



Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition Program

July 2014

Texas Police Chiefs Association

Volume 6 Number 3

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Second Quarter adds one new Recognized Agency and two achieve Re-Recognition

Selma becomes the 101st Recognized Agency while Hedwig Village and McKinney achieve Re-Recognition.

Selma Police Department

Founded in 1847, Selma is one of the many settlements along the Cibolo Creek. With its prime location just outside Loop 1604 along Interstate 35 and proximity to Randolph A.F.B., Selma has seen a heavy flow of commercial development including the Forum Shopping Center, an array of retail and restaurant establishments that is one of the largest outdoor shopping centers in Texas. Selma, which covers approximately five square miles, is in three counties (Guadalupe, Bexar and Comal) and today has a population of approximately 8,000. Other commercial establishments in-

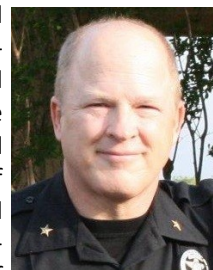


Selma Police Department

clude Academy, Costco, Furniture Row, and several hotels. Selma is also home to Retama Park, one of three class A horse racing tracks in Texas.

The Selma Police Department was established in 1970, and grew from a single man department to 31 sworn and 2 non-sworn positions. Today, the Selma Police Department is located in a separate two-story building in the City of Selma Municipal Complex and has an operating budget of over 3.1 million dollars. The department is organized into five divisions, Administrative, Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Professional Standards and Warrants. Currently the patrol division is divided into four 12-hour shifts and there is a Sergeant and Corporal assigned to each shift. The Criminal Investigations Division consists of 3 full-time investigators and 1 full-time evidence technician. The Department has officers assigned to the Randolph Area Metro SWAT team that consists of officers from several jurisdictions in the San Antonio area. The Police Department recently purchased a Tactical Armored Response Vehicle for use by the team.

Chief Syd Hall has worked for the Selma Police Department since 1984 and has been Chief for the past 16 years. Chief Hall attended the University of Texas at San Antonio and is a graduate of San Antonio College. A member of several professional and fraternal organizations,



Chief Syd Hall

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Chief Hall most recently served as Chairman of the Alamo Area Police Chiefs Association. He has attended numerous law enforcement executive and administrative level training courses including the FBI Command College and is currently training for his private pilot certification.

Hedwig Village Police Department

Hedwig Village is a city in Harris County, incorporated on December 23, 1954. Hedwig Village has a population of about 2,600 residents. Being surrounded by Houston and occupying two miles along



Hedwig Village Police Department

Interstate 10, there is a day time population of about 30,000.

The police department began in the late 1950's as a combined force with other area cities. To meet the unique challenges of its community (consolidated business district bordering a bedroom community), the citizens of Hedwig Village formed their own police department with a chief of police and eight patrol officers. Today, the department is a full service police department with seventeen classified police officers, six full time civilian employees, and a budget of approximately two million dollars. The command staff consists of a Chief, Captain, Civilian Supervisor, and four Sergeants.

The Police Chief, David A. Gott, reports to the Hedwig Village City Manager.

Chief Gott holds a bachelor's degree and has been a police officer for over 33 years. He began his career with the Houston Police Department in 1980 and rose through the ranks, working in many different divisions including Patrol, Robbery, Internal Affairs, Recruiting, Tactical Operations, and eventually retiring as the captain of the Homicide Division. In January 2013, he was appointed Chief of the Hedwig Village Police Department, taking over for Chief Dave Barber, who retired after serving as the Hedwig Village Police Chief for 13 years.



Chief David Gott

McKinney Police Department

The first settlers came to the McKinney area from Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas around 1841. Most early residents settled in this area with the help of William S. Peters. Mr. Peters and his associates oversaw the development of Peters Colony, a North Texas empresario grant, which was made to them by the Republic of Texas for the areas of present-day Grayson, Denton, Tarrant and



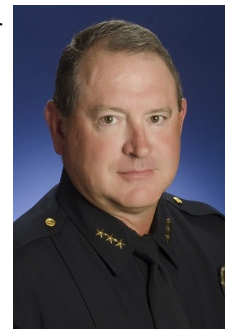
McKinney Police Department

Collin Counties. McKinney incorporated in 1848. In 1850, the city had a population of 315. Since that time, McKinney has developed into a vibrant community with a population of over 150,000. The city has one of the state's largest historic districts.

From its inception McKinney has had a law enforcement presence. The first law

officer was referred to as a City Marshal who had a deputy to assist him in keeping the peace. Over time, as the population of McKinney grew, the department grew as well. The McKinney Police Department currently has 187 authorized sworn positions of which 175 are filled and 49 authorized civilian positions. One Assistant Chief is responsible for Field Operations to include units such as Communications, Patrol, Traffic and Special Operations. The other Assistant Chief is responsible for the department budget and oversees Investigations (to include Crime Scene and Property and Evidence) and Professional Standards.

Joe W. Williams has been Chief of the McKinney Police Department since October 2012. Chief Williams has more than 24 years of law enforcement experience. Chief Williams began his career as a United States Marine in 1984. He proudly served our nation for eight years, transitioning to a career in law enforcement with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office in 1990. In 1994 he moved to Texas, serving with the Frisco Police Department for 13 years while moving up in rank to Captain. He was then appointed Chief of Police for the Celina Police Department in 2007 and Deputy City Manager for the City of McKinney in 2011 prior to his appointment as



Chief Joe Williams

Chief. Chief Williams has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management from Sam Houston State University. He is a graduate of the 222nd session of the FBI National Academy and the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas Leadership and Command College.

