



# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



**CHIEF OF POLICE  
JERRY NEAL**



# 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 person 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.

The Rules and Regulations hereinafter set forth are compiled, adopted, and published by the Chief of Police for the information, guidance, government, discipline, and administration of the Police Department of the City of Amarillo, Texas and its officers and civilian employees. They are prepared to present to all employees of the Department, the duties and obligations required of them in the proper performance of their duties. Any violation of these Rules and Regulations will be made the subject of disciplinary charges against all persons responsible for such violation, unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police.

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 2006**

The 2006 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 as accurate as possible description of the Amarillo Police Department in the year 2006. 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 Kenneth Ferguson



# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



In Memory  
Lisa Cherry-Dogan  
May 13, 1957 – April 9, 2006



## AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF AMARILLO, TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

January 22, 2007

**The Honorable Mayor and  
City Commissioners  
City of Amarillo  
Amarillo, Texas**

**Dear Mayor & Commissioners:**

**It is an honor to present the 2006 Annual Report of the Amarillo Police Department. We experienced a 4.6% decrease overall in Part I crimes. The major decreases occurred in thefts and burglaries. We have experienced a decrease in Part I crimes eight of the last ten years.**

**As you know, there are several factors, which affect the crimes statistics. Staffing of the Police Department is one of those factors, which you have started to address. I applaud your effort in this endeavor.**

**After twenty-seven reports, this will be my final report as retirement approaches. Please accept my appreciation for your support and that of the City Manager and staff over the years. Amarillo is a great place to live and work.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jerry Neal  
Chief of Police**

**JN/py**

# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**CHIEF OF POLICE  
JERRY NEAL**

# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
OF LINE OPERATIONS  
ROBERT TAYLOR**



# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
OF STAFF OPERATIONS  
PERRY GILMORE**

# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF CHIEF JERRY NEAL

To: All Police Department Divisions

Date: January 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Department Goals for 2007

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1. Reduce robberies.
2. Increase proactive efforts to reduce auto burglaries.
3. Increase traffic enforcement to reduce traffic fatalities.
4. Expedite civilian hiring process.
5. Continue efforts to enhance crime analysis.
6. Continue efforts to install and enhance GPS mapping system.
7. Increase roll call training for jail, dispatch, and 911 operator staff, as well as other civilian positions.

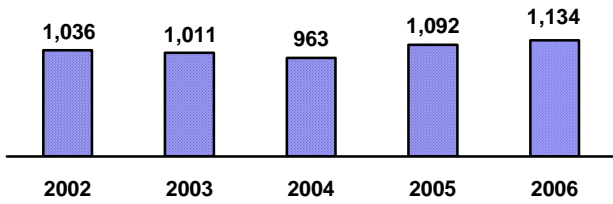


Jerry Neal  
Chief of Police

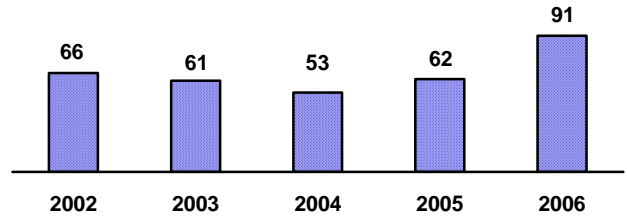


# **CRIME ANALYSIS**

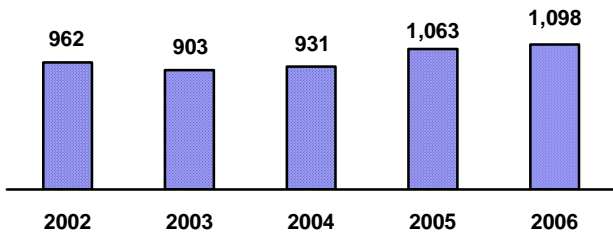
### Aggravated Assault



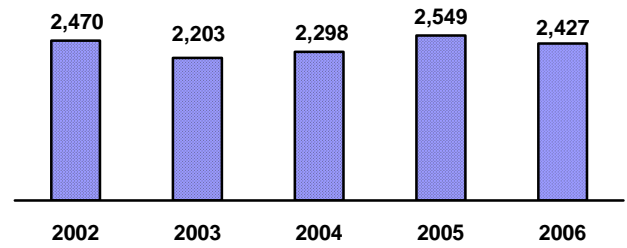
### Arson



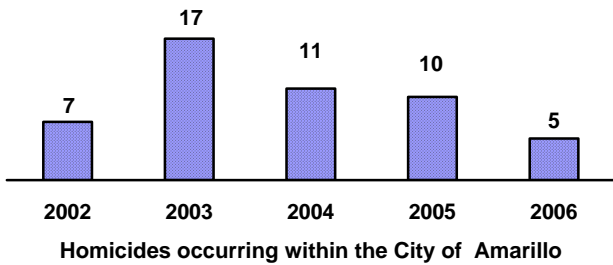
### Auto Theft



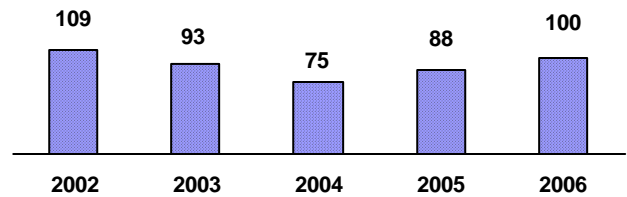
### Burglary



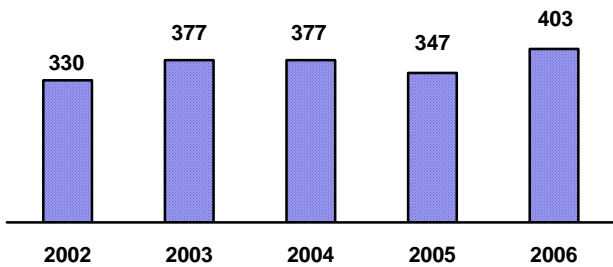
### Homicide



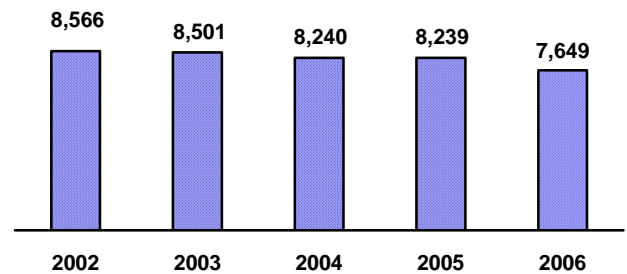
### Rape



### Robbery



### Theft





# **DIVISION REPORTS**

# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**CAPTAIN CARREL HARRIS  
UNIFORM DIVISION**

## **UNIFORM DIVISION**

The Uniform Division, commanded by Captain Carrel Harris, 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 196 sworn officers plus three civilians, and operates a fleet of 72 patrol cars, 7 motorcycles, and 13 patrol bicycles.



The officers in the Uniform Division provide police service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by distributing personnel on four eight-hour work shifts each day. Three shifts (covering 24 hours) are each staffed with one lieutenant, four sergeants, and patrol officers. A fourth shift consisting of one sergeant and a squad of patrol officers overlaps the evening and midnight shifts when our call load is highest.

In addition, the Motorcycle Squad and COPPS 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, and other assignments.

During 2006, officers and civilian employees of the Police Department responded to 134,072 calls for service and investigated 6,518 traffic crashes. There were 35 fatal traffic crashes with a total of 37 fatalities during the year. Uniform Division officers arrested 539 drunk drivers and 1,011 motorists for driving with a suspended driver license. There were 163 traffic crashes involving drunk drivers. Uniform officers issued 45,487 traffic citations along with 2,043 parking citations, and made 329 evading arrest cases in addition to making 580 arrests on failure-to-identify charges.

## **PATROL**

Officers assigned to patrol must be skilled in a wide variety of tasks such as mediating family disturbances, provide first aid, maintaining order, enforcing traffic laws, arresting criminal-law violators, and investigating all 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 three officers and three police dogs. One canine officer and police dog are assigned to each shift and 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 six officers. These motor officers concentrate on traffic enforcement at locations identified as high-volume accident sites and problem areas. Motorcycle officers issued 20,652 of the traffic citations issued by the Uniform Division.



## **TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION**

One lieutenant, three traffic crash/DWI investigators, one Uniform Division Municipal Court Warrant Officer, one Traffic Guide, and one secretary staff the Traffic Investigation Unit. This unit investigates hit and run traffic crashes; fatal traffic crashes, and files charges on all DWIs, and all driving-while-license-suspended cases as well as on all traffic-related incidents. The Traffic Guide enforces parking violations in the downtown area and issued 318 of the parking citations issued by the Department.



## **CRIME ANALYSIS**



One officer responsible for tracking crime reports, crime patterns and trends, and then making that information available to patrol officers, detectives, SWAT and other law enforcement agencies staff crime Analysis.



## COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

The Community Policing Unit was formed as a result of a federal grant under the Cops Ahead Program. Officially named Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS), the COPPS Unit consists of 12 officers and one sergeant. Assigned in pairs to the San Jacinto, North Heights, Eastridge, Martin Road, and Downtown areas of Amarillo, COPPS officers work to increase the communication between our citizens and the police, resulting in greater police effectiveness and citizen satisfaction with the work done in the community by the Police Department. COPPS officers also undertake



various problem-solving endeavors that may reach outside the traditional law enforcement function in an effort to prevent crime and provide a better quality of life in our community. COPPS 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 2006, the COPPS Unit worked several special assignments at various locations to observe and arrest offenders committing crimes ranging from ATM thefts to bank robbery. Other assignments included investigations leading to the arrest of felony narcotics violators involved in manufacturing and selling narcotics, committing burglaries, and forgeries. COPPS officers also cleaned up several long-term problem locations in their neighborhoods using nuisance abatement laws and community involvement. These officers have also spent time working with citizens who have brought attention to specific problems in their neighborhoods during the City Commission meetings.

Several of these problems have been solved through coordinated work between the COPPS officers and landlords. By doing so, the COPPS Unit fulfills its mandate to address issues ranging from

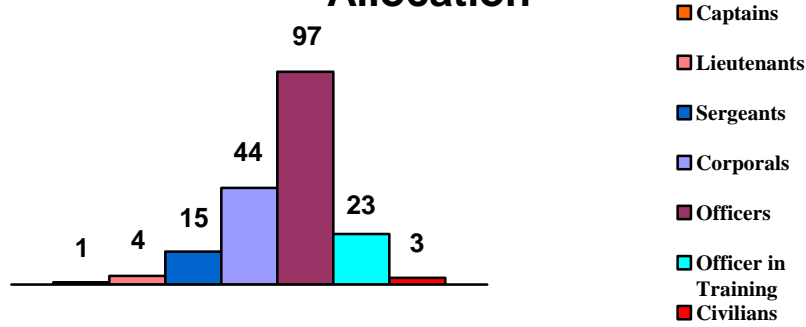
criminal activity to educating the public in areas including personal safety issues and methods of crime prevention.

## **HANDICAP PATROL**

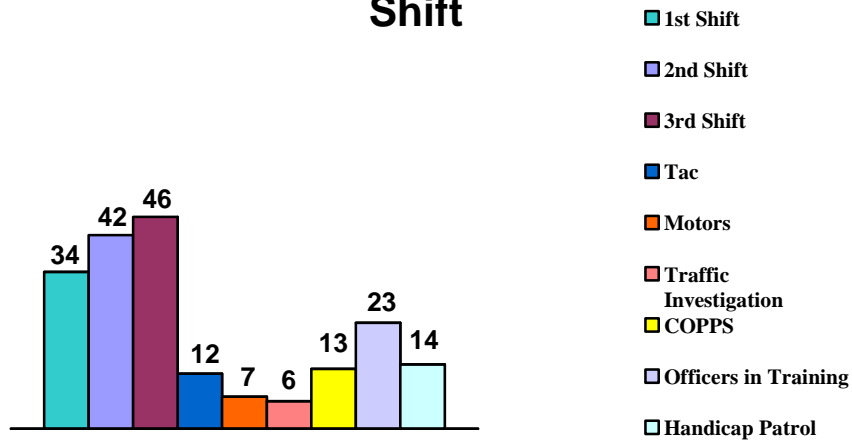
The Handicap Patrol is a group of civilian volunteers who, after receiving training, patrol parking lots and enforce handicap-parking violations. This group issued 868 citations for handicap parking violations. This program is aimed at keeping handicap parking spaces available for those who qualify.

Captain Carrel Harris

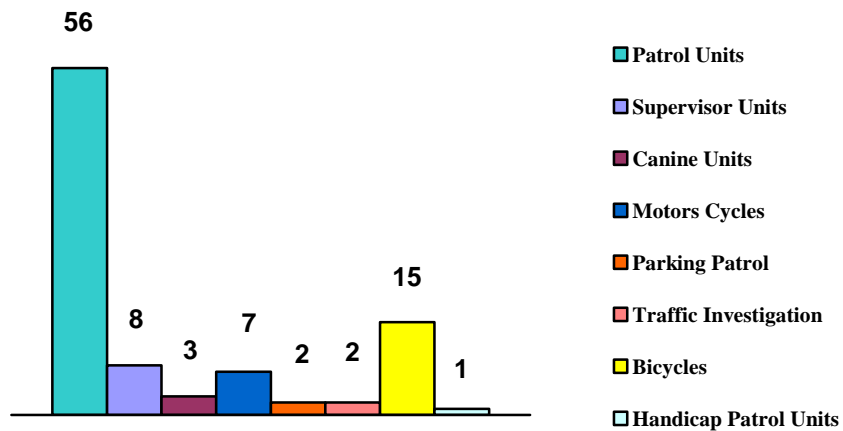
## Uniform Division Personnel Allocation



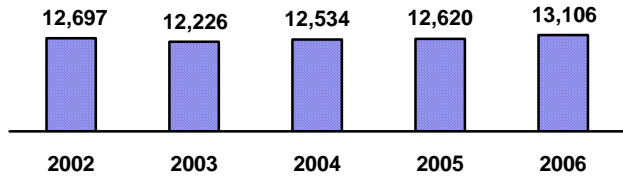
## Uniform Division Assignment by Shift



## Uniform Vehicle Fleet

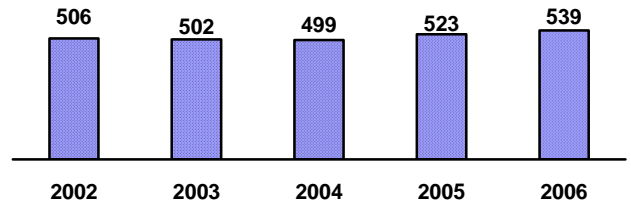


### Adult Arrests

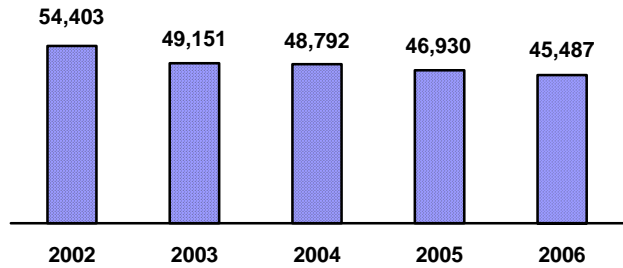


Excluding juvenile arrests and misdemeanor citations issued. Rebooks and warrants served by outside jurisdictions are included in the yearly totals.

