



Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition Program

April 2013

Texas Police Chiefs Association

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Ten New Agencies Recognized in the First Quarter

The Recognition Program has added 10 new Recognized Agencies in the first quarter of 2013 bringing the total to 79. During the first quarter Waxahachie, Mesquite, Balch Springs, Terrell Hills, Gran Prairie, Seagoville, Seguin, Kilgore, DFW Airport and the Houston Metro Transit Police Departments were Recognized. Farmers Branch and Victoria were also re-Recognized. *(Due to limitations in the size of the newsletter, the Seguin, Kilgore, DFW Airport and Houston Metro Departments will be profiled in the July edition of the newsletter.)*

Waxahachie Police Department

Waxahachie was founded in 1850 and is located about 40 miles south of Dallas and Fort Worth on IH 35, US 77 and Highway 287. By 1895 the historic Ellis County



Waxahachie Police Department

Courthouse was completed and today it is the town's most impressive landmark. Waxahachie has a council/manager form of government with four council members and a mayor.

The Waxahachie Police Department has 55 sworn officers and an administrative staff of about 15. The department has a chief and two assistant chiefs, with one managing operations (patrol, criminal investigations, K-9, and special assignments), and the other assistant chief managing the administrative portions of the department (communications, records, IT, training, building and fleet).

Charles "Chuck" Edge has been the chief of police for the city of Waxahachie since April of 2007. He began his career with the Baytown Police Department where he served for 21 years. His last assignment was as a field commander of the Harris County Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force. After that, he became the chief of police for Palestine for four years, moving to Waxahachie in 2007.



Chief Edge

see RECOG Page 2

In this Issue:

- Ten New Agencies Recognizedpages 1-4
- Informing Employees of Value of the Recognition Programpage 4
- Informing Recognition Program of New Program Managerpage 4
- Two Agencies re-Recognized in the First Quarterpage 5
- Reminder: New Requirement for All Recognized Agenciespage 5
- Program Status Box.....page 5
- Medical Release of Prisoners Solves Long Standing Problempage 6
- Changes Made to Sample Policy Manual and Sample Trainingpage 6
- Recognition Program Training Schedule.....page 6

continued **RECOG** from Page 1

Chief Edge is a graduate of the 222nd session of the FBI National Academy and a graduate of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. He also holds a TECLEOSE Master Peace Officer commission and Instructor's License. He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and has a Master of Arts in Public and Private Management from the University of Houston – Clear Lake.

Mesquite Police Department

The city of Mesquite is a large, inner-ring suburb of Dallas covering over 49 square miles in eastern Dallas and western Kaufman Counties. In 1887, Mesquite became the second city in Dallas County to incorporate and has grown to become the 18th largest city in Texas. The city of Mesquite is a home

rule city operating under a city charter. The city has a council-manager form of government that oversees 1,100 employees and a \$97 million budget.

Delivery of police services is a major function of the city of Mesquite. Within the department there are 229 police officers and 86 support personnel. Divisions within the department include: administration, operations, criminal investigation, school resource officer program, technical services and staff support. The police department operates on an annual budget of \$30 million.

Chief Derek Rohde is the 10th chief of police in the history of the Mesquite

Police Department. He grew up in Mesquite and started his career with the Mesquite Police Department in 1983. He progressed through the ranks and was promoted to assistant chief in 2005 and to chief of police in 2008. Chief Rohde holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master Peace Officer certification. He is a graduate of the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas Leadership Command College, the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute's School of Police Supervision and Leadership Mesquite.



Chief Rohde



Mesquite Police Department

Balch Springs Police Department

The city of Balch Springs lies just south of Mesquite and also adjacent to Dallas. To avoid annexation by Dal-

see **RECOG** Page 3



BRINKLEY SARGENT ARCHITECTS

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF TPCA FOR TWENTY YEARS

- Needs Assessments **DALLAS 972-960-9970**
- Programming and Budget Analysis
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continued RECOG from Page 2

las, Balch Springs incorporated as a city on June 13, 1953. The new city encompassed the communities of Balch Springs, Zipp City, Five Points, Jonesville and Triangle, as well as portions of Rylie and Kleberg. The population was 1,479. A mayor-council form of government was adopted after incorporation. Developers bought farmland and built new homes. It has continued to grow steadily and in 2010 the population was 23,728.



Balch Springs Police Department

The Balch Springs Police Department serves the city with a staff of 58 employees and operates on a budget of \$3 million. The police department's two divisions are operations and support. These divisions are each commanded by a lieutenant. The lieutenants report to the deputy chief of police who oversees the daily activities of all employees.