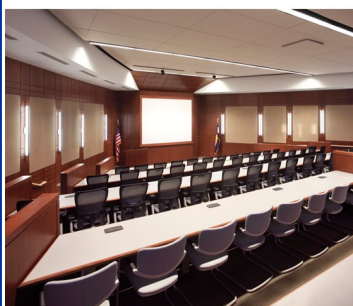
New Recognition Program Director Named

It's about time! The Recognition Program is now over seven years old and has had the same old broken down Program Director since it started. We have been incredibly fortunate that he still wakes up each morning. Well, he has finally found a bright, new, energetic, and competent retired Chief to take over the Program. Effective September 1, Marlin Price will hand over the reins of Recognition Program to Max Westbrook. Max retired originally out of the Austin Police Department and took the Chief's position at the Texas Comptroller's Office Criminal Investigations, and assisted them in gaining Recognized status. Max has most recently worked as a consultant in Law Enforcement operations around the state and served as interim chief in Uvalde.

Marlin Price, the current Program Director, stated "It has been the highlight of my professional career to have been associated with the Texas Best Practices Recognition Program. I have no doubt that it has made a difference in the organization and management of many fine departments around the state. I know, because of its training requirements that it has made

hundreds and hundreds of officers safer in what they do each day. But it is time for new ideas and even better ideas and operations. I ask the many friends that have assisted me in this partnership, to give Max the same thoughtfulness and willingness to help, as you gave me." While Marlin intends to stay active in both the Association and in the Recognition Program as an Assessor, he will no longer have to manage the day to day operations.

After September 1, the new Program Director can be reached at rpdirector@texaspolicechiefs.org or at 512-751-2213.



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Program Status

Recognized Agencies	101
Agencies in Process	28

What is the Law Enforcement Agency Best Practices Recognition Program?

The Law Enforcement Recognition Program is a voluntary process where police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with 166 Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices. These Best Practices were carefully developed by Texas Law Enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service, the reduction of risk and the protection of individual's rights. While similar in nature to the national accreditation program, the Best Practices Recognition Program is easier to administer, lower in cost and is designed specifically for Texas Law Enforcement. The Texas Legislature demands a great deal of professional law enforcement in Texas and the Best Practices were specifically designed to aid Texas agencies in meeting those demands and providing the best quality of service to the people of our State. Since its inception in 2006, 100 Texas Law Enforcement Agencies have been Recognized and many more are currently in the process to become Recognized Agencies.

Mid Year Training Conference has Chief Track—August 6, 7 & 8, 2014

If you have considered getting into the Recognition Program and need to find out what it is all about, or if you are a Recognized Agency and have a new Program Manager or have a Re-Recognition On-site coming up – this is the place for you! The Recognition Program Mid-Year Training Conference is scheduled for August 6, 7 and 8 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Marcos.

Program Managers and Chiefs can get the training required for entering the Recognition Program. New Program Managers can find out what is needed for Re-Recognition and evaluate the different options. Chiefs have a separate training track that includes classes like “SWAT for Non-SWAT Chiefs” and “What Chiefs need to Know about Property and Evidence.” Chiefs and Program Managers can also opt to take Assessor Training at the Conference. Friday morning is dedicated to showing Chiefs and Program Managers some of the best tools available from vendors to assist in the Recognition Program and to show where required Training can be obtained. Make San Marcos part of your summer! Register at www.texaspolicechiefs.org

Sample Policy Manual Update Posted

If your department has used the TPCA Sample Policy Manual you should always review the updates that are posted every six months. These updates make changes based on court decisions, legislative action and even new Best Practices. The update is posted on the Program Website under Downloads and Sample Policy Manual. The “Update” download is just those policies that were updated and the changes are highlighted. After reviewing the changes, you can decide if you want to make changes in your manual.

The “Jan-Jun 2014 Update” contains updates to six policies, a complete copy of the new Active Shooter Sample Policy, and a new Use of Force Investigation Supplement.

Policy 5.1 Departmental Records was modified to suggest wording for placing officer's field notes into evidence or case reports in order to comply with many District Attorney's interpretation of the Texas disclosure law. It was also modified to comply with the new restrictions of Government Code 552.1085 regarding release of Crime Scene photos.

Policy 5.3 Computer and Electronic Equipment Usage and Data Security was modified to add several restrictions recommended by the IACP Model Policy on when citizens can refuse to be recorded by Body Worn Camera systems.

Policy 6.1 Use of Force was modified to add required steps supervisors must take when investigating uses of force. Recent events in a major city in New Mexico underscored that department's apparent lack of proper investigations of their use of force. The suggested minimum steps to be taken are strictly optional as part of your policy, but are excellent ideas to ensure a complete

investigation. A Use of Force Investigative Supplement Report was also designed and added to the Sample Manual.

Policy 6.3 Non-Lethal and Less Lethal Weapons was modified to comply with a recent court decision, *Brooks v Seattle*. While this decision is a Ninth Circuit decision and not immediately applicable to Texas law enforcement, it did provide significant discussion on the justification and use of Tasers that may be used in other circuits in the future. The changes made in the Sample Policy are optional but may be considered in future court decisions. **Policy 7.40 Investigations** was modified to add some additional language that requires both the documentation of investigations and the reporting of the results of investigations to the District Attorney as a result of the Michael Morton Act passed this past year. These sections are optional but may assist in providing language that you may wish to use in your policy.

Policy 8.6 Active Shooter Response is a new policy issued last year to comply with new Standard 7.34. It has been updated to use the same definitions as the IACP Model policy.

Policy 12.1 Property and Evidence was modified to include new requirements for Property Room Inspections and Inventories. The 2015 Edition of the Best Practices will require new and more detailed Property Room inspections to improve detection of problem issues within the Property Room. This modification of this Sample Policy will meet those new requirements.

DO YOU NEED SELF AID-BUDDY AID TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT?

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