



## 2017 Annual Report

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Trust must be earned, and the Acworth Police Department has worked hard to earn the trust of our community. Trust results when we do two things: spend time, and do what's right. Those two small but infinitely important actions are the basis of our community policing philosophy and the core of our department mission and values.

It is our mission to provide fair, impartial, and excellent law enforcement service to our community. We pledge to pursue the highest levels of training and education available, and to offer our community the highest levels of professionalism to the best of our ability. We are proud that Acworth has one of the lowest crime rates in Georgia – making us one of the safest places in the state! Our core values are integral to achieving our mission, they are:

**Courage** - to overcome opposition, fear, and prejudice

**Obligation** - to serve the community with respect and dignity

**Dedication** - to the highest levels of professionalism, leadership, and honor

**Enforcement** - to exercise integrity in the use of power and authority

I am very proud of our personnel and their commitment to this community, and as I reflect on these standards of performance and commitment that we have placed on ourselves, I am reminded of the tremendous responsibility our officers have accepted. I am well aware of the need for employing the best of the best personnel and providing each member of this agency with the equipment and training necessary to carry out our mission effectively, safely, and professionally.



Chief Wayne Dennard has been a member of the Acworth Police Department since 2003, and has served as Chief of Police since 2012. He was raised in Cobb County, and he believes that spending time and doing what's right are the keys to building trust within a community.

## COMMAND STAFF



Chief G. Wayne Dennard, Jr.

Captain Mark Cheatham

Captain Stan Melton

## MISSION STATEMENT

*It is the mission of the Acworth Police Department to provide fair, impartial, and excellent law enforcement service to our community. To that end, we pledge to pursue the highest levels of training and education available and to offer the highest levels of professionalism to the best of our ability.*



## CITIZENS' BILL OF RIGHTS FOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

**Citizens of Acworth can and should expect their police department to:**

**Be Transparent.** Acworth Police Department willingly complies with State Open Records Laws. APD will never impede or unnecessarily delay access to public records that concern police conduct.

**Be Open.** APD provides proper notice through public announcements of police uses of force resulting in death and in police custody death. Likewise, we provide public notice of decisions to criminally and administratively charge or exonerate officers involved in police use-of-force relates or in-custody deaths.

**Be Thorough.** APD has established and maintains fair, impartial, and objective internal systems for receiving and investigating citizen complaints of police misconduct. Every investigation is thorough and all findings are documented. Every investigation is concluded and a final disposition of the allegations made within a reasonable period of time. Final dispositions are based on a preponderance of evidence standard and indicate whether the allegations has been sustained, not sustained, unfounded, or exonerated. Once a final disposition on each allegation is reached, the public is entitled to obtain copies or to otherwise review the results. Personal or identifying information about officers (e.g. birth dates, spouses, children, social security numbers, home addresses, etc...) is redacted in compliance with state law. Citizens are provided with access to view finalized police discipline files as allowed by state open records laws.

**Be Fair to the Officer.** APD will commence administrative action against officers, including those involving suspensions, demotions, terminations of employment, or loss of certifications only when the investigation has yielded evidence sufficient to sustain findings that the officer has violated laws, policies, or agency rules. To sustain such charges, the findings must be based upon a preponderance of the evidence standard. Discipline or other administrative action must be proportional to the severity of the violation and must not be administered in an arbitrary or capricious manner or one that discriminates on any illegal basis or on any basis other than one that is rationally connected with the result.

**Exhibit a Proper Sense of Urgency.** Upon the occurrence of a death in police custody or a death resulting from police force, APD will initiate and/or request an independent investigation of the incident. Such investigation may be a criminal or an administrative investigation. The purpose of the criminal investigation is to determine whether any laws have been violated. The purpose of the internal investigation is to determine whether any policy has been violated. These investigations may be conducted in the following manner:

- A. A criminal investigation conducted by a law enforcement agency with appropriate jurisdiction;
- B. An administrative investigation conducted through an independent internal investigation undertaken by the agency internal affairs department under the authority of the Chief of Police.
- C. A criminal investigation conducted by the prosecuting authority of the concerned jurisdiction. For criminal investigation, the District Attorney will determine whether the investigation should be presented to a Grand Jury of the concerned jurisdiction.

*"Find ways to make it work, instead of reasons that it won't"*  
*- Chief Dennard*

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE



The Acworth Police Department recognizes the honor and nobility of the law enforcement profession. We hold these core values to be fundamental to our service and these constitute the **CODE** by which we live.

- **Courage** - to overcome opposition, fear, and prejudice
- **Obligation** - to serve the community with respect and dignity
- **Dedication** - to the highest levels of professionalism, leadership, and honor
- **Enforcement** - to exercise integrity in the use of power and authority

*“It costs nothing to be nice. What might not be important to you might mean the world to someone else” - Cpl. S. B. Jordan*

## OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Police officers are cut from a different cloth than those of most other professions. When others are running away from danger, police officers run toward it. So, when a fellow officer recognizes the actions of their peer as going above and beyond the call of duty, it is a good indication that the event was truly significant. Each quarter, one officer is selected to be named Officer of the Quarter, and at the end of the year, one officer is selected from that very small group, to become the Acworth Police Department's Officer of the Year. Sergeant Brian Hunt has the distinction of being selected for this award not once, but three times. Last year, in addition to being Acworth PD's Officer of the Year, he was also selected to be the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce's Public Safety Employee of the Year.

