

Sheriff's Office Provides a Variety of Services to Gila County

The Gila County Sheriff's Office provides an array of services to area residents and visitors. Sheriff John R. Armer and his staff work countless hours to keep everyone in Gila County safe. Sheriff Armer's goal is to provide a safe community in which to live, work, shop and recreate in a safe environment. There are various entities within the Sheriff's Office. Each one, along with a brief description, is listed below.



Patrol – Deputies patrol all of Gila County roads and neighborhoods responding to emergency calls as needed. Their aim is to maintain good traffic flow at the posted speed limit giving citations to those who disregard it, to assist with any and all emergencies in their jurisdiction and provide police presence to the communities. All deputies are required to participate in mandatory training to keep their certifications current.



Administration – Administration is the “hub” of the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s Office administration staff provides a plethora of services for both the public and the employees. They maintain all records for the employees, administrate numerous grants, maintain inventory, manage training for all employees, testing for potential new employees, maintain records such as: civil proceedings paperwork, pawn shop activities, traffic violations, payroll, daily deputy activity reports, deposition sheets from the jail (which may include fingerprints, charges filed, background checks, etc.). They handle insurance requests and work with city and county attorneys. And that’s just a portion of administrative duties.

The administration is responsible for garnering between \$2.5 and \$3 million in grant monies in the last five (5) years used for equipment, personnel and resources and assures numerous accounting and statistical data to many governmental agencies to maintain those grants.

Dispatch – The Sheriff’s Office dispatch is the county’s lifeline between residents and law enforcement/emergency services (fire and ambulance). The dispatchers are responsible for a multitude of tasks ranging from fielding emergency phone calls, dispatching law enforcement and fire personnel, entering information (warrants, stolen property, messages, etc.) into statewide computer networks, and taking non-emergency calls for assistance from the public. Both dispatch areas in Globe and Payson have recently undergone upgrade renovations to state-of-the-art equipment in order to serve the community better.

Detention – The two jails in Gila County (Globe/Payson) receive the largest slice of the Sheriff’s Office budget to house, feed, care for and transport inmates. The Gila County Detention Facilities booked 5000 offenders in 2005 of which 24% were female offenders (an increase of 16% over 2004).



The average daily population for 2005 was 137 inmates and the average length of stay was 16.7 days. By Statute the County must offer any inmate over the age of 18 a chance to obtain their GED. Both jails have 177 beds available. There is an average of 180 meals served per day totaling 3000 calories. (There is no green bologna!)

Inmates also receive medical services, commissary privileges for personal items and snacks, laundry services and transportation to and from Gila County for court purposes. Gila County is one of only two in the State that provide transport for juveniles. These are more regulated by law, as juvenile offenders are not allowed to come within sight or sound of adult inmates. Gila County traveled 261,538 miles transporting inmates in 2005.

Criminal Investigation – Criminal investigations is just that. These deputies investigate any criminal activities that occur in Gila County, but outside incorporated areas that have their own police force. Their cases may involve homicide, theft, burglary, shoplifting, assault (or attempted), bribery, robbery or any other criminal activity. In addition CI also is responsible for registering and keeping track of sex offenders who live here, this includes community notification.

K-9 – There are three and sometimes four K-9 deputies in Gila County with four drug sniffing dogs and two explosives sniffing dogs. One recent stop by a K-9 deputy resulted in the largest marijuana bust in county history with 88 bales of pot weighing 2000 pounds. The street value was estimated at around \$2,000,000. There have been other large busts and a host of illegal aliens intercepted by this unit.



Task Force – The Gila County Narcotics Task Force is made up of personnel from several agencies including the Sheriff’s Office. This unit’s primary responsibility is to track down drug sources throughout the county and put them out of business. Last summer they (along with various other agencies) destroyed numerous marijuana gardens around the county.

Civil Process – Serves all kinds of judicial paperwork including (but not limited to) subpoenas, orders of protection, divorce papers, eviction notices, authorization to repossess or seize property, forcible detainer judgments or any other paper that might be issued by the courts. In addition civil process provides civil standbys for domestic situations. This department serves 150 + pieces of paper each month. It also collects delinquent personal property taxes and conducts real property sales, which go to satisfy a judgment.

Watercraft Patrol – Gila County is one of a few in the state responsible for patrolling waterways. Roosevelt Lake falls within Gila County. The Sheriff’s Office, along with AZ Game & Fish, is tasked to enforce watercraft regulations in this state. Deputies inspect boats to insure operators are carrying the required equipment and observing all water related laws. In addition, Roosevelt substation provides safe boating education classes to the public and works with a variety of federal, state and local agencies. Two new patrol boats were recently purchased thru the AZ State Parks Lake Improvement Fund.



Dive Team – When a body or piece of evidence is below the water’s surface the dive team is pressed into service. Though this duty is voluntary and members are responsible for their own training and equipment they are always ready to respond when needed. The number of divers ranges between 7 and 10 with the members being either deputies or detention officers.

Horse Patrol – For the first time in Gila County history the Sheriff’s Office has a certified Horse Patrol Unit with 3 deputies who have completed the AZ Post Academy for Mounted Crowd Control. In the event a large crowd gathers for whatever reason, Gila County is prepared.

Sheriff’s Office Extended Family:

Search and Rescue – By Arizona Revised Statute the Sheriff’s Office must provide SAR availability. Gila County has two units, **Gila County Search and Rescue** south to the bridge (at Roosevelt) and **Tonto Rim Search and Rescue** in the northern part of the county. Both organizations are kept busy throughout the year with training, searches, rescues and community activities.

Payson Posse – This group does security work for events, groups and organizations in the Payson area. They also provide prisoner transport and support of court officers as needed. At the request of the Sheriff, they may assist in all sorts of situations such as road closures during a Forest Fire.

Sheriff’s Reserve Posse - SRP Provides security details and also transports prisoners in Globe as well as help on high profile trials within the county. Many of their activities include events held at the Casino and county fairgrounds. In addition members provide

patrol operations to the more remote areas of the county by utilizing fully marked patrol vehicles in Cherry Creek, Hayden/Winkelman/Dripping Springs, Roosevelt and the Pinals. Tonto Rim SAR also has a fully marked vehicle to use on their missions.