

## 2009 Annual Report

### For "A" Team

The year 2009 was a great year for "A" Team under the direction of Watch Commander Lt. Shane Harris and Shift Supervisor Bobby Stephens. Throughout the year A Team officers participated in various programs which were outside their normal patrol duties. Officers worked with other professional in the school system while contributing to events such as Transportation Day and Community Helper Day. Other events officers supported were Shop with a Cop, Annual Fishing Rodeo and Jr. Law Enforcement Day.

Another goal that "A" Team accepted was the Mystery Shopper Detail. Officers checked all businesses in Thomasville that possess an alcohol license to ensure proper precautions were taken and minors were not purchasing alcohol. Also "A" Team officers were proactive in reducing the amount of backlogged city warrants. Continuing with the Thomasville Police Departments philosophy of community oriented policing team members took active steps in increasing officer citizen contacts. Officers increased foot patrols in neighborhoods, city parks and business districts. Officers also were active in developing and attending neighborhood watch programs, thus ensuring citizens have a voice within their community. A Team also increased its misdemeanor clearance rate from the previous year from 64% to 71.7%.

In all, 2009 was a busy year and the Thomasville Police Department looks forward to another year serving our community as an innovative organization exceeding community expectations.

## 2009 Progress Report

2009 was a successful year for the Thomasville Police Department. As the Assistant Police Chief, I am responsible for leading the operations of the department which includes the Uniform Patrol Division and Criminal Investigation Division. Both divisions strived to exceed community expectations by improving the "quality of life" and the "safety and security" for all citizens living in and visiting our great community.

As you read the following accomplishment summaries by each team, just know these are just "snapshots" of the goals they accomplish each and every day they come to work. Every year, each officer, team, and division set goals they want to accomplish that is in conjunction with the police department's mission and as they strive to accomplish these goals, the ultimate goal is to reduce crime and exceed community expectations.

In addition, the officers strive to set a standard of excellence for others to follow. To accomplish this standard of excellence, there are four service standards that are set forth for each officer adhere to: Safety, Courtesy, Professionalism, and Efficiency. Our community should be proud of these officers who are committed to serving and protecting their daily lives. These officers are the foundation of the organization and we are proud they serve our organization and community.

## **Thomasville Police Criminal Investigation Division 2009 Annual Report**

The Criminal Investigation Division of the Thomasville Police Department had another busy and successful year. The division has seen some changes this year in personnel. In the early spring of 2009, Detective Louis Schofill joined the ranks to fill a vacant slot. During the close of the year Lt. Karen Burklow-Murray retired after 30 years of service. Since that time Lt. Steve Belvin has assumed Command of the Division. Assistant Commander Sergeant Melven Johnson, Staff Assistant Maggie Ridley, Detective Vince Ponder, Detective Toby Knifer, Detective Scott Newberry, and Detective Maurice Holmes continue to compliment the unit.

One of the primary functions of CID is to review and evaluate for further investigation all written incident reports generated by the patrol division. In 2009 the Thomasville Police department generated 4509 investigative reports. It is the responsibility of the commander and the assistant commander to review all reports and assign them to the proper division. All felony cases are assigned to the detectives for follow up by making contact with the victim of a crime by phone, personal contact or written correspondence. The detectives averaged an annual individual caseload of 184 criminal cases in 2009. The clearance rate for major cases assigned to detectives was 56% in 2009. The detectives exceeded the national average clearance rate of 18%.

A primary function of the police department is to follow-up with all victims of crimes within seven days of the offense no matter how minor the incident. Victim follow-ups are an important part of a detective's investigation due to, during this contact the detective may receive additional information that could lead to solving the crime. When a citizen is victimized they may forget information that is important during the initial response of the police officer taking the report, but they may remember information that is provided during the detectives' follow-up. Although not every crime is solved, every victim is important to us. The police department and detectives take pride in trying to contact our victims not just once but several times to keep them updated on the status of their case.

Specialized training is a major focus for CID. The detectives have attended the Advanced Course on the Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogations. Detectives were also trained in the operation of digital voice stress analysis. The voice stress analysis is similar to the use of the polygraph machine (lie detector test). This new technology is developed to determine truthfulness when a suspect answers a question by calculating the stress of the voice through a digital machine. This new training allows the division to use this technology when investigating criminal cases and pre-employment screening. Some other advanced training classes the detectives have attended are forensic interviewing of children, homicide investigation, gang, and violent crime investigations.

The Thomasville Criminal Investigation Division in partnership with the Thomas County Criminal Investigation Division and Thomasville Thomas County Drug Squad participated in the Seventh annual Law Enforcement Goodwill

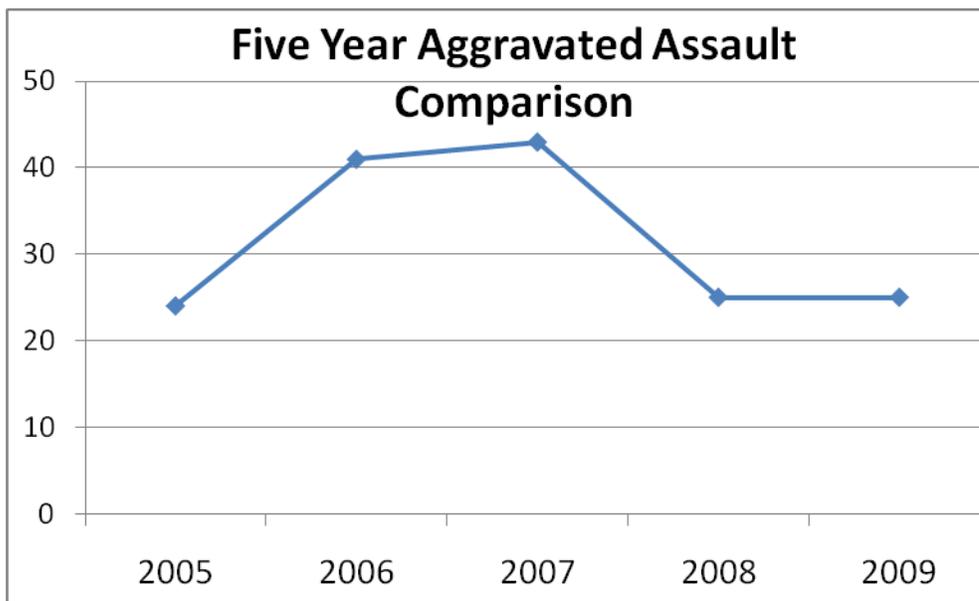
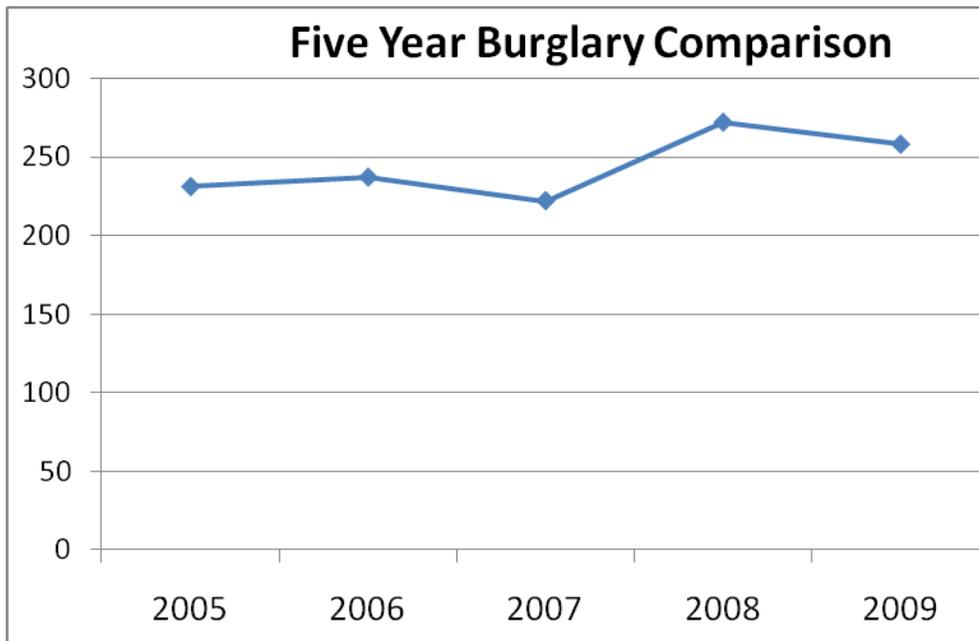
Project which is a community project that reaches out to children in the Thomasville and Thomas County area. These three investigative units planned, sold tickets, and prepared ½ chicken dinners that raised over \$7,486. All proceeds from this fundraiser were distributed to local area organizations that identify children/families needing assistance during the holiday season. Giving back to the community is what we do. (Submitted by Lt. Steve Belvin)

