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 first look at UNLV’s new Assistant Chief Sandy Seda.
- You will learn about pedestrian safety tips and upcoming crime prevention forums and how to schedule one for your group.

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Obama visit brings UNLV security to national importance

If you listened closely on July 9th, you may have heard “Hail to the Chief” across UNLV’s main campus. It was President Obama making his first visit to UNLV since taking office. The President was in town for a presidential speech and campaign rally for Democratic Senate Candidate and sitting Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

At UNLV, the President gave an internationally televised speech promoting Senator Reid and a variety of national economic initiatives. One of the topics covered was the expansion of solar energy research in Nevada. The Department of Police Services played a vital role in the security for both the UNLV event and Senator Reid’s rally on July 8th.

You may be asking yourself “What goes into securing such an enormous event?” Here are just a few of the tasks accomplished by the UNLV police during the President’s visit….

- UNLV’s own K-9 unit conducted sweeps for explosives at McCarran International Airport, City Center and the UNLV Student Union before the President’s arrival at each location.
- UNLV provided a significant portion of the security for the event that occurred on campus with about thirty of UNLV’s police officers and dispatchers assigned to secure the event.
- Plain-clothes officers were assigned to assist the U.S. Secret Service with access control for the event.
- UNLV’s dispatchers worked with the Secret Service and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to maintain critical lines of communication between all parties during the event.
- Finally, UNLV officers secured the entryways to the Student Union to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering the building.

As is usual with any high profile dignitary, plenty of demonstrators were also on hand at the event. These individuals were assigned an area outside the venue to peacefully protest, and department personnel were provided to monitor the demonstration area to ensure the safety of both the protesters and the event attendees.

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The UNLV Department of Police Services is in the process of implementing an “opt out” option for the Emergency Notification System (E.N.S.) With the opt out system, members of the UNLV community will be automatically registered for the E.N.S. through their university e-mail address. Members of the UNLV community will receive an e-mail after being entered into the system informing them that they have been registered for the E.N.S. system. The e-mail will then explain what the system is and give instructions describing how the recipient can go about removing themselves from the system if they so desire. For those individuals interested in remaining registered in the system the e-mail will ask for a phone number from the recipient, so the individual can also be added to the text message alert system. Text messaging has been proven to be the most effective methodology employed by E.N.S. systems.

UNLV’s Department of Police Services has decided to switch to this option in the hopes of increasing enrollment in the E.N.S.

UNLV’s new Assistant Chief, Sandy Seda at his previous

UNLV Police Department has selected its new assistant chief!

The Department of Police Services is proud to announce that Sandy Seda has been appointed as the new Assistant Chief of Police. Assistant Chief Seda is replacing Dustin Olson, the department’s former Assistant Chief, who was recently appointed as the Chief of Police for the University of California, Santa Barbara. Seda is responsible for emergency notification & operations, police administration, police dispatch, training, special events, police records & evidence and technology. Seda’s first official day of duty was February 8th 2010.

Prior to his appointment at UNLV, Assistant Chief Seda served as Chief of Police for the College of Southern Nevada Police Department. In his previous assignment, Assistant Chief Seda was responsible for providing law enforcement and public safety services to over 42,000 CSN students on three campuses (West Charleston, Cheyenne and Henderson), as well as eight smaller school facilities and tech centers located throughout Southern Nevada. His duties included providing leadership to all first responders, including 11 police officers and 58 security officers. He also developed college emergency response plans, promoted community-policing initiatives and served as the liaison to other Southern Nevada agencies.

In addition to his duties as Chief of Police, he also served as the Executive Director of the Southern Desert Regional Police Academy from 2006 to 2009. The academy serves as the police training facility for CSN Police, UNLV Police, and Henderson Police.

