

# Honoring our Police Explorers



Visalia Police Department  
Annual Report - 2013



# Code of Ethics

## Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . Law Enforcement.

**About the Cover:** The 2013 Annual Report is dedicated to the Visalia Explorers. Learn more about their activities throughout this report.





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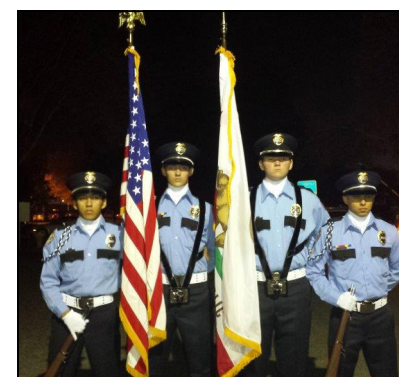


Chief Colleen Mestas



**Word from the Chief** - The 2013 annual report is dedicated to the Visalia Police Department's Explorer Post. Having started my career in law enforcement as a Police Explorer, I appreciate having such a valuable program. Those interested in law enforcement can become involved in training and receive hands-on experience in the law enforcement field. Police Explorer Programs are sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. As the Chief of Police, I am proud of the Explorer Post.

*Colleen Mestas*



## Visalia Police Department Command Staff Organizational Chart



The Visalia Police Department is comprised of over 200 employees dedicated to making Visalia a safe and desirable place to live. The Visalia Police Department has 138 sworn personnel, 5 reserves, 66 civilians, and 65 volunteers. Chief Colleen Mestas states, "We are not able to fight crime alone. Our success depends on the partnerships we have developed with our citizens, the faith-based community, private sector, and other law enforcement entities. These partnerships are invaluable to all of our suppression, prevention and intervention efforts."

The Department consists of three Divisions: Administration Division, Operations Division, and the Operations Support Division. Each are led by a Captain.

The Visalia Police Department Command Staff is comprised of the Chief of Police, three Captains, six Lieutenants, one Support Services Manager, and one Financial Analyst.

Visalia Police Department Organization

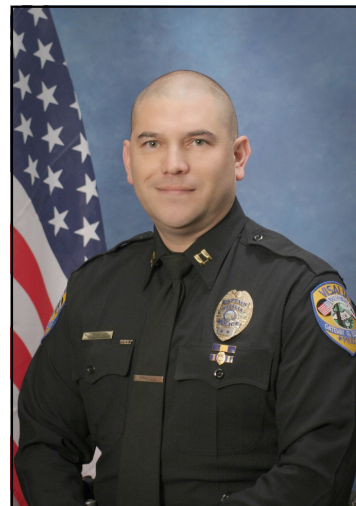




The **Administration Division** is led by Captain Rick Haskill and is comprised of the Professional Standards Bureau, Administration, Fleet, and Budget.

Rick Haskill began his employment with the Department in 1989. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1995, Lieutenant in 2002, and Captain in 2007.

During his employment with the Visalia Police Department, Captain Haskill has held assignments in Patrol, Field Training, Special Enforcement, Traffic Enforcement, and Youth Services. He also served on SWAT and was the District 1 Area Commander. Previously, Captain Haskill oversaw both the Operations and Operations Support Divisions.



The **Operations Division** is led by Captain Jason Salazar and is mainly comprised of the Special Enforcement Bureau, Patrol, Traffic Enforcement, Commercial Policing, and K-9.

Jason Salazar began his employment with the Department in 1993 as a Community Services Officer. In 1996, he was hired as a full-time Police Officer. He was promoted to Agent in 2002, Sergeant in 2004, Lieutenant in 2007, and Captain in 2011.

During his employment, Captain Salazar was assigned to Patrol, DUI, and Violent Crimes. He also served on SWAT, the Rapid Response Team, and the Honor Guard. Previously, Captain Salazar oversaw the Operations Support Division.



The **Operations Support Division** is led by Captain Perry Phipps. This Division is comprised of two Bureaus: 1) Investigations Bureau, which includes the Crime Lab, Property and Evidence, Youth Services, Property and Violent Crimes, and, 2) Support Services Bureau, which includes Crime Analysis, the Communications Center, Court/Subpoena Services, and Records.

Perry Phipps began his employment with the Department in 1986. He was promoted to Agent in 1997, Sergeant in 1999, Lieutenant in 2007, and Captain in January 2011.

Captain Phipps has held assignments in Patrol, K-9, Special Enforcement, the Anti-Burglary Team, and Investigations. He served as a member of SWAT and was the District 1 Area Commander. Previously, Captain Phipps oversaw the Administration Division.

## Historical Headquarters



Tulare County was established in 1852. Shortly thereafter, Visalia became the county seat, as well as the trading center for the Central Valley. Policing in frontier Visalia was the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office until 1864 when the town was incorporated and town officials were elected. Marshal Kennedy was the first Visalia Town Marshal who "took office" in the midst of great turmoil. The Civil War was being fought, and Visalia was in the middle of it.

Marshal Kennedy performed law enforcement duties until 1923 when the city manager form of government was adopted, and the Visalia Police Department came into existence. Chief Court Smith was the first Chief of Police. Headquarters was originally located at the corner of Church and Acequia Street, in the same building with the Fire Department and City Hall.

The current Headquarters, which includes the 9-1-1 Communications Center, is over 40 years old.

## Future 9-1-1 Communications Center

The Visalia City Council authorized staff to move forward with building a 9-1-1 Communications Center. The Visalia Emergency Communications Center's estimated construction cost is greater than \$16 million for a 19,642 square foot building. This is based on a space needs assessment by the City and the City's architect and engineering consultants, Darden Architects.

It is expected that the design will be developed in 2014, and the Communications Center will be built by December 2015. The proposed project location is at Burke Street and Goshen Avenue.





## Future Planning



In January, staff members, officers, and management spent time planning for the future of the Visalia Police Department. Eight action items were identified.

