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Letter From The Chief of Police

It is my pleasure to present you with the El Paso Police Department (EPPD) 2007 Annual Report. This report summarizes some of the impressive accomplishments made by the men and women of this agency, both sworn and civilian. Many of these accomplishments were achieved with the assistance of our outstanding citizens, other law enforcement agencies, and community groups. Most importantly this report documents the techniques used by this department to serve and protect our community while unfailingly demonstrating our dedication to our Core Values of respecting life, conducting ourselves with dignity, and enforcing the law.

For the past four years, the EPPD worked diligently on its policies, procedures, and practices in order to achieve accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). On November 17, 2007, the EPPD was awarded CALEA accreditation and is now nationally recognized as a Police Department that meets or exceeds over 446 internationally recognized law enforcement standards.

The Department’s involvement in a number of community initiatives and partnerships is an important link to reach out to the citizens of this great city and assist them in realizing the highest quality of life. The El Paso Police Foundation, formed in 2006, continued collaboration with the Department in supplemental fund-raising, employee development, and public safety enhancements. In addition, the EPPD worked in partnership with community groups such as United Blood Services to boost blood donations for a secure and ample blood supply, and the National Marrow Donor Program to increase the number of available registered marrow donors. Efforts in these areas resulted in several recognitions and awards. To expand recruitment efforts, the first annual Women in Law Enforcement Expo was held in September. The innovative event was led by the EPPD and included numerous area law enforcement agencies on the local, state and federal levels working together to attract potential applicants, both male and female, and provide information about careers in law enforcement. Another project was the formation of a creative partnership with a billboard media outlet to use electronic billboards for public education on traffic safety and increased broadcasting of information on abducted children. Through partnership with the citizens of this great community, and other area law enforcement agencies, the EPPD has once again reduced crime, resulting in the City of El Paso’s national ranking by Morgan Quitno Press as the 2nd Safest City with a population of over 500,000 people.

This city is a diverse collection of vibrant cultures and its citizens are the foundation of EPPD’s mission to uphold the law with a sense of pride and honor. I am privileged to lead a talented group of men and women who represent all of El Paso’s best qualities through their dedication to serve.

Gregory K. Allen
Chief of Police
### Part 1 Crime and Index Crime Statistics

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%Increase or (Decrease) | -6.2% | -8.5% | -7.2% | -5.3% | -6.7% | 3.0%  | -2.3% |

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%Increase or (Decrease) | -11.1% | -12.6% | -6.2% | -4.7% | -8.8% | 4.7%  | -3.0% |
Central Regional Command Center

The Central Regional Command Center (CRCC) occupies the historical building at 200 S. Campbell, the oldest of all EPPD structures. The building, established in 1897, became home to the EPPD’s Central Substation in 1984. In 1994, the Central Substation became the CRCC when police services evolved organizationally into the regional command center concept. The CRCC is staffed with 184 sworn and 14 civilian employees who respond to and investigate all incidents that occur in the Central region.

In 2007, CRCC handled over 115,000 calls for service, made over 8,000 arrests, and issued more than 4,000 traffic citations, epitomizing the dedication and hard work of the CRCC personnel. In particular, recognition is in order for the heroism of three officers who were awarded Life Saving Awards. On June 21, Sergeant Ron Martin risked his own safety to prevent a suicidal citizen from jumping off the sixth floor of a building. On August 17, Officers David Aldana and Alejandro Anaya took fast action to make entry into a residence and stop another suicidal subject from hanging himself. Such actions illustrate the dedication and work ethic displayed by CRCC officers every day.

Along with the arrests, citations, and calls for service, CRCC officers assisted in hosting many community events. March 4, 2007 marked the first marathon race to be held in El Paso. Personnel of the CRCC worked tirelessly with the event organizers to put on a successful event with about 1,000 runners participating. Due to the efficiency and stellar teamwork of the CRCC officers, El Paso will host the marathon again in 2008, with plans to make it an annual event. Another significant event was CicloVia when the City of El Paso took the parks to the streets, so that citizens could walk, run, or ride bicycles while meeting their neighbors, Police and Fire personnel, and City Representatives. Officers of the CRCC also handled traffic control for annual holiday events like the Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Holiday Light Parade, and the Lighting of the Christmas Tree in Plaza Park.

Other programs in which CRCC personnel participated were the Thanksgiving turkey and Christmas gift donations for the less fortunate, public education sessions in subjects like family violence, child identification fingerprinting, and enhancing the cooperation and partnerships that CRCC personnel strive to maintain with citizens through the Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) and the Citizen’s Advisory Board (CAB). One such effort coordinated by the CRCC CAB, the Underage Drinking Initiative, allowed for officers and community residents to work together on bridge operations to help curb underage drinking through education and enforcement. Through participation in such community events CRCC personnel continue to show their commitment to improving the quality of life in El Paso.

Great achievements were accomplished in 2007 by the men and women of the CRCC who will keep that momentum going in 2008. Aggressive crime reduction initiatives, maintenance of community partnerships, and the development of strong working relationships with other community and law enforcement agencies are the primary objectives for the region to ensure another successful year.
The Mission Valley Regional Command Center (MVRC) was established in February 1998 and is staffed with 125 officers and 7 civilian personnel who provide Police services to a 32-square-mile area with a population of about 130,000 residents. The service area ranges from I-10 south to the international border and Marlow Road east to the City limits, and includes the Ysleta Point of Entry and the Tigua Indian Reservation. All MVRC personnel work in conjunction with the residents of the Mission Valley community to realize success in attaining set goals in the areas of crime reduction, traffic safety, and community programs to improve the quality of life.

