Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

The Patrol Division is responsible for field operations and the proactive enforcement of State Laws and Local Ordinances within Peachtree City. Our mission is to protect life and property, to address neighborhood concerns, to be safety conscious to any unusual activity involving Homeland Security, and to enhance the quality of life in our city, as well as our county. Our focus is to aggressively identify and apprehend criminals, and prevent the commission of crimes by reducing the opportunities for such crimes. It is our mission to provide the order necessary for the individual pursuit of freedom, safety, and privacy.

The Patrol Division is responsive to social, geographical, and economic changes within our community. We promote collaborative partnerships with our citizens, as well as our business community. We accomplish our mission through effective planning, continued high visibility, and effective crime prevention efforts. We attempt to maintain adherence to traffic laws by utilizing enhanced traffic efforts such as proactive enforcement techniques, point control, and increased surveillance activities, thereby reducing the number of crimes, traffic accidents and other traffic related problems within our community.

Additionally, we are committed to professionalism, quality community policing concepts, increased safety and security of our citizens, and the highest professional law enforcement standards under the guidelines of International Accreditation and State Certification.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

In 2010 the police department was utilizing a five (5) district system. This provided the city with an overall response time 5.25 minutes in 2010 as compared to 7.33 minutes in 2009 based on Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) reports. Each shift requires a minimum of five (5) officers per shift to ensure adequate coverage. The continuing growth of the city commercially and residentially will continue to impact the response times. When five (5) officers are working, this leaves the Sergeant and the Lieutenant available to respond back up to calls. Although we make every effort to provide adequate coverage to help decrease response times, construction on Highway 74 south is still underway and making it difficult to respond in a timely manner to dispatched calls in the area. The five district system has impacted response times due to the reconfiguration of previous areas.

Average response times for 2001 through 2010 are as follows:

- 2006 average response time 5.69 minutes 80,656 calls for service
- 2007 average response time 6.01 minutes 77,517 calls for service
- 2008 average response time 6.02 minutes 76,505 calls for service
- 2009 average response time 7.33 minutes 63,722 calls for service
- 2010 average response time 5.25 minutes 73,750 calls for service

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Vehicle Pursuits

In 2010, Peachtree City Officers were engaged in five pursuits. All pursuits were initiated by male officers. Given that the make up of the department is currently 84% male and 16% female; and that the number of pursuits average .07 per officer, this is not of real consequence. There are such a low number of pursuits that while gender would be important if the number reached closer to one per officer, a conclusion can not truly be drawn from the current numbers. The same holds true with the race of the pursuing officer. Again, when analyzing the data, 20% of the pursuits were initiated by African American officers and 80% were initiated by Caucasian officers. The composition of the department is currently 88% Caucasian and 6% African American. When considering the low number of pursuits, the percentages tend to place emphasis on a characteristic that does not seem to be of consequence in our current situation. When analyzing the age and experience of the initiating officer, four were between 30-33 years of age with four to seven years of experience; and one was between 38-41 years of age with 16-19 years of experience. The make up of our agency places a large percentage of our officers in the 30-33 category with four to seven years of experience. This appears to be a norm rather than an anomaly or a concern.

When analyzing the characteristics of the offenders, there is a wide range of gender, race, and age. Of the five pursuits, three while males and two females were pursued; and three African Americans and two Caucasians were pursued. No hypothesis or conclusion can be drawn from this data.

The characteristics of the pursuits provide for some conclusions that can be drawn. All pursuits lasted less than 5 miles, with four lasting less than 1 mile. All pursuits lasted less than five minutes, with three lasting less than 1 minute. Two of the pursuits were discontinued by the officers, two pursuits were discontinued by the offender (he/she stopped), and one pursuit ended in a wreck. The quick duration and short distance of these pursuits shows that our officers have to make quick decisions. The fact that 40% were ended by the officer and/or the supervisors may show that they lean on the side of caution.

The use of the Pursuit Review Board has assisted officers in understanding the dynamics of pursuits and how these dynamics relate and interact with the department's policy. The only issue here is that interpretations and opinions can cause disagreement on many points, even if the pursuit was truly a pursuit. To help combat this, officers attend annual pursuit training. We have moved from the "what if" scenarios to a practical policy driven approach. The bottom line is that officers first must ask if the pursuit is permissible by policy. After this, temporal, geographic, and officer skill sets must be considered by the officer. As made apparent by the statistics, all of this must take place in under five minutes, with over 50% of pursuing officers having to make this decision in less than one minute.

