



Visalia Police Department Annual Report 2011



The Value of Volunteerism

Mission Statement

The City of Visalia Police Department has been established to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest violators of the law, protect life and property, and enforce criminal laws of the State of California and the Ordinances of the City of Visalia.

Organizational Values

The Visalia Police Department has a recognized set of values that operate within the organization. We see these not as the dictate of one individual group, but as a set of shared common beliefs; these shared values provide a common cause for all employees in the organization.

Integrity – Professionalism requires impeccable honesty, integrity, and respect. As a practical matter, ethical conduct cannot be assured by written policies, codes or oaths. It must be an integral part of the organization, a deeply ingrained tradition that assures citizens that questionable practices do not exist.



Serving the community, supporting our children.

Service – Quality delivery of service is both a personal and organizational commitment. The Department will make every effort to deliver professional, quality service to its citizens as it deals with problems of crime and public safety. We are committed to working toward improving the quality of life for our families and our community.

Fiscal Responsibility – The Department is dedicated to managing its resources in a careful and efficient manner so that there is maximum return from each dollar spent.

Our People – The Department must strive to attract and maintain high quality personnel capable of working in the highly complex area of law enforcement.

Our organization wants employees to enjoy their work and to be proud of their achievements. We are proud of the people we have in our organization, their performance, and dedication to their jobs. Success within the organization depends upon relationships based on dignity, mutual respect, support, and accountability among all individuals.

About the Cover

The Visalia Police Department is dedicating the 2011 Annual Report to our volunteers. The Volunteers in Police Service Program has 75 members. They assist personnel in a variety of ways: DUI details, data entry, transporting evidence, and a multitude of other tasks depending on our needs. Throughout this report, we will focus on the volunteers and how they assist our Department.

Word From The Chief

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Chief Colleen Mestas

This year’s annual report not only recognizes the Visalia Police Department’s achievements throughout the past year, but also focuses on the many volunteers who are dedicated to serving our Department and community.

Due to the economic challenges we are facing, as with many law enforcement agencies throughout the State, the Visalia Police Department has had to reduce staff. With the assistance of our volunteers, we have continued to maintain a high level of service to the community.

The Visalia Police Department’s Volunteers in Police Service, Reserves, Chaplains, and Explorers each contribute vital functions to the Police Department, and it is my pleasure to recognize them for their dedicated service.

As always, the Visalia Police Department will strive to provide the best service to our community and make our Department one of which all citizens can be proud. On behalf of the Visalia Police Department, thank you for allowing us to serve you.





MEDAL OF VALOR

Four officers responded to the scene of a shooting without regard for their personal safety, knowing that when they arrived they would encounter an armed murder suspect who, in his own words, was "prepared for mortal combat". "These officers are commended for their exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness, and swift action in confronting an armed suspect." *Chief Colleen Mestas*

Captain Perry Phipps
Officer Nathan Flaws



Officer Blake McEwen
Officer Josh Pena

At approximately noon on Sunday, August 29, 2010, Kenneth James Ward of Modesto, armed with a handgun, entered the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Tulare Avenue. Once inside the church, Ward approached Lay Bishop Clay Sannar and shot him multiple times. Ward immediately fled the scene. Sannar was transported to a local hospital by emergency medical personnel where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Approximately 20 minutes later, Ward called the Visalia Police Department from a pay phone at a local gas station. Ward claimed responsibility for shooting the Lay Bishop and told a dispatcher that he would be at 1525 W. Burrell.

Officer Blake McEwen, Officer Josh Pena, Officer Nate Flaws and Lieutenant Perry Phipps (now Captain Phipps), responded to the area and found Ward sitting in a car. The suspect exited his vehicle, armed with a .38 caliber revolver, and began to rapidly advance toward the officers while firing multiple shots at them. Officers returned fire and struck Ward. While injured, Ward continued firing at the officers. Ward subsequently died from his injuries. No officers or bystanders were injured as a result of this encounter.

While the incident occurred in 2010, officers were honored in 2011 for their bravery.



Awards and Honors

Breaching Facade Dedicated to Bomb Commander

As the Commander of the Visalia Police Department Bomb Squad, Chuck Hindenburg was recognized, and a plaque was affixed to the Department's explosive breaching façade, in appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to the members of the Department and the community.