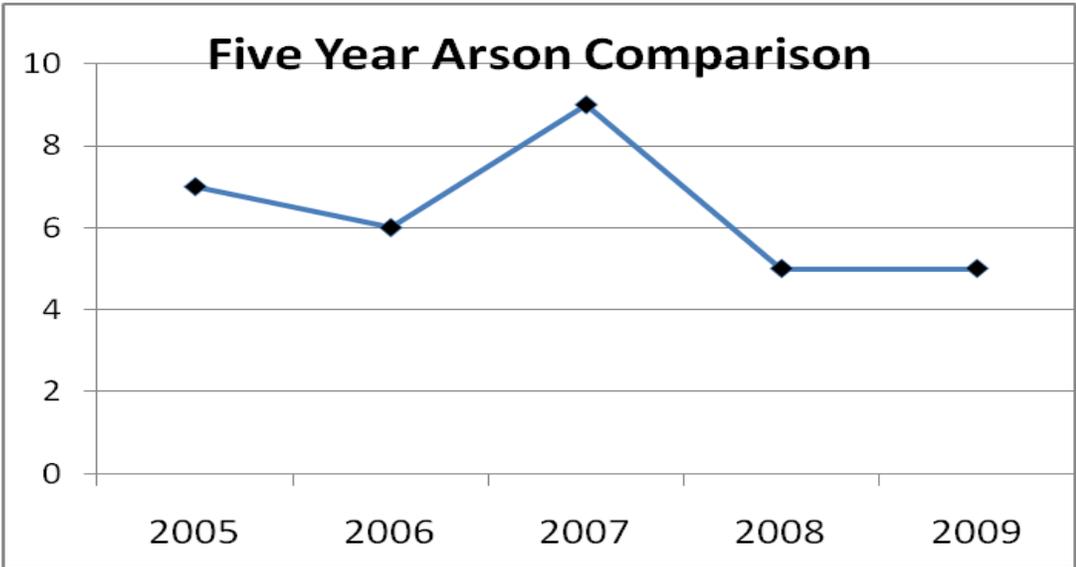
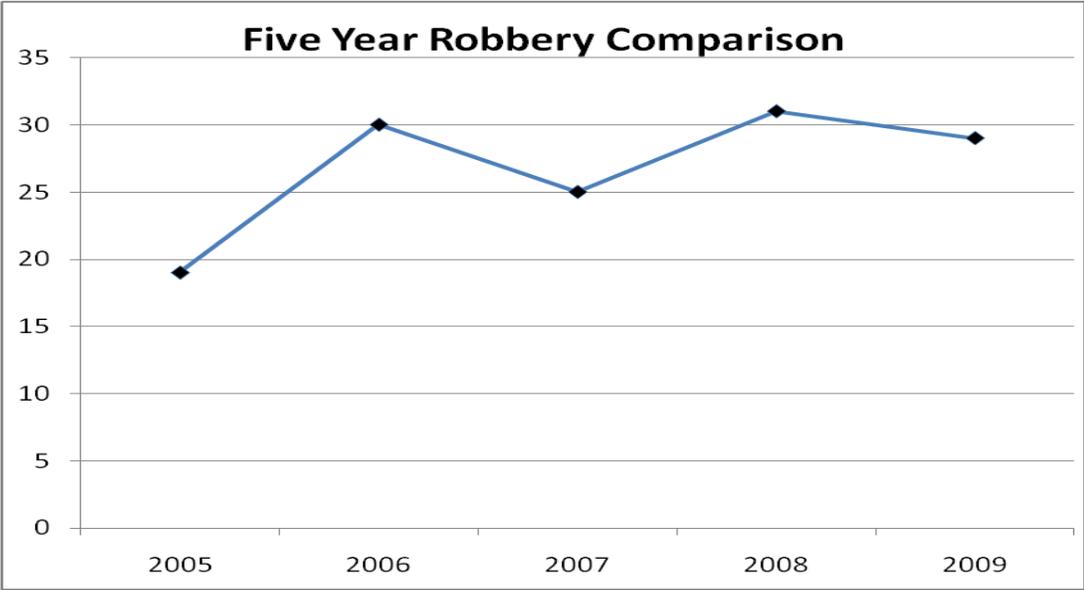
## Evidence