One 2007 goal for MVRC personnel was to proactively address crime trends to reach a 1% reduction in Part I crimes. Strategies were implemented such as regular communication with probation and parole officers, detailed analysis of crime reports, bi-weekly warrant round-ups, and the development of the Focus File to track criminals who represent a small percentage of the population but commit a disproportionately large percentage of crime. As a result of these efforts, overall crime was reduced by 1%, and arrests were increased by 8% in 2007 compared to 2006.

Importance was also placed on traffic safety with a goal to increase traffic enforcement efforts by 3% in the areas of hazardous citation issuance and DWI arrests. Personnel of MVRC were extremely successful in this area and ultimately far exceeded the goal with a 49% increase in DWI arrests and a 7% increase in hazardous citation issuance.

Another goal of the MVRC was to participate in programs that benefit the community by promoting clean, safe neighborhoods. Activities toward this end included strong City ordinance enforcement for nuisance-related complaints, identification of problem areas and subsequent solution development, public presentations on crime and crime prevention topics, and auto theft prevention initiatives to reduce vulnerability to crime. Crime prevention efforts were furthered through National Night Out, Pride Day Cleanups, and the Apartment Managers’ Crime Prevention Program. This program consists of monthly meetings for apartment managers to learn about and share crime information as well as develop Apartment Watch and Neighborhood Watch Programs. Code Blue exercises were held at area schools to train personnel and students about what to do in the unfortunate event that a school shooting incident occurs. Along with career day and mentoring programs, students attended presentations on sexual assault awareness, domestic and dating violence, and the consequences of driving while intoxicated.

Personnel of the MVRC are committed to maintaining close working relationships with the public they serve through public education presentations and Citizen’s Advisory Board (CAB) activities. The successful efforts at crime reduction will continue into 2008 by implementing proactive and creative crime-fighting strategies.
The Northeast Regional Command (NERC), established in January 1998, is staffed by 133 sworn and five civilian personnel, and serves the area of Van Buren north to the New Mexico state line, and Airport Road west to the Franklin Mountains. Comprised of a culturally diverse population of about 130,000 people, the area is experiencing considerable population growth resulting from the anticipated 47,600 new military personnel moving into the area as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

Crime is a major issue for all regions and the NERC is no exception. Despite a shortage of officers, an increase in population, and the expansion of Fort Bliss, the NERC was able to keep crime in check and concluded 2007 with a 15% decrease in burglary, 2% decrease in assault, and a 1% decrease in auto theft compared to 2006. Personnel of the NERC developed proactive initiatives throughout the year to address crime trends. To further this, a highly mobile directed patrol squad with a flexible deployment style was organized. The squad was instrumental in aggressively addressing auto theft, robbery and burglary. The unit also actively pursued wanted subjects, and monitored the locations and activities of repeat offenders. The NERC continued the partnership with Fort Bliss Military Police and worked in conjunction with them on joint patrol operations and bar checks. Through proactive and creative enforcement of the curfew ordinance, a 112% increase in curfew citations was realized for the year. Such enforcement eliminated the opportunity for juveniles to become involved in more serious crimes. Additional successes for the region included enhanced traffic safety through a 26% increase in the issuance of traffic citations, and successful crime clearance rates of 40% in burglary, 61% in robbery, and 17% in burglary of vehicle.

In addition to addressing crime, the region continually works to maintain positive relationships with the community. One example is the high level of involvement in the Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), which works to reduce crime and the fear of crime. A major NWP project was the distribution of a bilingual NWP manual to all residential addresses in El Paso. The manual provides contact phone numbers along with information about the Police Department, recruiting, crime prevention, and emergency-preparedness tips. Another example of neighborhood involvement was the success of the City's 2007 Annual Pride Day that was organized with assistance from the NERC Citizen's Advisory Board.

Personnel of the NERC look forward to a successful 2008 by continuing crime reduction efforts and maintaining strong community involvement initiatives. All of the staff is dedicated to working with all citizens to make the NERC a great place to live.
The Pebble Hills Regional Command (PHRC), established in March 1994, is responsible for providing police services to a 50-square mile area of the city’s eastside with a population of about 150,000 people. The PHRC staff, consisting of 209 sworn personnel and seven civilian employees, have performed exceptionally well throughout 2007 in developing and implementing measures to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

The crime rate in the region has been a challenge the PHRC staff has worked hard to address. Throughout the year, region personnel focused on crime trends involving burglaries, auto thefts, and thefts from convenience stores in addition to public concerns related to traffic safety. To achieve positive outcomes in addressing these issues, personnel of the PHRC emphasized public information campaigns, press releases, and community meetings to educate members of the public about crime trends and to solicit public assistance in reporting suspicious activity, crime, and traffic problems. In addition, each section was tasked with identifying crime or traffic issues and implementing appropriate operations and initiatives such as saturation patrol, surveillance, multi-section coordinated follow-up investigation, and intensive traffic enforcement. Thorough warrant execution resulted in the arrest of several habitual offenders.

