

# PADUCAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

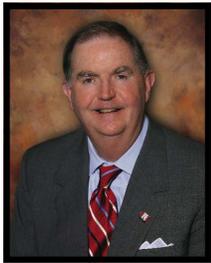


2011

**ANNUAL REPORT**



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**Mayor Bill Paxton**



**City Manager  
Jeff Pederson**

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### *Paducah City Commissioners*



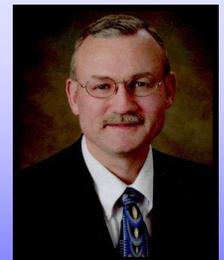
**Richard Abraham**



**Carol Gault**



**Gayle Kaler**



**Gerald Watkins**

# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

The Paducah Police Department has enjoyed another successful year in reducing crime. This reduction is continuing a trend that started several years ago. I believe it is attributed not only to our community-policing philosophy, but also to our efforts involving intelligence and evidence-based policing, through our use of statistical knowledge gained from CompStat (Computational Statistics), which is viewed on a monthly basis.

The Paducah Police Department has enjoyed tremendous success in policing Paducah from a reactive enforcement point of view. The department is going to focus a lot on prevention and intervention as part of its new strategies. We are very proud of the fact that, since 2009, the department has seen almost a 50 percent decrease in the number of juvenile arrests. From a philosophical point of view, we believe that the best way to reduce crime in a community is to work with children on a proactive basis. Those critical hours after school between 3-9 pm are very important. A community must keep those children actively engaged in positive after-school programs to prevent them from falling through the cracks and becoming involved in illicit activity. This year, we are going to participate in a partnership with The Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club to develop an after-school program at the vacant Armory building. This will be a boxing program that will also double as a homework club with computers to aid the children in furthering their educational goals and objectives.

The Paducah Police Department will also continue to focus on domestic violence in our community. Domestic violence is one of the major issues every year in Paducah. Each year, more than 300 reports of domestic violence are taken in Paducah. To prevent and intervene in this issue, we are developing a Domestic Violence Outreach Team (DVOT). This team will consist of a police officer and a social worker who will conduct follow-ups on domestic violence cases on a daily basis. We also recognize that domestic violence is family violence and that it negatively affects children in the home. This issue hopefully will be addressed by having a multidisciplinary team consisting of representatives in the various disciplines, especially social workers, educators, and court personnel. We are also looking at the feasibility of getting the clergy involved with intervention efforts.

Finally, we will be investing and looking into better and more efficient technology. The most important venture for us will be the utilization of computer tablets in our police cars, rather than the traditional Mobile Data Terminals. The tablets are cheaper and have more capabilities than the MDT. In conjunction with the tablet and the MDT, we will be installing computer air cards in all of our police vehicles. We are very hopeful that all of the above changes and strategies will be continuous improvement in the development of our city as a safe community for our citizens and the 100,000 visitors who come here on a daily basis.

## **Chief James Berry**

Chief Berry has served as Chief of the PPD since August 2009. He has more than 35 years' experience in policing—having spent 25 years in Hartford, Connecticut, retiring there as Assistant Chief in 2000. After leaving Hartford, Berry served as chief of security for the Hartford school system, where he stayed for two years. In December 2001, he accepted the position of Chief of Police in Trumbull, Connecticut, where he stayed until 2004, when he accepted the role of Chief at Manchester, Connecticut.

He left that post in 2009 to accept the position in Paducah. Berry has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, a B.S. Degree in Sociology, and a Graduate Certification in Homeland Security from St. Joseph College. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement, the National Sheriffs' Association, and FBI LEEDS and has many accolades spanning his vast career.





# Operations Division

## Assistant Chief's Report

### Assistant Chief Brandon Barnhill

The Operations Division is the largest component of the Paducah Police Department with 58 sworn and nine civilian full- and part-time employees. It is responsible for responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service from the public, handling special assignments, and proactively addressing community concerns. Patrol officers are responsible for protecting life and property; helping to maintain peace, order and safety; conducting preliminary investigations; enforcing traffic laws and state and local laws and ordinances.

In 2011, officers responded to 44,041 calls for service regarding criminal offenses, complaints, traffic crashes, alarm activations, disturbances, and other events. An examination of officer activity shows positive results for the department. Patrol officers issued 4,365 criminal charges for Part I or Part II offenses, many of those being high profile arrests and cases. Patrol officers issued 9,880 citations for traffic-related offenses, with the top three categories being No Seatbelt, No Proof of Insurance and Speeding. The desired effect was achieved: the decrease in the number of Part I crimes and collisions with injuries. Operations Division officers were involved in 12 vehicle collisions during the year; only five of those were considered "at-fault."

Despite an increased call volume and continued staffing shortages, the numbers show even more significance when broken down by category: Crimes Against Persons, Property Crimes, Officer-Initiated Activity and "All Other." When examined in this manner, it can be seen that the categories that negatively influence the quality of life – Crimes Against Persons and Property Crimes – had substantial decreases.

In 2011, the Operations Division accomplished many significant goals, including implementation of a "flex" squad to proactively handle special enforcement requests; acquisition of new Honor Guard equipment and specialized training; establishment of a committee to evaluate the future advancement of our in-car equipment; progress toward completion of digital in-car camera transition; completed transition to electronic Roll Call; purchase of three K-9 vests; purchase of Polaris UTV to replace an aging model; renovation and equipment improvements in several Operations Division offices; and two new Bomb Squad robots.

In 2012, the PPD Operations Division looks forward to less crime, more arrests in proportion to offenses, and a growing, healthy relationship with the community. More specifically, the Operations Division will continue to increase activity, and the units engaging in special operations will continue to address quality-of-life issues by using crime analysis data. Our city is ever-growing, so the Operations Division encourages patrol officers to use the data and act as problem solvers, combining their efforts with the community's. The performance of our division personnel remains highly productive and consistent. Although many officers in the division are fairly new to the department, they are motivated to be of service to the community. We remain committed to providing our citizens with dedicated, prepared, well-trained, and professional law enforcement.

Assistant Chief Barnhill was formally promoted to his current position on January 26, 2011. He has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Andrew Jackson University and a Bachelor's Degree in Independent Studies from Murray State University. He is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officer Course, as well as the Chief Executive Leadership Course. Additionally, he has graduated from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's

Criminal Justice Executive Development course and the Academy of Police Supervision. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, Rotary International, and he is an adjunct professor of criminal justice at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. In 2011, Barnhill was recognized by Mid-Continent University as their Young Leader of the Year.

Write to Assistant Chief Barnhill at - [bbarnhill@paducahky.gov](mailto:bbarnhill@paducahky.gov)

# Support Services Division

## Assistant Chief's Report

Assistant Chief Stacey Grimes



The Support Services Division is comprised of three units: Drug and Vice Enforcement (DAVE), General Investigations (GIU) and Records and Evidence, each with distinctive roles aimed at supporting the Operations Division. These three specialized units are equally important in bringing an investigation to a successful conclusion and ensuring custody of records and evidence for criminal prosecution.

The DAVE Unit is staffed by one sergeant, five detectives and one secretary. In 2010, we began a large scale covert drug trafficking investigation with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Kentucky State Police. In 2011, we continued to target mid to upper-level drug traffickers preying on our community. In October, Sergeant Gilbert and our investigators assisted our federal and state partners in "Operation New Day," which netted 15 federal indictments and one state indictment. Thus far, this multi-agency investigation has led to indictments of eight suspects in state court and 35 in federal court, of which many will serve lengthy mandatory sentences in federal prison if convicted. There is no parole in the federal system.

The GIU is staffed by one sergeant, five detectives, one investigative assistant and one clerical specialist. This unit's primary focus is investigating serious crimes against persons and large scale property crimes. Sergeant Laird's detectives cleared nearly 78% of their cases assigned in 2011. A major accomplishment for GIU this year was partnering with the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory at the University of Louisville. The Paducah Police Department was established as one of five satellite laboratories in the state. Detective Justin Crowell received more than 165 hours of specialized training and completed 67 computer forensics examinations in the last half of 2011.

The Records and Evidence Unit is staffed by a records manager, one evidence technician, one evidence clerk, one clerical specialist and one clerical assistant. This unit is responsible for the storage and retrieval of all records and reports produced by department personnel. In addition, this unit is responsible for the security and accountability of all evidence collected at crime scenes by our sworn personnel. A major focus in 2011 for this unit was to research and properly dispose of evidence no longer of value. In 2011, under the supervision of Records Manager Lynch, our evidence personnel received 2,840 items into evidence and disposed of 5,148 items. A full evidence audit was conducted in November and 11,765 items were physically verified, with no missing or misplaced items.

The men and women working in the Support Services Division had a productive year. We are committed to providing efficient and effective service in a courteous manner. Our investigators will diligently pursue those that prey upon our community and we will strive to seek justice for our victims.

Assistant Chief has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University and a Master's Degree in Law and Public Policy from California University of Pennsylvania. He started his career with the Paducah Police Department in 1994. He was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2005 and led the Operations Division until January 2010, when he transferred to the Support Services Division. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officers Course and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development

Seminar. He also is a graduate of the Criminal Justice Executive Development program and the FBI Command Institute. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, the Paducah Lions Club, and Past President of the Jackson Purchase Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #15. He is President of the board for Paducah Area Christmas Cops, the non-profit organization that sponsors the Christmas Cops program, and serves on Board of Directors for the Paducah Lion's Club.

Write to Assistant Chief Grimes at - [sgrimes@paducahky.gov](mailto:sgrimes@paducahky.gov)

# It's Always A Question of Leadership

2011 Command Staff



**Captain Don Hodgson** is the Operations Second Shift Commander. He has 17 years of law enforcement experience. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern Vermont College, and he is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision at the

Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT). He is enrolled in the 2011-2012 session of the Criminal Justice Executive Development Course, also hosted by DOCJT.

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**Captain Mark Roberts** serves as the Administrative Captain of Operations. He has 24 years of law enforcement experience. He is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision and the Criminal Justice Executive Development courses at the Department of Criminal

Justice Training, and he is a KLEC certified instructor. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Murray State University, and he was selected to attend the FBI National Academy in 2012. He currently serves on the Family Service Society Board of Directors.

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**Captain Shawn Maxie** is the Operations Third Shift Commander. He has more than 17 years of law enforcement experience. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Murray State University and has completed some post-graduate work in Organizational

Communication. He is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision, the Criminal Justice Executive Development course, and the School of Strategic Leadership, all offered through the Department of Criminal Justice Training.



**Captain Brian Krueger**

supervises the Professional Standards Unit. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Mid-Continent University, and is a veteran of the

United States Marine Corps. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Chief Executive Leadership course at SPI, the Academy of Police Supervision and the Criminal Justice Executive Development courses at the Department of Criminal Justice Training. He has 13 years of law enforcement experience. He currently serves on the Merryman House Board of Directors.

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**Captain David White** serves as the Captain of Support Services Division. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and a Master's Degree in Justice Administration from Norwich

University. He has 12 years of law enforcement experience and is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision and the Criminal Justice Executive Development courses offered through the Department of Criminal Justice Training. He serves as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. He currently serves on the McCracken County 4-H District Board.

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**Captain Jason Merrick** was

formally promoted to Captain on January 27, 2011. He has 17 years of law enforcement experience. He is currently working on his Bachelor's Degree through Mid-Continent

University, and he is participating in the 2011-2012 Leadership Paducah Course. He is a 2003 graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision, offered by the Department of Criminal Justice Training. He is a U.S. Navy veteran, serving aboard the USS Nashville, and completing a deployment to the Persian Gulf in 1991-1992.



## WHAT IT MEANS TO WEAR THE STRIPES

Sergeants are the front line supervisors at the Paducah Police Department and they have one of the most critical jobs in the business. Sergeants constantly have to make quick, on-the-spot decisions about complex matters of law and policy in rapidly evolving circumstances in the field. They are often the first supervisor to respond to and take charge of critical incidents. And they have to possess a good deal of common sense leadership.

To be eligible for sergeant, officers have to have at least five years on the job and we select them based on competitive selections processes. Once chosen, we ensure they are given the best training available, which includes a three-week sergeant's academy, known as the Academy of Police Supervision, offered at the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) Center in Richmond, Kentucky. We are happy to report that all but two of our sergeants have graduated from that academy, and those two are scheduled to attend the class in mid-2012. In 2011, Sergeant Brian Laird (pictured 4th from left) began attending the Criminal Justice Executive Development Course, a five-week leadership course at DOCJT, for more advanced leadership training.

Additionally, we have several that either have, or are working on bachelor's degrees, and Sergeant Rob Hefner (pictured 3rd from left) is working on his master's degree. The PPD sergeants also possess a great deal of military leadership, with six of the nine serving in the military prior to, or concurrently with their work at the PPD. "We really think we have a good group of sergeants and we are very pleased with the work they do, day-in and day-out," says Operations Assistant Chief Brandon Barnhill.

