

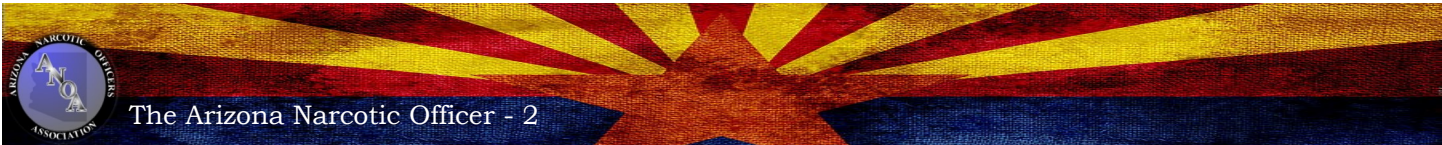
The  
**ARIZONA**  
NARCOTIC OFFICER

Official publication of the Arizona Narcotic Officers Association

*Winter, 2022-2023*







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# President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

WOW! Our 34<sup>th</sup> annual training conference in July saw nearly 650 attendees! On behalf of the ANOA Board of Directors, I want to thank all those who attended and made our 2022 conference another record year. I would also like to thank outgoing ANOA President Zach Mauzy for his hard work, dedication and setting the bar one notch higher for all that will follow.

Once again our keynote speaker did not disappoint. Ann Marie Carrizales, *The Fight After the Fight*, presented a fantastic account of her harrowing events and how it affected not only her but her family. With the ever increasing officer involved shootings and traumatic incidents we all need to make sure our mental health is addressed. Please watch out for one another and do not be afraid to ask for help.

The ANOA Training Conference Exit Survey provided us with much needed feedback from the membership. Overall the response was favorable with class variety, vendor show and the Monday night reception leading the way. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament was a smash hit with over 55 teams participating and the beats dropping from Ern Dollaz. We truly appreciate the feedback.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Treffen Saint John and owner Nicholas Voss who graciously furnishes ANOA with state of the art audio visual needs. Once again we were honored to partner with the Arizona National Guard who volunteered to assist ANOA staff throughout the conference.

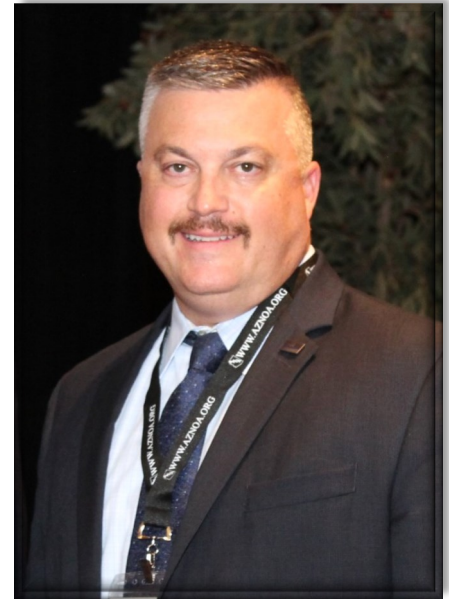
The continued success and growth of ANOA and the Training Conference would not be possible without the support of the membership and the state of Arizona law enforcement community. For the past three decades ANOA has strived to meet the training needs of Arizona criminal justice professionals and provide a forum that allows for networking and good old fashioned comradery. Your unwavering support keeps us focused on providing top of the line instruction and training.

I would also like to take this time to promote our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Drug Supervisors meeting which will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2022, at the Arizona HIDTA building in Chandler, AZ. This is another great opportunity for members to network and get the latest legal updates.

The 2022-23 ANOA Board of Directors are hard at work planning our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference, which is slated for July 17-20, 2023, at the Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort. We have secured our keynote presenter and are looking forward to a memorable 35<sup>th</sup> year!

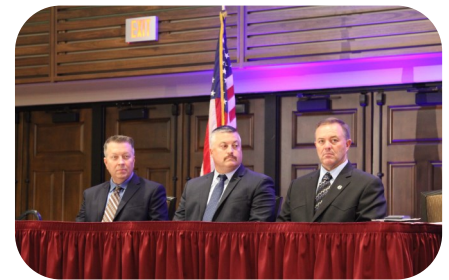
It is an honor and pleasure serving as your 2022-23 Board of Directors President.

Stay safe.



Jeremy Butcher

ANOA President  
2022-2023



*Jeremy Butcher, President  
Pima County Sheriff's Department*





# The Arizona Narcotic Officer - 4



**Patrol Officer of the Year**  
**Shane Flynn**  
Tonto Apache Reservation  
Police Department



**K-9 Officer of the Year**  
**Sandy Brown & K-9 Karma**  
Gila River Police  
Department



**Award of Merit**  
**Clint Hill**  
Flagstaff Police Department



**Narcotic Officer of the Year**  
**Aaron Rimbach**  
Arizona Department of  
Public Safety



**Award of Merit**  
**Kerry Fisher**



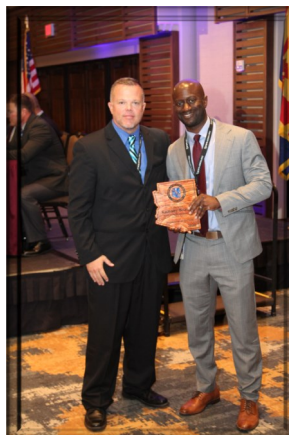
**Community Impact Award**  
**61X Neighborhood Enforcement Team**  
Desert Horizon Precinct  
Phoenix Police Department



**Analyst of the Year**  
**Tiana Hopwood**  
United States Marshals  
Service



**Award of Merit**  
**Phoenix Police Technical Surveillance Squad**



**Attorney of the Year**  
**Ramsey Bronyah**  
Maricopa County Attorney's  
Office



**Narcotics Group of the Year**  
**Casa Grande Police Department Narcotics Group**





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All opinions in *The Arizona Narcotic Officer* are those of the authors and do not express or represent the views of The Arizona Narcotic Officers Association.