Along with a reduction in crime, another 2007 goal was to develop stronger relationships with the community. One way this was accomplished was through organization of the Apartment Watch Program. Approximately 20 apartment complex managers participate in the bi-monthly meetings to discuss crime trends, citizen concerns, and crime prevention methods. An Apartment Watch newsletter was also produced to further assist in information-sharing, a highly important weapon in fighting crime. The network of participants continues to grow and a program goal for 2008 is for all regional apartment complexes to be enrolled in the program. Another community outreach project is Safety Town, a cooperative effort of the EPPD, the El Paso Fire Department, the PHRC Explorers, the PHRC Citizen’s Advisory Board, and local businesses. Children aged five through nine learn about pedestrian, bicycle, fire, stranger, and personal safety. The program was a huge success, with 2007 recording the largest number of graduates ever.

We are proud of the work done in 2007 to provide the community professional police services. All personnel of the PHRCC have performed exceptionally well and look forward to continuing efforts to reduce crime and to strengthen community partnerships in 2008.
The Westside Regional Command Center (WSRC), established in 1995, is staffed with 139 commissioned officers and four civilian employees. All WSRC personnel are committed to working toward a high quality of life while providing professional police services to a diverse community of people living and working within the boundaries of El Paso’s West Side.

One WSRC goal was to reduce crime by 2% in 2007 compared to 2006. At the beginning of the year, overall crime had actually increased by 5% from 2006, with some crimes such as theft of auto up by 33%. To reverse these trends, numerous initiatives were implemented ranging from strengthened field training of new officers, traditional patrol tactics, plainclothes operations, intelligence-sharing, maintenance of repeat offender records, and directed patrol activities like the Strike Force Team, a squad developed to address auto thefts and burglaries of vehicles. As a result, the WSRC not only met the goal of reducing crime, but also far exceeded it with an ultimate overall crime reduction for 2007 of 8% with auto thefts reduced by 14%. The hard work was also evident in the drastic 86% increase in arrests in the region for the year: 3804 arrests in 2006 compared to 7074 arrests in 2007.

Another goal was to increase traffic enforcement activities to change negative driving behaviors and make roadways safer for the traveling public. Again, personnel of the WSRC met this goal with a 23% increase in the issuance of traffic citations, with 36,048 citations issued in 2006 compared to 44,236 citations issued in 2007.

In addition to the tactical deployment of officers, assistance was enlisted from the residential and business communities in reporting crime and concerns, and public education efforts were increased. These actions were highly important in enhancing the partnerships that are so vital in addressing crime. Through working with the community, residents living and working in the WSRC area were more secure in reporting crime and working along with officers throughout the investigation process. The WSRC Citizen’s Advisory Board (CAB) conducted numerous H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft) Drives to increase registration of vehicles with H.E.A.T. stickers. This allows for registered vehicles to be stopped and checked during certain hours in an effort to combat auto theft. To further public education efforts, the Special Operations Unit took a proactive approach to combat family violence and sexual assault by presenting public training sessions on prevention, reporting, and community assistance referrals. The number of sessions held in 2007 increased by 22% compared to 2006.

For the WSRC personnel, 2007 was a very successful year that provided a sense of renewed pride. All officers and civilian personnel of the WSRC look forward to another successful year of crime reduction, working in partnership with the public, and promoting public safety through improved driving habits.
The EPPD accomplished a major goal by achieving recognition as an accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). On November 17, 2007, the Department received its official award of accreditation after working diligently for almost four years. The lengthy process involved the commitment of all personnel along with the creation of the CALEA Unit. Current policies and procedures were stringently reviewed, areas requiring change or improvement were identified, and policies were amended as needed to comply with the 446 standards set by CALEA.

Created in 1979 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the National Sheriff’s Association, CALEA is an internationally recognized accreditation organization that sets standards and practices for law enforcement agencies within the United States as well as Mexico and Canada. The CALEA staff is comprised of active and retired law enforcement officers, and representatives from various public and private organizations.

The EPPD is extremely proud to have achieved the mark of excellence that accreditation provides. Out of over 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide, only 604 have been granted accreditation. Of those, only 49 agencies staffed with over 1,000 commissioned officers are accredited through CALEA. Accreditation is voluntary for any law enforcement agency and it serves to recognize those agencies that meet over 1,100 individual factors within the 446 standards related to policies, practices, and organization throughout all facets of the Department.

This prestigious award imparts many benefits, not only to the EPPD, but to the City of El Paso as well. Accreditation provides protection for the City and the EPPD from liability, improves risk management ratings, lowers insurance costs, demonstrates a commitment to operating within nationally acceptable practices, and qualifies the EPPD for grants and other funding sources that may not be available otherwise. In addition, the EPPD gains efficiency in administrative processes, reaps the benefits of higher employee morale through positive treatment of employees, earns greater community support, and builds public confidence in the EPPD’s ability to provide services during any emergency or incident.

The EPPD remains committed to serving the citizens of El Paso through adherence to the highest standards and practices. All personnel continue efforts to maintain accreditation and keep the EPPD among the highest caliber of law enforcement agencies.
The EPPD hosted the fifth annual Empowering Women in Law Enforcement Conference in April 2007 at the Radisson Hotel and Resort. This conference was especially noteworthy in that it was the first conference that reached an international audience with attendees from as far away as Mexico City.

