

LAREDO
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

2013 ANNUAL SAFETY REPORT

Protecting the present..



for the security of our future.



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Crime Reductions Continue

2013 The City of Laredo has established itself as a safe community as compared to any other city in the United States. Laredo, Texas has experienced over the last four years a continued reduction in overall violent crime and has made other significant strides against various crimes which have established the City of Laredo's Police Department as a proven leader in law enforcement and has been recognized nationally for best practices in crime reductions.



In the category of auto theft, the city of Laredo was once ranked #1 in auto thefts in the US back in 2009, but as of 2013 the National Insurance Crime Bureau's annual report listed the City of Laredo, Texas experienced its third consecutive year of auto theft reductions. Laredo fell from being ranked number 1 in 2009 to number 53 in 2011. Within two years, Laredo's auto thefts were down 53 percent, from 1,792 in 2009 to 849 in 2011.



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Misinformation in reference to border violence has often marred the safety perception of the City of Laredo despite the fact the city has some of the lowest violent crime rates in the country. In 2013 the City of Laredo had all of 3 homicides for the entire calendar year. 2013 revealed a second consecutive year in reductions of overall violent crimes. Over the last two years the decrease has been a 9% reduction in overall violent crime. In July of 2013 Laredo was listed as the 19th safest city in the country. According to an article published by the website journal “*Business Insider*” the City of Laredo was ranked among the top 20 safest cities in the United States. The article took statistics from the FBI crime report and compared the crime rates of each city with a population greater than 200,000 to the national average. The statistics revealed that the murder rate in Laredo is 31% below the national average, and the robbery rate is 34% below average.

The Laredo Criminal Investigation Division for the last two years has had a 100% clearance rate on homicide investigations. Through the hard work and dedication of the patrol officers and patrol supervisors working the streets, through the valiant efforts of our detectives and the valuable contribution and helpful tenacity of our civilian staff and command staff, has it been possible to render this annual safety report that has undoubtedly confirms that the City of Laredo is safe and a continued reduction in crime moves forward. With the assistance of our community, that we proudly serve, ask you to help us by reporting criminal activity and suspicious acts to your Laredo Police Department so that together we can all do our part to keep Laredo safe for our future and our children’s future.



(*on our cover we want to thank Officer Jose A. Velasco for graciously allowing us to borrow his daughter’s picture for our report)



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Message from the Chief

The constant strive to maintain a safe community comes as no easy feat. The great work that our sworn personnel render on a daily basis is the catalyst to a successful outcome to any criminal investigation leading to an arrest. For example; The Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) recently held its Annual Summit in San Antonio, Texas on June 24 - 28, 2013. The ABTPA bestowed an LPD Auto Theft Task Force Detective with the STEVE DAVENPORT AWARD & also the STAR AWARD to an LPD civilian employee. The Steve Davenport award was given to Detective Juan Perez, a 14 year veteran police investigator who has been with the auto theft division for almost 2 years. The Davenport award goes to an ABTPA grant law enforcement officer who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication in fulfilling ABTPA's Mission and Vision. LPD civilian employee Arcelia L. Elizondo, an administrative assistant who's been with the Laredo Police Department for 10 years, was bestowed with the ABTPA's star award. The STAR award is an honor given to civilian employees for their outstanding service and dedication in fulfilling ABTPA's mission and vision.



The city of Laredo was once ranked #1 in auto thefts in the US back in 2009. The National Insurance Crime Bureau in 2013 released Annual Report and the city of Laredo, Texas is enjoying its third consecutive year of auto theft reductions. Laredo, Texas fell to #74 in 2013 from last year's rank of #53 on the NICB's list of car theft cities. The Laredo Police Department Auto Theft Division has achieved success along with the assistance of the hard working uniformed police division who has also made numerous arrests that have made a tremendous difference in auto theft rates in our community. The department also must recognize the assistance and cooperation of the District Attorney's office assistance have worked closely with our auto theft investigators in obtaining search and arrest warrants.





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When I was assigned the post of Laredo Police Chief I envisioned the continued advancement of the LPD's technological advances to help the community reach us with crime information. In the fall of 2013 the department introduced the TIP 411 program. The system, an already proven arrangement of network notifications called Citizen Observer, shows great promise in enhancing our ability to get crime tips and be able to converse with the person submitting the tip, while the sender maintains complete anonymity. The 847411 or TIP411 is useful and an effective tool that we expect to see great things from in the ways of anonymous crime tip reporting.



Citizen Observer software allows the Laredo Police Department to send specific messages of importance to the community. These two services alone could significantly help reduce crime in our community and help us as a police department to keep the community well informed and help save lives.

