

# Tampa International Airport Department of Public Safety and Security

2015

Annual Report





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# Message from the Chief

It is my distinct pleasure to present the 2015 Annual Report for your review. The pages that follow are highlights of the accomplishments of the men and women who deliver excellent service as Public Safety and Security Professionals at the Tampa International Airport. I am very proud and privileged to lead this team.

In 2015 the initial phases of the Authority's Master Plan implementation began in earnest. The planning, designs, selection of contractors and new concessions were completed and the ground breaking ceremony signaled the start. No more talking; now the ground actually began to turn. Construction equipment and crews began their work around the clock. The Airport soon became a landscape filled with the booms and towers of construction cranes. The progress of the construction adjusted the landscape of the roadway, drives and building as we move forward to make the necessary changes called for in the Master Plan.

The Public Safety and Security Department was presented with unique opportunities to perform as part of the Authority Team. Corporal Jason Thomas and Traffic Manager Robert Rinehart lead the way as they represented the department in pre-construction meetings then developed our operational plans. In most cases they then lead our efforts in the field. The balance is to help others to complete a construction project and at the same time keep the Airport business operational.

The members of the department responded well to our changing environment and our Executive Staff and Authority Board gave us the tools and technology we needed to get the job done. Most notable was the funding for a new 700 megahertz radio system. The construction and testing of the new system continued throughout the year. In December, the work was done and we began to roll out the new system in the early part of 2016.

The pages that follow are filled with the job accomplishments of the department staff. What you will also see are incidents where the character of the members of the department went above and beyond to help others or just show that they care.

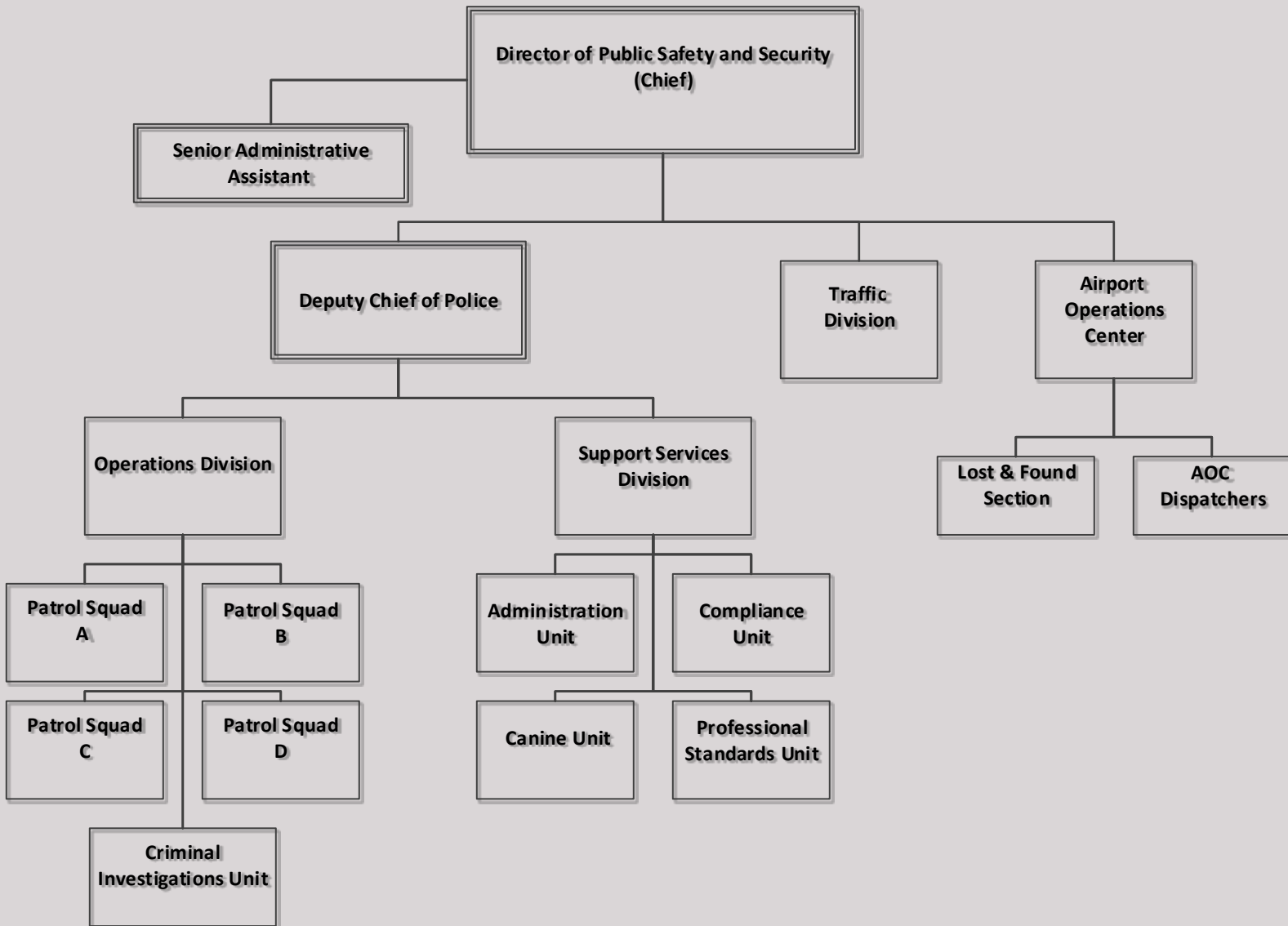
2015 is in the books and the successes and lessons learned have prepared us for the opportunities to excel in 2016. We are excited to do our part to help the Authority Team move Tampa forward.

