calls, text messages, and email," said Weigel. "If we knew about the shift in advance, we'd post a piece of paper saying, 'Shift Coverage.' Some of our overtime is still that way. We're still new to the system, but tasks are starting to migrate over to the Aladtec system."

Officers have been quick to embrace the change.

"It's very easy to use for the officers. We've got a pretty young department so the technology curve-ball wasn't as big as it could have been," said Weigel. "They seem to embrace it, being able to schedule vacation right from their phone or right from the car computer, whatever the case may be."

"I think the biggest thing was how easy it was to use. And we liked how organized it was. The officers are literally able to see their schedule."

"If they want to trade shifts within the two-week period, they're able to do that. It really takes a lot of the middle person out. It just really just organizes everything. That's what's been great for us. Being on campus, we have a ton of events—a lot of overtime opportunities for the officers and a lot of different things going on. So it's nice to be able to see all those items in one area."

"It's nice to start the day, knowing what your staffing levels are. It keeps us all a little more accountable and a little more organized."

"Another thing we really do like is the Extra Hours request. For a period of time, we were having officers fill out a piece of paper of why they had overtime and everything else, and for us, it's been great to be able to see who put in for Extra Hours, right on the system, and why."

Weigel's counterpart on the training side has configured the Member Database to keep track of certification and license expirations. A glimpse in UND PD's system shows 15 fields established for items including POST board #, Instructor credentials, Firearms Instructor expiration, DRE expiration, Taser Instructor expiration, Defensive Driving expiration, armorer expiration, Class 2 FST, Intoxilyzer, DRE, NCIC/GJIS, and EVOC.

"I'm sure as we continue to use it, we'll build it out to where we want it, but I know we've been really happy."



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