

Assumption Parish

S H E R I F F ' S O F F I C E

A police officer in tactical gear, including a helmet and sunglasses, is holding a large black riot shield. The shield has the word "SHERIFF" written on it in a bold, grey font. The officer is holding a handgun in their right hand, which is illuminated by a flashlight beam. The background is dark with a light gradient at the top.

SHERIFF

Annual Report

2 0 0 9



Dear Fellow Citizen,

Welcome to our annual report.

The Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office is dedicated to serving and protecting you, the citizens of our parish.

We work and train hard to stay up-to-date with the latest law enforcement technology and crime-fighting techniques. This report reflects one of our most important missions, the further strengthening of the lines of communication between citizens and this department.

Speaking of communication, several significant enhancements have been completed to that part of our department. A new radio system enables the APSO to communicate seamlessly with law enforcement and governmental agencies across the state.

In the past year, we've outfitted patrol units with state-of-the-art video recorders; officers are protected with new, tougher bulletproof vests and we continue to address the child truancy issue in our parish. Our Internet home, assumptionsheriff.com gets more visits every day.

Our department and the people of Assumption Parish form an unbeatable team when it comes to working together to keep our community safe.

And while we're talking about teams – check out the article in this issue about how our Special Weapons and Tactics Team – SWAT, stands ready to resolve unique law enforcement situations.

I personally ask you to get involved in the fight against crime by reporting suspicious activity. No matter the time of day or night, dial 9-1-1 immediately if you see something that 'doesn't look right.' We will take your call and respond.

Thank you for your involvement in helping to keep Assumption Parish safe.

Please let me know if I or this office can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Waguespack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MICHAEL J. WAGUESPACK

Sheriff, Assumption Parish



Sheriff Waguespack and officials from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety examine the electronics of the new radio system at the tower site.

Communications Network Improvements

Until now, radio communication between public safety and governmental agencies was often limited. A new 700 megahertz system enables the APSO to be in touch with everyone involved in a disaster or public safety event.

"These new radios, part of the Louisiana Statewide Communications Interoperability System allow the APSO, fire, rescue, school board, hospital, police jury, homeland security and other entities to use the same channels," Sheriff Waguespack said. "We can talk to anyone, anywhere in the state."

Working in partnership with the Louisiana State Police under the leadership of Colonel Michael Edmonson and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the APSO has secured \$400,000 in state-funded equipment to be placed at the tower site to ensure parishwide coverage. APSO has also been awarded \$128,428 in federal grants to purchase portable and mobile radios for this upgraded system.

"UCAR Pipeline, a subsidiary of DOW, has been a tremendous help in moving this project forward. They are basically giving us space on their 320 foot tower for \$1 a month," Sheriff Waguespack said.



SWAT

The APSO SWAT team (Special Weapons and Tactics) is outfitted with new equipment and staffed with personnel who are ready to take on special threats to our community.

"Our 13 SWAT team members train continually to handle high-risk operations such as rescuing a hostage or engaging a heavily-armed criminal," Sheriff Waguespack said.

"Body armor, entry tools and firearms were purchased with funds confiscated in a drug bust," Sheriff Waguespack said. "Of \$513,000 in cash seized, APSO was awarded about \$51,000 which helped outfit the team."

The APSO is in the process of acquiring an armored vehicle that will be refurbished using inmate labor.

The first SWAT team in the United States was established by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1968.



Some of the APSO SWAT team members are: (L-R) Deputy David Baily, Deputy Cliff Veillon, Captain Ray Traigle and Lieutenant Wade Hernandez

New Boating Laws

Assumption Parish citizens have a strong connection to our many beautiful waterways. To ensure boating safety, several new laws are on the books.

Anyone 16 or younger, on a vessel less than 26 feet, must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. The law previously applied to anyone less than 12.

DWI penalties now include the suspension or revocation of boating privileges when a person loses driving privileges from a DWI arrest.

Beginning July 1, 2010, persons born after January 1, 1984, are required to complete a boating education course to operate a motorboat of more than 10 horsepower.

For more information, visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, wlf.louisiana.gov.





APSO Truancy Officer Deputy Johnny Johnson (center) discusses attendance policy with Assumption Parish School Board Officials (L-R), Kathy Bradley, Child Welfare and Attendance; Joey Comeaux, Attendance/Discipline Data Technician; Jerilyn Williams, Director of Student Services and Captain Phillip August, APSO Juvenile Division.

Reducing Truancy

Louisiana has significantly strengthened its truancy laws and the APSO has hired a new officer to specialize in reducing the absentee rate in our parish.