Sincerely

Chief Paul F Sireci  
Director of Public Safety and Security



# Department Organization



## New Deputy Chief

The department welcomed Ralph Anthony to its team in November 2015. Ralph joins us from the Naples, Florida Police Department.



## TIAPD Awarded Fourth Accreditation

This year, the department was awarded their fourth straight accreditation award from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. CALEA is a national accreditation agency which inspects law enforcement agencies and audits documentation and operations to ensure compliance with 480 standards. Pictured below (L-R) is CALEA Executive Director Craig Hartley, Department Accreditation Manager Aimee Pidgeon, Director of Public Safety and Security Paul Sireci and CALEA Chairperson Richard Myers. The Department received an Advanced Accreditation Award, which is awarded to agencies who had no discrepancies.



## Special Olympics and United Way Fundraisers

Every year in April, the department participates in two fundraising events. The Law Enforcement Torch Run and this year's Plane Pull benefited the Special Olympics and the 5K Runway Fun Run benefits the United Way. Thousands of dollars are raised in these events!



## A Christmas for Summer



The Police Department was informed about a young family who had been stranded at the airport for three days and were in need of assistance. Corporal Jason Thomas, and Officers Jimmie Bizzle and DJ Colestock met with Sharodd and Cornesha Stubbs and their beautiful 3 year old daughter Summer and determined that they were trying to move back to Illinois but did not have the money. After consulting with Southwest Airlines it was determined that the whole family could fly to Chicago for \$327. In an extremely short amount of time, many members of the Public Safety and Security Department stepped up to the plate and were able to raise the funds needed to get the family back to Chicago.

# In The Community



The Department participates in local events throughout the community. Here are some of the events attended during 2015.

- Planes, Trains and Automobiles
- Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Preventing Crime in the Black Community
- Great American Clean Up



- 5K Fun Run benefiting United Way
- Memorial Police Bike Unity Tour
- Special Olympics Plane Pull
- Great American Teach In (14 Schools)
- Night Out Against Crime
- Veterans Day Parade

- Gasparilla Children's Parade
- Day of Inspiration Retreat for Foster Teens
- DogFest Walk n' Roll at USF
- Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
- MADD Vigil



# Operations Division

The Operations Division is commanded by Captain Ted Pawloski and includes four law enforcement patrol squads and the Criminal Investigations Unit.

