



# SEGUIN POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014



# Seguin Police Department

## 2014 Annual Report

The Seguin Police Department is dedicated to the delivery of quality service to the citizens and guests of our community. In doing so, we strive to create a partnership with our citizens that will enhance communication, understanding and the overall effectiveness of the police department.

The members of the Seguin Police Department strive to protect the members of our community from harm and from damage or loss of property. The officers of our department enforce laws and investigate criminal actions to identify and arrest offenders, contributing to the quality of life in Seguin and to the ends of justice.

- The City of Seguin is situated along a major highway and significant economic development is occurring in the city and surrounding areas. As Seguin grows, the crime trends change as well.
- This crime report is a compilation of the various crime statistics and trends from the past year.

### Seguin Police Mission Statement

*“To provide professional law enforcement service to the citizens and guests of Seguin through a proactive approach to crime, partnership with the community and a commitment to service.”*

## Values O.U.R. S.P.D.

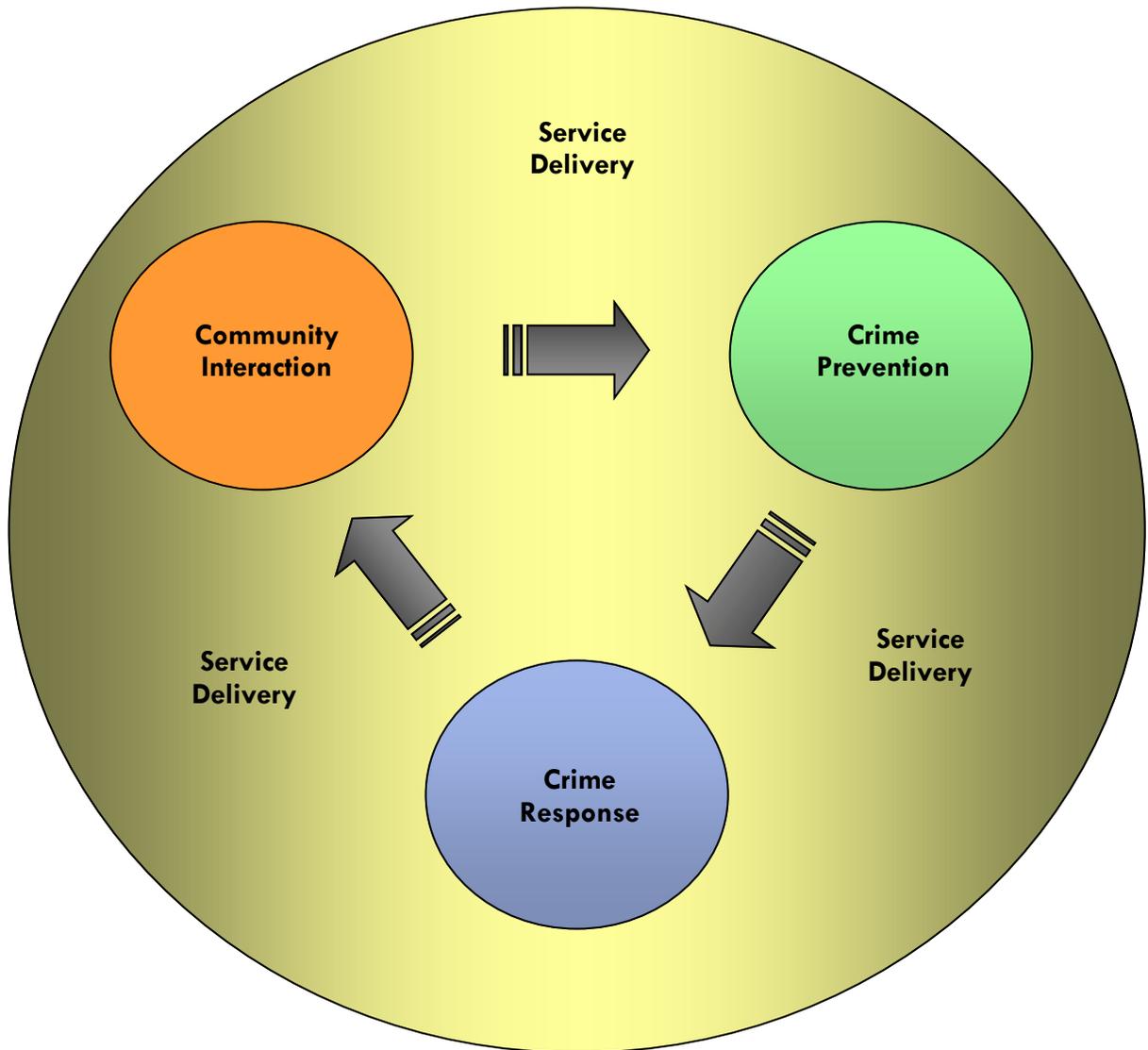
**Order, Understanding, Respect, Service, Pride, Dedication**