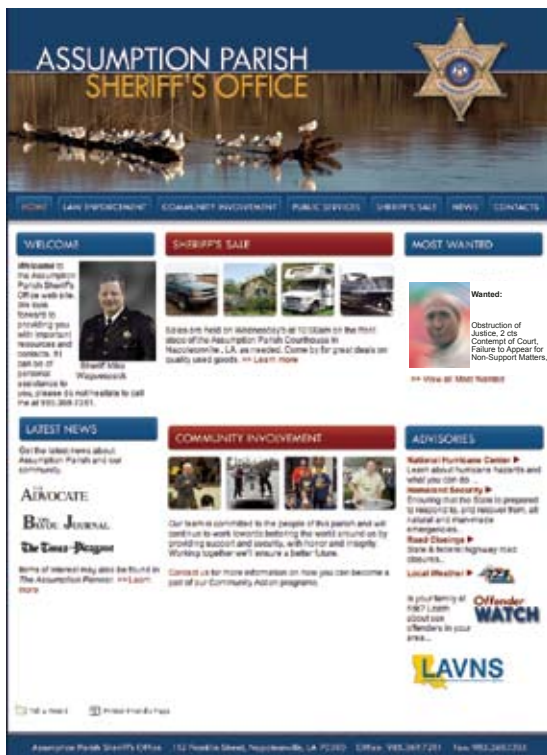
“Truancy is ‘the repeated or habitual unauthorized absence or tardiness of a child from school,’” Sheriff Waguespack said. “Nearly 80 percent of our state’s prison population did not finish high school. It’s clear that school attendance is a direct indicator of future success.”

Parents or guardians of truant children ages seven to eighteen face penalties of forty hours of community service, counseling sessions, the suspension of any state-issued recreational license, a \$250 fine or 30 days imprisonment for each offense.

“Children belong in the classroom,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “We will continue to work closely with our schools, community and education officials to enforce truancy laws.”

assumptionsheriff.com

Visit our Internet web site for the latest news from your sheriff’s office. Besides being an easy way to contact us, information is available on our many community involvement, crime prevention and public service programs.



Assumption Parish natives Katie Thibodeaux and Lonnie Mabile fill the top civil and criminal jobs with the APSO.

New Chief Deputies

Katie Thibodeaux, who joins the APSO after working with the Legislative Auditor’s Office in Baton Rouge, has been appointed Chief Civil Deputy. An LSU graduate and Certified Public Accountant, Thibodeaux oversees budgeting, payroll/benefits, tax collections, accounting, process serving and subpoenas. The Paintcourville native’s responsibilities also include directing grant applications and assisting with department audits.

Lonnie Mabile has been named Chief Criminal Deputy. With 33 years of law enforcement experience, Mabile directs the activities of all divisions within the sheriff’s office, including criminal investigations and narcotics enforcement. The Pierre Part native also assists in handling special law enforcement complaints and managing the operations of the APSO’s Pierre Part/Belle River Substation.

Patrol Unit Video Cameras

New video recording units in patrol cars document APSO traffic stops, DWI arrests and other activities.

“These cameras provide a record of exactly what happens when a deputy stops or pursues a motorist,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “DWI arrests are recorded to digital flash cards for use as evidence.”

The cameras begin recording automatically when a patrol unit’s overhead, flashing lights are turned on and/or when a unit reaches a predetermined speed, as in the case of a pursuit. Units are equipped with two cameras: one facing forward and another providing a display as well as a recording of a prisoner in the back seat.



Video recording gives Deputy John Brown and the APSO a record of traffic stops.





APSO Captain Ray Traigle accepts congratulations from Sheriff Waguespack.

FBI Academy Graduate

Captain Ray Traigle is the first member of the APSO to graduate from the prestigious FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Academy. Traigle, who oversees the patrol division, K-9 officers, court security, motor pool and training programs, completed the challenging physical and academic program at FBI headquarters in Quantico, Virginia.

“We are all proud of Captain Traigle,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “An exceptionally small percentage of law enforcement officers get to attend the FBI Academy. It’s a great achievement for him and a wonderful reflection on our entire department.”

Since its inception in 1935, the academy has trained law enforcement professionals from across the world in crime fighting and anti-terrorism efforts.

