

Sheriff' Office recognized in "Governor's Challenge"

November 12, 2012

On November 9, 2012, the Hall County Sheriff's Office was recognized by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for its efforts in the area of traffic safety by placing second in the state in the "Governor's Challenge." Since 2003, the Sheriff's Office has taken top honors in the competition twice and taken second place six times in the category of agencies with 251-500 officers.

The Governor's Challenge is a GOHS incentive program designed to award outstanding achievements in highway safety enforcement and education. Georgia law enforcement agencies are judged on both the approach and effectiveness of their overall highway safety programs. Agencies are evaluated not just for enforcement initiatives, but for innovative problem solving in their communities, using public information activities, and creating departmental policies that support their traffic enforcement campaign efforts.

One of the traffic safety education areas for which the Sheriff's Office has been most recognized is its annual "Fatal Vision" program, conducted throughout the county's high schools just prior to prom season. The program involves a fully involved mock fatality traffic crash, complete with response from law enforcement, fire & EMS, life-flight, and funeral services. The intended effect is to provide a graphic example of the dangers and consequences of impaired driving, and the effect on students has been tremendous.

"Our goal in terms of traffic enforcement has always been to positively influence driver behavior through a balance of enforcement and education," said Sheriff Steve Cronic. "Through this, we hope to reduce the number of serious injury and fatality-involved crashes. This award serves as proof to the citizens of Hall County that we are committed to making our community a safer place."

In addition to this state-level award, earlier this year the Sheriff's Office placed second in the nation (among comparable agencies) in the "National Law Enforcement Challenge," a similar competition sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). This award marked the third time the Hall County Sheriff's Office has been recognized as such, having placed first in 2006 and again in 2010.