# Seguin Police Department

## 2013 Annual Report

### **Seguin Police Department's Strategic Vision:**

The Seguin Police Department's Strategic Vision is defined in three focus areas within a larger focus area of service delivery:



The diagram above illustrates how the effectiveness of everything we do is governed by the delivery of the service. Everything we do can be categorized as a response to crime, an effort at crime prevention or our interaction with the public.

## Executive Summary



### **“Smart Policing” Data-Analysis-Solutions**

Over the past few years, the U.S. Department of Justice has encouraged agencies to rely on data and statistics to solve public safety problems. This trend, dubbed “Smart Policing” has been widely adopted across the country. Budget restraints and staffing shortages forced law enforcement to develop strategies and tactics that are both effective, efficient, and economical.

The Seguin Police Department has adopted “Smart Policing” strategies. We have built upon the concepts of offender-based and place-based policing by replicating evidence-based practices

and encouraging the exploration of new, unique solutions to age-old criminal enterprises. As a direct result our officers have launched several major campaigns to put a halt to criminal gang and gambling activity within our city limits.

Research in the United States and abroad have demonstrated that a small number of offenders commit a disproportionate amount of crime. Crime also tends to cluster in areas that are often predisposed for this type of activity due to abandonment, disrepair, and neighborhood disorder. The Seguin Police Department recognizes these trends and focuses our activities in these “hotspots.” The overall result is measureable and reflected in a steadily declining crime rate.

Our accomplishments are due in great part to our strong ties to our community. We believe in forging partnerships with the citizens we serve. Without such teamwork, our agency alone could not have made the progress witnessed over the last five years. As we go forward we pledge to continue our determined efforts and look forward to great things to come.

