

*Arapahoe County  
Sheriff's Office  
2015 Annual Report*



*Sheriff David C. Walcher*



# *Our Mission Statement*

*Committed to quality  
service, with an  
emphasis on integrity,  
professionalism and  
community spirit.*



## Letter from the Sheriff

I am proud to present to you the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office 2015 Annual Report.

This report is a snapshot of how our agency serves you, the citizens of Arapahoe County, on a daily basis. Our Mission Statement states "Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity, professionalism and community spirit." Each and every day, our employees strive to meet that mission in all we do.

This year was about fulfilling commitments we made to increase our staffing in specific areas. As an example, we value the relationships we have with our four school districts and the safety of our student population is of paramount importance. In 2015, we doubled the number of school resource officers (SRO's) from six to 12, ensuring that we have two deputies assigned to the high schools in our jurisdiction in the Littleton Public Schools and Cherry Creek Schools. We also, for the first time, committed an SRO to the Byers and Deer Trail School Districts. We have SRO's assigned to each of our middle schools, and two SRO's that work with elementary schools and private schools in our patrol jurisdiction.

The Sheriff's Office also expanded our K-9 Unit to four teams (from two) in order to provide this effective service seven days per week and approximately twenty hours per day. We also added full-time investigators who are committed to identifying and arresting internet predators that seek to harm the children of our community.

We value the connection we have with our community as our citizens are partners in crime prevention and building safe communities. To increase our communication with citizens, we added a public information officer (PIO) to our team. With the help of our PIO, we are providing timely information to the community, and more of it. We have also increased the ways we communicate using both traditional and social media.

I am honored to be your sheriff and it is a privilege to work with men and women who come to work every day to carry out our mission of providing quality service. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Walcher', is positioned above the printed name.

David C. Walcher

Arapahoe County Sheriff

# Accredited

## CALEA® Accreditation

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office is proud to be an accredited agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®). For the communities we serve, it means that we have demonstrated professional excellence throughout our agency. We have not been satisfied to achieve the minimum standard; rather, we have dedicated ourselves to being the best of the best for our citizens in Centennial and unincorporated Arapahoe County.

In our 2015 accreditation process, we achieved Accreditation with Excellence in both Law Enforcement Accreditation and Public Safety Communications Accreditation. Not only are we compliant with mandatory accreditation standards; but we were also compliant with at least 90 percent of all other-than-mandatory standards – in fact, we were 100 percent compliant. This accreditation process marked our ninth law enforcement accreditation and our fourth public safety communications accreditation.



This makes the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office one of about 200 agencies in the country (of more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies) who have achieved CALEA® Accreditation with Excellence awards, and this is our third such award!

We are a **Gold Standard** agency.

Our recent assessments were done under CALEA's® Gold Standard Assessment (GSA) model. This voluntary assessment format focuses on processes and outcomes associated with standards specific to agency policies. It measures the impact of accreditation as opposed to just confirming compliance through a file-by-file review.

In addition to strong organizational health and an absence of issues that detract from the professionalism of the agency, the following general criteria must be met before an agency may be considered to participate in the GSA process:

- Must have two previous accreditation awards at the level of accreditation currently being sought.



# Agency

- Must not have had compliance issues in most recent assessment.
- Must not have had process management issues in most recent assessment.
- Must not be under a consent decree or memorandum of understanding.
- Must not be exercising agency requested assessment extension option.
- Must have submitted all three Agency Status Reports as required and on time.

The Gold Standard Assessment involves more agency staff members and serves as a great organizational growth tool. It provides additional insights into opportunities for process improvements to better serve our community.

## About CALEA®

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations, such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs' Association.

The purpose of their accreditation programs is to improve delivery of public safety services by maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence. Participation in the CALEA® accreditation process is voluntary, but for those agencies who receive accreditation, it provides a valuable blueprint for future planning.

Through the CALEA® accreditation process, agencies can formalize essential

management procedures; establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices; improve service delivery; and increase community and staff confidence in the agency.

Accreditation is a constant process of evaluating policies and maintaining documentation of each standard throughout the year. Every two years, accreditors perform detailed on-site inspections and staff interviews.

## Our Accreditations

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office currently holds six accreditations:

- American Correctional Association (ACA)
- National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC)
- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®)
- Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program (CALEA® - Communications Center)
- Colorado Law Enforcement Professional Standards and Accreditation Award
- Bomb Squad Accreditation through the Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office is also one of only a handful of agencies in Colorado and fewer than 100 nationwide that has received the National Sheriffs' Association Triple Crown Award, recognizing our accreditation through ACA, CALEA® and NCCHC - and we have achieved it under two different sheriffs!

## Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for the administrative duties of Emergency Management, which include the creation and maintenance of several emergency plans, activation of an emergency operations center during a crisis, and collaborating with other emergency management entities.

In 2015, the Office of Emergency Management completely revamped the Emergency Operations Plan for the County, as well as the City of Centennial. The section helped update every Continuity of Operations Plan in the county government and helped train more than 2,000 people to survive an active threat event. They also provided several comprehensive critical infrastructure surveys and provided quantitative results to partners.

## What is Continuity of Operations and what does it mean to the community?

Continuity of Operations Plans, often referred to as COOP, is a good business practice for any public agency. COOP planning is an effort to assure that our agency can continue essential agency functions across a wide range of emergencies.

On a large scale, this includes reducing loss of life and minimizing damage and other losses. COOP also helps us plan for the protection of essential facilities, equipment, records and other assets. The ultimate goal is to achieve timely and orderly recovery from an emergency and resumption of full service to our community as quickly as possible after an emergency.

## Public Information

When something happens in our community, citizens want to know how it affects them. With our 24-hour environment and the age of instant news, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office knows that timely information is critical.

In order to best serve our citizens, the Sheriff's Office hired a Public Information Officer (PIO) to enhance our communication, both through traditional and non-traditional media channels.

The PIO works to provide information to the community through print and broadcast news media, as well as through various social media platforms.

The PIO assists deputies with media at scenes, and also works with investigators to disseminate crime information.



Additionally, the PIO develops newsletters and brochures to further keep the community informed.

The result has been increased engagement with our community and a better informed citizenry.

## Human Resources and Recruiting

Our Human Resources Section is tasked with recruiting the best possible candidates for employment with our agency. Hiring the right person for the right job means that the community gets the best service the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office can provide.

Human Resources also provides guidance on personnel issues to command staff, managers and supervisors. They also provide guidance to employees on career development, benefits and other employment-related issues.

Human Resources hired 72 new employees in 2015 through 63 hiring processes. In addition to coordinating the testing process,



Human Resources conducts background investigations on each candidate. Section members attend recruiting events at a variety of locations throughout the year.

## Honorary Deputies

Sometimes, we 'hire' deputies in non-traditional ways. Our honorary deputies have earned the right to wear a heroes badge. While the cap may not exactly fit and they can't quite reach the pedals on the cars, in our eyes, they are deputies.



