

# OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

# 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

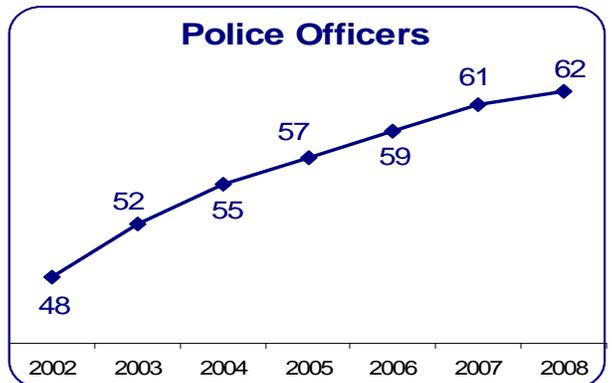
## INTRODUCTION

The Lower Paxton Police Department continued its commitment to providing professional police services to our community in 2008. Since the Department's creation in 1958, our mission has remained unchanged: "ensure the preservation of peace and the highest quality of life in our community." The Department takes great pride in being a learning organization. Both external issues in the community and internal issues in the department impact on the effective delivery of police services. The Department is committed to identifying external and internal changes and implementing innovative methods to effectively adapt to the changing conditions.

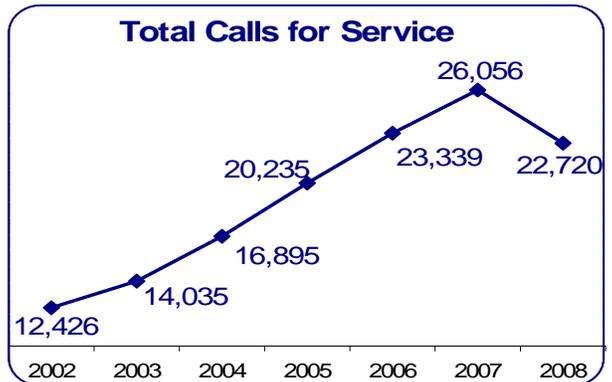
From 1958 through 2007, the Department has grown to its current authorized strength of sixty-two sworn police officers. The Department is comprised of three divisions: Patrol Services, Field Services, and Staff Services. The 2008 authorized staffing level includes the Chief of Police, three Lieutenants, six Sergeants, six Corporals, thirty-nine Officers, seven Detectives, six civilian Community Service Officers, and seven civilian Records Office employees.

The Department has just completed its recent three-year patrol staffing plan that was implemented in 2006. The plan identified needed staffing levels for the Patrol Services Division based on analysis of existing patrol staffing levels and the increased demand for police services. The deployment of patrol officers according to the time of day when the greatest demand for services occurred was also analyzed. The study determined that five additional patrol officer positions should be filled over the three year period; 2006 through 2008. The study also determined that 72% of all calls for service occurred between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm. The additional patrol officers are now deployed during the specific hours when the greatest numbers of calls are generated.

## STAFFING & WORKLOAD



The Lower Paxton Police Department added one additional police officer in 2008. The number of police officers has now increased by 29 percent in the six years since 2002.

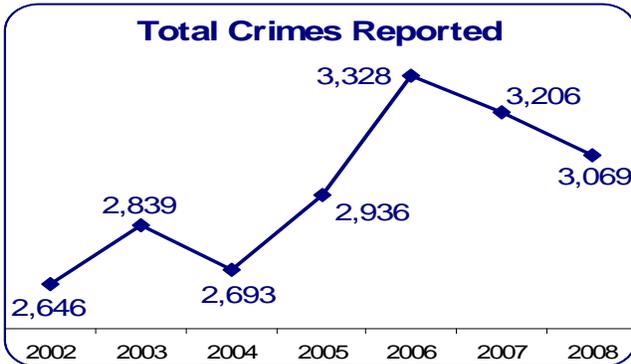


The number of calls for service in 2008 has decreased by 13% from 2007. Calls for service have increased 82.8% since 2002.



The ratio of calls for service to the number of police officers has decreased in 2008. The ratio has increased by 37.5% since 2002.

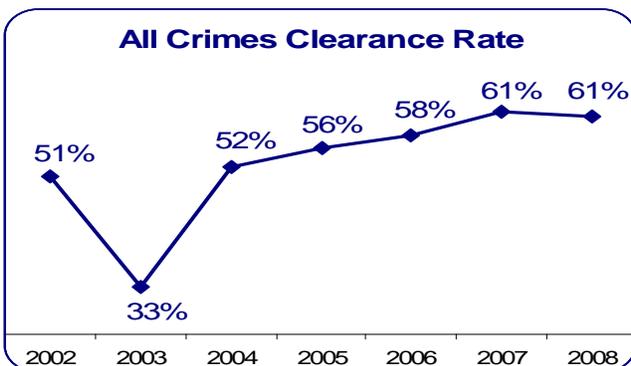
## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



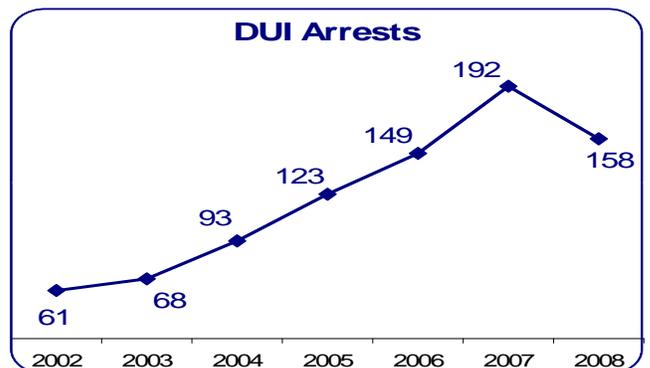
Officers of the Lower Paxton Police Department responded to 3,069 reported criminal offenses in 2008. The total number of reported crimes has decreased during the past two years; 2007 and 2008. Overall, reported crimes have increased by 16% since 2002.



Traffic enforcement has increased by 328% since 2002. Enforcement action includes the issuance of traffic citations, written warnings, and faulty equipment cards.



The clearance rate for all reported crimes in Lower Paxton Township has increased from 51% in 2002 to 61% in 2007 and 2008. The average clearance rate for police agencies in the Northeast United States was 34.1% in 2007. (Statistics for 2008 are not yet available.)



Officers have increased the number of DUI arrests by 159% since 2002. The number of DUI arrests declined for the first time in 2008.



The number of reportable traffic accidents; those involving death, injury, or substantial damage, has decreased 30.1% since 2002. This is in large measure due to increased enforcement of traffic laws and DUI violations.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Lower Paxton Police Department will be the best provider of municipal police services in the Commonwealth. Innovation, accountability, and partnerships will be our hallmarks for accomplishing our mission.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lower Paxton Police Department is to provide professional and ethical law enforcement services that ensure the preservation of peace and the highest quality of life in our community. We will accomplish our mission by:

- **Respecting the rights of citizens:** Treating all people with the dignity and respect they are entitled regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, or socio-economic status.
- **Developing community partnerships:** Establishing our membership in the community by employing community oriented, problem solving, and proactive policing methods.
- **Being a learning organization:** Quickly adapting our goals and operations to meet our community's changing needs and demand for services, thereby ensuring the Department's priorities match the community's expectations.
- **Acknowledging our duty:** Constantly recognizing our sole purpose for existence is to serve our community and its citizens who are the source of our authority. We will focus on quality service, accept accountability, and follow-up relentlessly.