Chuck began his career as a member of the Bomb Squad in 1990. Chuck participated in the development of the Bomb Squad from a simple pair of crimpers in 1990, to today's bomb truck equipped with a modern explosive ordnance disposal robot, bomb suit, and x-ray machine. The Police Department attributes the progression of the Bomb Squad to Chuck's experience and dedication. Chuck was instrumental in the consolidation of the Visalia Police Department and Tulare County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squads.



Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh Recognized by the Attorney General

A homicide of two victims in 2010 was found to be an ordered hit by ranking members of the Nuestra Familia gang. The victims were not the intended targets.

After a lengthy investigation, led by Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh, the Visalia Police Department teamed-up with the California Department of Justice in a detail called "Operation Street Sweeper". Over 275 law enforcement officers from throughout California assisted Visalia in the service of 35 high-risk search warrants. At the end of the operation, 54 suspects were taken into custody on a variety of charges, including eight federal indictments on the highest ranking members of the Nuestra Familia / Norteno gang. In addition, 33 handguns were seized and taken off the streets.



Lieutenant McIntosh was recognized in 2011 for his leadership.

K-9 Unit Wins in Competition

During the 26th Annual Sierra K-9 Trials, 36 teams from throughout California competed. Officer Feierbach and Timber placed 2nd overall in obedience, Officer Lasalde and Mack placed 5th in obedience, 3rd in agility, and 4th in the evidence search, and Officer DeJong placed 7th overall in obedience.



Employees of the Year / Service Awards



Monica Dukes,
Communications Operator of
the Year



Ginny Martin,
Records Specialist,
Civilian Employee of the Year



Gene Ferrero,
Reserve Officer of the Year

Rick Johnson,
Officer of the Year

Name	Years	Job Classification
Aguallo, Nicholas Adam	5	Officer
Barton-Sabo, Alex	5	Officer
Cortinas, Christina	5	Communications Operator
Henry, Nate	5	Officer
Lara, Kris	5	SR Office Assistant
Lewis, Christopher	5	Police Technician
Martinez, Erica	5	Officer
O'Rafferty, Sean	5	Officer
Park, Ryan	5	Officer
Sanchez, Celestina	5	Officer
Speer, Joshua	5	Officer
Swarthout, Andrew	5	Officer
Villarreal, Arturo	5	Officer
Walsh, Joshua	5	Officer
Brown, Curtis	10	Police Sergeant
Cote, Kelly	10	LD Records Specialist
Davis, Lisa	10	Records Supervisor
Douglas, Robert	10	SR ID Technician
Dukes, Monica	10	SR Communications Operator
Ediger, Jeremy	10	Officer
Heaton, Jacob	10	Officer
Houser, Jeremy	10	Officer
Landin, Christina	10	Communications Operator
Lentzner, Randy	10	Police Sergeant
Maurice, Damon	10	Police Sergeant
Portillo, Priscilla	10	Investigations Technician
Somavia, Bryan	10	Officer
Byerlee, Greg	15	Police Sergeant
Chao, Paul	15	Community Resource Specialist
McLain, Christopher	15	Police Sergeant
Miller, Brent	15	Officer
Phillips, Steven	15	Police Lieutenant
Abbott, Brent	20	Police Sergeant
Gilbert, Jeffrey	20	Officer
Williams, Gary	20	Police Sergeant
Phipps, Perry	25	Police Captain
Puder, Steve	25	Police Lieutenant

Retirements



Lieutenant Allyn Wightman - 30 years Sergeant Corey Sumpter - 31 years Officer Donna Skaggs - 24 years K-9 Timber - 5 years

Traffic Safety Award



Volunteers assist at DUI Checkpoints

The California Law Enforcement Challenge Program allows law enforcement agencies to set comprehensive goals, to strive to reach new heights in traffic safety, to share their experiences with others, and to be recognized for their traffic safety accomplishments; in short, to make a difference in the communities their officers serve.

In this area, the Visalia Police Department placed second among participating California agencies. This competition has no losers, only winners. Saving lives and reducing the frequency and severity of injuries are the true rewards of law enforcement's efforts.

Citizens Police Academy

2011 Graduates - Class 27

The Citizens Police Academy is a 10-week course designed to acquaint prospective volunteers with the inner-workings of the Visalia Police Department, while being trained to become Volunteers in Police Service (VIPs). Graduates assist with non-hazardous duties.

