New Chief Chosen to Lead Department

In April, 2008, the department welcomed new Chief, H. C. “Skip” Clark, II. After a search that lasted several months, the City Manager, Bernard McMullen announced that Chief Clark would be leaving his position as Chief of Juno Beach, Florida, and joining our department. Story continued inside.

Peachtree City Police Department No Longer Homeless

Some believed that it would never happen. Most were amazed when it did. After a year, the department returns home to find a new color scheme, new offices, and mitigation of mold and moisture problems.

Who Moved My Cheese?

While welcoming our new Chief, many began to ask, Who Moved My Cheese? Complete story of change, new programs, and the enhancement of programs inside.

2008 Citizen’s Survey results are in

After three long years, it was that time again. Time to take a step back and have our citizens evaluate our performance, our professionalism, and the services we provide. This year’s survey included new programs, new priorities, and a neighborhood safety survey. The full results are contained in this years annual report.

Peachtree City, GA Weather Forecast

Contact us:
www.ptcpolice.org
The Peachtree City Police Department is dedicated to providing outstanding professional services through community partnerships that build trust, reduce crime, create a safe environment, protect the Constitutional rights of our citizens, and enhance the quality of life within our community. Our mission is to protect life and property, to address neighborhood concerns, and to be progressive through modern technology and innovative programs. We will adopt proactive community policing concepts, develop effective crime prevention programs, and ensure high visibility by utilizing well-designed law enforcement strategies. We will attempt to aggressively identify and apprehend criminals and reduce the opportunities for crime, while maintaining human dignity and the individual rights of our citizens. We will be responsive to social, geographical, and economical changes within our community. We recognize the value of Peachtree City’s unique cultural diversity and will treat each person, regardless of their race, ethnicity, creed, color, or religion, with courtesy, respect, equity, and dignity.

The Administrative Staff includes the Chief of Police, a Major of Police, the Administrative Services Captain, an Office Administrator, and three Staff Assistants. The Administrative Captain reports to the Major and is responsible for a variety of duties, including overseeing the Administrative Services Division, Disaster Operations Coordination, Facilities Manager, Municipal Court Liaison, among others. A Corporal is assigned to Administrative Services and is responsible for allocation, issuance, and maintenance of equipment, fleet and building maintenance.

In addition, other Command Staff members include the following: The Office of Professional Standards Captain who reports to the Major and is responsible for Accreditation, state Certification, recruitment and selection, Internal Affairs, victim/witness coordination, training coordination, community relations, and acts as the Public Information Officer. The Patrol Division Captain who commands the Patrol Division with four Lieutenants reporting to him. The Criminal Investigations Captain commands the Criminal Investigations Division and has one Lieutenant reporting to him.

Pictured from left to right: Michelle Ward, Lori Jantosciak, Claudia Stapleton, and Lisa Ficalore. Photo by Captain Dove.
Administration

Administrative Services...
Who We Are, What We Do, And How We Do it

The administrative offices of the Peachtree City Police Department are open to the public from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Administrative Services personnel provide an invaluable service by responding to routine and emergency telephone traffic between the general public, police, and the Fayette County Dispatch Center; additionally the administrative staff assists any citizen walk-in traffic. These personnel monitor nine administrative telephone lines, assist with business related matters, process and enter reports and citations and give support to citizens and any other county entity when needed. Citizens come to the Police Department for numerous purposes. General requests from citizens include, but are not limited to, inquiries for copies of reports, directions, alcoholic beverage handling permits, and vehicle impound releases, fingerprinting, adoption reference letters, incident/arrest reports, and local background checks from state or federal agencies.

In addition to assisting any citizen who comes in to the Peachtree City Police Department, administrative services is also responsible for a large part of the internal, daily functions of the Police Department. Currently, there are four civilian personnel who comprise the administrative support services of the department. They include an Office Administrator who coordinates and oversees the basic workload responsibilities of the administrative support services, while coordinating with the Administrative Captain; a Staff Assistant, who assists the Chief of Police; a Staff Assistant, who assists the Criminal Investigations Division; and a Staff Assistant, who is assigned primarily at the front reception desk.

The listed documents are imperative for compiling statistics for the department. This information is used to constantly monitor increases in traffic problems, crime areas, and major accident sites. The Administrative Services staff is responsible for all data entry in the police department. This includes incident reports, accident reports, citations, warnings, and warrants from Municipal Court (Failure to Appear) and Probation Services (Probation Violation). Every report an officer takes is entered into our Records Management System.

Regular daily tasks for Administrative Personnel include:

• Answer multiple telephone lines
• Citation Entry
• Report Entry (Incidents and Miscellaneous incidents)
• Accident Entry
• Open Record Requests
• Warning ticket Entry
• Racial Profile Data Entry
• Process of Alcohol Permits, which includes running criminal and driver's histories
• Motion for Discovery preparation
• Subpoenas for Municipal Court
• Expungements
• Payroll
• Purchase Order Entry
• Receiving Report Entry
• Payment Requests
• Prepare drivers histories/criminal histories for City Solicitor to arrange for municipal court
• Process Solicitor Permit applications, which includes running a criminal and driver's histories
• Warrant/Missing Person/Theft entry
• Various operations for GCIC, including driver's histories for daily citations
• Replication of videos/DVDs for various purposes
• INET entry, maintenance and notifications
• House watch database entry and maintenance
• Adoption Reference Letters
• Local record checks
• Daily process of payments received
• Monthly tasks include:
  • End of the month crime statistics
  • UCR report
  • Patrol/Division monthly statistics
  • Arrest and Booking file management

Administrative Services staff is cross-trained to perform each task necessary in case of extended leave by any one staff assistant. Continuing Education classes are readily utilized to ensure knowledge on any changes within the scope of each position.

By Capt. S. Pye
There Are Only 365 Days A Year…
How We Make It Work

By Captain S. Pye

There are 251 work days (261 days – 10 holidays) that can be scheduled during the year. To adequately assess potential reductions in staff, vacation, compensatory time (including perfect attendance, safety time and birthday holiday time earned) and sick time must be considered. Two administrative personnel are tenured with four weeks vacation, and two at three weeks, which equates to 70 days, or shifts, per year. Based on 4 administrative personnel, the average sick time used is 2.75 days per month or 33 days per year, and 2 comp days per month or 24 days per year. There were no serious illnesses or maternity leave time off this year. There were a total of 4 safety days earned, 4 birthday holidays, and 8 perfect attendance days earned. This equates to a total of 143 potential work days off, or 56.97% of the 251 actual work days, when the administrative hours were staffed by 3 or less personnel, and because of training schedules, it was necessary to operate the administrative services with only two people. These instances were kept at a minimum, so that other departments were not impacted by the shortage. Administrative Services staff are cross-trained to perform each task necessary in case of extended leave by any one staff assistant.

Paperwork, Records, and Managing It All

During 2008, it was determined that the department records room would not be adequate enough to continue through the end of 2009. There are 8 racks, which hold 48 boxes each, or 384 boxes total. At the time of the records purge, there were only 10 spaces remaining, or 2.6% of the total number of spaces.

In accordance with the State of Georgia Records Retention Law, a detailed purging of records was initiated, starting with records dating as far back as 1976. The records retention schedule allows for the following records to be purged on a yearly basis:

- Accident Reports: 7 years
- Applications for Employment – Not Hired: 2 years
- Budget Reports: 6 years
- General Correspondence: 5 years
- Court Calendars: 1 year after end of year
- Monthly Activity Reports: 2 years
- False Alarm Reports: 3 years
- Incident Reports: 5 years
- Open Records Requests: 5 years
- Traffic Warnings: 2 years
- Traffic Citations: 2 years
- Video Tapes: 5 years
- Time Sheets: 3 years

A total of 252 boxes of records were destroyed, in accordance with the above records retention schedule, which made 65.62% total number of available spaces. After re-packing old records to be kept, giving the City Solicitor one 24 rack space for court files, and utilizing free space for other files, such as Alcohol Permits, there are currently 144 spaces or 37.5% of all spaces available. Each year, an evaluation will be made to see what records can be destroyed, in accordance with the State Records Retention Schedule.

In addition to the above, 24 boxes of video tapes were destroyed in accordance with the State of Georgia records retention schedule, which allows video tapes from the officer's vehicles to be destroyed every 5 years. There were 53 video tapes per box, or 1512 video tapes.

Pictured above from left to right: Captain Terry Ernst, Lieutenant Mark Brown and Captain Stan Pye.
The Department’s attendance and leave requirements are mandated by the Peachtree City Personnel Policy. Leave time can be accrued as follows:

- Compensatory Time
- Holiday Time
- Annual leave
- Perfect Attendance
- Safety Time

Time is also allotted for military leave, civil leave, family medical leave, and funeral leave. Leave without pay may be granted by the City Manager for prolonged illness, disability, training, pregnancy, and military service.

Processing Of Legal Documents

The Administrative Services Division handles the duties associated with the coordination and processing of legal service documents. This process is designed to ensure the accuracy of information, timeliness, accessibility, and fiscal accountability for the distribution of all our legal service documents. One of the department’s staff assistants are designated the responsibility for the receipt and entry of subpoenas. Subpoenas, issued on behalf of the Municipal Court, originate and are subsequently processed by one of the department’s Staff Assistants.

In 2008, there were 2,181 subpoenas issued to officers in the department. When comparing the figures to those from 2007, where 2,054 subpoenas were issued, this represents a 6.2% increase.

The following is a representation of how these subpoenas were accounted for:

- 1062 from Municipal Court
- 663 from State Court
- 125 from Juvenile Court
- 50 from Magistrate Court
- 281 from Superior Court

Additionally, Officers also receive subpoenas for Administrative License Suspension Hearings and testimony for neighboring departments via the Postal Service, which are not logged.

During 2008, there were 290 Motions for Discovery received by the department. This represents a 23.8% increase from 2007 when there were 221 Motions for Discovery received. Once these motions are filed with the Municipal Court Clerk, they are forwarded to the police department where a Staff Assistant enters the information into the Motions Log Book, gathers all the necessary paper work and, then distributes the motion to the appropriate officer. The officer organizes a response in memo form and submits the documentation to his/her supervisor for review. After the review process is completed, the motion is given to the Municipal Court Solicitor, who then responds to the appropriate defense attorney.
Police Report That Paperwork is Increasing At An Alarming Rate

By Captain S. Pye

During 2008, the police department continued to incorporate a formal report(review) procedure in our reporting process. This multi-step system allows us to accurately account for the number of reports returned for corrections and/or additional information required on the reports. This process helps to ensure the accountability of the field reporting system, our case number assignment, and the accuracy and quality of the reports submitted. This manner of review structure helps to ensure that reports completed by officers while on field patrol contain accurate, well-documented information. By incorporating this type of report/ review system, it readily provides information that can be referenced when completing an employee's annual evaluation. During the latter portion of the year, we began to implement an electronic report submission process that would eliminate the current backlog of reports that have to wait before being entered into records due to the time it takes to physically review these reports and processing these reports through the CID Staff Assistant. During 2008, there were a collective total of 12,951 reports submitted. This figure represents all the incident, accident, and miscellaneous reports submitted on behalf of the department. This represents a decrease of less than one percent from 2007 when there were 13,080 reports received. In 2008, there were 66 reports returned for corrections or additional information. The reason for the reduction in total reports and total number of reports returned during 2008 was due in part to the new electronic format that was being tested, the department began to streamline the type of reports completed, and due to the Report/Review process being completed by several different supervisors due to extended illnesses. This figure reflects the number of reports that contained significant errors or missing information. Many reports that have minor mistakes are routinely forwarded directly back to the officer for correction without being recorded as formal returns. This ensures that the reports with only minor errors can be directed to our records retention facility in a more expedient manner. We also observe a noticeable amount of reports that are returned by the first-line supervisors before they make it to the final report/review.

The Information Is Out There...

By Claudia Stapleton

Georgia Law, in conjunction with the Georgia Crime Information Center Council Rules, requires an audit be performed every three years for all Georgia Criminal justice agencies to verify the integrity of accuracy of records being entered and information being requested from the Criminal Justice Information System. The auditor checks accountability and accuracy of:

- Administration, which includes written policies for security and integrity of records
- Training, including Terminal Operators Workbooks and re-certification requirements
- Technical Security
- Criminal History File Access, including justification of Criminal History checks
- Record entries, including the accuracy and validity of Wanted/Missing Person and Stolen Vehicle/Article entries
- Hot Files record validation
- Background checks of all department personnel

The Department will be audited again in 2010.

In 2007, this department implemented a program to certify every officer in the GCIC workbook, in order to utilize the new on-board GCIC link. This was to optimize the road officers' ability to check for wanted, suspended individuals and stolen items. This program has been very successful, and no longer requires staff assistants to travel to the department during off duty hours.
First Offender Status

By Captain S. Pye

During 2008, there was a slight increase in the number of people applying for First Offender Status. There were 44 people that were granted First Offender Status during this past year. There were two significant reasons why this number continued to increase from past years. The growing economic concerns have made it more feasible for offenders to seek this avenue of pleading to a specific charge to help protect their individual backgrounds. Also, many defendants find themselves in situations where they need to pursue this option for reasons such as pending entrance into the military or similar fields. In 2007, only 35 people were granted First Offender Status. Even though many people apply for this status, only about fifty per cent actually complete the requirements and are granted the First Offender Status. The reasons for not completing the program resulted from the defendants either not completing the required schools or failing to pass the required drug screening. Due to the ever-increasing relaxed court rulings indicating which offenses could be considered under First Offender Status, the number of individuals able to apply for First Offender Status continues to show some increase from year to year.

Yearly Comparison of First Offender Pleas

![Graph showing yearly comparison of First Offender Pleas](image)

Administrative Services Training

By Claudia Stapleton

Continuing education classes are readily utilized to ensure knowledge on any changes within the scope of each staff assistant. In addition to continual cross training, the Administrative Staff attended the following training classes:

- TAC Certification
- Access Level 1 and 2
- Excel Level 2
- Managing Multiple Priorities
- Basic Spanish
- Digital ALLEY and Digital Patroller System
- E-forms development and implementation
- Administrative Professionals training
- Crystal Reports Level 2
- GA TAC Association annual training and updates

Police Report

Decrease in Solicitor's Permits Issued

By Claudia Stapleton

Solicitor Permits are obtained in order for businesses or individuals to sell products door to door or to pass out flyers to sell a service. This requires a business license and Georgia background check. During 2008, 75 solicitor permits were applied for, which is a 6.25% decrease over 2007.
Public Information

By Claudia Stapleton

An Open Records Request is defined as an inspection of public records, which can include, but not be limited to:

- Documents, including incident and accident reports
- Papers
- Letters
- Maps
- Books
- Tapes
- Photographs
- Computer based or generated information
- Personnel records

During 2008, there were 427 open records requests filed with this department. This is in addition to requests for copies of accident and incident reports, which the department supplies at no charge. On an average, the department receives 5 requests per day for copies of these types of reports.

In addition to open records requests, the department received 290 Motions for Discovery for cases to be tried in the Municipal Court of Peachtree City. This is an increase of 31.2% over motions filed in 2007.

Warrants...

Wouldn’t It Be Easier To Just Turn Yourself In?

During 2008, there were 382 warrants issued by this department, an increase of 24.03% over 2007. Of those warrants issued, 85 resulted in an arrest. In October 2008, two officers were assigned as a warrant team to find and serve individuals with outstanding warrants, some dating back ten years. Several internet web sites, including Accurint, were utilized, and with the cooperation of other jurisdictions, there were 49 individuals arrested from October to December 2008, and 4 warrants dismissed of individuals who were deceased. The team has put together an amnesty program, notifying individuals by mail that there is an outstanding warrant for their arrest, and offering these individuals a chance to themselves in. It is not known at this time what the results will be from this program.
The Peachtree City Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) since 1992. In addition, the agency has been State Certified by the Georgia Association of Chief’s of Police State Certification process since 1998. Accreditation and certification are progressive and time-proven ways of helping organizations evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Department members conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet standards set forth by CALEA, and 18 additional standards required by State Certification. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies that the agency has proved compliance and Accreditation should be bestowed. The same process applies to State Certification. The standards address nine major law enforcement subjects:

- Role responsibilities, and relationships with other agencies
- Organization, management and administration
- Personnel structure
- Personnel process
- Operations
- Operational support
- Traffic Operations
- Prisoner and court-related activities
- Auxiliary and technical services

In addition, the standards help law enforcement agencies through the following goals and objectives:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities
- Formalize essential management procedures
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices
- Improve service-delivery
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination
- Boost citizen and staff confidence in the agency

In 2008, the department completed its third State Certification assessment. State Certification requires that the agency comply with 18 standards and provide a copy of the last CALEA Accreditation report. Because there are only 18 standards to comply with, the onsite assessment only lasts for one day. Lt. Col. Dennis Nelson of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Department arrived at our agency on May 26, 2008 and reviewed all files and spoke with members of the department. No problems were found and the agency was once again awarded State Certification. Frank Rotondo, the Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Chief’s of Police, presented Chief Clark with the plaque during the September 4th, 2008 City Council meeting.

The department looked forward to the next onsite assessment during 2008. A complete review of policies was completed, and file construction began. Several new programs within the department, including the use of Tasers, a Canine Unit, and a Reserve Officer Program, were being researched, which enhanced the agency’s ability to comply with a variety of standards. It is estimated that due to these new programs, the department will be complying with an additional 20 standards. The onsite assessment is scheduled for August 22nd through August 26, 2009.
Discharge of Firearms

A total of 18 incidents of officers having to discharge their firearms were recorded in 2008. Seventeen of the incidents involved the dispatching of deer and one involved the dispatching of a Pitbull. The Pitbull had attacked a dog and its owner on the cart path and was aggressive towards officers as they attempted to capture it. This represents a 28% increase in the number of incidents from 2007. Ten of the incidents involved injuries sustained by the animals during collisions with vehicles, and seven, although not confirmed as being injured by a vehicle, had injuries consistent with a collision. A total of 44 rounds of ammunition were used to dispatch these animals. This is a increase of 57% over the number of rounds expended in 2007.

Of the 18 incidents, 56% occurred during the fall months, 16% occurred along Peachtree Parkway from the south city limits to the north, 22% occurred along Highway 74, 27% occurred along Highway 54, 22% occurred along Robinson Road, and the remaining 13% occurred throughout the city. In addition, 37% occurred from 0800-1600 hours, 10% occurred from 0000-0800 hours, and 53% occurred from 1600-0000 hours.

By Capt. R. Dove

Personnel Early Warning System

As per CALEA standard 35.1.9, a comprehensive Personnel Early Warning System is an essential component of good discipline in a well-managed law enforcement agency. It provides for the early identification of potential problem employees and a menu of remedial actions that can increase agency accountability and offer employees a better opportunity to meet the agency’s values and mission statement. A Personnel Early Warning System includes options and reviews available through use of force reporting, disciplinary systems, employee assistance programs, and internal affairs.

During 2008, the system did not alert on any employee where action was needed. It is important to note that all complaints, use of force reports, and disciplinary actions are entered into the database. Some employees that an alert is issued on may have been involved in several substantiated use of force incidents.

In 2001, the department created a database that houses all information needed to make a rational and logical evaluation of actions that employees take on a day-to-day basis. During the evaluation of this information, numerical scores are assessed in an effort to provide employees with assistance, as well as ensure that the general public is afforded the best law enforcement services available. Since its inception, the system has alerted two potentially problematic situations with two different employees. One of those employees is no longer working for the department, and the other was assisted through remedial training, counseling, and guidance. In this second situation, the officer has overcome problematic areas and developed into an outstanding employee.

By Capt. R. Dove
Grievances and Appeals

An important element of a sound personnel system is the existence of a formal method that allows employees to resolve their grievances with management. This requires that both City Administration and the police department give prompt consideration and equitable adjustments of employee grievances in a manner that is fair and expeditious. Ultimately, it is the desire of the City to address grievances informally. For that reason, there must be an open dialog between employees and their supervisors, and an effort must be made to resolve issues/problems as they arise. Nevertheless, it is realized that there are times when a grievance cannot be resolved at the lower levels and the process for formal appeal and review is initiated.

In 2008, there were no employee grievances registered with the police department.

By Major R. DuPree

Serving, Dispensing, Taking Orders For Alcohol?
Obtain Your Alcoholic Beverage Handling Permits Here

By Capt. R. Dove

In 2004, the City Council passed the Alcoholic Beverage Handling Permit Ordinance. This requires that all employees who take orders for, serve, dispense, or stock alcoholic beverages obtain a permit. In addition, employees who provide security for a bar or restaurant are required to obtain a permit. A Cross Match Live Scan system was purchased in 2004 to process the permits. This system includes an inkless digital fingerprinting system, fingerprinting and permitting software, and two printers. In 2008, a total of 1134 applications were processed. This is an 8% increase in the number of applications processed in 2007.

During 2008, the City of Fayetteville and the City of Peachtree City partnered with regards to these permits. Both cities have ordinances that mirror one another, and beginning this year, employees of alcohol establishments have the ability to obtain their permits from either city. Permits from either city are honored, thus eliminating the need for employees to obtain two permits if they work in both Peachtree City and Fayetteville.

Due to the change in ordinances, officers met with business owners twice during 2008 to provide them copies of the new ordinance and discuss the changes. Compliance checks were accomplished throughout the year to ensure that all establishments were aware of any changes. These checks resulted in numerous warnings being issued to employees and managers of alcohol establishments. During the next year, several more compliance checks and plans will be conducted to ensure that all businesses are abiding by the ordinances of Fayetteville and Peachtree City.

Corporal Boynton returns from an undercover alcohol compliance check.

Pictured above is the CrossMatch and Alcohol handling Permit system. Photo by Captain Dove.
The agency utilizes numerous databases for its records management system. The primary program used is Crimefile 2000, which houses all reports, citations, warnings, and crime data issued or created by officers. Crimefile 2000 is part of the USA Software package purchased by the department in 1997, and utilizes a series of reports to query data based on date, time, type of crime, and location, among others. In addition, Crystal Reports is utilized to create more elaborate and data intensive reports as needed. The Evidence Management module of USA Software is used to enter and track all property that is located within the evidence room. This tracking system utilizes a barcode number to assist in the entering and tracking of each item. The Captain’s Log was created in 2005 by Sgt. Matt Myers and is used to house a snapshot of each report that officers complete. Information is entered at the end of each shift to ensure that the most current information is available. The Digital Imaging System was created in 2001 by Matt Robinson and Captain Dove, and is used to process offenders in the Adult Booking Area. Due to the Police Department being located in a temporary facility, this system was not used during 2008. In addition to each of these systems, the agency utilizes the CID Masterlog, the Training Information System, Report and Review, the Bias Based Profiling Database, Applicant Database, Community Relations Database, Discharge of Firearms Database, and the Early Warning System.

In addition to these basic database systems, the department utilizes the following computer programs:

- Georgia Crime Information System (GCIC), which allows the department direct and immediate access to local and national records for vehicles, missing/wanted persons, FBI updates, as well as numerous other functions. This system also allows entry of wanted/missing persons as well as runaway juveniles, checks of pawn records, checks of vehicle registrations, look out alert entries for specific areas/regions, etc.

- Win-Pak System which monitors the police department alarm and swipe key entries. Win-Pak keeps a log of who entered secure areas of the police department on what day and time.