We asked Sergeant Wes Kimbler (pictured 2nd from left) what it meant to wear the stripes, and here's what he had to say:

The answers to this question are as unique as the person wearing the stripes. When I see sergeant stripes, I immediately associate them with leadership. Leadership can take many forms. Every sergeant has certain attributes and leadership qualities that they feel are important, and each sergeant will lead in a way that is most effective for them. In essence, the person wearing the stripes makes the leader, not the stripes alone.

For me, wearing sergeant stripes means that I should strive to demonstrate the qualities of a good leader. I believe a good leader must be mission-focused. They must understand the organization's mission and goals, and consistently work to accomplish those goals. They will lead by example. A leader will abide by the same policies and standards that they expect from their subordinates, and a good leader will effectively communicate.

Leaders must encourage open and honest communication, and provide timely, constructive criticism and feedback. They must be responsible. Leaders must take responsibility for subordinates as well as themselves. They must ensure that subordinates have the necessary training, equipment and resources to accomplish assigned tasks. A good leader should be caring and appreciative of his/her subordinates. This must be demonstrated through actions, not just words. Other qualities of a good leader include: integrity, honesty, dedication, humility, respect, competence, consistency, motivation and inspiration, just to name a few.

Every day, when I put on my uniform, I try to reflect these qualities. I often fall short, but leadership is not about perfection. I owe it to the police department, my supervisors and most importantly, those I lead, to be the best leader that I can be. The daily pursuit of these qualities is what I believe it means to wear the stripes.

—Sgt. Wes Kimbler



# Our Team 2011

**Chief James Berry**



**Assistant Chiefs**

- Stacey Grimes
- Brandon Barnhill

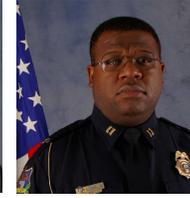


*A Kentucky Chiefs of Police Association*

**Accredited Agency**



- Capt. Don Hodgson
- Capt. Brian Krueger
- Capt. Mark Roberts
- Capt. David White
- Capt. Shawn Maxie
- Capt. Jason Merrick



- Sgt. George Johnson
- Sgt. Will Gilbert
- Sgt. Brian Laird
- Sgt. Wes Kimbler
- Sgt. Steve Smith
- Sgt. Rob Hefner



- Sgt. Kevin Neal
- Sgt. Joe Hayes
- Sgt. Wes Orazine
- W. Rene Long
- Rob Estes
- Brent Obermark



- John Tolliver
- Michael Simak
- Brian Kopischke
- Nathan Young
- Paul Stevenson
- Cindy Neihoff



- Scotty Davis
- James Davis
- Matt Wentworth
- Travis Counts
- Jason Montgomery
- Mike Wentworth



- Justin Canup
- Matt Smith
- Mike Redmon
- Melissa Dillon
- Linda Hodgson
- Gretchen Morgan



- Dana Davie
- Jim Robbins
- Troy Turner
- Justin Rundles
- Lofton Rowley
- Justin Crowell



2010 Winner of the Kentucky League of Cities'  
Golden Eagle Award



P. Ryan Clark  
Jarrett Woodruff  
Chris Baxter  
Chris Bolton  
Anthony Copeland  
Michael Rigdon



Corey Willenborg  
Kevin Crider  
Ryan Conn  
Josh Bryant  
Beau Green  
Nathan Antonites



Matt Reed  
Nathan Jamiet  
Jason Hicks  
Chris Fearon  
Keith Thuline  
Kevin Collins



Derik Perry  
Matt Scheer  
W. Justin Hodges  
Shawn Craven  
Steven Thompson  
S. Austin Guill



David Carroll  
Travis Watson  
Ryan Burrow  
Blake Quinn  
Kelly Drew  
Jan Saxon



Robin Newberry  
Malinda Baltz  
Lourdes Morrison  
Vicki Miller  
Connie Waldrige  
Myra Reid



Dickie Powers  
Tracy Lynch  
Leigh Shanks  
Kristine Shanks  
Amy Travis  
Kim Newlon



Leah Pirtle  
K-9 Ronny  
*Sgt. R. Hefner*  
K-9 Fox  
*Officer L. Rowley*  
K-9 Bikkel  
*Officer M. Simak*

# 2011



## Employee Of the Year

**Officer Nathan Jaimet**

Officer Nathan Jaimet was selected as our 2011 Employee of the Year. Each year the Paducah Police Department's Award Committee accepts nominations for Employee of the Year from supervisors and peers of both sworn and non-sworn employees. This year we received a record 18 nominations. The nominations are reviewed and forwarded to the chief and assistant chiefs, who select a winner.

This year, Officer Jaimet was nominated by Captain Brian Krueger. In his nomination, Captain Krueger reports that "At various times in 2011, I had the occasion to observe Officer Nathan Jaimet during the course of his duties. On more than one occasion, Officer Jaimet demonstrated an exceptional understanding of criminal laws and procedures, and tactics, specifically those directly associated with anti-drug enforcement activities."

Krueger's nomination offered several examples of Jaimet's performance, including the arrest of two people from a traffic stop and subsequent search of a hotel room that yielded several firearms, eight grams of methamphetamine, and almost \$9,000 in cash. In a separate incident, Jaimet led an investigation that recovered 138 grams of crack cocaine, 77 grams of marijuana, and \$2,800 in cash.

In total, Jaimet opened 183 cases in 2011, encompassing 301 total charges, including 67 drug offense charges, seven drug-trafficking charges, five weapons charges, and one manufacturing meth. With a 79 percent clearance rate, Jaimet's arrests represented six percent of the overall arrests, department-wide. Additionally, he was responsible for four percent of the department's overall traffic citations, charging 317 people with a total of 659 offenses.

Jaimet is also winner of the Governor's Impaired Driving Enforcement Award for 2011. Officer Jaimet was recognized as the 1st place recipient state-wide for Division 4, which is law enforcement agencies of 51-150 officers.

"It is also important to consider that there were no formal citizen complaints specifically generated in reference to Officer Jaimet's conduct or procedures in 2011. Considering the documented level of activity mentioned herein, I believe it is safe to say that officer Jaimet has a firm understanding of how to communicate and deal with people effectively," Krueger said in the nomination.

Chief James Berry says, "I'm very proud of Officer Jaimet's performance over the last year. He is an exemplary officer and he is setting a bar for others." As the 2011 Employee of the Year, Officer Jaimet will have the honor of having "Employee of the Year" decal on his patrol cruiser, and he will be

formally recognized at the department's award ceremony in July 2012.



24 Hours a day

# On Patrol

## OPERATIONS DIVISION

Day-in and day-out, officers on patrol at the Paducah Police Department respond to nearly 45,000 calls for service received annually. That’s about 123 contacts each day. The patrol officers represent the largest part of the Operations Division, commanded by Assistant Chief Brandon Barnhill, with roughly 45 officers, seven sergeants, and three captains assigned to patrol shifts. Additionally, Captain Mark Roberts serves as their Administrative Captain and Special Unit Commander, and they have three full-time civilian support staff.

The Operations Division not only handles all of the emergency and non-emergency calls for service, but they also do a variety of other tasks. They manage all of the traffic enforcement efforts, as well as special event security, like BBQ On The River. It encompasses all of the specialized units like K-9, the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, Bomb Squad, Crisis Negotiation Team, and traffic accident reconstruction, with many officers serving dual roles in these assignments.

The patrol officer is a fundamental part of any police organization and while everyone gets their start there, some enjoy the fast-paced work well enough to spend their entire career doing nothing but serving on the front-lines.

With that said, we have patrol officers who have been on the streets for 20 years, like K-9 Officer Michael Simak, and we’ve got patrol officers that are just getting their start in policing. Officer Simak says, “After 20 years of moving up through the ranks in the Army, I’ve always enjoyed being a street cop, not that the opportunity to do something different wasn’t there. I’ve always enjoyed getting out there and driving the beat, and it’s always been fun,” he said. He also said he enjoys helping the younger officer learn the role.

Officers Shawn Craven (right) and Matt Reed (top) are examples of those just starting their careers. Craven, who has a little more than two years on the job says, “I had always compared the work to what you see on television, but it’s nothing like that.”

“It’s about helping people and solving problems,” he says. Craven, who is originally from Paducah, got his degree from WKCTC before applying for the position. He says he plans on finishing his bachelor’s degree and working his way into General Investigations before eventually moving up through the ranks.

Whether on the job for one day or twenty years, patrol officers spend the majority of their day behind the wheel and outside helping people through tough situations. The work can be both exciting and very dangerous. Officers have to be ready for anything, and they have to keep in mind that each call can be critical. Chief Berry says, “Patrol is the backbone of any police department and that officer on the beat has to be mentally and physically equipped for the job. It’s my job to see they have the right education, training, and equipment they need to keep the community safe.”

The front seat of the patrol cruiser is their office, and that space has gotten more high-tech and more cramped with the essential tools of modern police work. Patrol officers in agencies that don’t have take-home fleet programs like ours are said to lose an average of 40 minutes each day transferring equipment in and out of their car.

Patrol officers stay equipped for everything the diverse and rapidly evolving circumstances call for on their job. Everything from rain jackets to riot gear; officers have to keep a variety of both personal and departmental equipment handy.



365 Days a year

# Awards & Accomplishments

## Life Saving Awards

**Officer Michael Rigdon** performed back blows on a four-day-old infant who was choking. He was able to clear the infant's airway and provide the necessary care before the child could be transported to the hospital.

**Officers Chris Baxter and Kevin Collins** responded to a call on Pines Road of a man with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. The man was not breathing and officers began CPR. The man was later flown to a regional hospital. The officers' actions prolonged the man's life, but he later succumbed to his injuries.

**Officer Chris Bolton** responded to a motor vehicle collision at Alben Barkley Drive and Interstate 24. The driver was partially ejected from the vehicle. Bolton could not locate a pulse and the man was not breathing. Bolton began chest compressions, and the man gasped for air. The man recovered from his injuries and later returned to his home in Kansas.

**Officer Nathan Jaimet** responded to a call on Paducah's Southside of a male subject that had cut his wrists, severing an artery. Jaimet provided first aid to the man, and the attending physician at the hospital reported that Jaimet's actions saved the man's life.

**Officers Shawn Craven and Matthew Reed** responded to the home of a man who was attempting to hang himself. The man was unconscious when they arrived. They cut the man down and opened his airway. The man survived the incident.

**Officers James Davis and Beau Green** responded to a call of a man threatening suicide at an apartment complex downtown. The man attempted to jump from a fifth-story window, but a friend caught the man at the window sill. Officers had to kick the apartment door open, but were able to pull the man back through the window to safety.

## Chief's Award

**Captain David White:** In 2011, Captain White accepted the responsibility for a complete redesign of the Paducah Police Department's Annual Report. He wrote a majority of the content and designed the layout. Richard Hanzes, supervisor of the leadership development section of the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training, requested permission to use the report as an example at the academy of what can be done to showcase an agency and its personnel.

## Service Commendations

**Officers James Davis and Brian Kopischke** responded to an injury collision at Olivet Church Road and Hinkleville Road. The driver of a motorcycle in that crash was lying on the roadway, unresponsive. Both officers performed CPR, but his injuries were too severe and he was pronounced dead at the scene. Both officers went above and beyond the call of duty attempting to save the man's life.

**Officers James Robbins, Kevin Collins, and Matthew Scheer** were dispatched to a home on Paducah's West end, where an elderly man had been found at the bottom of his swimming pool. Officers Robbins and Scheer dove into the pool to rescue the man, while Officer Collins and firefighters pulled the man out. Despite their efforts, the man could not be resuscitated.

**Officer Brent Obermark** responded to a call involving the fraudulent use of a credit card. Paducah Hydropower had sent a \$7,000 order to an address in South Carolina, and then was informed by the credit card company that the payment was made with a stolen credit card. Officer Obermark worked diligently with detectives from South Carolina and was able to recover the merchandise, as well as merchandise from several other companies that had fallen victim to the thieves. It was later determined that the illegal operation was operating out of Canada.



Safe Driving Award



Chief's Award



Life Saving Award



Service Commendation

### Safe Driving Awards

In 2011, the Department decided to start recognizing officers for their safe driving habits. Each officer's file was reviewed and officers were awarded five, ten, or fifteen-year pins based on how long they had driven without an at-fault collision.

