



WESTERVILLE DIVISION OF POLICE

Press Release

"Being There When Needed"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject:	Officer News and Recognitions		
Releasing Officer:	Chief Joseph Morbitzer		
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WESTERVILLE DIVISION OF POLICE ANNOUNCES OFFICER RECOGNITIONS

OFFICER DAVID LEIGHTY of the Westerville Division of Police recently completed two parts of specialized training from the state's first Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) course. The intensive three-week course is designed to enhance law enforcement officers' abilities to detect and arrest drugged drivers.

The third phase of Officer Leighty's training will occur in mid-October at the Maricopa County Jail in Arizona. This facility processes an average of 900 inmates each day and will provide officers the opportunity to conduct hands-on drug evaluations for all seven drug categories.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 18 percent of all drivers nationwide killed in crashes in 2009 tested positive for drugs. The DRE program is a traffic-safety program that focuses on the detection, apprehension and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers. A DRE officer is highly trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs or a combination of drugs and alcohol, and undergoes specialized training in detecting and identifying the category or categories of drugs causing the impairment. Currently, Ohio has 12 certified DRE officers (7,300 in the United States).

"Through this program, Officer Leighty will be able to assist in impaired driving cases by providing additional probable cause in case prosecution," said Westerville Police Chief Joe Morbitzer. "This enhances efforts in one of our most fundamental duties: protection and safety of the public. This certification will be extremely beneficial to our organization at very little cost, since federal funds and grants were leveraged to cover expenses for this opportunity."

(http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/MR2011/09_02_DRE.pdf)

OFFICER RAY BOOCK was recently named DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) "Officer of the Year" by DARE Ohio. The DARE Program is a partnership between law enforcement and local school districts. In an officer-led series of classroom sessions, fifth grade students learn skills to recognize and resist pressures to experiment with drugs and to avoid gangs and violence. Lessons emphasize self-esteem, decision making, interpersonal communications skills, consequences of drug abuse, conflict resolution and positive alternatives to substance abuse. After more than 21 years, Officer Boock recently completed his final year of instruction.

(MORE)

OFFICER DAVE KING has been selected to receive the Ohio Attorney General's "Distinguished Service Award" recognizing him as the top police educator/trainer in the state of Ohio. Under the direction and oversight of Officer King, the Westerville Division of Police has instituted the "Reality Based" training model. This model instructs officers in realistic scenario-based training. Officers are observed and evaluated in their performance in life-like situations while in a controlled environment.

"Officer King is an extremely dedicated educator. He is totally committed to providing officers with the skills needed to perform their duties to the best of their abilities," said Chief Morbitzer. "In establishing this philosophy, Officer King has distinguished himself and our organization as leaders in law enforcement training."

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