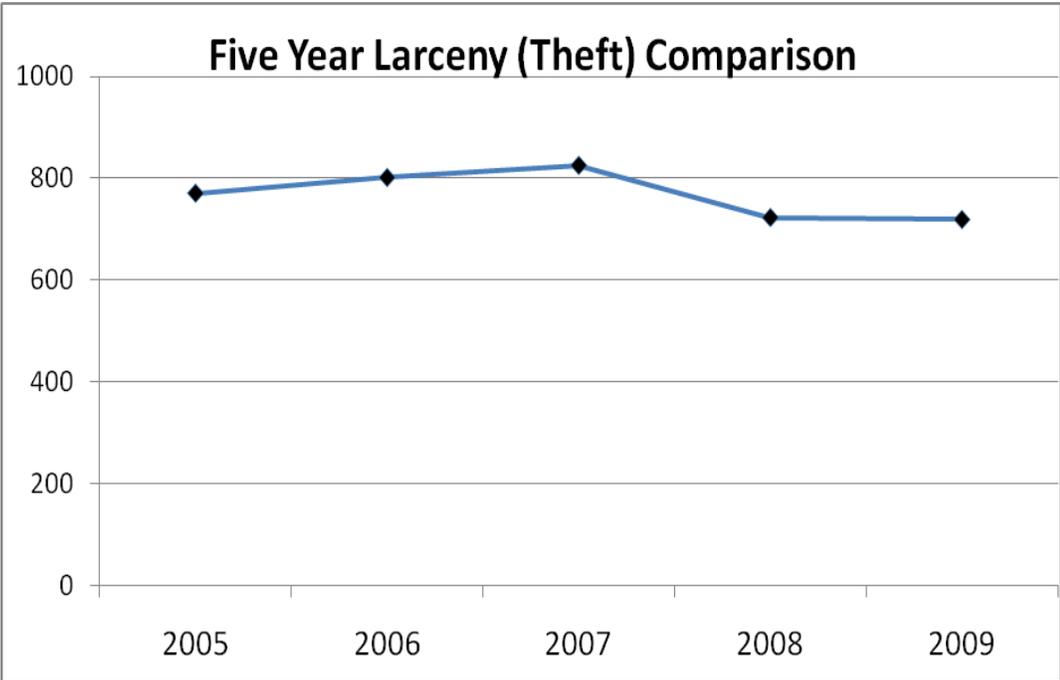
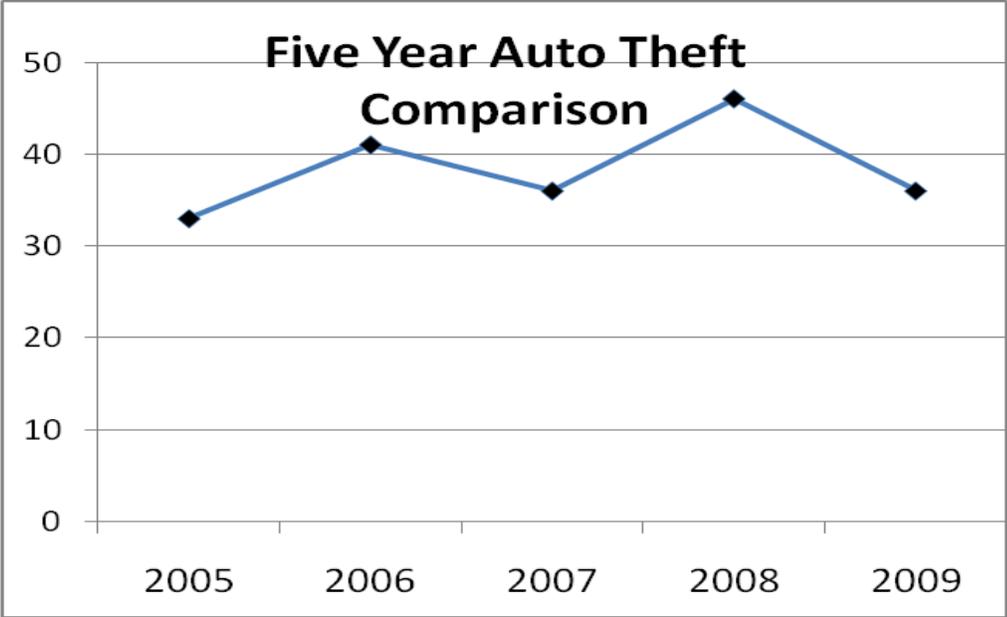
The proper storage and documentation of physical evidence and property is crucial to the mission of any law enforcement agency. The evidence and property room for the Thomasville Police Department is managed by Mr. Jim Misenheimer. Mr. Misenheimer has worked for the City of Thomasville since 2007. He manages evidence and property for the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and the Thomas County Drug Squad in addition to his duties for the police department. He is assisted by Tonya Cloud.

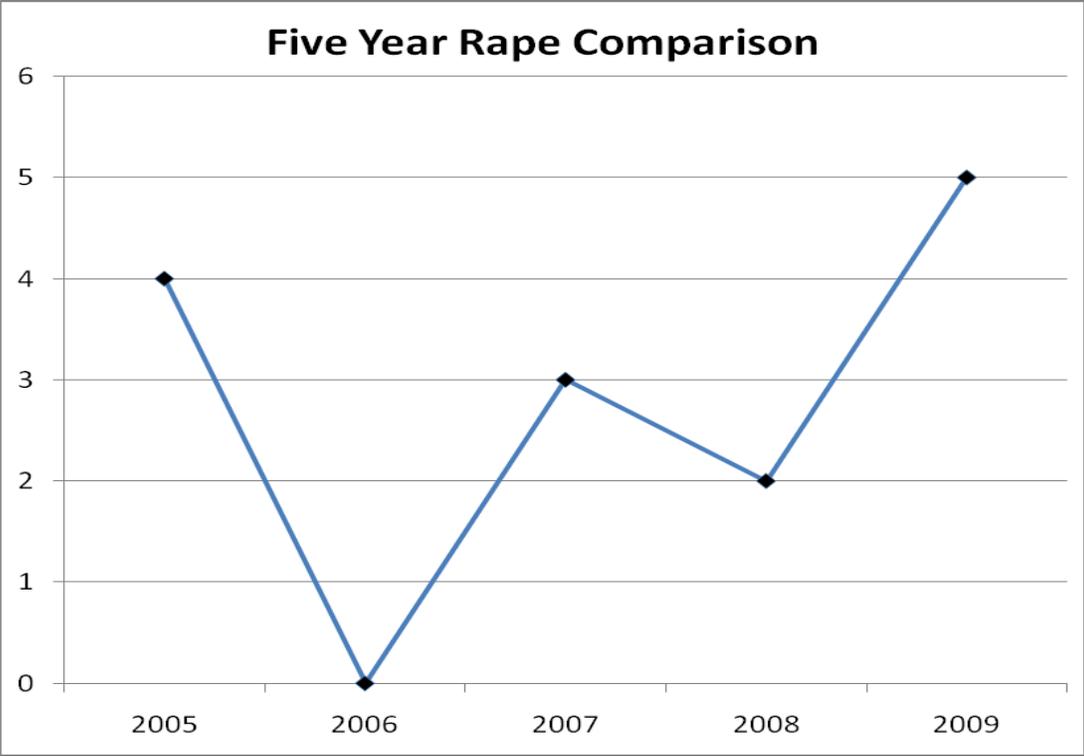
The department routinely recovers property which is not easily identifiable with a specific owner. A list of unclaimed property is available on the department web site at [www.thomasvillepolice.net](http://www.thomasvillepolice.net). Persons with questions about evidence or property held by the Thomasville Police Department may contact Jim Misenheimer at 227-7091 or email [jimm@thomasville.org](mailto:jimm@thomasville.org).

## 2009 Graphs













## **2009 K-9 Report**

2009 was a busy year for the Thomasville Police Department K-9 Unit. The members of the Unit are Sgt. Chris Brock, Officer Waylon Parker, and Officer Daniel Powers. The unit responds daily to calls for service in Thomasville and the surrounding area.

The K-9 Unit is often called upon to assist officers of the Thomasville Police Department and other departments in the area. During these incidents, the police canines play a major role in the apprehension of the suspect(s). Many of the calls to service deal with major felony incidents such as: burglaries, robberies, and drug searches. The police canine is a very important tool that this department uses to protect the citizens of Thomasville. In 2009 the K-9 Unit was utilized in the apprehension of numerous burglary suspects. Often times the K-9's were released inside a burglarized business where the suspects were hiding. The unit also assisted with the detection and seizure of narcotics. K-9's were used during vehicle stops and search warrants. While assisting an agency in Brooks County a Thomasville K-9 was able to find narcotics stashed under a house. Also the K-9 unit was used numerous times to track suspects who fled a crime scene or a traffic stop.