Session Topics

- Ethics in Law Enforcement / Meet the Chief
- The Law and Proper Volunteer Conduct
- Support Services / Crime Prevention
- Patrol Procedures
- Investigations / Homicide / Crime Lab
- Gangs / Narcotics
- Special Operations (Bomb / SWAT / K-9)
- Radio Procedures / "CLETS"
- Traffic / DUI (Citation Writing)
- Department Protocol / Policy and Procedures

See pages 14 and 15 for more on VIPs.



Visalia Police Department Explorers Post #32



Developing the youth of today, to meet the needs of the community tomorrow.

The Visalia Police Explorers Post is a dynamic, coed youth and young adult vocational and leadership development program that provides positive alternatives to uncommitted leisure time. Explorer programs are an extension of the Boy Scouts of America. Ages of participants range from 14 to 20. The Explorers Program affords invaluable training which develops self-esteem, moral character, leadership, communication skills, critical thinking, crisis resolution and compassion for others.

The Explorers meet twice each month. They assist in many ways, including fundraisers, parking, and traffic control. The Explorers averaged five details per month in 2011 and attended a week-long Explorer Academy held in San Diego. They also attended two competitions and placed in several scenarios. Results from one competition are shown below.

Competition



At the Central Coast Explorer Competition in Paso Robles, 10 Visalia Explorers attended and placed in 6 events.

- Medical Scenario - 2nd Place
- Written Scenario - 3rd Place (Law Enforcement Written Exam)
- Individual Obstacle Course - 3rd Place
- Felony Stop - 4th Place
- Domestic Violence Scenario - 4th Place
- DUI - 5th Place

Reserves Unit

The Visalia Police Department has 11 Reserve Officers. Led by Sergeant Jon Pree, the Reserves Unit supplements patrol operations, handling calls for service. The Unit is comprised of dedicated individuals volunteering their time to the community.

Reserve officers perform a variety of basic law enforcement activities to prevent crime, maintain law and order, and identify and apprehend suspects. During 2011, they provided 4,233 hours of service.



Chaplains Corps

The Department has eight members in the Chaplains Corps. Four are pictured with Sergeant Candido Alvarez, who leads the Corps. Members hold the job classification Community Service Officer, Special Reserve, and participate voluntarily.

The primary function of the Chaplains Corps is to respond to the needs of citizens in the community or members of the Department during any situation. Police chaplains serve in ceremonial functions consistent with their positions: to give invocations and / or benedictions, funeral and memorial services where they represent the Department, and at Academy graduations and religious and civil ceremonies.



Police Activities League - P.A.L.



Students create art projects and participate in study groups.

P.A.L. Programs / Events	
Program	# Participants
Easter Egg Hunt	400
Honor Camp	45
PAL Center Visits	2,406
Boxing Drop-in Visits	2,804
Oval Christmas Tree Lighting	400 Gifts Distributed
Breakfast with Santa	600 Pancakes Made 300 Gifts Distributed
Coat Give-Away	250 Children Received Coats and Toys



Visalia PAL was established in 1991 to provide a positive influence between police, youth, and the community. This is done through athletic, educational, and mentoring programs. PAL receives help from Visalia Police Department VIPS and juvenile volunteers. Top - the Leadership Group makes Christmas ornaments. Bottom left - volunteers at the annual coat give-away event. Bottom right - PAL boxing gym.



Crime Prevention



Crime Prevention Programs / Events

Program	# Participants
8 Child ID Events	1,430
22 Child Safety Events	4,226
6 Senior Safety Presentations	2,350
9 Safety Presentations	1,500
21 Neighborhood Watch Meetings	230
34 National Night Out Events	1,100

National Night Out



Neighborhood Watch is a national program which unites law enforcement agencies, local organizations, and individual citizens in a community-wide effort to reduce residential crime.

Fundraisers

The Visalia Police Department participated in Red Robin's statewide Tip-a-Cop event, which brings together local law enforcement personnel and Special Olympics athletes for a day of food, fun and awareness. The tips earned from delivering food and beverages went to the Special Olympics.

