UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Police Department

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF

On behalf of the members of the University of Arizona Police Department, I am proud to present our 2024 Annual Report. This comprehensive report provides an overview of our internal structure, services, crime statistics, notable cases, and accomplishments. With an estimated daily population of 60,000 people, the men and women of UAPD are proud to serve one of the largest university communities in the country.

Having lived in Tucson for over 48 years, I consider myself a "native" Tucsonan who has loved this University for as long as I can remember. In fact, this is where my policing career started 32 years ago and the reason why I consider this community and UAPD my "first love." I am truly blessed to have returned to be UAPD's Chief of Police.

Tucson is without a doubt a "college town" …a diamond in the desert! Our staff recognizes the importance of our beautiful institution in relation to the greater Tucson Metropolitan. We work every day to serve our community, with an emphasis on preventing victimization through high visibility engagement and innovations that prevent crime. We are here to make sure you can focus on what matters most; living, learning, and thriving!
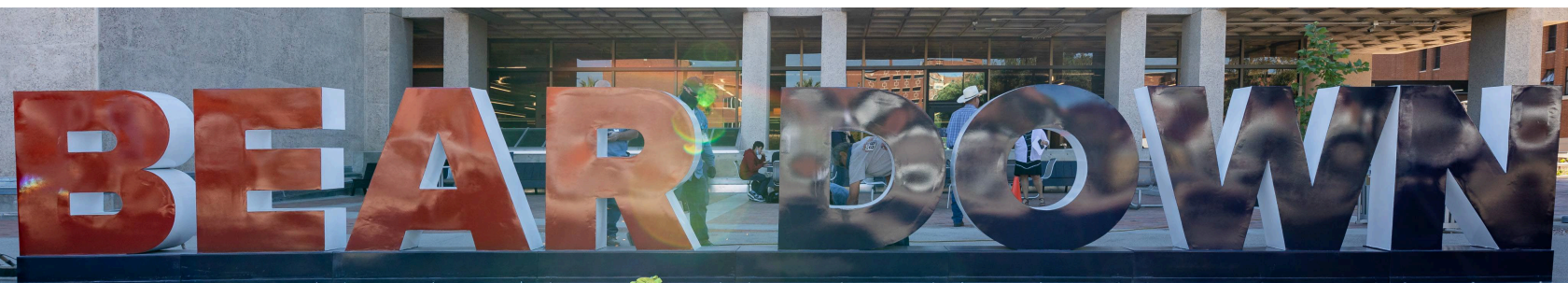
I hope you find this Annual Report informative and useful.

Our staff looks forward to seeing another graduating class receive their degrees in May!

Bear Down! Go CATS!

Stay safe,

Chris

OUR MISSION

The University of Arizona Police Department strives to provide the highest level of safety and service through on-going collaboration, community engagement, inclusive justice and transparency.

OUR VALUES

Integrity
Compassion
Accountability
Trust
Service

OUR COMMUNITY
OUR PURPOSE

56,544 Students
42,0025 Undergrads
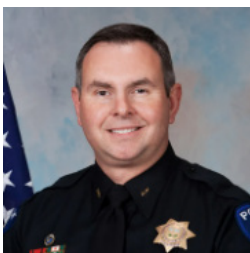11,519 Grads
16,076 Employees

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The University of Arizona Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency that serves a vibrant and diverse community. We work in the most densely populated area within the City of Tucson and enjoy a unique environment that can only be experienced at an institution of higher learning. Our sworn personnel are full-authority Arizona Peace Officers whose primary functions are law enforcement, traffic safety, community engagement, and crime prevention. In 2024, the department's authorized workforce consisted of **63** certified officers and **51** professional staff. UAPD is comprised of two main divisions, which house five service bureaus. UAPD is overseen by the University of Arizona Office of Public Safety.