Chief Ed Morris' law enforcement career expands over a period of 38 years. After serving his country for seven years in the Navy, he began working for the Dallas County Sheriff as a reserve deputy and then with Grand Prairie in as a certified police officer. Chief Morris was appointed as chief of police for the Balch Springs Police Department in July 2007. He served in that capacity until May 2009 when he took on the additional role of interim city manager. In November 2009 he became the full time city manager and police chief and still serves in the capacity as both. Chief Morris holds a Master Peace Officer Certification from TCLEOSE, he is a graduate of the 166th session of the FBI National Academy and holds a bachelor's degree in Science in Criminal Justice from Dallas Baptist University.



Chief Morris

Terrell Hills Police Department



Terrell Hills Police Department

The city of Terrell Hills is an affluent, primarily residential community located between Alamo Heights and Fort Sam Houston along the Austin Highway inside Loop 410 in San Antonio. Terrell Hills was incorporated as a town with an elected a mayor in 1939, and became a city with a home rule charter in 1957, retaining a mayor and council system of government.

The Terrell Hills Police Department is comprised of 15 full-time sworn officers and four non-paid reserve officers. The department operates three 8-hour shifts each with a sergeant, corporal and two officers. In addition, the department has a full-time investigative unit staffed by a police sergeant with the department lieutenant serving a supervisor over both patrol and investigations

Chief Gregory D. Whitlock has been in the law enforcement field since 1973 and has been the chief of police at Terrell Hills since 2008. He retired from the San Antonio Police Department in August 2006. Before taking the chief's job in Terrell Hills, Chief Whitlock served as the patrol commander for the Kendall County Sheriff's Office in Boerne, Texas. Chief Whitlock is a 1981 FBI National Academy graduate (127th session) and has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Wayland Baptist University.



Chief Whitlock

Grand Prairie Police Department

Grand Prairie is located 12 miles west of downtown Dallas and 15 miles

east of Fort Worth, just five minutes south of DFW International Airport. The city is over 80 square miles with a population of 175,960. Grand Prairie is the 15th largest city in Texas and in the top 150 largest cities nationwide. Grand Prairie offers a variety of attractions that encourage visitors to experience life as an adventure including Lone Star Park, Traders Village, Verizon Theatre, concerts, golf courses and the beaches and camps at the 7,500 acre Joe Pool Lake. Grand Prairie also has a minor league baseball team, the Grand Prairie AirHogs, that play in a new, 87,000 square foot stadium located between Lone Star Park and Verizon Theatre.



Grand Prairie Police Department

The Grand Prairie Police Department's authorized sworn strength is 235 officers and has an annual operating budget of \$36.5 million. In 2011, the department answered over 215,000 calls for service, which included both citizen and officer-initiated calls and GPPD averages over 1,000 arrests per month. Recently, the Grand Prairie Police Department announced a 24 percent decrease in UCR Part 1 Crimes for 2012 as compared to 2011. The 24 percent overall decrease consisted of: a 17 percent decrease in violent crimes and a 25 percent decrease in property crimes and is the largest recorded annual decrease in the department's history.

Chief Steve Dye began his police career with the Houston Police Department and also served with the Arlington and Garland Police Departments in various assignments including patrol, SWAT, street level narcotics, mounted patrol and in the traffic unit as a motorcycle officer. For several years, Chief



Chief Dye

see RECOG Page 4

continued RECOG from Page 4

Dye also investigated insurance fraud for the Travelers and CNA insurance companies. He was as an assistant chief in Garland and chief in Colleyville before being selected as the chief of police for the Grand Prairie Police Department in July 2011. Chief Dye is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police and the LEMIT Command Staff Leadership Series and holds his Master Peace Officer Certification. He is currently working on his master's degree in Managerial Science at Amberton University.

Seagoville Police Department

The town of Seago was founded in 1876 by T.K. Seago. The city of Seago had to change its name to Seagoville when it was discovered that another



Seagoville Police Department

town in Texas already had the name of Sego. The US Post Office added the "ville" to Seago to avoid confusion. The current city of Seagoville operates under a home rule charter with a city manager. Seagoville's corporate city limits is adjacent to Dallas and covers approximately 24 square miles in both Dallas and Kaufman Counties, with a population of approximately 15,000 residents.

