

1. Patrol Division:

The Patrol Division, the largest division within the department, is responsible for preventative crime control and response to all types of emergency and non-emergency calls for service by Garland citizens. These officers' services are provided seven days a week, 24 hours a day. All new recruits, after successful completion of training, start out in the Patrol Division. An officer cannot assess for any other positions or promotions until they have had a minimum of two years of service. Specialized units such as S.W.A.T., the Canine Unit, and the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit also operate within patrol.

A. Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

The Garland Police Department SWAT Team's primary mission is to respond to incidents such as barricaded persons, hostage situations and other situations that require special skills, equipment and training. In addition, the SWAT Team also executes search warrants and arrest warrants that are deemed "high risk," with a possibility of armed resistance.

The SWAT Team is composed of approximately 40 officers who are drawn from across the department. SWAT personnel fill positions such as assault, marksman (sniper), negotiators and intelligence. The officer's skill, knowledge, training and expertise are factors when assignments are made within the Team.

In addition to their regular assigned duties, SWAT personnel train 16 hours each month on a variety of tactics, and are required to train for a 40-hour period each quarter. Training consists of dynamic assaults, covert assault, buy-bust, downed officer rescue, hostage rescue and many other tactics. Personnel assigned to SWAT are subject to "call out," 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to handle any SWAT related incident.

Officers interested in serving on the SWAT Team must have a minimum of one year experience as a patrol officer with the department and be in excellent physical condition. They must demonstrate a high proficiency with departmental issued firearms and have approved performance standards from their current and previous supervisors. SWAT applicants will undergo an oral interview, a physical assessment,

and must meet other established criteria before being considered as a member of the team. Once selected, the applicant must complete a 50-hour basic SWAT school and then will be placed on a one-year probationary period with the team. Those who complete this process will become a member of one of the most highly trained units in the State of Texas.

B. Canine Unit

Purpose and History of the GPD Canine Unit

Police K-9 dogs, properly trained and handled, give police officers one of the finest non-lethal aids in the prevention and detection of crime. The Garland Canine Unit is comprised of four canine teams whose purpose is to provide the maximum amount of safety to officers, citizens, and suspects while investigating criminal activities, especially in instances of felony offenses. The proper use of a canine unit has been scientifically shown to reduce the number of officer-involved shootings in a police department.

The Garland Police Canine Unit was formed in 1986 by a Federal Grant to help assist in the prevention of building burglaries. The unit was started by Officer (now Lieutenant) David Swavey with K-9 Lord and Officer Andy Bell with K-9 Bingo. Since the original two dogs, we have had nine canine teams in service including four teams.

Functions of the Canine Unit:

Tracking and Area Searches: Garland Police Canines are able to track suspects who have fled from police officers or a criminal offense.

Evidence Searches: Garland Police Canines are able to locate articles or contraband discarded by suspects.

Building Searches: Garland Police Canines are used to search buildings that have been burglarized or used in the commission of criminal offenses.

Narcotics Searches: Garland Police Canines are used to find illegal narcotics in buildings or vehicles.

Handler Protection: Garland Police Canines are used to protect officers including the handler from assaults and will react without command if the handlers are assaulted.

Criminal Apprehension: Garland Police Canines are used to apprehend high-risk criminals that pose a threat to officers or citizens providing greater safety to officers, citizens, and the suspect.

Several Garland Police Dogs have been injured while trying to capture felony suspects. Both Lord and Bingo were shot during confrontations with suspects. K-9 Blitz was stabbed while trying to apprehend a suspect breaking into a house. All three survived their wounds and later retired with distinction. K-9 Xanto was also stabbed by a suspect hiding in the woods and later died from an infection caused by the wounds. All of these dogs sustained injuries that were meant for their handlers or other police officers.

General Information about Canine Officers and their Dogs

Almost all Garland police dogs are German Shepherds that have been imported from Europe, with the exception of one Belgian Malinois in the Narcotics Unit. The dogs are the 24-hour responsibility of their handlers and stay at home with them when the handlers are not on duty. When on duty the canines are in a special kennel built into the backseat of a squad car. The dogs are generally obtained when they are 2 to 3 years old and work until they are 8 to 10 years old depending upon their physical condition. The dogs are very sociable and enjoy interacting with people. After a police canine is retired he is given to his handler to remain a family dog.

Garland officers must apply to become a canine handler when a position is open.