This division is responsible for the day to day calls for service. Officers are staffed throughout the Tampa International Airport at each Airside, as well as the Main Terminal. Units also provide patrol in police vehicles around the perimeter of the AOA. Some additional assignments include: security for sports teams, celebrities, special transports and dignitaries, special events and international flights. This division plays an instrumental role during high profile events throughout the Tampa Bay Area.

## Mitigation of Insider Threat (MIT)

In April of 2015, the Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) established a Mitigation of Insider Threat plan (MIT).

In his role as the lead Homeland Security Detective, Matt Ewing has been Federally-Deputized as a Taskforce Officer (TFO) with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). Detective Ewing is responsible for the coordination of activities and investigations of individuals and criminal organizations, to include terrorism, who use international travel to perpetrate crimes.

MIT is a proactive initiative intended to combat and defeat possible attempts of subverting security procedures by employees. TIAPD collaborates with TSA weekly to conduct daily inspections of individuals, vehicles and their accessible property before entering sterile areas.



TIAPD Patrol and K9 officers work in conjunction on a daily basis to conduct inspections of vehicles, cargo, bags, personnel and verify SIDA credentials. This 24/7 plan reduces potential vulnerabilities for an individual with an airport issued or approved access identification badge to introduce weapons or explosives into TPA or onto an aircraft.

During 2015, 286 cases, to include large baggage theft and vehicle theft cases, were worked. Detective Ewing identified and apprehended a suspect which led to the closure of 6 baggage theft cases and the recovery of over 20 stolen bags from TIA. The defendant was charged with 6 counts of grand theft property.

Over the course of a month and several latent investigations, CIU detectives recovered \$6,603.99 in stolen property. In one narcotics case, \$740.00 was seized and \$5,000 was forfeited by the defendant in exchange for his impounded vehicle. In another warrant case, \$50,000.00 was seized.

## Criminal Investigations Activity (2015)

Cases Assigned	287
Cases Closed/Cleared	113
Clearance Rate	39 %
Recovered Property	\$37,074
Seizures	\$173,582
Auto Theft Recoveries	92
Evidence Cases Received	232
Evidence Cases Purged	549



## Traffic Mitigation



### Safe Travel Operation Statistics from March 30- December 31, 2015:

Hours of Activity	3381
Verbal Warnings	1678
Traffic Citations	206
Parking Tickets	6
Arrests	56
Traffic Crashes	16

### Staff Gathered to Remember Those Lost in the 9/11 Terror Attacks

### Safe Travel Enforcement Initiative

The Tampa International Airport Police Department initiated a proactive program called Safe Travel Starts on the Ground. Patrols are dedicated to a parkway for up to 12 hours. The speed of the Parkway has been reduced to 25 MPH during the construction phases and the officers have been able to observe vehicles exceeding the speed limit and take enforcement actions. The officers have conducted traffic stops on violators and given out information pamphlets along with warnings, citations and have made arrests on unlicensed drivers. The department's priority is traffic enforcement for traffic accident mitigation.



A moment of silence was observed at TIA for those who lost their lives in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Members of the Tampa Airport Police Department stood proud as they protected the American flag, which hangs in the Main Terminal of the Airport.

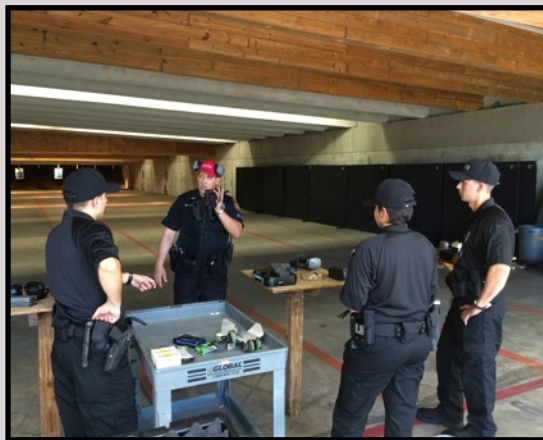


# Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is commanded by Captain Ann Walters which includes the Professional Standards Unit, Canine Unit, Administration & Compliance Units.