This year, Sergeant Hunt was nominated for the life-saving actions he took as the first responder to the scene of a shooting. Upon arrival, Sergeant Hunt encountered a male subject who had been the victim of a gunshot wound to his femoral artery. Sergeant Hunt took immediate action and began packing the wound and applying pressure. As a result of his quick thinking and action, the young man survived his life-threatening injury.

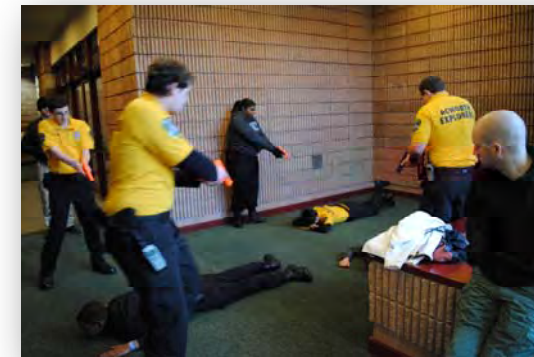
Sergeant Hunt is responsible for saving a number of lives throughout the course of his career, but one of his most remarkable qualities is his humility. He would never describe himself as a hero, although he definitely is one. He often gives God the glory by crediting Him with putting him in the right place at the right time. Sgt. Hunt is truly a blessing to this agency and this community, and we are so grateful that he is part of our APD team.



Henry's Louisiana Grill's Midnight Kickball team took home the first place trophy

## LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORERS

The Acworth Police Department Law Enforcement Explorers program is one of our many successful community outreach endeavors. The program is under the supervision of Officer Daniel Robinette, who began his career with the Acworth Police Department as an Explorer. After graduating from North Cobb High School, Officer Robinette joined our ranks as a detention officer, and was later promoted to Patrol. Throughout all of this time, he has continued to help build the Explorer program, and we are so proud of everything they have accomplished this year.



The Explorer program is supported by a partnership between the Acworth Police Department, North Cobb High School, and the Boy Scouts of America. In addition to providing a connection between high school students and the police department,

it has been a gateway into the criminal justice profession for many students. In addition to Officer Robinette, Officer Kyle Bayfield, and Detention Officer Taniesha Palarche also got their start in our Explorer program, and both are still actively serving as assistant leaders.

## COVERING THE BASES

One of the highlights of our Covering the Bases event is our midnight kickball tournament. This year, more than 20 teams participated in a double elimination tournament throughout the night, which resulted in one of our business partners in the community, Henry's Louisiana Grill, taking home the first place trophy.

Midnight Kickball is just one part of this incredible event which features a carnival, bounce houses, face painting, Disney princesses, and even the Zootopia movie on the field.

With the help of business and individual sponsors from across our community, we have raised more than \$300,000 for the Horizon Field and the Special Needs Development Group, which provides athletes with special needs with the opportunity to participate in team sports on a state-of-the-art rubberized baseball field.

Our next Covering the Bases event will be held on September 16th, 2017. Plans are underway, and this year's event is shaping up to be another record breaker. We are grateful for the support of our community and are so pleased to have the opportunity to serve in such a meaningful way.



## CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

This year we will embark upon our 17th annual Citizens' Police Academy (CPA). It is one of our most extensive community outreach programs. Officers and staff from all divisions within the department participate in the 12 week course by teaching classes and guiding interactive activities that give the students a

realistic view of the day to day activities of an officer as well as the training that must be completed to obtain law enforcement certification in the state of Georgia.

Alumni of our CPA are considered part of our police department family, and many choose to volunteer throughout the year at different events.



## YOUTH OUTREACH

The Acworth Police Department is proud of the relationships we have fostered with children and schools in our community. We recognize that reaching out to our youth is an integral part of helping them to have good relationships with law enforcement officers as they progress through life. Young people face unique challenges in today's interconnected society, and our goal is to help them navigate through these challenges and understand that police officers are there to help them when they are in need.

Two of our most successful outreach activities have been the Chief's Young Adult Advisory Board and the STARS (Smart Teens Are Responsible and Safe) program. The Chief's Young Adult Advisory Board is a small group of approximately 15 teens from local schools who meet with the Chief of Police on a Monthly basis. There is no set agenda for the group, the conversations are fluid and organic and the teens have an opportunity to ask any questions or discuss any issues that are on their minds.

The STARS Program was developed as a youth version of the Citizens' Police Academy, but with the purpose of specifically reaching out to at-risk teens. We have partnered with Barber Middle School to offer the class to students who have been in In-School Suspension. Students who attend the class are given the opportunity to reduce their time in suspension, and in return they are offered an inside glimpse into the police department. They are able to interact with the police in a positive way as well as to talk to us and connect and see that we are people, just like them. They are also able to test our the use-of-force simulator, tour the detention center, and participate in role playing activities.

