## AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



## CHIEF OF POLICE Robert Taylor







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 2014

The 2014 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 2014. 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







March 26, 2014

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

Dear Mayor & Council members:

It is an honor to present the 2014 Annual Report of the Amarillo Police Department. Last year we had a -4.4% decrease in part one crimes. We are continuing to focus our resources towards efforts in areas of increased criminal activity, surveillance of active criminals and maintaining our directed patrols.

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 and this year the State has not finalized any crime reports to date.

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

Sincerely,

Chief Robert Taylor Amarillo Police Department Director- Region 2 TPCA

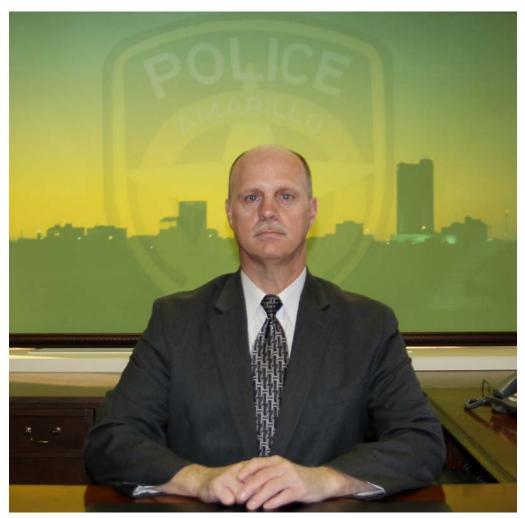
200 S.E. THIRD AVE. AMARILLO, TEXAS 79101-1514

806-378-3083 (TDD Compliant)

FAX 806-378-3031







# **CHIEF OF POLICE Robert Taylor**







ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF OPERATIONS Kenneth Ferguson







ASSISTANT CHIEF OF LINE OPERATIONS Perry Gilmore

## **INTER-DEPARTMENT OFFICE COMMUNICATION**



**To: All Divisions** 

Date: 01/05/2015

From: Chief Robert Taylor

Subject: Department Goals for 2015

The 2015 goals for the Police Department are:

Continue Directed Patrol activities by increasing on-duty directed patrol assignments that will be worked year round.

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.

Continue with the process to replace our current radio system with a new digital trunked system that includes standard level software encryption for all operational channels.

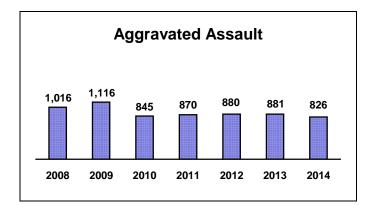
Expand police parking and increase security.

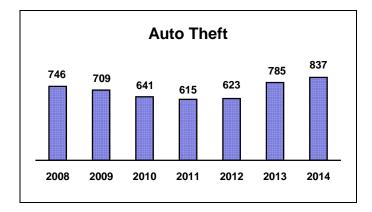
Chief Tay

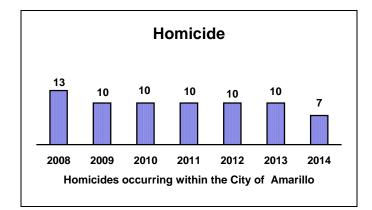
ef Robert Taylor

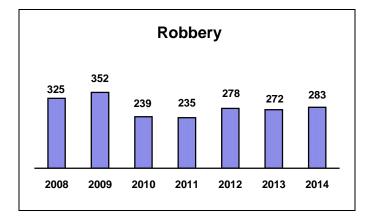


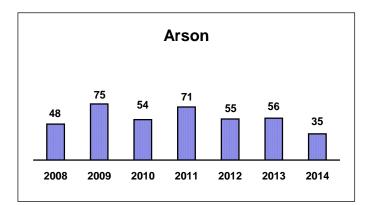
# **CRIME ANALYSIS**

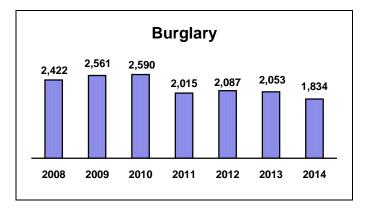


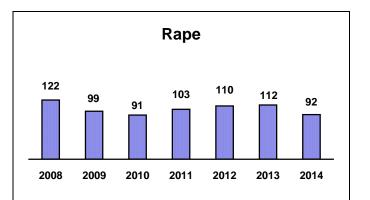


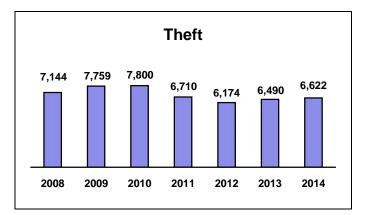


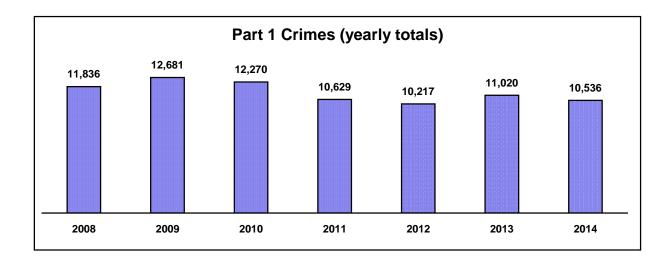


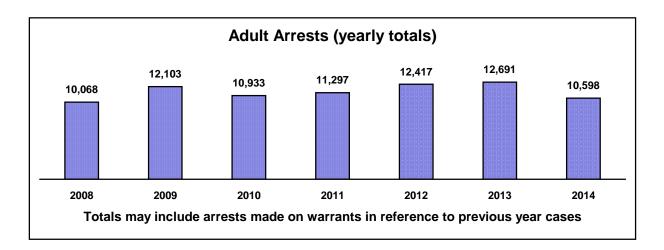


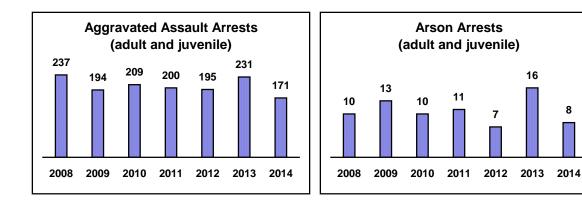


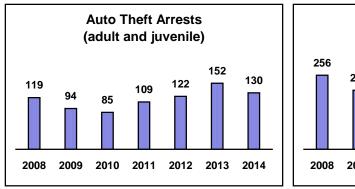


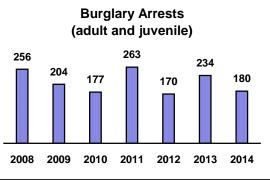


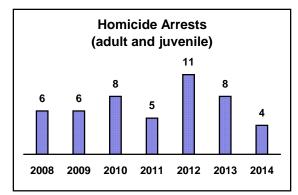


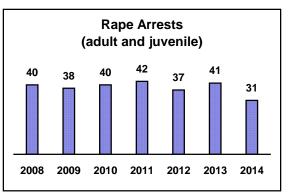


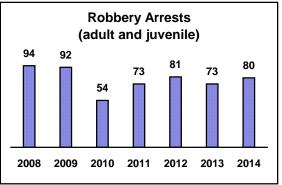


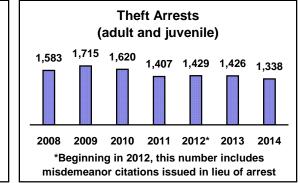












# **DIVISION REPORTS**









# **Uniform Division Captain Ken Funtek**

## **UNIFORM DIVISION**



The Uniform Division, commanded by Captain Ken responsible Funtek. is for quality providing 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 209 sworn officers plus two civilians, and operates a fleet of 121 patrol vehicles, which includes 13 motorcycles and 13 bicycles.

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, 4 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 two squads of patrol officers, overlaps 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 2014, the police department had 125,695 calls for service, down from the number in 2013, which was 129,116. Our officers investigated 5,544 traffic crashes in 2014. There were a total of 22 fatal traffic accidents in 2014, which resulted in 23 fatalities. In 2013, there were 29 fatal traffic accidents, resulting in 31 deaths. Officers made 10,598 arrests for the year, down from 12,691 in 2013. Officers made 491 drunken driving arrests and 84 arrests for driving with a suspended license. Uniform Division personnel issued 43,406 traffic citations in 2014, compared to 46,648 in 2013.

#### 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  $4^{th}$ shift, one team is assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 29,187 of the traffic citations issued by the Uniform Division, plus an additional 19,364 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, COPPS, SWAT and other law enforcement agencies.



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

The Proactive Criminal Enforcement (PACE) Units consists of 12 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 and Fire Prevention, to provide a combined effort of evaluation and enforcement of quality of life issues.

In 2014, 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 Commission meetings. The PACE Units also work very closely with the Detective Division to work repeat offenders and the most active criminals.

