

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



**Chief Joseph M. Evangelista**

**Report Prepared by**

**Lt. Christopher Leusner**

**January 28, 2009**

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## **ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL**

### **Personnel**

#### **Retirements**

Captain William Scott Webster, Sergeant Jeff Saduk, and Detective First Class Paul Loefflad, retired this year. Officer Walter Krych and Officer Felix Cruz resigned this year.

#### **New Hires**

Police Officers Martin Lindholm , Dan Geiger, and Armondo Jones were hired and attended the Cape May County Police Academy.

#### **Current Sworn Employees**

The list below reflects the Department Personnel as of December 31, 2008

#### **Chief of Police**

Joseph Evangelista

#### **Captain**

Richard Smedberg

#### **Lieutenant**

Christopher Leusner

Paul Fritsch

John Edwards

#### **Detectives**

Detective Sergeant

Christopher Murphy

Allan McClure

Clint Stocker

Doug Osmundsen

Ken Martin

Robert Shepherd

#### **School Liaison Officers**

Corporal Jeff Devico

Officer Sharon Price

#### **Patrol Sergeants**

Mark Devico

Pat Conte

Bill Adams

Richard McHale

#### **Corporals**

Mike Elias

Jim Dougherty

Fred Crawley

Fran Fiore

#### **Senior Patrol Officers**

Richard Sittineri

Mike Harron

#### **Patrolman**

Robert McHale

Marcus Phillips

Jennifer DeLanzo

Gino Castellano

Jason Sill

James Loftus

Phillip Johnson

James Dalonzo

Jason Sweitzer

David Hagan

#### **Patrolman**

Julio Ruiz

Steven Novsak

Michelle Greenwaldt

Joshua Bryan

Ron Miller

Tracey Super

Dan Martin

Matthew Martino

Leonard Larkin

Giacomo Trombetta

Kurt Saettler

Armondo Jones

Martin Lindholm

Dan Geiger

#### **Street Crimes**

Sergeant Don Nelson

Mark Higginbottom

John Norton

## CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

**Calls for Service for the year of 2008:** **46,146**  
 Calls for service for the year of 2007: 45,506

### Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of individuals arrested for the year of 2007 and this year 2008. It should be noted that multiple charges are sometimes filed against a single individual. The numbers below do not reflect a tabulation of multiple charges filed against an individual.

<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Total Arrests: 1681</b>	<b>Total Arrests: 1302</b>

The Middle Township Police Department sent (**528**) indictable complaints to the Cape May County Prosecutors Office compared to (**514**) in 2007. Note: Middle Township and Wildwood (**607**) each year send a considerable amount of complaints to the Prosecutors Office. The remaining departments are significantly less, with Lower Twp. Police Department the next closest with (**310**) complaints in 2008.

### Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county, and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are eight (8) main offense classifications known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Below is a list highlighting the eight (8) identified crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Middle Township for the past two (2) years.

<b>Offense: 2008</b>		<b>Offense: 2007</b>	
Homicide	0	Homicide	0
Rape	5	Rape	11
Robbery	8	Robbery	22
Aggravated Assault	60	Aggravated Assault	49
Burglary	152	Burglary	163
Theft	559	Theft	523
Motor Vehicle Theft	24	Motor vehicle Theft	39
Arson	5	Arson	9
<b>Total UCR:</b>	<b>808</b>		<b>809</b>
<b>Violent Crime:</b>	<b>73</b>		<b>80</b>
<b>Non Violent Crime:</b>	<b>735</b>		<b>729</b>

Comparing 2008 to 2006 finds the overall reportable crime is consistent with last years numbers.

***Note: There were two death by auto cases in 2008.***

The following list shows the classification of the other type of calls for service both criminal and non-criminal in nature handled by the members of the Police Department in 2008.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	(18)	(38)
Simple Assaults	(163)	(106)
Medical Calls	(0)	(3182)
Fire Calls	(0)	(711)
Animal Complaints	(1,764)	(1,798)
Burglar, Fire, or Medical Alarms	(1,212)	(1,376)
Death Investigations	(27)	(29)
Disorderly Conduct incidents	(4,088)	(1,653)
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	(162)	(213)
Malicious Damage incidents	(381)	(273)
Missing Persons and Runaways	(115)	(132)
All other Public Assistance calls	(1,944)	(5500)
Assisting other agency incidents	(494)	(510)
Property and Building Checks	(14,424)	(17,199)
Bias Incidents Investigated	(4)	(5)
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Investigation Reports generated by Officers totaled:	(1,911)	(1,879)
Supplemental Investigations or Follow up reports generated:	(1,932)	(2,049)

### **Domestic Violence:**

Domestic Violence is a serious crime against society and both law enforcement and the courts must aggressively address it. New Jersey has strong laws and protective measures for victims of Domestic Violence.