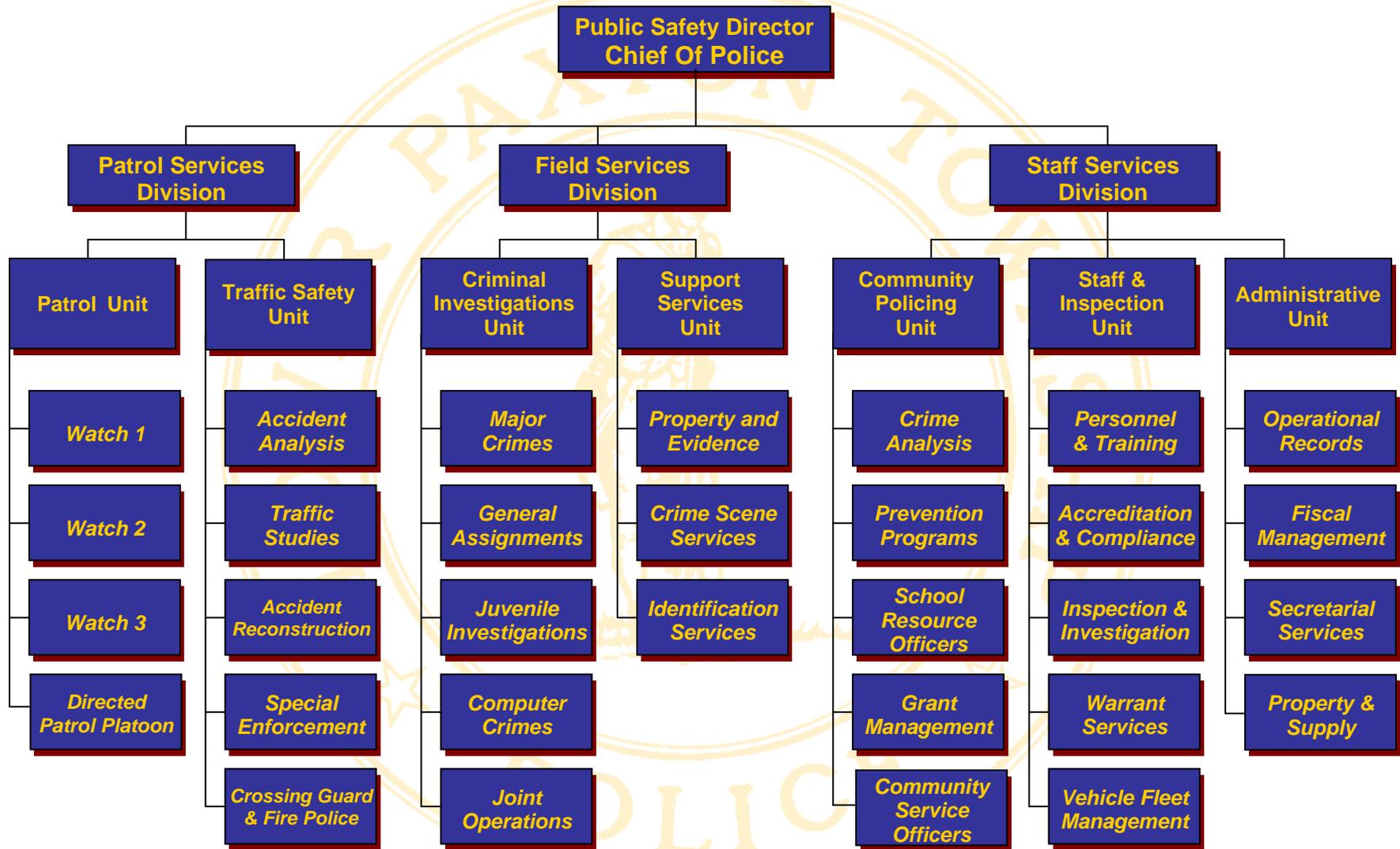
## CORE VALUES

The core values of the Lower Paxton Police Department that will guide our actions in the pursuit of fulfilling our mission are:

- **Respecting the value of human life and protecting civil rights.**
- **Protecting the lives, safety, and property of our fellow citizens.**
- **Fighting crime through prevention and aggressively pursuing violators.**
- **Taking ownership of and solving neighborhood problems.**
- **Maintaining the highest standard of integrity.**
- **Recognizing that our personnel are our greatest assets.**
- **Managing our resources in a safe, efficient, and effective manner.**

# ORGANIZATION CHART

## LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



# DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL ROSTER

## PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

### CHIEF of POLICE

Daniel A. Bair

## PATROL SERVICES

### DIVISION

Lt. Mark Zerbe  
*Commanding Officer*

### Patrol Unit

Sergeant Gary Seefeldt  
Sergeant Ronald Gramigni  
Sergeant Steven Paoletti  
Corporal Gregory Sumbury  
Corporal Timothy Puchalski  
Corporal Timothy Hicks  
*Shift Supervisors*

Officer Charles Farrell  
Officer Christopher Vogel  
Officer Thomas Bell  
Officer Daniel Smeck  
Officer LuAnna Brook  
Officer Douglas Petras  
Officer John Albright  
Officer Walter Cook  
Officer Douglas Fisher  
Officer Justin DePasqua  
Officer Gareth Kauffman  
Officer John Welty  
Officer Autumn Lupey  
Officer Karl Chortanoff  
Officer Chad Miller  
Officer Eric Tallman  
Officer Nathan Larsen  
Officer Thomas Eckenrode  
Officer Zethan Weary  
Officer Gregory Langley  
Officer Steven Wertz  
Officer Dave Shifflet  
Officer Hallie Miller  
Officer Zach Fehrenbach  
Officer Bryan Ryder  
Officer Brian Egli  
Officer William Wable  
Officer Dhenin Brock

Officer John Toth  
*Joint Operations*

### Traffic Operations Unit

Sergeant Robert Anderson  
Corporal Leo Zuvich  
*Unit Supervisors*

Officer Donald McCurdy  
Officer Kevin Roland  
Officer Stephen Cover  
Officer Gregory Geib  
Officer Brian McIntyre  
Officer Brian Guarnieri

## FIELD SERVICES

### DIVISION

Lt. David Hogentogler  
*Commanding Officer*

### Crime Investigation Unit

Sergeant Gregory Taylor  
Corporal Todd Witmer  
*Unit Supervisors*

Detective Gordon Goodrow  
Detective Mark Brumaghim  
Detective Jeffrey Corcoran  
Detective Gary Flythe  
Detective Jim Glucksman  
Detective Stephen Alcorn

Detective Joseph Allegrini  
*Juvenile Investigations*

Officer John McPhillips  
*Evidence and Identification*

**Lt. David Hogentogler**  
**Retired 2008**

## STAFF SERVICES

### DIVISION

Lt. David Johnson  
*Commanding Officer*

### Community Policing Unit

Sergeant J. Thomas Waller  
*Unit Supervisor*

Officer Ralph Palm  
*Crime Analysis*  
Officer John Stoner  
*Prevention Programs*  
Officer Curt McCoy  
*School Resource Officers*

### Staff & Inspection Unit

Officer Richard Needham  
*Fire Investigator*  
Officer Scott Starr  
*Warrants Officer*

### Administrative Unit

Susan Katz  
*Administrative Supervisor*

Fran McPhillips  
Sonia Murphy  
*Department Secretaries*

Sally Humbert  
Michelle Kwasnoski  
Edith Canaguier  
*Records Clerks*  
Elaine Scheidler  
*Receptionist*

### Community Services Unit

CSO Charles Grubb  
CSO Mark Gaspich  
CSO William Paterekas  
CSO Mike McClurg  
CSO Jack Rosenberger  
CSO Dennis Magdule  
CSO Pamelan Nee

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lower Paxton Police Department

Actual Offenses: Part I & Part II Crimes  
 LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
 For The Year: 2008

Part I Crimes Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2008	Actual Offenses 2007	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2008	Offenses Cleared Percent
01A-Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	3	1	200%	3	100%
02A-Rape by Force	10	4	150%	5	50%
02B-Assault to Rape - Attempts	1	0	N/A	1	100%
03A-Robbery Firearm	9	19	-53%	6	67%
03B-Robbery Knife or Cutting Instrument	2	1	100%	1	50%
03C-Robbery Other Dangerous Weapon	2	4	-50%	0	N/A
03D-Robbery Strong Arm(Hands, Feet, Etc.)	23	14	64%	10	43%
04A-Assault Firearm	3	2	50%	3	100%
04B-Assault Knife or Cutting Instrument	2	10	-80%	2	100%
04C-Assault Other Dangerous Weapon	5	7	-29%	3	60%
04D-Assault Hands, Fist, Feet, Etc.	30	39	-23%	29	97%
05A-Burglary Forcible Entry	68	71	-4%	18	26%
05B-Burglary Unlawful Entry - No Force	53	50	6%	5	9%
05C-Burglary Attempted Forcible Entry	12	23	-48%	1	8%
060-Larceny-Theft	964	948	2%	481	50%
07A-Motor Vehicle Theft - Autos	25	22	14%	15	60%
07B-Motor Vehicle Theft - Trucks and Buses	0	2	-100%	0	N/A
07C-Motor Vehicle Theft - Other Vehicles	4	3	33%	0	N/A
090-Arson	7	9	-22%	0	N/A
<b>Total Part I</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>47.7%</b>
Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2008	Actual Offenses 2007	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2008	Offenses Cleared Percent

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lower Paxton Police Department