### DUI Arrests

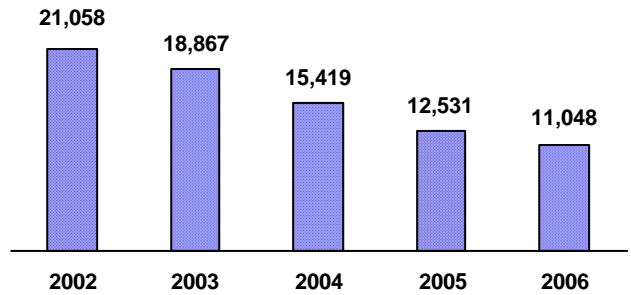


### Traffic Citations Issued

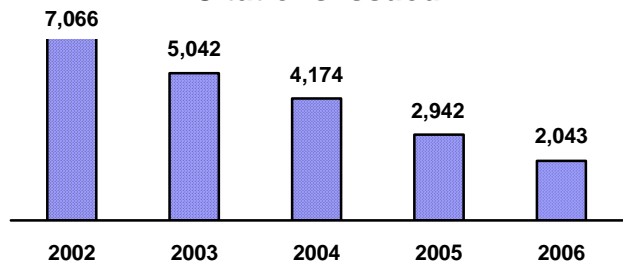


\* Data for 2002 has been updated since the previous report.

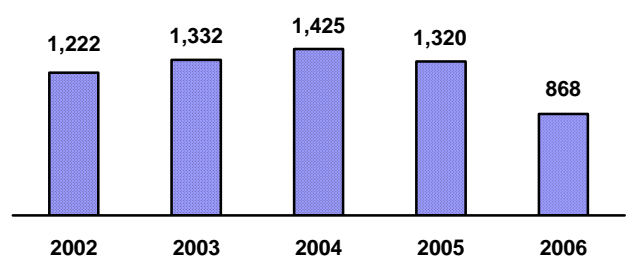
### Traffic Warnings Issued



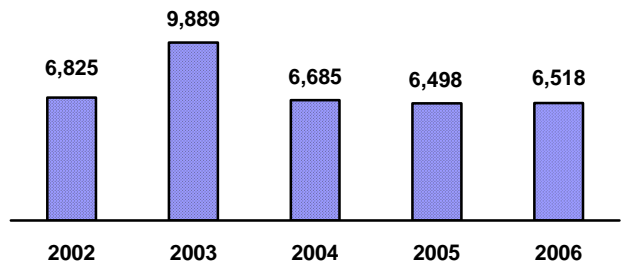
### Combined Illegal Parking Citations Issued



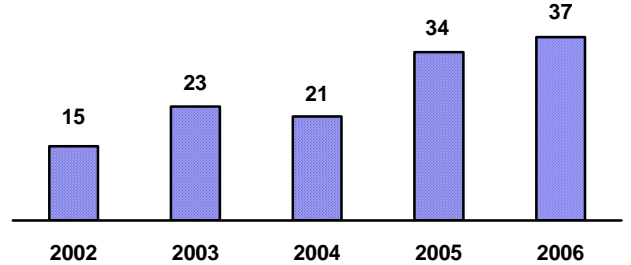
### Handicap Parking Citations Issued



### Traffic Crashes Investigated



### Traffic Fatalities Investigated



# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**CAPTAIN BRAD LANCASTER  
DETECTIVE DIVISION**

## **DETECTIVE DIVISION**

Commanded by Captain Brad Lancaster, the Detective Division is responsible for the investigation and follow-up of criminal cases within the City of Amarillo. The Division does not investigate suspicious deaths, arsons, or narcotics violations. Other units within the Police Department or the Fire Department are charged with investigating those cases. The Division's primary goal is crime prevention while being responsible for the apprehension of offenders, testifying at trials of these offenders, processing evidence and the recovery of stolen property.

In November 2006, the Detective Division was reorganized. In past years, the Division consisted of three adult investigations squads (Crimes Against Persons, Southwest and Northeast). The White-Collar crime squad was added to combat new emerging crime patterns. The two geographical squads were reorganized to allow detectives to focus on specialization in Robbery and Burglary squads respectively.

Currently, squads within the Detective Division consist of Crimes Against Persons, commanded by Lieutenant Brent Womble—Burglary commanded by Lieutenant Gary Schwab—Robbery, commanded by Lieutenant Ken Funtek—White-Collar crime, commanded by Lieutenant Jim McKenny—and the Juvenile and School Liaison section, commanded by Lieutenant Susan Smith. Currently the Detective Division has 60 commissioned officers and 11 civilian employees.

In the Crimes Against Persons squad detectives investigate adult sex offenses, child-victim cases and family-related crimes. The squad also administers the Department's Sex-Offender Registration program. The Robbery squad investigates both commercial and personal robberies, assaults and stolen auto cases. The Burglary squad investigates property-related offenses. White-Collar crime squad detectives investigate forgery, fraud, counterfeiting, computer-related offenses and incidents of identity theft. Detectives in the Juvenile squad works all crimes committed by persons under the age of seventeen.

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, giving sworn 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 assigned to a sworn detective.

The Detective Division currently administers a Sex-Offender Registration program that has 996 registrants. This number reflects a 9% increase over the number of registrants handled in 2005. Of those registered, 382 are active adult offenders, 28 are active juvenile offenders (registrants that are of adult age now, but were juveniles at the time of conviction), and 586 are "inactive" offenders. "Active" offenders are those individuals who are currently residing in the City of Amarillo. "Inactive" offenders are those individuals who are currently incarcerated or have moved from the area but still have ties to Amarillo. The Juvenile squad has the responsibility of administering juvenile-age

registrants. At this time, there are no juvenile Sex-Offender Registrants as a result of the decision of local juvenile courts to choose rehabilitation therapy in lieu of mandatory registration, hoping by this practice to correct and prevent further negative behavior.

## **CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION UNIT**

Under the command of Sergeant Keith Cook and assigned to the Burglary crime squad, 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. During the year, CSI technicians were called to crime scenes 120 times. And while some of that evidence was then sent to the appropriate state or federal crimes labs, most of that evidence collected was processed within the CSI section by its well-trained technicians.



In 2006, all 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle installed the Regional SPEX Automated Fingerprint Identification System. The Amarillo Police Department provides the central database for the system. The Department received approximately 150,000 records from the Department of Public Safety to populate the database. This system provides a very useful investigative tool by aiding in the identification of suspect latent prints. All members of CSI are trained in the current use of the SPEX system. Since its installation, 383 latent fingerprints as well as 88 latent palm prints entered into the system along with 154 latent fingerprint identifications and 18 latent palm print identifications. Forty fingerprint “hits” came through the state AFIS. During 2006, the photo lab was converted to digital photography and the old 35mm film equipment was sent to auction.

## **SCHOOL LIAISON**

Sergeant Ronnie Taff supervises the School Liaison section. Comprised of 11 officers assigned to various schools within AISD along with one officer assigned to Randall High School and one officer assigned as the Student Crime Stoppers Coordinator. The purpose of the School Liaison program is to promote good public relations through formal and informal actions.

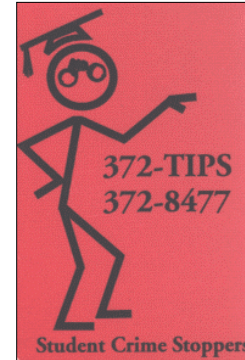


The assigned officers assist the schools in providing a safe learning environment to students and educators. During 2006 the officers in the program investigated 12,626

campus complaints and presented programs to over 10,000 students. In addition, they made 1,235 incident reports, 276 physical arrests, wrote 683 citations, and seized 29 weapons.

**STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS**

Amarillo Student Crime Stoppers continued its success in a statewide competition by winning Best in State “Crime of the Week” for Television and Radio. Student Crime Stoppers won best “Website” and took 1<sup>st</sup> place in their division in the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Polk Street Cook-Off.



Comparisons of 2005 vs. 2006 are:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Tips received	348	328
Arrests made	152	169
Cases cleared	220	278
Rewards paid	\$6,265	\$7,735
Property recovered	\$27,875	\$8,200
Narcotics seized	\$9,160	\$1,350

**DRIVE-BY SHOOTING RESPONSE TEAM**

A Drive-By Shooting Response Team is in place within the Amarillo Police Department. Most members come from the Detective Division. In 2006, the Department received reports of 33 drive-by shootings. The team cleared 36% of these incidents. Nine of these drive-by incidents were determined to be gang-related. In addition, the team responded to ten non drive-by shootings, clearing all ten of these incidents.

**COMPUTER CRIMES**

As a certified forensic computer examiner, Sergeant Earnest Douglass while assigned to the Uniform Division, investigates cases of Child Pornography, Fraud, Theft, and Identification Theft committed by computer. Sergeant Douglas is trained to examine and retrieve digital evidence. He processed 688 evidentiary items in 2006.

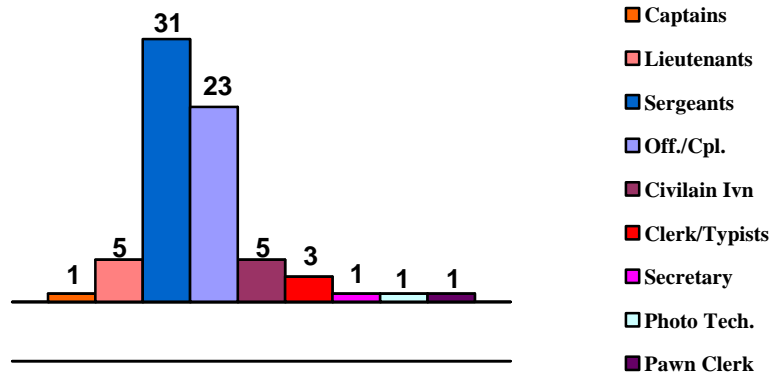


"Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device" = F.R.E.D

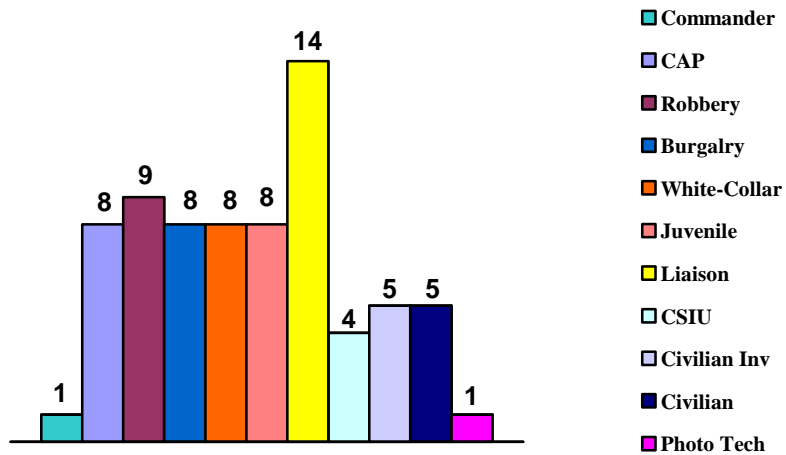
Captain Brad Lancaster



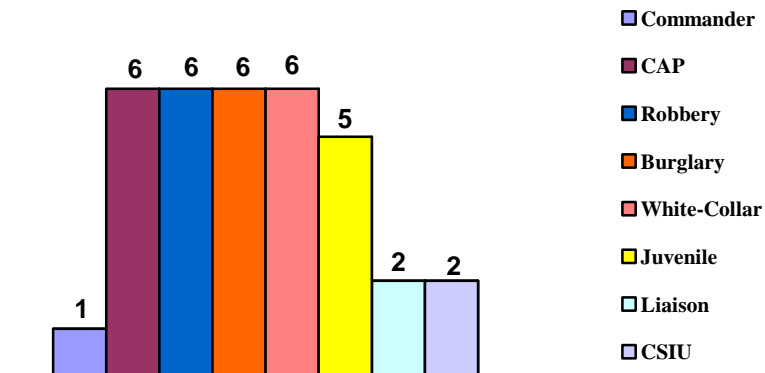
## Detective Division Personnel Allocation



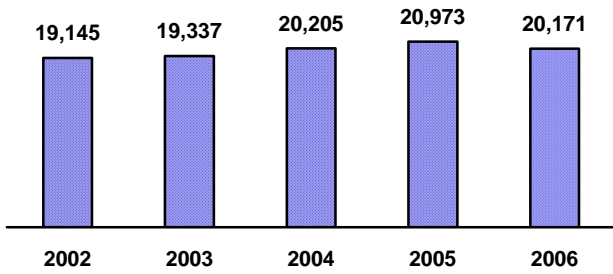
## Personnel Assignment by Squad



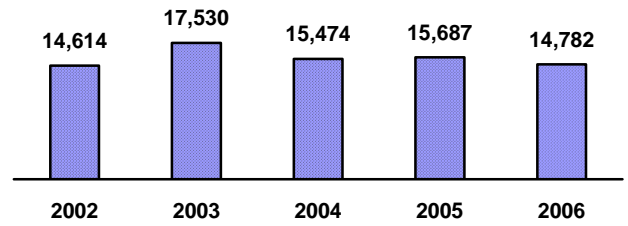
## Total Detective Vehicle Fleet



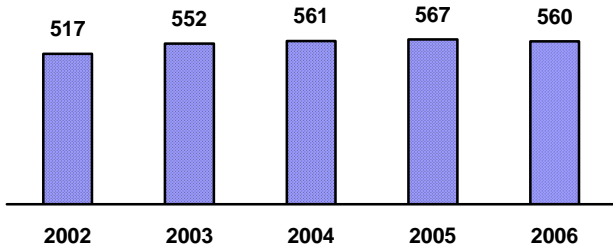
**Detective Caseload Total**



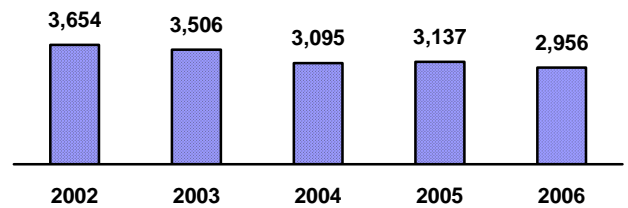
**Civilian Investigator Caseload Total**



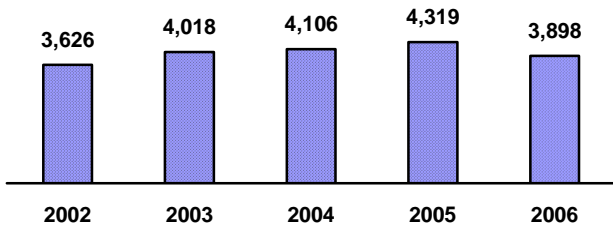
**Per-Detective Caseload Average**



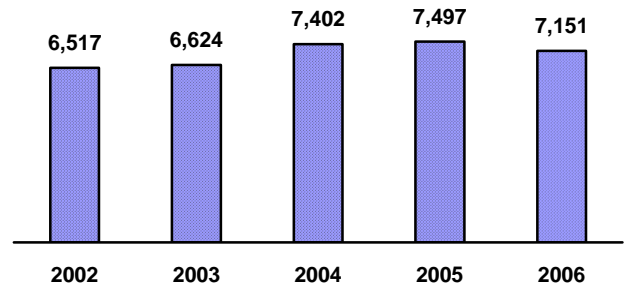
**Per-Civilian Investigator Caseload Average**