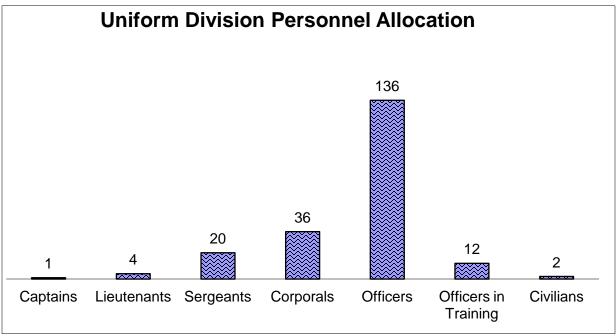
Many problems worked by this unit have been solved through coordinated efforts between the PACE officers and landlords. By doing such tasks, the PACE Units addresses issues ranging from criminal activity to educating the public in areas including personal safety issues and methods of crime prevention.

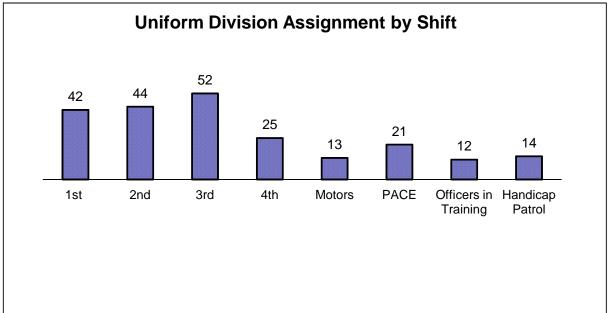
#### HANDICAP PATROL

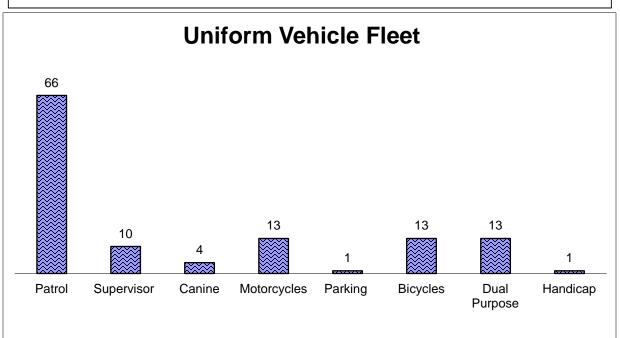
The Handicap Patrol is a group of civilian volunteers who, after receiving training, patrol parking lots and enforce handicap-parking violations. In 2014, this group issued 1,665 citations for handicap parking violations. This is up from 1,234 issued during 2013. This program is aimed at keeping handicap parking spaces available for those who qualify.

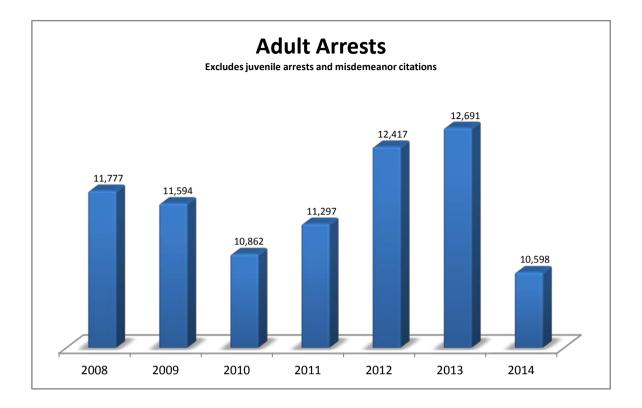
#### **TRAFFIC GUIDE**

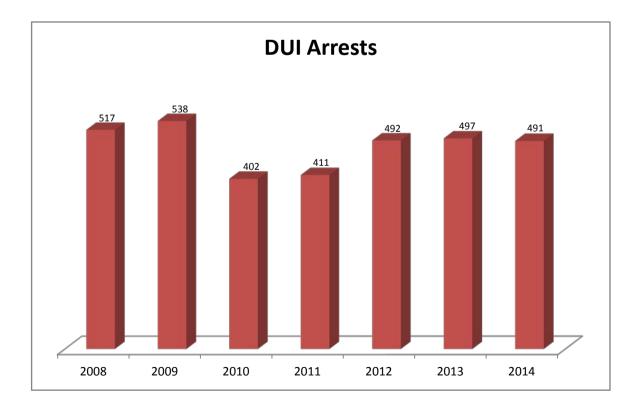
The Amarillo Police Department staffs one Traffic Guide who enforces parking violations. During 2014, the Traffic Guide issued 1,276 parking citations.

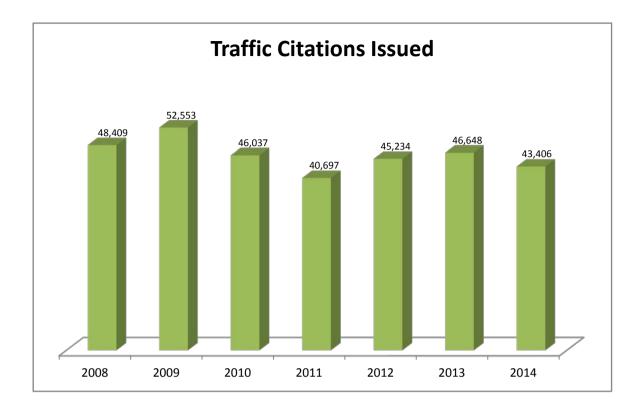


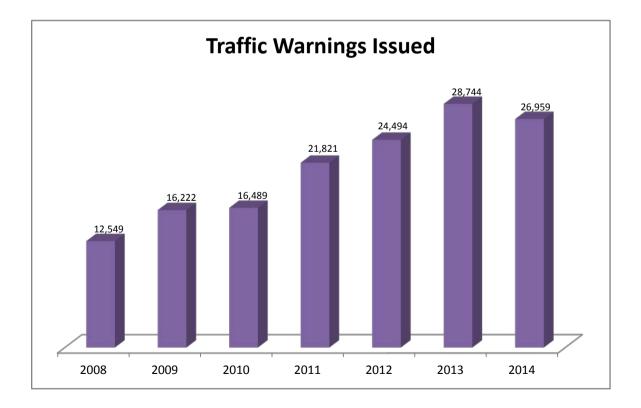


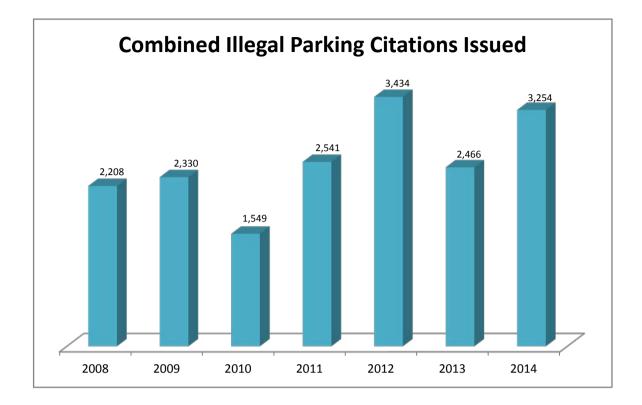


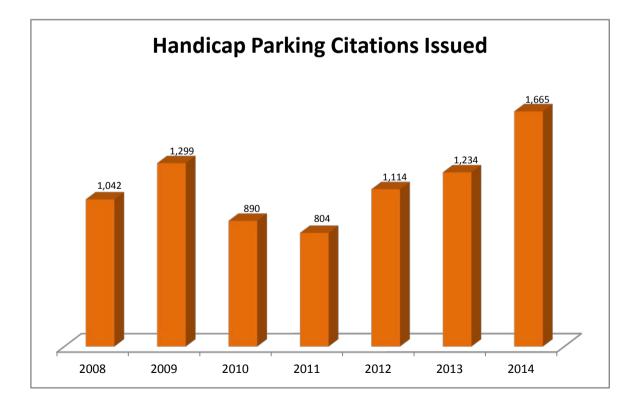


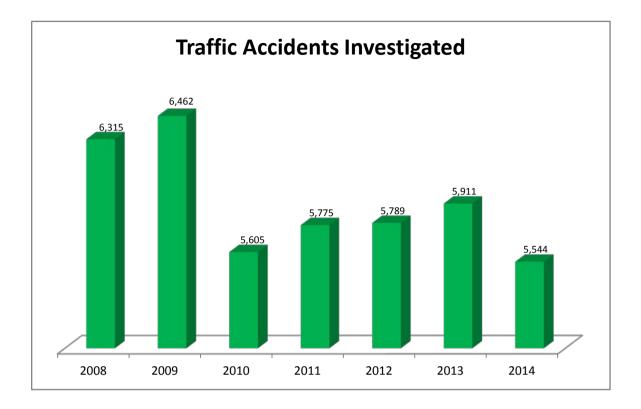


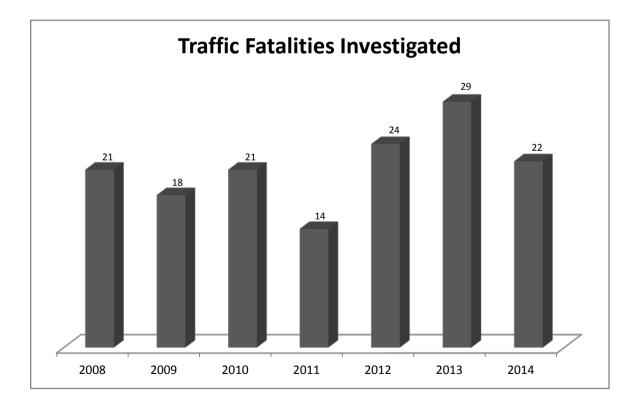


















**DETECTIVE DIVISION Captain Martin Birkenfeld** 

## **DETECTIVE DIVISION**

The Detective Division is responsible for the follow-up investigation of the majority of criminal cases within the City of Amarillo. Narcotics cases, arsons, 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 79 commissioned officers, 15 civilian employees and 1 District Attorney Victim's Assistance Coordinator.