Part II Crimes Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2008	Actual Offenses 2007	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2008	Offenses Cleared Percent
04E-Other Assaults - Not Aggravated	178	180	-1.11	163	91.7%
100-Forgery and Counterfeiting	29	39	-25.64	21	72.4%
110-Fraud	237	214	10.75	137	57.8%
120-Embezzlement	2	3	-33.33	1	50%
130-Stolen Prop., Rec., Posses., Buying	5	6	-16.67	5	100%
140-Vandalism	408	491	-16.9	62	15.2%
150-Weapons, Carrying, Posses, Etc.	16	24	-33.33	17	106.3%
160-Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	0	1	-100	0	N/A
170-Sex Offenses (Except 02 and 160)	39	29	34.48	28	71.8%
18A-Drug Sale/Mfg - Opium - Cocaine	10	5	100	11	110%
18B-Drug Sale/Mfg - Marijuana	8	11	-27.27	12	150%
18C-Drug Sale/Mfg - Synthetic	0	2	-100	0	N/A
18E-Drug Possession - Opium - Cocaine	13	10	30	11	84.6%
18F-Drug Possession - Marijuana	70	68	2.94	70	100%
18G-Drug Possession - Synthetic	5	2	150	4	80%
18H-Drug Possession - Other	31	24	29.17	31	100%
200-Offenses Against Family & Children	4	3	33.33	3	75%
210-Driving Under the Influence	156	183	-14.75	157	100.6%
220-Liquor Law	37	62	-40.32	37	100%
230-Drunkenness	26	28	-7.14	26	100%
240-Disorderly Conduct	385	407	-5.41	320	83%
250-Vagrancy	6	2	200	3	50%
260-All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	181	124	-16.94	158	87.3%
<b>Total Part II</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>-4%%</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>69%</b>
Part I & Part II Crimes Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2008	Actual Offenses 2007	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2008	Offenses Cleared Percent
<b>Total Part I &amp; Part II Crimes</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>61%</b>

## DEPARTMENT TRAINING

The Department continues to pursue a rigorous training agenda that includes both mandatory in-service training and advanced or specialized training. Continuing education and training is an expected component of any professional's job and the police are no exception. The purpose of training is to meet the needs of the department while enhancing the personal and professional development of every member. Providing officers and employees with the best and most up-to-date training is considered good risk management and good risk management involves keeping the knowledge and skills of all personnel current. Civil liability for failure to train is likely to occur when it can be demonstrated that a policy maker knew or should have known that inadequate training was likely to result in the violation of a persons constitutional rights. Keeping this in mind, training in 2008 was again expanded with the goal of improving the operational and technical skills of our officers.

### Mandatory In-Service Training

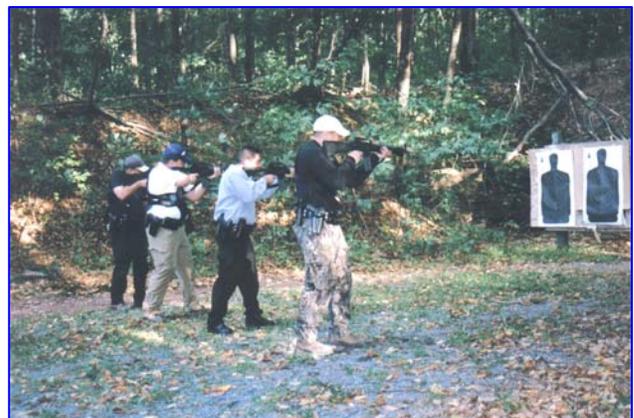
The Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) requires that all newly hired officers who have not been previously certified in Pennsylvania attend a 754 hour police training academy. New officers receive extensive classroom and hands-on training in criminal law, traffic law, firearms, criminal investigation, and driving techniques. They are also required to pass a strenuous physical agility test prior to graduation from the academy. Upon successful completion of the basic academy, officers are then assigned to a veteran field training officer for a minimum of 67 working days of additional field training. Officers must successfully complete the field training program before being released on their own.

MPOETC also mandates that every municipal police officer remain current with law updates and changes to other aspects of the job. As a result, each police officer must complete 16 hours of update training and obtain a minimum passing score of 70% on the written exams each year to maintain certification. The Department hosts this training several times a year in its state-of-the-art training room.

Several Lower Paxton officers are certified MPOETC instructors and are tasked with conducting in-service training in the areas of firearms, use of force, pursuit driving, First Aid, CPR, and AED certification. Division commanders, in conjunction with the Chief of Police, are constantly reviewing options for new and improved in-service training for both sworn and non-sworn members of the police department.

### Specialized Training

The primary focus of specialized training remains the professional development of all members so that personal career goals may be realized. Some examples of the specialized training that department members received in 2008 include; street survival, response to an active shooter, SWAT training, POLEX, emergency vehicle operation, response to incidents of terrorism, incident command, and hostage negotiation training. All of which is aimed at providing operational readiness that will enable officers to provide the best possible service to the residents of Lower Paxton.



In keeping with the department's Mission Statement, we endeavor to be the best provider of municipal law enforcement services in the commonwealth. To do this, we must have the best trained and best educated personnel possible. The training that employees received in 2008 clearly demonstrates the Departments commitment to providing career opportunities to all members while providing the best service possible to the community and its citizens.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lower Paxton Police Department

## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

**M.P.O.E.T.C. Mandatory Training**

CPR/ AED	520	Hours
Firearms Qualifications	960	Hours
MPOETC Mandatory Updates	960	Hours
MPOETC Police Academy Training	2,262	Hours
Critical Policy Updates	248	Hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>Hours</b>

**Management & Supervision**

Leadership & Mastering Performance	200	Hours
Patrol Allocation & Deployment	16	Hours
Pa Chiefs Training Conference	48	Hours
Incident Command	48	Hours
POSIT	120	Hours
POLEX	320	Hours
Constitutional Law	32	Hours
MAGLOCLEN	40	Hours
POLEX Advanced	80	Hours
Shift Work Scheduling	48	Hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>Hours</b>

**Traffic Safety**

Accident Reconstruction	80	Hours
On-Scene Collision Investigation	160	Hours
Stopwatch Operator	40	Hours
Inspection Mechanic Certification	128	Hours
Child Passenger Safety Recertification	40	Hours
Enforcement of Vehicle Inspection Regs.	24	Hours
Commercial Vehicle Inspection	120	Hours
DUI Investigation	48	Hours
Highway Safety	16	Hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>Hours</b>

**Community Policing**

Homeland Security Convention	32	Hours
SRO School Violence Seminar	72	Hours
SRO Response to Active Shooter	16	Hours
Crime Prevention By Environmental Design	48	Hours
NASRO Advanced SRO	56	Hours
PLEAC Accreditation Training	48	Hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>Hours</b>

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## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

**Criminal Investigation**

Statement Analysis	40	Hours
Hostage Negotiations	48	Hours
Financial Crimes Investigations	24	Hours
Forensic Analysis of Cellular Phones	56	Hours
Investigation of Strangulation Assaults	16	Hours
Interview and Interrogation	40	Hours
Video Enhancement Training	16	Hours
Homicide Investigations	32	Hours
Advanced Interview and Interrogation	32	Hours
Sex Crime Sharing Conference	40	Hours
Polygraph Training	40	Hours
Wiretap Training	40	Hours
Advanced Latent Print Techniques	88	Hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>Hours</b>

**Fire Investigations & EOC**

Fire Investigations	16	Hours
Fire Inspector 2	8	Hours
Homeland Security	32	Hours
EOC Operations (DEMA)	16	Hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>Hours</b>

**Patrol Operations**

Bike Officer	96	Hours
FTO Training	96	Hours
Identifying Deceptive Behavior	96	Hours
Law Enforcement Issues and Liabilities	24	Hours
EVOC	72	Hours
Interview and Interrogation	72	Hours
Crime Prevention Practitioners Course	152	Hours
SWAT Operations	776	Hours
Field Sobriety Testing	96	Hours
Physical Surveillance	80	Hours
Drug Identification	24	Hours
Car Seat Technician	160	Hours
Police Physical Fitness Certification	120	Hours
Illegal Gambling Investigations	320	Hours
Complete Traffic Stops	48	Hours
Jail Diversion Training	50	Hours
BAC Datamaster	192	Hours
Taser Training	32	Hours
Rapid Deployment Training	56	Hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,562</b>	<b>Hours</b>

**TOTAL TRAINING****9,976 Hours**

# PATROL SERVICES DIVISION

The Patrol Services Division is the largest division within the Police Department and is comprised of the Patrol Unit and the Traffic Safety Unit. Lieutenant Mark Zerbe is the division commander. The division is staffed with four sergeants, four corporals, and thirty four officers in 2008. The Patrol Unit consists of 3 platoons with a sergeant, a corporal, and eight officers assigned to each. The Directed Patrol Platoon has four officers assigned to it. The Traffic Safety Unit consists of a sergeant, a corporal, and six officers.

