

PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF CHANGE...

A year of change best describes 2007 for the Payson Police Department. We began the year by providing detailed academy instruction and proficiency training to eight cadets in the Payson Law Enforcement Training Academy, who all successfully graduated June 30, 2007. Of that academy class, 6 were hired in July. The department knew that considerable change was inevitable, as long-time Detective Steve Johnson discussed his upcoming retirement. In anticipation of that event, testing was conducted for a General Detective position and Officer Les Barr was the successful candidate. Detective Barr took his position on June 1, 2007. He has done an outstanding job with his new assigned duties and has been very successful, especially in the area of solving burglary cases.

Chief Gordon Gartner eagerly anticipated his planned retirement date of June 30, 2007. He was a 28-year veteran of the Payson Police Department and led the department through many

successful years of service to the community.

A nationwide search was conducted and the selection committee culminated in the recommendation of Commander Donald Engler for the position of Chief of Police. This promotion brought with it a "Vision Proposal," reflecting more change for the department. Support Services Manager Della Bradley announced her retirement in June, having served over 30 years. Change followed this announcement with a reorganization of her duties. Executive Assistant Kim Becker took over the administrative and financial duties that were part of the Support Services Manager position. Communications Supervisor Irma Bramlet assumed the dispatch supervision duties, and Jill VanCamp eagerly accepted the supervision of the Records Division.

The Special Enforcement Unit also shared change with the department. Early in 2007, Officer Steve Montgomery accepted a position as a Detective in this division. However, shortly after, he transferred to the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Officer Mike

Varga accepted the Special Enforcement Officer position and is currently serving in that capacity.

Officer Mike McNerny accepted the position of School Resource Officer for the High School position and has been serving in that capacity since the beginning of the 2007/2008 school year. It appears that Payson Police Department tried to make as many changes as possible in 2007.

Donald B. Engler

CHIEF OF POLICE



Where We Are Headed in 2008...

The Payson Police Department has a considerable number of goals set for 2008...

- ◆ To complete the implementation of our new detective position in tying criminal cases that impact the community and are perpetrated by individuals who are also involved in drug offenses in the community and preparing joint cases for prosecution.
- ◆ The department will complete the application and testing process for the currently open Lieutenant position, which will supervise patrol and specialty areas within the department.
- ◆ The department continues to battle the competitiveness of attracting certified police officers to our community to provide the quality law enforcement service that our community deserves.
- ◆ The department will present the

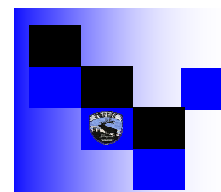
S.T.E.P.S pay plan to the council during the budgeting process in an attempt to solve some of the salary issues which currently affect the hiring of police officers, but more importantly retaining the police officers in our community. This will be our highest budgetary priority during 2008.

- ◆ The Payson Police Department will continue to maintain a very active narcotics investigations unit, focusing on individuals in our community involved in the use and sale of dangerous drugs, specifically Methamphetamine, presenting packaged cases to the County Attorney's Office, which we have found are very successfully prosecuted.
- ◆ The patrol division, if we are able to maintain staffing, will see the benefit of extra officers for permanent positions starting with swing shift and growing to day shift positions, assist-

ing patrol with additional officers to secure the handling of calls. Our officers responded to 22,845 calls for service, so this will be a welcomed asset to the department.

- ◆ The department is in the process of hiring an additional records clerk to assist with preparing police reports for prosecution purposes.

We will maintain a teamwork approach to law enforcement, not only within our organization but also teaming with other organizations throughout Gila County, in an effort to provide the best service possible to the citizens of our community.



PATROL DIVISION



**Payson Police
Department Patrol
Division**

The patrol division is the largest division of the police department and the first responders. It is designed to have 6 patrol sergeants and 16 patrol officers. However, due to a lack of personnel we operated with 6 patrol sergeants and only 13 patrol officers for most of 2007.

During 2007, officers initiated or responded to 22,845 calls for service, which equals approximately 951 calls per officer.

In 2007 the police department, for the

first time in over 25 years, hired 6 full time police officers at once.