This event raised more than \$1,500 during a four hour shift. Police participants:

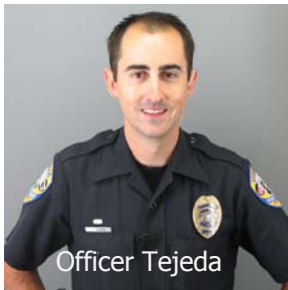
- Sergeant Jon Pree
- Officer Erica Martinez
- Reserve Officer Mike Burns
- Records Specialist Amanda Hughes
- VIPS Fernando Rubio
- Explorer Sarah Griffiths



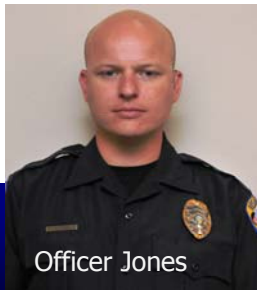
The Shave the Brave event is when police, fire, EMT, military and correctional officers are challenged to gather pledges to see them get their heads shaved. This shaving is done as an act of solidarity and empathy towards children, many of whom lose their hair through chemotherapy. The funds gathered go directly to Wish Upon A Star to help grant wishes. Police participants: Explorer Aaron Douglas, Officer Jacob Heaton, Officer Steve Lampe, Agent Bill Diltz, and Agent Mark Lyon.



Youth Services Unit



Officer Tejada



Officer Jones



Officer McEwen



Officer Doherty



Officer Villarreal



Volunteers Making t

VIPPS provide essential, non-hazardous police services, freeing of

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V50 - Barbara Smith



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There are 75 members in the Volunteers in Police Service program. The goal of the program is to provide the Department with a highly trained and motivated force of volunteer workers who provide essential but non-hazardous police services. Some of their assignments are special event traffic control, driving under the influence checkpoints, Police Activities League functions, crime prevention details, public awareness events, citizens on patrol, and administrative and investigative support.

In 2011, VIPPS provided more than 11,000 hours of service.



Transport Property



Citizens on Patrol



Annual Candy Cane Lane Parade

Making the Difference — The Value of Volunteerism

officers to attend to the more hazardous needs of the community.



PAL Coat and Gift Give-Away

VIPS McGruff

DUI Checkpoints



Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

ade

District 1 and District 2

Officers work closely with Code Enforcement on the SMART Team



Lieutenant Steve Phillips
District 1 Commander

Lieutenant Ed Lynn
District 2 Commander

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound (SMART Team)

During 2011, the Police Department and Code Enforcement, along with other SMART Team members, collaborated in identifying areas that have increased calls for service, blight, and substandard housing.

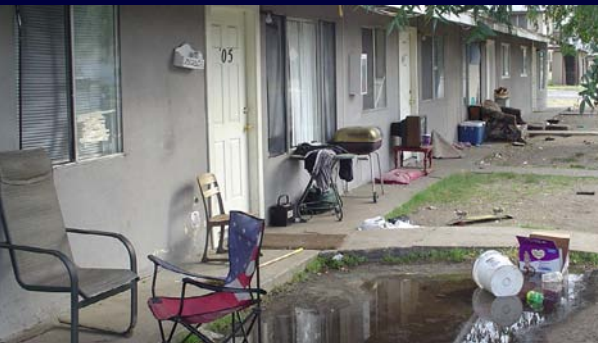
The collaboration resulted in decreased police calls to the areas, as well as improving rental housing and the overall appearance of the properties. Additionally, the Police Department and Code Enforcement identified property owners that have excessive amounts of calls for service. Properties that utilize excessive police hours, because of poor property management, result in the loss of available officers for other areas within the City.

The Police Department and Code Enforcement meet with owners of the properties to identify the causes for excessive need for police services and to create a plan of action to resolve the issues. The properties are monitored to make sure there is an improvement. To prevent the properties from becoming a burden on tax payers within the community, owners of the identified properties are held accountable for the costs of officers' time that could have been prevented through proper management.



Lieutenant Lynn, Lieutenant Phillips, Josh McDonnell,
Jim Bean, Kurtis Brown, Tracy Robertshaw

Cleaning up our Neighborhoods



Field Training Officer Program

Field Training Officers:

Sergeant Damon Maurice, Supervisor

Officer Bill Brokhoff

Officer Renny Collins

Officer Andrew Swarhout

Officer Mike Chamberlain

Officer Carol Cortez

Officer Steve Howerton

Officer Todd Johns

Officer Ryan Park

Officer Jeremy Houser

Below are Officer Jason Dewitt and Officer Michael Morgantini II. They passed field training and reached the status of Reserve Officer.

