

**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

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# Houston Police Mounted Patrol

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



\* As of 09/08/2016

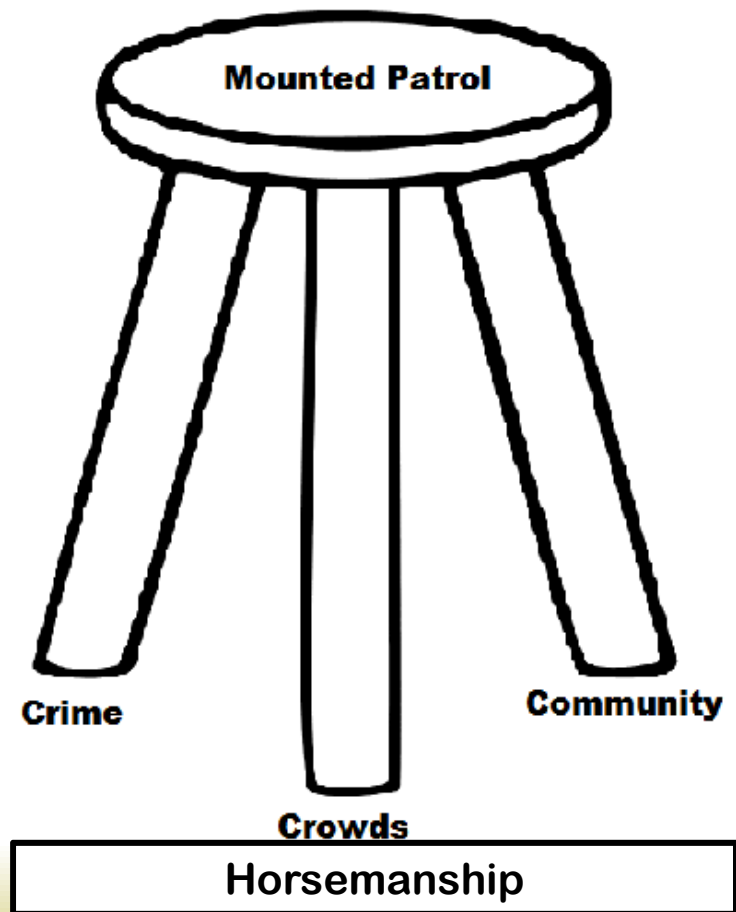
# Mission Statement



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







# Crime



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

# Statistics



Year	Felony Charges	Misd Charges	Felony Warrant	Misd Warrant	SETCIC	"C" Warrant	Non-Traffic Citations
2014	22	75	30	8	107	1259	5239
2015	74	100	25	22	10	2383	7481



# Crowds



œ Port Video

# Crowds





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# 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 Canine Detail



# 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



# HPD Patrol Canine Unit

**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



A photograph of a large, rectangular sign mounted on a light-colored stone wall. The sign is dark brown with white text. The text is centered and reads: "HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT", "MOUNTED PATROL", "PATROL CANINE DETAIL", and "5005 LITTLE YORK". The sign is set against a background of a clear blue sky, green grass, and utility poles.

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



Single Purpose Canine  
Citywide



Explosive Canine/ Head  
Trainer-Admin  
City wide



Dual purpose patrol/Tactical Canine/EOD/ Day Shift Trainer  
North Patrol Command

# Shift I Patrol Canine Teams



**S.P.O. REECE & KENO**

Patrol-Explosive  
Patrol East Command



**S.P.O. HANLEY & BILLY RAY**

Patrol-Explosive  
Patrol West Command



**S.P.O. SCHMIDT & JAKE**

Patrol-Explosive  
Patrol North Command



**S.P.O. MASON & LEX**

Patrol  
Patrol SE Command

# Shift II – 6 Patrol Canine Teams

- 4 Patrol dogs
- 2 Dual Patrol - Explosive Dogs

# Shift II Patrol Canine Teams



Patrol  
City wide



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



Patrol Canine  
City wide



Dual purpose patrol/Tactical Canine Night  
Shift Trainer  
North Patrol Command

# Shift III – Patrol Canine Teams



Patrol Canine  
South Patrol Command



Dual purpose patrol/Explosive  
West Patrol Command



Dual Purpose patrol/Narcotics  
East 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



K9 Stats 2016 Totals By Month													
2016	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Calls For Service	890	990	1043	924	940	803	852	808					7250
Misd. Arrests	11	16	19	17	16	18	7	19					123
Felony Arrests	46	22	35	37	23	25	26	32					246
Patrol Deployments	159	151	146	146	144	124	126	133					1129
Canine Captures	31	19	32	23	27	16	17	31					196