#### Five-Year Pins

Captain Brian Krueger—Sergeant George Johnson  
Sergeant William Gilbert—Sergeant Brian Laird  
Sergeant Steve Smith—Sergeant Kevin Neal  
Sergeant Wes Orazine—Officer Brent Obermark  
Officer Michael Simak—Officer John Tolliver  
Officer James Davis—Detective Matt Wentworth  
Detective Jason Montgomery—Detective Mike Wentworth  
Detective Matt Smith—Officer Michael Redmon  
Officer Linda Hodgson—Officer Dana Davie  
Detective James Robbins—Detective Troy Turner  
Officer Ryan Clark—Officer Jarrett Woodruff

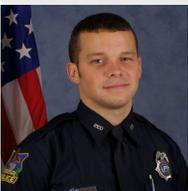
#### Ten-Year Pins

Captain David White—Captain Jason Merrick  
Officer Rene Long—Officer Brian Kopischke  
Detective Nathan Young—Officer Paul Stevenson  
Officer Scotty Davis

#### Fifteen-Year Pins

Assistant Chief Stacey Grimes—Captain Don Hodgson  
Captain Mark Roberts—Captain Shawn Maxie  
Detective Rob Estes

### DUI Governor's Impaired Driving Enforcement Award



The Governor's Award is given to officers with high levels of DUI-related arrests across the Commonwealth. Officer Nathan Jaimet was recognized as the 1st place recipient for Division 4, which is for law enforcement agencies of 51-150 officers.

### Grants

#### **Kentucky LEPP Grant: \$3,000**

(The LEPP grant provides funding for bulletproof vests.)

#### **U.S. Bulletproof Vest Grant (BPV): \$12,000**

(The US BPV Grant provides funding for bulletproof vests.)

#### **U.S. Justice Assistance Grant: \$23,121**

(The JAG funding provides for specialized equipment.)

#### **U.S. Dept. of Justice COPS Grant: \$202,000**

(The COPS grant provides funding for three officers hired under the COPS program.)

#### **Kentucky Dept. of Justice LSF Grant: \$15,950**

(This LSF Grant provides funding for DUI enforcement)

#### **Kentucky Homeland Security Grant: \$8,136**

(The KY HSG provides funding for mobile data computers.)

#### **Kentucky Homeland Security Grant: \$170,000**

(The KY HSG provides funding for Bomb Squad equipment.)

#### **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Grant: \$45,793**

(The KYDOT Grant provides funding for traffic enforcement.)

### **TOTAL GRANTS RECEIVED: \$ 480,000**

### Special Recognition

The Department extended special recognition this year to Dr. Irvin Smith, for his continued support of the Department's SWAT team and Bomb Squad as the tactical medical director.

The Department also extended a special thank you to Dr. Blane Grow, owner of Grow Air Park, for allowing use of his air strip for the Department's annual drivers training.

# Crime in Paducah



## Crime is down

Since the 1930s, the FBI has been responsible for tracking crime in America through the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which they publish annually. Crimes are sorted by categories, and the most serious offenses are referred to as Part I Crimes. They include: murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson.

The Paducah Police Department is happy to report that crime fell once again in 2011, falling six percent overall from the previous year. Additionally, violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) fell nine percent, and property crimes (burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson) fell by 5.7 percent.

The decreases Paducah experienced in 2011 were better than the national averages reported in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Mid-Year 2011 Report. The FBI national report indicated violent crime was down only 6.4 percent, and property crimes were down 3.7 percent.<sup>1</sup>

Of Paducah's Part I crimes, rape, assault, auto theft, and arson all changed by less than five actual offenses, up or down. Robberies were down 44 percent, while burglaries were down almost 23 percent. Larcenies were down from 972 in 2010, to 945, representing a 2.7 percent decrease. While murders increased from zero to four, our ten year average is just over two deaths per year.

Nationally, the full-year 2010 data is now available and is shown in Table 2. To compare local numbers against national data, we first have to convert the number of crimes to a rate per 100,000 people. What emerges is a clearer picture of the total crime in the Paducah-McCracken County area. You can see that while violent crimes within the city are on par with national trends, property crimes seem much higher. That's because Paducah is the city center, and the majority of property crimes occur in and around the many retail stores and places of business. Additionally, and more encouragingly, we see that when paired with the overall population of our community, violent crime is lower than national averages, and property crimes are slightly below average.

2010	2011	Offense (By Type)
0	4	Murder
13	18	Rape
50	28	Robbery
42	46	Assault
183	141	Burglary
972	945	Larceny
47	49	Auto Theft
7	5	Arson
<b>1314</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>TOTAL PART I OFFENSES</b>

TABLE 1 ▲

TABLE 2 ▼

National	City	City-County	Crime Type
403.6	407.4	229.5	Total violent crime
2941.9	4690.9	2804.4	Total property crime
4.8	0.0	4.5	Murder
27.5	50.4	38.2	Rape
119.1	194	90.2	Robbery
252.3	162.9	96.3	Assault
699.6	710.0	641.0	Burglary
2003.5	3771.3	2008.8	Larceny
238.8	182.3	142.2	Auto Theft
N/A	27.1	12.2	Arson



# Our 2011 Report to the Community

## Part II Offenses

The FBI classifies several other offenses as Part II Crimes. In 2011, Paducah experienced less than a one percent change in the overall number of Part II Crimes (+0.4%).

As shown in the table below, our Part II Crimes have been relatively stable over the past three years.

Part II Offenses			
2011	2010	2009	Offense Type
678	693	677	Simple Assault
62	67	78	Forgery
158	218	206	Fraud
424	447	494	Criminal Mischief
44	33	39	Weapons Violations
29	30	33	Sex Offenses (Other than rape)
700	639	658	Drug Violations
100	103	78	Offenses Against Families & Children
520	509	530	All Others
<b>2752</b>	<b>2739</b>	<b>2793</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>

## Arrests

The Paducah Police Department made 2,974 adult arrests in 2011, compared to 2,840 in 2010. The arrests resulted in 4,789 criminal charges. Additionally, there were 248 juveniles charged criminally, with a total of 311 charges. Another 1,419 people were issued criminal summonses in lieu of arrest, for a total of 1,918 charges.

It is important to note that the powers of arrest in many misdemeanor cases changed during 2011, requiring officers to simply issue a criminal summons in lieu of arrest. For more information on that change, read the story titled Supreme Court Decisions on page 29, by Assistant Chief Grimes.

## Warrant Service

As part of being a municipal law enforcement agency, the PPD assists the McCracken County Sheriff's Department in serving warrants on city residents. Additionally, police officers investigating crimes may swear to, then serve warrants of arrest against suspects in cases they are investigating.

In 2011, the PPD served 1,311 arrest warrants that carried 1,898 total charges, and an additional 257 criminal summons, with 392 total charges.

## Mental Health— Emergency Custody

As part of our responsibility to keep the community safe, we are empowered by law to take people into custody for mental health evaluation and crisis intervention, under certain circumstances. In 2011, we took 51 people into emergency custody and provided transportation for them to a regional mental-health facility. That number was down 12 percent from 2010.



# Professional Standards

## Looking Behind the Badge

**A**round the world, and certainly throughout democratic societies, people have been very cautious about empowering those who enforce the law with the ability to affect arrests, to seize individuals and their property, and to use force.

As a free society, we expect that police officers will be selected from among the most ethical and professional candidates; that they will be properly trained and equipped; and they will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the color of the law without undue prejudice or favoritism. However, you don't have to look very far to see examples of officers that went astray, or were just bad apples to begin with, which leads everyone to wonder what goes on behind the badge?

During 2011, the Professional Standards Unit of the Paducah Police Department was comprised of Captain Brian Krueger and Detective Rob Estes. Together, they were responsible for insuring our officers were properly trained. This is accomplished by routinely examining training practices and continually seeking to provide realistic and modern training environments focused on some of our more critical practices. The police department currently provides training, with our own police instructors, in the areas of Firearms, Taser and Use of Force, Driving Instruction, Defensive Tactics, and CPR. In 2011, there was a total of 7,420 hours of training conducted, including 1,796 hours of in-house instruction. That is an average of 104.5 hours of training per officer.

Captain Krueger also had primary responsibility for conducting internal investigations, as assigned by the Chief of Police; reviewing citizen complaints of an apparent serious nature; and critically examining our policies to insure conformity with legal and accreditation requirements.

All of these activities are conducted with a central focus and emphasis on the department's core values: Professionalism, Respect, Accountability, Integrity, and Communication.

Captain Krueger feels, "This is important because of the obligation we accept by taking our oath of office, and because it is crucial to successfully accomplishing our overall mission while providing quality police services ethically, fairly and equally. Our standards and values are what drives us all and clearly identifies the path we follow. By keeping them a central focus, of not only our daily actions but also when developing/planning future strategies and policies, we know we will meet the expectations of our local community members, external partners, and everybody we are privileged to interact with."

Captain Krueger reports that there were a total of three formal complaints filed against officers in 2011, as well as 10 "inquiry complaints," which do not involve a notarized (formal) written complaint. Six of the complaints were generated from citizens, and the remaining seven were initiated internally.

Of the complaints against officers, four were unfounded. In one case the officer was exonerated of any wrong doing, and there was one written reprimand given.

Additionally, there were five officers suspended for policy violations, including three officers who ultimately resigned prior to the filing of administrative charges. The two officers suspended who did not resign willingly accepted the recommendations of suspensions of two or less days without pay for their violations of equipment-related procedures. Both complaints were internally generated.

The Office of Professional Standards can be reached by calling 270-444-8548.

Want to join our team?

[www.paducahky.gov](http://www.paducahky.gov)

# Here's what it takes

**I**f leaders expect exceptional service from their employees, exceptional men and women must be recruited to fill the ranks. "There is plenty of room at the top because very few people care to travel beyond the average route. And so most of us seem satisfied to remain within the confines of mediocrity. (Benjamin Nnamdi Azikiwe)." We at the Paducah Police Department are not looking for average employees who are satisfied with just getting the job done. We are looking for problem solvers with exceptional communication skills and we do not tolerate any lapse in integrity. If it is your goal to become a "cop" because it has a pension, health benefits and you get to carry a gun and lock people up, don't waste our time!

The days of "good ole boys" political hiring of law enforcement officers have long since disappeared, as have the days of simply hiring the strongest guys capable of wrangling the town drunk. A significant amount of time is invested in hiring diverse, more ethical, more educated and more capable officers. The great Warren Buffet once said you should hire people with integrity, intelligence, and energy. Currently, 54 percent of our sworn staff have earned degrees and the expectations are high to complete a degree in order to obtain promotions. In fact, the minimum standards to apply for a recruit officer position will be elevated in 2012 to 60 college hours or two years of full-time military service.

The days of praying that good recruit candidates will walk in our front door and apply for a position are well behind us. We cannot afford to gamble on a marginal applicant in today's liability-driven society and just meeting the minimum standards is not a strategy for

excellence. We as leaders are judged by who we allow the privilege to wear the PPD badge and represent our agency and community. The sacred trust given to us by those whom we have sworn to protect cannot be dishonored.

Our recruit officer candidates must successfully complete physical fitness and written exams before potentially earning an interview. Following a battery of interviews with command staff, intended to challenge your thought process, decision-making skills and ethics, you may make it to the next step. Then comes a polygraph examination and rigorous background investigation, psychological evaluation, drug and medical screens, and then approval from our elected officials. Then and only then will you be eligible to join the ranks of those who proudly wear our badge and uniform.

Being a police officer is not an easy profession and the stakes are high. Our men and women work in an environment in which split second decisions must be made and there are always "Monday morning quarterback" who will question your actions. Many of the trials that our officers face are formidable and we frequently see the worst in people. After years on the street, it can be a struggle not to take frustrations home at the end of a hard shift or become cynical. Conversely, deep down, each officer knows that they have made a difference in another life, which brings personal satisfaction and reminds us that this profession is a true calling.

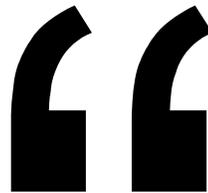
If your motivation is pure and you have properly prepared yourself physically and mentally, if your character and integrity are beyond reproach, you may have what it takes!

— Stacey Grimes, Assistant Chief of Police



# USE of

# FORCE



**How and why we use force is a serious issue, and it is one that the public needs to know about and understand” —Chief James Berry**

The Constitutional role of law enforcement, as well as the statutory authority given police, define our role as protectors in society. And among the necessary requirements of fulfilling that mission is the authority to use force, including deadly force.

As public servants, we understand that people want and deserve to know how and why we use force in the performance of our duties. “How and why we use force is a serious issue, and it is one that the public needs to know about and understand. So we want to make sure that we provide the level of transparency for that to happen,” says Chief James Berry.

One common misconception is that police use physical force to affect most arrests. The truth is, we consistently use force (more than just normal handcuffing) in less than two percent of all arrests. In 2011, the PPD used force about 49 times, or in about 1.08 percent of all arrests. Among those uses of force, 27 required nothing more than “soft empty-hand” tactics, meaning the officer did not physically strike the suspect or use another weapon, such as pepper spray, baton, Taser™, or firearm. Table 1 give a breakdown of each type of force used in 2011.

Our Response to Resistance Report (formerly the Use of Force Report) is required for all encounters where force is used, other than those involving the Taser™, which get documented separately on our Use of Taser Report. Both reports capture demographic data, as well as information related to the suspect’s injuries, if any, and any officer-related injuries. It also identifies whether or not the suspect was intoxicated. This information is reported in Table 2.