MEET OUR COMMAND STAFF

Christopher Olson
Chief of Police

Robert Sommerfeld
Assistant Chief
Field Operations Division

Mario Leon
Assistant Chief
Operations Support Division

Steven Mendoza
Lieutenant
Special Services
Bureau

Andre Lyko
Lieutenant
Executive Services
Bureau

Colin Keating
Lieutenant
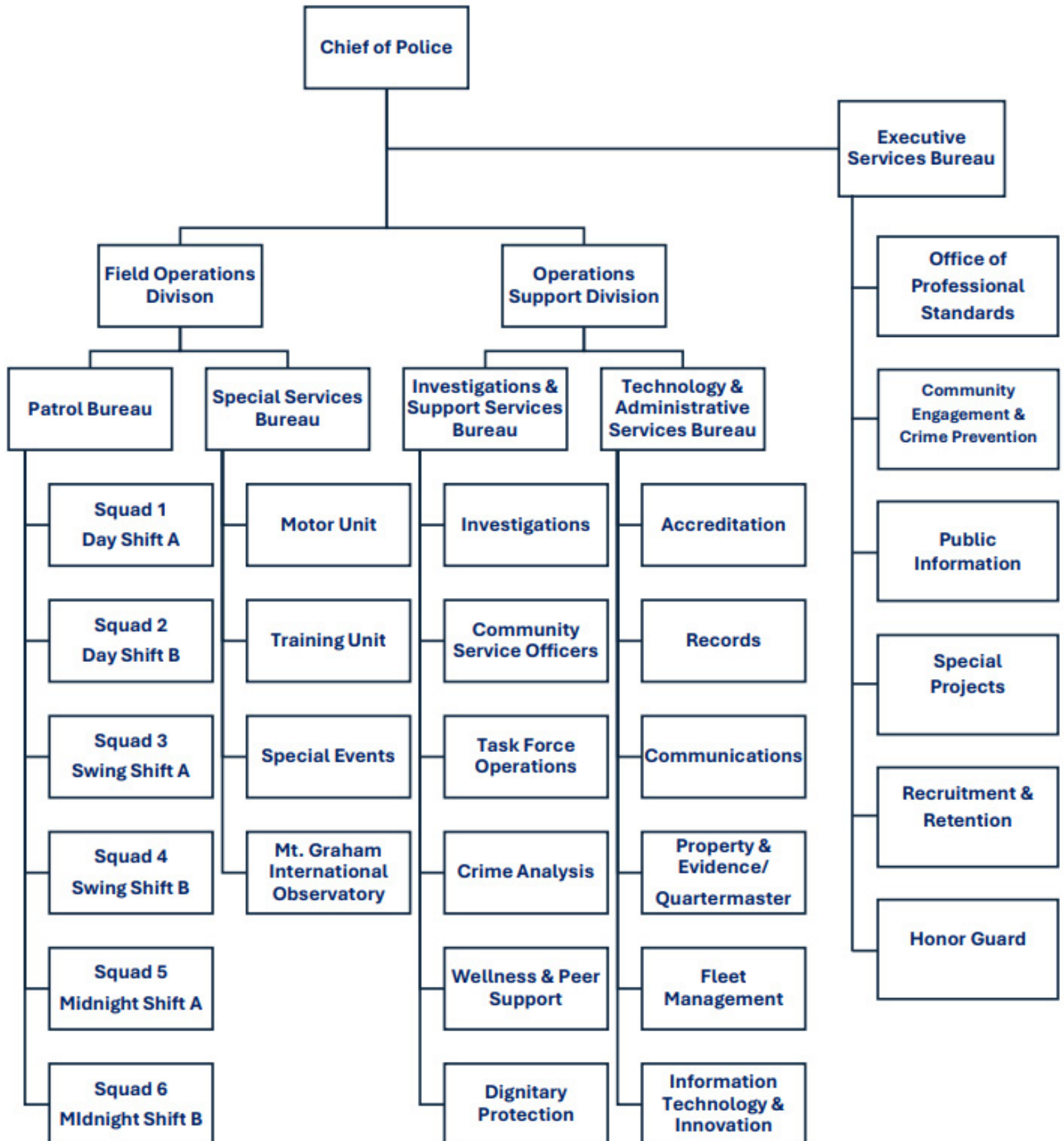Investigations &
Support Services
Bureau

