

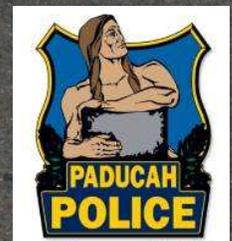
# PADUCAH POLICE

## Annual Report 2010



JOIN OUR TEAM

Check us out on the web at [www.paducahky.gov/paducah/recruiting](http://www.paducahky.gov/paducah/recruiting)



*City of Paducah's  
Elected Officials*



**Mayor Bill Paxton**

**Commissioners**



**Richard Abraham**



**Carol Gault**



**Gayle Kaler**



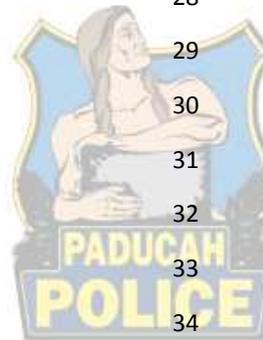
**Gerald Watkins**

# 2010



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# Office of the Chief

## A message from Chief James Berry

To the Citizens of Paducah,

The Paducah Police Department was very successful in 2010 relative to crime reduction, clearance rates and the development of several programs and initiatives to enhance productivity and overall efficiency.

The crime rate in 2010 was 16 percent less than in 2009. In addition, in 2010, the 1,314 reported Part One crimes was the lowest number ever recorded by the department. This reduction in crime was the result of a two-pronged approach – proactive and reactive – in conjunction with a strong commitment to community policing and problem-oriented policing. The strategies included more directed patrols by Operations units, with emphasis on enforcement in “hot spots” predicated on intelligence-based policing dictated by Compstat statistical analysis of crime trends.

There also was more focus on crime reduction by traffic enforcement. This strategy reduced the number of accidents to 1,621, down from 1,688 in 2009.

The more than 70 percent clearance rate by our investigators is one of the highest in the country. This was the result of hard work by the detectives in conjunction with better relationships and sharing of information with Operations units.

Proactively, programs like 3-on-3 Basketball were initiated by the department to formulate a better relationship with youth in the community. The emphasis for officers is to get out in the community more to work with youth before they become products of the criminal justice system.

Finally, there is renewed interest in technological advances to enhance overall efficiency. In 2010, video Roll Call was initiated in the Operations Division. The Department continued purchasing new digital in-car video systems, and the Kentucky League of Cities began long distance learning utilizing Paducah police officers as part of a pilot program.

All uniformed officers and detectives were issued Tasers in 2010, which has reduced injuries to officers and citizens. Additionally, complaints against officers have decreased.

With the advent of 2011, the Paducah Police Department will continue to provide high-quality services to its citizens by focusing on hiring and training the best officers in the business. We also will be committed to obtaining the top technological advances and innovations in the field to aid us in being the best police department in the state and one of the best in America.



James O. Berry, Chief



### Biography:

Chief Berry has more than 34 years experience in policing and was sworn in as Chief of the Paducah Police Department in August of 2009.

Berry served nearly 25 years in Hartford, Connecticut, rising from the rank of patrol officer to the number two position of assistant chief. In 2000, he was recruited to take over security for the City of Hartford school system and served as chief of security for two years. In December 2001, Berry became Chief of Police of Trumbull, Connecticut. In March 2004, he became Chief of Police of Manchester, Connecticut. In July 2009, Berry retired from the Manchester Police Department but decided to continue his police career in Paducah.

Chief Berry's education includes an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Middlesex Community Technical College, a Bachelor of Science in Sociology with a minor in Business from Eastern Connecticut State University, and Graduate Certification in Homeland Security Management from St. Joseph College Graduate Program. Chief Berry is a member of International Association of Chiefs of Police, Police Executive Research Forum, National Organization for Black Law Enforcement, National Sheriffs Association, FBI Law Executive Development Association, International Counterterrorism Officers Association, and a 2007-2008 member of Who's Who in Justice Administration in America. He also has testified before Congress on matters of homeland security, and in 1991, he worked with Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government on a think tank, discussing Community Policing, which he heavily supports.



# Assistant Chief's Report: Operations Division

*Brandon Barnhill, Assistant Chief*

//Write to Assistant Chief Barnhill [bbarnhill@ci.paducah.ky.us](mailto:bbarnhill@ci.paducah.ky.us)

## Biography:

Barnhill has more than 15 years of law enforcement experience, and he currently serves as the Assistant Chief of the Operations Division. He has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Andrew Jackson University, a Bachelor's Degree in Independent Studies from Murray State University, and he is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officers Course, as well as the Chief Executive Leadership Course. He also is a graduate of the Criminal Justice Executive Development program and the Academy of Police Supervision. He has 10 years of supervisory experience, and he was formally promoted to Assistant Chief on January 26, 2011. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, and he is an adjunct professor of criminal justice at West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

The Operations Division is comprised of 62 officers and supervisors and three civilian support staff. It often is called the backbone of the department because it is responsible for providing uniformed patrol services to the city 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2010, the department received 43,707 calls for service, and the majority of those calls were answered by patrol officers.

The Operations Division has several major components: uniformed patrol, K-9, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Bomb Squad, Collision Reconstruction Investigations, Crisis Negotiations Team, Bicycle Patrol, Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), and school crossing guards.

The department has three patrol shifts, each commanded by a captain, that provide a full range of emergency and non-emergency services to the residents and visitors of Paducah. Within each shift are K-9 teams, which are used in a variety of situations, including drug detection, building searches, human tracking, and crowd control.

As an alternative to patrolling in a car, we often utilize bicycle patrols to cover special events, or particular neighborhoods. These officers are trained to provide quick response to requests for service in areas where motor vehicles are either unusable or ineffective at deterring crime.

The SWAT team is specially trained to handle high risk services and have the ability to resolve major incidents with minimal use of force, personal injury, and property damage. The Bomb Squad responds to and evaluates incidents involving known or suspected explosives, suspicious packages, hazardous chemicals or improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Because much of the funding for the Bomb Squad comes through federal and state grants and there are only five squads in the state of Kentucky, our unit helps cover a 13-county area of western Kentucky. In addition to these two specialties, the Crisis Negotiation Team is trained to handle situations involving hostages, barricaded subjects, and other situations relating to mentally unstable subjects.

The professionalism and high standards of conduct displayed by our officers, both in uniform patrol and in specialized assignments, proudly reflect their true interest in helping the community and fulfilling our mission.

# Assistant Chief's Report: Support Services Division

*Stacey Grimes, Assistant Chief*

//Write to Assistant Chief Grimes [sgrimes@ci.paducah.ky.us](mailto:sgrimes@ci.paducah.ky.us)



In January 2010, the Paducah Police Department's Records and Evidence Unit was combined with General Investigations and the Drug and Vice Unit to create the Support Services Division.

The Records and Evidence Unit is staffed by a records manager, one evidence technician, one evidence clerk, and two clerical assistants. They are responsible for the storage and retrieval of all records and provide courteous service to each citizen entering our lobby. In 2010, the Records Unit processed more than 660 case files, 2,000 warrants, and 10,000 traffic and criminal citations. In addition, our Records staff completes fingerprint cards for background investigations, completes payroll and answers thousands of phone calls and lobby contacts.

The Evidence Unit is responsible for the security and accountability of all property and evidence seized by our sworn officers. In 2010, Evidence Technician Tracy Lynch took in 2,258 items of evidence and more than 300 VHS and DVD video files were copied for criminal cases. A full audit was conducted in the main evidence room in July 2010, and all items were accounted for. Fourteen clerical errors were discovered and corrected, which resulted in a .001 percent margin of error.

The Drug and Vice Enforcement Unit (DAVE) is staffed by one sergeant, four detectives and one secretary. Their primary focus is the seizure of narcotics and the forfeiture of assets belonging to drug traffickers. In 2010, the DAVE Unit continued to partner with other agencies by assigning Detective Nathan Young to the Kentucky State Police Drug Enforcement Special Investigations Task Force. In addition, Detective Matt Wentworth continued our task force relationship with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in our fight to remove guns and drugs from the streets of Paducah. In 2010, the DAVE unit initiated 292 investigations, seizing 1,996.5 grams of cocaine, 14 pounds of marijuana, 14 marijuana plants and 22 grams of methamphetamine.

The General Investigations Unit is staffed by one captain, one sergeant, five detectives, one investigative assistant, and one clerical specialist. The unit's primary responsibility is investigating serious crimes against persons. Our detectives cleared an astonishing 72 percent of the 322 cases assigned in 2010. A few significant highlights include Detective Mike Wentworth's investigation and arrests of ten individuals for crimes while he was assigned as our Internet Crimes Against Children detective; and Detective Anthony Copeland's investigation that garnered a conviction and 20-year sentence for the theft of more than \$38,000 worth of copper wire and \$600,000 in damage to locomotives at VMV Enterprise.

It was a productive and successful year for the Support Services Division and we look forward to the continued goal of improving the quality of service to our community and making Paducah a safe place to live, work, and visit.

## Biography:

Assistant Chief Grimes began 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 has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University and Master's Degree in Law and Public Policy from California University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officers Course and the FBI Law Enforcement Development Seminar. He also is a graduate of the Criminal Justice Executive Development program and FBI Command Institute. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, Paducah Lions Club, and a past president of the Jackson Purchase Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #15.

# A NEW LOOK IN 2010



In 2010, our department began the process of changing the striping pattern on our cruisers and we made a couple of changes to our uniforms. The striping pattern had not changed significantly for many years. Under Chief Randy Bratton (2001-2008), color was added to the existing emblem, which also is our patch, and the words "Police and Community Partnership" were added. However, the new pattern takes on a whole new look.

A committee was formed in November 2009 to look at different options and ultimately the new design (featured above) was adopted. We wanted a new graphic design that would present, "a more cutting edge professional image," Assistant Chief Brandon Barnhill says. The department feels the committee accomplished that task. Chief Berry said, "I wanted to empower the officers to take ownership, and I'm proud of the new design."

As for the uniforms, a committee decided to adopt a blue stripe down each pant leg for officers, and a blue and gold stripe for supervisors. Additionally, they decided to wear our department patch on both shoulders of the uniform shirt, rather than an American flag on one shoulder.

Though we honor the American flag, the committee thought it was better to have the department's patch on both shoulders so officers were more easily recognizable as PPD officers. Barnhill says the committee came up with the changes, but stayed true to tradition and history. "These changes were very important to the department and personnel during a time of transition," Barnhill said. "We are thankful for the committee's work and are very pleased with the changes," Chief Berry said.



**Our patch** is a symbol of our department and we are very proud of its unique quality. We often are asked about it, and it was featured in the October 2010 edition of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin magazine, published by the Department of Justice.

Our patch honors Paducah, and the Native American Indians that first inhabited the land in this region. It is modeled after the statue (left), which was sculpted by Lorado Taft in 1909. Taft was a rather famous sculptor from that time period, and has many works that still are displayed throughout the United States. According to the historical marker, Taft "combined features of various Indian tribes in its execution." The statue sits proudly in the 1900 block of Jefferson Street in Paducah.

