



No portion of this article may be reproduced without
express written permission of Style Publishing Group, LLC.
©2007 • All rights reserved.



Style Publishing Group
P.O. Box 1676
Frisco, Texas 75034
Phone: 972.335.1181
Toll Free: 877.781.7067
Fax: 214.722.2313
E-mail: info@friscostyle.com
Web: www.friscostyle.com

Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306

*Coporal Christopher Hands &
Officer Mike Gonzalez on the shooting range
photo by Chris Frichie*



intersection of Stonebrook and Parkwood to the introduction of several new facilities poised to enhance the police force's readiness and service, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

A SHARP INVESTMENT

One such facility, the newly constructed firing range, is not the typical range most people imagine. While the typical picture is of police officers wearing headsets and chatting with their droll sidekicks as they shoot down single lanes of fire, this range has a little more to it. Walking into the firing range is almost a surreal experience. Unlike TV ranges, this dark dungeon-like chamber, where the darkness is pierced by a strobe light in the background, is actually creating a situational training scenario.

"This kind of environment recreates the same scenario an officer would face at night exiting their vehicle with their police bar lights going," says Chief Renshaw. With no defined lanes, moving targets and assorted audio/visual stimuli, the range offers real-life reenactments for increased readiness.

The firing range, a ten-lane wide facility, is comprised of two main chambers. The right wing, which is a 6-lane width, provides an entrance allowing officers to pull patrol cars all the way inside, exit the vehicle and face a controlled instructional module. Chief Renshaw participated in the range's overall design.

"Most police departments want to train in a realistic environment. In qualification, officers demonstrate proficiency or their ability to hit the target, but there is no training in that. The training in moving and making decisions is where you truly get the benefit," explains Chief Renshaw, who also served as a firearms instructor.

The range allows staging scenarios to occur on one side without disturbing normal shooting testing on the 4-lane left wing. Training instructors can re-create everything from a closed off apartment with actual furniture inside, to an open shootout situation. This kind of training is not only more realistic, but it allows instructors to measure and monitor

Shooting for Excellence

By Rafael Hernandez

ONE OF THE MANY THINGS Frisco residents are proud to share is the city's low incidence of crime. Until as recently as 2004, Frisco's crime index remained significantly lower than national averages, including substantial margins over neighboring cities such as Plano and McKinney (FBI Crime & Statistics, 2005). With the rapid development and growth the city of Frisco is undergoing, crime prevention has become an increasing concern among the populace. Although the city has successfully maintained a low incidence of crime, the Frisco Police Department reported an increase of 4.6

percent in the city's crime index in 2006. Facing these statistics, Frisco residents are wondering if now is the time to invest in city law enforcement agencies' readiness efforts and make public safety a priority.

Frisco Police Department's Chief Todd Renshaw believes we should. A 24-year law enforcement veteran, Chief Renshaw has led the Frisco Police Department to one of the most well-respected law enforcement agencies in the area. Under his leadership, the Frisco Police Department has experienced substantial growth, from its recent move into its new and improved headquarters at the



Sgt. Adam Henderson demonstrating the driving course

photo by Chris Fritchie

officer reaction times. Based on these findings, instructors can then tailor training programs that will ensure incremental progress for officers who demonstrate developmental opportunities in these areas. Chief Renshaw expects an increase in officer visits to the range as opposed to the normal twice-a-year visit required for shooting qualification.

The department is also in the process of evaluating F.A.T. (Fire Arm Training) systems, with the intent of supplementing the training benefits of the range. F.A.T. systems have enhanced law enforcement education programs across the nation for more than 20 years and are becoming more comprehensive with the integration of new technological advances.

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

In addition to the firing range, the department has added several other facilities: a driving course, holding area and crime laboratory. Prior to the new 300 by 400 foot driving course installation, Frisco Police officers had to drive to McKinney's Police Department and utilize their driving courses or rent facilities in Plano. The turnaround is much more effective now.

"Getting an officer qualified back then could easily become a matter of several hours. Now, we can get officers on the course, get them qualified and get them back on the street much faster," says Chief Renshaw.

The new crime laboratory allows evidence analysis to begin immediately and at a local level, minimizing the need to partner with third-party groups to

formalize and/or expand investigation findings. Results are delivered faster and everything from transportation to contractor services costs is greatly reduced. The holding area is now Frisco's Municipal Jail and will also decrease the need for prisoner transportation to the McKinney or Denton jail facilities. The addition of these new facilities centralizes added resources for the police department and provides immediate access to crucial aspects that support law enforcement.

In all my years in law enforcement, being ready is probably the most fundamental aspect of our jobs.

But is all this high-tech training and resource expansion really necessary for a town like Frisco? After all, its not like Frisco is as crime-afflicted as other areas in Dallas, right? Well, if you take that fact for granted, you might want to think again.

"In all my years in law enforcement, being ready is probably the most fundamental aspect of our jobs. I think one of the most important things you can learn is when not to shoot. You have to consider those high-risk/low -incidence situations and being ready for them is what really makes the difference," says Chief Renshaw. And it is through this readiness that the department intends to demonstrate its excellence.

SETTING THE STANDARD

The Frisco Police Department is currently appraising itself against a group of nationally recognized standards developed by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Every aspect of the Department's organization, management, operations and administration are subject to in-depth review and auditing. Since the first CALEA Accreditation Award was granted in 1984, the program has become the primary method for an agency to voluntarily demonstrate their commitment to excellence in law enforcement. Major law enforcement associations internationally acknowledge CALEA's Standards for Law Enforcement Agencies®.

Because of its international recognition, CALEA Accreditation also helps reduce insurance premiums therefore, limiting the agency's liability and risk exposure. By demonstrating law enforcement excellence and achieving CALEA accreditation, Chief Renshaw and the police department hope to convey their sense of gratitude to the residents of Frisco. The Frisco Police Department expects to become CALEA accredited by first quarter, 2008.

"We have always been blessed with the amount of support we get from our citizens. Having top-notch, first class facilities on site makes training and operational cost-effectiveness a lot easier. I truly hope our citizens receive a high level of service and readiness in return," says Chief Renshaw.

Rafael Hernandez is a freelance writer living in Frisco.