The conference was coordinated by a committee of 50 members representing 10 law enforcement agencies along with the EPPD. These agencies, working in joint participation, included the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department, the United States Marshal’s Service, the University of Texas at El Paso Police Department, the Socorro Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Texas Department of Public Safety, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, and Customs and Border Protection.

About 250 law enforcement officers and civilians were in attendance in an effort to support the professional development of women with careers in law enforcement as well as those seeking to begin a career of service. Attendees were able to network and build alliances within law enforcement agencies, cultivate leadership skills through intensive educational seminars, and review the latest management strategies unique to law enforcement.

Speakers included nationally recognized law enforcement and public safety speaker Gordon Graham; international motivation speaker Aliana Apodaca; Military Police Officer Althea L. Raiford; psychoneuroimmunology expert Dr. Mario Ruja; published physical therapist Sandra Terrazas; Assistant Chief of Police Laura Forbes of the Tempe (Arizona) Police Department; and author and former Louisiana State Trooper Dr. Bobby Smith.

In order to promote law enforcement careers to girls and young women at the primary and secondary school level, the EPPD sponsored an essay contest for girls from 5th-12th grade on the topic of, “Women Are Important to Law Enforcement Because...” One winner from each grade was chosen to attend the conference in honor of their spectacular work. The 2006 Keynote Speaker, Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, donated scholarship funds to five women who were without the financial resources to attend the 2007 conference.

In addition to the motivating and informative presentations of the conference, optional evening tours were planned for all attendees. Tours included an evening at El Paso County’s famous Cattleman’s Restaurant; a “South of The Border Evening” in El Paso’s sister city, Juarez, Mexico; and a night out at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino.

The value of the conference was described by the participants themselves. One conference attendee said, “I gained a lot of valuable information, but more importantly, have met some amazing women in my field.” Another attendee stated, “Just having to spend three days with other female officers is great. You have the honor to meet women from other countries that can share stories with you.”
To attract more qualified applicants, particularly women, into law enforcement careers, the EPPD hosted El Paso’s first Women in Law Enforcement Recruiting Expo in September. The event was held in partnership with other area law enforcement agencies including the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Department of Homeland Security, the Socorro Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, U.S. Marshal's Service, the University of Texas at El Paso Police Department, the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department, and the El Paso Fire Department.

All participating law enforcement agencies disseminated information on the duties and employment qualifications of their respective agencies, answered questions, and encouraged attendees to apply for employment. Though the Expo was geared toward women, men were also encouraged to attend so they could also learn of employment opportunities at the participating agencies. The event included activities for the entire family such as a jumping balloon for children, health screenings, fun photos, a climbing wall, and several hands-on vehicle and equipment displays.

The Expo drew in hundreds of potential applicants to learn about the agencies involved in the event. Over 170 applications were distributed from the EPPD alone, making the Expo valuable in reaching a large number of potential applicants. The event was so successful for all the participating agencies that the 2nd Annual Women’s Law Enforcement Expo is being planned for next year.
Personnel Division Recruitment Activities

The EPPD Personnel Division was busy throughout 2007 participating in over 200 recruiting events and conducting over 250 background investigations. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit qualified candidates as law enforcement agencies nationwide compete for a relatively small pool of candidates. As such, the Personnel Division has implemented new initiatives including partnering with the local Austin High School Sandra Day O’Connor Public Service Academy and the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Lambda Alpha Epsilon Criminal Justice Society. The participating students had the opportunity to speak with various officers about law enforcement careers and experience a day at the EPPD Academy. Other community organizations with which partnerships have been formed include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Fort Bliss Transition Center, the Fort Bliss Army Career and Alumni Program, the University of Texas at El Paso, New Mexico State University, Dona Ana Community College, the University of Phoenix, and Park University.

Recruiting events were expanded beyond traditional job fairs; the department has actively recruited at UTEP football games, Diablo baseball games, the Amigo Air Show, virtual job fairs, and high school career fairs. One can find information on how to “Join El Paso’s Finest” on the internet, billboards, buses, movie theatre ads, museums, libraries, and national publications.

The Personnel Division anticipates an exciting and productive year in 2008 with plans underway for development of an online application system, development of the Department’s first recruiting video, and implementation of a more energetic and user-friendly website. Additionally, program improvements include mentoring programs for officers, retention assessment, and leadership development for officers.
Communications Conference Room
Dedicated To Memory of Dispatcher

The Communications Conference Room located at EPPD Headquarters was dedicated to Cheryl (Cherrie) L. Wolff, one of the most devoted Public Safety Dispatchers the Department has known.

Cherrie joined the Department in 1989 as a Word Processing Operator in the Identification and Records Division. She was quickly promoted to the position of Public Safety Dispatcher in the Communications Division in 1990. Her friendly personality and proficiency in her job led her to be highly recognized and well respected by her peers. Cherrie was always concerned for the safety and welfare of the units on her assigned channel. She was able to retain control of any situation presented to her by remaining calm and focused under pressure. As a result, many officers credit Cherrie with keeping them safe during their tour of duty.

Cherrie’s pride in serving her community was evident in her participation in a variety of volunteer activities which included serving on the Victim Services Response Team, the EPPD Award’s Committee, and the Quality Circle Committee. She also attended training sessions with the Crisis Management Team, prepared “911” packets for school presentations, and helped raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Because of her accomplishments, Cherrie was presented with a number of unit, division, and bureau commendations to include Communications Employee of the Month in 1993; the Public Safety Telecommunication Award in 1994; and Civilian of the Month in May 2001, July 2004, and September 2005.

