

## **PARSTAT**

PARSTAT is an acronym for Performance and Accountable Response to Statistics. It is the primary crime fighting strategy specifically designed for the Richland Police Department. It is a philosophy of policing based in part on the CompStat (Computerized Statistics) program first made famous by the New York City Police Department in 1994.

CompStat symbolizes a strategic control system that is credited for a tremendous decline in crime in major cities across the United States. The four steps to crime reduction in the CompStat process are:

1. Accurate and timely intelligence
2. Rapid deployment
3. Effective tactics
4. Relentless follow-up and assessment.

Teamwork is critical to success. Good, fast crime analysis is vital to the CompStat process. Personnel are held accountable for focusing specific resources on specific problems (directed patrol). Department-wide coordination of effort is often-times needed.

PARSTAT was specially developed for the Richland Police Department. It is a policing philosophy focused on the efforts devoted to problem identification and problem solution. There are three primary components to the problem identification aspect:

1. Statistical data review
2. Citizen input
3. Officer observation

Once a problem is identified department personnel must work together to solve the problem. A formal project plan is developed if significant resources are required to solve the problem. A continuous assessment is conducted to ensure reasonable and necessary resources are being appropriately devoted to the problem, and to gauge the level of success in solving the problem.

Every six weeks patrol squads change from night shift to day shift and vice versa. Department-wide PARSTAT meetings, requiring the attendance of every supervisor, occur the week before each shift rotation. During these meetings each supervisory team formally presents to the administrative staff (the chief and three captains) a review of the problems they identified in the previous six weeks. The review consists of:

1. The process used to identify a problem
2. The process used to verify it is a problem worthy of having limited resources devoted to it
3. Identification of the resources devoted to the problem solution and how they were used
4. An update on the current status of the problem solution
5. An assessment on how effective the strategies were in solving the problem

Statistical data is reviewed during each PARSTAT meeting. It includes a review of:

Part I and Part II crime statistics

- Calls for police service
- DUI statistics
- Metro Drug Task Force statistics
- Code Enforcement statistics
- Station Officer statistics
- Squad staffing levels
- Squad statistics for the number of citations that were issued, the number of arrests that were made, and the number of proactive arrests made
- Accident statistics including identification of the top accident intersections and accidents categorized by day of the week and time of the day
- Pin mapping for; commercial and residential burglaries, thefts, robberies, auto thefts, vehicle prowls, and malicious mischief

These statistics are compared to previous months of the current year and to previous years.

Certain supervisory aspects are incorporated into the PARSTAT meetings. Each supervisory team reports on the officers they observed testify in court, perform traffic stops, conduct crime scene processing and interview people. A review is conducted on the number of use-of-force incidents and citizen complaints on officers. Supervisors also identify notable action their officers performed.

Squads post information daily on an electronic PARSTAT bulletin board in order to ensure timely and effective communication of information. Each squad reviews this information at the beginning of their shift. This provides current information on where the problems are so squads can devote adequate resources to solve the problems.

PARSTAT strategy meetings are held weekly, attended by the Chief, Field Operations Captain, Support Operations Captain, Detective Sergeant, Community Services Sergeant, Proactive Anti-Crime Team Sergeant, on-duty patrol Sergeant, School Resource Officers and a representative from the Department of Corrections. Crime trends based upon a 24-hour period, and 3, 7 and 28-day increments are analyzed. The weekly meetings help ensure a timely identification of problems and that all department sections and divisions are working together towards problem solution.

In June 2009 the Association of Washington Cities honored the City of Richland with a Municipal Excellence Award in Public Safety for the police department PARSTAT program. There were 60 entries submitted for seven statewide categories. Richland won the award in the public safety category. You can read the winning application [here](#).

The PARSTAT philosophy has helped guide the proactive and directed efforts for the Richland

Police Department. Council members, other city department personnel and guests from other law enforcement agencies have observed PARSTAT meetings. Contact Captain Mike Cobb at (509) 942-7362 or [mcobb@ci.richland.wa.us](mailto:mcobb@ci.richland.wa.us) for more details.