TABLE 1 USE OF FORCE BY TYPE OF FORCE (Note: Some encounters may use more than one type of force.)
Verbal / Pointed Gun: 6
Soft Empty-Hand Only: 49
Hard Empty-Hand (Striking): 5
Pepper Spray: 5
Taser: 11
Baton Strikes: 0
K-9: 3
Firearm / Deadly Force: 0

"We now call Use of Force reports, "Response to Resistance," because the use of force by police officers is always reactive in nature. Our policy requires a Response to Resistance report be made for any use of force greater than normal handcuffing techniques." — Captain David White

**TABLE 2**

**BY RACE**

White: 75.0 %  
 African-American: 25.0 %  
 Hispanic: 2 %

**BY GENDER**

Male: 83 %  
 Female: 17 %

**BY AGE**

Under 18: 2.0 %  
 18-24: 31.2 %  
 24-45: 50.0 %  
 46 and Older: 16.6 %

**INJURIES**

Suspect Injured: 18.75  
 Requiring Hospital Care: 8.3%

Officer Injured: 6.2 %  
 Requiring Hospital Care: 0

**SUSPECT INTOXICATED**

Alcohol: 54.1 %  
 Drugs: 10.4 %

**SUSPECT WAS ARMED**

Firearms: 4.1 %  
 Edged Weapon: 18.7 %

(Reportable margin of error +/- <2 %)

To put a national perspective on police use of force, Gordan Graham, President and co-owner of Lexipol™, a world leader in public sector risk management, points out that with nearly one million cops in the United States, we kill on average around 650 people a year—most of which are necessary and legitimate shootings. Meanwhile, medical malpractice kills more than 100,000 each year.<sup>1</sup>

While police use of force is a serious issue that should always be monitored, these numbers demonstrate that police nationwide do a very reasonable job at enforcing the law without excessive force or injury. Locally, our rate of suspect injury to arrest in 2011 was less than one tenth of one percent, and we consider that a good thing.

We spend a significant amount of time, energy, and resources training our officers for these high-risk encounters. "Each situation, each report, is reviewed by the front-line supervisor, the division chief, and ultimately by the chief of police," says Chief James Berry. The reports are also reviewed by the Office of Professional Standards, and where issues are identified, the department training officer is consulted and training needs are adapted.

The PPD requires officers to qualify twice each year with their service pistol and patrol rifle. We also use Simunition™ guns that shoot paintballs, but otherwise function just like our real guns, and high-tech interactive video systems, as we practice real life scenario trainings. We complete defensive tactics training every other year, and we train with Tasers™ according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

It is our ultimate goal to resolve conflict and affect arrests peacefully, but we know that doesn't always happen. We are proud of the relatively low percentage of force we use in accomplishing our mission, and we are committed to transparently sharing our actions with the community.

A special thanks to Defensive Tactics Instructor Officer Chris Bolton for preparing our year-end statistics for 2011.

1. Smith, S. (2008). Former cop reviews risk management with local police, responders. Fisher Communications. Retrieved on 1/31/12 from: <http://www.klewtv.com/news/25487059.html>

**Leads Online™** — Is an accessible database used by law enforcement agencies around the country to track down stolen property, and we use it right here at the Paducah Police Department.

Since 2008, we have utilized the online database to help us track down stolen property that may have otherwise slipped through our fingers, by requiring pawn shops to track incoming items more efficiently. In August 2008, the City of Paducah passed an ordinance requiring all local pawn dealers to enter a record into the Leads Online database of all items pawned or purchased during the previous 24 hours. The database submission must include electronic photographs of all persons who have sold items to the pawnbroker during the preceding day. The database submissions must also include photographs of items purchased by the pawnbroker if the items are not identifiable by a serial number.

Since that time, we have been able to charge more than a dozen people with theft, burglary, or knowingly receiving stolen property based on the information gathered through this vital program. These criminals, and others, have been linked to the recovery of numerous items of jewelry, electronics, tools, firearms, and even a vehicle.

Detective Sergeant Brian Laird says “Our ordinance has been an invaluable tool to combat the sale of stolen property. The Leads Online searchable database is impressive and it is a perfect example of how the PPD is using technology to help us catch criminals.”

In some cases, it is items that have been stolen from other jurisdictions that pop up on the online radar. We’ve helped recover property as close as McCracken and Marshall counties, all the way up to Marion, Illinois.

Clerical Specialist Connie Waldrige, PPD liaison with Leads Online, has been instrumental in getting our system up and running. Detective Sergeant Brian Laird says, “Connie is the go-to person with the database. Detectives from all over western Kentucky ring her phone to draw upon her knowledge of the database.”

“It breaks your heart when you read a theft report in which family heirlooms have been stolen. This database gives us a fighting chance to recover the stolen property,” says Ms. Waldrige.

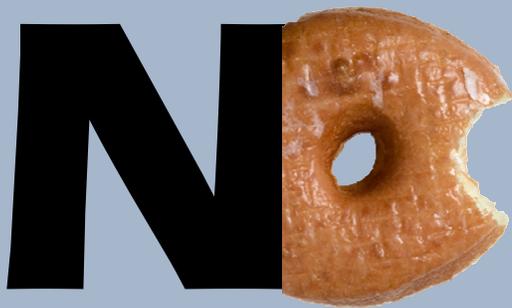
It is important to understand that the vast majority of the transactions completed by our pawnbrokers are legitimate and this tool also protects them by discouraging criminals from trying to sell stolen property. “The Leads Online database is a proactive crime-fighting tool for both the community and pawnbrokers, and I fully support the ordinance and database,” said Tyler Cryts, owner of Cash Express Pawn.

The McCracken Fiscal Court passed a similar ordinance in December that takes effect March 31, 2012, which will require pawn brokers, junk and secondhand dealers in McCracken County to use the Leads Online database when purchasing property. The ultimate goal is to return a victim’s property and prosecuting the thief is a bonus.



Connie Waldrige, our Leads Online contact person

# OUR VERY OWN PAWN STARS



# Doughnuts

# HERE

It seems that cops have long been associated with everyone's favorite breakfast pastry, the doughnut! A Google search of the cliché reveals some 2.3 million hits, and while the endless stream of cop-doughnut jokes make us all laugh, they don't paint a fair picture of the modern police force.

Within the ranks of the Paducah Police Department we have some very fit people. Detective Jim Robbins (pictured here) has competed in multiple bodybuilding competitions. In 2008, he placed first in novice and open class in a competition in O'Fallon, Missouri. Two years later, he got first in the open class St. Louis, Missouri. He is working toward a show in 2013.



Officer Chris Bolton, a five-year veteran of the department, has competed in four strongman competitions in Ohio, Kentucky, and Mississippi. Bolton finished first in his weight class in the Central Ohio Strongman competition.

Officer Derik Perry, who has studied martial arts since he was a young teenager, received his Black Belt in Brazilian Ju Jitsu from the master himself, Royce

Gracie, who was made famous around the world by winning numerous UFC titles. Perry is one of only 48 people world-wide to have received their black belt from Gracie. Detective Justin Rundles, who is also a student of the art, received his brown belt, a belt one step below black from Gracie in September 2011, and we have between eight and ten employees that regularly study the art at Three Rivers Martial Arts Academy in Paducah.

Detective Troy Turner and Captain David White ran the St. Jude Memphis Marathon in 2010. The 26.2 mile charity race is held each December to support St. Jude Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. White, who also ran the local Iron Mom Half Marathon in June 2011 says, "It's really all about trying to stay healthy. As police officers, you make a commitment to the job, and that commitment includes staying in the best shape you can."

Additionally, Detective Matt Smith, Sergeant Steve Smith, and Sergeant George Johnson are all avid cyclists, participating in local 50- and 100-mile rides.

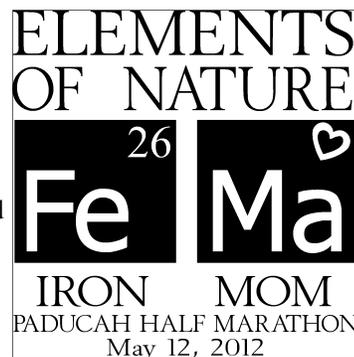
Among those employees who participate in the wellness program, there were 2,366 gym visits. This doesn't take into consideration those who work out outside, or who work out at facilities that don't participate in the incentive-based wellness program. As an encouragement for employees to stay fit, the City of Paducah reimburses gym memberships for those who attend at least eight times each month. We are very appreciative of the program, and Chief Berry says, "I think it's vital for our officers to stay healthy. They've got to be able to do a tough job that requires them to be fit, and the City's program helps them in that regard. It also helps hold down our worker's comp and insurance claims."

On any given day, you're much more likely to find power bars and protein powder at the PPD, than the laughable box of doughnuts. Not that we don't indulge every once in a while.

In 2012, we have at least four officers planning on running the Iron Mom Half Marathon, set

for May 12th. Human Resources Manager and organizer of the Iron Mom, Cindy Medford says, "The support Iron Mom received was overwhelming." Medford reports city employees were fully engaged whether running or volunteering. "We had employees participating in teams, running the full 13.1 miles as well as involved in every stage of planning and execution of the event. Support from the Paducah Police Department was evident along the route and many runners commented that they felt safe and appreciated all of the professional assistance."

If you'd like more information on the Iron Mom race go to [paducahironmom.com](http://paducahironmom.com)



# Traffic Report 2011

Traffic enforcement is a big part of keeping the community safe, and the Paducah Police Department takes that responsibility seriously. We issued 6,791 traffic citations in 2011, resulting in a total of 10,098 traffic-related charges, in an effort to remind people of the importance of safe driving.

State-wide, there were 150,300 crashes, resulting in 37,247 injuries, and more than seven hundred fatalities.<sup>1</sup> The Paducah Police Department investigated 1,658 of those crashes, 322 involving injury. In the 322 injury-collisions, we had 483 persons injured, and three fatalities.

In 2011, we saw a 6.4 percent reduction in the number of injury collisions and an 11.3 percent drop in the total number of injuries from crashes, over 2010. That was almost four times the reduction we had hoped for when we set our safety objectives for the 2011 Highway Safety Programs' grant.

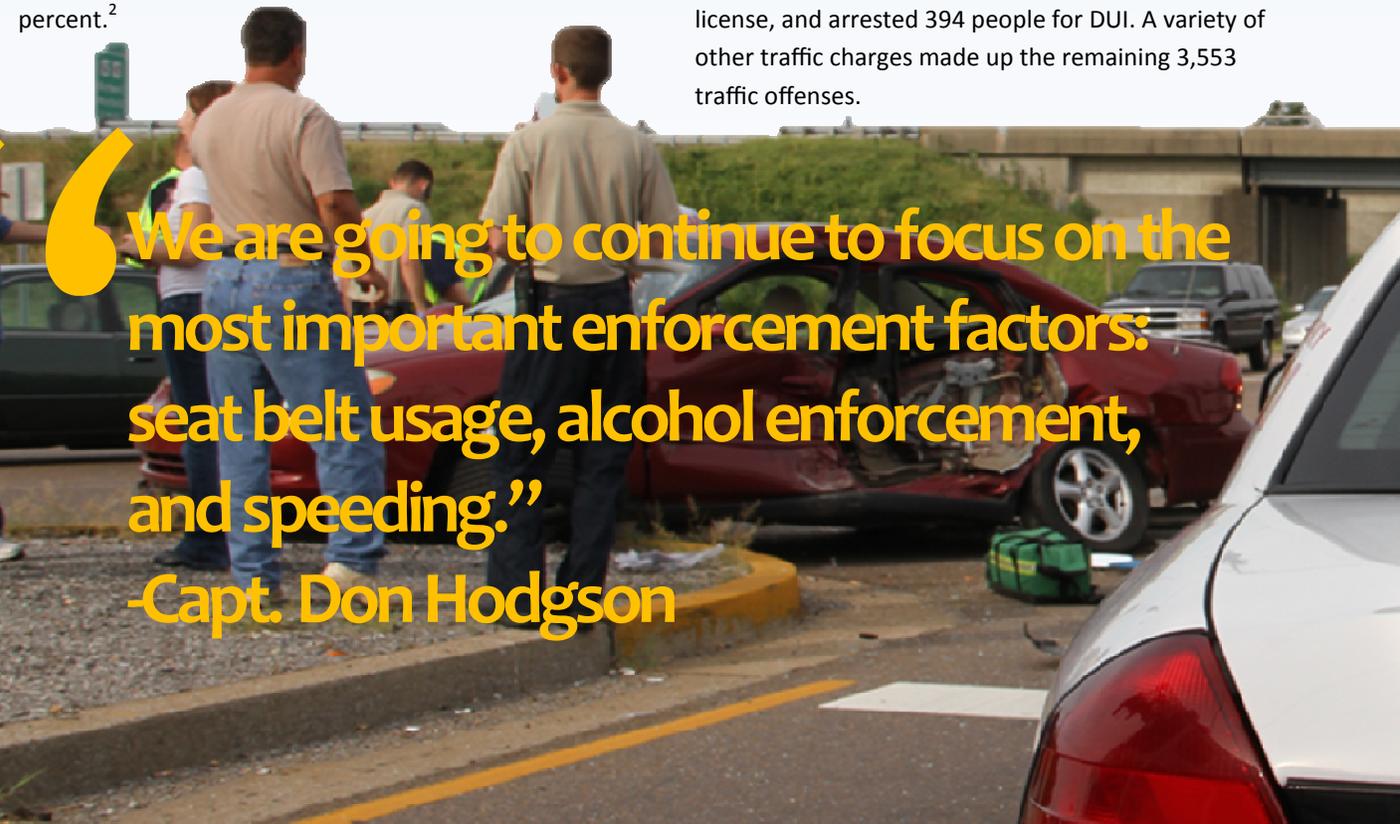
The state-funded grant supplied us with funding for 749 hours of traffic enforcement, which led to 26 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests, 936 seat belt citations, 17 child restraint citations, and 25 speeding citations. Additionally, we estimate our post-grant seat belt usage rate to be 84 percent, which is consistent with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's estimates nation-wide of 85 percent.<sup>2</sup>

Captain Don Hodgson, who helps administer the grant each year and supervises the targeted enforcement efforts says, "We are getting 12 new radar units in 2012, and are going to continue to focus on the most important enforcement factors: seat belt usage, alcohol enforcement, and speeding."