In conclusion, the low number of pursuits does not allow for an easy analysis as percentages can jump drastically when increasing or decreasing one number. Each pursuit must be considered on its own merit and a determination made after each one occurs. Annual and remedial training are the best tools to help officers better understand the dynamics of pursuits. When less than 10% of our officers engage in pursuits on an annual basis, it's not possible to learn from doing, but it is possible to learn from discussing and evaluating.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Special Response Team

The implementation of the department's Special Response Team occurred in May 1997, and in 2010, the Team celebrated its 13th anniversary. One original member still remains with the Team.

The Department's Special Response Team is utilized in situations where conventional and standard law enforcement tactics and equipment may be insufficient, or pose a pronounced risk to both the community and its police officers. By the conclusion of 2010, the S.R.T. unit consisted of 12 members, including three S.R.T. Medics. Additionally, the team includes a three member Crisis Negotiations Team. The team continues to operate under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fayetteville Police Department (FVPD) where personnel and resources are shared.

S.R.T. officers receive specialized training to effectively deal with unique and high-risk situations that go beyond the normal patrol officer's capabilities. During 2010, the team continued to train in force-on-force with Air Soft weapons. In early 2010, the Medics completed their basic training and started training with the team full time. One Medic is always at an SRT training exercise to provide medical assistance, and to monitor the SRT officers in training. During scenario based training, all SRT medics are required to attend.

In addition to training and deployment, the SRT Unit conducts community awareness exercises and involves the community through role playing exercises. In 2010, the SRT Unit provided demonstrations for the Junior Police Academy, the Citizen's Police Academy, Booth Middle School, and participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Community Response Team

The Community Response Team (CRT) experienced significant growth and changes during 2010. At the beginning of the year, CRT was composed of three collision investigators, one K-9 Handler, one Sergeant (the Traffic Safety Officer), and one Lieutenant, who also oversaw a patrol team. In May 2010 CRT gained a second K-9 Handler, and in August 2010 they gained a Motorcycle Officer. The addition of these officers enabled CRT to better respond to their vast array of responsibilities.

Among priorities for CRT are collision investigation, reconstruction of serious injury collisions, response to traffic complaints, path patrol, response to calls for K-9 assistance for drug detection or tracking, and community outreach projects such as bike rodeos, child seat checks, and K-9 demonstrations.

In 2010 CRT investigated over 50% of all collisions in the city, and 100% of the collisions involving serious injuries or fatalities. Among these investigations were 3 fatality collisions and several others which required complex reconstruction or scale diagramming of the scene using advanced technological equipment, such as the Total Station Forensic Mapping System.

The Traffic Safety Officer received 663 traffic complaints in 2010, a 4% increase over 2009. Thanks to Peachtree City's extremely efficient online traffic complaint system, many of these complaints were handled by simple redirection to appropriate authorities at the City or State government. However, a substantial number of these complaints were addressed by directed patrol response from CRT officers. The quick, thoughtful, personal response to these complaints by the Traffic Safety Officer and CRT officers is a major source of positive citizen feedback.

In 2010 CRT officers conducted 250 hours of path patrol, which represents approximately 16% of the path patrol conducted by the patrol division. In conducting their path patrol, CRT officers direct their efforts on highly-meaningful areas and times in order to accomplish as much as possible in their limited time. Their success in directing path patrol in crucial areas is evidenced by the fact that CRT was responsible for approximately 50% of the multi-use path citations reported by all officers.

CRT also takes great pride in its success at effective apprehension of impaired drivers. During 2010, CRT officers, with inclusion of the CRT Lieutenant, made approximately 43% of the Department's DUI arrests – 126% more than the highest team of patrol officers.

CRT conducted dozens of community relations projects in 2010. These projects included events such as car seat checkpoints at daycare centers, small bike rodeos at churches, bike safety education classes at schools, K-9 demonstrations, Police Department tours, and lectures about general safety. CRT continued to be the primary source for response to Community Relations projects and made an immeasurable positive impact on the citizens of the Peachtree City during 2010.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Multi-Use Path Patrol

The Peachtree City Police Department is responsible for patrolling Peachtree City's 100+ miles of multi-use paths and keeping them safe for the citizens of Peachtree City. The cart paths are patrolled by means of six Police Mountain Bikes, two ATVs, a Rhino UTV, and foot patrol.