Both of these outreach activities have been effective in helping the police and teens connect with each other and to see the value that they each offer as members and participants in the community.



## OBJECTIVES FOR 2017

- Expand and enhance our Code Enforcement Division
- Develop outside-the-box initiative for patrolling parks and trails
- Enhance Community and Public Information through cutting-edge use of social media
- Bring on replacement K9
- Assignment of additional person to the Office of Professional Standards
- Review and update the Field Training Officer Program
- Create an updated orientation program for new officers
- Create in-house supervision training for Sergeants and above
- Create Custodian position for the Public Safety Complex
- Review and address span of control supervision needs in the Detention Facility

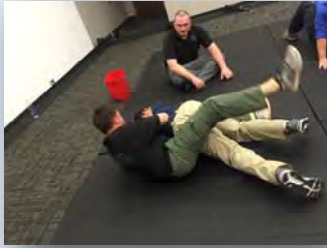


*"There are two vitally important things we must do in order to be successful as a department: spend time and do what's right."*  
- Chief Dennard

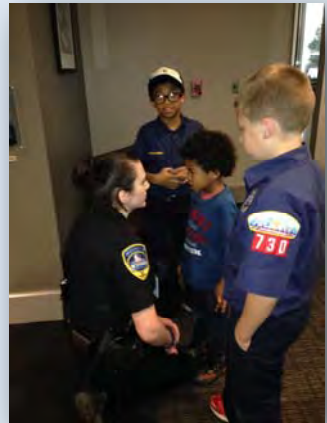
## 2016 DEPARTMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Upgraded our in-car video cameras to the Watchguard system and added body cameras for all officers.
- Completed full implementation of the take home car program with utilization of SPLOST funding.
- Phased out the TASER X-26 Electronic Control Devices and implemented the new advanced technology X-2 product.
- Phased out Glock 22 .40 caliber patrol duty weapons and replaced them with Glock 17 9mm duty weapons.
- Installed new back-end software and wireless equipment along with storage servers for new body camera systems.
- Continued the development of personnel through advanced leadership training with the purpose of identifying those leaders who will be a part of the future succession plan for leading the department.
- Acworth PD officer named Cobb Chamber of Commerce's Public Safety Officer of the Year for the third year in a row.
- Received the Creating Community Award from the Cobb County Community Relations Council (CCRC). The CCRC promotes acceptance, honor, and respect for differences in our diverse communities. The Creating Community Award honors organizations that dedicate their time to promoting inclusion within the Cobb County community.





Officers participating in defensive tactics training



Officer Irvin meets with some cub scouts who are eager to learn about police officers



Alderman Houston and Chief Dennard congratulate Sgt. Hunt and Ofc. Bursleson on being honored by the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce

## UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

The Uniform Patrol Division is the largest division of the Police Department. They are the first responders to 911 calls and complaints from citizens to ensure public safety.

The Division is tasked with enforcing criminal laws, traffic laws, city ordinances, as well as maintaining public peace and safety. This Division operates four 12 hour shifts and is the backbone of the police department.

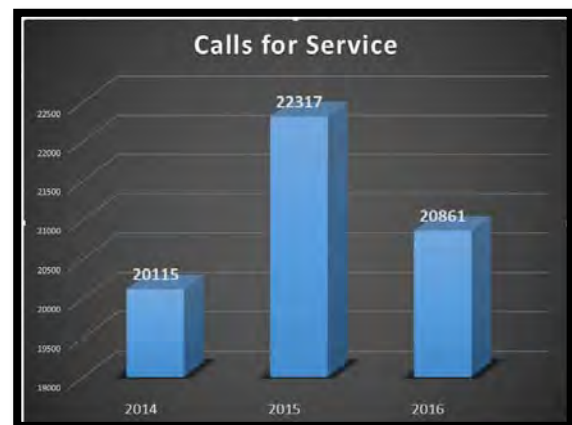
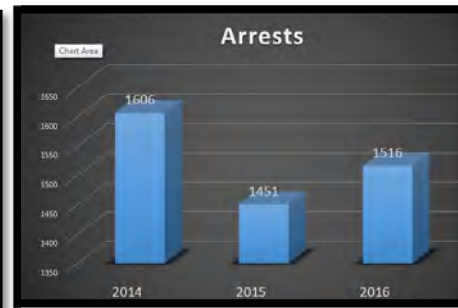
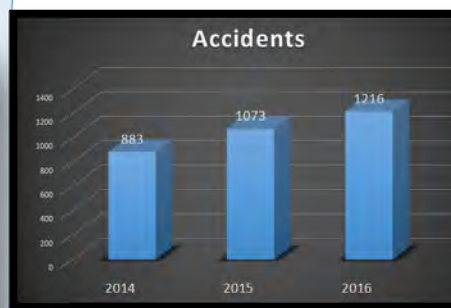
The Uniform Patrol Division's goal is to be recognized as a fair, friendly, community oriented department dedicated to preserving peace, maintaining order, and protecting the life and property of the citizens of Acworth.