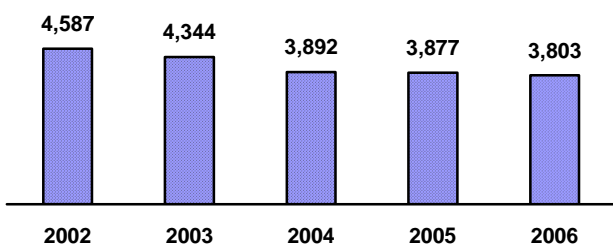
**Crimes Against Persons Squad Caseload**



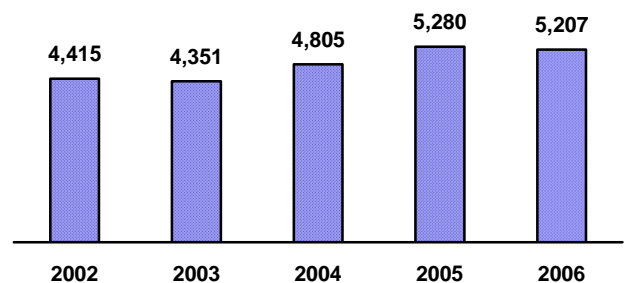
**South/ West Squad Caseload**

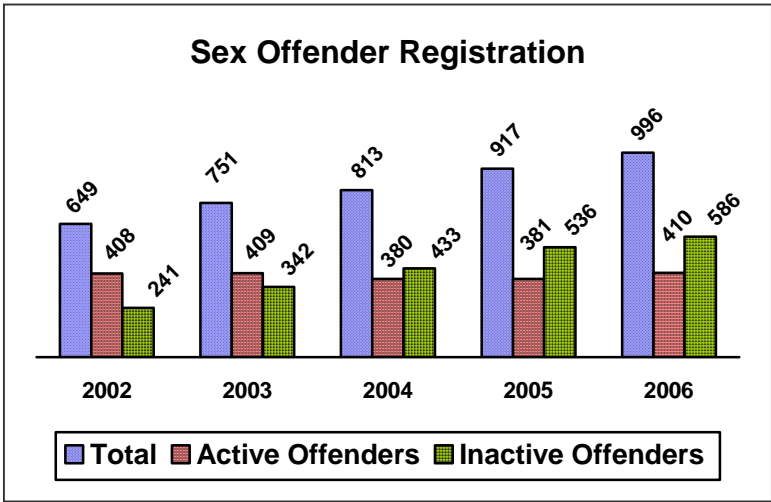
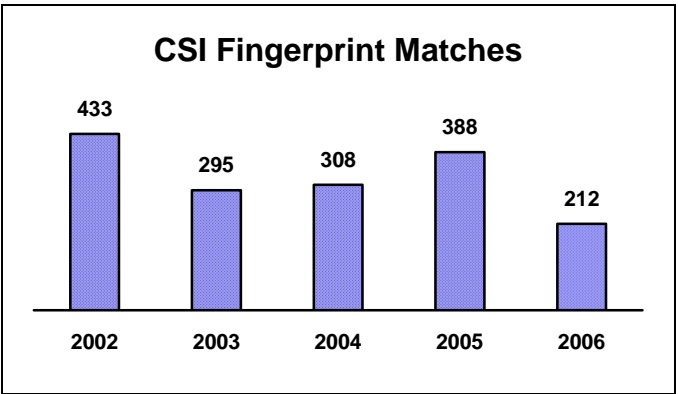
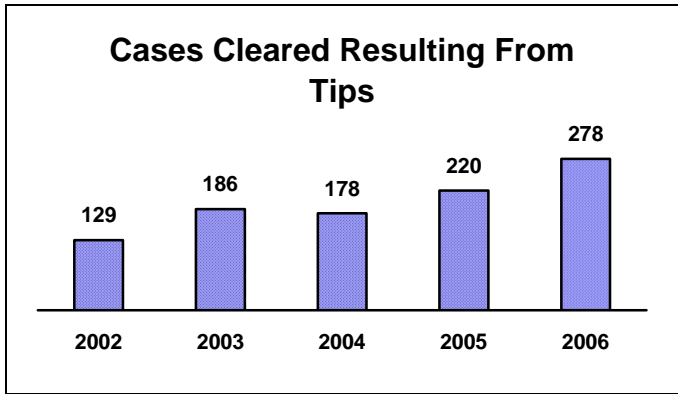
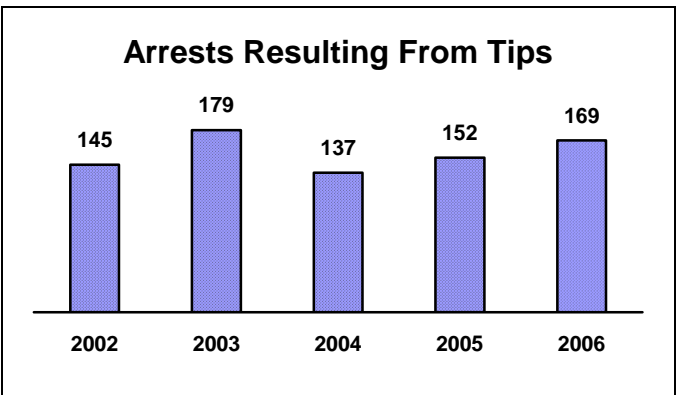
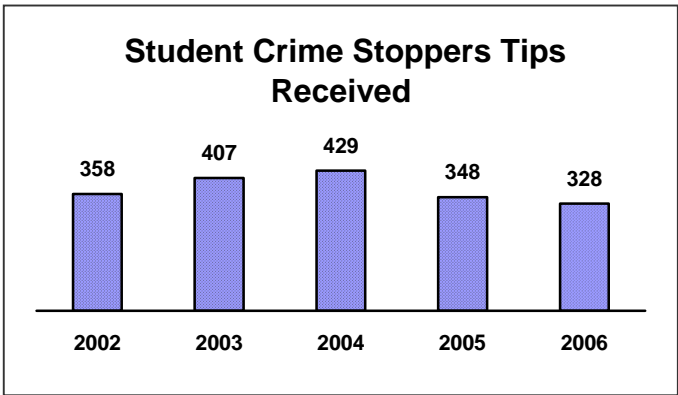


**Juvenile Squad Caseload**



**North/East Squad Caseload**





**Active offenders are those who are currently residing within the City of Amarillo. Inactive offenders are those who are currently incarcerated or have moved from the City of Amarillo, but still have ties to the area.**

# AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



## CAPTAIN KENNETH FERGUSON SERVICE DIVISION

## **SERVICE DIVISION**

Captain Kenneth Ferguson is the commander of the Service Division. Comprised of several units and 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, Communications Section, Property and Evidence Section, and the City Jail. The Division is authorized to have two lieutenants (one lieutenant is the Jail Commander), three sergeants, two officers, and seventy-two civilians (fifteen of the civilians are assigned to the Jail). 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. 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](http://www.amapolice.org).

### **RECORDS SECTION**

The Records Section serves as the official repository for all criminal records and documents of the Department, and is responsible for data entry, and 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 Open Records Act. In addition, the Service Division Commander maintains the sex offender registration book for public inspection. The front desk personnel of the Service Division serve as receptionists for citizens seeking information or assistance, and they process bonds for prisoners being held in the City Jail. Employment criminal history checks are also available at the front desk.

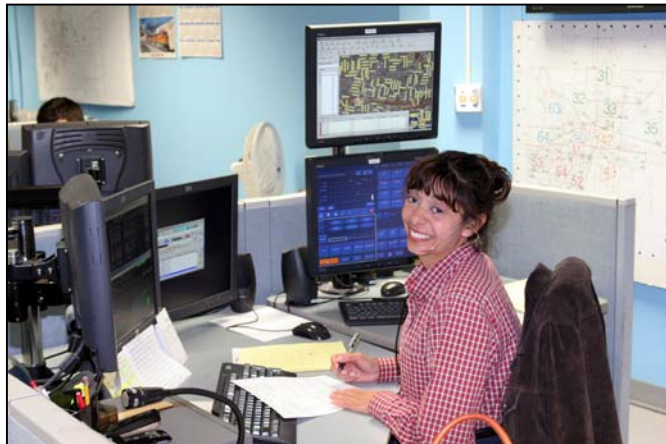


Report Writers assigned to the Service Division receive reports from persons calling on the telephone or citizens visiting the front desk. Report Writers assigned to the Service Division made 3,045 reports from persons calling on the telephone or citizens making reports at the front desk. This is a decrease from the 2005 total of 3,806. In 2006, Clerk typists typed 39,791 reports and 25,629 supplements called in by officers.

In March 2004, the Department began making traffic accident reports available on the Internet through [PoliceReports.US](http://PoliceReports.US). In 2006, 9,819 accident reports were purchased from the Internet providing \$45,314.70 that was deposited into the City's General Fund. By making this user-friendly site easily accessible to the public, the Service Division eliminated 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 their other duties.

### **COMMUNICATIONS SECTION**

The Communications Section is a vital link between the public and emergency assistance, answering requests for police assistance or information while being responsible for dispatching officers in the field. As the public answering point for the 911 Emergency Telephone System, the Communication Section provides the citizens of the Potter-Randall County 911 district with the link to law enforcement, fire and emergency medical communications personnel. The



The Communications Section enters Texas Crime Information Center/National Crime Information Center data into the computer, including protective orders. These operators take calls from hearing-impaired callers using the Telephone Device for the Deaf equipment or TDD. The Communications Section consists of three dispatch supervisors, fifteen dispatchers, and twelve 911 operators. In 2006 an improved methodology was utilized for determining the yearly total telephone calls processed by the Communications Section. As a result of the new tabulating method it was determined that the Communications Section received and processed a total of 576,684 telephone calls for 2006. A breakdown of the telephone calls processed consists of 131,382 incoming 911 calls, 334,240 incoming non-emergency calls, and 111,092 outgoing administrative calls for 2006. In 2006, the Department received 134,072 calls for service as compared to 133,072 in 2005.

## **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 Officer 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 also began using local licensed Federal Firearms dealers for the sale of unclaimed or forfeited firearms. Results are still under review but the Police Department expects a higher return to the City by this method as opposed to the returns generated by the yearly auction.

The Property Section contributed \$12,709.54 to the City's General Fund from unclaimed money in 2006 as compared to \$12,626.43 in 2005. The money comes from drug busts, unclaimed evidence,

found monies, and unclaimed personal property.

## CITY JAIL

City Jail operations are assigned to the Service Division. Lieutenant Tam Boatler is the commander of the City Jail located at 609 South Pierce Street. City Jail staff is responsible for the housing and safe keeping of prisoners arrested for Class C misdemeanors. The staff consists of three civilian jail supervisors, three jail medical officers, eight jailors, and one cook. Five inmates are used to staff additional positions in the Jail. Three inmates are used in the kitchen from 6:00am to 6:00pm while two inmates staff the laundry,



each working a twelve-hour shift. On average, five inmates are sent out each day to work various tasks for the City of Amarillo. These assignments include cleaning cages at the City of Amarillo Zoo, working at the Municipal Golf Courses, washing police vehicles, and other jobs as needed.

The budget for the City Jail, including all salaries and benefits, is approximately \$699,286.96. This figure breaks down into an inmate cost of \$27.50 per day per inmate. This is a decrease of \$1.49 from 2005. When figuring the inmate cost, the trustee labor has not been included. Calculations based on an average of ten trustees per week with five working 12-hour shifts in the jail seven days a week, and five trustees working outside the jail for an 8-hour shift during the workweek produce 32,300 inmate work hours. And, in the summer of 2006, trustees assisted the Special Crimes Unit in one of their searches at the landfill that brought the total up to 32,750 inmate work hours for the calendar year.

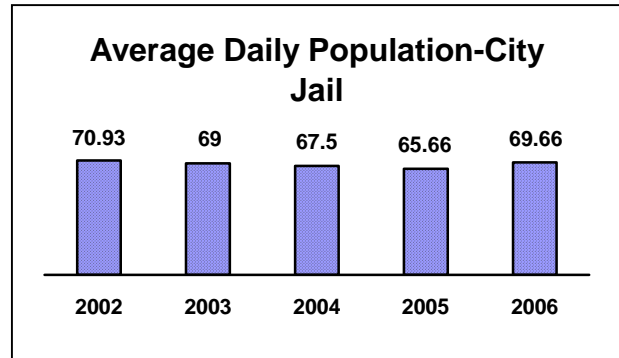
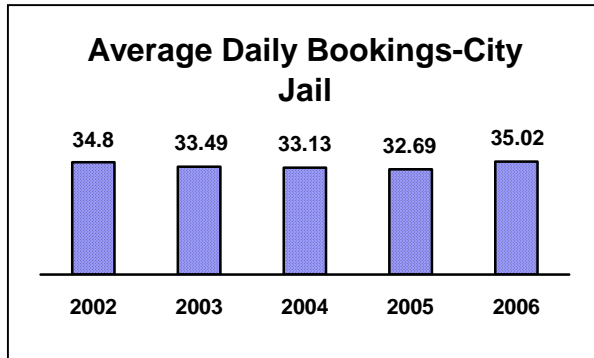
Using the minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour, the hours worked by inmates would equal a \$168,662.50 savings to the City. Recalculating average daily cost using the labor savings provided by the trustees, lowers the cost per inmate per day to \$20.87. This is well below average statewide housing cost of a prisoner in a county jail of approximately \$44.00 per day.



The average cost of providing meals to inmates in 2006 was 60¢ per meal. Adding the cook's salary, utilities, maintenance, and other equipment expenses raised the total per meal to 97¢, marking no

change over the previous year's cost per meal. The City Jail spent \$45,740.81 on food for the calendar year of 2006 while providing 76,191 meals.

2006 saw the Amarillo Police Department making 12,468 physical arrests compared to 11,930 in 2005, making for an increase of 538 arrests. In 2004, there were 12,126, 12,226 arrests in 2003, and 12,697 arrests in 2002. The majority of the arrests resulted in prisoners being booked directly into the City Jail.