Jorge Cazares
Lieutenant
Patrol Bureau

Beau Barber
Lieutenant
Technology &
Adminstrative Services
Bureau

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Chief of Police

Executive Services Bureau

Field Operations Divison

Operations Support Division

Patrol Bureau

Special Services Bureau

Investigations & Support Services Bureau

Technology & Administrative Services Bureau

Office of Professional Standards

Community Engagement & Crime Prevention

Public Information

Special Projects

Recruitment & Retention

Honor Guard

Patrol Bureau	Special Services Bureau	Investigations & Support Services Bureau	Technology & Administrative Services Bureau
Squad 1 Day Shift A	Motor Unit	Investigations	Accreditation
Squad 2 Day Shift B	Training Unit	Community Service Officers	Records
Squad 3 Swing Shift A	Special Events	Task Force Operations	Communications
Squad 4 Swing Shift B	Mt. Graham International Observatory	Crime Analysis	Property & Evidence/ Quartermaster
Squad 5 Midnight Shift A		Wellness & Peer Support	Fleet Management
Squad 6 MIdnight Shift B		Dignitary Protection	Information Technology & Innovation

EXECUTIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The **Office of Professional Standards** is responsible for investigating allegations against department members in a transparent and impartial manner in order to promote organizational accountability and preserve public trust.

2 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED
1 Unfounded | **1** Sustained

6 COMPLAINTS RESOLUTIONS CONDUCTED
3 Unfounded | **1** Sustained | **1** Not Sustained | **1** Exonerated

The **Community Engagement & Crime Prevention Unit** is responsible for community outreach initiatives, crime prevention activities, and delivery of public information to the community. In 2024, the unit conducted **19** media interviews, performed **33** building security assessments, delivered **66** safety presentations, and participated in **57** community events. Additionally, the unit is tasked with administering the UAPD Internship Program, which hosted **7** interns in 2024.

Recruitment & Retention efforts are conducted continually to meet departmental staffing demands. In 2024, there were **28** new hires, **2** promotions, and **15** separations from the department.

Honor Guard is the department's official ceremonial unit responsible for providing representation at memorial services and various community events.

Special Projects, such as new community initiatives and technological advancements, are delegated by the Chief of Police for development and implementation.

PATROL BUREAU

The **Patrol Bureau** is the most visible unit within the UAPD, which provides its services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services include the initial police response to 911 calls for assistance, random or directed patrol, and basic investigations. Uniformed patrol officers work primarily on ABOR-controlled properties within and surrounding the main University of Arizona campus. Patrol Bureau personnel operate marked service vehicles, bicycles, and patrol on foot. There are six patrol squads which are supervised by sergeants who report to a lieutenant. In 2024, Patrol Bureau personnel responded to **29,890** field activity events which originated from either a call for service or self-initiated activity.

USE-OF-FORCE ANALYSIS

Officers use-of-force, as defined in the UAPD policies and procedures:

48 INCIDENTS IN 2024
36 INCIDENTS IN 2023
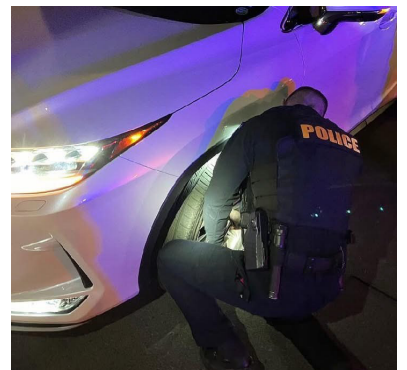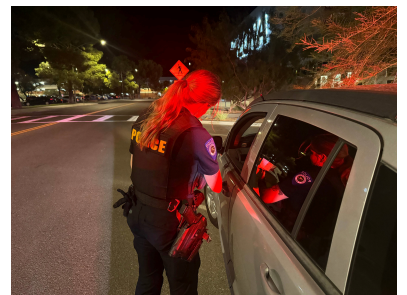**44** INCIDENTS IN 2022
43 INCIDENTS IN 2021

Note: More than one technique or incident type may have been involved, so the numbers in these categories exceed 48.