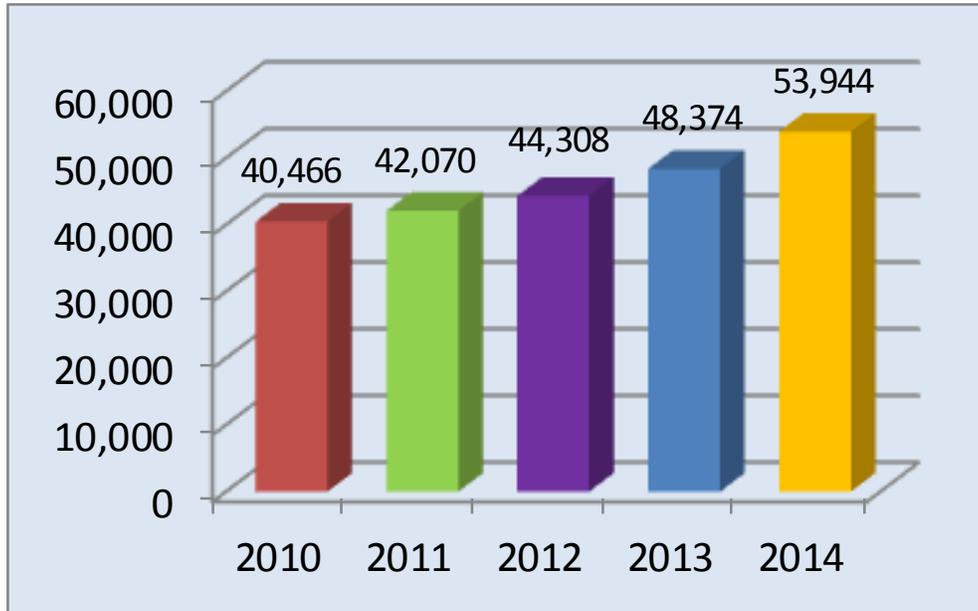
## Calls for Service

**Calls for service** refers to assignments that are typically distributed to public safety professionals that require their presence to resolve, correct or assist a particular situation. The calls are generally initiated by the public and relayed through the emergency telephone service. As it pertains to police work, when the call for service is broadcast over the radio, it is assigned to an officer who patrols the specific sector or beat within which the call for service originates. Once assigned, the officer must respond and issue some type of finality back to the dispatcher indicating the action taken in order to essentially 'finish' that particular call and prepare the patrol shift for the next call. Multiple calls for service may be assigned at once to several patrol beats and, depending on the severity or urgency of the call, multiple calls may be assigned to one individual officer or pair of officers. Although more than one officer may actually respond to one call for service, for statistical purposes, it will only count as one call.

Calls for service are an indication of the workload being placed on the police department. The demand has increased by almost 33% over the past five years as illustrated on the following page.

There are many factors that influence the number of calls received including economic, sociological, environmental, and geographic. As of 2012, the population of Seguin was projected to be 26,272. From 2000 and 2010, the city had a growth rate of 14.37% and it continues to grow. The City has also grown geographically by 102% in the last thirteen years from 18.4 square miles to 37.34 square miles.

Currently, the department has funding for 56 officers, and of those officers, 38 are assigned to the Patrol division.



## **Calls for Service 2010-2014**

## Crime Trends

In reviewing the statistics from prior years, and working to achieve the most accurate data as possible, we discovered that the statistics used by the State of Texas are based on a population of 25,705. A review of a FBI website showing crime statistics showed Seguin's population at 27,087. We now know that the census determined the actual population of Seguin to be 25,175. Using the different population number in the equation to determine the crime rate changes the crime rate. However, it is important to note that the change in crime (either upward or downward) does not change in percentage if the population used is constant across the years.

Each year that passes from the year of the census makes it more and more difficult to determine

- an accurate crime rate. Since the crime rate is based on population, the actual crime rate
- becomes more difficult as projected populations are used instead of actual numbers based on a
- census.

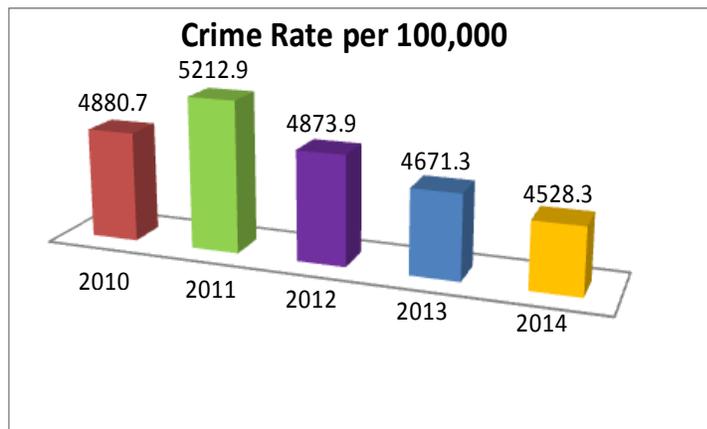
This also illustrates why comparing crime rates between cities can be difficult and sometimes misleading. It is difficult to know if each city is using the same source for its population number or if they are actually counting the same crimes. Some cities try and manipulate their data to gain a more favorable crime rate. However, the statistics do indicate that Seguin had a 7.5% decrease in crime rate and a 16% decrease in reported crimes from over the last five years.

