

The ARIZONA NARCOTIC OFFICER

Official publication of the Arizona Narcotic Officers Association





The Arizona Narcotic Officer—2

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Heroes Live Forever

On October 4th, 2021, DEA Tucson Group Supervisor (GS) Michael 'Mike' Garbo was tragically killed in the line of duty. Mike, along with other members of a CNA Task Force, were conducting an investigation inside an Amtrak car while the train was stationary in Tucson. A luggage inspection and interview were underway when a subject opened fire, mortally wounding Mike and injuring several members of his team.

Since joining the DEA in 2005, Mike combated criminal drug traffickers from the Nogales corridor to Kabul, Afghanistan. Prior to his DEA service, Mike graduated from Eastern Illinois University and was a police officer with the Metro Nashville PD. His late father, Larry Garbo, a retired Commander of 28 years with the Illinois State Police, inspired him. Mike's talents and courage were unparalleled. His expertise, mentorship, and leadership were legendary. He served as a valuable member of the Phoenix Field Division Special Response Team and was universally loved and respected for his leadership and passion to protect the safety of the American people. Most importantly, Mike was known as a devoted and loving father and husband.



GS Mike Garbo had been an instructor and member of ANOA and HIDTA for the past several years and taught the Consensual Encounters class during our yearly conference. He was gracious in sharing everything he learned through years of hard work while investigating smuggling on board trains, buses and airlines.

During his services, it was said that Mike was "good at everything." For those who knew him, nothing could be more accurate.





Zach Mauzy

ANOA President

2020-2021

President's Message

Welcome and thank you for making our 2021 conference a success. It is with great honor and pride that I introduce myself as your association president. I would like to thank each and every one of you and your families for your dedication and sacrifice in keeping Arizona and each other safe. As we navigate through these difficult times together, I would like to remind everyone that you are all appreciated and respected by the majority. Being a part of ANOA has afforded me the opportunity to meet a lot of people and develop lifelong friendships. I am proud to say that the contacts I have made have always come through when I needed them both personally and professionally and I will always return the favor. I would like to give a special thanks to Pinal County Deputy Chief Bryan Harrell for taking me under his wing back in 2005 and showing me how to work dope and develop sources. My time spent working with Bryan is what developed my passion for working drug investigations and helping others develop in this career path. I would also like to thank Pinal County Chief Matt Thomas. When Matt was the Sergeant of the Pinal County Narcotic Task Force (PCNTF), I was fortunate enough to help PCNTF as a marked unit from time to time. My relationship with Matt and the PCNTF got me invited to my first ANOA conference when the

"goodie bag" consisted of an ANOA Coffee Mug. From that moment on I was hooked and knew I always wanted to work "narcs" and would stop at nothing to achieve that goal. Last but not least, I would like to thank former ANOA president Bryan Benson and Executive Director Phil Hawk for believing in me and helping me get my foot in the door with ANOA. If it was not for Bryan and Phil, I would not be here today. Please do yourself, your partner, squad mates and your agency a favor and establish as many contacts as you can throughout the conference. You never know where your investigation is going to take you and having a solid contact on the other end is priceless. Please be safe and take care of each other and your families.



Zach Mauzy, Detective
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office





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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
David C. Valencia—dvc704@cox.net
Francine Gonzales—fgonzales@azhidta.org

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YUMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

K-9 KASS ON THE CASE!

On August 20, 2021 the Yuma Police Department requested K-9 assistance on a traffic stop in the 800 block of S. Hope Avenue in Yuma, Arizona.

Yuma County Narcotics Task Force Investigator W. Rice and his assigned narcotics detection K-9 "Kass" responded and made contact with the driver of the vehicle. An exterior sniff of the vehicle was conducted and K-9 "Kass" alerted to the trunk. A subsequent search of the vehicle yielded four large duffel bags full of packages containing a white crystalline substance. The substance later field tested positive for methamphetamine. The total weight, of the four packages was 144.7 lbs. Nice job!