The Visalia Police Department's Field Training Officer Program is designed to provide structured training to newly hired police officers who have successfully completed a POST approved police academy, or are lateral police officers who have transferred from another law enforcement agency. The program is also designed to evaluate the new employee's performance with the goal of the new officer meeting stringent performance requirements and successfully completing the program.

Our agency currently follows the "San Jose Model" of field training. This model was introduced in the early 1970's and assigns an experienced officer selected to be an FTO, with a new officer. In our agency, this assignment can be up to five weeks. This gives the FTO the necessary time to provide instruction to the new officer in various ways to include calls for service, use of force, search and seizure and traffic laws. The new officer will rotate through three to four FTOs during their training.

Currently, our agency provides a minimum of 20 weeks of training before a new officer can patrol alone. A lateral officer may be released earlier from this mandate if superior performance is observed.

After this training is completed, and if the new officer meets performance ratings set by POST, the officer is then assigned to a patrol substation and begins to work as a solo patrol officer.



Court and Subpoena Services Unit

The Court and Subpoena Services Unit maintains open lines of communication between the Visalia Police Department and various factions of the judicial system, including the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender, County Courts, city, county, and state entities.

It is the responsibility of the Unit to process subpoenas and coordinate court appearances for members of the Department.



Professional Standards Bureau

Personnel and Training / Public Information Officer

The Professional Standards Bureau is responsible for many of the administrative duties for the Department and its 136 sworn and 63 civilian employees.

Unit responsibilities:

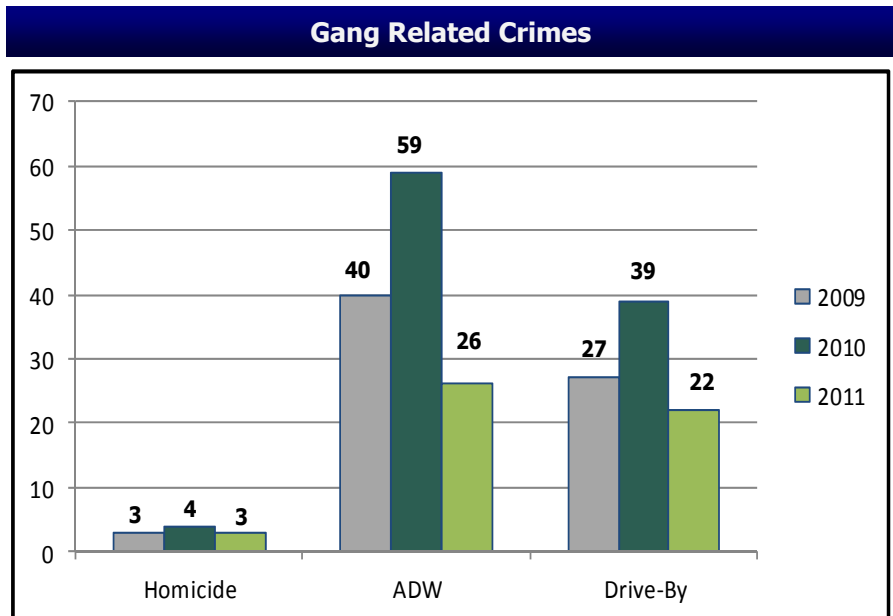
- Training
- Backgrounds
- IA Investigations
- Workers Compensation
- Payroll
- Public Relations



Gang Suppression Unit

Gang Related Crimes Decreased 50% in 2011

Comparing gang related stats in 2011 to 2010, gang related homicides decreased 25%, gang related assaults with a deadly weapon decreased 44%, and gang related shots fired into an inhabited dwelling decreased 56%. The chart shows a comparison from 2009 to 2011.



Violent Crimes Unit



The Violent Crimes Unit consists of one sergeant, one agent, six detectives, one full-time civilian investigator and one part-time civilian investigator. The Violent Crimes Unit investigates crimes against persons, which include: homicide, robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping, death reports, rape, child abuse, child molestation, physical elder abuse, and other felony assaults. Civilian investigators are responsible for investigating adult missing persons and a variety of misdemeanor crimes.

Property Crimes Unit



VIPS Dave Jepson processes and files pawn slips and VIPS Jan Landes enters crime pattern data and does minor case follow-up in order to secure video surveillance.

