



2022

WICKENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



Town of Wickenburg

About Wickenburg, Arizona

Wickenburg lies in the foothills of the Bradshaw Mountains, along the banks of the Hassayampa River one hour from Downtown Phoenix.

Henry Wickenburg came to the area in search of gold. He was rewarded with the discovery of Vulture Mine (1863-1942), where over 340,000 ounces of gold and 260,000 ounces of silver were found. There are still relics around the area that stand as a tribute to these early adventurers, as well as a walking tour around Vulture City, which is adjacent to the present-day Vulture Mine.

Ranchers and farmers discovered the fertile flood plain of the Hassayampa River. The Hassayampa River Preserve lets you escape to a literal oasis with lush, streamside habitat that include many endangered birds and animals. Together, with Henry Wickenburg and the miners, they helped found the young community of Wickenburg in 1863. The Town of Wickenburg was incorporated in 1909.

To learn more about Wickenburg, its wide-open spaces and why it's considered the roping capital of the world visit:

<https://www.wickenburgaz.gov>

Type of Government:

Council – Manager

Year Established:

1863

Land Area:
25.9 square miles

Population:

7807

Median Age:

61.2

Maricopa County Population:

4,601,603

Yavapai County Population:

243,763

State of Arizona Population:

7,379,346

*Stats per worldpopulationreview.com

Mayor, Council Members and Town Manager



Rui Pereira
Mayor



Kristi Henson
Vice-Mayor



Chris Band
Council
Member



Kristy Bedoian
Council Member



BG Bratcher
Council
Member



Rebecca Rovey
Council Member



David Stander
Council
Member



Stephen Erno
Town Manager
(June-Current)



Chief Les
Brown
Town Manager
(Interim)

Message from the Chief

As the Chief of Police, it is my pleasure to present the Wickenburg Police Department's 2022 Annual Report.

Throughout the past year, the members of the Wickenburg Police Department have worked tirelessly to identify and resolve the crime issues impacting our community, while adhering to our three principles of excellence: pride, valor, and service. I am extremely proud of the professionalism and dedication shown by the members of our department. They work, 24/7, risking their lives every day and night to serve and protect our community and visitors alike.



Over the past year, with generous support from the Town Council, the Wickenburg Police Department has been allocated 4 additional police officer positions, and funding used to complete the construction of a new communications center. The new center will include a state-of-the-art digital radio system that is on the Regional Wireless Cooperative, which partners with most valley law enforcement agencies. This system is expected to go live by June 2023.

Contained in this document are additional crime statistics, as well as accomplishments which are directly attributed to the hard work of our officers and their community policing efforts. In 2022, Wickenburg experienced a 33.3% reduction in violent crime, and a 11.6% reduction in traffic collisions while property crime increased by 16.6%. The Wickenburg Police Department continues to strive to exceed community expectations, and as a professional organization, we will continue to build upon these successes.

The Wickenburg Police Department pledges to remain steadfast in its efforts to address crime and the trepidation of crime to keep Wickenburg one of the safest communities in Arizona. On behalf of the men and women of the Wickenburg Police Department, we want to thank you for the wonderful support shown by the staff, citizens, and elected officials of our community.

Les Brown
Chief of Police

Our Commitment to the Community

Vision

The Wickenburg Police Department will be the model of an innovative, community-oriented police department, a recognized leader in law enforcement in the state of Arizona.

We are committed to professional excellence in the delivery of comprehensive law enforcement services. Our core responsibility is to prevent and reduce crime. All department members have an obligation, a duty, to pursue those who commit crimes.

We recognize the value of all our employees and partners, from professional staff and sworn members, to the many citizens who volunteer, assisting us in fulfilling our mission. We remain committed to the further enhancement of these partnerships. We will continually strive to develop the skills of our members and effectively and efficiently manage our resources to deliver the highest level of service to the public.

Mission

Is to partner with our community in order to enhance a peaceful and valued quality of life wherein the public feels safe and secure from crime, social disorder, and circumstances, which compromise their safety and well-being.

Values

We shall strive for a public perception that views police as trusted leaders in the community. Central to this mission are the values that guide our work. Our decisions will help us to contribute to the quality of life in the Town of Wickenburg. Our values and integrity, including but not limited to the list below, are qualities of worth and as such, they are nonnegotiable:

- **Pride** - Self-respect that contributes to departmental success.
- **Service** - Commitment to prompt, professional and courteous service, unbiased and effective in response to community concerns.
- **Valor** - Strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness, courage in defense of a noble cause.

