

Elizabeth M. Donegan

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Executive Overview

Senior Sergeant Elizabeth Donegan (Ret) is a 26-year veteran of the Austin Police Department. For over nine years she led the APD Sex Crimes Unit, recognized for its progressive approach toward changing the culture surrounding the investigation of non-stranger sexual assault. Sergeant Donegan led the APD Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration (SOAR) Unit for the last 6.5 years before retiring. 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. Sgt. Donegan also speaks trains and consults nationally with multidisciplinary audiences on investigating and prosecuting non-stranger sexual assault. Sergeant Donegan is Co-chair of the Austin Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT) and serves on the Board of Directors for End Violence Against Women International.

- Substantial experience in leading and coordinating multi-disciplinary units and managing investigations focused on violent crimes
- Recognized for identifying and implementing best practices and transforming sexual assault investigations at APD
- Contributed to the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) in developing a statewide protocol for sexual assault response
- Provided expert testimony for the Response Systems Panel, a federal advisory committee which conducted an independent review and assessment of the systems used *to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate crimes involving adult sexual assault and related offenses* under military law
- Consultant for the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- Texas Governor's Office - Sexual Assault Survivors Task Force (SASTF)
- Subject matter expert in sexual offenses committed against adults. Frequently requested to consult and train on projects related to sexual offenses

Education

Park University – B.S. Social Psychology (Magna Cum Laude)

University of Texas – WestPoint Leadership Academy

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) – Master Peace Officer & Instructor

Professional Experience

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Austin SAKI (Sexual Assault Kit Initiative) Coordinator	Mar 2018 - Aug 2018
Sergeant – Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit	2011-2017
Sergeant Sex Crimes Unit	2002-2011
Detective Internal Affairs	2000-2002
Detective Missing Persons	1999-2000
Detective Child Abuse	1997-1999
Patrol Officer	1992-1997

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE

Corrections Officer

1990-1992

Drill Instructor C.O.R.E. (Convicted Offender Re-entry Effort)

UNITED STATES ARMY

295th Aviation Company, Mannheim Germany

1986-1989

Consulting and Training

Sergeant Donegan is frequently requested to consult and train on projects related to sexual offenses, including the following:

- Dept. of Defense – Ft. Leonard Wood – False Reports
- End Violence Against Women International Conferences – Trainer and speaker
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) – Subject matter expert for projects related to sexual assault response and investigations. National Law Enforcement Leadership Initiative on Violence Against Women and the roll-call training series *How to Bring Sexual Assault Offenders to Justice – A Law Enforcement Response*
- United States Army Summit, Washington D.C.
- Ft. Hood, Ft. Sam Houston, Camp Mabry, Ft McCoy, Ft Leonard Wood

Trainings for multi-disciplinary and academic communities have included the following:

- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), Texas Office of the Attorney General, Texas Governor's Office; Notre Dame University, University of Texas, St. Edwards University, Huston Tillotson University, University of Alabama, University of Arizona, Brandeis University
- Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
- AZ – Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence
- Ontario Canada – Summit on Sexual Violence
- Vancouver Canada – Collaborate to Stop Domestic and Sexual Violence and Training Forum
- Port Alberni Canada, Grand Forks; Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- TX – Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigators Course (SAFVIC)
- Chicago Police Department

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & CREDENTIALS

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) – Board of Directors & Trainer

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and Standards (TCOLE) – Instructor

Master Peace Officer (TCOLE) license

Basic Jailer license (TCOLE)

Austin Police Association

Austin Women's Police Association

Austin – Travis County SARRT (Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team)

HONORS and AWARDS

2019 Texas Association Against Sexual Assault - Harold Cottle Justice Award (2)

2017 Austin Police Department Meritorious Career Award

2017 Austin Police Department 25 Years' Service

2014 Austin Police Department – Superior Service Citation (x2)

2014 Austin Police Department – Meritorious Service Medal

2014 Austin Police Department – Honorable Conduct Medal 20 years

2013 Austin Police Department – Commanders Medal – Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit

2011 End Violence Against Women International – First Professional Impact Award

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

2011 VFW Public Service Award – District

2010 Texas Association Against Sexual Assault – Harold Cottle Justice Award

2004 Sex Crimes Unit – Meritorious Unit of the Year

2003 Oak Farms Dairy - Officer of the Month Award

PUBLICATIONS

Donegan, E. (2010). Response, Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Assault – How Far We Have Come. *Sexual Assault Report*, Volume 14 Number 1

Donegan, E. (2010). She asked For It. *The Ally*, Volume 2

Donegan, E. (2011). Inside the Minds: Investigating Sex Crimes. *Thomson Reuters/Aspatore*

Donegan, E. (2015). Key tactics for sex crime investigators: Leave Your Baggage At the Door: Understanding the Complexity of Sexual Assault Investigations. *Thomson Reuters/Aspatore*

Donegan, E. Public service announcement: *We Believe* – sexual assault awareness campaign featuring Sergeant Donegan and APD Sex Crimes Unit Detectives