AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



CHIEF OF POLICE Robert Taylor







March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mayor and **City Council Members** City of Amarillo Amarillo, Texas

Dear Mayor and Council members:

It is an honor to present the 2015 Annual Report of the Amarillo Police Department. For 2015 we had a -1.4% decrease in part one crimes. Since 2007 our Part one crimes have decreased by -20.83%.

More importantly we have had approximately a 5.6% percent increase in the population of Amarillo, which means our Part I crime rate has drop from 7067.6 per one hundred thousand population to 5326.6. This is a -24.73% decrease in our Part I crimes rate when the increase in population is taken into account.

We are continuing to focus our resources towards efforts in areas of increased criminal activity, surveillance of active criminals and maintaining our directed patrols.

In 2014 the FBI retroactively updated the rape statistics for the Crime in Texas report using a new definition of rape. The Annual report reflects a detailed explanation of this change on our statistics.

It should be noted that the statistics and graphs in this report that detail Part I crimes might differ slightly from crime statistics reported by this department to the State of Texas, and ultimately to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This is due to case clearance declarations that continue after the Annual Report is completed.

Please accept our appreciation for your support and that of the City Manager and staff. Together we have made a difference.

Sincerely.

Taylor

Chief Robert Taylor Amarillo Police Department **Director- Region 2 TPCA**

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LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS



AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all persons to liberty, equality, and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will conduct myself in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feeling, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I KNOW that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I WILL constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession...Law Enforcement.



MISSION STATEMENT



The prime functions of the Police Department are the preservation of the peace and order, the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the protection of persons and property under the laws of the state, the protection of the innocent, the enforcement of the laws of the state and the ordinances of the City, and the performance of a multitude of tasks relating to public welfare and safety. For these purposes the police are endowed with legal authority. In the exercise of this power, justice and equity should be ever the actuating motive.

To achieve true success, the Department must win and retain the confidence and respect of the public whom it serves. This can be accomplished only by constant and earnest endeavor on the part of all officers and civilian employees of the Department to perform their duties in an efficient, honest, and effective manner. This exemplary conduct cultivates in the public mind, the fullest realization that the Police Department is a most vital requisite to public well-being.

Efficiency is the first rule of an officer's conduct. Police officers should remember that in the execution of their duties, they act not for themselves, but for the public, and that their appointment is in no sense for their own advantage. The entire law regulating their function hinges upon this principle. They are required to be governed by no feeling, save zeal to do what the law commands, and should never allow passion to urge them to brutality, nor fear, favoritism, or sympathy to induce them to illegal leniency or neglect of duty. Officers must bear in mind that they represent the dignity and authority of the state and are representatives of the law to whose lawful demands all must submit, and such submission can be compelled when necessary. They should use no unnecessary force nor hesitate to use necessary force when circumstances require.

Since it is not possible to anticipate every situation that may arise, or to prescribe the specific action requisite for each case, some things therefore must necessarily be left to the intelligence and discretion of the officers of the Department. Those entrusted with law enforcement must be relied upon to exercise good judgment and apply sound common sense at all times to make police service equitable and effective.

AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

The 2015 Amarillo Police Department Annual Report was designed and published by the Service Division. All information herein is taken from official records of the various Amarillo Police Department Divisions described, and is provided to give readers an accurate as possible description of the Amarillo Police Department in the year 2015. Changes in the disposition and classification of cases do occur months and years after the initial police reports are filed. These changes may therefore affect the accuracy of our annual reports.

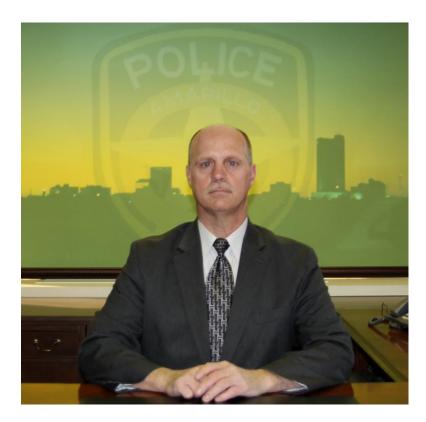
SERVICE DIVISION COMMANDER

Captain Brad Lancaster









CHIEF OF POLICE Robert Taylor



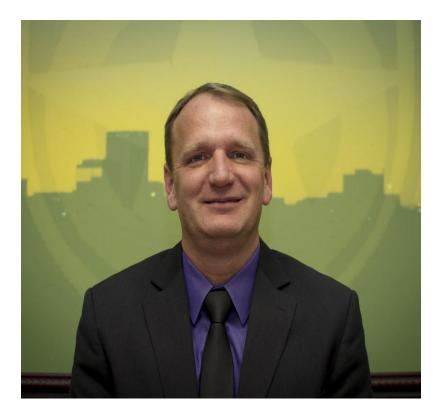




ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF OPERATIONS Ken Funtek







ASSISTANT CHIEF OF LINE OPERATIONS Martin Birkenfeld

INTER-DEPARTMENT OFFICE COMMUNICATION



To: All Divisions

Date: 01/05/2016

From: Chief Robert Taylor

Subject: Department Goals for 2016

The 2016 goals for the Police Department are:

Continue Directed Patrol activities by increasing on-duty directed patrol assignments that will be worked year round and increase community policing efforts.

Continue increasing efforts on identifying, capturing and prosecuting habitual criminals by increasing investigative time spent in patrol and detective divisions.

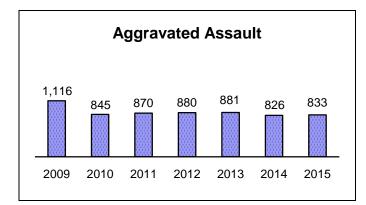
Continue to increase staffing of sworn personnel (All Divisions) to address city growth and crime.

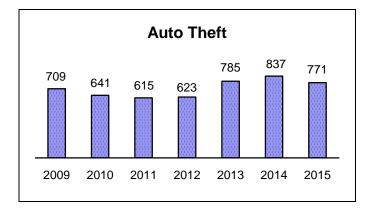
Expand police parking and increase parking lot security.

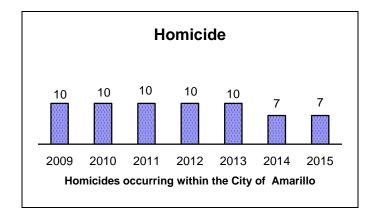
Chief Robert Taylor

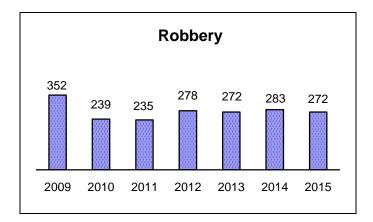


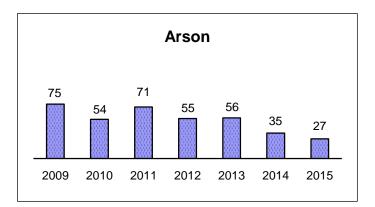
CRIME ANALYSIS

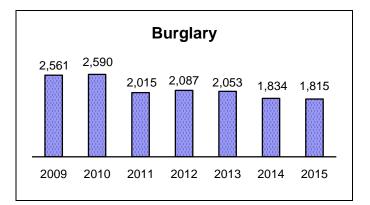


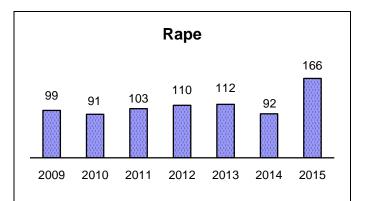


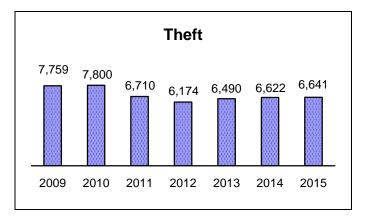


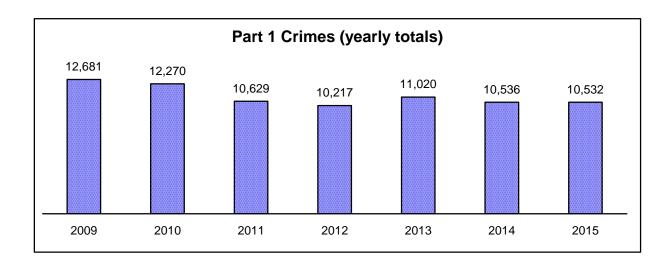


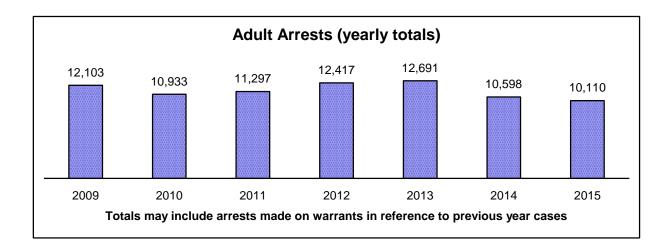


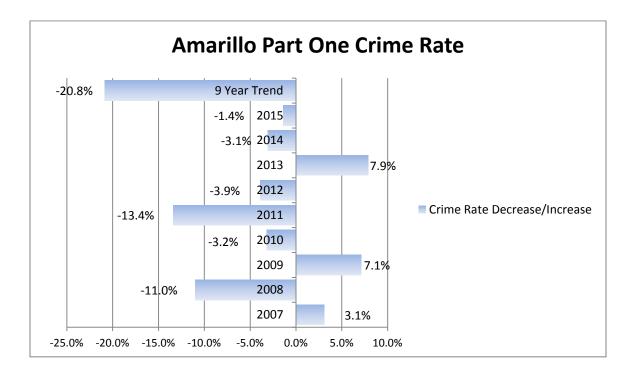


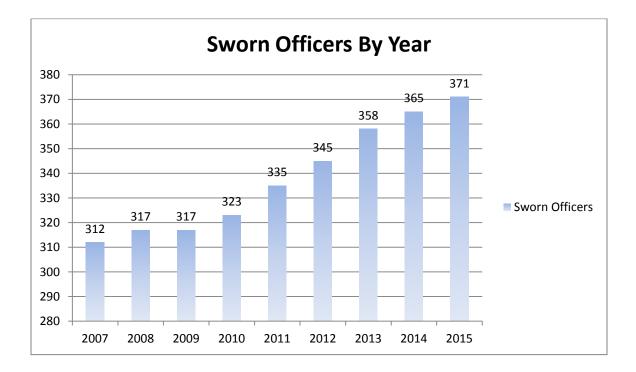












In 2014, a change in the FBI's definition of rape was officially integrated in the "Crime in Texas" statistical crime report. This change in the definition of rape greatly increased the number of reports classified as rape. The definitions are:

Previous definition:

The longstanding, narrow definition of forcible rape, first established in 1927, is "the carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will." Thus is included only forcible male penile penetration of a female vagina and <u>excluded</u> oral and anal penetration; rape of males; penetration of the vagina and anus with an object or body part other than the penis; rape of females by females; and, non-forcible rape.

New definition:

For 2014, the Rape definition was redefined by the FBI in the Uniform Crime Reporting program as: "Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." This will now include all sexual assaults pertaining to male on male, female on female, and female on male; this will not include statutory rape, however. Statutory rape is classified as a sex offense under the Part II crime index.

Our 2014 submission to the State of Texas on the number of rapes in Amarillo, under the old definition, was 92. Under the new definition, that figure was adjusted to 228. This is more than a 100% increase based on the new definition implemented by the FBI in 2014.

However, to get a true comparison, we must use the <u>old definition</u> consistently. There were 113 rapes reported in 2013 and 92 in 2014 and 102 in 2015. This is a 9.74% decrease over the three years. Using the new definition we have had a -22.43% decrease since 2013.

Regardless of the definition used, Amarillo has seen a decrease in the number of rapes from 2013 through 2015.

Number of Rapes	Old Definition	Percent Inc/Dec	New Definition	Percent Inc/Dec
2013	113		214	
2014	92	-17.86%	228	6.54%
2015	102	10.87%	166	-27.19%
Three Year Avg.	102	-9.74%	203	-22.43%

Under the new definition of rape instituted by the FBI there has been a -22.43% decrease since 2013.

The expansion of the definition includes other crimes not previously reported as rapes by the FBI. The new definition provides a true accounting of victims by bringing in more people not previously "officially" known as rape victims. This includes males and those not able to give valid, legal consent due to drug or alcohol intake. This statistical measure can be important in making decisions about the application of investigative resources and it could lead to new grants that aid law enforcement.

This change does not mean that new crimes have been added to the numbers, it means that other crimes listed as sexual assault have been moved to the "Rape" classification. This change in the federal reporting system has been implemented in the Texas crime report effective 2014 and forward.