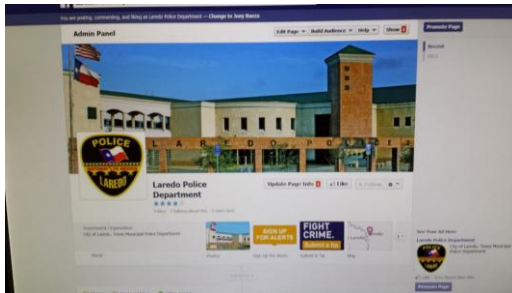
Whether it's a traffic situation or a weather related emergency with clear concise instructions for the citizenry, the citizen observer notification system has the ease and convenience to have a simple to use interface where any person who is interested in getting these valuable alerts from their Police Department can sign up, free of charge, and receive text messages, emails or both, relaying valuable, timely information about their community and always being informed of any emergency occurrence in real time.





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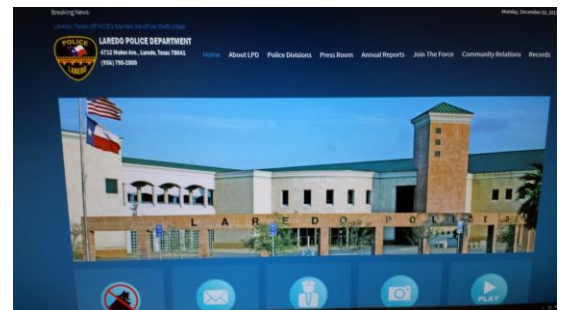
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In 2013 the department has introduced new social media pages where the public can keep well informed of information and situations affecting their daily lives. Regardless of which social media venue you prefer, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, the Laredo Police has initiated a new era of instant information service in order to keep Laredo as a well informed community. Within the

first few months of unveiling the new social media formats the Laredo Police Facebook page has over 3,000 likes. As the face of new social media options and technological advances develop, the Laredo Police will continue to explore new avenues of service through these modern venues of information. We certainly invite you to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/laredopd, or our Twitter account at www.twitter.com/mylaredopd, or view informative videos and public service announcements at www.youtube.com/laredopolicedepartment.

Certainly not least is our web page at www.laredopd.com, which has useful information about information within our police department and offers online services such as purchasing your accident reports and printing them on your home computer. There is also an option to contact us via email where you leave questions or comments and even recognize an officer who has gone out his way to help you and feel the need to recognize his efforts.



I hope that you'll find this annual report informative and useful. We look forward to combining our efforts as Police Department and Citizenry to continue to reduce crime in the city and be proactive and well informed utilizing the latest advances in social media.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Raymond E. Garner, Laredo Police Chief



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Community Relations Unit Activities

<u>Community Relations Unit</u>		2011	2012	2013
Presentations/Events	(Blue Santa, Career Days, etc.)	239	226	248

The CRU reached over 53,000 people during their community events in 2013.

Crime Victims Unit Activities

<u>Crime Victims Compensation Unit</u>		2011	2012	2013
LPD Case Reports Submitted		240	270	397
Victim Contacts		525	1,360	915
CVC Application Activity		150	167	212
Misc. Activity		78	96	197
Total CVC Unit Activities		993	1893	1721



The Community Relations Unit gave out gifts to over 2,200 children who may have otherwise gone without opening a gift this Christmas. In addition the unit also interacts with the community groups like the AARP to help network and make them aware of crimes targeting them as victims.



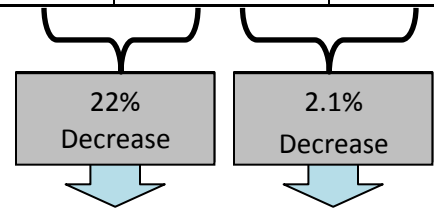
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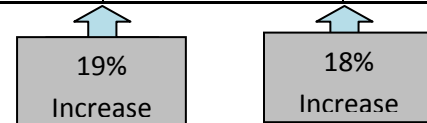


Auto Theft Task Force Statistics

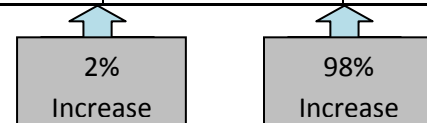
Citywide	Offenses		
<u>Auto Thefts</u>	2011	2012	2013
Number of Stolen Vehicles	486	381	373



Auto Theft Recoveries	2011	2012	2013
Stolen Car Recoveries	193	234	277



Auto Theft Arrests	2011	2012	2013
Criminal Arrests (made by Task Force only)	97	99	196



LPD Auto Theft Task Force has been proactively educating the public about safe guarding anti theft practices, and were also successful in working grants for enforcement which have resulted in nearly doubling auto theft arrests.



