Police Services’ Civilians Compete in Physical Agility Test

Legs trembling, arms bereft of strength, I had flashbacks to every delicious, greasy bacon double cheeseburger I had ever eaten. With respected test administrator Sergeant Stan Berry and the staff of physically fit officers encouraging recruits to keep moving, I realized during the UNLV Police Services physical agility test that the courage exhibited by those who are sworn to protect can help a person transcend preconceived physical limits and accomplish extraordinary feats.

Learn more about the tough-as-nails physical agility test — and if our two civilian competitors passed — by turning to pages 4-5.
A new 10,000 square foot Police Headquarters is expected to break ground by 2016 and be completed by May 31, 2017. The new facility is poised to become the first building in Police Services’ 43-year history designed to department standards and specifications. Among the slew of upgraded features that has the Department of Police Services excited is the addition of a modernized EOC. With the talented K-9 Unit officers and their explosives detection dogs already in place, and a dedicated special events lieutenant who earned a Valorous Unit Citation for his work in emergency operations, the new EOC will fortify an already-stellar aspect of the department.

The greatest benefit is improved emergency preparedness. With a department that embraces and utilizes a technologically-innovative EOC, the product is enhanced disaster management abilities and a police force that is even better equipped to handle potential emergencies. Potential threats are mitigated and improved intra-department and campus-wide communication occurs as a result.

The new building, which is expected to be 2,500 square feet larger than the current one, is part of a 2.2 acre development located east of Maryland Parkway across the street from Greenspun Hall. The development includes a 610-space parking garage for UNLV students, faculty, and staff.

In December 2014, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that NSHE approved the $18 million project, which would be financed initially by project developer Frank Marretti. The university will repay Marretti $1.3 million annually over the course of 20 years. So far, Marretti received public commitments from Wells Fargo and Dunkin’ Donuts for inclusion in the development. The project’s estimated completion date coincides with the Maryland Parkway Public Art Urban Design Plan, which will provide artistic renovations for the surrounding area.
The UNLV Department of Police Services will soon launch a pilot program to monitor the effectiveness of body camera technology in improving officer-suspect interactions.

Despite NSHE’s exclusion from Assembly Bill 162, which proposed that portable event recording devices be mandatory for certain Nevada peace officers, UNLV Department of Police Services Chief of Police José Elique believes that adopting body camera technology will aid the department in providing the best possible service to the UNLV community. Undeterred by the department’s omission from the bill and strongly committed to keeping the campus community as safe as possible, Chief Elique plans to implement a pilot program in the near future. The initiative coincides with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police undergoing a study of 400 officers — 200 wearing a body camera and 200 without. Dr. Bill Sousa, the director of UNLV’s Center for Crime and Justice Policy and professor for UNLV’s Department of Criminal Justice, is seeking to study the effectiveness of the presence of the body cameras in limiting instances of misconduct by comparing the two groups of officers.

We expect that these cameras will become a great asset to community policing at UNLV. Dr. Sousa and his colleagues found that many people believe the implementation of body camera technology will provide transparency between community members and police departments. Also, many respondents to the department’s study believe the use of body cameras will allow for police officers to be protected from false allegations. This will aid efforts to build trust between officers and the community members they serve.

The body cameras may be worn on multiple locations on an officer’s uniform. Cameras can be mounted on an officer’s collar, through an optic in the officer’s glasses, on a helmet, or in a battery pack with a recording chip in the front pocket. Police Services will closely monitor the quality of the interactions between officer and suspect during its pilot study. The body cameras will be able to record both audio and video, and will utilize a rechargeable battery which can last the entirety of an officer’s shift.
After going through six different agility drills, each designed to test the strength of various parts of a prospective officer’s body — performed in the mid-August Las Vegas heat — a civilian like me really develops an appreciation for the physical fitness of UNLV’s finest.

Previous feats of athletic prowess, running milestones, and personal pushup records mean nothing when the clock is ticking and your hypothetical spot on a police force is poised to be taken by someone stronger, faster, and better-prepared. In this same vein, excuses mean nothing, especially when considering that an officer in pursuit of a suspect cannot simply give up because it’s too early or, even worse, it’s too hot out. “We’re gauging the physical and mental readiness of applicants wanting to join the police force,” Lieutenant Jeff Green told me before the test. “When I go out there, I’m expecting to see applicants give all that they have to complete this PT test in an acceptable manner.”

After arriving at the Myron Partridge Track Stadium for the physical agility test at 6:30 a.m., I noticed that the group of roughly 15 applicants were inward-focused and virtually silent. It wasn’t until the final event of the morning, a grueling 1.5-mile run, when the applicants became more vocally supportive of each other. Indeed, with our adrenaline rushing while demonstrating our athletic ability over a 3-hour period under the sweltering sun, our camaraderie was certainly what aided us to summon every ounce of energy left and cross the finish line.

