





LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief...pg.3

Community Outreach

Community Relations Unit ...pg.7

LPD DIVISIONS STATISTICS

Criminal Investigation Divisions;

Auto Theft Division..... pg.10

Crimes Against Persons...pg.12

Crimes Against Property...pg.12

Juvenile Enforcement Team...pg.13

Special Investigations Unit...pg.13

Narcotics and Vice Unit...pg.14

Patrol Division...pg.15

Problem Oriented Policing Strategy...16

Traffic Division...pg.17

Warrants / U.S. Marshals Task Force...pg.18

Crime Scene Investigations....pg.19

Laredo Police Force

Sworn Strength...pg.20

Civilian Personnel...pg.21

Part 1 Criminal Offenses...pg.22

Arrest Stats...pg.23

Criminal Cases for Prosecution...pg.23

Other Division Statistics

911 Emergency Dispatch Statistics...pg.24

Laredo Police Records Division...pg.25

Specialized Police Trainings ...pg.26



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Chief

The Laredo Police Department continues to work diligently to improve the quality of life for our citizens. Our staff is committed to ongoing research to identify methods for improving performance and enhancing effectiveness. A primary concern is border security and the potential for “spill over violence.” The Laredo Police Department enjoys a very strong working relationship with Federal, State, and Sheriff Agencies from around the region. Tremendous strides have been made to enhance communication and augment information sharing between law enforcement agencies from the region. As events in Mexico have escalated the law enforcement community has established a “virtual” emergency operation center by which information is exchanged and contingency plans are integrated. The continued support of the Honorable Mayor Raul Salinas, Laredo City Council, City Manager Carlos Villarreal, and Deputy City Manager Cynthia Collazo have proven instrumental in our unrelenting commitment to serve our beautiful city.

In addition to re-organizing the Laredo Police Department, Deputy Chief Gabriel E. Martinez, Jr., conducted a comprehensive resource analysis. The patrol allocation study was designed to determine the adequate number of personnel to provide patrol coverage for the city. The study incorporated the use of the *Police Allocation Manual* (PAM) as part of the assessment along with population estimates, bridge crossings, and overall personnel distribution are considered for the final analysis. It should be noted that in 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) authorized a study of the PAM model to evaluate the “validity of the PAM.” This study, conducted by Anacapa Sciences Inc., determined that “the mathematical models on which the Police Personnel Allocation Manuals were based are as valid now as they were when they were developed for NHTSA...in 1991.” A copy of the study conducted by Deputy Chief Gabriel E. Martinez, Jr., is available upon request. Furthermore, *Patrol Districts* were redrawn based on calls for service and police assets redistributed.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Re-organization

The Laredo Police Department was re-organized to integrate various divisions and provide unity of command. The existing organizational chart is included for comparison purposes. Perhaps the most striking difference is the integration of Police Uniform/Patrol functions in comparison to the separation of the uniform division. Integrating the uniform/patrol division not only allows for unity of command, but further defines a common mission with clear objectives. It has been my experience that a separation of patrol functions diminishes communication and creates uncertainty and confusion within the organization, simply because officers are receiving direction from two different sources, such as two separate Assistant Chiefs. It is for this very reason that full integration is encouraged.

In addition, a conscientious effort was made to reduce the number of officers for each sergeant. A more proactive approach with respect to a directed method of supervision and patrol will yield more accountability and guidance for officers in the field. This approach will be conducive to Compstat which is an information driven form of policing that has proven to yield favorable results regarding crime reduction efforts. In addition, I am proposing that we enhance the scope of responsibility for the Office of Professional Standards and Internal Affairs. An office devoted to research and development is proposed to explore cutting edge strategies associated with technological advances and strategic approaches to crime fighting. I am researching the possibility of CALEA accreditation or a local "recognition" program offered by the Texas Police Chief's Association.