Bulletproof Vests

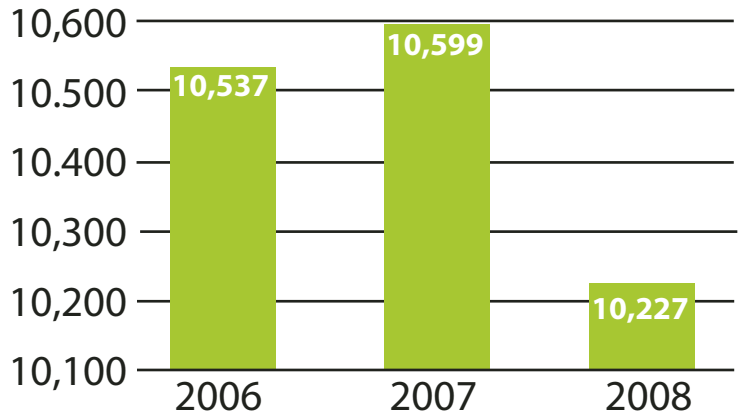
APSO patrol, school resource officers and detectives answering calls for assistance put their lives on the line every day to keep our parish safe.

These officers are now wearing new bulletproof vests. These latest models have specially-constructed ballistic panels that offer a higher level of defense.

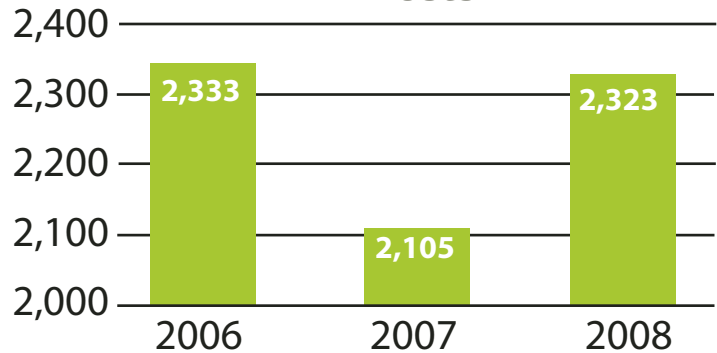


Deputy Bart Bolotte puts on one of the new bulletproof vests.

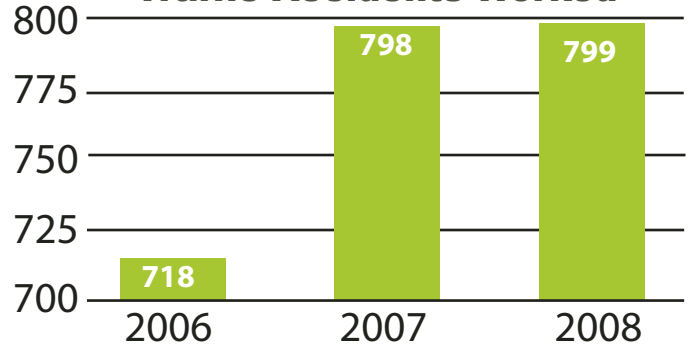
Calls for Assistance



Arrests

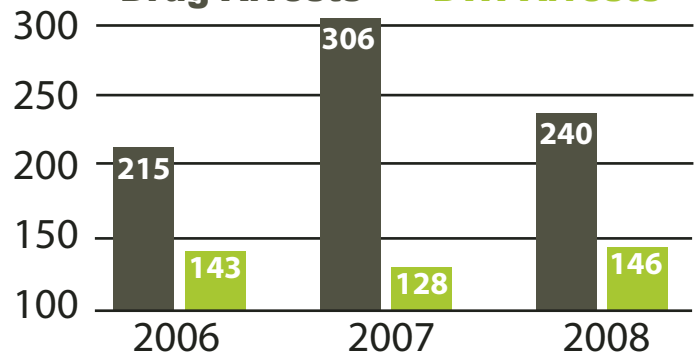


Traffic Accidents Worked



Drug Arrests

DWI Arrests



Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office Survey

Let us know what you think!

Please fill out and return this survey to any of our offices (fax, mail or drop off). Your answers help us keep our parish safe. Thank you.

In the last year, did you call the APSO or 9-1-1 for assistance? Yes No

If yes, what was the nature of your request?

In your neighborhood, what is the most important issue your sheriff's office can address?

Any general suggestions on how we may better serve you?

How long have you lived in Assumption Parish? _____ What is your zip code? _____

If you would like to personally discuss law enforcement issues in Assumption Parish; please provide us with your contact information.

Name	(Please Print)	Address

Phone Number	E-mail

Sheriff Michael Waguespack
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112 Franklin Street, Post Office Box 69
Napoleonville, LA 70390
985.369.7281 Fax: 369.1395

Bayou L'Ourse Substation
985.631.6611 Fax: 631.0051

Labadieville Substation
985.526.1627 Fax: 526.1631

Pierre Part/ Belle River Substation
985.252.8100 Fax: 252.3544

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In an Emergency, Dial 911