#### **Squads within the Detective Division**

<u>Crimes Against Persons</u> - commanded by Lieutenant Elizabeth Brown. Detectives in this squad investigate adult sex offenses, child-victim 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, suicides, and other miscellaneous arrests by officers.

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

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

<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.

*Crime Scene Investigation Unit*: The Crime Scene Investigation Unit is responsible for photography, evidence collection, evidence processing, fingerprints, laboratory submission of evidence and courtroom testimony.



Traffic Investigation Squad:

The Traffic Investigation Squad investigates DWI cases, hit and run crashes, fatal crashes, and other traffic related incidents. In 2014, the squad was called out to investigate 52 major crashes. 22 of these vehicle crashes resulted in 23 fatalities. There were 5,544 total vehicle crashes in Amarillo and 497 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 561 active sex offenders currently living and registering in Amarillo. Additionally, 421 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 5 registered sex offenders who have "absconded". All 5 of these sex offenders have outstanding felony warrants for failure to register.

#### **CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION UNIT**

Under the supervision of Sergeant James Clements, and assigned to the General Investigations Lieutenant, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit is responsible for documenting crime scenes and searching for physical evidence that includes latent fingerprints, hair, fiber, tool marks, or bodily fluids. The SPEX and AFIS Live Scan systems are being used to their fullest extent. The combination of the two systems has streamlined the Department's fingerprinting and latent identification work. All fingerprints taken by the Department are now fully digitized. We no longer take inked hard copy print cards and file them in a file cabinet. All fingerprint cards are filed electronically in the SPEX database. This database is connected to all 26 counties of the

Texas Panhandle. "Ten-Print" cards can be printed from any of these counties once the prints have been stored in the database.

With the ability to search Class C arrests in the Texas Panhandle, SPEX has increased the amount of latent finger and palm identifications for the unit. For 2014, the unit evaluated 3,907 latent prints and latent palm card cases. 2,872 latent print and palm prints were entered into the SPEX/AFIS system. This generated 762 hits (possible matches). That is a 27% rate of identification. The Crime Scene Investigation Unit responded to 243 callouts in 2014, an average of 20.25 callouts per month.



The SPEX/AFIS Live Scan systems allow the Police Department to store Ten-Print cards electronically. All newly arrested persons' prints are placed in the SPEX database automatically and searched against the unidentified latent prints stored in SPEX. The Live Scan and ILeads computer software systems have the ability to transfer data. From the ILeads side, Juvenile Investigators are able to transfer personal data directly to SPEX/AFIS to populate arrest records, saving time by not having to re-enter existing information.

The Photo Technician position is staffed by Jennifer Torres. She is responsible for organizing and saving all digital still photography taken by department personnel and detectives. Computer programs assist in tracking photos turned in by the field officers. One program allows her to enter all the incident report numbers with photos by date. This allows her go back and tell what date a photo was submitted. All photos are entered with the employee's identification number so that photos taken by multiple officers under the same incident report number can be separated by officer. Both of these programs greatly improve the efficiency of the photo lab.

Sgt. Clements is working on increasing the amount of training for officers with an interest in crime scene work. CSIU officers and alternates received the necessary fingerprint and crime scene training during the year; however, with Amarillo College now offering fingerprint and other forensic classes, it should be easier to get the needed advanced training.

#### SCHOOL LIAISON

Sgt. Jerome Godfrey supervises the School Liaison Squad, which is comprised of twelve 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. A total 115 presentations were given to approximately 7,508 students and parents.

In 2014, Liaison Officers totaled 4,819 complaints investigated, reports/supplements made and statements obtained. This number is a new category due to the database initiated earlier this year. Arrests totaled 171, and 23 citations were issued.

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.



The School Liaison Officers also worked with Municipal Court and conducted their sixth Summer Warrant Patrol. The officers served 1,343 warrants, with fines totaling over \$439,313.00

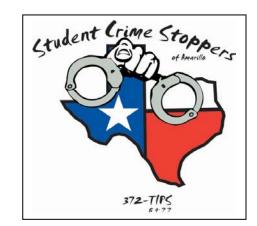
#### STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS

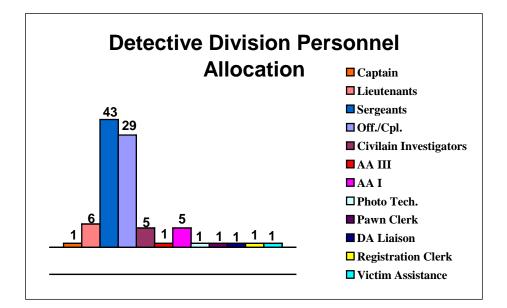
Student Crime Stoppers had a another good year in 2014 with 5,770.00 cash rewards approved during the period of June 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and 5,990.00 worth of recovered stolen property recovered.

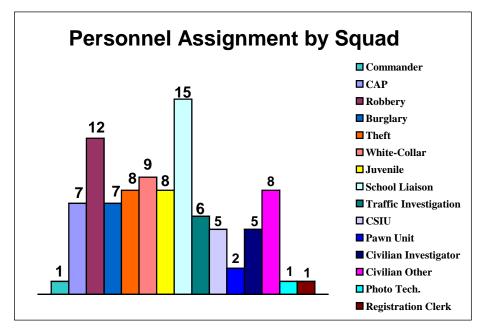
In 2014, the Amarillo Student Crime Stoppers program was given numerous performance awards including: Greatest Dollar Recovery, Productivity Award, and Most Cases Cleared.

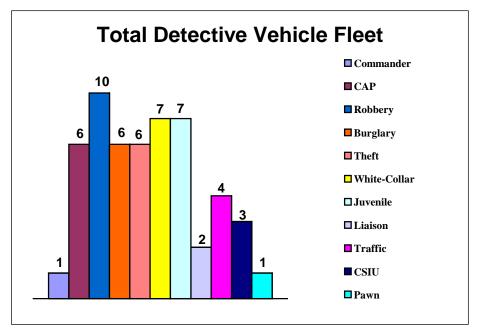
Officer Dale Powers won the Student Crime Stoppers Coordinator of the Year. This is not the first time Officer Powers has been recognized for his efforts. Amarillo Student Crime Stoppers has been a model of efficiency for many years.

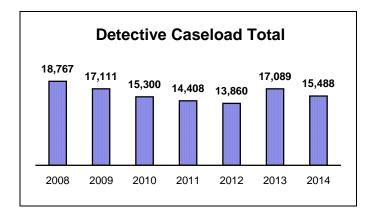
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Tips received	177	277
Arrests made	40	68
Cases cleared	61	114
Rewards paid	\$2,465	\$5,770
Property recovered	\$600	\$5,990
Narcotics seized	\$854	\$2,125