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# 832-394-0355  
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*



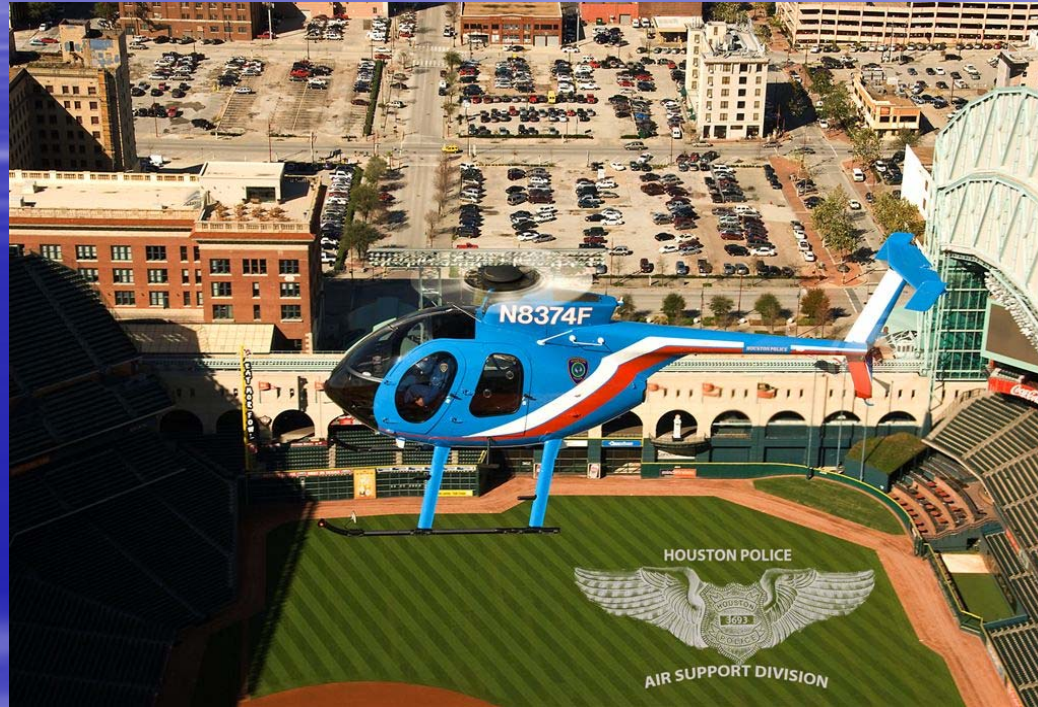
**Sgt. Jeffrey E. Bickel**  
Houston Police Department  
Tactical Operation Canine Detail  
5005 Little York Houston, Texas 77093  
Office# 832-394-0352  
Cell# 832-444-5468  
jeffrey.bickel@houstonpolice.org  
*Shift III Supervisor*

**THE END**





# HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AIR SUPPORT DIVISION



8402 Larson Street  
832-395-1995  
Captain Bruce Williams  
PSHSC Presentation  
October 11, 2016

# 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 - Schweizer 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