Middle Township is not immune from the problems and concerns of Domestic Violence. During the year of 2008 Middle Township Police responded to **(250)** Domestic Violence incidents. In 2007 Middle Township police responded to **(254)** Domestic Violence incidents.

### **Property Stolen and Recovered:**

Property offenses include Burglary, theft, Criminal Mischief, and Shoplifting. The exact amount of value in the theft related offenses are hard to determine as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. Below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered for the year of 2008.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Stolen:	<b><u>(\$953,577.00)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,744,069.00)</u></b>

Recovered:     (\$353,115.00)                                     (198,850.00)

### **Officer Line of Duty Injuries and or accidents**

During 2008 a total of (5) officers suffered on duty injuries causing lost time at work totaling (395) workdays. Two of the injuries are due to Officers being assaulted. Ptl Dan Martin was making an arrest when he injured his knee. He was out for 114 days. Ptl Steve Novsak was run over by a suspect driving a Quad. He sustained severe injury to his legs. He was out of work for 230 days. The other injuries varied from hand, knee, back, and ankle injuries.

Officers were involved in (3) motor vehicle crashes while on duty. All crashes were minor. One crash was reportable, and the other two were non reportable.

### **Use of Force Incidents and Reporting**

As required by law each officer who must use force, above the normal, in arresting or handling an individual must complete a state “Use of Force” reporting form. This report is supplied each year to the Cape May County Prosecutors Office.

In 2008 Middle Township Police reported a total of (19) Use of Force incidents. Of those incidents, (17) subjects were arrested, (2) subjects received injuries during the use of force (all minor in nature), and (4) Middle Township Police Officers were injured during the arrests. One of the injuries was a major injury requiring the Officers to be out of work for 114 days. No weapons were discharged in any of the incidents.

## TRAFFIC

### Motor Vehicle Accidents:

A total of (922) motor vehicle crashes were investigated by the Middle Township Police Department in the year of **2008** compared with (966) in 2007.

### Injuries/Deaths:

<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>
Injuries:	180	214
Deaths:	5	3

### Motor Vehicle Summonses issued:

(4000) Motor vehicle summonses were issued by officers of the Middle Township Police Department in **2008** compared with (3898) motor vehicle summonses in **2007**.

The Middle Township Police Department received a grant in the amount of \$10,166 from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, to pay for overtime patrols to enforce traffic laws and combat "Aggressive Driving Behaviors". The Department also received \$12,584 to purchase equipment. The Department used the funds to purchase a laser to diagram serious motor vehicle crashes, and a stalker radar for traffic control.

The Police Department also received a similar grant from the Division of Highway Traffic Safety to enforce the usage of seat belts by all operators and passengers of motor vehicles.

### Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI):

115 arrests were made for DWI offenses in 2008, this compared to (135) arrests made in 2007.

The Middle Township Police Department received a grant from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety to pay for overtime patrols to enforce and combat DWI offenses.

### Police Pursuits:

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in (4) incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits. None of the pursuits ended in motor vehicle crashes and (4) ended in arrests.

## **PATROL DIVISION**

Patrol is the largest Division of the Police Department. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These can range from neighborhood disputes, domestic violence incidents and traffic accidents, to burglaries in progress and death investigations.

As the First Responder to criminal complaints, patrol officers are responsible for seeing to the medical needs of anyone involved, interviewing witnesses, recognizing and preserving evidence, determining whether, in fact, a crime has been committed, and identifying and ultimately arresting those responsible.

Officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting business and property checks, and initiating contacts with community members to further the department's commitment to Community and Problem Oriented Policing.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into four (4) squads. These squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant and has seven patrol officers.

### **Field Training Officers: (FTO's)**

All Police Officers hired by the Middle Township Police department must attend and successfully complete a New Jersey State Certified Police Academy. This department predominantly uses the Cape May County Police Academy. Upon graduation from the academy, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program. This FTO program is an additional 3 months of intensive training and evaluation in which the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced officer. This FTO officer has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity.