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Crimes Against Persons (CAPERS)

Investigation Index Totals	2011	2012	2013
Cases Assigned	2313	2436	2264
Murders	11	10	3
Robberies	140	164	154
Cleared Cases	1266	1388	1323
Unfounded	281	343	226
Arrests	137	198	216

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

Crimes Against Property (CAPROS)

Case Index Totals	2011	2012	2013
Cases Assigned	4450	4883	4741
Exceptionally Cleared Cases	903	814	434
Recovered Property	\$1,704,904	\$2,285,360	\$2,686,327
Arrests	225	433	375

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



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Juvenile Enforcement Team (JET)

Case Index Totals	2011	2012	2013
Cases Assigned	1343	1136	911
Felonies	206	117	131
Misdemeanors	596	501	450
Status Offender	393	367	283
Missing Persons	148	151	113
Arrests	181	259	89

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	2011	2012	2013
Cases Assigned	2814	3005	2757
Felonies	1336	1383	1314
Misdemeanors	1478	1410	1442
Warrants	265	223	270
Arrests	199	202	274
Sex Offender Registrations	375	562	509

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.



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Narcotics and Vice Division

Case Index Totals	2011	2012	2013
Cases Assigned	101	214	235
Marijuana (lbs)	3,356	2,299	6,890
Cocaine (grams)	37561.9 gr.	4,672 gr.	577 gr.
Heroin (grams)	18298 gr.	69 gr.	852gr.
Weapons Seized	11	10	20
Currency Seized	\$95,373	\$103,603	\$686,934
Arrests	93	150	252

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 investigative section 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.



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Patrol Division (Uniformed Police Services)

<u>Patrol Activities</u>	2011	2012	2013
Arrests	6,130	8,089	7,114
Case Reports	31,423	32,393	29,829
Accident Investigations	9,887	10,030	10,434
Self Initiated Field Contacts	28,603	31,999	25,327
Parking Citations	5,124	3,906	4405
Total Patrol Activities	81,167	86,417	77,109

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.



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Problem Oriented Policing Strategy (POPS)

<u>Patrol Activities</u>	2012	2013
Arrests	246	741
Special Details	63	184
Citations	1,275	3,484

POPS is a policing strategy that involves the identification and analysis of specific crimes 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 area of the community and develop more proactive versus reactive police practices. The activity of the group has drastically increased arrests of repeat offenders and has led to the 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 was also used to address traffic congestion issues and effectively increase an identified problem the area with patrol presence. The effectiveness of this program has become a pivotal instrument of enforcement and significantly lowers crime rates.



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Traffic Enforcement

Laredo Police Officers, in addition to enforcing all criminal laws, also concentrate daily on enforcement of all traffic laws. Their duties also include accident reports and Commercial Motor Vehicle traffic enforcement. The traffic section, who solely address traffic enforcement and accident investigations, have acquired state of the art equipment to help reconstruct precisely how an accident occurred. The officers are constantly enhancing their skills with up to date training and modern accident reconstruction techniques.



<u>Citations issued by all LPD officers</u>	2012	2013
<i>Total Citations Issued</i>	31,894	29,157

2013 LPD Traffic Division Stats

16,044 citations issued

123 CRASH Investigations

534 (DOT) Department of Transportation Inspections



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U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Task Force

Both the warrants task force section and the patrol division collaborate with the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Task Force. The United States Marshals Service currently leads 85 local fugitive task forces. The majority of the task forces are full-time efforts; however, additional task forces are formed on an ad-hoc basis, in response to specific cases. Funding for these task forces is often granted through initiatives such as the High Density Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), and Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) task forces. The arrests made are that of fugitive criminals that pose a significant threat to the safety of the Laredo citizenry.

<u>Warrants Served</u>		2011	2012	2013
Warrants	(# of served warrants by LPD)	1,663	1,490	1,638
Total Warrants Served (Arrests)		1,663	1,490 <i>(282 LPD Warrants)</i>	1,638 <i>(288 LPD Warrants)</i>



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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>	2011	2012	2013
<i>Crime Scenes Processed</i>	7,494	9,456	8,619

Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)

AFIS Entries- 508

CSI Call Outs- 157

AFIS Hits- 93

Major Scenes Processed- 61



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Laredo Police Department Sworn Strength

<u>Personnel</u>		2011	2012	2013
Sworn Personnel	(Authorized Strength)	482	482	482
Sworn Personnel	(# of filled positions)	425	428	427
<i>Total Sworn Personnel</i>		425	428	432