The Department's **CORE** Values

C – Contacts: Calls for service. This is the bread and butter of why we are here. Our public needs help, and we provide it. Also, with CONTACTS is focusing on traffic and drug issues, which are salient to us AND our community.

O – Observation: This is all of our proactive patrols. Proactive work leads to positive citizen contacts AND crime identification and prevention. Also, think of OBSERVATION as observing YOUR safety and those of our team, and our policies and procedures.

R – Rapport: This is our community engagement. The police are the people, and the people are the police. Only the police have been given the honor and responsibility to be chosen BY THE PEOPLE to devote their time and energy to protecting the community. We are the public, do not forget that. These are not my words, rather Sir Robert Peels (founder of modern LE), but they hold true today. We will be active in being professional at all times and build relationships with our citizens through quality service and community engagement opportunities (Coffee with a Cop, Explorers, Cops Who Care, etc.).

E – Excellence: We will strive for personal excellence in all we do: Our reputations, how we present ourselves (verbal and dress), our understanding of laws and policies, our reports, our proactivity. Remember our reputation is EVERYTHING. It is almost impossible to get it back once you have tarnished it with one serious event. Build a reputation as a “Go to” person for your profession, one that knows their craft and excels.

Organizational Structure



Total Allocated Employees: 34
 Commissioned: 24
 Non-Commissioned: 10

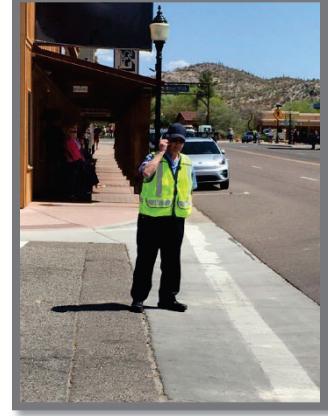
Total Volunteers: 18
 Reserve Officers: 2
 Citizen's Patrol: 16

Community Engagement

Citizen's Patrol



The Wickenburg Citizen's Patrol is a volunteer branch of the Wickenburg Police Department consisting of 15 community members. In 2022, the Citizen's Patrol provided over 1925 volunteer hours. Members conduct vacation watch on homes, assist with traffic during high volume events, work on special projects, conduct fingerprinting, assist on patrol, and attend meetings and trainings. In addition, Citizen's Patrol members install and maintain the Medical Alert Program (MAP). The MAP allows people with medical problems to live alone with the benefit of a notification device that can contact the Wickenburg Police Dispatch if a medical necessity arises. The Citizen's Patrol is an invaluable asset to the Wickenburg Police Department and the community. If you are interested in becoming a Citizen's Patrol volunteer, please call 928-684-5411 or stop by the Wickenburg Police Department during normal business hours.



School Resource Officer (SRO)



The Wickenburg Police Department has been staffed with a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) since August of 2017. The position is funded through a federal grant awarded to the Wickenburg Unified School District, which was awarded for an additional three years in 2020, with the focus being at the Wickenburg High School though the officer is designed support all three-district schools located within the Wickenburg community when needed. The current SRO is Officer Joe Lahey, a 16-year veteran of the department, and he spends his days ensuring campus safety, awareness classes and more. In 2021, Officer Lahey was awarded the Law Related Education Officer of the Year by the Arizona Bar Foundation.



Cops Who Care

In 1982, a collection was taken by local Wickenburg officers that allowed the purchase of Christmas presents for 250 needy children. Following this event, in 1983 a charity was formally founded as Cops Who Care (CWC), a non-profit organization that was comprised of local and surrounding law enforcement officers of multiple agencies. Though Cops Who Care is commonly identified by members of the community as a police department program, it is actually a non-profit organization managed through the volunteer work of Department personnel and community members.

In 2022, Cops Who Care received \$29,865.34 in donations. With those donations, in partnership with the Wickenburg Community Action Program, over 193 families were provided Christmas gifts and other supplies. In total, 557 children from Wickenburg & surrounding communities were given approximately 1114 gifts.

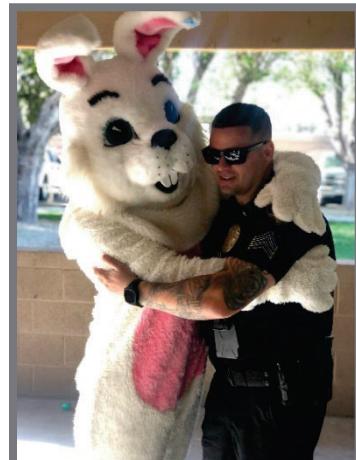
Other events held included the 40th Annual Car Show & Toy Drive and the annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Coffinger Park. Cops Who Care was also able to provide multiple sponsorships including:

- Wickenburg AYSO
- Wickenburg Little League
- Wickenburg Christian Academy Basketball
- WHS's Future Business Leaders of America's Santa Fest
- Camp Imagination

None of this would be possible without the generous support and donations of the community. Anybody who is interested in supporting or volunteering for Cops Who Care can reach them at copswhocare@gmail.com.