The Below listed officers delivered Field Training to the three (3) newly hired officers this year.

Corporal James Dougherty  
Patrolman Dave Hagan

Patrolman James Loftus  
Patrolman John Norton



## DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division or otherwise known as the Major Crime Unit (MCU) is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all incident reports and activities in order to prioritize and investigate criminal activity. Detectives work cases that are either assigned to them or come to them while on duty or on call. They also initiate case investigations.

2008 saw many personnel changes within the Detective Division. Detective First Class Paul Loefflad retired this year. Detective Richard McHale was promoted to Sergeant and moved to the Patrol Division. Officer Ken Martin was moved from the Street Crimes Unit into the Detective Division. Officer Robert Shepherd was moved to the Detective Division.

During 2008 the Detective Division generated (245) investigations, conducted (1313) Supplemental or follow up investigations, and made (252) arrests.

The Detective Division also conducts any and all police recruit, police employee employment background investigations. The Division also assists the Middle Township Business Administrator and his staff in conducting any and all needed Internal Township wide investigations.

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2008 include the suspicious death investigation at the Shelton Motel where one of the occupants stabbed their friend in the neck with a syringe after she overdosed on Heroin. The Unit handled numerous Aggravated Assaults, including a double stabbing in August where two crime scenes had to be secured and processed.

The unit investigated over 40 Sex Offenses that were reported to the Middle Township Police Department. Some of the more serious offenses in this category resulted in charges for Aggravated Sexual Assault and Sexual Assault. Other miscellaneous investigations included two plane crashes that Detectives responded to and one Fatal Fire Investigation.

The division works on a number of open cases, such as the Mark Himebaugh and Craig White investigation, with various agencies including the FBI, New Jersey State Police and Cape May County Prosecutors Office.

Members of the unit include:

Detective Sergeant Chris Murphy

Detective Allan McClure

Detective Clint Stocker

Detective Doug Osmundsen

Detective Ken Martin

Detective Robert Shepherd

Part Time Evidence Clerk Bob Bongiovanni

## STREET CRIMES UNIT

In 2002 the Middle Township Police Department formed a Street Crimes Unit. That unit was established to combat crimes against persons and property and to investigate drug dealing and use within Middle Township. Almost instantly the unit was a success, solving crimes and arresting drug dealers and users. But due to manpower problems the Unit had to be disbanded and the officers had to go back onto patrol.

Realizing the value of the Street Crimes Unit, it was brought back into service in November of 2007. The unit is made up of (3) officers: Sergeant Don Nelson (Unit Leader), Patrolman Mark Higginbottom, and Patrolman John Norton. The Cape May County Prosecutors has had a change in mission as a result of the Governor's initiative last year. Street level drug investigations handled by and investigated by the Prosecutors Office in the past are now the responsibility of the local police departments.

The members of the unit work in plain-clothes capacity and utilize unmarked, undercover style vehicles. They work closely with the Patrol and Detective Divisions as well as with the Cape May County Prosecutors Gangs, Guns, and Drug Unit. The Unit combats narcotics crimes, crimes against persons, and crimes against property throughout Middle Township. The Unit also serves as the intelligence-clearing house for any and all organized gang related involvement within the Township. The Unit executes search warrants and seizes contraband. As a result of many of the seizures, monies seized and or property seized is often forfeited through the court system and a percentage is returned to the Police Department to be placed in Forfeiture Fund, with this money to be used by the department for law enforcement purchases or training.

During the year of 2008 the Unit members prepared and executed (10) search warrants for narcotics offenses, conducted (50) investigations, prepared (302) supplemental or follow up investigations and arrested (158) subjects. Members also gathered intelligence information and prepared (25) intelligence reports and seized a total of (\$10,690.00)

The Street Crimes Unit was operational for only ten months in 2008, due to a Work Related Injury to the Unit Supervisor, Sgt. D. Nelson. During these two months, Inv. K. Martin and Inv. M. Higginbottom were assigned to the Major Crimes Unit. In November, Inv. K. Martin was assigned to the Major Crimes Unit and Ptl. J. Norton replaced him.

In 2008, the Street Crimes Unit conducted a narcotics investigation that resulted in a joint investigation with the Cape May County Prosecutors Office Gangs, Guns and Drug Unit and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This investigation led to a Title III Wiretap case that lasted over two months. At the end of the investigation, (12) individuals were arrested, the main target a confirmed gang member was charged with a first-degree crime. Over (10) ounces of cocaine, marijuana and (75) bags of heroin was seized.