2009 also brought about several new additions to the K-9 Unit. Officer Daniel Powers was awarded the position of "K-9 Handler" and began training his new K-9 Partner, "Hado", in September 2009. K-9 "Hado" is a 20-month-old bi-color German Shepherd that was bred and trained in Europe before being shipped to the United States.

The K-9 Unit's Supervisor, Sgt. Chris Brock, also received a new partner. K-9 "Axe" is a 4-year-old bi-color German Shepherd. Axe underwent initial training in Germany where he earned a title in Schutzhund. K-9 Axe joined the department as a replacement for Sergeant Brock's previous K-9, "Leto", who recently retired at the age of 10. Officer Parker and K-9 "Nuke" have been serving Thomasville for the last three years.

The K-9 Unit is available by appointment for K-9 demonstrations anytime of the year! If you are interested in setting up a demo, please feel free to contact Sgt. Chris Brock at (229) 403-2040 or email at [Cbrock@thomasville.org](mailto:Cbrock@thomasville.org).

**2009 Annual Report**  
**For "B" Team**

B-Team hit the ground running this year and we are proud to say that we have again completed 100% of our goals for the year and exceeded many of them in the process. We continued to focus on our Misdemeanor Case follow ups and raising our clearance rate as a team and a department. The National average for Part I offenses is less than 21%. Your Part I offenses includes your Felony grade cases. Our Misdemeanor cases fall under the Part II offenses. In 2009 we ended the year with a 74.4% clearance rate, which is an outstanding accomplishment!

Another goal that "B" Team continues to take an active role in is to increase seatbelt usage in Thomasville. The team also continues to take an active part in the Governors Office of Highway Safety by conducting "Mini Safety Check Points" throughout the city and Road Checks throughout South Georgia with other State Agencies and Municipalities.

The team continues to support the Police Departments Community Policing Philosophy and has been an active participant in many of the Neighborhood Watch Groups throughout the city. The team has participated in several other Community Programs to include: Shop with a Cop, Safetyville, Behind the Badge, Presentations to local Cub Scout Groups, THS Safety EXPO, Leadership 2009 program, Ribs for Kids program, National Night Out, Relay-4-Life and Mentoring students at THS.

As you can see we have been quite busy over the last year as well as the rest of the Police Department. I'm sure that 2010 will be just as productive and we look forward to another year serving the Community.

Lt. Steve Belvin  
"B" Team Watch Commander

## **C-Team**

2009 was a very busy year for the members of the Thomasville Police Department's C-Team. The members of C-Team are Lt. Lavone Shiver, Sgt. Chris Brock and Patrol Officers Chris Hosey, David Fisher, Kim Dyke, Jackson Keel, Joey Blackburn, Chris Baggett.

The members of C-team participated in neighborhood watch programs and other community events, such as the police department's Goodwill Project. The neighborhood watch program is an effective tool that officers use to stay in touch with the communities they serve. Wildwood Apartments, Hunters Chase Apartments, and Shiloh Baptist Church are the program areas that C-Team meets with quarterly. The meetings give the citizens in those communities an opportunity to voice their concerns to the officers who work in their neighborhoods. Neighborhood watch programs help officers learn who lives in their zones which allows the officers recognize suspicious activity. The annual Goodwill Project sponsored by the Thomasville Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division, is a benefit in which profits are used to help the community's needy families.

The members of C-Team received thousands of calls for service during 2009 and they were assigned 540 misdemeanor cases. Out of the 540 cases, 318 were cleared. This adds up to a 59% clearance rate. Taking into account that the national average is less than 20%, C-team helped the citizens of Thomasville through a lot of problems.

2009 was a good year and 2010 looks to be even better. C-team is looking forward to working with the citizens in the community to make Thomasville a better place.

## **Municipal Court 2009**

The Municipal Court function of the City of Thomasville falls under the Support Services Division of the police department and is staffed by the Municipal Court Judge Mark Mitchell and two Municipal Court Clerks. The primary duty of the Court Clerk is to see that all Traffic Citations and General Enforcement Charges are logged into the court docket system and that all case dispositions are noted and tracked. The Municipal Court also conducts background checks and fingerprint checks for local employers, handles alcohol licensing for both businesses and individuals, makes ID cards for city employees, and assists visitors to the Bobby Hines Justice Center with information and public records.

Thomasville Municipal court convenes every Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the courtroom at the Bobby Hines Justice Center on Smith Avenue. The court processed 6,820 citations and 2,836 warnings for traffic violations and tried 668 non traffic cases. The Municipal Court Clerks also process and submit required forms on license status and court dispositions to the Georgia Department of Public Safety

A breakdown of selected cases processed by Municipal court is depicted in the accompanying table.

<b>Charge</b>	<b>Number</b>
General Enforcement*	357
Underage Consumption	46
Open Container (Alcohol)	103
Marijuana	66
DUI	114
Loud Music	189

*\*General enforcement includes all city charges other than traffic and those listed above.*

## RECRUITMENT OVERVIEW

*For January - December, 2009*

During 2009 Human Resources recruited Police Officer candidates on a continuing basis. Four recruitment sessions were individually established by virtue of openings created by staff resignations and promotion of patrol officers. Candidates from these recruitment sessions were either hired to fill vacancies or were placed on an eligibility list to be hired at a later date to fill positions as vacancies occurred. Specific information regarding these openings is outlined as follows:

<b>TERMINATION DATE</b>	<b>OFFICER TURNOVER/REASON FOR OPENINGS</b>	<b>RACE/SEX</b>
1/16/09	Voluntary Resignation	White Male
3/15/09	Voluntary Resignation	White Male
6/7/09	Voluntary Resignation	White Male
9/18/09	Voluntary Resignation	White Male
10/29/09	Voluntary Resignation	White Male
12/11/09	Voluntary Resignation	White Male
12/30/09	Voluntary Resignation	White Female

During 2009, 89 candidates submitted applications for Police Officer. Of the 89 applicants, 7 candidates were hired. The racial breakdown for the applicants is below:

<b>WHITE MALES</b>	<b>WHITE FEMALES</b>	<b>BLACK MALES</b>	<b>BLACK FEMALES</b>	<b>OTHER MALES</b>	<b>OTHER FEMALES</b>
50	6	24	9	0	0

## SOURCES OF RECRUITMENT

Human Resources utilized the following resources to recruit for Police Officer candidates:

1. The racial make-up of Thomasville/Thomas County is as follows:

- a. White – 7,999 (42.8%) of 18,162 total population**
- b. Black – 10,060 (55.4%) of 18,162 total population**
- c. Other – 323 (0.99%) of 18,162 total population**

*The Thomasville/Thomas County Planning Department does not have a demographic breakdown of Thomasville's residents by race and sex. Only those figures that indicate the numbers of black residents and white residents were available.*

2. The City of Thomasville always makes recruitment efforts that mirror this ethnic balance within the Police Department. To encourage minority candidates to apply for Police Officer, we notify sources that are traditionally minority-based. These sources include 18 churches, the Georgia Department of Labor, the Francis Weston Y.M.C.A., and N.A.A.C.P. - all in Thomasville, Georgia.

3. Job announcements are sent to the following resources of higher education at the beginning of each recruitment period.