### Action Items

- Address the Homeless Population
- Build the 9-1-1 Communications Center
- Designate a Training Officer
- Develop Plan to Increase Advanced Training for Sworn Personnel
- Develop Plan to Increase Advanced Training for Civilian Personnel
- Increase Use of In-House Trainers
- Develop a Succession Plan
- Improve Communication in Patrol



Wish Upon a Star  
Shave the Brave

**Wish Upon A Star** raised over \$48,000 at the Brave Fest, which included the annual Shave the Brave event, chili cook-off, and raffles. Representing the Visalia Police Department were four Explorers, eight officers and two of their children.



Detective Jared Whaley, and son Ayden, participate in the Shave the Brave event.



Agent Bill Diltz was the "Top Cop" and raised \$4,800.

ID Hits

**Employees Received "Hit" Pin for Matching Fingerprints**

More than 50 employees received recognition for obtaining a match on fingerprints that were submitted to the California Department of Justice/CAL-ID. As a result of their success, suspects were arrested. The following employees made six or more matches:

James Potts (27), Rosendo Ruiz (20), Bob Douglas (15), Jeremy Ediger (9), Laura Lathrop (7), and Sean O'Rafferty (6)



James Potts

Retirements



Name	Title	Years of Service
Angie de Alba	Crime Prevention Coordinator	14
Michele Figueroa	Lieutenant	24.5
Ken Smythe	Detective	4.5
Chanta Vihanexai	Parking Enforcement Officer	15

Recognition





# LIFE SAVING AWARD CEREMONY

## City Council Honors Two Heroic Officers



**Sergeant Mark Feller**

On July 21, 2013, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Sgt. Feller heard a loud collision while patrolling in the area of Ranch and Main Street. He immediately began searching for the collision and located an SUV that had collided into a large oak tree at Main Street and Woodland Avenue. As Sgt. Feller approached the vehicle, which now had the engine bay engulfed in flames, he immediately noticed the driver (Martin Morales) lying on the ground with his legs partially under the vehicle; Mr. Morales was suffering from a broken femur.

Sgt. Feller immediately reached for Mr. Morales and pulled him away from the burning vehicle before the flames could reach him. Within minutes, the SUV was fully engulfed in flames. Martin Morales was transported to Kaweah Delta Medical Center for treatment and later returned home.

**Sergeant James Andrews**

On August 23, 2013, at approximately 6:00 p.m., dispatchers received a call of a drowning child. Roxanna Pugh, 22 months-of-age had fallen into her backyard swimming pool. Roxanna had been submerged in the pool for approximately two minutes.

Sgt. Andrews responded to the call and found Roxanna was not breathing, had no pulse, and was turning blue. Sgt. Andrews was the only first responder on scene at the time and immediately began CPR. He continued CPR for several minutes until Roxanna began to show signs of life. Fire and ambulance personnel arrived shortly thereafter and continued the life-saving efforts.

Roxanna was transported to Kaweah Delta Medical Center and then to Children's Hospital where she was later released to return home.

Recognition

Employees of the Year



**Josh Pena**  
Officer of the Year



**Christina Cortinas**  
Communications Operator of the Year



**Jenna Wells**  
Records Employee of the Year



**Jed Grant**  
Reserve Officer of the Year



**Dexter Valencia**  
Civilian Employee of the Year

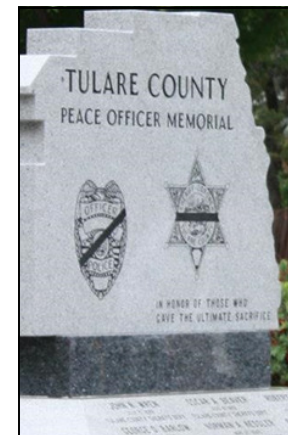


**Shawna Doucette**  
Advisor of the Year  
Explorer Program

**Maria Cabrera**  
Explorer of the Year

Recognition

Peace Officers' Memorial





DUI Hero Award



Visalia Officer Receives DUI Hero Award

Visalia Police Officer Amerie Norman was recognized during the 14th Annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) statewide recognition in Sacramento.

Officer Norman received the 2013 MADD California Hero Award for her outstanding efforts in the apprehension of drunk drivers. She also received the MADD Century Award for making 123 DUI arrests.

"The officers recognized with the MADD California Hero Award are experts in the field of impaired driving enforcement. They are leaders in the Department in arrests, prevention efforts, and training. Over 160 officers were recognized for their efforts over the last year, and we believe that all of the officers have certainly saved lives by removing impaired drivers from California's roads," said Silas Miers, MADD California Program Manager.

MADD DUI Awards



Pictured left to right: Captain Rick Haskill, Officers Brian Scott, Bill Hansen, Thomas Higgins, Amerie Norman, Jason Logas, Sergeant Chris McLain, and Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh

Seven Visalia Police Officers were recognized in October 2013 for their outstanding efforts in making our roadways safer by enforcing DUI laws. The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and MADD presented the awards.

Officer Jason Logas received the AVOID AWARD for his efforts and involvement with the DUI grants administered by the Visalia Police Department.

MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime, and prevent underage drinking.