The Seagoville Police Department was established in 1983. The department today is staffed with 24 paid full-time police officers, consisting of a chief, one captain, five sergeants, and 17 offi-

cers. In addition there are two part-time officers and one reserve officer on staff. Annually, the department responds to nearly 14,000 calls for service, makes 600 arrests and issues 1800 citations.

Chief Pat Stallings began his law enforcement career in 1982 as a police dispatcher. At the age of 18, he graduated from the police academy, and in 1985 went to work for the Lancaster Police Department. He retired in March 2008 as assistant chief. On April 2008, he was appointed chief of police of Seagoville, Texas. Chief Stallings holds a Master of Arts from the University of Texas at Arlington, a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences from Dallas Baptist University, graduated from the 216th F.B.I. National Academy and the 41st Bill Blackwood Leadership Command College. ★



Chief Stallings

Informing Employees of Value of the Recognition Program

One of the most common questions asked by Assessors to members of a department during an on-site assessments is "What do you know about the Recognition Program?" Answers range from detailed information to knowing nothing at all about the program. One of the major benefits of the Recognition Program is the increased credibility of the agency and its officers provided to citizens, to other departments and especially to the criminal justice system as a whole. Officers should know that their agency is Recognized as one of the best in the state and that in order to be Recognized, it must meet over 165 Best Practices.

Improving the credibility of your agency in the eyes of the public and others in the criminal justice system encourages better cooperation. It instills pride in agency employees and

encourages continuous improvement. Citizens who trust and have confidence in their department will be more willing to provide information and assist when needed. Pride in an agency is contagious and one of the best tools to gain continued compliance and improvement by department employees.

There are other tools such as vehicle decals, uniform award bars, and logos for both email messages and business cards that can be used to instill pride in the agency. But nothing beats the Chief making it clear at every opportunity. ★

Informing Recognition Program of New Program Manager

Chiefs need to ensure the Recognition Program Coordinator is informed of any changes in the department's program manager. Most program information is forwarded through the program manager in order to keep correspondence requiring attention of the chief to a minimum. Please forward any information on changes in your program manager to marlinrprice@verizon.net. ★

Two Agencies re-Recognized in the First Quarter

Farmers Branch Police Department

The city of Farmers Branch is located on the north side of Dallas and since their initial Recognition in 2009, staff has been reduced by over 25 percent. Several departments have been combined and the two assistant city manager positions have been eliminated. The practice of reducing staff and employee benefits along with outsourcing service has been trending over the last several years within the city. The city now has a commuter light rail operated by Dallas Area Rapid Transit. Economic development is now slowly trending upward.



Farmers Branch Police Department

Due to the recession the city suffered several rounds of budget cuts. The police department had two over hire police officer positions cut. The dispatch center has operated with an average of two openings for the last four years. The openings have cost the department an average of \$50,000 to \$75,000 in overtime to ensure that the communications center is operating at full staff. The

budget of the police department has remained fixed for the last four years at \$11 million.

Chief Sid Fuller joined the Farmers Branch Police Department in 2006 after serving 23 years with the Irving Police Department. He holds a Master of Arts in Criminology/Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Tarleton State University. Chief Fuller is a graduate of the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration Command College and a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Chief Fuller

Victoria Police Department

Victoria, known as the South Texas Crossroads, is one of the oldest cities in Texas. Highway 77, 87 and 59 (the future I-69) all intersect in Victoria. With a county-wide population of nearing 90,000 and a retail trade area of over 250,000, Victoria is a cultural, historic and economic hub for the surrounding



Victoria Police Department

seven counties. Victoria's location will play a vital role in the development of the proposed NAFTA interstate, I-69. This "high-priority" project designated by the US Congress, has selected Victoria as an intersecting point for two proposed interstate projects to the Rio Grande Valley and the Mexico border.

Through the years, the Victoria Police Department has distinguished itself as a professional and progressive agency. The Victoria Police Department now has an authorized strength of 155 employees who strive to meet the challenges of a growing community. Patrol officers responded to 67,179 calls for service during 2012. The average response time to priority one emergency calls for service is 5.49 minutes. In 2012, Class I Crimes decreased by 14.27 percent from the prior year. Total Class II Crimes also decreased by 9.38 percent.