The Visalia Police Department's Property Crimes Unit is comprised of one sergeant, six detectives and one investigation technician. The types of crimes the Unit investigates are: auto theft, burglary, check fraud, embezzlement, financial elder abuse, identity theft, pawn shop dealers, and other crimes associated with property.

Top Cases

After a rash of commercial burglaries where a subject entered by breaking the front door glass, a suspect was arrested for multiple commercial burglaries that occurred throughout Visalia. Ten cases were connected to the suspect through security videos and by how the crimes were committed.



Dubbed the "coin pusher" caper case, 15 illegal "coin pusher" and video slot machines were located and seized in Visalia, Woodlake, Selma, Tulare, Exeter, and Ivanhoe. Two people were arrested for conspiracy to distribute illegal gambling devices. These arrests occurred after an investigation where Visalia Police was assisted by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Woodlake, Exeter, Tulare, and Selma police departments, in conjunction with the Department of Justice Bureau of Gambling Control.

During "Operation Safe Holiday," officers caught a suspect trying to steal a truck. After a short pursuit, the suspect jumped off the second floor of the Visalia Mall parking structure. He received a minor injury to his leg and was arrested for a parole violation, possession of burglary tools, and attempted vehicle theft.

Special Weapons and Tactics Team



The Visalia Police Department S.W.A.T. is a collateral assignment for a team of highly trained and dedicated officers. Besides their regular police duties, this team includes officers assigned to both tactical and crisis negotiations. The officers chosen for this assignment undergo a testing process which is both rigorous and very competitive. S.W.A.T. officers are highly skilled and continually receive intense training to maintain and meet the demands of this assignment.



Property and Evidence Unit / Crime Lab

Police Technicians assigned to the Property and Evidence Unit are responsible for inventory control of all property and evidence booked into the Visalia Police Department's evidence rooms. A Police Technician's job includes: organizing, logging, researching, purging, and maintaining evidence. When property and evidence is cleared for disposition, it is returned to its owner, finder, or destroyed in compliance with the law.

The Property and Evidence Unit booked more than 9,500 items into evidence in 2011. They returned to owner, auctioned, or destroyed nearly 6,000 items. This included confiscated weapons.



Crime Lab Technicians respond to cases where specialized services are necessary. The Crime Lab uses modern techniques and equipment when conducting fingerprint analysis of evidence. This service is often crucial to determine guilt or innocence. The Crime Lab also manages public fingerprinting services. All digital photographs and recordings are maintained and processed by the Crime Lab.

Technicians provide analysis and expert courtroom testimony for a variety of forensic disciplines:

- Crime Scene Processing and Reconstruction
- Crime Scene Mapping
- Crime Scene and Evidence Photography
- Tire Track, Footwear and Tool Mark
- Latent Print Processing and Comparisons
- Serial Number Restorations
- Bullet Trajectories
- Mobile Forensics
- Forensic Video



VIPS Tony Fasolino helps with fingerprinting duties at District 2.



Property and Evidence



Crime Lab

Civilian Specialists

Records Unit, Communications Center, Crime Analysis Unit

Records Unit

District 1 Substation

204 NW 3RD Avenue

District 2 Substation

4100 S County Center

Headquarters

303 S Johnson Street

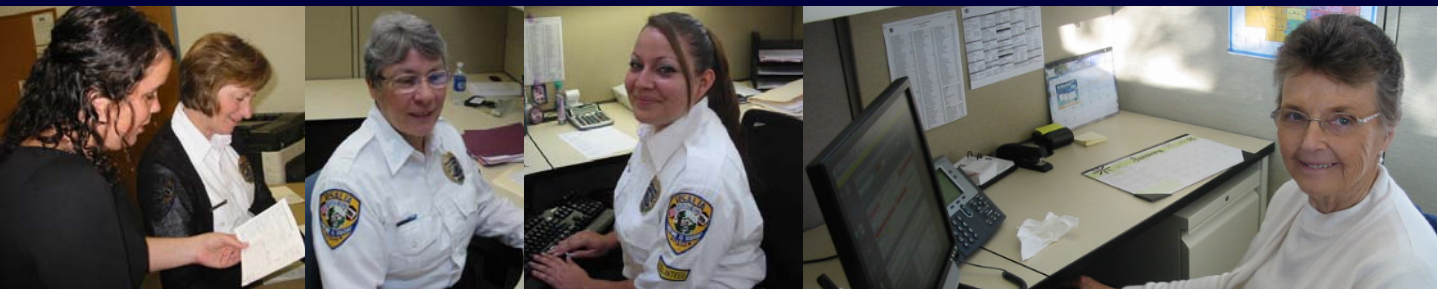
Records Unit personnel are available during lobby hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Communications Center - Dispatch



