

Sgt. Elizabeth Donegan - BIO

Sergeant Elizabeth Donegan is a 21 year veteran of the Austin Police Department (APD). For over nine years she led the APD Sex Crimes Unit, recognized for its progressive approach toward investigating sexual assault, providing better service to victims, and changing the culture surrounding the investigation of non-stranger sexual assault. Sergeant Donegan is a member of the Austin / Travis County Sexual Assault Response Resource Team (SARRT). As a member of the SARRT, Sergeant Donegan played a central role in the team's selection for the "Making a Difference" (MAD) scholarship opportunity, through which Austin partnered with seven other American teams and eight Canadian teams to explore and effect change in addressing non-stranger sexual assault. In addition, she assisted the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) in developing a statewide protocol for responding to sexual assault in Texas.

Sergeant Donegan currently leads the APD Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration (SOAR) units. Earlier in her career, she played an integral part in forming the SOAR unit, which takes a proactive approach to monitoring sex offenders before they can offend again.

Sergeant Donegan frequently trains multidisciplinary audiences on investigating and prosecuting non-stranger sexual assault. She focuses on identifying, implementing and sharing best practices related to sexual assault investigations and prosecutions to ensure a more effective response by holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes and ensuring better service to victims.

Education

Park University, BS Social Psychology (Magna cum Laude)

University of Texas / WestPoint Leadership Academy

Military

1986-1989 - United States Army / 295th Aviation Company

Professional Organizations

Austin Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team

Austin Police Association

Austin Women's Police Association

Published Articles

"Response Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Assault - How Far We Have Come", *Sexual Assault Report*, Volume 14 Number 1, September/October 2010

“She Asked for It”, *The Ally* Fall 2010 Volume II

“Leave Your Baggage At The Door: Understanding the Complexity of Sexual Assault Investigations”, **Inside the Minds: Investigating Sex Crimes**, Thomson Reuters / Aspatore, 2011

Honors & Awards

2011 End Violence Against Women International: *First Professional Impact Award - for impact on the response to violence against women, within the Austin community and beyond.*

2011 VFW Gold Medal: *Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (Post 3377)*

2011 VFW Gold Medal: *Public Service Award (District)*

2010 Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA): *Harold Cottle Justice Award*

2004 Austin Police Department: *Sex Crimes Unit - Meritorious Unit of the Year*

2003 Oak Farms Dairy: *Officer of the Month*