In the first event of the day, I symbolically leapt past my nerves and registered a 20-inch vertical jump — half a foot higher than the required minimum. In the infamously-flusterling Illinois agility run, which requires dexterous footwork to maneuver in-between four cones twice and sprint back and forth twice, I registered a respectable time of 18.66 seconds, which is almost a full second better than the minimum requirement. In this drill, it’s not uncommon to see applicants disqualified due to improper adherence to the directions. I then managed 36 sit-ups in less than a minute and 23 push-ups with no time limit. Feeling powerful and agile, my confidence then began to wane as I realized what awaited us after the push-ups: my old nemesis, the 300-meter sprint.

In the months leading up to the agility test, I received advice from the department’s fittest and wisest: Lts. Green and Richard Dohme and Officers Sean Kim and Joe Alliyani. I trained every day to get my 300-meter sprint time below 60 seconds, despite the actual requirement of 68 seconds. Before the drill began, Officer Nelson Silva, a remarkably fit officer in his own right, offered me advice to ensure my success. When the drill started,
I kept pace with the four other applicants in the lanes next to me for the first 150 meters. As we approached the final 100 meters, I made my move and eventually overtook the applicant in front of me with 50 meters remaining, and I finished with a personal-best time of 58 seconds. Proud, gasping for air, and suddenly feeling the effects of my rigorous training over the past few months, I quickly became aware that my legs would betray my mental confidence in the 1.5-mile run.

Despite long distance running being my forte, and despite the encouraging cheers from our department’s officers and civilian staff working the event, I finished the run three minutes longer than the required time due to muscle cramping. Though I was disappointed, my time was acceptable for a Category II certification, as well as a passing time for the Category I applicant screening standard.

Vanja Josipovic, Student Worker

When Jamie first asked me to complete the physical agility exam I thought it was a great idea. When the testing day came, I no longer thought that. I thought it was going to be an easy physical exam. I have always been very active, and I was always involved in some form of sport or exercising. I expected to go out to the track and pass the test, just as though it was a regular workout, but it did not go that way.

I was disqualified halfway through the event, and I felt a sense of humility. The people who take these physical agility exams really have to be at a certain level of fitness for this occupation. I have a new level of respect for the officers that take the physical agility exam. Each individual portion of the exam isn’t terrible by itself; after a while, though, it starts to wear on your body. The 102-degree heat doesn’t help, either.

I would compete in another physical agility exam for the university police, but train more rigorously for it next time. I had an awesome experience on the track with the current officers, sergeants and other members of our staff along with meeting the potential future officers. I might have not passed, but it was a great experience to have.

Can YOU pass the test?

» 14” Vertical Jump
» Agility Run: 19.5 seconds
» 30 sit-ups in 1 minute or less
» 23 pushups (no time limit)
» 300-meter run in 68 seconds or less
» 1.5-mile run in 16:57 or less
Short of breath, legs involuntarily shaking from a day’s worth of spiked adrenaline, I was exhausted following the conclusion of a successful training scenario — the sixth of the day — during Police Services’ first week of active shooter drills. With white noise blaring around me, the smell of a day’s worth of gunpowder from handgun blanks, and indiscernible chatter over the mock-dispatch radio call, I was disoriented. “It’s different, staring down the barrel of a gun, isn’t it?” asked Sergeant Scott Taylor, who only moments before, intimidated me — the “bad guy”— into submission and dropping my gun. The same Sgt. Taylor who, earlier in the day, was joking around with me and putting me at-ease. Indeed, different doesn’t even begin to describe it.

Police Services’ finest underwent annual hostile intruder response training in the EPA Complex, utilizing deactivated guns, blanks, and me as the mock active shooter. After each scenario concluded, the teams of officers received immediate feedback from Sergeants William Queen and Javier Hernandez. Training scenarios involving the mock active shooter included: running throughout the building while firing shots at the responding officers; hiding in a dark room filled with office furniture and unloading a barrage of gunshots when found; taking a hostage and negotiating a deal; and begrudgingly dropping my gun to test the officers’ discretion with their guns.

The participants ranged from young, bright-eyed reserve officers and field training officers, to grizzled veterans who have gone through the training so many times that they anticipated my hiding spots before I could get settled. Officers went through several scenarios and were paired on different teams each time to keep them guessing and test
their ability to cooperate and communicate effectively. Sgt. Hernandez followed closely behind the team of officers in each scenario to provide both advice and a distracting presence as the officers moved about the building. By shouting distracting orders, Sgt. Hernandez aimed to test the officers’ ability to make rational decisions in a hectic environment.