YUMA GATEWAY PARK BUST

In August 2021, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) requested K-9 support after stopping a suspicious vehicle at Gateway Park located in Yuma, Arizona. Yuma County Narcotics Task Force (YCNTF) responded and K-9 "Kass" alerted to the exterior and interior of the vehicle. The interior alert was on a bucket in the back seat area. During a subsequent search of the vehicle and bucket, two packages containing a white crystalline substance were located. The substance tested positive for methamphetamine. Investigators also discovered two notebooks that contained writings indicative and consistent with narcotic sales ledger.

In total, just over 3.58 pounds of methamphetamine and usable amounts of heroin and fentanyl were found in the vehicle. The two subjects associated with the vehicle were found to both have extraditable felony warrants. The driver was also found to be using fictitious information to conceal his identity. Both subjects were turned over to Yuma County Sheriff's Office deputies assigned to Stonegarden.





TONTO APACHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Drugs and Weapons Seized in 2021

Marijuana (illegal) 18,007 grams
Methamphetamine 37,197 grams
Heroin 1,315 grams
Cocaine 2,716 grams
Fentanyl (est. 217K pills) 21,970 grams
49 Firearms
Total street value \$7.4 Million dollars & 516 Arrests





FENTANYL BUST IN MESA

In January, detectives conducted a drug transaction for 500 fentanyl pills with a dealer without incident. The dealer then requested detectives conduct a 10,000 fentanyl pill transaction. However, before this transaction, the dealer was arrested on an unrelated drug charge and the original deal did not take place. The dealer was released on bond and fled to Mexico to avoid prosecution. While in Mexico, the dealer continued to communicate with detectives to complete a 10,000 fentanyl pill transaction. The dealer coordinated this transaction to occur with a drug courier.

Inside their room were 'Home Depot' size buckets of fentanyl pills and U.S. currency. As a search warrant was being prepared, detectives established covert surveillance on the residence.



In February, a drug transaction was completed between detectives and the drug courier for 10,000 fentanyl pills. The drug courier arrived with his six months pregnant girlfriend and both were taken into custody by SWAT. Through interviews it was discovered that both the courier and his girlfriend rented a room from a nearby residence.

Prior to the service of the search warrant, an unknown subject arrived at the residence in a van and quickly loaded a laundry basket full of items and drove away. Detectives covertly surveilled the vehicle, which was later discovered abandoned in a nearby neighborhood. A search warrant was granted for the residence and the abandoned vehicle. Detectives executed the warrant and seized two large buckets of fentanyl pills (some of the buckets were labeled that they had over 100,000 fentanyl pills) and over \$33k USC from the residence. Seven (7) similar size bags of fentanyl were seized from the van, as well as over \$19k USC. A kilo of cocaine and a kilo of fentanyl powder were also seized. The approximate street value of all seized drugs was estimated at \$2.5M.





HEROIN IN BULLHEAD

On November 9th, a parked Bullhead City Police Department traffic officer observed a silver SUV speeding in the area of Highway 95 and Meadows Dr. The officer turned on his lights and siren to give the SUV a visual warning to slow down as the SUV proceeded north bound on the highway approaching a red light. The traffic officer then saw the SUV run through the red light. When the officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop, the SUV, driven by Alberto Alvarez, sped off. The officer was unable to catch up to the vehicle, but soon came across a motor vehicle accident at Lakeside Dr. and Marina Blvd., where the suspect's SUV had crashed into another vehicle. The two occupants in the other vehicle were flown to a Las Vegas, NV hospital for further treatment due to the severity of their injuries.

After the crash, Alvarez fled on foot in

another attempt to flee from law enforcement. He was later detained by citizens until police arrived. While attempting to detain Alvarez, he started removing items and threw them in a nearby yard on Harbor Drive. Police recovered a plastic bag, which contained about 35 grams of heroin. Alvarez was also trying to destroy his cell phone prior to police arrival.

A search warrant was obtained for his vehicle and police located more heroin, several drug paraphernalia items and a handgun. Alvarez was arrested for transporting narcotic drugs (heroin) for sale, possession of narcotic drugs for sale, possession of narcotic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a drug offense. He was booked into the Mohave County Jail in Kingman.



Theron AFRICAN SAFARIS



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GETTING TECHNICAL...

IN A NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION

By Matthew Shay

Every narc who has worked a case that was heavy on surveillance knows how much of a help “electronic surveillance” can be. From GPS devices and pole cameras to cellular “pings” and direction finding, technical surveillance can make or break a case.

