

## 2007 Evidence Room Management

### Officer Matt Thorne

Two thousand and seven was a year of change in the evidence room. In April of 2007, I took over the evidence room from Officer Thie. Since then, we have implemented a new report writing system department wide which has changed the way we have handled our evidence.

With the new report writing software, RMS, we had to reconstruct our evidence room within the program. This meant putting the entire evidence room and its locations inside RMS, as well as adding several other important locations.

Since evidence management is such an important part of police procedure and case work, it is crucial that the documentation is accurate and is dependable. An important part of the system is its ability to create detailed chain of custody reports. Once a piece of evidence is taken into police custody, it is necessary to see where that item has been and who has had it at any given time.



In addition to changing the software system, we have changed how we look at evidence and property. Before, everything MPD took in was called evidence. Now, we are only giving things the title of “evidence” when it is necessary to keep record of the chain of custody. All other items, such as found bicycles, are considered property unless they are used in the commission of a crime or are evidence of a crime. This will help in several ways. First, due to the limited space in the evidence room, it will not be cluttered with property. Secondly, the RMS evidence program will not be contaminated with non-evidence items. Finally, it will aid in the return of the found property to the owner more quickly.

Since the implementation of RMS in October of 2007, we have taken in 64 pieces of evidence. Shown here are just 2 of the weapons seized from a subject in May of 2007. There were an additional two handguns seized in that incident, as well as a large quantity of marijuana.