“The biggest test of character is how you react when everything around you breaks down,” the supervisors explained to a group of 10 officers on the final day of training. Sgt. Queen devised scenarios at the end of each training session in which the officers were meant to be defeated, but would learn better communication and tactical skills in the process. Outnumbered and tricked, talented officers Nelson Silva and Ghessan Istefan were upset after their scenario ended prematurely. “This is unacceptable,” Silva passionately declared afterwards. “We can do better.” Silva, a former military man who proudly served his country before joining UNLV Police Services later in his career, embodied the tough-as-nails, enthusiastic attitude the supervisors were intent on molding.

The scariest part, for me, was the sober realization that active shooter situations are oftentimes over in a matter of minutes. Even in a building with many rooms, with the lights off and traps strategically set up, the scenarios concluded quickly. I anticipated engaging the officers in a chase around the building, covertly maneuvering around furniture in dark rooms to throw the officers off my trail. What actually happened, though, was the officers recognized common traps, intelligently navigated through the building and secured each room, then finished the mission by taking me out while protecting themselves and the innocent bystanders. The reality is that these scenarios do not always follow the same pattern, and although it’s cliché, UNLV’s officers are trained to expect the unexpected and plan for deception.

While darkness inherently incites fear—a complete absence of the sense we rely on so significantly to maintain our safety—the officers displayed no trepidation for the adverse conditions. The muffled communication between the responding officers and the dispatchers, as well as the collisions of the traps falling to the floor, added to the intimidating environment in which the officers had to navigate. “They are pumped up right now” said Lieutenant Richard Dohme following the conclusion of a team of three officers successfully avoiding my litany of blanks and putting me in handcuffs.

Ultimately, Lt. Dohme was proud of the effort put forth by the officers, and he is confident in their ability to protect the community, should the unfortunate circumstances occur. “We practice and train constantly for these kinds of situations so that we can handle them effectively, hoping that a real one will never actually happen here at UNLV,” he said. “From what I have seen here today during these scenarios, I feel reassured that if an incident like this occurs on campus, our UNLV Police Officers are capable of handling the incident in the best ways possible. That reassurance in my officers’ capabilities to protect the campus community lets me sleep better at night.”
This summer, the UNLV Department of Police Services debuted its own Facebook page to engage with the campus community in new ways. The page serves as a home to several important features, such as up-to-date police news and events, pictures and videos of the campus community, crime alerts, emergency announcements, crime prevention tips, and more. It is also a place for members of the community to interact with the department and each other, ask questions, and relay concerns regarding campus safety and crime prevention.

While the department’s Facebook page does serve many functions, please be aware that it is not a tip hotline. To report an emergency or crime in progress, please dial 9-1-1 from a campus landline or (702) 895-3669 from your cellphone immediately. If you wish to report a tip or recent crime, please call 3-1-1 from a campus landline or (702) 895-3668 from your cellphone.

Don’t forget to hit the “Like” button to follow along! You can visit the page at: [www.facebook.com/UNLVPoliceServices](http://www.facebook.com/UNLVPoliceServices)

### UNLV Police Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laptop Registration Event</td>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls on Guard Self-defense Classes</td>
<td>Location TBA</td>
<td>Time TBA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
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To view Police Services’ calendar of events, visit: [www.unlv.edu/police/events](http://www.unlv.edu/police/events)
Hiring of Officer Joseph “Joe” Bavuso

The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce the hiring of Officer Joseph “Joe” Bavuso.

He received his law enforcement training from the New York Police Department. Prior to his appointment with Police Services he served as a security officer for BCB Bank following his retirement from the NYPD after more than 20 years of service. Through the NYPD, Bavuso has received advanced firearms training, disorder control training, trademark counterfeiting training, counterterrorism training, and Chemical Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Awareness (COBRA) training. He lives in Las Vegas.

His appointment became effective November 16th.

Hiring of Officer Crysta Breanne Dietle

The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce the hiring of Officer Crysta “Bree” Dietle.

She received her law enforcement training from New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council. Prior to her appointment with Police Services she served as a police officer for three years at the Manchester New Hampshire Police Department. Dietle has earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from New England College.

Dietle has received active shooter training, crime scene investigation training, and practices kickboxing and jiu-jitsu in her spare time. She lives in North Las Vegas with her boyfriend and daughter.

Her appointment became effective November 16th.

Hiring of Officer Troy C. Frost

The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce the hiring of Officer Troy C. Frost.