These 6 officers were hired from the department's reserve corps and all graduated from the department's training academy. This exciting phase did not last long, as we lost 3 officers to other agencies, making the patrol division short-handed once again.

Another significant addition to the patrol division was the addition of Mobile Data

Computers, which allows officers to receive and handle a call for service entirely by computer. This is an excellent tool, as it gives the officer many more capabilities, information and resources to properly handle a call. Also in 2007 there was an increase of square mileage of the agency's jurisdiction. Star Valley, which has a law enforcement contract, annexed approximately 20 miles, doubling our patrol area.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT (SEO)

The Special Enforcement Unit officers (SEO) consisted of only 1 detective for the majority of 2007; however, they were still able to conduct 26 search warrants and had 74 arrests. 9 had a burglary history. There were 3 juvenile arrests for possession of a prescription drug. 3 major cases led to drug dealers, which resulted in getting a large quantity of methamphetamine off the streets. In 1 of these cases, the suspect

was sent to prison for 20 years. DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) exams rose in 2007 with 15 cases for DUI Drugs cases. These were not included in the 74 search warrant arrests.

There were 22 children removed from a drug environment in 2007, unfortunately, 19 of them tested positive for methamphetamine. CPS worked closely with the SEO Unit to ensure the safety of these children.

The SEO Unit assisted in a Homicide investigation in 2007, completing surveillance and writing warrants for vehicles and DNA in the case, and also assisted the Gila County Narcotics Task Force in 2 marijuana grow investigations.



**Methamphetamine
seized in a search
warrant.**

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Investigation Division has had some adjustments during the year of 2007. On July 1, 2007 the two School Resource Officers and Animal Control Officer were reassigned to another division. Also, Detective Steve Johnson retired and Detective Les Barr replaced him. The



**Sgt. Thomas A. Tieman
Detective Sergeant
Criminal Investigations**

Investigations Division remains under the supervision of Detective Sergeant Tom Tieman, a 25-year veteran of the Payson Police Department.

Also within this Division is one civilian employee, Shawn DeWitte, who is responsible for evidence and property storage and destruction, and police radio functions.

The detectives are responsible for major case investigations, background investigations, assisting patrol with cases requiring extensive follow-up and presenting cases to the Grand Jury for indictments. This Division was responsible for investigating over 468 cases in the year 2007.

RECORDS DIVISION

Once again the Payson Police Department had a record-breaking year. 20,665 reports were processed through the Records Division in 2007. That equates to about 50 reports a day. Some of those are minimal and completed by the officers in the field. The majority of reports are handled by the full time records clerks and also volunteers.



**RECORDS DIVISION
(Not pictured-
Arlene Garrels)**

COMMUNICATIONS

The Payson Police Department Communications Center is staffed with 9 fulltime and 5 reserve dispatchers who man 911 emergency phone calls,



**IRMA BRAMLET
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERVISOR**

non-emergency phone calls and the dispatching of police and fire units. Our dispatchers also assist the Records Department with the completion of police reports and citations. The dispatch center is in operation 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

Along with the handling of all calls for service for the Payson Police and Fire Departments, our center also dispatches for Tonto Apache Police Department, Diamond Star Fire Department, Tonto Village Fire Department, Beaver Valley Fire Department, Whispering Pines Fire Department and the Houston Mesa Fire Department. The dispatch center also handles after-hours and holiday call-outs for other Town departments such as Water, Parks and Recreation, and Streets department. With all of the mentioned departments included, the dispatch center handled a total of 53,389 calls for service in 2007.

Senior staff members: Irma Bramlet, Communications Supervisor (16 years of service), Alison Murphy, Dispatcher/Shift Leader (10 years of service), and Sonja "Kay" Davis, Senior Dispatcher (8 years of service.)

**Dispatcher Dierdre
Yarbrough receives
"Dispatcher of the
Year" award for 2007.**



2007 RETIREMENTS

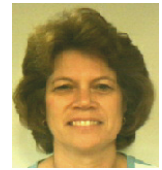


GORDON H. GARTNER
CHIEF OF POLICE
1979—2007

2007 saw the retirement of three long time members of the Payson Police Department. The first to retire was Police Chief Gordon Gartner, who retired in June after serving 28 years. Next was Della Bradley with 30 years of service, and also in June, Detective Steve Johnson, who served 20 years with the Payson Police Department.