Cherrie’s commitment to the EPPD has left an everlasting impact on the officers and civilians with whom she worked, and those with whom she participated in volunteer projects. It was with great pleasure that the Department dedicated the Communications Conference Room to Cherrie Wolff.
EPPD Sponsors Monthly Blood and Bone Marrow Drives

With estimates that only one in twenty people regularly donate blood, the EPPD works to aid United Blood Services in obtaining blood donations. The Department also works with The National Marrow Donor Program to register bone marrow donors. By holding drives, the EPPD increases the amount of potential donors, thereby easing the difficulty involved in finding bone marrow matches and providing blood for waiting recipients.

Each event takes place at a different regional command center in order to reach as many blood and bone marrow donors as possible from Department employees and the public. The drives serve as reminders that selfless deeds such as blood and bone marrow donation not only save lives, but also hold the community together.

Fallen Officers Remembered During Dia de Los Muertos Celebration

Dia de Los Muertos, Day of The Dead, is a holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and parts of Central America on November 1. Because the City of El Paso is on the border of Juarez, Mexico, the tradition of building altars to commemorate deceased loved ones is widely observed.

For the first time, the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department dedicated an altar to police officers and fire fighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Several citizens of El Paso gave praise to the City of El Paso and expressed interest in participating in building an altar for next year’s celebration to show their continued gratitude for the numerous sacrifices made by El Paso’s Police Officers and Firefighters.
EPPD Teams Up With the El Paso Police Foundation and the El Paso Downtown Lions Club to Pay Tribute to School Patrol Officers

In May, El Paso School Patrol Officers were honored when the El Paso Downtown Lions Club partnered with the El Paso Police Foundation to provide a day to recognize and commend the students who participate in the program. The School Patrol Officer Program, coordinated by the EPPD, involves approximately 1100 elementary school students who contribute to keeping their 41 local school campuses safe. The El Paso Downtown Lions Club and the El Paso Police Foundation currently provide all funding for the 30 year old program, and this was the first year in which an awards picnic was held to celebrate the students’ work. The top 200 School Patrol Officers and their families were invited to be a part of the event that included an awards presentation, food, rides, Police and Fire Department displays, a SWAT Command Post, and a Police helicopter.

EPPD Sponsors Graffiti Art Project

The EPPD’s Youth Initiative Program (YIP), in collaboration with the La Fe Cultural Art and Technology Center, the El Paso Parks and Recreation Department, and the Texas Department of Transportation, sponsored a mural art project to encourage artistically gifted El Paso youths to use their talents for productive purposes. The program aimed to broaden the young public’s interest in art and to encourage them to take advantage of educational and career opportunities in the art field.

Four young El Paso artists were selected from over 50 applicants to work on a mural titled “El Paso Through My Eyes”. Chosen for the project were Amanda Macias, 18, El Paso Community College, who designed a theme of “culture”, and was inspired by Hal Marcus, Peter Max, her art teacher, and the late Luis Jimenez; Ernesto Grado, 16, Keys Academy, who selected an education theme with a wrap-around of the UTEP campus; Eric Dubitsky, 17, Eastwood High School, who paid tribute to the late El Paso wrestler Eddie Guerrero with a sports theme; and Obed Arzaga, 16, Americas High School, who illustrated technology with a space shuttle tribute to native El Pasoan and astronaut Danny Olivas.

The finished work was unveiled in September at El Paso’s Lincoln Park with the artists’ friends and family, along with representatives of all participating agencies, in attendance. Due to the success of the project it will be held again, giving El Paso residents the opportunity to see more beautiful artwork in March 2008.
EPPD Forms Partnership With Clear Channel To Find Missing Children

The EPPD and Clear Channel Outdoor have joined forces to add another media outlet for the broadcast of missing child information during an Amber Alert. The partnership allows for the use of electronic billboards along Interstate 10 to immediately display descriptions of missing children along with instructions and contact information.

Experience has shown that the sooner information about missing children is disseminated the greater the chances are of locating the child unharmed. The technology provided by the electronic billboards will play an essential role in the EPPD’s partnership with the community in resolving Amber Alert situations as quickly as possible.

American Flag Flown Over Iraq To Honor EPPD Communications Division

United States Air Force (USAF) Sergeant Aaron Beltran, currently serving in Iraq with the 43rd Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, was given the opportunity to honor an organization of his choice during a combat mission. Sergeant Beltran opted to pay tribute to the EPPD Communications Division and his mother, Communications Division Assistant Manager Cynthia Beltran, by flying an American flag over Iraqi skies aboard an EC-130H helicopter on August 16.

The EPPD Communications Division feels greatly privileged to have been chosen for such an honor. To express the EPPD’s gratitude for the gesture and pride toward Sergeant Beltran, the actual flag and a certificate noting the event are on display at the entrance of the Communications Center.

The Department Offers Free Motorcycle Safety Classes

The EPPD values safety and public education and is committed to make El Paso roadways safe. Due to the significant increase in motorcycle riders on the roadways within the City of El Paso, the EPPD has taken the initiative to offer free motorcycle safety class. The free classes, offered through the EPPD’s Safe Communities Program, seek to educate the public on motorcycle safety issues. Classes cover a range of safety topics including the use of proper gear, the consequences of drinking and riding, development of good riding skills, and pre-ride equipment inspections.