Finally, staff has proposed a Problem Oriented Policing or "pops" component to the organizational structure. Other agencies from around the country have utilized this approach to focus resources at specific problems. Officers assigned to this program will identify problems within particular areas and devote resources in a team concept to remedy concerns. This approach illustrates the organizations versatility to swiftly allocate resources in an effort to address concerns without compromising regularly assigned patrols. The 2009 Report will provide information relating to the various projects involving "pops."



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



In a controversial move, I decided to streamline our warrant service division. I assigned one officer to participate in the U.S. Marshal's Multi-agency Fugitive Apprehension Task Force and reassigned the remaining officers to patrol duties. This unprecedented move virtually enhanced the capabilities of the Laredo Police Department which resulted in a significant increase in warrant service. Collaborating with the U.S. Marshal's office augmented our capabilities by essentially adding 12 law enforcement officers at our disposal.

Executive Symposium

The Laredo Police Department hosted an executive symposium in collaboration with Texas A&M International University in October. A cadre of presenters shared information with regional law enforcement executives. Topics ranged from suicide bombing events experienced by Israeli police officials, presented by a Commander of the Israeli Police Department. Presentations also included the Oklahoma City Bombing and the Pentagon Plane crash of September 11, 2001. A representative from the Arizona Fusion Center provided information relating to border violence and abductions experienced in the Phoenix area. In addition, U.S. Department of Homeland Security presented a conceptual view of terroristic threats around the world and the radicalization of various groups. The information was Law Enforcement Sensitive and proved informative and valuable to the attendees.

Training

The National Forensic Academy (NFA), which is located in Knoxville, Tennessee, is an intensive 10 week training program funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, offering specialized training to law enforcement agencies in evidence identification, collection, and preservation. Forensic Anthropology (Body Farm), Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Photography, Bullet Trajectory and Reconstruction, Crime Scene Management, Criminal Investigative Analysis and Death Investigation are among some of the specialized topics. The Laredo Police Department was fortunate enough to



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



send two investigators to participate in this program. The NFA provides advanced training which will prove extremely beneficial in our efforts to enhance crime scene processing and investigative techniques.

The Laredo Police Department Tactical Unit participated in a two week advanced training program provided by ex-U.S. Special Forces personnel in urban tactics. The program was designed to augment and refine tactics used by our members.

Officers and bomb technicians have participated in U.S. Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) (formerly the Office of Domestic Preparedness) sponsored programs designed for first responders thru New Mexico Tech. Participating agencies are fully reimbursed. The Curriculum includes "Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents," which provides knowledge and skills for developing policies and procedures, training, and operational capabilities to deter, prevent, interdict, respond to, and mitigate the effects of a suicide bombing. The course offers a historical perspective of suicide bombing, characteristics of a suicide bomber, and how emergency organizations can disrupt a terrorists' ability to carry out a suicide bombing. "Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings," is a program designed for first responders who may respond to incidents involving explosives. The course assists in identifying potential terrorist bombing targets and describes pre-attack indicators and tactics and techniques likely to be used during attacks on those targets.

Finally, a course titled, "Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment," endorsed by U.S. Department of Homeland Security and developed in cooperation with the Texas A&M University System, Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), was provided to various city employees. The course is designed to teach multi-disciplinary teams the skills necessary to conduct an enhanced vulnerability assessment and develop an action plan that identifies weaknesses in potential targets that could be exploited within the jurisdiction.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Community Outreach

The Laredo Police Department's Community Relations Unit continues to develop and enhance more innovative and substantial community programs to better serve the community's needs. The Community Relations Unit is rich with popular programs such as the McGruff program, which reaches approximately 28,000 area students each year. The McGruff program delivers a powerful and entertaining anti- drug message while encouraging kids to stay in school. The McGruff program renewed its powerful message with an all new show in 2009 with entertaining sub plots and student interaction concepts.

The Community Relations Unit also initiated its first ever youth camp in the summer of 2009. The three day event introduced Laredo's youth, ages ranging from 13 to 17, to unique insight of a wide range of the Police Department's missions and tasks. The youth participated in many topic discussions involving young interests such as internet predators and cyber bullying to name a



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



few. The teens experienced simulated firearms training, conducted building searches and took interactive tours of the department's facilities and viewed demonstrations of police equipment.