Officer	# of Arrests
Amerie Norman	123
Andrew Souza	91
Adam Aguallo	59
Thomas Higgins	57
William Hansen	48
Brian Scott	29



Officer Jason Logas

Recognition

## 6th Annual Gen-Cal Motors Competition

Twenty-three riders from nine different agencies participated in the **Motors Competition**. Congratulations to the following Visalia Police Department winners:

- Bill Hansen – 1<sup>st</sup> Novice
- Mike Short – 3<sup>rd</sup> Novice
- Jacob Heaton – 1<sup>st</sup> Expert
- Jeff Wheeler – 3<sup>rd</sup> Expert



The following Officers placed during the **28th Annual Sierra K-9 Trials**:

- Rick Johnson - 3<sup>rd</sup> Protection, 5<sup>th</sup> Novice
- Ryan Lasalde - 1<sup>st</sup> Narcotics Building Search, 2<sup>nd</sup> Obedience, 5<sup>th</sup> Overall
- Daniel Roberts - 3<sup>rd</sup> Obedience, 4<sup>th</sup> Novice

### 2013 Employee Service Awards

Name	Years	Job Classification
Carol Cortez	5	Police Officer
Richard Cressall	5	Police Officer
Bill Hansen	5	Police Officer
Chris Jennings	5	Police Officer
Todd Johns	5	Police Officer
Juanita Leal	5	SR Records Specialist
Julian Lopez	5	Police Officer
Ricardo Loza	5	Police Officer
Blake McEwen	5	Police Officer
Colleen Mestas	5	Chief of Police
Noel Riedmann	5	Records Specialist
Andrew Souza	5	Police Officer
Isaac Stephens	5	Police Officer
Heidi Voss	5	Duty Officer
Joel Arjona	10	Police Officer
Gerrit DeJong	10	Police Officer
Jason Feierbach	10	Police Officer
Darlene Friend	10	SR Communications Operator
Leroy Hickey	10	Police Officer
Ryan Lasalde	10	Police Officer
Joshua Pena	10	Police Officer
Dexter Valencia	10	Police Specialist
Brian Young	10	Police Officer
Lance Brooks	15	Police Agent
Mark Feller	15	Police Sergeant
Russ Gauger	15	Police Sergeant
Jason McWilliams	15	Police Officer
Carina Mello	15	SR Administrative Assistant
Scott Nelson	15	Police Officer
Michael Verissimo	15	Police Officer
Steve Howerton	20	Police Officer
Jason Salazar	20	Police Captain
Sandy Tunnell	25	Police Technician
Veronica McDermott	30	Support Services Manager

Recognition



# Volunteers in Police Service - 12,620 Volunteer Hours



## 500 HOUR RIBBON

This ribbon and recognition is awarded to volunteers upon completing a cumulative 500 hours of volunteer service with the VIPS, starting with the formation of the Unit on January 1, 2000. Further multiples of 500 hours is signified by placement of stars centered on the ribbon. Listed are VIPs who have met benchmarks.



**Grant Pravitz**  
Volunteer of the Year

VIP Grant Pravitz volunteered 895 hours. He helped establish the 24/7 call-out list. He participates in numerous details throughout the year and can be counted on to assist in late night emergency call-outs.

### 500 hrs

- Connie Archer
- Pete Chambers
- Fran Florio
- Don McIntyre
- Fernando Rubio
- Julie Shelburne

### 1,000 hrs

- Grant Pravitz
- Darlene Shook

### 1,500 hrs

- Nadine Barnes
- Phil Cox
- Dennis Metzger

### 2,500 hrs

- Barbara Smith

### 3,000 hrs

- Ruben Sanchez

### 3,500 hrs

- Jean Burress

### 4,500 hrs

- Ralph Shook

### 8,500 hrs

- Linda Coffee

### 9,500 hrs

- Murna Dicks

There were 14 volunteers recognized for perfect meeting attendance and who met (or worked more than) the minimum duty hour requirements of five hours per month.



**Volunteers in Police Service**

**Congratulations to Citizens Academy Graduates – Class 29,** Jay Anderson, Bill Dadds, Antoinette Reina Camero, Derek Janelli, Melba Griffith, Gary Gagliolo, Juan Navarro, Harshel Shanthraj

Recognition

## Fleet Receives Latest Technology

### Electric Motorcycles

Purchased with a grant from the San Joaquin Valley Air District, Visalia Police began using the latest in patrol technology, two all-electric motorcycles. The Zero DS 8.5 Dual Sport motorcycles are American made and will hold a charge for more than eight hours. The suspensions are more suitable for uneven terrains, such as the St. John's Parkway. Visalia is among the first cities in the Central Valley to use Zero motorcycles.



The motorcycles are cutting edge technology and many countries, such as Britain and Japan, are purchasing large amounts of them to supply their law enforcement needs. The motorcycles have a belt drive and a lifetime warranty on the powertrain. The motorcycles will augment the Department's current motorcycles and will provide the Motors Unit another useful tool that will assist with everyday patrol activities.

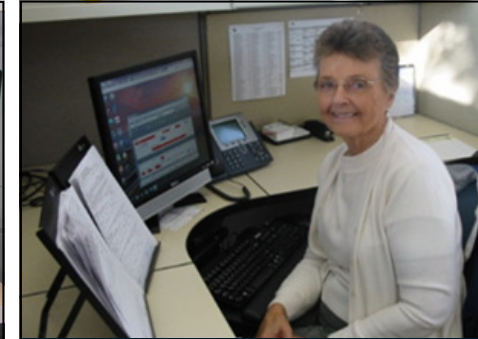
### Latest Features in Chargers

Ten new patrol vehicles were purchased this year. The 2014 Dodge Charger is replacing the old fleet of Ford Crown Victoria vehicles. These new additions bring Visalia's police fleet to 54 Dodge Chargers and 62 Ford Crown Victorias. In-car video is among the latest features of the new Dodge Chargers. Police video helps prove cases and helps to keep our officers safe.





## CAD/RMS Acquisition



Ruth Day, Crime Analysis Clerk, enters reports into the Records Management System.

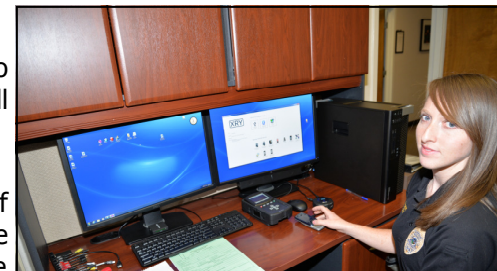
Computer Aided Dispatching and Records Management Systems (CAD/RMS) are critical tools that law enforcement agencies use to dispatch calls and manage police records. Replacing the current system (purchased in 1984) is a huge undertaking for the City of Visalia. The CAD/RMS are powerful tools that support the day-to-day operations of Police and Fire, enhances public safety, and supports the efficient use of resources and effective tactical deployment. Staff estimates the process, from acquisition to implementation of a state-of-the-art system, to take approximately 24 months.

