

TEXAS POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION – LECOP RECIPIENTS



Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #1



Commander Gary Hiatt – Waco Police Department

Award Date: October 26, 2021

Commander Hiatt began his career with the Waco Police Department in 2008 after serving in the U.S. Army. He rose through the ranks and was promoted to the rank of Commander in May, 2021 and assigned to Patrol Operations. Commander Hiatt credits much of his success as a leader to the TPCA Law Enforcement Officer Program and its' instructors.

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #2



Assistant Director Justin Scott – TX Comptroller of Public Accounts, CID

Award Date: November 15, 2021

A.D. Scott is a 28 year LE veteran with over 18 years with the Comptroller's CID. He served as Sgt. Investigator, Regional Commander and Captain of Field Operations before being promoted to Deputy Chief/Assistant Director of CID in July, 2021. He holds a BBA from Abilene Christian Univ. and an MS in Criminal Justice from UT-Permian Basin. He previously served as a Sergeant with the Odessa Police Dept. A.D. Scott made the following comments: *"The LECOP series is the best training I have attended in my 28-year career and I am honored to be a recipient of the LECOP award. The instructors went above and beyond in preparation and delivery of the training and the networking opportunities with other leaders was fantastic"*.

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #3



Commander Anthony (Tony) Lourence – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: December 14, 2021

Commander Lourence started with the Killeen PD in 1998 after service in the United States Marine Corps. He is currently the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division, having served as a Patrol Watch Commander, Training/Academy Coordinator, Field Training Sergeant, Personnel Hiring and Recruiting, Academy Instructor, Detective, Crisis Negotiator, Honor Guard and FTO. Cmdr. Lourence says, *"I am honored to have had the opportunity to complete the TPCA-LECOP. The knowledge, training and experience I have gained from this program, the instructors, and the students that attended the program courses has undoubtedly contributed to me becoming a better Texas LE professional to better serve the public and my Department. Thank you TPCA"*.

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #4



Commander Pedro Soto – Waco Police Department

Award Date: December 28, 2021

Commander Soto has served 21 years with the Waco PD. He is the Commander over the Professional Development and Recruiting Division. He has served as a Patrol Commander and as a Sgt. in Family Violence, Field Training and Patrol. He was also a SWAT Operator and Academy Instructor. Commander Soto holds a BBA from UT-Arlington and a Masters degree in CJ from Tarleton State Univ. Commander Soto states, *“The training I received from the TPCA Instructors, along with the engaging discussions, have in invaluable to my development as a Law Enforcement Leader. I attribute my growth and development as a professional to the LECOP program and I am excited to be a recipient of this award”*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #5



Lieutenant Matt Kerr – Palestine Police Department

Award Date: February 10, 2022

Lt. Kerr began his career with the Palestine Police Department in 2007 after serving in the U.S. Navy. He has served as a Patrolman, FTO, Rangemaster, Corporal, K9 Handler, Narcotics Investigator, Patrol Shift Sgt. and Support Services/Special Operations Commander. He is currently assigned as Patrol Commander. Lt. Kerr stated, *“The knowledge, training and networking I have been exposed to with the TPCA-LECOP program has made me a more versatile police administrator. LECOP has played an instrumental role in my professional development, making me a better leader for the men and women I serve”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #6



Commander Antonia McDaniel – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: March 15, 2022

Cmdr. McDaniel is a 20-year veteran of the Killeen Police Department. He is currently the Patrol Division Cmdr. Including Traffic and K9 Operations, Violent Crime Action Team, Jail Operations and Communications. Cmdr. McDaniel has served in various roles including FTO, Patrol Sgt., Lt of Special Operations and Interim Animal Control Manager. He states, *“The LECOP Program is the gold standard for Texas LE leadership training. It has afforded me the opportunity to meet some outstanding LE leaders from all over the State. The instructors are the absolute best in the business! LECOP has given me the tools to provide quality leadership. Thank you TPCA”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #7



