Officer John Huss and K-9 ‘Dex’
(For more information on the K-9 Unit, see page 9)
It is the mission of the Payson Police Department to provide the highest quality of police services to our community. It is our responsibility to ensure that the people we serve can feel safe in their homes, at their places of employment, in our schools and wherever they may travel within the corporate limits of the Town of Payson.
I was very proud of the men and women of the Payson Police Department and their dedication in 2010. They continue to astonish me at what they are able to accomplish despite very substantial challenges.

In 2010, the call for service load increased to 28,259. The employees of the Payson Police Department continued to respond and provide outstanding service to the community even when call for service loads increase by approximately 2,000 calls per service per year. There was a tremendous achievement by the personnel of the Payson Police Department in community perception. As I interact with the community I receive many more compliments on the staff of the police department than I do complaints.

It is my opinion that the community has become part of the police department and understands the challenges the personnel of the department see on a daily basis. The communities’ help and assistance is greatly appreciated, as they do make our jobs easier in many cases.

The Payson Police Department operated with a budget that was approximately one million dollars less in 2010 than in 2007. Personnel continues to be a challenge and even though the department is authorized for 30 certified patrol officers, we have functioned the majority of the year with 28 or less.

As we look at the 2010 statistics we see an increase in uniform crime statistics from 631 to 675. This is attributed mainly to an increase in assaults and aggravated assaults in our community, followed by an increase of theft cases.

These statistics translate into an index crime rate of 43.5 crimes per 1,000. This is a slight increase from 2009 at 42.6. However, I think it is explainable with the increased call load and the challenges under which the officers of the Payson Police Department were working considering the lack of personnel. It also should be mentioned that six months of the year the Payson Police Department was under a furlough status with all police personnel, which also had an impact on these statistics.
Jurisdiction & Population

- Town of Payson (25 Square Miles)

2010 Population of Payson 15,569
Crime Statistics

2009-2010 Uniform Crime Report Comparison

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
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<td>314</td>
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<td>Arson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yearly Total</td>
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Domestic Violence Cases/Arrests

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>318</td>
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2010 was a year to operate by the famous words, “Adapt and Overcome.” Internal changes included a vacancy in our lieutenant position, re-assignment of a patrol sergeant to the position of sergeant over the Special Enforcement Division, as well as three vacant patrol positions, one of which was filled at the end of the year, sending a new recruit to the NARTA Police Academy, to graduate in May 2011.

The tight budget felt by all town departments affected the patrol division by limiting most training to AZPOST proficiency training, (such as firearms) as well as limiting overtime used to host law enforcement related community events.

Unfortunately, 2010’s National Night Out was rained out. However, the 1st Annual Thunder Mountain Bike Rally was a success for all law enforcement agencies that took part and worked together to make it a safe event for everyone.
The Investigation Division is comprised of three general detectives and one detective sergeant, Sgt. Dean Faust. The division is designed to investigate crimes that are serious in nature and require specialty skills or resources. These crimes can range from thefts to homicide. The division is staffed by:

- Detective Matt Van Camp – General Detective, specializes in computer forensics.
- Detective Mike Varga – General Detective, specializes in sex crimes.
- Detective Mike McAnerny – General Detective, specializes in financial crimes.

During 2010 the division handled or assisted in 1121 cases or activities, which is an increase from 2009. Also in 2010, work furloughs were in place which resulted in 60 less work days in 2010.

In addition to normal criminal investigations, the division also coordinates the following programs/duties:

- Sex Offender Notification Program.
- Pawn Shop Review.
- Military Surplus Program.
- Internal Investigations
- Background Investigations

In 2010 Detective McAnerny was named the “Officer of the Quarter” by the Gila County Attorney’s Office for his investigations.
The Payson Police Department’s Special Response Team (SRT) mission is to enhance officer safety through the use of teamwork and specialized training. The SRT members, which are selected by the chief of police, must possess skills and attributes that fit the missions of the team and of the department.

The SRT completes monthly training specializing in the area of less-lethal munitions, advanced building search tactics, and specialized weapons training.

It works closely with the Payson Police Department’s Negotiation Unit and the Special Enforcement Officer Division (SEO.)

In 2010, the majority of the SRT calls dealt with assisting the Special Enforcement Officer Division and the Gila County Narcotics Task Force with drug related search warrants.

Each member of the SRT has a primary role at the police department. Primary responsibilities include patrol officer, sergeant or detective. Becoming an SRT member is in addition to their other responsibilities.