The Street Crimes Unit aggressively pursues and registers confidential informants. This pool of information has led to the arrest of individuals and the clearing of crimes such as: Theft of Motor Vehicles, Possession of Weapons, Drug Distribution and Criminal Mischief. The intelligence gathered by the unit has also resulted in locating Missing/Endangered children reported missing to the Police Department.

One notable case was conducted in the Burleigh section of Middle Township where a number of residents were the victim of graffiti being sprayed on houses and vehicles. This resulted in over (\$2000.00) in damage. Through the use of informants, the Street Crimes Unit cleared the eight cases and arrested (4) individuals.

**Forfeiture Fund:**

Began year 2008 with a balance:	(\$6,811.21)
Forfeited monies received in 2008:	(\$1979.62)
Forfeited monies expended in 2008:	(\$5130.15)
Balance transferred over to 2009:	(\$3756.22)
Assets received in 2008:	(1) Chrysler Concorde Automobile

**Equipment purchased with the use of Forfeited Funds in 2008:**

CadZone Software:	(\$1300.00)
Audio/Visual Recording System	(\$1427.80)
New Paint for Ambulance	(\$1612.35)
Street Crimes School Tuition	(\$790.00)

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program has been in place for the past 12 to 15 years and continues today as a collaborative effort with both the Middle Township School District and by a contract with the Cape May County Vocational Technical High School. Presently two (2) officers are assigned as School Resource Officers. Corporal Jeff Devico is primarily assigned to the Middle Township High School. Officer Sharon Price is assigned to the Cape May County Vocational Technical High School. Both officers report to Sgt. D. Nelson with the Street Crimes Unit.

The School Resource Officer Program has two main components designed to enhance the relationship between the school district, its students, teachers and administrators, and the police department. The first component is to provide law enforcement an added police presence in all district schools. This is accomplished through the use of patrol officers

who, as part of their duties, conduct walk through visits to the facilities. The second component is to provide training and informal counseling to students, staff and parents.

In 2008, in Accordance with an Attorney General mandate, and under the supervision of Sergeant Don Nelson, a comprehensive School Security Plan involving over 6 different agencies was prepared and reduced to paper after a number of work-sessions. This plan defined the roles and responsibilities of each agency in the event of a critical incident at any of the Middle Township Schools.

The plan for the Cape May County Vocational Technical High School is currently being developed and will be completed in 2009.

The School Resource Officers conducted (113) Investigations during the school year, initiated (65) Arrests, conducted (73) Supplemental or follow up reports. And investigated (17) Motor Vehicle Accidents.

## **DARE PROGRAM**

The Middle Township Police Department has conducted the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) Program in the Middle Township Schools since 1990. To date over 4,000 Middle Township students have gone through the DARE Program which is now taught at Elementary #2's fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade. This program is 14 weeks long and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum.

In 2008 approximately (250) students were taught the DARE Program.

Officers who teach the DARE Program include:

Sergeant Pat Conte

Corporal Fran Fiore (Program Coordinator)

Corporal Jeff Devico

Officer Jennifer Moore

Officer Mark Higginbottom

## **RECORDS DIVISION**

The Records Section of the Police Department supports the operational efforts of the Patrol and Investigative functions as well as performing a variety of other services, including but not limited to:

Data entry

Report maintenance/ Filing/Retrieval

Issuing Licenses  
 Copy reports for Civilians / Attorneys / Law Enforcement Agencies / Insurance  
 Companies  
 Expungement Orders  
 Division of Youth and Family Backgrounds  
 Issue Handicap Placards  
 Process Firearms Applications  
 Process Fingerprint Cards  
 Process Juvenile Complaints  
 Conduct monthly statistics  
 Handle petty cash  
 Conduct Uniform Crime Reports

The records Section staff consists of the Following employees:

Debra Dumbraco  
 Muriel Anderson  
 Barbara Eisminger  
 Virginia Sweitzer  
 Kendra Karstens

The work they do is invaluable and a great asset to this department.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Middle Township Police Department Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by full time Public Safety Telecommunication Operators. They are the initial point of contact for a majority of the public requiring police services. They are an extremely vital component in delivering effective police services to the community and their dedication and importance should not be overlooked. Often times they are required to maintain a reassuring and calming demeanor in the face of extraordinary circumstances in order to assist the caller and the police officer responding to an emergency. All of the Public Safety Telecommunication Operators are required to receive and maintain certification by the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Some of the examples of work performed include:

- Receive and respond to telephone requests for emergency services
- In response to medical emergencies, provide First Aid or CPR instructions to stabilize the medical condition of persons until the arrival of medical assistance.
- Relay all vital information to responding police officers
- Utilize radio, telephone, or other electronic equipment to dispatch specific law enforcement, Fire department or Medical units to the scene of an emergency.