- Digital Eyewitness Media Manager System, which allows all video hard drives used in patrol cars to be uploaded to a server located at the police department. Once the hard drives are uploaded to the server, video files can be viewed, exported, archived to a DVD, or saved to another location. This software allows for copying of a file from the server directly to a folder that can be accessed by the City Prosecutor for use in court, therefore eliminating the need for officers to locate a VHS tape, find the needed information on the VHS tape, and transport the original video to court.

By Capt. R. Dove
Physical Agility Testing

By Capt. R. Dove

The department’s physical agility course is located at the rear of the facility. The course is designed to be used by the Special Response Team, with a modified version of the course being administered to applicants. The current course consists of a ¼ mile run with a dummy drag, serpentine course, 5’ wall climb, stair climb, and long jump. In 2008, 22 applicants completed the pre-employment physical agility test. Of these 22, 5 were offered employment.

New Technology

By Capt. R. Dove

During 2008, the department tested, evaluated, and prepared to purchase several new systems and hardware devices. The Eforms system that was implemented in 2007 was evaluated and tested by several members of the department. During the evaluation period, several recommendations were made by officers to ensure that this computer program was used to its fullest potential. In an effort to streamline the department’s data entry requirements, different modes of saving and transferring the data were attempted. During the last quarter of 2008, it was determined that the department needed several fields added to the reports. This would allow for data on the modus operandi of the offenders to directly transfer into Crime File 2000, thus allowing members of the department access to queries involving many different tools, weapons, and entry information on offenders. Eforms should be fully functional during the early portion of 2009.

In 2007, it was estimated that the media computer would be utilized by the Police Department and other departments within the city. In 2008, Captain Dove assisted several departments in the transferring of VHS video, as well as editing the video, for the public. In addition, several members of the department were trained on the use of the video capturing and editing software. During the later part of 2008, the Orbit Program was evaluated for use on the system. Orbit allows the agency to capture and download all types of videos that are streaming on the Internet. This program is used to capture numerous videos including media releases, and videos on MySpace and YouTube for use in investigations.

Polygraph Testing

By Capt. R. Dove

During 2008, a total of eight applicants completed polygraphs during the selection process for the Peachtree City Police Department. Of these eight applicants, five were offered employment with the agency. During the first half of 2008, the Polygraph Unit of the Georgia Bureau of Investigations conducted the polygraph testing. During the second half of the year, LaGrange Police Department assisted our agency by conducting polygraphs at no charge. As the GBI and LaGrange Police Department are CALEA Accredited and State of Georgia Certified agencies, they train their polygraphists and write their policies within the guidelines of each required standard.

Annual Review of SOPS

By Capt. R. Dove

Each year a complete review of all Standard Operating Procedures was conducted from April through December of 2008. This is done to ensure compliance with CALEA and State Certification Standards, state law, and Constitutional law. In addition, a complete review was imperative as Chief H. C. “Skip” Clark, II joined us in April, and the department is looking forward to its 2009 CALEA onsite.

To assist in the SOP review, revision, and distribution process, the department purchased Power DMS, which is a web-based database that manages policies. The new program allows for electronic signatures, testing of policies, and a reporting system to ensure that policies are managed effectively and efficiently.
Staying On Top Of New And Improved Law Enforcement Techniques

By Capt. R. Dove and Lieutenant J. Jenkins

During 2008, officers attended a total of 9677 hours of training at facilities such as the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Clayton Regional Law Enforcement Academy, Fulton County Public Safety Training Center, as well as our own facility. This year’s total hours includes SOP training, Basic Mandate, Field Training and POST training. The following is a breakdown of the training hours used for various classes.

- 2040 Basic Mandate
- 140 SOP training
- 280 Supervisory training
- 527 Management training
- 2512 Departmental Recruit Training
- 422 Firearms
- 232 ASP
- 244 Use of Force

This information does not include the Special Response Teams training, which is discussed at length in their annual report. The total number of hours for 2008 is a 16.9% increase from 2007. The total number of hours for Departmental Recruit Training includes 120 additional hours for a two week extension required of an officer during the program. This officer was released from employment after failing to complete the training program. In addition, there were 200 hours of field training that carried over from officers who began the program in 2007.

Management and supervision training increased significantly during 2008. This is partially due to several members of the department beginning the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College, as well as training for Taser Instructor, Field Training Unit Management, and Canine Unit Management. The Patrol Division continues to account for the largest portion of training hours, namely because they have the most personnel assigned to that division. Training for civilian personnel increased in 2008 with enhancement made to the Terminal Agency Coordinator program and the Administrative Professionals Certificate program.

Officers with the Peachtree City Police Department are required to receive annual training on all lethal and less than lethal weapons. In December of each year, Lt. John Jenkins conducts annual training on use of the ASP Expandable Baton. In recent years, Defensive Tactics have also been incorporated in an attempt to broaden the officer’s training. In 2008, yet another aspect of self defense was added into the training. Lt. Mark Brown introduced “Simunitions” into the training. Officers attending the training were placed in realistic scenarios involving aggressive suspects. Officers were required to make decisions based on the scenarios, and control the situation using the required level of force. In some of these scenarios, verbal commands were sufficient. In other scenarios, use of deadly force (utilizing simunitions) was a necessity. Officer feedback from this intensive training was very positive. Most officers that attended the training commented that it was the most practical training that they had received to date. The classes consisted of Lt. Jenkins and Lt. Brown (instructors) and took place over six different dates.
Do You Have A New Way Of Doing Things?
Do You Have A New Program?
Submit A Quality Improvement Project...

By Capt. R. Dove

The goal of the Quality Improvement Program is to introduce new, more effective and efficient programs, projects, policies and procedures for the city’s employees and citizens. There are no limitations placed on projects, however, the team, and the Quality Guidance Team must approve them. The Quality Guidance Team is comprised of Department Directors. Below is a listing of some of the notable projects that were implemented by the police department.

Teen Driving Ambition: This DVD that stresses the importance of safety while behind the wheel of a vehicle. It explains to teens that driving is a privilege as well as a responsibility, and can have a huge impact if you are careless behind the wheel.

Streamlined Bias Based Profile: This project placed the biased base profiling data sheet on the back of warnings and tickets. Ultimately, it minimizes the amount of additional paper use, paperwork, and reconciliation time.

PD One Source Contact Safety Concerns: The Peachtree City Police Department, in conjunction with the City’s Public Works and Engineering Departments, created several ways for citizens to report traffic concerns in Peachtree City. By completing the form requests are routed to the Police Department for prompt assistance.

Business Watch Update: By merging the Business Watch form from the Police Department with the Occupational tax License Application from Administrative Services, the police department obtains important information such as key holder information, emergency contact information, Alarm information, annually. In the event an officer finds a business door that is open or unsecure, they have an emergency contact number to call to have someone re-secure the door.

Several members of the department update the website on a regular basis.

Our Website
www.ptcpolice.org

By Lieutenant J. Jenkins

The goal of the Peachtree City Police Department’s website has always been to provide the citizens with information about the department and the community. In 2007, numerous additions to the departmental website were implemented. “Fight Graffiti” was added to educate citizens on the growing problem of “tagging” within the city. Information on contacting the police department and steps that citizens can take to assist the department were explained on the site. “I Net” or Instant Network, was developed to bridge a gap between citizens, business owners and the police department. Application forms, as well as information on the program, were added to the website as a simple way for citizens to join the program. A form was also created for citizens to report traffic concerns directly to the police department and to Public Works. Citizens having concerns ranging from traffic hazards to simple road obstructions were given a means of relaying this information without contacting Fayette Co. Communications or having to call the P.D. during business hours. As in past years, information on upcoming CERT classes and Citizen Police Academies were made available to citizens on the website as well as applications for the House Watch Program. The 2007 Annual Report was also posted and made available for download to citizens. As the website grows and additional programs are added, the Peachtree City Police Department’s website continues to prove to be a valuable asset to the department and to the community alike.
Internal Affairs

By Capt. R. Dove

Professional and courteous conduct is expected from all department personnel at all times. The Internal Affairs function of the Peachtree City Police Department oversees the actions of our employees to ensure that they display personal integrity, honesty and discipline at all times. The Internal Affairs function continues to be assigned to the Office of Professional Standards.

An integral part of the Internal Affairs process involves the managing of citizen complaints. This involves the documentation of performance, professionalism, and general conduct as it relates to citizen contacts. The complaint process provides an avenue for citizens to express their concerns and complaints against employees and allows the department to respond to the community’s needs through a thorough investigation of these complaints. As complaints are received, it is determined if they are formal or informal in nature. This depends greatly on the gravity of the allegation and the method by which the citizen voices their concerns; however, mechanisms are in place should the Internal Affairs Investigator determine that an informal complaint be upgraded. A thorough investigation of all complaints is conducted by the Internal Affairs function and as a result, employees and citizens gain a better understanding of what is expected of them. Complaints that are handled by supervisors are still considered part of this system and are forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards for inclusion in the Personnel Early Warning System.

The system of checks and balances provided by our process allows for fair and equitable treatment for our citizens and employees alike. As with most years, there were several complaints that were related to rudeness and vehicle operation. Only one of the complaints on vehicle operation was sustained. When reviewing rudeness complaints, many times the complainants have the perception that the officer is being rude merely by writing a citation. All audio and video recordings are reviewed during a complaint to ensure that the officer was not rude. After reviewing numerous recordings this year, it seems as if the complainants feel the officer was rude because they asked for a warning and received a citation. Four of the eight complaints regarding duty responsibilities were sustained during 2008. These consisted primarily of officers failing to conduct basic preliminary investigations. In addition, one officer received a complaint for failing to assist a motorist whose vehicle was partially blocking the roadway. A review of this complaint revealed that the officer was in route to a domestic dispute and could not stop, but additionally did not call dispatch and notify them of the disabled vehicle.

Employees and citizens are notified of the outcome of the complaints, as well as supervisors. This helps ensure better understanding of the Internal Affairs function and how the validity of such complaints is addressed.

Some of the many goals of the Internal Affairs Function are as follows:

- Encourage a positive public image.
- Monitor employee compliance with departmental directives.
- Identify potential problem employees through early warning systems.
- Identify the validity of each citizen complaint.
- Identify the potential for biased based profiling.
- Help ensure the integrity of the police department, as well as its employees.
- Protect employees from malicious or unwarranted complaints.
- Identify the necessity of policy revision or modification.
- Ensure the integrity of our Municipal Court System by omitting the potential for outside pressure or influence involving cases presented to the court.
Internal Affairs

By Capt. R. Dove

In 2008, there was one formal complaints reviewed by the department. In the category of informal complaints, there were 33 complaints filed and investigated by supervisors or commanders. 2008 complaints are categorized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Complaint</th>
<th>Total Received</th>
<th>Exonerated</th>
<th>Sustained</th>
<th>Partially Sustained</th>
<th>Not Sustained</th>
<th>Unfounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harassment</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Rudeness</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Policy Violation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unjust Citation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unjust Traffic Stop</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Arrest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Search</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excessive Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improper Search</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicle Operation</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Road Safety Check</td>
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<td>Bias Based Profiling</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teenage Profiling</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Rights Violation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unethical Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improper Conduct</td>
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<td>Duty Responsibilities</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abusive Conduct towards a Citizen</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Internal Affairs

By Capt. R. Dove

A total of 33 informal complaints were logged in 2008. This is compared to a total of 31 informal complaints that were received in 2008, resulting in a 6% increase.

Several of the complaints categorized above were initiated due to the following:

- Citizen’s misperception of the encounter they had with the officer.
- Misconceptions about law.
- The diversity of our community and the contrast between each citizen’s enforcement expectations and their personal demand for service.
- Citizens unaware of legal requirements, written directives, proper protocol, and enforcement techniques.
- Officers not being cognizant of the fact that their driving habits can be deemed offensive to the public.
- False or incorrect allegations by citizens.
- Preconceived notions or ideas about discriminatory profiling practices.
- Follow-up traffic enforcement resulting from neighborhood complaints.

In 2008 there was one informal complaint regarding Bias Based Profiling. After a review, the complaint was exonerated.

- The complainant was stopped for not having a tag on his vehicle. The complainant stated that he did have a temporary tag that was taped in his rear window and wanted to make sure that he was not stopped because he was Hispanic.

- The traffic stop was reviewed and the officer was spoken with. The investigation revealed that the complainant did have a temporary tag, but the tint of his rear window obscured it from vision and the officer did not see the tag until he exited his vehicle and approached the complainant. Regardless, the tag is required by law to be affixed to the tag area of the vehicle and not to the rear window. The complainant was issued a warning for not having his tag affixed to the vehicle in the correct location.

- All of this was explained to the complainant who was satisfied with the response. The complaint was held exonerated in files.

Yearly Disciplinary Actions Comparison
Start A Career....    
Not Just A Job!

By Capt. R. Dove

During 2008, the department received a total of 116 applications. This resulted in an increase of 58.9% or 43 applications from 2007 statistics. For the past seven years, there have been drastic increases and decreases in the number of applications received each year. This can partly be attributed to the changing economic climate, as well as salary and quality of life issues. During the year, we had a 65% increase in the number of Georgia Police Certified applicants from 2007. There were several reasons for this (furloughs, layoffs), but all related to budgetary issues within other departments. Recruitment activities remained fairly consistent with previous years, with web based recruitment remaining as a focal point for the program. In the fall, Cpl. Sanchez and Ofc. Lacourly attended the Career Connection Job Fair that includes over 25 local colleges and universities. Web based activities included Officer.com, Policeone.com, CALEA.com, and publications on the ICMA website. There were numerous inquiries from the web based recruitment, however, based on the information contained on the applications, it is hard to determine how many were actually a result of the web based recruitment efforts.

As a progressive law enforcement agency, we strive to be conscientious in recruiting and hiring the best possible candidates. We will continue to maintain our commitment to aggressively pursuing qualified minority and female applicants through our recruitment and selection process. Currently, the demographics of our workforce are in close proximity to that of our City. Through the periodic review and maintenance of our Affirmative Action Plan and Equal Opportunity Employment Plan, we will continue to update our goals in an effort to ensure a comparative makeup to that of our community.

Since 1992, the year in which our Affirmative Action Plan was adopted, the department has hired 45 females (32 patrol officers, 8 staff assistants, and 4 dispatchers). Of the females hired, 10 remain as patrol officers and four remain as staff assistants. Additionally, since 1992 the department has hired 16 minority males, three of whom remain employed. Although these figures seem quite impressive, beyond these efforts the department has offered employment to another thirteen prospective female/minority candidates. Unfortunately, for reasons beyond our control these offers were either declined, or the candidates failed to successfully complete their probationary status.

During 2008, eight new recruits gained employment with the police department. The 2008 candidates included two Caucasian females, one African-American male, and four Caucasian males.

Currently, our sworn female/minority employee representation is calculated as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B/M</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/M</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H/F</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W/F</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/F</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department-wide female/minority representation = 22.7% (includes civilian staff)
Sworn female/minority representation = 24.1%

68 Authorized positions – 64 Sworn and 4 Civilian
Actual Strength – 62 Sworn and 4 Civilian
Recruitment initiatives during the past five years include the following:

- Implemented a comprehensive application questionnaire.
- Linked to city’s website to promote the department and provide job announcements to prospective candidates.
- Established on-line access to “Military Hire” website.
- Enhanced the department’s website link to attract a more diverse group of prospective candidates.
- Implemented electronic application.
- Participated in Public Safety Retirement Committee.
- Designed and built a new physical agility course to assist in screening potential candidates.
- Participated in College job fairs.
- Discussed recruitment efforts with civic organizations.
- Maintained a relationship with the Georgia Police Corp and attracted two candidates from the applicant pool.

Depending on the department’s number of forecasted and/or vacant positions in 2009, our recruitment strategy will include the following:

- Marketing our salary and benefit programs to the fullest extent possible.
- College job fairs.
- Posting job vacancy announcement through university job placement and career service programs.
- Utilizing the public information cable channel and Internet websites to post job announcements.
- Publishing job announcements in local media sources.
- Posting job announcements with the State’s regional law enforcement academies.
- Solicit assistance from the International Society of Peachtree City and encourage participation from the city’s civic clubs and social organizations.
- Update recruitment brochures as necessary.
- Conduct speeches at McIntosh High School and participate in the law weeks sponsored by local high schools.

During 2008, a total of eight applicants were hired. Three were already certified in Georgia and five attended the Clayton Regional Law Enforcement Academy. Of the remaining applicant pool, depicted in the tables above, a number of them did not progress through the selection process for reasons such as lack of qualifications, education, poor employment records, and failure to complete the application in its entirety.

**Applicants that are disqualified may fall into more than one category. Others applications may be placed on hold pending consideration for a future date.**
Bias Based Profiling

By Capt. R. Dove

In 2001, the Department implemented a Biased Based Profiling policy that provides guidelines for officers, discusses case law, and reviews legislation. In addition, it prohibits stopping, detaining, searching or attempting to initiate asset seizure and forfeiture efforts against an individual based solely upon that person’s race, color, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, age, gender and/or sexual orientation. This policy requires that each time officers conduct traffic stops based on moving and non-moving violations, violations of penal code and city ordinances, citizen initiated calls, pretextual stops, field interviews and special details, additional documentation on the stop is completed. This documentation details the traffic stop and subsequent actions taken. This information is then entered into a database that is queried on a quarterly basis. These quarterly data reports provide the basis for this Annual Bias Based Profiling review. Following, is the statistical data collated during the year 2008 and a review of this information.

The information presented is based on the race of subject encountered. The database is able to provide reports based on gender, age, searches, types of violations, and many others. The most frequently encountered complaint made in reference to bias based profiling involves race, and therefore, the data is prepared for race. Should a complaint regarding these other characteristics come to light, a report will be generated.

Our city’s workforce demographics, as well as our appeal as a South-Metro Atlanta retail center, significantly impact traffic enforcement statistics, especially Monday thru Friday.

One interesting note about the data is that there was no change in percentages in regards to the African American stops from 2007 to 2008. In addition, there was a decrease of 1% of Caucasians stopped, a .7% decrease in the number of Hispanics stopped, and an increase of .7% in the other category. Based on the information presented in the above table regarding race versus citation/warning percentages, it appears that no disparate impact exists. As stated earlier in the report, the demographics information used as a comparison does not take into account the day time population regarding race of individuals. In addition, on a quarterly basis, the raw data per officer is compared to ensure that individual officers are not engaging in profiling activities. From all collated and analyzed data, it does not appear that individual officers are engaging in this prohibited practice.

In 2008 there was one informal complaint regarding Bias Based Profiling. The complaint was held exonerated.

- The complainant was stopped for not having a tag on his vehicle. The complainant stated that he did have a temporary tag that was taped in his rear window and wanted to make sure that he was not stopped because he was Hispanic.

- The traffic stop was reviewed and the officer was spoken with. The investigation revealed that the complainant did have a temporary tag, but the tint of his rear window obscured it from vision and the officer did not see the tag until he exited his vehicle and approached the complainant. Regardless, the tag is required by law to be affixed to the tag area of the vehicle and not to the rear window. The complainant was issued a warning for not having his tag affixed to the vehicle in the correct location.

- All of this was explained to the complainant who was satisfied with the response. The complaint was held exonerated in files.
Promotions within our organization denote vertical movement from one rank or position classification to another. The ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant are promoted positions, whereas Corporal is an automatic pay grade advancement (based on a combination of tenure and education). The rank of Captain is considered an appointed position and is selected by the Chief of Police, via a somewhat limited process. Promotions and appointments are generally accompanied by an increase in duties and responsibilities, as well as increases in salary.

The promotional process begins by identifying employees who appear to have the potential for assuming greater responsibilities and have the skills, knowledge, and abilities required to perform at a higher level. Although the process usually includes a broad range of activities, 2008’s promotional processes were suspended until the appointment of a new Chief of Police. After Chief Clark’s appointment, the department decided to modify the process and contract with the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association to conduct promotional assessments.

The department’s standard operating procedures address:

- Review of personnel files, I.A. files, and performance evaluations
- Posting of promotional eligibility roster (effective two years from posting date)
- Oral interviews
- Job vacancy postings and bidding process
- Review of candidate eligibility criteria and job bids
- Selection for promotion (rule of five)
- Appeals process
- Six-month probationary period upon promotion

Since 1989, the police department has maintained primary responsibility for developing and administering our agency’s promotional activities. In 2008, the Georgia Chief’s of Police Association was delegated this principal role in conjunction with the Chief of Police and the City’s Human Resources Department. The Human Resources department coordinates only basic requirements, but does ensure that the process is administered in a fair and impartial manner.

The most significant feature of the process is the assessment center. An assessment center helps to measure job related traits and/or characteristics that are based on identifiable behaviors, qualifications, and leadership potential. When combined with performance evaluation reviews, work experience and oral interviews, these components reinforce the department’s ability to identify and select potential candidates for promotional eligibility.

Although there were no promotions in 2008, four (4) officers received pay grade advancements during the year, having met educational requirements and other criteria for Corporal. During 2008, there were no promotions or advancements in the civilian staff category.

Pictured above: Captain Mike Claman
Employee Probationary Status

By Major DuPree

During 2008, twelve (12) employees of the police department successfully completed probationary status. Of these employees, four (4) completed probation after receiving a promotion in rank and two (2) completed probation while in the new employee category. Due to work related issues, three (3) employees were terminated from employment prior to completing probation.

Mutual Aid

By Captain M. Claman

Emergency preparedness is essential to law enforcement operations. In an effort to keep abreast of the surrounding area resources that are available, the police department maintains Mutual Aid Agreements with law enforcement agencies in both Fayette and Coweta Counties. Information contained within these agreements lists the number of personnel available (sworn and non-sworn), the number of vehicles (marked and unmarked) and tactical equipment. Specialty vehicles such as communications vehicles, off-road vehicles, helicopters, boats and prisoner transport vehicles are a few of the other resources available under the mutual aid agreements.

Annually the Mutual Aid Agreements are reviewed and updated as deemed necessary. Agreements have been signed with the Fayette County Sheriff’s Department, Fayetteville Police Department, Fayette County Marshal’s Office, Coweta County Sheriff’s Department, Tyrone Police Department, Newnan Police Department, Fairburn Police Department and the Senoia Police Department.

Court Systems

By Lieutenant Hill

In 2008, officers spent a total of 746 hours attending court in various judicial venues within the Griffin Judicial Circuit and Peachtree City Municipal Court. The following represents how the majority of these hours were accrued.

Municipal Court 477.25
Superior Court 22.75
State Court 73.75
Juvenile Court 89.50
Administrative Hearings / Civil Trials 82.25

During 2008, there were 7372 cases processed through the Municipal Court System, officers assigned to the Patrol Division accounted for a majority of these cases. Of the 7372 cases processed, 3969 resulted in bond forfeitures, 334 cases were dismissed, 171 resulted in trial convictions, and 19 cases were found not guilty. There were 193 cases that were referred to State and Juvenile courts. There were also 920 cases where the offenders plead Nolo Contendere.

Municipal Court Solicitor

By Lieutenant Hill

For the past 4 years Marcia Moran has served as the court solicitor for the cities municipal court. She reports directly to the City Manager and maintains her office at the Police Department. With her office being connected to the Police Department it makes her readily available to assist officers on cases prior to trial. This also allows her to hold pre-trial meetings with defense attorneys, review evidence and audio/video recordings. She has assisted/represented officers in over 1,276 city court cases, this does not include the several hundred phone calls fielded with regards to ALS Hearings and the on the side of the road contacts.