This year, the SRT was activated 13 times. Many of the activations were within the Town of Payson, while several were in the surrounding area. Officers on the SRT have to be prepared to respond to incidents immediately, on or off duty. Officers selected to the team have take-home vehicles to allow for the rapid response to situations that are in-progress and needing immediate assistance.
In 2010 the K-9 team of Officer John Huss and his partner Dex entered their second full year as a service dog unit. The year was a busy and productive one for the unit. Along with the usual patrol duties, the team became more active with the SRT team, increasing its involvement in the service of high-risk search warrants both on entries as well as follow-up searches. The goal is to incorporate the K-9 in more activities such as this in the future.

During the year the K-9 Unit assisted in the service of 12 search warrants yielding multiple narcotic finds in the process. Huss and Dex had multiple assists for narcotic sniffs with outside agencies throughout the year. 78 vehicles were sniffed this year and multiple structures were also sniffed, yielding totals of over 3.5 lbs. of marijuana, over .5 lbs. of cocaine, .5 lbs. of methamphetamine, and a small amount of heroin was seized. Additionally, 13 items of paraphernalia were located by the K-9 during these sniffs.

The team was also involved in 6 building searches and 2 tracks/trails for either suspects or missing individuals. Multiple alarm calls were responded to by the unit as well as many assists to other patrol officers.

Public demonstrations or PR details were minimal this year with only 4. However, the Payson Police Department and the K-9 Unit did host the 18th Annual Arizona Law Enforcement Canine Association’s Officers Survival Seminar this year and had a good turnout for that event. K-9 Handlers from all over the southwest converged on Payson in July to receive hands-on real life scenario training from some of the country’s top K-9 trainers and to participate in required annual certifications. A public demonstration was also conducted during this time to showcase the multiple talents of Police Service Dogs. Over 500 citizens attended this demonstration.
The Payson Police Department Communications Center is staffed with 1 Communications Supervisor, 9 full time and 2 reserve dispatchers who man 911 emergency phone calls, non-emergency phone calls and the dispatching of police, fire, and volunteer units. Our communications center is in operation 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Our staff is also responsible for the dispatching of other agencies in our area. This includes the Hellsgate, Tonto Village, Christopher/Kohl’s, Beaver Valley, Whispering Pines and Houston Mesa Fire Departments. The Center handled a total of 28,259 calls for service in 2010.

With the resignation of 3 communications staff members, several changes took place in 2010. Dispatchers Celena Ortiz and Elizabeth Lacey transferred to the Records Department. Records staff members Jill Van Camp and Sherri Moore transferred to the Communications Department, and 2 new dispatchers were hired, Susan Cordaro and Dianamarie Maione. Several in our Communications Staff have worked many hours of overtime shifts to assist in covering these transitions. We ended our year with one vacant position.

Senior Staff Members: Irma Bramlet – Communications Supervisor (19 years of service), Alison Murphy – Dispatcher/Shift Leader (21 years of service), and Kay Davis – Senior Dispatcher (11 years of service).
In 2010, the Special Enforcement Unit experienced some changes within the unit. In January, Officer LaManna stepped in as a detective in the unit. In July, Sergeant Hazelo was brought in as the supervisor for the unit.

The unit conducted 22 residential search warrants and 4 urine/blood search warrants on arrestees. These warrants were cases involving the selling of drugs within Payson. The unit arrested 95 individuals for drug related offenses, specifically targeting methamphetamine. The unit saw an increase toward the end of the year in the use and possession of heroin.

The unit removed 11 children from drug environments where they were being exposed to drugs and dangerous environments. The detectives worked closely with Child Protective Services to ensure the children were in safe environments.

The unit works closely with other law enforcement agencies and assists with the arrests of known drug users and dealers. The unit helped on 7 marijuana gardens this year by assisting the Gila County Narcotics Task Force.
The Payson Police Department Records Division plays a very important role in the circle of law enforcement. Prompt and accurate processing and dissemination of the police reports and associated paperwork is an integral part of the judicial process.

There were some changes in August of 2010 that resulted in a complete turnover of personnel within the Records Division. Two very competent and hard working dispatchers made the decision to transfer into the Records Division to perform the duties of Records Clerks; Beth Lacey and Celena Ortiz. At the same time, Kathy Klein, formerly the Payson Police Department Records Administrator from 1999 to 2005, transferred back into the department to fill that position once again. With excellent clerical and customer service skills, the Records Division provides assistance to the officers, those working within our judicial system, and to the general public. A few of our police volunteers assist the department with filing, copying and other clerical duties as needed.