The Cops Who Care board and volunteers wishes to express their profound thank you to the Wickenburg Community and its supporters; “Without our donors and supporters, none of what we do could be possible and we would like to say “THANK YOU!” – Cops Who Care Board

The 2022 board (pictured below) was comprised of Lt. Kenny Lutkiewicz, President; Officer Kris Pedroza, Vice President; Lt. Aaron Hadley, Treasurer; and citizen member Jeana Johnson, Secretary.



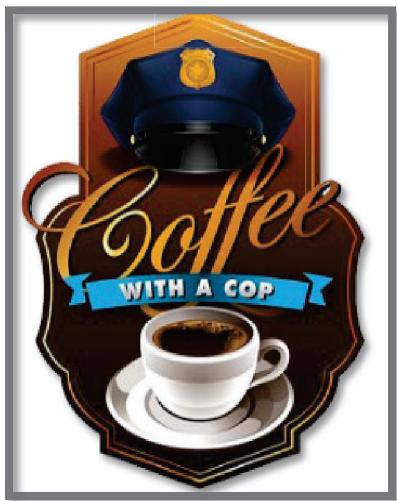
*Photos Courtesy of The Wickenburg Sun

Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with A Cop began in 2011, in Hawthorne, California as a way for local police officers to increase interactions with their citizens. Now, in 2022, Coffee with A Cop events are taking place in all 50 states in numerous cities all over the U.S. These events are great opportunities to speak with your local officers in a relaxed setting and ask them a variety of questions whether it is something as simple as what their job entails to concerns one may have within the community.

The Wickenburg Police Department first began holding these events on November 22, 2016 and continues today with an event being held approximately every quarter with the venue rotated through the variety of local businesses.

The main advertisement for this event is on the Wickenburg Police Department's Facebook page.



Explorers

Explorer Post #1863 of the Wickenburg Police Department was originally founded in 2016 as a way to engage young adults who have an interest in law enforcement whether curiosity or as a possible career. The program is designed to develop a young adult's interest in helping their community in a positive manner. Participants are taught different police tactics, practices, expectations and more while given opportunities to volunteer and engage within the community. Explorer Post #1863 is always looking for new volunteers and participants, and anybody interested can reach out to the program director by calling or visiting the Wickenburg Police Department.

Complaints & Internal Investigation



Use of Force Overview



*More than one report can be received per incident

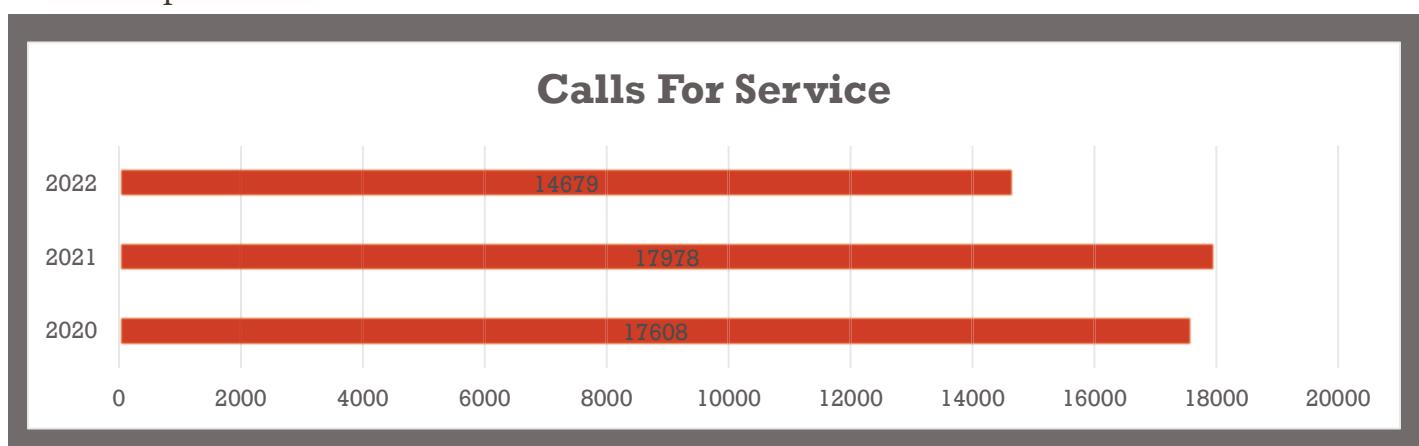
Patrol Unit

What we do...