Pictured below: Lieutenant Hill
All police officers hired at the Peachtree City Police Department must attend a state certified police academy. Currently, all officers hired attend the Clayton Regional Training Academy, this training last approximately 10-weeks. In most cases, if we hire an officer with previous experience from a Georgia police department, the training requirement has already been met and can be waived for employment with the City of Peachtree City. This serves to accelerate the time that it takes to put a fully functional officer to work in a solo capacity.

The Field Training and Evaluation program at the Peachtree City Police Department consists of a minimum of 8-weeks of intense training and evaluation. Due to a variety of factors, including the new officer’s progress, the program could last up to the time that the Command Staff feels that the officer can be released. Probationary officers are paired with experienced officers who have been chosen and trained as Field Training Officers (FTO’s). It is the goal of the Field Training program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity.

Once a probationary officer has been released from Field Training, the officer must complete an additional probationary period of six months. The training of new police officers offers many challenges for the FTO’s. During the calendar year 2008, a total of 7 officers spent time in the FTO program for training and evaluation. During the FTO program we had 3 officers that were already state certified, 4 that completed training at the Clayton Regional Academy before beginning the FTO program. Of the seven officers that began the training 6 completed the FTO program and one was terminated. Also, during 2008 an interview board was conducted for officers wanting to become Field Training Officers. At the completion of this board two new FTO’s were selected and later certified in the program.

In 2008, the Peachtree City Police Department began a study of ECD’s (Electronic Controlled Device) as an additional tool for officers confronted with hostile or aggressive suspects. The ECD’s are designed to be a less-lethal force option that transmits electronic pulses into the body of the aggressor causing temporary muscular disruption, thereby allowing the officer to safely de-escalate a violent situation. Two types of ECD’s were researched, Stinger and Taser. While both devices have outstanding qualities that would benefit the department and its officers, the Taser was ultimately found to be the most beneficial. Lt. John Jenkins was selected as the department’s Taser instructor and graduated from the Taser Instructor Course in late October. Since that time, 35 Tasers have been purchased with donated and confiscated funds for use by front line officers. Classes for officer certification have been scheduled for early 2009, all of which will be instructed in-house by Lt. Jenkins.

The Peachtree City Police Department’s Honor Guard began 2007 by once again participating in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade sponsored by the Fayette County chapter of the NAACP. This was the department’s fourth year in attendance and once again was asked to also present the colors at the opening ceremony just following the parade. On January 23rd, the Honor Guard attended the funeral of a fallen Dekalb Co. officer. On May 8, The Honor Guard participated in a joint presentation involving Fayette Co. S.O., Fayetteville P.D. and other agencies at the second annual D.A.’s Banquet. On July 4th, the Honor Guard once again led the annual Peachtree City 4th of July Parade. On August 16th, the Honor Guard presented the colors for the Kiwanis’s annual breakfast at the Wyndham Conference Center. On October 11th and 12th, the Honor Guard presented the colors at the opening ceremony of the Wings Over Dixie Air Show. On November 1st, two flag details were conducted, one for the NAPUS (National Post Masters) conference and the other was for the NAACP annual banquet. Both were held at the Wyndham Conference Center. On December 9th, the Honor Guard participated in the funeral of Fayette Co. Capt. Mike Pruitt.
Firearms Training

By Lieutenant J. Epps

The Peachtree City Police Department provides Annual Firearms Training to all sworn officers with the department with their duty pistol and the departmentally issued shotgun. This is conducted in the spring of each year during Annual Qualifications Week. The attendance of all officers to this training is mandatory. In 2008, annual qualifications were held during the week of April 14th through April 18th. During this training, officers proved their proficiency with their duty pistols and shotguns, and received instruction from the department’s three POST Certified Firearms Instructors, Lt. Jason Epps, Sgt. Brad Williams and Sgt. Odilia Bergh.

Firearms Training is not limited to regular duty officers. It is also provided for every officer cadet undergoing training in the academy prior to certification. These cadets are trained on the departmentally issued handgun to ensure that they are made as comfortable and as proficient as is possible prior to their firearms qualification week in the police academy. Prior to graduation from the police academy, police recruits are given instruction and familiarization on the departmentally issued duty weapon at the Fayette County Firearms Range. This serves to assist them in growing comfortable with the mechanics and use of the duty weapon prior to their required qualification on the Georgia Qualification Course mandated by POST.

In addition to annual qualifications, the members of the departments Special Response Team receive additional firearms training on a regular basis in the use of their duty weapons, shotguns, specialized weapons and less then lethal munitions. All departmental training is supplemented for the officers by regular training at surrounding state police training facilities. These training academies include the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, The Clayton Regional Law Enforcement Academy in Jonesboro, and the Fulton County Police Academy in College Park, among others. Officers attend firearms training in these academies that have been approved by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council of Georgia.

Sergeant Brad Williams discusses range rules and fire arms fundamentals with patrol officers prior to our April qualifications. Also pictured above are Corporals A. Ward, R. MacCallum, B. Jantosciak, and C. Brown.
Performance Appraisal System

By Captain T. Ernst

The police department realizes the importance of administering an employee performance evaluation system that ensures

- The best use of available human resources
- Personnel issues are identified and addressed promptly and fairly
- Optimum job satisfaction is made possible for each employee

For this reason, the police department’s principles of performance evaluation and the manner in which we carry out these responsibilities are structured in accordance with professional accreditation standards.

Prior to CALEA accreditation in 1992, the police department adopted a new set of performance appraisal guidelines. These guidelines were designed to provide a comprehensive, fair, and timely written evaluation that would demonstrate continuity in maintaining a record of the employee’s performance for a specified period of time. The guidelines also incorporated the use of rating forms, rating criteria, status reports, periodic reviews, performance appraisal conferences, employee feedback, and an appeals process. Since then, because the system is reviewed annually, it has been redefined and periodically modified.

In 2007, after a comprehensive review by the Atlanta Regional Commission, the City modified the appraisal system once again and added an additional level to the basic rating structure. Rather than maintaining ratings which included unsatisfactory, marginally satisfactory, fully satisfactory and outstanding, the new system incorporated exceeds standards. The rating for exceeds standards differentiates between employees who consistently exceeded performance standards but are not always performing work at an outstanding level. With the new rating structure, the City also attached a new pay scale to the system. Currently, employees can earn pay increases between 1.5% and 4.5%, depending on their performance appraisal ratings and there are no additional plans to modify rating or pay scales during 2009.

While the department recognizes the importance of the performance evaluation to identify certain work behaviors, supervisors are also encouraged to monitor employee performance through a combination of activities such as periodic reviews, employee meetings, supervisor notes, early warning alert system reviews, remedial training, constructive feedback, and awards and commendations. These activities encourage good performance; identify problems or concerns; enhance the department’s ability to intervene in non-compliant employee behavior; provide employees critical feedback; and encourage input regarding career development.

In 2008, the police department delivered fifty-six (56) performance evaluations. When reviewing the data, 44.6% (25) of the employees were rated in the overall outstanding category, 42.8% (24) were rated in the exceptional category and 12.5% (7) were rated in the satisfactory category. There were no employees who were rated in the unsatisfactory or marginally satisfactory categories in 2008.
Property and Evidence Management

By Captain S. Pye

At the core of any police department is the evidence/property room, which provides for the security and control of collected evidence and other property. The admissibility of evidence in court depends directly upon the department’s ability to accurately account for and track evidence under its control. It is imperative that the department continue to implement and maintain comprehensive standards for the handling of evidence and other property. The Department’s property/evidence room was designed and is maintained in accordance with CALEA and State certification standards. The Department’s accountability system provides for the strict handling of the evidence, property, and property control receipts, as well for conducting accurate inspections and inventories as is required by law enforcement accreditation.

During the beginning of 2008, Cpl. Chris Brown, the primary evidence custodian, and Sgt. Brad Williams, the assistant Evidence Custodian, maintained the police department’s evidence/property room. Sgt. Sam Smith assumed custody/control as the primary evidence custodian in June 2008, with Cpl. Chris Brown remaining as the alternate.

The Department maintained a secure evidence/property room facility at the department, as well as a secure off-site rented facility used to store large found property of no evidentiary value.

In December of 2008, the department moved from its temporary facility at 2011 N. Commerce Dr., back to it’s permanent building at 350 S. Hwy 74. In preparation of this move, the permanent evidence room was expanded to increase its storage capacity nearly 50%. The room’s shelving was upgraded from consumer grade plastic shelving to industrial quality metal racks. Cardboard boxes used for storing evidence were replaced with heavy duty plastic bins.

This move required the transition of the entire evidence/property room and all its contents between the buildings. All evidence/property was inventoried and accounted for, sealed in secure evidence bins, and moved back to the permanent evidence room under guard of Sgt. Smith. The entire room and its contents were moved on December 8, 2008.

A 50’ shipping container was purchased for storage at the police department in December. Items previously stored in the rented off-site facility have been moved into it, allowing a long term cost savings. Half of the container is used for general storage, while the other half has been designed as a secure storage area for large non-evidence items such as found bikes.

During 2008, a transition to new Property/Evidence tracking software (Evidence File 2000) was begun. During this process, each individual item in evidence had to be physically matched with its property control sheet, deleted from the old computer system, a new tracking barcode was attached, and the data was entered into the new software. This was a lengthy process, which, in addition to the regular day-to-day activities, has taken nearly 6 months to complete.

During 2008, there were 863 new items entered into evidence. This included 190 items for controlled substances and 42 weapons. $8898.34 in cash was taken in as evidence or safekeeping. The department also maintains a large number of desktop and laptop computers taken as evidence during investigations.

Pictured above is Sergeant Sam Smith, the Evidence Custodian. Photo by Office Lacourly.
Take Home Vehicle Program
By Captain S. Pye

The vehicle take-home program was introduced in 1999. Since that time, the program has grown to include take-home vehicles for all members of the Criminal Investigations Division (C.I.D.), the Community Response Team (C.R.T.) and the Special Response Team (S.R.T.). During the renovations of our department in 2008, all patrol officers residing within a fifteen mile radius of the city were issued a take-home vehicle due to the lack of adequate secure parking at our temporary facility.

There are currently 43 uniformed officers, residing inside and out of the city, with marked take-home vehicles and 5 detectives with assigned unmarked take-home vehicles. There is one uniformed officer that resides outside of the fifteen mile radius that is assigned a marked vehicle, but does not take it home. Three additional officers that do not live in Peachtree City are command staff members that are subject to being called in and have been issued a take-home vehicle for more immediate responses to incidents.

During 2008 the department took delivery of 7 new patrol vehicles and 3 new unmarked Ford Explorers. The department was also fortunate enough in 2008 to win a fully outfitted 2007 Ford Mustang. With the addition of the Mustang and the 2008 vehicle fleet purchase, an additional 8 patrol vehicles were added to the fleet, bringing the total number of patrol ready vehicles to 55. The department was able to replace aging patrol and CID vehicles as well as add to the number of reliable pool vehicles for use during service issues. With the addition of the seven 2008 Crown Victoria police vehicles each officer continues to be assigned their own vehicle. It has been our experience that officers who are assigned to one vehicle, will take better care of it because it becomes a direct reflection of that officer.

With the addition of these vehicles the amount of downtime for the police vehicles was significantly reduced. It has been determined that most officers that are issued an individually assigned vehicle maintain their vehicle more consistently than if they shared the vehicle. The vehicle is driven less frequently, thereby reducing the mileage placed on it, the hours of use are reduced thereby reducing the “wear and tear” considerably, and the vehicle is kept much cleaner than vehicles that are shared by multiple officers. This increases the public’s perception of the professional police officer.

2008 brought many changes to both patrol and CID vehicles. Many officers took an active role in modifying and substituting equipment to better serve the department. CID vehicles were outfitted with emergency equipment so as to allow members of CID to safely respond to scenes. Patrol vehicles were most significantly changed in their appearance with the addition of new graphics. The new appearance seems to have brought new pride to the department, which in turn causes those officers to better take care of their vehicles. Additionally the emergency lights on the newly equipped vehicles have been changed to include red lights that improve visibility for oncoming vehicles, thus improving the safety of officers. The department has continued to implement the Kustom digital NXT HD system. The current DVD/VHS system will be phased out and replaced with a digital hard drive capable of maintaining 80G of digital audio and video footage for evidentiary and officer safety purposes. By transitioning to a hard drive system this allows for considerably more recording time for the officer. The digital video system has aided officers by providing a pre-record feature that allows up to three minutes that is recorded to the hard drive before the officer activates the camera. In such events the officer may witness an unsafe or reckless act, that the officer believes warrants immediate action. In such an event up to three minutes prior to the record button being pressed would be automatically recorded to the hard drive and everything subsequent would continue to be recorded. This feature is invaluable in many cases such as DUI, Reckless Driving, Accidents, and other instances where the public, or the officer, could be placed in danger if the conduct or actions were allowed to persist without immediate intervention.

Additionally four special purpose vehicles, 2 Yamaha Grizzly 350 four-wheelers, a Yamaha 450 Rhino side-by-side, and a 2008 Ford F250 were added to the fleet. The ATV special purpose vehicles were added to the fleet in order to increase visibility and enhance safety on the city’s golf cart paths. The Ford F250 was needed for its increased payload and towing capacity required to tow the department’s many trailers. The F250 was also outfitted with emergency equipment and a heavy duty winch that can be utilized during emergency situations and inclement weather. The department’s Kawasaki Mule was removed from service due to decreased reliability and the associated cost of repair. All but four 1999 Crown Vics, two used by Auxiliary Police and two used for administrative purposes, have been removed from the fleet.
Use of Force
By Captain S. Pye

The police department continues to conduct a comprehensive annual review and analysis of each use of force incident involving Peachtree City Police Officers. The purpose for conducting the review/analysis is to discern patterns in incidents and/or officer behaviors that could give rise to use of force incidents. This method of tracking also helps identify officers with a history of complaints and facilitates the department’s ability to take corrective action. Although the process has yet to identify any specific behavioral concerns, the data has been helpful in producing a variety of other results.

These include:

- Improved officer training
- Reducing liability
- Appropriating new or replacement equipment (e.g., stop sticks, impact weapons, tactical equipment and chemical agents)
- Improving response to incidents that give rise to use of force
- Broadening the parameters of use of force application and alternatives
- Evaluating specific thresholds/levels of the department’s “force continuum”
- Enhancing the department’s ability to collect timely data to address public concerns
- Specialization such as the Special Response Team (SWAT)
- Revising departmental policies and procedures

Controversy over the use of excessive force is distinctively tied to the overall quality of relations between the citizens of a community and the police. Where police, neighborhoods, and community groups develop strong relations, friction is generally minimized and partnerships have the opportunity to develop. Generally speaking, citizens from most segments of society have a greater respect for a law enforcement agency when its police officers are viewed as ethical, concerned, professional and fair.

Furthermore, the public is more likely to keep an open-minded about an application of force when there are positive daily contacts between police and citizens. Likewise, police officers have a greater sense of confidence in doing their jobs when they believe they can count on their citizens for trust and support. As a police agency, we are constantly reminded that good policing practices are essential to developing citizen confidence in both our mission and the administration of justice.

The policies and practices of the police department delineate acceptable behaviors, training requirements, and performance requisites when our officers are confronted with potential use of force situations. These policies are consistent with state certification and accreditation standards and strengthen our agency’s ability to adhere to state law. As an agency that embraces the highest level of professional standards, our officers understand the value and dignity of each person and are respectful of their civil rights. We also understand that our law enforcement authority comes

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Use of Force

By Captain S. Pye

By defining the department’s role, authority and our objectives relative to the application of force, three broad purposes are served:

- Employees are held accountable for their actions, attitudes, and behaviors.
- A general standard is established by which the public can measure our agency’s and the individual officer’s performance.
- The agency is compelled to provide the officer a shield of constitutional protection if he/she applies force in a manner consistent with policies and procedures and State law.

Our police department understands the need to proceed cautiously in establishing a threshold when the application of force is justified. To manage, monitor, and moderate the different levels of response, our officers receive guidance through policy review, training, and participation in practical exercises. The department’s policies and procedures, and officer training incorporate a conceptualization tool known as a “force continuum”. The “force continuum”, a spectrum of force alternatives, consists of six levels. Each tier represents an escalation of force from the preceding level. Its principles, combined with safety considerations, reinforce the importance of approaching each situation at the lowest level possible, in order to achieve the desired results. Officer presence; verbal commands; control and restraint; chemical agents; temporary incapacitation; and lethal force are key tiers designed within our force continuum.

During 2008, the police department registered and investigated 7 incidents involving use of force. As in past years, indicators attribute alcohol/drug consumption as a significant contributing factor. In fact, 3 of the 7 incidents (43%) were related to alcohol and/or drug use. In each instance the use of force occurred after the subject was placed under arrest of which five were misdemeanors and two were felonies.

Use of Force
By Captain S. Pye

Other factors and statistical data are specified in the table listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCIDENTS RESULTING IN USE OF FORCE</th>
<th>USE OF FORCE UTILIZED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Incidents</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol/Drug Related</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Arrest</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapon Involved</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide Threat</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoplifting</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor Arrest</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Disturbance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loitering/Suspicious Person</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Related Incident</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resisting Arrest</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affray</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot Pursuit</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons Drawn incidents</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baton Use</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Rest./Limit Resist.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Contact/SD</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive Resistance</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.C. Spray Utilized</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispatch Animals *</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.C. Spray Animals *</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop Stick Utilization</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distraction Device</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFTER ACTION CONSIDERATIONS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer Assault/Injury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Damage Incidents</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile/Adult Incidents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male/Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>White/African Amer./Other</td>
<td>3/4/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Pursuit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Related</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compliant with Policies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Compliant with Policies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Depending on the category, some incidents may be represented more than just once.

* Reports concerning the dispatch of injured animals or actions taken against vicious animals are not considered in analytical data for this particular report.
Use of Force
By Captain S. Pye

In 2008, the police department observed a 22% decrease in use of force occurrences when compared to the 9 incidents in 2007. All 7 of the 2008 incidents originated within the corporate limits of Peachtree City. Five of the use of force occurrences (71%) involved offenders from Peachtree City and two involved non-residents of Fayette County (29%).

The data regarding use of force incidents is spread throughout the year, with the majority of incidents occurring in late summer and the fall months. Evenings was more likely to have a use of force incident with 5 of the 7 incidents occurring during the evening hours.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY MONTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK/SHIFT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EVENINGS</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRANSPORTED TO MEDICAL FACILITY (3)

08-11060 After responding to a naked subject in the middle of Robinson Road near Crosstown Drive, officers attempted to place the subject under arrest. The subject was combative with the officers and threw his shoes at them. Officers used O.C. on him and were able to place the subject in handcuffs. When officers tried to explain to the subject that they were going to decontaminate him, he began to struggle and officers had to hold the subject on the ground until EMS arrived.

08-16570 Officers responded to Hwy 54 and Steven’s Entry where a subject was screaming “I’m going to kill you” at motorists and chasing cars. When officers arrived, the subject ran towards the officers stating “I’m going to kill you”. O.C. was deployed on the subject and officers were able to place handcuffs on him. The subject refused to be treated by EMS and continued to threaten to kill them too. He was transported to the Fayette County Jail.

08-15921 Officers responded to a domestic dispute and located the offender locked in the bathroom. The offender was ordered to come out but refused. Officers attempted to gain entry and one officer was punched in the face. After this occurred, officers pushed their way into the bathroom and were able to place handcuffs on the offender.
Use of Force

By Captain S. Pye

USE OF FORCE OCCURRENCES BY DISTRICTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Occurrences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During field interviews, traffic stops, domestic calls, and a variety of other calls that are suspicious or disorderly in nature, officers may routinely be faced with potentially hostile individuals. When responding to these types of calls, the officer’s safety and/or survival may depend on a quick and efficient response, which is generally reliant on an officer’s own skills, knowledge and abilities. Because of this, the department places a significant emphasis on training and, similarly, on providing our officers the best possible equipment to cope with common dangers inherent in a law enforcement assignment. Additionally, the department understands that training can be the key to controlling many risks associated with use of force occurrences and that training must be geared towards accomplishing our agency’s objectives.

There were no complaints filed with the police department regarding unnecessary or excessive force in 2008. Additionally, the use of force reviews did not develop any particular patterns or early warning concerns. Each incident was fully critiqued to determine compliance with state law, department policies and accreditation standards.

In 2008, the police department’s use of force training continued to include topics such as:

- Basic O.C. Certification and Refresher
- ASP Baton Certification and Refresher
- Firearms Qualification
- SRT Firearms Qualification; Semi-Auto Pistol Level II; Judgmental Shooting Counter Sniper; Tactical Sub-machine Gun
- Firearms Instructor
- Emergency/Disaster Response Training
- Chemical Ammunitions Familiarization; Shotgun Skills Familiarization
- Defensive Tactics
- Hostage/Barricade
- Vehicle Pursuit; Stop Stick Deployment
- SWAT Training
- Specialized Weapons
- Tactical Planning
- Use of Lethal and Less-Lethal Force
- Search and Seizure
- Vehicle Pullover
- Legal Updates
- Officer Survival
- Domestic Violence
- Terrorism; First Responder Weapons of Mass Destruction; Local Emergency Management Planning
- Arrest Procedures
- Crisis Intervention
- Handcuffing and Control
- Response to Mental Illness
- Bio-terrorism

Photos by Marie Schlosser
When an emergency occurs, who are you going to call?
The Community Emergency Response Team

By Major M. DuPree

As emergency/disasters operations often overwhelm conventional emergency services, local government agencies continuously look to citizens for assistance. When responding to these emergencies, delays of hours or even days may occur. CERT recognizes that a well-prepared community is a vital resource to professional first responders and understands the value of "basic skills training". Realistically, it's not a question of if Peachtree City will face a disaster, but when. CERT is about being prepared for that disaster, whenever or wherever it comes.

In 2005, the police department recognized emergency/disaster preparedness training as a potential problem and decided to look to our citizens for assistance. After exploring a number of possibilities, Captain Stan Pye and Major Mike DuPree (the department’s CERT Coordinators), incorporated the CERT program as a part of the police department’s emergency operations planning. Since then, the CERT program has been a catalyst in providing citizen volunteers with all-risk, all-hazards training, as well as training in preparedness and hazard mitigation. Additionally, the program has provided invaluable assistance by supplementing manpower and resource capabilities for the city’s public safety first responders in the event of an emergency. CERT training emphasizes personal accountability for self, family and community by stressing the importance of personal preparedness and accountability. Prior to an emergency, CERT members are expected to have an awareness of their own neighborhoods, and to pre-determine possible evacuation routes and sites that will facilitate effective, safe and rapid response during an emergency.

