The Newsletter of “YOUR” UNLV Department of Police Services

The Police Blotter

Three Reasons Why You’ll Want to Read this Newsletter!!!

- You will learn about a critical change in the Emergency Notification System!
- You will have a last look at UNLV’s Assistant Chief Dustin Olson who has accepted the Chief of Police position at UC Santa Barbara!
- You will learn how you can be more involved in UNLV’s Department of Police Services!

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- UNLV’s police officers receive a month-long crash course in emergency preparedness
- Assistant Chief Dustin Olson is leaving the UNLV family
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Change of vendor for UNLV’s Emergency Notification System (E.N.S.)

Recently, UNLV changed its service provider for the newly implemented Emergency Notification System (E.N.S.). The new vendor for the system is “MIR3 Intelligent Notification”. Changing vendors for a major program like the emergency notification system is not something UNLV’s administration takes lightly, but in this case it was a decision that proved to be necessary. The single most significant reason for UNLV’s decision to switch to “MIR3” from its previous vendor was the fact that the previous vendor was not able to meet the university’s critical implementation deadline. UNLV needed to have the system fully tested, and if the project implementation date was not met prior to the initial opening of registration a major portion of the campus community would be unable to register during the opening phase of the project for any E.N.S. alerts. MIR3 implemented the E.N.S. system within this critical timeline.

Note: If you have not subscribed to UNLV’s E.N.S. you may do so at http://www.unlv.edu/mail/ens.html. If you’ve already registered you don’t need to do anything. Your information has been automatically transferred to the new system. Tests of the system will be ongoing.

Police Services’ recent UNLV tabletop exercise

On August 28th, 2009, after several months of planning UNLV conducted a tabletop exercise to test for emergency panic situations at the Student Wellness Recreation Center (SWRC). The goal of the exercise was to think beyond the Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.) mission. Efforts were made to evaluate the entire building’s response and communication capabilities in the event of a crisis, and by necessity involved other work areas and centers located throughout the SWRC facility.

The following criteria were used for selecting exercise participants:

- Participants needed to be facility stakeholders (preferably in facility management).
- Participants needed the authority to discuss their particular work area’s protocols, procedures.

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UNLV’s police officers receive a month-long crash course in emergency preparedness

UNLV Police Services has just completed its yearly P.O.S.T training requirement for 2009. This year’s training was a unique experience for both the department and staff due to the fact that it was completed within the space of a single month. Throughout July, each of UNLV’s police officers were scheduled for a week long training crash course in which the participants engaged in topics such as verbal judo, use of force, O.C. spray, defensive tactics, impact weapons, Tasers, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R.), automatic external defibrillators (A.E.D.) and first aid. Many of the skills taught this year helped strengthen Police Services’ emergency preparedness. This was particularly true with regards to A.E.D., C.P.R., first aid, and active shooter.

July was chosen for a multitude of reasons including, but not limited to, the fact that the number of UNLV staff, faculty, students and special events on campus are considerably lower during this time of the year. In addition, since the furloughs were implemented for all classified employees this past July, it proved to be more manageable and cost effective for the department to schedule officers and instructors during a single summer month than throughout the year as had previously been done. One final benefit of the new schedule as Chief Elique pointed out is that, “the department was able to give all of its officers a vital refresher regarding emergency preparedness prior to the beginning of the new

Assistant Chief Dustin Olson has left the UNLV family

It is with both pride and regret that the UNLV Department of Police Services and the E.O.C. have said goodbye to an integral part of the command staff. After ten years of dedicated service, Assistant Police Chief Dustin Olson has moved on to the next stage in his career. He has accepted the position of Chief of Police for the University of California, Santa Barbara Police Department. His appointment began in November and is the culmination of years of hard work. Assistant Chief Olson will certainly be a valuable asset to his new department.

Dustin began his career with the UNLV Department of Police Services in 1999 as a Police Officer, after 9½ years of service in the United States Marine Corps. He is a graduate of UNLV with a bachelor degree in criminal justice, as well as a master degree in the field of crisis management (ECEM). During his time at the Department of Police Services, he has made a lasting impact. He has helped better prepare the department for many of the emergencies it could potentially face in an university environment. In addition, Assistant Chief Olson played a critical role in the establishment of UNLV’s new emergency notification system (E.N.S.), which allows all students and staff to be notified of any emergency through text messages.

Along with his regular departmental duties, Dustin served as the Emergency Management Officer for the E.O.C. His unique experience in the field of crisis management has been a valuable asset in training members of the E.O.C. on how to prepare for active shooter scenarios and other disasters. Assistant Chief Olson has also given numerous presentations to the university community about what to do in the event of an active shooter situation on campus. The loss of Assistant Chief Olson and his expertise will be felt by the department and the E.O.C. in the months to come.

The Department of Police Services is currently engaged in a national search to fill the position of Assistant Chief.
ECEM students and Police Services team up for a revision to UNLV’s disaster plan

For several years the UNLV Department of Public Administration has been running an academic program for students interested in the field of emergency preparedness. The Executive Masters in Crisis & Emergency Management Program or ECEM is specifically designed to provide students with the real life experience and academic credentials needed to help keep our communities safe in the event of a disaster. Therefore, it shouldn’t come as a surprise to anyone that UNLV academics and university police saw an excellent opportunity to do what they do best . . . teach.