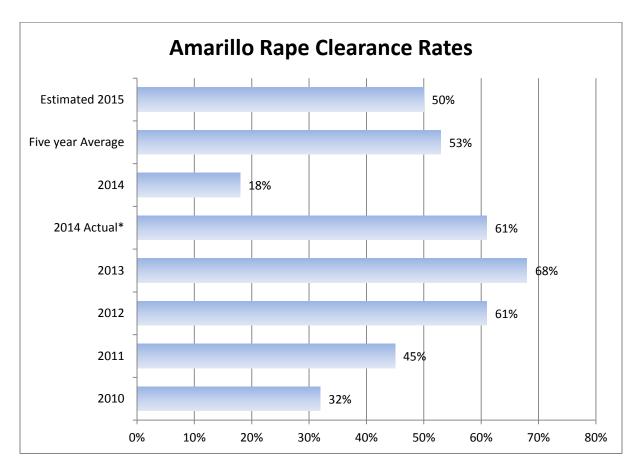
The 2014 "Crime in Texas" report also shows clearance statistics for rapes. When a case is cleared it means that the case has been solved. However, there may or may not be a prosecution because of a variety of factors. The report shows that Amarillo had a 2014 clearance rate of 18% compared to 68% the previous year. The differences in clearance rates year to year are based on when a case is cleared. A case that occurred in 2014, but

cleared in 2015, would be counted in the clearance rates for 2015 statistics, thus skewing the actual clearance rate for that year.

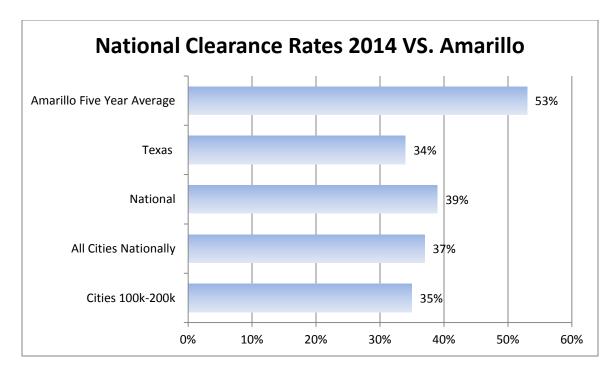
Our actual clearance rate for 2014, when counting the clearances, regardless of when they were made, is:

Under the old definition-- 65.22% Under the new definition-- 61.4%

These rates will continue to change as cases are cleared or reclassified in the future.



*Clearance rates fluctuate based on cases being cleared in future calendar years instead of the year in which the crime occurred. Reclassifications of case also affect clearance rates. This is why we see a much higher rate of clearances in some years compared to others. For 2014 the actual clearance rate as of December 2015 was 61.4%.

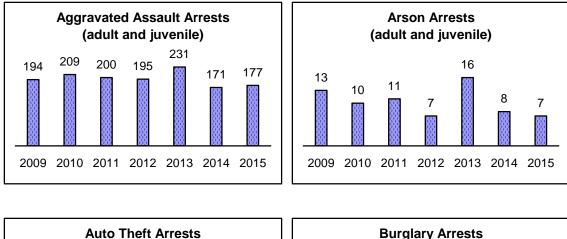


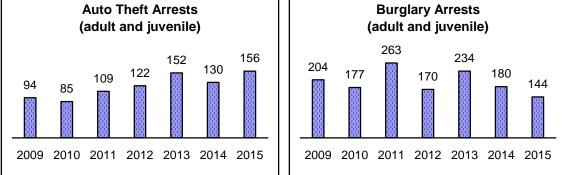
A study of 2015 rape incidents by Captain Boatler of our Detective Division concluded that in Amarillo approximately 65% of rapes were committed against children by a family member or someone the family knows. Approximately 29.5% of the rapes were committed against adults by someone they have a relationship with such as a boyfriend, husband, relative, etc. About 5.4% of the rapes are committed by strangers.

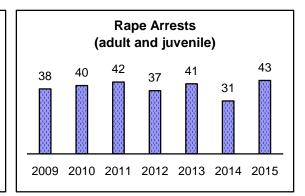
The Amarillo Police Department takes seriously our job of reducing crime and works in many avenues to accomplish that mission. For the offense of rape, our Crime Prevention Unit works to encourage the reporting of sexual assaults and educates the public about the facts surrounding this crime.

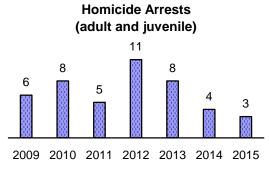
- In 2014, the CPU spoke to 7,589 people in 175 presentations, many of which were to children or to people who wanted specific information about how to avoid becoming a victim of sexual assault.
- In 2015 the CPU provided 97 prevention programs to 3,679 people. Many of these programs covered information to allow both children and adults to protect themselves from crimes of this nature.
- We build safety education programs to address the risk or concerns of any group.
- We use statistics to demonstrate risks, and work directly from known cases to tell people who exactly is at risk and how.
- We educate people to discourage them from the incorrect impression that rape is most often committed by a stranger.
- About 95% of sexual assaults are committed by a relative or acquaintance.

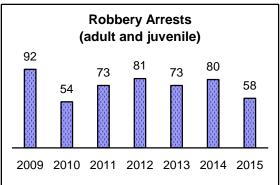
Regardless of the perpetrator, whether a family member, acquaintance or stranger, the Amarillo Police Department, along with the Potter and Randall County District Attorney's offices, The Bridge Advocacy Center, Family Support Services, Rape Crisis Volunteers and the Northwest Texas Hospital SANE program, commit substantial resources to help identify and prosecute offenders as well as work on behalf of the victims. This team concept does work as Amarillo has a large number of registered sex offenders indicating a large number of successful prosecutions.

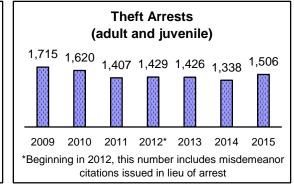














DIVISION REPORTS







Uniform Division Captain Elizabeth Brown

UNIFORM DIVISION



The Uniform Division, commanded by Captain Elizabeth Brown, is responsible for providing quality police service to the citizens of Amarillo on a continuous basis. The Division provides the initial police response to, and investigation of, most calls for police service in the City. Currently the Division is authorized a staff of 235 sworn officers plus two civilians, and operates a fleet of 109 patrol vehicles, which includes 13 motorcycles.

The officers in the Uniform Division provide police service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our uniform officers are assigned to four 10-hour shifts. This allows for an overlap of personnel during our busiest times, allowing better responses to calls for service. Day shift (2nd shift) is staffed with one lieutenant, 5 sergeants, and patrol officers. Evening shift (3rd shift) is staffed with 1 lieutenant, 5 sergeants and the most officers of any of our shifts due to call volume. Midnight shift (1st shift) is comprised of 1 lieutenant, 5 sergeants and multiple officers. A fourth shift, consisting of 1 lieutenant 3 sergeants and patrol officers, overlapping the evening and midnight shifts, when our call load is highest.

In addition, the Motorcycle Squad and the Proactive Criminal Enforcement (PACE) officers provide specialized services. Many officers in the Uniform Division hold part-time assignments in specialized units: SWAT, Hostage Negotiators, Bomb Squad, Dive Team, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, Training Academy Instructors, Field Training Officers, CIT Officers (Crisis Intervention Team), and other assignments.

In 2015, the Police D epartment had 127,912 calls for service, up from the number in 2014, which was 125,695. Our officers investigated 5,640 traffic crashes in 2015. There were a total of 24 fatal traffic accidents in 2015, which resulted in 26 fatalities. In 2014, there were 22 fatal traffic accidents, resulting in 23 deaths. Officers made 10,110 arrests for the year, down from 10,598 in 2014. Officers made 483 drunken driving arrests and 81 arrests for driving with a suspended license. Uniform Division personnel issued 39,586 traffic citations in 2015, compared to 43,406 in 2014.

PATROL

Officers assigned to patrol must be skilled in a wide variety of tasks, such as mediating family disturbances, providing first aid, maintaining order, enforcing traffic laws, arresting law violators, and investigating many types of criminal offenses. Patrol officers take crime scene photographs, process crime scenes for fingerprints, and take statements from witnesses of crimes.



CANINE

The Canine Unit is composed of four officers and four police dogs. One canine officer and



police dog are assigned to the midnight shift, one team is assigned to the 4th shift, one team is assigned to 3rd shift, and one team is assigned on days to the PACE Unit. They all assist officers on building searches for burglars, apprehension of fleeing suspects, and drug detection. When requested, the unit provides drug detection service to the Amarillo Independent School District and presents canine demonstrations to community organizations.

MOTORCYCLE

The Motorcycle Squad is composed of one sergeant and twelve officers. This is an increase of two officers from 2011. These motor officers concentrate on traffic enforcement at locations identified as high-volume accident sites and problem areas. Motorcycle officers accounted for 28,615 of the traffic citations issued by the Uniform Division, plus an

additional 20,611 warning citations.



CRIME ANALYSIS

One officer staffs Crime Analysis. He is responsible for tracking crime reports, crime patterns and trends; and then making that information available to Patrol Officers, Detectives, PACE, SWAT and other law enforcement agencies.



Proactive Criminal Enforcement Unit (P.A.C.E)

The Proactive Criminal Enforcement (PACE) Units consists of 13 officers and one sergeant on day shift, and one sergeant and six officers on the night shift. The night P.A.C.E. Unit was created in 2014. They are assigned in pairs to develop information on active criminals and high crime areas, provide Directed Patrol, investigate crime tips, perform crime prevention tasks, and provide assistance to other Divisions and law enforcement agencies as needed. In an effort to prevent crime and provide a better quality of life in our community, PACE officers also undertake various problem-solving endeavors that may reach outside the traditional law enforcement function. PACE officers work closely with other City departments, such as Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention, to provide a combined effort of evaluation and enforcement of quality of life issues.

In 2015, the PACE Units worked several special assignments at various locations to observe and arrest offenders committing various crimes and causing neighborhood problems. Other assignments included investigations leading to the arrest of individuals involved in manufacturing and selling narcotics, people committing burglaries, and individuals passing forged instruments. PACE officers conducted a lot of Directed Patrol, including working evening and night-time hours to help curb some problems at some of our local bars and our neighborhood parks. Furthermore, these officers have spent time working with citizens who have highlighted specific problems in their neighborhoods during the City Council meetings. The PACE Units also work very closely with the Detective Division to work repeat offenders and the most active criminals.

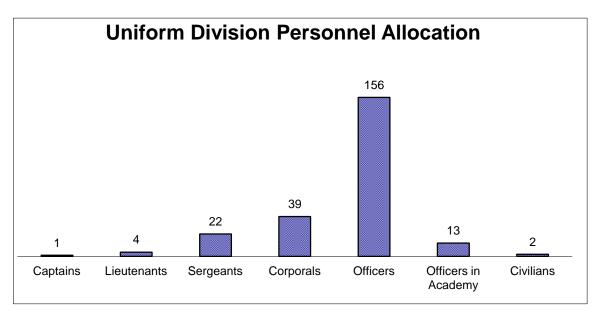
Many problems worked by this Unit have been solved through coordinated efforts between the PACE officers and landlords. By doing such tasks, the PACE Units addresses issues ranging from criminal activity to educating the public in areas including personal safety issues and methods of crime prevention.

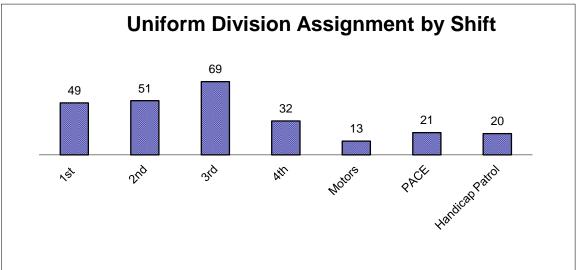
HANDICAP PATROL

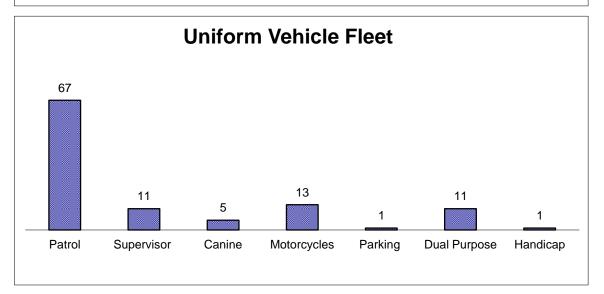
The Handicap Patrol is a group of civilian volunteers who, after receiving training, patrol parking lots and enforce handicap-parking violations. In 2015, this group issued 1,260 citations for handicap parking violations. This is down from 1,665 issued during 2014. This program is aimed at keeping handicap parking spaces available for those who qualify.