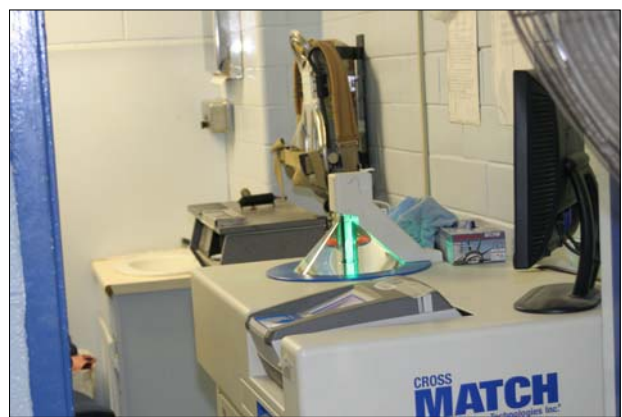
County arrests accounted for less than 40% of the total arrests in 2006. However, many of those arrested and booked into the county jails are later transferred to the City Jail on Municipal charges. The Jail Staff enters the booking information on all arrests, regardless of where the prisoners are initially booked. In addition to maintaining the Computerized Criminal History section, the City Jail staff is also responsible for the data entry of sex offenders registered by the Detective Division. They are required to keep all information in the CCH folders.

There were times during the “Warrant Roundup Operation” and the summer months, the inmate population spiked over 100. The highest daily population was 122 inmates and that occurred during the “Warrant Roundup Operation”. During those sharp population increases, we worked with Municipal Court Judges to address the situation by obtaining approval for the early release of inmates when they are close to being released. This has been an ongoing stopgap measure used in order to take a proactive approach in avoiding overcrowding problems in the City Jail.



During 2006, the Amarillo Police Department City Jail staff continued to work at improving the facility through needed repairs, equipment updates, continued training, and updating jail operation policies. 2006 saw portions of the City Jail remodeled, which included updating the security camera/audio system.

2006 marked the updating of the LiveScan System to the use of the Identix Fingerprint System.





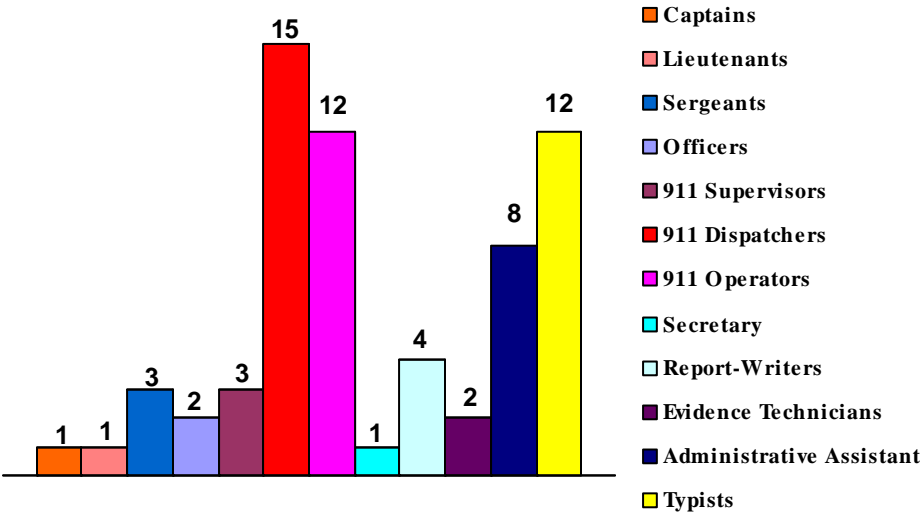
Identix system, like the LiveScan, makes it possible to obtain digital fingerprints that are downloaded directly into the computer system. The result is a much higher quality of print.

As of July 2005, citizens can now access the daily inmate roster through the Department's Internet web page. The inmate roster is updated daily at 4:00am. The report shows the booking number for the person, their name, which jail they are housed in, the number of Municipal charges against them and their expected release date when one is determined. These improvements should increase the overall efficiency of the facility.

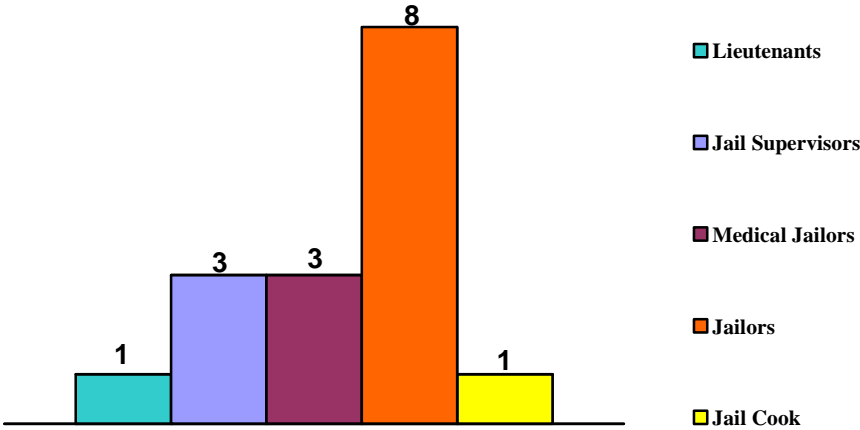
Even with all the improvements and will continue to be made, construction of a new jail facility merits further review. We will continue to strive to make the necessary improvements in the existing jail facility to insure its overall operation. However, it is worth noting that the current facility has been in operation since 1956.

Captain Kenneth Ferguson

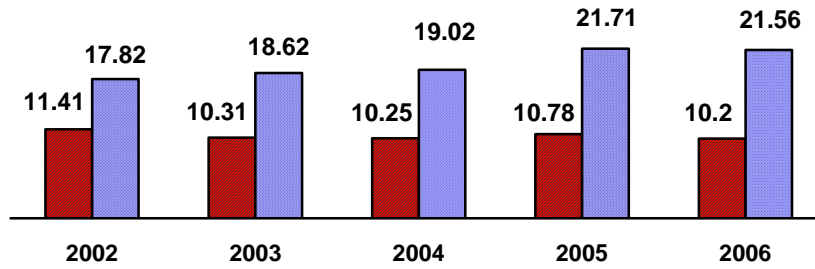
### Service Division Personnel Allocation



### City Jail Personnel Allocation



### Response Times

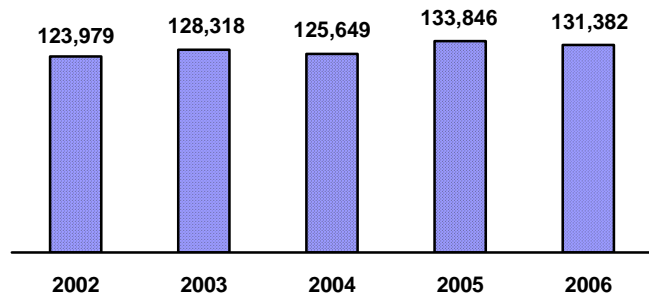


"Response Times Are Shown In Minutes"

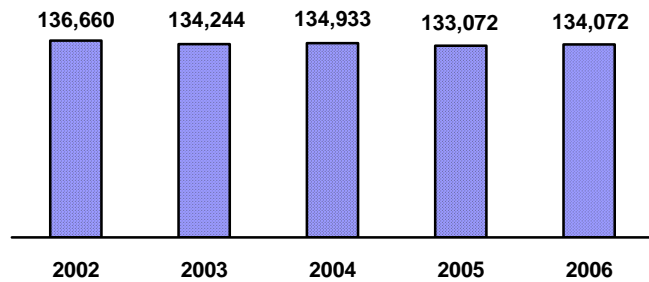
"Priority 1 Calls Left Column - All Other Calls Right Column"

\* Data for 2005 has been updated since the previous report

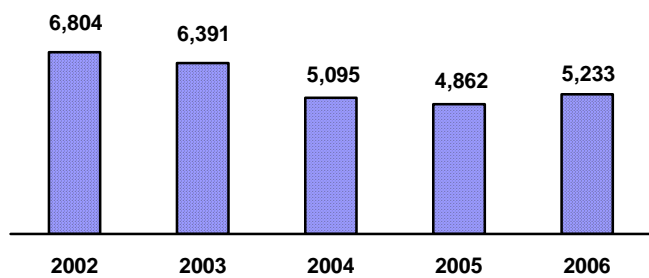
### 911 Calls Received



### Calls For Service Received



### False Alarms Received



## **TRAINING AND PERSONNEL**

Training and Personnel Division coordinates hiring and training of all Police Department personnel. The Training and Personnel Division maintains all records of the Department personnel and their training records. Commanded by Lieutenant Lester, is responsible for supervision of all aspects of the Division as well as for teaching many courses of instruction, including the training and certification of emergency vehicle operation, basic jail course, new supervisors course, search, seizure and laws of arrest.

The Division also has an Office of Professional Standards staffed by a sergeant. This office is responsible for maintaining all of the Department's operations manuals and conducting staff inspections of all divisions to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations of the Department. The Academy Training Sergeant is responsible for the supervision of the two Background Investigators, training of all recruits and mandatory advanced training of officers.

The Range Sergeant is the Range Master who supervises the Amarillo Shooting Complex that has eighteen part-time civilians staffing three Range Officer positions for the public operations and the Range Master coordinates all self-defense weapons training and qualifications for sworn officers. The Quartermaster/Purchaser is responsible for ordering, issuance and return of all issued equipment. Two Human Resource Technicians are responsible for the hiring of sworn and civilian personnel, respectively. An Administrative Assistant I is the Division's receptionist.

The Department has an authorized strength of 302 officers. We have 98 full-time civilian employees and 5 part-time civilian employees for a total of 103 authorized civilian employees.

In 2006, the Division provided 176 training classes with 1,026 students for 27,386 hours of training. These numbers reflect a decrease over 2005 statistics in which we provided the Department 435 training classes with 2,460 students for 37,016 hours of training, however in 2005 we were providing Weapons of Mass Destruction classes which dramatically increased these totals. In 2004, we provided the Department 219 training classes with 2,358 students for 31,405 hours of training.

The decline in training for 2006 is a result of the mandated National Incident Management System (NIMS) training modules. We had to schedule classes to teach a number of levels of NIMS modules to the entire Department. This enormous effort is only reflected as one class for each level of NIMS taught, reducing the number of classes and hours of other training that could be provided. The number of regularly scheduled classes was postponed until 2007. These yearly figures do not include all of roll call training and supervisor-directed training. In addition, many employees attended out-of-town training classes assigned by their division. These hours and student numbers cannot be accurately tracked; most of the out of town training is for advanced certification training and instructor certification.



The Division is responsible for recruiting, selecting, testing, hiring, and training new police officers. The 75<sup>th</sup> Amarillo Police Department Basic Police Officer Academy began June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, with 29 recruits. All graduates passed the Basic Peace Officers Licensing Exam on the first attempt, which is a significant accomplishment compared to other academies across Texas. The 75<sup>th</sup> graduated December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The hiring process began with 244 applicants who were notified of the Civil Service Entrance Exam that took place on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Of the 244 applicants notified, 135 applicants took the test with 93 passing the written exam. The physical ability testing created a list of successful, potential applicants who progressed to the rigorous background investigation. The polygraph testing verifies the findings of the background investigation, allowing only the best applicants to proceed

to the interview board staffed by five senior and ranking officers from the Department. The final steps are the psychological and medical fitness-for-duty exams. These new officers received 1,064 hours of in class training and 640 hours of one-on-one training from Field Training Officers (FTO) before the new officers are finally allowed to work without direct supervision.

The 74<sup>th</sup> Accelerated Academy began January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and lasted eight weeks. The 5 recruits graduated March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The Accelerated Academy is for applicants who are already licensed as peace officers in the State of Texas. Accelerated recruits receive classroom training consisting of a review of search and seizure, Texas law, Amarillo Police Department Rules and Regulations, radar operation, motor vehicle collision investigation, computer operation, ethics, self defense and defense of others, and other training. Upon graduation, they proceed to an accelerated FTO program. These components comprise our Accelerated Training Program that is designed to attract licensed applicants and officers from other agencies to our Department.



The hiring process is the same for all recruits, Basic Academy or Accelerated Academy. The selection process includes a written examination, physical fitness ability testing, a thorough background investigation, a polygraph examination, an interview board, a psychological examination, and a medical examination.

Training and Personnel maintains payroll data for all Police Department employees. In addition, our Division processes health insurance benefits, Family Medical Leave Act requests and retirement requests. Training and Personnel also generates and files performance evaluations for each employee.

Additional responsibilities of Training and Personnel include coordinating with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) on hiring, training and licensing of our police officers, jailors, and telecommunication operators. Training and Personnel conducts research projects for the Department and maintains the Amarillo Shooting Complex, a combination public and police firearms range.

In 2006, we increased the Department's authorized strength by 11 officers to 302. The following figures are run against our actual strength of 295 sworn personnel. The average age of a police officer, including all ranks, was 39.01 compared to 39.08 in 2005. The average length of service was 13.15 years, compared to 13.28 in 2005. Average length of service for all employees (sworn and civilian) is 11.5 years compared to 11.74 year in 2005. We have 23 (7.79%) female officers compared to 23 (7.95%) in 2005. There are 272 (92.21%) male officers compared to 266 (92.04%) in 2005, 1 Native American (.34%), 4 African-American officers (1.36%), 35 Hispanic officers (11.86%), and 255 Caucasian officers (86.44%). The ethnic and racial makeup of the Department changed during 2006 with an increase of Hispanic officers. This ethnic and racial makeup has remained constant during 2002 and 2003, with a slight increase in Hispanic officers in 2004, 2005, and 2006.



In 2006, 12 officers had Master's degrees (same as 2004 and 2005); 55 had Bachelor's degrees (same as 2005); and 23 had Associate's degrees (down one from 2005). 105 officers had more than 10 college hours but no degree. On average, an officer had 50.53 college hours (an increase of 7.24 hours from 2005). 39 officers had an Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate (a decrease of 5 from 2005), 46 officers had an Advanced Certificate (a decrease of 19), and 139 had a Master Peace Officer Certificate (an increase of 12 from 2005 and 16 from 2004).

## **CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Citizen Police Academy (CPA) was held in the fall of 2006. Thirty-one (an increase of 10) members of the community were selected to attend the CPA. These citizens met one night a week for twelve class sessions covering Department 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 allowed to ride on observations with patrol officers and upon graduation provide a solid base of community support for the department. Fifteen citizens graduated from the 13<sup>th</sup> CPA Academy.



## **STUDENT POLICE ACADEMY**

In the spring of 2006, we hosted our 6th Student Police Academy with 12 students graduating. Attendees are selected from area high school juniors and seniors. Students attend evening classes at the Police Department one night a week. Class topics include crime scene investigation, patrol operations, radar operations, narcotics identification, crowd control, and others. Students are allowed to ride observation with patrol officers during the Academy. Students are introduced to law enforcement as a career choice and also provide support to the Department through their relationships with their peers.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

The Amarillo Police Department Volunteer Program uses twenty to thirty volunteers working in Victim Assistance, Service Division, Traffic Enforcement Unit, and Property. The Volunteer Program began in 1992 and has since grown. In 2006 the volunteers donated approximately 3,208 hours of service to the Department. Approximately 12 volunteers are assigned to the Handicap Patrol program that began in 1995. The Handicap Patrol issued parking tickets to vehicles illegally parked in handicapped parking spaces. An appreciation dinner is held once a year to recognize all of these volunteer employees.

