UTSA Recognizes Police Memorial Week

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15th falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. This year, National Police Week 2013 will be Sunday, May 12th through Saturday, May 18th.

In 2012, Texas lost 11 law enforcement officers including 2 K-9 dogs. Since 1963, 34 university police officers nationwide have died in the line of duty, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology Police Department Officer Sean Collier who was shot and killed during a large scale manhunt for suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing on April 18, 2013.

In Texas, the statewide 2013 Memorial Ceremony will be held on the morning of Monday, May 6, 2013, on the south side of the Texas Capitol. A procession of color guard teams, police motorcycles, police bikes, and pipe and drum corps, will begin up Congress Ave to the Capitol at approximately 10:30am, with the service starting at approximately 11am.

References: nleomf.org; pomf.org; odmp.org

Be Smart...Be Safe: Burglary Prevention Tips

Recently, there has been a few burglaries in the residential areas of the UTSA campus that are classified as “crimes of opportunity”. Typically, these crimes involve items that are left unattended or where residential doors or windows were left unlocked. It is rare for burglars to take the time to pick a lock. In most cases thieves enter an apartment by simple force, take only the most expensive objects (such as laptop computers or video game consoles) and make a swift, clean exit.

This article is to remind students to please be attentive to your belongings and aware of your surroundings in residential areas, whether you live on or off-campus. Please remember the general precautions that you can practice with regard to your own safety and security:

1. Keep windows locked at all times.
2. Make sure your apartment or resident-area doors stay locked, even when you are inside.
3. Have a trusted neighbor regularly check on your apartment when you are away.
4. If you live on campus, call the UTSA police for a "crime watch" of your resident-area during semester breaks.
5. Do not leave items in plain view. Close curtains or blinds to prevent thieves from looking in.
6. Engrave your property with your driver’s license number to help identify stolen property.
7. Only invite trusted friends into your residence and not strangers.
8. If you are not sure who is at the door, do not open the door.

We strongly believe that awareness and personal responsibility for your safety and security are the most effective crime fighting tools. Please help us work together with our community to reduce and eliminate crime. Please notify UTSA PD immediately if you know of any suspects involved in any of the above crimes or to report any suspicious activity at (210) 458-4911.
Watch Out For These Common Online Scams

If you’ve been using the Internet for any length of time, then by now you’re most likely aware of most of the common scams that exist online. Internet scam artists attack victims frequently, skillfully and successfully. Their hacking abilities are increasing, posing a danger for a new host of scams that not only can affect your financial health, but may affect your personal safety. Below are some of the more common scams.

Phishing Scams:
You receive an e-mail that looks like it came from your bank, warning you about identity theft and asking that you log in and verify your account information. Even though the e-mail and the website where you enter your account information look real, they are clever fakes. The risk is that your account information will be sold to criminals who will use it to ruin your credit and drain your account.

Nigerian 419 Letter:
You receive an e-mail, usually written in screaming capital letters, that starts out like “DEAR SIR/MADAM: I REPRESENT THE RECENTLY DEPOSED MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE” and states they are seeking an accomplice who will transfer the funds into their account for a cut of the total—usually around 30 percent. You’ll be asked to travel overseas to meet with the scammers and complete the necessary paperwork. However, there is no minister and no money—except for the money you put up in advance. Victims of Nigerian letter fraud lose $3000 on average, according to the FBI.

High-Pressure Sales Pitch Modeling:
What you thought was a job interview you signed up for online is really a high-pressure sales pitch for modeling or acting classes, shoots or screen tests. The salesperson asks you to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars in exchange for helping you with your modeling career. However, they never come through and you lose all your money.

The "Easy Money for Small Work” Modeling:
Earning large sums of money does not come easy. Some models in smaller markets can earn between $75 to $100 an hour but work is irregular. Research the company thoroughly. Talk to and meet the models or actors who have worked with the company before.

The scams described above are some of the most common types of Internet fraud. However, these fraudsters are clever people who may use many variations of the above scams to achieve their terrible ends. In general, be wary of unsolicited emails or social media contacts that:
Promise you money, jobs or prizes
Ask for donations
Propose lucrative business deals
Ask you to provide personal information

By taking the time to educate yourself about these common types of scam, and/or by sharing this information with others, you can make a valuable contribution to the war against Internet fraud.

Know your Rights When Moving
As the spring semester comes to a close and summer break begins, student’s thoughts turn to going back home...and taking all the stuff they moved in with in the fall semester! But Officer R. Palacios (UTSAPD Traffic Unit) wants students to be aware of scams involving moving companies.