In 2010 officers logged 1,592 hours of time on the carts paths versus 859 hours logged in 2009. This increase in time has also corresponded to an increase in total traffic enforcement actions involving golf carts for 2010. In 2010 officers issued a total of 558 enforcement actions that involved golf carts which is an 82% increase over the 306 total golf cart enforcement actions in 2009. The ultimate result was that in 2010 there were only 54 golf cart involved collisions, which was a 16% decrease in golf cart involved collisions over the 64 logged in 2009.

In 2010, members of the Community Response Team (CRT) and Patrol Officers conducted numerous golf cart checkpoints. These check points proved to be very effective in educating the public and enforcing the rules which the City of Peachtree City has established. These checkpoints were established in high traffic and repeat citizen complaint areas. Hundreds of pamphlets were handed out to teenagers and adults during these check points, enhancing their knowledge about the rules and regulations pertaining to golf carts and the path system. The checkpoints also yielded numerous citations and warnings issued to golf cart operators that were found to be violating the relevant City Ordinances. One of these golf cart checkpoints also yielded an arrest for possession of illegal narcotics. Overall these checkpoints serve as valuable public relations events where many of the citizens travelling through them take the time to thank the officers for conducting the checkpoints because of the various issues they have observed on the cart paths.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Multi-Use Path Patrol Cont...

In 2010 the Peachtree City Police Department continued to enhance the police mountain bike program by training four more Police Officers and five Auxiliary Officers. In addition, five medics from the Peachtree City Fire Department received training as EMS Cyclists – further promoting the city's full-service public safety image and preparedness to respond to the unique needs of a path-oriented planned community. This additional training is all due to the fact that Peachtree City has the honor of employing the only International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) certified Dual EMS and Police Cyclist Instructor in the State of Georgia.

Bike officers logged 255 hours of on bike time and contributed heavily to the 558 citations and warnings issued on the path system this year. Bike officers were used this year during special events, crime suppression, path patrol, commercial area patrol, and community relations events. They have proven a valuable asset for adequately patrolling crowded areas, such as during the 4th of July Celebration or the Great Georgia Air Show, and areas difficult to access by traditional means; such as unpaved ancillary paths. The bike unit also proved to be a valuable asset while being used for surveillance operations, road races and walkathons, golf cart checks, and the holiday enforcement plan. Their use in crime suppression aided in the apprehension and prosecution of suspects on some residential Entering Auto cases, who later admitted to several other similar crimes.

Bike officers from the Community Response Team also used their resources and skills in this area to teach bicycle safety classes to thousands of local children. Additionally, despite being more sensitive to climate interference than other methods, bike patrol constituted nearly 20% of the department's time on path patrol during 2010. This number is expected to grow even further in 2011.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Canine Unit

In 2010 the Peachtree City Police Department added a second K-9 to the Unit that was staffed by Cpl. Johnson and K-9 Maik in 2009. K-9 Enko was added in May of 2010. Both Maik and Enko are Belgian Malinois trained in narcotic detection, criminal apprehension, tracking, and article recovery. Enko's handler, Cpl. Robert Kloznick, is an eleven year veteran to law enforcement at both the Peachtree City Police Department and the Kissimmee Police Department. The team spent three months in rigorous training hosted by the Coweta County Sheriff's Office and instructed by the Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Officer's Training Center

This year the K-9 Unit has taken a major role in identifying and apprehending drug offenders in Peachtree City and in surrounding jurisdictions. The two teams have conducted one hundred and eighty five searches of vehicles, buildings and open areas. This effort has led to twenty six misdemeanor drug arrests and two felony drug arrests. In a joint effort, the K-9 officers often coordinate with School Resource Officers and the Fayette County Board of Education to conduct random checks of school property in order to maintain a safe and drug free learning environment.

In 2010 the K-9 Unit has maintained a positive relationship with the public by participating in educational programs with Fayette County Public Schools D.A.R.E. Program, the Junior Police Academy, and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America; among many other organizations. In doing so, the K-9 Unit has logged three thousand citizen contacts. The K-9 Unit strives to maintain a high level of excellence by training regularly and participating in events such as the Georgia Department of Corrections sponsored "Mantracker" Law Enforcement Training.