Communications Division Assistant Manager Cynthia Beltran with the flag her son, USAF Sergeant Aaron Beltran, flew in Iraq.
The American Society of Industrial Security International (ASIS) recognized EPPD with the Organizational Award of Merit. Only three such awards are granted by the organization globally each year. EPPD is the only law enforcement agency, and the only United States organization, to receive such an honor. EPPD earned the award for its on-going spirit of collaboration with private-sector security. EPPD partnered with ASIS in training EPPD Command Staff and local private security managers from throughout the community to earn the title of Certified Protection Professionals (CPP). This certification is treasured within the security industry as the highest recognition in the world for security management professionals.

The role of ASIS International is to promote the education and advocacy of broad security and management issues to businesses, governmental bodies, the public, and the media. The organization is the world’s largest with a membership of over 35,000 security professionals.

The award exemplifies the EPPD’s continuous effort to maintain a high level of community partnership and professionalism in public safety through education, training, and cooperation with private security entities and other law enforcement agencies.

The City of El Paso has been ranked the 2006 2nd Safest City, just behind Honolulu, Hawaii, by Morgan Quitno Press in the 14th annual Safest City publication, City Crime Rankings. The rankings for cities with populations over 500,000, based on analysis of annual Federal Bureau of Investigation crime data, were posted on November 18, 2007 by Morgan Quitno Press, a Lawrence, Kansas-based publishing and research company.

The national ranking improves on the designation of 3rd Safest City for 2005. In addition, the City of El Paso was also named the 2006 Safest City in Texas. Such rankings are extraordinary accomplishments for the City of El Paso. The EPPD has worked proactively and aggressively to address crime and quality of life issues to make El Paso a great place in which to live, work, and play. The men and women of the EPPD take great pride in keeping El Paso amongst the safest places to live in the United States.

Tcn Safest U.S. Cities

1. Honolulu, HI
2. El Paso, TX
3. San Jose, CA
4. New York, NY
5. Austin, TX
6. San Diego, CA
7. San Antonio, TX
8. Louisville, KY
9. Fort Worth, TX
10. Portland, OR
Citizens Advisory Board Members Earn Awards

The Citizens Advisory Boards (CAB) consist of 126 volunteer members, who serve on one of five regional command boards or the Chief’s Advisory Board. Members assist the Department in addressing quality of life issues and enhancing the relationship between the community and the EPPD by conducting school presentations and coordinating citywide events such as National Night Out and Pride Day, among other activities.

In 2007, an awards ceremony was held to recognize volunteers who have contributed five, ten, and fifteen years of outstanding service to the EPPD and the greater community of El Paso. Twenty-nine members were awarded for five years of service, seven members were awarded for ten years of service, and two members were awarded for fifteen years of service. Additionally, two volunteers, Estella Flores and Carl English Sr., received Volunteer of the Year awards. Chief of Police Richard Wiles and all regional Commanders expressed their gratitude to each group of CAB members. The enthusiastic participation of the volunteers allows the Department to continue its contribution to numerous community events and public education initiatives that may otherwise go unaccomplished.

Narcotics Lab Receives National Accreditation

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors granted the EPPD Narcotics Testing Lab full accreditation status. The accreditation process commenced in 2006 and, after the required yearlong review, the lab achieved full accreditation status in March 2007.

National accreditation provides benefits by enabling the lab to test all narcotics seized by the EPPD. First, the time involved in the testing process is greatly reduced by eliminating the need to send evidence to an outside laboratory. Second, costs for shipping, transportation, and manpower are significantly reduced.

The flawless score received on the review is a great example of the hard work the lab’s civilian and sworn employees do on a daily basis.
The El Paso Police Department’s Heroic Bomb Squad Receives Award

In 2007, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recognized the excellence of the EPPD’s Bomb Squad along with the U.S. Army’s 741st Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) of Fort Bliss. Certificates of appreciation signed by FBI Director Robert Muller were awarded to both groups of explosives disposal teams.

Supervisory Special Agent John Castricone, FBI El Paso, handed out the certificates for “Exceptional Service in the Public Interest”. Both teams were complimented on their professionalism and responses to incidents involving explosive or potentially explosive devices. While congratulating both groups SSA Castricone remarked, “Without the cooperation of the El Paso Police Department’s Bomb Squad, the U.S. Army’s 741st EOD and the F.B.I., none of the agencies would be as successful as they are.”

Retired Sergeant Patricia Reyes Inducted into The El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame

In March, designated National Women’s Month by the El Paso Commission for Women, the El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame gained six new inductees. One inductee was Retired Sergeant Patricia Reyes who was nominated in the professional category by EPPD Lieutenant Robert Pisarcik.

Retired Sergeant Reyes was inducted for her stellar performance while with the EPPD and her participation in community projects. Throughout her 28-year career, retired Sergeant Reyes served as a pioneer and mentor for female officers. She gained the respect of her peers by working hard as a police officer, supervisor, wife, and mother. Several community projects in which she volunteered included gift drives and holiday dinners for the less fortunate, youth and senior citizen mentoring, and coordination of programs such as the Breast Cancer Awareness Drive and Pride Day. Throughout her career, retired Sergeant Reyes also received numerous awards to include the Women’s Hall of Fame 2002 Leadership Award, 2003 EPPD Supervisor of the Year, Texas Supervisor of the Year 2003, the Jackie Avila Award, and the Rio Grande Safe Communities Award.
Mayor Cook Honors Retired Chief of Police Richard Wiles with Conquistador Award

The El Paso City Council and Mayor John Cook presented the Conquistador Award to Retired Chief of Police Richard Wiles to honor him for his many contributions to the EPPD and the City of El Paso during his tenure from July 2004 to December 2007. The Conquistador Award is awarded in recognition of significant contributions to the City of El Paso and is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a recipient.