Uniform patrol operates vehicles are equipped with the latest law enforcement

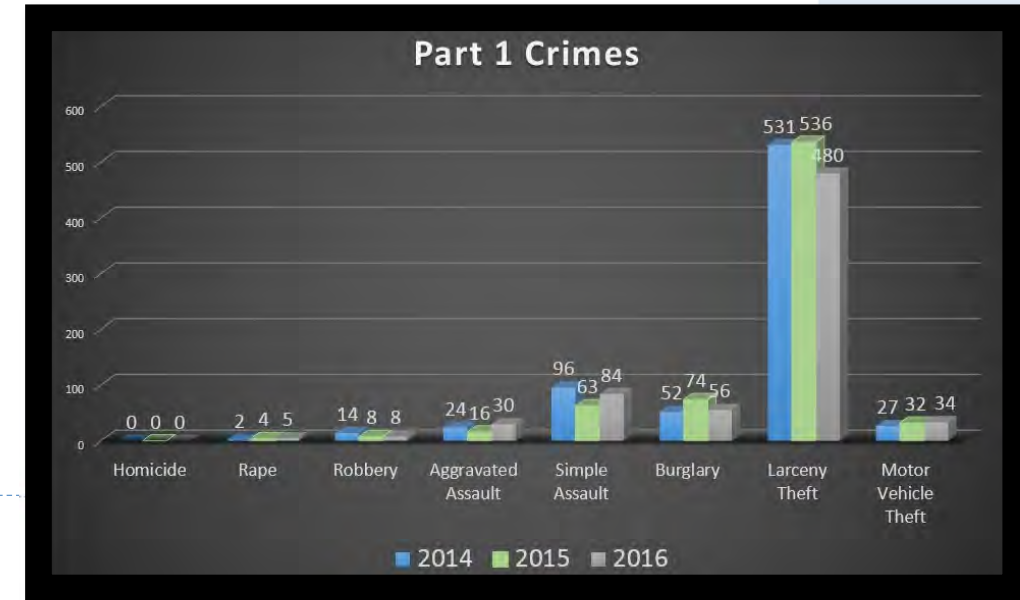
technology with digital in-car video cameras and laptop computers. The computers enable officers to receive dispatched calls for service, complete reports while remaining visible, complete warrants checks though GCIC and NCIC, and check vehicle and driver's license status.

This year, with the use of SPLOST funds, we transitioned to WatchGuard in-car video systems and body cameras. The digital in-car cameras are the latest technology with pre-event recording and crash activation. This is a huge move in the right direction for our department in terms of technology. We are grateful for the citizens of Acworth as well as our City Council for making these changes possible.

## PATROL STATISTICS



## UCR STATISTICS



## PATROL SUPERVISORS



Lt. M. Taylor



Sgt. B. Hunt



Sgt. K. Hutson



Cpl. J. LaRocque



Cpl. S.B. Jordan



Cpl. E. Wallace



Cpl. R. Mines

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

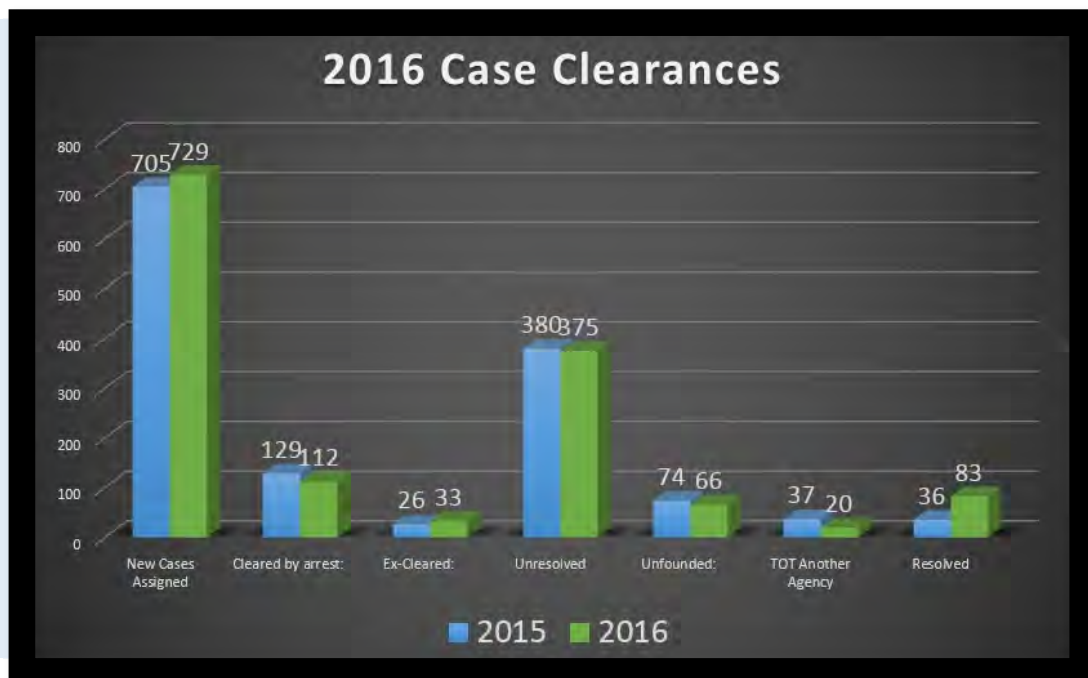
A review stated goals detailed in the beginning of 2016 shows that the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) achieved many of them. In January, David St. Onge was promoted to Sergeant within CID and became the CID assistant supervisor. Throughout the year Sergeant St. Onge attended several supervisor development trainings including Supervision 1 and Burden of Command. We are pleased to announce that in December, Cpl. St. Onge was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Another goal of CID was to switch from the old, no longer supported USA Software system that the evidence room was using to track evidence item locations. This was completed during the summer with the help of Courtware development staff updating the evidence module of the department's RMS software. Sergeant St. Onge spent time beta testing the updates and providing feedback that was factored into the software updates. These updates significantly reduced the amount of processing time it takes to log and track evidence. Courtware also converted the evidence item locations from the old USA Software into the RMS software for the police department.