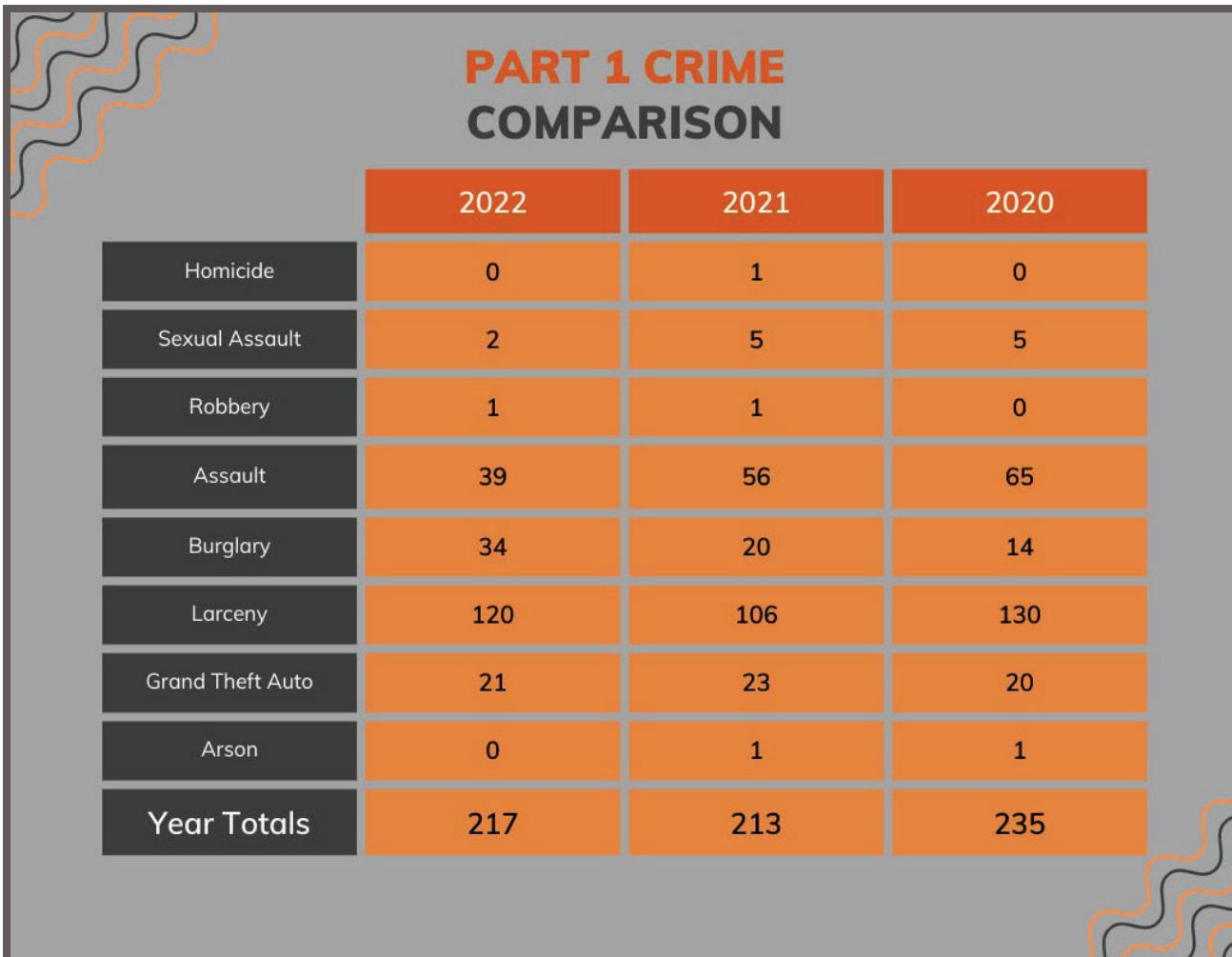
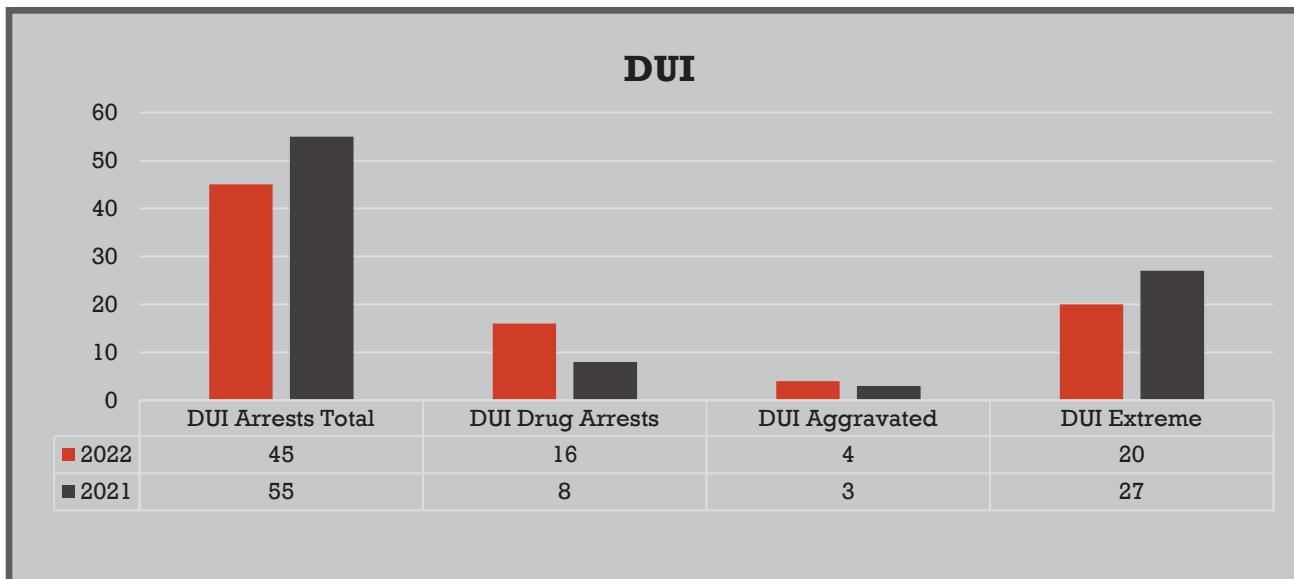
- Prevent Crime and Apprehend Criminals
- Protect Life and Property
- Conduct Preliminary Investigations
- Enforce Traffic Laws
- Impaired Driver Enforcement and Traffic Enforcement for Civic Functions
- Enhance the Quality of Life for Residents and Visitors
- Proactive Policing
- Business Checks
- Build Relationships with Members of the Community