One of the many endeavors undertaken by Retired Chief Wiles was the attainment of accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Mayor Cook described Retired Chief Wiles as being filled with community pride and activism and an effective Chief of Police during his tenure. Retired Chief Wiles, while speaking to City Council, stated that, while humbled to receive the award, he accepts it in recognition of the hard work of all the men and women of the EPPD. He added that without the support and backing from the City Council and the personnel of the EPPD, his time as Chief of Police would never have been as successful.

EPPD Employee Receives United Blood Services Awards

EPPD Events Coordinator, Sylvia Monsisvais, was awarded two prestigious awards from United Blood Services (UBS) on September 11 for her effort to help save lives in the El Paso area.

In an area that is historically short of maintaining a sufficient blood supply, Ms. Monsisvais received one of five Outstanding Blood Drive Coordinator Awards for the El Paso-Eastern New Mexico region for her continued success in obtaining blood for those in need. Ms. Monsisvais coordinated blood drives at numerous EPPD locations, strategically scheduled blood drives to maximize donor participation, and maintained contact with regular donors to solicit repeat donations. The second award Ms. Monsisvais received was the Community Heroes Award, one of the highest honors that UBS bestows. She earned this honor for her coordination of blood donation and bone marrow registration drives.

Ms. Monsisvais dedicates her own time to serve the public through community service. She volunteers with the Girl Scouts of the USA as a trainer and volunteer leader, and is active in her church. Sylvia Monsisvais is a hero of UBS, the El Paso community, and is someone the EPPD is proud to say is our own.
EPPD Officer Receives TGIA Peace Officer of The Year Award

Central Regional Command Tactical Gang Unit Officer Pablo Estrada received the 2007 Texas Gang Investigator’s Association (TGIA) Officer of the Year Award. Officer Estrada is one of two officers within the State of Texas who received the award. Officer Estrada, who has been with the Central Tactical Gang Unit since 2001, is a nine-year veteran of the EPPD. He is also a Reservist with the Fort Bliss 5035th Garrison Support Unit, Military Police.

Officer Estrada’s efforts to curb street gang activity, graffiti, and narcotic activity in the Central area of El Paso have been unprecedented. Officer Estrada’s passion for his work is evident through his initiative to meet with students, as well as gang members and their parents, in an attempt to discourage gang involvement. Officer Estrada’s long-time supervisor, Sergeant (Retired) Mary Lou Carrillo, states that Officer Estrada was not nominated for this award for one single arrest or one outstanding case, but for his continuous dedication and the excellent service he provides, both on and off duty, to the Police Department, the City of El Paso, and most importantly his country.

EPPD Detective Is Named TNOA Detective of the Year

In August 2007, EPPD Detective Frank Gutierrez of the Narcotics Stash House Task Force received the 2007 Texas Narcotics Officers Association (TNOA) Detective of the Year Award during the TNOA Conference in Galveston, Texas.

Throughout 2006-2007, Detective Gutierrez headed 62 investigations involving stash houses, resulting in the removal of over 30,000 pounds of marijuana and 201 pounds of cocaine from the streets. In addition, Detective Gutierrez is responsible for the seizure of $102,311 in U.S. currency and the arrest of 115 subjects. His excellent work has stopped the movement of drug shipments to other cities in Texas and throughout the United States.

Because of his strong work ethic and great investigative skills, Detective Gutierrez is receiving this award a second time, the first time having been in 2004. This is also the fourth year in a row that personnel of the Narcotics Stash House Task Force have received annual TNOA awards.
El Paso Police Department
Dedicated to Serve

Departmental Awards

Medal of Valor
Purple Heart
Officer
Roberto Mendoza
NERC

Medal of Valor
Officer
Amanda Vega
WSRC

Purple Heart
Officer
Jorge N. Frayre
K-9
Departmental Awards

Chief's Award Recipients:

Julie Foret
Manuel Ruiz
Miguel Mora
Jaime Castillo
Darrel G. Petry
Raquel Cuaron
Beatrice Molinar
Patricia Resendez
Noel Isaac Ortega
Misty Ruby Hernandez
Antonio Rodriguez, Jr.
EPIA Frank Malone
EPFD Daniel Vallez
EPFD Gilbert Alonzo
Officer Renato Rosales, Anthony PD
El Paso Sheriff’s Deputy Robert Vallejo
El Paso Sheriff’s Deputy Robert Alvarado
Dona Ana Sheriff’s Office Sergeant John Ordonez

Chief’s Spirit of Unity Award:

Ivan Garza
Carol Campa
Gabriela Valle
Andres Ortega
DWI Task Force
Ricardo Vasquez
Virginia Gonzalez
Denise Butterworth
Sgt. Jack Matthews
Margaret Petrozza-Meraz
Judge Robert S. Anchondo