According to movingsguru.com, the most common moving scams include:
Baiting Estimates – Some moving companies will offer an estimate without really knowing anything about the job you need done. In most cases, these estimates are designed to get you in so they can hit you with hidden charges.
Hidden Charges – Shady moving companies might stay mum about additional fees, like packing fees, stairs fees, and even fees for parking on skinny streets. These fees can tack on hundreds, if not thousands of dollars onto a total bill, and you won’t learn about them until the very end.

Worse, the moving company can hold onto your stuff until you pay it.

All movers operating within Texas are required to have an active registration and abide by TxDOT rules on movers. There are many moving companies out there, so choose your mover carefully. Once you’ve selected your mover, make sure you get everything in writing.

Victim Rights in Texas: Knowing Your Rights is Key (by Cpl. Elizabeth Carter; Crime Prevention)

The truth of the matter is most individuals are not aware of what their rights are and unfortunately will only seek to find out after they have found themselves victimized by a perpetrator and then again by the judicial system if they are not satisfied by the outcome. Here are a few facts most citizens are unaware of: Chapter 56 of The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure places the burden of enforcing victims' rights on the prosecutor. Few rights are automatic such as the right to be protected from harm arising from cooperating with the investigation, having safety consideration in setting bail and a limited right to privacy.

A greater number of rights are available but must be requested which include to be informed of the proceedings, to make a Victim Impact Statement, information about Crime Victim Compensation, information about parole and to give information to the parole board, to be protected from contact by the defendant during the proceedings, and miss work to testify.

There is no set procedure for requesting those rights, yet it is best to do it in writing and with proof of delivery. An example letter format can be found at the following website www.texaslawhelp.org.

Cpl. Carter is the UTSA Police Department’s Crime Victim Liaison and has been a member of the Crime Prevention Unit since 2010.

References: www.texaslawhelp.org; makeuseof.com; hoax-slayer.com; cnn.com; jwworld.com

Be careful of moving company scams
Photo: Google Images

UTSA Police wants you to be safe from common online scams.
Photo: Google Images

UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
Smart Phone Pictures Can Affect Your Privacy

You’re proud of your new car and you take a picture with your smartphone. Then, you post it to Facebook Places or Foursquare, both location-based social-networking services. But did you know that GPS information embedded in that picture can show people where you live? It’s called geotagging, where the GPS in your smartphone attaches your longitude and latitude along with other info about your picture. Many smartphones automatically geotag photos.

An example of where geotagging went wrong happened with Adam Savage, host of The Discovery Channel’s Mythbusters. Savage inadvertently revealed where he lived when he posted a picture from his iPhone of his car at his home. But sending pictures to location-based social-networking sites can have many benefits. People can connect with friends and family when they have so little time and they would not be doing it otherwise. However, privacy groups note that location data opens a big window into very private details of a person's life. Besides hackers, databases filled with such information could become inviting targets for stalkers.

As easy as it is to find this information, it’s even easier for you to prevent people from seeing it all. You have to do is disable the geotagging option on your camera on your smartphone. Since the setting is different for each phone, you can look in your cell phone manual or on the settings menu. Once you’ve done this, don’t forget about your old pictures. Pictures posted before you turned this feature off still contain the GPS location.

But to opt out of GPS service means preventing the software on your phone from using any information about where you are. That means cutting yourself off from the vast array of mobile apps that offer discounts and ads, allow you to connect more easily with friends who use social media, and simplify your life with map directions. Although the U.S. government prohibits telephone companies from sharing customer data, the laws may not apply to the mobile services offered through apps made by third-party developers. But for now, it’s up to smartphone users to decide: Is it privacy they are most concerned about, or convenience?

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Click it Or Ticket: Seatbelts Save Lives

- Wear your seatbelt while driving even if only down the block! Save a life, it might be your own.
- Here are just a few facts from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):
  - If all passenger vehicle occupants age 5 and older had worn seatbelts an additional 3,341 lives could have been saved in 2010.
  - Of all passenger vehicle occupants ejected from their vehicles, 78% suffered fatal injuries.
  - During Click It or Ticket crackdown more than 3 million citations, were given over the past 5 years that’s a ticket every second!!
  - Save your money and possibly your life, every time you get behind the wheel Click it, or Ticket.
  - Click It or Ticket crack down around the nation will be from May 21 – June 3rd, 2013

ALL ACCESS: Controlling Access  by Helen White (Administrative Assistant, Security Services)

As we near the end of the Spring semester and begin preparations for the Summer semester, Access Services would like to remind everyone to submit their lists to remove those within your department who will no longer need card access. Please email Access Services at accenterservices@utsa.edu with the names, banner ID numbers, and the date you want to have the person’s access revoked. If you would like to have an audit completed on your doors, please submit an email to Access Services with each building and door number you are requesting a report for. An Access Services team member will contact you with information.