- *Florida A & M University*, Tallahassee, FL
- *Albany State College*, Albany, GA
- *Fort Valley State College*, Fort Valley, GA
- *Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College*, Tifton, GA
- *Valdosta State University*, Valdosta, GA
- *Thomas University*, Thomasville, GA
- *Southwest Georgia Technical College*, Thomasville, GA
- *Fort Benning Law Enforcement Academy*, Ft. Benning, GA
- *Bainbridge College*, Bainbridge, GA
- *Darton College*, Albany, GA

4. The following newspapers were used in 2009 for recruitment purposes:

- *Times - Enterprise*, Thomasville, GA
- *Valdosta Daily Times*, Valdosta, GA
- *Albany Herald* – Albany, GA
- *Moultrie Observer*, Moultrie, GA
- *Tifton Gazette*, Tifton, GA
- *Cordele Dispatch* – Cordele, GA
- *Americus Time Recorder* – Americus, GA

5. The following career fairs/educational/safety sessions were held in 2009:

- Thomas University Career Fair – March 24, 2009
- Thomasville High School Safety Expo – April 16, 2009
- Career Fair @ Boys & Girls Club – April 30, 2009
- Home Buyer's Fair (Home Security & Burglary Prevention) – May 2, 2009
- Safety Fair @ Peacock Day in Pavo GA – May 9, 2009
- Career Fair/Recruitment Drive @ Southwest GA Technical College – May 14, 2009
- Back to School Blitz & Safety Fair @ Southwest GA Technical College – August 1, 2009
- National Night Out @ Cherokee Park – August 4, 2009
- Community Preparedness Fair @ Southwest GA Tech – September 29, 2009
- Kid's Safety Fair @ Pavo Library – October 27, 2009
- Pavo Fall Festival – October 31, 2009
- City of Thomasville Customer Appreciation

In addition to the above events, the SRO/Crime Prevention/Community Relations Team have conducted several safety presentations throughout the year such as: Gang Awareness, Halloween Safety, Identity Theft, Fraud, etc. These presentations were conducted for the Thomasville City School System, church groups, neighborhood watch groups, local area businesses and other civic organizations. I also began Crime Prevention Presentations for the community at our downtown precinct. These presentations started December 8, 2009 and are conducted every Tuesday and Friday at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Each presentation last for

approximately 30-45 minutes and during the remainder of the morning, the precinct is open for the public to stop by and pick up brochures and/or pamphlets on various safety topics. We also provided safety programs for the community area youth during the summer such as: Safe-t-Ville, G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Summer Component and Jr. Law Enforcement Academy.

5. Information concerning each recruitment session was placed on the City of Thomasville's cable access channel.

6. The continued use of a "contact folder" was implemented during 2009. When an applicant inquires about making application for police officer, they are given a preliminary application to complete. Once the completed preliminary application is submitted to Human Resources, a preliminary background check is initiated and if results are favorable, candidate's application is placed in the contact folder to be contacted and notified at the time of the next recruitment period. If there are concerns on the background check, candidate is notified and given a chance to discuss these issues with the Chief of Police.

7. Human Resources utilizes a web page for recruitment purposes. This site contains information on recruitment activities.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

Figures illustrating our efforts to recruit minority candidates in the year 2008 versus 2009 are outlined below:

<i>RACE &amp; SEX</i>	APPLICANTS 2008	<b>APPLICANTS 2009</b>	HIRED 2008	<b>HIRED 2009</b>	% HIRED 2008	% <b>HIRED 2009</b>
White Male	40	<b>50</b>	2	<b>6</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
White Female	7	<b>6</b>	0	<b>1</b>	<b>00.0%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
Black Male	11	<b>24</b>	1	<b>0</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>00.0%</b>
Black Female	9	<b>9</b>	0	<b>0</b>	<b>00.0%</b>	<b>00.0%</b>
Other Male	1	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	<b>00.0%</b>	<b>00.0%</b>
Other Female	1	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	<b>00.0%</b>	<b>00.0%</b>

As the numbers above show, the number of applicants for most categories increased somewhat from 2008 to 2009. This can be attributed to the factor of more recruitment processes held during 2009.

The Police Department's goal for 2009 was to hire at least one male and one female minority by December 31, 2009. This goal was not met. However, there was no turnover in minority officers during 2009.

It will continue to be a goal of the Police Department to hire at least one male and one female minority by December 31, 2010. The Police Department will attempt to achieve this goal by the following methods:

- Representatives from the Police Department and/or Human Resources will continue to attend a minimum of two career fairs per year at minority-based colleges where possible, non-minority based colleges, technical schools as well as solicit candidates who are not sponsored by police agencies while in police academy.

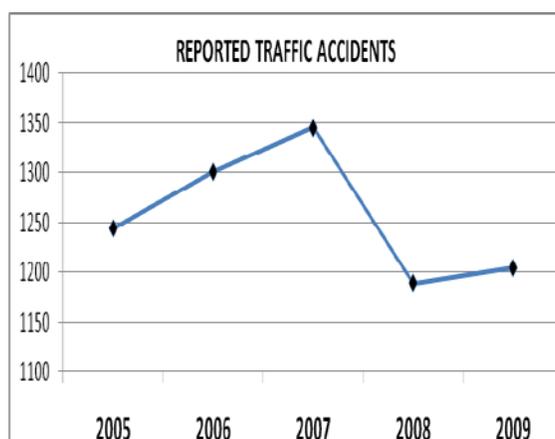
- Efforts to provide information and law enforcement work experience to future applicants will be encouraged by providing recruitment information through the department's Explorer and Crime Watch Programs. Also, the department will continue to offer non- paid internships to students attending the local Technical College and/or the local University.
- Heads of churches, local civic and business organizations that are minority-based and the YMCA's are notified of each recruitment session. Emphasis on recruitment will be incorporated into community outreach programs such as Block parties, neighborhood watch meetings, etc.
- At the beginning of each recruitment period, job announcements will be sent to the Department of Labor. Announcements will also be sent to Abraham Baldwin College, Florida A&M University, Albany State College, Fort Valley State College, Valdosta State University, Thomas University, and Southwest Georgia Technical College. Other schools of higher education with criminal justice degree programs that are in close proximity to Thomasville, Georgia may also be notified of openings.
- Advertisements for Police Officer I will be conducted for each recruitment session to advertise for open positions or to establish eligibility lists for future openings. It is specified in advertising that minorities and females are encouraged to apply. To that end, a wide variety of advertising resources will continue to be used. They include minority-based and non-traditional minority newspapers.

Adverse impact surveys will continue to be done on a quarterly basis after each recruitment session. The adverse impact surveys provide statistical data on applicant and hiring statistics. The surveys will also include information on advertisement sources. Information from these impact surveys will be used to plan for future recruitment sessions.

## Traffic Enforcement

Traffic law enforcement is one of the most visible and least popular functions of the police department. The driving purpose behind the enforcement of traffic laws is safety. The Thomasville Police Department actively engages in a variety of traffic related activity from enforcing the laws to educating the public on the proper way to install a child safety seat. Whatever the venue, the department is committed to reducing the number of accidents in Thomasville and to reducing the number of injuries that occur when accidents do happen.

There were 1204 traffic accidents reported in Thomasville in 2009. This is a slight increase from the 1189 accidents reported in 2008 but still fewer than 2006 and 2007 which averaged 1323 accidents. In spite of the department's proactive enforcement and accident prevention efforts, there were still 203 reported injuries and one traffic fatality. 2009's reported traffic injuries are also down from 2008's reported 228 injuries. It is the primary goal to continue to work to reduce this number year by year.