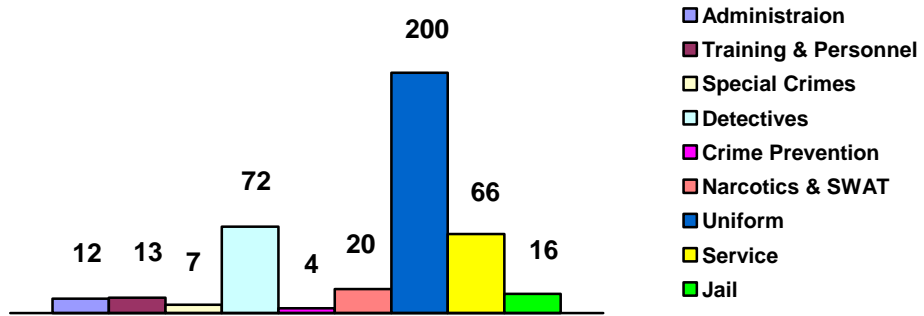
## **CHAPLAIN PROGRAM**

The Chaplain Program at the Amarillo Police Department has one full-time chaplain and two volunteer chaplains to ensure availability of a chaplain for our employees in times of illness, injury, or death. 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.

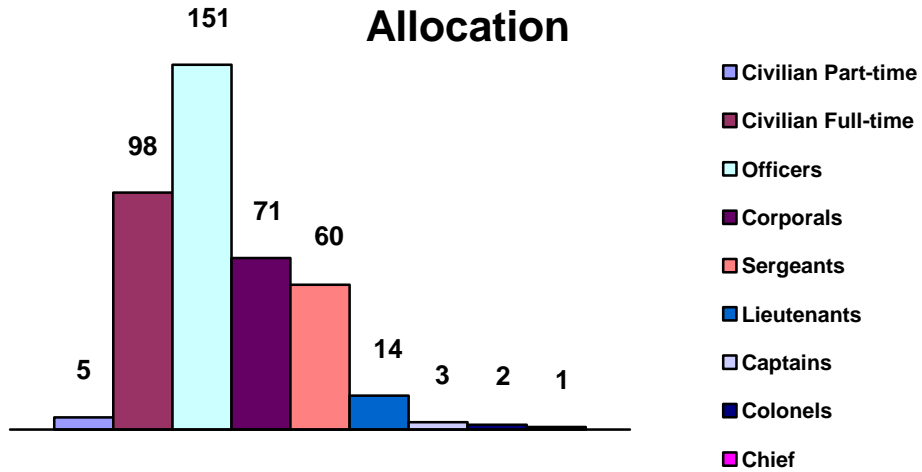
## **CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING PROGRAM**

The Amarillo Police Department provides peer counselors for all our employees. The counselors are trained volunteers from within the Department. Peer counselors conduct critical incident stress debriefings after traumatic events and make confidential referrals to professional counselors upon request.

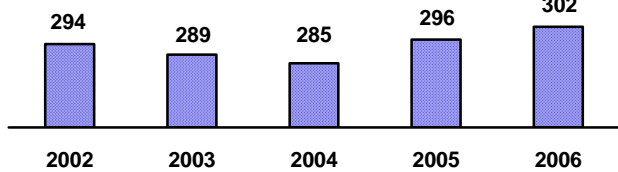
### Sworn and Civilian Personnel Allocation by Assignment



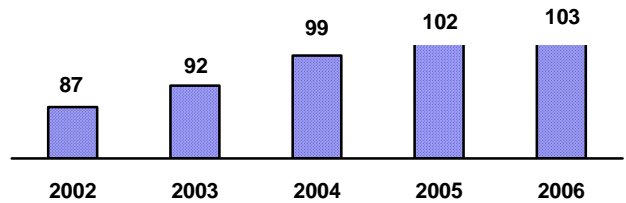
### Sworn and Civilian Personnel Allocation



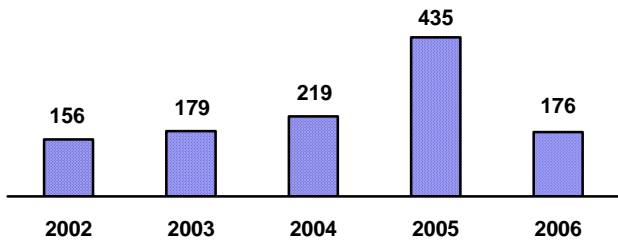
### Sworn Authorized Strength



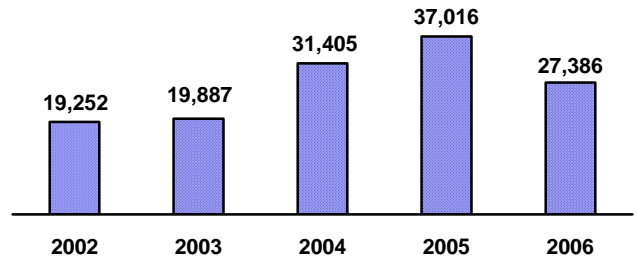
### Civilian Authorized Strength



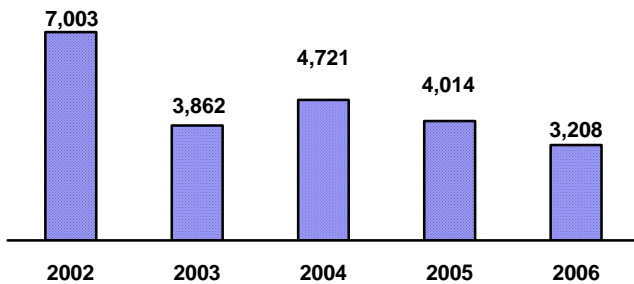
### In-Service Training Classes Provided



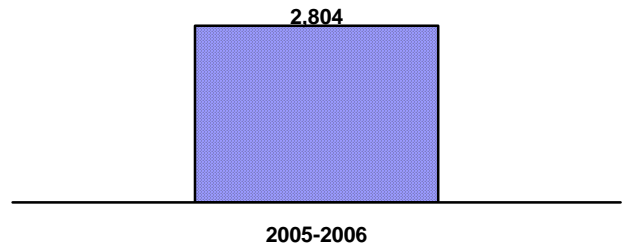
### In-Service Training Hours Provided



### Volunteer Hours Provided



### Fiscal Year Customers at the Amarillo Shooting Complex

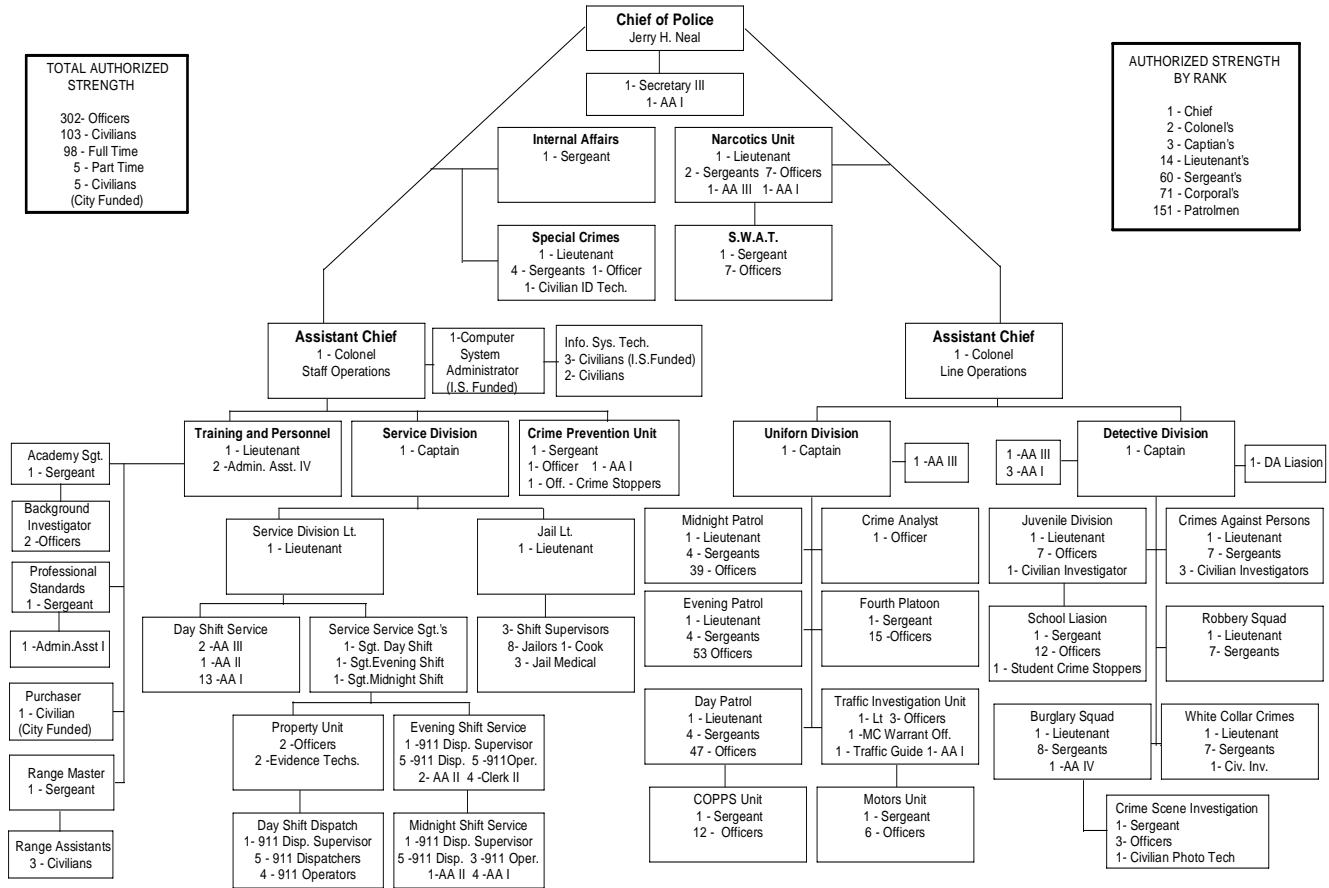


## The Amarillo Police Department

January 29th, 2007

**TOTAL AUTHORIZED STRENGTH**  
 302 - Officers  
 103 - Civilians  
 98 - Full Time  
 5 - Part Time  
 5 - Civilians (City Funded)

**AUTHORIZED STRENGTH BY RANK**  
 1 - Chief  
 2 - Colonels  
 3 - Captains  
 14 - Lieutenants  
 60 - Sergeants  
 71 - Corporals  
 151 - Patrolmen



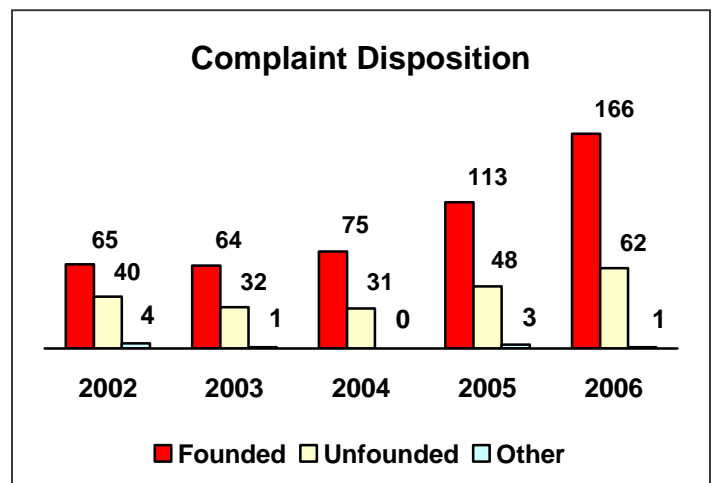
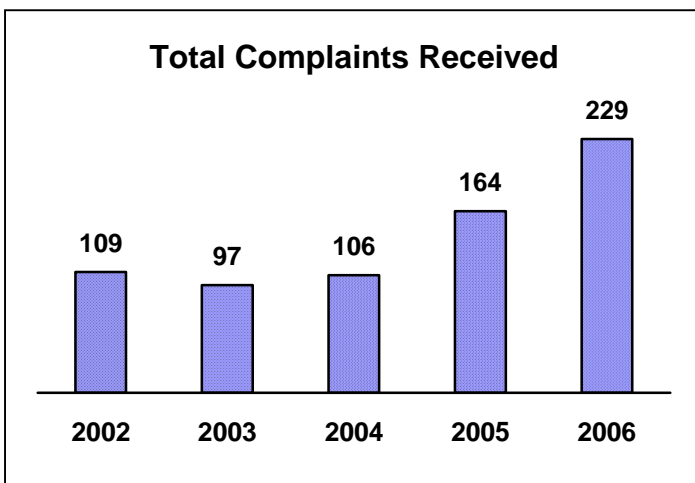


## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Complaints from citizens and complaints from within the Department are investigated by the Internal Affairs Investigator. During 2006 there were 229 formal complaints filed. After investigation, 166 complaints were determined to be founded, 62 complaints unfounded. One complaint did not have sufficient evidence to make a final determination. Each of the 166 founded complaint resulted in disciplinary action.

On three separate occasions officers were involved in shooting incidents. In two of the incidents, officers were shot by a suspect but did not return fire. There was only one of these incidents where an officer fired a shot from his firearm. The one incident involving the officer returning fire was presented to the Potter County Grand Jury; it was determined to be justified. There were seven discharges of firearm incidents involving the shooting of an animal. The Shooting Review Board found these incidents were justified. Only one incident of an unintentional discharge of firearm occurred this year.

Sergeant Berry Carden  
Internal Affairs



## 2006 INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATS

Complaint Type:	Founded	Unfounded	Other	Total	%Founded
Excessive Force:	2	12	0	14	14%
Illegal Search:	0	0	0	0	0%
Illegal Arrest:	1	3	0	4	25%
Neglect or Inattention to Duty:	131	23	0	154	85%
Falsify or Release Of Records:	3	0	0	3	100%
Conduct Unbecoming:	28	22	1	51	55%
Criminal Offenses:	1	2	0	3	33%
Racial Profiling:	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>73%</b>

### Officer Involved

Shootings: 1  
Justified: 1

### Discharge of

Firearm: 7  
Justified: 7

### Accidental

Discharge:  
of Firearm 1

### In Custody

Death 0

Disciplinary action was taken on all founded complaints. Such action included verbal counseling, written reprimands, suspensions, and terminations. Resignations were submitted during some investigations.