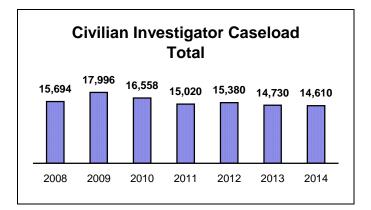


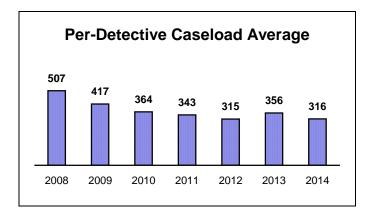


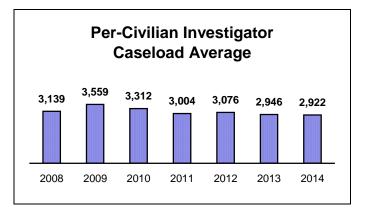


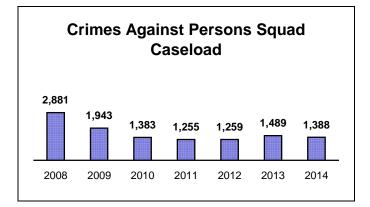


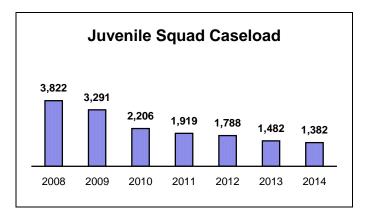


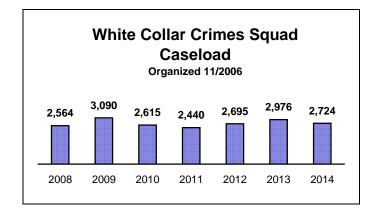


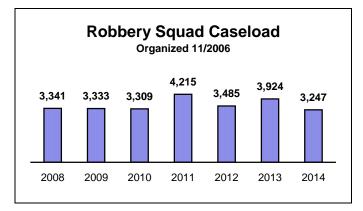


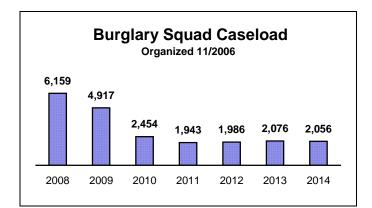


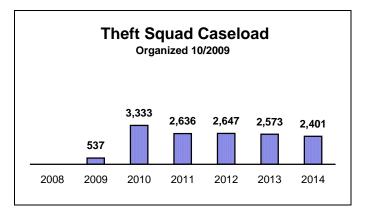


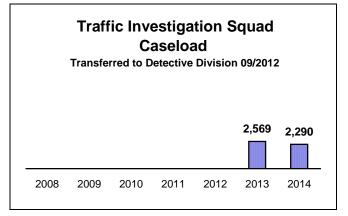


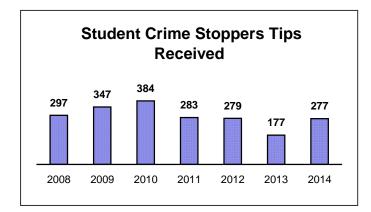


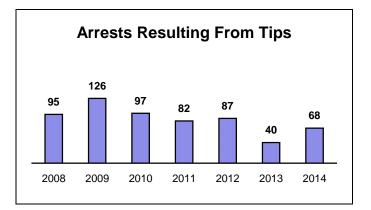


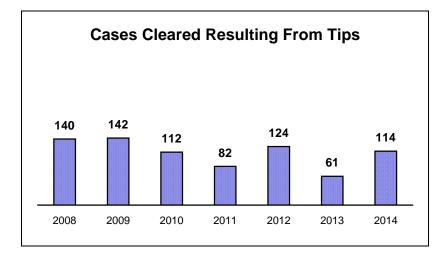


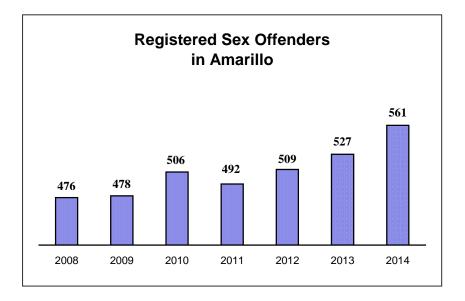


















**SERVICE DIVISION Captain Brad Lancaster** 

## 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 30 (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 City's alarm ordinance has been successful in decreasing 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 2014, Report Writers assigned to the Service Division made 4,559 reports from persons calling on the telephone or citizens making reports at the front desk. This is an increase from the 2013 total of 3,640. In 2014, Clerk Typists typed 24,966 reports and 17,752 supplements called in by officers. During 2014, the Department received 4,044 reports made on-line by citizens. Of these, 3,388 were assigned case numbers and imported into the records system.

The Department makes traffic accident reports available on the Internet through *PoliceReports.US*. By making this user-friendly site easily accessible to the public, the Service Division eliminates the public's need to drive downtown to purchase copies of accident reports at the front desk, in turn allowing the front desk employees more time to concentrate on other duties.

#### **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



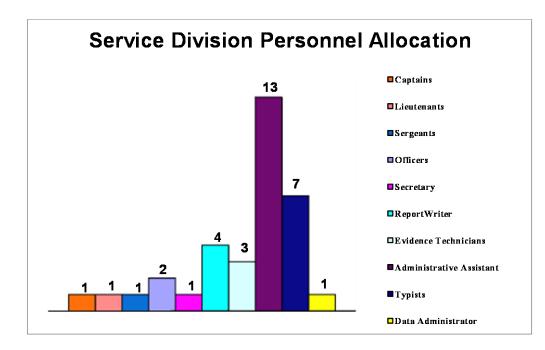
inspections for the issuance of permits.

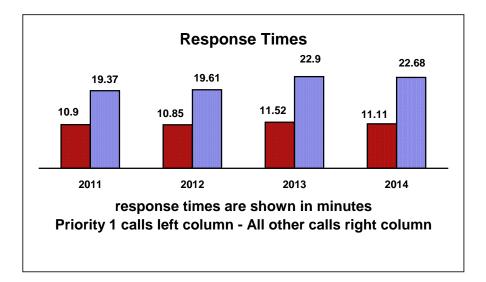
Each year, the City of Amarillo has a combined auction with the Police Department for the sale of unclaimed property held by the Property Section. In 2006, the Department began using local licensed Federal Firearms dealers for the sale of unclaimed or forfeited firearms. The Property Section contributed \$14,741.39 to the City's General Fund from unclaimed money in 2014, as compared to \$41,535.76 in 2013. The money comes from drug busts, unclaimed evidence, found monies, and unclaimed personal property.

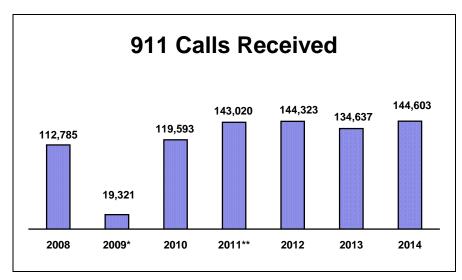
The Property and Evidence section, in the past few years, has outgrown the current space in the basement of the Police Department. In order to alleviate the storage problem, the Police Department began moving property and evidence



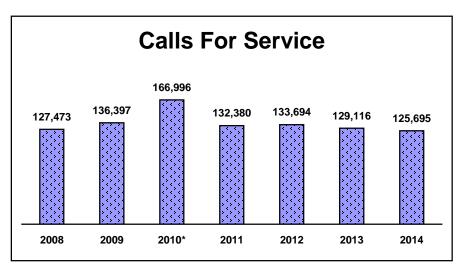
into a new storage warehouse downtown. This new facility will ensure that the Police Department can meet its storage needs for the critical service of storage of property and evidence.





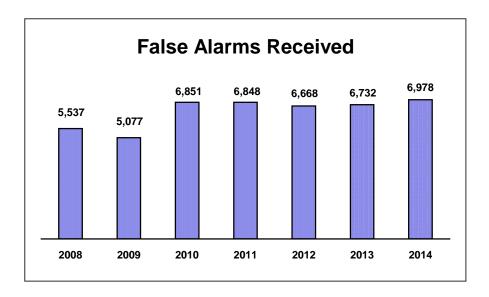


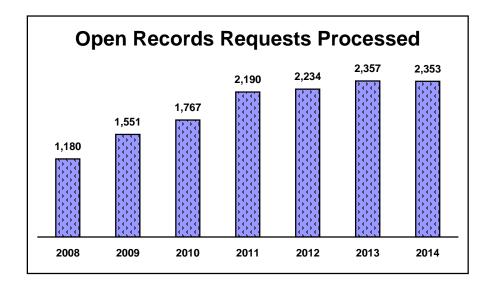
\* 2009 911 calls received represents the number of 911 received at the AECC only for the last 2 months of 2009



\*\* 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 many activities of the Amarillo Police Department. Among them are the hiring and training of all Police Department personnel, maintenance of all personnel and training records and 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 Chief's 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 quarter master 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.

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 2014, the Division provided 318 training classes involving 3,804 students for a total of 71,304 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 20 "roll call" trainings conducted throughout the year for sworn and civilian employees. Many employees also 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.

### 85<sup>th</sup> Academy

The hiring process for the 85<sup>th</sup> Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy began with 421 applicants. These applicants were notified of the Civil Service Entrance Exam that took place in June, 2013. Of the 272 registrants, 128 took the written test and 91 passed.

• Of those who took the exam, 72% of the Caucasian applicants passed; 55% of the Hispanic applicants passed; 100% of the Black applicants passed; 100% of the Asian/Pacific Islander applicants passed; and 50% of the American Indian applicants passed. From a gender perspective, 72% of the males passed and 66% of the females passed.