Thomasville police officers issued 6,820 traffic citations and 2,836 written warnings in 2009. Officers made 114 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol and 46 charges for open container. Also officers made 46 charges for underage consumption. Additionally officers made 189 cases for loud music violations.

	White	Black	Other	Total
Male	1632	2075	126	3833
Female	1260	1593	31	2884
Total	2892	3668	157	6717

The Thomasville Police Department continues to play a vital role in the South West Georgia Traffic Network (SWGTN). The SWGTN is comprised of 12 agencies in the South West Georgia area and the group's main focus is to promote traffic safety by actively enforcing child restraints, seat belt restraints, driving under the influence violations and narcotic violations. The department participated in Hands Across the Border where SWGTN assisted Florida law enforcement officials with a state line check point and also law enforcement officials from Alabama. The Thomasville Police Department is currently promoting a rural roads campaign which is focused at decreasing rural roads traffic fatalities. Citizens with specific complaints about traffic situations in Thomasville should call 226-2101 or email [police@thomasville.net](mailto:police@thomasville.net).

<b>INTERSECTION</b>	<b># OF ACCIDENTS 2009</b>
US 19/E. JACKSON ST.	45
US 19/REMINGTON AVE.	26
E. JACKSON ST/E. PINETREE BLVD.	34
SMITH AVE/HANSELL ST.	10
N. MADISON /W. CLAY ST.	11
BARTOW/FLETCHER ST.	9
SMITH AVE/KERN ST.	13
MLK DR/CAMPBELL ST.	1
BROAD/JACKSON ST	9
PINETREE BLVD/REMINGTON AVE.	24
GORDON AVE/S HANSELL ST.	1
SMITH AVE/PINETREE BLVD.	5
W JACKSON ST/MADISON ST	10
SMITH AVE/BROAD ST	2
BROAD ST/HANSELL ST	2
E. JACKSON ST/CLANTON ST	6

The highest leading contributing factors in traffic accidents investigated by the Thomasville Police Department in 2009 were the following factors.

## **CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

1. FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE
2. FAILED TO YIELD
3. IMPROPER BACKING
4. MISJUDGED CLEARANCE
5. DISREGARD STOP SIGN/SIGNAL



## **Bike Team**

The Bike team has been very productive in connecting the police department with the public, by improving previously existing relationships and by creating new relationships with our citizens. The bike team is vigilant in making the City of Thomasville safe for our citizens and guests. We pride ourselves on the "stealth-ness" of which enables us to deter and apprehend crimes in progress.

The Bike Unit continues to be heavily involved in Community Events such as: bicycle safety education classes, our annual Rose Show festivities, Jr. Law Enforcement Academy, Citizens' Police Academy and Victorian Christmas just to name a few. The Bike Unit also continues to be an active participant with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) through the South Western Traffic Enforcement Network (SWTEN). The unit attended 14 road checks throughout a 13 county region to promote safe driving practices and passenger seat belt/child restraint safety.

The Bike Unit conducted several bicycle registrations throughout the city, in which the team registered bicycles, conducted safety talks, completed minor repairs and issued out bicycle helmets for children under 16 yoa. The Bike unit created an on-line bicycle registration form in 2008 and continues to maintain it to this day. Having bicycles registered increases the chances of them being recovered and returned to the owner if lost or stolen. Bicycles can be registered through the Thomasvillepolice.net, Rose.net or the new Thomasville.org web sites. The form accommodates the citizens of Thomasville and Thomas County.

The Bike Unit was utilized a great deal in high crime areas this year. The Unit focused on quality of life issues from noise and litter concerns to drug complaints. The team, along with other members of the department, was able to revitalize the area of Horrix and Law streets to include Wall Park. Lighting, litter, graffiti, shrubbery, noise and drug complaints are a few issues that were addressed. Through the efforts of the team and the citizens, the community is a safer and quieter neighborhood. The Bike Team is excited about the future and continues to be dedicated servants to YOU, the citizens of Thomasville.

If you have any concerns or problems in your neighborhoods, please send Sgt. Langston an email at [Dlangston@Thomasville.org](mailto:Dlangston@Thomasville.org).

## CALEA

In 2009 the Thomasville Police Department went through its 6<sup>th</sup> national reaccreditation process and the inspection was a major success. The Thomasville Police Department was one (1) of sixteen (16) national agencies recognized during the last CALEA Conference, where the police department received the Meritorious Accreditation award for 15 or more continuous accredited years.

The Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (CALEA) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriff's Association and Police Executive Research Forum. CALEA was created as a result of the nationally troublesome 60's and 70's which found law enforcement too frequently failing to meet its responsibilities. CALEA was created to enhance and improve Law Enforcement as a profession. The Accreditation Program mirrors the current thinking and experience of today's law enforcement. The program creates a check and balance by systematically conducting an internal review and assessment of the police department's policies and procedures, making adjustments wherever necessary to meet a body of internationally accepted standards.

In 1987, the Thomasville Police Department earned national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Thomasville Police Department was the 5<sup>th</sup> in the State of Georgia and 52<sup>nd</sup> in the United States to earn national accreditation. Also in 1997 the Thomasville Police Department was recognized by the State of Georgia for demonstrating its commitment to law enforcement by meeting all applicable standards established by the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program.

In 2010 there are currently 600 nationally accredited law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada. There are currently 463 standards that have to be met in the law enforcement accreditation program. Nine major standards cover subjects such as the agency's role, responsibilities, management, administration, operations, traffic operations and personnel structure to name a few. The major benefit of being an accredited agency is felt by the citizens of Thomasville and Thomas County. The citizens are served by a professional agency with prideful servants. Additional benefits offered by being an accredited member range from officers receiving additional yearly training hours on top of the state mandated training. Also CALEA standards require an agency to develop a comprehensive, well thought out, uniform set of written directives, require a preparedness program to be put in place so an agency can respond to a natural or man-made disaster. CALEA standards also improve police service-delivery, boost citizen and staff confidence in the agency, strengthen crime prevention and formalize essential management procedures.

Lt. Ricky Singletary (D-TEAM)

During the year of 2009, D-Team continued to be proactive in the community. The team identified several quality of life issues throughout the city and helped solve them which made the City of Thomasville a better place to live. Some of the issues included unkept property, dilapidated housing, illegal drug activity, junk vehicles, and non-working street lights throughout the city. Officers maintained contact with the Thomasville Utilities about lighting problems and with the Building and Zoning Department about any dilapidated houses in these areas. Officers worked with the Thomas County Narcotics Division as they received information about drug dealers operating in this area and assisted with combating the drug activity.

Officers assigned to D-Team continued to be committed to the Community Oriented Policing philosophy as they continued to make contacts with citizens in their zones about problems in the neighborhoods. These problems included complaints of speeding, loud music, and drug dealing within the respective neighborhoods. If officers were able to identify violators, appropriate citations were issued in an effort to combat the illegal activity and make the neighborhood a safer place to live and for children to play. Officers assigned to D-Team were proactive in seatbelt enforcement as they conducted check points at intersections in their zones. Officers were able to discover other violations such as Driving Under the influence, drug violations, license violations, and other infractions at these check points.

Officers encouraged the citizens to contact the police department about any problems and gave them advice on how they could prevent becoming a victim of a crime in their neighborhoods. The officers encouraged the citizens to get involved with a neighborhood watch in their area if possible and to pass all information about criminal activity in their neighborhoods. Officers also attended neighborhood watch meetings and spoke with the citizens about various problems in their neighborhood. Officers developed better relationships with the citizens and identified several concerns by citizens.