# Employee of the Year

# 2010



## Officer Linda Hodgson

Officer Linda Hodgson was nominated for Employee of the Year by Officer Melissa Dillon. In the nomination, Officer Dillon and Assistant Chief Brandon Barnhill highlighted several reasons why they felt that Officer Hodgson was deserving of the award—

- ◆ Officer Hodgson helps facilitate the Christmas Cops program by taking and screening the assistance applications each year, and she is instrumental in making sure the program is a success.
- ◆ Officer Hodgson was instrumental in organizing the PPD Support Fund, a non-profit 501c 3, created by members of the PPD to support one another in times of crisis, and Officer Hodgson currently serves as Chairperson of the fund.
- ◆ Officer Hodgson participates in the Lunch Buddy Program at Morgan Elementary School and has recruited several other officers to also participate. An article in the May 2006 edition of Instructor Magazine said, “...new research from the University of Arkansas shows that a volunteer lunchtime mentor can help a child get back on track. When children are met for weekly lunches with a ‘lunch buddy,’ teachers reported more smiles and better behavior.”
- ◆ In October of 2010, while on a dispatched call Officer Hodgson found a caretaker was financially unable to provide Halloween costumes for three children. Officer Hodgson later returned with costumes she purchased with her own money, which allowed the children to go trick-or-treating.
- ◆ Officer Hodgson was instrumental in the planning and preparation of the FOP’s golf scramble, which raised nearly \$14,000 for the local FOP to provide scholarships and support other local charities, including the annual Christmas Cops program.
- ◆ Officer Hodgson received numerous positive comments from citizens throughout 2010.
- ◆ Officer Hodgson volunteers to help monitor the sex offender registry, and she conducts investigations and takes appropriate action for offenders who violate registration requirements.
- ◆ Officer Hodgson volunteers for other special details and assignments, such as helping with the DEA Drug Take-back Program in September 2010.
- ◆ Officer Hodgson shows tenacity and determination in her investigations and daily responsibilities while patrolling the streets, and is one of the most active officers on her patrol shift.

For these reasons Chief James Berry was happy to recognize Officer Hodgson as the 2010 Employee of the Year. “Officer Hodgson exemplifies everything we’re looking for in a department that focuses on community-oriented policing, and I’m really proud of her performance,” Berry said.



# 2010 COMMAND STAFF



**Captain Don Hodgson** is the Operations Second Shift Commander. He has 16 years of law enforcement experience, eight of which as a patrol supervisor. 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.



**Captain Brian Krueger** leads the Professional Standards Unit. He has a B.S. degree in Business Management from Mid-Continent University and five years of service in the U.S. Marine Corp. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Chief Executive Leadership Course at SPI, the Criminal Justice Executive Development program and the Academy of Police Supervision. He has a total of 12 years experience, with six as a supervisor.



**Captain Mark Roberts** serves as the Administrative Captain of Operations. He has 23 years of law enforcement experience, with 10 years as a supervisor. He is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision and the Criminal Justice Executive Development program, and he is a KLEC certified instructor. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Murray State University and an A.S. Degree in Emergency Medicine.



**Captain David White** serves as Captain of Support Services Division. He has 11 years of experience, with four years as a supervisor. 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 is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision.



**Captain Shawn Maxie** finished 2010 as Operations First Shift Commander. He has more than 16 years of law enforcement experience, with 11 years as a patrol supervisor. He is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision, the Criminal Justice Executive Development program, as well as the School of Strategic Leadership. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Murray State University, and has completed some post-graduate work in Organizational Communication.



**Captain Jason Merrick** served as an Acting Captain in Operations in 2010, finishing the year as the Third Shift Commander. On January 27, 2011, he was formally promoted to captain. He has 16 total years of law enforcement experience, with eight years as a supervisor. He is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision, and he is a U.S. Navy veteran, serving aboard the USS Nashville, and completing a deployment to the Persian Gulf in 1991-1992.

# LEADERSHIP

*IS A BEHAVIOR, NOT A POSITION.*



# ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

## Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police

The Paducah Police Department again achieved the accreditation seal of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP) in 2009. The PPD has been accredited for six years, and is one of about 77 KACP accredited police and sheriff's organizations state-wide.

According to the KACP, the accreditation process "reflects that the agency was carefully measured against an established set of standards and has met or exceeded professionally accepted practices in law enforcement."<sup>1</sup> It also means that we get an annual discount of about 10 percent from our insurance provider, which saves the city approximately \$7,800 per year.

Mike Bischoff, Executive Director of the KACP says, "throughout the (accreditation) assessment the staff of the Paducah Police Department extended excellent cooperation to the assessor team in a manner consistent with the principles that guide their community and professional relationships. Reflecting on their proofs of compliance, and our observations of the agency, the team concluded unanimously that the department had achieved compliance with the applicable standards established by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police Accreditation Program.

## OUR MISSION

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Paducah Police Department is based on a philosophy of Professionalism, Respect, Accountability, Integrity and Communication as we strive for excellence and continuous improvement.

We shall serve and protect all the citizens fairly and equally as we build a strong partnership with the community.

### PROFESSIONALISM

We will be professional in our daily performances within the Department, its members, and to the community we proudly serve.

### RESPECT

We will treat citizens and co-workers with respect, regardless of the degree of respect we receive.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

We will be held accountable for our actions, our behavior, and our performances by the Department, its members, and the community we proudly serve.

### COMMUNICATION

We will communicate effectively and courteously with our co-workers and with the members of the community we proudly serve.



1. Retrieved on 2/25/11 from: [www.kypolicechiefs.org](http://www.kypolicechiefs.org)

# 2010 OUR PEOPLE

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  
Michael Wentworth



Justin Canup  
Matt Smith  
Michael Redmon  
Melissa Dillon  
Linda Hodgson  
Gretchen Morgan



Dana Davie  
James Robbins  
Troy Turner  
Justin Rundles  
Lofton Rowley  
Justin Crowell



Patrick Clark  
Jarrett Woodruff  
Anthony Hughes  
Chris Baxter  
Chris Bolton  
Anthony Copeland



Michael Rigdon  
Corey Willenborg  
Chris Hardison  
Kevin Crider  
Ryan Conn  
Tim Hopkins



# 2010 OUR PEOPLE



Josh Bryant  
Beau Green  
Nathan Antonites  
Matt Reed  
Nathan Jaimet  
Jason Hicks



Chris Fearon  
Keith Thuline  
Kevin Collins  
Trevor Youngblood  
Derik Perry  
Matt Scheer



Evan Cowan  
Glenn Pritchard  
Justin Hodges  
Shawn Craven  
Steven Thompson  
Austin Guill



David Carroll  
Travis Watson  
Robin Newberry  
Jan Saxon  
Malinda Baltz  
Lourdes Morrison



Vicki Miller  
Connie Waldridge  
Myra Reid  
Christie Hughes  
Dickie Powers  
Melissa Green



Tracy Lynch  
Lilia Rivera  
Leigh Shanks  
Art Martinez

## Our K-9 Teams



***Ronny,***  
Handler Sgt. Rob Hefner  
***Fox,***  
Handler Lofton Rowley  
***Bikkel,***  
Handler Michael Simak



In the early morning hours of April 12, 2010, Officer Rene Long, a 19-year veteran of the Paducah Police Department, was at his home getting ready for his patrol shift just like he had done so many times before, when he started having chest pains. “I was going to come in to work but when I made it out to my car it got so bad I knew I was going to have to go to the hospital,” he said. Little did he know at the time that he had two severely blocked arteries.

Long was hospitalized and had double bypass heart surgery two days later. Following the procedure, Long had complications and spent three weeks unconscious, on a ventilator, in intensive care. His kidneys and liver stopped functioning and he was put on dialysis.

He remained in the hospital for 45 days, his wife and friends at his side. Miraculously, his condition improved, his organs started working again, and he began to regain his strength. Long got to return home around Memorial Day, and started the rehabilitation process.

By July 14, 2010, Long was able to return to the department for light duty, and was assigned to the Records & Evidence Unit, where he assisted with taking walk-in reports and other administrative tasks. He stayed there for three months and continued to do rehab until he got his strength back.

On October 14, 2010, Long passed the fit-for-duty test, and doctor cleared him to work the streets once again. “I wanted to show folks that even if you go through something as traumatic as open heart surgery, you can still go on with life, and passing the fit-for-duty test showed me I could do that, too,” Long said.

“It made me feel good to get to come back to the street,” Long said about resuming his position as a patrol officer. Although he has had several assignments over the years, Long has spent the majority of his time as a patrol officer. He is currently the most senior officer at the PPD.

As for how the whole thing impacted his life, Long says, “the whole ordeal was a life changing experience. I enjoy the job and I’ll always be a police officer in my heart. I don’t know when, but I will retire someday in the near future.”

“This job is inherently stressful, and the physical and mental stress an officer undergoes can be critical,” “I’m glad Officer Long had the mental fortitude to survive, and I’m really glad he was able to return to the streets,” said Chief James Berry.

# A Story

# of Survival





# SERVING Both Here & There

Sergeant Kevin Neal is one of 27 veterans at the Paducah Police Department, and he spent most of 2010 deployed with the United States Marine Corps in Iraq.

Sergeant Neal, also a Marine Gunnery Sergeant with the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, H&S Company, sniper platoon, deployed in May of 2009, and after several months of training state-side, he served six months overseas in Iraq. His unit was essentially the last Marine Battalion in Iraq and stayed through the local elections, helping with the final transition. Neal returned to work in June of 2010.



This marked Neal's third deployment since the war began in 2001. His first deployment to Iraq was January 2004 to November 2004. He returned in June 2006, staying through May 2007, serving in combat operations in Fallujah. After 19 years of service, Neal says, "I hope to keep my feet on American soil and retire in the next couple of years."

A Marshall County resident, Neal served on active duty with the Marine Corps before joining the PPD in July 1999. He was promoted to sergeant in November 2010 and he currently serves as a Second Shift supervisor.

Chief Berry says he's proud of all the veterans, especially those still serving in the National Guard and military Reserves. "These guys play a dual role. They're a credit not only to our community, but also to the country, fighting overseas in the war on terror," Berry says.

### Active National Guardsmen & Reservist

Sgt. Kevin Neal, United States Marine Corp Reserve; Sgt. Joe Hayes, KY National Guard, USMC Veteran; Sgt. Wes Kimbler, U.S. Army Reserve; Officer Paul Stevenson, KY National Guard (Army Veteran); Officer Nathan Antonities, Army Reserve; and Officer Trevor Youngblood, KY National Guard.

### Our Veterans

Cpt. Brian Krueger (USMC); Cpt. Jason Merrick (USN); Sgt. Will Gilbert (USMC); Sgt. Steve Smith (Army); Sgt. Wes Orazine (USMC); Rob Estes (USMC); Brent Obermark (Army); Michael Simak (Army); Brian Kopischke (USMC); Nathan Young (USN); Cindy Neihoff (Army); Travis Counts (USN); Troy Turner (Army); Lofton Rowley (Army); Anthony Hughes (USAF); Chris Baxter (USN); Keith Thuline (Army); Evan Cowan (Army); David Carroll (USCG); Lourdes Morrison (USN); and Art Martinez (USMC).