- Refer non-emergency situations to the appropriate public or private agencies
- Make data entries into the Police Departments computer system as well as various systems databases such as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the State Crime Information Center (SCIC), stolen Vehicle File and Missing Persons File.

The Middle Township Police Department employ eight (8) full time Telecommunication Operators, (2) assigned to each of the four patrol squads. The department employs an additional three (3) part time communications operators. It is mandatory that at all times there are two (2) operators present in the dispatch center.

The following qualified and dedicated employees fill this highly important and stressful position:

Senior Operator Diane Shinn  
 Senior operator Madonna Sill  
 Senior Operator Jennifer Graham  
 Senior Operator Keith Woodrow  
 Operator Bob Eagan  
 Operator Bill Mulligan  
 Operator Dustin Gaskill  
 Operator Jennifer Teasenfitz  
 P/T Operator Maureen Leitenberger  
 P/T Operator Joe Russo  
 P/T/ Operator Ted Farina

During the year of 2008 Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators processed some **(46,146)** calls for service into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

Operators answered a total of **(10,978)** emergency 911 calls for service; those 911 calls were answered in an average time of **3.05 seconds**.

The Communications Operators also monitor and answer calls coming into Headquarters of the department's main operating phone number, (609) 465-8700. A review of the Audio Log Server reveals that the Communications Operators handled the below number:

**(45,895) Telephone calls and (10,978) 911 calls for a total of (56,873) calls per year or (155) calls per day.**

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham is a certified 911 Instructor.  
 Communications Operator Bill Mulligan is a Certified EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructor.

## **CITIZEN COMPLAINTS INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

The Middle Township Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. Officer adherence to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency.

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

The purpose of the Departments Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. The confidence engenders community support for the police department. Improving the relationship between police and the citizens they serve facilitates cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor officer's compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assist officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem areas requiring increased training or direction. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

The internal affairs process is also used to identify and correct unclear or inappropriate agency procedures. In addition, it will highlight organizational conditions that may contribute to any misconduct, such as poor recruitment and selection procedures or inadequate training and supervision of officers.

In 2008 there were a total of **(19)** Internal Affairs Investigations conducted compared with **(25)** in 2007. Of the (19) Investigations handled this year, **(4)** resulted in disciplinary action taken against the officer.

Below is a list of the type of cases and their dispositions received in 2008.

### **2008 Disposition**

Excessive Force:	(4)	(3) Unfounded, (1) Exonerated
Improper Arrest:	(0)	-

Improper Entry:	(0)	-
Improper Search:	(1)	(1) Sustained
Differential Treatment:	(6)	(3) Unfounded, (1) Not Sustained, (1) Exonerated, (1) Pending
Demeanor:	(2)	(1) Not Sustained, (1) Exonerated
Other Rule Violation:	(5)	(2) Sustained, (1) Exonerated, (1) Not Sustained, (1) Unfounded
Other Criminal Violation:	(1)	(1) Sustained.

The Middle Township Police Department works closely with the Cape May County Prosecutors Office and many of the internal affairs investigations are worked jointly between both departments. This is to ensure that the highest quality of investigation is conducted.

Internal Affairs Division is commanded by Captain Richard Smedberg and Lieutenant Christopher Leusner.

## **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all its personnel. The Police Department has in place a comprehensive policy that addresses the organization and administration of the entire training process, including recruit training, in service training, roll call training and specialized training.

Late in 2008, Ptl Marcus Phillips was reassigned and a training unit was formed. There was a need to make the training Officer a full time position. Ptl Phillips keeps track of all the mandatory training records. Ptl Phillips recognizes problems/trends and then formulates strategies for training to deal with the issue. Along with his training duties he is the Court Security Officer. Ptl Phillips also handles the walk in fingerprint requests. This alleviates the squad working from having an Officer come into the station from Patrol. This may sound trivial; but on fingerprint days there is a burden put onto patrol. Ptl Phillips also fills in as a School Resource Officer when the assigned Officers use a vacation or sick day.