The most commonly cited offense was the seat belt violation, with 2,620, not counting 41 child restraint citations. Second to seat belts, the PPD issued 1,668 charges to people for not having proof of insurance.

While it may seem like a minor offense, not having insurance is a serious issue to other motorists. In 2009, the Insurance Research Council reported that an estimated 16 percent of Kentucky drivers didn't have insurance.<sup>3</sup> When someone tells the officer, "I have insurance, I just don't have my insurance card," the officer has no way of knowing whether or not the person is lying. Giving them a citation ensures they will have to produce proof of insurance to the court.

In addition to seat belt violations and no proof of insurance charges, the PPD issued 1,167 speeding citations. We charged 467 people with disregarding traffic control devices, like stop signs and traffic lights. We charged 188 people with driving with no operator's license, and arrested 394 people for DUI. A variety of other traffic charges made up the remaining 3,553 traffic offenses.



**“We are going to continue to focus on the most important enforcement factors: seat belt usage, alcohol enforcement, and speeding.”**

**-Capt. Don Hodgson**

Despite our success at reducing injury collisions during 2011, we remain very concerned about the number of collisions in our community. The most dangerous roadway again this year was Hinkleville Road between I-24 and Olivet Church Road.

“Ninety-five percent of the time, collisions are the result of human error,” says Captain David White, the senior accident reconstructionist at the department. We can’t stress enough the importance of paying attention when you’re behind the wheel.

In 2011, only 4.7 percent of reported collision involved mechanical failures, such as a tire failure or brake failure. All others involved human error. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the top ten human errors; the most significant being driver inattention. As a side note, cell phones were cited as a contributing factor in one percent (18 total crashes).

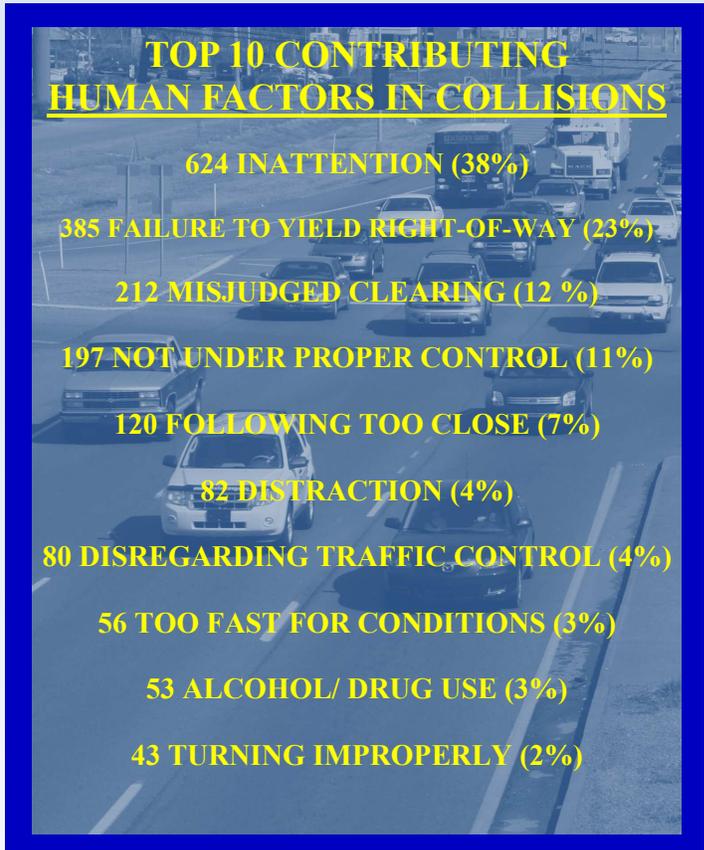


TABLE 1

**PPD INVOLVED CRASHES**

With the thousands of miles we drive each year, the PPD is glad to report we had no serious injury crashes in 2011. We had seven at-fault collisions; two were single vehicle collisions where the officers struck curbs, and two involved a cruiser striking another cruiser. One crash involved an officer backing into a parked (unoccupied) car, and the remaining two crashes resulted in no significant injuries to either party.

1. State-wide and local numbers are retrieved on demand from the Kentucky State Police’s open web portal. This report produced 1/26/12.
2. U.S. Dept. of Transportation (NHTSA) (Sept. 2010). Seat Belt Use in 2010—Overall Results. Washington, D.C. DOT HS 811 378.
3. Corum, D. (Jan. 2009). Economic Downturn May Push Percentage of Uninsured Motorists to All-time High. Insurance Research Council, Malvern, PA. Retrieved on 1/30/12 and cited here from: [http://www.ircweb.org/news/IRC\\_UM\\_012109.pdf](http://www.ircweb.org/news/IRC_UM_012109.pdf)





# TRAFFIC FATALITIES

The Kentucky State Police (KSP) are reporting that traffic fatalities were down across the Commonwealth again for 2011. According to KSP, there were 716 reported fatalities in 2011, down from some 760 in 2010.<sup>1</sup>

In April 2011, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported, “The number and rate of traffic fatalities in 2010 fell to the lowest levels since 1949, despite a significant increase in the number of miles Americans drove during the year.”<sup>2</sup> NHTSA’s early estimates for 2011, based on the first quarter reports, showed fatalities down less than one percent over the same period in 2010.<sup>3</sup> However, with KSP showing Kentucky’s 2011 numbers down some 5.7 percent, hopefully national trends will follow suit.

Locally, our traffic crash reconstructionist team investigated three fatal collisions that resulted in a total of four deaths. However, one of those deaths was later ruled to have been from natural causes (a suspected heart attack) and not from traumatic injury. Thus leaving us with two collisions, resulting in three traumatic deaths. What was particularly unusual was that the two fatal crashes occurred less than one week apart, both on Interstate 24. While both collisions involved a commercial vehicle, the commercial vehicle was not listed as the “at-fault” unit in either crash. “No criminal charges have been filed in either collision, though one remained under investigation at the close of 2011,” said Captain David White, the senior reconstructionist for the Department.

As reported in our 2010 report, motorcycle fatalities, which hit a high point in 2008 after rising every year for the previous ten or more years, had started to taper off, declining in 2009, and again in 2010. 2011 witnessed similar trends, at least in Kentucky, with motorcycle fatalities falling by almost 24 percent, from 80 in 2010, to only 61 in 2011.<sup>1</sup>

We are thankful that we had no pedestrian fatalities to report in 2011. Statewide, pedestrian fatalities, like the overall numbers, were down. “Though we didn’t have any pedestrian fatalities in 2011, I remain extremely concerned about the number of these accidents, since they too often involve children or seniors,” says Captain White.

White reports that a ten-year look at our fatal crashes (2001 -2010) reveals 10 pedestrian fatalities, 9 of which include victims over the age of fifty-five, and one under the age of 10.<sup>4</sup> That represents about a quarter (23.4 percent) of our overall fatalities over that 10-year period. White says drivers should always stay attentive to what they are doing behind the wheel, but it is particularly important that they pay attention in areas known to have pedestrian traffic.

State-wide, Kentucky saw a drop in alcohol-related fatalities, from 20 percent of reported crashes to 16.89 percent. Locally, alcohol is not believed to be a factor in either of the two fatal collisions during 2011.

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1. Kentucky State Police. Retrieved on 1/6/12 from: [www.kentuckystatepolice.org/tip2011.htm](http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/tip2011.htm)  
2. NHTSA. Retrieved on 1/6/12 from: [www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Press+Releases/2011/ci.Traffic+Fatalities+in+2010+Drop+to+Lowest+Level+in+Recorded+History.print](http://www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Press+Releases/2011/ci.Traffic+Fatalities+in+2010+Drop+to+Lowest+Level+in+Recorded+History.print)  
3. NHTSA. Retrieved on 1/6/12 from: [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811490.pdf](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811490.pdf)  
4. Local data retrieved on demand from KSP open web portal on 1/6/12.

People always seem intrigued by those cases that go unsolved, and turn cold. And as hard as we try, investigators occasionally find themselves chasing down dead-end leads and struggling to come up with answers.

In Paducah, we have seven unsolved homicides dating back to 1967; our last being in 2006. Considering that the FBI reports the average solve rate on homicidal deaths to be 70 percent, it's not surprising that we have a handful of open cases. From 2001 through 2011, our homicide solve rate has been 95.6 percent, which is well above average.

DNA and other modern advances in forensic technology, as well as cell phones, computers, and video surveillance equipment have all helped give investigators angles that at one time were not available.

Each case is assigned to a detective, and though they are cold, they get reviewed periodically to see if there is anything that may develop new leads. Additionally, civilian Investigative Assistant Malinda Elrod-Baltz has worked tirelessly combing through old evidence looking for possible DNA. As a result, she says, "We have been able to extract several DNA profiles and partial profiles that have been given to known offender databases and could be used to help link suspects to their crimes." Additionally, she reports that re-interviewing some witnesses has sparked a review of some other records, dating back to 1967, that may be linked to the older cases.

Our most recent cold case is that of Dr. Frank Shemwell. On July 24, 2006, the Paducah Police and Fire Departments responded to a house fire at the home of 81-year-old Dr. Shemwell. Once inside the home, firefighters located the burned body of Dr. Shemwell on the kitchen floor. After an autopsy, the medical examiner ruled the death a homicide. The other six cases are highlighted in the right column.

#### **A.B. Long (1967)**

A.B. Long was the owner of a vending machine company located at 1201 Madison St. He lived in an apartment above the company. Police discovered his body with three bullet wounds in it on July 16, 1967, after two of Long's business associates contacted police voicing concerns about his well-being. Letters were found in the apartment documenting threats to Long and his relatives.

#### **Tommy Ham (1975)**

On November 25, 1975, Tommy Ham, a 26-year-old Paducah man, was found stabbed multiple times in the 500 Block of South 8th Street. Ham was taken to Western Baptist Hospital, where he died the next day.

#### **Anna Brantley (1981)**

Sometime overnight on June 21-22, 1981, 74-year-old Anna Williams Brantley was assaulted and murdered in her home at 410 South 22nd St. One of her sons discovered her body on June 22. Her assault and death are believed to be the first in a series of sexual assaults in this area known as the West End Rapes.

#### **Judy Wright (1997)**

At approximately 1 p.m. on October 26, 1997, the PPD Sergeant's Office received a call from an unknown male. He stated there was a skeleton of a female in the wooded area where the old [railroad] tie place used to be." Police responded to that location, a vacant lot between 5th and 6th, Jones and Norton streets, and located the body. Police held the scene until the next day, when Dr. Emily Craig, a forensic anthropologist arrived. Dr. Craig examined the body and determined the victim was a white female, and believed the time of death was around May or June of 1997. The victim was identified as Judy Wright, who was last seen during the early morning hours of June 25, 1997. Wright was at Bob's Place on South 6th Street in Paducah. She met a man there who called himself Lloyd. She left Bob's Place with this man sometime during the late morning or early afternoon. No one reported seeing her after she left Bob's Place. Police have been unable to identify "Lloyd."

#### **Eugene "Happy" Thomas (1998)**

On October 27, 1998, Eugene "Happy" Thomas, a 74-year-old Paducah man, was found shot in front of his home at 1141 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Thomas was taken to Western Baptist Hospital, where he died from his injuries on January 11, 1999. Thomas was well-known in the community as the owner of Happy's Chili Parlor, located on North 12th street near his home.

#### **Undrea D. Donald (2000)**

On September 24, 2000, Undrea D. Donald, 26, of Fort Worth, Texas, was shot to death in the parking lot of Club B-Bone on North 13th Street. Witnesses observed three men running from the area.