He received his law enforcement training from the state of Connecticut Police Academy. A former All-American in Track & Field, Frost spent over four years serving as a submariner in the Navy’s Nuclear Submarine Force (Silent Service). Frost earned commendations as a Yale University police officer for 2.5 years, and he earned his associate degree in General Studies from Gateway Community College in Connecticut. He lives in Las Vegas with his wife and two children.

His appointment became effective November 16th.
The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce the hiring of dispatcher Kendra Fuentes.

Kendra was born in Sparks, Nevada and earned her bachelor’s degree from UNLV in Criminal Justice in May 2013. She is currently working on earning her Master of Science degree in Cybersecurity and Intelligence from Utica College in New York. Prior to her appointment with Police Services, she interned for a year with the FBI, where she worked with agents on federal cases. She also worked in the Records Bureau for the Henderson Police Department for two years. Kendra is an avid devotee of personal fitness and her future goal is to be a federal agent. She currently resides in Henderson.

Her appointment became effective October 5th.

Hiring of Officer Willie “James” Singletary

The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce the hiring of Officer Willie “James” Singletary.

He received his law enforcement training from the Southeastern Public Safety Institute in Florida. Prior to his appointment with Police Services he worked for the Clark County Public Defender’s Office as an investigator. Singletary earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and, as a Vice and Narcotics detective, has the distinguished honor of being the only two-time winner of the prestigious Herbert R. Sullivan Award for Vice Detective of the Year at the St. Petersburg, Fla. Police Department in 2012 and 2013. He lives in Las Vegas with his spouse and two kids.

His appointment became effective November 16th.
Promotion of Officer Javier Hernandez

The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce the promotion of Police Officer Javier Hernandez to the rank of sergeant. In his new role he will assume command over one of the department’s patrol units and assist with operational and administrative duties.

Prior to his appointment to Police Services, Hernandez worked as a part-time officer with the Mesquite Police Department and as a reserve officer at UNLV. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps for almost five years prior to working as a police officer. Hernandez received his police academy training from the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy in 2002. He currently resides in Las Vegas.

His appointment became effective August 26th.

Departure of Officer Daniel Malloy

The UNLV Department of Police Services bid farewell to Officer Daniel Malloy. Officer Malloy was with UNLV Police for one year before joining the King County Sheriff’s Office in Seattle, Washington. Prior to joining UNLV Police, he spent seven years as deputy sheriff of Lincoln County and six years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in public administration from UNLV in 2010.

Departure of Budget Manager Doris Berry

The UNLV Department of Police Services bid farewell to Accounting and Budget Manager Doris Berry. Mrs. Berry was with UNLV Police for more than 15 years before transferring to the UNLV Harrah College of Hotel Administration, where she serves as the Director of Administration and Budget. She managed Police Services’ budget as well as supervised the unit’s personnel and financial operations, which included payroll, travel, leave keeping, accounts payable, and accounts receivable.

She was hired in 1999 after having worked as a financial fiscal analyst supervisor for the city of Highland Park in Michigan. She earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Detroit Mercy in Michigan and she earned a Master of Science degree in taxation from Walsh College of Accountancy & Business Administration in Michigan.

Retirement of Sergeant Scott Lewandowski

The UNLV Department of Police Services bid farewell to Sgt. Scott Lewandowski, who retired in August after 21 outstanding years dutifully serving our community.

Before joining the department, he graduated UNLV with a Bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies. He earned a Letter of Commendation in 2000, a Meritorious Unit Citation in 2004, and an Exceptional Service Citation in 2007. He has served as a patrolman, patrol sergeant, and administrative sergeant, and he even served as an acting lieutenant for a period of time. He is also a graduate of Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command.

Police Services wishes him a wonderful retirement.

Departure of Officer Daniel Malloy

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Still Want to Learn More?

Just take a look at some of the people talking about UNLV’s finest in the media!

Life on A Damp Campus: Controlling Alcohol in UNLV’s Dorms
by Wesley Knight

Studio G October 16th newscast: UNLV Police Girls on Guard Class
by Studio G staff
http://livestream.com/accounts/4237095/events/4386726/videos/1026079905

KLAS report: UNLV campus police react to Oregon college shooting
by Patranya Bhoolsuwan

Studio G September 29th newscast: UNLV Police Awareness Day
by Studio G staff
http://studiog.unlv.tv/2015/09/sep-29-2015/

The Police Blotter
December 2015 • Volume XI, Issue III

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.

The Police Blotter is a biannual newsletter published by the UNLV Department of Police Services’ Office of the Chief in order to assist the department in achieving this mission.

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Police Records & Administration:
702-895-2685

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