## Crime Lab Technology

### Cell Phone Analysis

An area was set up at Headquarters for all trained officers to use for the forensic extraction of stored data from cell phones and other mobile devices.

The area has a computer workstation with a large variety of connector cables and software. Cell phones have become very popular and are constantly changing, requiring the latest up-to-date technology for successful data forensic extractions.



Tracy Verdugo demonstrates the equipment.

### Mobile ID Handheld Computer Units

Last year, the California Identification System (CAL-ID) Remote Access Network Board approved the purchase of several Mobile ID handheld computer units for Tulare County. The Police Department received four units. The monthly wireless fee is also paid by CAL-ID. These portable computers have a built-in fingerprint scanner and are designed for use in the field. If an unidentified subject is contacted, their fingerprints can be scanned and transmitted to the CAL-ID database. If a person has an arrest record, within a few minutes, the computer will check local and state databases and provide contact information and a photo, if available.



## ADVISORS

Sgt. Ozzie Dominguez

Joel Arjona

Alex Barton-Sabo

Shawna Doucette

Bob Douglas

Chris Jennings

Matt Jones

Ryan Park

Arlene Pasillas

Celestina Sanchez



Future  
Explorer

The Law Enforcement Explorer Program provides career education for young men and women encourages youth to consider their future at an early age. The program's purpose is to provide exp and caring adults.

**Five Explorers are now "aging out", which means they have turned 21 and are n**



Captain Daniel Gonzalez



Agent Desiree Gillioun



Lieutenant Maria C

### Two Explorers are now Employed by the Visalia Police Department

Explorer Captain Daniel Gonzalez is a Parking Enforcement Officer. He has been an Explorer for seven years. "I always had a desire to be a police officer and when I turned 14, I heard about a program that gave police training, let you ride along with officers, and eventually helped you get hired." Daniel wants to become an officer and work in Motors, Violent Crimes, and the Gang Unit.

Explorer Agent Desiree Gillioun is a Records Specialist. "I became an Explorer because I knew that this program was a way for me to become more outgoing and learn about law enforcement." Desiree's goal is to become a police officer. She wants to work in Patrol to gain a broader idea of police duties and eventually become a detective.



Pictured with  
Explorers who p  
Brave: Winston  
Andrew Klorman



# Police Explorers

..., educational program through which the Police  
training and learning opportunities for youth in the



Pictured with Sgt. Ozzie Dominguez are Explorers  
Aaron Douglas, Maria Cabrera, and Winston Appling.

## EXPLORERS

**Captain Daniel Gonzalez**

**Lt. Maria Cabrera**

### \*\*SQUAD 1\*\*

**Sgt. Winston Appling**

Explorer Sherry Velasquez

Explorer Osvaldo Ramirez

Recruit 3: Andres Soriano

Recruit 2: Brandon Kauffman

Recruit 2: Murad Bayless

Recruit 1: Dawson Boland

### \*\*SQUAD 2\*\*

**Agt. Desiree Gillioun**

Explorer Anthony Pena

Explorer Daniel Klorman

Recruit 3: Leslie Rivera

Recruit 3: Garrett Robertshaw

Recruit 1: Zachary Ferris

Recruit 1: Hope Cano

### \*\*SQUAD 3\*\*

**Agt. Aaron Douglas**

Explorer Derek Neece

Explorer Guadalupe Mendoza

Recruit 3: Andrew Klorman

Recruit 3: Jessica Pettite

Recruit 1: Benito Juarez

Recruit 1: Luis Berrocales



Approximately 20 volunteers, including officers, help 30 students shop for new school clothes during a Salvation Army and Target back-to-school shopping event.



## Police Activities League

**The Visalia Police Activities League (PAL)** was founded in 1991. It is a haven for children to learn social skills, obtain help with homework, participate in sports, and learn positive life skills. Thousands of children, from age 7 to 17, have participated in the program. More than 350 children regularly attend each month.

PAL sponsors a summer camp in which more than 30 youth attend. The cost is approximately \$12,000 and paid annually with community donations.

Five years ago, PAL began a leadership class for at-risk youth. More than 60 youth have participated in the course.

The PAL Center is located at 701 E. Race Street and is open noon to 6:00 p.m. in the summer and from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. when school is in session.

Sergeant Paul Esquibel oversees the program, which is coordinated by Officer Louie Cantu. Officer Cantu states, "Parents feel their children are safe when they are at PAL activities. What more can a parent want? Their children hang out with police officers!" From PAL Camp to field trips, the community has played a key role with their generous sponsorships.

## Youth Services Unit

The **School Resource Officer Program** was established in the 1970's as a joint effort between the Visalia Police Department and the Visalia Unified School District. The goal is to mentor the City's youth and maintain schools that are free of violence and intimidation. Officers receive active shooter training, which emphasizes rapid response to school-related violence.

The Unit is headed by Sergeant Esquibel, and there is currently one officer assigned to each high school. Recently, the Police Department was granted funds to add three additional officers to assist the local middle schools.



Police Activities League



Trip to Oxnard for Cowboys Game



Mesquite Nevada - Jr. Golden Gloves 2013  
Trip to Shaver Lake



PAL Advisors

PAL Camp



For information, or to make a donation, call Visalia PAL at 559-732-2233.

Youth Programs

## Training Unit Developed

The **Administration Division** is comprised of Administration, Budget, Fleet, and the Professional Standards Bureau (PSB), which includes the Public Information Officer.