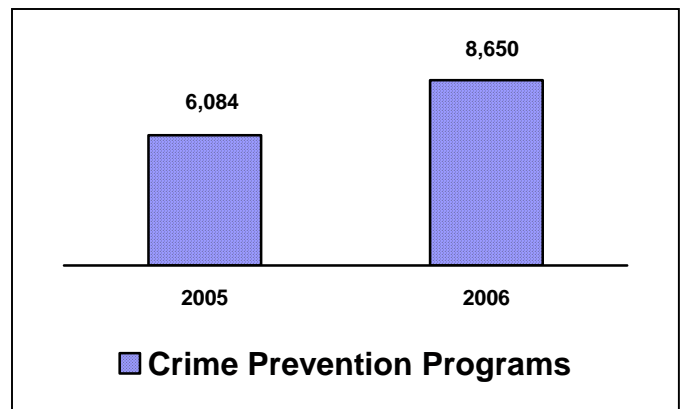
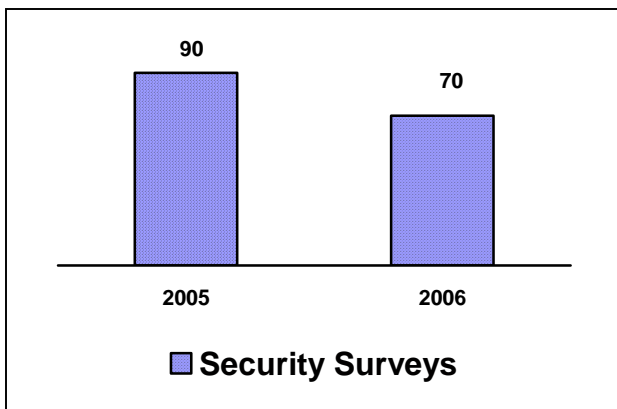
# CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) is made up of officers well versed in the methods of providing information to the public, both directly and by working with various media organizations. The CPU provides a liaison between the Amarillo Police Department and the community we serve. The CPU offers education concerning city and neighborhood crime issues, advises citizens about safety tips, gives general information about APD's services and practices, and helps interpret Texas Criminal and Traffic Laws. Civic groups and private citizens are encouraged to call the CPU at 378-4257 to request a presentation, security survey, or learn more about crime prevention.



A Security Survey is a service that not only helps citizens reduce their risk of becoming a crime victim, it also gives the APD an opportunity to connect with the member of the public on an individual basis. This service is free and may entitle the participating homeowner to a reduction in homeowner's insurance.

This year public interest in CPU presentations grew as audience attendance increased by 42.2%. Identity Theft and Personal Safety presentations continue to be requested more frequently than any other CPU program. CPU's *Fast and Furious* presentation outlining safe driving practices is gaining momentum with both teen and adult audiences.



# **AMARILLO CRIME STOPPERS, INC.**

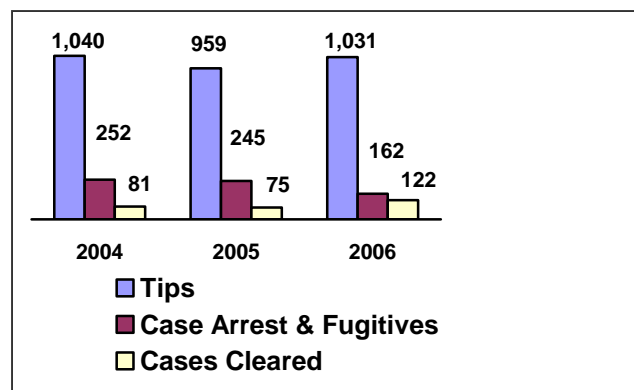
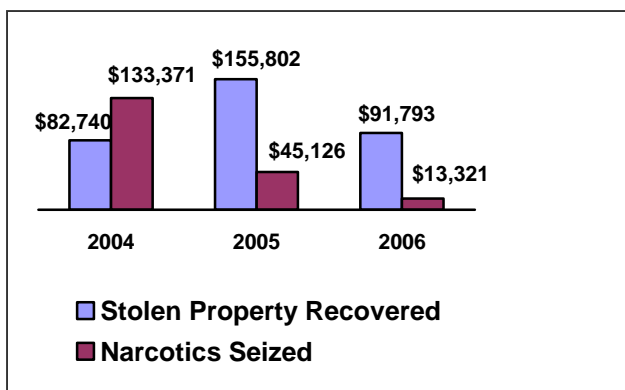


In 2006, Amarillo Crime Stoppers approved 114 rewards totaling \$24,715. We are grateful that the citizens of the Amarillo area who continue to support us by providing tips, volunteering on our board, and being generous in financial support they contribute to keep the program running. And without the tremendous help from members of the law enforcement community do the hard work of the following up on the tips we receive, we could not have been this successful. In addition, we have been very fortunate to have a great working relationship with the various media outlets in Amarillo. Keep watching and listening to all media outlets in Amarillo for updated information on Amarillo Crime Stoppers each week. Also we have a great website that is updated weekly with the current crimes we need help solving and fugitive faces we need to track down located at [www.amapolice.org](http://www.amapolice.org). Help us to continue to make the Amarillo area a safer place for all of us to live and work.

Each week we go to the media, asking them to broadcast the crime of the week we are focusing on solving. Another weekly update features the fugitive each week. This year of the 49 fugitives we highlighted; 40 were apprehended. Seventeen of those arrests came as a direct result of tips called in from citizens, resulting in a total of \$5,100 paid out on fugitives.

In 2006 Amarillo Crime Stoppers received 1,031 tips. From those tips, we cleared 122 cases and put 162 criminals in jail. Those same tips allowed us to recover \$91,793 worth of property and removed \$13,321 worth of narcotics from our streets.

A few examples of the cases solved as a direct result of tips to Amarillo Crime Stoppers include a hit-and-run fatality at 7700 East I-40 that occurred in 2004. Another plea for assistance from the public in 2006 resulted in two tips that led to the arrest of two suspects and the recovery of the actual hit-and-run vehicle. A tip concerning the burglary of a new home under construction resulted in the recovery of two plasma TV sets and the arrest of the suspect. Another tipster responded to seeing a robbery photo. Detectives then went to the house of the suspect and found him wearing some of the same clothing as he was wearing in the crime scene photo. Another case solved with an arrest made. Amarillo Crime Stoppers received a tip of a burglary in Randall County and forwarded the information to the Sheriff's office. Deputies were able to clear the case, making two arrests and recovering the property taken that was valued at \$1,000—a good example of the cooperation between two different law enforcement agencies. One of the last tips of 2006 concerned a suspect who was selling marijuana from his home. A field officer acted on this tip and recovered five pounds of marijuana. Two arrests were made, taking \$4,000 worth of marijuana off our streets.



## **SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT**

Formed on December 10, 1981, the Special Crimes Unit is responsible for the investigation of homicides and suspicious deaths or other cases assigned by the Board of Governors that occur in the City of Amarillo, Potter County, and Armstrong County. In addition to those duties, the unit investigates officer-involved shootings for the Amarillo Police Department with the exception of incidents involving the shooting of an animal. At the present time, the unit consists of eight full-time members from the Amarillo Police Department and the Potter County Sheriff's Office.

Lieutenant Gary Trupe of the Amarillo Police Department serves as the Special Crimes Unit Coordinator. Sergeant Kevin Dockery and Sergeant Eric Smith are the unit's Investigative Detectives. Sergeant Stan Rickwartz, Officer Jimmy Rifenberg, and Officer Wes Lang are CSI officers from the Amarillo Police Department. From the Potter County Sheriff's Office Sergeant David Johnson works as an Investigative Detective, and Corporal Tedd Lanning is a CSI officer. Retired APD Sergeant Modeina Holmes works as a Crime Scene Specialist, and Karen Fitzgerald, from the Potter County District Attorney's Office, is the Unit's Secretary.

In December 2005, Sergeant Dockery and Officer Rifenberg re-opened the homicide case of E. J. Henderson. Mr. Henderson, 65, was brutally murdered inside his home in Washburn, Texas on May 16, 1991. Mr. Henderson's pick-up was stolen after his murder and recovered in Illinois several days later. This murder was featured on Unsolved Mysteries in 1992. Two witnesses were located who provided a composite drawing of the suspect in this case. The offender was not identified during the initial investigation. Sergeant Dockery tracked down the owner of a phone the suspect had called in 1991. This witness gave Sergeant Dockery the first name of Larry for the suspect, including the city the suspect lived in during that period. With this information, Sergeant Dockery identified the suspect as Lawrence (Larry) Tutt from New York. Officer Rifenberg compared evidence recovered at the scene in 1991 to Tutt's information, indicating that Tutt was involved in this murder. On July 26, 2006 Tutt was indicted by an Armstrong County Grand Jury for the murder of E. J. Henderson. Tutt is currently serving time in an Illinois prison on an unrelated charge and has a pending homicide conviction from New York. A trial has not yet been scheduled on this case.

On March 27, 2006, a severed head was found inside a City sanitation truck in north Amarillo. No other body parts were located after an extensive search was conducted over the truck's route and at the Amarillo Landfill west of town. A composite sketch of what the victim is believed to have looked like was released to the public, but no identification has so far been made. This case remains an open investigation.



On April 18, 2006, Claude Robertson, 74, and Allen Hazelwood, 52, were found murdered west of Amarillo in Potter County near the community of Bushland. Both Mr. Robertson and Mr.

Hazelwood had been shot with a shotgun on property owned by Mr. Robertson. At the same time, Mr. Robertson's home was broken reportedly into and property taken. On April 22, 2006, Sergeant John Coffee was able to locate where the stolen property had been pawned, enabling him to identify a possible suspect. An arrest warrant was issued for Michael Ryan, 29, for Possession of Stolen Property. With assistance from the SWAT team, Ryan was arrested as he tried to flee. During the course of the investigation information was obtained that implicated Ryan and a second suspect, Jason Williams, 29 in this murder. Both Ryan and Williams were charged with Capital Murder after it was determined that this murder occurred while the victims were being robbed. The weapon used in this murder was recovered. On September 28, 2006, Ryan pled guilty to Capital Murder and received a life sentence in TDC. A trial for Williams has not yet been scheduled.

On October 15, 1999, Jacqueline Wunch, 54, was reported missing by her employer. An investigation was conducted into Ms. Wunch's disappearance, but she was not located. On October 29, 1999, the body of a female was found floating in large irrigation run off ditch in Bernalillo County, New Mexico. This unknown female was a murder victim. In October 2004, Bill Peters with the Cold Case squad in Bernalillo County felt that body might be Ms. Wunch. DNA obtained from a family member was compared to the unknown victim in New Mexico, and she was positively identified as Ms. Wunch in late 2005. After a joint investigation conducted with Bernalillo County, several suspects who stayed at the Broncho Motel in Amarillo during the time of Ms. Wunch's disappearance were identified as possible suspects in her death. On April 5, 2006, a warrant was issued charging Narciso Cuellar, 40, with the murder of Ms. Wunch. In May of 2006, Cuellar was arrested in Modesto, California. During the course of the investigation information was obtained that implicated him in this murder. Cuellar is currently serving time in a California prison on an unrelated charge and will be extradited back to Amarillo upon his release. A trial date has not yet been set on this case.

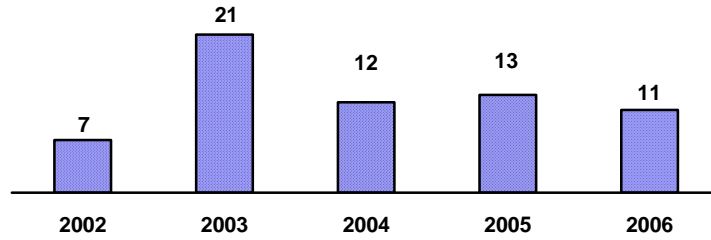
On April 28, 2006, Officer Kevin Brown stopped Gary Jack Hella, 19, at 2515 South Grand because Hella fit the description of a suspect in an Auto Burglary. Hella pulled a 9mm semi-automatic from his pants while Officer Brown patted him down for weapons and obtained Hella's identification. Hella fired one round at Officer Brown, striking him in the left wrist. Hella fled from the scene and hid in a nearby shed. The SWAT team was notified and after searching the area, they located Hella inside the shed, and took him into custody. Hella was charged with Attempted Capital Murder of a Peace Officer, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of Narcotics. On October 30, 2006, Hella pled guilty to the Attempted Capital Murder of a Peace Officer. A jury sentenced him to 35 years in TDC in addition to 12 years for a Probation Violation. Officer Brown recovered from his injuries and returned to duty.

Lieutenant Gary Trupe

## **HOMICIDES INVESTIGATED**

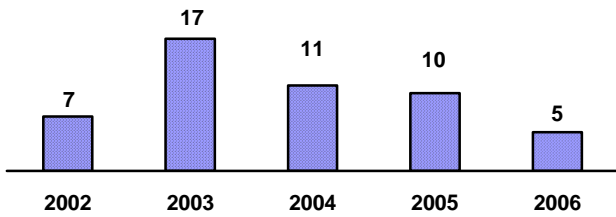
<b>TOTAL 2006 HOMICIDE CASES INVESTIGATED</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>TOTAL 2006 HOMICIDE CASES CLEARED</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>PREVIOUS YEARS HOMICIDE CASES CLEARED</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>NUMBER OF DEATHS BY:</b>		
<b>GUNSHOT</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>ARSON</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>STABBING</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>BLUNT FORCE</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>STRANGULATION</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>OTHER</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>HOMICIDES IN JURISDICTION OF:</b>		
	<b>CITY OF AMARILLO</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>POTTER COUNTY SO</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>ARMSTRONG COUNTY SO</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>HOMICIDES BY MONTH (all jurisdictions)</b>		
	<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>MAY</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>JUNE</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>JULY</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SUSPICIOUS DEATHS INVESTIGATED</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>ASSIST OFFICERS OF OUTSIDE AGENCY</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>HOMICIDES FROM PRIOR YEARS RE-INVESTIGATED</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>FIRE DEATHS</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>IN CUSTODY DEATHS</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>INFANT DEATHS INVESTIGATED</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>OUTSIDE AGENCY INVOLVED SHOOTING</b>		<b>1</b>

### Homicides investigated by Special Crimes



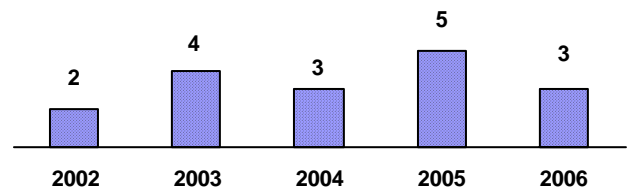
Totals will include assaults upgraded to a homicide after the death of the victim, cases accepted on a lesser charge or at the time of death the victim was outside the jurisdiction.

### Homicide

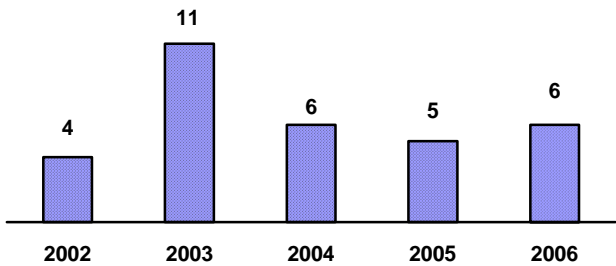


Homicides occurring within the City of Amarillo

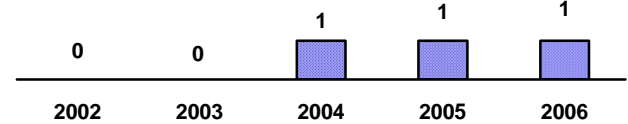
### Homicide by Blunt Force



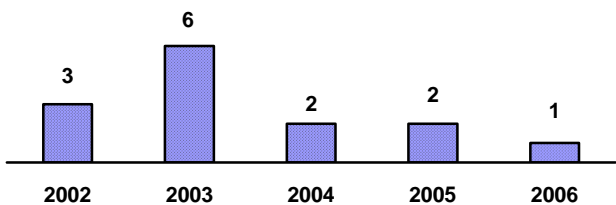
### Homicide by Gunshot



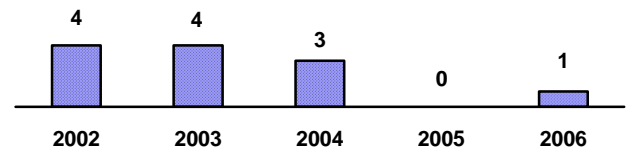
### Homicide by Other Means



### Homicide by Stabbing



### Officer Involved Shootings Investigated





# **NARCOTICS UNIT AND SWAT ANNUAL REPORT**

## **NARCOTICS UNIT**

Lt. Erick Bohannon is the Commander of the Narcotics Unit and SWAT Team. A 14-year veteran of the Amarillo Police Department, Lieutenant Bohannon has had various assignments throughout the Department in the Uniform Division, Service Division, and Detective Division.