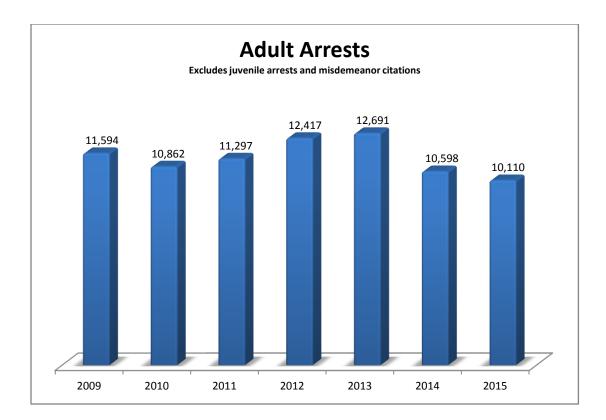
TRAFFIC GUIDE

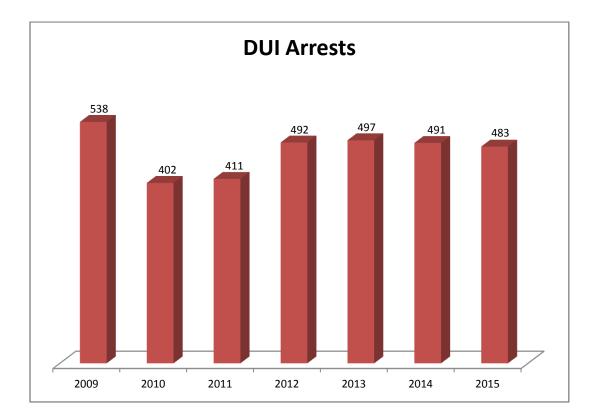
The Amarillo Police Department staffs one Traffic Guide, who enforces parking violations. During 2015, the Traffic Guide issued 737 parking citations.

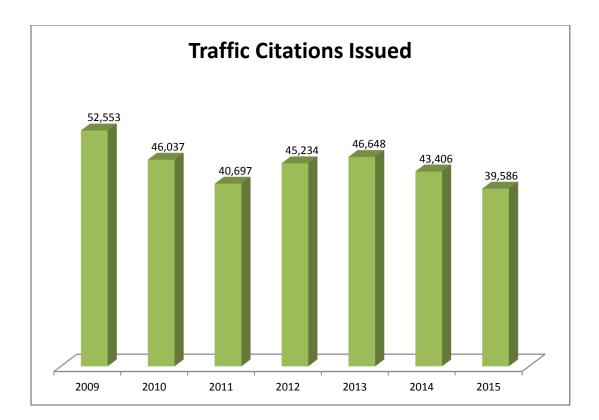


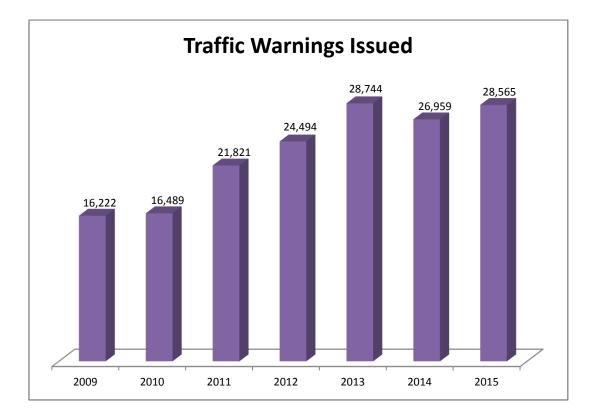


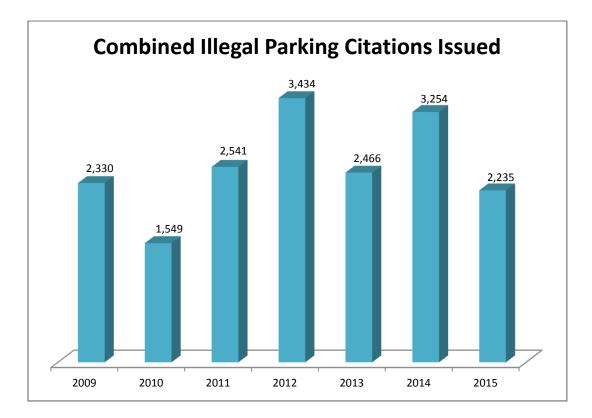


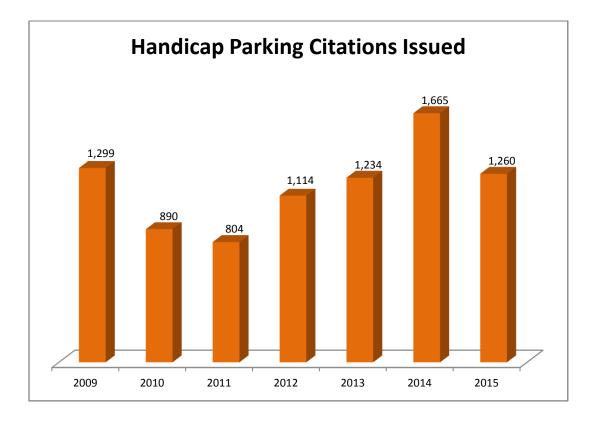


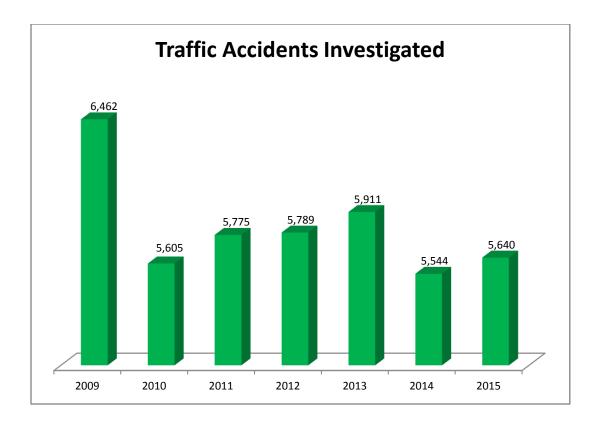


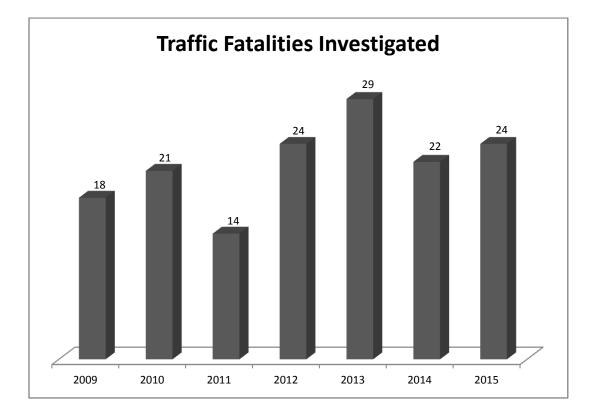


















DETECTIVE DIVISION Captain Tam Boatler

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division, commanded by Captain Tam Boatler, is responsible for the follow-up investigation of the majority of criminal cases within the City of Amarillo. Narcotics cases, arsons, death cases and homicides are not investigated by this Division. The Division's primary goal is crime prevention through follow-up investigations on cases initially investigated by the Uniform Patrol Division. The objectives to achieve this goal consist of assisting the victim through the judicial process, identification and apprehension of offenders, testifying at trial, recovery and processing of evidence, and recovery of stolen property.

The Detective Division has 74 commissioned officers, 12 civilian employees and 1 District Attorney Victim's Assistance Coordinator.

Squads within the Detective Division

<u>Crimes Against Persons</u> - commanded by Lieutenant Scott Chappell. Detectives in this squad investigate adult sex offenses, childvictim cases and missing persons. The squad also administers the Department's Sex-Offender Registration program



<u>Burglary</u>- commanded by Lieutenant Stan Rickwartz. Detectives in this squad investigate residential and business burglaries.

<u>Robbery</u>- commanded by Lieutenant Jason Zang. Detectives in this squad investigate business and personal robberies, assaults, family-related violence crimes, and other miscellaneous arrests by officers.

<u>White-Collar Crime</u>- commanded by Lieutenant Joe Loftus. Detectives in this squad investigate forgery, fraud, counterfeiting, identity theft, and scams.

<u>Theft</u>- commanded by Lieutenant John Krizan. Detectives in this squad investigate auto burglaries, thefts, vandalism, trespass, and other property-related offenses.

<u>Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit-</u> commanded by Lt. Ben Landrum. Detectives on this squad investigate all auto thefts, trailer thefts, and heavy equipment thefts, along with major auto burglaries, vehicle equipment, and accessory thefts.

<u>General Investigations</u>- commanded by Lt. Ken Albright. This unit is comprised of the following:

Juvenile Offender Squad: Investigators in the Juvenile Offender Squad investigate crimes committed by persons under the age of seventeen.

School Liaison Program: The School Liaison Program places officers in the schools to mentor students, investigate offenses occurring on school grounds and to take any enforcement action needed.

Pawn Unit: The Pawn Unit is responsible for inspection, records data entry and stolen property recovery from the numerous pawnshops in the city limits. The Sergeant over this unit also supervises 3 Civilian Investigators.



Traffic Investigation Squad:

The Traffic Investigation Squad investigates DWI cases, hit and run crashes, fatal crashes, and other traffic related incidents. In 2015, the squad was called out to investigate 73 major crashes. 24 of these vehicle crashes resulted in 26 fatalities. There were 5,640 total vehicle crashes in Amarillo and 483 DWI cases.

To increase the effectiveness of all investigations, the Detective Division employs five civilian investigators. These investigators are assigned cases that lack significant leads or solvability factors, which gives police detectives more time to devote to solving crimes that have good leads. If leads develop in a case initially assigned to a civilian investigator, that case is then reassigned to a police detective.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

The Crimes Against Persons Squad oversees the Sex Offender Registration Program. A Civilian Sex Offender Registration Assistant manages the daily registration duties. When an offender is found in violation, a case is created for investigation by a detective.

Sex offenders are registered via the Texas Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Registry. There are 575 active sex offenders currently living and registering in Amarillo. Additionally, 394 inactive registered sex offenders also list an Amarillo address. "Inactive" offenders are those individuals who are incarcerated, dead, or living elsewhere; but still have ties to Amarillo. There are 12 registered sex offenders who have "absconded". All 12 of these sex offenders have outstanding felony warrants for failure to register.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Sgt. Jerome Godfrey supervises the School Liaison Squad, which is comprised of eleven officers assigned to various schools within AISD, two officers assigned to CISD and one officer assigned as the Student Crime Stoppers Coordinator. The purpose of the School Liaison program is to insure the safety of students and school faculty, as well as promote

good public relations through formal and informal actions. In 2015, a total 187 presentations were given to approximately 6,126 students and parents.

In 2015, Liaison Officers totaled 6,518 complaints investigated, reports/supplements made and statements obtained. Arrests totaled 166, and 20 citations were issued.

The School Liaison Officers also worked with Municipal Court and conducted their seventh Summer Warrant Patrol. The officers served 1,244 warrants, with fines totaling over \$387,685.00

During the first two weeks of summer. the School Liaison Officers hosted the APD/Lisa Cherry Summer Camp. This program introduces youths to the Police Department and the officers spend the week with the children doing various police and civic activities.



CPL. LISA CHERRY SUMMER CAMP

After the school year ends, the Police Department hosts the Cpl. Lisa Cherry Summer Camp. Cpl. Lisa Cherry was assigned to the Juvenile Investigator Squad. In addition to her work as an investigator handling numerous cases involving troubled kids, Cpl. Cherry was a mentor to many kids and helped with the summer camp program. After her passing in 2006, the program was re-named to honor Cpl. Cherry's dedication to helping young people.

Students are recruited by teachers and School Liaison Officers. Focus for recruitment is on disadvantaged areas of town. Connecting with minority and disadvantaged students is an objective of this program.

The summer camp is two sessions, each one being one-week long. The School Liaison Officers coordinate the camp, and introduce the kids to various functions within and outside the Police Department. Many of the activities are team and community oriented activities designed to boost self esteem and a sense of accomplishment. The camp includes activities such as a tour of the Police Department, the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center, presentations from the Fire Department, one of the local emergency services helicopter, bomb team presentation, a trip to Boys Ranch for horseback riding, information about gangs and gang avoidance, police driving demonstration, police motorcycle demonstration, dangerous drugs presentation, rock or rope climbing activities and a presentation/participation in a SWAT team activity. The program concludes on Friday with a graduation ceremony.

The overall goal of the program is to create a life changing experience for the kids where they can build self confidence in their abilities, create friendships with other kids and form a good relationship with law enforcement officers. This program is planned for the summer of 2016 and is expected to continue beyond this.

STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS

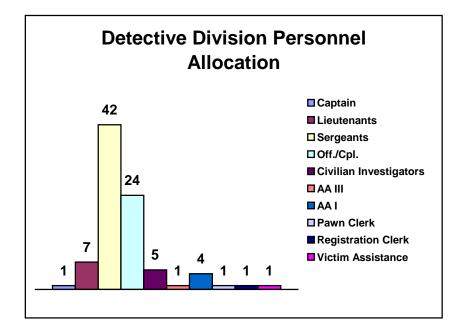
Student Crime Stoppers had a another good year in 2015 with \$2,510.00 cash rewards approved during the period of June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015 and \$1,350.00 worth of recovered stolen property recovered. Please note that SCS is on a fiscal year of June 1 through May 31 each year.