Left to Right: Officer Olga Juarez, Sandra Ortiz, Bobby Brown, Officer Robert Garcia, Geoffrey Ice, Lieutenant Michelle Gardner, Tamera Bulla, Sergeant Stefan Happ, Detective Randy Rodriguez, Office Mickey Martinez, Office Assistant Craig Dunham
El Paso Police Department
Dedicated to Serve

Departmental Awards

Civilian Unit of the Year
Victim Services Response Team (VSRT)

Front row, left to right: VSRT Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Duran, Case Manager Norma Becerra, and Officer Maria Corona. Back row, left to right: Case Managers Christine Rosales, Eduardo Sanchez, Jesus Uribe, Maria Elena Rivera, and Leticia Trejo.
The 109th Academy class graduation and promotion ceremony was held April 13, 2007 at the historic Plaza Theatre. The theater, which opened on September 12, 1930, was saved from demolition when the El Paso Community Foundation acted to fully restore it.
2007 Retirees

January

- Deputy Chief Sylvia Aguilar, 25 Years
- Detective Jose Carlos Castro, 29 Years
- Lieutenant Henry J. Di Matteo, 33 Years

February

- Commander Eric M. Herrera, 24 Years
- Detective Luis Enrique Barrio, 22 Years
- Sergeant Arturo De Avila, 24 Years
- Marta Giner, 22 Years
- Barbara L. Dalby, Senior Grant Planner, 21 Years
- Barbara L. Dalby, Public Safety Dispatcher, 21 Years

March

- Sergeant Richard J. Limas, 28 Years
- Officer Efrain Griego, 21 Years
- Sergeant Isaac Hernandez, 25 Years
- Martin Reyes, Parking Traffic Controller, 28 Years
- Mary E. Duron, Research Assistant, 27 Years
- Vivian Zubiate, Training Technician, 19 Years

April

- Detective John Macias, 21 Years
- Sergeant Jeffrey K. Dove, 29 Years

May

- Officer Ruben Martin, Jr., 29 Years
- Elena M. Olivera, 12 Years
- Public Safety Call Taker

June

- Officer Charles J. Kovacs, 24 Years
- Lieutenant Sergio Plaza Jr., 23 Years
- Sergeant Woodrow A. Bare, 29 Years
- Bonnie Martinez, 18 Years
- Marlene Levine, Public Safety Report Taker, 15 Years
- Human Resources Specialist

July

- Detective Frederick J. Ellis, 22 Years
- Officer Arthur L. Seelig, 21 Years
- Commander David Norman, 30 Years

September

- Officer Ruben Mendez, 25 Years
- Detective Matthew Miertschin, 20 Years
- Lieutenant Gabriel Serna, 32 Years
- Sergeant Victor Bulos, 22 Years
- Lieutenant Joe R. Molinar, 22 Years
- Doris B. Honaker, 27 Years
- Public Safety Dispatcher Shift Supervisor

October

- Leila M. Daniels, Police Records Supervisor, 26 Years
- Sergeant Mary Lou Carrillo, 24 Years

November

- Chief Richard D. Wiles, 26 Years
- Assistant Chief Paul E. Cross, 24 Years
- Dalmira Molina, 16 Years
- Public Safety Call Taker
- Sergeant Jim Rodriguez, 23 Years
- Lieutenant Jeff A. Cole, 24 Years
- Sergeant Rheda Sommers, 22 Years

December

- Officer Charles J. Kovacs, 24 Years
- Lieutenant Sergio Plaza Jr., 23 Years
- Sergeant Woodrow A. Bare, 29 Years
- Bonnie Martinez, 18 Years
- Marlene Levine, Public Safety Report Taker, 15 Years
- Human Resources Specialist
El Paso Police Department

In Memoriam

Thomas Mode, July 11, 1883
Newton Stewart, February 17, 1900
William Paschall, December 4, 1914
Gus Chitwood, February 13, 1915
Sydney J. Benson, June 28, 1917
Juan N. Garcia, Jr., February 1, 1918
Octaviano Perea, February 2, 1918
George F. Drake, September 22, 1918
Harry Phoenix, June 13, 1921
Frank Burns, April 12, 1923
Enrique Rivera, November 25, 1923
John J. Coleman, July 14, 1924
Lynn McClintock, October 2, 1926
Schyler C. Houston, October 4, 1927
Ralph Marmolejo, March 17, 1951
Warren Mitchell, May 16, 1953
Guillermo Sanchez, December 14, 1957
Arthur Lavender, December 16, 1966
Roger Hamilton, June 21, 1970
Guy Myers, Jr., July 24, 1970
David Bannister, June 3, 1974
Wayne Carreon, June 27, 1980
Charles Heinrich, May 3, 1983
Norman Montion, October 17, 1989
Ernesto Serna, November 12, 1991
Andrew Barcena, September 25, 2004

WE KEPT OUR PLEDGE
FORGET NOT THEIR SACRIFICE
El Paso Police Department
Dedicated to Serve

Estimated Population and Department Staffing Statistics

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<th>Regional Command</th>
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EPPD Ethnic Breakdown

- Hispanic, 75.6%
- White, 20.2%
- Black, 2.8%
- Amer Indian, 0.5%
- Pacific Islander, 0.9%
Attrition and Years of Service

**Attrition***

*Through Retirement, Resignation, and Termination

**Years of Service**
### 2007 BY THE NUMBERS

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El Paso Police Department

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