## Crime Trends

Crime in the United States is slowly beginning to rise after a decade of record lows. Many cities are experiencing dramatic increases in violent crime, especially those hit hardest by waning economic times. The City of Seguin is an exception to this trend. In 2013, our crime rate decreased by over 4% and in 2014, it dropped another 3%. Since 2010, there has been a 16% decrease overall in the reported crimes. Part I crimes are those considered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as being serious by nature and/or volume. The FBI compiles data on Part I crimes from every law enforcement agency and reports it on an annual basis. Since 2010, there was a significant decrease in robberies, theft, burglaries, and motor vehicle theft reported to our agency as illustrated by the chart below. It should be noted that the definition of rape was changed in 2014 and many more offenses now fall under the definition of rape.

CRIME RATE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murder	2	1	1	1	0
Rape	17	6	8	7	32
Robbery	37	27	12	21	19
Aggravated Assault	54	52	44	34	49
Burglary	235	301	207	211	189
Theft	950	915	929	876	818
Auto Theft	27	38	26	26	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>1340</b>	<b>1227</b>	<b>1176</b>	<b>1140</b>
<b>Rate/100,000</b>	<b>4880.7</b>	<b>5212.9</b>	<b>4873.9</b>	<b>4671.3</b>	<b>4528.3</b>

Crime is often best understood when compared to an “average.” The table below denotes the average National crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants. When contrasted with that in our city, our rate is considerably lower in almost all categories. This is attributable to proactive policing and our thriving partnership with the citizens of Seguin.



## Crime Response

### Criminal Investigations

In 2014, the detectives assigned to our Criminal Investigations Division were assigned 1562 cases as compared to 1596 the previous year. This averages 223 cases per detective per year or 18.5 per month. This number is consistent with National averages. Our detectives cleared 1,048 cases last year, as compared to 1052 last year. The overall clearance rate of assigned cases is 67% which is almost identical to last year.

We currently have two investigators assigned to Special Crimes (narcotics, gambling, etc) and one investigator assigned to a DEA task force. We also have one grant funded family violence investigator.

## Forensics

During the past few years, we have dramatically improved our property and our ability to process evidence. Last year, we upgraded our property and evidence custodian position to forensic specialist/property manager. We also purchased a fuming chamber for fingerprint development and a drying cabinet for evidence contaminated with biological matter.

Our property room has brought us accolades from outside agencies and the Texas Best Practices Accreditation Program. Every item is bar coded and tracked in a database for instant accountability. We can honestly say that we have a “model” property room for other agencies to emulate.



**Fuming Chamber**



**Drying Cabinet**



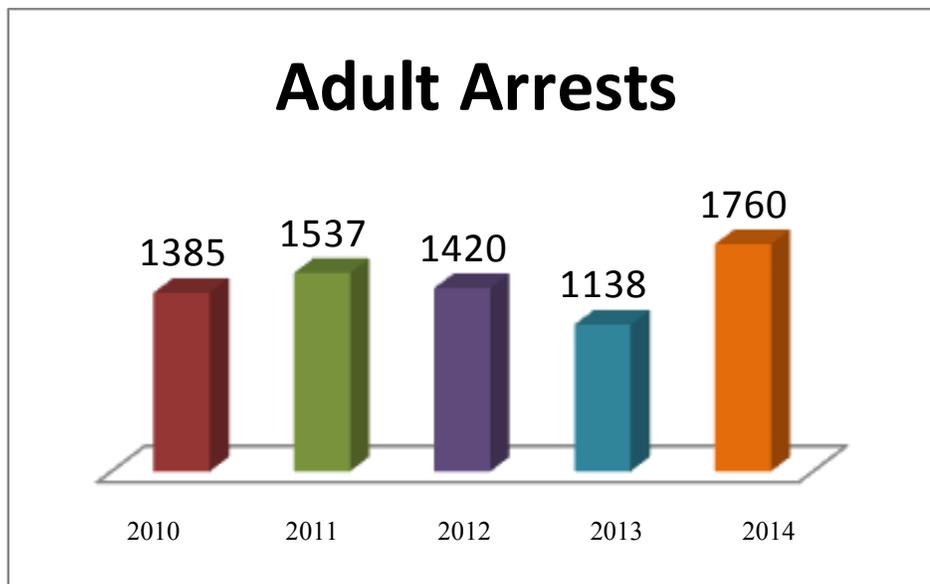
**Evidence Vault**

## Crime Response

The Seguin Police Department has undertaken several other initiatives to combat crimes that affect the quality of life in our neighborhoods such as illegal drug possession and distribution, burglary and gambling. Our officers have also focused on the perpetrators and places where these crimes were flourishing.

