UTSA Police Department Changes to a New Uniform and Patch

On December 16th, 2011, the police cadets of the 92nd Basic Peace Officer Class graduated from the University of Texas System Police Academy. Three of the graduates are from UTSA and they are shown in the photograph to the right. From left to right in the photo are Officer’s Jonathan Pfaff, James Lee and Patrick Lopez.

There was one very noticeable change in this class that had not been seen since April 4th, 1989, and that was the uniform they wore at graduation. All 15 of the UT System institutional Police Departments will have three years to transition to the new uniform; however, UTSAPD has begun the transition immediately and should complete the transition within the next three months. During this time, you may see officers wearing both uniforms around campus until the transition is complete. In addition to the uniform all officers will be wearing a new police patch which is shown below with the previous uniform types and patches since the late 1960’s.

History of The University of Texas System Police

Created by the State of Texas Legislature in the wake of the active shooter event of August 1, 1966, The University of Texas System Police charter was to ‘...employ and commission peace officers for the purpose of protecting life and property...’ at the campuses of The University of Texas System or wherever else UT interests or assets were represented or present. This decision was followed by the creation of the Office of the Director of Police and The University of Texas System Police Academy in 1968 and thus began the nearly 50 year legacy of which we are a part of today. Since that time ninety two basic peace officer training classes have been successfully conducted by the Police Academy with almost 2,000 graduates since January of 1968. Today The University of Texas System Police deploys 515 sworn police officers and 800 civilian staff members across the State of Texas and at the 15 U.T. System institutions to fulfill that original mandate to protect life and property. With over 500 sworn officers, the UT System Police as an agency is larger than 95% of the 15,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States. It is this new generation of police officers who are tasked with protecting one of the four largest public university systems in the United States.