Lieutenant Juan De La Cruz – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: March 15, 2022

Lt. De La Cruz has served the City of Killeen as a Police Officer since 2008, after serving 5 years in the U.S. Army. After serving on Patrol, Lt. De La Cruz volunteered to become a Training Officer and was also selected to the Crisis Negotiations Team. He was promoted to Sgt. in 2017 and to Lt. in 2020. He currently serves as a Watch Commander on the Night Shift. He comments, *“I am honored to have had the privilege of attending the TPCA classes. The first class I attended (DEVLDR) helped set the groundwork in my journey to become a better leader for my Department. I am truly grateful for the knowledge passed on to me by of the TPCA Instructors”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #8



Sergeant Louis Griffin Jr. – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: May 3, 2022

Sgt. Griffin began his LE career in 1979 and has been with the Killeen Police Dept. since 2004. He has served as Deputy Sheriff, Criminal Investigator, Dive Team and Special Response Team member. With KPD, he has been a Patrol Officer, Field Training Instructor, Negotiator and Academy Instructor. As a Patrol Sgt., he believes leadership starts with 1st Line Supervisors. Sgt. Griffin remarks, *“I was excited about LECOP because I believed it would bring high-quality professional standards for Command Staffs throughout Texas. Thank you to TPCA for the great training and outstanding knowledge shared by all the retired Police Chiefs/Instructors”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #9



Captain Steven Markasky – Jacksonville Police Department

Award Date: May 18, 2022

Capt. Markasky began his career with the Jacksonville Police Dept. in 2012. He rose through the ranks to Operations Captain, which includes Patrol, Traffic, SWAT and K9 operations. He is also the Department’s Program Manager for the TPCAF Accreditation Program. Capt. Markasky says, *“The Developing Leaders class had an instant impact on my career and I was able to greatly benefit from what I continued to learn in the LECOP program. I am thankful for the instructors and fellow students, which allowed me to network with current and future leaders of Texas Law Enforcement”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #10



Corporal Jeremy B. Creech – Galveston County Sheriff's Office

Award Date: June 28, 2022

Corporal Jeremy B. Creech began his career working for the Galveston County Sheriff's Office in 1998. Corporal Creech has served in the Corrections Division as a Deputy and held the rank of Sergeant. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division as a Corporal on the day shift. Corporal Creech has spent much of his career working DWI Enforcement and Crash Investigations. He serves in additional assignments as the Crash Team supervisor and the STEP Coordinator, managing the STEP budgets for the various grants. Cpl. Creech first attended the Developing Leaders Course and found immediate leadership tools to apply. He was determined to continue through the LECOP course work to better himself as a leader for the folks he supervises.

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #11



Detective Sergeant R. Joel Gordon – Shenandoah Police Department

Award Date: July 12, 2022

Sergeant Gordon is a 28-year Law Enforcement veteran with 16 years service with the Shenandoah PD. He worked 12 years with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and has served in the jail, on patrol, as the Crime Stoppers Coordinator, Patrol Supervisor and CID Supervisor. He stated, *“I have attended a lot of leadership training in the past but the LECOP program is completely different in that there is a constant emphasis on leadership, you also learn about technical issues related to every aspect of LE. From managing patrol to CID and from special operations to administrative functions, it is all covered. You see the links and the big picture becomes clearer”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #12



Lieutenant Jake Reuvers – Shenandoah Police Department

Award Date: July 12, 2022

Lt. Reuvers began his career in 2010 and has served with Shenandoah since 2012. As the agency's second-in-command, he leads the Patrol Division, K-9 Program and is the TPCAF Accreditation Program Manager. He holds a Master of Science Degree in CJ Leadership from SHSU. He said, "TPCA's LECOP is an excellent initiative for current and future police leaders to obtain relevant skills and knowledge, grow and reinforce important leadership tenets, and network with cohorts striving toward a common goal".