One of the most impacting programs to date is the yearly "Blue Santa" program. The program is a non-profit charity that raises and collects money for the sole purpose of giving Christmas gifts to the many unfortunate children in our community. Approximately 3,000 toys are given to children who might have gone without presents to open this Christmas if not for the Blue Santa program.

The Community Relations unit is answering the call to duty even if the task falls under "non-traditional" police duties. In 2008, the CRU officers helped the community's elderly by installing cable boxes to help them transition between the old analog television signal antennas to the new upgraded digital signal converter boxes. The CRU officers installed over 250 converter boxes.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

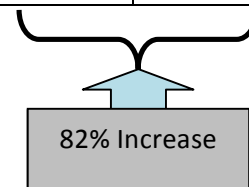
2009 ANNUAL REPORT



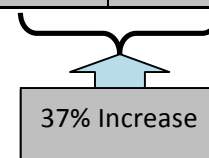
The Crime Victims Compensation Program is also an intricate component of the Community Relations Unit. The CVC officer assists victims of crimes find financial assistance for crime related losses through state victims' compensation programs.

Community Relations Unit Activities

<u>Community Relations Unit</u>		Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Presentations/Events	(Blue Santa, Career Days, etc.)	251	456



<u>Crime Victims Compensation Unit</u>		Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
LPD Case Reports Submitted		724	607
Victim Contacts		965	2,091
CVC Application Activity		317	271
Misc. Activity		207	55
Total CVC Unit Activities		2,213	3,024





LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Auto Theft Division

One of the biggest crime challenges facing the Laredo Police Department faces is auto theft. The Auto Theft Task Force is working tirelessly to inform the public of basic auto theft prevention and to capture criminal auto theft gangs and recover stolen vehicles. The Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority Board of Directors held its annual Auto Theft conference in Houston, Texas in June of 2009 and the Laredo Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force was recognized for their Auto Theft prevention campaigns and Auto Theft Enforcement Operations. The Laredo Police Department was one of only three Police Departments in the state recognized for auto theft prevention and enforcement. The Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority also awarded the Laredo Auto Theft Task Force a grant for \$433,514.00 for FY-2010. This grant money will go towards proactive and preventive auto theft operations thus continuing the advancement of curtailing auto theft.



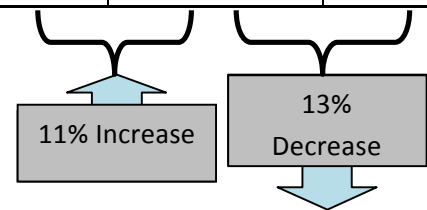
LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Auto Theft Task Force Statistics

Citywide	Offenses		
<u>Auto Thefts</u>	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Number of Stolen Vehicles	1,537	1,701	1,482



Auto Theft Recoveries	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Stolen Car Recoveries	543	416	458

Auto Theft Arrests	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Criminal Arrests <small>(made by Task Force only)</small>	89	101	73

The LPD Patrol Division made an additional 30 arrests of criminals charged with auto theft. Making a total of 103 arrests made in 2009 for auto theft.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Crimes Against Persons (CAPERS)

Investigation Index Totals	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Cases Assigned	2229	2644	2233
Murders	10	10	19
Deceased	76	67	82
Robberies	188	227	180
Cleared Cases	1901	2275	1854
Unfounded	150	113	312
Arrests	171	252	153

CAPERS is directly responsible with specific part 1 offenses which include; Homicide, Robbery, Death Investigations, and Assaults.