Once selected the handler and his dog go through a 12 to 14 week school together learning the different skills and functions required of a canine team. After completing the canine academy, the canine teams receive 8 hours of training every week to maintain their level of proficiency. The canine teams are certified by the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) on a regular basis to prove their ability. The unit also has received awards from the USPCA for the performance of their canines on duty and in competitions.

D. Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit

The Garland Police Bomb Disposal Unit is accredited by the FBI Bomb Data Center as a Type One Team capable of responding to two simultaneous events, while utilizing robotics and delivering Large Vehicle Bomb Countermeasures. The Garland Bomb Unit consists of seven certified Bomb Technicians and one trained Bomb Assistants. All technicians are graduates of the Hazardous Devices School at Redstone Arsenal and regularly return to the school for re-certification.

The Bomb Unit's main mission is to respond to suspicious circumstances where it is believed that explosives or some other unknown danger may pose a threat to officers and the general public. The Bomb Unit uses specialized equipment to diagnosis and render suspicious packages safe.

The Bomb Unit trains bi-weekly in order to maintain proficiency in the skills needed to carry out the bomb disposal mission. Each technician has attended a post-blast investigation course, and is qualified to assist other agencies in bomb disposal/detonation incidents.

The unit is trained and equipped to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. This ability requires the officers to be trained in hazardous material response, and to be capable of working in fully encapsulated suits.

The Garland Police Bomb Unit and the Garland Health Department formed a combined Weapons of Mass Destruction Response Team capable of dealing with CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive) devices. This partnership has brought together the advanced resources of both departments to form a team with capabilities that far exceed other local agencies. This specialized team provides its capabilities to seven surrounding counties and over 36 smaller cities. The Garland Police Bomb Unit has recently added three SWAT trained officers to the unit. These officers work as a security team for the bomb unit and are trained and equipped to work in CBRNE environments.

Because the Garland Police Department Bomb Unit is highly trained and well recognized, it has been called on to assist the FBI and ATF in the recovery of explosive items and investigation of major incidents.

The unit provides explosive breaching capabilities for the GPD SWAT Team and has several certified breachers who routinely train with several local SWAT Teams.

E. Honor Guard

The Garland Police Honor Guard was established after the on-duty death of Officer Gerald Walker in November of 1989. Up to that time, the Garland Police Department had not had an officer killed in the line of duty since the department was established in 1951. The members of the Honor Guard wear a shoulder patch on their uniform that bears Officer Walker's badge number "132." The Honor Guard started with 15 members and over the last ten years has increased to almost 30 members. Most of the Honor Guard members are assigned to the Uniformed Operations Division.

The Honor Guard is divided into four major units: Flag Detail, Rifle Detail, Casket Guard Detail, and Flag Folding Detail. All members of the Honor Guard are cross-trained in each unit and are able to perform in all positions.

The Flag Detail is responsible for carrying the flags of the Garland Police Department. The flags are the United States Flag, the Texas Flag, the Garland Police Department Flag, and the Honor Guard Flag. The Garland Police Department flag carries battle streamers for each of Garland's fallen officers: Officer Gerald Walker, Officer M.D. Moore, and Officer Ronnie Lerma. The flag detail also marches in many parades, and performs at opening ceremonies on special occasions.

The Rifle Detail is responsible for the care and use of the Honor Guard rifles. The Honor Guard carries nickel-plated Remington 870 shotguns. The rifles are used in 21 gun salutes and parades. Members spend many hours in military drill maneuvers to establish and maintain their high level of proficiency.

The Casket Guard Detail is responsible for standing guard over a fallen officer. The detail performs their duty using silent commands when posting and relieving the detail members. The Casket Guards stand at each end of the casket and remain with the fallen officer until he is laid to rest.

The Flag Folding Detail is responsible for folding the flag that covers the fallen officer's casket. The flag is folded at the casket and then presented to the fallen officer's family.

The GPD Honor Guard attends many Texas Peace Officers' funerals in the state as a tribute to the fallen officers. The Honor Guard has also performed several funerals for other police departments that do not have their own Honor Guard.

The Garland Police Department Honor Guard has competed in several competitions and has received first place trophies in Parade Marching, Funeral Detail, Casket Guard, and Flag Folding Detail. Currently, the GPD Honor Guard holds the Best Overall Honor Guard trophy for the state of Texas.