The program’s training also provides participants with an effective and efficient first response capability that, when applied correctly, can be accomplished without placing CERT members or their families in unnecessary danger. The Peachtree City CERT program is slightly unique in its approach to basic CERT training. In fact, Peachtree City’s program has an expanded ten-week course curriculum, where CERT members can expect to learn how to:

- Manage utilities and extinguish small fires
- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, control bleeding, and treating for shock
- Provide basic medical aid
- Search for and rescue victims safely
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts
- Operate a chainsaw safely and conduct traffic direction and control
- Identify weather patterns through Storm Spotter training
When an emergency occurs, who are you going to call?
The Community Emergency Response Team

By Major M. DuPree

Nationally, CERT organizations have proven themselves to be an active and vital part of their communities’ preparedness and response capability. For example, CERT programs have been used to:

- Build a network of trained citizens within neighborhoods, businesses, and places of worship to assist with basic emergency response when emergencies or disaster strike.
- Assist with evacuations and traffic control.
- Assist with search and rescue operations.
- Promote community awareness through programs such as the National Preparedness Month “Ready Georgia! Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed and Get Involved”.
- Supplement staffing at special events such as parades and public safety activities.
- Portray victims in training exercises.

After the graduation of its inaugural class of September 11, 2005, community and business leaders, as well as members of several local civic organizations, began to take an interest in the program. Subsequently, the CERT training courses for 2006, 2007, and 2008 were quickly filled to capacity.
When an emergency occurs, who are you going to call?  
*The Community Emergency Response Team*

By Major M. DuPree

During 2008, Peachtree City’s CERT program was very successful. Throughout the year members participated in several community activities and events which brought significant attention to the program. Some of these activities are listed as follows:

- On February 7, City Council approved the acceptance of the GEMA grant awarded to the police department for the CERT Program.
- In February CERT members participated in the safety day at Bennett’s Mill Middle School in Fayette County.
- In June the police department sponsored a 10-week CERT training program.
- In June CERT members participated in Wal-Mart Safety Day.
- CERT members entered a float in Peachtree City’s July 4th Parade and won the Most Creative (Mayor’s) trophy.
- Captain Pye taught the CERT Instructors course in Tifton and Albany Georgia.
- Past CERT graduates participated in CPR, First Aid and First Responder training.
- The police department sponsored a second 10-week CERT training program in September.
- In cooperation with The Bridge Community Center, CERT developed plans to incorporate a Teen CERT program for our community’s youth.
- CERT sponsored a promotional/informational booth during the Petco’s (pet store) Preparedness Month and Target’s National Night Out.
- CERT sponsored two CERT members, Jim and Maureen Borne, as Peachtree City’s representatives to the Georgia’s Citizen Corps Council Conference in Calloway Gardens.
- CERT participated in several events (including a booth at the Amphitheater Summer Concert Series) to promote National Preparedness Month “Ready Georgia! Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed and Get Involved”.
- In October, CERT sponsored a promotional booth during the Great Georgia Air Show.
- CERT participated in the annual Shakerag Arts and Crafts Festival as well as a number of organized recreational events in the city.
- Adult/Child/Infant CPR classes were sponsored and funded through the CERT program as part of the advanced course curriculum for CERT members.
- The CERT Steering Committee was formed and began to work closely with the police department on projects such as: developing a CERT website; creating a CERT volunteer pool; organizing socials for the CERT membership; conducting a training needs analysis; fund raising; and providing continued training for CERT graduates.
- The CERT program’s 2008 goals and objectives included having an active membership of over 200 CERT volunteers. This goal was realized in December, during the graduation of the 7th CERT Class at December 2008’s City Council meeting.
Preparing And Planning... Emergency Operations

By Captain S. Pye

The police department continued to participate as a member of Fayette County’s Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and the Area VII All Hazards Council. The police department continued to place an emphasis on preparedness, training, and mitigation concerns, as well as our community’s overall ability to respond to a variety of man-made or natural disasters. During 2008, homeland security and emergency response received significant attention and the following priorities were established:

- Assist local governments in developing and/or updating emergency response plans.
- Evaluate community resources and the need for additional resources.
- Familiarize the public with local, state and Federal capabilities and resources.
- Enhance the capacity of law enforcement’s response by utilizing citizen volunteers.
- Bring the community together by focusing on emergency preparedness and emergency response training through programs such as CERT and Teen CERT.
- Interact with the local School Board, faculty and students within our jurisdiction and surrounding counties.
- Encourage home/personal preparedness and mitigation should an event occur.
- Promote the concept of partnerships with many local and government programs.
- Assist with the implementation of a Rapid I.D. System within the Region VII boundaries.

To facilitate these goals and objectives, the police department continued to attend and take an active role in the Area VII All Hazards Council meetings. These councils are established by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and reflect the eight existing GEMA regions. The purpose for implementing region councils was to provide enhanced communication between key consequence managers to develop preparedness response and recovery strategies for all disasters. The Region 7 All Hazards Council is comprised of Metro-Atlanta sheriffs, police chiefs, public health directors, fire chiefs, emergency medical services directors, medical examiners, 9-1-1 center directors, emergency managers, Red Cross representatives, the State Attorney General’s Office, along with support from mayors and county commissioners. Region 7’s All Hazards Council governs a number of sub-committees, one of which is a law enforcement sub-committee.

The mission of the Region 7 All Hazards Council is to:

- Improve local, state and federal information sharing.
- Identify critical regional infrastructure and potential terrorist targets.
- Prepare regional response plans.
- Facilitate mutual aid agreements for communities to share resources.
- Identify capacity needs.
- Conduct training and exercises.
- Bring Federal Citizen Corps programs to local communities.

In 2008, the police department was represented at these meetings by Administrative Captain Stan Pye, Patrol Captain Terry Ernst and Major Mike DuPree. They have taken on the principal role of advisors to the police department on unusual occurrences, emergency operations, Homeland Security grants, and homeland security strategies and responses. They are supported by the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division, Captain Mike Claman, who is primarily responsible for coordinating disseminations of intelligence bulletins from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Georgia Office of Homeland Security.
**Need To Prepare To Respond To Emergencies? USE NIMS!**

By Major M. DuPree

The National Incident Management System provides a systematic and proactive approach to guide government departments and agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in working seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment.

NIMS works hand in hand with the National Response Framework (NRF). The system provides the template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management. The National Incident Management System promotes standardized all-hazard incident management concepts at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. Its benefits include unified incident management; accepted command and management structures; and an emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management.

During 2008, under the guidance of the NIMS Integration Center (NIC), the police department continued to make progress in maintaining NIMS as an integral part of the our agency’s emergency/disaster plans and training. Consequently, staff’s participation in the program has enhanced our capabilities in building a foundation for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery planning for the future.

Training related to NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) in 2008 encompassed tabletop exercises (May and 2008), practical exercises, and multiple agency involvement training.

Other training included:

- Georgia Emergency Management Agency training
- Federal Emergency Management Agency training
- Terrorism and Bombing Awareness Symposium (January)
- Georgia Office of Homeland Security, Georgia Public Health Laboratory and the Federal Bureau of Investigations training (March)
- City Emergency Operations Center computerized training (April)
- Multi-agency active shooter tabletop exercise with Fayette County BOE (May)
- Community Emergency Response Team training (June and September)
- Local Emergency Planning Committee training (quarterly)
- Region 7 All-Hazards Committee training (monthly)
- City-wide tornado drill (February)
- Citizen Corps Council Conference Calloway Gardens (October)
Need To Prepare To Respond To Emergencies? USE NIMS!

By Major M. DuPree

To further comply with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and NIMS mandates, in February 2008 the City’s Emergency Operations Plans were updated and an updated NIMS Cast was submitted to the Fayette County Emergency Management Director.

Training for sworn and civilian staff in NIMS was also updated in 2008, (in the months of July and August). The training is listed as follows:

- ICS 100 - Civilian Staff, Patrol Officers, Sergeants, and Command Staff
- ICS 200 - Sergeants and Command Staff
- ICS 700 - Civilian Staff, Patrol Officers, Sergeants and Command Staff
- ICS 800 - Command Staff

Need To Get Your Information Out To Citizens Quickly? USE INET!

On May 10, 2007, the commanders of the police department designed and developed a new program called the I-Net Crime Alert Program. The program was established as a component of the department’s business watch program and was designed to assist the Police Department in alerting citizens and businesses electronically concerning criminal activity. The program was also designed to serve as an alert mechanism during emergencies and disasters, homeland security warnings, suspicious persons, and risks presented to the public when trying to apprehend a criminal or in the event of an escape. The program’s primary purpose was to encourage partnerships within the community, with a key focus on fostering police and local business relationships.

I-Net utilizes emails as its alert function. These emails are sent to individuals and businesses that are pre-registered and have subscribed to the program. A number of the subscribers have attended the police department’s Citizens Police Academy or our Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course. The subscriber’s email addresses are stored in electronic files which can be categorized, based on the type of business (e.g. Pharmacies, Banks, Convenience Stores, Supermarkets, Real Estate Offices, Restaurants, Doctor’s Offices, Clothing Stores, Building Supplies, Schools, Day Care Centers, etc.). When businesses are determined potential targets of a specific crime, these emails can be transmitted. Participation in the program is entirely voluntary.

The program encourages communications, not only from the police department but from the subscribers as well. If a subscriber has specific information or needs a question answered, he/she has the ability to email the information to the police department. Once information is received, it is reviewed and, if pertinent to our area, may be disseminated. I-Net is also an effective tool in communicating both City and Police Department notices, bulletins, ordinances and laws (e.g. CERT and Citizen Police Academy announcements, Holiday Season Business Watch Bulletins, Traffic Safety announcements, recruitment announcements, child safety seat checks, road closing, special events, etc.).

In 2008, the police department transmitted seventy-one I-Net alerts. As of December 31, 2008 there were 551 subscribers registered in the program. The program has been an exemplary program for the community and has been met with positive re-
## Scheduling The Troops

**By Lieutenant J. Jenkins**

In 2008, a new program was introduced to assist with scheduling of officers. Numerous programs were researched and ultimately, a program developed through CAPSIT, Inc. was found to be most beneficial for use with this department. “Open Scheduler” is a secure web-based program designed to organize personnel by division, team or group and give supervising personnel the ability to plan and schedule officers up to a year in advance. During the initial trial period, the Patrol Division used the program exclusively. Officers found the program beneficial due to the fact that they were able to check their schedule from any computer, including their home, and plan personal events well in advance. The program also allows supervisors to make schedule changes from any computer connected to the internet and approve leave requests months in advance. Supervisors now have the ability to plan special assignments well in advance, and ensure proper coverage for all patrol shifts. With its overwhelming success within the Patrol Division, the Criminal Investigations Division, School Resource Officers, Community Response Team officers, Administration and Command Staff have now all been integrated into the Open Scheduler program.

## Officer Awards And Commendations

**By Lieutenant J. Epps**

The Awards & Commendations Program has been in policy with the Peachtree City Police Department for quite a number of years. This program outlines specific regulations by which officers of the department are recognized for achievement, education and specific acts performed. This policy has always included recognized awards presented by the City of Peachtree City as well, including Employee of the Month, Supervisor of the Quarter, etc. However, in early 2000 a new dimension was added to this program.

Since that time, service ribbons have been awarded for specific achievements outlined in the Awards & Commendations policy. These ribbons are patterned after military service ribbons given out to soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of the United States Armed Forces. These ribbons are worn by officers on their dress uniforms and during Honor Guard functions. Ribbons are issued for achievements ranging from the highest commendation available with the police department, the Commendation of Valor, to City Employee of the Month, Supervisor of the Quarter, Perfect Attendance and numerous educational awards issued by the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council.

Shortly after the institution of the ribbon program, it was determined that actual medals would be awarded for the top four awards. These are the Commendation of Valor, the Commendation of Honor, the Life Saving Commendation and the Commendation of Merit. Since that time, several officers have been issued medals for these awards.

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Top: Chief Clark, Major DuPree and Ofc. Digrazia, who was voted Rookie of the Year.

Middle: Chief Clark, Cpl. Hughes, and members of the Rotary Club. Cpl. Hughes was honored with Officer of the Year by the Rotarians.

Bottom: Chief Clark, Major DuPree, and Lt. Hill, who was voted Manager of the Year.
To Serve And Protect...
Who We Are And How We Do It

By Lieutenant J. Epps

The Peachtree City Police Department is charged with the overall responsibility for field operations and the positive proactive enforcement of State Laws and local ordinances within the boundaries of our jurisdiction. 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, pinpoint 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.

The information contained herein is utilized to encourage the equalization of individual workloads by assessing the allocation and distribution of personnel in the Patrol Division. The purpose for conducting an assessment such as this is to determine the overall number of personnel authorized within the department and for each organizational component according to various needs (i.e. temporary assignments, geographical coverage, community policing strategies, and service demands). Upon considering our agencies responsibilities and size, the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization is more dependent on analytical data today than it has been in the past years. This can be attributed to our current crime rate, community relations programs, proactive crime prevention measures, traffic enforcement measures, an increase in motor vehicle crashes, and enhanced service demands.

During the first six months of 2008, the Patrol Division utilized the “four on & three off,” forty-hour work week. The patrol division’s shifts were compromised of three (3) ten hour shifts per day. Additionally, a 2 member Community Response Team (CRT) was utilized. Our Community Response Team retained their primary mission of traffic accident investigation and enforcement and also supported the three patrol shifts when needed.

During the last six months of 2008, the Patrol Division transferred to a 12-hour schedule, which required four (4) patrol teams to work seven (7) days of a fourteen (14) day work cycle. This allowed for the transfer of several officers into some key positions in the department to increase efficiency and productivity. One corporal and one sergeant were transferred from regular patrol status into the Community Response Team. One corporal was transferred into the Criminal Investigations Division. One sergeant was given the temporary assignment of evidence and property management, and one sergeant and one corporal were transferred into a newly-created warrants service team with the task of locating and apprehending hundreds of offenders currently wanted by the city of Peachtree City for various offenses. These changes also allowed for increased patrols of the cart path system in the city, as well as enabled the department to prepare to move toward the five (5) district system that has been planned for years.
To Serve And Protect...
Who We Are And How We Do It

By Lieutenant J. Epps

The Patrol Division is commanded by a Captain (who reports to the major of Police). The Patrol Division Captain supervises four (4) Lieutenants (Watch Commanders/Assistant Patrol Division Commanders), five (5) Sergeants and thirty (34) Corporals and patrol Officers. The Patrol Division performs patrol operation duties. The division’s officers are placed on four (4) shifts, designated as Alpha Team, Bravo Team, Charlie Team and Delta Team. At any given time, two of these teams are assigned to day shift hours (0730 – 1930 hrs.) and the other two are assigned to night shift hours (1930 – 0730 hrs.) The day shift and night shift teams rotate every sixty (60) days. The rotation occurs on the first Monday of the month in which the rotation occurs.

On the average, the Peachtree City Police Department was compromised of 62 sworn personnel and 4 civilian personnel. The total number of allocated positions in the department to include civilian personnel was 68. During 2008, the department had a total of 5 officers resign from their positions within the agency. The department gained 11 officers through new-hires. This left a total of 2 positions vacant within the Patrol Division.

During 2008, following the change-over to the 12-hour work schedule, each Patrol Team was comprised of ten (10) officers, which included one Lieutenant and Sergeant. One other Sergeant supervised the traffic division.

With regards to the assignment/availability factor and minimum allocation for the Patrol Division, the ratio representing the total potential person-days available compared to actual person-days worked is as follows:

There are potentially 9,409 shifts (12 hours each for patrol shift officers and 10 hours each for CRT officers) that can be scheduled per year for a total of fifty-one (51) patrol personnel, taking into account scheduled days off. When figuring reductions due to vacation leave (403 shifts), holiday leave (397 shifts), perfect attendance leave (50 shifts), compensatory time (166 shifts), sick leave (219 shifts), training (506 shifts), court (62 shifts), and subtracting the total shift reductions for the year (1803) from the total shifts scheduled per year (9,409), the total shifts for fifty-one (51) officers to administer patrol operations duties is 7606 shifts. Upon considering that there are 730 shifts within a year to schedule field operation personnel (2 x 365 days), this equates to 10 officers available for duty during any given shift, including Community Response Team personnel. In addition to the above listed hours, 150 shifts reduced as a result of Basic Mandate Training and 187 shifts reduced as a result of Field Training. When deducting the Field Training shifts, this equates to only 9 officers available for any given shift, which does include the Community Response Team personnel.

To Serve And Protect...
Who We Are And How We Do It

By Lieutenant J. Epps

The total calls for service, traffic stops, and security checks per watch during 2008, have been assessed as follows.

January through June, 2008 (10-hour patrol shift system):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Evening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calls for Service</td>
<td>3,246</td>
<td>5,944</td>
<td>6,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Stops</td>
<td>1,565</td>
<td>2,809</td>
<td>2,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Checks</td>
<td>228,910</td>
<td>165,039</td>
<td>274,818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the first half of 2008, the patrol division was working under a 10-hour system. It is important to note that, with scheduled off-days, a shift which has 10 patrol officers assigned to it, plus one supervisor and one watch commander will only field an average of eight (8) officers per shift.

In the first half of 2008, Morning Watch averaged 17.8 calls for service, 8.6 traffic stops and 96.8 security checks per shift. This equates to 1.4 calls for service, 0.7 traffic stops and 96.8 security checks per officer per shift. This averages to approximately 1.35 hours spent on calls for service per officer per shift. This combined with an average of .06 hours on traffic accident investigations, .44 hours on traffic enforcement, 1.2 hours on administrative duties and .5 hours on roll-call per officer per shift, allowing approximately 6.4 hours of proactive patrolling. Each officer averaged 4.3 hours in court per month and 9.4 hours in training.

In the first half of 2008, Day Watch averaged 32.7 calls for service, 15.4 traffic stops and 906 security checks per shift. This equates to 3 calls for service, 1.4 traffic stops and 92.4 security checks per officer per shift. With an average of 1.7 hours spent on calls for service per officer. This combined with an average of .24 hours on traffic accident investigations, .4 hours on traffic enforcement, .9 hours on administrative duties and .5 hours in roll-call per officer per shift, allowing approximately 6.3 hours of proactive patrolling. Each officer averaged 4.3 hours in court per month and 9.4 hours in training.

In the first half of 2008, Evening Watch averaged 35 calls for service, 16.2 traffic stops and 1,510 security checks per shift. This equates to 2.5 calls for service, 1.2 traffic stops and 108 security checks per officer per shift. With an average of 1.4 hours spent on calls for service per officer. This, along with .10 hours on traffic accident investigations, .28 hours on traffic enforcement, .64 hours on administrative duties and .5 hours on roll-call per officer per shift, allowed for approximately 7.1 hours of proactive patrolling. Each officer averaged 1.0 hours in court per month and 5.1 hours in training.

July through December, 2008 (12-hour patrol shift system):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Nights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calls for Service</td>
<td>8,723</td>
<td>5,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Stops</td>
<td>4,582</td>
<td>3,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Checks</td>
<td>296,980</td>
<td>352,692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of Security Checks listed for both the 10 and 12-hour system include the total number of physical business checks, walk through checks of open businesses, business drive-by checks, residential checks, house checks, and both physical and drive-by checks of homes that are on the house watch list.

During the second half of 2008, the patrol division was working under a 12-hour system. In this system, there were now four patrol shifts, designated Alpha Team, Bravo Team, Charlie Team and Delta Team. Every officer assigned to each team worked the same days as the rest of the members of their team.
To Serve And Protect…
Who We Are And How We Do It

By Lieutenant J. Epps

In the second half of 2008, Night Shift averaged 15 calls for service, 8.3 traffic stops and 969 security checks per shift. This equates to 1.4 calls for service, 0.8 traffic stops and 88.1 security checks per officer per shift. This averages to approximately 1.2 hours spent on calls for service per officer per shift. This combined with an average of .07 hours on traffic accident investigations, .31 hours on traffic enforcement, 0.5 hours on administrative duties, .5 hours on lunch break, .5 hours of flex time and .5 hours on roll-call per officer per shift, allowing approximately 8.4 hours of proactive patrol techniques. Proactive patrol techniques include physical and drive-by checks of businesses. Each officer averaged .5 hours in court per month and 5 hours per month in training.

In the second half of 2008, Day Shift averaged 24 calls for service, 12.6 traffic stops and 816 security checks per shift. This equates to 1.8 calls for service, 1.0 traffic stops and 62.8 security checks per officer per shift. This averages to approximately 1.3 hours spent on calls for service per officer per shift. This combined with an average of .2 hours on traffic accident investigations, .3 hours on traffic enforcement, .6 hours on administrative duties, .5 hours on lunch break, .5 hours of flex time and .5 hours in roll-call per officer per shift, allowing approximately 8.1 hours of proactive patrolling. Each officer averaged 2.6 hours in court per month and 14.1 hours in training.

EQUIPMENT

The Peachtree City Police Department continued to participate in the Take-Home Vehicle Program. In October 2007 when the police department was forced to move into a temporary facility, the City Manager authorized all officers to take their assigned vehicle home as long as they lived within fifteen (15) miles of the city. All officers except for one are presently able to take their police vehicle home.

In 2008, the department registered 679,936 patrol miles. The average miles driven by each officer, per shift, was 73.2 in 2008, compared to 82.1 in 2007.

The continued participation in the Department’s Take-Home Vehicle Program has served multiple purposes. Not only has it increased the visibility of marked patrol units throughout the city, since the department has moved to a temporary facility and almost every officer takes home a vehicle it has made a visual impact outside the city as well. In addition to the visibility it has also:

- Complimented the Department’s efforts in proactive prevention and patrol;
- Increased the potential number of officers who are available for quick response during emergency situations;
- Enhanced the care and maintenance of department vehicles;
- Reduced the service requirements and repair costs;
- Strengthened employee morale;
- Enhanced the cleanliness and appearance of patrol vehicles;
- Enhanced the citizen’s perception of safety and security when patrol vehicles are parked in their neighborhoods and apartment complexes;

To Serve And Protect...
Who We Are And How We Do It

Public response to the patrol vehicles being parked in residential neighborhoods and apartment complexes continues to be very positive.

Each vehicle is equipped with the following:

- Blue lights
- Siren (PA system and horn)
- Mobile radio receivers (main frequency for the department, other public safety frequencies for most vehicles via state band radio)
- Safety screens on all marked vehicles and side screens on most marked vehicles
- Occupant safety devices (airbags, shoulder harness/lap belts)
- Wigwag headlights
- Spotlight/alley lights/takedown lights
- Streamlight rechargeable flashlight
- First aid kit
- Cyalume sticks (chemical flares)
- Blankets
- Audio/video system and 35 mm cameras or digital cameras for all supervisors
- Biohazard suits to include gas mask
- AED unit
- Wrecking bars for all supervisors
- Storage box in vehicle trunk
- Jumper cables; battery brain on most marked patrol vehicles
- Slim Jim (vehicle door openers)
- Fire extinguishers
- Stop sticks for most marked patrol vehicles

All officers are equipped with the following:

- 45 cal. Duty Weapon
- Patrol shotgun
- Uniforms
- O.C. aerosol spray
- ASP baton (impact weapon)
- Laptop computers
- Bulletproof vest
- Handcuffs
- Other equipment needed for their duties and activities

Pictured above:
Officer Pierson, Officer Kloznick, Corporal Catlett, Officer Greer, and Officer Freund
To Serve And Protect...
Who We Are And How We Do It

By Lieutenant J. Epps

In 2008 zone coverage was accomplished by a four-zone system, which provided an overall response time of 6.02 minutes, based on 2008 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) reports. Each shift requires a minimum of four (4) officers per shift to ensure adequate coverage. The response time is .01 seconds longer than the response time for 2007. Our department has made a concentrated effort to keep response times as low as possible as the city continues to grow residentially and commercially. Although we make every effort to have at least five officers on duty at all times with the fifth officer working an overlapping patrol in zones one and three, response times are bound to increase as the city grows until adding additional officers and implementing a fifth zone. The continued building in the west corridor and the roadwork on S.R. 74 has repeatedly caused major traffic congestion during all hours of the day, especially during peak rush hours. With the completion of work on Hwy 74, response times should no longer be affected. Consideration must be given to populated areas, business sectors, and distribution of incidents. Major connectors, acting as zone boundaries, make immediate access possible from one zone to another. This allows police units to use zone coverage strategies. When at least five officers were working on a shift, a second unit was assigned as an overlap unit for zones one and three. The purpose for overlapping the zones was that, previously, zone three had the highest number of calls with the police department located in this zone. However, statistics showed that moving into the temporary facility had a major impact on calls received in zone 1. Zone three was the zone most affected by the construction projects. The Communication Center’s enhanced 911 system automatically displays zone number assignments of specific locations as calls are taken. The center also utilizes street indexes containing information on every street in the city.