While every officer of the department is sworn to protect life and property, prevent crime, and arrest violators of the law, it is the members of the patrol division that mainly accomplish these goals through routine patrol of geographically assigned zones. Patrol officers respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service, investigate traffic collisions, enforce vehicle laws, and handle any other requests for police services. During 2008, officers of the Patrol Services Division responded to 22,720 calls for service; an average of 356 calls per officer. Patrol officers made 1,449 criminal arrests, investigated 566 traffic collisions, and issued 22,521 traffic contacts in 2008.

Included below is a sampling of the types of calls for assistance that patrol officers responded to and resolved effectively.

## 2008 Notable Incidents

### Vehicle Stop Yields \$144,000.00

In November 2008 an officer stopped a speeding Infiniti SUV on Interstate 83. The officer immediately observed suspicious items in plain view in the car and began to question the two occupants of the car. Upon learning the car did not belong to either the driver or the passenger, the officer conducted a criminal history check on the vehicles owner and learned the owner had multiple drug convictions. The vehicle was subsequently impounded and a search revealed approximately \$144,000.00 in cash. The drug proceeds were turned over to the United States Attorney for forfeiture.

### Armed Robbery Suspect Apprehended

In March 2008 officers were dispatched to a suspicious male to the rear of Applebee's Restaurant on Jonestown Road. The male was to be dressed in black, wearing a wig, and carrying a shotgun. This description matched that of a suspect who had committed an armed robbery in Susquehanna Township the previous day. Officers responded and observed the suspect fleeing on foot. Officers gave chase and eventually were able to surround the suspect in front of the Colonial

Park Mall. The suspect was armed with a short barreled shotgun. Upon realizing there was no way to escape, the suspect began smashing the shotgun on the ground. As he was doing this, Sgt. Greg Taylor, the patrol supervisor, rushed him and took him to the ground. Sgt. Taylor and other officers were able to take him into custody without any shots being fired or anyone being injured.

### Pursuit Nets Three Wanted by FBI

In April 2008, Ofc Carl Chortanof spotted a vehicle wanted in a theft from a Township business. Officer Chortanof attempted to stop the suspect vehicle, but the driver refused and instead fled south on Interstate 83 towards the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Multiple police units from other agencies joined in the pursuit, but the driver refused to stop. Ultimately the pursuit continued on to the Pa Turnpike toward Philadelphia where Pennsylvania State Police joined in the pursuit. They eventually were able to deploy stop sticks and the vehicle was subsequently stopped. Three female suspects from the Philadelphia area were apprehended. It was later determined they were wanted by the FBI for their part in a large counterfeit credit card fraud ring.

## Rapid Response Team

Twelve officers were selected by their supervisors to serve as part of the Department's Rapid Response Team. The team is capable of responding rapidly to a critical incident. Patrol Sergeant Tim Hicks is the team leader and oversees training and operations. The members of the team undergo intensive firearms, tactics, and hostage rescue technique training at the Fort Indiantown Gap advanced training facilities and at several schools and large commercial buildings within the township. Team members have access to ballistic shields, tactical rifles, and ballistic helmets.

When an active shooter situation begins, it is imperative that the first police responders take immediate action to pursue and make contact with the shooter in order to save lives. The sooner the shooter can be contained, captured, or neutralized, fewer casualties will occur. In active shooter incidents, officers are trained to move rapidly through unsecured areas, even bypassing the injured, in an effort to end the shooting as quickly as possible. Experience has proven that it is absolutely necessary that officers stay focused and intent on locating the active shooter and end the shooting, rather than stop to aid victims, or become a victim themselves.

The Rapid Response Team is not meant to replace the use of the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team (CRT), but rather respond quickly and confine or neutralize the threat.



## Directed Patrol Platoon

The Directed Patrol Platoon completed its first full year in operation in 2008. The Directed Patrol platoon is a unit consisting of four officers from the Patrol Division. Officers assigned to the platoon include Thomas Bell, Dan Smeck, Justin DePasqua and Chad Miller. The goal of directed patrol is to selectively deploy additional police personnel and resources to specific geographic locations to contradict ongoing incidents and to prevent anticipated incidents that negatively impact the quality of life in the identified community. One example is an apartment complex that was experiencing increased violent crime over the last several years. When 2008 began, the Directed Patrol Platoon established a goal of reducing crime by 10% in that complex. By years end crime was reduced by 27%. Crime analysis data and criminal intelligence information is used to determine where and when the directed patrol personnel will be deployed. The goal of directed patrol will be realized through:

1. **Accurate and timely intelligence to ensure the most complete analysis possible.** Intelligence is gathered through crime reports, calls for service, officer field contacts, neighborhood crime meetings, and tip line leads. This information is used to identify problem locations, hot spots, crime trends, and recurring incidents.
2. **Effective tactics and strategies to ensure proactive solutions.** Creativity and innovation are keywords for success; thinking beyond the routine or traditional police response is encouraged.
3. **Rapid deployment of resources to quickly address neighborhood problems.** Deploy the needed personnel and resources in a timely manner to ensure the greatest probability of success.
4. **Relentless follow-up and assessment to ensure that problems do not reoccur.** Action plans and resource deployment must be designed to eradicate the cause of the identified problem rather than merely react to its symptoms.

## TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT

The Traffic Operations Unit is a unit within the Patrol Services Division. Sgt. Robert Anderson is the unit supervisor. Cpl. Leo Zuvich, Officers Donald McCurdy, Kevin Roland, Steve Cover, Gregory Geib and Brian McIntyre are assigned to the unit. The Unit's primary task is to investigate all fatal vehicle collisions and the majority of the more serious vehicle collisions that occur in the Township. Unit officers also investigate many of the minor non-reportable crashes that occur in the Township.

The responsibilities of the Unit are not limited to accident investigation. Unit members also conduct traffic engineering studies and surveys to evaluate current and projected traffic conditions. The surveys determine whether improvements or corrections are necessary at specific intersections, within residential developments, or along roadway segments.

Members of the Traffic Operations Unit also coordinate and implement selective traffic enforcement details at locations which are experiencing a significant vehicle or pedestrian accident history. The Traffic Operations Unit conducted 1,539 selective traffic enforcement details in 2008.

As part of our endeavor to reduce speeding problems, the Department utilizes two state of the art speed-warning trailers. The trailers are placed at locations with a high incidence of speeding with the hope of gaining voluntary compliance. The speed-warning trailers were deployed on 429 occasions during 2008.

The Traffic Unit also develops and presents safety programs to various community groups, schools, the Youth Police Academy, and the Citizen's Police Academy. These programs are designed to create increased driver safety awareness among drivers of all ages.

The Traffic Operations Unit is also responsible for overseeing all aspects of the School Crossing Guard program. Officer Roland coordinates the hiring, training, and scheduling of all school crossing guards in the Township. The crossing guards ensure that the students who walk to and from school each day can do so as safely as possible.

The Traffic Operations Unit will continue to strive to improve pedestrian and traffic safety within the Township and reduce the number of traffic accidents.

### Traffic Accident Statistics

The Department investigated a total of 566 traffic collisions during 2008. This is a 12.5% decrease from the 647 accidents reported during 2007. A breakdown of the total number of motor vehicle accidents investigated yielded the following results: 313 reportable accidents investigated in 2008 as compared to 330 in 2007. Reportable collisions decreased 5.2% from the previous year.

Reportable accidents are those vehicle crashes that involve injury, death, or require the towing of a vehicle from the accident scene. Officers investigated 316 non-reportable accidents in 2007 and 253 in 2008, which is a 20% decrease. Unfortunately there were three fatal vehicle accidents in the Township in 2008. There were 2 fatal traffic accidents in June and one fatality in August of 2008.

#### Accidents by Month

Accidents	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Change
<b>Total</b>	65	58	37	23	53	38	48	47	43	37	55	64	566	-12.5%
<b>Non Reportable</b>	35	32	11	14	19	20	26	19	20	14	23	20	253	-20%
<b>Reportable</b>	30	26	26	9	34	18	22	28	23	23	32	42	313	-5.2%
<b>Fatalities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	+ 200%

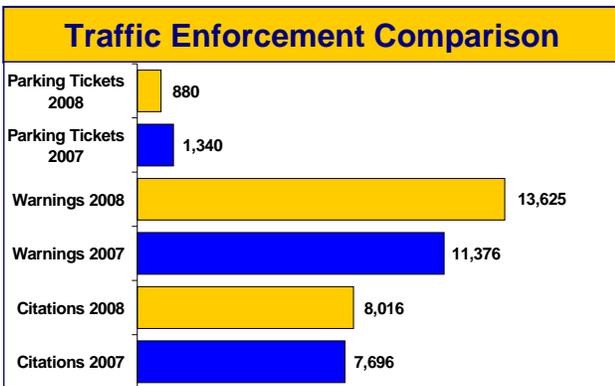
**Top Ten Accident Locations**

1. Union Deposit Road and I-83	28 Accidents
2. Allentown Blvd. and Mountain Rd.	13 Accidents
3. Union Deposit Rd. (4200 Block)	10 Accidents
4. Jonestown Rd. and Colonial Rd.	10 Accidents
5. Jonestown Rd. and Prince St./Houcks Rd.	8 Accidents
6. Jonestown Rd. and Miller Rd.	6 Accidents
7. Jonestown Rd. and Devonshire Rd.	6 Accidents
8. Jonestown Rd. and Parkchester Rd.	6 Accidents
9. Union Deposit Rd. and East Park Drive.	6 Accidents
10. Linglestown Rd. and Colonial Rd.	6 Accidents

**Traffic Enforcement Statistics**

Members of the Patrol Division took enforcement action for traffic law violations 22,521 times during 2008. This was a 10% increase over the previous year.