Anyone interested in running for a position within the ANOA must submit a written request by July 1st of each year.

### Deadline for Article Submissions for Fall Publication is

**September 30th**

**Please send to Magazine Editors**

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*Apache County Sheriff's Office*

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*Pima County Sheriff's Department*

2017-2018, Ryan Beckman  
*Flagstaff Police Department*

2016-2017, Clint Hill  
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1991-1992, John Mulder, Ret.  
*Scottsdale Police Department*

1990-1991, Fran Karn, Ret.  
*Arizona Department of Public Safety*

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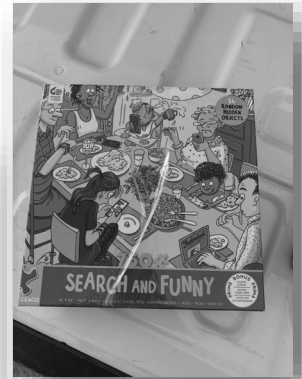




# YUMA CITIZEN SEES SOMETHING & SAYS SOMETHING

On July 8, 2022, with the helpful eyes of Yuma County citizens, a drug trafficking attempt was thwarted. An unknown individual attempted to mail packages containing 2500 M 30's in a children's puzzle box. A good citizen reported the suspicious behavior which resulted in intercepting the package from reaching its final destination.

Senior Deputy Rice and K9 Kass responded and assumed the investigation. The citizen was commended in being a good witness by not getting directly involved but documenting key details and reporting it in a timely manner.



# REACHING OUT ON DRUG DANGERS

On June 23, 2022, in a collaborative effort, Yuma County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy Rice, his K9 partner Kass and Yuma Sector Border Patrol Agent McNeece and Agent Bathrick, put on a K9 demonstration for students at Mohawk Elementary. The trio spoke to students and faculty about the dangers of prescription medication, and drug use. The presentation was held in the Mohawk School library during a summer school program.

The importance of reaching out to the youth about the dangers of accidental exposure to deadly fentanyl has been emphasized throughout the communities in the State of Arizona. The students had great questions and had a fun time watching Kass locate hidden odors. They even got in on some of the reward session with some high happy voice tones.





## THREE WHEEL CRUISING

On September 7, 2022, the Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (FIST) of the Pima County Sheriff's Department was searching for a male suspect who had multiple felony warrants from various Arizona counties. This suspect was also known by the Major Investigations Unit (MIU) to be involved in narcotics dealing and had fled from traffic stops conducted by the Border Interdiction Unit (BIU).

FIST had located the suspect and started surveillance along with MIU. BIU was also alerted to assist with marked units. The suspect and his brother had stopped at a tire shop to get the passenger side front tire fixed on his vehicle. The tire was removed by employees and the vehicle was up on a hydraulic jack. At this time both marked and unmarked units moved in on the tire shop to arrest the suspect. The suspect who was still sitting in his vehicle began to ram the marked units and was able to flee from the tire shop while only driving on 3 wheels. The suspect fled for approximately 1 ½ miles while reaching speeds of over 75 mph along city streets, colliding with several other civilian vehicles.

The suspect's vehicle ultimately came to a stop and the suspect fled on foot. The suspect was caught by BIU after a short foot pursuit. Inside the suspect's vehicle detectives located approximately 20,000 counterfeit Oxycodone pills (M30's). Some of these pills had been concealed in Loctite adhesive tubes. A small amount of methamphetamine and a handgun were also located inside of the vehicle.

The suspect was arrested for Aggravated Assault on a Peace Officer, Possession for Sale of a Dangerous Drug and a Narcotic Drug, Possession of a Weapon by a Prohibited Person, Possession of a Weapon During a Drug Offense, Criminal Damage times three and multiple Felony Warrants.

A search warrant was served on the suspect's residence and evidence of Human Smuggling was found along with a female who had a Federal Warrant for Human Smuggling.







# THE TEMPEST THAT IS FENTANYL

Matt Shay, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

As all of us already realize, the fight to simply contain and control the flood of fentanyl into our communities has reached staggering new levels. In just 10 years, this synthetic opioid has catapulted from 700 overdose deaths over a two year period to an average fatality every 8.57 minutes, or almost 64,000 deaths a year (CDC Feb 2022).

Our Arizona Law Enforcement seizures have risen at a terrifying speed from seizing individual "counterfeit OxyContin" pills in 2014 to making "common" 1000 lot or "boat" sized seizures in 2019 and now almost regular seizures of 500,000 – 1 million pills seizures. Even more dramatic are the increasing number of kilogram fentanyl seizures made on an almost daily basis. The state of Arizona has earned the dubious reputation as the "source" state for fentanyl, seizing more of this deadly opioid than any other state in 2022.

Don't get me wrong, there have been some amazing investigations and seizures this year, including Cottonwood PD and the High County Interdiction Team seizing over 100,000 pills, DPS interdicting over 150,00 pills and the Phoenix Police Department making a historic 1 million pill bust all in September 2022. From Coolidge PD MCSO/MCDST and Chandler, Arizona Narcotics Officers are making record cases and putting dozens of traffickers into jail.

Amazingly, that was only the proverbial tip of the iceberg. Once a statistical unicorn, multi kilo seizures of fentanyl powder are now the norm and the crooks have been adding pastel coloring to both the pills and powder in an effort to attract a more diverse consumer. Fentanyl is found mixed in with a variety of counterfeit pills, mixed in with other narcotics and even baked into a crack like consistency with a (typically) purple tint to it. Where does this all lead?

The answer to this is of course unknown, but what is for certain is there is no end in sight.