One goal of the PSB is to administer a training program that will provide for professional growth and continued personnel development. By doing so, the Police Department will ensure personnel possess the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a professional level of service that meets the community's needs.

This year, the PSB added a Training Officer position to enhance and encourage all employees of the Department to participate in training. Officer Dustin Thompson was selected to fill this position. During his short time in the Training Unit, Officer Thompson successfully created a law enforcement library. The library is located in the hallway of Headquarters and, along with books and training material, includes a video catalog.

Each year, Federal, State, and local agencies change or redact law. It is the responsibility of the Training Unit to make sure employees are aware of these changes and ensure proper training occurs.

The Training Unit updated the Department's Training Plan and conducted a training needs assessment. The Unit is engaged in an effort to host more training. This year, the Department hosted the following:

- Firearms/Sub Machine Gun Instructor
- Honor Guard Training
- Crisis Intervention
- Evidential Portable Alcohol System

- Advanced Dispatch Course: Active Shooter School Violence, Dispatchers Tactical Response to School Violence, Sharing Critical Skills for Call Takers, and a Fire Communications Training
- DOJ Cell Phone Kiosk
- Sovereign Citizen Training with the FBI

In 2013, employees received over 10,000 hours of training.

Other duties of the Training Unit include compliance with the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) mandated training standards, selection standards, and POST reimbursements. Each year, POST conducts a compliance inspection to ensure that the Department is maintaining correct and complete files on its employees regarding proper hiring and training standards. Being in compliance with POST is vital to secure funding for training.



Training Officer  
Dustin Thompson



Public Information  
Officer  
Sergeant Osvaldo  
Dominguez

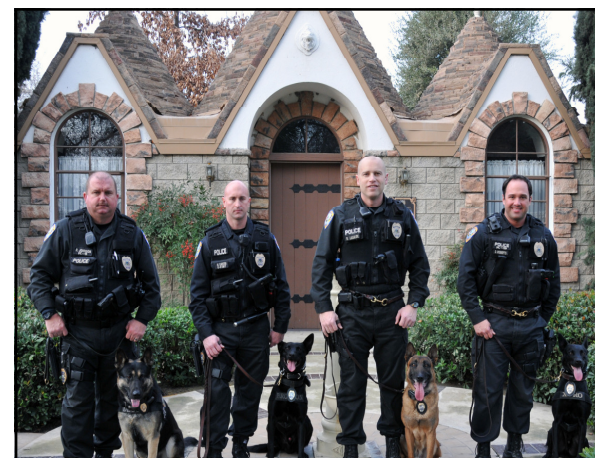


## Patrol Bureau

The Visalia Police Department's **Patrol Bureau** is divided into two Districts. The District 1 Commander is Lieutenant Brian Winter and District 2 Commander is Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh. The dividing line between Districts is Highway 198.

Patrol is overseen by the Night Watch Commanders: Lieutenant Candido Alvarez and Lieutenant Steven Phillips. The Night Watch Commanders provide supervision and resources during the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., Sunday through Saturday.

Patrol Officers are assisted by other Units, such as: K-9, Traffic, SWAT, Bomb Squad, and the Reserves.



K-9 Officers - Johnson/Deuce, Carsten/Bronson, Lasalde/Mack, Roberts/Xero



### K-9s Assist Officers in Catching Criminals

There are many cases where K-9s assisted officers in finding suspects, narcotics, and currency. Highlighted are two cases where K-9 Mack and handler, Officer Ryan Lasalde, successfully assisted the Narcotics Unit.

**Case 1** - K-9 Mack located more than 20 pounds of Marijuana in packages being mailed through the United States Postal Service, UPS, and in a vehicle. Out-of-state suspects were picking up the narcotics in Visalia and mailing them to the East coast.

**Case 2** - K-9 Mack assisted Visalia Police with a multi-agency investigation of suspects involved in sales of narcotics. Mack directed officers to two separate vehicles carrying 16 lbs. of methamphetamine and \$80,000 of hidden cash.

## Special Enforcement Bureau

The **Special Enforcement Bureau** includes the Gang Suppression Unit, Narcotics Unit, and the AB 109 Probation Team, all led by Lieutenant Steve Puder. This Bureau works closely with gang task forces.

### Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force

The **Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force** is chaired by Police Chief Colleen Mestas and Visalia Unified School District Superintendent Craig Wheaton. In 2013, a Resource Sub-Committee was formed. The focus of the Committee is information and resource sharing. One goal is to communicate to the public about what is happening related to intervention, prevention, and suppression of gangs in our community. Some agencies and programs include the following:

- Visalia Police Department – Police Activities League, Explorer Program, and Youth Services Officers at the schools.
- Visalia Unified School District – After school programs, Proteus, Campus Life for gang prevention and intervention, and Tulare County Sheriff’s Office at Charter Alternatives Academy.
- City of Visalia Parks and Recreation Department – The LOOP bus, Manuel Hernandez Community Center Drop-In Program, and the Summer Night Lights Program.

- County of Tulare/STEP UP – Gang Prevention Task Force, Summer Night Lights Program, Anti-Gang Informational Summits, Youth Challenge, LOOP bus, Youth Commission, and youth activity grants.
- Tulare County Sheriff’s Office – Police Activities League and Explorer Program. Suppression efforts include: Community Based Officers and the North/South Gang Units.
- Tulare County Probation Department – Gang Resistance Education and Training Program.
- Proteus – California Gang Reduction Intervention and Prevention Program.
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters
- Boys and Girls Club
- Pro Youth – HEART Program
- Boy Scouts of America

Through these collaborative efforts, the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force makes our community a safer place to live.