Personnel development with job specific training was a 2016 goal of CID. This was accomplished by sending several detectives to job specific training during the year. Detective Arnold became proficient in ICAC investigations through several trainings offered by the GBI. Detective Arnold attended both Basic Data Recovery and Acquisition training and Search Techniques for Onsite Previewing. Sergeant St. Onge has also attended these trainings and both are capable of conducting

online investigations as the need arises. Detective Guevara was able to attend the REID Interview Techniques training making him the fifth Acworth Police Detective to receive this training. This year Detective Almon was able to attend advanced Search Warrant Training at GPSTC and Vigilant LPR user training in Roswell. Sergeant St. Onge, Detective Arnold, and Detective Guevara as all scheduled to complete all three levels of supervision by the end of 2017. In 2016, CID accepted the additional responsibility of processing all the department's property condemnation requests with the district attorney's office. This was not a forecasted goal but has become a responsibility of the division

Lastly, it was a stated goal of CID to develop a secure online way to transfer digital evidence from the police department to the court system and other law enforcement agencies. With the help of Matt Sender and the IT staff of Cobb County government this goal was met. The department now has access to a secure FTP account to transfer digital evidence, including body cam / patrol car videos, to both the district attorney's office and solicitor's office. The department also has access to a secure Dropbox account that can be used to transfer digital evidence to other law enforcement agencies.



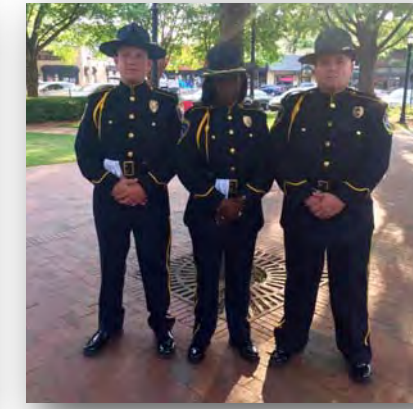
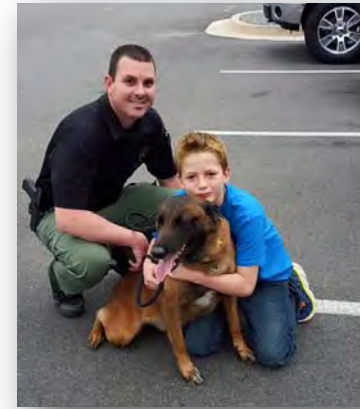
## SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Special Operations Division is responsible for a number of different areas including: Code Enforcement, Drug Enforcement, K-9 Operations, and Community Outreach.

This year, we are looking forward to new assignments in Special Ops to address Traffic Enforcement and to supplement Park activities. Approximately four people are needed to address the anticipated needs. In addition, we plan on beginning a motor unit for the parks utilizing

electric motorcycles.

In order to suppress criminal activity, the unit is working on new methods to provide enforcement accompanied with prevention. The leading cause of all property crimes is thefts from autos, we will create education program to get the Public to both remove their articles of value along with locking their vehicles in an effort to reduce this type of crime.



*“I love partnering with individuals in our community; knowing that we have so much support is inspiring.” - Cpl. Leverette*



## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

The Acworth Police Department maintains strong community partnerships, especially with our schools. Some of the activities we participate in include:

- **Careers on Wheels** -- Careers on wheels is school based program where officers bring police vehicles to the schools for the students to explore. During this time, the officers discuss safety aspects with the students and answer questions regarding how the vehicles are used in police work.
- **Red Ribbon Week** -- National Family Partnership provides drug awareness by sponsoring the annual National Red Ribbon Celebration. The Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educated youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. During Red Ribbon Week, the Acworth Police Department works with local schools by speaking with students about drug and alcohol awareness and by judging classroom door decorations that relate to the theme of drug and alcohol awareness.
- **Barber Middle School Drug Summit** – This informational session covers family drug awareness. The panel includes but is not limited to drug intervention professionals. Representatives from the Acworth Police Department and a representative from the Cobb County Juvenile Court system participate on the panel. During this session parents and students are encouraged to ask questions as the panel does their best to provide an answer.
- **Career Day** – Officers are asked to attend local schools on career days to explain the details of the law enforcement profession and the various jobs related to it. This gives our young

adults who are exploring the possibility of law enforcement an inside view from the perspective of local police officers.

