

Commander Thomas M. Alinen Cochise County Sheriff's Office

Thomas M. Alinen, Commander, is a 42-year law enforcement veteran. Alinen began his law enforcement career with the Huachuca City Police Department in 1975. At Huachuca City, he held positions of Patrolman, Detective, and Chief of Police. In 1978, he was recruited by Sierra Vista Police Department. Alinen went on to serve as Patrolman, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief and Chief before retiring in September 2015. In October 2015, Alinen was hired by Sheriff Mark Dannels of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office as a Commander over Support Services Division. Having served at all levels and in all aspects of law enforcement, he brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to this new position. Alinen is working on major communications projects for Cochise County.



Prior to his law enforcement career, Alinen served in the United States Army as a non-commissioned officer, completing a tour of duty in Vietnam, and specializing in the fields of communications and intelligence. He was awarded numerous medals, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry for his service in Vietnam.

Alinen is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Southwest Command College, the IACP Leadership in Police Organizations Training Course, and the West Point Leadership Program for Police Executives. He studied information systems at Western International University, where he earned his Bachelor's (*cum laude*) and Master's degrees in Information Systems. He is an adjunct faculty member for Wayland Baptist University, teaching computer science classes. Alinen is active in the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, and he has served on its Board of Directors since 2005. Alinen is also active in Rotary International, the Arizona Fraternal Order of Police, and other community service contributions.

Among his many accomplishments, he has been instrumental in developing, designing, and implementing Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch, Criminal Record, Enhanced 911, and Analog/Digital Radio Systems, as well as expanding technology in other areas for public safety agencies. He works daily with public relationships, personnel management and leadership, crisis management, schedule development and management, as well as constantly serving as a representative of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to the public. Commander Alinen enjoys strong, productive working relationships with all public safety partner agencies in the area and is held in high regard.

Alinen has resided in Arizona since 1972 and he lives in Whetstone with his wife, Mary, of 40 years. Together they have a son, TJ. Alinen enjoys caring for his horses and spending time in the Arizona mountains.