Crimes Against Property (CAPROS)

Case Index Totals	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Cases Assigned	5387	5357
Exceptionally Cleared	2006	1712
Closed Inactive	2014	1545
Open Inactive	78	1305
Arrests	418	239

CAPROS Division is directly responsible for specific property & white collar offenses which include; Burglaries, Thefts, Identity Theft, Fraud, and Animal Cruelty.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Juvenile Enforcement Team (JET)

Case Index Totals	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Cases Assigned	1178	992	1075
Felonies	212	163	183
Misdemeanors	419	382	398
Exceptionally Cleared	883	814	772
Not Cleared	256	144	255
Unfounded	38	39	39
Status Offender	410	315	372
Missing Persons	136	120	116
Arrests	238	160	223

JET is directly responsible with various Juvenile offenses which include; Gang identification, Graffiti, Criminal Mischief, and Missing Persons.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

Case Index Totals	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Cases Assigned	2418	2379	2589
Felonies	973	1011	1349
Misdemeanors	1445	1368	1521
Exceptionally Cleared	1869	1517	1999
Warrants	281	254	230
Arrests	202	101	123
Sex Offender Registrations	256	286	319

SIU is the investigative section responsible for criminal cases involving; Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, Sex Crimes, Sex Offender registration and Probation compliance monitoring, and domestic violence cases.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Narcotics and Vice Division

Case Index Totals	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Cases Assigned	97	146	145
Marijuana (lbs)	7,961 lbs	13,115 lbs	8,227 lbs
Cocaine (grams)	645 g	1,096 g	6.27 lbs
Heroin (grams)	88.1 g	98.3 g	4.76 g
Weapons Seized	17	31	27
Currency Seized	\$362,417	\$4,801,317	\$870,728
Arrests	106	209	141

The Narcotics and Vice section directly operates the surveillance, arrest and seizure of "street level narcotics" and its participants. The section also is responsible for "vice crime" such as prostitution, promotion of prostitution and the gathering of intelligence for the purposes of advancing narcotics investigations through the development of confidential informants and undercover work. This division works closely alongside other LPD divisions and also partners alongside other law enforcement agencies in order to more effectively combat criminal elements in the Laredo Community.



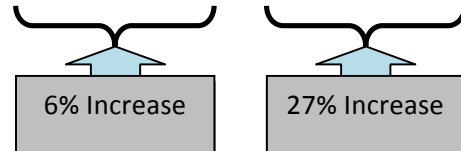
LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Patrol Division (Uniformed Police Services)

<u>Patrol Activities</u>	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Arrests	4,431	4,396	5,208
Case Reports	27,206	26,390	32,193
Accident Investigations	7,277	7,086	6,867
Self Initiated Cases	6,988	10,845	20,195
Parking Citations	4,619	4,780	3,543
Total Patrol Activities	50,521	53,497	68,006



The patrol division exists to “protect and serve”. The primary mission of the patrol division is public safety and crime deterrence of assigned beats within certain geographic locations and adjacent areas. The patrol division officers are generally first on the scene for most emergency calls and undergo continuous advanced training in order to enhance and improve first response services for the Laredo Community.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Problem Oriented Policing Strategy (POPS)

<u>Patrol Activities</u>	Jul - Dec '09
Arrests	60
Traffic Citations	92
Field Contacts	36

POPS is a policing strategy that involves the identification and analysis of specific crime and disorder problems, in order to develop effective response strategies in conjunction with ongoing assessments. The goals of Problem Oriented Policing Strategy include increasing lines of communication with the public in order to assess priorities within a certain community and enhance more proactive versus reactive police practices. In second half of 2009 the initiation of the LPD P.O.P.S. program proved to be a success. The activities of the group netted several arrests and recovery of several stolen items. The unit conducted bike and foot patrols in problem areas with high crimes especially in those neighborhoods with high incidents of burglaries and thefts. The unit recovered; 120 g of cocaine, 40 g of marijuana and \$1,200 currency seized from criminal activities.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



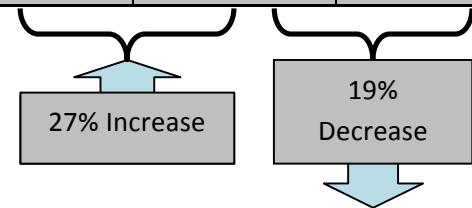
Traffic Section

The Laredo Police Department traffic section concentrates on the daily enforcement of traffic laws. Their duties also include accident reconstruction of major traffic accidents (fatalities) and Commercial Motor Vehicle traffic enforcement. The officers of this section also provide escorts for dignitary motorcades and funeral escorts. The traffic section has attained and implemented state of the art equipment to help reconstruct more precisely how an accident occurred. The officers are constantly evolving their skills with training and modern accident reconstruction techniques.