The Narcotics Unit is comprised of two sergeants and six narcotics agents. Two additional narcotics agents are assigned to the local office of the Drug Enforcement Agency 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.
- Provide community education programs on narcotics and vice.
- Identify and combat fencing operations involving stolen property.
- Investigate any offense involving organized criminal activity.

The agents use various investigative methods such as surveillance and undercover operations to complete their investigations. Most investigations result in an arrest warrant or a search warrant being issued.

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

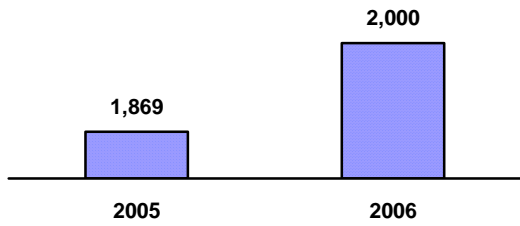


25 lbs. of marijuana seized from the gas tank of a car

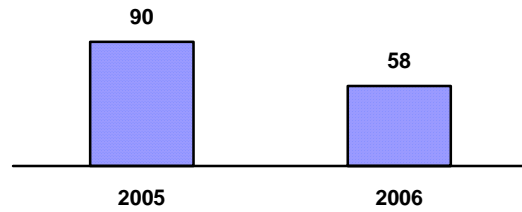


Meth Ice seized during a search warrant

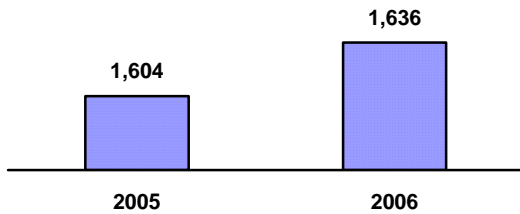
**Narcotic Cases Investigated**



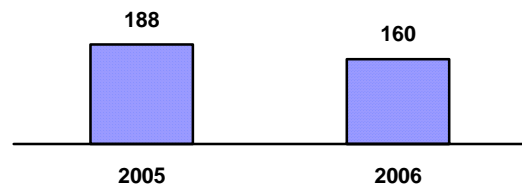
**Search Warrants  
(Narcotics Unit only)**



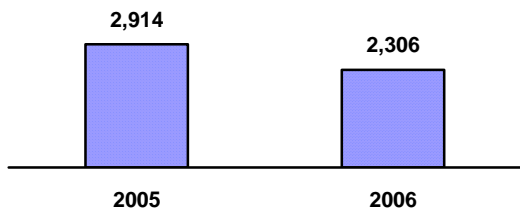
**Adult Narcotic Arrests**



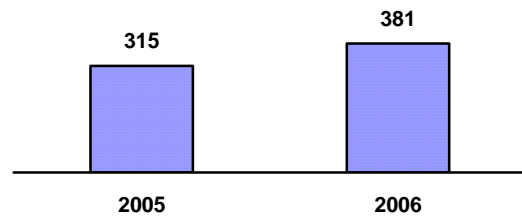
**Juvenile Narcotic Arrests  
(not paraphernalia)**



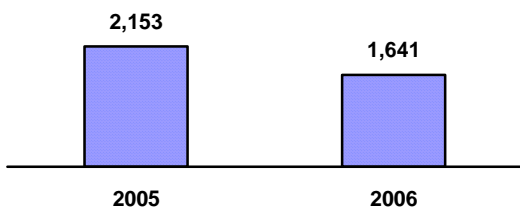
**Cocaine Seized (grams)**



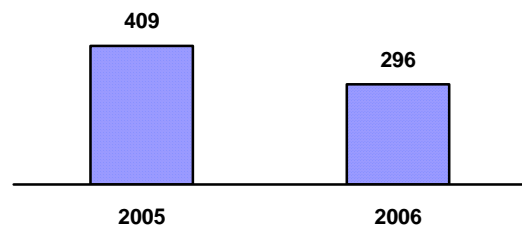
**Cocaine Arrests**



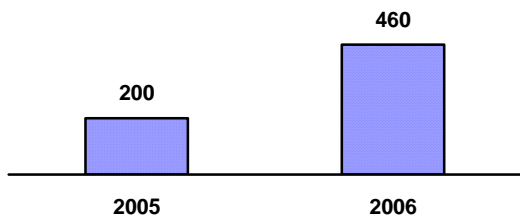
**Meth Seized (grams)**



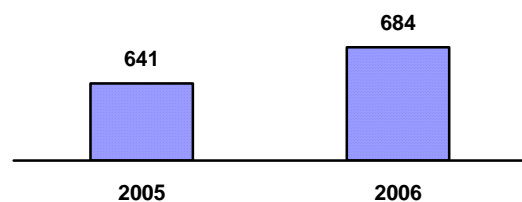
**Meth Arrests**



**Marijuana Seized (pounds)**



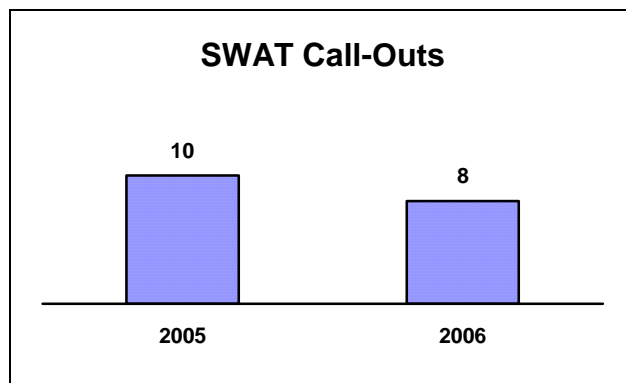
**Marijuana Arrests**



## SWAT TEAM

Sgt. Tim Williams supervises the Amarillo Police Department's SWAT Team. There are 8 full-time members of the 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



Members of SWAT and Narcotics are pictured practicing search warrant entry techniques.



SWAT officers training at the Amarillo Shooting Complex.

The SWAT Team trains continuously throughout the year to maintain tactical proficiency and works closely with the Narcotics Unit in all facets of narcotics investigations. This includes pre-raid planning and surveillance, providing tactical expertise during the execution of search warrants, and the collection of evidence. Because both units work together on a daily basis they train together several times a year.

Lt. Erick Bohannon

# **Sergeant Kevin Dockery**



## **Amarillo Rotary Club South Officer of the Year 2005**

Lieutenant Gary Trupe nominated Sergeant Kevin Dockery to be Amarillo Rotary Club South Officer of the First Quarter for 2005 for his outstanding performance during that period. Sergeant Dockery has excelled as a member of the Special Crimes Unit, especially during the month of January 2005 when he was instrumental in solving three recent homicides in the Amarillo area. After being recognized as Officer of the First Quarter, Sergeant Dockery received the honor of being named Officer of the Year 2005.

On January 7, 2005, the Special Crimes Unit was dispatched to the area of 34<sup>th</sup> and Eastern on a found body call, the apparent victim of a homicide. Donald Ray White had been murdered, his body left in a bar ditch just outside the city limits of Amarillo in Randall County. Officers of Amarillo arrested a subject on drug and weapon charges on January 14, 2005. This suspect told officers he wanted to give them information on a homicide. Sergeant Dockery questioned this suspect and was able to identify the two individuals responsible for the murder. Later in the day, Sergeant Dockery, along with Randall County Investigator Paul Horn, questioned a female in the Potter County Jail. This female had been uncooperative initially, but because she knew Sergeant Dockery from his school liaison days, she gave him a statement identifying the two suspects responsible for committing the murder.

In that same month on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the Special Crimes Unit was assigned to investigate the murder of

Matthew Vaughn at 3210 South Lipscomb. Sergeant Dockery assisted the lead investigator on this case. As the investigation proceeded, APD only had a vague description of a person who might be responsible for the murder. The victim's cell phone had been stolen, and calls were made after the victim's death. On his own initiative, Sergeant Dockery began tracing the calls from the missing cell phone, leading him to identify a suspect. A murder warrant was issued for the arrest of Roy Carl Jones, 33. Mr. Jones was arrested and extradited back to Amarillo. The Randall County Grand Jury indicted Mr. Jones for Capital Murder. A trial date has not been set.

On January 15, 2005, Sergeant Dockery was assigned as lead investigator in the murder of Jesse Sandoval at 1308 South Houston. Within five hours, Sergeant Dockery identified the offender as Matthew Olivas, H/M, 35, obtained a search warrant for his truck and then a warrant charging Olivas with Murder.

Over a period of eight days in January 2005, Sergeant Dockery identified four people responsible for three separate murders. By spending countless hours, both on and off duty, Sergeant Dockery cleared these homicides and brought closure to the families involved. All homicide investigations require enormous amounts of time, effort, and paperwork—even more so when cases begin as a “who-done-it.” Lieutenant Trupe describes Sergeant Dockery's drive and dedication to the Special Crimes Unit as exemplary. Sergeant Dockery's hard work on these three homicides, as well as his overall outstanding performance as an investigator, led Lieutenant Trupe to nominate him for Officer of the Year for 2005.

# **Officer Tim Roberts**



## **Rotary Club South Officer of the First Quarter 2006**

Sergeant Jim Hart recommended Officer Tim Roberts for Officer of the Quarter for his outstanding performance during the First Quarter of 2006. On February 17, 2006, Officer Roberts was dispatched to a burglary alarm at Budget Auto Sales located at 2801 SW 45<sup>th</sup>. Upon arrival, Officer Roberts met with the business owner and determined that the business had been burglarized. Entry into the business was made through a window. The business office was found ransacked. A 1989 Honda had also been stolen from the business and driven through the business lot's barrier by the suspect.

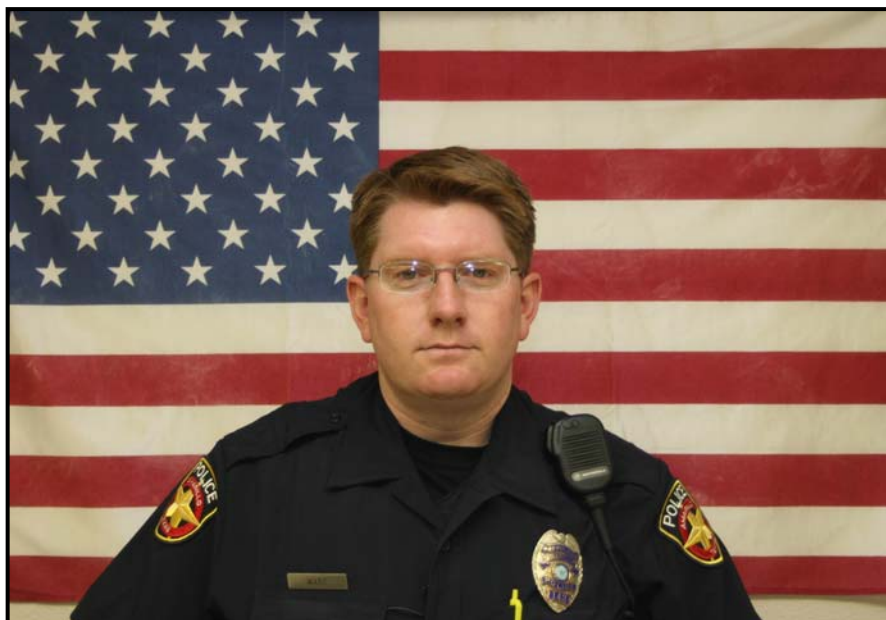
Learning that the stolen vehicle was in poor mechanical condition, Officer Roberts began checking the immediate area on the chance the vehicle had broken down. Officer Roberts located the stolen Honda in the nearby parking lot of the American Motor Inn. While Officer Roberts was conducting his investigation, he noticed a male standing in front of one of the motel's rooms. This male seemed to be watching Officer Roberts' actions. Officer Roberts spoke with the male, noting he was over six feet tall and had large feet. Officer Roberts knew from evidence at the scene of the burglary the suspect would be a tall man with large feet. Upon examining the male's shoes, Officer Roberts determined the shoe pattern on the male's shoe was the same as that found at the scene of the burglary. The male gave consent for his room to be searched by Officer Roberts. During that search, Officer Roberts found additional incriminating evidence that linked the male suspect to the burglary. Officer Roberts arrested the male suspect for burglary of a business and the theft of the

Honda. Further investigation by Officer Roberts resulted in the recovery of another stolen vehicle. This suspect was later booked into jail and subsequently charged with the offense.

Officer Robert's exceptional performance during this investigation resulted in two stolen vehicles being recovered, the clearance of a business burglary, and a suspect being arrested for the crime.



# Officer Paul Ware



## Rotary Club South Officer of the Second Quarter 2006

Sergeant Barbee nominated Officer Paul Ware as Officer of the Second Quarter for his outstanding performance during that period. Officer Ware's active patrol work has earned him five Departmental Commendations, favorable written comments from two detectives, a letter of thanks from two detectives, and a letter of thanks from the Adult Probation Department in the last few months.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Officer Ware was commended for his attention to duty and teamwork while recovering a stolen car. He had taken an auto theft report as part of his normal shift work on December 17, 2005. That evening, while working holiday patrol, Officer Ware spotted the car in the heavy seasonal traffic around the mall. The driver of the stolen car attempted to evade him by driving through private lots and the heavy holiday traffic. Officer Ware lost track of the car and began a search of the area. He contacted a citizen standing on the street in the area and got information about which direction the vehicle was last seen traveling in. He searched that neighborhood and found the car abandoned in a cul-de-sac on Adirondack. Other officers joined the search of that area, and two suspects were arrested. These suspects were found to be in possession of items stolen from the car, and one suspect had a parole violation warrant. Officer Ware was commended for his attention to duty.

On January 20, 2006, Officer Ware was checking motels along the IH-40 for transient methamphetamine users/dealers who frequent them. From his years of experience on the street, Officer Ware knew meth users/dealers could often be found in the IH-40 motels, so he checked these motels regularly when on patrol. On this date, he recognized a car in the lot of the Motel 6, having seen it at the Kiva motel earlier in the week. Officer Ware had information that the registered owner of the vehicle was involved in drug trafficking. He contacted motel personnel and found out which guest room was connected with the car. Officer Ware then contacted the room's occupants to determine if they were the registered guest or the car's owner. Officer Ware searched the room and seized 16 grams of methamphetamine. He also found a loaded 9mm handgun. Afterwards, Officer Ware arrested the male in the room on a narcotics-related probation violation warrant and the narcotics charges. The female was arrested on traffic warrants. A wanted felon, a loaded gun, and 16 grams of methamphetamine were seized due to Officer Ware's initiative and knowledge.