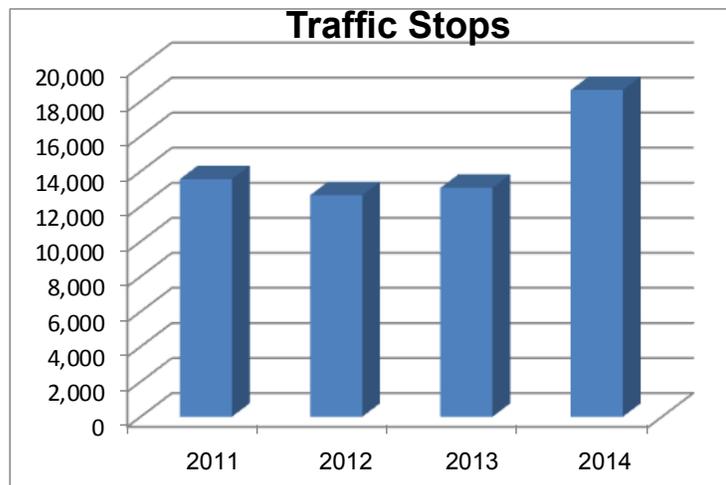
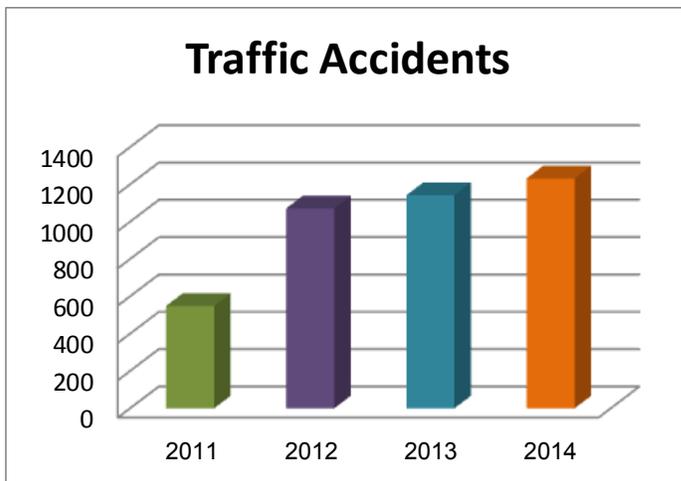
In 2013, we made 1,223 adult arrests. In 2014, we made 1,760 arrests, representing an increase of 44%. Some of these arrests are attributable to the purchase of an automated license plate reader that scans every license plate as it passes the patrol car and alerts the officer that the vehicle is associated with an arrest warrant. However, the license plate reader cannot get all of the credit for these arrests. The officers have worked diligently on traffic enforcement and crime response to generate these arrests.

- Each supervisor is encouraged to develop action plans to respond to emerging crime trends. The action plans provide direction and focus for the officers and attempt to end crime sprees before they get started.



## Traffic

Guadalupe County has been recognized as one of the fastest growing counties in the country. Even though the city of Seguin has not yet experienced this explosive growth, the amount of traffic travelling through Seguin has increased significantly. The result is an increase in traffic accidents, traffic volume, and traffic congestion. We currently have two full time Traffic Officers and one part-time Traffic Officer. Unfortunately, one of our Traffic Officers was severely injured this year and has been on injury leave for an extended period of time. In an effort to reduce traffic accidents, we have prioritized traffic enforcement with our Patrol Officers. The result has been a significant increase in traffic stops and citations, but we have been unable to control the increase in traffic accidents.