Prior to his departure, Assistant Chief Dustin Olson was asked to help the currently enrolled ECEM students in providing real-life practice scenarios for their emergency management assignments, so in conjunction with Jeff Wells, Director of the Student Wellness Recreation Center, the students are developing a proposed emergency plan. In the unlikely event UNLV experiences an emergency the students’ plan will be implemented to address the developing crisis. At the conclusion of their project the students will be required to present their findings to the campus community for approval and feedback.

Another aspect of the students’ assignments is that they are going to review UNLV’s current operational plan and perform a gap analysis against the new federal plan developed by the Department of Homeland Security. Through this analysis they should be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of UNLV’s current plan and make recommendations to the academic faculty on how to improve upon it.

Rebel Roundtable Continues To “Round Up” University Community

On the first Wednesday of every month during the fall and spring semesters Officer Laura Tramposch of the UNLV Department of Police Services coordinates UNLV’s “Rebel Roundtable” events at the Student Union. The event is inspired by a similar series of presentations called “First Tuesday” that are held every month by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

What are the Rebel Roundtables? They are an open forum to discuss the issues that matter to UNLV’s students, staff and faculty coupled with an informative presentation from the officers of the Department of Police Services. The event gives participants an opportunity to learn about crimes (and prevention) on and around campus and gives them a chance to air their concerns about safety and security. Every month a different topic relating to situations students and faculty are likely to encounter is addressed and it is Police Services’ goal for the program to provide vital information to participants that may be needed if they should have to respond to potentially dangerous situations.

The Rebel Roundtable is in its third year of operation, and it is still going strong. Announcements for upcoming forums are sent to the UNLV community through a variety of means. If you are interested in learning more, be on the look-out for these announcements in the following outlets:

- UNLV students can receive notifications via e-mail at “Rebel Mail”.
- Faculty and staff can receive notifications via e-mail at “UNLV Today”.
- Announcements are posted from time-to-time in the “Rebel Yell”.

If you are interested in receiving a special invitation

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“reminder” when these events draw near you can make your request by contacting Hobreigh Fischer via e-mail at hobreigh.fischer@unlv.edu.

This last fall, topics covered by our presenters included: lessons learned from Virginia Tech, sexual violence, online safety, and robbery & property crimes. Every presentation includes complimentary Jimmy John’s sandwiches and coffee provided by the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. Raffle prizes are also given to several lucky Rebel Roundtable participants including gift certificates and UNLV gear. The Rebel Roundtable events will continue in spring 2010 with the following topics already scheduled:

- February 3rd Domestic Crimes and Stalking.
- March 3rd Safety Tips for Spring Break.
- April 7th Identity Theft.

UNLV Students To Name The New Police Horse

The UNLV Department of Police Services is calling for the assistance of UNLV’s students! Police Services is holding a “Name the Horse Contest” and wants to involve the university population in naming the newest member of Police Services’ Mounted Unit. Our new horse is a seven year old male from Arizona and previously worked for an Arizona law enforcement agency.

UNLV started its mounted unit in 1995. The UNLV mounted unit shares the equestrian facility of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Mounted Unit located on East Flamingo Road. Presently, Sergeant William Newman oversees the unit, and Officer Preston is the senior mounted officer with ten years experience as a mounted deputy from Ohio. Officer Preston has 30 years of equestrian experience including professional training with the Toronto and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agencies. The newest member of the mounted unit is Officer William Sigarroa who comes from the Merced California Police Department with no previous horse riding experience. He has completed his training and has proven to be a natural horseman. Officer Sigarroa is partnered with four year veteran horse Rebel, who was also named by UNLV’s students.

What are the contest rules?

- The name must not include any fowl or vulgar words.
- The name must not exceed two words and cannot be difficult to read or pronounce.
- Students entering the contest must be in good standing status.
- Only one name per entry. Students may enter more than one name on separate entry forms.

There are several ways to submit your entry for consideration:

- The first way is by submitting the name to the mounted officers themselves. Anytime you see a mounted officer walking around campus, feel free give them your ideas.
- You can also submit your idea by filling out a form and submitting it to the Department of Police Services Headquarters located at 1325 East Harmon Avenue next to the Carl’s Jr.
- Forms can be given to our dispatch center located in the Claude I. Howard Building.
- The final way to submit your entry is through e-mail. Forward your name, contact phone number, student ID number, and name for the horse to Officer Stephani Preston of the mounted unit stephani.preston@unlv.edu.

Still have questions? Contact Officer Stephani Preston at (702) 895-3668 for more information about the contest, or to obtain an entry form. Get involved in your community by helping UNLV Police Services name our new horse!
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and policies in the event of an emergency.

• Finally, participants needed to be individuals who would have a specific role to perform in the event of an emergency.

Former Assistant Police Chief Dustin Olson scheduled an outside exercise evaluator, Emergency Manager Kim Ferguson, of NV Energy, to observe the exercise. The evaluator made notes of the group’s efforts during the exercise and is expected to provide Police Services with her feedback & recommendations in an after-action report. Police Services’ Police Dispatch Manager, Sandra Barfield, and Police Lieutenant Richard Dohme also participated in the exercise. They made themselves available during the exercise to respond to any and all questions or issues that involved alarm protocol and police & dispatch responsibilities during an emergency at the SWRC.

From all of us to you…
Your Friends at the UNLV
Department of Police Services!

A snowy Christmas, Almost!