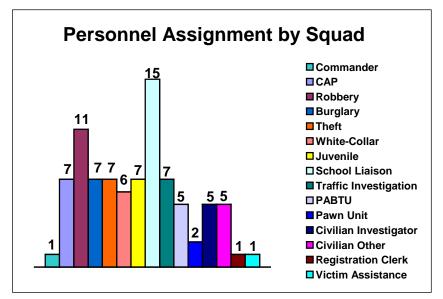
In 2015, the Amarillo Student Crime Stoppers program was given numerous performance awards including: Greatest Dollar Recovery, Productivity Award, and Most Cases Cleared.

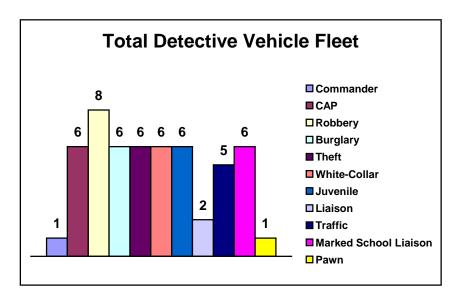
Amarillo Student Crime Stoppers, led by Officer Dale Powers, has been a model of efficiency for many years and over the past years, Officer Powers has received several recognition awards for his efforts in this program.

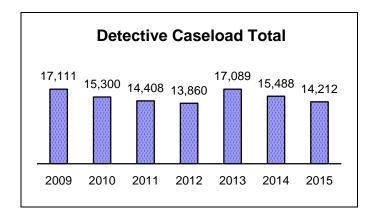
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Tips received	277	171
Arrests made	68	38
Cases cleared	114	50
Rewards paid	\$5,770	\$2,510
Property recovered	\$5,990	\$1,350
Narcotics seized	\$2,125	\$1,500

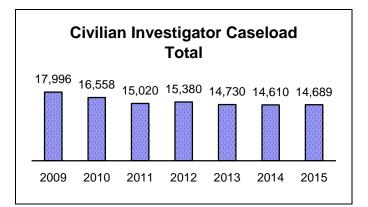


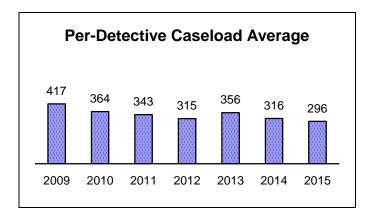


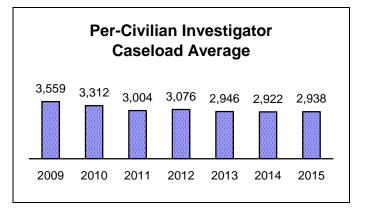


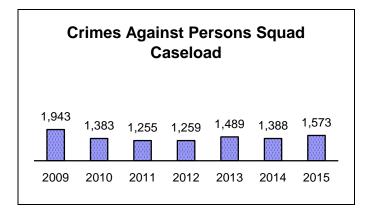


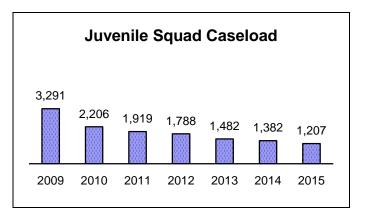


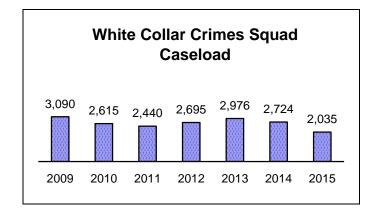


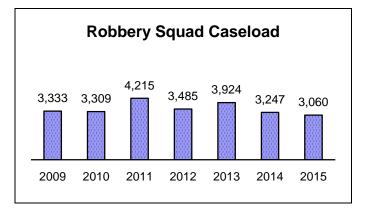


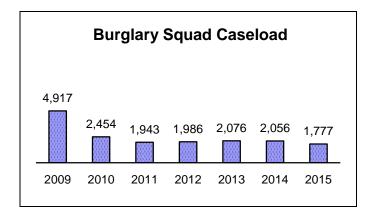


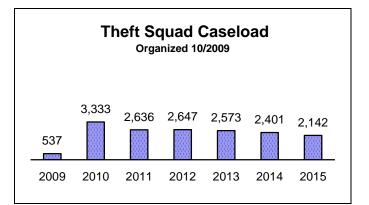


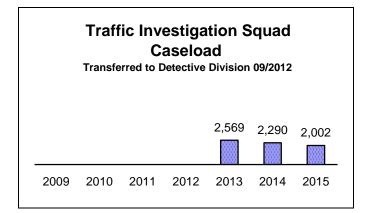




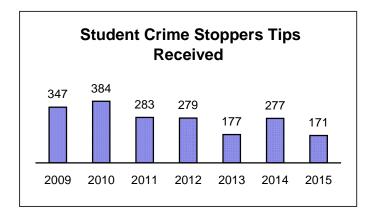


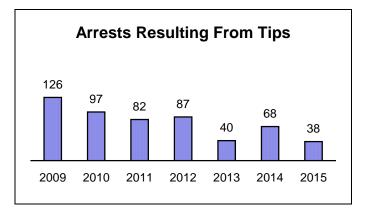


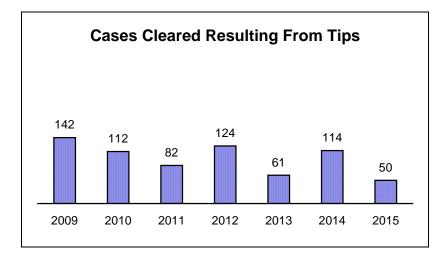


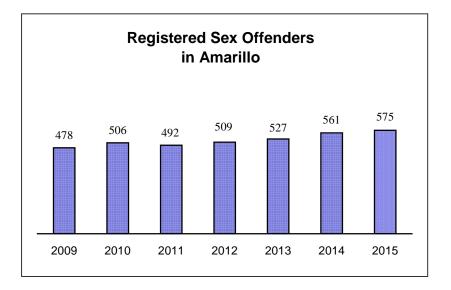


Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit Organized 09/2015										
							416			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015			









AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT







SERVICE DIVISION Captain Brad Lancaster

SERVICE DIVISION

Captain Brad Lancaster is the commander of the Service Division. Comprised of a team of dedicated professionals, the Service Division provides essential support for the everyday operation of the Department. The major components of the Service Division are the Records Section and Property and Evidence Section. The Service Division is staffed by a captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant, two officers and 32 (full-time and part-time) civilians. While the principal objective of the Service Division is to provide support for other divisions of the Department, a considerable amount of time is devoted to providing a variety of services to the public. Enforcement of the City's alarm ordinance is a responsibility of this Division. The goal of the City's alarm ordinance has been to decrease the amount of time spent by officers responding to false alarms. The Service Division also monitors the City wrecker contract. In addition, the Service Division is responsible for the design and the publishing of the Department's Annual Report. Our website can be visited at www.amapolice.org.

RECORDS SECTION



The Records Section serves as the official repository for all criminal records and documents of the Department. The section is responsible for data entry, maintaining all police reports, arrest records, and statistics. These duties include the preparation of reports that generate crime statistics sent to the State of Texas, so semi-annual and annual FBI crime data reports can be produced for the City of Amarillo. This section is also the contact point for citizens requesting copies of records under the Texas Open Records Act. The front desk personnel of the Service Division serve as receptionists for citizens seeking information or assistance. Employment criminal history checks are also available through the records department.

Report Writers assigned to the Service Division receive reports from persons calling on the telephone or citizens visiting the front desk. During 2015, Report Writers assigned to the Service Division made 5,044 reports from persons calling on the telephone or citizens making reports at the front desk. This is an increase from the 2014 total of 4,559. In 2015, Clerk Typists typed 24,391 reports and

17,819 supplements called in by officers. During 2015, the Department received 4,424 reports made on-line by citizens. Of these, 3,722 were assigned case numbers and imported into the records system.

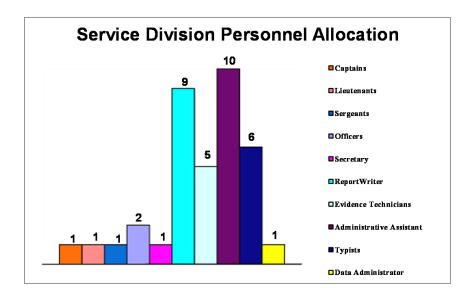
PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE SECTION

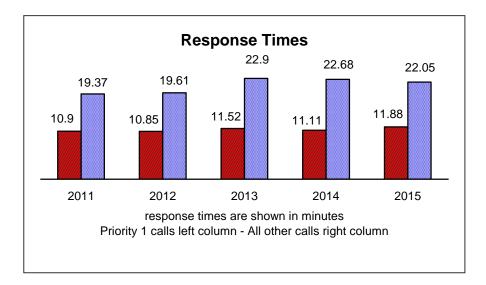
The Property and Evidence Section is responsible for receiving, processing, storing and disposing of evidence, found property, and personal property. A fundamental responsibility of the Property and Evidence Section is to maintain the chain of custody for evidence and to ensure the availability of that evidence for court. The Property Section also performs taxicab inspections for the issuance of permits.

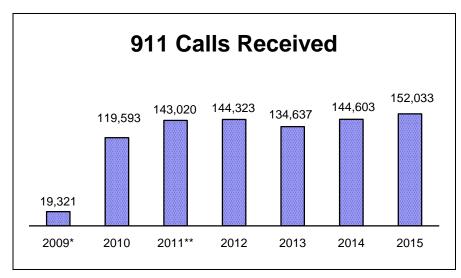


Each year, the City of Amarillo has a combined auction with the Police Department for the sale of unclaimed property held by the Property Section. In 2006, the Department began using local licensed Federal Firearms dealers for the sale of unclaimed or forfeited firearms. The Property Section contributed \$7,996.44 to the City's General Fund from unclaimed money in 2015, as compared to \$14,741.39 in 2014. The money comes from drug busts, unclaimed evidence, found monies, and unclaimed personal property.

The Property and Evidence section, in the past few years, has outgrown the current space in the basement of the Police Department. In order to alleviate the storage problem, the Police Department began moving property and evidence into a new storage warehouse downtown. This new facility will ensure that the Police Department can meet its storage needs for the critical service of storage of property and evidence.

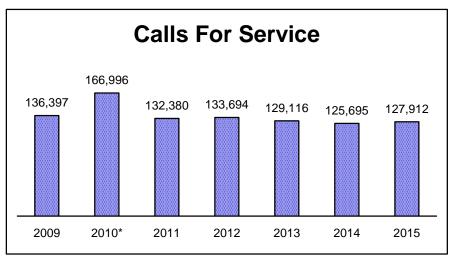




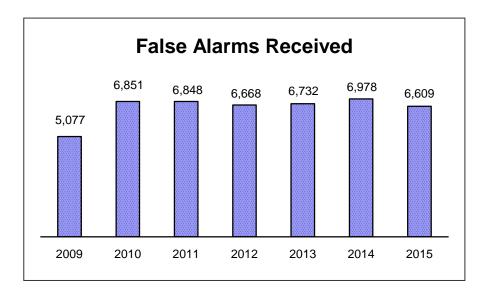


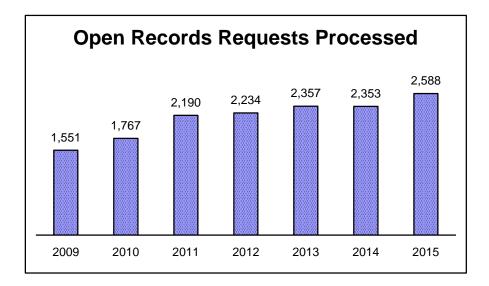
* 2009 911 calls received represents the number of 911 received at the AECC only for the last 2 months of 2009

** 2011(and beyond) 911 calls received represents the number of 911 calls received at the AECC for ALL City First Responders



*Due to AECC policy and dispatch software, 2010 Calls for Service include items that historically have not been counted in Calls for Service. These include self-initiated activity by officers and some inbound telephone calls that do not require a police response.





AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT







TRAINING AND PERSONNEL Captain James Burgess

TRAINING AND PERSONNEL



The Training and Personnel Division (T&P) coordinates a number of activities within the Amarillo Police Department. Among them are the hiring and training of all Police Department personnel, maintenance of all personnel and training records, compliance with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, as well as the oversight of the Department's payroll process. The Training and Personnel

Division is led by a Captain who is responsible for supervision of all aspects of the Division. The Captain also oversees the management of the city's shooting complex.