As narcotic investigators, we need to be as educated as possible on this topic, so that we can educate other officers, the public and our families and prepare ourselves for testimony or questioning brought by a prosecutor, a defense attorney judge or jury. More importantly, so that we can render expert opinions and produce strong reports that will lead to even stronger prosecution.

With that in mind, here are some commonly asked questions about fentanyl and some facts that one may find helpful on the topic.

## Q - What is fentanyl?

A - Fentanyl (or fentanil) is a synthetic opioid (narcotic drug under ARS) that was first created in 1959 as a surgical analgesic (pain reliever

*producing diminished sensation to pain) that was 100 times more potent than morphine. The drug works by attaching to proteins (opioid receptors) that are part of the nerve cells in the human brain, spinal cord and other portions of the body. These block the majority of the nerves "pain" transmissions to the brain that travel through the spinal cord while at the same time causing a release of dopamine and trigger response from the brains "pleasure" center causing feelings of euphoria.*

*Like all opioids, fentanyl mimics, overwhelms and replaces the human body's natural opioids causing the body to adjust and eventually develop a need for the narcotic to perform "normally," thus creating a physical and a mental addiction. (preferred term is substance abuse disorder)*

## Q - How much fentanyl is being seized in Arizona?

A - Fentanyl, both in pill and powder form, is still being seized at an expedient rate in Arizona. This is due to a variety of factors, one being that we are a "source" state for fentanyl because of our proximity to the border. In 2022 we are on course to seize over 10 million pills in Arizona. That's a startling amount when one considers that in 2020 we seized 2.1 million pills, and in 2016 only 1,213 pills were seized.



## Q - How is fentanyl made?

A - Fentanyl is still made in clinical settings for use in hospitals, EMT exigent situations and within combat zones. Typically administered through a transdermal patch, "lollypop," or injected into the blood stream, it is occasionally administered with nasal spray or epidural. However, it is the fentanyl analogs that are causing the current crisis. Attributed to both China and India, fentanyl or fentanyl precursor drugs are shipped overseas to drug trafficking organizations what produce, package, press into pill or otherwise traffic in the product. A typical "adult" fentanyl maximum dosage (the quantity one would expect in an individual pill) is 100 micrograms (Mcg or ug). A microgram is one millionth of a gram or one thousandth of a milligram. In comparison, a typical "20 bag" or methamphetamine is 250 milligrams.

Thus, when we see a “M-30” fentanyl pill, it weighs approximately  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  of a gram and therefore only  $1/10,000^{\text{th}}$  of that pill is fentanyl, the rest is coloring and inert binder material such as lactose, calcium, glycol, stearic acid, talc, gelatin and even (food grade) shellac.

Kilos of fentanyl are also typically “cut” or mixed with a variety of other agents such as lactose, benzocaine and lidocaine. A “pure” kilo of fentanyl (1000 grams) would have enough of the drug to produce well over 10 million pills, but based on the average analyzed seizure results, each kilo is only actually  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  pure fentanyl. Still, one could safely estimate that 1 million pills could be “pressed” out of each seized kilo of fentanyl.

The cut fentanyl powder can also be mixed with or added to other drugs to increase the effects, offset a strong stimulant response or to create a unique new sensation that gives that additional pleasure, warmth and dulling of the nerves.

Fentanyl clandestine laboratories are scarce. Three have been recovered in Metro Phoenix in the last three years, and two of those are attributed to the same “cook.” The risk is minimal but not absent. Fentanyl pill press labs are also scarce, but again, not absent with a small handful being seized in five years. This is the “glass half full” that comes from our proximity to the border. The drug trafficking organizations choose to make most of their pills in the relative safety offered to them on their own turf.

#### Q - How does an overdose from fentanyl occur?

A - In addition to being a strong pain suppressant, fentanyl, when attached to the human opioid receptors, can block signals to the brain that can distort reality, induce fatigue and disrupt the signals to the heart and lungs. This can cause breathing to slow or stop, decreasing the amount of oxygen that reaches the brain. This causes hypoxia, unconsciousness, and without treatment, brain damage or death.

#### Q - How many pills does it take to cause an overdose?

A - While there is no one simple answer, there are several factors that combine to affect users differently. The first factor is the size, age and health of the consumer. While the “average” user dosage is 100 micrograms for an adult, if that adult was frail, smaller than average, younger than an “average” adult, or had other ailments, then he/she could suffer overdose symptoms from one single pill. In addition, pills that were created with too high of a dosage when first manufactured can overwhelm the typical “average” male. Other factors such as how the pill is consumed, if it was taken in conjunction with other drugs, and even how much the user has eaten that day can factor in.

The key is that the narcotic needs to enter the blood stream and enter the brain and receptor areas for the effects to take place. This is generally referred to as “crossing the blood/brain barrier.” Smoking is the quickest method, followed by injecting, snorting, and eating. Eating or swallowing fentanyl, like all other drugs, can take up to 20 minutes and as long as an hour to enter the bloodstream after being absorbed,

entering the liver, being processed and then crossing over into the brain through the body’s blood. Smoking and snorting fentanyl may allow the user to “regulate” the reaction and mitigate the possibility of overdose.

As mentioned above, the body begins to adjust to the effects of fentanyl even after the first experience. This means that with each additional time the drug enters the body, the reaction will be slightly less than the previous time.

This develops “tolerance” to the drug and, depending on the frequency with which one uses it, will develop into that person progressing into a need both physically and mentally for more pills more often. The use becomes compulsive and chronic even though the user knows of the detrimental consequences.



#### Q - How many pills does a fentanyl addict consume daily, why or how?

A - Another difficult question, but there have been many users that report they use between 8-12 pills in a day. This seems incredible when one pill could cause an overdose for a novice user.

