



Officer D. Anderson of College Station Police Department displays his badge.

## PUT YOUR HANDS UP!

Police officers give the nitty-gritty of the risks, benefits of their job

By HEATHER CAMPBELL  
THE BATTALION

Wrestling a gun from someone's hand or chasing a criminal in possession of lethal weapons is not out of the ordinary for police officers. Police serve to protect others while endangering their lives as they respond to perilous situations.

Sgt. Bill Hiney, an officer for the Plano Police Department, said despite the high level of danger associated with his job, fear pushes him and his fellow officers to succeed.

"When we put the badge on, it's an agreement that we're liable to put ourselves in harm's way. There's a certain amount of fear that keeps us sharp," Hiney said. "We have to stay on guard at all times for weapons and protect ourselves by backing each other up on the job."

Hiney said most problems he sees are alcohol related.

"People don't know how to drink responsibly and it causes a lot of grief," he said. "They lose their mental and physical faculties, which has potential to be fatal."

As a sergeant, Hiney said he enjoys camaraderie with the other officers and

helps them out.

"My satisfaction comes from watching the guys on my shift succeed," he said. "They are great guys and I would do anything for them."

Brent Abbey, a College Station officer, said the most difficult aspect on the scene is when he knows a person involved.

*"I stopped someone I knew, but I could not dismiss them because they were in the wrong... it was hard as I put them in jail."*

— Officer Brent Abbey  
College Station police officer

"I stopped someone I knew, but I could not dismiss them because they were in the wrong and it was hard as I put them in jail," Abbey said.

Abbey said family violence is the hardest call to respond to because every second matters when someone is being abused.

"It may only take a minute to get there, but if they are getting beaten up, it seems like hours to them," Abbey said. "I can't think of anything more terrifying than someone you

love hurting you."

Abbey said he is most satisfied when leaving people who were once scared and hurting with a smile on their face. Joining the police force gave him an opportunity to fulfill his dream of helping others.

Responding to call after call can be a challenge, especially when dealing with serious crimes, and Hiney said everyone handles the pressure differently.

"There are some who deal with it by joking around and using humor because that's their way of venting," Hiney said. "Some go home and talk to their significant other about it, and then there's those that bottle it up inside and develop ulcers because of it."

Police officers must appear to be fearless, even when fear lingers in the air.

"We get to work and push through the day, not thinking about what could happen to us. In bad situations, we just get in there and do the best we can," Abbey said. "Afterwards, we'll sit there and wonder how we just got through it."

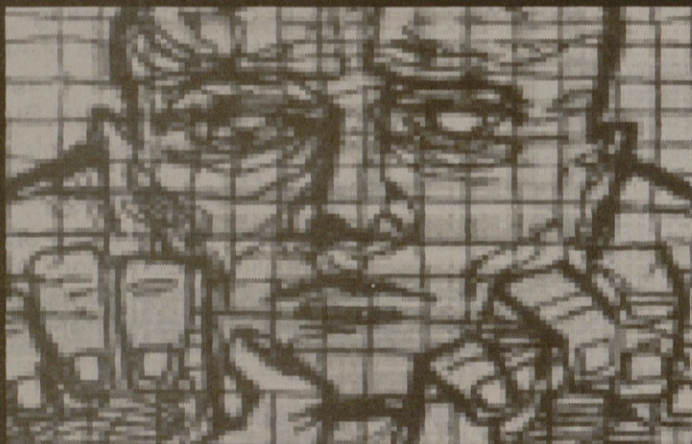
Hiney said he realizes the risks involved and takes every precaution to protect himself. Hiney wears 30 pounds of protective clothing and weapons, including a bullet-proof vest. However, the satisfaction he receives from doing his job outweighs the risks.

"The most satisfaction comes when someone's life is changed," Hiney said. "I love this job and I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

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