Top photo provided by Kevin Neal, pictured far right

# Awards

## LIFESAVING AWARDS

On July 23, 2010, Officers Nathan Antonites (right) and Matt Reed (center), received lifesaving awards for performing CPR on Mr. Ed Puckett (left), after he collapsed at a traffic collision in April 2010.



Assistant Chief Stacey Grimes—Performed the Heimlich maneuver and rescue breathes while off-duty on a man that was choking at Rafferty’s restaurant in late August of 2009. The man was taken to the hospital and survived the incident.

Captain Jason Merrick & Officer James Davis— On March 13, 2010, Merrick and Davis performed CPR on Daniel Jackson, an employee of Fat Moe’s restaurant and bar, after he collapsed. They continued CPR for five minutes, until Paducah firefighters arrived and used an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Jackson survived the incident.

Captain Mark Roberts— In April of 2009, officers responded to a shooting in the area of the 2600 block of Mildred Street. Captain Mark Roberts was one of the first to arrive, and found a male subject shot in the head. He performed CPR on the man until EMS arrived. The man died a short time later at the hospital.

Captain David White & Officer Michael Simak— Performed CPR on a man that was shot in the chest. The man was rushed to the hospital, where he later died.

Officer Wes Orazine & Detective Justin Crowell— In April of 2009, Orazine and Crowell performed CPR on a man that had been stabbed in the chest. He was rushed to the hospital, where he died a short time later.

## CHIEF’S AWARD



Detective Sgt. Will Gilbert— Gilbert has led the PPD Bomb Squad since 2004, and has devoted countless hours both on -and-off duty. He has “helped to mold the squad into one of the finest in the Commonwealth,” says Assistant Chief Brandon Barnhill. Gilbert has been instrumental in acquiring nearly \$750,000 in grant funding during his command. For this, he received the Chief’s Award.

## SERVICE COMMENDATIONS

Detective Sgt. Brian Laird & Investigative Assistant Malinda Baltz— Both received Service Commendations for their efforts to bring the John E. Reid and Associates interview and interrogation course to Paducah. This allowed the PPD to receive free training, saving the city approximately \$8,000, and allowed other local law enforcement access to the program without having to pay for out-of-town travel. The Reid training is a world-renowned program and the most respected interview training in the law enforcement community.

## CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARDS

In March of 2010, a business on Hinkleville Road was robbed, and two local teens observed two of the suspects flee in a vehicle. They quickly called 911, and followed the vehicle, providing timely updates as to the suspects’ location. This allowed police to quickly apprehend the suspects and for that reason, the shift commander, Captain Shawn Maxie nominated them for the Civilian Service Award. “They displayed character and performed an outstanding service in the face of unknown peril, thereby aiding the department in solving a serious crime,” Maxie said.

# PADUCAH RECEIVES THE GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD

## KENTUCKY LEAGUE OF CITIES INSURANCE SERVICE

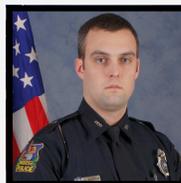
The Kentucky League of Cities awarded the City of Paducah with it's Golden Eagle Award on September 17, 2010, for receiving a 100 percent score on the law enforcement scored evaluation. Mark Filburn with KLC, says it is a distinction that has only been accomplished "14 times in the history of the program." It shows the city's commitment to following the best law enforcement practices. Chief Berry says, "I think this is something that really shows the people out there we're doing what we should be doing. This is a very professional organization, and I'm very pleased to be a part of it."



Chief Berry, Captain Brian Krueger and Commissioner Gerald Watkins receive the Golden Eagle Award.

## DUI GOVERNOR'S AWARD

Each year the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky gives a Governor's Award to the officer in each agency with the most arrests for Driving Under the Influence. On December 1, 2010, Officer Chris Fearon received the award for the PPD.



## GRANT AWARDS

The PPD received the following grants during the 2010 calendar year—

2010 KY Homeland Security Body Amor	\$14,300
2010 U.S. DOJ Bullet Proof Vest Program	\$12,000
2010 KY Dept. of Transportation Project Safe Neighborhoods	\$44,627
2010 U.S. DOJ Justice Assistance Grant	\$32,500
U.S. DOJ COPS Grant	\$202,398
2010 KY Office of Homeland Security (Bomb)	\$170,000
2010 Justice Assistance Grant (MDC)	\$18,030
2010 KY L.E. Service Fee (DUI)	\$8,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$517,635</b>

## THANK YOU

Chief Berry would like to thank all of the elected officials and distinguished guests, as well as all the family members that attended the department's award ceremony 2010. Also, a special thanks to West Kentucky Community and Technical College, for allowing us the use of the Emerging Technology Building.



# Policing in America: Reading the landscape

**W**hen most people think about police work, they think about their favorite television show. Over the years, shows like *Dragnet*, *Law & Order*, *COPS*, and others have defined how Americans view police work, but the reality is quite different than Hollywood's portrayal. Police officers today have to consistently make good decisions in some of life's most complex and dynamic situations. And, police organizations like ours are forced to evaluate more than just crime as we pick the strategies that best meet our community's needs.

Issues like the current economic recession, poverty, and unemployment are among the concerns police organizations must monitor. At the Paducah Police Department, and across the state of Kentucky, police executives are hearing from people like Ron Crouch, a well-known sociologist and Director of Research and Statistics for the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The consistent message: be ready to do more with less.

While national funding support for local and state law enforcement is decreasing and many departments are dealing with shrinking budgets, social factors that influence crime are getting worse. Meanwhile, new technologies are reshaping both crime and crime fighting, and law enforcement is struggling to address the emerging issues.

Additionally, as we move further away from September 11, 2001, and the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, some people forget the importance of Homeland Security and emergency preparedness. These topics remain a very high priority in the law enforcement community, as we try to safeguard our communities.

In Paducah, we feel lucky that the recession has not impacted us as badly as other areas of the country. Our operating budget has not been significantly cut, and since budget cuts

for police organizations usually spell decreased training, we consider ourselves fortunate.

The high-risk tasks officers handle make training an essential element of the budget, and cuts can create serious civil liability issues for years to come. Instead of cutting, our commitment to training led the Kentucky League of Cities, our insurance provider, to award us with the Golden Eagle Award in September for receiving a 100 percent score on the law enforcement scored evaluation, which includes our efforts to maintain the highest standards of training. Meanwhile, we continue to look for innovative ways to do more with less. One such example is our increased use of the "train-the-trainer" concept, where we send instructors to be trained in a task and then use them in-house to train the rest of the force, rather than sending more officers away to schools.

We also are responding to new and emerging technologies by using crime mapping software to locate and address areas of high crime—a feature we hope to make available on-line to citizens in the future. We are participating in the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, which led to 10 arrests in 2010. And, in 2011, we also will be partnering with the University of Louisville to form a regional computer forensic mini-lab in Paducah. This lab will help us process cell phones, computers, and other digital evidence that is commonplace in many investigations.

In 2010, we formed a committee to develop a Continuity of Operations Plan, which will ensure smooth operation in a serious disaster, and we work daily with other law enforcement partners regionally, state-wide, and federally to monitor on-going concerns of Homeland Security.

As we brace for continued tough economic times, consolidate our successes over the past year, and look forward to the challenges of the coming year, we reflect on the fact that though the landscape changes, our mission remains the same: to serve and protect the citizens of Paducah.

# Mental Illness

## LAW ENFORCEMENT'S RESPONSE

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one in four Americans has a diagnosable mental disorder and about six percent of all Americans have a serious mental illness.<sup>1</sup> When untreated, people suffering from certain mental illnesses can sometimes behave in a way that requires a law enforcement response, and the law allows police to intervene. In 2010, the PPD took 58 people into emergency custody for mental health evaluations. And, because mental illness is so prevalent and officers commonly encounter mentally ill people, the type of training they receive is critical.

Retired Louisville Metro Police Lieutenant Denise Spratt has been working since 2007 to train Kentucky officers on how to better deal with mentally ill people. The training is called **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** training. It is a concept that has paired law enforcement with mental health professionals and advocacy groups to offer insight into how to identify, talk to, and better respond to mentally ill people in crisis.

"I just call it wonderful," says Hank Cecil Administrator of Four Rivers Behavioral Health. He says traditionally there was some breakdown in communication between law enforcement and the mental health community, but since the program began there is "a sense of trying to work together better." And, he says he has heard the same thing from clients, who have noticed a positive difference in law enforcement's response.

The Four Rivers Behavioral Health group provides instructors and helps share some of the cost with the state to ensure the 40-hour class comes to western Kentucky. Cecil reports that in 2009-2010, the McCracken County United Way helped partially fund the class with an Emerging Needs grant.

Lieutenant Spratt says the class, which is provided for by state statute, represents a partnership between the Department of Behavioral Health, law enforcement and the Department of Criminal Justice Training, and mental health advocacy groups, like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Since 2007, nearly 700 officers have attended the training, and they average about 200 officers per year in the class.

Spratt says the objectives are to improve officer safety when dealing with the mentally ill, to educate the officers about mental illness, and to help improve the way officers handle calls with mentally ill persons. "It also teaches the officers what resources they have available to help the person," she said. "The more they understand what the person is dealing with, that gives them more empathy for the person and makes them more effective when trying to assist".

Like Hank Cecil, Spratt says the fact that mental health professionals and law enforcement officers are sitting down in the same room and working together on the issue has had a huge impact on the relationship between the two groups, and ultimately those in need of mental health services have benefited the most.

The PPD sends several officers each year to the training, and Captain Jason Merrick is a CIT Instructor. Merrick also was recognized in 2009 as CIT Officer of the Year. To read more about CIT training in Kentucky, check out their website at [www.kentuckycit.com](http://www.kentuckycit.com).

**In 2010, the PPD took 58 people into emergency custody for mental health evaluations.**

1. Retrieved on 2/14/2011 from: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/the-numbers-count-mental-disorders-in-america/index.shtml>

# 2010 A report

## Crime in Paducah:

### MAJOR CRIMES HIT ALL-TIME LOW

#### Part I Offenses

The Paducah Police Department is happy to report that our major crimes have hit at least a 21-year low. In 2010, the PPD had 43,707 calls for service. Roughly seven percent of those calls (3,402) led to a criminal report.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is responsible for tracking crime in America through their Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which they publish annual.

As part of that report, they consider eight types of crime to be **Part I Crimes**; murder, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson.

According to the FBI's mid-year 2010 UCR data, nationally crime was down in every Part I Crime category over the first half of 2010, and down 6.2 percent overall.

In Paducah, we saw similar trends and had 238 fewer Part I offenses than in 2009. Robberies were the only crime that increased slightly (2.3%) over the previous year. Overall, Paducah's Part I crime was down almost 16 percent from 2009 overall.

In order to compare our stats with the rest of country, we have to convert our number of offenses into a rate per 100,000 residents. Once converted, we can compare local numbers to national data and get a better idea of how we are doing.