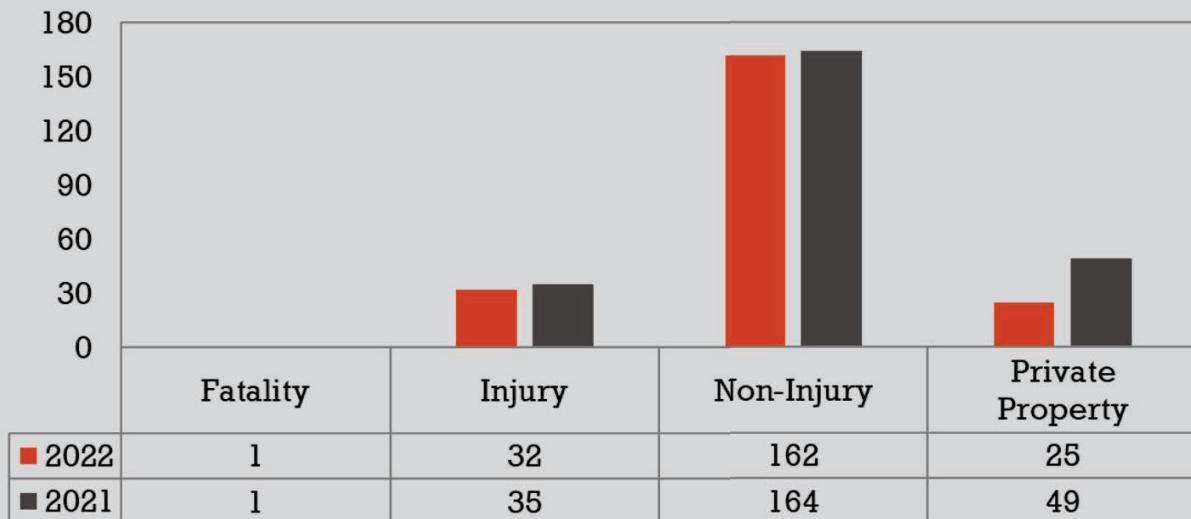
The WPD's patrol operations is the largest section of the department making up 14 of the 20 sworn officers of the Department and almost half of the total of Department personnel. Our patrol officers are trained in a variety of skills that support the Department in its mission and offers services to the community that would normally come from separate specialized personnel in many other departments.