Based on the four-zone system, the following statistics are representative of officer activity through 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Calls Per Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>23,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>14,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>37,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>15,739</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Officer activity includes officer-initiated calls, calls dispatched, calls answered, and traffic stops.

In addition, officers answered a total of 1,246 calls outside of the city limits of Peachtree City.

2008 was the fourteenth and final year the four-zone system was utilized.

Pictured above from left to right: Captain Dove, Officer Bentley, Corporal Hyatt, Sergeant Jones, Chris Bentley (Bentley’s brother), and Cindy Morley (Fayette Daily News). All played volleyball and made a donation to the Promise Place.
To Serve And Protect…
Who We Are And How We Do It

By Lieutenant J. Epps

Average response times for 2000 through 2008 are as follows:

- 2000 Average response time 5.29 minutes 33,224 Calls for service
- 2001 Average response time 5.44 minutes 57,535 Calls for service
- 2002 Average response time 5.19 minutes 83,297 Calls for service
- 2003 Average response time 5.26 minutes 77,990 Calls for service
- 2004 Average response time 5.34 minutes 91,987 Calls for service
- 2005 Average response time 5.69 minutes 88,649 Calls for service
- 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

In 2008, the department observed a nearly identical average response time when compared to the average response time in 2007.

For the past several years the Peachtree City police Department has reported in our annual report the department’s desire to adopt the five-zone system of patrol in our city. Our original plan was to adopt this system on January 1, 2002. However, due to manpower issues during that time, this was postponed until January 1, 2009. The Command Staff discussed ideas and worked closely with the Fayette County 911 Center to establish new boundaries and the center incorporated these new boundaries into their CAD system. Zones were renamed “Districts”, and the new 5-District system went into effect department-wide in January of 2009.

The Peachtree City Police Department continues to look at alternative ways the Patrol Division operates on a daily basis. Not only did the patrol division move to a 12-hour shift schedule, but; with the use of several all-terrain vehicles, golf carts and bicycles, the patrol division spent more time patrolling the golf cart paths than in every previous year to date. In 2008, the patrol division logged a total of 1,138 hours on cart path patrol.

The road construction on S.R. 74 was completed in 2008 and calls for service and traffic accidents in this area are expected to increase. Officers will continue to proactively monitor traffic congestion in this area and we will conduct traffic enforcement measures as needed in the event that compliance levels begin to deteriorate. Although for the majority of 2008 the officers of the Peachtree City Police Department were housed in the temporary headquarters facility; all operations were moved back into the old building in the last few weeks of the year.

Pictured above from left to right: Officer Lacourly, Corporal Carriker, and Corporal Powell.
There’s A Lot Of Traffic Out There...  
Answering Complaints And Responding To Traffic Needs Is A Priority

By Captain T. Ernst

During 2008, the Peachtree City Police Department received a total of 326 traffic complaints. This is a 56% increase when compared to the 209 traffic complaints received in 2007. When a traffic complaint is received by this department it is investigated and whenever possible referred to the Community Response Team (CRT). In most cases the SMART/STEALTH units are deployed and surveys are conducted. Also whenever practical and assets are available, a CRT officer is assigned to survey the area. Enforcement and engineering measures are considered after the surveys are conducted. If merited, the data and traffic surveys are forwarded to the City Engineer for analysis.

For the third consecutive year the complaints received by the Peachtree City Police Department were fairly diversified. District One received 94 complaints, District Two received 79 complaints, District Three received 84 complaints and District Four received 69 complaints. 168 of the complaints (51.5%) were received from residential areas. We continued to receive a number of complaints about the length of the red light at McDuff Parkway and Hwy 54.

The Command Staff continued to meet periodically during the year to discuss ideas on moving traffic efficiently during the road-widening phase of Highway 74 South. This project was finally completed and the Highway opened fully to the public on December 19, 2008. Only 38 complaints (11.6%) were received for the entire year with regards to the ongoing construction on Highway 74 South.

Accidents Can Happen To Anyone

The Peachtree City police Department reported thirteen (13) accidents involving police vehicles during 2008. Each of these accidents was investigated by the Georgia State Patrol or if they were unavailable they were investigated by the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office. Nine of the accidents involved different officer’s within the department. Two officers were involved in two accidents during the year. After investigations were completed and causation factors were determined for each accident, it was ruled that one of the accidents involved officer negligence and twelve (12) were unavoidable or the officer was not-at-fault. Of the twelve unavoidable accidents, three involved a police vehicle being struck in the rear while stopped, three of the accidents involved citizens backing into a police vehicle, two of the accidents involved a collision with a deer, one accident involved a police vehicle being struck by a vehicle that failed to yield the right of way, two accidents involved a tree falling on a police vehicle and the final accident involved damage to the ATV when a dirt path gave way and the ATV flipped over.

Each of these accidents was reviewed by the Command Staff and discussed at roll call sessions with each Patrol Watch. Officers involved in each of these accidents received counseling, disciplinary action and/or remedial training as determined appropriate.

Minor vehicle damage resulted from eight (8) additional incidents during 2008; however, these incidents were not serious enough to classify as reportable accidents. These incidents range from damaged side mirrors to damaged tires to chipped paint on a vehicle.

According to information received from Human Resources personnel, the total monetary damage to police vehicles during 2008 equaled $11,893.64. Our accident rate is up for the year (13 versus 7 for 2007, although only one was an at-fault accident) however our damage costs are down from $14,966.26 in 2007 to $11,893.64 for 2008.

By Captain T. Ernst
A Sense Of Security

By Captain T. Ernst

Each year the Peachtree City Police Department offers the citizens of our community the opportunity to place their home or business on the department’s House Watch list when they leave town on business, go on vacation or just need extra patrolling in their neighborhood for a period of time. Citizens can go online and fill out a House Watch form or they can call the department and one of the staff assistants will take the information from them over the phone.

Once a residence or business is placed on the list an officer will go by during daylight hours and physically check the location to make sure it is secure and no damage has occurred. During hours of darkness an officer will drive by the location and visually check to ensure everything appears to be in order. The department’s goal is to have officers check these locations every day during the time they have requested to be on the list. In 2008 264 citizens took advantage of the House Watch program offered by the Peachtree City Police Department.

Blow, Blow, Blow...

By Captain T. Ernst

In 2008, the Peachtree City Police Department arrested 230 individuals who were charged with Driving Under the Influence. This is an 8% increase from the 213 individuals arrested in 2007. Of the 230 arrests, 182 were transported to the Fayette County Sheriff’s Department and given the opportunity to provide a breath sample for the State Administered Breath Test. Listed below is a synopsis of the test results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invalid Sample</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient Sample</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusals</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests registering below 0.02</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests registering below 0.08</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests registering above 0.08</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Terrain Vehicles

By Lieutenant D. Hill

In 2008, the Peachtree City Police Department purchased 2 Yamaha ATV’s. These ATV’s were purchased to assist officers in patrolling the cart path system. To ensure the safety of the citizens and the officers, the Police Department certified one of its officers with the ATV Safety Institute as an instructor. After the certification was completed the department participated in the ATV Rider Course. This course was a half-day, hands-on training session which includes pre-ride inspection, starting and stopping, quick turns, hill riding, emergency stopping and swerving and riding over obstacles. The department certified 39 officers through this program.

Throughout 2008, officers conducted 1083 hours of cart path enforcement in contrast to 2007, when only 64.7 hours were completed. The ATV program is still in its early stages and should continue to be beneficial to the citizens of Peachtree City.
Over 90 Miles Of Multi-Use Paths...
How We Patrol Them

By Lieutenant M. Brown

The Community Response Team Supervisor has the primary responsibility for planning and scheduling mountain bike and golf cart patrol operations in the residential areas, on the multi-use path systems and in business districts. The Peachtree City Police Department maintains a Kawasaki Mule, four (4) mountain bikes, two (2) ATVs, and a Rhino All Purpose Vehicle (APV). Members of the Community Response Team are the primary users of the mountain bikes as they have attended specialized training, however during 2008 the department trained ten (10) additional officers on mountain bike patrol according to the standards of the International Police Mountain Biking Association. Two (2) officers from each patrol team were certified on the police mountain bikes, allowing for 24 hour access to this patrol function. All members of the department are trained on the correct use of the Mule and training is on-going on the use of the ATVs and APV. The department primarily uses these vehicles to patrol the cart paths, however, other uses include surveillance activity and special events.

During 2007, the department logged only 64 hours of path patrol time, which is a 17% decrease from 2006.

During 2008, the department exponentially increased its path patrol time to 1083 hours, or a 1723% increase. This increase was largely due to the modifying of the patrol schedule to 12 hour shift from 10 hour, and the reduction of using Community Response Team officers to cover patrol shifts freeing them up to patrol the multi-use path system.

These specialized vehicles were deployed successfully during the following special assignments:

- Surveillance Operations
- Crowd Control and Security – Parades and Fireworks Display
- General Patrol Operations
- Community Relations Projects
- Specialized Patrol Operations – Burglary and Crime Suppression
- Road Races and Walkathons

Pictured from top to bottom: Cpl. Todd, Battery Way Boat Docks, and Ofc. Pierson
In Pursuit Of Criminals

By Captain T. Ernst

The Peachtree City Police Department was involved in two (2) vehicle pursuit actions during 2008. The first pursuit involved what started as a minor traffic violation. When the officer activated his emergency equipment to stop the vehicle for a headlight out, the vehicle appeared to be pulling over to stop and then made a wide u-turn and drove over a concrete median and drove westbound on Hwy 54 towards Coweta County. Due to the evasive action taken and the reckless manner of driving the officer called out that he was in a pursuit. The officer reached a speed of approximately 70 mph before the suspect vehicle slowed and pulled into a driveway and all three occupants bush bounded from the vehicle. The driver left the vehicle in gear when he jumped out and the vehicle rolled back into the police vehicle causing moderate damage to the police vehicle. One of the offenders was apprehended a short time later with the use of Hawk I (Fayette County’s helicopter) hiding in the woods near the scene. It was later discovered that the vehicle was a stolen vehicle. The offender was later served warrants at the Fayette County jail for several charges.

The second pursuit involved a vehicle that initially stopped for a traffic stop and once the officer began to approach the vehicle, the driver sped off. The vehicle was being stopped as a suspect vehicle for previous entering autos in our city and the surrounding area. When the vehicle sped away the officer pursued the vehicle with emergency equipment engaged. The vehicle reached speeds of 60 mph and the suspect vehicle ran through a red light at Hwy 74 and Georgian Parkway. As the suspect vehicle was approaching Hwy 74 and Peachtree Parkway the on-duty supervisor advised all units to disengage in the pursuit. Suspects in the vehicle did throw a laptop computer and a handgun out of the vehicle window as they were reaching the city limits. After calling off the pursuit, officers did find the items thrown from the vehicle. An unmarked detective vehicle that was also involved in the pursuit was authorized to follow the vehicle into the county without emergency equipment on and at a safe speed in the event the next jurisdiction was able to stop the vehicle. A Tyrone officer also attempted to stop the vehicle on Hwy 74 but the suspect vehicle did not stop. He followed the vehicle as far as the Atlanta airport where he disengaged his pursuit. When our detective heard him call off the pursuit she returned to our city. She was at no time involved in the pursuit with the Tyrone officer. The Tyrone officer was able to positively identify the driver of the vehicle and that resulted in our department getting warrants signed by the judge for the arrest of the driver.

In analyzing these pursuits we find that one of the pursuits occurred on a Friday night and the other occurred on a Saturday afternoon. One of the pursuits occurred at the beginning of Morning Watch and the other occurred during day Watch. At the time of both of these pursuits our department was working 10-hour shifts. Both of the pursuits resulted from an attempted traffic stop. One traffic stop was attempted because of a minor traffic violation and the other was attempted because the vehicle matched the description of a vehicle we were looking for from previous entering auto calls in our area. One subject was arrested at the end of one of the pursuits while the other vehicle was never stopped but the driver was identified and warrants were taken on that individual. The weather conditions had no impact on either pursuit as the conditions were clear. One pursuit occurred during daylight hours, the other during hours of darkness. There is no reasonable explanation to believe that either driver was unaware the police were attempting to stop them. Both drivers were black males.

When analyzing all of the above data it appears there is no established pattern to the pursuits that involved the Peachtree City Police Department.

The Peachtree City Police Department has a written policy on Vehicle Pursuits. The policy is new since the arrival of our new Police Chief and extensive training has been conducted since the policy was signed and put into effect.
Peachtree City Police Department Report A
Decline In Parking Citations For 2008

By Lieutenant M. Brown

In 2008, there were 53 citations issued for various parking violations, for a 70% decrease from 2007 (172 citations). Specially, the department issued 3 Fire Lane Violations, and 20 Handicapped Parking Violations in 2008.

Statistics Prove That Wearing Seatbelts Saves Lives

By Lieutenant M. Brown

In 2006, the Patrol Division along with the Community Response Team issued only 865 seat belt citations for a 21% decrease from 2005 to 2006. Warnings for seat belt violations totaled 207 or a 25% decrease from 2005 to 2006.

In 2007, the department dramatically increased its seat belt enforcement by 30% when citations for seat belts increased from 865 in 2006 to 1117 in 2007. Warnings for seat belt violations also increased a record 284% from 207 in 2006, to 796 in 2007.

In 2008, the department recorded a consistent 1042 seat belt citations in 2008, which was a 6% decrease from 2007. Seat belt warnings increased in 2008 to 348 from 246 warnings in 2007 for a 41% increase.

The department continued its support of several programs such as the Child Safety Seat Program where citizens could make an appointment with the department to have their child’s safety seat inspected by one of the department’s certified technicians. The department also conducted several voluntary road safety checkpoints at the exits to all the local schools to hand out pamphlets and conduct child seat inspections. The Community Response Team continued its award winning program of going to day care centers and child care providers as opposed to waiting for them to come to the department. C.R.T. set up child seat checks at local schools and childcare establishments while parents were idling in line waiting to drop off or pick up their children. These parents were given the opportunity to have their car seats inspected. During these checks, C.R.T. officers consistently have found over 90% of the car seats were installed improperly. On several occasions, there was no car seat. This program allowed for a more positive interaction between the officers and the public. The department has expanded this program to the Elementary, Middle, and High Schools where several times during the school year officers hand out seat belt pamphlets to motorists leaving the school parking lot. During our annual large-scale road safety checkpoints for Halloween and Holiday H.E.A.T., the department handed out over 10,000 pamphlets in goodie bags filled with candy to each and every motorist with an emphasis on handing out the bags filled with candy to properly restrained children.

The department received the State award from the Governors Office of Highway Safety for Occupant Protection in 2006. With a 100% increase in the number of vehicles receiving the “Click-it-or-Ticket” message on the SMART unit in 2008, consistent enforcement efforts in seat belt enforcement, coupled with an increase in our voluntary seat belt checkpoints, and road checks, the department should continue to be successful in delivering the message that “seat belts save lives.” In the past fifteen (15) years, the department has yet to record a motor vehicle fatality where the lack of a seat belt was a contributing factor.
Collisions On The Multi-Use Path System

By Lieutenant M. Brown

Peachtree City continues to be a unique community when it comes to modes of travel. The city has approximately 90 miles of golf cart/recreational paths that allow its residents to move freely throughout the community. This path system allows individuals to travel to all business districts, residential areas, and Highway and secondary streets. This presents a unique traffic safety issue not realized by any other police department in the United States. At the end of 2008, there were over 10,000 golf carts registered in Peachtree City. With the number of carts that are registered in the city and the accessibility available to these carts, there were several vehicle accidents.

In 2006, the department unfortunately recorded for the second year in a row a golf cart vs. vehicle fatality. This was the only vehicle collision fatality recorded in Peachtree City during 2006.

In 2007, the department recorded 56 collisions involving golf carts on the multi-use path system. In 2008, the department recorded 71 collisions or a 27% increase. There was one (1) serious injury collision and NO fatal collisions on the multi-use path system in 2008.

Since 2004, the Community Response Team has been involved in several engineering studies to bring about all the multi-use path system road crossings and school zones into compliance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). These engineering studies have involved hundreds of hours of research and on site measuring to accomplish this goal. These studies were started by the Police Department; however they have involved the City Engineer and Public Works in numerous meetings. As a result, the City’s policy on marking all public roadways as being established according to the MUTCD. All of the city’s multi-use path crossings and school zones will have new markings and signs by the summer of 2008. These MUTCD recommendations, along with increased patrol presence and enforcement on the multi-use path system, are primarily designed to encourage a perception of increased safety of the multi-use path system, while also encouraging an increased use of the multi-use path system by pedestrians. At the end of 2008, the recommendations have been forwarded to the Georgia Department of Transportation and approved.

In 2008, a major goal of the Community Response Team was to continue our success in reducing the number of collisions on the multi-use path system with a special emphasis on the cart path crossings and pedestrian safety. After several years of serious injury and fatal collisions on the multi-use path system, the department is pleased to announce that over the past two (2) years there were NO fatal injury collisions on the multi-use path system. The department credits the success of the reduction in fatal and serious injury collisions on the multi-use path system through the three (3) “E’s” in traffic enforcement: (1) Education; (2) Enforcement; and (3) Engineering. The department conducted over twenty (20) “City Ordinance Compliance” checkpoints at various multi-use path crossings conducting enforcement and handing out pamphlets educating the users of the path system on the various city ordinances. The CRT unit also was able to conduct bike/multi-use path safety presentations to every elementary school in Peachtree City, along with voluntary informational checkpoints at the exits to Booth Middle and McIntosh High School. Our “Enforcement increased from 224 in 2006, to 252 citations in 2007, and finally 282 citations in 2008. Finally, the re-engineering of the multi-use path system has resulted in more visible warnings at the numerous multi-use path crossings.
SMART Trailer And Traffic Surveys

By Lieutenant M. Brown

A SMART unit is a self-contained traffic survey device. These types of devices have been designated as one of the most cost effective traffic enforcement tool by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The department maintains three (3) versions of a SMART unit. S.M.A.R.T. Visual Message Unit is a unit that can display hundreds of pre-programmed and programmed messages on a 6' by 4' LED board. Amber Alerts, Special Events, Emergencies, and other messages can be programmed and displayed on this unit, while also monitoring and interacting in response to speeding vehicles. The two other versions the department maintains is a traditional SMART trailer that displays a vehicle’s speed, and STEALTH Stat. Along with the department’s SMART unit the department also deployed a self-contained unit called the STEALTH STAT. This unit is placed on a fixed object along a given street and the information gathered by it is more accurate for determining the accuracy of traffic complaints. This unit is small and undetectable to the untrained person. Information collected by the SMART units consists of speed, volume, 85% percentile, averages, and other statistical information. During 2007, the policy was amended to allow the SMART units to be deployed continuously for over 24 hours as opposed to just during daylight hours. This has lead to an exponential increase of vehicles surveyed, and the messages these drivers received by the increased visibility of the SMART units.

During 2005, the SMART trailer was deployed for a total of 2508 hours, at 209 locations during 2005, for an increase of 39% when compared to 2004. This increase has a large part due to the additional CRT member being added to in 2005, as well as 10-hour shifts for CRT.

During 2006, the SMART units were only deployed for 2047 hours, at 143 locations in 2006, or an 18% decrease after C.R.T. was merged into the patrol shifts. Over 407,302 vehicles were surveyed on Peachtree City streets during 2006 with the SMART units.

In 2007, the SMART units were deployed for 3638 hours at 167 locations in 2007, for a 77% increase in use after CRT was reorganized into a single unit allowing them time to deploy the SMART units. In 2007, a record 1,038,858 vehicles were surveyed for a 60% increase.

In 2008, the SMART unit was deployed for 7682 hours, for an 111% increase in hours used. In 2008, the SMART units were deployed at 203 locations, for a 21% increase. The department recorded a record 2,288,562 vehicles surveyed in 2008 for a 78% increase from 2007.

In summary, the department was able to send a message to over 2,000,000 motorists to “slow down, buckle up, reduce speed, school zone, etc,” at 203 locations in Peachtree City, for over 7682 hours 87% of all the time available. The personnel hours saved by this device are tremendous. The historical data from our SMART units has been archived since 1997 with all data from 2002 available electronically. The Traffic Safety Officer and the City Engineer frequently use this valuable data when researching and responding to traffic complaints. Future plans call for the on-line system to be expanded to allow for citizens to click on an interactive map to locate SMART data for a given geographical area in Peachtree City. During 2009, the deployment of these units will remain a high priority of the Community Response Team.
Governor’s Office For Highway Safety And
The Metro-Area Traffic Enforcement network

By Lieutenant M. Brown

The department has participated in the traffic safety initiatives of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety for several years. The goal is to provide highway safety data and fact-based analyses that will assist Peachtree City and safety advocates in implementing effective programs that will change high-risk driving behavior and increase safety on our streets and highways. The history of GOHS follows that of highway safety in the USA as a whole. In 1966, 50,894 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. and the rate of fatalities per 100 million miles of travel was 5.5. It was projected that, over a 9-year period, the number of fatalities would increase to 100,000 a year if Congress did not do anything to address the problem. Taking heed of these dire predictions, Congress enacted the Highway Safety Act of 1966. This legislation created a unique partnership among federal, state and local governments to improve and expand the Nation’s highway safety activities. The Highway Safety Act of 1968 required governors to be responsible for the administration of the federal highway safety program in each state. The governor, through delegation of powers, had the authority to designate a Governor’s Highway Safety Representative to administer the federally-funded highway program. It is through this that the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety in Georgia was created. The Mission of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety is to educate the public on traffic safety and facilitate the implementation of programs that reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities on Georgia roadways. GOHS holds the distinction of organizing nationally recognized programs such as Operation Zero Tolerance and Click It or Ticket!

The department contributes to these programs by our attendance at monthly Traffic Enforcement Network meetings, participating in traffic initiatives such as Operation Zero Tolerance, and Click It or Ticket. The department also organizes several multi-jurisdictional Road Safety Checks throughout the year, with the large scale events during the Halloween and Holiday season. The department’s award winning Road Safety Checks are unique in that Peachtree City Officers distributed thousands of traffic safety pamphlets, and rewarded children and driver’s with “goodie” bags filled with candy for passengers wearing their seat belts. The department won a $5,000 incentive award from GOHS in 2006 for our participation in GOHS programs, and won $6,000 for 1st Place in the Governor’s Traffic Safety Challenge in 2007.