STEVEN JOHNSON
POLICE DETECTIVE
1987—2007



DELLA M. BRADLEY
SUPPORT SERVICES
MANAGER
1976—2007

Payson Law Enforcement Training Academy

The Payson Police Department Law Enforcement Training Academy held the first graduation in June 2007, certifying eight cadets. Five cadets from this graduation were hired as full time police officers with the Payson Police Department in October 2007 and one became a Reserve Police Officer for the Payson Police Department.



OFFICER
MATTHEW
ZIMMERMAN



OFFICER
BRYAN
WATSON



OFFICER
JESSE
DAVIES



OFFICER
JARED
MEREDITH



OFFICER
MICHAEL
HANSEN



OFFICER
THOMAS MICHAEL
BARKER



RESERVE
OFFICER
VICTOR
THOMPSON

2007



OFFICER
DANIEL
KLIMUT

NEW



DISPATCHER
CELENA
DESCHAAF

HIRES



POLICE
SECRETARY
KERRY
RIZZA

PROMOTIONS

Donald B. Engler

Promoted to
Chief of Police
June 30, 2007



OVERVIEW

For the size of the Payson Police Department, in comparison to the number of residences served, it continues to be a very active police department. The Payson Police Department responded 22,845 calls for service during the calendar year of 2007. Our department is authorized for 33 certified police officers including the Chief, Investigations, supervisory personnel and patrol officers. In making comparisons to prior years, it appears that several of our criminal areas have increased in numbers. However, this must be addressed with caution; this is the first year that we have been operating our new computer software system, which more accurately tracks statistical information than in the past. It provides a better picture of the numbers of criminal activity that are occurring in our community. It is necessary for us to remember this as we discuss some of the increases over prior years.

The first area that deserves some attention is assault and aggravated assault, which was 293 in 2007. Another notable factor is burglaries. Even though the Payson Police Department was very successful in 2007 in pursuing and catching a perpetrator who was responsible for a large number of burglaries, this is still an area of concern for the upcoming year. The Payson Police Department investigated 146 burglaries during 2007. I think that as we analyze the number of arrest the Payson Police Department completed during 2007, it helps portray the true picture of how busy our department is. 2,801 arrests were made during 2007, which includes both juvenile and adult arrests. This includes both felony and misdemeanor arrests. Some areas that have dropped during the last year were DUI and Domestic Violence arrests. These are encouraging points; however, the DUI arrest statistic may be due to less man hours of patrol time available during the year because the patrol officers within the department were so busy. Another area of concern is the traffic accidents, which were 530 in 2007. This is an increase over prior years. Another category that deserves attention is drug arrests. During 2007 the Payson Police Department made 193 drug arrests for possession of illegal and other drugs. This goes to show the pressure that is continuing to be applied to individuals within the community who use and sell Methamphetamine. This is an area where the police department will continue to provide manpower and take a very firm enforcement posture.

The notable area to discuss for the annual report will be the index crime rate of 47.9. Our crime rate at this level continues to show the effort being put forth by the members of the Payson Police Department to provide a safe and enjoyable community in which our citizens can operate.

VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

The Payson Police Department Volunteers in Policing program continues to be a huge success. In 2007, there were 55 volunteers working for the Payson Police Department and the community, putting in 12,499 hours in various areas of the department including duties in the patrol division, records, vehicle impoundments, crime scene security, sex offender notifications and many other duties. These volunteer hours saved the Town of Payson over \$300,000, as they did not need to have paid police personnel complete



many any of these tasks. The Volunteers in Policing program also works with the elderly citizens of the community with the PATH Program (Police Access to the Homebound) and the Guardian Angel Program, which are run entirely by the volunteers. The Payson Police Department is very fortunate to have such an astounding group of volunteers, and other agencies are now using our program as a model to form their own programs.