During 2008, members of the Department issued 8,016 traffic citations as compared to 7,696 citations issued in 2007; a 4.15% increase. Officers also issued 13,625 written warnings and faulty equipment cards in 2008 as compared to 11,376 in 2007. This is an increase of 19.7%. The Department issued 880 parking tickets in 2008 as compared to 1,340 issued in 2007; a decrease of 34.0%.



A concerted enforcement effort will continue in 2009 to decrease the number of traffic accidents throughout the township. Our goal is to decrease the number of reportable accidents, with increased enforcement details and speed trailer deployments.

**INSTEP**

The Intensive Neighborhood Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (INSTEP) is an initiative to reduce traffic violations and improve the quality of life within all neighborhoods. Traffic and accident data, along with citizen complaints, are analyzed to determine if actual traffic problems exist. A systematic approach involving improved roadway signage, intensive enforcement, and public education is used to mitigate the traffic problem and gain driver compliance.

In 2008, five locations were evaluated for INSTEP. Only one location, Elmerton Avenue, met the criteria and eighty-seven speed details were subsequently conducted on Elmerton Ave.

**Traffic Unit Highlights**

The Traffic Unit's primary focus has been and continues to be accident reduction. This is especially true in those locations identified as high accident locations. As a result of the Department's enforcement efforts, vehicle collisions decreased by 12.2%. This was the third straight year in which a decrease in the total number of collisions was realized.

Corporal Zuvich coordinated and Traffic Unit members were an integral part in ensuring the Smooth Operator and PA Buckle-Up safety programs continued to be a success. Both programs will continue in 2009 as part of our overall goal of improving traffic safety for all motorists and pedestrians in the Township.

# FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

The Field Services Division provides specialized investigative support to the Patrol Services Division. The Field Services Division was under the command of Lieutenant David Hogentogler until his retirement from the police department in June 2008. A new division commander will be promoted in January 2009. Members of the unit perform both initial criminal investigations and follow-up investigations involving adults and juveniles. Detectives conduct initial investigations of serious crimes, and conduct follow-up investigations when time, geography, or manpower restraints prevent patrol from continuing the investigation.

The Criminal Investigation Unit utilizes a case management system to effectively manage criminal investigations conducted by both detectives and patrol officers. Other major functions of the division include crime scene processing, evidence and property management, and juvenile justice programs.

## Criminal Investigation Unit

The Criminal Investigations Unit is staffed with ten police personnel: a detective sergeant, a detective corporal, six detectives assigned to criminal investigations, one detective assigned to juvenile investigations, and one technician assigned to the property and evidence function.

In 2008, detectives were assigned 530 criminal investigations. This was an average of 66.25 cases per detective. The detectives made 156 criminal arrests and closed 144 investigations with exceptional clearances. This was a clearance rate of 56%; a 10% decrease from 2007. Of the 530 cases assigned, 29% were cleared by arrest. Members of the CI Unit applied for 114 search warrants and 10 wiretap interceptions during 2008. The detectives also conducted 11 background investigations for employment with the Township; 10 of those were police officer candidates.

**Sexual Predators Database:** The Criminal Investigation Unit created a database within the Department's records management system specifically designed for tracking sexual offenders. The database includes offenders whose work address or home address is within the Township. The database also includes persons who commit any sex crime in the Township, even those which do not meet Megan's Law criteria. The information, including photos of the offenders, is available to officers on patrol in their vehicles. This technology improves our ability to monitor sex offenders.



### Juvenile Alternative Sentencing Program<sup>2</sup>

In 2008, the Field Service Division revised the JASP program. The JASP<sup>2</sup> program is intended to further reduce the number of juvenile cases referred to Dauphin County Court and Juvenile Probation by expanding in-house juvenile programs. Unit supervisors and Juvenile Detective Allegrini conferred with district judges and juvenile probation officials to expand the criteria for offenses that could be included for referral to our JASP<sup>2</sup> program. Once the criterion was expanded, juveniles involved in minor misdemeanor offenses are now handled in the in-house JASP<sup>2</sup> program. The young offenders are no longer officially charged and transferred to Juvenile Probation or Juvenile Court for disposition. The goal of the program was to increase the number of JASP<sup>2</sup> referrals by 20%. During 2008, there was an impressive 94% increase in referrals compared to 2007.

## 2008 Investigations of Interest

**Homicide:** In January, patrol officers were dispatched to a shooting in an apartment on North Arlington Avenue. Upon arrival, officers discovered that Douglas E. Harris, a visitor in the apartment, had been shot in the chest while sitting on a couch. Detectives determined that the two suspects had come to the apartment to confront one of the residents about a personal issue. At some point during the dispute between the two suspects and the resident, the victim told them to quiet down. One of the suspects, later identified as Walter Morris of Carlisle, pulled a handgun and fired several shots at the victim. The two suspects then fled. The detectives were able to locate the suspects and arrest them in Royalton a short time later. A jury trial was subsequently held in November and Morris was found guilty of murder.

**Thefts from Vehicles:** The Devon Manor Development was experiencing numerous incidents of theft from motor vehicles between November 2007 and March 2008. Based upon the evidence, it appeared to detectives that the unknown suspect(s) was prowling the Devon Manor area during the overnight hours and breaking into locked cars. The suspect was also entering unlocked cars to steal loose cash, small electronics, compact disks, briefcases, laptop computers, and in a few instances, firearms from the vehicles. The detective working the case was able to identify a suspect who had purchased some of the stolen items. The detective was then able to identify the person selling the stolen items. A search warrant was served on the suspect's home and numerous items were recovered that had been stolen from cars in the Devon Manor area. The suspect was eventually charged with 23 counts of theft from more than 40 vehicles. Some of the stolen items recovered were traced to vehicle break-ins that occurred in the Hummelstown and Grantville areas. In total, the suspect was charged with 38 criminal offenses, including theft and firearms violations. The suspect is currently incarcerated in the Dauphin County Prison awaiting trial.

In July of 2008, detectives were assigned a similar investigation in which thefts from vehicles were occurring in the Kings Crossing Development located in the southeastern portion of the Township. A witness informed detectives that a subject was observed in a high crime area of Harrisburg City discarding items that were possibly stolen from the Kings Crossing area. Detectives were able to determine that the suspect was possibly involved in similar crimes from Carlisle to Grantville. The suspect was stealing cash, checks, computers, credit cards, and any loose items found in the vehicles. The suspect was also using some of the stolen credit cards to make unauthorized purchases. Detectives located the suspect's girlfriend and co-conspirator, and she provided information leading to the arrest of the suspect. The suspect, David Destephano of Lower Swatara Township, was charged with numerous counts of theft, access device fraud, forgery, and receiving stolen property. The investigation solved more than 25 incidents of theft in eight different jurisdictions.

**Jewelry Store Robbery:** Patrol officers were dispatched to an armed robbery at the Diamonte Jewelry Store on North Mountain Road in November of 2008. Witnesses provided police with descriptions of the suspects, their vehicle, and their direction of travel. A patrol officer spotted the suspect vehicle and attempted to stop it. The officer briefly pursued the vehicle until it entered Interstate 81 where the suspect drove southbound in the northbound lanes of the highway. Detectives discovered the suspects had been in the store earlier in the day and then returned later to commit the armed robbery. Numerous pieces of expensive jewelry were stolen during the robbery. Through an extensive investigation, detectives were able to identify the suspects and obtain arrest warrants. One suspect, Robert House, lived on McIlheny Street which is less than one block from the location of the robbery.

## Juvenile Services

Detective Allegrini is assigned as the department's juvenile officer. The Department referred 194 juveniles to the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office in 2008 as compared to 288 in 2007. This was a decrease of 33%. The total number of juveniles arrested in 2008 decreased from 624 to 584, a decrease of 6.5%. The issuance of summary non-traffic citations decreased by 13% compared to 2007. There was 127 school related arrests in 2008 as compared with 198 in 2007, which is a 35% decrease.