- **Health & Wellness Day @ Barber Middle School** – Barber Middle School hosts an annual Health and Wellness Day for families and community members to join together to celebrate and discover healthy decisions. There are giveaways and entertainment for all ages. Police officers are available to speak with children and their families throughout the day, and the event is free to the public.
- **Read Across America**—Acworth PD participates in the National Education Foundation’s reading motivation and awareness program by reading to children in schools throughout our city.



## DETENTION DIVISION



The Acworth Detention Center houses inmates for the cities of Acworth, Marietta, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs.

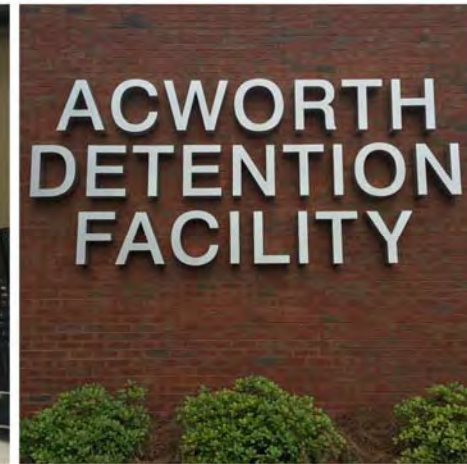
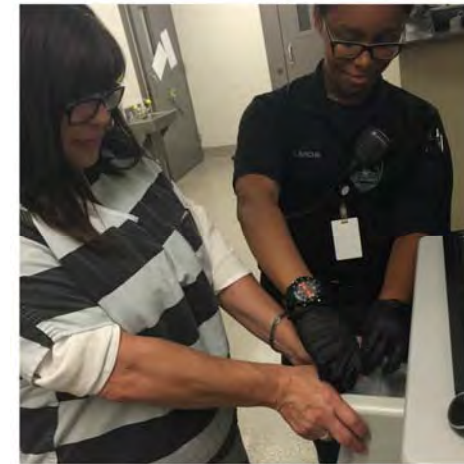
In 2016, 1651 inmates were booked-into the jail, an average of nearly 5 per day. Detention officers are responsible for the care of all inmates, and our staff does an exceptional job.

This year, we were pleased to promote our facility maintenance supervisor to the rank of sergeant, and he serves as the assistant jail administrator. Lt.

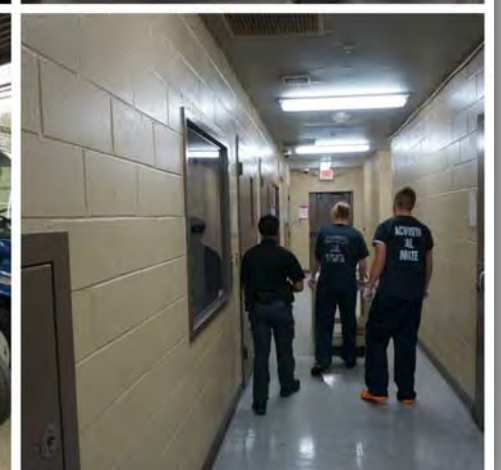
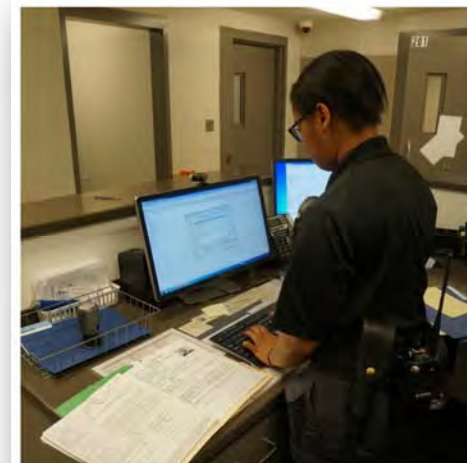
King and Sgt. Bryant are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Detention Facility.

For 2017, the Detention Division plans to continue the operation guided by competent and trained staff performing duties in a responsible, dedicated manner, following approved work practices.

While inmates and their families may be experiencing difficult times, our staff is committed to helping them navigate through the experience of being in jail in the most compassionate and empathetic way possible.



*"I enjoy working in the jail because every day is different, and there is never a dull moment." - Detention Officer M. Negrete*





## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



The Office of Professional Standards and Training never sleeps, slows down, or rests. The United States Army once had a commercial in which the narrator would say, “we do more before 9am than most people do all day”. At OPS and Training we certainly know how that feels but I would add “and

then some” to the end of that slogan. Coordinating, planning, teaching, and scheduling over 7,000 hours of training each year for the last two years in a row is no small feat. This is especially true when one considers all of the other extensive job duties and responsibilities the office must maintain.

The Office of Professional Standards is currently staffed by Lieutenant Ball, Sergeant Montcalm, and Officer Payne.