Crime Analysis Unit



Crime Analysis Clerk Jessica Yunt assists VIPS Julie Shelburne with gang and field interview cards. VIPS Connie Archer and VIPS Alyssa Tienda complete data entry of gang cards, property lists, and case dispositions.

Community Service Officers / Duty Officer

Patrol Division



The Visalia Police Department has three Community Service Officers, which are non-sworn positions assigned to the Patrol Division. CSOs respond to a wide range of calls that are generally non-hazardous in nature. Reports they write include: theft, burglary, traffic collisions, and missing persons. They also assist with traffic control and crime scene processing.

Duty Officer Heidi Voss (pictured left) has similar duties as the Community Service Officer, but does not patrol the streets. Her primary duty is to assist the public from Headquarters.

Fleet Unit



In 2011, the Visalia Police Department Fleet Unit undertook the task of switching from wideband radio to a narrow-band system on every radio, both handheld and in-car. This was in accordance with requirements set forth by the FCC with a deadline of January 2013. Fire bays at Fire Station 51 were used for a drive-through process and the task was accomplished in three days. Assisting with this process were VIPS and employees of the Tulare County Radio Shop.

VIPS work closely with Dexter Valencia, Fleet Police Specialist.



Tulare County Reduce Auto Theft Task Force - T-RATT

The Mission of the Tulare County Auto Theft Task Force (T-RATT) is to reduce the incidents of vehicle theft and related crimes in Tulare County through aggressive, innovative and proactive enforcement, as well as inter-agency cooperation and education.

The Tulare County Reduce Auto Theft Task Force, T-RATT, objectives are to: reduce vehicle thefts in Tulare County, deploy resources based upon statistical analysis with a primary focus on professional car thieves, provide assistance to allied agencies addressing vehicle theft issues, increase public awareness of vehicle theft trends in Tulare County utilizing media and public relations, train officers about vehicle theft investigations, and use prosecution as a deterrent for potential auto thieves. Founded on April 1, 2008, T-RATT has achieved a 26% reduction in the rate of auto theft in Tulare County in its first three years of existence.

T-RATT Activity	#
Vehicles Recovered	271
Vehicle Theft Arrests	147
Other Arrests	128
Chop Shops Located and Shut Down	17
Parole and Probation Searches	120
Warrants	47
Business Inspections	20

Agencies participating in the coalition:

- Visalia Police Department
- Tulare Police Department
- Porterville Police Department
- California Highway Patrol
- District Attorney's Office

VISALIA	2010	2011	% DIF
Motor Vehicle Theft	600	545	-9%
Autos	451	398	-12%
Trucks and Buses	105	100	-5%
Other Vehicles	44	47	7%



"AVOID the 18" - DUI Task Force

The "AVOID the 18" campaign is a grant funded coalition sponsored by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The purpose of the focused driving under the influence (DUI) approach is to stop and arrest drivers who put the lives of others on the road at risk. It is named to send the message that if you don't drink and drive, you will avoid getting arrested by any of the 18 participating law enforcement agencies.

Officers staff DUI / driver license checkpoints, multi-agency DUI Task Force deployments, and local DUI saturation patrols. Sergeant Chris McLain said, "The volunteers are a major part of our DUI checkpoints. I can always count on 10 to 15 at our checkpoints and we have 10 to 20 per year. They tow cars and get the vehicle counts."

"Driving under the influence has become an epidemic," said Visalia Police Captain Rick Haskill. "If you drive drunk, you will be arrested."