## Professional Standards Unit

The Professional Standards Unit handles all department internal affairs, recruitment, background investigations, crime prevention and training. They also log all employee compliments and complaints.



### Professional Standards Unit Activity (2015)

IA Investigations	2
Sustained IA Investigations	2
Compliments	102
Complaints	22
Backgrounds Completed	46



## Administration Unit

The Administration Unit is responsible for all case report reviews, parking ticket and citation collection, records management, staff uniform and equipment orders, department supply orders, budget management and accreditation. Administration staff spent most of 2015 scanning, uploading and indexing approximately 5,000 police department reports from 2012 to present into an electronic records management system. The process required extensive quality assurance as it has become the department's permanent record system for all reports. This process has contributed to the HCAA Central Records goal of streamlining and creating a paperless environment.

# Support Services Division

## Crime Prevention



The department's Crime Prevention and Canine Units participated in numerous community events throughout the year. One of the most rewarding events was the Great American Teach In! Members visited 14 different schools throughout the Tampa Bay area and gave 24 demonstrations to over 1,000 students.



## Canine Unit

The Canine Unit's Explosive Detection Teams underwent their annual certification, following guidelines from TSA's National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program. After three days of assessments, the team passed their 2015 inspection with no discrepancies!



### Canine Unit Activity (2015)

Aircraft Searches	76
Baggage Searches	14,058
Cargo Searches	851
Terminal Searches	1,120
Vehicle Searches	5,733
Call-Outs	13
Demonstrations	64
Random Searches	1,964
Requested Searches	393

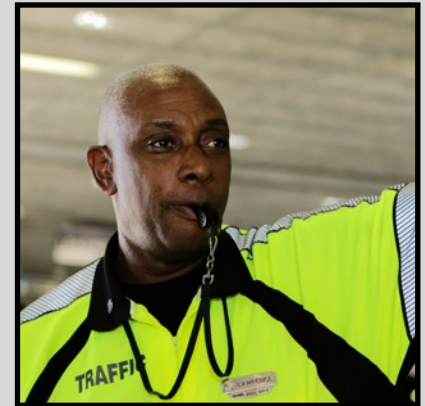


# Traffic Division

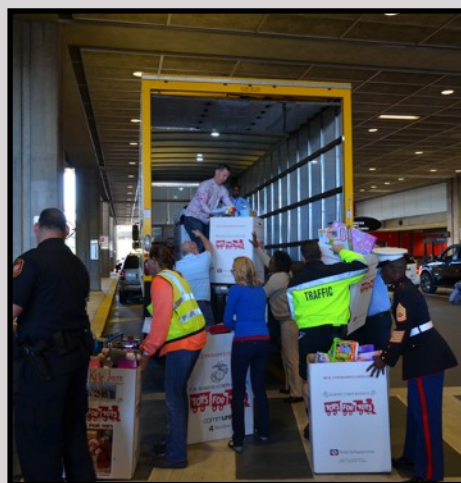
The Traffic Division is commanded by Senior Manager Robert Rinehart. The Division includes 5 operating squads and is responsible for traffic movement around the arrival and departure drives and control of airport operations runway checkpoints.



2015 proved to be another exciting year for the Traffic Division! Increased passenger volume and ongoing master plan construction has kept the Traffic Division busy. The airport expected to end the year serving over 18.5 million passengers. Heavy passenger growth is partly due to an increase in international travel with more frequent flights to Panama City on Copa Airlines and more Cuba passengers after U.S. travel restrictions were loosened in January.



The division assisted with the collection of items for the Aviation Authority's Annual Toys for Tots toy drive, and participated in Tampa's Annual Gasparilla Children's Parade!



The first phase of the airport's master plan is in full swing and that means lots of construction. In order to manage traffic during this phase, the blue re-circulation drive was rerouted. Traffic continues to be managed around ongoing projects in and around the arrival/departure drives.