The Department's Juvenile Alternative Sentencing Program (JASP<sup>2</sup>) continues to be a valuable tool in delinquency prevention in our community. The program was developed to allow police officers to have a positive impact with first time juvenile offenders. The juveniles are assigned a specific number of community service hours that they must complete. Some juveniles are placed into the JASP<sup>2</sup> program where they are placed on police department probation. This is yet another tool to provide structure and discipline in a juvenile's daily routine that may otherwise be lacking. The JASP<sup>2</sup> program enables the police to address juvenile crimes without involving the juvenile court system directly, while ensuring community protection, and juvenile accountability, with the end goal of rehabilitation of the juvenile. In 2008, thirty-five juveniles participated in the JASP<sup>2</sup> program and of those thirty-five only two had recidivated.

Detective Allegrini also coordinates the Reading Heroes program. The program was designed to both challenge middle school students to read books and help children that are abused. The reading program generates money through sponsorships for each book a student reads. The money is donated to the Children's Resource Center. The funds raised help aid in the continued treatment of abused children and prosecuting the offenders that commit these crimes. Students in nine middle schools in Dauphin County now participate in the program. The Reading Heroes Program has raised more than \$30,000. During 2008, 2,000 students participated and read over 3,500 books.

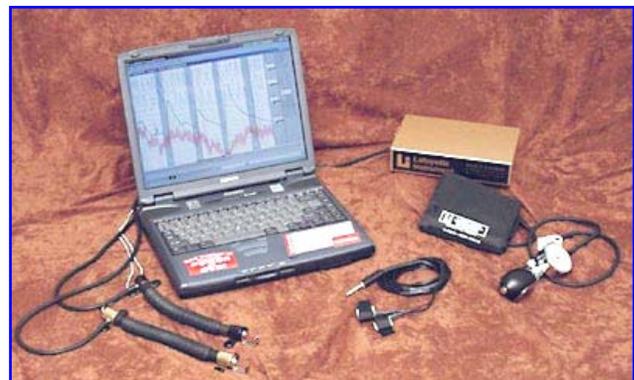
## Property and Evidence

Detective John McPhillips is assigned to the Property and Evidence Unit of the Field Services Division. The Property and Evidence Unit is responsible for the handling, storage, and disposition of all property and evidence seized by police officers. Detective McPhillips is tasked with processing all major crime scenes. He is a member of the Dauphin County Forensic Team, which is a team of highly trained forensic specialists who respond to process major crimes scenes in Dauphin County. The Evidence Unit also maintains a digital photo lab for processing and storing digital images.

The Evidence Unit handled 8,991 items of evidence during 2008. All property and evidence received is processed and stored, transferred to a crime lab, transferred to county court, released to the owner, turned over to the State, or destroyed. Officer McPhillips processed twenty-six crime scenes and attended twenty-one post-mortem examinations at the Coroner's Office.

## Polygraph Examinations

The Department utilizes a computerized polygraph to assist in the investigation of criminal offenses. Corporal Todd Witmer is the Department's polygraph examiner. Corporal Witmer's skill and expertise as a polygraph examiner have provided the Department with a valuable tool to aid in interviews and interrogations of criminal suspects. Corporal Witmer conducted twenty-one criminal polygraph examinations and he conducted five employment exams during 2008.



# STAFF SERVICES DIVISION

The Staff Services Division is commanded by Lieutenant David Johnson. The Division consists of the Staff and Inspection Unit, which includes the fire investigator and warrant officer, the Records and Administration Unit, and the Community Policing Unit, which includes the school resource officers, crime analyst, and crime prevention officer.

## Records and Administration Unit

The Records and Administrative Unit is a component of the Staff Services Division. It is staffed by civilian personnel who are committed to providing professional service to the public. It maintains all reports generated by officers to include; criminal records, offense and accident reports, traffic citations, parking tickets, and criminal arrest files. The Records Division staff responds to thousands of requests each year for copies of incident and accident reports, criminal records information, criminal history checks, and processing of parking tickets. Unit members continue to provide essential services to the general public, members of the Department, and allied police agencies.

Susan Katz is the Administrative Supervisor of the Records and Administration Unit. There are two Department secretaries, three full-time records clerks, and one part-time receptionist. The Administrative Supervisor is responsible for assigning and overseeing the daily activities of the records staff. The primary responsibilities of clerks include receiving phone calls, assisting the public at the front windows, filing, data entry, and document scanning. The secretaries' duties include, administration of the criminal arrest records, maintaining financial records, completion of payroll and attendance records, transcription, and other tasks associated with the day-to-day operation of the police department. Administrative personnel maintain and track important statistical data and officer productivity. Management reviews this data monthly at the Department's CompSTAT meetings to accurately measure resource allocation and its effect on crime.

The Records and Administration office is open to serve the community and assist members of the Department from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Staff and Inspection Unit

The Staff and Inspection Unit conducts internal inspections and audits in accordance with the directives of the Chief of Police. The purpose is to ensure that agency personnel and units are in compliance with established policy and procedure. They also ensure that policies and resources are adequate to attain department goals, and identify deficiencies in training, morale, supervision, or discipline.

The Staff and Inspection Unit is also tasked with maintaining the Department's state accreditation status that was initially achieved in March 2005 through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. Accreditation is the process of conforming internal policy and procedures to established professional standards and objectives. A re-accreditation assessment was conducted in March of 2008. Three assessors from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission evaluated our facility, policies, and procedures. The assessment team evaluated the Department's compliance with more than 120 professional standards. The team highly recommended the Department for re-accreditation status. In July 2008, Chief Bair was presented with a certificate of re-accreditation, which is valid for three years, at the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Conference in Lancaster.



## Fire Investigator

Lower Paxton Township is the only municipality in Dauphin County with a sworn police officer serving as its Fire Marshal. Officer Richard Needham's primary duties are to investigate the cause and origin of fires and to assist with the enforcement of the International Fire Code. In this capacity, Officer Needham responded to 13 fires during 2008. He also conducted Life Safety Inspections of all hotels and motels located in the Township.

Officer Needham also works closely with the Township Codes Enforcement Officers to assist with the implementation and enforcement of the International Fire Code. Officer Needham serves as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township. He coordinates the functions associated with the Emergency Operations Center in the instance of a natural or manmade emergency or disaster.

## Warrant Officer

Officer Scott Starr is the Department's Warrant Officer. During 2008, he served 644 warrants: 77 criminal warrants and 567 summary warrants. He collected nearly \$93,000 in fines and costs, a portion of which is returned to the Township. The police department's web page, "Most Wanted" list <http://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov/Police/index.html>, continues to generate public assistance in locating wanted persons. Warrant service details have been conducted in cooperation with the Criminal Investigation Unit, County Probation and Parole Office, and the County Sheriff's Office. These details focused on apprehending high risk and repeat criminals.

In 2008 Officer Starr developed and implemented a more efficient warrant tracking records system. All warrant information in our system is readily available and can be retrieved quickly for any officer or police agency.

## COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

Community Policing Unit members made 256 community presentations in 2008. They included school presentations, station tours, media events, business and residential security inspections, police recruiting appearances, child identification/fingerprinting events, senior citizen meetings, and presentations to both Boy and Girl Scout organizations. Community policing officers visited Shippensburg University, York Technical Institute and Elizabethtown College for police recruiting presentations in an effort to attract the most highly qualified candidates to the Lower Paxton Police Department. The Community Policing Unit also assists with other programs such as the Community Service Officers, the Victim/Witness Advocate, the School Resource Officers, Grants Management, and Crime Mapping and Analysis.

Advocate Annette Gantz provides an array of services to crime victims in the township. During 2008, she provided services to 424 crime victim clients. This was a 17% increase over 2007. Her involvement with crime victims is of immeasurable value to the Police Department and the community. The advocate's activities include victim interviews, court attendance, and restitution. She provided service to 120 clients seeking Protection from Abuse (PFA) court orders. There was a 17% decrease in PFA cases from 2007.

## Community Service Officers (CSO)

The CSOs perform non-enforcement police related duties for the department. Their activities include patrolling township parks, installing car safety seats, the placement of speed monitoring trailers, picking up stray animals, and delivering documents to court agencies, fingerprinting and photographing applicants and arrestees. They also control access to the township leaf and yard waste recycling facility.

## Victim/Witness Advocate

The Department hosts an in-house Victim/Witness Advocate in partnership with the Dauphin County Office of Victim Services.