17 cadets to graduate in 2014

*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 * 244,731 residents.*

**Population based on U.S. Census population stats for 2012.*



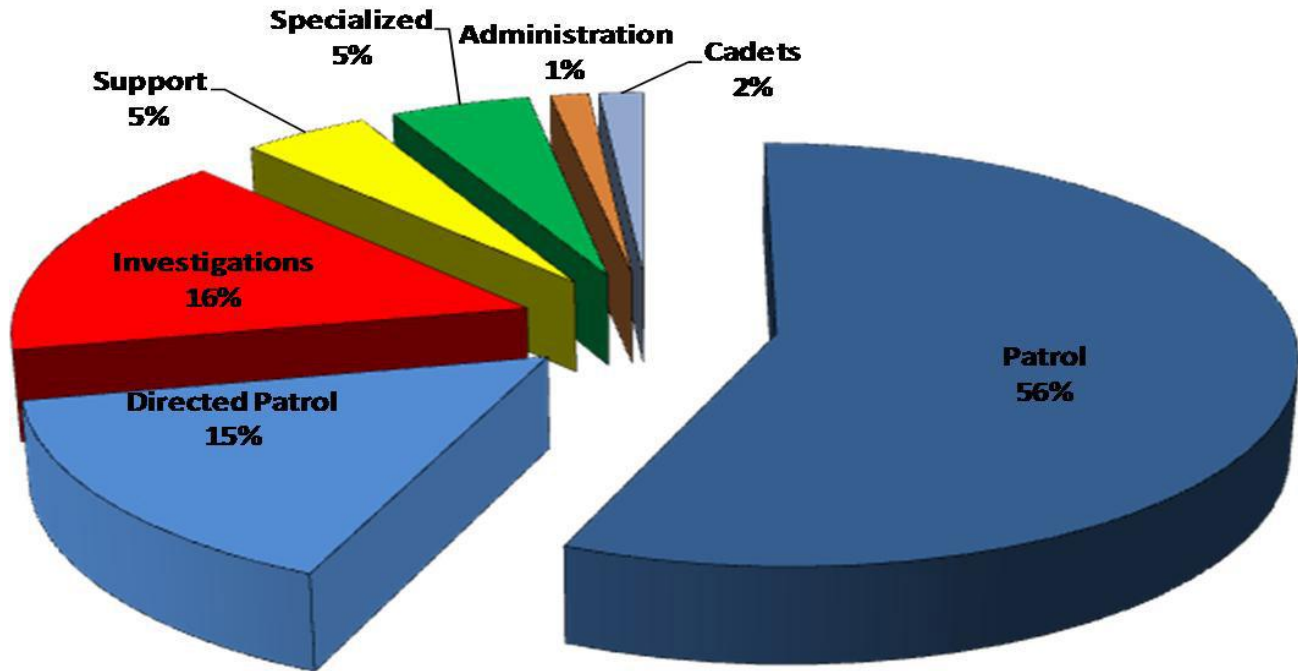
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Personnel Deployment

“How we serve you”





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Laredo Police Civilian Personnel Strength

<u>Civilian Personnel</u>		2011	2012	2013
Civilian Personnel	(# of budgeted positions)	89	89	89

The Laredo Police Department depends on an essential core of civilian personnel who are assigned in strategic areas of support within the department from records, dispatch, administrative assistants, clerks, and building maintenance. Civilian staff is the backbone of our organization and help maintain the functionality and operability of the entire department's sworn personnel.



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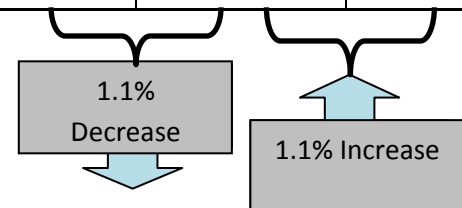
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Overall Crime Statistics

Citywide		Offenses		
Part I Index Offenses UCR Rules Reported Date of Offense		2011	2012	2013
Murder	(# of victims)	11	10	3
Rape	(# of victims)	76	81	75
Robbery	(# of offenses)	225	182	207
Aggravated Assault	(# of victims)	817	764	743
Total Violent Index Crimes		1,129	1,037 <i>(8% reduction)</i>	1,028 <i>(1% reduction)</i>
Burglary	(# of premises entered)	1,790	1,718	1,425
Theft	(# of offenses)	8,104	8,246	8,685
Auto Theft	(# of vehicles)	486	381	373
Total Property Index Crimes		10,380	10,345	10,483
Part I Index Crimes Overall Totals		11,509	11,382	11,511

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





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Arrest Stats

<u>Persons Arrested</u>	2011	2012	2013
Adults	5,930	7,775	8,301
Juveniles	705	854	1,012
Total Arrests	6,635	8,629	9,313





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Criminal Reports

<u>LPD Criminal Reports</u>	2011	2012	2013
Criminal Reports forwarded to District Attorney	4,503	5,771	6,408
Total Cases	4,920	6,283	6,966

Cases are forwarded to the District Attorney's Office that handles adult cases and the Webb County Attorney's office that handles juvenile cases. In 2013, 558 cases to the Webb County Attorney's Office for prosecution.