The Division has an Office of Professional Standards that is staffed by a Sergeant. This office is responsible for maintaining all of the Department's operations manuals, conducting staff inspections of all divisions to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations of the Department, insuring compliance with the Federal National Incident Management System program, and managing administration of the Department's compliance for the Texas Police Chiefs' Association Best Practices Recognition Program. The assigned Sergeant also teaches in the Academy.

The two Academy Training Sergeants are responsible for training all recruits and for mandatory in-service training of the Department's sworn officers.

There are two full-time Background Investigators who are responsible for conducting preemployment background investigations for sworn and civilian personnel and teaching various classes. In addition, the two Background Investigators serve as quartermaster only in the respect of issuing, and return of, various equipment and uniforms for sworn personnel. The storing, inventory, ordering and purchasing of equipment is solely under the control of the civilian Quartermaster/Purchaser, who is funded by the City Purchasing Department and housed within the police building. Each academy requires four background investigators to conduct background investigations on 65 to 80 persons. Therefore, two additional personnel are pulled from other police units to assist in the investigations during this process. These officers are on loan to T & P 10 months out of the year.

The Firearms Range Sergeant is the Range Master and manages the Amarillo Shooting Complex. The Range Master supervises one full-time and nine part-time civilians who staff the Range Officer positions for public operations. The Range Master coordinates all firearms training and qualifications for sworn officers.

Two civilian Administrative Assistant IVs also serve the Division. One maintains payroll data for all Police Department employees, assists in the hiring process for police recruit positions, and assists with the Student and Civilian Police Academies, offered annually. The second manages the hiring process for civilian employees, maintains records for civilian employees, departmental training records, demographics and statistics, and generates and processes performance evaluations for each Department employee. Additionally, the Division processes health insurance benefits and FMLA paperwork. An Administrative Assistant I serves as receptionist for the Division. In 2015, the Division provided 202 training classes, involving 3,502 students, for a total of 51,022 hours of training. These yearly figures include all supervisor-directed training, Academy training hours, special assignment training and required NIMS training completed by the City. In addition, there were 34"roll call" trainings conducted throughout the year for sworn and civilian employees. Many employees attended out-of-town training classes, as assigned by their division.

The Training and Personnel Division is responsible for recruiting, selecting, testing, hiring and



training new police officers. Two basic academies are conducted annually. The hiring process is the same for all recruit applicants and includes a written exam, physical fitness agility test, thorough background investigation, a polygraph examination to verify the findings of the background investigation, an interview board that includes five senior and ranking Department officers, a psychological examination and a physical fitness for duty examination.

87th Academy

The 87th Amarillo Police Academy graduated on June 10, 2015, with all twelve who began the Academy finishing. In the 17 week FTO program, only two were unable to complete the training session. At the completion of their Academy, the Amarillo Police Department had 347 sworn officers of its 365 authorized strength.

88th Academy

This Academy was to begin in June, 2015. But, due to the low officer attrition rate of the Department, the Academy was canceled; and so was the testing date set for December, 2014. Therefore, the hiring process for the 88th Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy did not start until May, 2015, after a failed attempt of implementing an Accelerated Academy. When the process for the 88th began, it began with 283 online applicants. From those online applicants, 111 appeared to take the Civil Service entrance exam. From the 111 participants in the exam, 81 persons passed.

- 19 females took the exam; 17.1% of 111 testing applicants; 11(57.8%) of the 19 females passed. Thereby 9.9% of the applicants passing the exam were females.
- 92 males took the test; 82.8% of 111 testing applicants; 70 (76.0%) of males passed;
- 2 Asian/Pacific Islander applicants took the test; 1 passed
- 3 black applicants took the test; 0 passed
- 32 Hispanic applicants took the test; 18 passed
- 74 white applicants took the test; 62 passed

The 81 persons who passed the written exam were then scheduled for the next phase of the process – the physical agility test.

- 11 were females
- 70 were males
- 66 persons passed the physical agility test.
- 9 Females passed and 57 males passed

Because of one withdraw, only 65 persons had their background investigated. Of the 65 persons investigated, twenty-one were presented to the oral board. Of the twenty-one presented, thirteen passed the oral board, physical exam and psychological exam.

The 88th Academy began with 13 recruits on December 3rd 2015 and is expected to graduate June 15, 2016. Of those recruits presently in the academy:

- 10 are males 9 WM, 1 HM
- 3 are females 1 WF, 2 HF

89th Academy

Testing for the 89th Academy was conducted November 14, 2015 with 129 persons of the 219 who applied showing up to take the exam. Ninety-one persons passed the written exam and advanced to the physical agility testing. In the agility testing, seventy-two persons passed, fifteen failed and four did not show up for the test. This was the first Academy in which the Amarillo Police Department offered a Civil Service Prep Course to aid persons in the taking of the Civil Service entrance exam. Thirty-six persons signed up for the tutoring class.

- Thirty-two of the thirty-six showed up to take the course.
- Twenty-two of those who took advantage of the tutoring class and took the entrance exam passed. Ten did not.

This Academy is schedule to begin June 2, 2016, two weeks before the 88th Amarillo Police Academy graduates.

Testing for the 90th Amarillo Police Academy is scheduled to take place on Saturday May 14, 2016.

Application and Development

Additional responsibilities of the Training and Personnel Division include coordinating with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) on hiring, training, and licensing of our police officers; coordinating compliance with the Texas Police Chief's Association Best Practices Recognition Program; and coordinating the Department's compliance with the City of Amarillo's annual "HAZMAT" chemical inventory. In addition, Training and Personnel staff conduct many research projects for the department.

Recruiting Efforts

Experts and police officials believe that a police department that reflects its racially and ethnically diverse community can improve upon the relationships of its residents of the community in which it serves. The Amarillo Police Department encourages all qualified men and women to apply. In order to encourage a more diverse police force, the Amarillo Police Department has, and will extend its recruiting efforts to minority fraternity groups, churches, publications, websites, radio, and local organizations, such as the NAACP and LULAC. The Amarillo Police Department, has over the last ten years, had a member from of the African-American Black and Hispanic community on its Police Academy Advisory Board. The Amarillo Police Department is determined to increase its efforts in minority recruiting because recruitment of minority officers is very competitive, not only in this state, but throughout the United States.

In 2015 the Training & Personnel staff attended 11 job fairs in three states. The Amarillo Police Department has had job postings on seven non-local websites and plan on greatly increasing this number for next year. The Amarillo Police Department is dedicated to obtaining the best applicants for our community from all racial and ethnic communities.

Department Strength

As of October 1, 2015, the Amarillo Police Department has an authorized strength of 371 officers. The Department employs 57 full-time and three part-time civilian employees. The following calculations are based on our actual strength of 351 sworn personnel as of 12-31-2015:

- Average police officer age, including all ranks: 38.57 compared to 38.0 in 2014.
- Average length of service for sworn personnel: 12.8 years compared to 11.7 in 2014.
- Female officers: $25 (7.12 \%)^* a$ decrease of 1 from 2014.
- Male officers: 326 (92.02%)* an increase of 2 from 2014.
- Racial analysis:
 - 296 Caucasian officers (83.76 %)
 - 49 Hispanic officers (13.39%)
 - 4 Black officers (1.13%)
 - 2 Native American officers (.56%)

The Department ended 2015 with 52 permanent civilian employees and two part-time civilian employees. The average length of service for civilian employees is 9.64 years.

Education

At the end of 2015, 39.03% of the sworn personnel have college degrees:

- Masters: 11 (increase of 2 from 2014)
- Bachelor: 85 (increase of 2 from 2014)
- Associate: 41 (increase of 12 from 2014)

There are an additional 114 officers that have college hours, but no degree. They average 45.8 college hours. The number of officers having college hours is 251. That is 71.50% of the officers. There are 100 officers who have no earned college hours.

At the end of 2015, 38 officers held an Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate, 83 officers held an Advanced Certificate, and 133 hdld a Master Peace Officer Certificate.



Citizen Police Academy



The 22nd Citizen Police Academy (C.P.A.) was held in the Fall of 2015. These citizens met one night per week for 12 class sessions covering departmental organization, crime scene investigation, evidence collection, firearms orientation, police driving tactics, crowd control measures, narcotics identification,

investigative procedures and other topics. Citizen Police Academy members are also allowed to ride on observation with patrol officers. Upon graduation, these citizens have a good understanding of police practices and functions and can provide a solid base of community support for the Department. All 23 persons who began the Academy, graduated.

Student Police Academy

Once per year, the Police Department hosts the Student Police Academy. This program is similar to the Citizen Police Academy, except that the participants are high school age students. The students attend a series of classes once per week over an 11 week period. The classes cover the various departments and functions of police work, including some "hands-on" activities. Some of these students aspire to have career in the law enforcement field. The students are allowed to ride along with a police officer on duty twice during the program.

One goal of the Student Police Academy is to introduce young citizens to the role of a police officer and develop a life-long understanding of the profession. The objectives of the Amarillo Police Department Student Police Academy are:

"To improve communication and obtain student input and support throughout the city. It is our hope the graduates will become partners with us in identifying problems and solutions to the crime issues that are affecting our community. Graduates can take their knowledge back to their schools where they can use it to enhance the quality of school, and after school life."

It is the intent of the Amarillo Police Department to reach a wide diversity of students across Amarillo and create interest in serving the community as a citizen and as a police officer.

The Department is currently conducting its 15th Student Academy. This program is held every Spring.

The 14th Student Police Academy (S.P.A.) was held in the Spring of 2015. There were 20 students who completed the Academy out of the 28 students who began the academy.

The current Amarillo Police Academy (88th) has one white female recruit and one Hispanic female recruit that graduated from the Student Police Academy while in high school.

Volunteer Program

The Amarillo Police Department Volunteer Program began in 1992. Volunteers serve in various assignments within the Department, including the Service Division, Property Unit and the Traffic Enforcement Unit. David Barnett, one of our longest serving volunteers, works with the police fleet Lieutenant.

The Handicap Patrol started the year of 2015 with 15 members. During the year, Sgt. Hill held a class with 6 new recruits. This brings the Handicap Patrol up to 21 members. These new members received training to learn to use our Brazos Electronic Citation Devices. The Uniform Division uses the Brazos device for issuing electronic generated tickets instead of issuing a handwritten paper ticket. Following each training session, Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Jones rides with the new Handicap Patrol members to assist with the on-the-job training portion of their training.

Our Handicap Patrol issued 1,503 citations for the 2015 year. The total number of citations issued since the start of the Volunteer Handicap Patrol is 25,796 citations. The Handicap Patrol has provided 6,852 hours of volunteer service to the Department. The total volunteer hours for 2015 were 3,594 hrs.

An appreciation luncheon was held on November 19, 2015 to recognize all of the Amarillo Police Department's volunteer employees. It was attended by the recently appointed interim City Manager Terry Childers.

Chaplain Program

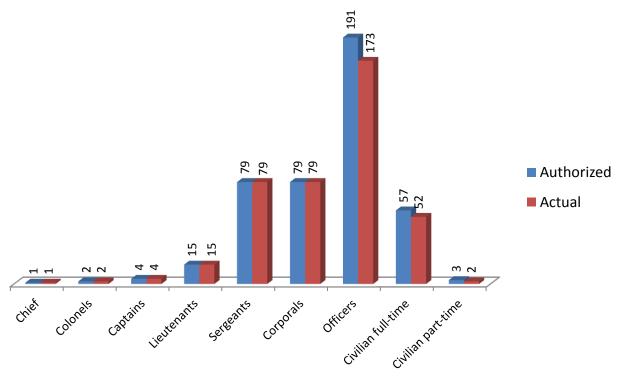
The Chaplain program at the Amarillo Police Department has six volunteer chaplains in order to ensure availability of chaplain services for our employees in times of illness, injury, or death. One volunteer is a full-time employee, two are retired officers, two are local pastors and the other is a retired officer's wife. Department chaplains visit employees and family members in local hospitals and assist in funerals. The chaplains provide confidential counseling to department personnel and their families. The Chaplain program is made up of volunteers without cost to the department.

Crisis Stress Debriefing Incident Program

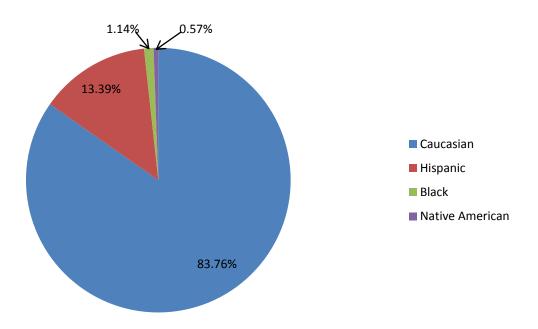
The Amarillo Police Department provides peer counselors for department employees. The counselors are trained department volunteers who conduct critical incident stress debriefings after traumatic events and make confidential referrals to professional counselors upon request.