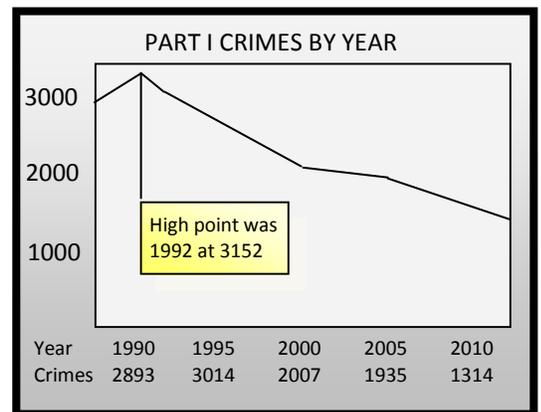
2010 Quick Facts	
Murder	0
Rapes	13
Robberies	50
Assaults	42
Burglaries	183
Larceny	972
Auto Theft	47
Arson	7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1314</b>

Paducah had no murders in 2010. The national projected average was 4.6 per 100,000, and while we continue to have above average numbers of forcible rapes, robberies, burglaries, larcenies, and arsons, we are below the national average for aggravated assault and theft of motor vehicles.

Our forcible rape rate fell through 2010, at almost twice the national percentage. Our burglary rate fell by 21 percent, compared to 1.4 percent nation-wide, and our larceny rate fell by 13 percent, compared to 2.3 percent nationally. Auto theft was also down 34.5 percent locally, while national rates only went down 9.7 percent. Arsons were stable from previous year locally.

It can also be reported that forcible rapes, aggravated assaults, and motor vehicle thefts locally are at the lowest level they have been in at least five years. Burglary also is at a three year low.

The simple graph below shows the overall number of Part I Crimes at five-year increments since 1990.



# to our community

## Part II Offenses

Part II Offenses include the following types of crime:

- Simple assaults
- Forgery & Counterfeiting
- Fraud
- Criminal mischief
- Weapons offenses
- Sexual offenses (other than rape)
- Drug abuse violations
- Offenses against family & children
- All other offenses not included in Part I Crimes

The Paducah Police Department saw a two percent overall reduction in the number of Part II Offenses from 2009 to 2010, which means that these offenses were relatively stable. Simple assaults, frauds, and offenses against family and children were up slightly, while all other categories saw minor reductions.

Part II Offenses	2009	2010
Simple Assaults	677	693
Forgery	78	67
Fraud	206	218
Criminal Mischief	494	447
Weapons Viol.	39	33
Sex Offenses (Other than rape)	33	30
Drug Violations	658	639
Offenses Against Family & Children	78	103
All Others	530	509
<b>Total</b>	<b>2793</b>	<b>2739</b>

## Arrests

The Paducah Police Department made 2,840 arrests in 2010. That means PPD officers made arrests in about 6.5 percent of all contacts. Arrests range from minor violations to serious felony charges, and about half (46%) involved drugs or alcohol violations.

The number of arrests decreased drastically over the previous year's total of 6,140. This is important to note and offers some proof of what police organizations already know: that increased arrests don't necessarily equal decreased crime.

The PPD attributes community-oriented policing and intelligence-based policing, where we use real-time crime mapping software and reports to identify and target problem areas, as the reason for our success.

## Warrant Service

As a municipal law enforcement agency the PPD assists the McCracken County Sheriff's Department with serving warrants on city residents. Additionally, police officers investigating crimes may swear to, then serve warrants against suspects in a particular case. And, while carrying out their daily responsibilities, officers often come into contact with wanted persons from throughout the country.

In 2010, the PPD served 58 felony arrest warrants, 269 misdemeanor warrants, and 752 bench warrants. PPD officers also served 314 misdemeanor summons, 39 felony summons, and 51 juvenile orders.



# traffic report:

In 2010, the Paducah Police Department investigated a total of 1,621 collisions, 344 with injuries, and a total of three fatalities.

Hinkleville Road, between Interstate 24 and Olivet Church Road, was the most dangerous stretch of road in Paducah, with 51 crashes. Irvin Cobb Drive on Paducah's Southside was the second most dangerous, with 22, and Lone Oak Road a close third with 21 collisions reported.

Rainy weather was cited as a contributing factor in 108 crashes (6.6%), and snow was cited in 31 (1.9%). The most common contributing human factor was inattention (624). Failure to yield right-of-way was the second leading contributing factor, accounting for 346 collisions.

State-wide in Kentucky there were approximately 150,549 crashes, and about 17 percent of them involved injuries, amounting to 38,098 total injuries.<sup>1</sup> Considering the population of Kentucky, which is estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau at 4,314,113, there were roughly 3,489 collisions per 100,000 residents in Kentucky in 2010.

Comparatively, given Paducah-McCracken County's population, that puts our estimated number of city crashes below the state collision rate. If you compare all crashes in McCracken County, including city and county data (2,374 crashes), you find the rate to be 3,603 per 100,000, or about the same as the state-wide numbers. This is good news for Paducah residents. Since our daytime population is estimated to be much higher than our actual population, it shows that our numbers are low.

When it comes to traffic safety, you will commonly hear about the "3 Es": education, enforcement, and engineering. Law enforcement's contribution is, of course, enforcement. And, as a full-service law enforcement agency, our officers spend a great deal of time enforcing traffic laws as they patrol the streets.

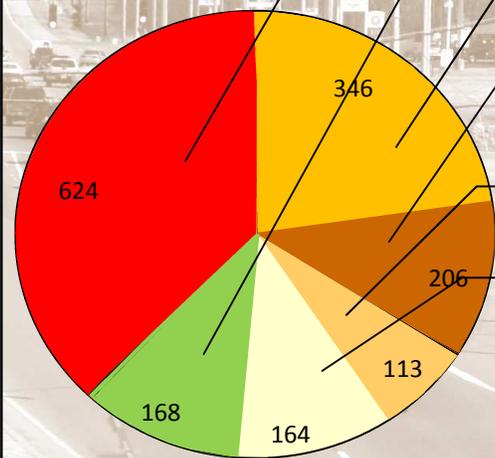
The Paducah Police Department issued 7,175 traffic citations in 2010. That's an average of about 150 per patrol officer, and it represents an eight percent decrease from 2009. The number of citations can vary greatly from year to year depending on several factors, such as grant funding for overtime.

The most common citation was seat belt violations, accounting for 3,204. One reason for the number of seat belt violations was the PPD's contribution to state-wide campaigns like "Click-It or Ticket".

Seat belt use is important to us, as we know firsthand that seatbelts save lives. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), seat belt use has increased steadily since 1994. They estimate that 85 percent of people used their seat belt in 2010. And, they report that as belt use has increased the number of fatalities, especially unrestrained occupant fatalities, has declined.<sup>1</sup>

Second, speeding was the most common violation, accounting for 1,801 citations, followed by disregard of a traffic control device (329), and "all other" traffic violations accounted for the remaining 1,841.

The PPD received just less than \$45,000 in grant funding from the state to help conduct targeted traffic and DUI enforcement. "Grant funding allows us to use more resources in those problem areas that we've identified through our crash data," Captain Don Hodgson says. Hodgson helps administer the traffic grants each year and supervises the targeted enforcement actions. "The goal of traffic enforcement is to drastically reduce traffic collisions and injuries from those collisions," he said.



- Inattention 38 %**
- Following too close 10 %**
- Failure to yield right-of-way 21 %**
- Disregard of traffic control 12 %**
- Distraction 7 %**
- All others 12 %**

# Causes of collisions

The PPD worked 624 patrol hours, 300 check-point hours, was able to send one officer to a two-day conference, and trained two radar instructors, all on grant funds. Additionally, two-thirds of the patrol hours were spent conducting DUI enforcement details.

In 2010, the PPD made 260 arrests for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). This number was down from 476 DUI arrests in 2009. The department made DUI 361 arrest in 2008.

DUI enforcement is always a priority, but the number of arrests each year can vary greatly, depending on factors like grant-funded enforcement.

The PPD also sent two officers to a three-week school to become Drug Recognition Experts. Officers Chris Fearon and Nathan Antonities attended the training, which help them more readily identify those drivers who are under the influence of drugs, other than alcohol. Both officers currently are assigned to the night shift, which is the shift with the most DUI arrests, and they serve as a resource for other patrol officers in detecting impaired driving.

Enforcement plays a big role in traffic safety, especially when it comes to seatbelt compliance and impaired driving. “While we would like to eliminate collisions altogether, we know that’s not realistic— so we try to reduce them by focusing on those things we think makes the most difference, and we do so in the areas that need it the worst,” said Captain Hodgson.

Despite law enforcement’s best effort, most collisions are the result of driver inattention, as the chart above illustrates. “Very few collisions are the result of mechanical failure,” says Captain David White, the PPD’s traffic crash reconstruction supervisor, “Most collisions are the result of human error, and great engineering and enforcement only go so far”.

White says he believes enforcement brings about compliance, as the seat belt and fatalities numbers show. However, drivers have to be responsible, avoid distractions, and pay attention to the road.

1. U.S. Dept. of Transportation (NHTSA) (Sept., 2010). Seat belt Use in 2010—Overall Results. Washington, D.C. DOT HS 811 378.



# FATAL



# COLLISIONS

Across Kentucky, there were 757 traffic fatalities in 2010.<sup>1</sup> The Paducah Police Department investigated three of those crashes, resulting in three total deaths. That puts our local fatality rate in line with the national rate, which in 2009 was 11.01 per 100,000.<sup>2</sup>

Each time a collision appears to involve life-threatening injuries, the patrol supervisor requests the Traffic Accident Reconstruction (TAR) team, which is led by Captain David White.

Captain White has been reconstructing serious collisions since 2001, and says, “When a collision involves serious injuries or a death, it’s important that we go the extra mile to examine all of the facts. We determine if the situation warrants criminal charges, like vehicular homicide, and we also try to collect as much evidence as we can so families and those that represent them can make accurate determination about who is at fault.”

Trained traffic crash reconstructionists have a minimum of 240 hours of specialized training. White has about 400 hours of training and has investigated numerous collisions. He is assisted by officers Mike Redmon, Brian Kopischke, Anthony Hughes, and Josh Bryant.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) early estimates of traffic fatalities in 2010 show a 4.5 percent decrease from 2009.<sup>2</sup> In Kentucky, fatal collisions were down about 4.2 percent from 2009.<sup>1</sup>

White says nationwide fatalities have been declining each year, with the exception of motorcycle deaths. “According to NHTSA, motorcycle fatalities hit a high point in 2008, after increasing every year over the previous ten plus years. However, they declined sharply in 2009, and I suspect they will be down again in 2010,” White says.

Part of that statistic White says probably was due to a huge decline in motorcycle sales with the downturn in the economy.

“In a city environment, we tend to get a little of everything, but we stay extremely concerned about our pedestrians and bicyclists,” White says. NHTSA reports show on average more than 5,000 pedestrians and cyclists are killed each year in traffic crashes.<sup>2</sup> “People out riding or walking should wear bright clothing, pay attention to the rules of the road, and to what’s going on around them,” White said.

