

NEWS

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only the six police officers are armed. "Our officers are academy trained, certified municipal police. We have two certified firearms trainers and three times a year our officers are required to receive a qualifying score on a firearms proficiency exam," said Amann.

Behrend officers were armed in 2002 with Glock .40 calibers. Behrend is only one of many Penn State campuses with armed police, other armed campuses include: University Park, Berks and Harrisburg.

"There is a misconception that our campus is isolated from the community, however we have had crimes committed on campus by people not even affiliated with the college," said Amann. "With many colleges the trend is arming campus police as opposed to disarming them. Police need to be armed not only so they can effectively protect people, but also for their own safety. Armed police can respond in an effective manner to a crime involving a weapon."

Penn State strictly prohibits student possession of firearms on campus. "If a student brings a firearm to campus with the intent of using it off campus for hunting or for target practice, it must be registered at the Police and Safety office and kept in our firearm safe until the student logs it out. The same policy applies for paintball guns," said

Amann.

Behrend police officers' firearms are held in level two holster, which is the standard for most police departments. A level two holster requires that the user releases a strap on the holster and disengage the firearm from the holster. This prevents quick drawing and does not allow the firearm to be drawn from the holster by anyone but the carrier. Behrend's Police and Safety officers are also armed with pepper spray and have recently been issued expandable batons.

According to recent statistics, Behrend has no history of homicide, manslaughter, motor vehicle theft, weapons offences or possession, hate crimes, prostitution and commercialized vice, assault, any form of illegal gambling, vagrancy or robberies. In recent years larceny, non-aggravated assault, fraud, vandalism, driving while under the influence of alcohol, violations of liquor laws and disorderly conduct have decreased.

"Property theft, especially from vehicles, has been a problem lately," said Amann, "even though it has been very scattered and random with no particular lot being hit frequently, we've increased security at night to prevent theft and vandalism. Property theft is a problem on many campuses and students can help avoid this by locking their doors and keeping valuables out of sight."

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