Assistant Chief Seda has a master’s degree in public administration from UNLV, a graduate certificate in public management from UNLV and a bachelor’s degree in public administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is a graduate of the 198th session of the FBI National Academy Program in Quantico, Virginia, which is internationally known as the premiere training program for law enforcement executives in the United States. The ten-week

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Pedestrian Safety on Campus

In 2008 alone, 4,378 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes in the United States. On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 120 minutes and injured in a traffic crash every 8 minutes. UNLV is not immune to this problem, which is a particular challenge along the Maryland Parkway border of the campus. So what can you do to avoid becoming a statistic?

Tips for Pedestrians

- Always cross at marked crosswalks — you forfeit your pedestrian rights elsewhere.
- Do not cross in the middle of the street or between parked cars.
- Obey any pedestrian signals and look both ways. Never run or dash into the street.
- Look before walking past stopped vehicles. Do not cross just because a driver waves you on.
- Make eye contact with drivers and watch out for traffic as you cross.
- Use sidewalks where provided. Where no sidewalks are provided, it is usually safer to walk facing road traffic.

Tips for Bicyclists

- Yield to pedestrians.
- Remember, bicyclists are not considered pedestrians, unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles and forfeit their rights as pedestrians in the case of an accident or citation.
- Use marked bike paths or multi-use paths when available.
- Use extra caution as you transition between bike paths, roads and sidewalks. Be aware that your actions are unpredictable to drivers and pedestrians.

Tips for Drivers

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections.
- Be alert for bicyclists and skateboarders: they approach faster than pedestrians.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.
- When you stop for a pedestrian, stop well back so that other drivers can also stop in time.
- Stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk when the pedestrian is crossing on your half of the road.

Alcohol and drugs can impair an individual's ability to walk safely, just like they do a person's ability to drive. In fact, alcohol involvement by either the driver or the pedestrian was reported in 49 percent of all pedestrian fatalities, and contrary to popular belief pedestrians were more likely to be drunk than were the drivers. Of the pedestrians involved, 35 percent had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes, only 14 percent had a BAC of .08 or higher, (less than one-half the rate for the pedestrians).

Know the Signs

- If the intersection has a pedestrian signal, press the button and wait for the signal's "WALK" indicator.
- A flashing "DON'T WALK" signal means you should not start crossing the roadway. Any pedestrian who has partially completed their crossing should finish crossing or proceed to a safety island.
- A steadily illuminated "DON'T WALK" indicator means it is not safe to enter the roadway.
- Obey any and all pedestrian signals & always cross at marked crosswalks whenever possible.

Never assume motorists can see you, and always wear bright, reflective clothing at night.
Police Services is in the final stages of installing motion detection software

The Department of Police Services is in the final stages of installing motion detection software for the University’s surveillance camera system. The software is produced by Cernium Corporation, a company that specializes in advanced surveillance systems. The software identifies suspicious activity and alerts the operator, allowing the department’s staff to record the suspicious activity. The operator can then view the recording of the activity to determine if further action needs to be taken. UNLV has been able to acquire this technology due to a $20,000 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security and the Nevada Department of Homeland Security.

Of course, the obvious question to many is why Police Services needs computer-assisted surveillance, and the answer is simple... Staffing. Like most police departments, UNLV’s Police Services has a limited amount of personnel that are available to monitor surveillance systems. UNLV currently has 195 overt surveillance cameras on its main campus alone, and it is impossible for any reasonable number of staff members to monitor each camera consistently with 100% accuracy. The addition of the motion detector software will increase the accuracy and effectiveness of the department’s dispatchers and allow for a more proactive approach to law enforcement. Currently, the bulk of the footage from UNLV’s surveillance system is used after a crime is reported. Members of the Department of Police Services review the footage of the area at the time at which the crime allegedly occurred in an attempt to find evidence. The addition of Cernium’s motion detector software will alert staff in “real time” allowing a greater level of response and enforcement capability as the crime is in progress.

“Obama visit to UNLV” continued from page 1

President Obama’s visit was all the more challenging because it was the second high profile event held on UNLV’s campus in as many days. On the previous day, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid had given a speech about green energy initiatives alongside Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. The timing and high profiles of both these events tested Police Services dignitary protection capabilities, and clearly demonstrated the department was up to the task.