Drivers are not always attentive to what is going on around them and the most common contributing factor in all crashes is inattention. Though we commonly think of cell phone use as being the most common factor, “statistically, at least in Kentucky, they seem to account for about one percent of reported distractions,” White says. However, there are numerous distractions in a vehicle. Everything from the radio to day-dreaming can lead to disaster.

Another question that is always asked: was the person under the influence? Statistically, the number of fatalities nation-wide involving alcohol or drugs has been in decline, and in 2007, NHTSA says 32 percent of fatal crashes involved impaired drivers. Similarly in Kentucky in 2010, 20 percent of all fatal collisions involved impaired drivers.<sup>1</sup>

Though our goal each year is to have no fatal collisions, it seems we always have a few. We urge drivers and pedestrians to help us keep our roads as safe as possible.

1. Kentucky State Police, retrieved on 2/22/11 from: <http://kentuckystatepolice.org/tip2010.htm>
2. NHTSA (Dec., 2010). Early Estimates of MV Traffic Fatalities for the First Three Quarters (Jan-Sep) of 2010. DOT HS 811 431, Washington, D.C.
3. NHTSA. Retrieved on 2/22/11 from: <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/Main/index.aspx>

# Driver's Training

The Paducah Police Department is one of only a few departments in the state of Kentucky that conducts regular driver's training, and we've been training since 2003. After all, of the 162 law enforcement line-of-duty deaths in 2010, 73 were traffic-related fatalities, fifty of which were automobile crashes.<sup>1</sup> Our officers drove thousands of miles last year. We were involved in 15 collisions, four of them where the officer was listed at-fault.

To combat this problem and ensure that our drivers are as safe as possible, we conduct regular driver's training, usually each spring, at a local, privately owned airstrip. Training Officer Rob Estes, Captain Mark Roberts, Captain Jason Merrick, Detective Mike Wentworth, and Officer Scotty Davis are all certified driving instructors. Each attended a law enforcement drivers instructors' course at the Department of Criminal Justice Training, or at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, in Glynco, GA.

The training includes elements of precision driving, emergency response, and pursuit driving, including the use of Stop Sticks™. Stop Sticks are a device used to end pursuits by puncturing the suspect's tires without causing a loss of control.

"Our main goal is to enhance the safety of the officers and citizens by practicing at normal and high speeds," Captain Roberts says. The officers listen to classroom instruction, including instructors' critiques of in-car videos, sometimes from their own vehicle, before heading out onto the course where Roberts says "we put theory into practice."

The class addresses vehicle control, accident avoidance, skid prevention, recovery, and decision-making. And, the controlled environment allows officers to practice their skills with no risk to the public.

"We also stress judgment and decision-making on how to respond to emergency calls and engage in pursuits," Roberts say. The PPD has a restrictive pursuit policy, which allows officers to pursue only the most dangerous suspects, where the need to apprehend them clearly outweighs the risk to the officer and the public. Officers have to understand the policy and be ready to make a split second decision in what often proves to be a dynamic environment.

"Pursuits are not something we take lightly. We understand the risks, but we also understand that there

**Our main goal is to enhance the safety of officers and citizens."**

are times where officers have to take the risk and engage in pursuits," says Assistant Chief Stacey Grimes. It's in those times and in the day-to-day driving that cause Grimes to say "I'm glad we have driver's training."

It's also noteworthy that PPD officers are not immune to the affects of a drunk driver. In 2010, two different on-duty PPD officers were struck by a driver that was suspected of driving under the influence. Luckily, neither the officers nor the other drivers were hurt.

The Paducah Police Department is committed to enhancing public safety. Part of that mission requires us to ensure our officers are trained properly in those tasks they handle each day, especially those that are as risky as driving. For that reason, we are very proud of our driver's training program.

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1. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. (2010). Law Enforcement Fatalities Spike Dangerously in 2010. Retrieved on 2/25/11 from: [www.LawMemorial.org](http://www.LawMemorial.org)





# DRUGS

According to a December 2010 report by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, illicit drug use has risen to its highest level in eight years.<sup>1</sup> They report that 8.7 percent of Americans, or an estimated 21.8 million people, said they used illegal drugs in the month leading up to the survey. Among the other findings of the report— marijuana use rose from six percent to 6.6 percent, and marijuana accounted for three-quarters of all reported use. Non-medical use of prescription drugs also was up 12 percent, and methamphetamine use was up slightly from 2009.

In 2009, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) also reported Kentucky had the fourth highest number of meth labs discovered (707), while among our close neighbor, Missouri was number one with 1,784. Indiana was ranked second with 1,267.<sup>2</sup> Kentucky has been one of the top ten states for meth labs since at least 2004, according to the DEA. Though the methamphetamine concern in our area is high, the use and manufacturing of the drug is not prevalent in the city.

Locally, the Paducah Police Department made 342 drug-related arrests in 2010. This means a rate of approximately 1316 per 100,000 people, which is nearly 2.5 times the 2009 national rate for drug abuse violations.<sup>3</sup> For cities our size, the FBI reports drug abuse violations at 538 per 100,000. If we include the 270 drug-related arrests made by the McCracken County Sheriff's Office in 2010 and compare the combined numbers with the Paducah-McCracken County Census data the rate drops slightly, but remains well above the national average.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to these concerns, new drug problems seem to emerge. In 2010, the sale of synthetic marijuana and bath salts by local convenient stores and other businesses became an issue of concern.

So what are we doing about the drug problems in our community?

## Education—

The PPD works with Paducah Public Schools to conduct educational programs aimed at reducing drug abuse. In 2010, Officer Travis Counts led 97 Paducah Middle School students through the Gang Resistance Education and Training program, and Chief James Berry committed to bringing the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program back to Paducah. In early 2011 officers Gretchen Morgan and Chris Fearon will attend the DARE Officer certification course and the department hopes to have them teaching the program as soon as they return.

## Street-level enforcement—

Many of the drug related arrests are made by patrol officers who are in contact with citizens each day. The most basic level of the drug trade occurs on the streets where drug users meet drug dealers. Likewise, patrol officers get called to investigate other crimes, only to realize that drugs are involved. For this reason, our patrol officers play a vital role in the department's overall strategy to combat drugs.

Throughout 2010, the Drug and Vice Enforcement (DAVE) detectives, who have the task of combating higher-level drug dealers, spent some of their time teaching patrol officers what to look for on the streets. The DAVE detectives have specialized training in drug detection and investigation, and they shared that knowledge with patrol officers in two-hour blocks of training each month. The topics covered search and seizure issues, drug interdiction and detection, as well as interview and interrogation techniques.

## Working with the Community—

In September of 2010, we partnered with the Kentucky Association of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives, Four Rivers Behavioral Health, the DEA, and McCracken County Sheriff's

1. National Institute on Drug Abuse (2010). Retrieved on 2/20/11, and cited here from: [http://drugabuse.gov/NIDA\\_notes/NNvol23N3/tearoff.html](http://drugabuse.gov/NIDA_notes/NNvol23N3/tearoff.html)
2. U.S. DOJ, Drug Enforcement Administration (2011). Retrieved on 2/20/11, and cited here from: [http://www.justice.gov/dea/concern/map\\_lab\\_seizures.html](http://www.justice.gov/dea/concern/map_lab_seizures.html)
3. U.S. DOJ, Federal Bureau of Investigation, UCR (2009). Retrieved on 2/20/11, and cited here from: [http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/data/table\\_31.html](http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/data/table_31.html)
4. All local data retrieved via the Kentucky State Police's KY Ops Portal



Office in a National Take Back Day. It was a one-day program sponsored by the DEA to help people get rid of unwanted or unused prescription drugs, in an attempt to cut down on prescription drug abuse. The PPD also partnered with the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition to provide a year-round drug drop box where people could drop off medications at the police department for safe disposal. The box is located in our lobby and accessible during business hours. In 2010, we took in more than 100 pounds of pills, keeping them out of the hands of the wrong people and protecting the environment by providing a safe method of disposal.

We also listen to the community, and rely on our Crime Stoppers tip line to feed us information that may otherwise go undetected. Each year we receive around 300 tips, and the majority of those tips are related to drugs. We respond to each tip by assigning it to an officer or detective for review.

### **Partnering with law enforcement—**

The PPD has partnerships with the federal Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Kentucky State Police Drug and Special Investigations taskforce. These taskforce officers are dual-sworn officers and possess broader law enforcement powers that help us hunt down and bring to justice criminals who would otherwise be beyond our reach.

### **Investigating higher-level dealers—**

As highlighted in Assistant Chief Grimes' report, the DAVE Unit initiated 292 investigations, seizing nearly 2,000 grams of cocaine, 14 pounds of marijuana, and 22 grams of meth. Many of these cases were undercover drug operations focused on higher-level dealers connected to our area.

### **Working with the Courts—**

Our officers work with prosecutors to ensure that drug offenders are prosecuted appropriately, according to the law. In 2010, the DAVE Unit obtained convictions in 70 cases. That includes carrying cases through both state and federal court,

as well as working with our local drug court. The drug court tries to identifying low-level drug offenders and offers them a second chance, and the PPD recognizes that, too, can be a win-win for law enforcement and the community.

### **Using Technology—**

Kentucky commonly ranks high among other states when it comes to the abuse of prescription drugs and overdose deaths. The Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting system (KASPER) is a tool that allows law enforcement to find people with overlapping prescriptions, particularly for those drugs that are commonly abused. "It's a useful tool to determine if someone is doctor shopping," Sgt. Will Gilbert says. The number of doctor shopping cases is always high and the PPD investigates many complaints each year of prescription abuse. The KASPER system is one example of how technology is helping us fight the growing problem of abuse.

### **Responding to emerging issues—**

In April of 2010, synthetic marijuana became illegal, and since then we have been investigating complaints. Synthetic marijuana was marketed under the brand names "K2", "Spice", and "Posh," and we had a handful of arrests related to possession of these substances in 2010. The department has increased enforcement efforts leading into 2011, by identifying and targeting business owners, primarily convenient stores, who still had the products on their shelves. Additionally, certain bath salts have recently gained attention as a synthetic alternative to cocaine. Although they are not illegal, we anticipate legislation in 2011 to ban the sale and possession of the salts. We also are considering a local ordinance that would assist us in preventing the sale of the substances in Paducah until state legislation can be adopted.

The PPD is working diligently to reduce and control drug crimes in the Paducah-McCracken County area. If you have information to share with us, please contact Sergeant Will Gilbert at 270-444-8555, or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 443-TELL (443-8355).



**H**ow and why police use force is a concern to citizens, and the Paducah Police Department understands that concern and is committed to transparency in how we conduct ourselves.

People often have the impression that officers use physical force with every arrest, but that is not the case. Last year, the PPD made 2,840 arrests and used physical force only 60 times. That is two percent of the time. Of those 60 incidents, roughly 80 percent required what police refer to as “empty-hand” techniques, meaning the officer is using hand-to-hand defense techniques, not a weapon, such as a baton, pepper spray, Taser™, or firearm.