## WHO WE ARE



Lieutenant C. Ball

Sergeant L. Montcalm

Officer M. Payne

*“Going the extra mile means nothing, unless you carry everyone along with you.” - Lt. C. Ball*

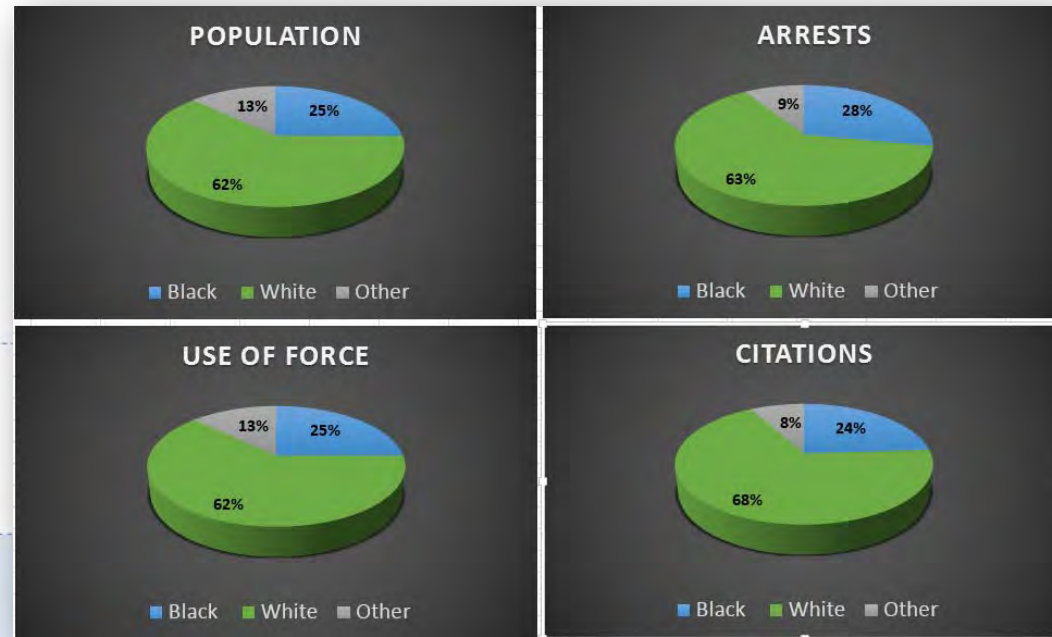
## 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- All officers maintained their mandatory hours for POST certification to include firearms and use of deadly force training
- As a whole (Detention included) individual officers averaged 110 hours of training each in 2016
- Lieutenant Ball became a Certified TASER Instructor and conducted several end user classes in November 2016 for the TASER X2
- TASER X2 Conducted Electrical Weapons issued to all sworn officers
- Patrol Rifles issued to all sworn officers
- Lieutenant Ball became a CRASE Instructor in December 2016
- Thirteen officers attended Supervision classes at GPSTC (40 hour classes)
- Three officers completed all three levels of the Supervision course (120 hours total for each officer)