27 empty hand-control
6 supplemental restraint device
2 Taser displayed
0 Taser directed
0 Taser deployed
18 handgun directed
7 rifle directed
1 PepperBall
1 baton strike

Incident type that resulted in the use-of-force:

14 high-risk stops
2 criminal damage
3 trespassing
9 warrants
1 DUI
3 alcohol violation
5 drug possession
6 weapons
7 disorderly conduct
3 field contacts
5 aggravated assaults
1 accident
1 sexual indecency
2 failure to yield to law enforcement
3 welfare checks
1 suspicious person
1 assault
1 burglary

Of the 48 use-of-force incidents, there were 10 minor injuries: six to officers and four to suspects.

SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU

The **Training Unit** is responsible for administering training to all department members and ensuring that all UAPD officers are in compliance with the annual certification retention requirements established by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. This is accomplished through perpetual training efforts in subject areas such as de-escalation, legal updates, mental health, search and seizure, firearms, TASER, driving, defensive tactics, less-lethal munitions and impact weapons. Additionally, the Training Unit serves as the liaison between the department and the regional basic training academies and coordinates the UAPD Post-Basic and Field Training Programs. In 2024, the Training Unit facilitated **58** training events.

The **Special Events Unit** provides support to the university's numerous community events by ensuring sufficient staffing of public safety positions. Examples of these special events include football and basketball games, university commencements and convocations, concerts, and large-scale public gatherings. Much of this work is accomplished by strategic planning for the purpose of effective and efficient deployment of UAPD resources and securing regional public safety resources from the local partner agencies. In 2024, the Special Events Unit supported **440** community events, which required fulfillment of **2,113** public safety positions.

SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU

The **Mount Graham International Observatory (MGIO) Unit** provides public safety services for the MGIO Base Camp and the International Observatory at the top of Mount Graham in the Pinaleño Mountains in Graham County, Arizona. Scientific researchers from around the world make use of the MGIO facilities.

The **Motor Unit** is tasked with enforcing traffic laws in order to improve the overall traffic safety conditions of our community. Enforcement is not only directed at motor vehicles but also bicycles and pedestrians. Additionally, motorcycle officers are responsible for the investigation of motor vehicle crashes occurring within UAPD's jurisdiction. UAPD motorcycle officers often participate in regional taskforce efforts and support the university's large-scale special events.

2024 UAPD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

1,877 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS

541 SPEEDING CITATIONS

33 CRIMINAL SPEEDING CITATIONS

114 DISTRACTED DRIVING CITATIONS

7 RECKLESS DRIVING CITATIONS

1,316 OTHER CITATIONS

28 DUI ARRESTS

99 OTHER ARRESTS

15 VEHICLE IMPOUNDS

In 2024, UAPD personnel investigated 37 vehicle crashes, 14 of which were caused by speed-related infractions.

INVESTIGATIONS & SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

The **Investigations Unit** is tasked with crime scene processing, crime analysis, development of criminal intelligence, mental health investigative support (MHST), and investigation of complex incidents extending beyond the scope of street-level investigations. The unit works closely with the Pima County Attorney's Office to achieve successful prosecution and facilitation of victim services. One of the unit's detectives is assigned to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. Additionally, UAPD detectives contribute to the university's Threat Assessment and Mitigation Team efforts. In 2024, the average caseload per detective was **35**, with an average clearance rate of **57%**.
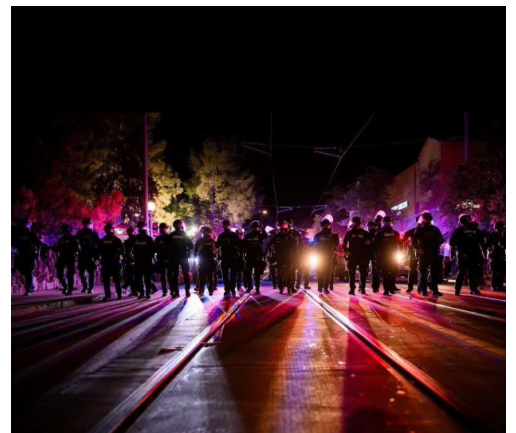
A designated contingent of UAPD officers are assigned to numerous **Taskforces** such as the Pima Regional Critical Incident Team, Pima Regional SWAT, Pima Regional Mobile Field Force and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. These officers serve in various capacities such as SWAT operators, crisis and hostage negotiators, investigators, and mobile field force personnel. In 2024, UAPD personnel assigned to taskforces responded to **59** call-outs.