**Use of force is defined by PPD policy as any amount of force greater than normal handcuffing techniques.**

Twenty of the 60 incidents led to the suspect being injured, but most of those injuries were minor and only 11 incidents required any type of medical attention. Meanwhile, officers were injured in two of the incidents, but again no significant injuries were reported.

The use of force rate was stable, changing less than one percent from the previous year. And, a five-year average shows the PPD consistently uses physical force in about two percent of all arrests. Although officers are required to complete a Use of Force report for humanely killing injured animals, those reports are not included in these statistics.

Police officers handle some of the most dangerous situations and people in society. Last year, seventy-seven police officers were attacked and killed in the line of duty. Despite our desire to resolve situations peacefully and without physical force, there are always situations that require us to use force in order to uphold the law and protect those we serve.

**HOW WE REPORT**

Because multiple officers usually arrive to help in situations where force is needed, and each officer will see and act differently, each officer that is involved in a use of force incident is required to submit a separate report, giving an account of the incident and his/her actions. This allows us to collect as much information as possible about what happened. The reports then are reviewed by each level of supervision from the front-line supervisor to the Chief of Police, to ensure the officer’s actions were proper. These reports are then analyzed and filed with the Office of Professional Standards, which is responsible for investigating any allegations of misconduct.

**RACIAL, GENDER, & AGE DIFFERENCES IN USE OF FORCE**

The PPD Use of Force report captures demographic data. Below you will find a table that demonstrates that information, as well as information about the sobriety of the person.

<b><u>USE OF FORCE BY POPULATION</u></b>	
<b>White</b>	78%
<b>Black</b>	22%
<b>All Other Races</b>	0%
<b>Male</b>	80%
<b>Female</b>	20%
<b>Under 18</b>	5%
<b>18-24</b>	20%
<b>25-45</b>	64%
<b>46 And Older</b>	11%
<b>Under the Influence</b>	58 %

**USE OF FORCE**

# TRANSPARENCY

## USE OF FORCE TRAINING

**Verbal Judo™** — Perhaps you’ve heard the term “Verbal Judo.” It is a training system developed by Dr. George Thompson, president and founder of the Verbal Judo Institute, which has been around since the early 1980s. His program originally was designed for law enforcement officers, but it has been widely used in the private sector, too. Verbal Judo is a training course in tactical communications, designed to help officers persuade confrontational people into compliance without having to resort to physical force.

Last year the Paducah Police Department sent Sgt. George Johnson and Officer Scotty Davis through the instructor level course taught by Dr. Thompson, and when they returned they developed a in-house training course for all PPD officers. By March of 2010 all PPD officers had received a full 16 hours of Verbal Judo training.

**Civil Rights Training**—According to Special Agent Mike Brown, an FBI Agent that is assigned to investigate civil rights violations, the FBI had more than 2,000 civil rights cases in FY 2010, most of which involved law enforcement. The PPD invited Agent Brown to Paducah for a half-day training in February of 2011, to discuss the importance of civil rights issues.

**Firearms Training**—Like most agencies, the PPD requires firearms training and qualification each year. At the PPD, officers qualify twice each year, under both daylight and nighttime settings. And, officers are put through rigorous, real-life training with firearms, simulated ammunition guns and video-based decision-making training aids.

Because officers occasionally have to deal with heavily armed persons and the handguns we carry have some limitations, the PPD uses both shotguns and police patrol rifles for longer-range accuracy and superior firepower.

**Defensive Tactics Training**—The PPD has several instructors trained in law enforcement defensive tactics, and provides regular 16-hour training blocks of defensive tactics and handcuffing instruction to officers every other year.

**Taser™ Training**— By the end of 2010, all of our officers were trained and equipped with Tasers.



Taser™ X26

Tasers™, also known as electronic control devices (ECDs), have quickly become an effective tool for law enforcement when it comes to combating

active resistance and aggression. Training Officer Rob Estes, along with several other Taser trained instructors at the PPD, spent 2010 ensuring that all PPD officers were trained to carry the device. The department utilized \$61,532 in grant money to purchase Tasers in 2010, which completed the implementation by ensuring that each patrol officer, detective, and drug detective had one, Estes said.

The Taser delivers an incapacitating shock that lasts for several seconds, allowing officers to safely handcuff the person. To date, the PPD has had no serious injuries related to Taser use, and the most common injury is the minor puncture wounds from the two small probes that stick in the skin to deliver the shock.

At around \$900 each and \$30 per deployment, the ECDs are not a cheap tool, but they are an effective one. Estes said the department has implemented a sound policy, and discusses all of the critical issues in training prior to officers receiving one of the devices.





# Investigations

The General Investigations Unit (GIU), which is part of the Support Services Division, is responsible for investigating most major crimes. In 2010, the five GIU detectives were assigned 322 cases. That's an average of over 64 cases per detective, and their clearance rate was 72 percent.

Sgt. Brian Laird supervises the unit and says, "everyone works together as a team. They often stay late if necessary or do whatever it takes to get the job done." The detectives take turns being on call and if a major crime breaks, such as a homicide, the whole unit may have to come in and work, Laird says. In 2010, there were 72 after-hours call outs.

Assistant Chief Stacey Grimes says the GIU squad really has a tough job. "They have to sit down and interview murderers, rapists and other serious criminals, as well as the victims of serious crimes, and that's not easy. Sometimes it takes several hours and a lot of patience," Grimes says.

The job of a detective also requires an increased understanding of legal issues, such as search and seizure. Because of the size of our agency, detectives do it all. They process crime scenes, write search warrants, submit evidence to the crime lab, investigate the cases, interview everyone, and present the evidence to the prosecutor and the court. "The job requires a significant amount of specialized training and it takes time to develop good investigators," Grimes says.

In addition to all of the traditional investigative responsibilities, new technologies are making the job of an investigator much more complex. In 2010, Detective Mike Wentworth served as an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force officer. The ICAC program addresses on-line child solicitation and pornography.

Detective Wentworth was able to make 10 arrests of individuals who were attempting to solicit a minor for sex over the Internet. To catch them, Wentworth posed as a minor and went online.

In addition to the ICAC program, the PPD is having two investigators trained to handle forensic computer examinations. The training represents a partnership with the University of Louisville to provide a regional computer forensic laboratory in Paducah. Officers from the surrounding area will be able to have our detectives examine computers for forensic evidence of all types.

These are just a couple of examples of how technology is changing the way investigators work, and we are doing our best to keep up.

## GIU Roster

Detectives Mike Wentworth, Matt Smith, Troy Turner, Justin Crowell, Anthony Copeland, Investigative Assistant Malinda Baltz, Clerical Specialist Connie Waldrige, and Sergeant Brian Laird



# Patrol

## life on the streets

Officer Cindy Neihoff has been with the Paducah Police Department since July of 2000, and thus far her entire career has been in Operations, serving as a patrol officer and training officer for new recruits.



The Patrol Unit, which is part of the Operations Division at the department, is responsible for patrolling and responding to all calls for service seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In 2010, the patrol unit answered most all of the department's 43,707 calls for service. This includes what most think of as traditional police services, such as responding to reports of crime, traffic collisions, and working traffic enforcement, as well as proactive preventative patrol of the streets.

"It's hard to believe I've been here for almost twelve years," Neihoff says about her time on the streets. She says patrolling the streets makes for an interesting job, and "what I like is you really never know when you come in each morning what is going to happen. There may be nothing going on, then next thing you know, you're responding to a bank robbery or something like that," Neihoff says.

Patrol officers have to constantly be ready to respond to some of the most intense situations society has to offer, and in any given shift can deal with a wide array of issues.

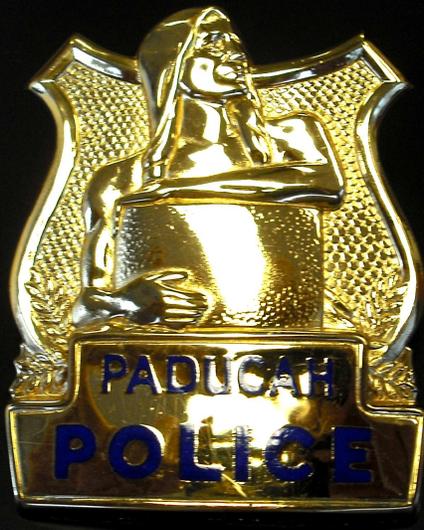
"We're constantly out there in the public's eye and we have to make tough decisions sometimes," Neihoff says. She says ethics are important and in order to do the job, you have to be able to make those tough calls and be comfortable with the fact that, at the end of the day, you've done the best job you can.

She says there have been several advances in patrolling just in her time on the streets, including the mobile data computers in the cars, and most recently the addition of the Taser™. She says the tools and technology, while sometimes overwhelming, give patrol officers advantages that they didn't once have, making the job a little easier, and more efficient.

"Even the fact that the computer gives you a cross street to an address you are looking for is a huge help," Neihoff says. Before computers, officers would have to stop and take time to look up an address on the map before making a call, and now they can get a cross street sent directly to their computer and know exactly where to go, quicker. "I think we always have to be looking forward, and officers just starting today will see things change even more," Neihoff says.

Neihoff says one of the things she likes about training new recruits is watching the enthusiasm they have for the job. She feels it's important to help them recognize that the job of a patrol officer is exciting and something you can be proud of doing.

"It's often said that the Operations Division is the backbone of any police organization, and that is very obvious here, because we have a very strong Operations Division," Chief Berry said. "They are highly trained, and committed to providing the best service to the community."



## Professional Standards

### Captain Brian Krueger

The Paducah Police Department's Professional Standards Unit is responsible for investigating complaints against officers, assisting with policy development, maintaining training records and standards, managing accreditation issues, and assessing Homeland Security threats.

Captain Brian Krueger (bottom right) leads the unit and he is supported by Training Officer Rob Estes. According to Chief Berry, "Both the community and our employees need to know that the department takes our standards seriously. The Professional Standards unit gives us a mechanism to ensure that we live up to that goal."

### Complaints

Captain Krueger reports there were 21 complaints filed against officers in 2010. Of those complaints, seven incidents resulted in employee counseling or written disciplinary action, while fourteen incidents were unfounded, not sustained, or the officer was exonerated. He reports that none of the incidents resulted in employee suspension or termination. "Accountability builds public trust and confidence, and ensures a continuing positive relationship with our community," Krueger says.

### Training

The Professional Standards Unit also maintains training records and ensures that officers receive the proper amount and type of training each year. In 2010, officers participated in 8,778 of certified (state) training, and an additional 1,906 hours of in-house training, for a total of 10,684 training hours. This means on average patrol officers got 94 hours, detectives received 140 hours, supervisors 134 hours, and managers received 149 hours.

### Accreditation

There are many issues involved in the accreditation process, and managing the requirements takes constant attention. "Accreditation is not just something the agency achieves, then forgets about," Krueger says. It requires the maintenance of certain types of records, review processes, and constant attention to the details that ensure the professionalism of the agency.

