



CID Honored for Participation in PD's Citizens Police Academy

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Historically, the City of East Palo Alto, located in the southern part of the San Francisco Bay Area, has always been considered "rough" with more than it's fair share of crime.

During the late 1980's and early 1990's, East Palo Alto earned the dubious title of being the "murder capitol of the world" with most of the violence attributable to major drug trafficking. Some of our most significant OCDETF investigations involving money laundering and tax evasion, as well as asset forfeiture, have originated from information on narcotic traffickers initially detected as operating in East Palo Alto by the East Palo Alto Police (EPAP). EPAP, with continued cooperation and federal support, especially from CID, has had major success in diminishing this terror on the community. In an effort to establish greater social ties with the community, EPAP established a Citizen's Police Academy that consisted of a 10-week program with an overview of law enforcement work and procedures in May of 1998.

Special Agent Joseph Banister, CI:3 San Jose, has continually worked closely with the EPAP for a number of years. Joe is even affectionately known as "The Reverend" in the Department, as search warrant affidavits that receive his "blessing" are always successful in uncovering evidence. (Joe typically ensures that search warrant affidavits generated by EPAP contain sufficient probable cause and scope to include financial records, as well as contraband.)



Joe Banister, CI:3 San Jose, demonstrates the use of the FATS machine.

At the request of EPAP, Joe joined the training staff of the Citizen's Police Academy and provided instruction and hands-on training with CID's Firearms Training System (FATS) machine. This event was covered by the news media, and Joe's picture providing FATS instruction appeared in the *Palo Alto Weekly Times*, along with the two-page cover story.

On July 20, 1998, in a graduation ceremony for the Citizen's Police Academy attendees, Joe and CID were honored by EPAP Chief Wes Bowling before an overflowing audience that included the mayor,

city council members and the news media for CID's contribution to the Citizen's Police Academy Training, as well as our work in the area of narcotic trafficking. Chief Bowling informed the audience that CID provided invaluable support in eliminating the drug traffickers from the streets of East Palo Alto.

Shortly after the ceremony, several of the new citizen police graduates approached CID management to compliment Joe for his instruction and training with the FATS machine. Many participants confirmed that this training virtually eliminated their misperceptions that law enforcement officers should have the firearm's expertise to stop a criminal act by shooting a firearm from someone's hand or rendering a wounding shot to someone's arm or leg.

Both citizenry and EPAP requested that CID remain a participant in future training programs.