## Crime Victim Liaison (CVL)

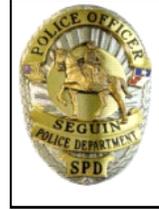


In order to properly address the pressing issue of family violence, a unit consisting of a crime victims' liaison and an investigator was created through grant funding. Until the addition of the liaison in 2009, there had been no one dedicated to that position. As a result, victims were often underserved in our community. Nicole Solis-Douglass joined the department in 2012 and has been a strong advocate for those impacted by crime. Her efforts combine with those of Detective Bruno Cavazos who was appointed to be the investigator whose sole mission is to investigate crimes against women and children. His position was made possible as the result of a grant award funded by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. Congress recognized the severity of violence against women and our need for a national strategy with the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. This landmark federal legislation's comprehensive approach to violence against women combined tough new provisions to hold offenders accountable with programs to provide services for the victims of such violence.

### **In 2014:**

- 392 Family Violence Victims
- 9 Sexual Assault Victims (adult)
- 42 Child Sexual Assault/Abuse Victims
- 25 Crime Victim Assistance Applications were completed
- 484 victims received advocacy services

# Police Action Review



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## Citizen Complaints

In order to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the Seguin Police Department, everyone who has contact with our employees has the right to file a complaint if their experience was unsatisfactory. These complaints can range from a lack of courtesy to an allegation of criminal conduct. Generally, those complaints filed after 30 days are not accepted unless there is good reason for the delay or it involves a criminal violation.

Of the 53,944 calls for service in 2014, there were only ten formal or written complaints filed. Only five of the complaints were filed by citizens and five were generated internally. The results of the external complaints are as follows:

- Complaint—Excessive Force. The officer was “Exonerated”, meaning that the incident did occur but was lawful and proper.
- Complaint—Excessive Force and Professional Conduct— The officer was Exonerated on both charges.
- Complaint for Professional Conduct but it was withdrawn by the complainant
- Complaint—Excessive Force. The officer was Exonerated but during the investigation another violation (Failure to follow order) was identified and it was Sustained, meaning that the allegation was supported by sufficient evidence and the action of the agency or employee was inconsistent with the agency policy.
- Complaint—Conduct and Performance against two officers and an additional charge of Improper Traffic Investigation against one of the officers. The two allegations against the one officer were Unfounded and Exonerated. The allegation against the second officer was Not Sustained.

An “Early Warning” database was developed and put into practice during 2013. This is a system of data collection and analysis allowing us to monitor employees’ conduct and behavior in order to provide timely notice when a pattern or trend emerges, and thus to elicit an appropriate response. There were no indications that any officer was responsible for an inordinate number of complaints or demonstrated any behavior that was contrary to practice, policy or procedure.

# Police Action Review

## Police Response Reports

There are occasions when an officer must use force to subdue a violent suspect or control a dangerous situation. The involved officers are required to submit a police response report often referred to by the term “use of force”. A summary of those reports is as follows:

- There were 55 reports filed by officers. This compares to 29 reports filed by officers in 2012 and 50 reports filed by officers in 2013.
- None of the cases resulted in any property damage.
- In almost half of the cases (20), the officer used hand controlled take-down techniques on a suspect who was using force to resist arrest or detention.
- In two cases, the officer used empty hand striking techniques to defend themselves and effect an arrest.
- In seven cases, a TASER was used to subdue the suspect.
- In one case, an officer used baton strikes to defend himself and compel an arrest.
- On 22 occasions, the officer pointed a firearm at a subject they reasonably believed to be a threat to themselves or others. They took this action to compel arrest or control the subject.

A review of these incidents identified eighteen incidents where training issues were identified. Most of these issues involved tactics or public perception and did not involve policy violations. It was also discovered that we have not been tracking the different uses of a TASER. The TASER can be used in two ways—a drive stun method that involves pressing the two probes against an individual and the probe deployment that involves projecting the probes. The physical effects are dramatically different due to the distance between the probes. Our database has been modified to track the two different uses.



## Police Action Review

During the 53,944 calls for service to which our officers responded, force was only required 0.1% of the time compared to a national average of .9%. Considering the 1,848 arrests made during the year, force was only necessary in 3% of those arrests. In other words, Seguin Police Officers were able to accomplish arrests without any use of force over 97% of the time.