Fentanyl has a quick onset as fast as 30 seconds, peaks in effect within 5-15 minutes and lasts only 2-4 hours. Like freebase or crack cocaine, the onset and effect times are shortened when smoking the product. Heroin, as a comparison, has a similar onset - peaks within a half hour and can last up to 6 hours. However the “peak” of the effects is not nearly as high as fentanyl. Thus, fentanyl users who develop substance abuse disorder consume more pills more often as they attempt to recapture that initial combination of pain or depression reduction and dopamine flood of pleasure.







Q - What is "Fetty"?

A - Fetty is a cooked form of fentanyl mixed with common binding materials and often several other narcotics. In one recent seizure the product was found to have two analogs of fentanyl, heroin, tramadol and lidocaine among other inert cutting agents. Powdered fentanyl is mixed in a clandestine environment, cooked in a normal kitchen stove at low temperatures over several hours and the end product, usually colored in a hue between pink and purple, is broken into (approximately) 250 MG rocks. These can be smoked, just like crack.

A "Fetty" operation should be treated as a clandestine laboratory and will require substantial cleanup. Please notify your Clan Lab or DEA contacts to assist.

We at ANOA would like to offer our great thanks and hearty congratulations to ALL of the agencies that continue to direct efforts on removing this drug from our streets. Here are some highlights from September 2022:

**Cottonwood PD and the High County Interdiction Team** - 100,000 pills on the I-17

**AZ DPS** - 26 pounds (over 125,000 by weight) of fentanyl pills at the Gila Bend I-85 checkpoint

**Phoenix PD NET** - 1,000,000 pills in Avondale, AZ

**USBP Disrupt / MCSO MCDST** - 750,000 pills passing through Gila Bend, AZ

**Phoenix PD** - a Kilo of purple pressed Fentanyl

As mentioned above, multi-colored fentanyl pills ("Skittlez" "Rainbow" "Candies") are making their way through Arizona with 50,000 of those pills seized in a MCDST investigation in September. These new pills are pastel colored and are the same size and weight as blue M-30 fentanyl pills. These colored pills still even have the "M" and "30" pressed into them. Thus is a frightening escalation of tactics of changing the color but not the press, indicating this is not done to thwart detection by law enforcement, but to make the use of these drugs more "palatable" to a more diverse, and yes, perhaps younger group of consumers.

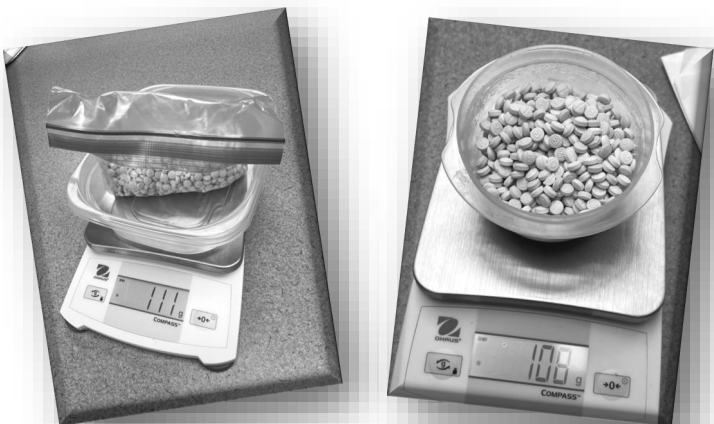
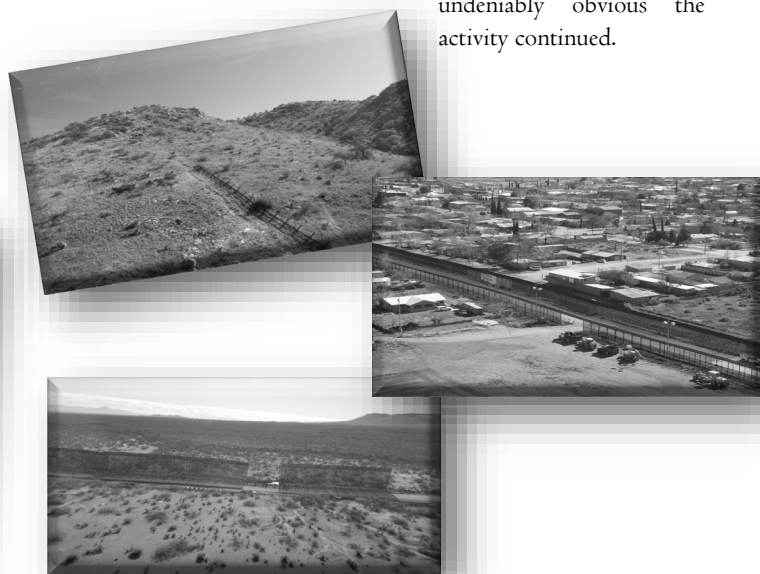
# LOW-END TECHNOLOGY PAYS HUGE DIVIDENDS

Carol Capas, Cochise County Sheriff's Office

Over the past 30 years, Cochise County has experienced more than its fair share of border problems. To combat the challenges, the Sheriff's Office has utilized a vast array of strategies incorporating modern day equipment and technology which provides deputies an advantage in detecting and apprehending smugglers operating along the U.S./ Mexico border. As with all law enforcement techniques and strategies, criminals eventually get educated, usually after having been caught, and subsequently find ways to defeat or avoid law enforcement efforts altogether. Because no agency is immune from these strategies, techniques and technology rapidly change and evolve. The pursuit of finding the next best piece of equipment marketed as "the solution" that will change everything has become a constant conversation in the law enforcement community. Unfortunately, it also comes with a hefty price tag.

In today's rapidly developing world of technology, most agencies can't afford the hundreds of thousands of dollars it costs for a single piece of equipment, nor do they have the personnel required to effectively use it. This is exactly where the Sheriff's Office found itself several years ago.