Just another day on the job.... “Bea” and Officer William Burkett inspect Air Force One.
UNLV Police Services holds joint exercise with Clark County Fire Department

UNLV’s Department of Police Services participated in a disaster drill with the Clark County Fire Department and UNLV’s Environmental Management & Lab Safety Office on July 29th, 2010. The drill was designed to measure the preparedness of all the agencies involved in the event of an active shooter situation on UNLV’s main campus, and unlike previous exercises, used actors in highly realistic role playing scenarios. The drill was staged in the Science and Engineering Building during normal business hours.

During the exercise, officers from UNLV’s Department of Police Services entered the building and neutralized an actor portraying an active shooter, while members of the Clark County Fire Department attended to other actors portraying various injuries. At the same time, UNLV’s Environmental Management & Lab Safety Office responded to a simulated chemical spill triggered during the exercise.

The exercise was beneficial in many ways for UNLV’s Police Services Department, and one of the greatest benefits provided to our officers was the opportunity it gave them to work alongside the emergency personnel they would work with in an actual campus emergency. This will enhance the response capability of UNLV Police Services and the Clark County Fire Department in the future, since these departments do not have as many daily interactions with one another as with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. UNLV Police Services also benefitted by staging a far more realistic exercise than has been done in the past. This will provide UNLV’s officers with clearer incite into the “real life” stresses faced by first responders during these emergency responses.

UNLV’s Science and Engineering Building was the site of July’s “active shooter” exercise.

Meet UNLV’s Special Events Unit...

Like all large urban universities, UNLV has large venues that are often the staging area for major sports and entertainment events. Providing for the safety of students, patrons, athletes and entertainers is the primary concern of UNLV Police Services, and that is the reason why the department maintains a special events unit.

The UNLV special event unit is composed of a commanding lieutenant (Lt. Richard Dohme), a bomb detection K-9, all full time UNLV police officers, and all reserve part-time police officers employed by the department.

This unit is present at every major special event on UNLV’s campus. Events in the past have included everything from Rebel basketball games and Motocross to the NBA All Star game and presidential visits. Additionally, UNLV’s special events unit is occasionally used at university sponsored events that are not on UNLV properties.

The holiday season is a particularly busy time of the year for the unit at UNLV because of all the major sporting and holiday entertainment events that go on, and none of these are bigger than the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) and National Finals Rodeo (NFR) events held in November and December respectively.

The Special Events Unit is responsible for

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Regional interoperability communications exercise

UNLV’s Department of Police Services participated in a communications interoperability “rodeo” exercise recently that was designed to test and evaluate radio communications effectiveness among emergency response agencies in the region of Southern Nevada. The exercise took place on July 14th, 2010 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway with the following agencies participating:

- Boulder City Police Dispatch,
- Clark County Fire & Rescue,
- Las Vegas Fire & Rescue,
- Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department,
- Medic West (paramedics),
- Mesquite Fire Department,
- Nevada Highway Patrol,
- Nevada Department of Emergency Management,
- North Las Vegas Police Department,
- UNLV Department of Police Services, and
- The Volunteer Homeland Security Reserve Unit

The exercise is an annual event which helps increase the efficiency of our interdepartmental operations and ensures that any needed communication between departments valley-wide can occur without fail during an emergency. In addition, every department brings their mobile command center to the event for testing, which has the added benefit of introducing the other participants to the capabilities of each mobile command center. Police Services previous participation in the event has provided many enhancements to UNLV’s emergency preparedness, including the integration of a link between UNLV’s Dispatch Center and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department’s aerial helicopter cameras.

