



Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition Program

July 2013

Texas Police Chiefs Association

Volume 5 Number 3

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Two New Agencies Recognized and Two Receive Re-Recognition

White Settlement and the Lower Colorado River Authority Police Department achieved Recognized Status during the second quarter. Both Woodway and Amarillo were also Re-Recognized. Seguin, Kilgore, DFW Airport, and Houston Metro Police Departments are included in this summary due to the lack of space in last quarter's Newsletter.

Seguin Police Department

Founded in 1838 by veterans of the Texas Revolution who had fought battles in the nearby town of Gonzales, the City of Seguin was initially named Walnut Springs. In 1839, city leaders voted to change the name to Seguin. Erasmo and Juan Seguin were brothers and heroes of many battles during the Texas Revolution. However, it is popularly believed that the town is named in honor of Juan Seguin. A statue of Juan Seguin stands as a tribute in a park next to the county courthouse.

Seguin, with a current population of 25,175, is the county seat of Guadalupe County and it is situated along the banks of the Guadalupe River on I-10. It is located ap-



proximately 30 minutes east of San Antonio and is considered part of the San Antonio metropolitan area.

Today the Police Department has an operating budget of \$5,696,837. Under the leadership of the Chief of Police, there are 71 employees. Of those, 52 are full-time certified officers, 13 are Communications personnel, and 6 are civilian employees. They also have 3 Reserve officers and one part time Motorcycle officer.

The Seguin Police Department is led by Chief Kevin Kelso, a native of Gonzales, who spent much of his career in command positions at the police department in Victoria. While building his career, Chief Kelso attained his bachelor's degree from the



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University of Houston in Victoria. He is a graduate of both the FBI National Academy and the Leadership Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University.

Kilgore Police Department

The City of Kilgore is located in both Gregg and Rusk Counties and is 11 miles south of the county seat of Longview and 25 miles east of Tyler. Kilgore has a population of 13,000. Kilgore was incorporated in 1931 just after the East Texas Oil Boom. Kilgore soon became the geographic center



of the oil field and a downtown block claimed the title of the "World's Richest Acre" due to the greatest concentration of oil derricks in the world.

The Kilgore Police Department was established in 1931 along with the City of Kilgore. The Kilgore Police Department currently serves a population of 13,000 with a service area of 19 square miles. The Department is made up of 59 total employees, 36 of which are sworn peace officers. The Department operates with an annual budget of approximately \$3,800,000 and is divided between two major units in addition to Administration.

A native of East Texas, Chief Todd Hunter began his career in Law Enforcement with the Athens Police Department in February 1993 and then joined the Addison Police Department in 1996. He has served as a Police Officer, Field Training Officer, Narcotics Investigator, Detective, Special Operations Detec-

tive, and Supervisor. In 2005, he was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Jasper. In February 2011, he was hired as the Kilgore Police Chief.



Chief Hunter holds an Associate's Degree from Tyler Junior College and a Bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University. He has a Master Peace Officer license and Instructors Certification from TCLEOSE.

DFW Airport Police Department

DFW Airport is the 4th busiest airport in the world with over 26.9 square miles of land, five airline terminals, freight terminals, aircraft hangars, and a large number of businesses. Over 58 million passengers travel through the airport annually and over 150,000 each

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day. The airport services 20 airlines with 7 runways and over 150 gates.

Police services are provided by DFW Airport's Department of Public Safety. The Police Service has an authorized strength of 179 full-time sworn officers supplemented by an additional 40 officers assigned to other department services. Four major divisions provide a wide array of services to the airport community. The Patrol Division provides 24 hour law enforcement coverage to the airport. In addition to traditional patrol activities, the division operates a sophisticated closed circuit television system supporting the Airport Security Program.

The Police Service is led by Chief Steven Deel. Chief Deel came to DFW Airport from Irving Police Department in 1977 and he has served in a variety of capacities during his tenure at DFW including EOD/Canine, Criminal Investigations, Hostage Negotiations, and serves as the Airport's Security Coordinator. He holds a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Texas Wesleyan School of Law and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Houston Metro Transit Police Department

The Texas State Legislature authorized the creation of local transit authorities in 1973. In 1978, Houston-area voters created the Metropolitan Transit Authority, or METRO, and approved a one-cent sales tax to support its operations. METRO opened for



business in January 1979 and has transformed a broken bus fleet into a regional multimodal transportation system.