Drug and human smugglers operating in Cochise County eventually found ways to successfully circumvent the millions of dollars of high-tech thermal/daytime cameras, sensors, and ground radar equipment used by both the Sheriff's Office and other agencies responsible for border security enforcement. This didn't occur overnight, but rather, was a process of trial and error over several months' time. But once criminals discovered the Achilles heel, it was like turning off the spotlight. Law enforcement knew we were getting beat because apprehensions and seizures had significantly fallen, while the tell-tale signs of smuggling activity left behind on smuggling routes were undeniably obvious the activity continued.





“Build a better mouse trap” – easy to say but not always easy to do, especially when you’re already using what is considered the best and most expensive technology on the market today. As we explored various options, we kept coming back to a relatively low-end piece of technology that has been sold for decades and is quite popular among the hunting community – the game camera.

Hunters and wildlife biologists have been using game cameras for years to monitor wildlife movement and patterns. There are a variety of cameras for sale on the open market and, depending on the manufacturer and model, have numerous features to select from. A relatively inexpensive piece of equipment, game cameras are simple to operate and practically fool-proof; just install the batteries, conceal it in the area you wish to monitor, activate the camera, and walk away. The camera does the rest, taking photos twenty-four hours a day in all types of weather conditions day and night. Because we wanted real-time information for interdiction, we opted for the cell-base operated cameras that send images to computers and cell phones within seconds or minutes of taking a photo. In addition, because we were determined to cover as much border area as possible, we chose a manufacturer that allows up to seventy cameras to operate off a single cell base.

In January 2017, the Sheriff’s Office began deploying surveillance cameras in a forty square mile section of low elevation desert adjacent to the international border. The area was well known to law enforcement as a notorious drug and human smuggling route which produced very few apprehensions and seizures because the terrain features provided smugglers dense concealment and multiple escape routes. Within days of the first cameras being deployed, images of smugglers carrying bulk marijuana and portable radios used to communicate with counter surveillance assets and load drivers started coming in. Time stamps on the images revealed the photos were taken within a few minutes of receiving the image, thereby providing deputies and Border Patrol agents ample time to respond and successfully apprehend the smugglers. The camera images not only verified the smuggling activity was occurring but also provided an exact location, direction of travel, and number of suspects involved.

Over the next twelve months, this scenario repeated itself consistently. In the initial phase of deployment, a total of thirty-seven drug smugglers were arrested and all of them were later convicted and sentenced to

prison. The area once known as a safe haven for smugglers has since become one of the riskiest routes smugglers could consider taking.

Today, the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office has almost 800 surveillance cameras deployed along the southern border. Working closely with several U.S. Border Patrol stations and neighboring law enforcement agencies, the Sheriff’s Office surveillance camera network covers over half of Arizona’s 375 miles of international border with Mexico.



Since initiating this program in 2017, the number of illegal aliens photographed has steadily increased. Between January and October 2019, a total of 3,428 illegal aliens were photographed by the surveillance network and by the end of September 2022, that number sits at 110,911.

Initially only about 1 in 5 aliens were caught but today the ratio has held steady at 1 in 2. Continuing with 2017 through 2022 statistics, there have been 437 drug mules observed, and 12,055.77 pounds of marijuana, 109.74 pounds of Methamphetamine, and 2.6 ounces of Heroin have been seized.

Plans to increase the number of cameras in Cochise County and extend coverage all along Arizona’s international border from New Mexico to California are already underway. While these surveillance cameras may not prevent illegal border crossings, when coupled with technology and infrastructure currently in use on the southern border, our borders are more secure. And when the borders are secure, our communities will be secure, which leads to our States being secure, and ultimately equates to our Nation’s overall security.

Sheriff Dannels insists that thinking outside the box is a mandate and working closely with all our local, state, and federal partners in a collaborative effort to keep our citizens safe is a priority. Sheriff Dannels said, “this is not a political issue for my office, it is a matter of enforcing the rule of law and keeping the humanitarian element on the forefront of our mission. The Cochise County team developed an internal system that even the equipment manufacturers said would not be viable, and here we are five years later leading the way and providing demonstrations nationwide to other law enforcement agencies highlighting our current successes.”

The Cochise County Sheriff’s Office will continue facing our unique challenges in the most effective manner possible while we implement technology that best fits our needs.



## HALF A MILLION FENTANYL PILLS SEIZED NEAR CASA GRANDE

A traffic stop on I-10 near Casa Grande yielded a half million fentanyl pills, a gun and a large amount of cash. Casa Grande Police conducted a traffic stop on I-10 in late May 2022 for speeding. During the stop officer discovered the stash of fentanyl inside bottles marked as collagen supplement. The driver, Martha Lopez, and passenger, Tania Solis, were arrested for possession and transportation charges along with child endangerment as two children were also in the car.

The transport and sale of drugs in our community affects us all. It is hard to quantify the number of lives this investigation has saved, but I am sure we are making a difference,” said Casa Grande Police Chief Mark McCrory.



## DUI TURNS INTO BUST

On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at about 8am, police were called to the intersection of Palo Verde Drive and Langford Drive for a suspected DUI driver who was passed out in his car. Officers contacted 26 year old Andy Osorio of Bullhead City who was ultimately found to be an impaired driver.