### Vehicle Pursuits

There were only four vehicle pursuits in 2014, compared to the same number in 2013. There were no injuries or property damage as a result of the pursuits. In one case, the suspect evaded capture but the other three suspects were captured and arrested.

A review of each pursuit was conducted by the chain of command within the police department. One policy issue and two training issues were identified as a result.

### Injuries and Accidents

Seven officers suffered injuries in the performance of their duties during the year. Of those, all of the injuries were a result of dealing with combative subjects. After action reviews revealed that the injuries were not due to negligence, rather were inflicted during quickly evolving, unavoidable events. In one of these events, it was determined that the officer could have used better tactics in handling the situation.

There were four fleet accidents as compared to three in 2013. Three of the accidents were attributed to driver inattention on behalf of the officer. Corrective action was taken in each of these incidents. The fourth accident was not the fault of the officer but resulted in serious injuries to the officer.

No non-sworn employees were involved in any fleet accidents or suffered injuries during the year.

## Training



The Seguin Police Department has made training a priority in order to provide the most effective and efficient service to our community. We place a premium on safety and endeavor to provide our officers and employees with the skills they need to do the best job possible. During 2014, the Seguin Police Department planned a full calendar of training opportunities. We introduced emergency first aid in this year's training known as Self-Aid, Buddy Aid (SABA) and every officer completed the training. Our firearms instructors continued realistic, "hands-on" tactical training allowing everyone involved to develop the ability to respond to emergencies. Most importantly, our agency continues to team up with surrounding agencies in order to offer a full spectrum of law enforcement related classes.

We continue to utilize the classroom at our outdoor live-fire range allowing us to provide on-site training. The building was donated to us by the Seguin Independent School District and renovated by a team of volunteers from the police department.



## Employee Recognition

In 2009, the Seguin Police Department began recognizing employees that made a difference throughout the year. The award recipients are nominated and selected by a group of their peers.

The 2014 recipients are:

**Officer of the Year:** Officer Mike Guerra

**Supervisor of the Year:** Captain Victor Pacheco

**Rookie of the Year:** Officer Cody Dean

**Civilian of the Year:** Nicole Solis-Douglass

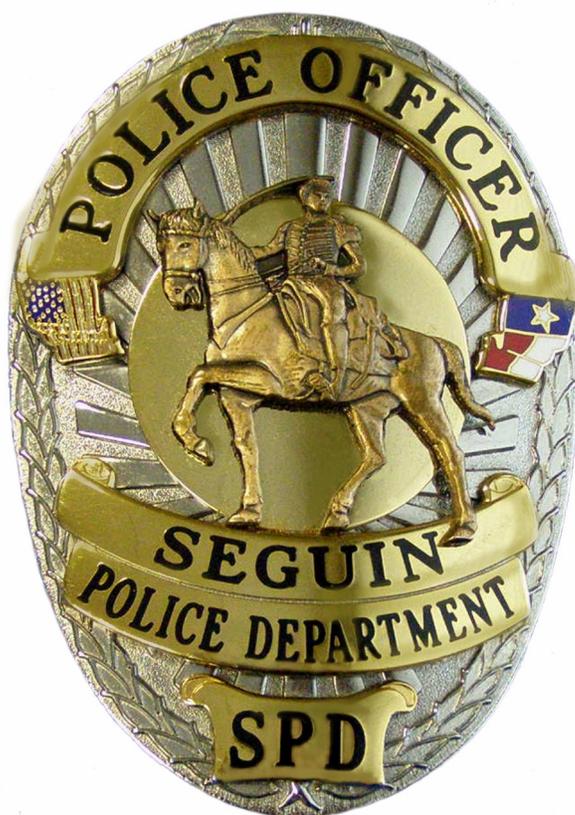
Additionally, Chief Kevin Kelso was recognized as Police Chief of the Year by DARE, International for his support and contributions to the DARE program.

Officer Cody Dean was awarded the Life Saving Award for taking quick action in stemming the flow of blood from a stabbing victim.



# Seguin Police Department

## 2014 Annual Report



### Seguin Police Mission Statement

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