Corbin Garrett bravely battled and beat cancer - all before he was five years old! Corbin's cancer, Burkitt Lymphoma, is one of the fastest growing cancers. Corbin is now cancer-free!



Zach Kramer received a Meritorious Service Medal and was sworn in as an honorary deputy after he sought help for his father after a medical emergency. With a hero's determination, 3-year-old Zach first tried reaching 911 on his Fisher Price phone, then his father's cell phone, before finding a neighbor to call 911.

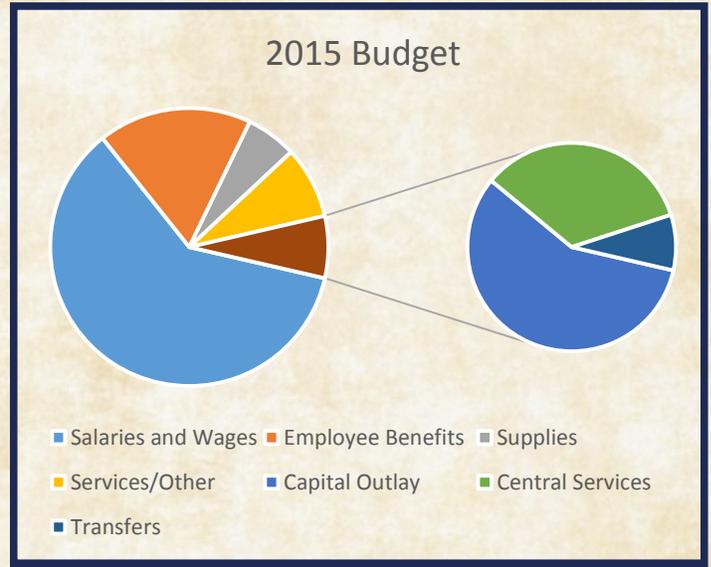
## Budget and Logistics

The Budget and Logistics Section provides guidance and assistance to each manager in monitoring and evaluating their revenue and expenditure budgets throughout the year.

Financial management responsibilities include the direction and coordination of the Sheriff's Office annual budget process, accounts payable processing, purchasing, accounting, revenue and expenditure forecasting, and contract administration.

The Sheriff's Office 2015 adopted budget was \$80.3 million (including capital) and was the largest budget in Arapahoe County government. Salaries and benefits make up about 79 percent of the total budget for 716 positions. Nearly \$11.4 million of the remaining budget was in supplies and services. This budget includes contract law enforcement services provided to the City of Centennial.

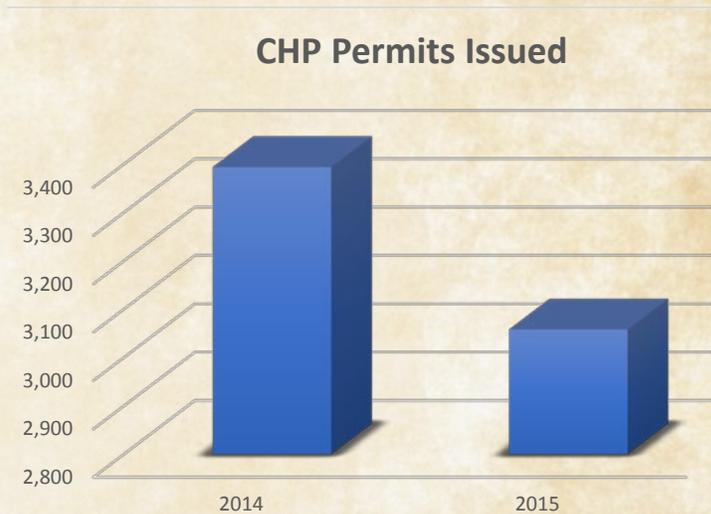
The Sheriff's Office continues to be good stewards of the budget and will continue to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.



## Concealed Handgun Permits

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office has a unit tasked with processing applications for Concealed Handgun Permits (CHP). They process new and renewal applications and conduct background investigations on applicants before forwarding each approved application to the Sheriff for final approval.

In 2015, the unit issued 2,286 new permits and renewed 772 expired or expiring permits. During the year, 21 permits were denied for a variety of reasons, but most related to the applicant's criminal history.



## Civil and Warrants Unit

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The Civil Unit is responsible for the service of civil papers and the execution of civil process throughout Arapahoe County.

The section processed 8,751 civil papers received by the Sheriff's Office in 2015.

Deputies assigned to the unit also perform about 30 civil standbys each year to keep the peace during a civil dispute.

This unit also entered 6,663 warrants into the computer.

Civil papers can include:

- Protection orders
- Writs of garnishment
- Citations
- Summonses for dissolution of marriage
- Subpoenas
- Eviction orders

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## Internal Affairs

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The Internal Affairs Unit is responsible for helping to ensure police ethics and integrity within the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Inspectors investigate officer conduct, particularly citizen complaints of misconduct, but also internal complaints, use of force, member-involved vehicle incidents, and bias-based policing. The process of upholding our professional standards continues to make us better servants to our citizens.

Internal Affairs looks at allegations related to obedience to laws; truthfulness; respect for others; public trust and authority; vehicle operations and use of force; gifts and gratuities; conduct unbecoming of a member; and accountability and responsibility.

In 2015, there were 143 allegations made against employees. Each allegation was thoroughly investigated. While most complaints were handled at a supervisory level, 59 complaints involving 70 employees resulted in internal affairs investigations. Three were a result of citizen complaints, with the remainder generated internally. At the end of 2015, three investigations were still pending disposition. Of the others, 50 were sustained, four were resolved, one was unfounded and one was exonerated.

There is a wide range of disciplinary actions that can be imposed for sustained allegations. These can include verbal counseling, suspension without pay, pay reduction,

remedial training, demotion, reassignment, and termination, among others.

## Bias-based Policing

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In 2015, there were more than 42,204 traffic contacts, resulting in 32,760 traffic citations being issued. There were three allegations of bias-based policing. Each allegation was thoroughly investigated and were found to be "not sustained," "exonerated" or otherwise "unfounded." Annually, all sworn personnel are required to attend refreshed training in anti-bias-based policing.

### Dispositions

**Not-Sustained:** The evidence is not sufficient to prove or disprove the allegation.

**Sustained:** The allegation is substantiated by the evidence that the misconduct did occur.

**Unfounded:** The allegation is false, or not factual.

**Exonerated:** The incident occurred, but the member acted lawfully and within policy.

**Resolved:** There are no administrative charges against the member, there is a negotiated disposition, and/or the findings of an inquiry or a formal investigation do not otherwise fall within any other disposition classification.



## Patrol Services

Patrol Services, part of the Public Safety Bureau, is the most visible part of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. Deputies handle calls for service in unincorporated Arapahoe County, and the towns of Deer Trail, Foxfield, Watkins and Bennett.

Additionally the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services for the City of Centennial. Overall, deputies cover a population over 197,000 and more than 850 miles of roads.

