

***Texas Department of Public Safety
Annual Report - Texas Rangers Division
FY 2009-2010***



Texas Rangers

The Texas Rangers are the oldest law enforcement organization in North America with statewide jurisdiction.

There are 144 Texas Rangers, and the force is organized into seven companies, A through G, led by captains and lieutenants. Rangers are stationed in various towns and cities in the state, with each field Ranger having responsibility for a minimum of two to three counties, some with even larger areas. Six staff lieutenants work in the Joint Operations Intelligence Centers (JOICs), located in different parts of the state.

Multi-disciplinary major case doctrine

The primary mission of the Texas Rangers is to provide investigative expertise and resources to local agencies in the identification, arrest and conviction of suspects responsible for violent crimes.

On occasion, some violent crimes, serial offenses, unsolved (cold case) crimes or other crimes may frighten the public. The DPS director may designate this type of crime as a “major-incident case investigation,” calling for the establishment of a task-force approach and a unified command structure to effectively manage and direct substantial Depart-

ment resources and assets involved in the investigation. Major-incident case investigations are typically coordinated by a Texas Ranger captain who can dedicate the Department’s full array of resources, or those necessary, to identify, locate and apprehend the responsible parties for each designated case.

Ranger Reconnaissance Teams

Texas Ranger Reconnaissance Teams (RRTs) are highly-trained and specialized



While on a training exercise in Presidio County in October, Rangers found these backpacks, which were used by drug smugglers to carry approximately 188 pounds of marijuana. The packs were made with large sugar sacks, and vehicle seat belts served as the shoulder straps. The ranch where the marijuana was found is often crossed by drug smugglers.

emergency response units capable of providing a wide spectrum of tactical options and capabilities to the Department and the State of Texas to safeguard the public, interdict criminal or terrorist activity and enhance investigations and prosecutions. The RRT is capable of extended operations in remote border regions and rugged terrain where conventional law enforcement elements traditionally do not operate.

RRTs were formed in September 2009 at the direction of Texas Ranger Senior Captain Antonio Leal. The Rangers are the state's lead law enforcement agency responsible for oversight of border security operations along the Texas-Mexico border.

DPS employs RRTs in emergencies and other situations that require a specialized law enforcement response. The teams can be rapidly deployed to locations throughout the state to preclude, preempt, interdict and resolve criminal or terrorist incidents that could impact public safety.

The composition and numbers of personnel assigned to a RRT are both situation and mission dependent. Teams are normally comprised of Texas Rangers and DPS SWAT Team members and attached personnel from the Texas National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force. The RRT may be further augmented by intelligence analysts from the Texas

Fusion Center and communications specialists from the Department's Law Enforcement Support Division.

Team members are highly trained in the areas of advanced firearms, individual and small-unit tactics, covert and counter surveillance, tactical tracking and airmobile operations. Team members are trained in the use of night-vision devices and continuous operations in conditions of limited visibility.

Routinely, RRTs conduct operations with the support of the U.S. Border Patrol, the DPS Aviation Section and the Texas National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force. Supporting personnel from Texas Military Forces do not participate in law enforcement activities but do provide observation, transportation and communications support.

Fort Hood shooting investigation

On November 5, a Fort Hood commissioned officer, who served as an Army psychiatrist, opened fire on fellow soldiers and civilians at the Fort Hood



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Soldier's Readiness Center. The rampage left 13 people dead and 30 injured. DPS responded to the scene and established a perimeter as officials searched for the suspect.

Texas Ranger Capt. Kirby Dendy, working at the Army incident-command post, was asked by the Army Criminal Investigation Division commander to provide Rangers to assist in the investigation. Company F Rangers and Rangers from adjoining companies conducted witness interviews and provided investigative assistance, helping ensure that witnesses were interviewed in a timely manner, as federal investigators were still arriving at the scene.

The suspect, Army Maj. Nidal Malik

Hasan, 39, from Virginia is awaiting a U.S. Military trial and has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted murder.

Rangers assist in investigation of elderly sexual assaults

As part of a multi-jurisdictional major crime task force, the Rangers assisted the Department and local law enforcement agencies in the investigation of eight sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults and four burglaries or attempted burglaries that occurred between January and November 2009.

The violent serial rapes of elderly women, who ranged in age from 65 to 91, took place in Yoakum and Luling and in

rural Leon, Bell and Falls counties. Many of the cases were linked by physical evidence, including DNA.

The rapist, described as a thin, young, dark-skinned man between 5 feet 6 inches and 6 feet tall, demonstrated his familiarity with each of these communities. Because he committed the crimes during the late evening and predawn hours, the public and media dubbed the suspect the "Twilight Rapist."

