PUBLIC SAFETY
HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW OF
MOUNTED PATROL, CANINE DETAIL &
AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS

OCTOBER 11, 2016
Homeland Security Command

- Assistant Chief M. D. Slinkard
  - Air Support
  - Airport (IAH)
  - Airport (Hobby)
  - Criminal Intelligence
  - Night Command/Security Operations
  - Special Operations
  - Tactical Operations
Special Operations
  Captain L. J. Satterwhite
  Mounted Patrol

Tactical Operations
  Captain S. A. Smith
  Canine Detail

Air Support
  Captain B. D. Williams
Houston Police Mounted Patrol

- 1 Lieutenant
- 5 Sergeants
- 25 Officers
- 6 Civilians
- 37 Horses

* As of 09/08/2016
Mission Statement

Demonstrate a commitment to excellence and innovation in all aspects of our duties and responsibilities; utilizing the unique resource of an officer on horseback to:

- Proactively address the crime issues that impact the quality of life of those that live, work, and visit the City of Houston
- Enhance community confidence and approachability by reducing crime and providing a safe environment
- Encourage and support public activities and events through community service demonstrations
- Enhance public safety at large events by providing a highly visible presence
- Provide outstanding equine health care, maintenance, and herd management
- Practice the Natural Horsemanship Philosophy, emphasizing the human/horse partnership and relationship established through equal parts of love, language, and leadership
Principles to Purpose

Mounted Patrol

Crime

Community

Crowd

Horsemanship
Crime

- New technology implemented
- Proactive policing
  - Removing Sex Offenders and street level drug dealers/users from the community
- Hotspot approach
- To-Be warrants
## Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Felony Charges</th>
<th>Misd Charges</th>
<th>Felony Warrant</th>
<th>Misd Warrant</th>
<th>SETCIC</th>
<th>“C” Warrant</th>
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<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>
Crowds

Port Video
Crowds
Community

- Sponsor A Horse
- Smash Girls
- 2015 – 366 Demo’s
Questions?
Houston Police Department

Overview of Canine Program 2016
Divisions With Canines

AIRPORT DIVISION
NARCOTICS DIVISION
TACTICAL OPERATIONS DIVISION
Airport Division
Explosive Detection Canines

- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Lieutenant
- 2 Sergeant
- 14 Officers
- 16 canines assigned to the Airport Division
Narcotics Division
Canine Detail
Narcotics Division Canines

- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Sergeant
- 2 Truck Enforcement officers
- 11 Officers
- 14 canines assigned to the Narcotics Division
Tactical Operations Division

Patrol Canine Detail
Originating in 1959, the Houston Police Department's Canine Unit Program is one of the oldest Patrol Divisions on the department. Originally, this was a Shift III only program. It has since expanded to cover all three shifts.
Location of Patrol Canine Office

5005 Little York
Houston, Texas 77093
HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
MOUNTED PATROL
PATROL CANINE DETAIL
5005 LITTLE YORK
Patrol Canine Kennels

- Secure building with 8 kennels
- Secure training facility
- Provides housing for short term stays
- Handlers may house their dogs at the Canine Center while on approved leave
- On duty Canine officers are required to break and exercise the dogs twice during each shift
Patrol Canine Obstacle Course

Construction funding provided by City Council Member Dave Martin
Purchasing Police Canine Dogs

The Canine Detail purchases all Canines from reputable vendors
  • The dog is pretested at the vendor’s location
  • Provided with a one-year workability guarantee
  • Provided with a two-year health guarantee
  • Most dogs are imported from Europe

Funds to purchase the Canines
  • Houston Police Department
  • Houston Police Foundation
  • 100 Club
  • K9s4COPs

The Canine Detail seldom accepts donated dogs
  • No guarantee on its health or workability
  • If during the training period, it is determined that the dog is not suitable for police work, it creates a delay in getting the K-9 Team operational
Tactical Operation – Patrol Canine Detail

- 8 Single Patrol Dogs
- 7 Dual Patrol - Explosive Dogs
- 1 Dual Patrol - Narcotics Dog
- 1 Dual Patrol - Explosive/Swat Dog
- 1 Patrol-Swat Dog
- 1 Single Explosive Dog
- Total 19 Canines in Canine Detail
Patrol Canine Detail - Personnel