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Clearances Rates (UCR)

<u>Clearance Rates</u>	2011	2012	2013
Murder	92%	78%	100%
Rape	76%	65%	61%
Robbery	48%	58%	59%
Assaults	88%	88%	86%
Burglary	14%	17%	22%
Thefts	21%	25%	29%

A clearance rate refers to the number of cases that are solved by a particular law enforcement agency. It is one measure of an agency's skill and efficiency in solving crimes. The clearance rate may be divided up in a number of different ways, including the type of crime being committed, or the seriousness of the crime. Clearance rates are not linked to convictions.



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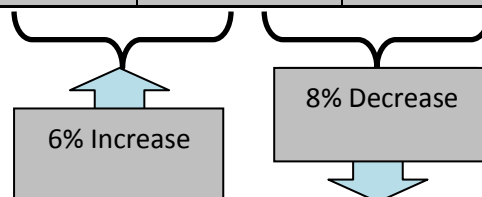


Emergency Dispatch

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>	2011	2012	2013
E-911 Calls	170,625	196,802	178,060
Non 911 Calls	264,959	264,904	246,438
Total Calls	435,584	461,706	424,498





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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>		2011	2012	2013
Reports	(# of reports handled)	18,629	17,886	16,424
Online Reports	(# of reports requested on-line)	20,717	16,574	20,181
Revenues		\$208,881.65	\$185,891.84	\$196,684.48
Total Revenues		\$208,881.65	\$185,891.84	\$196,684.48



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Specialized Police Trainings

The training division is comprised of certified training instructors who maintain the level of advanced training for the department's sworn personnel. Various fields of diverse instruction are given by renowned experts from around the world covering a specific training specialty to keep the up with the highest standards of law enforcement possible. There was a series of conferences held by the training division which include the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association's annual conference in which approximately 150 participants from all over the country and from international locations attended the Laredo conference. The conference allowed for officers to learn, discuss, and train with their K-9 partners regarding issues and new techniques for K-9 officer training. In addition there was a street survival seminar where over 100 participants from all over the states attended this essential training.



<u>Specialized Police Trainings</u>	2011	2012	2013
<i>Total</i>	64	72	300

2013 Training breakdown

Cadet Academy Training: **16,720 hours** (2 academy classes)

Cadet In-service training: **9,240 hours**

Officer In-service: **21,115 hours**

Telecommunicator (including field training) **54,720 hours**

DHS training: **328 hours**

FEMA-640 Hours



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Bomb Squad Activities

Bomb Threats	2013
Bomb Threat Calls	9
Bomb Squad Call Outs	14
Bomb Squad Explosives Trainings	6

Alcohol Tobacco Firearms Task Force

The Laredo Police Department undertook a new initiative in 2011 that carried over its impact through 2012. The initiative involved partnering with a Federal Agency, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives (ATF). This endeavor entailed the creation of a task force that partnered the Laredo area ATF and four members of the Laredo PD Bomb Squad. The initiative involved each agency supporting the other in incidents and investigations involving explosives. Furthermore, the task force conducted proactive as well as follow-up investigations involving weapon violations; especially those cases with ties to prison gangs, felons or Mexican drug cartels. One of the partnership's strengths is its flexibility to leverage state and/or federal resources and prosecutions.



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ATF CONTINUED...

The initiative has proven productive through prosecutions and convictions that make an impact on the local crime scene. The task force handles those cases that involve weapons, are high profile, involve felons, involve violence and involve prison gangs. Below is a summary of the cases handled by the ATF task force:

2011	2012	2013
20 Cases	25 Cases	58 Cases
6 Convictions (Fed-5, State- 1)	6 Convictions (Fed-6)	10 Convictions (10 Fed Cases) 9 cases pending Prosecution (Fed-6, State 3)

The positive impact is derived from the conviction and therefore reduction of the number of repeat offenders in our community who have historically shown a propensity for committing crimes through violence and use of deadly weapons.