The men and women of the Middle Township Police Department attended a wide variety of in service training courses throughout 2008 including but not limited to:



- Blood borne Pathogens
- Property and Evidence
- Firearms Qualifications
- SWAT Training
- Hostage Negotiation Training
- Dive Team Training
- ATV Operation Training
- Assault Rifle Qualifications
- Active Shooter Response
- Report Writing
- CPR recertification
- Use of Force
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview and Interrogation
- Incident Command
- Hazmat
- Radar Instructor and Operator
- High Risk Motor Vehicle Stops
- Accident Investigations I and II
- Certified Public Manager Training
- Alcotest Operator Training
- Cell Block Management
- Arrest Search and Seizure retraining
- Field Training Officer School
- HGN-DWI refresher
- Accident Reconstruction School
- Infant Car Seat Training
- Weapons Armor School
- DRE – Drug Recognition Expert School
- Fraudulent Document School
- Police Supervision School

**Police Department members who hold the rank of Instructor:**

In addition to their normal work duties several Middle Township Police Officers have attained the position of being an instructor in a specific field or multiple fields. These officers conduct interdepartmental in-service training to department members. Many of them are also instructors at the Cape May County Police Academy. Officers who are instructors are as follows:

Detective Robert Shepherd	2C Law Instruction Police Academy
Sergeant Rich McHale	2C Law Instruction Police Academy

Corporal Jim Dougherty	ATV/Firearms/ Defensive Driving/Radar PD-Academy
Sergeant Pat Conte	Radar Departmental
Corporal Fred Crawley	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Patrolman Jason Sweitzer	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Patrolman Marcus Phillips	Firearms Instruction Departmental and Police Academy
Detective Doug Osmundsen	Firearms Instruction Departmental

## **COMMUNITY ORIENTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY MTPD IN 2008**

- Officers maintained an informational show booth at the annual 4H Fair in July.
- Coordinated the annual and very successful Americas Night Out against Crime Event in August.
- The Middle Township Police Department supports the Special Olympics by supplying a Honor Guard at the Opening Ceremonies of the New Jersey State Special Olympics and supplying the Dive Team and boat for the Polar Plunge in Wildwood Crest
- Detectives and the Chief of Police assisted the Recreation Department with the CSI summer camp program

## **SPECIAL UNITS**

### **SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)**

The Middle Township Police maintained and operated its own SWAT Team for approximately 20 years. In 2007 the Cape May County Prosecutors Office with the cooperation of the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association formed a Regional Countywide SWAT Team. In 2008 Wildwood Police Department came on board. The County Team was then divided into three geographical regions. North, which encompass Middle Township, South, and Island divisions. Every Police Department in the county has representation on the team.

Team members undergo a very rigorous training schedule, tactically, mentally, and physically. These members work with their respective agencies as Officers doing normal

duties, but when necessary are called upon to conduct SWAT operations. They are on call 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The position of a SWAT member is voluntary. Selection to become a member of the Team is very competitive. Their own department must select officers. These Officers are selected based upon their past performance and attitude. Then they must attend a rigorous two-week SWAT course.

Team members must train at least twelve (12) hours per month and training sessions are held two times per month.

The North division was called out on **(13) jobs**, one of which was a barricade suspect incident.

Middle Township Police Officers assigned to the Regional Swat Team include:

Lieutenant Chris Leusner (Team Commander)	
Lieutenant John Edwards	Patrolman Phil Johnson
Sergeant Bill Adams	Patrolman James D'Alonzo
Sergeant Pat Conte	Patrolman Marcus Phillips
Corporal Jim Dougherty	Corporal Fred Crawley
Corporal Fred Crawley	

## **DIVE TEAM**

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a fully operational and Certified Marine Search and Recovery Dive Team. The department maintains 2 vessels, one being a Carolina Skiff, outboard, center console boat. The other being an aluminum "jon"boat vessel, also with an outboard motor.

The department has seven (7) certified divers with a full compliment of dive equipment. The team trains ten (10) times per year. Training takes place in local gravel pits, lakes, and in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The team has been utilized many times to assist the US Coast Guard and other agencies in rescue and recovery operations.