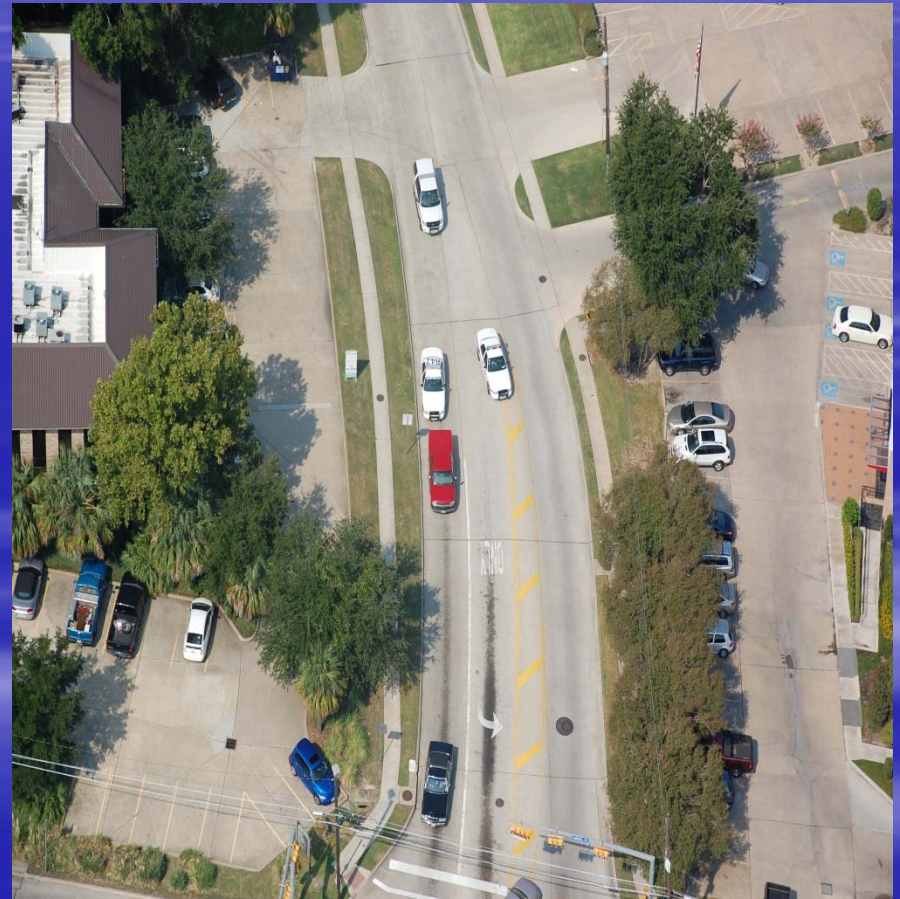


Provide tactical insight

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





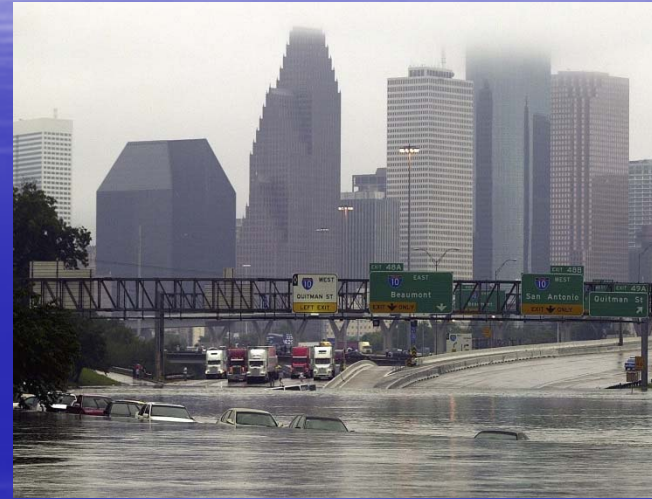
# Search and Rescue

- 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.

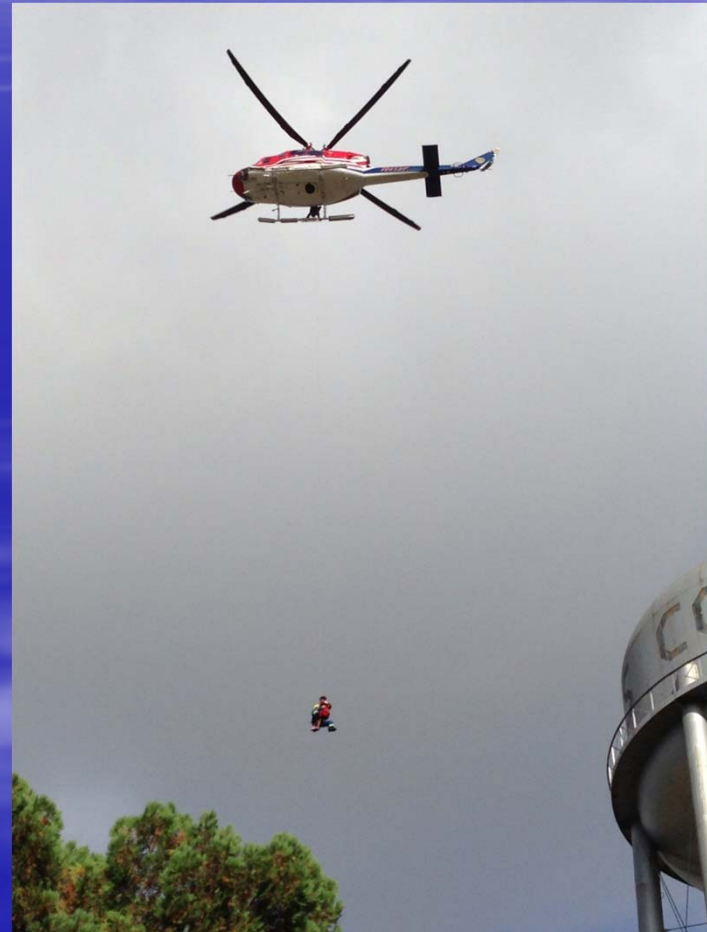
# SWAT Insertions



# 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