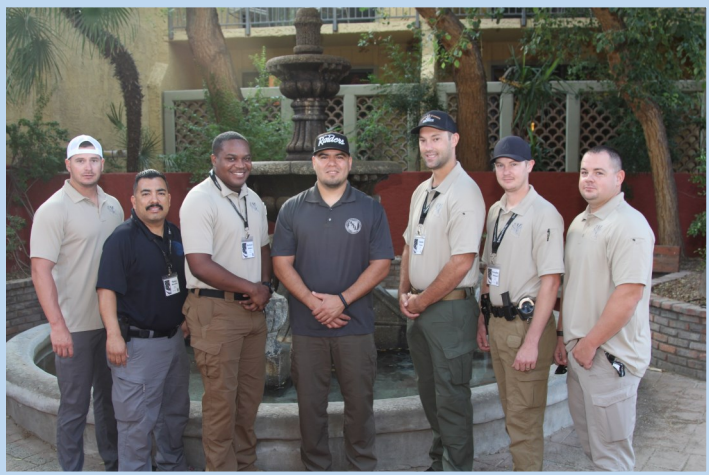
MAGNET (Mohave Area General Narcotics Enforcement Team) detectives, with the assistance from GIITEM (Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission) and Bullhead City Police Department, searched Osorio's vehicle, which resulted in the seizure of a significant amount of drugs. Over one pound (approximately 467 grams) of methamphetamine, about 3,000 blue pills laced with fentanyl, approximately 10 grams of cocaine, a loaded 9mm pistol, about \$3,000 in cash, and numerous drug paraphernalia items consistent with drug sales, including digital scales, were located. The total street value of the drugs is estimated to be over \$60,000.



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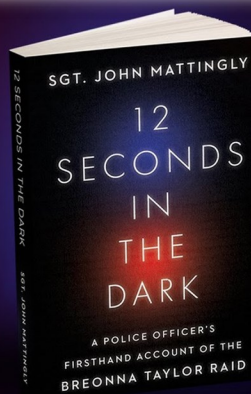
# Don't Miss Out!

## For Registration Details Visit Us @ AZNOA.ORG

ALL REGISTERED ATTENDEES RECEIVE A GIFT



### Keynote Speaker Ret. Sgt. John Mattingly Louisville Police Department







# 2022 Conference







~MARK YOUR CALENDARS~

# 12th Annual ANOA Commander Meeting

## April 11, 2023

**Location:** Arizona HIDTA Training Center in Chandler, AZ

**Who Should Attend:** Attendees must be supervisors who are currently assigned to a drug enforcement unit, vice, human trafficking, undercover operations, asset forfeiture or any other assignment that ties into any of these operations at the state, local, tribal, or federal levels. Prosecutors are also welcome to register.

**Meeting Topics:** This meeting is designed to give attendees an overview of topics and updates as they relate to their current assignments.

**Cost:** Free (working lunch included)



## 2023 ANOA Award Submissions

Deadline: May 1, 2023

Apply Online @ [www.aznoa.org](http://www.aznoa.org)

Look for 2023 ANOA Awards

Application Requirements:

Name, Agency/Group, Title/Position, Email, Narrative as to why they should receive award, & Nominating Officer contact information.

*Categories:*

- Narcotics Officer of the Year
- Patrol Officer of the Year
- K-9 Officer of the Year
- Prosecutor of the Year
- Intelligence Analyst of the Year
- Narcotics Group of the Year



**O**n November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Mesa Police Department Central Street Crimes Unit concluded an investigation that resulted in the seizure of:

- ◆ 714,300 Fentanyl Pills
- ◆ 6 lbs. of Methamphetamine
- ◆ 3.6 lbs. of Heroin
- ◆ 3.5 lbs. of Fentanyl Powder
- ◆ 2 lbs. Cocaine
- ◆ \$17,039 of U.S. Currency

With an estimated street value of over \$4.4 million.

## TRAFFIC STOP YIELDS DRUGS IN PHOENIX

**P**hoenix Police Department Resource Officers observed illegal street drugs during a vehicle stop resulting in search warrant service. The subsequent search yielded approximately 300,000 fentanyl pills, 3 kilograms (6.6 lbs.) of fentanyl powder, an AR-15, 3 handguns and \$2000 in U.S. currency. Four (4) adult male suspects were booked on multiple drug sale and weapons charges.



## PINAL COUNTY - DRUG HOUSE RAID

**I**n early June 2022, Pinal County Sheriff's Office Narcotic Task Force began a drug house investigation near Casa Grande. Detectives learned of the drug house and conducted multiple undercover buys over several days. A search warrant was eventually served on the home and detectives seized nearly a thousand Fentanyl pills, 38 grams of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and several firearms.

Mark Arviso, a registered sex offender, and Kenneth Carlson were arrested and booked into the Pinal County jail charged with drug and weapons related charges.

"These deadly drugs have no place in our communities. Stopping sales is our last line of defense before these illegal substances end up in the hands of our loved ones," said Sheriff Mark Lamb. "This is another example of the excellent work my detectives do to keep drugs off our streets every day."

## PLAIN CLOTHES SAFETY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Over the last several years I have found myself in front of many narcotic associations speaking on the inherent dangers they face each day. The introduction always begins with the same warning that law enforcement operations in plainclothes have more potential for a deadly assault than any other activity. I don't always get the point across as one student in Illinois recently reminded me when he wrote in an evaluation that the course should only pertain to patrol officers.

He made my point! Here are 4 tips to survive working a plainclothes assignment.

### Assume You Are In Uniform

I know this is counterintuitive to the "cool" factor we have all enjoyed rolling in a family sedan with a beard and hat but if you ever believe that no one knows who you are, will you be ready when they do? Vigilance is "built in" when you put on the uniform and badge. Regardless of where you are or what you are doing, you are keenly aware that to some, the mere presence of a police officer could create chaos. We see it on a weekly basis in America and the Department of Justice research reveals this to be true. The majority of officer assaults do not occur during an arrest but in other activities that may include consensual contact or simply walking into a restaurant. If you believe that no one will know what you do for a living, you may avoid the basic safety protocols that have been given to you from your first day on the job.