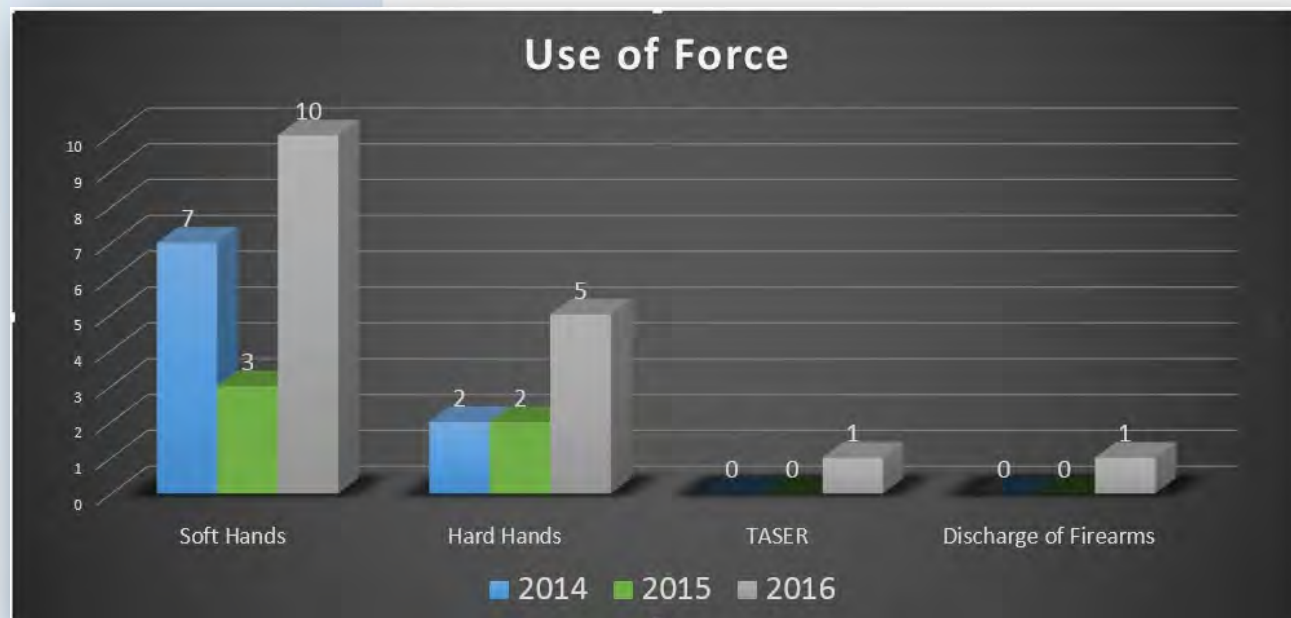
## NO RACIAL DISPARITY

In an effort to ensure integrity, trust, and transparency, the Acworth Police Department routinely tracks arrests, citations, and use of force according to race. Over the years, we have been pleased, although not surprised, to report that we have demonstrated no racial disparity in these areas. We have a diverse group of highly trained officers who are dedicated ensuring safety and security for all of our citizens. Acworth is a great place for everyone to live, work, and play.



## USE OF FORCE

Officers only used “hands-on” force to arrest 1.06% of the 1,497 individuals who were arrested in the 2016 calendar year!



## CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

There were a total of thirteen citizen complaints investigated by the Office of Professional Standards or investigators designated by the Office of Professional Standards during 2016. After thorough investigations were completed, we found that 9 of the complaints were unfounded, 3 were exonerated, and 2 were not sustained. There were 2 incidents which resulted in officers receiving disciplinary counseling.

## TRAINING ENSURES READINESS





Systems Administrator, Matt Sender, joined the Acworth Police Department 3 years ago with a degree in Information Security and Assurance from Kennesaw State University. He earned his degree after completing 6 years in the United States Marine Corps and serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Matt's wealth of experience and can-do attitude makes him someone who we all depend upon. We are so grateful to have Matt on our team.

*"Integrity is everything."* - Matt Sender

## SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION

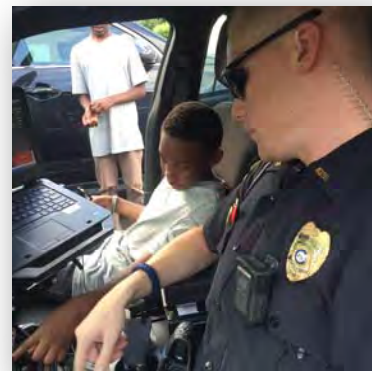
During 2016 the IT department's main goals and objectives were to ensure a smooth transition of a fleet wide replacement and an additional 13 new car installs of the WatchGuard in-car camera systems with embedded body cameras. The plan was to integrate body cameras into the car camera system to replace the mic pack with a body camera to add not only an additional point of view during citizen interactions but to add video and audio to a situation that would have otherwise been out of range of the cars wireless range.

The initial install went quite well other than a few minor issues having to do with the installers, not the equipment, everything went as well as planned. As we finish up the end of the year, the body cameras are finally becoming integrated in the car systems in hope of transitioning away from in-car body mics. This integration will be the first of its kind for the city and will bring a new level of transparency that our officers have with the general public.

As the IT department looks forward to 2017 the focus will be on a few key items. The first and foremost is the continued operation and fine tuning of the WatchGuard body camera system. It is of the utmost importance that the patrol officer understands the importance of such a tool and that it is meant to help the officer, not hurt them.

The second item was planned for the end of 2016 but other things pushed the install back. The installation of a separate firewall at the police department will help ensure 24/7 operations are not impeded by internet or power outage issues within the city. This firewall will act as backup to the city to help the 4400 block operate during inclement weather without having to depend on city hall staying powered.

The third item plays into conjunction with the second item. The city and police IT departments have been looking at long term solutions for unimpeded daily operations and came up with a fairly simple yet elegant option. In the coming years, the police and the city IT department will be rolling out a shared virtualized server system. In simple terms, what we hope to accomplish with council approval is to have mirrored copies of both the police and the cities vital servers at both locations. The system will be designed to only run one or the other when needed in case of an power outage, attack on the network, ransomware, viruses, or any number of human or natural disasters that could damage the systems.



Officer Robinette shows his "new recruit" some of the equipment our systems administrator maintains.

## RECORDS DIVISION

The Records division is responsible for the storage and dissemination of all records gathered by the Acworth Police Department. The Records Division staff is often referred to as the "CEO of First Impressions" because they are the first person who greets anyone who visits the police department, whether by phone call or in person. Every day, citizens come to records for a number of reasons; sometimes, they are in distress and even a little nervous. It is our goal to provide the public with the best possible customer service and to treat them as we would want our family members to be treated In the past

year, the Record's Division has processed more than one thousand criminal histories for businesses in the community, and countless others for Parks and Recreation and various churches. Additionally, we have provided fingerprinting for the public at a rate of approximately 2 per week.

This year, our agency was audited by the GBI for compliance with GCIC and CJIS. The Records Division is responsible for maintaining agency compliance, and we are proud to report that we passed with flying colors.

*"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."* - Teresa Rentz



Records Clerk, Teresa Rentz, has been with the Acworth Police Department for nearly 3 years. She is the first person anyone sees when they come to the front window of the police department. She is kind and compassionate, and she works hard to make sure that every citizen has a positive experience when they visit our police department.