Since the formation of Metro Police Department (MPD) in 1982, the primary mission of the department has been to provide security and safety to customers, employees and property. Their jurisdiction spans approximately 1,285 square miles. It includes most of Harris County, portions of Montgomery County, Fort Bend County, and Waller County. The METRO service area crosses several political jurisdictions and METRO Police have concurrent jurisdiction with those police jurisdictions. The METRO Police Department is the primary police agency whenever an incident occurs on METRO property, such as bus stops/shelters, METRO Rail platforms, Park & Ride lots, transit centers, buses, and light rail vehicles. The Department has 177 sworn and 32 non-sworn personnel. The Department has five major divisions, which include Management Services, Professional Standards, Support Operations, Investigations, and Field Operations.

Victor G. Rodriguez was sworn in as Chief of Police for the Metro Police Department on May 5, 2011. He began his career with the Houston Police Department in 1985. Chief Rodriguez received a juris doctor degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1996 and earned a bachelor's degree in public management from the University of Houston Clear Lake. He attended the FBI National Academy in 2000, and the Senior Management Institute for Police in 2010. ★



Two Agencies achieved Recognized Status in the Second Quarter

White Settlement Police Department



The history of White Settlement dates back to the 1840's, when there were seven Native American Villages in the vicinity of what later became Fort Worth. There was one non-native settlement west of the Fort, and it was known as White Settlement because no Native Americans lived there. White Settlement became a trading outpost on which Native Americans came to rely. The City of White Settlement was incorporated in 1941 and has progressed to a current population of 16,200. The city is surrounded by the City of Fort Worth and has an area of five square miles. The City operates under a Council/Manager form of government with 6 council members and a mayor.

From the early days of one constable, White Settlement has established one of the finest police departments in the state. Police protection is provided at the enviable rate of one patrol car per square mile. The police department has a command structure of a Chief of Police with two Captains below him. One Captain is over Operations and one Captain is over Support Services. The department has two Lieutenants, five Sergeants, nine



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Corporals, and totals 33 sworn officers. The department employs 14 civilians with an annual budget of just over \$3.9 million.

Chief Jack Ely began his career as a Firefighter/EMT and later an Arson Investigator for the City of Kingsville. He later moved to College Station where he was employed by the College Station Police Department, and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He entered the United States Navy where he became a Naval Aviator for the next twenty years. After retiring from the Navy, he accepted the position as Chief of Police for Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base - Fort Worth. After five years he accepted the position as Chief of Police for the City of White Settlement where he has been since October of 2008.

Lower Colorado River Authority Police Department

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is a conservation and reclamation district created by the Texas Legislature in 1934. LCRA has no taxing authority and operates solely on utility revenues and fees generated from supplying energy, water and community services. LCRA supplies cost effective electricity for Central Texas, manages water supplies and floods in the lower Colorado River basin, provides public parks, and supports community development in 58 Texas counties. With six hydroelectric dams and wind power purchased from West Texas wind farms, LCRA is one of the largest publicly owned suppliers of renewable energy in Texas.

The Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) Public Safety Department has served for more than 30 years as a resource for communities throughout the region for law enforcement, emergency response, and security for LCRA's power plants, dams and offices. LCRA Public Safety's original goal has been to



protect LCRA's critical infrastructure. LCRA's focus has broadened through the years to include law enforcement – both to protect visitors to LCRA parks and lakes and the Colorado River, as well as to assist local agencies' public safety efforts. The department operates on a 6.5 Million dollar budget and has grown from a one-man office established in 1979 to a 66-person staff – 25 (authorized) who are LCRA Rangers, certified peace officers licensed to carry weapons and make arrests as they patrol LCRA's lakes and parks and the lower Colorado River. Another 33 are armed security personnel and the rest are civilian staff and Communications personnel.