Pima Regional Critical Incident Team: **8** Call-Outs

Pima Regional SWAT: **28** Call-Outs

Crisis Negotiation Team: **21** Call-Outs

Pima Regional Mobile Field Force: **2** Call-Outs

INVESTIGATIONS & SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

Community Service Officers are non-certified field personnel of the department who are responsible for conducting general patrol activities as well as locking and unlocking university buildings. They patrol the campus and surrounding areas in vehicles, on foot, and on bicycles. Additionally, Community Service Officers handle lower priority calls for service, assist with traffic control, provide security escorts, answer public inquiries, and provide support at large-scale events. There are two teams of Community Service Officers which provide service coverage during the day as well as late evening hours.

UAPD maintains numerous **Employee Wellness** resources which include the Peer Support Team, a Department Chaplain, Crisis Response K-9 Maggie, a restorative rest room, and a fitness room. These resources are designed to maintain and improve mental health, physical fitness, and the emotional wellbeing of our department members. Additionally, K-9 Maggie is tasked with providing emotional support to victims of traumatic crimes and supporting first responders at the scenes of critical incidents. Maggie is UAPD's first Crisis Response K-9 and was provided through a grant from the Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Foundation (SALEF).

CRIME STATISTICS

Part I Crimes

Reported Crimes	2024	3-Year Average
Aggravated Assault	8	11
Arson	1	3
Burglary	44	50
Forcible Rape	9	12.33
GTA Stolen	20	34
Homicide	1	0.66
Larceny	472	567
Robbery	1	3.33

Part II Crimes

Reported Crimes	2024	3-Year Average
Assault/Other	51	52.66
Death	2	1.66
Disorderly Conduct	200	175
Disturbance	59	27.66
DUI	28	44
Embezzlement	2	0.33
Fire	13	11
Forgery/Counterfeit	2	1
Fraud	70	88
Liquor Laws	169	208.66
Narcotics	93	83.33
Offenses (Bomb Threats)	3	3.33
Other Offenses	45	76.66
Sex Offenses	25	14
Threats	19	19.66
Vandalism	543	430.33

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects data about Part I & Part II offenses in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the nation. The program's founders chose these offenses because they are serious crimes, they occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and they are likely to be reported to the police.

TECHNOLOGY & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The **Property & Evidence Unit** is responsible for cataloging and storing thousands of property articles which are classified as evidence, safekeeping, found property and contraband. As of 2024, a total of **12,294** property items were in custody of the unit. The unit's personnel are tasked with maintenance of the department's service vehicle fleet, which consists of a total of **60** wheeled assets (e.g. patrol cars, police motorcycles, golf carts, etc.). Additionally, the unit is responsible for the quartermaster function, the disposal of obsolete equipment and body-worn camera video redactions. In 2024, the unit fulfilled **1,945** requests for officers' body-worn camera footage.
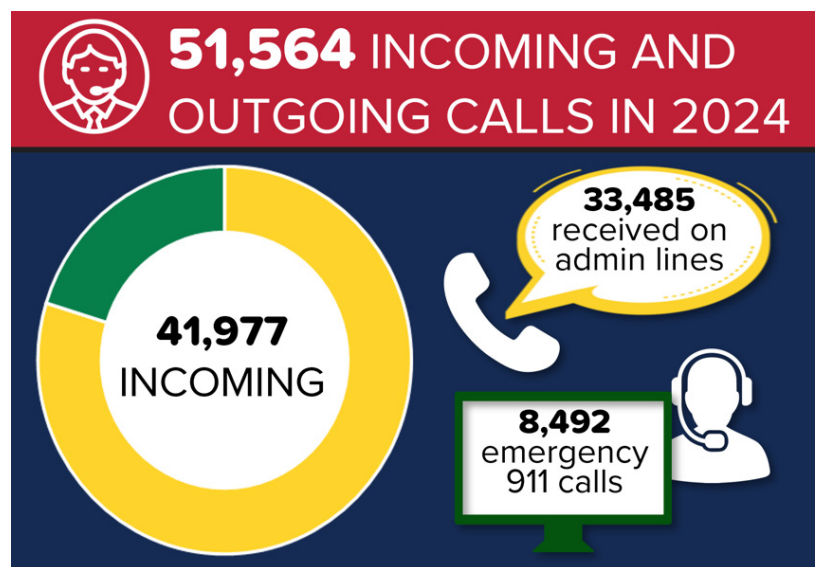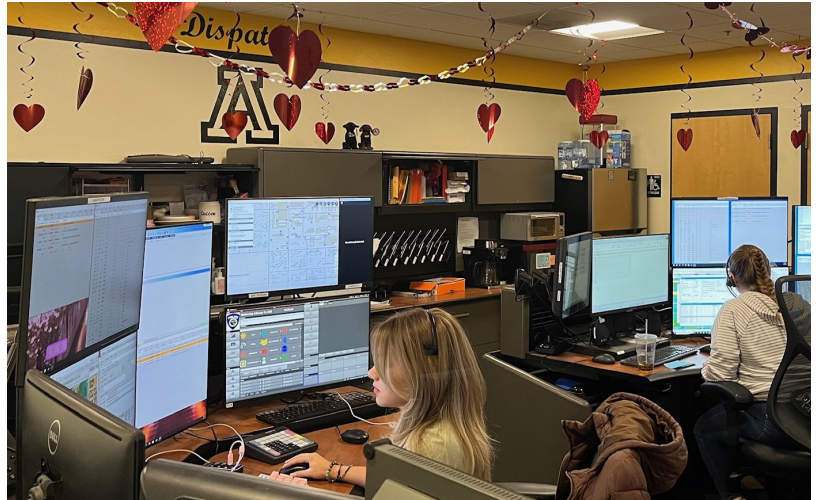