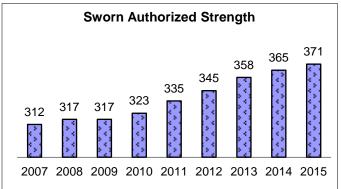


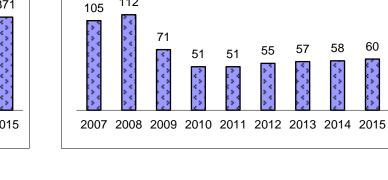
AUTHORIZED VS. ACTUAL STRENGTH 12/31/2015

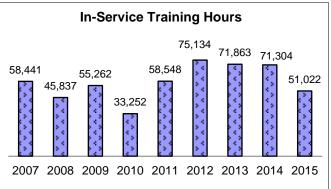


RACIAL ANALYSIS – SWORN PERSONNEL 12/31/2015

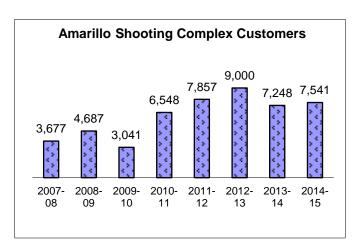


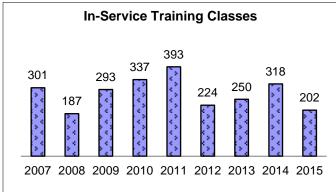


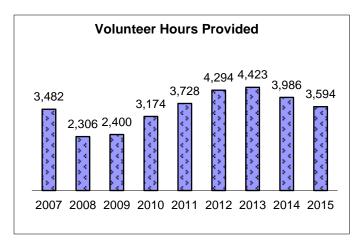


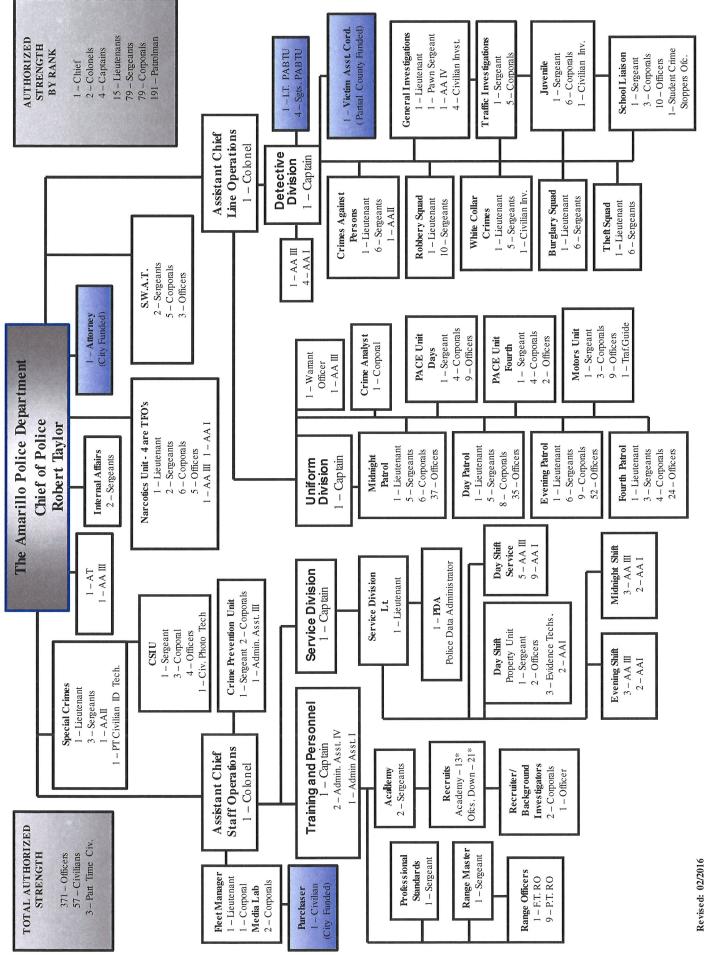


Civilian Authorized Strength









* These numbers are counted and reflected in Uniform Patrol

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

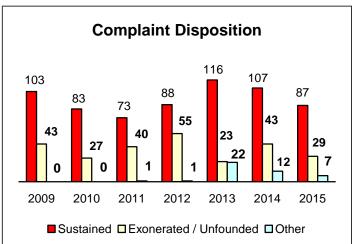
Complaints from citizens and complaints from within the Department are investigated by the Internal Affairs Investigators. During 2015 there were 123 formal complaints filed. Some of the cases involved more than one Officer and/or more than one specific complaint. After investigation, **87** complaints were determined to be *Sustained*, **29** complaints were *Exonerated* or *Unfounded*, and **7** complaints were *Not Sustained*. Each of the 87 Sustained complaints resulted in disciplinary action of some type.

There were 3 incidents in which Officers were involved in shooting situations. The incidents and investigations were found to be justified. There were 3 incidents where a firearm was discharged in the shooting of an animal, and the Discipline Review Board found that those incidents were all justified. There were also 2 incidents in which firearms were accidently discharged, and discipline resulted from both those investigations.

There were no In-Custody deaths which occurred in 2015.

Sergeant M.D. Hill Internal Affairs





2015 INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATS

Complaint Type:	Sustained	Exon / Unf	Other	Total	% Sustained
Excessive Force:	6	10	0	16	38%
Illegal Search:	0	2	0	2	0%
Illegal Arrest:	2	0	0	2	100%
Neglect or Inattention to Duty:	69	8	1	78	88%
Falsify or Release Of Records:	0	0	0	0	0%
Conduct					
Unbecoming:	9	4	6	19	47%
Criminal Offenses:	1	2	0	3	33%
Racial Profiling:	0	3	0	3	0%
TOTALS	87	29	7	123	71%

Officer InvolvedShootings:3Justified:3Discharge ofFirearm:3Justified:3AccidentalDischarge:of Firearm2

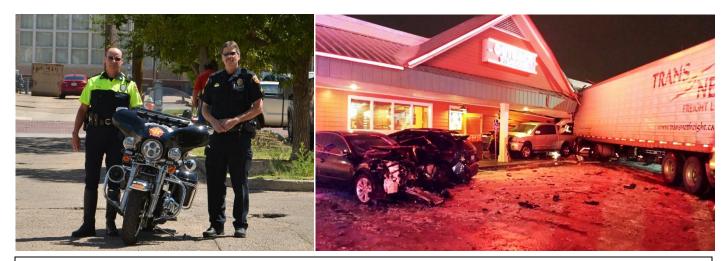
In Custody Death 0

Disciplinary action was taken on all founded complaints. Such action can include verbal counseling, written reprimands, suspensions, and terminations.

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) provides public education in crime prevention ranging from traffic safety to sexual assault awareness and prevention. The CPU's presentations are built within the unit and are based on knowledge of current, local criminal activity. The programs are provided on request to any group interested in safety or prevention strategies. Some organizations schedule CPU presentations on a recurring basis as employee safety or prevention education. Some of the 2015 presentations included Fraud Prevention, Workplace Violence, Current & Local Crime, Neighborhood Watch, and Women's Personal Safety/Sexual Assault Awareness. Public concern about violence in the workplace continues to generate requests for site visits and presentations to address the issue. The CPU has provided job-specific crime prevention and safety training for realtors, social workers, city employees, bank employees, and others with specific risk factors.

The CPU spoke to 3,679 people in formal presentations in 2015. The CPU also provides the public with information about APD operations and activity through public/media releases and direct contact as the Department's public information office. Releases are distributed through email and the Nixle message system, which is linked to the Department's Twitter feed. Nixle gives subscribers no-cost, convenient access to media releases, information about ongoing incidents that affect the public, and crime prevention information directly from the Department. In 2015, the CPU helped the APD provide timely, reliable information to nearly 9,400 Nixle subscribers and to the public through daily contact with local media. CPU expanded contact with the public by using Twitter (@AmarilloPD). The APD has over 1,100 followers. Nearly 1,000 "Tweets" have been posted in eight months of operation. The CPU is also in contact with the public through another social media resource, www.nextdoor.com, a by-invitation site that helps neighbors connect with each other and the community.

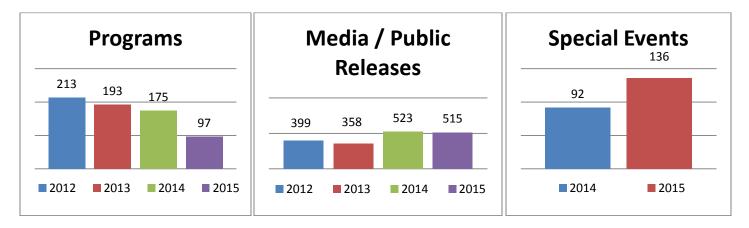


The CPU informs the public about routine police matters, such as the introduction of Motors' new high visibility uniform shirts. The contrast was demonstrated by Sgt. Wes Hill and Cpl. Jerry Neufeld in this photograph. CPU officers respond to major events to provide information to the media. CPU officers make releases from ongoing incidents to advise the public about the activity and any hazards that may affect them. The accident scene photograph shown above, taken by an officer at the scene, was posted to the APD Twitter feed. The accident on IH-40 attracted local interest and national media attention and led to traffic being rerouted while the scene was cleared. CPU provided information directly to the public to help them avoid traffic congestion and make them aware of the facts surrounding the accident.

The CPU is often the public's point of access to the Police Department, responding to numerous inquires about the law, criminal activity, departmental practices, and police operations by telephone and E-mail, daily. The CPU takes pride in this role and in responding to the public's questions quickly and accurately or making appropriate referrals.

The CPU provides security surveys to home and business owners at no cost. This inspection helps citizens prevent burglary, theft, and other crimes and allows for "one-on-one" crime prevention education.

The CPU provides presentations for the Citizen's and Student Police Academy and APD Summer Camp as well as other youth oriented activities. This year, the CPU updated roll call training in public information/media interaction. The unit emphasizes educating the public about prevention and the Department's efforts to protect them.



Written press releases allow the CPU to provide detailed information to the public and media. In 2015, the CPU created, reviewed, or published 515 formal releases, and posted updates to many of those releases.

The Crime Prevention Unit provided 97 programs that reached thousands of citizens in 2015. CPU officers made 70 calls to service, check, or install WAVE or Varda alarms that are used to protect property that is particularly at risk. In 2014, the CPU started tracking public events that were not provided in a presentation format as a special event rather than a program. There were 136 special event appearances in 2015 compared to 92 in 2014. The "special event" designation more accurately reflects the number of public contacts in which the unit participates. These special events can be static patrol car displays at school, civic or non-profit organization events, attending meetings of community groups, coordinating media event coverage, radio interviews with PSA production, or any of the other tasks the CPU is assigned to complete.

Amarillo Crime Stoppers operates as part of the Crime Prevention Unit, playing an important role in coordinating with the media and investigators to publicize information about wanted suspects and unsolved crimes.



In October of 2015, Amarillo Crime Stoppers attended the 27th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference in Brownsville, Texas. At this conference, the program received the required training hours to maintain program certification. The program also celebrated several successes by receiving an award at the state conference. We received a productivity award for most cases cleared based on the population we serve.

The Fugitive of the Week program provides the public with information on wanted persons and publicizes the reward program. Every week, information on the Fugitive of the Week is distributed to every local television broadcast outlet. This year tips lead to the arrest of 47 fugitives who were promoted weekly. Crime Stoppers tips directly led to the arrest of 63 wanted people this year. In 2015, Amarillo Crime Stoppers received 1,425 tips. From those tips we cleared 86 cases and arrested 58 suspects. Those tips led to the recovery of \$30,300 in property. Successful tips also removed \$61,267 in narcotics from our city streets. Amarillo Crime Stoppers approved 58 rewards for 2015 compared to 82 rewards in 2014, for a total of \$12,500. Even though a total of 58 rewards were approved, only 63.79% of the tipsters called back to collect a reward. Amarillo Crime Stoppers also continued the use of "Nixle" as a very useful tool to notify the community about fugitives, captures and unsolved crimes. The use of "Nixle" has already generated tips that have provided information leading to fugitive arrests and leads on crimes in the Amarillo area.

We conducted our 7th Annual Amarillo Crime Stoppers car show, which was held over Labor Day weekend. Amarillo Crime Stoppers and Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo worked together to make this a success. We had 123 vehicles in attendance this year. This was a great way for our entire volunteer Board of Directors to be among the community we serve. This was our 2nd year to have an indoor venue located at the Amarillo Civic Center. The Chief of Police, Robert Taylor, was on site to select a special "Chief's Choice" award to a lucky winner.

