

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

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Auto Theft Training South of the Border

Mr. Mikel Longman, AATA Executive Director traveled to Hermosillo, Mexico in March with DPS Commander Dave Witter, Task Force members, Sergeant Terry Starner, Detectives Charlie Knapp and George Hoke, and NICB Agent, Al Martinez. Chief of Police of Aqua Prieta, Alfonso Novoa, accompanied the Arizona delegation.

The group attended and co-hosted meetings with Comandante Carlos Vega, Director of Public Safety and Transportation in the State of Sonora, Comandante Manuel Hoyos, Director of the Sonora State Police, and the Attorney General of the State of Sonora.

The purpose of the meetings was to establish and foster professional and cooperative partnerships in the area of vehicle theft enforcement and investigation in both countries. The AATA's partnership with DPS on the development of a Border Auto Theft Information Center (BATIC) was announced along with discussions of



Arizona and Mexico delegation at the Sonora State Police Academy in Hermosillo, Mexico on March 8, 2002.

repatriation efforts, information exchange, and training of Mexican police officers. The

group also conducted a presentation at the Sonora State Police Academy.

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AATA Board

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ARIZONA AUTOMOBILE THEFT AUTHORITY

February/March 2002 Newsletter

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Name Detective Larry Ybarra Task Force Officer of the Year for 2001

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority recognizes Detective Larry Ybarra of the Marana Police Department as the 2001 Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force Officer of the Year.

Detective Ybarra has been assigned to the state Task Force for the past two years, working in the Pima County Squad. He is considered a valuable member of his squad and the Task Force. Detective Ybarra is a dedicated and enthusiastic veteran police officer, who is recognized as an expert in the field of vehicle theft and related criminal activity. He readily shares his expertise with others and is relied upon when the job has to be done.

During the past two years, Detective Ybarra has recovered nearly 180 stolen vehicles, at an estimated value in excess of \$1.5 million dollars. He has also made more than 40 felony arrests and conducted numerous in-depth criminal investigations.

The Marana Police Department is one of the original members of the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force and on behalf of the AATA



Detective Larry Ybarra, Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force Officer of the Year with AATA Board Chairman, Michael Payne.

staff and Board of Directors, we thank Chief Smith for their continued participation.

Congratulations to Detective Larry Ybarra as this year's Task Force Officer of the Year

Award recipient. The Task Force and AATA sincerely appreciate his dedication and commitment to auto theft investigation and enforcement in the State of Arizona.

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- Vertical Prosecution Grant Program

AATA Celebrates Passage of Senate Bill 1060 *Agency Continues Efforts for Another 5 Years*

Senate Bill 1060 was signed by Governor Hull on February 11, 2002. The Bill continues the AATA for an additional five years. Mr. Mikel Longman, AATA Executive Director states, "We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our efforts in combating vehicle theft and look forward to at least five more years of innovative programs and initiatives in the area of vehicle theft enforcement, prosecution, and prevention."

Some exciting programs and initiatives currently underway by the AATA include a joint partnership with the United States Customs Services (USCS), the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), and the Department of Public Safety (DPS), to utilize technology to enhance border interdiction efforts. The installation of license plate reading digital cameras at the ports-of-entry

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Meet the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Board of Directors

Mr. Alberto Gutier, Public Member



Mr. Alberto Gutier, AATA Public Member

Mr. Alberto Gutier has been a member of the AATA Board of Directors since 1994. He occupies one of two public member positions on the AATA Board.

Mr. Gutier was appointed to Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety in 1995 and has been a member of Governor Jane Hull's cabinet since October 1997.

Mr. Gutier brings to the Board 11 years of law enforcement experience with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. In addition, he has over 20 years of service at a variety of state agencies, including Arizona Highways Magazine, the Motor Vehicle Division, the Attorney General's Office, and served as State Personnel Director. Mr. Gutier also serves on

the Board of Directors of the Nat'l Association of Governor's Highway Safety Representatives, the Arizona License Plate Commission, the State Emergency Medical Services Council, the legislative Oversight Committee on School Safety, the Drugs Don't Work in Arizona, U of A Drachman Institute for Land Studies and the State Retirement Board for Capitol Police.

Mr. Gutier has been married to his wife, Miryam since 1960-they have five children and ten grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. Gutier for your continued support and dedication to the AATA as we continue our efforts in combating vehicle theft in the State of Arizona.

AATA's Vertical Prosecution Grant Program Demonstrates Successful Results

The AATA received a special appropriation in fiscal year 2001 of \$150,000 to begin funding for the Vertical Prosecution Program.