In 2010, the Payson Police Department responded to 28,259 calls for service in Payson. Many of these calls require the completion of a police report. This year, the Records Division transcribed and processed approximately 150 reports per week.

Additional duties of the Records Division include completion of requests for police reports from citizens, insurance companies, attorneys and other law enforcement agencies in a timely manner. There are also many background check requests by employers, military agencies, law enforcement agencies and others that must be completed promptly and efficiently.
The Payson Police Department has been teaching the D.A.R.E. program for approximately 20 years. The 10-week long program is designed to educate young people about the dangers of drugs, as well as teaching them how to make positive choices in their life that will benefit them.

In 2010 Sgt. Hazelo and Officer Zimmerman taught 8 classes at the 3 Payson elementary schools. Approximately 200 students received the curriculum. Each student who graduated the program was honored by the Payson Police Department for the exceptional work and dedication shown in the classroom. The graduation ceremony is the culmination of the program where family and friends come to admire the accomplishments of their students and to see what their child has been learning and doing during the D.A.R.E. class time.

In the fall of 2010 Sgt. Hazelo and Officer Zimmerman received a vehicle that will be the department D.A.R.E. vehicle and have been working on the vehicle since. The department has received donations that are greatly appreciated and have helped make the vehicle a success and will help make it “stand out” when finished. The D.A.R.E. Officers are looking forward to hopefully unveiling it in the spring of 2011.

Sponsors are a big part of the D.A.R.E. Program and we would like to thank the following businesses: Wells Fargo Bank, Amon Builders, Class Cleaners, Payson Regional Medical Center, Pizza Factory and Payson Auto Body.
The Payson Police Department Volunteers in Policing Program celebrated its 10th year of service in October 2010. Since its inception, there are four original volunteers still in the program: Joan Amoroso, Harold Bruns, Dottie Gossard and Bruce Van Camp. They have all received their 10-year awards. There are currently 38 active volunteers that donated almost 9000 hours in 2010.

There are two programs that are almost entirely run by the Volunteer Program. One is the PATH Program. (Police Access to the Homebound) In this program, volunteers make phone calls 7 days a week to elderly and homebound citizens of our community to check their welfare. For many of these citizens, this is the only contact they have with someone. The other program is the Guardian Angel Program. Volunteers equip citizens with a pendant that is worn 24/7 by a citizen and in case of an emergency, they can push a button and a phone call will be placed to a predetermined neighbor or relative for assistance. This service is provided to citizens at no cost and there are currently over 400 systems activated.

Another program run by the volunteers is the Impounded Vehicle Program. When a vehicle is impounded, the volunteers are responsible for the release of the vehicle and/or personal possessions in that vehicle. If the vehicle is not claimed after 30 days, the volunteers then file for an abandoned title and sell it on auction.

In addition to these programs, the volunteers also perform patrol duties, funeral escorts, vacation home checks, maintenance projects, work the reception desk, take fingerprints, and work in the property room.

Just about every level of the police department is assisted by a volunteer. When you enter the police department, the first person to greet you is a volunteer. The police department would not be able to perform the level of service to the Town of Payson if we didn’t have the volunteers.
The Payson Police Department was awarded several grants in 2010.

- Governor’s Office of Highway Safety - $5200.00 for the purchase of speed detection devices.
- Governor’s Office of Highway Safety – $15,500.00 for the purchase of PBT’s (Portable Breath Testing Devices) and to support personnel services (overtime) to enhance DUI enforcement throughout the Town of Payson.
- Governor's Office of Economic Recovery - $75,000.00 for the purchase of three new police vehicles.
- Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board - $9700.00 for the purchase of equipment for the firearms simulator.
- Homeland Security - $100,000.00 for the purchase of communications equipment to enhance interoperability.
- Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance - $10,361.00 for the purchase of equipment for the Special Response Team, the K-9 Team, Global Positioning Systems and other equipment.
During 2010, the Payson Police Department responded to 285 commercial alarms and 168 residential alarms. There are currently 165 commercial alarm permits and 150 residential alarm permits in the Town limits.
Awards & Recognition

Dispatcher Beth Lacey receives Dispatcher of the Year Award, sponsored by the Rim Country Rotary Club 2010

Detective Michael McAnerny receives Police Officer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Rim Country Rotary Club 2010
New Faces

Kathy Klein – Records Administrator

Susan Cordaro – Police Dispatcher

Rev. Steve De Santo – Police Chaplain

Dianamarie Maione – Police Dispatcher
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<td>Chief Donald Engler</td>
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<td>Investigations - Dean Faust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silent Witness</td>
<td>928-HOT-TIPS (468-8477)</td>
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