Members of the Dive Team are:  
 Detective Clint Stocker (Team Leader)  
 Detective Allan McClure  
 Corporal Jeff Devico  
 Patrolman Steven Novsak  
 Patrolman John Norton  
 Detective Robert Shepherd  
 Patrolman James Loftus

## **HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM**

The Middle Township Police Department employs Police Officers that are certified and highly trained in Police Hostage Negotiations. This Team is in the process of being regionalized in the County with Middle Township's existing team acting as a foundation for North end of the county. The team is made up of six (6) officers who are available to respond to any incident within Middle Township or anywhere within the County to assist in negotiations. The team trains on a regular basis and is often called out in conjunction with the SWAT team. In 2008 the Hostage Negotiation Team responded to (4) critical incidents.

The team is made up of the following officers:

Captain Richard Smedberg (Team Leader)

Sergeant Don Nelson

Corporal Fran Fiore

Senior Patrol Officer Sharon Price

Patrol Officer Jennifer Moore

Patrolman James Loftus

## **HONOR GUARD**

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Middle Township Police Department at official functions. The Honor Guard performs its task with a military regime; the members wear a formal uniform blouse and ceremonial rifles and flags. The Honor Guard is used at official government functions. These include graduation of the Police Academy, DARE Graduations, and parades and represent the department at funerals. The Honor Guard has presented the colors at a Philadelphia Phillies home game for the past two (3) years.

Members of the Honor Guard include:

Patrolman James Loftus (Unit Leader)

Patrolman Marcus Phillips

Patrolman Mark Higginbottom

Patrolman Joshua Bryan

Patrolman Robert McHale

Corporal Fred Crawley

Patrolman Jason Sweitzer

Patrolman David Hagan

Sergeant Rich McHale

## **CHALLENGES 2009**

### **Manpower Related Issues:**

- The Middle Township Police Department has experienced considerable growth and increase in demand for services over the last five years that has stretched the department thin. The Middle Township Police Department understands the strains on the Township Budget and is currently identifying ways to work with our authorized number via the Township ordinance of 52 sworn officers. The department is stretched thin and any reduction in the department's manpower poses a risk to the public safety of the residents and visitors to Middle Township.

### **Equipment:**

- Purchase (4) SUV Supervisor Vehicles.
- Purchase replacement Vehicles for Detectives and Staff.
- Purchase digital in car audio-video cameras to be placed in department patrol vehicles
- Purchase a Traffic Counter Sign
- Construct a computer room for all dispatch computers.
- Purchase additional Stalker Radar Units
- Purchase foul weather apparel for officers
- Purchase Ballistic Helmets for personnel
- Implement and install Township Hall and Police Department Headquarters building structure, storm security features as well as Township wide storm evacuation plans.
- Purchase mountable, portable speed radar display signs
- Purchase Radio Relays.
- Purchase Portable Radios.
- Purchase High Speed Modems.
- Purchase Motorcycle Helmets with radio attachment.

### **Law Enforcement Challenge issues for the year 2009:**

- Prepare and implement traffic oriented projects
- Conduct a review of the present DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program. Look into the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education) Program. Make a decision as to which program may better serve the students of Middle Township.
- Prepare and implement a vehicle fleet rotation program.
- Continue to assist Middle Township Emergency Management with the LOCATOR Program.
- Obtain Internet access with the Middle Township High School, the Cape May County Vocational Technical School and the new cameras at the skate park. This to give access to view the cameras from Police Headquarters and remotely.
- Refurbish the Used Ambulance to be used a mobile command post vehicle.
- Develop a partnership with the Cape May County Sheriffs Department in the area of Police Explorers.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2009

## Patrol Division

### Goal#1:

Increase the level of safety of motorists traveling on State Highway 47.

### Objective:

Reduce the number of accidents on State Highway 47 that result in serious bodily injury or death by 10% in 2009 compared with 2008.

### Strategies:

1. Conduct an analysis of accidents that occurred on State Highway 47 and identify months, days, or times that result in a higher number of accidents.
2. Increase traffic enforcement by assigning at least one officer per shift to conduct radar details in 2009.
3. Strategically position our Traffic Message Display Sign on State Highway 47, warning motorists they are entering a High Enforcement Area.
4. Position an older Patrol Car on State Highway 47 in strategic areas of the roadway during high-risk weekends or holidays.
5. Conduct a Public Awareness Campaign to alert the public of the roadway and our enforcement efforts.
6. Target new drivers at the High School level with a DWI Awareness Seminar.
7. Purchase a portable mountable Radar Sign and position strategically on State Highway 47 for awareness and data collection.