We are excited about the future of the Community Response Team in 2008. The team remains a vital and productive asset to the department in its ability to concentrate on specialized assignments.
The Community Response Team

By Lieutenant M. Brown

The Community Response Team (CRT) continues to operate as a specialized unit since 1997, spending a majority of their time conducting non-traditional patrol techniques. The team is utilized in areas of traffic enforcement, crime prevention, and multi-use path patrol when patrol personnel are unavailable. The Community Response Team is responsible for the majority of traffic collision investigations, all serious injury or fatal motor vehicle collision, and the investigation of all traffic related incidents that occur. By doing this, the C.R.T. unit allows for patrol officers to remain in service, primarily focusing their patrol on the neighborhoods, and not out of service investigating traffic motor vehicle collisions or handling traffic related issues.

At the end of 2008, C.R.T. was comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, one (1) Sergeant, and three (3) Corporals. Early in 2009, the team added two (2) additional members, one (1) Corporal, and one (1) Police K-9 officer to the team. With the additional member added in 2009, the team will provide a traffic officer on duty from 6 am to 2 am, 6 days a week. This will reduce the necessity to call in a C.R.T. officer to investigate serious injury or fatal collisions, allow for more specialized assignments, and reduce overtime.

The unit continued its collision reconstruction training in 2008, with all current members of C.R.T. being certified in forensic mapping with the total station collision reconstruction equipment. Collision Reconstruction Certification takes approximately eight (8) weeks or 320 hours of training and is generally only offered once per year. Forensic mapping certification consists of a 40 hour class followed by numerous field exercises. The final member in CRT to become collision reconstruction certified required eight (8) years to complete this training. This specialized training allows for the department to remain self-sufficient when it comes to investigating motor vehicle collisions, and provides the citizens with a thorough and professional investigation. During 2005, the department a record five (5) fatal motor vehicle collisions. In 2006 the team reduced the city’s fatality collisions to only one (1). In 2007, the city recorded two (2) fatalities from the same vehicle, or “one fatal collision.” In 2008, the CRT unit recorded one (1) pedestrian fatality in a parking lot, and one (1) bicycle fatality. No fatalities in 2008 occurred on the multi-use path system, nor involved motor vehicles. These investigations require numerous hours to complete because they are comprehensive and deterministic of the contributing factors that caused the collision. The addition of the forensic mapping certification has resulted in at least a 50% decrease in the time required to document and “map” a collision scene, as well as producing more accurate information. CRT officers have also assisted the Criminal Investigations Division on mapping several large crime scenes, reducing the time and cost of documenting evidence.
The Community Response Team

By Lieutenant M. Brown

The Community Response Team practices the “Three E's of Traffic Safety.” The three (3) “E’s” of Traffic Safety are Engineering, Enforcement, and Education. Responding to traffic complaints continues to a daily task for the Community Response Team and focus on almost all of the “three (3) E’s.” When the team receives a traffic complaint, the SMART or STEALTH unit is generally deployed to survey the area, and then an officer is assigned to evaluate and conduct enforcement if necessary. Generally each and every traffic complaint is handled in this manner. The CRT further enhanced the ease at which anyone report these complaints through the web based on-line traffic concern reporting system. All city personnel, including patrol officers, are required to report all traffic concern’s hazards, and complaints through the on-line system. In real time, these concerns are either addressed, or forwarded to the appropriate entity (engineering, DOT, public works, etc.) for disposition. This on-line system is tracked with a database system. The on-line system replaced a hard copy form that failed to track when the concern was addressed and what action was taken. The implementation of this system resulted in over a 50% increase in received traffic complaints.

In so far as the “E” for Education in traffic safety, the Community Response Team places a tremendous amount of time in educating the public on traffic issues that save lives. The CRT unit conducts traffic safety programs at the high school and the middle school, and conducting bike rodeo for the elementary schools focusing on bicycle and pedestrian safety. The CRT unit is aggressive in educating the public on the importance of wearing seat belts and especially child safety seats. Our aggressive approach includes a unique program where C.R.T. officers initiate the contact with the local pre-schools and day care centers to set up Car Safety Seat Checks and Bike Rodeos. Historically, departments set up car seat checks at store parking lots and fire stations. The team found these checks to fail to result in a high volume of inspections. In response, the team designed 100% voluntary and non-enforcement related (i.e. no citations or warnings were issued) seat belt and car seat checks while parents are waiting in line waiting to drop off or pick-up their children from local day care or local elementary schools. During these checks, C.R.T. officers consistently found almost 90% of the vehicles had improperly installed car seats, and in some situations, no car seats were being used when law required them. Hundreds of Traffic Safety, Bike Safety, and Cart Seat brochures were also distributed during these events. The team continues our seat belt education by handing out thousands of pamphlets at our large scale road safety checkpoints throughout the year. Each driver coming through our large scale road checks for Halloween and the Holiday season received “goodie bags” filled with traffic safety pamphlets and candy.

Left: Cpl. Owens
Below: Ofc. Williams
The Community Response Team

By Lieutenant M. Brown

Since 2004, the Community Response Team has been instrumental in several engineering studies to bring about the multi-use path system road crossings and school zones into compliance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The Community Response Team has found that being involved in the Engineering “E” of Traffic Safety has resulted in the decrease in serious injury and fatal collisions for the past five (5) years. These engineering studies have involved hundreds of hours of research and on site measuring to accomplish this goal. These studies were started by the Police Department, however they have involved the City Engineer and Public Works in numerous meetings. As a result, the City’s policy on marking all public roadways as being established according to the MUTCD. These MUTCD recommendations, along with increased patrol presence and enforcement on the multi-use path system, are primarily designed to encourage a perception of increased safety of the multi-use path system, while also encouraging an increased use of the multi-use path system by pedestrians. The recommendations will eventually result in over 400 sign changes in Peachtree City. The Georgia Department of Transportation has supported the recommendations and approved the required permits. An on-going engineering project to determine “authorized multi-use path crossings” across State Highways is still in the research phase; however it is expected to be completed in late 2009.

Not only is the CRT team responsible for investigating traffic motor vehicle collisions and traffic complaints, but they also focus on patrolling the multipurpose recreational path system. The team is trained on, and uses several unconventional vehicles to achieve this objective. As CRT remains a separate function of patrol, not subject to covering patrol districts, the team can focus their efforts to the specialized tasks. The department has four (4) fully equipped mountain bikes, two (2) ATVs, and a Rhino All Purpose Vehicle (APV). Previously the department only had four (4) certified police bicycle officers. During 2008, the department coordinated an instructor to certify four (14) officers including patrol to the standards of the International Police Mountain Biking Association. All C.R.T. officers are required to carry a bicycle on their patrol vehicles at all times while on patrol to allow them to immediately deploy the bicycles in the event of a missing child, general patrol, or during searches for fugitives. CRT officers continue to wear a specialized uniform to allow them to egress into a different patrol function at a moments notice to maintain their productivity and comfort.

Over the past four (4) years, the Community Response Team has competed in the National and Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety Traffic Safety Challenge. This “challenge” involved a comprehensive application process where the department was evaluated on its contribution and commitment to traffic safety in the following areas: Policy & Guidelines, Training of Officers, Incentives and Recognitions, Public Information and Education, Enforcement Activity, and Effectiveness of Efforts. The department competed against 171 other law enforcement agencies in numerous sub-categories: including but not limited to, First Time Entry, Occupant Protection, Impaired Driving, Speed Awareness, and Child Passenger Safety. The department won the award for “Rookie of the Year” or “First Time Entry” for the quality of our application in 2005, as well as winning 3rd place overall for our efforts in all categories. In 2006 the department was awarded 3rd place for our agency category of 50 to 100 officers. The 1st place and 2nd place agency in the same category has more than 80 officers in their department with full time traffic units. Over the years the department has been rewarded with over $25,000 in traffic safety equipment. In 2008, the department was extremely successful as a result of participating in this award patrol by receiving a fully equipped 2008 Ford Mustang with all police equipment. The fully equipped 2008 Ford Mustang saved the city approximately $55,000 dollars, and resulted in an additional patrol vehicle being placed into patrol.
The Special Response Team

By Lieutenant M. Brown

The implementation of the department’s Special Response Team was started in May 1997. The team celebrated its eleventh-year anniversary in 2008. One member still remains on the team from the team’s initial inception.

The S.R.T. unit currently consists of an eight (8) member, and a two (2)-member hostage negotiation’s unit. The team consists of select and elite volunteer offices that participate in a grueling application process to become a member of S.R.T. All new S.R.T. officers are placed on intense probation. During this probation, all of these new officers must perform well under stress during monthly training, pass a 40-hour Level I SWAT course, and have successfully performed with competence during an actual operation prior to being released from probation. After completion of the probationary period, these officers are awarded a “S.R.T.” pin to wear on their uniforms, and are considered active members of the unit. Senior members of the team are awarded ribbons after five (5) years of service on S.R.T. These officers receive specialized training to effectively deal with unique and high-risk law enforcement situations that go beyond the normal patrol officer’s capabilities.

The S.R.T. unit is designed to be utilized in situations where conventional standard law enforcement tactics and equipment may be insufficient, or pose a pronounced risk to both the community and its police officers. When utilized for intervention purposes, the S.R.T. unit will consider all reasonable measure to protect and preserve human life.

During 2007 and continued into 2008, the team established its first Special Mutual Aid Protocol with the Fayetteville Police Department. Shortly thereafter, team has received several requests for joint training and mutual aid protocols. The team is gradually training with these conjoining jurisdictions. The training sessions with other SRT units has provided a different perspective to SRT training. The department’s Special Mutual Aid Protocol mandates automatic assistance between the two agencies in case of S.R.T. events. During a year of training, tryouts, and research the team has conducted numerous training exercises with Fayetteville Police. A yearly goal of the S.R.T. unit is to further expand our regional collaboration with other S.R.T. units. The team has trained several times in 2008 with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (Bomb Unit), and Fayette County Sheriff.

The S.R.T. unit was lead by Lt. Mark Brown in 2008. As the Team Leader for the unit, Lt. Brown has command and control over the members of the S.R.T. during training and emergency situations. In all high-risk situations, the Team Leader has the ultimate responsibility to brief the Chief of Police or his designee on any recommended course of action. During 2008, the first Assistant Team Leader, Cpl. Mike Howell, was appointed to the S.R.T. unit. The S.R.T. unit is approved to train four (4) hours on a monthly basis, depending on scheduling issues in the department.
Traffic Enforcement Analysis

By Lieutenant M. Brown

Traffic enforcement and traffic administrative systems encompass a wide spectrum of responsibilities and operational requirements for the Police Department. These requirements include, but are not limited to: specialized traffic enforcement, road safety checks, an effective warning system, directed patrol and general deterrence provided by high visibility. The determination as to where enforcement is most needed often comes from citizen complaints, traffic and accident analysis, and gathering technical information via the SMART units, officer observations, and/or input from the city's Traffic Engineer. Our traffic enforcement measures not only include the issuance of citations, but also incorporate a constructive warning system. The purpose of the warning program is to cause motorist to be more obedient to the law and prevent unintentional or minor offenses. The Police Department consistently uses an active traffic enforcement administrative program that includes:

- Traffic Accident Analysis
- Traffic Enforcement Data Analysis
- Traffic Safety Education, Training and Reports
- Coordination with the City’s Traffic Engineer
- Special Event Planning
- Selective Enforcement Measures
- Traffic Volume and Distribution Reports
- Speed Enforcement
- Parking Enforcement
- Motorist Assistance
- Goal and Objective Planning

In 2005, there were 7,834 citations issued and 5,707 warnings issued. This was a decrease of 20% when compared to 2004.

In 2006, Peachtree City officers issued 6,786 citations and 5,623 warnings, for a 8% decrease from 2005 to 2006, and a 26% decrease from 2005.

In 2007, traffic enforcement increased by 17% when adding warnings and citations together. Warnings in 2007 increased a record 31% from 2006 (5,623 in 2006, 7,380 in 2007), and citations increased 5% (6,786 in 2006, 7,118 in 2007).

In 2008, traffic enforcement remained relatively consistent from 2007 to 2008 with only a 1% increase. Citations reduced from 7,118 citations in 2007 to 6,865 citations in 2008, or a 3.5% decrease. Warnings increased by 453 warnings from 2007 to 2008, for a 6% increase.

The Community Response Team accounted for 15% of all traffic enforcement during 2007 (2 officers), and 20% of all traffic enforcement in 2008 (3 officers).

During 2006, the department investigated 1,153 traffic collisions for a 5% decrease from 2005 and a consistent 2% increase in motor vehicle collisions from 2004 to 2006. Of the 1,153 motor vehicle collisions recorded in 2006 there were a reported 263 injuries which equates to an 8% decrease in the number of injured persons.

In 2007 motor vehicle collisions increased slightly by 2% when collision increased from 1153 in 2006 to 1178 in 2007. Injury collisions remained consistent at an average of 264 from 2006 to 2007.

In 2008, the department recorded only 2 additional collisions from 2007 to 2008 from 1,181 to 1,183. Injury collisions decreased significantly from 2007 to 2008 by 17% or by 49 injury collisions.

TOP 10 ACCIDENT LOCATIONS FOR 2008:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Collisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hwy 54 @ Hwy 74</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hwy 54 @ Huddleston Drive</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hwy 54 @ Peachtree Pkwy</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hwy 74 @ Kelly Drive</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hwy 74 @ Crosstown Rd</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hwy 54 @ Walt Banks Rd</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hwy 54 @ Plantara Way</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hwy 74 @ Rockaway Road</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hwy 74 @ Georgian Park</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hwy 74 @ Clover Reach</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Traffic Enforcement Analysis

By Lieutenant M. Brown

Hwy 54 and Hwy 74 continues to account for the most motor vehicle collisions for over decade. DOT is actively investigating the sequence of the traffic lights to allow for a more consistent traffic flow in an attempt to reduce these collisions. The most prevalent days of the week for accidents were Friday at 18%, however, the other days of the week were only +/-1% point for 2nd and 3rd place. The time of day being between 1700 hours and 1900 hours was when most of the collisions occurred in 2008. When you take the number of motor vehicle collisions and break them down into districts, District 1 (Northwest) had significantly the most collisions with 39% of the collisions, District 2 accounted for 20%, District 3 with 28%, and District 4 & 5 with only 13%.

The top five (5) contributing factors for these collisions in 2008 along with the corresponding number of injuries for each cause are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRIBUTING FACTORS</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Following Too Closely</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Under the Influence (DUI)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Yield Right of Way</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper Turn/Lane Violations</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disregard Traffic Control</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper Backing (includes parking lots)</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Factors (parking lot collisions, etc.)</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following Too Closely continues to be the main contributing factor for collisions in the city. Following Too Closely is directly related to individuals that are speeding.

DUI arrests were consistent from 2005 to 2006 with 252 and 251 respectively with a slight drop into 2007 with only 213 arrests. In 2008, the department recorded 230 arrests for a 8% increase. DUI related collisions remained consistent from 2005 to 2007 with 31, 32, 31 DUI related collisions, respectively; however in 2008 DUI related collisions reduced to only 20 collisions, for a 38% decrease.

Pictured right:

Corporal Allen and Corporal Johnson
The Police Department Focused On Crime Prevention During 2008

By Captain R. Dove

Developing and fostering partnerships and positive relationships with both the business and residential communities is a high priority for our department. Through these relationships, the department works with citizens to ensure a safe and healthy environment for them to live and work. Our programs are considered a priority mission, and the responsibility for carrying out this mission rests with all agency personnel.

Crime Prevention Programs come in many forms. Through general tours and safety presentations, to holiday enforcement efforts, the department strives to educate citizens on the crime prevention strategies. During 2008, members of the department conducted 1,257,688 business security checks (this figure includes both drive-by checks and physical security checks), 44,811 residential drive-bys, and 6,453 home security checks.

The I-Net Program is utilized to send citizens and businesses information via email on crimes, look outs, and other information. Through the use of the City’s Civic Plus web builder, the department can contact over 300 within a matter of minutes. Throughout the year, this system was used to send pictures of robbery suspects, alert citizens to crimes, and provide general safety tips.

Presentations are routinely made to businesses and civic groups providing them with information on crime in the city, crime prevention, and the operational aspects of our department. During 2008, members of the department spoke with the Kiwanis, Rotary, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, mothers groups, and various other organizations to provide them with this information.

During the holiday season, the department also develops flyers that are distributed to all businesses. They flyers include helpful tips and reminders about shoplifting, suspicious people, and robberies, among many other topics. In addition, the department’s website also contains crime prevention tips that are accessible to everyone 24 hours a day.

The Department uses various crime analysis techniques, GIS mapping, intelligence information, incident management systems, and covert operations, to enhance these crime prevention efforts. Business security checks are aimed at providing businesses with a physical check during each shift. This includes government buildings, schools and recreational areas. Business security checks also provide for a deployment of foot patrol and records patrol crime prevention efforts. The Park and Walk Program is directed at determining what needs the community has through the interaction with the citizens.

House Watch Program is provided to all citizens free of charge. Citizen’s can request that officers check their homes while out of town, or when there are situations where monitoring activities at the home, such as stalking, are needed.

Pictured above:
Cpl. Phillips, Cpl. Lackey, and Ofc. Pierson
Officers Participate In Community Relations Programs

By Captain R. Dove

In 2008, members of the Department participated in various programs and projects for total logged hours of 58.8 and a total of 2963 people contacted. This figure does not include the day-to-day interactions of our officers and the public; hours spent teaching the Community Emergency Response Team; hours spent teaching the Citizen’s Police Academy; nor does it account for the numerous hours spent during the holiday seasons providing valuable information to our citizens and businesses.

Typically, programs include tours of the department, child safety and identification lectures, child seat safety checks and presentations on current community topics of concern.

Other community relations activities included:

- Boy and Girl Scouts of America
- Drug Awareness/D.A.R.E. Program
- School Resource Officer Program
- Bicycle Safety
- Bicycle Rodeos
- Mountain Bike Patrol
- Golf Cart/ATV Patrol
- Home Security Checks
- Business Security Checks
- Fingerprinting Programs
- Personal Safety Programs
- Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch Programs
- Private School and Home School Programs
- Pre-School Programs
- Driver’s Education
- PTO Programs
- Distribution of Crime Prevention Pamphlets
- Child Seat Safety Checks
- Law Week
- Red Ribbon Week
- Facility Tours
- Explorer Post 999
- Auxiliary Program
- Park and Walk Program
- Emergency Operations/Response to Terrorist Planning Sessions
- Booth Middle School Career Day
- Fayette County Public Safety Games
- Georgia Special Olympics
- Honor Guard Funeral Details
- Honor Guard Salute to Public Safety
- Civic Clubs
- Mothers of Multiples
- Braelinn Village Santa’s Arrival
- Little League Baseball Association
- Identify Children Quickly (ICQ) fingerprinting program
- Elementary School Reading Program
- Keeping Your Kids Inline While Online
- Booth Safety Day
- National Night Out
Preventing drug abuse and establishing positive relations with the youth of Peachtree City are high priorities for the Police Department. The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program is a highly acclaimed program which gives young adults the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. Cpl. Smilley implemented The D.A.R.E. program at the six elementary schools in Peachtree City during 2008. The D.A.R.E. officer conducts a ten-week fifth grade program and a four-week third and first grade program. The fifth grade D.A.R.E. program focuses on drug awareness, peer pressure and effective drug refusal strategies. The first and third grade programs concentrate on basic drug awareness, refusing drug offers and anger management. The D.A.R.E. officer also conducts a thirty-minute D.A.R.E. safety presentation to each kindergarten class. The D.A.R.E. officer must ensure their lesson plans meet the requirements established by D.A.R.E. America. Due to the increasing number of elementary-aged youth in the city, the D.A.R.E. program has grown significantly this year. During the 2007-2008 school year, over 2,500 elementary students were taught D.A.R.E. in Peachtree City, and over 400 hours were spent teaching the D.A.R.E. curriculum to the fifth, first and third grade classes.

Several new components were added to the D.A.R.E. program this year. One of these components was a series of worksheets which were sent home with D.A.R.E. students. The worksheets are designed to foster meaningful discussions about drugs between parents and their children. These discussions have been proven to prevent drug abuse among kids. The other component added to the D.A.R.E. program is the use of a pre-test and post-test. These two tests allow the D.A.R.E. officer to effectively assess the student’s progress and knowledge retention in the D.A.R.E. program.

The D.A.R.E. officer conducts other drug and violence prevention programs during the school year. One such program is the Oak Grove Elementary School mentoring program, which provides a positive law enforcement role model to at-risk students. Through this program, Cpl. Smilley is assigned to several at-risk students and assists them with homework, eats lunch with them and attends their school functions.

The D.A.R.E. officer is school resource officer certified and acts as a liaison between the elementary schools and the police department. As the liaison, the D.A.R.E. officer can assist officers with incidents involving elementary-aged children or school faculty. The D.A.R.E. officer also assists the schools with security issues. During the 2008 year the D.A.R.E. officer was present during all the elementary school’s code-red drills and assisted faculty with the implementation of their code-red procedures.

The D.A.R.E. officer also conducts drug presentations to community organizations, such as the Cub Scouts, PTO groups, and nursing homes. The D.A.R.E. program is fully funded by the Kiwanis Club of Peachtree City. Donated funds are used to purchase books, medals, certificates and T-shirts for all fifth grade students who graduate from the D.A.R.E. program. The D.A.R.E. officer is responsible for the D.A.R.E. budget and the acquisition of D.A.R.E. materials.

Cpl. Paul Smilley teaches a DARE class.
**School Resource Officers**

By Sergeant K. Crider

For the 2008 school year, Booth Middle School had an enrollment of 981 students while McIntosh High School had an enrollment of 1658 students. During this time period, the School Resource Officers took action on the following incidents:

**Booth Middle School – Sgt. Odilia Bergh (Spring of 2008) and Sgt. Kay Crider (Fall of 2008)**

Criminal Activities Included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offenses of Battery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offense of Theft</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug offenses</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loitering on School Property</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals: 8 Miscellaneous Reports / 6 Incident Reports /6 Students Arrested

Students Arrested:  
2 Juvenile Black Males  
4 Juvenile White Males

**McIntosh High School – Sgt. Kay Crider (Spring 2008) and Cpl. Howell (Fall 2008)**

Criminal Activities Included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drugs (Misdemeanor)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol (MIP)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affray (Fighting)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Trespass</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Battery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassing Communications</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons Charge</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gang Related Activity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals: 32 Miscellaneous Reports / 27 Incident Reports / 11 Students Arrested

Students Arrested:  
2 Juvenile Black Male  
5 Juvenile White Males  
1 Juvenile Hispanic Male  
1 Adult Hispanic Male  
1 Juvenile Black Female  
1 Adult Black Male
School Resource Officers

By Sergeant K. Crider

For more than thirty years, the idea of having police officers in schools has existed in the United States of America. The Peachtree City Police Department became one of the first police departments in the Atlanta metro area to implement a School Resource Officer (commonly referred to as the S.R.O.) at both the middle school and high school level.