### Homeland Security

According to their website, the Kentucky Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC), is responsible for compiling, blending, analyzing and disseminating information among the broad network of law enforcement, public health and other key organizations. "One of my roles is as liaison for information and intelligence between our department and the KIFC in Frankfort, and other regional entities," Krueger says. In addition, Captain Krueger attends monthly meetings with the local emergency preparedness committee, and other organizations involved in the collaborative efforts to safeguard our community. Read more about the KIFC at: [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov)



Captain Brian Krueger can be contacted by calling 270-444-8548, or by email at:

[bkrueger@ci.paducah.ky.us](mailto:bkrueger@ci.paducah.ky.us)



The Paducah Police Department graduated its 15<sup>th</sup> Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) class on December 9, 2010. Twenty-eight citizens, including City Commissioner Carol Gault, started the program on September 16. The 11-week instructional course focuses on building a partnership between the police department, and the community. Police Chief James Berry says, "If you want to reduce crime in a community, work with families. Work with the children. You can't police a community until you know a community."

Classes were held Thursday evenings for three hours at the police department, with one evening at the shooting range on Cairo Road. The course is free of charge to any citizen 18 years of age or older. All applicants are subject to a criminal background check prior to acceptance.

During the 11-week program, citizens were exposed to current law enforcement issues and procedures, in addition to presentations by specialized units including Drug and Vice Enforcement (DAVE), SWAT, K-9, and the Bomb Squad. Citizens also had the opportunity to schedule a ride-along with a patrol officer on any shift. Members of the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program provided an overview of their goals and duties in the community. VIPS members also provided the graduation dinner for the class.

During the first two classes, participants received a general overview of the Paducah Police Department including the organizational chart and operations structure, Evidence unit, crime statistics, recruiting, and training. The second class ended with demonstrations by two of the K-9 teams: Sgt. Rob Hefner with K-9 Ronny and Officer Mike Simak with K-9 Bikkel. Later in the program, the class was able to meet the newest K-9 team, Officer Lofton Rowley and K-9 Fox.

The third class was devoted to Kentucky Revised Statutes, with discussions of culpable mental states and deadly weapons.

The General Investigations Unit and the Drug and Vice Enforcement Unit were highlighted during week four with the class participating in a fingerprinting exercise. During week five, the class had the opportunity to get a close look at the SWAT team's truck and equipment. The sixth week allowed the class to spend time in the police department's parking lot role playing as officers and citizens during traffic stops. The following week involved firearms, with the class enjoying a bowl of chili and a chance to fire three weapons. Taser demonstrations also proved to be entertaining.

For the next week of class, the discussion turned internal with a lecture about the accreditation process and internal affairs investigations. For week nine, class members had the chance to get on their feet and learn about pressure points, defensive tactics, and levels of control. During "explosive" week ten, the Bomb Squad kept everyone on their toes. They received the new robot only the day before the CPA class. The class watched as the robot demonstrated its capabilities. The final week of CPA included good food, good fellowship, and graduation handshakes.

The Citizen's Police Academy started in Paducah in March 2002 with the CPA Alumni Association beginning September 2002. Although there no longer is an Alumni Association, each student has the opportunity to participate in the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program.

Sergeant George Johnson coordinated the 2010 CPA class.

—Story by Pam Spencer, Paducah  
Public Information Officer, CPA graduate



# EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Paducah Police Department has 39 employees with college degrees: three with master's degrees, 28 with bachelor's degrees, and eight employees with associate degrees. Three employees are working on master's degrees currently, and one is working on a bachelor's degree.

Education is an essential element for success of the individual, and the organizations they serve. In law enforcement, administrators have the responsibility of managing public funds, determining policies and practice, and supervising officers as they make decisions where lives and individual freedoms are at stake.

Following the civil rights movement and general unrest of the 1960s, Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, and since then the number of college-educated police officers has risen significantly. There now are more educated cops than ever before, and the research indicates that a more educated workforce in policing has several benefits to the community.

Roberg and Bonn (2004) point out a long history of research, dating back to the 1970s, that shows college-educated officers are more professional, use less force, and get fewer citizen complaints, among other positive attributes. They also report that officers with higher education are more "humanistic" in their approach to the job, which makes them more adept at Community-Oriented Policing (COP) strategies.<sup>1</sup>

The Paducah Police Department, like most other modern agencies, subscribes to the COP philosophy. It is a concept that was developed from the idea of "problem-oriented policing," first discussed by Herman Goldstein in the 1970s. Goldstein (2003) says— "the police function is ill defined... Demands on the police are often in conflict. Public expectations exceed both available resources and authority" (p.23).<sup>2</sup>

For that reason, the creative problem-solving and critical thinking abilities of our officers has to be top notch, and we believe that it is, in part to higher education.

As officers progress through their careers, some will move into management positions, and they have the increased responsibilities of leadership. In public organizations like ours, that means helping manage the workforce, generally 13-16 officers for a front-line supervisor.

In addition to a person's college education, advanced law enforcement leadership training is essential to the development of the necessary skills to handle these tasks. Courses like the Academy of Police Supervision (APS) and the Criminal Justice Executive Development (CJED) program, both taught by Kentucky's Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) are essential starting points for new supervisors and shift commanders. These courses address a wide range of leadership, human resources, and management issues.

The APS and CJED classes are followed by the School of Strategic Leadership, another program taught by DOCJT, and other more advanced programs, such as the Southern Police Institute's (SPI) command courses, or the FBI's National Academy.

The PPD has 13 graduates of APS, six graduates of CJED, and one graduate of the School of Strategic Leadership. Additionally, both assistant chiefs have completed the Southern Police Institute's executive command course, and Captain Brian Krueger is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy. Generally speaking, graduation from either the SPI command course or the FBI National Academy are considered a must have for any aspiring police chief. With the level of education and leadership training we have, we are confident in our ability to provide the best and most effective police services to our community.

1. Roberg, R. & Bonn, S. (2004). *Higher education and policing: Where are we now?* Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management, 27, 4, pp. 469-486  
2. Goldstein, H. (2003). *On further developing Problem-Oriented Policing: The most critical need, the major impediments, and a proposal.* Crime Prevention Studies, 15, pp. 13-47



## Chain of Custody

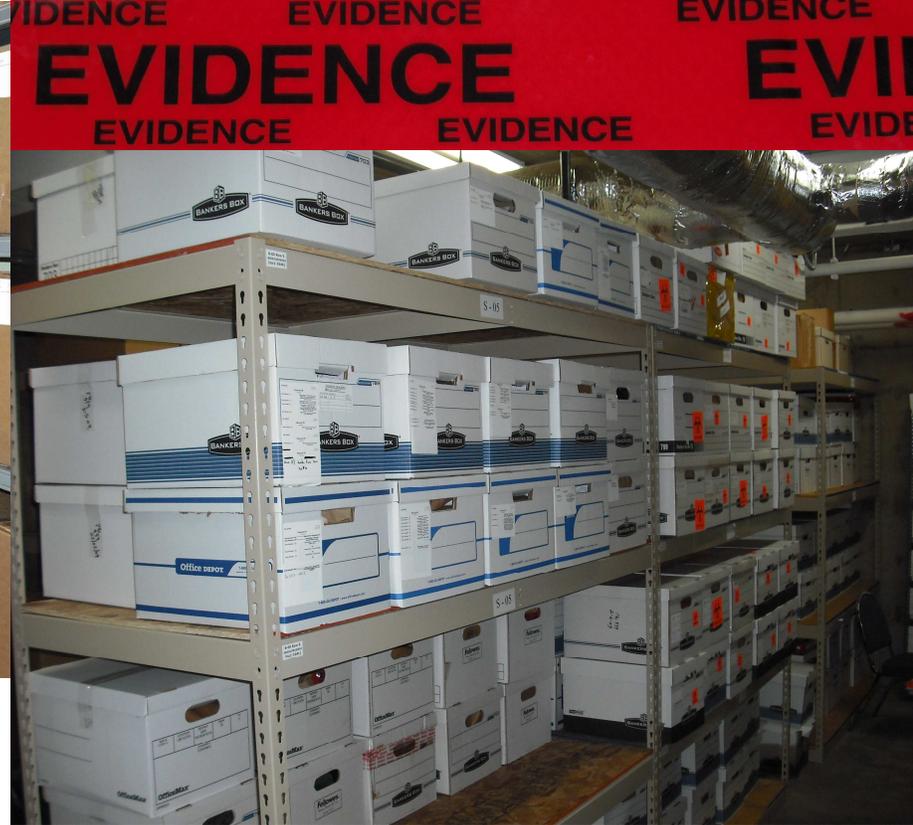
**M**aintaining the proper chain of custody is an essential element of prosecuting criminal cases successfully, and it demonstrates the professionalism of a police organization.



Tracy Lynch (left), is the Paducah Police Department’s Evidence Technician, and she is responsible for overseeing the intake, safe and secure storage, and destruction of evidence. As part of her job, Tracy has to ensure that the evidence is always handled in a way that complies with the standards set forth by court, as well as the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police accreditation, which guidelines the best practices for law enforcement.

We believe our evidence room is one of the best kept in the state of Kentucky. According to Mike Bischoff, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Chief’s of Police, “one particular area of accomplishment (for the PPD, through the accreditation process) was the continued transformation and improvements of the property room, insuring that it met or exceeded national standards.”

In 2010, the evidence unit, which is part of the Support Services Division, took in 2,258 items of evidence, and destroyed or returned 2,338 items. In accordance with state statute, we also release forfeited firearms to the Kentucky State Police, but in 2010, we had no firearms submitted to KSP. By statute, the state police take the guns and resell them to licensed gun dealers, and the funds that are generated go toward the purchase of bullet proof vests.



Like many evidence rooms, we do not keep seized money on the premises. Instead, we deposit that money at a bank for safe-keeping until it is court-ordered to be returned, or forfeited to the police department for use. In 2010, we seized \$24,265.97, which was \$5,271.13 less than in 2009.

Over the past 10 years the PPD has taken in more items of evidence than it has been able to get rid of, and we now have more than 15,000 more items than we had in 2000. This creates a space issue, and will challenge us in the future to more aggressively dispose of items that have been through court, or the cases that were never prosecuted. One way we get rid of items is through our annual auction, which is held each spring. In 2010, we sold \$1,809 in items, including 54 bicycles.

## Accountability

Four times each year the Professional Standards Unit conducts a spot audit of the Evidence Room by requiring the Evidence Technician to locate and account for a certain number of items. This quarterly review is coupled with a full audit of evidence every two years or any time the evidence custodian changes. In 2010, an audit was conducted and showed that all items were accounted for and there was less than 0.001 percent clerical error in reporting.



# S. W. A. T.

## Special Weapons and Tactics



SWAT Team Leader, Sgt. Joe Hayes

While day-to-day police work in a civilized society does not require machine guns and bullet proof helmets, police occasionally have to respond to very high risk incidents that require superior firepower. Armed and barricaded subjects, high-risk search warrants, and arrest warrants for society's most dangerous criminals generally garner the response of the Special Weapons and Tactics team, commonly known as SWAT.