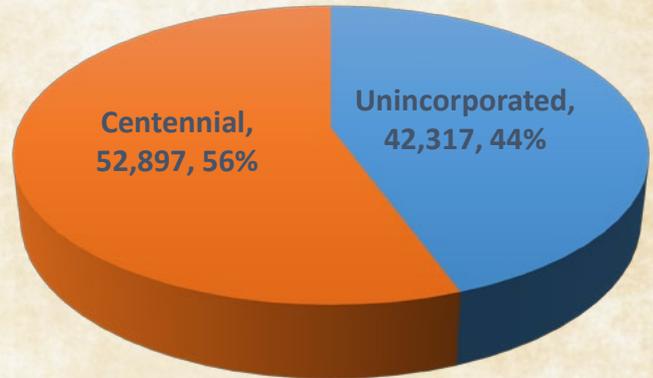
While many of their calls are dispatched, deputies also participate in a variety of self-initiated activity. This can include citizen contacts, bar checks, citizen assists, business checks, and traffic stops among others.

## Records Unit

Any time a deputy takes a report or writes a citation, it creates a record that must be managed. Our Records Unit collects, maintains and disseminates all records created at the Sheriff's Office. They also process payments made for concealed handgun permits and traffic citations.

Deputies handled 94,897 calls for service in 2015.

### Calls for Service



Record Type	# Processed in 2015
Cases Entered	14,778
Accident Reports	2,070
Traffic Citations	32,760
Records Requests	14,213
Evidence Disposal	9,273
Case Closures	1,832

## City of Centennial

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services for the City of Centennial. The relationships our deputies have built with citizens in Centennial, as our partners in crime prevention, has contributed to the overall safety of the community.

Voted USA Today's #4 Best Place to Live in America, the City of Centennial currently has a lower violent crime rate than the eight-city average along the front range, lower than the national average, and lower than their benchmark goals for the last four years.

The eight similar-sized communities include Arvada, Boulder, Centennial, Greeley, Longmont, Pueblo, Thornton and Westminster.

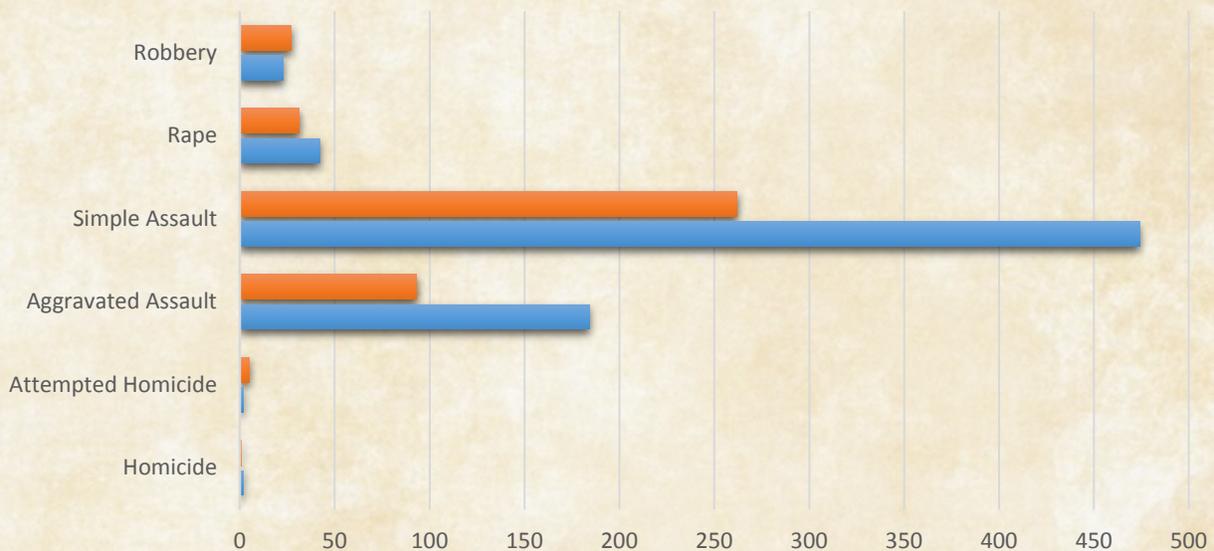
Centennial also maintains lower burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft rates than both the eight-city average and national average.

The current violent crime rate is less than half the national violent crime rate.



The chart below includes violent crime information for Unincorporated Arapahoe County and the City of Centennial. Except for homicide and attempted homicide, categories include both attempted and completed crimes.

### Violent Crimes (actual numbers)



	Homicide	Attempted Homicide	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Rape	Robbery
City of Centennial Population 107,201	1	5	93	262	31	27
Arapahoe County (Unincorporated) Population 89,844	2	2	184	474	42	23

# Centennial Crime Clock

One Homicide every	365 days
One Robbery every	13.5 days
One Fraud every	4.5 days
One Aggravated Assault every	3.9 days
One Motor Vehicle Theft every	3.2 days
One Burglary every	1.5 days
One Simple Assault every	1.4 days
One Criminal Mischief every	15.3 hours
One Theft every	8.5 hours



## Investigation Services

Investigation services handles five general categories of investigations:

- Crimes against persons
- Crimes against property
- Financial crimes
- Child victims
- Juvenile offenders

Additionally, two investigators are assigned to cold cases and one is dedicated to liquor enforcement.

During the year, Investigation Services added an Internet Crimes Unit to the team, which works cyber-related investigations. They also collaborate with financial crimes investigators to investigate identity theft and fraud cases. The unit also has a select group of investigators work Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), to aggressively target sexual predators who use the internet to lure and exploit children.

The section has personnel assigned to several multi-jurisdictional task forces. Investigators participate on the 18th Judicial District Critical Response Team, and are active in professional organizations related to their specialty areas.

Investigation Services also proactively locates and apprehends wanted suspects through its Fugitive Apprehension Unit.

Investigators worked several large cases in 2015, including a complex homicide in the eastern part of the county, a road rage stabbing, and several robberies connected to crimes in other jurisdictions. In all, 33 investigators were assigned 6,636 cases for investigation.



*Right: The Mobile Command Unit provides shelter and meeting space for investigators working a homicide.*

## **Crime Lab**

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The Crime Lab at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office headquarters is staffed with criminalists, a fingerprint technician and a photo lab technician. Collectively, the highly trained members are responsible for the analysis of crime scenes; latent prints; footwear and tire tracks; collection and processing of evidentiary items; forensic photography and archiving; video analysis; and public fingerprinting.

Criminalists also provide training to members of the Sheriff's Office, schools and the community. They also testify as expert witnesses in court proceedings. They are experts who work hard to process evidence that can turn a successful investigation into a successful prosecution.

In 2015, they processed three homicide scenes for the Sheriff's Office and provided assistance to three other jurisdictions

on homicide cases and crime scene reconstruction. They also assisted in three Critical Response Team callouts for the 18th Judicial District. Criminalists processed 392 items for latent prints using a variety of methods. Throughout the year, they analyzed 1,581 latent prints.



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## **Crime Analysis Unit**

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The Sheriff's Office employs a Crime Analyst to assist patrol and investigations.

