



DART Police Community Outreach

DART Police participate in annual **National Night Out** activities throughout the DART service area. National Night Out is a unique event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch in which citizens, law enforcement agencies, community groups, businesses, and local officials from communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide join forces to prevent crime. 2003 marked the 20th anniversary of this special event.

Cpl. G. Hutchison leads the DART Police **Operation Lifesaver** team and makes presentations throughout the year at numerous events and attends various safety fairs. Operation Lifesaver strives to increase public awareness about the dangers around railroad tracks. The program seeks to educate both drivers and pedestrians to make safe decisions at rail crossings and around tracks.

DART Police volunteer in the **Santa Cops** program, which provides meals and toys to needy families during the holiday season. In past years, the officers donated money and solicited contributions from area companies and organizations and have assisted hundreds of needy families. "We see a lot of needy people on the buses and light rail and while we are on patrol," says Officer W. Mays, who has headed the Santa Cops program for the last five years. "We wanted to help these folks have a happy holiday and create some positive community relations for the department."

DART Police are currently preparing for the upcoming holiday season and hope to serve even more families this year through the Santa Cops program. Fund raising activities have been underway throughout the year to sponsor this year's event and contributors and volunteers are being sought.

DART Police expanded the scope of the Santa Cops program in 2003 to include providing school supplies to elementary school children in the Dallas area.

The DART **Police Honor Guard** represents the department at special functions and performs color guard duties at a variety of events.

DART Police officers have traveled to Washington, D.C. to assist with safety during the 2009, 2013, and 2017 inauguration festivities. Volunteers for this assignment were selected based on the recommendations of their supervisors.

Officers received travel, housing, and assignments as partners of current Metro officers and were sworn in to serve the area. They joined approximately 4,000 other volunteer officers. Each received a commemorative Metro badge in honor of their service.



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