Accreditation systems establish a uniform set of "Best Practices" for police agencies that are consistently verified and measured on an international scale. These voluntary programs provide an objective, outside approval earned through diligent internal and external evaluation, based on standards set by the accrediting entities. These independent organizations monitor compliance through documented proofs and direct observation. Every standard is intended to make an agency more professional, while improving services to the community. UAPD is accredited by three different associations: The Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA), the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies (IACLEA), and the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP).

TECHNOLOGY & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The **Communications Unit** is a Public Safety Answering Point, which provides a vital link between the public and emergency services. Emergency and non-emergency calls are received through our state-of-the-art Next Generation 911 system and then radio dispatched by highly trained police telecommunications personnel.
This unit operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our police dispatchers determine the nature and priority of all calls received and initiate police or other public safety personnel response. They also maintain contact with field units to track their status and provide necessary support resources. Furthermore, this unit monitors over **8,800** alarm points (i.e., fire, robbery, panic, burglary) across campus as well as all the U of A blue-light emergency phones.

51,564 INCOMING AND OUTGOING CALLS IN 2024

41,977 INCOMING

33,485 received on admin lines

8,492 emergency 911 calls

The **Records Unit** is responsible for processing, distributing and maintaining all departmental records (e.g., police reports, traffic citations) as well as fulfilling public records requests. The unit utilizes a number of digital records management systems and automated databases. Maintenance of the daily crime log and annual reporting of crime statistics are performed by the unit's personnel. In 2024, the unit fulfilled **1,732** requests for public records.

NOTABLE CASES

Unlawful Encampment

On May 9, 2024, at approximately 6:30PM, a large protest group ("All Out for Palestine") comprised of approximately 175 people began establishing an unlawful encampment to the northeast of University Blvd and Park Ave (a.k.a. Olive Grove). Within a short period of time and despite numerous warnings, the protesters set up multiple tents and built fortification walls using wooden pallets and other objects. Additional materials and supplies were being delivered to the protesters by their associates who would drive their vehicles to the west edge of the encampment, stop, and unload. UAPD motorcycle officers began to address this behavior by contacting the drivers of these vehicles for unlawfully stopping in the roadway to deliver encampment supplies and materials.

A representative from the University of Arizona Dean of Students Office and officers from the UAPD Community Engagement & Crime Prevention Unit delivered numerous messages to the protesters urging them to dismantle the unlawful encampment and disperse. The encampment group assumed a defensive posture and refused to comply with the lawful orders. Another large crowd of people arrived in the area and took over Park Ave, between University Blvd and 2nd St, rendering the throughfare inaccessible to local traffic.