During the 2008 school year, Sgt. K. Crider, Sgt. Bergh and Cpl. Howell contributed to the youth in our community by becoming developing new and continuing existing relationships through mentorship programs. In these important roles each of them was instrumental in effecting lasting and positive changes in the lives of many students. Sgt Bergh completed another successful session as a facilitator for the RAINBOWS program, a course that brings children suffering from difficult home situations into small groups in order to discuss and bond with other children in their same situation. During training students learn and develop coping skills to deal with situations such as death of a parent or recent divorces.

Both schools also requested and were assisted in conducting these checks with their K-9 Units. There were no alerts at Booth Middle School. There was one alert on a locker at McIntosh High School that produced marijuana. After further investigation, Sgt. K. Crider was able to arrest the owner of the marijuana and the subject who originally sold the student the marijuana. The use of K-9 units in the schools provides a visual reminder to students and faculty that efforts are being made to provide a safe school environment for everyone.

Often, the School Resource Officers are under constant pressure to learn new techniques to help make the schools a safer place while teaching the students the importance of safety. The Peachtree City Department is very supportive of the School Resource Officers as they create new approaches to reaching the students.

In 2008, Sgt Bergh continued teaching a full time resource class to eight graders. The class, cleverly named “Law and Order” was approved by the Fayette County Board of Education and is taught in conjunction with a certified eight grade teacher. The class continues to gain popularity with the student body with its hands on curriculum which culminates with a full mock crime scene to serve as a final exam. This class has allowed for continuous law related education in the secondary grades.

Guest speakers and officers from the patrol division have volunteered to make presentations on related curriculum, allowing for interesting insight for the students, and positive interaction for both the student and the officers.

Pictured above:
Corporal M. Howell

Pictured below:
Sergeant K. Crider
Both Sgt. K. Crider and Cpl. Howell also contributed with year round, hands-on curriculum, which focuses on students that have a realistic enthusiasm concerning the pubic safety career fields at the high school. One semester class centers on public safety and community awareness. Guest speakers included the Mayor of Peachtree City, the Fayette County Coroner, Chief H.C. Clark, Peachtree City city-solicitor Marcia Moran, members of Fayette County Dispatch and various members of the Peachtree City Fire Department. Included in the curriculum was a two-week long fire safety training course that culminated in hands on demonstrations of first aid and fire safety techniques. Additional topics included hostage negotiation training, gang awareness strategies and court room testimony. The students also attended a field trip to the Fayette County Justice Center where they observed a felony case of child molestation and then were taken on a tour of the Fayette County Jail. The tour of the jail always presents a good learning experience. This year the students were able to see two fellow class mates in jail serving time for prior charges. To continue the learning aspect of court, the arresting officer for the molestation case attended the Law Enforcement Class and openly discussed the case and other cases he had worked on.

The second semester class is more focused on specific law related activities included crime scene investigations and defensive tactics. Students are given the opportunity to recognize the roles of law enforcement officers in their community. They are taught the skills used to proactively fight the war on crime and they work towards gaining a better understanding of the facets of the law that affect their everyday lives. There is special attention placed on topics like teen depression, drug culture, and alcohol awareness. Additional topics include interview techniques, verbal communication skills, and internet safety.

Sgt. Crider has also continued the mentoring program of several high school students who are struggling either academically, emotionally or due to personal hardships at home. Several of her students have benefited from this program and have since graduated from high school and continue to prestigious colleges. Sgt. Crider maintains positive relations with many of the students that translate into positive interactions with their parents and their peers. In addition to this Sgt. Crider worked with students in ISS to help them make efforts in improving their behavior choices and relationships with the police department. Cpl. Howell began as the SRO at McIntosh High School in the Fall semester of 2008 where he has taken a very active role in the Explorer Program. Cpl. Howell has developed his own role as SRO at the high school and is developing good relationships with students.

During the 2008 school year, Explorer Post 999 experienced many changes in leadership and recruitment. Our continuing effort to recruit throughout the year is reflected in the new interest from students outside of McIntosh High School. Our Police Department is the only law enforcement agency that currently offers Explorers to youth in Fayette County, GA. With the re-chartered Explorer Program this year we have been able to expand the outreach to many youth in the community through training and community service related projects. Many of these students currently participate in the Civil Air Patrol and have previous experience in the fields of law and medical services. The curriculum has been revamped to include training activities, youth related events and lecture-based presentations, on a variety of exciting subjects.

An Explorer Post Advisor (CPL Mike Howell) and an Advisory Board of fourteen Peachtree City Police Officers direct Explorer Post 999. These board members volunteer their time and expertise to assist the Explorers with inventive training tasks and new law enforcement techniques. This mentor style approach of having officers’ work with the students has led to a newfound respect among the officers and youth. Also new in 2008, a weekly email newsletter is published to all active members to help promote the Explorer Post and upcoming events. Currently, the Peachtree City Police Department is the only Law Enforcement agency in Fayette County to offer an Explorer Program.

Due to the renewed interest in the positive benefits of this program, the Explorers were able to participate in many community based events in 2007. Some of these events include a tour of the police department, two department Highway Safety Checks, Security at Football and Basketball games, and two CERT Team Disaster Training Exercises. The Explorers are hoping to achieve enough training to be eligible for the Ride-Along-Program at the Police Department in the summer months.

This year the Explorer Club is working towards raising awareness and funds for The Promise Place of Fayette County, GA. Making a concerted effort to be involved in our community and helping our citizens has been a great influence on the members of the club.
McIntosh High School Prom To Be Held At The Biltmore
By Sergeant K. Crider
For twenty (20) consecutive years, the Peachtree City Police Department has helped to coordinate security at no cost for the Junior/Senior Prom at McIntosh High School. In April of 2008, the prom was held at The Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta, GA. Throughout the duration of the event, the seven (7) officers present were able to provide safety for those students who attended the prom without posing a distraction. The students were afforded the opportunity to interact with the officers who were dressed in formal attire which helped to build a positive rapport for future encounters.

Officers attending the 2008 McIntosh High School Prom were as follows:

Chief H.C. “Skip” Clark II
Major Mike DuPree
Captain Stan Pye
Captain Terry Ernst
Sgt. Odilia Bergh
Sgt. Kay Crider
Sgt. Leland Crider

ACIM... When you Want To Locate Your Missing Child
By Captain R. Dove

A Child Is Missing Program is a rapid-response communication network that disseminates information to the general public regarding missing children. The system utilizes a high-speed and a high-tech telephonic network that can alert up to 1,000 households per minute. These alerts provide a description of the missing person and encourage these households to be on the look out for anyone matching the description. The organization, A Child is Missing, is a non-profit public and private partnership that is available to law enforcement personnel twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. This program was originally implemented in 2003 and works hand in hand with our response to missing juveniles. The program was founded in 1996 in Florida and has been used in over 5,000 incidents nationwide. In addition to assisting in the recovery of missing children, it is also effective in recovering elderly (Alzheimer’s), first-time runaway juveniles, and/or mentally/physically challenged persons, as well.

ICQ... When You Want To Protect Your Child
By Captain R. Dove

The Identify Children Quickly Program has now been offered to the citizens for Peachtree City for six years. This program provides identification kits to citizens and businesses that includes a fingerprint section, as well as steps to collect and store DNA samples of children. Each kit is created by agency personnel and is distributed free of charge. Although each kit contains all the items needed for parents to fingerprint their children, Officers are always available to assist them with the fingerprinting process.

During 2008, the department assisted the Eagle Scout Program. During the summer, over 300 kits were made by several members of the program, assisted by our officers. A fingerprinting drive was then held at the Starr’s Mill school complex where all kits were distributed to students. Members of the department and the Eagle Scout Program spent time explaining the kits to parents and assisting in fingerprinting the students.

Chaplains Corp
By Captain R. Dove

The Chaplaincy Program began as an innovative approach to meeting several needs in our community. Chaplains work with law enforcement personnel on a professional level by making themselves immediately available as trained and caring professionals who can assist in times of loss, confusion, depression, or grief to people in crisis situations. The Chaplains provide this service not only to the community, but also to all department employees and their families as well. In 2008, the department welcomed James Taylor to the program, bringing out number of Chaplains to four.
Crossing Children Safely At School For Years To Come

By Sergeant K. Crider

At this time, there are ten (10) Crossing Guards who assist with the traffic control and direction at strategic locations within the city. Nine of the ten Crossing Guards are considered part time employees with one additional alternate Crossing Guard who assists when the other Crossing Guards are absent and/or sick. The Crossing Guards are responsible for ensuring that the eight (8) schools are safe for those students who choose to walk or ride a bus.

These Crossing Guards, who receive numerous hours of training in traffic control and citizen interaction, primarily focus on the students who have to cross the road often without adult supervision. However, the Crossing Guards are often called upon to help facilitate traffic in their assigned school zone because of the large number of parents picking up and dropping off students.

Each year, the Peachtree City Police Department recognizes one Crossing Guard for their excellence in job performance. Every police officer is given the right to vote for the particular Crossing Guard who shows dedication and self-sacrifice towards the students in which they serve. This year the award went to Joel Mendelsohn who serves as our alternate Crossing Guard. Joel is very friendly with the officers and citizens. Although he does not work on a regular basis he has made an impact upon the officers and the citizens he encounters.

With recent changes in the educational budget, Crossing Guards are becoming more influential in helping to maintain safety and security for the school children in our community.
Special Events

By Captain S. Pye

The level of activity concerning special events continued to show an increase during the past year. With the attractiveness of the City's amenities, many sporting organizations are attracted to this area. The police department continued to be heavily involved with these activities. During 2008, the police department remained very active with the City's Special Events Planning Committee. The Special Events Committee is comprised of the Police Department, Public Works, Recreation Department, Fire Department, and Leisure Services. During many times throughout the year different representatives from the race sponsors would also attend these briefings. Based on their presentations and workload assessments of the City, several events were able to increase the size of their event. Regular meetings are scheduled each quarter and provide a formal review to determine fee schedules, logistical requirements, and other issues. In addition to these regularly scheduled meetings, there are special called meetings to consider any significant event that is presented outside the quarterly meetings that would impact the City.

During 2008, the police department was involved with one of the greatest number of special events for the City than in any preceding year. The following list is a sampling of the more noteworthy events we were involved in:

- Youth Triathlon
- Adult Triathlon
- Peachtree City Road Race
- Tour De Georgia Bicycle Race
- July 4th Parade and Fireworks Display
- Great Georgia Air Show
- Shakerag Spring Festival
- High School Prom
- High School Graduation Ceremonies
- Shakerag Fall Festival
- March of Dimes Walk
- Kids Fun Run
- Huddleston Kids Run
- Crabapple Red Bird Run
- Touch-A-Truck
- Hispanic Festival
- Alzheimer’s Walk
- Spot-Light Concert Events
- State/Regional BMX Races
- Hometown Holiday Parade
- Summer Concert Series I & II

Because of continued interest in our City's venues and the marketing efforts of the Tourism Board, the number of special events held within Peachtree City will undoubtedly increase.
Victim And Witness Program

By Captain S. Pye

Our Victim/Witness Assistance program is a cooperative effort between the Department, Fayette County Solicitor’s Office and Fayette County District Attorney’s Office. Michelle Ivey is assigned as the Victim/Witness Advocate for the District Attorney’s Office and La Verne Barela is the Advocate for the Solicitor’s Office. All agencies have programs in place that are designed to offer assistance to both victims and family members of victims through their combined resources. This helps ensure that victims and witnesses receive the same rights that criminals are given in our criminal justice system.

The criminal justice system can often be very burdensome for victims and witnesses of crime. Problems may include emotional, physical and financial suffering. The Victim/Witness Assistance Program is designed to assist crime victims and witnesses with support and guidance through the webs of the Criminal Justice System. The following services are confidential and free of charge to crime victims and witnesses:

- Information and explanation about criminal justice proceedings.
- Notification for victims and witnesses of various court dates regarding their case.
- Referrals to service agencies in the community, which may provide help and assistance.
- Property recovery of stolen items that are being held as evidence.
- Case status information to inform victims of the progress in their case.
- General assistance provided for problems resulting from victimization or witness intimidation.

Each agency has created their own pamphlets that are provided to victims and witnesses to assist them with any questions they have. Our officers are provided with training on departmental policy during the Field Training Program by their training officer and the Office of Professional Standards. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that our officers know their responsibilities as first responders. In addition to this assistance, the police department provides information to the Crime Victim’s Council when they are investigating compensatory needs of victims and witnesses.

Parking The Car, Walking and Talking

By Lieutenant M. Brown

During 2008, the Patrol Division along with the Community Response Team conducted 5,848 hours of non drive-by park and walk security checks. This is an increase of 1% when compared to 2007. This time is used to calculate the amount of time an officer spends conducting physical business checks, speaking with store management or walking through neighborhoods. With the increased visibility of officers in the business areas and neighborhoods many of the citizens have found it easier to communicate with the department. This also allows for departmental personnel to target an area that has high criminal activity or vandalism. The “Park and Walk” program continues to be a success and will continue to be as long as the officers and the citizens of the community take pride in the lifestyle that we live by.
Neighborhood Watch

By Lieutenant D. Hill

The Peachtree City Police Department recognizes that community participation in crime prevention programs is essential to improving the quality of life in the City of Peachtree City. One of the most effective ways to promote citizen interaction with police is the sharing of information. At its heart, The Neighborhood Watch Program encourages this partnership between the police and community. It is a program of neighbors watching out for other neighbors, particularly during times when criminal activity would likely occur. Also, as a part of Neighborhood Watch, citizen groups determine specific needs or problems and then share this information with local police. The police then act on this information and report back to the group on their progress. Neighborhood Watch is an active crime prevention program where neighbors make a commitment to each other to look out for each other's property and safety in an organized effort with each other and the police. During 2008, Morrellion Hills and Wilshire Estates became interested in this program and began the process of getting their neighbors together for meetings and forums.

Citizen's Police Academy

By Captain S. Pye

In 2008, the police department continued to offer a Citizen's Police Academy to the residents of our community. The class continues to be very a successful and popular community outreach program. It was determined that the academy should continue to meet once a week, on Tuesdays, from 1830 hours until 2100 hours throughout the course of a ten week period. The class size was limited to a maximum of 25 students. The criteria for the academy established that a student selected to participate should be a city resident or have ties to the community through work and/or social obligations. In 2008, we continued to incorporate CERT graduates into our Citizens Police Academy. There continues to be a significant number of our CERT volunteers that desire to participate in this type of program. The academy was announced through local media outlets, the City’s Update newsletter, the local cable channel, as well in flyers distributed to major City recreation venues. The 2008 class began on March 11th and concluded on May 13th. The participants of this academy were supplied with an insight in the daily functions of the law enforcement profession and how it is applied here in Peachtree City. Class topics included such areas as Drug Awareness; SRT Demonstrations; Crime Scene Processing; Ethics and Professionalism; Use of Force; Identity Fraud, Internet Crimes Against Children, and F.A.T.S. (firearms simulation) Training. The department utilized a wide cross-section of sworn officers from our agency to serve as instructors during the academy. The citizens that attended were also able to participate in an 8 hour ride-along program with an officer while on patrol.

Upon completion of the program, the class members were presented certificates of completion during a city council meeting. The students were asked to complete an evaluation of the class, listing its strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations on improvements. In reviewing these evaluations and speaking with individual class members, it was observed that each participant thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the experience, finding it both rewarding and informative. In fact, the department received interest in positions within our department from the class and two were selected to participate in the Auxiliary Officer program. The next Citizens Police Academy is scheduled to be held on March 3rd, 2009.
Business Watch

By Captain M. Claman

The Peachtree City Police Department is committed in providing security to local businesses. Proactive patrols and physical security checks of businesses are conducted in all areas of the city throughout the course of a day and evening. Business checks encompass not only the large retail shopping centers and individual businesses, but also the industrial areas, such as those located in the south west quadrant of Peachtree City to include, Georgia Highway 74 and Dividend Drive. History has shown that all businesses are subject to criminal activity, whether it is petty theft at a retailer or the theft of corporate computerized database information.

In 2008, 1,257,688 combined business security checks were conducted. These were checks conducted by uniformed officers checking businesses in their assigned patrol zone. During open business hours, officers were able to walk these areas and meet with management and employees. After hours, they were checking for locked doors and other security related issues. If the business was found unlocked or there were indications of damage to the property, the business owner was contacted immediately and requested to respond to the location.

In July and October, special bulletins were distributed to retail businesses and restaurants regarding recent armed robberies in Peachtree City. The bulletins included the suspect’s physical description and clothing worn by the suspects. Additionally, a copy of a G.B.I. suspect sketch was included to aid in identification of the suspect.

In October and continuing through the beginning of January 2008, the annual holiday season Business Watch Program was implemented. The program was originally created as an avenue to remind and educate businesses of good security practices. The program is focused upon those businesses that serve the public. Mainly shopping centers, convenience stores, individual retail businesses, restaurants and financial institutions, such as banks and credit unions, were the targeted establishments.

Prior to the issuance of the Business Watch Bulletin, it was reviewed and any revisions based upon current crime trends or newly developed security practices were incorporated. Once the review was completed, uniformed officers personally distributed the Business Watch Bulletin. The informational packets were delivered to prescribed businesses in which officers met with either business owners or management personnel. The officers were encouraged to discuss any security issues that were observed such as open back doors, or answer any questions that they may have. The bulletins included information on security awareness, how to recognize suspicious activity, how to file a police report and personal safety issues. A single sheet of condensed information was also included for quick review of security measures. It was made available for posting in a common area of the business for all employees to review.

As a part of the holiday season patrols, certain areas such as the Avenues, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Kedron Shopping Center, and Braelinn Village Shopping Center were especially targeted. This was due to their high volumes of pedestrian and vehicular traffic that are common during the holiday shopping months. Officers were given specialized assignments to remain in specific areas for extended periods and observe any unusual activities. Officers walked through numerous businesses and spoke with business owners and employees who were encouraged to report any unusual activities. Officers also patrolled the parking lots and looked for any suspicious person(s) or criminal activity.
Business Watch

By Captain M. Claman

In addition to the many services that the police department offers, Officers throughout the year are scheduled to meet with members of management and employees of local businesses, to include banks and credit unions, to discuss the benefits of our Business Watch Program and alarm response procedures.

Other seminars and training classes that have been offered to the business sector include:

- Safety and Security at the Work Place
- Physical Security Planning and Bomb Threats
- Bank Alarm/Security Measures
- Identity Fraud
- Prevention of Credit Card and Check Fraud
- Prevention of Employee Theft
- Identifying Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Training on Alcohol Laws and Ordinances

Auxiliary Police Force

By Captain M. Claman

The Peachtree City Police Department Auxiliary Police Force (APF) is a program that was established for local citizens to become an active participant in keeping Peachtree City a safe place to live. The volunteer officers are comprised of every day people from all walks of life. Membership over the years has been comprised of doctors, local business owners, airline pilots, college students, retirees and others. While although the members of the APF are non-commissioned and do not have any arrest powers, they are instrumental in daily police operations.

With all of their personal commitments, both at work and home, they still have time to conduct neighborhood and business patrols, traffic direction and control, Holiday Season Patrol, data entry and assist in a variety of local special events, to include walk-a-thons and road races.

In 2008, they worked a total of 3770 hours. The number of hours averaged to approximately two (2) full-time positions without adjustments for vacations or holiday leave. On a per person basis, it averaged to 343 hours per member at twenty-nine (29) hours per month. It should be noted that during the year, three (3) of the members were on probation and therefore the hours were not evenly distributed. The senior members worked the majority of total hours worked.

During the year, the APF participated in two large scale road safety checks. At each event, they assisted in preplanning stages of the road safety check by coordinating a dinner for approximately 35 law enforcement officers from local law enforcement agencies. On the day of the road safety check, auxiliary officers reported prior to the event briefing to assist in gathering and deployment of equipment to be utilized at the check points. Once the road safety check began, auxiliary officers conducted traffic direction functions and assisted motorists in safely entering and exiting the check point areas.

Auxiliary officers throughout the year assisted with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Citizens Police Academy (CPA). Several of the auxiliary officers are certified CERT trainers and were utilized during the training. There attendance in the CERT program was beneficial in teaching the students the proper ways in which to respond to various types of emergency events and how to apply their training during the classroom practical exercises. Several of the graduates from these programs continued their relationship with the police department by joining the APF.

The auxiliary officers also oversee a vest fund account that was designed to purchase new vests for recently hired sworn officers and replace bulletproof vests that have reached the manufacturer’s expiration date. The funds are gathered through fund raising projects and contributions from citizens and local businesses.

Other noted activities involving APF participation in 2008 included:

- Amphitheater Concerts
- July Fourth Celebration
- Shakerag Arts Festival
- Youth Arts Festival
- March of Dimes–Walk America
- Youth Triathlon
- Peachtree City Classic Road Race
- Alzheimer’s Memory Walk
- Jingle Bell Run
- Annual Police Department Christmas Banquet
Criminal Investigations Division

The Peachtree City Police Department Criminal Investigations Division is devoted to thoroughly investigating all Part I crimes and other criminal activity within the city limits of Peachtree City. The apprehension of criminals and the recovery of stolen property are of the utmost importance. We strive everyday to keep pace with the rapidly evolving community as the local economy changes and the surrounding areas continue to populate. We will continue to maintain close ties with other law enforcement entities, as well as, state and federal law enforcement agencies. We strive to exceed the highest professional law enforcement standards under the guidance of State Law, International Accreditation, and State Certification.

By Captain M. Claman

A break down of assignments and the length of time in CID during 2008 is as follows:

Division Commander: Capt. Mike Claman - All of 2008, oversees all operations within CID, performs report review, conducts and coordinates major investigations, conducts felony and misdemeanor investigations, disseminates intelligence information.


Division Sergeant: Sgt. Gary Meier- All of 2008, assigned as CID Sergeant. He conducts felony and misdemeanor investigations.


Detective Corporal: Cpl. Vicki Sanchez – Assigned to CID late October 2008. She conducts felony and misdemeanor investigations. She reports to Division Sergeant Gary Meier.

During 2008, the Criminal Investigation Division Detectives accounted for 475 hours of P.O.S.T. training. Classes attended by these officers included Gang Investigator, Computer Forensics, Latent Print Development, Latent Print Identification and several Command College management level courses attended by Lt. Jennifer Michel.
This annual report is utilized to encourage the equalization of individual workload by assessing the allocation and distribution of personnel within the Criminal Investigation Division (CID). The purpose for conducting an assessment such as this is to determine the necessary number of personnel assigned to CID. Personnel are distributed within this component according to various needs, (e.g. temporal requirements, case assignment, service demands, supervisory responsibilities and administrative functions). Upon considering our agencies responsibilities and size, the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization depends a great deal on preliminary and follow-up investigations.