- 1 Lieutenant
- 3 Sergeants
- 16 Officers
- 19 Canines
Shift I – 7 Patrol Canine Teams

- 2 Patrol dogs
- 4 Dual Purpose Explosive dogs
- 1 Single Purpose Explosive dog
Shift 1 Patrol Canine Personnel

SGT. OPPERMANN & BARO
Single Purpose Canine Citywide

S.P.O. GAGE & BRODY
Explosive Canine/ Head Trainer-Admin City wide

S.P.O. SMITH & GUNNAR
Dual purpose patrol/Tactical Canine/EOD/ Day Shift Trainer North Patrol Command
Shift I Patrol Canine Teams

Patrol-Explosive
Patrol East Command

Patrol-Explosive
Patrol West Command

Patrol-Explosive
Patrol North Command

Patrol
Patrol SE Command
Shift II – 6 Patrol Canine Teams

- 4 Patrol dogs
- 2 Dual Patrol - Explosive Dogs
Shift II Patrol Canine Teams

SGT. RED & BANDIT
Patrol
City wide

P.O. BARNETTE & DEXTER
Patrol-Explosive Evening Shift Trainer
Patrol North Command
Shift II Patrol Canine Teams

Patrol Canine - North Command

Patrol Canine - South Command

Patrol-Explosive Canine - East Command

Patrol Canine - Westside Command
Shift III – 6 Patrol Canine Teams

- 2 Patrol dogs
- 1 Dual Patrol-Swat Dog
- 1 Dual Purpose Patrol-Narcotics
- 2 Dual Patrol- Explosive Dogs
Shift III – Patrol Canine Detail

SGT. BICKEL & DAG
Patrol Canine
City wide

PO. MICHAEL & BULLET
Dual purpose patrol/Tactical Canine Night
Shift Trainer
North Patrol Command
Shift III – Patrol Canine Teams

Patrol Canine
South Patrol Command

Dual Purpose patrol/Narcotics
East Patrol Command

Dual purpose patrol/Explosive
West Patrol Command

Dual purpose patrol/Explosive
North Patrol Command
Tactical Canines
aka “SWAT Dogs”
Explosive Canine Dogs
Large Venues for 2016-2017

- NCAA Final Four 2016
- Super Bowl 2017
- Chevron Houston Marathon 2016 - 2017
- BPMS 2016-2017
## Patrol Canine Statistics 2016

### January-August 2016

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<tr>
<th>K9 Stats 2016 Totals By Month</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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</table>

Average Call for Service Count 2011-2015
10469 Calls per Year
METHODOLOGY

- The canine’s presence on active scenes has proven to increase officer safety by serving as a visual deterrent in order to gain the suspect’s voluntary compliance during an arrest.

- The canine’s mission is to assist patrol officers in capturing suspects and assist in locating concealed narcotics and contraband.

- Many Canine teams are dual purpose and can assist with locating explosives, narcotics along with tactical skills to assist SWAT.

- The canines are extremely useful when searching for fleeing suspects in buildings, warehouses, fields as well as heavily wooded areas.

- Our canines are very useful in odor detection. Nine of our canines are trained to detect explosive odors and one is trained to detect narcotic odors.
K9 Contact Personnel

Lieutenant Albert Mihalco
Houston Police Department
Tactical Operation Canine Detail
5005 Little York Houston, Texas 77093
Office # 832-394-0353
Cell # 832-767-9696
albert.mihalco@houstonpolice.org
Shift I Lieutenant

Sgt. Robert J. Oppermann
Houston Police Department
Tactical Operation Canine Detail
5005 Little York Houston, Texas 77093
Office # 832-394-0353
Cell # 832-767-9696
robert.oppermann@houstonpolice.org
Shift I Supervisor

SPO Monroe Gage III
Houston Police Department
Tactical Operation Canine Detail
5005 Little York Houston, Texas 77093
Office # 832-394-0353
Cell # 713-380-6200
monroe.gage@houstonpolice.org
Shift I Head Trainer / Admin

Sgt. Stuart F. Red
Houston Police Department
Tactical Operation Canine Detail
5005 Little York Houston, Texas 77093
Office # 832-394-0350
Cell # 832-767-9695
stuart.red@houstonpolice.org
Shift II Supervisor