- The physical agility test was conducted for 77 applicants. A total of 78% passed the physical agility test, creating a list of 60 successful applicants who progressed to the rigorous background investigation.
- From those applicants, 21 were ultimately hired and began the 85<sup>th</sup> Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy on December 5, 2013.
- The racial/gender breakdown of the class is as follows: 17 Caucasian males, 1 Black male, 1 Hispanic male, 1 Hispanic female and 1 Caucasian female.

### 86<sup>th</sup> Academy

The hiring process for the 86th Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy began with 262 applicants. These applicants were notified of the Civil Service Entrance Exam

that took place in December, 2013. Of the 181 registrants, 86 took the written test and 47 passed.

• Of those who took the exam, 52% of the Caucasian applicants passed; 63% of the Hispanic applicants passed; 0% of the Black applicants passed; and 67% of the Asian/Pacific Islander applicants passed. From a gender perspective, 63% of the males passed and 50% of the females passed.



- The physical agility test was conducted for 108 applicants. A total of 59% passed the physical agility test, creating a list of 64 successful applicants who progressed to the rigorous background investigation.
- From those applicants, 12 were ultimately hired and began the 86<sup>th</sup> Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy on June 3, 2014.
- Of the recruits who began the academy, 11 took the Basic Peace Officers Licensing Exam on October 31, 2014, and passed on the first attempt--a significant accomplishment

compared to other academies across Texas. Ten recruits ultimately graduated from the 86<sup>th</sup> Academy on December 12, 2014 and began the Field Training program.

• The racial/gender breakdown of the class is as follows: 8 Caucasian males, 1 Caucasian female, and 1 Hispanic male.

### 87<sup>th</sup> Academy

The hiring process for the 87<sup>th</sup> Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy began with 273 applicants. These applicants were notified of the Civil Service Entrance Exam that took place in June, 2014. Of the 218 registrants, 124 took the written test and 89 passed.

- Of those who took the exam, 77% of the Caucasian applicants passed; 64% of the Hispanic applicants passed; 3% of the Black applicants passed; and none of the Asian applicants passed. From a gender perspective, 69% of the males passed and 78% of the females passed.
- The physical agility test was conducted for 78 applicants. A total of 69% passed the physical agility test, creating a list of 54 successful applicants who progressed to the rigorous background investigation.
- From those applicants, 13 were ultimately hired and began the 87th Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy on December 4, 2014.
- The racial/gender breakdown of the class is as follows: 9 Caucasian males, 1 Black male and 3 Hispanic males.

### **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 conducts many research projects for the department.

### **Department Strength**

The Amarillo Police Department has an authorized strength of 365 officers, as well as 54 fulltime and four part-time civilian employees.

The following figures are based on our actual strength of 363 sworn personnel at the end of 2014:

- Average police officer age, including all ranks: 39.01 compared to 38.0 in 2013.
- Average length of service for sworn personnel: 11.64 years compared to 11.7 in 2013.
- Female officers: 24 (6.61%) a decrease of 2 from 2013.
- Male officers: 339 (93.39%) an increase of 9 from 2013.
- Racial analysis:
  - o 307 Caucasian officers (84.57%)
  - o 48 Hispanic officers (13.22%)
  - o 6 Black officers (1.65%)
  - o 2 Native American officers (.55%).

The Department ended 2014 with 51 permanent civilian employees and two part-time civilian employees. The average length of service for civilian employees is 9.29 years.

### **Education**

At the end of 2014, 32.875% of the sworn personnel have college degrees:

- Doctorate: 1
- Masters: 9
- Bachelor: 83 (increase of 4 from 2013)
- Associate: 30 (increase of 2 from 2013)

There are an additional 119 officers that have 10 or more college hours, but no degree. On average, officers have earned 81.74 college hours, a decrease from 82.7 earned hours in 2013.

At the end of 2014, 37 officers hold an Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate, 85 officers hold an Advanced Certificate, and 145 hold a Master Peace Officer Certificate.

#### **<u>Citizen Police Academy</u>**

The 21<sup>th</sup> Citizen Police Academy (C.P.A.) was held in the Fall of 2014. These citizens met one night per week for 12 class sessions covering departmental organization, crime scene investigation, and evidence collection, and 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 provide a solid base of community support for the department. There were 15 who graduated out of the 22 that began the academy this year.

#### **Student Police Academy**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Student Police Academy (S.P.A.) was held in the Spring of 2014. The S.P.A. is very similar to the C.P.A., but is geared toward high school juniors and seniors who are exploring career opportunities in law enforcement. The S.P.A. also provides students the opportunity to ride on observations with patrol officers. There were 13 who graduated out of the 25 students who began the academy.

#### **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.

The Handicap Patrol started the year of 2014 with 15 members. On June 14, 2014, Sgt. Davis held a class with 6 new recruits. This brings the Handicap Patrol up to 21 members. Several of the Patrol members have had medical issues over the past year but all have been able to remain in the patrol. David Barnett and Ed Francis still serve in other APD departments in a different capacity. Mr. Barnett works with the police vehicle inventory Lieutenant and Mr. Francis works with the Service Division.

Sgt. Davis held two training sessions at the close of 2014 to teach the Brazos Electronic Citation Device to twelve patrol members. 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.

The Handicap Patrol issued 1,906 citations for the 2014 year. The grand total of citations issued since the start of the Volunteer Handicap Patrol stands at 24,293 citations. The Handicap Patrol has provided 3,986 hours of volunteer service to the Department. Mr. David Barnett and Mr. Ed Francis have put in a combined 1,530 hours. The total volunteer hours for 2014 are 5516 hrs.

An appreciation luncheon was held in October to recognize all of the Amarillo Police Department's volunteer employees.

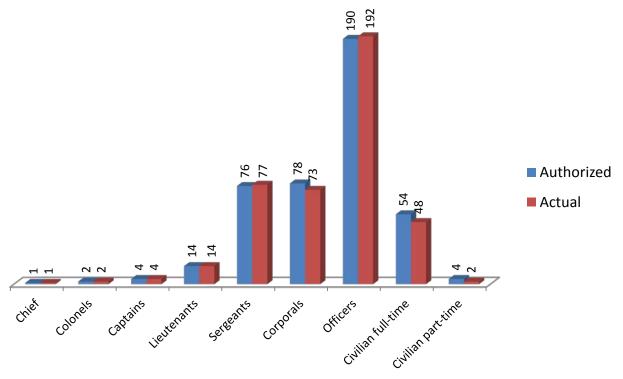
### Chaplain Program

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.

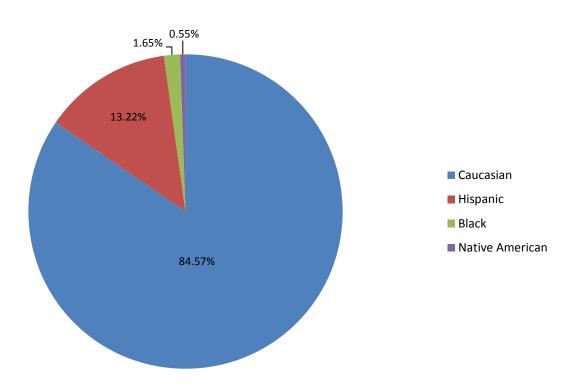
#### **Crisis Stress Debriefing Incident Program**

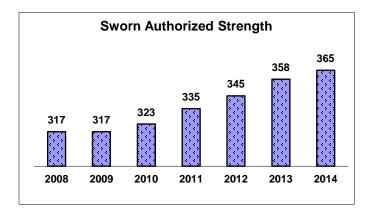
The Amarillo Police Department provides peer counselors for department employees. The counselors are trained department volunteers who conduct critical incident stress debriefings after traumatic events and make confidential referrals to professional counselors upon request.