By analyzing patterns and trends in local crime data, the Sheriff's Office can deploy resources more effectively to combat pattern

crimes that can plague communities.

The analyst also assists with investigations in connecting specific crimes to suspects in our cases, as well as to suspects and cases in other jurisdictions.

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## **Evidence Unit**

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The Evidence Unit organizes, catalogues, stores and maintains the integrity of every piece of evidence or property that has ever been recovered by deputies, investigators and criminalists.

The Evidence Unit attempts to locate owners of lost property, retrieves items for court, reunites recovered items to members of the public and carries out the destruction of specified items when warranted.

In 2015, the Evidence Unit took in 12,319 items of property, which brought the total number of items stored to more than 52,000. We also disposed of 9,259 items of property.

The Evidence Unit also administers the Drug Drop Box program which provides an outlet for the public to safely dispose of unwanted prescription medications. In 2015, we collected 425 pounds of unwanted medications through the Drug Drop Box.

## **Victim Assistance Volunteers**

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program is dedicated to helping citizens who have been victimized or otherwise traumatized. As liaisons between victims and law enforcement, they provide emotional support and resource information to victims and families.

There are 22 volunteers available around the clock for our citizens. In 2015, they were available for 216 instances of crisis intervention, providing aid to more than 3,000 crime victims or others in need.

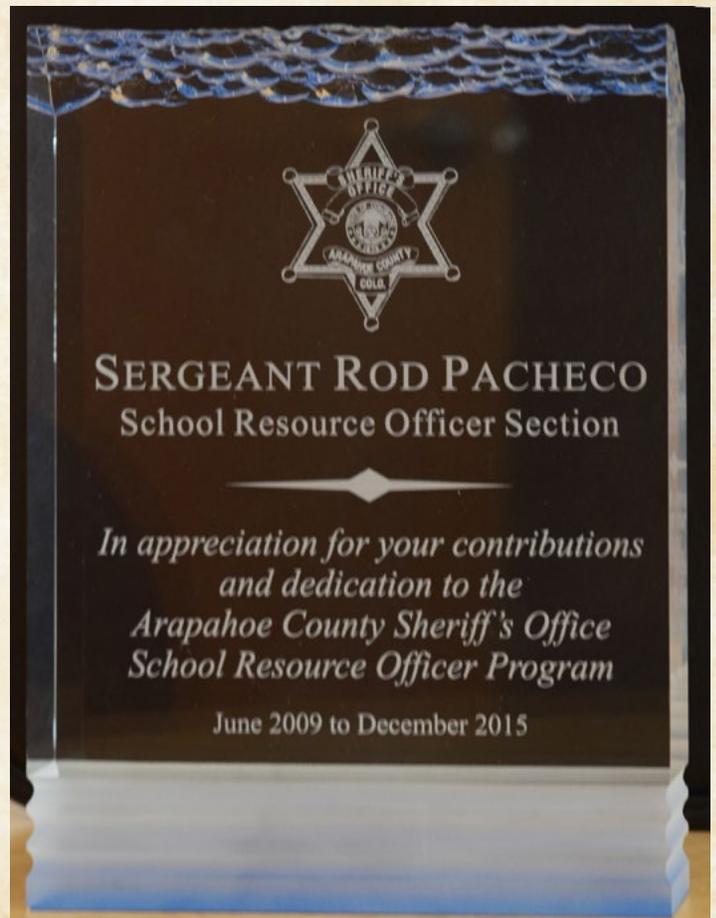


## **School Resource Officers**

In a commitment to the safety of our schools, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office doubled the number of School Resource Officers (SROs) in 2015.

The Sheriff's Office now has 12 SROs across the county in four different school districts. We are proud to partner with Littleton Public Schools, Cherry Creek School District, Deer Trail School District and Byers School District.

As new SROs joined the unit, their long-time leader, Sgt. Rod Pacheco, transitioned out to new opportunities after six years. Under his leadership, the unit was recognized as a model agency by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO).



## Traffic Safety Unit

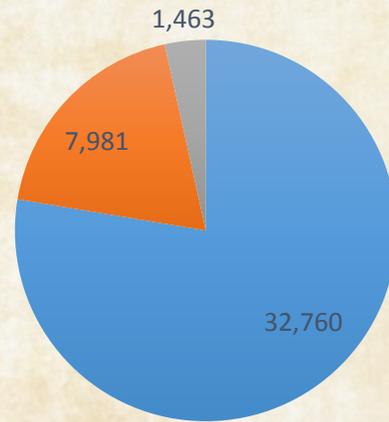
The Traffic Safety Unit assigns deputies to work areas of high accidents in the City of Centennial and unincorporated Arapahoe County. These areas are identified through traffic complaints, accident data and surveys from residents.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office takes a three-pronged approach to keeping our community safe. The first prong is engineering. We look at intersections or roadways that show problems and assess whether or not there are ways we can change the traffic flow or signage to reduce conflicts.

The second prong is education. Through classes, initiatives, and campaigns through the media, we work to educate the community about safety and crash prevention. School Resource Officers taught 39 *Alive at 25* classes during the year. Traffic deputies participate in state-wide campaigns such as *Click It or Ticket*, and drunk and distracted driving prevention.



## Traffic Contacts



■ Citations   ■ Verbal Warnings   ■ Written Warnings

The third prong, and the most visible, is enforcement. When it comes to traffic our goal is always prevention rather than apprehension, but sometimes enforcement is necessary.

*The motorcycles are popular with the kids at events like Centennial Under the Stars.*



## **Arapahoe County Detention Facility**

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The Arapahoe County Detention Facility (ACDF) on Potomac Street opened in 1987 with a bed space capacity of just 404. Through expansion and remodeling over the years, the facility can now accommodate 1,428 inmates. Staff booked 17,897 inmates into the facility in 2015, more than five percent more than in 2014. The average daily population was 1,008 inmates, with about 56 percent of the inmates housed pre-trial, and the rest housed post-conviction, with those inmates often serving sentences of two years or less.

Staff at the detention facility managed 2,958 inmate transports, and 20,624 district and county court appearances for inmates.

The average length of stay in the facility is just 20 days. Because most of our inmates are returning to the community, it is important to have detention programs that address criminality and promote skills that can reduce recidivism.

## **Improved Efficiency**

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The ACDF is constantly working to make the best use of space and staff time. In 2015, staff consolidated some housing units to better accommodate staffing needs. The new staffing schedule allows for a higher level of staffing without adding deputies.

Unused space was remodeled into much needed office space. Two new video courtrooms were added, bringing the total to four and reducing the number of transports for court.

## **Contract Administrator**

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The ACDF reallocated a position to monitor vendor contracts. The ACDF has 57 contracts with third party vendors, but no one person monitored their compliance with their contracts. The new Contract Administrator monitors the contract with each vendor to ensure the vendor is meeting the terms of the contract.

## Alternative Sentencing Program

Alternative Sentencing Programs (ASP) are offered at the ACDF to provide an alternative to general population incarceration. These programs are a privilege and require recommendation from the court, with final approval from the Sheriff's Office.

