Agency: **Harlingen, Texas Police Department**

Workshop Attended: **Pharr, Texas**

DDACTS Implementation: **August, 2011**

Agency Demographic and Background:

Established in 1910 as a crossroads community in the Rio Grande Valley, Harlingen, Texas is located fifteen miles from the southern-most tip of Texas, at the border between the United States and Mexico. Today, Harlingen has grown, incorporating an area of over 40 square miles, and a population of just under 66,000 people. Harlingen is currently ranked 53rd by population among 3200 Texas communities. The largest Harlingen racial/ethnic groups are Hispanic (79.6%) followed by White (17.7%) and Black (1.3%). In 2014, the median household income of Harlingen residents was $34,868. However, 32.2% of Harlingen residents live in poverty. The median age for Harlingen residents is 32.7 years young.

The police department is a full-service agency comprised of 144 sworn officers and 44 civilians. At the time of DDACTS implementation, the focus was on reducing violent and property crime to a level at or below state and national averages.

Lessons Learned:

Operational Oversight: After the initial obstacle of "buy-in" was overcome, officers became extremely proactive. The high frequency of some officer's traffic stops brought into question the quality of their stops. It was found that officers were conducting such fast-paced traffic contacts that there were no investigations being carried out during the stop–none. Officers would make a traffic contact for a minor infraction, advise the driver about the violation, and immediately give a verbal warning even without checking for a driver's license or insurance. Supervisor monitoring and review of traffic videos helped solve the problem.

Data Analysis and Response: At the time of implementation there were no dedicated personnel conducting data analysis, so the task fell on the first line supervisors, who did the best they could with no prior experience in compiling and interpreting data. With a full-time analyst currently on staff, front line supervisors can now concentrate on the task of managing their personnel and resources according to data trends.

Prior to Implementation:

Prior to 2011, Harlingen had a violent crime rate that was twice the national average while property crime was at three times the national average. Gang violence was a weekly occurrence while auto-theft, burglaries and other property crime was routine. The Harlingen Police Department implemented elements of Comp-Stat to analyze existing crime reduction efforts, as well as, studying issue of gang violence. Through coordinated aggressive efforts, Harlingen saw

an 80% reduction in gang violence over a two-year period. Without realizing it, the Department had put into practice an operational model that focused on the placement of resources in problem areas. By proactively targeting gang members, associates and their activities, as they occurred in specific locations throughout the city, the Department was, in effect, following the principles of an operational model which would later become the basis of all future crime reduction efforts.

Pre and Post DDACTS:
Harlingen PD went from simply being reactive to calls for service to becoming a proactive force in crime prevention and crash reduction. Drawing on the preventive value of highly visual traffic enforcement and the fact that crimes often include motor vehicles, patrol officers were asked to increase traffic enforcement to achieve our goals.

When looking at 2010, the year preceding DDACTS implementation, we experienced a police force reactive in nature with a corresponding 3% increase in UCR Part 1 crime. Following 2010, and as traffic contacts increased year after year, calls for service, violent crime, property crime and injury related crashes all dropped considerably. Comparing the cumulative results of three years of DDACTS enforcement efforts against 2010 when police were merely responding to calls for service, the magnitude of our crime and crash reduction efforts can be appreciated.

	PRE DDACTS	DDACTS YEARS				POST DDACTS CHANGE	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	# Change	% Change
Traffic Contacts	13,593	23,863	47,606	49,702	60,769 ⬆	47,176 ⬆	347.1%
Calls for Service	87,491	72,616	48,892	50,673	52,308 ⬇	-35,183 ⬇	-40.2%
Violent Crimes	392	341	271	261	146 ⬇	-246 ⬇	-62.8%
Property Crimes	4,447	4,076	3,272	2,589	2,058 ⬇	-2,389 ⬇	-53.7%
Crashes	2,403	2,232	1,999	2,152	2,266 ⬇	-137 ⬇	-5.7%

<u>Part I Offenses</u>   <u>Traffic Crashes (city wide)</u>

The Future:
Moving forward the Harlingen Police Department will implement a DDACTS-COMPSTAT hybrid. By investing in improved analytical resources to enhance "Data Collection" and "Data Analysis," a better representation of the relationship between crashes and crime can be depicted. With improved analytic products and appropriate "Monitoring, Evaluation and Feedback," "Strategic Operations" will ensure the desired "Outcomes" are achieved.

When Harlingen implemented DDACTS, crime reduction was the primary focus; however, when impressive results in crash reduction were also achieved it further validated the effectiveness of this operational model. Harlingen intends to continue this trend.

DDACTS Crash Indicators	Dec 2014

Incapacitating Injuries	-70%
Non-incapacitating Injuries	-48%
Traffic Fatalities	-17%
Alcohol Related Crashes	-10%