2. Additional Uniformed Support Units:

In addition to regular patrol, the department is comprised of additional uniformed support units to help achieve its mission. These include the Traffic Unit, Gang Unit, Neighborhood Policing Unit, and the School Resource Officers Program.

A. Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit is a Special Operations Unit whose primary mission is to reduce motor vehicle crashes and the deaths, injuries and property damage resulting from crashes. Several approaches are used to combat this area of concern.

One approach is through a highly visible police presence enforcing all traffic law violations in an area. The theory is that if all drivers are aware that police officers are in an area writing citations, they will alter their driving behavior, which will, in turn, reduce crashes. A second approach will include covert activities. The theory here is to catch the habitual violator who only alters his or her driving behavior while in site of a police officer. The Traffic Unit will also respond to citizens' complaints and concentrate on those areas of the city to address those violations.

Finally, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) allocate millions of dollars annually to police departments all over the country in an effort to save lives, reduce crashes, and increase seatbelt usage through its Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grants and the Click-It-Or-Ticket campaign. In essence, the police department is able to put more officers on the street because they are paid by the federal and state government to specifically address those areas that contribute to high fatality rates in vehicle crashes.

Traffic officers receive training in advanced accident investigation and are responsible for investigating all fatality crashes and those crashes where life-threatening injury occurs. Hit and run investigations and abandoned vehicle complaints are also handled within the unit.

In addition, the Traffic Unit participates in various special events, parades, and funeral escorts. The unit will also participate in safety presentations promoting traffic safety at schools, churches, civic organizations, health fairs and special events.

The majority of the Traffic Unit officers complete their mission with the use of motorcycles. However, the unit also has one Dodge Charger, a Crown Victoria, a Chevy Caprice, and access to several unmarked police cars. Many of the motorcycle officers compete in police motorcycle competitions each year that test their riding skills and proficiencies against motorcycle officers from other police departments. In each event, Garland Police Department Traffic Officers typically place in the top five in competition skills and have won the First Place Team Trophy on numerous occasions. They are the best of the best!

B. Gang Unit

The Gang Unit is a specialized investigative unit of the Garland Police Department. The Gang Unit's primary purpose is to reduce violent crimes committed by criminal street gangs, reduce the number of repeat juvenile offenders, the identification of at-risk youth, and intervention programs to prevent the increase of gang membership.

The Gang Unit employs multiple strategies to accomplish these goals:

- . Community awareness meetings and programs.
- . Highly visible street patrol and contact with gang members and associates.
- . Tracking of identified gang members and associates by creating and maintaining gang intelligence files.
- . Aggressive enforcement of criminal offenses committed by gang members and associates.
- . Coordination with GISD to identify at risk youth.

The Gang Unit patrols the city wearing distinctive uniforms emblazoned with "GANG UNIT" on their shirts. The mere sight of these officers arriving on the scene brings disappointment to the gang members, and reassurance to the neighborhood.

The officers frequently work with the Criminal Investigation Unit and the School Resource Officers. The cooperative effort between the units has been effective in clearing criminal offenses and to quell disturbances at the schools.

The Gang Unit is the primary investigative unit for gang related criminal offenses. The officers specialize in "drive-by" shooting investigations. The officers respond to the scene no matter what time it occurs.

C. Neighborhood Policing Unit

In October 1997, the Garland Police Department expanded Community Policing efforts to cover the entire city. The existing Neighborhood Service Team (N.S.T.) program was expanded from East and West Garland and merged into a Neighborhood Policing Unit. This unit is an extension of the Patrol Division, and is comprised of 16 Neighborhood Police Officers (N.P.O.'s) who each have an assigned area. These officers work with citizens, patrol officers, and other city employees to identify and assist in solving ongoing problems within these areas.

Each officer has three primary duties:

1. Work with Crime Watch groups, Apartment Managers, Neighborhood Associations, and other community groups within the area. The NPO will be the primary contact for these groups, providing information about ongoing crime trends, soliciting help from the community in solving problems in their neighborhoods, and encouraging and assisting neighborhoods in banding together to work with the police toward a common goal.
2. Identify specific crime trends within the area, formulate

a strategy for addressing the offenses, coordinate and participate in the solution.

3. Identify and respond to specific problems within the neighborhood including repeat call locations, ongoing neighborhood disturbances, and deteriorating conditions which contribute to the overall decline of the neighborhood.

In addition to these primary duties, the N.P.O. unit promotes the following programs and services:

Neighborhood Crime Watch

Apartment Managers Group

Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.)