Mobile Field Force resources from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Pima County Sheriff's Department, and the Tucson Police Department arrived at the incident location to assist UAPD with restoring public order. After a coordinated deployment of chemical munitions and mobile field force techniques, the encampment group and spectators were displaced from the area and dispersed. The encampment was disassembled by the University of Arizona Facilities Management personnel. The Tucson Fire Department assisted with the decontamination of the affected area. A peaceful resolution to this large-scale volatile incident was possible because of a high degree of professionalism and cooperation displayed by all involved public safety agencies and university partners.

UA Recreation Center Burglaries

In August of 2024, the management of the Campus Recreation (REC) contacted UAPD regarding a rash of thefts from lockers at the facility. Detectives began investigating and identified more than a dozen instances of theft. Working together with the REC's staff, the detectives utilized multiple bait lockers in an attempt to positively identify the suspect.

Following another locker theft, detectives were able to identify the suspect believed to be responsible for the thefts. The suspect was caught on video outside the locker room entering the area at the time the theft was committed and later admitted to more than 15 thefts. Subsequently, the suspect was arrested, booked, and charged with burglary, fraudulent schemes and artifices, and possession of burglary tools.

NOTABLE CASES

Assault
On August 10, 2024, UAPD received a report of a suspicious male who drove next to a woman at Euclid Ave and First St, exited his vehicle, and offered her a ride multiple times. The woman declined this offer from the unfamiliar man and walked away from the location, entering an establishment at Main Gate Square. From a window of the establishment, the woman saw that the male's vehicle was now parked across the street.

On August 11, 2024, UAPD received another report of a man who had groped a woman's buttocks near Park Ave and University Blvd. The suspect's description matched that of the suspect in the preceding incident. Within a few hours, UAPD detectives and patrol officers identified the suspect's vehicle and local place of residence. Subsequently, the suspect was arrested, charged with assault, booked, and banned from all university properties.

Aggravated Assault
On April 15, 2024, UAPD received information from the Tucson Police Department about shots fired at a vehicle at 6th Street and Tyndall Ave. UAPD learned that the incident had occurred outside of Arbol de la Vida Residence Hall (515 N Tyndall Ave.) where an unidentified driver had stopped his vehicle next to the victim's parked vehicle and confronted them without provocation. When the victim drove away, they heard a loud pop followed by the shattering of window glass. The victim believed the loud pop in question was a gunshot.

UAPD detectives reviewed footage from nearby surveillance cameras and gained knowledge about the suspect vehicle and its registered owner. The detectives also recovered a shell casing, which was found in the road. On April 17, 2024, UAPD located the suspect vehicle and conducted a high-risk traffic stop near University Blvd and Park Ave. The shooting suspect was the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle. He was taken into custody without incident, interviewed, and arrested. The suspect was charged with aggravated assault and unlawful discharge of a firearm and booked. A search warrant was served at the suspect's residence, where the detectives found the suspected firearm and ammunition.

Residential Burglary
On May 25, 2024, UAPD received a report of a burglary at Theta Xi Fraternity, which occurred the day prior. Surveillance cameras on the property revealed an unidentified male carrying two large bags enter the house through the front door. The cameras captured the same male exiting via the back door after spending some time inside the residence. At the time of the incident, there were no residents present at the fraternity house. Multiple items were missing from the residence.

On May 27, 2024, UAPD received another report of a man inside the same fraternity house. UAPD patrol officers responded to the fraternity house where they found and detained one suspect who was still inside the fraternity house. This was the same suspect as in the incident which occurred two days prior. The suspect was arrested for multiple counts of burglary, booked, and banned from all university properties.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Blue Envelope Program
On April 24, 2024, UAPD facilitated the successful launch of the Blue Envelope traffic safety program for the State of Arizona. This program was designed to enhance the safety of members of the autism community during traffic stops. The program launch was supported by the U of A Disability Resource Center, the U of A SALT Center, the Arizona Department of Transportation, as well as the U of A Department of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences. More than 70 officers from different Arizona law enforcement agencies received autism awareness training and participated in simulated traffic stop scenarios, which involved volunteers from the local autism community.