The programs allow inmates to secure or maintain employment, support their family, maintain financial obligations, and attend therapy or other scheduled treatment while serving their court-ordered sentence.

In 2015, we reviewed our guidelines for ASP program enrollment and rewrote our policy to be more in line with court recommendations and best practices. As a result, we went from 22 participants in the program in 2014 to 125 in 2015. These inmates participated in programs such as work release, home detention and weekender programs.

## RISE

The ACDF houses the Restoring Individuals Safely and Effectively (RISE) program. The program provides competency restoration treatment to individuals found to be incompetent by the court to proceed to trial and deemed suitable for jail-based restoration.

Currently, the RISE program has a 22-bed capacity. In 2015, the ACDF was selected to house the expansion of the program to 52 beds. The expansion is expected to open in April 2016.

*Below: Pod 5 has been reconfigured and is prepared to house the RISE Program expansion when it opens in April.*



## **GED**

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The ACDF is a certified GED testing center. The process to become a certified center was long. GED tests are now taken online, but inmates do not have internet access.

To resolve the issue, we developed a dedicated, independent network with the test company which will allow the test to be taken, but no other internet access. Staff members must register and schedule each inmate for one of the four required tests and volunteer proctors monitor each exam. An inmate educator also helps inmates study for the exams.

Since becoming certified in April, inmates have passed 62 individual subject tests and six inmates have earned their GED.

## **Laundry, Mail, Meals**

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Detention facilities are like small cities. The ACSO detention staff is responsible for safety and security of the facility and making sure each inmate gets to the right court on the right date. There is also a routine of everyday life inside the facility. This includes meals, laundry and mail, among other daily activities.

In 2015, the detention facility processed 93,261 pieces of inmate mail. This included outgoing, incoming and inmate-to-inmate mail. More than one million meals were served at the facility. Nearly 18,000 inmates were supplied with uniforms and there were 260 laundry exchanges in the housing units.

## **Court Services**

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The Court Services Section is responsible for courtroom security in three courthouses in Arapahoe County.

In 2015, they were responsible for screening more than 808,900 people coming into the courthouses.

This section brings in-custody inmates to court and back. They take remands into custody and prevent inmate escapes. The section also provides transport to and from other agencies on mutual aid requests.

## **SORT and DCU**

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The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) and Disturbance Control Unit (DCU) are deputy sheriffs assigned to Detentions who are specially trained and equipped to handle tactical incidents in the Detention Facility, and to assist other Sheriff's Office components with specified incidents outside of the Detention Facility.

These two specialized units act as a ready response and support group to aid those responsible for handling critical incidents. They may be deployed for hostage incidents, barricaded subjects, inmate riots, disturbances, and high-risk movement of inmates within the Detention Facility. SORT and DCU may also handle civil disturbances, mass arrest situations, and other special operations, along with other specialized units or teams, both inside and outside of the Detention Facility.

In 2015, SORT and DCU participated in transports and additional court security during a high profile murder trial. They conducted eleven cell extractions of combative inmates, and also helped to conduct a facility wide search during an escape attempt. The inmate was located and moved to a more secure area of the jail. On average, the team receives 40 hours of specialized training each year.

## High Profile Inmate

Every law enforcement agency operates under the watchful eye of the communities they serve. When circumstances are other than routine, the scrutiny can be intense, and agencies must maintain their high caliber of service.

For 1,134 days, the Sheriff's Office housed the Aurora Theater killer in the national spotlight. During his housing, transports and the longest trial in the history of the state, not once was the story about the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office worked with the court to ensure a consistent process for handling the inmate so that the focus would remain on the killer and his crimes, the trial, and the victims.

Initial estimates of Sheriff's Office overtime costs exceeded \$2 million. Through increased staff efficiencies and grants applied for and received, the Sheriff's Office kept actual costs to about \$550,000 over more than three years.

The savings is a result of the professional work of a dedicated team of employees across the agency.



*Above: The command center allowed deputies to monitor the proceedings and coordinate all logistics related to our role.*

*Below: The trial attracted national media attention. Staging areas were set up for media vehicles, broadcasting stages and photographers.*



## **Communications Center**

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The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Communications Center operates every hour of every day of the year. In addition to dispatching for unincorporated Arapahoe County, they also handle calls for Bennett, Bow Mar, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Deer Trail, Foxfield, Sheridan, Cherry Creek State Park, and South Suburban Park Rangers. They also dispatch fire and emergency medical services to the residents of Deer Trail.

The accredited Communications Center is one of the busiest in the state. In 2015, they received more than 187,400 non-emergency calls for service. They also received 94,499 9-1-1 calls during the year.

The Communications Center has a public education team that attends events and they host an annual 9-1-1 Open House in April for the community.

## **Text to 9-1-1**

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In April, the Communications Center started accepting text to 9-1-1 calls. This allows users to send a text to dispatch if they are unable to make a phone call for some reason. While we want them to call if they can, the text option is a valuable tool for those who may not have enough of a signal to make a call or who are in a position where they may be unable to speak.

Since its implementation, the center has received 245 texts to 9-1-1.

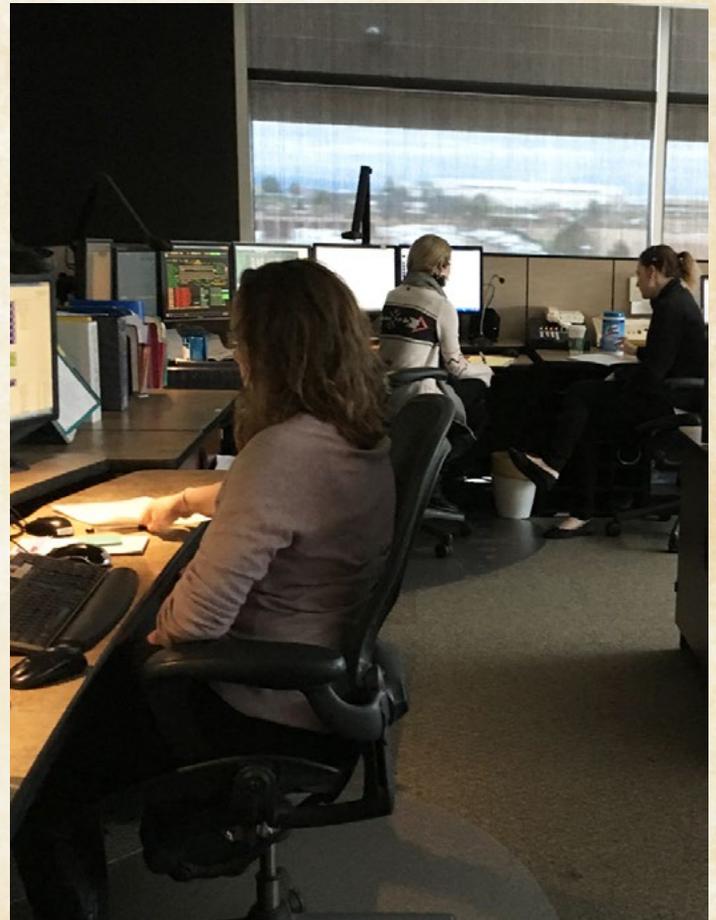
## **Missing Kids Readiness Project**

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The Arapahoe County Communications Center became an official partner with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), becoming part of the Missing Kids Readiness Project.