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #13



Lieutenant Timothy Manges – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: July 25, 2022

Lt. Manges began his career with Killeen PD in 2006 after serving 10 years in the US Army. He is currently the Watch Commander for Night Shift B. He was previously assigned as a Patrol Officer, Narcotics Detective, Patrol Sgt. and Homicide Unit Sgt. He also has served as an FTO and as a SWAT member. He commented, "The training I received through LECOP was the best training in leadership out there and the instructors are top notch. I look forward to using what I have learned to make my little piece of KPD a better place".

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #14



Lieutenant Jeffrey Corbitt – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: July 25, 2022

Lt. Corbitt started with the KPD in 2009. He is currently a Patrol Watch Commander and Mobile Field Force Commander. He previously served as a Patrol Sgt., Field Training Coordinator and FTO. He commented, "It was luck that early as a young Sergeant I was able to attend the Developing Leaders for TX LE class in 2016. That course was the foundation of my leadership training. When I found out that TPCA had developed LECOP I could not wait to expand my knowledge. Thank you to TPCA and their instructors for providing this training."

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #15



Commander Robert J. Rush III – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: August 11, 2022

Cmdr. Rush started with KPD in 2003 after serving in the US Army. He has a BA in CJ Leadership from the American Military University and a MS in CJ Management from Sam Houston State Univ. He is a graduate of the LEMIT Leadership and Command College. He served as a patrol officer, FTO and crisis negotiator and has supervised a variety of units throughout the Department, currently commanding the Training Division. He considers personal growth essential to leaders. He stated, "I am grateful for the many opportunities in my career. I hope to keep serving others and help them realize their potential. I am grateful for the instructors and mentors at TPCA. Their experience and support via the LECOP program (and beyond) have meant the world to so many of us".

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #16



Lieutenant Chester "Chet" Vronka – Pflugerville Police Department

Award Date: August 11, 2022

Lt. Vronka began his career in 1993 with the Sunset Valley PD after serving in the US Army. He started with PPD as a School Resource Officer over 21 years ago. He has worked in every Division of the Dept. and one of his passions is the Crisis Intervention Team, which he was instrumental in starting in 2015. He is currently assigned as a day shift Watch Commander. He comments that he has attended a variety of leadership courses and has learned various principles. He further says, "*The LECOP program teaches leadership principles, in addition to the processes to implement these principles*".

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #17



Chief of Police William Ray Lacy – Shavano Park Police Department (retired)

Award Date: August 11, 2022

Chief Lacy began his LE career in 1981, retiring as Chief of the Shavano Park PD in 2020. He has since served as an Interim Chief of Police and as an Assessor for the TPCAF Law Enforcement Best Practices Accreditation Program. He remarked, "*I believe that continual development is vital for our profession. The TPCAF training classes, the LECOP Program and the Accreditation Program help individual officers and agencies meet the needs of our 21st Century law enforcement profession. I am thankful for the instructors and my fellow students which allowed sharing of ideas and networking. The LECOP Program is an outstanding tool.*"

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #18



Sergeant Tiffany Vanzant – Weatherford Police Department

Award Date: September 7, 2022

Sgt. Vanzant began her career with the Arlington PD in 2011 and began at the Weatherford PD in 2016. Promoted to Sgt. in 2019, she worked in patrol, street crimes, community services, and recruiting. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Tarleton State Univ. She stated, "*I was initially drawn to the LECOP Program because it was practical for a working mom, and I quickly realized what a great program they've created. The Organizational Leadership, Courage & Character course was a personal favorite that I think is needed for all new leaders. The instructors share a vast and diverse collection of experiences and create an atmosphere for learning that translates into day-to-day scenarios that supervisors may face. Thank you!*"