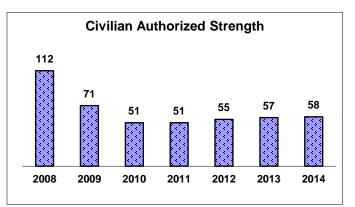
### AUTHORIZED VS. ACTUAL STRENGTH 12/31/2014

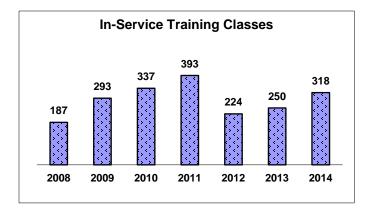


RACIAL ANALYSIS - SWORN PERSONNEL 12/31/2014

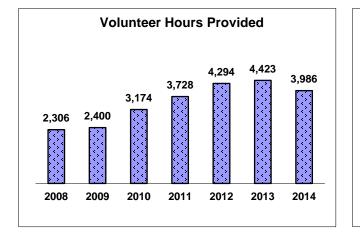


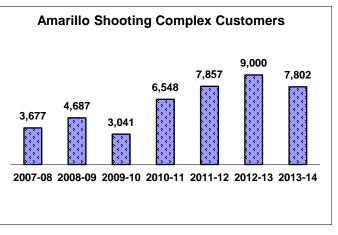


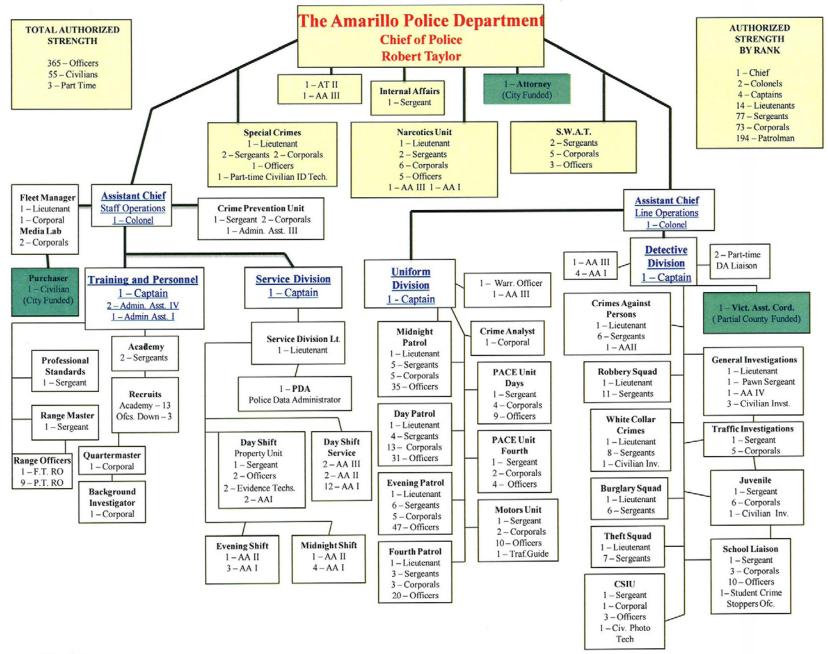












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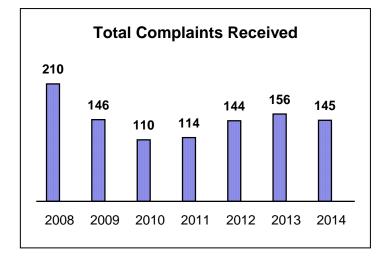
### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

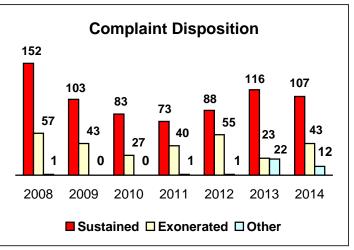
Complaints from citizens and complaints from within the Department are investigated by the Internal Affairs Investigator. During 2014 there were 145 formal complaint cases filed. Some of those cases involved more than one Officer and/or more than one specific complaint. After investigation, **107** complaints were determined to be *Sustained*, **43** complaints were *Exonerated* or *Unfounded*, and **12** complaints were *Not Sustained*. Each of the 107 Sustained complaints resulted in disciplinary action of some type.

There was one incident in which an Officer was involved in a shooting situation. The incident and investigation was presented to a Grand Jury, and the Grand Jury determined the shooting to be justified. There were five 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 was one in-custody death which occurred in 2014, and it was determined by a Grand Jury that the actions of the Officers involved played no part in the death that occurred.

Sergeant M.D. Hill Internal Affairs





<sup>•</sup> Beginning in 2013, complaints determined to be "Unfounded" are now counted in "Other"

# **2014 INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATS**

Complaint Type	e:	Sustained	Exon / Unf	Other	Total	% Sustained
Excessive Force	e:	1	13	2	16	6%
Illegal Search:		0	1	0	1	0%
Illegal Arrest:		0	1	0	1	0%
Neglect or Inattention to D	uty:	90	18	6	114	80%
Falsify or Relea	se	0	0	0	0	0%
Conduct Unbecoming:		15	8	3	26	58%
Criminal Offens	ses:	1	0	1	2	50%
Racial Profiling	:	0	2	0	2	0%
TOTALS		107	43	12	162	66%
Officer Involve Shootings: 1 Justified: 1	l					
Discharge of Firearm: 5 Justified: 5						
Accidental Discharge: of Firearm	)					
In Custody						

Death 1

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

# **CRIME PREVENTION UNIT**

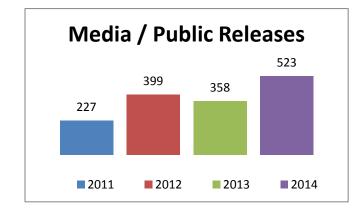
Officers of the Crime Prevention Unit provide public education in crime prevention subjects ranging from traffic safety to sexual assault awareness and prevention. The CPU provides informational programs for church and civic groups, business organizations, or any group that is interested in learning about crime and prevention strategies. Many groups schedule appearances by CPU officers on a recurring basis as education for employees, volunteers, or youth groups. Our 2014 presentations included Fraud and Scam Prevention, Workplace Violence, Robbery Prevention, and Women's Personal Safety/Sexual Assault Awareness. School and work safety concerns created requests for business site visits and workplace violence related crime programs this year. The CPU created and provided job-specific crime prevention and safety training for realtors, social workers, utility workers, bank employees, and others with other job or location specific crime concerns.

The CPU also provides information about the Department's operations and activity through media releases and liaison as the Department's public information officers. Releases are distributed through email, fax, and the Nixle system. The Nixle system provides subscribers with free, convenient access to media releases and crime prevention information directly from the Department. In 2014, the CPU helped the Department provide timely, reliable information to nearly 8,400 Nixle subscribers, through daily contacts with local media, and started the process to make the Department more accessible through a Twitter account, @AmarilloPD.

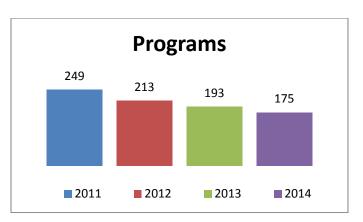
The CPU is often the public's point of access to the Police Department. The unit responds to numerous inquires about the law, local criminal activity, departmental practices, and police operations every day. The CPU takes pride in responding to the public's questions quickly and accurately.

The CPU provides security surveys to home and business owners at no cost. This inspection helps citizens prevent burglary, theft, and other crimes, as well as secure a discount on home owner's insurance.

The CPU provides presentations for the Citizen's and Student Police Academy, APD Summer Camp, and other youth oriented activities. This year, the CPU updated roll call training in media relations and continues to emphasize both educating the public about crimes and the Department's efforts to protect the public.



The APDS maintains contact with the public through media releases that are also sent out via the free and advertisement-free Nixle, and now Twitter, platforms. Last year, the CPU created, reviewed, or published 523 releases and numerous updates, providing the public with more information than ever about local crime and police operations.



The CPU provided 175 programs that reached thousands of citizens in 2014, and made 26 calls to service or install WAVE and Varda alarm systems to help protect at-risk property. In 2014, the CPU started tracking many public contacts as special events rather than programs, to enable us to more accurately assess how many people we are reaching with prevention efforts. Amarillo Crime Stoppers is part of the CPU.

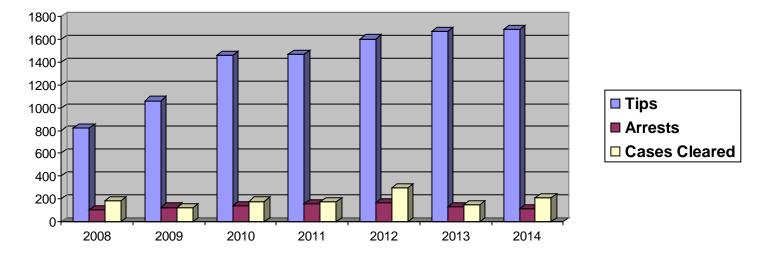


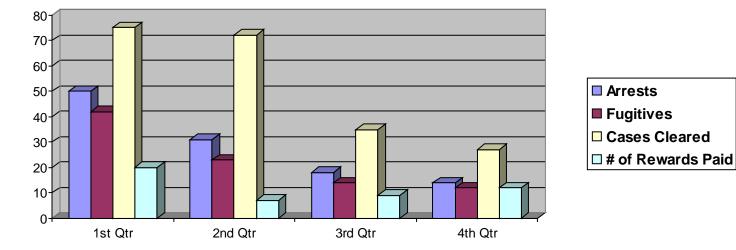
In October of 2014, Amarillo Crime Stoppers attended the 26th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference in Beaumont, Texas. At this conference, the program received the required training hours to maintain program certification. The program also celebrated several successes by receiving an award at the state conference. We received a productivity award for most cases cleared based on the population we serve. We witnessed a record year for the 6th year in a row for tip volume, totaling 1,684 tips, up from 1,666 tips in 2013. We also cleared 209 cases, recovered 7 weapons and 13 stolen vehicles. A very important Crime Stoppers tip led to the clearance of a residential burglary where a safe, cash and a number of weapons were stolen by the suspects identified in the tip.