The Paducah Police Department SWAT team is led by Sergeant Joe Hayes. Sgt. Hayes (top right), a patrol sergeant and an six-year veteran of the department, served five years in the United States Marine Corps and worked for the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., before joining the PPD in 2004. He also is a Kentucky National Guardsman, and has three years of service in that capacity, as well as a bachelors degree in business.

Sergeant Hayes' team consists of two squad leaders, Jason Montgomery and Lofton Rowley, seven other members, and a marksman and observer. They report to Captain Mark Roberts, Administrative Captain of Operations, and they fall under the Operations Division, which is commanded by Assistant Chief Brandon Barnhill.

The decision to call the SWAT team into action is based on a decision-making matrix. The matrix, developed by the Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute and approved by Kentucky League of Cities, requires police to consider the type of crime, the criminal history of the person being sought, and what type of weapons may be accessible to the person before making the decision to use the level of force a SWAT team applies. Each criteria is scored, and based on the score, police may or may utilize the team.

To be selected for the SWAT team, officers are required to pass a higher level of physical fitness standard than regular officers, pass advanced firearms qualifications, and demonstrate the ability to handle themselves in the most stressful types of police incidents.

The team trains twice monthly and usually attends a three-day training course once a year at a regional military training facility here in Kentucky. They also spend additional time on the firing range and are on-call 24 hours a day.

In 2010, the SWAT team was called out three times. Of these incidents, two were high-risk drug related search warrants and one was for a barricaded subject, who was armed and suicidal.

**2010 SWAT Team Roster:** Joe Hayes, Jason Montgomery, Lofton Rowley, Nathan Young, James Davis, Matt Wentworth, James Robbins, Justin Rundles, Jarrett Woodruff, Chris Baxter, Kevin Crider, and Ryan Conn. SWAT Medics are: Steve Skipworth and Greg Edwards





Bomb Squad Commander, Sgt. Will Gilbert

# BOMB SQUAD

Sergeant Will Gilbert has commanded the Paducah Police Department Bomb Squad since 2004. In that time, he has been instrumental in securing nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in grant funding for the unit, which serves a 13 county region in western Kentucky, as well as surrounding states.

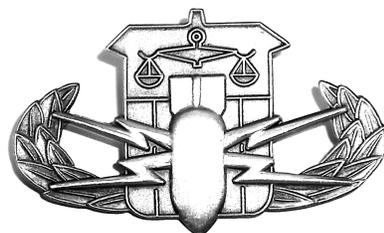
The PPD squad is one of only five in the state, and only a handful in the nation. The training that is required is intense and difficult to obtain, and there are only 23 certified bomb technicians in the state.

The PPD squad has four technicians, three that are currently certified and one that is awaiting training. They responded to 35 calls and conducted 12 civic presentations in 2010.

In addition to the technicians, the PPD Squad has two medics, Dr. Irvin Smith, the medical director of Mercy Regional Ambulance Service, and Paramedic Shane Moore, who also works full-time at Mercy Regional Ambulance. Moore is the only certified Bomb Squad medic in the state of Kentucky, having attended training from the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, specifically for working as a Bomb Medic.

The team trains twice each month, and is required to participate in one 40-hour in-service each year. During 2010, the squad was able to get several new pieces of equipment, including a new trailer and Andros HD2™ robot, which is used to examine suspicious or known explosive devices rather than sending in a technician to go hands-on. When they do go hands-on, bomb technicians have to wear one hundred pound suits (pictured left), which would help protect them from a blast. The robot also can enter hazardous environments, to prevent injury and avoid technicians having to suit up in hazardous chemical suits.

“The thing I always try to point out to people is that we are lucky to have a bomb squad. If we didn’t have one, we could have to wait up to four hours or more, which could mean serious delays in the service to the community,” Gilbert says. If you would like to know more about the Bomb Squad, email Sgt. Gilbert at—[wgilbert@ci.paducah.ky.us](mailto:wgilbert@ci.paducah.ky.us) or call 270-444-8555.



# Crisis Negotiators

**A**long with SWAT and the Bomb Squad, we also have trained crisis negotiators. It is a specialized unit that assists in the event someone barricades themselves or takes others hostage.

Sgt. George Johnson, Officer Brian Kopischke, Detective Matt Smith, and Officer Melissa Dillon are all trained in the best practices for handling these difficult situations.

You may think that it's easy to establish communications with someone, but too often people in these situations are suffering from mental illness or substance abuse issues.

Sergeant Johnson says to become a negotiator, officers have to attend a 40-hour specialized training course, and three of our negotiators have had an additional 40-hour course in advanced crisis negotiation.

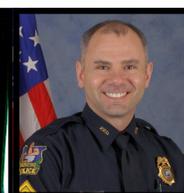
"The most difficult part of being a negotiator is simply having the patience to deal with people in crisis," Johnson says. He says when trying to build a rapport with people, you have to consider not only issues like mental illness and substance abuse, but also their socioeconomic background and other factors that may influence how the person perceives the situation, the police presence, and their view of the world.

To help communicate with barricaded subjects, the Crisis Negotiation Team has a few tools at their disposal. They have a "throw phone," which is a telephone capable of being extended up to a thousand feet away, and they have the ability to tap into a residential phone line and talk directly into a house from the command post.

In September 2010, our negotiators attended a professional training conference in Estes Park, CO, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Hostage Negotiators, a non-profit organization that has been hosting professional training since 1999.

The three-day course focused on everything from dealing with domestic terrorists, to suicidal subjects. Johnson said the conference allowed them to attend different seminars relative to negotiation and it was good to get the additional training.

Negotiators are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist the department, and in 2010, they had two call-outs. They also conduct in-house training quarterly.



George Johnson



Brian Kopischke



Matt Smith



Melissa Dillon



# community

Chief James Berry was excited to have the department host its first ever 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in September 2010. Held at Elmwood Court, the “Community Hoopfest” tournament had 36 participants, mainly local youth. Berry says, “the basketball program is a vehicle for getting to know the youth in our community on a proactive basis, and if you want to reduce crime in a community it’s important to connect with the kids.”

Captain Shawn Maxie organized the event, which partnered with the Paducah Housing Authority and Ronald McDonald House Charities. The teams were broken down by age brackets, and according to Maxie, all the players received a Community Hoopfest jersey, pizza and drinks.

Maxie said he hopes this becomes a yearly event, and that the department can host small tournaments each month through the summer at different locations throughout town in 2011. “I think it allows the kids an opportunity to see police officers in a different light and show our concern for the community,” Maxie says.

Chief Berry reports “the police department also is in the process of developing a Police Athletic League boxing program, and we’re hoping to bring our Law Enforcement Explorer program back.”

Berry says he wants to connect the programs with existing after-school programs and is hoping to work closely with community partners like the Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club and the Paducah Parks Depart. He said it’s important to see that kids have something to do, after doing their homework, of course, which he said was one of his requirements in Connecticut.

“This is part of the community policing concept, and it works,” Berry says. He believes that it is critical for the department to be involved and make a connection with the youth in the community.





## Remembering a Chief

On Jan. 28, 2010, the men and women of the Paducah Police Department had the honor and the sorrowful duty of participating in funeral services for retired Chief of Police Kermit A. Perdew.

Chief Perdew – Kermit, as he was known to the men and women of the department – was hired as a rookie Patrol officer with the Paducah Police Department in 1981. Four years later he became a detective, and joined a group that was to become one of the most close-knit and effective investigative units the department had ever seen.

He was promoted to sergeant, and continued serving in the Detective Division until 1993, when he was named head of the Western Area Narcotics Team. In August 1996, he was promoted to Captain and served as such until he was promoted to Chief of Police in January 1997.

Kermit took over leadership at a time of upheaval within the department. There were disciplinary problems and a negative perception of the department in the community.

Kermit began the difficult task of rebuilding the community’s trust in the department, and the department’s faith in itself. He reorganized the department’s Emergency Response Team (now SWAT) and replaced years-old leather gear for every officer. He over-saw a complete rewrite of the department’s Policy and General Order Manual, and began the process of putting video cameras and Mobile Data Terminal computers in every Patrol Division cruiser.



But more than these things was Kermit’s genuine care and concern for the victims he came in contact with; his dedication to his officers and civilian staff; and his enduring love for his wife, Brenda, his son, Jeff, and his two grandchildren.

During his time as a detective, Kermit worked tirelessly to provide justice to the victims and their families – and he never forgot the victims of those crimes he couldn’t solve. As chief, he gave every decision thoughtful consideration, mulling over the facts and weighing the consequences of his choices. His decisions might not always have been popular with every employee, but they always were made with fairness and the heart-felt belief that they were the best decisions.

When Kermit retired in September 2000, he left the department as one of the most highly respected chiefs in its history.

On Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, Kermit collapsed at his home. He died the following morning at Lourdes Hospital. Those officers and civilians who worked with and for Kermit are poorer for his loss, but he lives on through our memories and the many stories that we tell – stories of a life well-lived and a death that came much too soon.



Photo of Kermit Perdew courtesy of WPSD (Paxton Media)

—By Robin Newberry



# SINCE 1834

Collecting the history of the Paducah Police Department is a work in progress, says department historian, Anthony Hughes. Hughes, a six-year veteran of the department, was asked to act as historian in late 2009. After several news stories he says “a lot of people came forward with pictures and information about the department’s past.”



According to historical records, it appears that the city’s first town marshal was hired in August of 1834. By February of 1865, the department ordered its first set of six revolvers.

Hughes says the first mention of putting officers in uniforms dates to 1891. It’s likely that the purchase of the uniforms marked the city’s use of a modern police style force, often attributed to Sir Robert Peel of England. Peel is credited with developing the first uniformed version of police, as we think of today. In America, the idea first took hold between 1840 and 1860.<sup>1</sup>

The force apparently grew significantly by the turn of the 20th century, as you can see from the picture at the top of the page, thought to be from that timeframe. No doubt officers walked their beats back in those days, and though we have made many changes over time, the concept and mission remain the same: to protect and serve the community.

Hughes says since the department’s beginning, the PPD has lost three officers in the line of duty. Calvin Smith, shot in October of 1893; William Romain, shot in August of 1917; and William Poore, who reportedly fell to his death in November of 1928, while crossing the railroad trestle over Clark’s River looking for a suspect.

In conducting his research, Hughes was able to secure a spot for these officers on the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C. Smith and Romain, were added in 2010, and Poore will be added in 2011. Officer Hughes and Captain Shawn Maxie traveled to D.C. for the memorial ceremonies. “The honor of seeing the names added to the wall was humbling. Knowing I helped memorialize those officers was one of the highpoints of my career,” Hughes said.

In the future we hope to include more of our history on our website. If you have old photos or information concerning the history of the PPD, please share it with Officer Hughes. He can be reached at 270-444-8548, or by email at [ahughes@ci.paducah.ky.us](mailto:ahughes@ci.paducah.ky.us).

1. Geller, W. & Stephens, D. (2003). Local Government Police Management, 4th ed. ICMA, Washington, D.C. 20002.



2010