To become a partner, we had to meet strict training requirements and develop policy elements to demonstrate our preparedness for responding to a call of a missing, abducted or sexually exploited child. While it is training we hope we never have to use, we are prepared to provide the best possible response if we do.

*Below: The Communications Center is always a hub of activity.*



## Community Resources Unit

The Community Resources Unit is the “jack of all trades” when it comes to partnering with the community. The two members of the unit are often the primary contact point for safety questions and they create a huge impact on the community through all of the programs and events they coordinate, which totaled 280 in 2015. These included, but weren’t limited to:

Event	Number of Events
Coffee with a Cop	5
Home and business security surveys	21
Active threat training	8
Workplace safety	7
Active threat drills	10
Personal safety presentations	10
Emergency Response Training	5
Robbery prevention	2
HOA Neighborhood Watch/safety talks	24
Elder Abuse class	2
Safety class for seniors	3
Flying High Drug Abuse Prevention Program	22

*Below: Deputy McKnight and Deputy Sickafoose talk with a community member at a Coffee with a Cop event.*



*Below: Deputy McKnight gives a Flying High Drug Abuse Prevention demonstration to middle school students.*



## Impact Team

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Impact Team is a special unit assigned to specific community problems requiring extended investigations or specialized technical equipment.

While previously serving primarily as a drug task force, their investigations now also focus on gang recognition and intervention; intelligence activities; and pattern crimes. The team includes members from Englewood Police Department and Littleton Police Department.

In 2015, they handled 508 cases in three jurisdictions and removed more than \$1.1 million (street value) in controlled substances from the streets. They also completed 198 liquor inspections and acted on 299 'tips' involving suspected criminal activity.

### Top 5 drugs seized in our service area:

Drug	Amount Seized	Street Value
Marijuana/Marijuana Concentrate	174 pounds	\$789,000
Methamphetamine	4.48 pounds	\$201,000
Cocaine	1 pound	\$52,700
Heroin	.63 pound	\$25,600
Oxycodone	881 tablets	\$9,000

## Drug Take Back Day

In September, we worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to host a Drug Take Back Day to collect expired or unused medications.

The Sheriff's Office hosted four sites and collected 1,047 pounds of medications. Nationally, agencies collected more than 702,000 pounds of medications during the event. Another 425 pounds were taken in throughout the year in the medication disposal container in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office headquarters building.

Prescription drugs are the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States and is the second leading cause of injury and death among 25- to 64-year-olds.

Nearly 84 percent of people who abuse prescription painkillers report that they get their drugs from friends or relatives, either by asking for or stealing them.



## K9

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In 2015, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office doubled the size of the unit from two teams to four. All of the K9s are dual purpose dogs, so they are trained in both apprehension and narcotics detection. The K9s assist with building and area searches; officer protection; high-risk arrest warrants; suspect apprehension; narcotics detection; riot control; and provide public demonstrations.

With the addition of the two new teams, the Sheriff's Office now has a K9 available on multiple shifts, seven days a week. The four teams are:

Deputy Gordon Carroll and K9 Thor  
Deputy Kelly Draper and K9 Kilo  
Deputy Dustin Wade and K9 Sonka  
Deputy Adam Lendi and K9 Orry

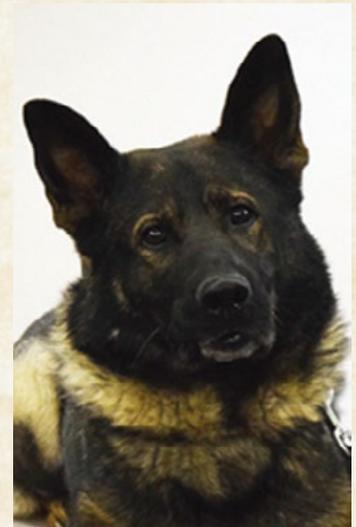
In 2015, these teams combined for total seizures of:

- 137 grams of cocaine
- 33.97 grams of marijuana
- 40.37 pounds of heroin
- 1.23 kilograms of methamphetamine

They were also responsible for 178 apprehensions and arrests.



**K9 Kilo**



**K9 Orry**



**K9 Sonka**



**K9 Thor**

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## ICAC

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The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit work cases where suspects use the internet, online communication systems, or computer technology to sexually exploit children. This includes crimes such as child enticement, obscenity directed to minors, child prostitution, and manufacturing, distributing or possessing child pornography.

In 2015, the unit pursued nearly 50 investigations and made 15 arrests. They also worked to educate the community

about these types of crimes by doing 21 presentations.

These cases can take time to wind through the judicial system. As an example, 2015 brought a conclusion to a 2013 case involving a suspect who stalked a 13-year-old girl in an attempt to have sex with her. The man was sentenced to 21 years in the Department of Corrections for two counts of *induce/entice child sexual exploitation*, class three felonies.

## Bomb Squad

Our bomb squad is the largest and most active squad in the state. In a typical year, eight bomb technicians handle between 100 and 150 calls. They had 116 calls for service in 2015. Two technicians received their HAZMAT certifications.

Typical calls can include:

- Suspicious packages/unattended bags
- Recovery/render safe of IEDs or military ordinance
- Hazardous materials operations
- Explosive Breaching callouts for five SWAT teams within Arapahoe County
- Mutual aid requests from other agencies

The bomb squad also participates in educational and special events throughout the year. They participated in 150 special events in 2015, including:

## SWAT

The SWAT team is composed of dedicated members who are highly trained in the use of specialized weapons, equipment and tactical deployment. The team is assisted by a SWAT Negotiations Team and the SWAT Communications Team. One or more of the teams may be used depending on the nature of the incident.

In 2015 the SWAT team handled the following incidents:

- Nine callouts for armed or barricaded suspects
- Two force protection details for funerals
- 11 protection details for dignitaries
- 17 details related to the theater shooter trial

Due to the danger involved in many of these situations, the SWAT team's goal is to carry out a plan that best assures the safety of law enforcement and the public.

- Dignitary protective details
- Training classes for local and federal law enforcement agencies, fire departments and other government entities
- Various regional training exercises
- Demonstrations for Citizens' Academies, schools, private companies, Explorers and other organizations
- Court hearings and other governmental functions



*Above: A young man gets a demonstration of the bomb robot during National Night Out events at Clarkson Park.*

*Below: SWAT members attend community events to educate the community about their special gear and their team function.*



# Academy Class 1

2015 marked the start of a collaboration between the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to train deputies at a basic law enforcement academy.

Quality training is critical to every law enforcement agency and this collaboration allows both agencies to have greater control of the training of new employees.

The academy class attended 19 weeks of rigorous training that has prepared them to provide exceptional service to our respective communities.