Agencies participating in the coalition:

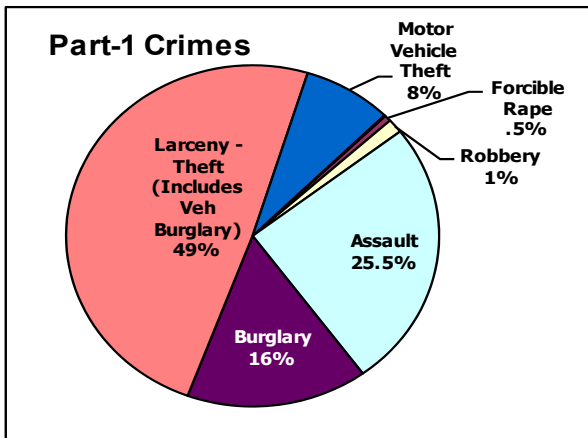
- Visalia Police Department
- Tulare Police Department
- Porterville Police Department
- Dinuba Police Department
- Farmersville Police Department
- Woodlake Police Department
- Exeter Police Department
- College of the Sequoias Police Department
- Tulare County Sheriff's Office
- Tulare County Probation Department
- Hanford Police Department
- Kings County Sheriff's Office
- Lemoore Police Department
- Corcoran Police Department
- Avenal Police Department
- Kings County Probation Department
- Visalia California Highway Patrol
- Hanford California Highway Patrol



Recognition

Officer Jeff Wheeler was presented the Century Award for arresting 116 people for DUI in a year. Traffic Officers Arturo Villarreal, Jason Logas, and Ryan Park were recognized by MADD for significantly impacting drunk driving by arresting more than 40 DUI subjects in the year. The award presentation was held in October 2011 for their efforts in 2010.

Year-at-a-Glance Statistics



Total arrests in 2011 were 6,511. Of those, 1,008 were juveniles. These arrests were made by YSOs, patrol, and detectives.

Traffic End-of-Year Statistics		2011
Total Collisions		2,130
Fatal Collisions		5
DUI Collisions		96
Day with Most Collisions		Fridays
Time with Most Collisions		3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Total Citations		11,613
Seat Belt Citations		1,108
Excessive Speed Citations		2,355
Signs and Signals Citations		602
Unsafe Turning Citations		167
Failure to Yield Citations		86

End-of-Year Statistics	2010	2011	% DIF
Population	124,442	125,770	1%
OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION	2010	2011	% DIF
Criminal Homicide	6	8	
Forcible Rape	26	40	54%
Robbery	176	95	-46%
Assault	1,653	1,793	8%
Burglary	1,237	1,110	-10%
Larceny - Theft	3,501	3,466	-1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	600	545	-9%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	7,199	7,057	-2%
Domestic Violence Reports	872	987	13%
RECOVERED VEHICLES	2010	2011	% DIFF
Stolen here, recovered here	289	270	-7%
Stolen here, recovered elsewhere	261	194	-27%
Stolen elsewhere, recovered here	92	68	-26%
TOTAL RECOVERED	642	532	-17%
ARRESTS	2010	2011	% DIF
Adults	5,214	5,503	5.5%
Juveniles	1,193	1,008	-15.5%
TOTAL ARRESTS	6,407	6,511	1.6%
CALLS FOR SERVICE	2010	2011	% DIF
Police	113,485	119,818	5.5%
Fire	11,714	12,728	8.7%
SPCA	10,459	11,162	6.7%
TOTAL CFS	135,658	143,708	5.9%
Police 9-1-1 Calls	59,164	59,440	.1%

Visalia Police Department Organizational Chart

Colleen Mestas
Chief of Police



Jason Salazar
Operations Support Captain

Rick Haskill
Operations Captain

Perry Phipps
Administration Captain

Steve Puder
Investigations
Lieutenant



Veronica
McDermott
Support Services
Manager



Steve Phillips
District 1
Lieutenant



Ed Lynn
District 2
Lieutenant



Jeff McIntosh
Special Enforcement
Bureau
Lieutenant



Brian Winter
Night Watch
Commander
Lieutenant



Michele
Figueroa
Professional Standards
Bureau
Lieutenant



Chuck
Hindenburg
Budget Finance
Manager





As a result of the Crown Victoria being discontinued, the Visalia Police Department switched to the Dodge Charger patrol unit. The Dodge Charger is an all-around strong vehicle and can handle the various rigors of a patrol unit. The Visalia Police Department continues to be on the cutting edge of technology in order to reach the high standard of excellence that is commonly associated with the City of Visalia in every aspect, including our fleet.



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[Check Crime in Your Neighborhood](#)

[Locate Fees and Forms](#)

[Submit a Tip](#)

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