Traffic Section Enforcement

<u>Citations by Traffic Section</u>		Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Citations	(# of citations issued)	18,796	23,785	19,277
Total Citations Issued		18,796	23,785	19,277

Decrease in citations from '08 to '09 may be attributable to increased awareness and traffic safety education campaigns.





LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Warrants and US Marshals Task Force

The warrants section collaborates with the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Task Force. The arrests made are that of fugitive criminals that pose a significant threat to the safety of the Laredo citizenry.

<u>Warrants Section</u>		Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Sept. '08	Jan - Dec '09
Warrants	(# of served warrants)	416	437	534
Total Warrants Served (Arrests)		416	437	534

5% Increase

22% Increase



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

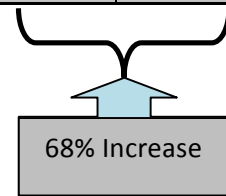
2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Crime Scene Investigations

The Laredo Police Department processes thousands of crime scenes and collects thousands of pieces of evidence. This process is crucial to increasing crime solvability and maintaining evidentiary value for prosecutions.

<u>Crime Scene Requests</u>		Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Crime Scenes	(# of crime scene requests)	4,716	7,908
<i>Crime Scenes Processed</i>		4,716	7,908





LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Laredo Police Department Sworn Strength

<u>Personnel</u>		Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Sworn Personnel	(Authorized Strength)	443	443	*460
Sworn Personnel	(# of filled positions)	416	421	425
<i>Total Sworn Personnel</i>		416	421	425

*The Bureau of Justice Statistics publishes a national average of all local municipal police departments in the United States. The national average ratio of police officers to citizens for populations of 250,000 residents is listed at approximately 2.5 officers per 1,000 residents. Laredo is at a 1.8 officers per 1000 residents. Laredo has a listed Metropolitan Statistical population of approximately * 233,000 residents.*

*Population based on Laredo Development Foundation 2008 stats

**The Laredo Police Department has 460 budgeted officer positions but only has 435 funded positions.*



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Laredo Police Civilian Personnel Strength

<u>Civilian Personnel</u>		Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Civilian Personnel	(# of budgeted positions)	84	84	84
Civilian Personnel	(# of filled positions)	78	79	74
<i>Total Civilian Personnel</i>		78	79	74



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

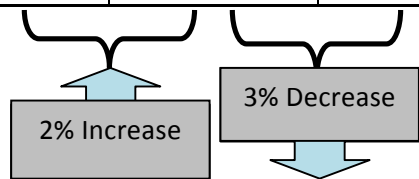
2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Overall Crime Statistics

Citywide		Offenses		
Part I Index Offenses UCR Rules Reported Date of Offense		Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Murder	(# of victims)	10	10	19
Rape	(# of victims)	81	69	76
Robbery	(# of offenses)	325	277	313
Aggravated Assault	(# of victims)	805	859	893
Total Violent Index Crimes		1,221	1,215	1,301
Burglary	(# of premises entered)	1,878	2,091	2,159
Theft	(# of offenses)	10,534	10,518	10,088
Auto Theft	(# of vehicles)	1,537	1,701	1,482
Total Property Index Crimes		13,949	14,310	13,729
Part I Index Crimes Overall Totals		15,170	15,525	15,030

Part 1 Index Crimes are considered to be the most prevalent priority crimes reported in the F.B.I. Uniform Crime Report recorded annually.