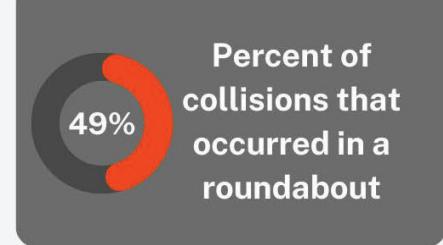
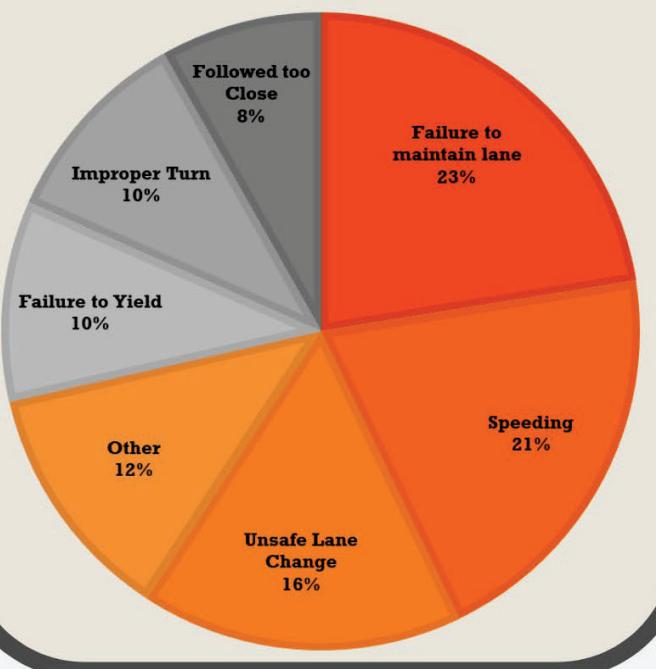
*Data presented in this report was obtained through our records management software system. This data has been collected on a calendar year, is based on imprecise source data, subject to change and is for general reference only



Collisions



MOST COMMON CAUSES



In 2022, Officers responded to an additional 150 traffic collisions to assist other agencies.

Investigations / Detectives

What we do...

- Primary, Follow-Up, and Supplemental Case Investigation
- Crime Scene Processing
- County Attorney Liaison
- Departmental Representative for Grand Jury



Calls for Service
1009

Reports
195

New Cases
61

Ongoing Cases
45

Special Response Team (SRT)

What we do...

- Made up of members of the Wickenburg Police Department and Fire Department
- Trains for and responds to critical incidents or other high-risk situations such as active shooter response, emergency hostage rescue, barricaded suspects, search warrant service, surveillance, and tracking operations
- Conducts monthly trainings to prepare for their assignment

To be a part of the team, candidates must pass a rigorous physical fitness test, and maintain this level of fitness for annual testing. After the fitness tests, potential members participate in a one-day screening that evaluates the candidate's physical fitness, mental toughness, decision makings, and firearms skills. Upon successful completion of the screening, members attend a basic 40 SWAT operator school, and then further advanced trainings.



Records Unit

What we do...

- Filing and Maintenance of Case Files
- Document Archiving and Security
- Public Disclosure and Records Requests
- Criminal Statistical Reporting
- Report Processing and Monitoring



Requests
Processed
1012

Cases
Submitted
177

Files
Purged
97

Boxes
Purged
32

Property and Evidence Unit

What we do...

- Intake, processing, and storage of evidence
- Transporting evidence to and from crime lab
- Transporting evidence to and from county attorney's office and the courts
- Disposing of items once they are no longer needed
- Coordinate and return items to citizens
- Processing of requests for video files



Items
Impounded
3294

Guns
Impounded
37

Money
Impounded
\$11672

Public
Requests
Completed
261

Items
Disposed
967

Dispatch Unit- Meet the Dispatchers!