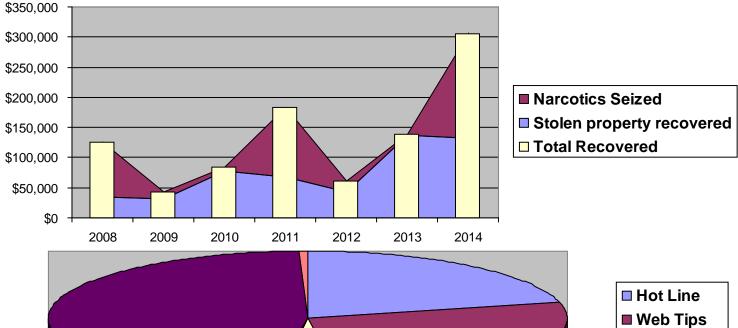
The Fugitive of the Week program provides the public with information on wanted persons and publicizes the reward program for them. Every week, information on the Fugitive of the Week is distributed to every local television broadcast outlet. This year, we highlighted 48 fugitives, and 40 of them were arrested. Crime Stoppers tips directly led to the arrest of 79 wanted people this year. In 2014, Amarillo Crime Stoppers received 1,684 tips. From those tips we cleared 209 cases and arrested 113 suspects. Those tips led to the recovery of \$131,726 in property. Successful tips also removed \$173,489 in narcotics from our city streets. Amarillo Crime Stoppers approved 82 rewards for 2014 compared to 93 rewards in 2013, for a total of \$27,425. Even though a total of 82 rewards were approved, only 59% 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 leads in the Amarillo arrests and on crimes area.

We conducted our 6th 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 103 vehicles in attendance this year. This was a great way for our entire Board to be among the community we serve. The car show also included games, food, and music. This year we changed to an indoor venue located at the Amarillo Civic Center. The venue change also allowed us the ability to finish a raffle and draw for the winners in nearly \$5,000 in prizes. 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. 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. The web site also allows direct links to submit web tips on various crimes and fugitives. The web site is <u>www.amapolice.org.</u> 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.





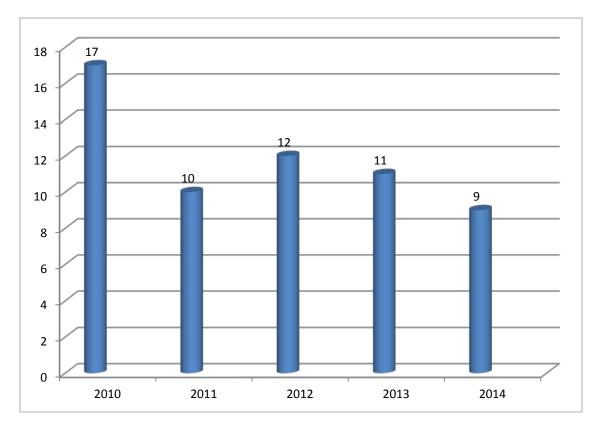


- . Text Tips
- . □ Mobile Tips
- After Hours
- After Hours
- E-Transfer

### SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT

Formed on December 10, 1981, the Special Crimes Unit is responsible for the investigation of homicides and suspicious deaths that occur within the City of Amarillo, Potter County, and Armstrong County. The Special Crimes Unit also investigates officer-involved shootings, incustody deaths, fire deaths, and the deaths of children for the Amarillo Police Department and the Potter County Sheriff's Office. The unit consists of seven full-time members from the Amarillo Police Department and the Potter County Sheriff's Office.

Lieutenant Erick Bohannon, of the Amarillo Police Department, serves as the Special Crimes Unit Coordinator. Detectives assigned to the unit are: Sgt. Jason Riddlespurger and Sgt. David Hagler, with the Amarillo Police Department and Sgt. BJ Chester from the Potter County Sheriff's Office. CSI officers assigned to the unit are Cpl. Ed Carroll, Cpl. Caleb Sanderson and Officer Mary C. Smith from the Amarillo Police Department. Retired Sgt. Mike Crandell works part time in the unit. Sgt. Crandell retired from APD while he was assigned to the Special Crimes Unit as a CSI. Callie Haney, from the 47th District Attorney's Office, is the unit's Secretary.



### Homicides Investigated by Special Crimes by Year

2014 Homicides	9			
2014 Homicides Cleared	9			
Number of Homicides by:	-			
Gunshot	4			
Stabbing	3			
Blunt Force Other	2			
Other	0			
Homicides by Jurisdiction:				
City of Amarillo	8			
Potter County (outside the city limits)	1			
Armstrong County	0			
Homicides by Month:				
January	0			
February	1			
March	0			
April	0			
May	1			
June	2			
July	0			
August	0			
September October	03			
November	2			
December	0			
	0			
Types of Cases Investigated:				
Homicides:				
Justifiable (no-billed by Grand Jury)	0			
Indicted by Grand Jury	5			
Not yet presented to Grand Jury	4			
2014 unsolved cases	0			
Suspicious Deaths	10			
Outside Agency Assistance				
Cold Cases Investigated				
Miscellaneous Investigative Activity				
Fire Deaths Officer Involved Sheetings (includes Armstrong County)				
Officer Involved Shootings (includes Armstrong County) In-Custody Deaths				
Child Deaths				
	3			
Total Number of Cases Investigated	57			

# Homicides and Other Cases Investigated by Special Crimes

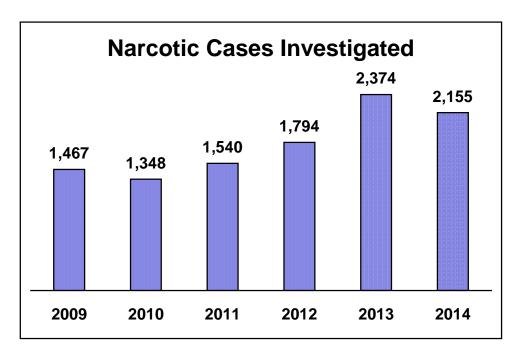
# NARCOTICS UNIT AND SWAT

### **Narcotics Unit**

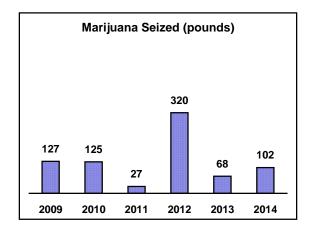
Lt. Terry Lichtie is the Commander of the Narcotics Unit and SWAT Team. The Narcotics Unit is comprised of 8 narcotic investigators. Sgt Brent Clay supervises all agents and runs the day to day operations of the Narcotics Unit. Sgt Scott Chappell is the case manager and files all narcotic cases for the Amarillo Police Department. Two additional narcotics agent is assigned to the local office of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency in Amarillo and one additional narcotic agent is assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Amarillo. The Narcotics Unit is responsible for the following:

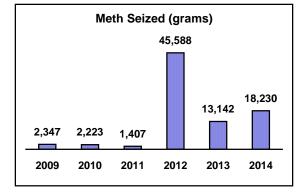
- Enforcement of pornography laws.
- Enforcement of laws prohibiting the illegal sale, possession and distribution of controlled substances.
- Enforcement of laws prohibiting illegal gambling operations.
- Enforcement of laws prohibiting prostitution.
- Providing community education programs about illegal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

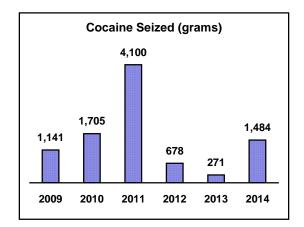
Narcotics Agents use various investigative methods, such as surveillance and undercover operations to complete their investigations. These result in the issuance of arrest warrants and/or search warrants.

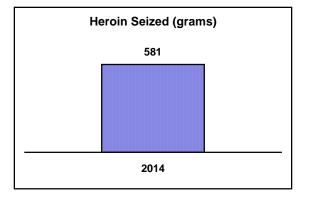


The following charts show the amount of several types of illegal narcotics seized by the Amarillo Police Department in the last 5 years:







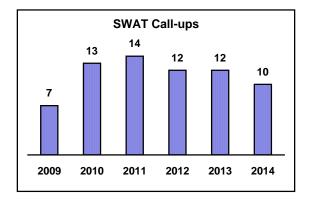


In addition to conducting narcotic investigations, agents of the Narcotics Unit presented narcotics awareness programs to local professional and civic groups throughout Amarillo.