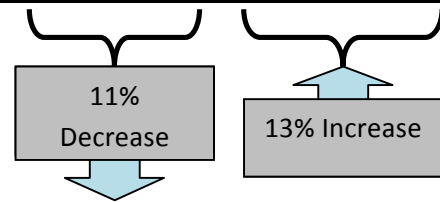
LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



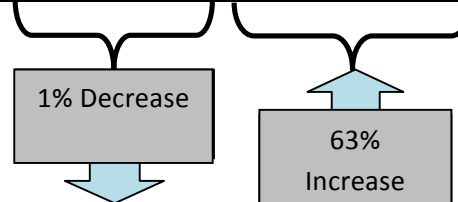
Arrest Stats

<u>Persons Arrested</u>	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Adults	6,185	5,595	6,408
Juveniles	1,502	1,260	1,356
Total Arrests	7,687	6,855	7,764



Criminal Reports

<u>LPD Criminal Reports</u>	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Criminal Reports forwarded to Prosecution	4,774	4,188	6,922
Total Cases	4,774	4,743	7,707



Cases in 2008 and 2009 include those sent to both the District Attorney's Office and the Webb County Attorney's Office (Juvenile Cases). Juvenile Cases in 2008-555 / in 2009-785.



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



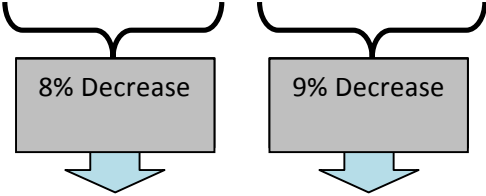
Emergency Dispatch

The Laredo Police Department 911 Communication Center is responsible for the call taking and dispatching of all emergency responses and calls for service for both Police and Fire Departments. The 911 Communication Center continues to modernize and add additional personnel to meet the growing needs of the city. In 2009 the Communication Center remodeled and expanded its facility adding more 911 lines and modern electronic GPS tracking systems to map where an emergency call is coming from and better locate and direct emergency services to the caller.

Emergency Dispatch Call Totals

<u>Call Volume</u>	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
E-911 Calls	182,281	171,681	166,473
Non 911 Calls	429,853	392,041	347,261
Total Calls	612,134	563,722	513,734

Laredo 311 Call Center was activated in February of 2008, thus having a direct effect on decreased service calls to the dispatch center.





LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Laredo Police Records Division

The Laredo Police Records Division is comprised of civilian and sworn personnel tasked with managing, storing, and record authenticating of all official LPD documents and reports. The division has undergone significant software and equipment modernization which in turn increases productivity and electronic availability of police records.

<u>Records Management</u>		Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Dec '08	Jan - Dec '09
Reports	(# of reports handled)	19,635	21,772	18,146
Online Reports	(# of reports requested on-line)	20,456	30,189	29,995
Total Reports		40,091	51,961	48,141
Revenues		\$300,113.20	\$410,297.30	\$279,382.50
Total Revenues		\$300,113.20	\$410,297.30	\$279,382.50



LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Specialized Police Trainings

The specialized police trainings involve an array of new innovative techniques, taught by internationally recognized instructors in order to have the best prepared police department possible. The special trainings include; **The National Forensics Academy (Tennessee)** where investigators learned innovative forensic techniques and applications in order to enhance homicide investigations, **Incident Response to Suicide Bombers** (New Mexico) in order to prepare bomb squad techs and related incident command staff in terrorism threats and suicide bomb responses, **Chaplain Program** our Chaplains are there to deliver Spiritual First Aid to those officers who find themselves dealing with many occupational stresses and pressures of life and death emergencies, **Long Rifle Qualifications** LPD has substantially expanded the long rifle program in order to better equip officers with AR-15 rifles thus, advancing survival rates and continue to provide LPD officers with the necessary means to counter high threat confrontations. **Specialized S.W.A.T. Training** The Special Weapons and Tactics Unit underwent intense on hands training from instructors (former NAVY Seals and ARMY Green Berets) in order to further the preparedness this elite squad of dedicated officers in times of high crisis situations such as; hostage situations and armed criminal stand offs.

<u>Specialized Police Trainings</u>	Jan - Dec '07	Jan - Sept. '08	Jan - Dec '09
Total	16	23	39