At the police department's annual Christmas party, several members of D team were recognized for their outstanding work throughout the year. Some of the awarded citations included, outstanding employee of the month, Gallantry Star, and service awards. *It should be noted that in April of 2009 Officers on D team arrested (4) four burglary suspects while they were still inside a local business.*

Officers on D team assisted the investigations unit with their annual Goodwill project. The programs objective is to raise money for the less fortunate during Christmas. The annual program usually generates close to \$7,000 to assist families at Christmas to purchase toys and needed items for their children. Officers also participated in the Shop with A Cop program and the city's Christmas Stocking Program. These programs allowed community children to have a nice Christmas and to have nice clothes and supplies for school.

## Family Violence

The Thomasville Police Department has a “Zero Tolerance” policy for dealing with instances of family violence. This policy dictates that in any instance where an actual incident of family violence has occurred and a primary aggressor can be identified as prescribed by Georgia Law, officers of this department will arrest the suspect.

Police officers responded to 829 domestic disputes in 2009. This number represents a 5% increase in domestic violence from the 785 disputes reported in 2008. These calls resulted in 287 official reports of family violence. Officers made 166 arrests for a clearance rate of 58% in domestic violence cases. The remaining cases could not be resolved through law enforcement intervention and complainants were referred to other agencies for assistance.

### § 19-13-1. "Family violence" defined

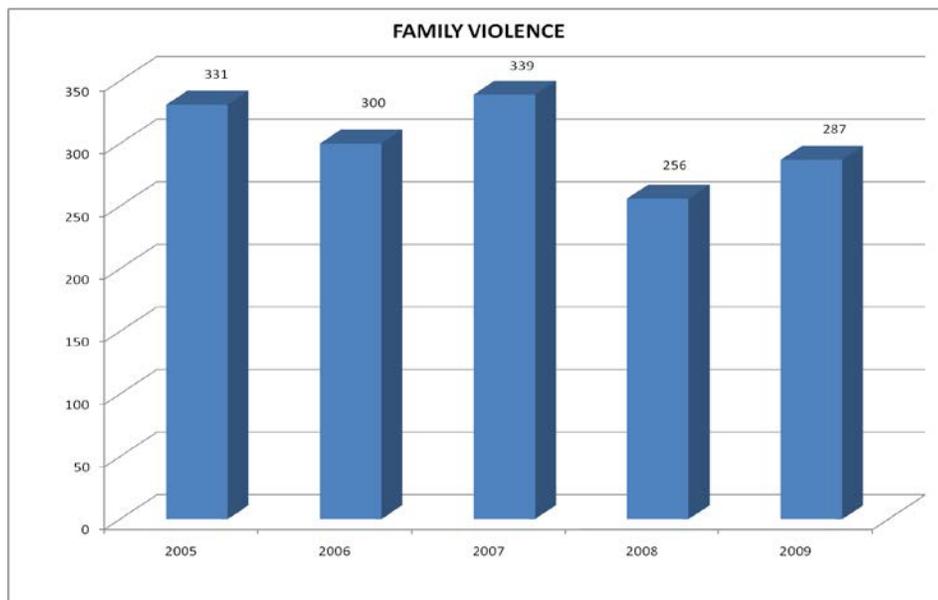
As used in this article, the term "family violence" means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between past or present spouses, persons who are parents of the same child, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren, foster parents and foster children, or other persons living or formerly living in the same household:

(1) Any felony; or

(2) Commission of offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, unlawful restraint, or criminal trespass.

The term "family violence" shall not be deemed to include reasonable discipline administered by a parent to a child in the form of corporal punishment, restraint, or detention.

If you or someone you know is the victim of family violence or if you have questions about family violence please contact the police department at 226-2101 and request that an officer meet you to discuss your situation.





Internal Affairs Summary 2009  
 By: Lt. Shane Harris

The Mission Statement for the City of Thomasville is: We will create and deliver excellent service to our community and to our team members through a culture of safety, courtesy, professionalism and efficiency. To insure that all employees maintain this culture, the Thomasville Police Department treats all complaints against our employees seriously and all formal complaints are thoroughly investigated. To file a complaint, a person must contact a supervisor of the Thomasville Police Department and fill out a complaint form. The complaint form contains the name of the complainant, the name of the employee against whom the complaint is made and a brief written summary of the complaint. Anyone wishing to make a complaint against an officer is encouraged to make the complaint in person; however the department will take complaints over the phone, through the internet or by other means. Each formal complaint is assigned a tracking number and logged for follow up.

Internal affairs investigations may also be initiated at the request of the Chief of Police. Such investigations typically involve violations of department policy or situations involving one or more supervisors. Request for consideration of a disciplinary action may also be assigned for investigation through the internal affairs function. There were 17 internal affairs investigations in 2009. Eight incidents involved allegations of improper conduct by officers either on duty or off duty. Two complaints resulted in disciplinary action against the officers. Officers were cleared of any wrong doing in the remaining cases. Three investigation cases involved the use of force in arrest situations. In each case the officers were alleged to have used more force than necessary to affect an arrest. The three officers were cleared of any wrong doing. There were two complaints of harassment. One complaint alleged sexual harassment by an officer during an arrest situation. This complaint was later determined to be unfounded and without merit. In the second complaint the officer was exonerated of any wrong doing. There were also two complaints of improper investigation. One case was unfounded and in the last case the officer was exonerated from any wrong doing. The remaining cases all officers were exonerated.

Nature of complaint	Outcome
Improper conduct	6 Exonerated 2 Sustained
Unnecessary Use of Force	3 Exonerated
Harassment	1 Exonerated 1 Unfounded
Improper Investigation	1 Exonerated 1 Unfounded
Improper Taser Usage	1 Exonerated
False Arrest	1 Exonerated

In addition to the investigation of complaints as they are made, the department also conducts quarterly analysis of all use of force incidents and internal affairs cases as part of our Employee Warning System. The purpose of this quarterly analysis is to identify specific areas of operations or specific employees which exhibit potential patterns of concern. Once identified, areas of concern can be addressed through training or disciplinary intervention. No employees were flagged by the Early Warning System as potentially problematic in 2009.

Citizens may also make a formal commendation for the positive actions of police officers and civilian employees. Commendations can be made by sending a letter summarizing the actions of the police officer or civilian employee to the Chief of Police.

# **School Resource Officers/Community Relations 2009 Annual Report**

The Thomasville Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) Team and the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Division had a very busy and successful year in 2009. Officer Joey Rollins continued to work as the SRO for Thomasville High School, as well as the Thomasville City Alternative School. He also shared responsibility for Scott Elementary School with Officer Dominic Ford. Officer Ford also served as SRO for MacIntyre Park Middle School and the Scholar's Academy. Officer Penny Hembree served as SRO for Jerger and Harper Elementary Schools.

The SRO Team continued to offer many positive early intervention programs in the Thomasville City School System such as: the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Program, which was taught to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at MacIntyre Park Middle School by Officer Ford. Officer Ford and Officer Rollins worked together to teach the Program to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Scott Elementary and Officer Hembree taught the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at both Jerger and Harper Elementary Schools. Officer Hembree continued to teach the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Jerger, Scott, and Harper Elementary Schools. The SROs also offered various other programs such as: Bullying, Stranger Danger, Peer Pressure, Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, etc. to the Thomasville City School System. The SRO/Community Relations Team attended various community agency fairs, kid's safety days and career fairs/recruitment drives in the Thomasville community, as well as surrounding communities.