On August 15, 2011, Chief Jeffrey Craig began his service with the Victoria Police Department as chief of police. Chief Craig began his law enforcement career in 1982 when he joined the ranks of the Long Beach, CA Police Department, where he served for 29 years. Chief Craig was born and raised in Long Beach and holds an Associate of Arts from Long Beach City College in Administration of Justice, a bachelor's degree from University of Phoenix in Business Management and a master's degree from University of Phoenix in Organizational Management. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Class 196 and from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government State and Local Government Program. ★



Chief Craig

Reminder: New Requirement for All Recognized Agencies

Recognized Agencies must comply with new Standard 1.13 **Continuing Compliance with Best Practices** before the end of this year. The standard requires agencies to appoint a specific person within the agency to ensure all continuing program requirements are met, and to have a system in place to ensure continuing compliance. The system can be manual or automated such as using Outlook Task Manager to assign and record completion of periodic requirements. Proof of policy and the system in use should be emailed to the program coordinator marlinrprice@verizon.net before the end of the year. ★

Changes Made to Sample Policy Manual and Sample Training

The current issue of the Sample Policy Manual was updated in January 2013 with the following changes and additions. If you are already using the Sample Manual as a basis for your policy manual, you should download the [“Updates to Sample Policy Manual July-Dec 2012”](#) and review the changes made (highlighted in yellow) to determine if you need to make changes in your manual.

Changes to the Sample Policy Manual included:

- **1.4 Inspections and Audits** Modified to comply with new Standard 1.13.
- **3.1 Basic Training Requirements** Modified to add the requirements for Self Aid Buddy Aid training every two years.
- **4.5 Uniforms, Appearance, and Equipment** Modified to require the wearing of Body Armor in all Uniform Field Assignments.
- **7.8 Arrests of Transgender, Intersex, Gender Nonconforming (TIGN) Individuals** New policy to address the arrest and treatment of these individuals. This policy is optional at this time.
- **8.3 Emergency Response Team** Modified to require Self Aid Buddy Aid equipment for ERT officers in compliance with changes in Standard 8.06.
- **8.6 Active Shooter Policy** New policy which puts the details of current training into policy format. It is also an optional policy at this time.
- **9.1 Radio Communications** Modified to prohibit officers from typing on in-car computers unless stationary (with emergency exceptions).
- **10.1 Holding Facility Operations and 10.1 Prisoner Processing** (for those agencies without a holding facility) Modified to come into closer compliance with the Prison Rape Prevention Act and to address the classification and holding of Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Non-Conforming individuals. It was also modified to require intake screening for medical and psychological issues to attempt to prevent holding facility suicides. A prisoner Intake Screening form was also provided.

The sample training program was also modified to add a lesson plan and PowerPoint presentation for Self Aid Buddy Aid, as well as a new Ethics PowerPoint for Sworn Officer instruction. ★

Medical Release of Prisoners Solves Long Standing Problem

Agencies that run holding facilities are often faced with what to do with prisoners that need extended medical attention and possible hospitalization. If the prisoner is under arrest for a serious violent offense then most agencies guard the prisoner until the case is filed and the sheriff takes over. But for minor and many non-violent offenses, it just doesn't make sense to tie up an officer guarding a person for extended periods. In addition, hospitals frequently attempt to make the city pay for the medical bills incurred.

A recent on-site visit of the Balch Springs Police Department revealed a very innovative approach to this dilemma. If a prisoner is determined to need medical attention at a hospital (determined by the responding paramedic), the prisoner signs a medical release form. The form clearly informs the prisoner that the charges have not been dropped but that he is being released for medical reasons and he must present himself back at the holding facility within six hours after release from any medical facility. If he fails to return, the department files escape charges. These charges are routinely accepted by the Dallas County district attorney and have solved a continuing problem for the agency.

Agencies wishing to use this system should obviously check with their local district or county attorney. If you want additional information about the process, contact Lieutenant Brent Hurley of the Balch Springs Police Department. ★

Recognition Program Training Schedule

This free training is required to begin the Recognition Program.

June 6, 2013 - Thursday

1 PM to 4 PM

Amarillo Police Department

4th floor, North Classroom

200 SE 3rd Ave, Amarillo, Texas 79101

Meeting with Lunch (\$15) starts at 11:30 AM. Training to start about Noon. (No charge if attending training only)

The Berry Center, Cy-Fair

8877 Barker Cypress, Cypress, TX

77433

July 23, 2013 - Tuesday

Approx. Noon to 3 PM

In Conjunction with the Houston Area Police Chiefs monthly meeting

RSVP or change RSVP for any of above to marlinrprice@verizon.net

Agencies needing or desiring Recognition program Training in your area should contact the Program Coordinator, Marlin Price. ★

Program Status

Recognized Agencies	79
Agencies in Process	32