#### SWAT Team

There are 8 full-time members of the SWAT Team led by Sgt Kyle Hawley. 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



# Sgt. Thomas Hightower



# Rotary Club South Officer of the Year 2013

In late 2010, then Cpl. Thomas Hightower, while a member of the APD Narcotics Unit, began working with an informant. Hightower immediately realized the potential of this informant and began developing a plan to use him to make actual buys from individuals and in locations that the APD had not been able to effectively penetrate before. Hightower planned, developed and executed the single largest narcotics investigation the Potter County District Attorney's Office has handled since 1999. The DA's office has concluded and prosecuted those cases with remarkable success due to the skill and dedication of now Sgt. Hightower. The investigation ran from late 2010 until July 2011. Along with the support from the Narcotics Unit, Hightower made 67 delivery cases on 42 defendants in Potter County. Of these cases, 66 of them resulted in convictions. The only case that did not result in a conviction was due to the amount of marijuana on a lab test being just below the level needed for felony prosecution. However, the defendant was convicted on other charges related to this investigation. Of the 67 cases, 8 were tried by juries. In three of the cases the defendant received an 80-year sentence and in another case, a 40-year sentence was given. Only one defendant was give probation by a jury.

There were 10 bench trials, all convictions, but with the judge setting the punishment. Half of the defendants received probation in these cases. The remainder of these cases were concluded with pleas of guilty and all accepted jail time sentences. Ten of the defendants were either on probation or parole at the time of the offense. Another 17 had prior felony convictions. This investigation targeted significant criminals in our community that posed an ongoing threat to the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. Assistant 47<sup>th</sup> District Attorney Richard Martindale said the size and scope of this investigation was the largest he had seen since assuming narcotics prosecution duties. He said, "to obtain a 100% conviction rate is beyond belief, and can only be explained by the incredible dedication of Sgt. Hightower to see that the job was done right". During trial, Hightower showed honest, integrity and openness. He was able to address all issues raised by defense attorneys and judges in such a candid manner that brought great credit to the Amarillo Police Department. Sgt. Hightower's dedication, integrity, knowledge and relentless pursuit of justice is a true credit to the Department and the City of Amarillo.

# Sgt. David Hagler



# Rotary Club South Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014

On October 5, 2013 officers of the Amarillo Police Department were sent to a local apartment complex. An 8 year-old boy told his mother that an adult male neighbor in the complex had dragged him into the suspect's apartment and sexually assaulted him. Officers notified Sgt David Hagler of the Crimes Against Person's 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. The suspect refused to cooperate with a search of his apartment and denied all allegations of wrong doing.

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 being 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 CD's and DVD's, as well as other computer equipment that contained evidence. Sgt Hagler reviewed the CD's and DVD's 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 Crimes Against Persons 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 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, no doubt, prevented another child from becoming a victim.

# Sgt. Brent Barbee



# Rotary Club South Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014

During the Quarter, Sgt Barbee gave 32 presentations on a variety of topics with over 600 people in attendance. He also attended 21 different events, where he represented the Amarillo Police Department.

Several times a month, Sgt. Barbee goes out of his way to help citizens, media and our own Department. If a major event needing media attention occurs, Uniform Field Sgts. will contact Sgt Barbee in the evening hours or on weekends and he will, without hesitation, gather all the necessary information and put out a Nixle release. He does this on his own time and does not put in an overtime card. While this may not seem like much, he probably does this a half a dozen times a month or more. The same can be said for going "above and beyond" for the media, as they too, call after hours and on weekends looking for information. Again he does research for them, makes phone calls to verify information and he does this, too, without claiming any overtime. He also goes "above and beyond" for everyday citizens who need assistance. He is not afraid to make a police report on something that has been brought to his attention. Rather than calling in a field officer to make that report, he takes the time and does it himself, including booking evidence.

A co-worker notes that Sgt Barbee also takes his position to a new level regarding how the Department works with media. Every time a new reporter comes to town, he takes time to discuss with the reporter how APD works, how and when releases are made by APD and how NOT to interfere with supervisors while on the scene of an on-going investigation. The level of professionalism portrayed of the Amarillo Police Department is greatly influenced by Sgt Barbee's conscientious efforts in his on and off-duty dedication to APD and the City of Amarillo. He always returns calls to citizens and has often taken calls by the public who are unhappy with a field officer's actions or lack of action, as well as the detective assigned cases. Many times what would be a complaint about an officer is seen as a great opportunity to educate the caller on how a case is investigated and presented for prosecution. "I have heard him many times on phone calls, turn an upset person into a pro-police citizen with a better understanding of our crime-fighting rolls", the co-worker remarked.

Sgt Barbee has also held training classes for new supervisors to teach them about current media relations and how the Police Department's policies work. These classes are very important in the training of new supervisors who need an understanding of their job and how to get information to the public in a timely manner.

In May of 2014, Sgt Barbee received the "Excellence Award" presented by the Family Support Services of Amarillo for excellence in his professional, dedicated service to the Amarillo community. Sgt. Barbee represents the Amarillo Police Department well and he sets a fine example for other officers to emulate.

# **Off. Justin Serbantez**



# Rotary Club South Officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2014

Officer Serbantez is a two year officer having been sworn on 6-15-2012. Officer Serbantez is recently credited with saving two citizens' lives. He was nominated and received life savings awards for both these saved lives through the Chief's office. The first event occurred on March 16, 2014. Officer Serbantez arrived at My Club, 601 N. Eastern, and found a man, age 36, lying on the parking lot. He had been shot in the femoral artery of the leg and was bleeding heavily. The man was clammy, pale and breathing shallowly. Officer Serbantez found that someone had used a belt in an attempt to stop bleeding, but this attempt was unsuccessful and the man was rapidly losing blood. Prior to becoming a police officer, Officer Serbantez was a combat medic for the US Marine Corps. He had seen this type of injury due to his experiences in Operation Iraqi Freedom and realized that due to heavy blood loss, the man was going into hypovolemic shock and this injury needed an immediate response or the victim would die from blood loss. Officer Serbantez was prepared and was carrying a tourniquet. He immediately placed the tourniquet in the correct position and tightened the tourniquet. Officer Serbantez also knew from his training that other persons attempting to aid the injured man had him sitting up and he knew that this was a bad position and would cause further bleeding. Officer Serbantez placed him lying flat and in the proper position to slow bleeding. The plastic buckles for the tourniquet would not hold the tourniquet in the locked position, so

Officer Serbantez held the tourniquet by hand until the ambulance arrived. During this time, the scene was hectic with friends screaming and panicking. Officer Serbantez was also in danger, as the location of the shooting suspect was unknown and could still be on the scene and armed. Officer Serbantez remained with the victim, continuing to give aid until the ambulance arrived. The man was taken by ambulance to the hospital and survived his injuries.

The second incident occurred on June 8, 2014. The victim in this case was a 58-year old woman. She was the victim of a person approaching her home and firing several shots into the home. She suffered multiple gunshot wounds to both upper leg areas. Officer Serbantez arrived and again recognized that the victim was rapidly losing blood and was shot in both femoral arteries. Again, he knew that without immediate aid, the victim would bleed to death. Officer Serbantez was again prepared and carrying a tourniquet. He immediately applied the tourniquet to one leg and then borrowed a second tourniquet from another officer and applied this tourniquet to the second leg. Officer Serbantez stayed with the victim, providing care, until the ambulance arrived. The woman's injuries were so severe that medical personnel left both tourniquets on her and she was flown to Lubbock with these tourniquets still applied. While in the Lubbock hospital, doctors removed the tourniquets originally applied by Officer Serbantez. The woman survived her injuries and was released after spending several days in the hospital.

Although it appears minor compared to the above life saving instances, Officer Serbantez was also commended on July 27, 2014. In this incident, Officer Serbantez was one of several officers who answered an alarm at the Quick Quack car wash at 1001 Amarillo Blvd. East. Officers arrived and found the car wash had been burglarized and began searching the area. One officer found a person a few blocks from the car wash and the subject fled. Officer Serbantez, along with other officers, soon captured the suspect and found he was wearing gloves and had a chisel. Other officers matched the chisel to tool marks found on damage at the car wash. Officer Serbantez interrogated the suspect and he gave a confession to this burglary, along with several other recent incidents where the same car wash had been burglarized. This is another example of the excellent work of Officer Serbantez.

# **Cpl. Sheldon West**



# Rotary Club South Officer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2014

On August 11, 2014, Cpl. Sheldon West located an occupied stolen auto. A pursuit started on Amarillo Boulevard and ended up in Carson County with the capture of the suspect. The stolen auto was a silver Dodge van. During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2014, Cpl. West recovered 11 stolen autos. Some were occupied and some were not, but Cpl. West has located all these stolen autos on his own initiative, and many of these entailed other additional charges, such as narcotics and warrants.