#### Gang Activity

Gang activity is measured by three crimes, all perpetrated by gang members:

- 1) Homicide
- 2) Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW)
- 3) Drive-by Shootings

Annual Comparison	Gang Stats			
Categories	2010	2011	2012	2013
187 PC (Gang Homicide)	4	3	2	3
245 PC (Gang ADW)	59	26	43	30
246 PC (Gang Drive-By)	39	22	24	25

#### Narcotics Unit Activity

Statistics	Quantity
Total Arrests	110
Felony Arrests	92
Misdemeanor Arrests	18
Search Warrants	54
Methamphetamine Seized	22.7 pounds
Heroin Seized	4.79 ounces
Cocaine Seized	1.7 ounces
Marijuana Seized	1695.8 pounds
Weapons Seized	15

Operations Division



## Tulare Area Regional Gang Enforcement Team

The **Tulare Area Regional Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET)** was established in 2012, under the direction of the Attorney General, as gang violence in the area increased. Working cooperatively, participating agencies enforce the laws of the State of California, including the Penal Code, Vehicle Code, Health and Safety Code, and applicable Federal laws relating to violent crime, street terrorism, and gang related crime.

TARGET focuses its efforts toward the suppression, intervention, and prevention of violent gangs, through well coordinated offender and gang related intelligence and investigations. TARGET's primary responsibility is the identification, arrest, and prosecution of gang members and/or associates within Tulare County.

The California Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation, leads the team. TARGET is comprised of six member agencies.



In one case alone, TARGET seized 750 grams of methamphetamine valued at \$10,000, two stolen handguns, and \$4,121 in US currency.

TARGET Member Agencies
California Department of Justice - Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Firearms
California Highway Patrol
Parole
Tulare County Sheriff's Office
Tulare Police Department
Visalia Police Department

TARGET Statistics	Quantity
Cases Opened	104
Arrests	88
Gang Arrests	69
Methamphetamine Seized	4.29 pounds
Cocaine Seized	66.5 grams
Marijuana Seized	9,503 grams
Marijuana Plants Seized	21 pounds
Weapons Seized	44



Operations Division



## Honor Guard



Honor Guard Members	
Sgt. Paul Esquibel	Officer Adam Aquallo
Sgt. Curtis Brown	Officer James Cleek
Officer Carmen Landin	Officer Bernardo Villegas
Officer Ruben Cabatic	Officer Thomas Higgins
Officer Matt Jones	

The **Honor Guard** participated in 16 events in 2013: six outside agency officer funerals, Tulare County Memorial fundraiser, American Little League opening ceremony, Sacramento and Tulare County Peace Officers Memorial event, motorcycle fundraiser event, September 11th Remembrance Ceremony, Visalia Fire Department poker-run fundraiser, MADD recognition luncheon, STEP-UP Law Enforcement Conference, and the 6th Annual Central Cal-Motors Competition.

## Traffic Unit

The Visalia Police Department and the Tulare County Sheriff's Office were awarded a grant from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control to battle alcohol related crime. Both entities were among 80 California law enforcement agencies awarded funds. The year-long grant funds: education, compliance, and enforcement details. The goal is to reduce the number of alcoholic beverages sold to minors and intoxicated patrons, reduce calls for service at problem establishments, and reduce blight caused by licensed establishments that are not operating within required standards.

In addition, the California Office of Traffic Safety provided two grants for an anti-driving under the influence (DUI) program and support for activity by the "Avoid the 18" DUI Task Force. Grant monies are used to staff DUI and driver license checkpoints, multi-agency DUI Task Force deployments, and local DUI saturation patrols. Additionally, funding helps officers target the 'worst of the worst' repeat offenders. This is accomplished through warrant and probation sweeps and court stinging enforcement operations focusing on DUI offenders who leave court hearings and drive away on suspended licenses after being ordered not to drive by a judge.



Operations Division



# Crime Prevention



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

Police officers, Command Staff, and other City officials visited approximately 30 neighborhood parties during the annual National Night Out event.

Event	# of Events	# of Participants
Child ID	10	1,474
Child Safety	7	605
Safety Presentations	9	547
Senior Safety	6	1,460
Tours of VPD	6	128
McGruff	5	Unknown
Neighborhood Watch Meetings	27	Unknown
Citizen's Police Academy	1 (10-Weeks)	10
National Night Out	30	>1,000
VIP's Appreciation Banquet	1	72

Operations Division

## Homeless Population Assisted

### City Adopts Two Ordinances to Address and Assist the Homeless

City of Visalia is providing storage bins for homeless person's possessions. Merchants are now responsible for picking up their property. A fee is charged if the merchant does not pick up their shopping carts.

Shopping carts and wheeled receptacles are prohibited from City parks and from being abandoned on private property.

## Street Solicitation Addressed

### Street Solicitor Prevention Campaign

The Traffic Unit conducted an operation to curb the activities of street solicitors who endanger their safety and the safety of others by entering the roadway and impeding vehicular traffic. Seven intersections had offenders. The highest number of citations were issued at Demaree Street and Mineral King Avenue, and on Noble Avenue at Mary's Vineyard. Additional details are planned.

# Investigations Bureau

The **Investigations Bureau** is led by Lieutenant Ed Lynn.

The **Violent Crimes Unit** is supervised by Sergeant Greg Byerlee.

The **Property Crimes Unit** is supervised by Sergeant Amy Watkins.

In 2013, the Violent and Property Crimes Units investigated over 2,600 cases and made over 350 arrests.

The Violent Crimes Unit consists of one sergeant, seven detectives, and two civilian investigators.

The Violent Crimes Unit investigates "Crimes against Persons," including: homicide, robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping, death reports, rape, child abuse, child molestation, physical elder abuse, and other felony assaults.

The two civilian investigators are responsible for investigating adult missing persons and a variety of misdemeanor crimes including: assault and battery, annoying phone calls, and violations of court orders.

The main goal of the Unit is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Visalia by investigating and arresting individuals, and then working closely with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office to obtain convictions on the violent felons responsible for these crimes. The Violent Crimes Unit relies on information from the citizens of Visalia and welcomes the assistance from the public.