D. School Resource Officers Program:

The Garland Police Department's SRO Program is based on the "Triad Concept" in which the SRO is an Educator, Counselor and Law Enforcement Officer.

Educator

The SRO makes classroom presentations that are tailored to each grade level:

- > Introduction to the SRO Program
- > Careers In Law Enforcement
- > Child & Family Laws
- > Drugs and the Law
- > Personal Safety & Self Protection
- > Arrest Procedures and the Court System
- > Alcohol & D.W.I.
- > Search & Seizure Law
- > Theft & Robbery
- > General Question & Answer Sessions

The SRO also makes presentations to Faculty and Staff, Administrators, PTA, and community service organizations.

Counselor

The SRO is always available to the students, parents and faculty in their school to be an "Active Listener." The SRO is not normally a state licensed counselor, but has a wealth of experience and expertise and can make referrals to many formal counseling services within the community.

The SRO must be prepared to discuss a wide range of topics in his/her role as a counselor:

- > Accidental Deaths
- > Alcohol and its Effects
- > Capital Punishment
- > Auto Accidents
- > Drug Abuse
- > Family Relations
- > Gang Violence
- > Gun Control & Safety
- > Hate Groups
- > Inhalant Abuse
- > Leaving Home / Runaways
- > Police Abuse of Authority
- > Protective Orders / Peace Bonds
- > Student Relations
- > Sexual Harassment
- > Student Safety
- > Truancy

Law Enforcement Officer

The SRO always strives to be proactive and not just simply reactive. The SRO must remember that he/she is a role model, not just for the students but also for the community.

The SRO frequently acts as the primary investigator for crimes occurring on the school campus and often for offenses occurring off-campus that involve their students.

The SRO may enforce laws from various sources:

- > Texas Penal Code
- > Texas Education Code
- > Texas Family Code
- > Texas Transportation Code
- > Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code
- > Texas Health & Safety Code
- > City of Garland Code of Ordinances

The SRO may be the first responder to on-campus emergency situations:

- > Natural disasters - tornado, flooding
- > Man-made disasters - bombs, fire
- > Injured or sick persons
- > Suicidal persons
- > Violent situations - armed persons, assaults

The SRO collects information and maintains statistical records:

- > Crimes, investigations, & arrests
- > Gang / Group activity
- > Narcotics activity

The SRO is also the Crime Prevention Officer for his/her campus:

- > Teach crime prevention techniques to students & faculty
- > Locate and eliminate crime risks

Duties and Responsibilities

- > The SRO is a Garland Police Officer first and is sworn to uphold the law. The SRO is not a school disciplinarian and will only take action when there is a violation of the law. School discipline is the responsibility of the school administrator.
- > The SRO and the school principal will formulate plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situations which might occur on campus.
- > The SRO will take action against trespassers or unwanted guests at the request of the principal or other school officials
- > The SRO is not the "truant officer." The school principal is responsible for filing truancy cases; however the SRO may transport truants back to school or to another appropriate facility.
- > The SRO will participate in extracurricular and other official school activities.
- > The SRO will conduct "Weapons Screenings" at the request of and with the cooperation of school principals.

Criminal Investigations Division

Detectives in the Criminal Investigations Division are responsible for investigating and solving criminal offenses. Garland detectives have a wide choice of assignments, such as Forgery and Fraud, Burglary and Theft,

Domestic Violence, Crimes Against Persons, Narcotics and Intelligence investigations. The Warrant Unit also operates within this division.

A. Crimes Against Persons (CAPERS)

The Crimes Against Persons Unit, commonly referred to as “CAPERS,” is an investigative unit specializing in crimes committed against individuals. These crimes include such offenses as assault, aggravated assault, harassment, kidnapping, murder, suicide, suspicious death investigations, unattended death investigations, police use of deadly force, cruelty to animals, adult robberies, and a host of other crimes. This unit responds to scenes of major incidents involving death on a 24 hour per day, 365 days per year basis.