### Train With Your Equipment

I see this potential problem each year at firearm qualification. Most cops have spent hundreds of hours training with the gear on their patrol belt but how often do you train with what you wear in a plainclothes assignment? I found this out the hard way when I was assigned to the gang unit as a supervisor many years ago. It was a non-uniform assignment with one huge perk.

We all wore drop holsters.

You know the bad ass looking holsters that wrap around your leg? Looking cool was about the only benefit it gave me because I found out quick that under stress, I still believed my weapon was on my gun belt... hip height. Just as you train with your equipment in certain locations on your uniform, you should do the same in a plainclothes assignment and you should do it a lot. It will take a lot of hours to replace the muscle memory that was built over many years in training but when it comes to plainclothes safety, this is a must.

### Carry All The Tools

It's easy to carry what you need on a gun belt or molle vest, but it becomes more difficult in plainclothes. You may believe that those extra magazines, handcuffs, flashlight, or knife won't be needed but you would be wrong. Your holster may be the most important factor. Countless officer lives have been saved with retention holster technology and you should never give that up, no matter how cool you look wearing that AC/DC t-shirt.

### Identify Yourself

Taking police action in plainclothes brings more risks to yourself and the suspect than a traditional officer. Search warrants and arrest warrants should have an immediate uniform presence, but you should also be prepared to identify yourself to any responding officers in the area. I've responded to my fair share of active shooters and chaotic scenes over the last three decades and every time there was a mixture of uniforms, plain clothes, and even some cops that just left the gym. These stress filled responses with limited information have brought more tragedy than any of us care to discuss so just be sure to take every precaution and ensure that your lack of immediate identity doesn't place you in immediate danger.

### Conclusion

Going home at night is the most important aspect of your job. Plainclothes personnel provide an immediate force multiplier for any law enforcement activity. Whether it's general surveillance or drug investigations, our communities are much safer because of the work that is being done by those "not in uniform", but if we aren't vigilant each and every day, the risks can outweigh those benefits.



Travis Yates is the author of *"The Courageous Police Leader"* and a 29-year veteran with the Tulsa Police Department. His seminar, *"Seconds For Survival,"* has been taught to thousands of narcotic officers across the nation. Travis can be contacted at [www.travisyates.org](http://www.travisyates.org).





# HOW MANY PILLS?

We are all familiar with the risks and hazards that fentanyl pills represent. With the ever increasing size of our seizures, it is difficult sometimes to make a relatively accurate estimate of the number of pills in a large seizure. Here are some calculations that may make this job easier.

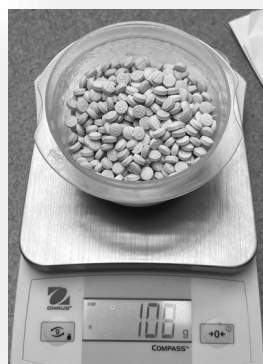
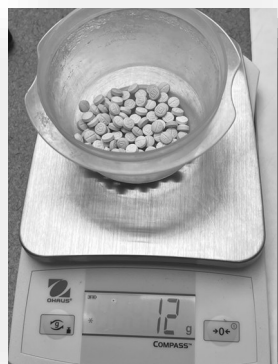
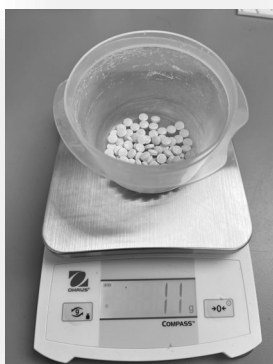
→ Each single M-30 pills weighs between 100-110 mg. (average is 108)

→ 10 pills should weigh 1.1 gram

→ 100 pills 11 grams

→ 1000 pills 110 grams

## THIS IS WITHOUT PACKAGING



The standard trafficking package is a “boat” or 100 pills and is about the size of a baseball. If you get multiple “boats”, weigh one and count the rest.

We are starting to see larger “loads” come through in turkey bags (gallon zip lock) and in elliptical heat-sealed bags (see image) these have half 50,000 (turkey bag) and 20,000 pills each but should be weighed to verify.

- Packaging: how much does “packaging weigh” on average?
- Typically, if packaged in a bag it will be 2% of the weight
- If packaged for shipping (bags, tape, odor masking) it will be about 5% of the weight

*On a regular (monthly) basis, our unit uses a certified scale to weigh 10, 100 and 1000 pills and document this in photographs. This is done for both blue and colored pills. I encourage each agency/organization to conduct a weight to pill verification regularly so that if needed in testimony there are statistics to rely on.*



## 36 MILLION LETHAL DOSES OF FENTANYL REMOVED FROM COMMUNITIES BETWEEN MAY & SEPTEMBER

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration announced the results of an enforcement operation that spanned from May to September and resulted in significant fentanyl seizures across the United States.

“Fentanyl is responsible for killing thousands of people in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (DMV). We are working diligently with our federal, state, and local partners to mitigate this public health crisis,” said Jarod Forget, DEA Washington Division’s Special Agent in Charge. “Our team is actively seizing significant amounts of deadly fentanyl and working hard on impactful operations and community events to halt the distribution of these deadly drugs into our communities. Mexican cartels are pushing deadly fake pills, often laced with fentanyl, into our neighborhoods to exploit the opioid crisis. We will relentlessly pursue criminals who are bringing such deadly drugs and continue to work to keep you and your families safe. Many people who die from fentanyl poisoning unknowingly consumed it mixed into fake pills or other drugs. Our message to the public is that you never can be certain what is in them and that just “One Pill Can Kill.”

As part of the One Pill Can Kill initiative, the DEA and its law enforcement partners seized more than 10.2 million fentanyl pills and approximately 980 pounds of fentanyl powder during the period of May 23 through Sept. 8, 2022. The amount of fentanyl taken off the streets during this surge is equivalent to more than 36 million lethal doses removed from the illegal drug supply. Additionally, 338 weapons were seized, including rifles, shotguns, pistols, and hand grenades.