Sgt. Jeffrey E. Bickel
Houston Police Department
Tactical Operation Canine Detail
5005 Little York Houston, Texas 77093
Office # 832-394-0352
Cell # 832-444-5468
jeffrey.bickel@houstonpolice.org
Shift III Supervisor
THE END
Overview and History

- Implemented in 1970 as the Helicopter Patrol Division under the direction of a Captain,
  1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant and 6 Police Officers, with 3 piston engine Hughes 300C Helicopters
- Aircraft used strictly for patrol flights
- Moved into current hangar facility located at Hobby Airport in December 1974
- 1976 – began transition to turbine engine helicopters (Hughes 500C)
- Current staffing:
  1 Captain
  1 Lieutenant (Pilot)
  7 Sergeants (5 Pilots)
  19 Officers (16 Pilots)
  8 Aircraft Mechanics
  3 Civilian Support Personnel
  24 – hour coverage for flight availability
- Current Fleet: 7 - MD 500E patrol helicopters, 1 – MD 500E training helicopter, 3 - Schweitzer 300 training helicopters, 1- Cessna 182 fixed wing aircraft, and one Bell 412 multi-mission helicopter
MD 500 Fleet
Schweitzer 300
Cessna 182 Fixed Wing
Objectives & Priorities

- Patrol flights
- Officer safety
- Motor vehicle pursuits
- Foot pursuits
- Crimes in progress
- FLIR (thermal imaging) missions
- Homeland security
- Search and rescue
- Post disaster assessment
- SWAT insertions
- Water rescue
- Community events/static displays
Why does our aviation unit exist?

- Officer safety (aerial back-up for ground units)
- Rapid response time
- Deter crime
- Tactical insight; visual advantage
- Patrol large areas ("force multiplier")
- Reduce manpower needed for incident response
- Pursuit management
- Air space and route management (dignitaries, special events)
Patrol Flights

- The Air Support Division has designated patrol flight hours, 7-1/2 hours per day. Patrol flights are 1½ hours in duration. The time between the scheduled patrol flights is designated as “stand-by time.” During this time, a flight crew is available for call-out 24/7. In addition, we conduct two grant-funded Port flights per day.

- A typical patrol flight will include calls for service, monitoring of traffic on freeway systems and major surface roads, and security checks on designated Homeland Security sites.
Patrol of Major Freeways/Port of Houston
Radio Communication

- Via multi-channel aircraft radios, the Air Support Division has the unique ability to communicate with most police agencies in the Southeast Region of Texas.

- HPD air crews have the ability to communicate with Houston Fire Department personnel working active fire events.

- HPD air crews communicate with Air Traffic Control and other aircraft.
Air Crew Response to Calls

Communicate observations

“Paint the picture” for ground units

Provide tactical insight

Officer safety
Motor Vehicle Pursuit Tactics

- Officer safety
- Public safety
- Suspect apprehension
- Manage the pursuit
- Tactical insight
- Use of Night Sun spotlight to illuminate suspect
- Videotape/thermal imaging system (new technology)
Foot Pursuits
Patrol/K9 Support
FLIR (Thermal Imaging) Missions

**FLIR Capabilities**

- Cannot see through objects
- Operator experience is critical.
FLIR (Thermal Imaging) Searches

- Searching for Suspects Using Thermal Imaging

When using thermal imaging to search for suspects, there are three characteristics the air crew is looking for:

1. Relatively high heat emissions
2. Well defined edges
3. Movement
Thermal Imaging/Fire Scenes

- The thermal imaging system has the ability to determine the core of large structure fires and identify “hot spots” within the fire.
- Assistance is provided to the Houston Fire Department with video downlink of the fire, via laptop, to determine where to best focus water resources.

2400 West Dallas at Waugh
March 25, 2014 Apartment Fire

Spring Branch Warehouse Fire
May 5, 2016
Search and Rescue

- The Air Support Division is utilized in various search and rescue missions. These can range from searches for lost individuals, recovery of bodies or vehicles to high water rescue and disaster assessment.
SWAT Insertions
Post Disaster Assessment
Water Rescue
Community Events/Static Displays

- The Air Support Division attends many community events, PIP meetings and other functions involving the Houston Police Department.
Community PIP Events/
Law Enforcement Expo