On January 23, 2006, the Department received a letter from Heather Hollingsworth of Potter County Adult Probation. She complimented Officer Ware for the above-described arrest of a felon who had been wanted since July 2005. In addition, Ms. Hollingsworth wanted to thank him for his work on another case, one that led to the arrest of a sex offender wanted for violating the terms of his probation. That arrest was another self-initiated arrest by Officer Ware. While checking the parking lots of a local adult bookstore for criminal activity, Officer Ware found a car used by a local sex offender. He did some follow-up research to establish that this man frequented the establishment and had been doing so for some time in violation of his probation agreement. Officer Ware's actions led to the revocation of that sex offender's probation.

On April 24, 2006, Sgt. Vogel commended Officer Ware for his role in a team effort leading to the arrest of a man wanted on felony evading. One officer reported a Ford Mustang that had fled from officers during an event about two weeks earlier was entering the downtown area from IH-40. The reporting officer could not stop the vehicle because he was transporting a prisoner. Officer Ware located the vehicle and attempted to stop it, but he lost sight of it as the vehicle fled across a private lot and went behind a business. A witness saw the driver abandon the vehicle and run into a business at 10<sup>th</sup> and South Lincoln. Officer Ware talked with this witness and relayed that information to the other officer involved in the search of the area. The officers located the wanted felon hiding under a mattress armed with a .45 caliber handgun. The suspect was arrested and later booked into county jail.

Around the same time Officer Ware received these commendations, Sergeant Barbee received two notes from detectives about Officer Ware's work. Sergeant Vargas wanted his supervisor to know how much she appreciated his attitude and willingness to assist her on one of the most time-consuming administrative tasks every officer dreads—the recovery of and lengthy process involved in booking a great deal of stolen property. On another occasion, Officer Ware's investigation of a minor theft from a local motel room resulted in a complimentary note from Sergeant Mitchell. Officer Ware's knowledge of a possible suspect's whereabouts allowed him to conduct a follow-up investigation that resulted in the recovery of items stolen from a motel room. This incident shows Officer Ware maintains interest in and knowledge of many of the people in his sector.

On May 31, 2006, Sergeant Barbee commended Officer Ware for his self-initiated arrest of a parolee

caught driving a stolen car. Because of body damage on the car in question, Officer Ware became suspicious, ran the vehicle's tag, and discovered the vehicle was stolen. The driver was wanted on a parole violation of an original charge of burglary. Evidence found in the vehicle indicated that the driver was involved in narcotics and was a very active check-forgery who had evidently been making regular, large deposits to a personal bank account despite not having a job.

On June 5, 2006, Sergeant Barbee again commended Officer Ware for his role in the arrest of two narcotics offenders. Officer Ware had become suspicious of a vehicle parked at another motel frequented by drug users, this suspicion based on the vehicle being parked in a portion of the motel lot normally not used by motel guests. He checked the records on the car and its listed owner but was unable to develop any reason to investigate any further at that time. Officer Ware contacted the driver of the vehicle and obtained legal consent to search the room. Assisting officers located a sawed-off shotgun in the room. In addition, Officer Ware located stolen identification documents and recognized the name on them as the name first given by the suspect who had shot Officer Brown a few days earlier. Officer Ware's continued search turned up the retail packaging and receipt for a holster. The clear plastic bag was for the holster the same suspect was still carrying when arrested for shooting Officer Brown. The receipt was in the suspect's first name. Seizure of methamphetamine, a shotgun, evidence in an attempted capital murder, and having two felony complaints filed were the end result of Officer Ware's careful attention to duty.

In Sergeant Barbee's fourteen years as a field sergeant, he has found Officer Ware to be one of the most—if not *the* most—self-motivated officer he has had the pleasure to supervise. Sergeant Barbee is able to routinely document that 25% to 33% of Officer Ware's reports are made for arrests that are the result of self-initiated traffic stops and his checking of suspicious persons, vehicles, and places in his sector. Officer Ware's performance in this regard is consistently well above the rest of the squad. In addition, Officer Ware is well liked and respected not only by his co-workers but also by other supervisors for his hard work and ability to find criminals. Routinely kind and approachable, always professional in his contacts with members of the public, Officer Ware presents the image of the sort of professional police officer the Amarillo Police Department is proud to convey to the public.

# **Sergeant Jeff Higley**



## **Rotary Club South Officer of the Third Quarter 2006**

Lieutenant Womble nominated Sergeant Jeff Higley as Officer of the Third Quarter for outstanding performance during a difficult investigation.

In September 2006, Sergeant Higley was assigned to investigate a case where the parents of a 16-year-old girl were complaining about some inappropriate attention their child was receiving and they wanted it stopped. Their daughter had attended an orchestra clinic in Austin, Texas, in July 2006. One of her instructors there was a world-renowned violinist, Timothy Stephen Baker, from New York. Since her return from this camp, Baker had been showering her with a variety of gifts. He also had invited her to a music seminar in Little Rock, Arkansas.

On August 5, 2006, Baker showed up at the girl's workplace and asked her not to tell her parents. She did tell them, and Baker later went with the family to church and to dinner. The parents learned that he was repeatedly calling their daughter, and when he was in Amarillo he would attempt to make contact with her. The girl denied having any kind of sexual contact with Baker. Sergeant Higley recognized the danger that Baker was exhibiting and immediately contacted him by telephone and told him to stop any kind of contact with the girl. Sergeant Higley also began looking further about sexual contact that might have already occurred. It was during this time the girl had alleged that Baker had molested her. For the next 31 days, Sergeant Higley methodically went about proving the allegations. His efforts were complicated by the offender living a great distance away and by his mobility, and by the fact Sergeant Higley was conducting several other investigations

during this time. Despite all of these obstacles, Sergeant Higley recorded conversations between Baker and the victim that proved the allegations true, intercepted other gifts and writings from Baker that were intended for the victim, and coordinated several hours of surveillance while trying to catch Baker on his return to Amarillo.

On October 13, 2006, Sergeant Higley obtained three felony warrants from Randall County for Baker for sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child by contact. On October 16, 2006, Baker returned to Amarillo, attempting to contact his victim. Baker tried to conceal these efforts by driving a rented car while wearing a disguise. Sergeant Higley was not deceived, and he arrested Baker at the Ramada Inn at 1620 Interstate 40 East. Baker was placed in the Randall County Jail.

Lieutenant Womble thanked Sergeant Higley for his professionalism, patience, and the thoroughness shown completing this difficult investigation. The arrest of Baker exposed an international traveling sex offender. Due to Baker's proficiency at both teaching and playing the violin, he had recently traveled to New York, Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis, Washington D.C., Miami, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, Texas, and Europe. On some of these trips, Baker served as a youth instructor and further investigation could possibly reveal other child victims. The arrest of Baker by Sergeant Higley has exposed a dangerous, international sex offender.

# Corporal Allen Rankin



## Rotary Club South Officer of the Fourth Quarter 2006

Sergeant Davis nominated Corporal Rankin as Officer of the Fourth Quarter for his outstanding performance during this period. Sergeant Davis describes Corporal Rankin as a hard working officer who is extremely observant and is high in self-initiated activity. Corporal Rankin is never satisfied setting idle and is always looking for a chance to intervene in criminal activity.

On April 4, 2006, two Hispanic males broke into a Ford Expedition parked at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church located at 2300 North Spring. The suspects stole a purse and a garage door opener from within the vehicle and then used a knife to flatten the vehicle's tires. Having learned the victim's address, the suspects went to that house and used the stolen garage door opener to gain entry into the residence. The suspects stole a number of items from this residence, loading the items into another vehicle belonging to the victim that was parked inside the garage. When the suspects opened the garage door, preparing to leave in the stolen car with items stolen from the residence, a family member who had come by to check on the residence surprised them. The two suspects fled on foot southbound from the residence. This incident occurred on Easter Sunday, a day the motorcycle squad was assigned to work Thompson Park.

Corporal Rankin heard field officers being dispatched to this location and decided to go by since he

was close to the residence. While checking the area in question, Corporal Rankin noticed a Hispanic male running in a vacant field. After losing sight of the suspect by a trailer house at 1800 North Hayes, Corporal Rankin began directing other officers to this area. After a lengthy search, a 24-year-old suspect was found hiding under the trailer house at 1800 North Hayes. Other officers found the second suspect 24-year-old suspect at a nearby residence. Both suspects were arrested and booked into County Jail.

On June 6, 2006, Corporal Rankin clocked a motorcycle speeding 77 MPH in a 55 MPH zone in the 1900 block of Canyon Drive. While pursuing the motorcycle, another motor officer saw the suspect reaching into a pocket of his jacket. He radioed this information to Corporal Rankin. As a result, Corporal Rankin used good safety precautions as he stopped the violator, making sure the suspect did not have a weapon in this pocket. During that thorough pat down, Corporal Rankin found over ½ ounce (15.2 grams) of methamphetamine. The 42-year-old white male suspect had a lengthy criminal record that included narcotic dealing in the past. The suspect was arrested and booked into County Jail.

On August 29, 2006, Corporal Rankin observed a northbound car run the red light located at Wolflin/Washington. Corporal Rankin noticed the car was going at a high rate of speed, especially after the driver observed the officer. Corporal Rankin safely pursued the vehicle, which he observed to turn eastbound on Short Street, which is just off the 1600 block of South Washington. Corporal Rankin knew this street came to a dead-end. The suspect ended his attempt to elude Corporal Rankin when he realized he was boxed-in. After ordering the suspect out of the car Corporal Rankin observed there was a 6-year old female in the back seat. Corporal Rankin placed the driver in handcuffs as he had grossly endangered this child's life. A check on the vehicle revealed that it had been stolen on August 8, 2006. The suspect was arrested and booked into County Jail

On October 10, 2006, Corporal Rankin attempted to stop a car for a traffic violation at 1300 North Houston. The 25-year-old black male driver suddenly ran on foot from the car. Corporal Rankin gave pursuit, following the suspect over several fences. Responding back up officers captured the suspect a few blocks away. When Corporal Rankin saw the suspect was choking on something, he thought the suspect might have swallowed some narcotics. Corporal Rankin immediately summoned an ambulance to the scene. This suspect was taken to the hospital in the ambulance. The suspect had very great difficulty breathing. Eventually a plastic baggie containing over 4 grams of crack cocaine and another baggie containing marijuana was removed from the throat of the suspect. The suspect was arrested and booked into County Jail

On October 10, 2006, a black male armed with a knife robbed the Sinclair's Communication located at 1001 South Georgia. The suspect took a cash drawer from the register and ran from the store on foot. In the days prior to the incident, several armed robberies featuring a suspect matching the description of this black male had occurred. This suspect left Sinclair's Communication and broke into a residence in a nearby neighborhood. He then threatened, with his knife, the 66-year-old resident watching over his 7 and 8-year-old grandsons. After demanding the keys to the residence's car, the suspect then locked the man and his grandsons in a bathroom in the residence. The victim was able to notify the police after the suspect left with his car. Corporal Rankin and another motor officer spotted the suspect vehicle at 34<sup>th</sup> and South Virginia Street. After the suspect refused to stop for the officers, a very dangerous pursuit ensued with the suspect speeding, going the wrong way in

the 4100 block of the Canyon frontage road, eventually entering the Canyon Highway from the 45<sup>th</sup> Street exit going the wrong way northbound. A wreck on top of the Georgia Street overpass stopped the suspect who then ran on foot to a Wal-Mart Department store where he tried to steal two different cars from citizens in the parking lot before another motor officer tackled him. Because Corporal Rankin and his partner kept both the vehicle and suspect in sight, they were able to direct responding officers to the area, leading to the capture of this suspect.

On October 26, 2006, officers were dispatched to the Loves Truck Stop located at I40 and Whitaker on a personal robbery. The information received was that a 37-year-old black female had jumped onto a moving semi-truck in the parking lot and had reached in the open passenger window, stealing the driver's billfold that had been lying on the passenger seat. The victim observed the suspect running from the area on foot and then getting into a maroon-colored Suburban. Corporal Rankin, nearby on his cycle, thought this suspect information matched the description of one of the prostitutes working the area. He then began searching nearby motels for the suspects. While checking a motel at I40 and Lakeside, Corporal Rankin saw a maroon-colored Suburban occupied by a Black male, a Hispanic female, and a Black female. Once contacted, the Black male had nearly exact amount of money the victim reported he had in his stolen billfold. The Hispanic female confessed to Corporal Rankin where the Black female had thrown the billfold itself after removing the money. The Black female suspect was arrested, the accomplices were identified, and the victim got back his billfold and his money.

These cases provide examples of solid police work done by Corporal Rankin in the recent past. During that same period of time, Corporal Rankin scrupulously performed his routine duties as a motorcycle patrol officer. Sergeant Davis commends Corporal Rankin on his performance and believes him to be a very worthy recipient of the Officer of the Quarter Award.



# **Dispatch Supervisor Susan Richardson**



## **Texas Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association Silent Hero Certificate of Recognition of the Year 2006**

Susan Richardson has worked 28 years for the Amarillo Police Department as a dispatcher. In 2004, Susan was promoted to Dispatch Supervisor. A true leader in the Communications Section, Susan is the primary trainer for new Communications Officers. Susan promotes a positive work environment under often stress-filled working conditions. Over the years, Susan has received eight Departmental Commendations for her day-to-day dispatching skills and her work in emergency situations, including a Life-Saving Award.

In 1985, Susan received a commendation for helping to recover a stolen vehicle that resulted in the arrest of three suspects. In 1990, by coordinating the work of officers in the field, Susan helped apprehend an escapee with 10 felony warrants who was the suspect in an ongoing crime spree that included theft of a purse, forgery of stolen checks, and personal robbery. In 2003, Susan obtained the cell phone number of a victim whose auto was stolen. After tracing the cell phone number, Susan was able to provide officers with an address that helped them recover the vehicle. During the devastating grass fires in March 2006, Susan helped her dispatch team handle the calls that flooded the switchboard in an efficient and professional manner, getting police officers and firefighters where they needed to go in a timely and orderly fashion.

Susan's three additional commendations are for her outstanding work in developing the curriculum

for our first Basic Telecommunications Operations School, our training program for call-takers and dispatchers, and the continual updating and implementing of our employees' training in the Communications Section.

Susan's commendation for the Life-Saving Award came in 1998 after she received a suspicious phone call for help from a fellow dispatcher who was at home. Unable to get back in touch with the dispatcher, Susan sent assistance. The employee was transported to the hospital. Thanks to Susan's quick reaction and the officers' fast response time, this employee survived a life-threatening illness.

Though not always formally recognized for her routinely excellent work, Susan continues to give a hundred and ten percent every day. With such a pristine record, Susan has proved to be a more than valuable asset to the Amarillo Police Department.