*Below: Break? What break? Cadets study as much as possible when they are not in class sessions.*



*Below: Physical fitness is a must for these cadets, who enjoyed their run with the elk near the academy.*



*Above: Cadets practice skills, such as arrest control, throughout the academy.*



*Above: Cadets learn the importance of teamwork and never leaving someone behind.*

## Events

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### **9-1-1 Open House**

In April, the staff of the Arapahoe County Communications Center hosted a 9-1-1 Open House to give the community an opportunity to meet the 9-1-1 operators and tour the dispatch center.

Attendees were able to see how 9-1-1 works, learn about the new text to 9-1-1 system, and sign up for emergency notifications.



*Above: The Communications Center staff is ready to teach citizens about dispatch and 911!*

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### **Facility Open House**

The Sheriff's Office and Coroner's Facility hosted its first Open House in August. Hundreds of community members enjoyed a pancake breakfast, facility tours, and K9 demonstrations.

Citizens were able to get a look at the vehicles and equipment used by staff to carry out their duties. It was a fun time for adults and kids alike!



## Citizens' Academies

Each year, the Sheriff's Office hosts two citizens' academies for adults and one for youth. The citizens' academy gives community members the opportunity to go behind the scenes at the Sheriff's Office.

They learn about all of the different programs and sections at the Sheriff's Office and get hands-on experience at the driving track, at the range, and in the crime lab.

In 2015, the Sheriff's Office hosted 54 adults and 27 teens for the academies.



Attendees go hands-on in the lab (above), and at the range (below).



Above: Youth Academy attendees learn about traffic stop procedures.



Below: Attendees get to experience realistic scenarios in the Shoot House.

Below: Youth Academy attendees get to use some of the equipment used by our Traffic Safety Unit.



## Thank a Police Officer Day

We were honored by appreciation shown to us by members of the community on National Thank a Police Officer Day. We appreciate the partnerships we have developed throughout the community and we were humbled by your efforts.

We enjoyed the visits, and of course we enjoyed the treats!



*Above and left: We were humbled by the generosity of the community during National Thank a Police Officer Day.*

## Parades

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office is honored to participate in a variety of community events throughout the year. The summer parade season is always a fun time!

## Bike to Work Day

Our bike deputies enjoy interacting with the community on the trails, too, hosting a snack station on Bike to Work Day.

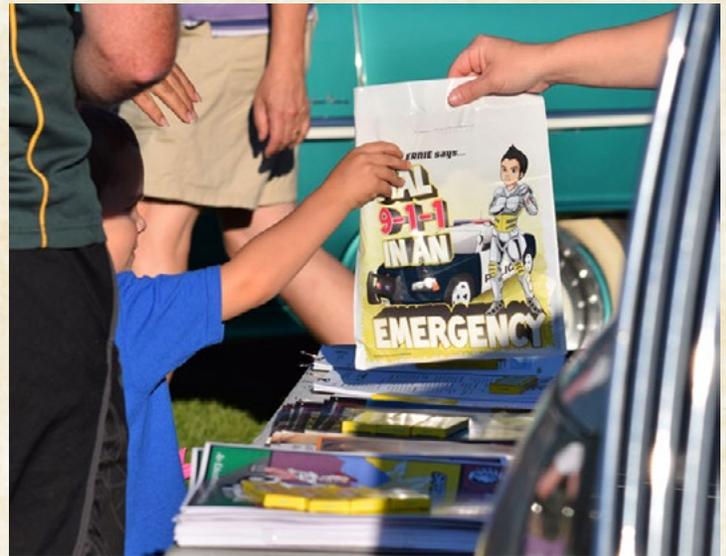


*Above: The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard prepares to walk in the Western Welcome Week parade, one of about 100 events they participate in each year.*

## National Night Out

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office participated in two National Night Out events in August. This annual community-building event promotes law enforcement-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer places to live.

We had a great time at the various National Night Out events held throughout the county!



## Toy Drives

With the generosity of the community, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office participated in two toy drives in 2015.

The first was the Thin Blue Line Toy Drive benefiting Children's Hospital. Along with other metro-area law enforcement agencies, deputies delivered toys to children at Children's Hospital and took some extra time to visit with the kids, many of whom would be spending Christmas in the hospital instead of at home.

The Sheriff's Office also coordinated our own toy drive, delivering toys to children deputies have come in contact with as part of their daily duties. Oftentimes, when deputies are on calls involving families, it can be a confusing situation for the children involved. The toy drive allows deputies to rebuild bridges and perhaps help the children have a more normal holiday despite their family situation.

The Sheriff's Office knows that it is not just children who need the extra attention during the holidays. Many area seniors are also in need. Our deputies delivered gifts and gift cards to a local assisted living facility. Many residents at the facility have limited family contacts and often receive little more than what the facility does for them.

A note we received from the assisted living community makes it all worthwhile...

*"You guys went all out, over the top. We delivered the gifts and made sure the guys knew they were from ACSD and were well received. The gift cards were given to other Medicaid recipients in our bldg. who have no one and nothing. One lady only has \$34 left each month after Medicaid pays for her apt. and she broke down in tears when we gave her a card. Another gal did the same. Everyone was floored, stunned and very grateful. It made my day and I only wish you had been here to deliver them yourself and bask in their response. It was awesome. Made my day. I would rather give than receive and it was a beautiful thing. You and your department are amazing, generous of spirit (and pocket) and we can't thank you enough."*

# 2015 Award Recipients

Two times each year, we take time to honor the great work of our staff, recognizing them for commendable and honorable deeds or acts performed in the line of duty. It is also an opportunity to honor citizens, law enforcement officers from other agencies, and community partners who have taken selfless and brave action for the safety of our community.

## Meritorious Service Medal

Sergeant Nick Rodriguez  
Investigator Bruce Isaacson  
Deputy Candace Gray  
Deputy Anthony Torrez  
Deputy Richard Van Slyke

Citizen Zach Kramer  
Aurora Officer Joseph Sullivan & K9 Marco  
Adams County Sgt. Bruce Gambrell  
Adams County Sgt. Sam Thede  
Adams County Deputy Derek Dummar

## Life-Saving Medal

Sergeant Thomas Daley  
Sergeant Darren Gammel  
Deputy Anthony Archuleta  
Deputy Edmund Doremus  
Deputy Brent Feenstra  
Deputy Andrew Fehringer  
Deputy Tom Finley  
Deputy Travis Hanson  
Deputy Robert Knudson

Deputy Jacob Lofland  
Deputy James Mason  
Deputy LaNell Morton  
Deputy Derrick Norris  
Deputy Michael Reed  
Deputy Nicholas Thompson  
Deputy Jay Titen  
Deputy Amanda Wagner  
Citizen Anthony McCurdy

## Letter of Commendation

Lieutenant Richard Anselmi  
Lieutenant Kenneth McKlem  
Sergeant Geoffrey Maisch  
Investigator Christopher Dulmage  
Investigator Jim Taylor  
Deputy Michael Agos (x2)  
Deputy Daniel Donohue  
Deputy Kelly Draper & K9 Kilo  
Deputy Evan Driscoll  
Deputy Conley Hamm  
Deputy Craig Hawkins  
Deputy Matthew Henderson