In many units the individual investigators have limited access to these assets and in others, the squad members are reliant on themselves to install or operate the equipment. There are, however, several specialty units throughout the state that have detectives receive advanced training in the operation of a wide array of specialized and sophisticated equipment designed and deployed in support of criminal investigations. These teams are generally referred to as “Technical Surveillance Squads” and some of the more widely recognized are with the DEA, ICE, Scottsdale PD, MCSO, and the Phoenix Police Department. It is the latter which I would like to draw your attention to and commend their dedication to duty in this article.

The Phoenix Police (V57) Technical Surveillance squad has been operational since the early 2000’s with the “Sammy the Bull” Gravano investigation which was followed by a set of serial killers prowling the streets of metro Phoenix. In all three cases the Phoenix Technical Surveillance squad proved their worth with covert installation of listening devices, tacking and one of the first network based multiple camera installations to be used in a criminal case in Arizona.

Today the squad is comprised of one

Supervisor, four detectives and a civilian aide. Twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year they make themselves available to not only the Phoenix Police Department and all of their bureaus, but to surrounding cities and sister agencies. From complex electronic direction finding and cell phone identification to the installation of covert surveillance cameras, this group of highly trained investigators prove themselves repeatedly with success stories. Such accomplishments range from the rescue of a kidnap victim, recording undercover operations, to the collection and documentation of crucial video/audio evidence, which add the final nail in the coffin for uncounted felons.

Here are two recent examples:

During an investigation of a large narcotics DTO operating out of Phoenix and Tempe, investigators discovered that the conspirators were utilizing a penthouse apartment in a Tempe High Rise to exchange large amounts of drugs and cash. The group would drive their cars loaded with drugs into the secure garage area of the high-rise and use an elevator to take them up to the penthouse where drugs and cash were exchanged. This presented a considerable problem to the investigators as the Penthouse floor consisted of small hallway separating the three penthouses on that floor. The garage meanwhile consisted of several floors in a gated underground facility. The case agents needed to be able to monitor the parking area near the elevator as well as the entrance to the penthouse to execute a search warrant when the drugs and/or money was being exchanged.





When presented with what appeared to be an insurmountable problem, the V57 squad quickly overcame perceived obstacles and within days had a covert camera watching the approach to both the elevator and the penthouse with the ability to remote view, record and review those recordings. Within two weeks, and in no small part due to these cameras, the search warrants were executed with a huge seizure.

The second instance surfaced during an investigation into two men trafficking in meth, fentanyl and firearms. One of the targets was arrested in an unrelated traffic investigation where he was processed for DUI. When he discovered that investigators located a full auto handgun and fentanyl hidden in the vehicle, the suspect took to social media and declared that he was going to shoot the next officer he came across. The V57 squad was contacted and within hours, a covert camera was in place to watch the suspect's home,

which was on a hard to watch cul-de-sac road.

Less than one hour after the camera was installed the suspect returned to the home, retrieved a "Draco" AK-47 and left. He then posted another foreboding video holding the Draco and pointing it out an open window. When the suspect returned home after a short time, tactical teams were present and executed a search warrant taking the suspect (previously convicted felon) into custody for possession of numerous firearms and several pounds of methamphetamine.

Similar success stories play out day after day with the technical surveillance teams throughout the state. It is a job that can seem thankless and is always conducted "behind the scenes." It is a job, however, that is as important and necessary as any other in the realm of narcotics investigations.

Kudos to the V57 Technical Surveillance Unit and all of their peers.





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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 (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.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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?*





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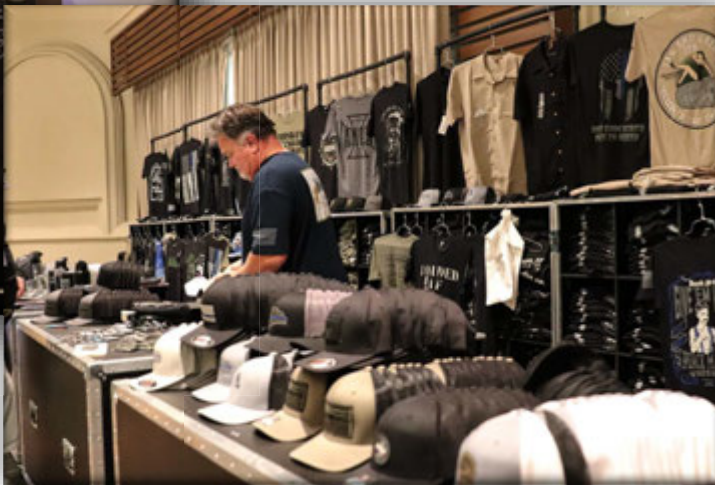
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Brandon Hainke & K-9 Piet