Of the 390 cases investigated during this period, 51 cases are linked to overdose poisonings and 35 cases link directly to one or both of the primary Mexican cartels responsible for the majority of fentanyl in the United States – the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG). In addition, 129 investigations are linked to social

media platforms, including Snapchat, Facebook Messenger, Instagram, and TikTok. These results build upon the One Pill Can Kill Phase II results announced by DEA Administrator Anne Milgram in December 2021.

Fentanyl remains the deadliest drug threat facing this nation. In 2021, a record number of Americans – 107,622 – died from a drug poisoning or overdose. Sixty-six percent of those deaths can be attributed to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

Drug traffickers have expanded their inventory to sell fentanyl in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes. Rainbow fentanyl was first reported to DEA in February 2022, and it has now been seized in 21 states.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, or the amount that could fit on the tip of a pencil, is considered a potentially lethal dose.

As part of DEA’s ongoing efforts to educate the public and encourage parents and caregivers to talk to teens and young adults about the dangers of fake pills and illicit drugs, DEA has also created a new resource, “What Every Parent and Caregiver Needs to Know About Fake Pills.”

In September 2021, DEA launched the One Pill Can Kill enforcement effort and public awareness campaign to combat the fake pill threat and educate the public about the dangers of fentanyl pills being disguised and sold as prescription medications, despite these pills not containing any of the actual medications advertised. The only safe medications are ones prescribed by a trusted medical professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist. All other pills are unsafe and potentially deadly.

Additional resources for parents and the community can be found on DEA’s Fentanyl Awareness page.

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# THE PHIL GRAY



*The Arizona Narcotic Officers Association is proud to offer a \$500 scholarship opportunity to the child of a member of the Association.*

*This scholarship can be used for tuition costs at any accredited college, university or technical school. Any high school senior who is the son or daughter of a current member in good standing may apply.*

## How to apply:

1. Beginning **April 1st**, interested applicants must submit a Scholarship Application available on our website at [www.aznoa.org](http://www.aznoa.org) (under "Scholarship" tab).
2. After completing the online Scholarship Application, applicants need to send other required documents (essay, references & current transcripts) to:
 

**Arizona Narcotic Officers Association**  
**ATTN: Scholarship**  
**530 E. McDowell Road, Suite 107 #461**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85004**
3. Application and Required documents must be received **no later than May 1st**.
4. Scholarship Award winner will be notified prior to the ANOA Annual Training Conference and will be asked to attend the conference opening ceremonies as an honored guest.

## Requirments

- ◆ A current senior in high school
- ◆ Minimum 3.0 GPA
- ◆ Three (3) Letters of Reference - one of which must be from a school official from your current high school. (Please list name, occupation, address, email and phone number of your references)
- ◆ Essay - Should be at least 300 words and answer the following questions:
  - *What are your plans after high school?*
  - *Which college/technical school do you plan to attend?*
  - *What are your career goals and aspirations?*
  - *How will this scholarship benefit you in attaining your goals?*





# AMADO CHECKPOINT BUST

In late September, Monica Dabdoub Mada drove up to the Border Patrol checkpoint on I-19 near Amado, AZ in a 2009 Toyota. During the preliminary inspection of the vehicle, a USBP canine alerted to an odor coming from the car. During a secondary inspection, Border Patrol agents located clear bundles which contained 78 packages of approximately 40.4 kilograms of fentanyl pills and 20 packages of approximately 20 pounds of methamphetamine that were concealed in the rear seat and rear door panels of the vehicle. Samples of the pills tested positive for fentanyl. The suspected methamphetamine also tested positive for methamphetamine.







# MCDST & HIDTA INVESTIGATE THE ULTIMATE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE CONCEALED

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Maricopa County Drug Suppression Task Force (MCDST) was requested to respond to a large RV storage yard just 1/2 mile north of Luke AFB in Waddell, AZ. Investigators assisting APS in a theft of services (the yard was stealing its electricity) discovered the entrance to a 4-story underground bunker hidden in an abandoned Ice Cream truck. When they started to look into the bunker, they identified a large amount of solvent, unknown powders and glassware.

The MCDST/HIDTA Clan Lab team made entry with SCBA and Nomex equipment and began to unearth a labyrinth of rooms and hallways that were made from buried conex boxes that consisted of 4 sub levels and was approximately 80' x 30' in size. Ultimately the investigators were unable to identify an active lab but did write a second warrant to further the search after observing a small quantity of meth, two meth bongs and a sawed-off shotgun. The follow up search netted:

- 36 firearms (5 stolen, two prohibited)
- 1 lb. of methamphetamine
- 1 oz. of cocaine
- .5 oz. of psilocibin mushrooms
- 500 Oxycodone pills
- \$280,000 US currency
- Gold and silver (\$100,000 + value)





# THOSE THAT GAVE THEIR ALL



**Officer Adrian Lopez, Sr.**

White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department

EOW: June 2, 2022



**Sergeant Richard Lopez**

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

EOW: June 28, 2022



**Constable Deborah Martine-Garibay**

Pima County Constable's Office

EOW: August 25, 2022



**HONOR - RESPECT - REMEMBER**



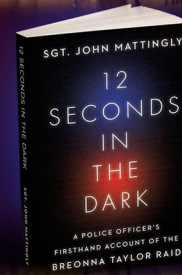
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530 E. McDowell Rd., Ste. 107 #461  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
602-527-8885  
www.aznoa.org

# ARIZONA

NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

## 35th Annual Training Conference July 17-20, 2023

2023 Keynote Speaker



*And maybe just remind the few, if ill of us they speak, as  
that we are all that stands between the monsters and the weak. - Michael Marks*