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MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION

MVD ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM OFFICERS ASSIST WITH TRANSFORMER MOVE

by Capt. Steve Abney



Photos courtesy of Dan Dudzik
HRDC Video Productions

On the evening of August 4, 2004, Capt. Steve Abney, Lt. Lori Elzy, Sgt. Scott Grissom, and Officers Michael Monfred and Patrick Donnelly assisted in escorting the new Arizona Public Service transformer on its way from Long Beach, California to its new home in Sun City, Arizona. This move involved a vehicle combination that was over 300 feet long, 20 feet wide, 20 feet high, and grossed 786,000 pounds. The vehicle completely blocked two lanes of the roadway, and traveled about as fast as a person could walk. Traffic control was difficult at times, but the entire move across the State was made **without a single incident.**

California/Arizona state line near Parker on Wednesday evening at about 11:15 PM. Shifts of officers remained with the convoy for the duration of its trip to Sun City.

Precision Heavy Haul was the primary contractor for Arizona Public Service in managing this extremely difficult move. The company mobilized a caravan of support vehicles that made the move totally self-sufficient in the more remote regions of the State. The plan was for the vehicle to be moved continually from the time it entered the State at Parker until it reached its destination at the Sun City West Substation.

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Officers of the Central Mobile Enforcement Unit began their work at the

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MVD OFFICERS ASSIST WITH TRANSFORMER MOVEMENT (Continued from Page 1)



From left: Ofc Michael Monfred, Lt. Lori Elzy, Sgt Scott Grissom, Ofc Pat Donnelly

The vehicle combination had one tractor in front as a pull vehicle, and two in the rear as push vehicles. Even with this amount of horsepower, it was necessary to attach a large front loader to the front of the vehicle to help it through some of the washes and dips on Eagle Pass road between Aguila and the metropolitan area.

One of the interesting aspects of this move turned out to be the crowd control. Beginning in Parker all the way to the Sun City substation, crowds of people wanting to see this equipment were encountered. At Parker, at 11:00 PM, about 300 people, some with children in tow, were waiting along the bridge and along Poston Road. They all cheered and waved as the transformer went by.

One 12 hour layover period was taken on Eagle Pass Road in order to coordinate its arrival with the City of Surprise. During this layover, Sgt Grissom, Officer Monfred and two personnel from the Department of Homeland Security stayed with the vehicle to provide security and to light the vehicle for other highway users. The only other stops made were to replace/ remove the outriggers used to stabilize the load. During these short stops, the company would feed the employees on duty, provide water, change on-duty drivers, and complete other tasks required to keep the vehicle moving.

The route for this vehicle took it through all types of roads, including long stretches of remote, unpopulated areas, and dirt roads with overhead wires. Each wire was moved aside or lifted over the load as it passed.



On the remote sections of Eagle Pass Road, some people mentioned they had driven over two hours and had sat for 4 hours in the heat just to see this vehicle combination. When the vehicle passed through the City of Surprise after midnight, the streets were still lined with on-lookers.

As the vehicle passed, a young mother asked an MVD Officer if this was the transformer that had been mentioned on television. When the officer responded that it was, she asked "What does it transform into?"

This event will forever recalled as a long difficult task that was well done.

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Special Days

The following MVD Enforcement Service Program personnel are celebrating birthdays in August:

Fern Buckner—Glendale Enforcement

Julia Johnson—Duncan POE

Lawrence Graff—St. George POE

Richard Allen Kerr—San Simon POE

Michael Summers—Tempe Enforcement

Shirley Begay—Teec Nos Pos POE

Frank Barrios—Tucson Enforcement

Dorothy Schurman—San Simon POE

John Morales—Mesa Enforcement

Douglas Holler—Nogales POE

Jan Wiley—Northern Zone Admin.

Kathleen Gray—Prescott Enforcement

Officer James Kemple Of the St. George Port of Entry Retiring after 15 Years of Service *by Alene Stathos*

Officer Jim Kemple of the St. George Port of Entry will be retiring after 15 years of dedicated service to the Motor Vehicle Division. During his tenure as a port officer, Jim enthusiastically volunteered to perform various other duties apart from his normal duties as a port officer. He was this port's representative on the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee and served as our EEO Counselor/Coordinator. He also served as our Officer In Charge and Field Training Officer. Jim served on the committee which resulted in a complete re-write of our Port Operations Manual, and has been our official "computer guru," helping those who were not so computer literate. Jim has made many friends which include not only his co-workers, but also members of the motor carrier industry whom we serve on a daily basis. **WE WILL MISS HIM GREATLY AND WISH HIM A LONG, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT.**



GET TO KNOW

The Arizona Central Commercial Permits Unit

Centrally located in Goodyear, Arizona, the main function of the Central Commercial Permits Unit is to issue a wide variety of commercial motor carrier permits. Most of the customers of the Central Permits unit are not the traditional truckers encountered at the ports of entry. The majority of the unit's clientele consist of motor carrier companies and permit services nationwide who have a Fees in Phoenix account with the state of Arizona. Applications are received from over 200 companies nationwide via fax and online requests. During the first 7 months of 2004, a total of 33,238 permits have been issued producing \$1,668,500 in revenue for the state. The newest service provided by our state is offered on the website az.dot.state.us/mvd. Using this online internet site, customers can establish a Fees in Phoenix account and order their necessary permits on line. Of the 33,238 permits issued so far this year, 23% have been ordered online. The website also gives customers access to Title 28 and the Administrative Codes.

The services provided by the Arizona Central Commercial Permits unit require excellent teamwork and communication. The unit is headed by **Sgt. Linda Williams** who brings 21 years of knowledge and experience to the job. Also working at this unit are Officers **Josie Dominguez**, an Enforcement Services Program employee with 20 years of enforcement experience, **Merlinda Chavez**, an officer with 13 years of experience, and **Kay Shimitz**, an officer who has been issuing commercial permits for 4 years. The newest member of the group is **Naomi Knecht** who has been with the unit for a year and has learned her job quickly under the tutelage of the "old hands."



The Arizona Central Commercial Permits Unit
(from left)

Naomi Knecht, Officer Kay Shimitz, Officer Merlinda Chavez, Officer Josie Dominguez, Sergeant Linda Williams

Springerville Registration Compliance Detail Yields Results

As the result of a number of complaints received at the registration compliance toll-free number, and observations made by officers who work at the nearby port of entry, a registration compliance detail was conducted near the town of Springerville during the last week in July. Officers from the metropolitan Phoenix Enforcement Office, along with officers from Tucson Enforcement, Page and Sanders ports of entry, and Northern Zone Enforcement offices participated in the detail.

The focus of this detail were the employees who were working at the Tucson Energy power plant north of Springerville. Drivers of vehicles with out-of-state or expired vehicle registration were approached by MVES officers regarding possible registration violations.

Between the company shift changes, the officers broke out into 2-person teams and worked the St.Johns, Springerville, Eager, and Alpine areas. The officers followed up on leads that had been called in to the registration compliance 800 number.

As a result of the detail, a total of 103 out-of-state warnings were issued in addition to 25 expired warnings, and 32 citations. The citations included driving on suspended licenses, no vehicle insurance, no oversize permits and no current Arizona registration.



MVD Enforcement Officers conducting a registration compliance detail near Springerville.