In some cases, there was a reported burglary of the victim's residence prior to the sexual assault. Investigators believed the rapist prowled the victims' neighborhoods before striking. In many cases, he disabled the victim's telephone line.

The investigation involved the com-

bined efforts of the DPS, the Yoakum and Luling Police Departments, the Leon, Bell and Falls County Sheriff's Offices, the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI. As of May 2010, the suspect had not been apprehended, but the investigation continued.

Rangers assist in arrests of suspects involved in Houston doctor's homicide

On August 22, Company A Rangers Steve Rayburn, Jason Taylor, Adolphus Pressley, Crayton McGee and Kevin Pullen assisted the Austin County Sheriff's Office with the investigation of the shooting death of Dr. Jorge Mario Gonzalez, who was a Houston area doctor. He was shot and killed as he, his wife, their young child and a ranch hand arrived at their Bellville-area weekend ranch.

Multiple suspects approached the victims as they walked from their vehicle to the ranch house. The doctor entered the residence, retrieved a pistol and was shot when he returned to confront the assailants. The ranch hand was also shot but survived his wounds. As the suspects fled, one of them fired a shot at a Bellville Police Department officer, who was searching for the fleeing suspects.

Two suspects, Cristobal Galvan Cerna, 23, and Moises Galvan Cerna, 18, were arrested on August 28. On September 1, Texas Rangers arrested the final

Texas Ranger Division Criminal Statistics

Start Date: Jan. 1, 2009 — End Date: Dec. 31, 2009

Investigations — Offenses/Cases

Developed	Totals	Murder	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Other*
Offenses - Activities*:	4,740	773	174	248	787	2,758
Charged Offenses:	1,982	286	130	136	289	1,141
Completed						
Closed Files:	2,442	412	97	112	387	1,434
Criminal - Activity Disp*:	2,252	234	104	110	294	1,510

Arrests — Conviction results

Number of arrests: 2,232 Number of convictions: 1,634

* Other is all other criminal offenses (fraud, forgery, assault, etc.).

*Activities are warrant, civil, subpoena and fugitive.



The Rangers assisted the Graham Police Department in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting.

suspect, Misael Santollo, 18, in Houston. Cristobal and Moises are brothers and the cousin of Santollo. All three men face murder charges.

In addition to the Texas Rangers, the DPS Highway Patrol, Criminal Law Enforcement and Aviation were involved in the investigation. Other participating agencies included the Austin County Sheriff's Department and the Bellville Police Department.

Rangers investigate shooting

On September 6, Ranger Sgts. Jay Foster, James Holland, Anthony Bradford and Lt. Jeff Collins responded to an officer-involved shooting in Graham, at the request of the Graham Police Department and the Young County District Attorney's Office.

A one-year veteran of the Graham

Police Department pulled over a vehicle of reported suspicious activity. The 17-year-old white male driver stopped his vehicle, exited it and immediately fired on the Graham police officer. The officer was struck in the upper chest and upper thigh with rounds fired from a .357 magnum handgun. The officer returned fire, fatally wounding the suspect. Sgt. Holland, working with the DPS Division of Intelligence and Counter Terrorism, identified the suspect as a known associate of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang.

FLDS members go to trial

On March 31, 2008, the Texas Rangers, DPS officers and the Midland, Tom Green, Schleicher and Sutton County Sheriff's departments executed search warrants at the Yearning for Zion (YFZ) Ranch in Schleicher County. The ranch is owned and controlled by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS). Officers entered the ranch with Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (CPS) investigators.

During the subsequent search, officers located information and documents showing evidence of criminal activity. A Schleicher County Grand Jury returned 23 indictments—ranging from sexual assault of a child and bigamy to unlawful marriage ceremony to a minor—against

12 defendants.

Five defendants went to trial on dates ranging from October 2009 to April 2010 and were convicted of sexual assault of a child, a first degree felony. Sentences ranged from seven to 75 years.

Two defendants were convicted of bigamy and received sentences of seven and eight years. Six more defendants are scheduled to go to trial in 2010.

SWAT to attain Tier 1 National Status

Beginning in 2009, DPS SWAT transitioned from Highway Patrol to the Ranger Division, and changes to the team are ongoing. Beginning May 1, 2010, the SWAT program became full-time positions for all members. The team will consist of 20 members stationed in Austin, and the Rangers are in the process of filling six to seven positions by the end of August in order to bring the team to full strength.

When the final positions are filled, members will undergo advanced training that will bring them to a Tier 1 National level status—the highest certification a SWAT team can attain because of the advanced skill sets required. SWAT will assist with augmenting and training the regional Special Response Teams (SRTs) that will be implemented in February 2011.