Keriann Osterman
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Tucson Police Department Recruiting Speakers
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Recruiting Officers Bernie Lobaido and Sandy Perez from the Tucson Police Department (TPD) gave some great insight into a career as a police officer. Officer Perez stated that being a peace officer for TPD is not just a career, but a change in lifestyle. Peace officers must be aware and armed at all times in public areas. Even when officers are off duty they must react to any law enforcement needed situation while in public. Most people who apply for the career of a peace officer are not aware of the real life threatening situations that they would be placed in. After listening to Officer Lobaido and Perez, being a peace officer is not fit for just anyone.

Requirements must be met before the testing period even starts to get a job at TPD. Some requirements to have a career as a peace officer are to have a high school diploma or GED, must be at least 21 years of age, an United States citizen, and to have a clean record of any felonies. Loyalty and a lot of energy are to be put into a career of a peace officer. Honesty is the number one important factor that TPD is looking for within applicants. If applicants are not honest when applying for a career as a peace officer, their chance will forever be lost.

During training you must be physically fit and be able to deal with the rough orders from the trainers. Officer Perez stated that most applicants quit the training academy after having their feelings hurt from the tough orders. The physical standards are different depending on male or female and ages. Beginning peace officers start patrolling the night shifts, which can take away time from their families. Peace officers must be able to react appropriately to dangerous situations that can happen in seconds. Not only are peace officers protecting and serving the community, they are putting their own life on the line.

Other than the job of a peace officer being a tough fit, there are many great benefits to this career. TPD offers: retirement options, tuition reimbursement, holiday and sick pay, medical
insurance, etc. Officer Perez enjoys her career at TPD as a peace officer and stated that it is a fun job because it is not in the office environment. Every peace officer is tested on their physical ability every two years to make sure they are still fit to react accordingly in a dangerous situation. The job of a peace officer is not an easy one, but can be rewarding in so many ways for the people who qualify and excel in their area of skills.