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #19



Sergeant Johnny Qualls – Weatherford Police Department

Award Date: September 15, 2022

Sgt. Qualls has served in law enforcement 15 years and with the Weatherford PD since 2013. First a Patrol Deputy and Investigator for the Parker County Sheriff's Office, he has served as a Patrol Officer, FTO, Patrol Supervisor, and FTO Coordinator with the WPD. He says, "*The LECOP Program exposed me to leadership principles from experts in various stages over several months. This gives participants the opportunity to compartmentalize what they have learned and come home to apply it incrementally. I'm honored and privileged to have met, learned from and be mentioned among the men and women dedicated to developing and leading our profession.*"

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #20



Sergeant Harry Mongillo – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: September 16, 2022

Sgt. Mongillo began his LE career in 2005, shortly after leaving the United States Army. With the Killeen PD since 2007, he served as a patrol officer, FTO and is currently a Sergeant assigned to the Patrol Division. Sgt. Mongillo said, *“The TPCA’s LECOP has strengthened my foundation as a leader. Seeking knowledge is important because once you stop, failure is bound to happen. Thank you to the TPCA instructors for sharing their knowledge with me.”*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) - Awardee #21



Sergeant Chris Eaton – Waco Police Department

Award Date: September 21, 2022

Sgt. Eaton is an 18-year LE veteran. As a Sgt., he has managed Patrol, Crime Scene Inv. and Computer Forensics. He was instrumental in the NIBIN firearm forensics program at Waco PD as well as investigating child abuse cases for 3 ½ years. He trains police in the investigation of sexual assault and family violence with trauma informed care. He is a Drug Recognition Expert, K9 Handler and FTO. Previously a LE Officer in Arkansas, he was recognized there by Gov. Mike Beebe and the DEA for his contributions to the “Arkansas Drug Takeback” Program. He states, *“I encourage everyone in my agency to attend the Developing Leaders for TX LE class. It fundamentally changed the way I work and is some of the best training I have ever received.”*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #22



Sergeant Chris Stickles – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: September 22, 2022

Sgt. Stickles began his career in 2001 after serving in the U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Division, joining the Killeen PD in 2012. He has worked as a patrol officer, Community Oriented Policing Officer, Drug Recognition Expert and narcotics agent. He has enjoyed instructing other officers as an FTO, SFST Instructor, and EVOC Instructor. Sgt. Stickles remarks, *“I began my LECOP training with the Developing Leaders class, which I believe was the foundation for my leadership growth. All the training I received from the LECOP classes and instructors have led me to becoming a well training professional leader to represent the City of Killeen and Texas Law Enforcement”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #23



Sergeant Sean Doherty – Killeen Police Department

Award Date: October 10, 2022

Sgt. Doherty began his career in 2013 after obtaining his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Texas State University. Since joining the Killeen Police Department in 2013, he has served as a patrol officer, FTO and is currently assigned as a Sgt. in the Patrol Division. Sgt. Doherty comments, *“The LECOP program has been highly beneficial to me in developing my leadership skills. It has set a solid foundation to continue to build upon as I continue my LE career, and specifically in a leadership capacity. Thank you to all the instructors and staff from TPCA for this opportunity and the knowledge and experiences that were passed down”.*

Law Enforcement Command Officer Program (LECOP) – Awardee #24



Captain Jeffery Evans – Hitchcock Police Department

Award Date: October 10, 2022

Capt. J.P. Evans began his LE career after serving an enlistment in the United States Marine Corps. He has served as a Patrol officer, SRO, Community Outreach Liaison, Patrol Sgt., Support Lt., and now as a Captain overseeing daily operations of the PD. Capt. Evans reflected on his LECOP experiences, *“I have completed several leadership courses in my career and was very impressed by the curriculum and instructors of the “Developing Leaders for Texas Law Enforcement” class. The concepts presented throughout the LECOP program set the foundation for growth and success serving in the LE profession. Thank you to all who shared in my learning process and for focusing on the concept, Leadership Matters”*