Name: Brittany Grebin

Time in Dispatch: 9 Years- Currently the Communications Supervisor



1. If you could be in any movie, what would it be and what character would you play? **Dumb & Dumber, Lloyd Christmas**
2. If you had to sing karaoke, what song do you pick? **Shoop by Salt N Pepa**
3. What is your favorite holiday and why? **Halloween, I love horror movies and anything scary.**
4. What is your favorite TV show? **The Office**
5. If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? **Abraham Lincoln**

Name: Dwane Bishop

Time in Dispatch: 9 Years



1. What is your favorite meal to cook? **Breakfast- eggs, bacon, French toast, biscuits & gravy**
2. If you could be in any movie, what would it be and what character would you play? **Gus in Lonesome Dove**
3. If you were independently wealthy and didn't have to work, what would you do with your time? **Full time gambler making easy money if not Fishing, cruising and hunting all over the world.**
4. What's your favorite place of all the places you've travelled to? **Honduras. Cozumel is 2nd.**
5. What is your favorite holiday and why? **Christmas- seeing eyes wide open lil ones, the family being together.**

Name: Craig Melfi

Time in Dispatch: 1 Year



1. If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life what would it be? **-Steak, Baked potato with butter sour cream salt and pepper and grilled Asparagus**
2. What book did you read that changed your life the most? **Rich Dad Poor Dad**
3. If you were independently wealthy and didn't have to work, what would you do with your time? **I would travel the world and visit every country I could.**
4. What's your favorite place you've ever visited? **The Catacombs in Paris France**
5. What's the most fun of all the places you've travelled to? **Slagharen in Netherlands**

Name: Ezra Boone

Time in Dispatch: 2 Years



1. What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given? **"If you add a famous person's name at the end of a quote it gives it more credibility"- Thomas Jefferson**
2. What is your favorite season of the year and why? **Autumn because the more leaves the better.**
3. What is your favorite holiday and why? **Thanksgiving because family is important.**
4. If you were a vegetable, what vegetable would you be and why? **A carrot because potatoes already get enough attention.**
5. If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life what would it be? **Sushi**

Name: Kristen Rodriguez

Time in Dispatch: 4 Months



1. What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given? **When you're old, you'll never regret the adventures you had or the money you spent doing them, you'll only regret the ones you didn't take.**
2. If you were independently wealthy and didn't have to work, what would you do with your time? **Travel, continuously, to everywhere.**
3. What would you like to be known/remembered for? **Creating great, productive members of society in my children**
4. What is your favorite season of the year and why? **Summer! It's when all the fun happens.**
5. What's your favorite place of all the places you've travelled to? **Puerto Vallarta**

Name: Jacob Roddy

Time in Dispatch: 6 Months



1. What is your favorite TV show? **The Office**
2. What's your favorite place of all the places you've travelled to? **South Bend / Notre Dame**
3. What is your favorite season of the year and why? **Fall - Football season / Halloween**
4. If you were independently wealthy and didn't have to work, what would you do with your time? **Travel & Photography**
5. If you could live anywhere on this planet, where would you choose to live? **Ireland**

Name: BayLee Burt

Time in Dispatch: 4 Months



1. If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life what would it be? **Steak (so rare a good vet could save it), baked potato with all the fixins and caprese salad on my mom's fresh rosemary and garlic focaccia.**
2. If you were independently wealthy and didn't have to work, what would you do with your time? **Rescue animals and fulfill the dream of having a ranch full of dogs.**
3. What is your favorite season of the year and why? **Summer- it's when my husband, Tyler, and I do the most camping, hiking and fishing!**
4. What is your favorite TV show? **Friends or Law & Order: SVU**
5. If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? **Too many to pick! It's a tie between Ruth Bader Ginsburg (The Notorious RBC) for her work in women's rights or Gilda Radner who shaped my sense of humor from an early age.**

What else would you like to share? **I grew up in Wickenburg but moved a lot for my father's career. We always came back home. When my husband and I were looking for a place to set down roots, we broke down in Wickenburg on our way to Texas. We believe the universe wanted us here! We have since settled in with my husband working in Bagdad at the mine as a Heavy Equipment Operator, a career he held in Nevada for 10+ years. We have surely found our people and place back in Wickenburg and I couldn't be prouder of the work I do working with Wickenburg Dispatch.**

K9 Unit

The Wickenburg Police Department has maintained a K9 since 1996. Over the years, varieties of officers and K9s have protected the community. K9s provide a variety of functions including narcotic detection, suspect apprehension, building searches, tactical tracking, public demonstrations and community engagement (yes, you can pet them). The WPD currently has 2 K9s.