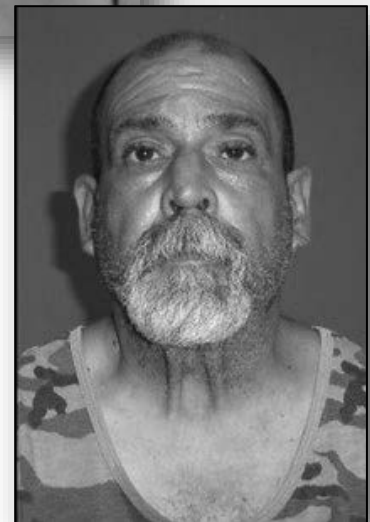


MULTI-AGENCY METH BUST IN YUMA

On April 23, 2021, the Yuma County Narcotics Task Force (YCNTF), with the assistance of the Yuma Police Department and Yuma County Sheriff's Office, served a search warrant at a residence in the 1700 block of South Avenue A, Yuma, Arizona. During the investigation, packaged Methamphetamine with an approximate weight of 2.18 pounds was found at the residence. Investigators also discovered packaging materials, surveillance equipment, scales, and other items of paraphernalia.

The residents of the home, Reynaldo Perez and Mary Fassett, were arrested and booked into the Yuma County Detention Center on multiple charges related to narcotic possession and narcotic possession for sale, as well as endangerment. The seized methamphetamine had an estimated street value of over \$19k.

The Yuma County Narcotics Task Force is a multi-agency task force comprised of officers and agents from the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, Yuma Police Department, U.S. Border Patrol, DEA, and Homeland Security Investigations. Job well done!



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A SUCCESS STORY - THE HIGH COUNTRY



In the past 12 months, the High Country Interdiction Team worked approximately forty-nine (49) separate narcotics investigations throughout the state of Arizona which resulted in the arrest of sixty-one (61) suspects and the seizure of over 764,000 fentanyl pills, 856 pounds of methamphetamine, 5.3 kilograms of cocaine, and 11.6 kilograms of heroin.

The High Country Interdiction Team primarily focuses on transnational money laundering and drug trafficking organizations (cartel) operating out of Sinaloa, Mexico who are coordinating the transportation and distribution of kilogram quantities of hard narcotics throughout the United States to include Arizona.

Team stakeholders include Homeland Security Investigations, Drug Enforcement Administration, Flagstaff Police Department, Northern Arizona Metro Narcotics, Gila County Sheriff's Office, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, PANT, Navajo County Sheriff's Office and MCAT.



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The Arizona Narcotic Officer—20

PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MARIJUANA BUST

The Pinal County Sheriff's Department reported the seizure of 450 pounds of marijuana earlier this year. Sheriff's deputies stopped Jesus Carmelo Juarez for speeding in the Casa Grande area and a subsequent search of the vehicle yielded twenty-one (21) bundles of marijuana.

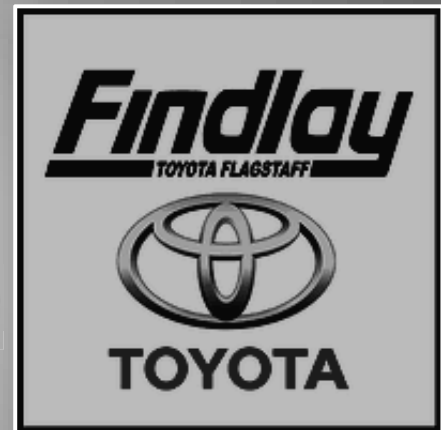
Sheriff Lamb later commented on the seizure and declared, "You can't have THAT much weed." Proposition 207, which passed in 2020, allows adults to possess up to an ounce of marijuana. Sheriff Lamb commented it was "a smidge over the legal limit."