Deputy Cody Jann  
Deputy Charles Johnston  
Deputy Nathan Kyelberg  
Deputy Roger Landeis  
Deputy Jason Presley  
Deputy Brett Robson  
Deputy Peter Tasei  
Deputy Joseph Van Hook  
Analyst Lisa Gamboa  
Analyst Ivy Hixenbaugh  
GVPD Ofc. Tony Costarella

## **Certificate of Recognition**

Citizen Nathan Badaries  
Citizen Marsha Bowman  
Citizen Anthony Chittum  
Citizen Caraleigh Kahn  
Citizen Alicia Kear

Citizen Todd Solomon  
Citizen Randy Tharaldson  
Citizen Jonel Todor  
Citizen Raymond Young  
USPS Postal Inspectors

## **Certificate of Excellence**

Deputy Donelle Wells

## **Section/Team Citation**

2014 Patrol Team 4 Impact Team  
2014 Patrol Teams 3 and 5  
2015 Patrol Services Team 6  
2015 Patrol Services Team 1  
Communication Section Team 6  
Communication Section Team 1

Sheriff's Evidence Section  
Sheriff's Communications Section  
Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad  
Sheriff's Office SWAT Team  
Court Services Section

## **Medal of Distinction**

Sergeant Todd Fechner  
Sergeant Craig Reams  
Sergeant Bruce Walker  
Sergeant Shane Walker  
Investigator Nelson Trumbull  
Investigator Johnnie Turnidge  
Investigator Jonathan Vaala  
Deputy Michael Balding  
Deputy Gordon Carroll and K-9 Thor  
Deputy Quinn Cunningham  
Deputy Robert Dahlberg

Deputy Edmund Doremus  
Deputy Duane Fox  
Deputy Scott Gricks  
Deputy Nicholas James  
Deputy Charles Kelley  
Deputy Peter Mills  
Deputy Bryan Shay  
Deputy Joseph Van Hook  
State Patrol Trooper Derrick Pollard  
State Patrol Trooper Dwayne Massner

## **Purple Heart**

Lieutenant Robert Hedrick  
Deputy James Mason

# 2015 Special Olympics LETR Agency of the Year!

## LETR Agency of the Year Award

In October, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office was recognized as the Law Enforcement Torch Run Agency of the Year by Special Olympics Colorado.

Each year, members of the agency participate in a variety of events to support Special Olympics Athletes, including the annual Polar Plunge.

Other events include Tip-A-Cop, and the Plane Pull. We love competing with other local agencies to raise money for this wonderful organization.



Above: Frozen was the theme for the ACSO 2015 Polar Plunge team!

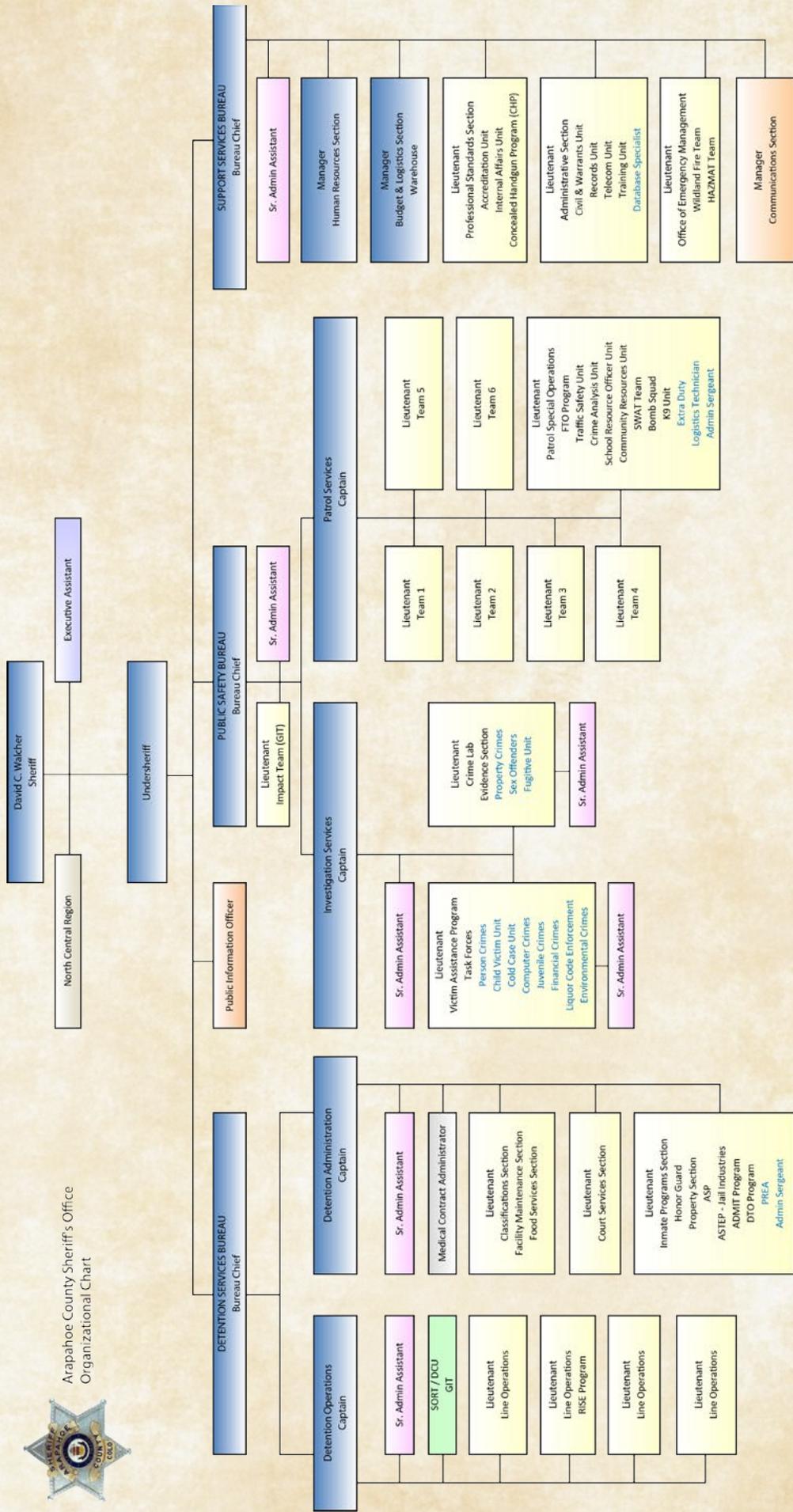


Above: Deputies and other staff members work Tip-A-Cop with Special Olympics athletes.

Left: The ACSO team takes their turn pulling a Boeing 757 at the Plane Pull. The event raised more than \$75,000 for Special Olympics Colorado.



Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office  
Organizational Chart





**Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office**  
**13101 E. Broncos Parkway**  
**Centennial, CO 80112**

**[www.ArapahoeSheriff.org](http://www.ArapahoeSheriff.org)**

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