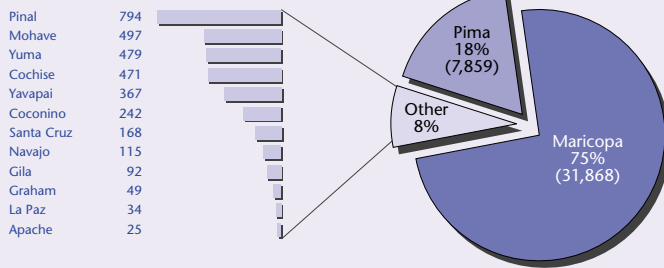
Vertical Prosecution refers to the concept of a single prosecutor handling a case from submission, (often during the investigation phase) through trial.

Although this is not a unique concept, it was rarely employed in vehicle theft cases in Arizona. The AATA currently funds three grants that provide dedicated vertical prosecutors in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties.

The results for the first six months of 2001 (January - June) are as follows:

Number of vehicle theft cases filed	149
Responses to Task Force investigations	115
Number of adult offenders	279
Number of juvenile offenders	5

Arizona - Vehicle Thefts by County, 2000



Pinal	794
Mohave	497
Yuma	479
Cochise	471
Yavapai	367
Coconino	242
Santa Cruz	168
Navajo	115
Gila	92
Graham	49
La Paz	34
Apache	25

Number of repeat offenders	27
Number of convictions	119
Amount of restitution ordered	\$157,000
Training sessions conducted	13

The efforts of the county attorney offices involved with the AATA's Vertical Prosecution Grant program thus far have been impressively effective at addressing the prosecution component of the AATA's mission and may lead to expansion into other counties in Arizona.

Bill 1060

Continued from page 1

and the development of a Border Auto Theft Information Center (BATIC) are two initiatives currently in progress. The AATA's prosecution and public awareness efforts will continue to be vital components in our efforts to combat auto theft in Arizona. During 2002, the AATA will participate in a multi-agency relocation to the Capitol complex area, resulting in an annual cost savings of nearly \$4,300 as well as a larger facility with storage capabilities for the Agency.

The AATA is currently in the process of implementing the recommendations presented in the Auditor General's Performance Audit Report. The AATA is also reviewing its operational and administrative policies and procedures to ensure the highest level of compliance and efficiency possible.



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Toyota Camry is the Most Stolen Vehicle in the U.S. for Fifth Straight Year

Automobile thieves continue to make the Toyota Camry their favorite target, according to the Chicago-based CCC Information Services Inc., an insurance industry tracker of trends in theft and vehicle damage. The year and model of Toyota most stolen was the 1991 Camry.

Of the top 25 most stolen vehicles in 2001, five are sport utility vehicles or pick-up trucks, all from U.S. automakers. The increase in thefts of these types of vehicle mirrors their increasing popularity.

Most Stolen Vehicles in the United States in 2001:

1. 1991 Toyota Camry
2. 1989 Toyota Camry
3. 1990 Toyota Camry
4. 2000 Honda Civic SI
5. 1994 Chevrolet C1500 4x2
6. 1995 Honda Accord EX
7. 1994 Honda Accord LX

8. 1994 Honda Accord EX
9. 1988 Toyota Camry
10. 1996 Honda Accord LX
11. 1993 Chevrolet C1500 4x2
12. 1997 Ford F150 4x2
13. 1990 Honda Accord EX
14. 1991 Honda Accord LX
15. 1996 Honda Accord EX
16. 1987 Toyota Camry
17. 1997 Honda Accord LX
18. 1992 Honda Accord LX
19. 1991 Honda Accord EX
20. 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4x4
21. 2000 Chevrolet C1500 4x2 Silverado
22. 1995 Honda Accord LX
23. 1991 Acura Legend
24. 1990 Honda Accord LX
25. 1995 Honda Civic EX

If you own one of these vehicles listed, you should take extra precautions to protect your vehicle from being stolen. The AATA

recommends a “Layered Approach” to Protection-make your car tough to steal!

Layer #1 – Common Sense such as removing your keys from the ignition, locking your car doors, and parking in well-lit areas.

Layer #2 – Warning Devices which alert thieves that your vehicle is protected. Items include audible alarms, steering wheel, steering column, and brake locks, etc.

Layer #3 – Immobilizing Devices which prevent thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring your vehicle. These devices include smart keys, kill switches, and starter, ignition and fuel disablers.

Layer #4 – Tracking Devices which emit a signal to a police or monitoring station if the vehicle is reported stolen.



Partners Against Crime

The AATA partnered with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force for Watch Your Car enrollment drive and steering wheel lock distribution

On March 6, 2002, the AATA, DPS and Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force hosted a successful public awareness event at the DPS Headquarters. The event included distribution of vehicle theft prevention information along with approximately 450 steering wheel locking devices to people who enrolled in the Watch Your Car Program.

In addition, the DPS launched distribution of Watch Your Car decals on all Highway Patrol vehicles, which will display the Watch Your Car decal on the rear windows.

The decal will aid in the public's and patrol officer's on-going awareness of this valuable program.



Event participants attend AATA/DPS Auto Theft Prevention event on March 6, 2002.