The Criminal Investigation Division is assigned a variety of responsibilities. CID personnel perform their duties in conjunction with the department’s Patrol Division, Office of Professional Standards, Administrative Services and Command Staff. When determining allocation and distribution data for CID, accountability for time management can be very difficult to identify. This is primarily due to the many supplementary responsibilities that are required or encountered with this type of specialized unit. CID personnel are constantly involved with a number of Federal, State, County and other local organizations, which distract from their basic responsibility of investigating criminal activity. Some of these include, but are not limited to:

- Fayette County Court System
- Fayette County State Solicitor’s and District Attorney’s Office
- Department of Family and Children Services
- Fayette County Juvenile Court
- Fayette County Sheriff’s Department
- Georgia Bureau of Investigations
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Secret Service
- Department of Homeland Security
- Postal Inspector Service
- Fayette County Victim/ Witness Advocate
- Promise Place

With regards to the assignment availability factor and minimum allocation for the Criminal Investigation Division, the ratio representing the total potential person-day available compared to the actual person-day worked is as follows:

There are potentially 365 eight-hour shifts that can be scheduled per year, per detective assigned to CID. The 365 shifts are reduced to 202 available shifts, per detective, once reductions are made for; scheduled off days (104 shifts per detective), holiday leave (on average 10 shifts per detective), vacation leave (on average 18 shifts per detective), sick leave (on average 1 shift per detective), training (on average 15 shifts per detective), compensatory time (on average 10 shifts per detective) and personal leave (on average 5 shifts per detective).

In 2008, on average there were four detectives assigned to CID. One detective assigned to work Monday through Friday on Day Shift as the Division Commander and the three remaining detectives with modified Day/Evening hours. CID is scheduled eight (8) hour shifts, with two overlapping shifts per day. When configuring shift coverage for 2008, each detective can be scheduled to work an average of 202 shifts each year. Therefore, combined CID personnel (Captain, Lieutenant and two Sergeants) were available to work 808 shifts per year (excluding overtime). This allowed for average shift coverage of 1.6 detectives for each of the two shifts, 5 days a week. This data does not include time spent by detectives in Juvenile, Municipal, State and Superior Court, assisting Patrol and other divisions, assisting people in the lobby and on the telephone, and other needs of the police department. Although CID’s allocated strength is actually six detectives, because of manpower shortages the remaining positions have not been assigned during the past several years.

In 2008, the Criminal Investigation Division was assigned 1056 (675 in 2007) cases for investigation (plus the 983 cases carried over from 2007). This equals an average of 680 cases assigned per detective in 2008. This reflects a 57.4% increase from the 432 cases assigned to each detective in 2007, a 279.9% increase from the 179 cases assigned to each detective in 2006, a 306.5% increase from the 167.3 cases assigned to each detective in 2005. With an average of three (3) detectives working cases in 2008, there was on average, 6.8 new cases assigned each detective every week period. Although the average case investigation takes approximately ten (10) hours, this does not include any other case responsibilities such as preliminary investigations, awaiting lab results, gathering intelligence, surveillance, crime scene investigation, processing evidence, travel time, search warrants and first appearance/ bond hearings.
In 2008, the Criminal Investigation Division was assigned 1056 new cases for investigation. Additionally, 983 cases were carried over from 2007, bringing the total cases worked in 2008 to 2039. This demonstrates an increase of 743 cases (57.3%) from the year 2007 (1296 in 2007). Of the 2039 cases investigated in 2008, 1426 have not been brought to an investigative conclusion and continue to remain open for 2009. Subsequently, 659 cases were closed or placed on administrative action. Of the 659 cases that were closed during 2008, 29 cases (4.4%) were cleared by arrest (47 cases or 15% in 2007), 18 cases (2.7%) were exceptionally cleared (28 cases or 8.9% in 2007), and 37 cases (5.6%) were unfounded (33 cases or 10.5% in 2007). The data represents a total clearance rate in 2008, including Part I and Part II crimes, assigned to CID as 4.1% (84 of the 2039 cases were cleared by arrest, exceptionally cleared or unfounded). Additional data indicates that 575 cases (28.2%) were placed in the administrative action category. The remaining cases are still under investigation in 2009.

By Captain M. Claman
In 2008, Peachtree City Police Officers conducted twenty one (21) preliminary investigations, which required referral and follow-up by the Fayette County Department of Children and Family Services (DFACS). With respect to referrals to the police department, DFACS made 83 referrals, all of which were assigned to criminal investigators for investigative follow up and/or prosecution. In comparison to other law enforcement agencies, Peachtree City received 10.15% of Fayette County DFACS referrals. DFACS had a total of 843 referrals overall. 2 of the referrals resulted in criminal charges, each for Family Violence Battery. 2 cases involved children who were removed from their homes and placed in DFACS custody due to neglect.

During 2008, the police department referred 665 cases to the Juvenile Court, with 366 taken into custody. These cases are broken down as follows: traffic charges 198, delinquent charges 366, and unruly offenses 101.

Overall, Peachtree City was responsible for referring 35.13% of the cases prosecuted by the Fayette County Juvenile Court in 2007.

Data from 2008 indicates that overall, Peachtree City experienced a .98% decrease in juvenile related crimes. Countywide, juvenile related crimes decreased .97%.

The majority of juvenile complaints filed by the Criminal Investigations Division in 2008 involved Robbery (20.8%) and Manufacturing a Destructive Device (29.2%). The remaining complaints included Theft by Taking, Theft by Taking Motor Vehicle, False Report of a Crime, Drug Offense, Simple Battery, Weapons Offense and a Traffic Offense.

### Current Trends in Juvenile Crime

#### Top Ten Offenses for 2008

1. Ungovernable 87
2. Violation of Probation 84
3. Runaway 76
4. Disrupting Public School 69
5. Theft by Shoplifting 69
6. Criminal Trespass 63
7. Simple Battery 54
8. Alcohol Violation 53
9. Curfew Violation 52
10. Manufacturing a Destructive Device 43

### Cases Presented to Juvenile Court Comparison

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2008</th>
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<td>Tyrone P.D.</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>DFACS</td>
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<td>Court Services</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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### Cases Referred From DFACS Yearly Comparison

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<th>FPD</th>
<th>TPD</th>
<th>DFACS</th>
<th>Court Services</th>
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The police department utilizes an internal information exchange system for the sworn members entitled INTELEX (Intelligence Exchange). In the Squad Room and on their laptops maintained in their patrol vehicles, officers can log into the password-protected intranet system and view intelligence concerning recent criminal activity, suspicious activity, drug activity, stolen vehicles, and other pertinent information. The information is extremely valuable to officers, especially when absent for training or extended personal leave, conducting follow-up investigations, or as a resource to review archived criminal activity. As information is added to the system, all officers to include, Watch Commanders and Supervisors are notified via email updates. The information is kept current through routine purges that are conducted as new intelligence information is gathered.

Contained within INTELEX is a page entitled “Hot Sheet”. It is included in the INTELEX system as a means for Supervisors and officers to have the information readily available while on patrol. The “Hot Sheet” can be printed through the system and is generally limited to one page. The information contains recent criminal activity, BOLOs, mug shots and other information that is particularly beneficial in day-to-day operations.

The police department also participates in an internet list serve entitled Metro-Tech where local and Federal law enforcement agencies, investigative units from businesses and other invited organizations exchange information regarding criminal activity. The information has been instrumental in identifying suspects and tracking criminal activities of individuals and groups. Information gathered from Metro-Tech is included in the “Hot Sheet, internal emails and to the public through the I-Net program.

By Captain M. Claman

Sexual Offenses

In 2008, CID detectives investigated nine (9) out of the thirteen (13) reported sexually related offenses. These incidents included rape, child molestation and sexual battery. Five (5) out of the thirteen (13) cases involved juvenile victims. Of the nine (9) closed by CID, one (1) was Cleared by Arrest, five (5) were Unfounded, one (1) was Exceptionally Cleared and two (2) were finalized as information only reports due to lack of cooperation from the victim.
Intelligence Update Systems

By Captain M. Claman

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Major Case Investigations

By Lieutenant J. Michel

During 2008, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) responded to various crime scenes and was assigned several major cases to investigate. These cases included reports of Child Molestation, Armed Robbery, Residential and Commercial Burglaries, Theft, and Identity Fraud.

In January, CID investigated a report of an aggravated assault where the victim was stopped in his vehicle at an intersection. The suspect exited his vehicle and brandished a handgun at the victim. After the interviewing several witnesses, the suspect was identified and arrested.

In February, CID investigated an identity fraud where the victim’s checks were stolen and used at various locations. After retrieving surveillance video where the stolen checks were used, the suspect was identified and warrants were obtained for the suspect’s arrest.

In April, CID investigated a forgery case in which thousands of dollars were stolen from a local doctor’s office. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the office manager had used the business owner’s checks and identity in an effort to obtain goods and services for her own personal use. The suspect was also determined to have committed similar acts in Bartow County. Subsequently, the suspect was arrested in Bartow County on twelve (12) counts of Prescription Forgery and arrested in Peachtree City for Forgery and Identity Fraud.

In May, CID investigated numerous graffiti incidents that had been occurring throughout the city. After weeks of interviewing juveniles, several were identified as putting graffiti on golf cart tunnels, schools and city property to include, recreation facilities, street signs and stop signs. The juveniles were charged with several counts of Criminal Damage.

In June, CID investigated several major incidents. The first group of related incidents were reports of explosive devices, also known as “bottle bombs” that were placed into residential mailboxes. The suspects manufactured the explosive devices by placing household chemicals and supplies into plastic drinking bottles. The investigation revealed that four juveniles were responsible for the incidents. Each were charged with several counts of manufacturing destructive devices and prosecuted in Juvenile Court. The second major incident was an Armed Robbery at the Flash Foods convenience store. The suspect entered into the business late at night, sprayed bug spray into the cashier’s face and demanded all the money. After exhausting all leads in the investigation, this case is still under investigation. In addition to the Armed Robbery, CID investigated an aggravated assault at a local bar in which the victim died as the result of his injuries. After several weeks of interviewing witnesses and gathering evidence, the offender was identified and subsequently arrested on Felony Murder and Aggravated Assault charges. He pled guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter and received a sentence of 15 years; serve 5 years and 10 years on probation.

In July, CID responded to an Armed Robbery at Ruby Tuesday’s. Two employees were held at gunpoint while the suspects stole the money and the victim’s personal wallets. An extensive investigation was conducted. A G.B.I. sketch was done of the suspect and the information was release to the public and media. The case is still under investigation.

In August, CID responded to a fire call at a residence where a paralyzed elderly female was sleeping in a recliner. The victim later died as a result of the incident. The investigation was conducted in conjunction with the Peachtree City Fire Department, the State Fire Marshal and several other investigative resources. The case is still under investigation. In addition, CID responded to a medic call in which a 2 month child was having difficulty breathing. During the investigation, it was determined that the father of the child had reportedly shaken the child in a violent manner in an effort to keep the child from crying. The father was arrested for Aggravated Assault.
**Major Case Investigations**

By Lieutenant J. Michel

In October, CID responded to an armed robbery at a music store in The Avenues shopping center. The suspected brandished a weapon to the store employee and received an undisclosed amount of money. A G.B.I. sketch was done of the suspect and the information was released to the public and media. The case is still under investigation.

In November, in conjunction with the Fayetteville Police Department, CID investigated several fitness center thefts where money and personal items were stolen from gym lockers while patrons were exercising. The offender was identified and charged with several counts of Theft by Taking and Identity Fraud in both jurisdictions. The individual arrested was also a suspect in similar thefts in the Metro-Atlanta.

In December, CID investigated residential mailbox thefts from several locations in the Peachtree City. During the course of the investigation, the suspect’s car was identified and ultimately traced back to the suspect’s residence. Investigators conducted a search warrant at the suspect’s home and located stolen mail. It was determined that the suspect had been purchasing Christmas gifts for her friends and family with victim’s credit information. The suspect was charged with several counts of Forgery and Identity Fraud.

**Domestic Violence Intervention**

By Lieutenant J. Michel

The Promise Place is a non-profit organization co-directed by Sonya Strickland and Vanessa Mottley. This organization assists women, children and men in obtaining Temporary Restraining Orders (TPO’s), counseling, a 24-hour hotline, case management, community outreach, children’s counseling, a transitional residence, date violence education, legal advocacy and assistance, domestic violence response team, emergency food and transportation, group counseling for victims and abusers, and individual counseling for victims and abusers. The Promise Place meets on the third Tuesday of each month and is active in fundraisers throughout the year. Promise Place currently runs a shelter and a transition house that provide long term support for victim’s of domestic violence.

Lt. Jennifer Michel is actively involved with women who have been referred to her by patrol officers or others in the community. She assists victims in filing police reports for prosecution and then refers them to the Promise Place for additional assistance. The Promise Place is currently active with the other counties within the Griffin Judicial Circuit, which includes Fayette, Spaulding, Pike, and Upson. Members of the Promise Place are also a part of the Domestic Violence Task Force. This group is comprised of various community leaders, also of the Griffin Judicial Circuit, and includes law enforcement, mental health care facilitators, probation officers, parole officers, former victims of domestic violence, church leaders, judges and victim/ witness advocates from each of the counties. Lt. Michel is currently a board member of the Domestic Violence Task Force.
Surveillance Activities

By Captain M. Claman

Surveillance operations are an integral part of taking proactive measures to identify and apprehend suspects. They are instrumental in gathering intelligence information on a suspect’s activities, places they may frequent and associates with whom they may assist them in their criminal activity. When surveillance teams were formed, they were comprised of officers from different divisions of the police department. The teams were activated for burglary investigations, Internet crimes against children investigations, property damage, thefts and drug related offenses.

A few noted activations of surveillance teams were conducted in 2008. In January, officers conducted surveillance operations at a residence regarding suspected drug activity. In May, an officer conducted plain clothes surveillance at bars and restaurants regarding reported drug activity. In June, officers conducted surveillance operations of a pay phone regarding bomb threats directed towards a local business. In September, officers conducted residential roving patrols in unmarked vehicles regarding thefts from vehicles.

Drug Offenses And Arrests

By Captain M. Claman

The Criminal Investigations Division gathers drug related intelligence through confidential informants, anonymous tips, concerned citizens, and arrest reports. The information is compiled and analyzed to successfully investigate and prosecute offenders who elect to conduct illegal narcotic operations in Peachtree City.

A noted case during 2008 was a narcotics investigation that involved drug sales at local restaurants and bars. An undercover officer dressed in plain clothes, conducted undercover operations at various locations throughout Peachtree City.

Also during 2008, the Peachtree Department began the process of discussing plans to join the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office Drug Task Force, later to be re-named the Tactical Narcotics Team. During the process, Officers interested in being selected to represent the Police Department were interviewed and a candidate was selected. The Officer was reassigned to the specialized unit in 2009 and reports to the CID Division Commander.

Crime Statistics

By Captain M. Claman

In 2008, there was 637 reported Part I crimes in Peachtree City. Of the Part I crimes, 468 cases were forwarded to CID for further investigation. After follow-up investigation by detectives, thirteen (13) of the cases were determined to be unfounded. Additionally, the Patrol Division cleared sixteen (16) Part I crimes as unfounded through officer initiated preliminary and follow-up investigations.

Peachtree City is divided into four patrol zones. In 2008, the following percentage of Part I crimes were documented per zone:

- Part I Crimes Investigated - Zone 1 - 32.4%
- Part I Crimes Investigated - Zone 2 - 21.7%
- Part I Crimes Investigated - Zone 3 - 21.1%
- Part I Crimes Investigated - Zone 4 - 24.8%

Eighty (88) vehicles were reported stolen in 2008, twelve (12) of which were passenger vehicles, seventy-two (72) were golf carts and remaining four (4) were other types of vehicles. Forty-nine (49) of the stolen vehicles/golf carts were recovered in 2008.

Eight (8) reported robberies occurred in 2008. Five (5) were cleared by arrest and the three (3) remaining are open for further investigation.

The total property reported stolen was valued at $1,148,936.00, with property-recovery valued at $31,422.00.
Graffiti

By Major M. DuPree

For several years the police department began to observe an increase in graffiti related incidents and noticed that the crime was transcending from routine taggers to potential gang association. Graffiti does not mean that gangs are in our neighborhoods. The vast majority of graffiti in Peachtree City is painted by “taggers” who simply write their names or nicknames (“tags”) so that it will be seen by their peers. Taggers vandalize all parts of the city, and are not necessarily tied to any particular neighborhood. Tag names are typically short words or letters, possibly more when it involves “tagger crews” or groups. Taggers thrive on placing their initials or nicknames in as many areas as possible or on places that are conspicuous to the public. The objective of tagging is peer recognition as the tagger gains more notoriety the longer the tag is “up.” That is why, the quick removal of graffiti is important because it discourages more tagging.

Because of increased incidents of graffiti, the police department began to work with other City’s departments as well as the Fayette County Educator/Law Enforcement Consortium to create awareness and educational components for the public. In 2007 and 2008, the department addressed the graffiti problem through local media releases, submitting information to citizens in the City’s Update newsletter, establishing publicized reward incentives, participating in community forums on street gang terrorism and prevention, and by implementing a new program called “Fight Graffiti”. Fight Graffiti is a web-based reporting system that is accessible to the public via the City’s and Police department’s websites. The Fight Graffiti program promotes community partnerships with the police to stay on top of graffiti and vandalism by being alert and taking measures to prevent it. If it does occur, citizens are encouraged to report it as quickly as possible. If they can do so safely, they are also encouraged to get vehicle tag numbers, golf cart registration numbers, and a description of the individual (s) for identification purposes.

In 2008, there were 109 reported incidents of graffiti in Peachtree City.

Intelligence and Information Sharing

The need for government agencies of the 21st Century to develop and share intelligence/information has significantly changed since 9/11. Additionally, the challenges of sharing information between local, state and federal agencies, as well as the private sector, are slowly disappearing. Through newfound support and technological expertise, law enforcement is looking to interoperability, fusion systems, and communications for answers. In fact, at all levels, we are realizing the importance of information exchange and are becoming inter-reliant with each other in fighting crime and addressing homeland security concerns.

The development and exchange of intelligence is not an easy task. Sharing data requires not only a strong leadership commitment but a commitment to resources and funding. Most importantly, it involves trust between diverse groups of people who believe in the power of collaboration. In 2008, at different levels, the Peachtree City Police Department participated in many groups that help foster communication and cooperation. Some of these included MATEN (Metro-Atlanta Traffic Enforcement Network); Metro-Tech; Region 7 All-Hazards Committee; Fayette County Sheriff’s Tactical Narcotics Team; Fayette County Local Emergency Planning Committee; Fayette County Educator/Law Enforcement Consortium; Fayette County Investigators Meetings; Atlanta Joint Terrorism Task Force; Georgia Office of Homeland Security; Georgia Emergency Management Agency; Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC) and several other local, State and Federal collaborations.

In 2007 and 2008, the police department improved our ability to receive and share intelligence/information between our department and other agencies in Metro-Atlanta as well as State-wide. Additionally, the department’s internal programs such as Pass-On, Intelex, BOLO’s, information bulletins, and the weekly F.B.I. Intelligence Reports were disseminated routinely to all affected personnel. Crime trends; methods of operation; gang intelligence; extremist activity; suspect information, photographs and vehicles; and a variety of other information was shared through resources such as Metro-Tech, automated fingerprint identification systems, GCIC (the Georgia Crime Information Center), and NCIC (the National Crime Information Center).
Gang Awareness

By Major M. DuPree

According to Georgia Criminal Law, a criminal street gang is any organization, association, or group of three or more persons associated in fact, whether formal or informal, which engages in criminal gang activity. The existence of such organization, association, or group of individuals associated in fact may be established by evidence of a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire or other distinguishing characteristics.

Street gang membership encompasses all races from most socioeconomic levels. Gang activity is no longer limited to the larger cities, but in recent years has embraced more of a national scope especially in suburban communities. Many “street gangs” are nothing more than localized imitations of the larger cities gangs which is, at least for the time, the current situation here in Peachtree City. Nevertheless, interest in gang affiliation combined with action is the beginning of organized activity that pre-empts violence and other serious criminal activity, making it difficult for a community and its law enforcement to manage.

In today’s society street gang awareness and education are important virtually from the start of a child’s attendance in the public school system until he/she reaches adulthood. Peachtree City children are not exceptions to this rule. To address both current and future issues associated with gang activity, a group of key stakeholders created a partnership in 2007 to form a Fayette County educators/law enforcement alliance. In 2008, the alliance prioritized their mission and took an aggressive posture to prevent street gang recruitment; to prevent the maintenance of street gang structure and organization; to encourage the education of law enforcement and the general public in recognizing the signs, symbols and characteristics of street gangs; to prosecute potential street gang activity to the fullest extent of the law; and to embrace a no tolerance stance regarding any form of school bullying, fighting, or violence.

As a participating member of the alliance, during 2008 the police department also established internal priorities regarding street gang awareness and education. Subsequently, goals and objectives were outlined and in-service, multi-agency, and formal training arranged. Additional police department goals for 2008-2009 included:

- Establish street gang terrorism and prevention as a part of the police department training curriculum for formal and in-service training.
- Familiarizing officers with graffiti and tagging symbols relative to street gang activity.
- Identifying potential street gang members.
- Preventing criminal activities committed by street gangs.
- Targeting outreach initiatives in cooperation with the school system, The Bridge Community Center, and other community organizations.
- Promoting the future implementation of a Multi-County Gang Task Force.
- Promoting gang resistance education through the DARE Program.
They Matter!

The Health Occupations Students of America Student Organization of Starr’s Mill High School would like to thank you for all you do for us. Barbara Phillips, RN. Instructor in Healthcare Science, Starr’s Mill High School.

Thank you so much for the police … presence. Matt Autera.

Thanks so much in assisting me in honoring my husband. The police escort and the two honor guard (members) were outstanding. With a Sincere Heart. Susan Cobb.

Her demonstrated professionalism, work ethic, sound judgment and technical expertise reflected highly on your department, the city of Peachtree City, and the law enforcement profession. I am confident that she will continue to serve our community in an exceptional manner. It has been a pleasure serving with her. This comment was directed toward Sgt. O. Bergh by Principal Ted Lombard, on her time of service as a School Resource Officer at Booth Middle School.

My mother and I were very shaken up over this [incident] and officer Pierson was extremely kind … It was very reassuring for my mom during this very difficult time for us to have someone as kind as officer Pierson. He was just doing his job responding to the call – but he went above and beyond to make us [feel] comfortable and safe after this incident. I am not able to stay here with my mom – I will have to return home, but I do feel reassured that my mom will be safe here after meeting officer Pierson and other responding officers. This comment was directed toward Cpl. Tim Pierson from Beth Pritchett.

Thank you for your very quick response. The Chuhran Family.

As I approached my son, I overheard officer Williams talking with him. I stayed back and listened, and I could not have been more pleased with the discussion that I heard. Officer Williams was professional, stern but still understanding. He said everything that I, as a father, would hope for my son to hear, and made a tremendous impression on [him]. I know that officer Williams could have just written a ticket, or could have been harsh and uncaring with a careless teenager. But officer Williams went that extra mile and took the time to talk with [my son] about the mistake he had made, why he had made it, and the terrible consequences that could have occurred … I would like to thank officer Williams for his professionalism, and his compassion. He is an outstanding role model for the citizens of Peachtree City. This comment was directed toward Ofc. Mark Williams.

The Peachtree City Police Department … went above and beyond the call of duty in turning a bad situation into a workable solution. This could not have been done without the patience and dedication of the Peachtree City Police Department … Dean Schuh.

My name is Mary Parkman [and] I was in Peachtree City … [] had a flat tire just before I got into town, one of the nicest young men came and stayed behind my car so no one could hit me. His name was McDowell, please express my appreciation to him … I have high regards for the police department in Peachtree City. This comment was directed to Cpl. Jamie McDowell.