# Cold Cases

Of the Paducah Police Department

# General Investigations Unit



The General Investigations Unit (GIU) serves an integral part of the Support Services Division, with the primary mission of investigating major cases. The unit is led by Assistant Chief of Support Services Stacey Grimes, and the division captain, David White. The GIU office has one sergeant, Brian Laird, five detectives, a civilian investigative assistant, Malinda Elrod-Baltz, and one civilian clerical specialist, Connie Waldrige.

In 2011, the GIU detectives were assigned 278 new cases, including 44 after-hours callouts. The detectives have to take turns rotating “on-call” for after-hours requests. The process of investigating these types of cases is serious work; it requires attention to detail, a significant understanding of the law, and a strong desire to relentlessly pursue all the leads necessary to come to the proper conclusion in a case.

The GIU detectives maintained a 77.6 percent clearance rate overall in 2011, which is well above the national averages for clearance. In 2010, the FBI reported that cities our size had a violent crime clearance rate of 49.9 percent and a property crime clearance rate of 21.3 percent.<sup>1</sup> Chief James Berry says, “The numbers speak for themselves. Our guys are constant professionals and really do a great job at solving crimes.”

One of the things we would like to highlight from 2011 is our creation of the Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (RCFL), right here at the PPD.

The RCFL is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and local and state law enforcement agencies, aimed at streamlining the examination processes associated with digital evidence. The RCFL in Louisville, Kentucky is one of 16 full-service computer forensic laboratories in the nation and Paducah is one of five satellite labs in Kentucky. The first RCFL opened in 1999 in San Diego, California, and Kentucky’s lab in Louisville was the 14th in the nation, opening in 2006.

Detective Justin Crowell has been trained in computer forensics through the RCFL. The training he received will allow him to extract and preserve hidden digital evidence that will aid in prosecution of cases involving child pornography to drug trafficking to homicide. “This cutting edge training and technology will allow our detectives to find the hidden needle in the haystack,” says Captain David White.

“The men and women serving in GIU are highly dedicated to solving crimes and their passion is appreciated. I would put them up against any investigative unit in the state and if I were personally a victim of a crime, I’d want these guys and gals on the case,” says Assistant Chief Stacey Grimes.

# Drug & Vice Enforcement



## A report on drugs in our community

The Paducah Police Department's Drug and Vice Enforcement (DAVE) Unit, is a part of the Support Services Division. It is led by Sergeant Will Gilbert, and has five additional detectives and one civilian secretary, Jan Saxon.

The primary focus of the DAVE Unit is to investigate mid- to upper-level drug dealers, and two of the detectives assigned to the unit are also assigned to state and federal drug task forces, in partnership with the Kentucky State Police and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

In 2011, the partnership with the ATF led to 35 federal indictments in what was labeled "Operation New Day." On October 13, 2011, U.S. Attorney David Hale, as well as McCracken County Commonwealth Attorney Dan Boaz, and his assistant and Assistant U.S. Attorney, Seth Hancock, were among those present during the press conference announcing the indictments.

The indictments were the result of more than two years of undercover investigation by PPD DAVE detectives and local agents of the ATF. Additionally, the DAVE Unit initiated a total of 290 cases in 2011.

Drug arrests were down over-all from 342 in 2010, to 206 in 2011. That number brings us much closer to the national average for cities our size, and like most other jurisdictions, the largest number of drug offenses are related to marijuana arrests. In 2011, the PPD made 121 marijuana-related arrests, representing 58 percent of the total drug arrests. The second largest category was crack cocaine, with 36 arrests (17%), then 14 methamphetamine arrests (6%).

In addition to the work of the DAVE Unit, the PPD also promotes educational efforts to reduce drug abuse in our community. Officers Chris Fearon and Gretchen Morgan are both certified DARE Instructors, and they teach the Drug Abuse Resistance Education curriculum in our local schools. In 2011, they graduated 160 elementary students through the nationally recognized anti-drug program, and "We are very proud of their efforts," says Chief James Berry.

As we reported in 2010, we are continuing to watch and respond to the emerging trends in drug abuse within our community. The synthetic versions of marijuana and bath salts that produce cocaine- or methamphetamine-like highs are on our radar. The pictures at the top and bottom of the page are of a large quantity of the products our DAVE Unit seized at a local convenience store during 2011. We worked this past year with McCracken County Attorney Mike Murphy, and his assistant Attorney Todd Jones to get a county-wide ordinance passed helping control the sale of these substances. One issue with state legislation is that it moves too slow, and the manufacturers of synthetic drugs, many of which are based overseas, are simply altering one or two chemical compounds to skirt the law, and that has been troublesome for law enforcement.

Prescription drug abuse is also of serious concern. Kentucky continually ranks high among other states for prescription drug abuse and overdose deaths. The PPD investigates prescription abuse, using the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting system (KASPER), and we work with local partners to ensure that we do our part to cut down on this growing trend.

Anyone with information to share regarding drug abuse is encouraged to contact Sergeant Will Gilbert at 270-444-8555, or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 443-TELL (443-8355).





## **FIREARMS TRAINING** *In a changing world*

**Law enforcement** has evolved over time, and with it, the American law enforcement arsenal has changed. In the 1800s and even into the early 1900s, professional police officers may not have carried a firearm. In Paducah, we know the City purchased six revolvers for the department in 1865, which was the first indication of the City buying service weapons.

Over time, revolvers, like the one pictured here, gave way to the semi-automatic weapon, which gave officers more shots and easier function under stress. And today, part of an officer's standard issue is the Glock™ .40 caliber handgun, like the one pictured below.



Colt .38 Cal. Revolver



Glock 22 (.40 Cal)

In addition, just like in the portrayals of the old westerns, law enforcement has maintained access to rifles and shotguns. However, like handguns, those have changed too, especially in recent years.

Threats of terrorism, school and workplace shootings, and shoot-outs with high-powered gunmen, like those in the North Hollywood Bank shoot-out of 1997, have led law enforcement to recognize the necessity of having assault-style weapons, like the .223 Colt, pictured at the top of the page.

“As much as policing has changed over the years, one thing remains the same: police have to carry guns, just like in the early days. However, it’s imperative that we stay better equipped than the criminals,” Chief Firearms Instructor Rob Estes says. The unfortunate thing is that “we currently can’t afford to equip every patrol officer with their own rifle,” Estes reports. We have eight patrol rifles that have to be

checked in and out as officers come on shift. Sixteen of our officers have gone as far as to get approval, purchase, and get qualified with their own rifles. At \$1,300 a rifle, that is a big investment on the part of the officer.

While assault-style weapons look more militaristic, which is not necessarily the image we like to portray, they offer a much safer, much more accurate alternative for long-range shots than the standard service pistol. “As an agency, you have to be prepared if you want to protect your community and keep them safe. That’s why we are trying to equip and train officers the right way,” Chief James Berry said.

Here at the PPD, we have to qualify twice each year, under both daytime and nighttime conditions. “If we fail to train, then we have trained to fail,” quips Estes. With the assistance of our firearms training team, Estes has developed a curriculum that both builds skills and ensures that we will help keep officers and the community safe in this highly unlikely, yet very critical part of the job.

The new challenges, and new tools, have called for constant revisions and updates to our training curricula. In 2012, we are planning to implementing a 24- to 40-hour Rifleman’s Course designed specifically for patrol officers to obtain more advanced training with the .223 rifle than we have in place now. In addition, the PPD is evaluating a Curriculum Committee that would evaluate training outlines and ensure that they keep up with changing social and professional standards, as well as delivery methods that best suit adult education.

### **OUR FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS**

Rob Estes, Jason Merrick, Rob Hefner, Kevin Neal, Justin Canup, James Robbins, Chris Baxter



## Honoring our service men & women

As the National Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. reads, **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.**

We are proud to say that we have 24 veterans working at the Paducah Police Department. Among them, Kristine Shanks (pictured above) is the oldest, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1972. Shanks was a second generation Marine, following in her dad's footsteps. Her son, Staff Sergeant Michael Shanks, is a Marine today. He has served for the past 18 years, currently serving with the Marine Air Group 26, as an EKMS Manager (Encrypted Communications). Shanks says she's proud not only of him, but of the fact that one of her grandchildren will enlisting soon, making the Marine Corps a family tradition for four generations. Interestingly enough, Shanks' mother served as a Canadian citizen in the Royal Canadian Navy as a cook during World War II. Shanks says her mother was stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on VE Day.

"It created in me a sense of unit; that it's always what's good for the team, and it's simply *Semper Fi* (The Marines' Motto, Latin for *Always Faithful*). That's what it instilled in me long ago," Shanks says. And she says she still carries that spirit with her to work today.

Shanks, who just joined the civilian ranks of the PPD in late 2011 as the Evidence Technician, is originally a native of Wheaton, IL. She has lived in Paducah since 1984, with her husband, Leigh Shanks, who works as the PPD's parking enforcement officer.

Chief James Berry says, "I'm proud of the diverse group of veterans. It really shows how dedicated our employees are to the fundamental ideas of our country."

Many of our veterans have served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, but in 2011, we are glad to report our reservists and national guardsmen were safely right here at home.

If you are a veteran, or know of a veteran, that is looking for a career in law enforcement, contact Sgt. Wes Kimbler, at 270-444-8548 or [wkimbler@paducahky.gov](mailto:wkimbler@paducahky.gov)

Sgt. Kimbler is a member of our PPD Recruiting Team and he has almost 20 years of service in the United States Army.

### Our Troops

- Brian Krueger—USMC
- Jason Merrick— USN
- Will Gilbert—USMC
- Wes Kimbler— Army (Actively Serving)
- Steve Smith— Army
- Kevin Neal —USMC (Actively Serving)
- Joe Hayes— USMC/Army (Actively Serving)
- Wes Orazine— USMC
- Rob Estes— USMC
- Brent Obermark — Army
- Michael Simak— Army
- Brian Kopischke— USMC
- Nathan Young— USN
- Paul Stevenson— Army (Actively Serving)
- Cindy Neihoff— Army
- Travis Counts— USN
- Troy Turner— Army
- Lofton Rowley— Army
- Chris Baxter— USN
- Nathan Antonities— Army (Actively Serving)
- Keith Thuline— Army
- David Carroll— USCG
- Lourdes Morrison— USN
- Kristine Shanks— USMC

# financial Challenges



OVERCOME  
ADAPT  
ADJUST

A 2011 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) study showed that 94 percent of law enforcement leaders saw a “new reality” in American policing because of the economic downturn.<sup>1</sup> And, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) (2011) reports that “the impact of this downturn will result in a change of how law enforcement services are delivered” (p. 2).<sup>1</sup>

While expectations of law enforcement service remain high, the economic realities are forcing both real and ideological changes in policing. The same DOJ report indicated that over half of America’s police departments have seen a decrease of five percent or more to their operating budgets, while line items like fuel, healthcare, and pension costs continue to rise.<sup>1</sup> Fuel costs alone rose 62.5 cents per gallon between November 2010 and November 2011.<sup>2</sup> The medical care Consumer Price Index, up more than three percent and Kentucky hazardous duty pension costs absorbed by the city are more than 35 cents on the dollar. It is important to note that the hazardous duty pension costs will rise again in July 2012 to more than 37.6 cents on the dollar and fuel costs are expected rise.

Since roughly 80 percent of a police department’s operating budget is tied to personnel costs, it’s not surprising that the COPS Office reported a confirmed number of 5,738 layoffs by October 2011, with other professional estimates that include unfilled positions running as high as 15,000.<sup>1</sup> Other departments are resorting to less drastic measures, like mandatory furloughs. The COPS office estimates that some 28,000 cops furloughed 40 or more hours in 2010 (p.16).<sup>1</sup>

Amid the reductions in the work force, law enforcement’s job is not getting any easier, or safer. In 2010, there was a 25 percent increase in line-of-duty deaths over 2009. 2011 was no better, with another nearly 16 percent increase overall, and 20 percent increase in the number of firearms-related deaths.<sup>3</sup>

The forced reductions in staffing and increased costs of items like fuel are causing police executives to consider which services are critical and which ones the community will have to live without — all while trying to keep their officers safe.

The DOJ report, which cited three different studies, said police executives consistently report they reduced or discontinued training and travel items from their budget (61-72 %), while over half (55%) cut back on technology, discontinued special operations units (38%), or even made cuts in their drug enforcement efforts (35%).

Cuts in training and travel for law enforcement can be disastrous and really couldn’t hit at any worse time for law enforcement. In Kentucky, officers are required to have a minimum of 40 hours of in-service each year in order to maintain their certification. However, many of the state-sponsored classes offered locally are very basic and don’t cover the more advanced specialization that many officers and investigators need to be successful at handling major crimes, advances in technology, or management-related issues. For example, a traffic accident reconstructionist requires a minimum of 240 hours of training, not even offered by the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training. Officers have to travel to the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University in Chicago, or the Institute of Police Technology and Management in Jacksonville, Florida, to receive that type of training. Additionally, state-sponsored trainings do not include specialized topics like firearms, Taser™, driver’s training, and other essential tasks.