The further expansion of our K-9 program has been largely made possible through the donations from private citizens and the continued support of businesses such as The Animal Medical Clinic, Nestle-Purina, and The Fur Seasons Pet Resort. The Peachtree City K-9 Units accepts the challenge of keeping Peachtree City safe and drug free in 2011.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Motorcycle Unit

In 2010 the Peachtree City Police Department added a police Motorcycle Unit to the Community Response Team. This excellent tool has been an invaluable addition to the department's various specialized patrol programs. The Motor Officer, Cpl. Chris Hyatt, attended a two week long basic motor officer course in London, OH in May of 2010. This course was taught by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety in conjunction with Harley-Davidson Motorcycles. Upon returning from the training he then participated in a field training program with the Dekalb County Police Department's Motor Unit for over three weeks. Upon the completion of the required training, Cpl. Hyatt was released into active duty in August 2010. Since then, he has had significant success in conducting directed enforcement assignments and collision suppression efforts in conditions and areas that other officers have previously found very difficult. The growth and expansion of the city over the past few years has resulted in significant traffic congestion on the west side of the city during rush hour. Enforcement and response to emergencies in that area have proven to be very difficult during those times in a patrol car. The police motorcycle was able to perform exceptionally well in the heavy traffic congestion while still allowing the officer to perform these duties in a safe manner. The motorcycle's increased efficacy in traffic enforcement has been apparent from just four months of statistics. From August to December Cpl. Hyatt issued 664 traffic enforcement actions – 33% higher than the next closest traffic officer, and over 300% more than the patrol average. Another important aspect of the police motorcycle has been its utilization in public relations events. For the last quarter of the year, the motor officer participated in numerous meet & greet events with schools, youth sporting leagues, and neighborhood gatherings. It became quickly apparent that the public's perception regarding the addition of the police motorcycle was extremely positive. On numerous occasions the motorcycle was also proven to be a useful tool for patrolling the city's multi-use paths and responding to emergencies on the path system.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Reserve Officer Program

The Peachtree City Police Department Reserve Program started in 2010, and is a volunteer program with many of the exciting benefits that come along with full-time employment. Training requirements and state mandates require Reserve Police Officers to maintain the same level of competency as a full-time Police Officer. During 2010, the Department had four Reserve Officers who volunteered their time to supplement full-time Police Officers in the City of Peachtree City.

Although the time they give to the city is on a volunteer basis, each Reserve Officer is required to work a minimum of 30 hours a month. In 2010, Reserve Officers donated over 1008 hours. This number does not include the amount of hours each individual had to commit to a Field Training Program before being released. Two Reserve Officers were released from the FTO program in August of 2010, one was released in September 2010, and as of late 2010, the fourth Officer was still involved in the FTO Program.

During 2010, Reserve Officers donated over 151 hours assisting the court Bailiff in the duties required for City Court. These hours would have amounted to overtime or compensatory time for officers if not for the reserve officers donating their time. The remainder of the hours accounted for patrol time, community relations events, mandatory court appearances, and administrative functions.

This program continues to grow and will be a success not only for the Peachtree City Police Department but for the citizens of Peachtree City.

Patrol Division

2010 Annual Report

Honor Guard

In 2010, the Peachtree City Police Department's Honor Guard participated in several community events and parades. Early in the year, the Honor Guard led the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Parade sponsored by the Fayette Co. chapter of the NAACP. This parade takes place each year in the City of Fayetteville and is attended by many members of the community.

Since 1991, Peachtree City has sponsored an annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade. The parade has grown through the years and is attended by several thousand citizens. The Honor Guard once again led the parade in 2010.

For the past few years, the Griffin Judicial Circuit's District Attorney's Office has sponsored a Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet. All agencies in the circuit are invited to an evening of dinner and awards, as well as socializing with each other. Our agency was again tasked with the planning and organizing of the presentation of the colors at the banquet. Seven agencies and 14 officers participated in the event, which required numerous hours of preparation.

Finally, the Honor Guard assisted with the funeral services of Fayette County's Chief Magistrate, Judge Floyd and presented the colors at the annual NAACP dinner in November at the Hilton Hotel.