



**Phoenix Police Department**  
**Public Affairs Bureau**  
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Date/Time:** March 16, 2026, around 1:24 a.m.  
**Incident:** 2026-358113  
**Location:** 3600 East Van Buren Street  
**Victim:** Police Officer, Air Support Unit Pilot  
**Victim:** Police Officer, Air Support Unit Pilot  
**Suspect:** Burton Wesley Smith, 33-year-old, MCSO booking #G242519  
**Suspect:** Duane Marcus Bryant, 28-year-old, MCSO booking #G242517

## **Aggravated Assault Investigation**

On March 16, 2026, around 1:25 a.m., officers responded to the area of 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Van Buren Street regarding a shots fired call. Multiple officers responded to the area, to include the Air Support Unit helicopter with two Phoenix Police Pilots aboard. When the helicopter arrived overhead, the pilots observed multiple men firing a rifle at the helicopter. Patrol officers arrived, and detained several adult males, to include 33-year-old Burton Smith and 28-year-old Duane Bryant.

The Violent Crimes Bureau's Assault Unit responded to the scene to assume the investigation. During this investigation, probable cause was established to arrest both Smith and Bryant for firing a rifle at the helicopter. In addition, the rifle itself was located during the investigation.

Smith and Bryant were booked on multiple charges related to this incident to include aggravated assault on a police officer and several counts of weapons violations. The Air Support Unit helicopter was inspected and did not suffer any damage because of this incident.

This remains an open investigation. Additional details related to this incident remain part of the ongoing investigation.

*Sergeant Rob Scherer*  
*Public Affairs Bureau*