Chief Larry K. James

Larry James has served as chief of police/associate vice president at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas, since his appointment in 1993. Chief James reports directly to the university president and serves as a member of the president’s cabinet. With more than 38 years in campus law enforcement he has also served as deputy chief of police at San Jose State University in California and director of public safety for the five-campus Portland Community College District in Portland, Oregon.

Chief James is past-president of the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police and for nearly 10 years served as the Arkansas representative to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Division of State Associations of Chiefs of Police. He serves as the Governmental Affairs representative for Arkansas and a Consultant-Evaluator with the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and is a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Arkansas System Criminal Justice Institute, having been appointed to that position by Governor Mike Huckabee for two consecutive terms. He served for five years as the president of the Arkansas Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

Chief James worked for more than four years as a senior research consultant for Brouillete Research Associates, a law enforcement organizational development firm in Portland, Oregon, where he co-authored several studies for municipalities in Oregon. He has authored studies on the impact of saturation foot patrol efforts on crime and the fear of crime in downtown San Jose and at San Jose State University. Chief James was instrumental in developing the first Emergency 9-1-1 Communications Certification program within the state of Oregon.

Chief James is a graduate of San Jose State University and has held adjunct teaching positions in law enforcement at several colleges and criminal justice institutes throughout his career.

Capt. John D. Merguie

Cpt. John Merguie serves as the patrol services commander with the UCA Police Department. He has 18 years of service with the department and a total of 20 years experience in law enforcement. He is responsible for supervision of all patrol, traffic and field operations functions including special event planning and security. Cpt. Merguie was instrumental in developing an extraordinary partnership with the Division of Housing and Residence Life where he is included as a member of their weekly management meetings. This interwoven alliance with the 4,000 resident-student community, which has been lauded state-wide and nationally, expanded several years ago to include paid housing for eight UCA police officers in university-owned apartment complexes as a way of enhancing safety and developing relationships.

Capt. Justin Tapley

Capt. Justin Tapley serves as the criminal investigations commander with the UCA Police Department. He has 15 years of service with the department and a total of 19 years in law enforcement. He is a certified law enforcement instructor and serves as the department’s range master and tactical trainer. He is responsible for prioritizing case investigations; conducting special and internal investigations; managing asset forfeitures, drug-buy funds and confidential informants; and ensuring the tactical readiness of the department in response to critical incidents. Capt. Tapley holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Arkansas.

Capt. Christopher Bentley

Capt. Bentley serves as the administrative services commander and assistant to the chief of police with the UCA Police Department. He has 16 years of service with the department and has served in several capacities to include student worker, communications officer, communications supervisor, officer, sergeant, lieutenant and most recently as captain. Captain Bentley is responsible for administrative, financial and technical support in the areas of budget, personnel, recruitment, background investigations, payroll, purchasing, information technology administration and other special projects.
Lt. Preston Grumbles

Lt. Grumbles serves as the assistant criminal investigations commander with the UCA Police Department. He has 10 years of service with the department and a total of 16 years in law enforcement. Earlier in his career, Lt. Grumbles served with a municipal police department in Southern Arkansas where he attained the rank of detective sergeant where he worked numerous violent crimes to include several homicides. In his current assignment, Lt. Grumbles is responsible for criminal investigations, collection and processing of evidence, management of crime scenes, preparation of cases for the prosecution, and preparation and serving of search and arrest warrants.

Lt. Rhonda Swindle

Lt. Rhonda Swindle serves as the professional standards and community relations commander with the UCA Police Department. She has 13 years of service with the department and is responsible for professional standards, training, victim assistance, community relations and crime prevention. Lt. Swindles reports directly to the Chief of Police and serves as the public information officer for the police department. Lt. Rhonda Swindle worked with the Conway and Little Rock Drug Task Forces and with the DEA in 2001-2002 resulting in two federal indictments to multiple suspects promoting the RAVE culture. Lieutenant Rhonda Swindle obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology and her graduate degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Central Arkansas. She has held an adjunct instructor position in the Psychology Department with the University of Central Arkansas since 2003 as well as in law enforcement at several institutions throughout her career.

Lt. Jeremy Crabb

Lt. Jeremy Crabb serves as the support services commander with the UCA Police Department. He has 11 years of service with the department and is responsible for overseeing records, communications, parking and traffic, and a number of key technology initiatives. Recently, he has been intricately involved in many emergency preparedness and management initiatives undertaken by the university including: upgrade of 9-1-1 systems and transition of the UCA PD CommCenter to that of a primary public safety answering point; upgrade and integration of CommCenter radio systems with other local public safety agencies; selection, implementation and administration of a mass notification system to provide community notification via SMS, voice and email messages; selection, installation and administration of an outdoor warning siren and voice annunciation system; and the procurement of Project 25 compatible radio equipment to provide every officer the ability to communicate with secure digital encryption and complete interoperability with all local public safety agencies as well as access to a statewide public safety interoperability radio network.