B. Crimes Against Property:

a. Auto Theft-

Detectives in the Auto Theft Unit are responsible for investigating vehicle burglaries and thefts of non-motor vehicles in addition to vehicle thefts. These highly trained detectives also inspect vehicles in the Garland impound lot prior to auction. The detectives check to assure the vehicles are legally titled before being sold.

b. Burglary-

These detectives investigate offenses involving burglaries of habitations (residences), or non-residential burglaries such as stores, storage sheds, and unattached garages.

c. Financial Crimes-

The detectives in this unit investigate forgeries, credit card abuse, counterfeiting, fraudulent use of identifying information and related fiduciary offenses.

d. Theft-

The detectives in this unit investigate not only investigate theft of property, but also handle criminal mischiefs, reckless damage and try to determine ownership of found property.

C. Youth Crimes Unit (Y.C.U.)

This division serves to investigate violent crimes committed by or to children younger than 17 years of age. The detectives in this unit also investigate reports of missing or runaway children and reports of child abuse or neglect. Detectives are trained in techniques of interviewing victims of physical or sexual abuse and in conducting searches for missing or abducted children. Y.C.U. detectives serve as a liaison with Child Protective Services caseworkers and other centers seeking to protect and serve children and families.

The detectives of this unit are a dichotomy of hard and soft. They are hard

toward the perpetrators of violence toward children, but soft and sympathetic toward the child victims of violence.

D. Domestic Investigations and Sex Crimes

The Domestic Investigations and Sex Crimes Unit, commonly referred to as the DISC Unit, specializes in the investigation of domestic or family violence related offenses, as well as all adult sex crimes. This unit is an investigative arm of the CAPERS Unit. The investigators assigned to this unit receive special training in family violence issues and seek to reduce repeat family violence by appropriate law enforcement intervention. These investigators frequently assist family members in obtaining protective orders and other assistance, as required. In addition to family violence related investigations, this unit also investigates all adult sexual assault offenses.

E. Specialized Crimes

The Specialized Crimes Division is a covert investigative section comprised of the Intelligence Unit, Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit, and the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit. The investigators assigned to these various units are highly trained and motivated, each possessing a broad background in criminal investigative experience.

a. Intelligence Unit-

The Intelligence Unit specializes in Homeland Defense issues, extremist groups, dangerous individuals, surveillance, information gathering, assimilation and dissemination, vice investigations and many others.

b. Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit (SOAR)-

The Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit is comprised of investigators who specialize in sex offender registration law and are charged with the responsibility of monitoring all of the registered sexual offenders residing within the city. These investigators conduct compliance investigations, surveillances and sex offender registrations on a daily basis, as well as the maintenance of the sex offender public notice listings. In addition, they identify “high risk” sex offenders and regularly make sure they are in compliance with the conditions of the registration laws. When violations are discovered, this unit aggressively pursues the filing of charges against the offenders. Another aspect of this unit is the physical inspection of the offender’s registered home address to make sure each is in compliance.

c. Internet Crimes Against Children Unit (ICAC)-

The Internet Crimes Against Children Unit is a highly specialized investigative unit with the sole purpose of seeking out, identifying, arresting and prosecuting the Internet child sexual predator. This unit utilizes incredibly complicated technology in their investigations and has been highly successful in its efforts. The unit started with federal grant funding in 2001. In the first year and a half, the unit has become one of the most successful units of its kind in the country. The personnel assigned to this

unit have been the key to success, as they approach their jobs enthusiastically and bring innovative thinking and technology to bear on Internet Crimes Against Children. Sexual predators from both inside and outside the state are apprehended and prosecuted for these crimes.

F. Narcotics

The Narcotics Division conducts investigations into the trafficking, manufacturing and distribution of illicit drugs in the City of Garland. This includes prescription drugs obtained illegally. This section provides narcotics transportation interdiction on the major thoroughfares and highways in the city, as well as responds timely to neighborhood narcotics complaints. There are a total of 11 officers in this unit. Two of these officers have highly trained Canines, and two more of these 11 officers are assigned to the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) task force.

G. Warrant Unit

The Garland Police Department Warrant Division handles all city outstanding warrants. This unit is made up of three officers that go out into the community and contact people that have a warrant for their arrest. Sometimes they will give the wanted subject the option to pay the warrant right there, or they take them to the Detention Center to be processed. If someone wishes to turn themselves in for a warrant, they can come to the police department and contact a Warrant Investigator.

4. Staff and Support Services

Personnel and Training Division-

The Personnel and Training Unit is responsible for recruiting and training new police recruits. They handle the entire hiring process, which includes conducting thorough background investigations. This unit also provides continuous year-round training to all Garland officers. A full-time academy staff assures that all Garland Police officers receive the training they need throughout their careers.