Name: Kai

Age: 4.5

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Partner: K9 Officer J. Lemon (From Jan-July of 2022)

Donated by: Jay & Carol Mowat

2022 Facts:

- 128 Training Hours
- 5 Deployments
- 1 Detection Alert
- 2 People Found



Name: Bikkel

Age: 5

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Partner: K9 Officer G. Weaver (From September- December 2022)

Donated by: Circle K- Grand Canyon Division

2022 Facts:

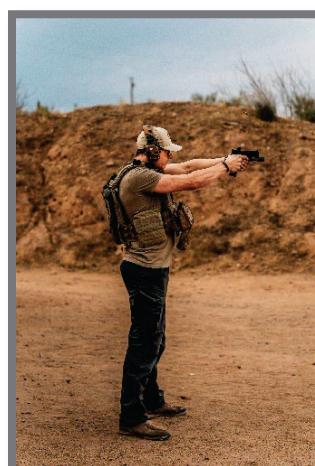
- 33 Training Hours
- 1 Deployment
- 1 Detection Alert
- Participated in the Desert Dog Police K9 Trials and Public Safety Expo hosted by the Arizona Law Enforcement Canine Association (ALECA)



Training

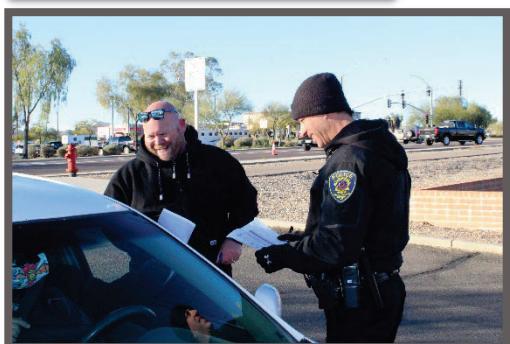
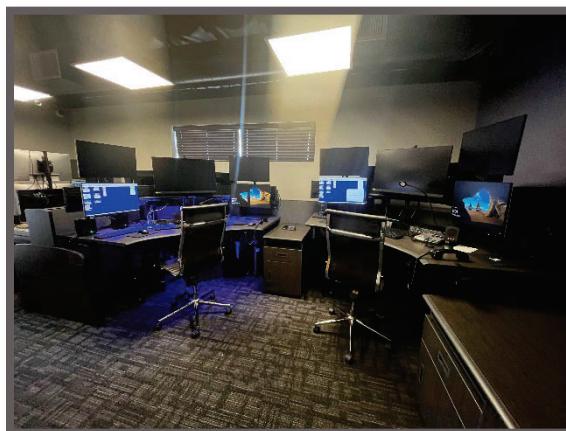
Listed below are trainings completed by sworn and professional staff. Trainings are tailored to the individual needs of the person and based upon Department needs and current assignments.

- Annual Firearms Qualifications (handgun, rifle, and less-lethal munitions)
- Decision-Making Qualifications
- Taser Training & Annual Taser Certifications
- Annual SWAT & Monthly SRT In-Service Training
- General Instructor School
- Defensive Tactics
- Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Training
- Property & Evidence Management
- Monthly K9 In-Service Training
- AZ Tactical Officer Association Conference
- AZPOST Basic Leadership Academy
- WPD Rifle Operator Class
- K9 Academy
- AZ Homicide Association 40-hour Training
- Internal Affairs (IA) Training
- AR15 & Glock Armors Certification
- Active Shooter Training
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Resilience Training
- ALEAP Accreditation Conference
- AZLERMA Conference
- TraCS Training



Accomplishments & Highlights

- Streamlined our Dispatcher FTO process down to a 13-week structured training
- Expanded social media
- Procurement of 4 vehicles and outfitting
- Updated the Town's Emergency Operation Plan
- Worked with the Wickenburg schools to bring their Emergency Operations plan current
- Sent our DRE to DITEP to bring a drug recognition training to our educational professionals
- Worked with HR to streamline recruiting and hiring process to include local recruiting efforts along with National Online Testing to provide better opportunities for candidates
- Received a grant from Wellik Foundation to purchase a Drone to be used for search and rescue, crime scene mapping and Crash diagrams
- Collaborated with the West Valley Agencies to develop a multi-agency use of force and officer related shooting investigation team to be more transparent to the public
- Received K9 heat monitoring system and door release grant
- Completed building the new Dispatch Center



Awards

Officer of the Year	Chief's Commendation Award
David Ceimo Detective	Joshua Boone Patrol Officer
Civilian of the Year	Volunteer of the Year
Candice Calvert Admin Assistant	Al Hepner Citizens Patrol
Firearm Proficiency Award	
Master Proficiency	Expert Proficiency
Brandon Dalley Aaron Hadley	Jared Loesing Ken Lutkiewicz Aaron Urlaub Zach LaJeunesse

Promotions – New Hires

Promotions	
Nate Amavizca K9 Officer	George Weaver K9 Officer
New Hires	
Savorina Sizer Patrol Officer	Robert Pendergast Patrol Officer
Craig Melfi Communications Specialist	Jacob Roddy Communications Specialist
BayLee Burt Communications Specialist	Kristen Rodriguez Communications Specialist