In Paducah, we have experienced many of the same financial issues as other agencies across the nation. While our adopted 2011-2012 budget increased \$212,000 over the previous year, an uncontrollable increase of \$122,000 in pension costs and \$62,000 in fuel costs was incurred. The remaining \$28,000 went for minimal pay adjustments and other issues such as outdated computer replacement and increased costs in utilities. As the City’s largest budgeted department, we appreciate the support from our elected officials and are, too, awaiting the economic upswing.

1. U.S. Department of Justice, COPS Office. (Oct. 2011). The Impact of the Economic Downturn on American Police Agencies.
2. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Retrieved on 1/4/2012 from: [www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm)
3. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Retrieved on 1/4/2012 from: <http://www.nleomf.org/facts/officer-fatalities-data/officer-fatality-data.html>



# Supreme Court DECISIONS

## AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

**E**very year, our local, state and federal elected legislators impact the management and operations of law enforcement agencies across this country by passing laws and ordinances. These statutes are enforced by those sworn men and women employed to protect their communities. The judicial system is tasked with deciding the constitutionality of those statutes and provides direction to keep law enforcement and legislators in check to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy.

In 2011, there were a few landmark cases decided by the United States Supreme Court that will impact the way we conduct business in law enforcement. *Snyder v. Phelps*, 131 S. Ct. 1207 (2011), was a controversial case in which political picketing occurred at the funeral of Marine Lance Corporal Matthew Snyder by the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. The protestors, on public property, were peaceful and only conveyed a message on signage that God is punishing the United States for its tolerance of homosexuality and that America is morally flawed. In an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court held that hurtful speech on public property is protected to ensure that public debate is not subdued; and is thereby protected speech under the First Amendment. Law enforcement must be committed to protect the rights of each citizen, even if their speech is unpopular, as long as the protestors do not encroach upon private property.

In *Kentucky v. King*, 131 S. Ct. 1849 (2011), in an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court gave police more latitude to forcibly enter a home without a search warrant to prevent the destruction of illegal drugs. In Lexington, Kentucky, law enforcement purchased crack cocaine from a suspect outside an apartment complex. The suspect walked inside the complex and entered an apartment but pursuing police did not see which apartment the suspect had entered. They stood between two apartment doors and smelled burning marijuana coming from one apartment. They knocked and announced their presence on that apartment door. Officers heard people inside moving about and believed the occupants were destroying evidence after there was no response at the door. Police forcibly entered the apartment and seized marijuana and cocaine from Hollis King, who later received an 11-year sentence, even though the initial suspect was not in the apartment. The Supreme Court ruled that the officers' conduct was "entirely lawful" in order to prevent the destruction of evidence. Justice Samuel Alito said residents who "attempt to destroy evidence have only themselves to blame" when police burst in.

The Kentucky General Assembly also impacted law enforcement when it passed House Bill 463, which was signed by the governor and became law on June 8, 2011. House Bill 463 substantially restricted a peace officer's arrest authority for numerous misdemeanors and requires that citations be issued instead of making a physical arrest if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person being cited will show up in court. The purpose of the bill is to reduce the prison and jail populations and associated incarceration costs. Paducah police officers received training from the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Department of Criminal Justice Training to ensure compliance with the new law.

—Stacey Grimes, Assistant Chief of Police

# Community Commitment

On April 16, the Paducah Police Department participated in the Kings of the Court Basketball Tournament at WKCTC's Haws Gymnasium to benefit for McCracken County Relay for Life. The City of Paducah Relay for Life Team organized the tournament. The tournament championship resulted in a showdown between Paducah police and Bristol Broadcasting, with Bristol Broadcasting getting the nudge in a very close game. The event raised approximately \$1,500.00. Our team is already practicing for the 2nd Annual Kings of the Court, which will be held on April 21, 2012, at Paducah Tilghman High School, and we plan on bringing home the championship trophy and raising even more money for this worthy cause!



On September, 10, the Paducah Police Department joined nine other teams in the 2nd Annual Utilities United Softball Tournament benefitting the United Way. The arduous day-long double

elimination tournament concluded with our team losing in the championship game to Comcast Cable. Nearly \$3,300 was raised. We are looking forward to competing in next year's event and outlasting the rest of the teams.

On September 27, our rib-eating team comprised of Detective Nathan Young and Officers Ryan Clark, James Davis and Josh Bryant, competed at the Barbeque on the River. This year we came out on top, "smoking" the fine men and women of the Paducah Fire Department and bringing home the traveling trophy.



On November 3, an interdepartmental bowling tournament benefitting the United Way was conducted and our team comprised of Chief James Berry, Detective Sergeant Will Gilbert and Detectives Nathan Young and Justin Rundles took first place for the second year in a row.

On December 10, 16 families, including 36 children, participated in the annual Paducah Area Christmas Cops program. The Paducah Area Christmas Cops is a 501C3 organization founded by an anonymous Paducah couple. Each family was treated to a shopping spree at Wal-Mart followed by lunch at Ryan's Steakhouse. The families were then taken to Supervalu Foods for grocery shopping. Each family was paired up with off-duty law enforcement officers and more than \$11,000 was spent helping these families have a better Christmas.



On December 14, the command staff volunteered to collect canned goods and donations during the annual Christmas in the Park. Paducah Power sponsors the annual event, which generated 69,134 pounds of food and \$35,614 this year.



We would like to thank the sponsors that helped make the Kings of the Court Basketball Tournament a huge success: The City of Paducah, WKCTC for the use of Haws Gymnasium, WPSD, Bristol Broadcasting, Sign-A-Rama, Hultman's, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart (Hinkleville Road), Kele' Sports Depot, Ayrie Crump/Zumba, David Scheer/Royal Crown Cola, Steve Martin/Nabisco, Terry Wilford/Recognitions Plus.

We hope you can join us on April 21, 2012, for our second annual tournament to be held at Paducah Tilghman High School. All proceeds benefit McCracken County Relay For Life.

—Malinda Elrod-Baltz, PPD Organizer

# EVIDENCE REPORT

*Tracy Lynch, Records Manager*

This was a dynamic year for our Records and Evidence Unit. Evidence Technician Tracy Lynch was promoted to Records Manager and we had to hire two new Records Clerks, an Evidence Technician, and an Evidence Clerk. We are glad to announce that Kristine Shanks is our new Evidence Technician, Amy Travis is our Evidence Clerk, and Kim Newlon and Leah Pirtle are our records clerks.

Despite these changes, Tracy Lynch was able to dispose of 5,148 items of evidence, resulting in a net decrease of 2,308 items. The unit took in 2,840 items in 2011, which represented a 25 percent increase over 2010. Our goal each year is to try to dispose of more items than what we take in, because as you can see, it's not easy to store all of that evidence. We currently maintain around 10,000 items of evidence.

Our 2009 re-accreditation with the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP) affirmed that our handling of evidence is in line with professional practices around the Commonwealth, and around the country. We have truly been a trend-setting agency when it comes to evidence storage. "We go above and beyond what accreditation requires and that's why the KACP has sent several other agencies to review our set-up," says Assistant Chief Stacey Grimes.

With the changing of the guard in the evidence room, we conducted a full evidence audit in November 2011, and all of the 11,765 items were physically located and verified. To meet our accreditation standards and ensure internal accountability, quarterly spot audits are conducted by the commander of the Professional Standards Unit.

While we didn't host a public auction in 2011, we are planning one for 2012. The date will be announced through local media outlets. Additionally, we continuously auction seized vehicles as they come available through the on-line website govdeals.com. For more information, or to see seized vehicles available from the PPD, check out their website.

In partnership with Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition, we are proud to offer a drug drop box program to citizens year-round. Citizens can dispose of left-over and unwanted medications by bringing them to our main lobby anytime during normal business hours, and we don't require ID.

The program is intended to provide a safe and environmentally friendly way of disposing of unwanted personal medications or those from recently deceased loved ones. In 2011, we took in more than 155 pounds of pills.

Kentucky ranks among the worst states in prescription drug abuse and overdose deaths each year, and this effort is aimed at helping reduce those numbers while offering an environmentally friendly alternative.



# CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

## Class #16

### NEW SESSION STARTS AUGUST 2, 2012

**T**he Citizens' Police Academy, which held its first class in March 2002, is designed to provide community leaders with a greater understanding of the Paducah Police Department and its operations through class lectures, as well as hands-on experiences. It is the goal to make this course an informative and enjoyable experience for all those involved. It is also an opportunity for the police department to learn from participants through discussion and interaction with instructors, classmates, and Paducah Police Department commanders and staff. The overall objective is to further partnerships and make Paducah a great place to live, work, and raise our families!

It is the intention of the Paducah Police Department, through this 11-week Academy, to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the functions and responsibilities of providing law enforcement services in Paducah.

"The Citizens Police Academy provided excellent information on all facets of community policing. From officer training, use of special equipment, K-9, as well as a ride along with officers to the aesthetics of buildings and how such can discourage crime; I gained an understanding of many policies and procedures effecting our citizens. The instructors took the time to demonstrate and explain each subject in detail. A very educational experience" says CPA graduate and City Commissioner, Carol Gault.

### Academy Schedule

The Paducah Police Department conducts one fall session of the Citizens' Police Academy each year. Each session is eleven weeks in length, with classes meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings at the Police Department and other training facilities. The final session of the Academy is a graduation ceremony, which family and friends are welcome to attend.

### **Some of the covered topics include:**

Department organization, chain of command, policies and procedures, citizen complaint process, discipline, criminal investigations, crime scenes, evidence procedures, domestic violence, juvenile crime, use of force, recruiting and selection process, community oriented policing, crime prevention, ride-along program, patrol tactics, accident investigation, DUI, firearms training and safety, K9, SWAT, bomb squad and accreditation.

### Entrance Requirements and Selection Procedure

Interested candidates for the Citizens' Police Academy must meet certain criteria: Individuals 18 years of age and older who live, work or attend school in Paducah, McCracken County or the surrounding areas are eligible to apply; all applicants are subject to a criminal background check prior to acceptance. The Police Department confidentially reviews all applications for approval and the Chief of Police or his/her designee generally selects Citizens' Police Academy students. Enrollment is limited to approximately 25 students per session. There is no cost to apply or enter the Citizens' Police Academy.

# FLOOD 2011

## Our Response

Two thousand and eleven proved to be one of the wettest years on record for Paducah. In early December we surpassed the yearly rainfall record with more than 74 inches of rain, and much of that new record was attributed to the heavy spring rains, which led to devastating flooding for much of the region.

In April 2011, the Ohio River at Paducah crested at 53.5 feet, which was higher than it had been in at least 50 years. The flood control system, which was put in place following the flood of 1937, proved that it was capable of keeping our residents safe. But we would be remiss if we didn't say that public safety and government officials were worried. After all, the flood walls and levy systems had not been tested to that level in any of our lifetimes. The water level was nearly five feet high on the floodwall at the foot of Broadway (pictured below).

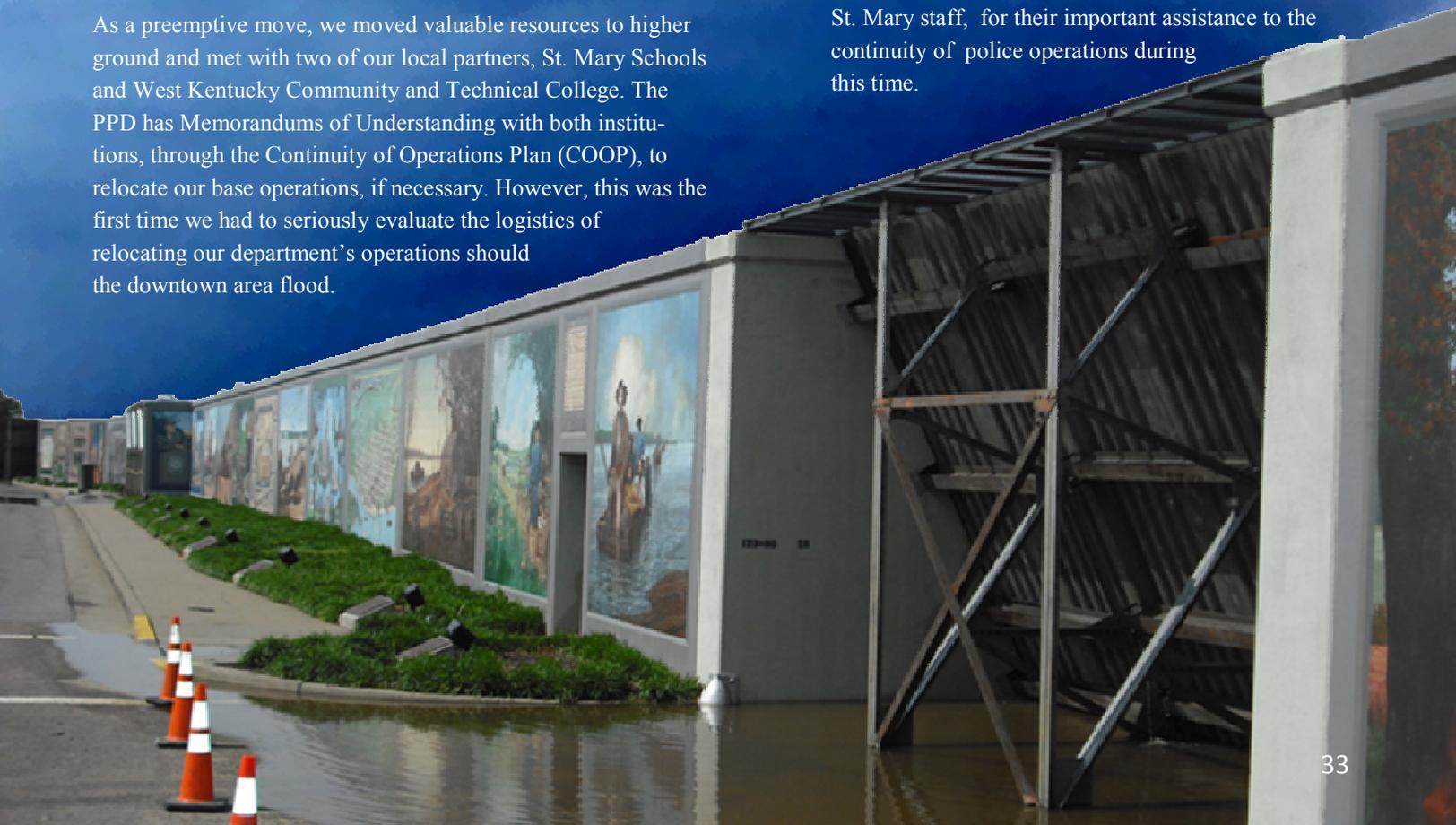
While other city departments did their part to make sure city residents were taken care of, the PPD kept a watchful eye on the situation. Hoping for the best, we planned for the worst.