In the past this event has been held at UNLV’s Thomas & Mack Center, but due to scheduling conflicts it was conducted at a different location this year. In the future, UNLV will be open to hosting the event again upon request.
“Name the Horse” Contest results

The UNLV Department of Police Services is proud to announce the results of our second “Name the Horse” competition! The newest member of the Department of Police Services is named “Pride”! Several names were selected by Police Services’ Mounted Unit. CSUN was given the privilege of selecting the name of the department’s newest horse. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Ashley Elrod, who was taken on a tour of UNLV Police Services’ horse stable. The Department of Police Services would like to thank everyone who participated in the contest.

Police Services’ Upcoming Community Outreach Events

Police Services’ Annual “Police Awareness Day” Event – Every year in late September or early October the Department of Police Services stages this annual event on UNLV’s Maryland Parkway Campus. The event provides a unique opportunity for members of the campus community to meet directly with police department staff in a friendly and open atmosphere. During the event the department’s horses, K-9, vehicles, motorcycles and equipment are put on display. Police officers make themselves available to answer any questions regarding crime prevention and personal safety. In addition, police officers and support personnel provide the campus community with an opportunity to register their bicycles & laptops and receive assistance with recovering lost & found items. This year’s event will be held on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2010 in Valerie Pida Plaza outside the Student Union.

Police Services’ “Rebel Roundtable” – The Rebel Roundtables are an OPEN FORUM to discuss the issues that matter to YOU (our students, staff and faculty) coupled with an informative presentation from the UNLV Police Department’s officers. At these events you will learn about crimes (and prevention) on and around campus and get a chance to air your concerns about safety and security. The Rebel Roundtables are typically scheduled to take place once a month during the Fall and Spring academic semesters with a different topic of discussion during each session.

- Topic: Stalking & Restraining orders, September 1st, 2010 (11:15 a.m. in the UNLV Student Union)
- Topic: Sexual Assault, October 6th, 2010 (11:15 a.m. in the UNLV Student Union)
- Topic: Active Shooter, November 3rd, 2010 (11:15 a.m. in the UNLV Student Union)
- Topic: To Be Determined, February 2nd, 2011 (11:15 a.m. in the UNLV Student Union)
- Topic: To Be Determined, March 6th, 2011 (11:15 a.m. in the UNLV Student Union)
- Topic: To Be Determined, April 6th, 2011 (11:15 a.m. in the UNLV Student Union)
Mailing Address for the Department of Police Services
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Department of Police Services
4505 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV  89154-2007

- Non-Emergency Contact Telephone Numbers for Police & Parking Services
- Police (Non-Emergency calls): 702-895-3668
- Parking Enforcement: 702-895-1300
- Police Fax Line (Campus Police & Parking Enforcement): 702-895-3600
- Police Fax Line (Office of the Chief, Police Records & Police Administration): 702-895-2685

Police Services Mission Statement

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Police Services is dedicated to providing excellence in protection and service to the University community. As law enforcement officers, we shall continuously endeavor to ensure a safe and secure environment conducive to a positive social and educational process.

We're on the Web!
http://police.unlv.edu

Police Services is available for campus crime prevention and safety presentations

The Office of the Chief is ready, willing and able to give group presentations on any topics involving personal safety, campus policing, crime prevention and emergency preparedness. We currently give presentations to the campus community on the following topics:

1.) Crime Prevention – Auto Theft, Burglary, Robbery, Nighttime Safety, Sexual Assault, Cyberstalking, Identity Theft, Hate Crimes & Pedestrian Safety

2.) Active shooter situations & personal safety on campus

3.) Police services provided to the campus community

4) Orientation presentations for new students & their parents, faculty and staff

5.) Campus Emergency Preparedness

6.) Job recruitment for the UNLV Department of Police Services

*Please Note: We can create a custom presentation to suit your group’s needs. To arrange a presentation please call Hobreigh Fischer at (702) 895-1302 or email at hobreigh.fischer@unlv.edu.

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program is accredited by the University of Virginia and offers advanced legal, investigative, management and fitness training for selected officers who have proven records as professionals in their respective law enforcement agencies. Assistant Chief Seda is fluent in Spanish, and he is also a combat Marine veteran who served a tour of duty in the Iraq war.