In preparation of the upcoming summer semester, we ask that you send an email at your earliest convenience to Access Service with names, banner ID numbers, building, and each door number faculty, staff, or students will need access to. To ensure access is granted in a timely manner, please provide this information as soon as possible. The UTSA Campus will be closed Monday, May 27th and Thursday July 4th. Authorized requestors should submit requests for those individuals who need access to the buildings in which they conduct business.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Access Services at 458-6486 or 458-6855.
Safety Highlights **Lorenzo D. Sanchez, MPA (UTSA Director of Emergency Management)**

**Evacuate, Before it’s Too Late!**

To create and sustain a culture of preparedness, UTSA performs annual unannounced emergency evacuation drills in campus buildings with fire alarm systems. The requirement and regularity for fire drills have made some in our community think they are no big deal. They tend to continue their routine regardless of the evacuation and blaring alarms around them. The overwhelming thought is, “It’s only a drill.”

Well, in most occasions, yes it is. But there are times when something goes wrong in a kitchen or a lab or in electrical wiring and everything spirals out of control. As an example, in 2008, Our Lady of the Lake University had a fire in its Main Building. The fire affected more than 65,000 square feet of classrooms, labs, and offices. Fortunately, no lives were lost as all occupants quickly and effectively evacuated the building. However, this highlights the importance of preparedness, and the need to regularly make the UTSA community familiar with evacuation procedures. The time to react in a real emergency is short – seconds do count!

Thus, an evacuation drill is an important thing. It may not feel like it when it interrupts your workday or school schedule, but it is. They help ensure familiarity with exit routes and can build confidence in a person’s ability to respond promptly and safely if an actual emergency occurs. Drills familiarize building occupants with the sound of the fire alarm. They are also training opportunities for emergency response units such as our UTSA Floor Captains, Police, Safety, and Facilities. They serve as important tests of alarm systems and reporting procedures. Most importantly, evacuation drills save lives!

Always follow instructions when the alarm sounds and remain aware of your surroundings. Use your independent judgment to make good decisions, and help those around you – we are all in it together! For more information on emergency preparedness on campus, visit the UTSA Campus Alerts website at www.alerts.utsa.edu. Be prepared, make a plan, stay informed! Be safe UTSA!

**Questions?** Call the UTSA Office of Emergency Management at 458-6851.

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**UTSA Staff Council’s "Strikes for Scholarships"**

UTSAPD participated in the UTSA Staff Council’s 3rd annual "Strikes for Scholarships" bowling fundraiser and silent auction on March 4, 2013. The event was held at University Bowl on IH-10. Proceeds from the event will support annual scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who also are UTSA benefits-eligible staff members. Team “I Can’t Believe It’s Not Gutter” included (picture, left to right) Lt. Padula, Capt. Songeo, Rebecca Gomez (Records Manager), Lorenzo Sanchez (Director, Emergency Management) and Robin Diamond (Sr Admin Associate).

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**Detective Time by Sgt. Thomas Calucci (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)**

Not only are the Detectives with the UTSA PD charged with investigating property crimes and filing charges on Offenders, we also investigate threats that are made to both individuals and the institution as a whole. These threats are taken very seriously and go to “the top of the stack” of our caseload.

The most common criminal charge associated with a threat of this nature is called Territorial Threat. The definition in the Texas Penal Code defines this as: A person who threatens to commit any offense involving violence to any person or property with the intent to: cause a reaction by emergency officials, place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury, prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building… or other public place, cause impairment or disruption to public communications…, or place the public in fear of serious bodily injury.

As you can see, there are many elements to the crime. As detectives, we have to find the right element and discover evidence to substantiate it. How do we do that you ask? Sure, we have some tricks up our sleeves, but the best thing we detectives have is you the community.

As you have heard before, I will say again. If you see something, say something. This term was coined by Homeland Security (DHS) in 2010. It is a program to engage the public in identifying suspicious persons or situations. I strongly urge you to take this to heart and report anything suspicious to our police department.

As you can see, threats are taken very seriously at UTSA. With your help, we can keep UTSA safe.
**Monday May 6, 2013**  
*Police Memorial Ceremony*  
11:00 am at Capitol in Austin  
UTSA Police Department will participate in the state ceremony to commemorate the service and sacrifice of peace officers.

**Monday May 13, 2013**  
*UTSA Commencement*  
2pm & 7pm at Alamodome  
Celebrate as UTSA graduates walk across the stage in recognition of their accomplishments.

**Monday May 21, 2013**  
*Click It or Ticket*  
Various times at All Campuses  
The Click It or Ticket campaign begins. Law enforcement will be out in force to enforce seat belt laws.