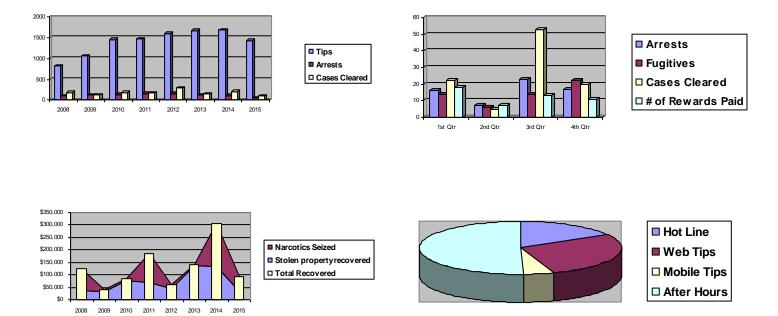




We are grateful that the citizens of the Amarillo area support us by providing tips, volunteering on our Board, and for the generous monetary support to keep the program running. We could not have been this successful without the tremendous help of the law enforcement community following up on the tips we received. The Crime Stoppers anonymous reward system, Fugitive of the Week program, and help from the public continues to make the Amarillo area a safer place for all of us to live and work.



Amarillo Crime Stoppers launched a brand new website design on November 1st, 2015. The website brings with it new tipping formats called "P-3 tips". The new design offers fully encrypted web tipping and a smart phone app for iPhone and Android based users. Our website is <u>www.amapolice.org</u>. Our website is updated several times a week with the current crimes we need help solving and information on fugitives that we need to locate. Our website offers information on weekly fugitives, the "Crime of the Week", "Do you know me" page with photos and videos of local crimes as well as information about our sponsors and how the Crime Stoppers program works in the towns and communities of Potter, Randall and Carson Counties.



SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT

Formed on December 10, 1981, the Special Crimes Unit is responsible for the investigation of homicides, suspicious deaths, officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, fire deaths, and the deaths of children. Outside the City of Amarillo, the Special Crimes Unit has jurisdiction in Potter and Armstrong counties. The unit consists of 3 investigators from the Amarillo Police Department and 1 from the Potter County Sheriff's Office. In May 2015, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU) became a part of the Special Crimes Unit. The CSIU processes evidence in many cases investigated by APD. Several CSIU officers are trained in shooting reconstruction, blood pattern analysis, and advanced crimes scene photography. In addition, several members of CSIU are certified latent print examiners.

Members of the Special Crimes Unit:

Lieutenant Erick Bohannon – Amarillo Police Department – Unit Coordinator Sgt. BJ Chester – Potter County Sheriff's Office – Assistant Unit Coordinator Sgt. David Hagler – Amarillo Police Department Sgt. Chris Sheffield – Amarillo Police Department Sgt. Mike Dunn – Amarillo Police Department Callie Haney – Unit Secretary

CSIU - all from the Amarillo Police Department

Sgt. Joel Hodges – CSIU Supervisor Cpl. Ed Carroll Cpl. Caleb Sanderson Cpl. Gordon Eatley Cpl. Tony Vaughn Officer Jimmy Rifenberg Officer Doug Peoples Officer Carmela Smith Sgt. (Retired) Mike Crandell – part-time CSI Jennifer Torres – Civilian Photo Tech

NOTABLE CASES OF 2015:

On January 16, 2015, the Special Crimes Unit investigated the first homicide of the year. The case was classified as a murder/suicide. Joe Martinez shot and killed a woman inside the home and he then ran outside and shot and killed himself.

On January 24, 2015, at approximately 1:05 AM, officers of the Amarillo Police Department were dispatched to the 2600 block of NW 15th on a domestic disturbance. Officers were advised there was a female victim of an assault and that the suspect fled the scene. The victim was transported by ambulance to a local hospital with life threatening injuries. The suspect was later taken into custody and booked in the Potter County Correction Center on a charge of aggravated assault against a family member. The victim later died at the hospital. Preliminary autopsy results indicated the victim was strangled to death and the case was reclassified as a homicide. The suspect is Luis Alberto Olivas.

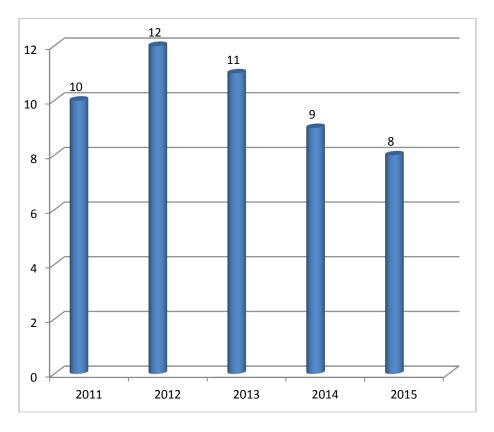
At 1:20 PM, on October 9, 2015, officers were dispatched to the American Motor Inn at 4519 Canyon Drive on person who was deceased. Special Crimes was eventually called to investigate due to the suspicious nature of the death. The deceased was identified as a age 65 man. Preliminary autopsy results indicated he had died from asphyxia and strangulation, and that he had a wad of hair obstructing his airway that contributed to his death. The man's wife was booked for murder.

On the morning of November 8, the Special Crimes Unit was called to assist in the investigation of the death of woman who was struck by a vehicle at the Canadian River. The driver of the vehicle, Kameron Peeks, was eventually booked for manslaughter. The victim was a 31 year old woman.

On the morning of November 30, 2015, officers of the Amarillo Police Department were dispatched to 5000 SW 45th on a suspicious call where two people were reportedly shot. Officers arrived to find two individuals deceased inside the business from what appeared to be a gunshot wounds to the upper body. The individuals were both 22 years old. Special Crimes investigators determined David Gisch shot and killed one person and then shot and killed himself.



The Special Crimes Unit receiving the 2015 Above and Beyond Award from the Randall County District Attorney's Office



Homicides Investigated by Special Crimes since 2011

Statistical Information

2015 Homicides	8				
2015 Homicides Cleared					
Number of Homicides by:					
Gunshot	3				
Strangulation	2				
Blunt Force	2				
Other	1				
Homicides by Jurisdiction:					
City of Amarillo	7				
Potter County (outside the city limits)	1				
Armstrong County	0				
Suspicious Deaths (later determined not to be a homicide)					
Officer Involved Shootings (includes Potter County)					
Child Deaths	16				
CSIU Callouts	351				
Total Latent Print cards evaluated	4,000				

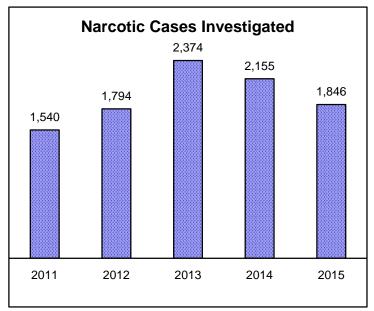
NARCOTICS UNIT AND SWAT

Narcotics Unit

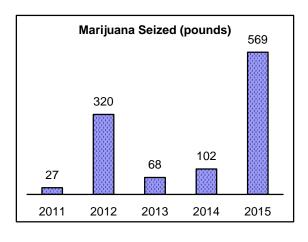
Lt. Terry Lichtie is the Commander of the Narcotics Unit and SWAT Team. The Narcotics Unit is comprised of 7 Narcotic Agent Investigators. Sgt Brent Clay supervises all agents and runs the day to day operations of the Narcotics Unit. Sgt Thomas Hightower is the case manager and files all narcotic cases for the Amarillo Police Department. Four additional Agents are assigned to positions in the local offices of the various federal agencies. Two Agents are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Agency, one Agent is assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigations and one Agent is assigned to Homeland Security. The Narcotics Unit is responsible for the following:

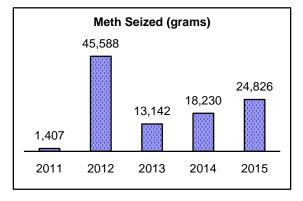
- Enforcement of laws prohibiting the illegal sale, possession and distribution of controlled substances.
- Investigating offenses involving organized criminal activity.
- Enforcement of laws prohibiting illegal gambling operations.
- Enforcement of laws prohibiting prostitution.
- Enforcement of pornography laws.
- Providing community education programs about illegal narcotics.

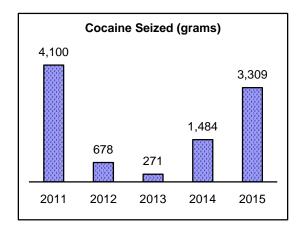
Narcotics Agents use various investigative methods, such as surveillance and undercover operations to complete their investigations. These result in the issuance of arrest warrants and/or search warrants.

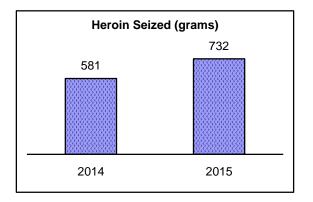


The following charts show the amount of several types of illegal narcotics seized by the Amarillo Police Department in the previous 5 years. These stats do not include narcotics seizures from joint investigations with state and federal agencies:









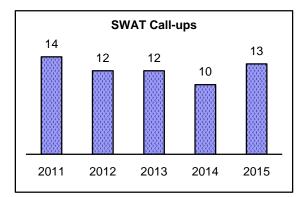
In addition to conducting narcotic investigations, agents of the Narcotics Unit presented narcotics awareness programs to local professional and civic groups throughout Amarillo.

SWAT Team

There are 8 full-time members of the SWAT Team led by Sgt Kyle Hawley. There are 9 SWAT Alternates that support the mission of the full time SWAT Team. The mission of the SWAT Team is to support the Amarillo Police Department with a tactical response to critical incidents. Critical incidents include, but are not limited to:

- Hostage situations
- Barricaded situations
- Sniper situations
- High-risk suspect apprehension
- High-risk search warrants

In 2015, there were 13 SWAT call ups. 9 call ups were in the city limits, 1 call up was in Potter County and 3 call ups were mutual aid requests in the Texas Panhandle, outside of the metropolitan area. All were dangerous situations, but 2 of the 4 outside the city limits involved an exchange of gunfire with armed suspects. The SWAT Team and SWAT Alternates were cited for their bravery in the rescue of an officer pinned down by gunfire and received the APD Medal of Valor for the incident occurring on Memorial Day 2015 in Dimmitt, TX.





COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CPL. LISA CHERRY SUMMER CAMP



After the school year ends, the Police Department hosts the Cpl. Lisa Cherry Summer Camp. Cpl. Lisa Cherry was assigned to the Juvenile Investigator Squad. In addition to her work as an investigator handling numerous cases involving troubled kids, Cpl. Cherry was a mentor to many kids and helped with the summer camp program. After her passing in 2006, the program was re-named to honor Cpl. Cherry's dedication to helping young people.

Students are recruited by teachers and School Liaison officers. Focus for recruitment is on disadvantaged areas of town. Connecting to minority and disadvantaged students is an objective of this program.

The summer camp is two sessions, each one being one-week in length. The School Liaison officers coordinate the camp, and introduce the kids to various functions within and outside the Police Department. Many of the activities are team and community-oriented activities designed to boost self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. The camp includes activities such as a tour of the Police Department and the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center, presentations from the Fire Department and one of the local emergency services helicopter, bomb team presentations, a trip to Boys Ranch for horseback riding, information about gangs and gang avoidance, police driving demonstration, police motorcycle demonstration, dangerous drugs presentation, rock or rope climbing activities and a presentation/participation in a SWAT team activity. The program concludes on Friday with a graduation ceremony.

The overall goal of the program is to create a life-changing experience for the kids where they can build self-confidence in their abilities, create friendships with other kids and form a good relationship with law enforcement officers.

The program is planned for the summer of 2016 and is expected to continue beyond that.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

Citizens met one night per week for 12 class sessions, covering departmental organization, crime scene investigation, evidence collection, firearms orientation, police driving tactics, crowd control measures, narcotics identification, investigative procedures and other topics. Citizen Police Academy members are also allowed to ride on observation with patrol officers. Upon graduation, these citizens have a good understanding of police practices and functions and can provide a solid base of community support for the Department.

STUDENT POLICE ACADEMY



Once per year, the Police Department hosts the Student Police Academy. This program is similar to the Citizen Police Academy, except that the participants are high school age students. The students attend a series of classes once per week over an 11 week period. The classes cover the various departments and functions of police work, including some "hands-on" activities. Some of these students aspire to have career in the law enforcement field. The students are allowed to ride along with a police officer on duty twice during the program. One goal of the Student Police Academy is to introduce young citizens to

the role of a police officer and develop a life-long understanding of the profession. The stated objectives of the Amarillo Police Department Student Police Academy include:

"The Amarillo Police Department started the Student Police Academy to improve communication and obtain student input and support throughout the city. It is our hope the graduates will become partners with us in identifying problems and solutions to the crime issues

that are affecting our community. Graduates can take their knowledge back to their schools where they can use it to enhance the quality of school, and after school life."

It is the intent of the Amarillo Police Department to reach a wide diversity of students across Amarillo and create interest in serving the community as a citizen and as a police officer.