The Property Crimes Unit consists of one sergeant, six detectives, and one investigation technician. An additional detective is serving on the T-RATT Task Force.

Types of crimes that Property Crimes detectives investigate include: auto theft, burglary, check fraud, embezzlement, financial elder abuse, identity theft, pawn shop and second hand dealer problems, and grand and petty thefts.

In 2013, the Property Crimes Unit concentrated on preventing crimes from occurring. By joining with community members and businesses, the Property Crimes Unit strives to reduce crime in the midst of prison realignment (AB 109). This can be accomplished through predictive and proactive policing, by gathering crime information from officers in the field and contacts in the community, and through technology. Information is then shared among associates in law enforcement, residents, and City partners.



Operations Support Division



## Property and Evidence

## Crime Lab

The **Property and Evidence Unit** and **Crime Lab** are led by Supervisor Jim Potts.

**Property and Evidence** Technicians are responsible for total inventory control of all property and evidence booked into the Visalia Police Department's evidence rooms.

### *Evidence Tracking/Disposal*

Method	# Articles
Received	9,855
Destroyed	10,663
Auctioned	3,763
City Use	153
Donated to Non-Profit	48
Returned to Owner	651

### *Weapons Disposal*

Destroyed	# Articles
Firearms Related Items	429
Firearms	177

**Crime Lab** Technicians respond to cases where specialized services are necessary. The Crime Lab is also responsible for conducting fingerprint analysis of evidence using modern techniques and equipment (see page 15). This service is often crucial to determine guilt or innocence. The Crime Lab also manages public fingerprinting services including Live Scans and Registrants. All digital photographs and recordings are maintained and processed by the Crime Lab. Crime Lab Technicians provide analysis and expert courtroom testimony for a variety of forensic disciplines including:

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

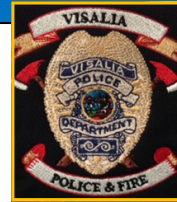


Operations Support Division

## Support Services Bureau

Veronica McDermott is the Support Services Manager overseeing the Communications, Court/Subpoena Services, Records, and Crime Analysis Units.

## Communications Unit



The **Communications Unit** is led by Supervisor John Demarest

The Communications Unit is staffed by 4 Senior Dispatchers, 23 Emergency Services Dispatchers, and 1 part-time Animal Control Dispatcher.

The 9-1-1 Communications Center operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dispatchers work 11 or 12 hour shifts providing around-the-clock dispatching services for Police and Fire in Visalia. They also provide support, route calls for medical emergencies to Tulare County Consolidated Ambulance Dispatch, and coordinate joint responses, when necessary.

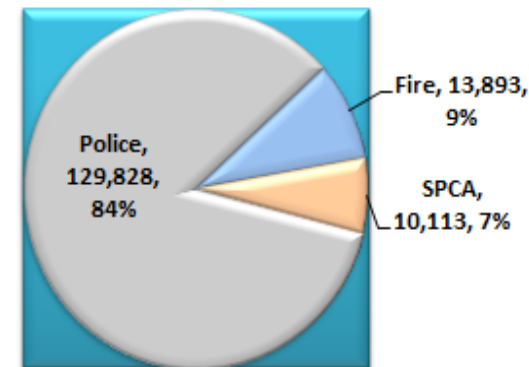
The 9-1-1 Communications Center is staffed by trained professionals whose mission is to provide both emergency and non-emergency police and fire services for the community in a professional and expedient manner. Dispatchers evaluate and prioritize the incoming calls for service (CFS) and make referrals to other agencies, when appropriate. They are responsible for dispatching calls to police officers and fire personnel, tracking the location of field units, and monitoring their safety. Each call received is entered into a Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD). In 2013, Dispatchers handled nearly 314,000 telephone calls and dispatched more than 154,000 CFS (shown in the graphs below).

In 2013, the Visalia Police Department adopted the use of clear text communications. Clear text, or plain language, is defined as communication that can be understood by the intended audience and meets the purpose of the communicator. Clear text replaces coded substitutions with common terminology and definitions that can be understood by individuals from all first responder disciplines and across jurisdictions. The ultimate goal of using clear text communications is to ensure and improve multi-agency interoperability during mutual aid responses.

The California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certify dispatchers in public safety dispatching. Dispatchers attend a 3-week dispatch academy, 34 weeks of on-the-job training, and a minimum of 24 hours of continued professional training every two years.

The staff of the Communications Unit is committed to giving the highest quality and level of service to the citizens of Visalia.

**Dispatched Calls for Service**



**Telephone Calls for Service**

9-1-1 Calls	Non-Emergency	SPCA	Total
80,494	215,768	17,550	313,812

Operations Support Division



## Court/Subpoena Services



The **Court/Subpoena Services Unit** is led by Judy Morgan-Ronding, DA Liaison. The Unit compiles arrest packages for criminal cases sent to the District Attorney (DA) and coordinates all court appearances.

Court/Subpoena Unit Tasks	Quantity
Adult Arrest Packages Sent to DA	3,229
Juvenile Arrest Packages Sent to DA	249
Adult Evaluation Packages Sent to DA	612
Adult Packages Sent with Lab Results	322
New DA Requests - Log, Copy, and Distribute	2,019
Process Returned DA Requests	2,814
Drug Analysis Requests - DOJ	104
DA Request for Report	222
Redact Reports	75
Clearance Sheets Entered	2,837
Case Management Entry	2,620
DA Disposition List Entry	5,763
9-1-1 Calls/Logs to DA/DMV/RAP	283
Subpoenas Delivered	6,203

Records Unit Tasks	Quantity
Citizens Assisted at Front Counters	24,128
Phone Calls Received	26,305
Hours Spent on Transcription	3,159
Arrest Packages Sent to the District Attorney	3,105

## Records Unit

The **Records Unit** is led by Supervisor Lisa Davis.