**Monday May 27, 2013**  
*Memorial Day Holiday*  
Begins all day at Campus-wide  
Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

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**Lost and Found**

All found property that is turned in to the University Police Lost & Found section is stored at the University Police Lost & Found for 60 days. After 60 days, the found property is transferred to the Surplus Property Department for public auctions or further disposition.

To report lost property items or to make inquiries regarding lost property call 210.458.6247 (Monday to Friday; 8am to 5pm).

To claim found property items, individuals must present a valid Texas Driver’s license, UTSA photo ID card or a valid photo ID card from another source; military ID or another state photo ID card. Individuals must be able to accurately describe the property that was lost in order to claim property from the lost & found section.

**NOTE—**Departments, please promptly turn in any lost and found items you may have so we can return them to their owners in a timely fashion.

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**The University of Texas at San Antonio Police Department wishes to convey our deepest sympathy to the friends, colleagues and family of Police Officer Sean Collier who was killed on April 18, 2013. Officer Collier was an officer for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Campus Police Department for little over a year; however, he personified the attributes of what it means to be a police officer serving on a college campus. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and fellow MIT officers at this most difficult time. Rest in Peace Officer Sean Collier.**

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**Click It or Ticket. Back seat, too.**

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**Crime Report for the Month of April 2013**

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred as of last month. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

- **Thefts = 17**  
  - Alcohol Arrests = 26
- **Burglary of Vehicle = 2**  
  - Drug Arrests = 13
- **Assaults = 3**  
  - DWI/DUI Arrests = 9
- **Theft of Motor Vehicle = 0**  
  - Other Crimes = 17

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**Texting while driving is against the law in San Antonio.**

Don’t Text While Driving! It is against the law. If convicted, the maximum fine is $200.00.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one in six highway deaths is caused by distracted driving.
Click it Or Ticket, UTSA! Make Sure You Buckle Up!

It or Ticket initiative in Texas saved 2,843 lives and prevented more than 48,000 serious injuries during its first decade.

- Of the 2,995 people killed in Texas in traffic crashes in 2011, at least 853 drivers and passengers weren’t buckled up.

While those may sound like just statistics, the UTSA Police Department knows from personal experience that those numbers are the actual faces of mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles and friends.

This goes to the heart of UTSA’s mission to protect the public. That is why we have joined with thousands of other State and local law enforcement agencies to announce support for the 2013 national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization, which runs May 21 to June 3, 2013.

Thanks in part to high visibility enforcement campaigns, like Click It or Ticket, this has led to an all time high observed state seat belt usage rate of 93.7 percent in 2011. Before Click It or Ticket enforcement and public education efforts began in Texas in 2002, only 76.1 percent of Texans buckled up.

People often ask, “Aren’t there more serious criminals on the street other than those who simply are not buckling up?”

They’re not hurting anyone but themselves. To the contrary, the people who choose to disobey the law by not wearing their seat belts are taking a chance with not only their lives, but the emotional and financial health of their families, friends and our community.

Law enforcement will be out in force to show our dedication to solving this problem. We want 100 percent of motorists to buckle up. Buckling up costs you nothing, but the costs of NOT buckling up may be a ticket, or worse — your life. Treat this as a tough and potentially lifesaving reminder: Click It or Ticket!

Reference: buckleuptexas.com

Chief Barrera Says:

Thanks to all the police officers and public safety officers (PSO’s) who worked at the Downtown Campus during Fiesta. Your tireless efforts helped keep our faculty, staff, students and patrons safe during the 14 days of Fiesta. Thanks again for all your hard work!

Cpl. Elizabeth Carter Earns Crime Prevention Part 2 Training


Employee Kudos: David Diaz with Human Resources reported that he had to deal with an irate student employee. Mr. Diaz reported that Corporal Jim Price responded by ensuring that the situation did not escalate and the meeting between Diaz and the student employee was completed without incident. Mr. Diaz was very appreciative of Corporal Price’s assistance and his quick response. Way to go!

The Bottom Line by Chief Steve Barrera

In light of the recent terrorism event at the Boston Marathon, and other violent incidents around the country, we are reminding everyone to be vigilant and report any suspicious or unusual activity in and around campus. This also applies to your everyday life whether at home or at the local shopping mall. Most people know when something is unusual or out of place and their instincts tell them so. Please don’t hesitate to notify campus police if you believe something looks suspicious or out of place. We recently placed flyers on our public safety information boards around campus that include tips on how to spot suspicious behavior. Please review these and don’t hesitate to call the UTSA Police Department if you have any questions or need a copy of this information. Our goal is to always keep you and our campus safe so you can focus on your education and work. Thank you for your assistance and stay safe.