### Goal#2

Reduce the number of Drunk Drivers on the roadways of Middle Township.

### Objective:

Increase the number of Driving While Intoxicated Arrests by 10% in the next twelve months.

### Strategies:

1. Increase the number of Driving While Intoxicated details in 2008.
2. Train more officers in the patrol division in the use of the new Alcotest machine.
3. Send more Patrol Officers to the New Jersey State Police DWI Detection Course.
4. Target new drivers at the High School level with a DWI Awareness Seminar.

**Goal#3**

Divert more minor Juvenile offenders out of the Juvenile Criminal Justice System.

**Objective:**

Increase the number of Station House Adjustments by 50% in 2009 compared to 2008.

**Strategies:**

1. Research and adopt a new short form to improve efficiency in handling of Station House Adjustments.
2. Train all Supervisors on the importance and benefits of diversion and Station House Adjustments.
3. Research and develop a centralized clearinghouse for all Station House Adjustments.

## **Major Crimes Unit**

**Goal#1**

Handle the receiving, storing, and disposition of evidence/property more effectively and efficiently.

**Objective:**

Implement a new procedure or system for the handling of property/evidence within the next twelve months.

**Strategies:**

1. Conduct complete Audit and purge unnecessary items from the Evidence/Property Vault.
2. Research different Evidence/Property Systems or software currently in use at the other Municipal or County Law Enforcement Agencies.
3. Conduct Roll Call Training with Patrol Officers on the proper procedures for the handling and submission of evidence.

**Goal#2**

Improve how the Middle Township Police Department assesses Criminal Activity and communicates this information to the public.

**Objective:**

Implement a Crime Analysis Method that identifies trends and assists in forecasting future criminal activity.

**Strategies:**

1. Research different Crime Analysis strategies and select a method.
2. Improve information sharing within the department and other departments through increased use of the County-wide Enforsys I3 information sharing system.
3. Increase the number of Press Releases in reference to cluster or series of criminal activity.
4. Research how the middletownship.com website can be used to assist in getting information to the public.
5. Increase the speed of Press Releases in situations where the public can assist in locating witnesses, suspects or vehicles.

## **Street Crimes Unit**

**Goal#1**

Handle the receiving, storing, and dissemination of intelligence in a more efficient and effective manner.

**Objective:**

Develop a new procedure or system for the handling of intelligence within the next twelve months.

**Strategies:**

1. Attend training on the guidelines and protocols in reference to intelligence handling.
2. Research different systems and/or software currently being used by other Municipal or County Law Enforcement Agencies.
3. Conduct a review and purge unnecessary or outdated files and incorporate transferable files into the new system.



**Goal#2**

Increase the frequency and amount of information related to criminal activity collected by the Street Crimes Unit.

**Objective:**

To increase the number of informants registered in 2009 by 10% compared with 2008 and expand the Street Crimes Unit tip-line.

**Strategies:**

1. Contact Cape May County Correctional Facility and arrange more timely reports recently incarcerated inmates.
2. Conduct Roll Call Training with Patrol Division on importance and opportunities to develop informants.
3. Research and implement expanding the Street Crimes Unit tip-line to the township website at middletownship.com.
4. Communicate to the public how residents can anonymously report criminal activity.

### **School Resource Officer Unit**

**Goal#1**

Improve and establish security plans for all schools within Middle Township.

**Objective#1:** Develop School Security/Action Plan for Cape Christian Academy and New Jersey State Department of Human Services School within the next twelve months.

**Objective#2:** Finalize and issue the Cape May County Vocational Technical High School plan currently in review within twelve months.

**Objective#3:** Update Middle Township School Security/Action Plan to include any changes in personnel, buildings or other miscellaneous items for the start of the 2009/2010 school year.

**Strategies:**

1. Conduct work-sessions with each of the school administrators and the appropriate law enforcement, medical, and fire personnel.
2. Submit Cape May County Vocational Technical High School draft to law enforcement, medical and fire agencies in the plan for their approval.
3. Meet with Middle Township School District officials in the summer of 2009 to make updates to existing Plan and also update Elementary#2 procedures for adding lock-down protocols/notification and evacuation procedures for Fundamentals Day Care on Pacific Ave. in Cape May Court House