The Records Unit is part of the Operations Support Division and has 14 full-time employees and 1 Records Supervisor. Two of the 14 are Lead positions.

Records employees are responsible for maintaining the integrity of police documents, processing all incoming reports for distribution, transcribing police narratives, and preparing arrest packages for court. Front counter staff assist citizens with several transactions including: processing payments for citations, vehicle release forms, and releasing crime and traffic collision reports to victims and/or their authorized representatives in accordance with the law. Employees must be knowledgeable in the laws governing the disclosure of public information such as the California Public Records Act, Government Code, Evidence Code, and Welfare and Institutions Code.

In 2013, entry into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) was divided amongst the Records, Communications, and Property and Evidence Units. Records Unit personnel run criminal histories, Department of Motor Vehicle inquiries, and enters stolen property and towed vehicle information into CLETS. This change improved efficiencies.



Operations Support Division

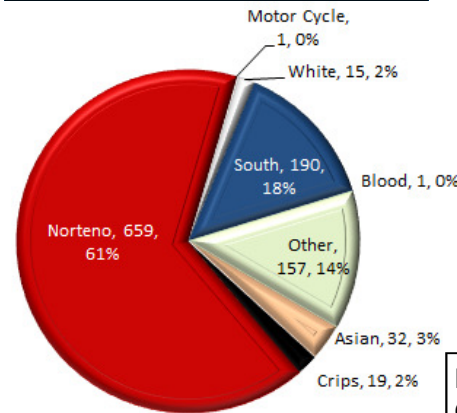
## Crime Analysis Unit / End-of-Year Statistics

The **Crime Analysis Unit** is led by Robin Meyst, Police Systems Analyst (Crime Analyst).

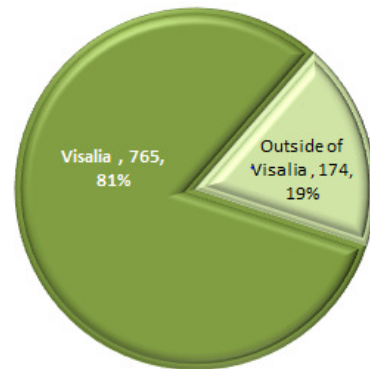
The primary mission of the Visalia Police Department Crime Analysis Unit is to provide the highest level of assistance to operational personnel by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating crime related data in an effort to recognize crime patterns, identify criminal suspects, and reduce crime.

The Unit is responsible for reporting statistics to the Department, City Officials, Department of Justice, FBI, and the community.

Field Interview Cards - Gang Affiliation



Field Interview Cards - Residence



**Field Interview Cards - Last year, officers generated 1,495 Field Interview Cards. Of those, 939 have gang affiliations and 174 live outside of Visalia. Charts to the left show what gang they are associated with, and if they live in Visalia.**

End-of-Year Statistics	2012	2013	% DIF
Population	126,864	128,443	1.2%
<b>Offense Classification</b>			
Criminal Homicide	5	8	
Forcible Rape	44	31	-30%
Robbery	134	156	16%
Assault	1,649	1,520	-8%
Burglary	1,227	1,218	-1%
Larceny - Theft	3,778	3,016	-20%
Motor Vehicle Theft	526	619	18%
<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>	<b>7,363</b>	<b>6,568</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Domestic Violence</b>			
	<b>889</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Recovered Vehicles</b>			
	<b>583</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Arrests</b>			
Adults	5,837	5,543	-5%
Juveniles	916	700	-24%
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>6,753</b>	<b>6,243</b>	<b>-8%</b>

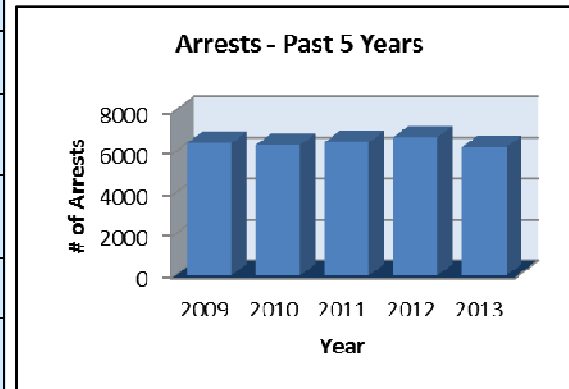
Traffic Statistics	
Collisions (47% decrease from 2012)	953
Citations (13% decrease from 2012)	9,124
Primary Collision Factor and Most Frequently Cited Violation	Speeding
Fatal Collisions	8
Injury Collisions	430
DUI Arrests	387

Operations Support Division



Larceny	#	Value \$
Pocket Picking	4	949
Purse Snatching	3	382
Shoplifting	738	157,112
Vehicle Burglary	1,000	469,044
Vehicle Parts and Accessories	312	192,338
Bicycles	197	61,332
From Buildings	390	431,015
Coin Operated Machines	6	400
Other	366	324,223
<b>Total Larcenies</b>	<b>3,016</b>	<b>\$1,736,795</b>

Recovered Vehicles	#	Value \$
Stolen locally, recovered locally	316	1,734,395
Stolen locally and recovered elsewhere	244	1,670,353
Stolen elsewhere, recovered locally	101	3,404,748
<b>Total Recovered Vehicles</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>\$6,809,496</b>



Operations Support Division

### Organization 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.

**Service** – Quality delivery of service is both a personal and organizational commitment. The Department will make every effort to deliver professional and 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.

Organization Values

**Begin a Neighborhood Watch Program**

**Volunteer**

**Join the Explorers**



The Visalia Police Explorer Post 32 placed 4th overall at the Paso Robles Competition.

Explorers helped raise the flag at the annual motors competition.



**Visalia Police Department**  
303 S. Johnson Street  
559-713-4074

**District 1**  
204 NW Third Street  
559-713-4856

**District 2**  
4100 S. County Center  
559-713-4857