UAPD Community Academy
On January 31, 2024, UAPD launched the inaugural class of its Community Academy. The class was comprised of 48 faculty and staff members from various departments and units across the university. The 10-week curriculum was designed to improve the community's familiarity and relationship with their police department through education and live interaction with UAPD personnel. Sworn police personnel and civilian staff from different areas of UAPD provided a comprehensive overview of their roles and responsibilities. During 2024, UAPD graduated two Community Academy cohorts and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants and community stakeholders.

TraCS
On February 26, 2024, UAPD was awarded $54,485 in grant funding to outfit the department's service vehicle fleet with mobile printers, scanners, and data terminals necessary for implementation of the Traffic & Criminal Software (TraCS). This platform enables officers to issue citations, compile crash reports, and transmit the associated electronic data to the Arizona Department of Transportation as well as the Pima County Consolidated Justice Court.

UAPD 14th Annual Golf Tournament
On May 18, 2024, UAPD hosted its Annual Golf Tournament at El Conquistador Golf Course, Oro Valley. One hundred and forty-four registered golf players enjoyed participating in a friendly competition. The charity event raised $20,000, which was donated by UAPD to the Special Olympics of Arizona.

Southern Arizona Analyst Network
In 2024, the premise for creating the Southern Arizona Analyst Network originated from the UAPD Crime Analyst assigned to the Investigations Unit. This regional group of criminal intelligence analysts from Pima County, Cochise County, and Pinal County collaborate to share criminal intelligence, develop training, and monitor emerging trends impacting public safety.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UAPD Internship Program
In 2024, seven U of A students completed the UAPD Internship Program, which is administered by the Community Engagement & Crime Prevention Unit. This semester-long program is designed to provide its participants with a comprehensive and well-rounded perspective on departmental operations, police service, and public safety.

VETS Award
UAPD has earned the designation of a 3-Star Employer in the 2024 VETS Indexes Employer Awards. This award recognizes the organization's commitment to recruiting, hiring, retaining, developing, and supporting veterans and the military-connected community.

Victim Advocacy
UAPD recognizes the importance of a victim-centric approach to investigations and post-incident stress management for first responders. For this reason, the department began utilizing additional victim advocacy services provided by K2 Critical Solutions and the Southern Arizona Victims Emergency Services (SAVES). Together, they provide real-time crisis response and support for victims of crimes, as well as critical incident stress debriefings for UAPD personnel. This partnership has proven to be an effective enhancement to the existing resources provided by Pima County Victim Services.

UAPD Station Renovations
In 2024, the station's Briefing Room and Conference Room received updates which consisted of repainting, installation of TV monitors and electronic briefing boards, as well as improvements to the existing electrical and internet infrastructure. Additionally, in the pursuit of our commitment to employee wellness, UAPD completed renovations to its station's Fitness Room. Some of the new equipment was donated by our community partners.

Crisis Mobile Team
In July of 2024, UAPD in partnership with the University of Arizona Counseling and Psych Services (CAPS) launched the Crisis Mobile Team, which is a co-responder program. This collaboration provides a practical opportunity for connecting community members who are experiencing a mental health crisis with available professional resources. Under this model, a CAPS crisis counselor responds to a mental health related call for service along with a UAPD officer to offer the person in crisis their assistance outside of the realm of the criminal justice system.

2024 ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Officer of the Year
Nicole Nelson

Civilian Employee of the Year
Laura Robles

Student/CSO of the Year
Kellan Merz

Unit of the Year
Community Engagement
& Crime Prevention:
Andrew Valenzuela
Marvin Smith

Promotions
Taj Sultan
Adam Goldberg

Service Awards

5 Years
- Joseph Berriman
- Benjamin Bordner
- Luis Galvan
- Raely Keeland
- Adrian Lizarraga
- Marvin Smith
- Austin Spalla
- Taj Sultan

15 Years
- Sean Shields
- Fernando Ugalde
- Melissa Valenzuela

20 Years
- Micholjon Amado
- Timothy Lopez
- Steven Mendoza

CONTACT US

520-621-8273

uapd.arizona.edu

1852 E First Street
Tucson, AZ 85721

f UArizonaPolice

X UArizonaPolice

⊙ uarizonapd

in University of Arizona Police