

Mark Dawson began his law enforcement career January 1st ,1981 when he was hired by the Young County Sheriff's Department in Graham, Texas where he served as a Deputy Sheriff for six months when he was hired by the Graham, Texas Police Department. Once with GPD, Officer Dawson served the citizens of Graham as a Patrol Officer for 5½ years.

In 1986 Mark left the Graham Police Department when he was hired as an Officer by the City of Plano, Texas. Mark started his career in Plano as a Patrol Officer. Shortly thereafter, Mark was fortunate enough to apply for and make Field Training Officer where he trained new recruits for the Department. Dawson remained a Training Officer for several years.

After spending ten years working the streets, Dawson was transferred into the Professional Standards Unit. While in Professional Standards, he was directly involved in the processing and hiring of police applicants. This included facilitating the Civil Service Examination, spelling tests, performing extensive background investigations, setting up medical, physical, and psychological exams, and performing all other aspects of the hiring process. As a part of the Professional Standards Unit, Mark also served as an Internal Affairs Investigator where he investigated allegations of misconduct filed against Officers of the department.

After a five-year assignment in Professional Standards, Mark transferred to the Crime Prevention Unit where he is currently assigned. While in CPU, Mark has given thousands of presentations to tens of thousands of citizens, teaching crime prevention techniques and crime prevention related topics. His responsibilities include setting up Neighborhood Crime watch organizations, fingerprinting children, producing Crime watch Bulletins, working with civic organizations (Rape Crisis, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, Rotary Clubs, schools, etc.), home and business security surveys, putting together major events (CPU's involvement in the Plano Balloon Festival, Kid's Night Out, Semi-Annual Area Coordinators Meetings, etc.), teaching firearms safety to children in the schools through the Riskwatch program as well as many, many other duties.

In addition to the above, Mark has spent over 25 years of his career as a Firearms Instructor (semi-automatic pistol, revolver, shotgun and rifle). He has also instructed Officers in felony and misdemeanor traffic stops, building search techniques, police radio procedures and city geography. Officer Dawson has taught Crime Prevention in both the U. S. and Canada. Mark spent seven years on the Plano Police Department Emergency Response Team (SWAT), where he served 1½ years as a hostage negotiator and 5½ years on the Tactical Team. While on the Tactical Team, his first assignment was Perimeter Officer. Within a year, Mark was given the additional responsibility of Gas Deployment Officer. His final three years on SWAT however marked the pinnacle of his tactical career where he served as a Precision Marksman or police sniper.

Mark holds a Masters Certificate, which is the highest Certificate obtainable from TCLEOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education) and will soon celebrate his 28th year in law

enforcement. He has been to numerous local, state, and federal schools involving firearms and tactics throughout his career. He has been heavily involved with the Department's Citizens Police Academy and Senior Citizens Police Academy and instructs a firearm safety class at the Youth Police Academy. Additionally Mark was voted "Employee of the Year" for the entire City of Plano in 1999 (over 2000 employees).

Mark is married and has two children, an 19 year old daughter who recently graduated high school and joined the United States Marine Corps and a 24 year old son who is current in Iraq after serving a four year tour of duty in the Marines. Mark's hobbies include motorcycle riding, woodworking and playing rock and blues guitar. Mark is a member of Friendship Baptist Church in Fairview, Texas. In addition, for two years Mark was a Leader in the AWANA (Approved Workers Are Not Ashamed) youth program through his church where children are encouraged to memorize scripture. His favorite saying is "No man in the wrong can stand up against a man that's in the right and keeps on coming."