The SROs planned and organized the sixth annual Safety Expo at Thomasville High School in 2009. The event provided students with an exposure to a variety of public safety personnel, military, state and federal government agencies, as well as, potential career opportunities. A third Annual Thomasville Police Department Youth Programs Golf Tournament took place in October 2009. Approximately \$3000 was raised during the event, which will be used to pay for items needed to continue providing programs and events for the youth of Thomasville/Thomas County.

The 2009 summer months were very busy for the SRO/Community Relations Team with numerous programs being provided for the youth of Thomasville/Thomas County. The Safe-t-Ville Program, which has been offered since 1983, teaches children a variety of safety rules including: Bike Safety, First Aid, Stranger Danger, Fire Safety and how to call 911. Approximately 200 children participated in the 2009 summer program. The SRO Team worked with Douglass Alumni Association, the Weston YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club, during the summer to offer the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Component to area youth. The third Annual Junior Law Enforcement Academy was a huge success in 2009. The Program gave participating teens a chance to experience some of the duties of a police officer.

The SRO/Community Relations Team planned and organized the City of Thomasville's fourth Annual National Night Out Event in August 2009. The event provided the approximately 200 attendees with information on crime prevention and valuable tips needed to stay safe in the community. The Shop With A Cop Program was continued in 2009, benefiting 20 youth. The SRO/Community Relations Team continued to provide various crime prevention programs to the 12 active Neighborhood Watch Groups throughout the City of Thomasville.

The SRO/Community Relations Team will continue to work diligently with other teams in the Thomasville Police Department to promote the Department's philosophy of Community Oriented Policing. This philosophy is intended to provide positive, well-developed, educational programs to the Thomasville City School System and the citizens of Thomasville/Thomas County, in order to help them feel safe and secure in the community.

## Use of Force Policy

Police officers are occasionally required to use physical force against persons who have committed a crime in order to affect an arrest or to protect the life or well being of others. It is the policy of the Thomasville Police Department that the value of human life is immeasurable and that officers will use only that force necessary to protect life and effect lawful objectives.

Department records show that officers of the Thomasville Police Department made 1,829 arrests in 2009. Out of all these arrests, there were only 33 reportable uses of force incidents in 2009 for a forcible arrest percentage of less than 2%. Statistically, the race and gender of those suspects involved in force incidents are consistent with the overall race and gender of those arrested for the year. The race and gender of the officers involved were also consistent with the makeup of the department.

A breakdown of the 2009 use of force incidents is depicted in the accompanying chart. There were 33 reported force incidents in 2009, compared to 40 incidents in 2008. The chart also indicates that the incidents of force used are relatively consistent across a five year period.

The Thomasville Police Department is governed by the United States Constitution, State law and department policy in its use of force to obtain lawful objectives. Officers are given extensive training in the use of force and are supplied with several options for dealing with a combative subject. Each time that force must be used by an officer, the officer must file a written report detailing the incident. These reports are reviewed by the Chief of Police and the department's Internal Review Board.

There are several different levels of force which an officer may have to use in performing his or her duty. The level of force used by the officer is dictated primarily by the person with whom the officer is dealing.

The first level of force which officers may employ, aside from the officer's presence on the scene, is verbal. Officers of the Thomasville Police Department are trained in the proper way to use verbal commands and communication skills to convince a person to comply with the officer's requests. In most cases, verbal direction is all that is required by an officer to safely affect an arrest. If the officer is unable to verbally gain control of a suspect or if the suspect becomes violent toward the officer or toward others, officers are authorized to use other means to gain control of the suspect.

The next level of force is open hand physical control of a suspect. Officers are trained in a variety of tactics designed to allow the officer to gain physical control of a suspect offering resistance to the officer's attempt to make an arrest. In the event that an officer is unable to gain physical control of a suspect or if the suspect is violent and causing or threatening to cause harm to the officer or other persons, officers are authorized to use a variety of non lethal devices to gain control of the violent suspect.

All sworn officers of the Thomasville Police Department are issued oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray. OC spray is a non-chemical natural agent made from the essence of cayenne or habanero pepper. The spray causes immediate irritation to the mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, mouth and bronchial tubes of the person being sprayed. The initial effects of the spray last for 15 to 30 minutes with a burning sensation lasting for up to 60 minutes. The spray impairs the vision of the person sprayed and causes an intense burning sensation to the exposed skin and mucous membranes.

Officers are trained to provide a suspect with facilities to flush the affected areas with water as soon as possible after exposure. Normally, copious amounts of water and washing with non-oil based soap are all that is required to counter the effects of the spray. Rarely is further treatment at a medical facility required. Officers are instructed during training to watch for respiratory distress or failure during transport of the suspect to the holding facility.

All sworn officers of the Thomasville Police Department are issued the ASP brand expandable baton. The ASP baton is designed as a defensive weapon to be used against a violent suspect. Officers are trained in the proper use of impact weapons and will only use impact weapons to counter a physical attack on the officer or on others by a suspect.

The police department utilizes Taser brand electronic incapacitation devices for use by sworn officers. Taser devices utilize compressed nitrogen to project two small probes up to 21 feet. These probes are connected to the Taser device by insulated wire. An electrical current is transmitted through the wires to where the probes make contact with the body or clothing, resulting in an immediate loss of the person's neuromuscular control and the ability to perform coordinated action for the duration of the impulse. Officers receive extensive training in the use of the device before the device is issued. The department has also implemented a clear and comprehensive policy which guides the use of the devices.

The final level of force which officers may use is deadly force. The use of deadly force is strictly governed by both Georgia law and department policy. The Thomasville Police Department Use of Force Policy is as follows:

An officer may use lethal force **only** when the officer reasonably believes that the action is:

- a. in defense of human life, including officer's life or
- b. in defense of any person in immediate danger of serious physical injury, or
- c. in the apprehension of a fleeing forcible felon, when:
  1. the officer has probable cause to believe that a forcible felony has been committed and the person to be arrested has committed it, and
  2. the officer has identified himself as a police officer and given notice of his intention to arrest (time and circumstances permitting), and
  3. the officer reasonably believes that the suspect's freedom represents a significant immediate threat of serious physical injury or death to the officer or to other persons, and
  4. all other reasonable means of apprehension have been exhausted before lethal force is used.

Regarding use of non lethal force, an officer may employ any level of non lethal force necessary in order to:

- a. defend himself or another person, or
- b. subdue a person resisting arrest, or
- c. prevent the escape from custody.

*(Thomasville Police Department Standard Operating Procedures Manual)*

Each time that an officer uses force to arrest a suspect, the officer must complete a Use of Force Report which is submitted to the Office of Professional Standards. Each report is reviewed by the Chief of Police and critiqued by the department's Internal Review Board. The types of force used by officers to complete an arrest are depicted in the following table.

<b>Incidents (33)</b>	<b>Type of Force Used</b>
13	Taser Used
10	Handgun Drawn But Not Fired
8	Physical Force Used Only
0	O/C (Pepper) Spray
1	Shotgun Fired
0	K9 Bite
0	ASP Baton
2	Vehicle Pursuits

## **Five Year Comparison**