The construction had little impact on holiday travel and there was no shortage of traffic! Holiday passenger volume was up 7.5% this year from last year.

# Airport Operations Center

The Airport Operations Center was commanded by Manager Laura Rozansky. The AOC is responsible for emergency calls, the airport paging system, and movement of the airport monorail system.

## Answering the Call - Dispatchers and IT Members earn Certificate of Appreciation

On July 15, 2015, the AOC received a 911 call from a mental health facility that there was a distraught patron within the terminal who needed immediate medical attention. The caller advised that the caller ID was 813-870-8700. Officers were dispatched across campus to look for anyone that seemed to need assistance. A collaborative effort began between evening shift dispatchers and on duty management who thought outside the box and asked for assistance from IT. IT resources were quickly assigned to assist with camera work and tracking the phone call. IT was able to identify which phone the caller used and the AOC located the subject on video which finally gave law enforcement a description of the subject. A few hours later, the subject was located and was assisted to the hospital. Thanks to: Everett Messier, Debbie Miller, Peter Sinclair, Kendra Thomas, Michael Patty, James Parker, Laura Rozansky, Angel Maisonet and Ryan Weirich.



## Lost Property System (L-PAS)

We have shifted to a web based lost property administration system (L-PAS) that handles cataloging and tracking of all lost property that is turned into the airport's lost & found office. With the addition of L-PAS Online, customers can now visit the airport's website and browse a real-time listing of low- value items that are currently in the lost & found. If they see a match to their property, the customer can click the claim item link which alerts the office via email to contact them. The online system also has limited tools to filter by key words and includes self-help instructions to assist the customer with using the system.

## The Adventure of Hobbes



This quickly became an international story thanks to social media. A small traveler lost his beloved stuffed friend on a trip. When "Hobbes" was found, members of the TIAPD took him for a tour of the airport. An adventure book for Hobbes was created in celebration of all the wonderful people he met while he visited TIA. The book included a story of his journey with photos. When the boy returned home, he was presented not only with his friend Hobbes, but also the adventure book!

## Airport Operations Center Activity (2015)

Calls Received	86,488
Calls for Service	24,767
Page Requests	21,668
Lost & Found Inquiries	2,584

## Officer of the Year for 2015 Detective Steve McDonald



In January 2014, a young autistic male was scheduled to travel with his parents back home to Cincinnati. As the flight began to board, both parents noticed their son was not in the gate area and were concerned that he left the airside. When a search of the airport yielded negative results the investigation began to expand further off the airport. McDonald was able to locate the autistic male off airport property, and using his many years of experience, quickly gained the cooperation and trust of the individual. The young man volunteered to ride back to the airport with Officer McDonald where he was safely reunited with his relieved father.

### 2015 New Hires

Officer Tyler Paladini

Officer Marisol Valdes

Officer Michael Rodriguez

Traffic Specialist Jorge Rigual-Vera

Traffic Specialist Daniel Bencosme

Traffic Specialist Tony Sealy

Traffic Specialist Chris Mohler

Dispatcher Tonya Taylor

Dispatcher Taylor Merk

Dispatcher Chris Altizer

Dispatcher Jade Darrell

Dispatcher Katie Pace

## Officer of the Quarter

1st Quarter

Officer Tammi Severin

2nd Quarter

Officer Jimmie Bizzle

3rd Quarter

Detective Matt Ewing

4th Quarter

Corporal Jason Thomas

## Civilian of the Quarter

1st Quarter

Traffic Specialist Sharon Cunningham

2nd Quarter

AOC Manager Tony D'Aiuto

3rd Quarter

Administration Manager Aimee Pidgeon

4th Quarter

Dispatcher Warren Stone

## 2015 Promotions

Traffic Supervisor Steve Lee

Traffic Supervisor Gilberto Solla

Senior Traffic Specialist Bob Kuster

## 2015 Retirements

Officer Alex Melendez

Officer Richard Hackett

Officer Luis Correa

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