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BULLHEAD CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISCONDUCT WITH WEAPONS

In the early morning hours of June 29, 2021, police responded to the 900 block of Sea Spray Drive to reports of a man shooting in the back yard in a threatening manner. Two shell casings were gathered as evidence and no injuries or damage was reported. The follow-up investigation identified Christian Villa Hernandez, age 40, as the shooter.

On July 7 the Bullhead City Police Department's SWAT team executed a search warrant at Villa Hernandez's home and detectives located over $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of methamphetamine, 7 grams of cocaine, over 400 acetaminophen/hydrocodone pills, 3 ecstasy pills, 9 grams of an unknown powder substance, and numerous drug paraphernalia items such as baggies for packaging drugs and digital scales. Several handguns and long guns were also located. Ammunition was found that was similar to the casing found on scene.

Christian Villa Hernandez was arrested for aggravated assault, misconduct with a weapon, dangerous drugs for sale, narcotic drugs for sale, possession of dangerous drugs, possession of narcotic drugs, disorderly conduct with a weapon, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into the Mohave County Jail in Kingman.





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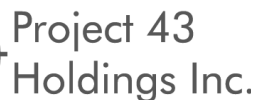




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"RIKKI" HAS METH NUMBER PIMA COUNTY



On June 25, 2021, Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) Border Interdiction Unit (BIU) Deputy Curtis Greenman conducted a traffic stop on a pickup truck traveling through Tucson along I-10. The vehicle's driver had turned on its hazard lights prior to the marked unit initiating the traffic stop. The driver made several turns before finally pulling to the side of the road. The driver appeared calm and not concerned.

PCSD Deputy G. Ahern and his K9 partner "Rikki" arrived on scene as a backup unit. After consenting to a search of the vehicle, K9 "Rikki" gave indication to the odor of narcotics to the interior and rear of the vehicle. The underneath spare tire appeared to have been recently moved; however the lowering mechanism was damaged. A density meter was used on the spare tire and it was determined the spare tire may have contained solid packages.

Upon further examination, numerous packages of methamphetamine were discovered inside the tire as well as in the rear quarter panels of the truck behind the tail light lenses. A total of 81 pounds of methamphetamine was seized from the vehicle.





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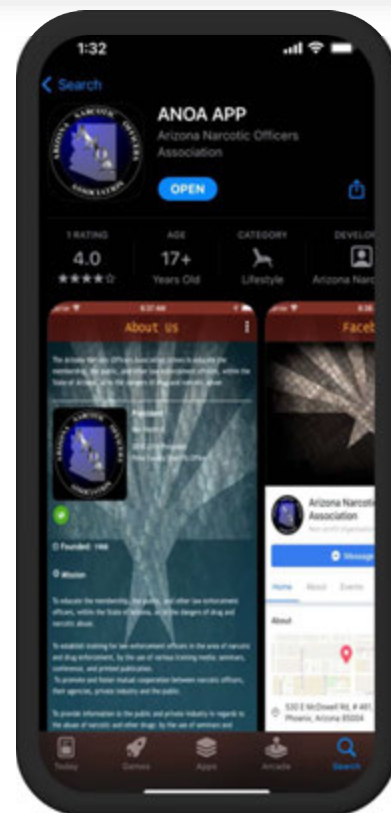
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-Proverbs 28:1



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Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
EOW: November 10, 2021



Sergeant Michael D. Rudd
La Paz County Sheriff's Office
EOW: October 11, 2021



Deputy Sheriff Juan M. Ruiz
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
EOW: October 11, 2021



Group Supervisor Michael G. Garbo
Drug Enforcement Administration
EOW: October 4, 2021



Border Patrol Agent Daniel P. Cox
Department of Homeland Security
EOW: July 31, 2021



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Phoenix Police Department
EOW: May 31, 2021



Officer Jeremy Brinton
Nogales Police Department
EOW: May 21, 2021



Officer Christopher Farrar
Chandler Police Department
EOW: April 30, 2021



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Federal Bureau of Investigation
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SOME GAVE ALL





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