### Crime Analysis

The Community Policing Unit performs the crime analysis and mapping process utilized by the Department. During 2008, the unit complied with nearly 100 crime analysis or mapping requests. Crime analysis and mapping data is used in special details to respond to localized crime issues or identified crime trends. The Department command and supervisory staff meet monthly to examine crime data. It is through these monthly COMPSTAT meetings that crime "hot spots" and developing crime trends are identified. A proactive approach is then developed to mitigate crime in the community. Current crime mapping data can view by visiting the Police Department's web page: [www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov/Police/index.html](http://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov/Police/index.html). Township crime maps can be viewed for the previous three month period. This recent web presence provides the public with neighborhood crime information previously available only by special request.

This real time mapping and analysis of crime data has placed the Department at the forefront of crime technology in this region. The program enhances the Department's ability to respond to existing crime and has the potential to project future events through crime pattern analysis.

### School Resource Officers

The School Resource Officer Program (SRO) assigns a police officer to Central Dauphin East High School and the Dauphin County Technical School. The CD East SRO is Officer Curt McCoy. In 2008 Officer McCoy obtained national certification as a School Resource Officer Practitioner. The Technical School SRO duties have been shared by Officer Chuck Farrell, Officer Rich Needham, and Officer John Stoner in 2008. Officer Farrell has been selected as the SRO for DCTS. He will assume full-time SRO duties beginning February 2009.

During 2008, the SROs were involved in more than 800 incidents. These included criminal arrests, weapons offenses, educational presentations, and counseling sessions. The school resource officers also shared summer school duties at C D East High School.

### Citizen's Police Academy

The Citizen's Police Academy is a ten week program designed to provide adult citizens with a working knowledge of police responsibilities. The academy is modeled after the regular police academy that all officers must attend. The program is not intended to train police officers, but to familiarize citizens with the duties of their police department. The program involves a mix of lecture and hands-on training. Participants also take field trips to several county facilities such as the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency, Dauphin County Prison, and the morgue.



### Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch Program is one of the most effective and least costly ways to address crime and the fear of crime in neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Watch Program is one of the oldest crime prevention programs in the country, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer. The program can be traced back to colonial settlements, when night watchmen patrolled the streets. The modern version was developed in response to requests from police chiefs who were looking for a crime prevention program that would involve citizens and address increasing crime rates.

At the present time, the Department works closely with eight neighborhood watch groups in the Township providing them with current crime statistics and working together to reduce crime.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lower Paxton Police Department

### Night Out for Public Safety



Officer Ralph Palm of the Community Policing Unit organized the ninth annual Night Out for Public Safety at Koons Park. There were more than 50 exhibitors at this year's event. Displays included a PA National Guard Blackhawk helicopter, medical evacuation helicopter, Sheriff's Department working dogs, U.S. Army rock climbing wall, and the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team. The venue is an exceptional means for police and other emergency response providers to interact with the community we serve.



Returning for the 2008 event was a portable smoke trailer, where visitors learned to survive in a smoke filled structure. The fire displays were manned and presented by members of the Lower Paxton fire companies. Although the police department spearheads this event, it has become a cooperative endeavor with South Central EMS and the Paxtonia, Linglestown, and Colonial Park Fire Companies.

### Youth Police Academy

For the third consecutive year the Department sponsored and presented the Lower Paxton Youth Police Academy. Participants in the academy met daily for one week. Students received training in a variety of law enforcement topics, to include history of policing, evidence and crime scene processing, patrol work, investigative techniques, traffic enforcement, and firearms training.

Students experienced weapons qualifications and witnessed demonstrations by the Crisis Response Team. At the conclusion of the academy, each participant left with a greater understanding of the police career and its associated demands and rewards. The success of the program has guaranteed its continuation. This project has become one of the Community Policing Unit's greatest community outreach programs along with the Citizens Police Academy.



### Grants

The Community Policing Unit also manages grants that are used to purchase equipment, and fund personnel, specialized training, and community service programs. In 2008 the Department received the final \$20,000.00 payment from a 2005 COPS grant that was used to fund a school resource officer. In addition, the Department received a \$49,000.00 grant to provide training and then conduct investigations of illegal slots gambling. We also received 50% reimbursement in the amount of \$7,732.00 from the Justice Department for ballistic body armor used by all officers.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Police Department expects the highest level of professional conduct from its employees at all times. We also recognize there are times when employees go above and beyond what is normally expected of them. Recognizing superior performance is critical to both individual and departmental morale. The Department also acknowledges that the effectiveness of any law enforcement agency is seriously impaired without citizen support. Each year we recognize those citizens who provide extraordinary assistance to the Department. The types of awards presented annually by the Department include the following:

- **Medal of Valor** - Recognizes officer performance involving great personal risk.
- **Life Saving Award** – Presented to members who save or attempt to save a human life.
- **Purple Heart Award** – Recognizes officers who sustain potentially life threatening or serious injury while performing their duties.
- **Civilian Support Award** – Recognizes exceptional support by an officer's family or civilian.
- **Award of Merit** - Recognizes meritorious service which upholds the highest traditions of the Department.
- **Unit/Platoon Citation** – Recognizes the outstanding accomplishment of a platoon or unit, which is the result of teamwork rather than through the efforts of an individual officer.
- **Officer of the Year** – Recognizes officers who continuously strive to uphold the highest traditions of the Department.

Two citizens received the Civilian Support Award in 2008 and they include:

- Ms. Shelby Dimpsey
- Mrs. Mary Yingst

The Officer of the Year Award was presented to the following officers:

- Police Officer Luanna Brook: Uniformed
- Police Officer Curtis McCoy: Non-Uniformed



The Award of Merit was presented to:

- Police Officer Brian Guarnieri
- Detective Jim Glucksman
- Detective Joe Allegrini

The Life Saving Award was presented to:

- Officer Chris Vogel
- Officer Kevin Roland

The Chiefs Fitness Award was presented to:

- Officer Walter Cook

The Unit/Platoon Citation Award was presented to Sgt. Ronald Gramigni's platoon, which includes the following officers:

- Sgt. Ronald Gramigni
- Cpl. Greg Sumbury
- Police Officer J.D. Albright
- Police Officer Carl Chortanoff
- Police Officer Steve Wertz
- Police Officer Zack Fehrenbach
- Police Officer Dan Smeck
- Police Officer John Welty
- Police Officer Eric Tallman
- Police Officer Hallie Miller
- Police Officer Chad Miller

## Police Physical Fitness

Many of the essential job functions of law enforcement require a high level of physical fitness. Cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and anaerobic power directly relates to an officers ability to perform various essential duties of the job. Fitness is also important to an officer's personal health and wellness. Lieutenant Mark Zerbe oversees the annual physical fitness test and he is assisted by several officers who are certified fitness instructors.

A battery of tests is given in sequence with predetermined rest periods. The test battery consists of the following six events:

1. 300 meter run
2. One repetition maximum bench press
3. One minute curl-up/sit-up
4. Maximum push-ups
5. Vertical jump
6. 1.5 mile run



At the conclusion of the testing year, individual officers and units were recognized for their achievements in the fitness testing process. Top individual performances were recorded and the overall top score was identified. In 2008, Officer J.D. Albright achieved the best overall score in the departmental fitness test and was awarded The Chief's Fitness Award.

Sgt. Steve Paoletti's platoon won the Unit Fitness Award. Others receiving awards were:

1. Age Group I: Ofc. Zack Fehrenbach
2. Age Group II: Ofc. Walter Cook
3. Age Group II: Lt. Dave Hogentogler
4. Master's Group: Ofc. John McPhillips

## Police Honor Guard

The Lower Paxton Police Department Honor Guard consists of seven members representing each of the three Divisions. The Honor Guard is supervised by Lieutenant Mark Zerbe and its members include: Corporal Todd Witmer, Officer John Stoner, Detective Joe Allegrini, Officer Tom Bell, Officer Rich Needham and Officer Justin DePasqua. The honor guard was initially created to honor deceased police officers. Unit members serve as pall bearers and conduct flag presentations at funerals. The unit also participates in many community events, ceremonies, parades, and has posted the colors at two sporting events.



The honor guard has marched in the annual Linglestown Memorial Day parade and the St. Patrick's Day Parades in Harrisburg. The Honor Guard received its formal training from the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard. The training consisted of basic drill maneuvers, flag folding, funeral protocol, and posting of colors.