As a preemptive move, we moved valuable resources to higher ground and met with two of our local partners, St. Mary Schools and West Kentucky Community and Technical College. The PPD has Memorandums of Understanding with both institutions, through the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), to relocate our base operations, if necessary. However, this was the first time we had to seriously evaluate the logistics of relocating our department's operations should the downtown area flood.

We assisted with patrolling the flood control systems for the purpose of chasing off those that were putting themselves at risk by climbing on the flood wall, driving around safety barricades and otherwise getting too close to the potentially dangerous waters. And of course, in today's society, we also were watchful for those who may have wanted to intentionally damage the systems for the purpose of causing a mass catastrophe. While there were a few minor situations that arose from these patrols, we are happy to report that there were no major incidents.

We also moved the nearly 10,000 pieces of evidence we have in criminal cases from the basement, up to the second floor of the department, ensuring that if the basement flooded, we would not lose evidence critical to successfully prosecuting our cases. We are proud to say that our Evidence Technician Tracy Lynch did a fabulous job relocating these items safely and securely in a very short timeframe, which proved that in a real crisis, we would be able to ensure mission-critical functions like evidence control could be maintained efficiently.

Chief James Berry would like to thank Dr. Barbara Veazey and the WKCTC staff, as well as Principal Riegling and the St. Mary staff, for their important assistance to the continuity of police operations during this time.



# BOMB SQUAD:

## Answering the calls for our region.



*Sgt. Will Gilbert, Bomb Squad Commander*

The Paducah Police Department Bomb Squad has been serving the Paducah and Western Kentucky area since 1982. It is a five-member team consisting of four FBI/HDS-certified bomb technicians, and one specially trained paramedic. The Unit Commander, Sergeant William Gilbert, has been with the PPD since 1999, and a member of the Bomb Squad since 2002. Sergeant Steve Smith joined the squad in 2004, followed by Detective Anthony Copeland in 2008. The squad's newest member, Officer Michael Rigdon, who has been with the department since 2006, joined the bomb squad in 2010, but didn't complete his basic certification training until 2011. Medic Shane Moore has been a part of the squad since 2006.

During 2011, the Bomb Squad responded to more than 40 incidents. These incidents varied from recovered military ordnances and munitions, improvised explosive devices, commonly known as "IEDs," to old commercial explosives, and to a barricaded subject.

The Bomb Squad also provided 22 public presentations for schools, civic groups, professional organizations, and other emergency responders. The PPD also hosted trainings for a Post Blast Reconstruction and Investigations school, taught by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and assisted with Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training.

The squad trains regularly, twice each month, and together they undertook more than 2000 hours of training in 2011. Officer Rigdon received 240 hours of training at the FBI's Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama, as part of his initial FBI/HDS certification.

The squad also uses their knowledge to innovate. Detective Copeland recently used his skills to build a device that allows the larger of the squad's robots to carry a smaller, more portable robot that can be deployed easily inside a residence, called a "Dragon Runner."™ The device was used in late 2011, when the squad assisted the McCracken County Sheriff's Office with a barricaded subject that had threatened to shoot law enforcement if they came near the house. The Dragon Runner Robot was successfully delivered through a window of the residence by a larger robot, keeping law enforcement at a safe distance. Once inside, it was able to locate the subject, which aided law enforcement in bringing a peaceful end to the potentially lethal situation.

During 2011, the Paducah Police Department Bomb Squad utilized a \$170,000 Federal Homeland Security Grant to purchase some cutting-edge technology. The Quintec™ Dragon Runner™ robot was the largest purchase made with these funds. The robot was designed for the U.S. military and has seen use in Iraq and other areas of the Middle-East. The Dragon Runner is "man portable" and can be deployed remotely using a stand-alone controller and radio system. Also purchased with Homeland Security funds was a Live Scan X-Ray system. This system will enable the squad to provide a live X-ray feed showing moving parts inside of packages that was not previously possible. We are very excited about both new tools.

With the addition of new cutting-edge technology, the development of tools and innovative techniques, and thousands of training hours, the Paducah Police Department Bomb Squad strives to be the best and make the Paducah and Western Kentucky area as safe as it can be.





# S.W.A.T.

*Sgt. Joe Hayes, Team Leader*

Sergeant Joe Hayes, Special Weapons and Tactics Team Leader, reports that the team was utilized seven times in 2011. Of these calls, four were to assist with the execution of arrest warrants on violent felons, and the other three were to assist with the execution of high-risk search warrants. High-risk search warrants are defined as those that involve a suspect who is known to be violent, keep firearms, and/or have a history of physical encounters with law enforcement.

The SWAT team is used in some of the most difficult and dangerous situations that law enforcement encounters, and as such, they are trained in more advanced, military-style techniques. In 2011, the average SWAT officer spent just more than 350 hours training on these techniques, and six of the team members attended a two-week training hosted by the Kentucky Tactical Officers Association. Two other members attended a one-week school taught by the Louisville Metro Police Department.

The SWAT team represents a serious use of force and is reserved for critical incidents and high-risk operations. The PPD utilizes a Threat Assessment Matrix designed by the Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute and endorsed by the Kentucky League of Cities, our insurance provider. The Matrix requires police commanders to assess each situation based on a set criteria of risk. "It's not always an easy call to authorize SWAT, but in most cases it just makes sense given the possibility of something going wrong. The matrix helps guide us in making the best decision," said Captain Roberts, the Special Units Commander. In 2011, there were no serious injuries reported from SWAT calls.

In addition to their critical mission, SWAT team members provided eight public presentations where they discussed the mission of the SWAT team, and showed off some of their tools.

The 2011 SWAT Team included: Captain Mark Roberts, Special Units Commander — Sergeant Joe Hayes, Team Leader — Jason Montgomery and Lofton Rowley, Assistant Team Leaders — SWAT Officers Chris Baxter, Ryan Conn, Jarrett Woodruff, Nathan Young, James Robbins, Justin Rundles, James Davis, Kevin Crider, Matt Wentworth, and Medics — Dr. Irvin Smith, Paramedics Greg Edwards and Steve Skipworth.

## **Crisis Negotiations Team**

Our Crisis Negotiations Team is also an important part of our response to serious situations, like barricaded subjects. In 2011, the Crisis Negotiations Team responded to three separate incidents, two of which involved mutual aid to the McCracken County Sheriff's Office. The team was successful at getting one of the suspects to come outside and give up, rather than deploying SWAT. Despite the team's best efforts, the other two incidents still required officers to enter the residences.

Our Crisis Negotiations Team consists of Sergeant George Johnson, Detective Matt Smith, and Officers Brian Kopsichke and Melissa Dillon.





“Right is more precious than peace.”

## REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

—By Captain David White

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls, Police Week. Since then, thousands of officers gather in Washington D.C. every May to hear the roll call of officers that will be added to the national memorial, including those that were killed in the line of duty during the current year. In 2010, that number was up 40 percent, to 162, and shooting deaths, up 24 percent over the previous year.<sup>1</sup>

Having taken personal leave to attend the national ceremony for the first time, I must say that it was a very humbling experience to sit at the candlelight vigil, hear the names called, and look around at the widows and children of fallen officers. I could not help but thinking; that could be my family. I attended with my friend David Goodman, who I had met in graduate school in 2008. Goodman is a captain with the Tampa Police Department, in Tampa, Florida. Tampa had not only lost two officers during 2010, but Goodman had the misfortune of loosing his old undergraduate college roommate to a line of duty death in San Diego, California, in October of 2010. He, better than I, seemed to grasp the reality of the moment. Yet I found myself reflecting on a lesson from history that I had heard used as an illustration some years before; a maxim for those of us in law enforcement.

It was the story of how in April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war, thus casting America into World War I. In doing so, he declared that “right is more precious than peace.” And in order to ensure that freedom is protected, both home and abroad, how glad we are that there are those who understand the sometimes grave obligation of that call.

Law enforcement shares in that calling. And regardless of why anyone tells you they become a police officer, those with a pure motivation cannot deny that they do so because they believe in the fundamental truth of Wilson’s statement.

When I taught DARE at Cooper-Whiteside Elementary School, I was inevitably asked about my bullet-proof vest, and I would always tell the kids, “Putting it on is as much part of my regular morning routine and as natural to me, as you putting on your shoes or brushing your teeth.”

Officers across the country put on the vest, the gun belt, and all the gear each day, knowing that they set aside their personal sense of peace to protect the ideal that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness embodied in our Constitution is worth defending and protecting. Officers also set aside their family’s sense of peace as well, as they put everything they hold dear on the line each day hoping that they make it home at the end of their watch. While that reality sometimes escapes us, as officers, it is never brought home any better than when we hear of a fellow officer that has died in the line of duty, or we attend a memorial service, like the national peace officers’ memorial in Washington, D.C.

Locally, Jackson Purchase Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #15, offers a police memorial service each May on the lawn of the McCracken County Court house. There you will also find the local memorial to those who have died in the line of duty. The service is advertised locally, and it is open to the public. We encourage everyone to attend. If you would like more information on the national police memorial, or would like to contribute to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund check out their website at:

[www.nleomf.com](http://www.nleomf.com).



1. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. (2011). Law Enforcement Fatalities Spike Dangerously in 2010. Retrieved on 2/10/12 from: [www.nleomf.com](http://www.nleomf.com)

# STARTING A CONVERSATION



## ABOUT A JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

**I**n 2011, we began evaluating the possibility of building a joint fire-police public safety complex. With cooperation from Paducah Fire Chief Steve Kyle, we started a conversation with city leaders about our desire to work together on a project that may save the city, and the taxpayers, money.

The fire department's main station (Station 1), which also serves as the department's headquarters, is located downtown. It was built in 1967, and no longer meets the needs of the department. Additionally, Fire Station #4, located on Jackson Street, was built in 1954, and no longer is suitable for modern fire apparatuses. These factors have led Chief Kyle to evaluate moving his headquarters westward, and possibly alleviate the need for Station #4 as well.

Since 1997 the police department has operated out of the old Paducah Power building, built in 1955. The building has several major deficiencies, including energy efficiencies and space. The drug division is currently housed off-site and the chief is worried that some of the deficiencies may limit our ability to seek CALEA Accreditation (Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies).

Both the fire and police departments had money already earmarked for building-needs assessments, which would help the city identify the shortcomings of both facilities, and identify the future needs and possible cost-saving areas of combined resources. This assessment will be completed by a local architectural firm in 2012.

The idea of a joint facility would offer cost savings on design, site acquisition, and construction; possibly as much as 15 percent. Additionally, public safety facilities today are built to the highest standards of survivability (against tornados, earthquakes, and other severe weather threats), and so it is becoming a common trend to build co-site emergency operations centers that can better serve as the city's center for operations in a disaster. Critical infrastructure like back-up power, and other essentials can be built more easily in a joint facility. A shared facility could also offer many other possibilities, such as shared technology, training spaces, exercise facilities, and even shared services, such as records management.

We recognize that building projects are costly and require serious planning. We also recognize that these projects take time, but the conversation has to start somewhere. We are glad that we were able to start the planning process this year by moving forward with the needs assessment, and look forward to the progress we will make in 2012 toward this long-term goal.





A look back to a different era; the 1940s and the PPD's "Big 4"

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