Chief Brent went to work for the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) in April of 1996. He was commissioned as a Ranger with the LCRA Public Safety Department in 1996. He was promoted to the LCRA Security Administrator position in 1997. In October of 1998 he was promoted to the Chief Ranger position in the LCRA Public Safety Department. Born in Bonham, he grew up in Austin, graduating from Austin High School in 1971. He attended Blinn College, St. Edward's University and Midwestern State University. He joined the Texas Department of Public Safety in September of 1973. He left DPS in 1981 and worked for Exxon until leaving in 1996 for the LCRA. Chief Brent holds a Master Peace Officer Certificate and graduated from the LEMIT Leadership and Command College in 2006. Chief Brent is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Texas Police Chief's Association. ★



Amarillo and Woodway are Re-Recognized

Amarillo Police Department



The City of Amarillo is a regional hub for the Texas Panhandle. The 2010 population census of 193,675 showed a proven growth trend. Five independent school districts service Amarillo and the surrounding areas. The relocation of two aerospace firms to Amarillo and the national research laboratory to devise peaceful uses for plutonium has insulated the Amarillo economy from many of the economic troubles suffered by the rest of the country.

The Amarillo Police Department's management operates under Line and Staff Operations system. It is also a Civil Service agency. The Amarillo Police Department services 100.24 square miles and operates on a 38 million dollar budget. The City of Amarillo has a Commission/Manager form of government. The Department currently has an authorized strength of 345 sworn personnel, 51 full time civilian employees, and 6 part time civilian employees with an actual strength of 334 sworn personnel. There are four separate Divisions headed by a Captain within the Department. Since initial recognition, the Department no longer operates a jail and no longer has an in-house dispatch center. The City now contracts with Randall and Potter County Jail's to house prisoners. Also, the City now has an independent Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC) that dispatches for police, fire, and ambulance services. It no longer falls under

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the purview of the Department, but rather is its own entity.

Robert Taylor has been the Chief of Police for the City of Amarillo since April 2007. He began his career with the Amarillo Police Department in April 1980 and has worked for the Department for his entire 33 year career. Chief Robert Taylor graduated Magna Cum Laude from Regis University Denver, Colorado in 2002 with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration – Management. He also has earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration – General Business from West Texas A&M University in 2008. Chief Taylor is a graduate of the National FBI Academy, has a Master Peace Officers Certification and a TECLEOSE Academic Recognition Award. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, is Region 2 Director for the Texas Police Chief’s Association, and is a member of the Best Practices Recognition Committee.



Woodway Public Safety Department

On June 20, 1955, the Village of Woodway was created with a population of 250 people. In 1956 the first volunteer Fire Department was created, then dissolved in 1969 to be recreated in 1970. Most of the Fire Department personnel were under the Police Chief by 1972. In 1975 the Police and Fire Departments were joined into a Public Safety Department and housed at 200 Sharron Drive until 1993 when it moved to its present location, 920 Estates Drive. Woodway has grown from

its population of 250 in 1955 to a thriving master planned community of 9,000.

The Police and Fire Departments, originally under the Chief of Police, officially became a Public Safety Department in 1975. The Department received Texas Best Practices Recognition on February 24, 2009.

Chief Yousry (Yost) Zakhary started his Law Enforcement career with the City of Woodway as a Dispatcher in 1979. He has worked his way up through the ranks and was appointed Chief in 1985. Chief Zakhary holds a B.A. in Management and a M.A. in Public Policy and Public Administration from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is a graduate of the 160th Session F.B.I. National Academy. Chief Zakhary is an active participant in many law enforcement related positions and offices. He has held offices in the IACP and is currently serving as the 1st Vice President of the IACP. Chief Zakhary has served as the president of the Texas Police Chiefs Association and Chair of the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation. Chief Zakhary additionally serves as the City Manager for the City of Woodway. ★



Recognition Program Training

This is the training required to begin the Recognition Program and is provided at no charge.

- July 23, 2013 (Tuesday)
- Noon to 3 PM
- In conjunction with the Houston Area Police Chiefs monthly meeting.
- Meeting with Lunch (\$15) starts at 11:30 AM. Training to start about noon. (No charge if attending training only)
- The Berry Center
8877 Barker Cypress
Cypress, TX 77433

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. ★

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. Only 19 of the 81 Recognized Agencies have complied thus far. Proof of policy and the system in use should be emailed to the Program Coordinator marlinrprice@verizon.net before the end of the year. ★

Program Status	
Recognized Agencies	81
Agencies in Process	35