# CITIZEN'S SURVEY REPORT

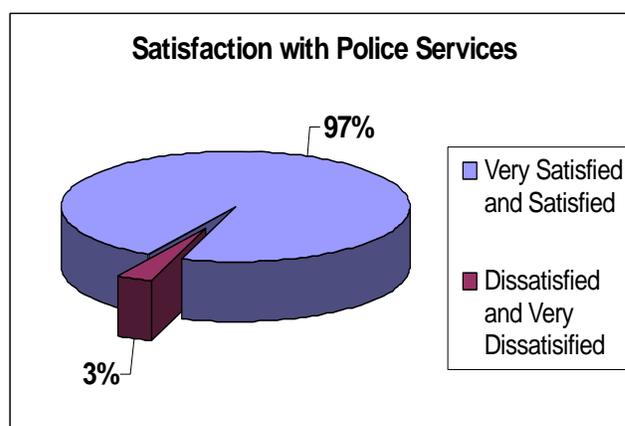
The Lower Paxton Township Police Department is committed to providing our citizens with exemplary service. A community survey is an excellent tool to determine if the Department is meeting our community's needs and expectations. The survey poses key questions to assist in determining citizen perceptions of safety, quality of life, and the quality of police services. The survey also allows residents to express their priorities. Community feedback serves as a "report card" to determine how well the police department and its officer's are responding to our "customers" needs. It also provides insight for the process of establishing goals and has value in determining the future of the Department.

On July 1, 2008, the Police Department initiated its second township wide citizen survey. The first survey was completed in 2003. The 2008 survey was condensed to 17 questions from the 41 questions in the 2003 survey. It was anticipated that a streamlined survey would increase responses by at least 10%.

The Department made the survey available online in 2008 via the Township's website. The citizen survey form was also distributed to 17,000 households via the Township's sewer bill mailing. Hard copies of the survey form were delivered to sixteen apartment complex rental offices for distribution to tenants. Survey forms were also available at the township municipal building and the Friendship Center.

The condensed survey form and the change in distribution methods greatly exceeded our expectations and resulted in a 120% increase in the number of completed surveys. The Police Department received 3,363 survey responses in 2008 as compared to 1,532 in 2003. Survey questions 1 thru 7 identify respondent demographics and questions 8 thru 11 address citizen interaction with the police and their opinion of the quality of police services. Questions 12 thru 15 address the perception of crime and quality of life issues. Question 16 polled respondents on their use of the Township web site and question 17 solicited suggestions or comments.

The results of the 2008 citizen survey are very positive. The response to the survey question; "How satisfied are you with the services of the Lower Paxton Police Department", is representative of the survey's overall findings. Of the 2,579 respondents who expressed their opinion to the question, ninety-seven percent (97%) indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied and only three percent (3%) indicated they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.



The Police Department is committed to being a "Learning Organization." Because of this commitment, we will analyze the survey's findings and implement strategies to address citizens' requests and mitigate identified problems. The information obtained from this survey will become the basis for a major portion of the Department's 2009 Annual Business Plan. Our residents' opinions and needs, as identified in this survey, will be converted into many of the department's goals for 2009 and beyond. To illustrate the goal setting process, we examined the responses to the question "what services would you like increased". The greatest number of respondents (41.5%) chose increased patrols in their neighborhoods as their top priority. The Patrol Division will set a goal for 2009 to increase the presence of patrol officers in neighborhoods. Objectives will be established based on specific action plans. In addition, performance indicators will be set to measure performance in regard to achieving the anticipated objectives. The complete survey results can be viewed at [www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov](http://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov).

## 2008 and 2009 Business Plans

The men and women of the Lower Paxton Township Police Department accomplished eight primary goals during 2008 in the fulfillment of our mission to preserve the peace and provide the highest quality of life in our community. The 2008 Annual Business Plan provided guidance on how the Department addressed identified needs and expectations for that twelve month period.

Eight major goals were outlined in the 2008 Business Plan to be implemented during the year. Department personnel were successful in accomplishing all of these goals as outlined below.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished Sex Offenders Database**

The Field Services Division instituted a program aimed at reducing the probability of repeat offenses by sexual predators through the creation of a sexual offender's database. The program was designed to ensure that all individuals who meet the criteria as a sexual offender, as outlined in Title 42, "Registration of Sexual Offenders" shall be tracked and a record maintained in the Department's records management system to ensure they are in compliance with the law.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished Expand In-House Juvenile Programs**

A second goal of the Field Services Division involved increasing the number of juvenile cases referred to the Department's JASP program by 20% over the previous year. This would reduce the number of juveniles referred to County Juvenile Probation. That goal was met and surpassed with a 33% increase in juveniles referred to the JASP program.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished Improve Case Management Efficiency**

The final goal of the Field Services Division was to reduce the number of open criminal cases by 10%. The CI Unit supervisor will review all open criminal cases within 30 days of the original case assignment date. The number of open cases was reduced 60% by years end.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished Conduct Citizen Survey**

The Staff Services Division developed and implemented a second Citizen Survey to evaluate the current level of community satisfaction and determine future needs. The survey was completed in August and final report of findings submitted in October.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished Obtain State Re-Accreditation**

In order to ensure that our operations and internal systems continue to meet or exceed professional standards, the Staff Services Unit was tasked with obtaining re-accreditation through PLEAC. An assessment was conducted in March 2008 and the Department received re-accreditation status in July 2008.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished High Risk Policy Training**

In order to increase officer safety and reduce liability, the Staff Services Unit was responsible for identifying twelve high-risk policies and then developing and implementing in-service training. The Chief identified the twelve policies and all officers were trained and required to pass a written test with a minimum passing score of 100%. Training and testing were completed in November 2008.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished Improve Highway Safety**

A Patrol Services Division goal was to reduce the number of traffic injuries. The action plan involved increasing the number of selective enforcement details and exceeding the model index ratio of enforcement to injury accidents. Injury accidents were reduced by 6%.

### **2008 Goal: Accomplished Decrease Crime in High Crime Areas**

Another Patrol Services Division goal was to decrease crime and improve the quality of life in a high crime neighborhood identified through crime analysis. An apartment complex was identified and the objective was to reduce crime there by 10%. Through increased deployment of officers, increased contacts, and the use of problem oriented policing techniques, the crime rate was decreased by 27%.

## 2009 GOALS

The Department is continually challenged to make the best use of its financial and human resources to remain proactive and responsive to competing public safety needs. The goals identified in the 2009 Business Plan will be achieved during these tough economic times by reallocating existing resources and working within budget constraints. We expect the following goals will have a positive impact on both the community and the Department as we continue our commitment to providing quality police services.

### **Goal 1: Computer & Cell Phone Safety**

A goal of the Staff Services Division is to provide an educational program to students and parents on the dangers of cyber bullying, sexual predators on the internet, and sexting. The Department will develop the program with community partners and make pre-recorded DVDs available to parents upon request.

### **Goal 2: Staff Inspections**

The Staff Services Division will develop procedures for conducting announced and unannounced inspections of the Department's personnel, facilities, equipment, operations, and administrative functions. The purpose of the inspections is to ensure the Department is operating at peak efficiency. In the event deficiencies are discovered, they will be corrected promptly.

### **Goal 3: Personnel Evaluations**

The Staff Services Division will conduct a full job analysis for all civilian, Community Policing, and Field Services Division positions. The job analysis data along with an employee survey will be used to develop a new job specific personnel evaluation instrument.

### **Goal 4: Reduce Domestic Violence**

The Field Services Division will work to reduce the incidence of repeat domestic violence assaults. The action plan involves the diligent investigation and prosecution of domestic assaults and strict enforcement of bail and PFA conditions. A detective will be assigned to follow-up on all Act 10 arrests and work cooperatively with the Victim Advocate. The objective is to reduce by 10% the number of cases dismissed at the magisterial district judge level due to uncooperative victims. In addition, a Domestic High-Risk Household Report will be generated and provided to the Patrol Services Division on a bi-weekly basis.

### **Goal 5: Improve Burglary Arrest Rate**

Another Field Services Division is to increase the clearance rate of residential burglaries. The unit will improve the quality and thoroughness of burglary investigations through improved crime scene processing, neighborhood canvassing, and inter-divisional cooperation. The goal of the unit is to meet or exceed the national residential burglary closure rate of 15% by years end.

### **Goal 6: Improve Community Satisfaction**

The Patrol Services Division will address citizen requests for specific police services that were received in the 2008 Community Survey. Individual survey responses will be sorted by type of request and ranked by level of importance according to the greatest number of matching requests. The prioritized requests will then be assigned to patrol officers to take action on the identified issue. At least 50% of the requests for service will be addressed in 2009.

### **Goal 6: Improve Quality of Life**

The Patrol Services Division will work diligently to improve the quality of life for residents of the Township by increasing police presence in neighborhoods. The #1 request of citizens in the 2008 Community Survey was increased patrols in neighborhoods. Patrol officers will be directed to spend at least 50% of their unobligated patrol time in neighborhoods initiating positive interactions with community members.