K-9 UNIT

2007 was a year of major changes at the Payson Police Department, including changes to the Police Service Dog (K9) Team of Detective Les Barr and his German Shepherd canine partner, "Kodiak." At the end of 2007, it was decided that because of Kodiak's age, he should no longer perform in the patrol portion of K9 work, so the department has limited his duties to narcotics detection until his retirement in 2008. Detective Barr and Kodiak completed numerous narcotics searches, which included 43 vehicles and 6 buildings. Additionally, the team completed 301 Parcel or luggage searches. In patrol, five building and two area searches were conducted resulting in two felony suspect apprehensions. The team also completed six public relation demonstrations.



KODIAK
Payson Police
K-9



2007
DARE Officers

D.A.R.E.

The Payson Police Department has taught the DARE program to Payson's elementary schools for the last 17 years. DARE continues to be very successful. The core program is 10 weeks and is taught by police officers once a week concluding with a graduation. The emphasis of DARE is teaching life skills including decision-making, risk-taking, consequences and how to avoid violence. In 2007, over 150 students graduated from the DARE program.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The Traffic Enforcement Unit of the department is staffed by Officer Allen Dyer. His duties include regular enforcement of traffic laws, assisting various divisions of the department, and details of traffic concerns throughout Payson. Although Dyer was off work from January through March 2007 due to an on-duty injury, he still had a very busy year. 680 traffic violators were contacted in 2007 through traffic details and regular patrol duties. Dyer worked approximately 90 traffic details in response to citizens reporting traffic issues in their neighborhoods and near their businesses. Not all stops made by Dyer result in traffic citations being issued. Verbal and written warnings are issued in an effort to educate motorists and pedestrians of traffic laws and safety. Dyer has also spoken at community meetings held by the Chief of Police to reinforce the department's goal of traffic enforcement, enhancing the safety of all the people who live, work, and visit Payson.



Sgt. Hefflin,
Special Response
Team member

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)

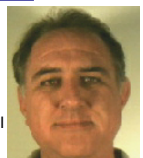
The Payson Police Department 7-member Special Response Team was activated 41 times in 2007 for high-risk situations such as the service of search warrants, suicidal and barricaded subjects and the arrest of felons. Many times the team assists other agencies with high risk situations due to there not being another specialized team in this area.

The team has an array of specialized equipment and tactics; therefore, the need for training is demanding. The team completes proficiency training a minimum of once a month.

The team is a part time team and all members carry a primary role at the Payson Police Department, such as patrol officer or detective.

ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

2007 was another busy year for Payson's only Animal Control Officer Don Tanner, who responded to a total of 1,594 animal related calls for service. These calls include issues from barking dogs to animal bites of all types. Included in these responses were 34 calls in the Town of Star Valley. Although Animal Control services are not included in the Law Enforcement contract for the Town of Star Valley, Officer Tanner works closely with the Star Valleys officials and residents to resolve animal issues. Officer Tanner's duties extend far beyond enforcement of Animal Control laws. Working closely with the Town of Payson Legal Department and Town Council, Officer Tanner revised several vital ordinances including those limiting the number of domestic pets allowed per household, leash law requirements, and a new Vicious Animal ordinance. The Town of Payson Animal Control unit has also sponsored two low cost Rabies Vaccination clinics which including town licensing of animals. These events are part of Officer Tanner's efforts in working with various community groups and neighborhood members to maintain the quality of



ANIMAL
CONTROL
OFFICER DON
TANNER

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Block Watch - Ofcr. Mike Varga.....mvarga@ci.payson.az.us
P.A.T.H.- Kim Becker.....kbecker@ci.payson.az.us
D.A.R.E. - Sgt. Donald Garvin.dgarvin@ci.payson.az.us

Volunteers in Policing - Sgt. Don Kasl.....dkasl@ci.payson.az.us
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Records - Jill VanCamp.....jvancamp@ci.payson.az.us
Facility Tours - Chief Engler.....dengler@ci.payson.az.us
Academy - Sgt. Rod Mamero.....rmamero@ci.payson.az.us
Watch Your Car - Ofcr. Joni Varga.....jvarga@ci.payson.az.us
Vehicle Impound info. - Kerry Rizza.....krizza@ci.payson.az.us
Child Abuse Hotline.....1-800-505-Child
Silent Witness.....928-474-3984
Guardian Angel - Vol. Bill Broce.....928-474-5242 ext. 220