The Academy is currently in session and is expected to renew next year.

POLICE EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Police Department is currently developing a plan to implement a Law Enforcement Explorer program in partnership with Learning for Life. The Learning for Life Corporation "offers seven programs designed to support schools and community-based organizations in their efforts to prepare youth to successfully handle the complexities of contemporary society and to enhance their self-confidence, motivation and self-esteem". Exploring is Learning for Life career education program for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years old. The program is a subsidiary of Boy Scouts of America.

The goal of the Law Enforcement Explorer Program will be to connect to the young people in the community who aspire to work in the public service profession. The program will be a continuous process where participants can progress through the program and become leaders and mentors to newest members. One of the stated goals of law enforcement career exploring is *"the program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism"*. This is not only good for law enforcement, but is good for the community as these young people are developed into potential community leaders.

The initial phase includes policy development and curriculum design of the Explorer Post. The Police Department is looking within the Department for volunteer mentors who will facilitate the program. The Boy Scouts of America will review the design of the post application, as well as the applicants who will serve as leaders and mentors.

The Police Department goal for this program is to build good citizen leaders with the potential to have quality employee applicants for future law enforcement careers. The Department will focus on connecting with minority students, as well as students from disadvantaged areas who might not otherwise interact with law enforcement in a career mindset.

The Police Department is expecting that this program will begin meetings students by June of 2016, with a steady curriculum working by October of 2016.

BIGS IN BLUE PROGRAM

In partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Texas Panhandle, the Police Department is promoting a program to encourage police officers to become "Big Brothers" or "Big Sisters" to students in disadvantaged areas of town. Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Texas Panhandle has identified a need for quality mentors, especially to boys from the Mesa Verde, Emerson and Sanborn schools. The program is school-based mentoring where the adult role model will visit with their mentee for one hour per week in the child's school. The participants may work on

school projects, play games or simply have lunch together. The goal is to build the child's selfesteem, improve peer relationships, improve behavior, increase school attendance and improve grades.

Police officers will provide good role models for this project. The project is expected to begin in February 2016.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

In response to the climate around the Country as it relates to sensed hostility between community and law enforcement, a few of the Amarillo community leaders saw the need to begin establishing a more cohesive relationship with the City's law enforcement agencies. Since the initial meetings, discussions about issues such as perceived historical mistrust and disrespect, cultural diversity, sensitivity training, body cameras and diversity among the police force have been on-going. Our mission is to construct an alliance that will serve as an extension for our law enforcement agencies, as well as assist the agencies with community relations, acting as, but not limited to, a calming agent between the community and law enforcement if controversial issues ever were to arise.

Sgt. David Hagler



Rotary Club South Officer of the Year 2014

On October 5, 2013 officers of the Amarillo Police Department were sent to a local apartment complex. An 8 year-old boy had told his mother that an adult male neighbor in the complex had dragged him into the suspect's apartment and sexually abused him. Officers notified Sgt David Hagler of the Crimes Against Persons unit. Sgt Hagler responded to the complex and began the investigation. Other officers secured the suspect's apartment and awaited his return, as the suspect had fled before police arrived. The suspect returned and was transported to the Police Department for an interview with Sgt Hagler. Sgt Hagler was able to collect physical evidence from the suspect. However, the suspect refused to cooperate with a search of his apartment and denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

Sgt Hagler drafted a search warrant that was executed late that night. In the interim, other possible child victims had been identified. Bridge interviews were conducted and a SANE exam was performed on the original victim.

During the execution of the warrant, Sgt Hagler was able to collect over 100 CDs and DVDs, as well as other computer equipment that contained evidence. Sgt Hagler reviewed the CDs and DVDs and discovered hundreds of violent and graphic displays of child pornography. These images and videos were some of the most grotesque acts of abuse the investigative unit had ever seen. Sgt Hagler sent the computer equipment and other physical evidence to the proper labs for testing.

After viewing the suspects expansive and disturbing collection of child pornography, Sgt Hagler conducted a second interview. The suspect finally admitted to performing multiple sexual acts on the 8 year-old boy over a period of several months, although he didn't know the boy's name.

Sgt Hagler identified other victims of the suspect. He conducted interviews and successfully filed 10 counts of possession of child pornography (the DA only wanted to file 10 even though there was close to 700 counts), and continuous sexual abuse of a victim under 14 years old, in addition to indecency with a child.

Sgt Hagler led a difficult and complicated investigation. His diligence resulted in a brutal and dangerous pedophile being removed from our streets. Sgt Hagler's efforts have no doubt prevented another child from becoming a victim.

Off. Vinilla King



Rotary Club South Officer of the 1st Quarter 2015

Off. Vinilla King was awarded Officer of the1st Quarter for an incident she was involved in on June 14, 2015. On that date, at approximately 3:40 PM, Off. King was dispatched to an east Amarillo address on a report of a child that had drowned in a backyard pool. Fire, Ambulance and additional officers were dispatched to this call, but Off. King was the first to arrive. The original address where the drowning was reported to have occurred was hidden from the street and was actually located behind a business that fronted the street. Off. King ran to this house and had a hard time locating anyone. Off. King finally made contact with the mother of the child who took her to the location where her son was lying, which was just inside of the back doors. Off. King could hear gurgling sounds coming from the 3 yr-old boy and she could tell he was having a hard time breathing. Off. King immediately took action and delivered blows to the child's back to dislodge any item struck in the child's throat and then she immediately began giving rescue breaths. Off. King gave the child mouth to mouth 3 separate times and he finally spit up and dislodged some water and other items. The Fire Department and Ambulance arrived and they continued to treat the child while he was transported to NWTH. Off. King stayed with the mother and found out that she had removed the tarp from the pool and had begun cleaning it. She went inside to put her phone in a charger and to make a phone call to her husband. The mother said when she returned, after about 5 minutes, she found her son face up in the water. The woman removed the boy from the pool and was instructed by 911 on how to perform CPR. Off. King took the mother to the hospital, where it was found that the boy was recovering and was breathing better and expected to fully recover. There is no doubt that the quick actions taken by Off. Vinilla King on this date saved the life of the 3 year-old boy. For her actions on that date Off. Vinilla King was presented a Life Saving Award by Chief Robert Taylor on August 7, 2015. Off. King was also recognized by the Amarillo Globe News who wrote an article on this incident.Off. King did an outstanding job in saving the young boy. Off. King is an outstanding officer and she goes above and beyond in doing her job

Sgt. Celia Vargas



Rotary Club South Officer of the 2nd Quarter 2015

Sgt. Vargas was commended for outstanding work on two different inicdents which resulted in the arrest of four suspects who committed several crimes. The first was a residential burlary at a home in south Amarillo on December 15, 2014, where several thousand dollars worth of cash and property were taken. There were no leads to this burlary. Sgt. Vargas developed leads from video of the suspects using credit cards stolen in the burlary. Sgt. Vargas obtained evidence which led to recovery of much of the property.Two suspects were identified, charged and arrested for the burglary. Both of these suspects are career criminals. The other case was an auto burglary committed on SE 10th. in March of 2014. A Civilian Investigator originally had the case and suspected a local man based on tatoos. The case was transferred to Sgt. Vargas. Sgt. Vargas obtained photographs of two suspects using a stolen credit card. The other officer knew both suspects and was able to identify them. Both of these suspects are career criminals committing numerous crimes in Amarillo.

Both of these cases had no leads when the reports were made. Sgt. Vargas developed leads and suspects from hard work and knowledge gained from years of experience. This is typical of the quality of work Sgt. Vargas routinely does.

Cpl. Jerry Neufeld



Rotary Club South Officer of the 3rd Quarter 2015

Cpl. Neufeld is a 33 year veteran of the APD. He transferred to the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) 18 years ago. Cpl. Neufeld's supervisor, Sgt. Barbee is quoted as "I have supervised Cpl. Neufeld for six years, though he doesn't require much in the way of supervision because he knows his job. I'm certain of this because since he took his position in the CPU, he has worked under four sergeants that worked in the unit. Cpl. Neufeld had essentially trained his own supervisors in the tasks performed by the CPU. Cpl. Neufeld's knowledge and experience will someday be very difficult for the department to replace."

Sgt. Barbee continues, "As other CPU sergeants have, I learned to take advantage of Cpl. Neufeld's experience in working with the news media. This part of his job is definitely a professional and has been at times been a personal challenge for him to deal with. Pressure on the media has created pressure on the department for PIOs to be knowledgeable and transparent while respecting the laws protecting privacy, the reputations of innocent people, and preserving the integrity of investigations. Negative news stories draw the attention of the public and make it difficult for the police to do their job. Even the most minor of errors or a weak choice of words can reflect badly on a department. For years, Cpl. Neufeld has shown his ability to deal with this by honesty, integrity, and sound judgment."

In 2013, Cpl. Neufeld was awarded the Better Business Bureau's "Excellence in Community Service" Award for his work to educate and protect the public while displaying the highest standard of integrity.

Early this year, Cpl. Neufeld recognized the value and urgency of building the PD's social media connection to the community. The Department has an SMS message/email system to reach the public, but the Twitter platform had become the almost universal way to communicate with an even larger number of citizens. CPU had established a Twitter account, but time and effort to use it had been limited, and there were around 300 subscribers on the feed. Last April, we attended a 4-day social media conference, and saw how experts and other departments used social media as an educational, public relations, investigative, and crisis communication tool. Cpl. Neufeld recognized the opportunity to take advantage of social media, and took on the job of making it bigger part of the PD's outreach to the public. He was already monitoring the feeds of several departments and determining what type of information the Department would publish. He recognized how the more current approach to releasing even only partial bits of information when that was all that was available could improve the level of safety and service we provide to the public. It could also help dismiss harmful social media rumors and encourage public trust. In addition to the information to be passed along, Cpl. Neufeld wanted to expand the use of informal photographs of officers at work to help the public gain a human connection with the PD. While researching the rules and laws, he learned that there were legal considerations and privacy considerations that the Department would have to work with to expand the program. Working with City Legal and other police departments, he developed a form and a way to document needed releases and compliance. Cpl. Neufeld knew that more than passing out a form was needed to make the program a success. He knew that the success of the effort depended on the participation by the officers. Officers normally react with caution, if not outright negativity, to social media because it is so often used to disparage them, to encourage anti-police sentiment, or by those that want to interfere with their work. Cpl. Neufeld visited with nearly every roll call session over several days to "sell" the idea, explaining how the effort would help them and the public and how their participation was key. Thanks to his effort and the fact that officers trust and respect him, officers almost universally accepted his idea, and even some who did not initially want to participate started sending him photographs to "Tweet." His efforts have so far built a list of over 900 followers including officers and departments from Florida to Arizona to California that see our "tweets," in addition to the hundreds of local people that now have a closer contact with the APD. He constantly encourages officers to participate, takes care of needed record keeping, and promotes the program to the public, all necessary components for the Department to build on the success. In the meantime, he has also started work on another social media platform, "Nextdoor," to make it even easier for the public to reach the Department and have a connection that we would not otherwise be able to achieve. He has been involved with the Department's use of the Nixle message program from the beginning, and his support for that communication was valuable in growing the program to a very successful level of over 9,000 subscribers.

Cpl. Casey Ogden



Rotary Club South Officer of the 4th Quarter 2015

The current climate in today's search for law enforcement applicants is both difficult and competitive. The prestige of the Amarillo Police Department is so that for many years we have not had to be as active in this area because many applicants sought out our Department. Unfortunately, in recent years, our Department, like many others, has struggled to fill our ranks. Cpl. Casey Ogden came into the Training and Personnel division and took it as his personal mission to revamp and grow our recruiting efforts. During the previous quarter, and leading up to our most recent Civil Service test, Cpl. Ogden helped update our current website to ensure the information was accurate and timely. He created a presence on the Police One recruiting website that almost instantly created inquiries into our Department. Cpl. Ogden has worked to get us onto the job sites of area colleges. Cpl. Ogden has been instrumental over the past quarter in bringing our recruiting efforts up to date and accessible to the people currently seeking employment. During this same time period, Cpl. Ogden has ensured that we have had a presence at job fairs all over our region. In the time period leading up to our most recent test, Cpl. Ogden traveled over 3,300 miles, ensuring the Amarillo Police Department was well represented. The recruiting and job fairs took place in Ft. Hood and Lubbock in Texas, Ft. Sill in Oklahoma, Ft. Riley in Kansas

and Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico. Cpl. Ogden has, and continues to demonstrate, a commitment to recruiting a diverse and well-rounded police applicant. The miles accumulated also show the willingness to go seek out these applicants. Admittedly, the above mentioned activities may not be a traditional reason to honor Officer of the Quarter to someone. Cpl. Casey Ogden is willing to work hard and strive to create the opportunities that put the Amarillo Police Department in front of potential applicants all over the region. Without an officer like Cpl. Ogden, we may never find the next Officer of the Quarter or even our future Officers of the Year.