

VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

2015 Annual Report



Dedicated to Serving Our Community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City of Visalia



Steve Nelsen
Mayor

Warren Gubler
Vice Mayor

Greg Collins
Council Member

Bob Link
Council Member

Amy Shuklian
Council Member

Visalia City Council



Mike Olmos
City Manager



www.visalia.city



@Cityofvisalia



City of Visalia

Editor



Carina Mello
Senior Administrative Assistant
Office of the Chief of Police

*"The Visalia Police Department's 2015 Annual Report
is dedicated to the citizens of our community and our partners.
Thank you for your continued support."*

Jason Salazar
Chief of Police

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedicated to Serving Our Community



VPD Staff pose for a group photo at Mooney Grove Park.



Chief Jason Salazar poses with VPD Staff in front of City Hall.



VPD Officers pose for a photo at Mooney Grove Park.

- Acknowledgements 1
- Mission Statement/Organizational Values 3
- Message from the Chief 3
- City Names Acting Chief 4
- Appointment of New Chief 4
- Organizational Chart/Command Staff..... 5
- Team Building/VPD Way 6
- Retirements 7
- Promotions..... 9
- Recognitions 10
- Special Events 15
- Community Outreach..... 18
- California Peace Officers’ Memorial..... 20
- Statistics 21
- Tulare Co. Peace Officer Memorial..... 23
- Operation Red Sol/T.A.R.G.E.T. Task Force 24
- Technology 25
- Visalia Emergency Communications Center 26
- Budget..... 27
- Administrative Services..... 28
- Operations Division 29
- Operations Support Division 36
- In Memoriam 42



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 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. We value Integrity, Service, Fiscal Responsibility, and Our People.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The Visalia Police Department's 2015 Annual Report is an informative glimpse into the efforts of the dedicated men and women who serve the community of Visalia and provide for its public safety.

This year's report is a comprehensive reflection of our crime fighting and public safety activities, as well as a look at our asserted efforts to build strong community relationships that are so essential to making the City of Visalia a great place to live, work, and play.

This year brought about a great deal of change. Chief Colleen Mestas retired after seven years of dedicated service to our community and a respectable career in law enforcement. We wish Chief Mestas the very best in her new endeavors.

I am honored to have been appointed the Chief of Police in February. I am committed to continuing a long standing tradition of excellent police service at the Visalia Police Department and leading the organization to face future challenges and opportunities.

It is an honor and a privilege to lead and serve with the men and women of the Visalia Police Department and to work with all of our stakeholders who make Visalia a great place. It is my hope that you will see that dedication and commitment reflected in this report.

Thank you,

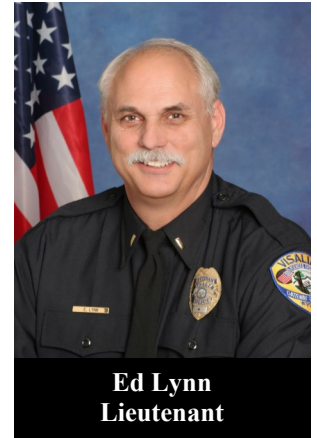
Jason Salazar
Chief of Police

CITY NAMES ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

Lieutenant Ed Lynn Named Acting Chief

On January 21st, Lieutenant Ed Lynn was appointed Acting Chief of Police by City Manager Mike Olmos shortly after Chief Colleen Mestas announced her retirement. City Manager Mike Olmos stated, "Appointing Lieutenant Lynn, who has no interest in the position, allows internal candidates to focus on the interview process for the permanent Chief of Police position."

After an internal recruitment process was conducted and interviews held, City Council officially appointed Jason Salazar as Visalia Police Department's permanent Chief of Police.



Ed Lynn
Lieutenant

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

Jason Salazar Appointed Chief of Police



Chief Salazar is pinned by his spouse as City Manager Mike Olmos looks on.

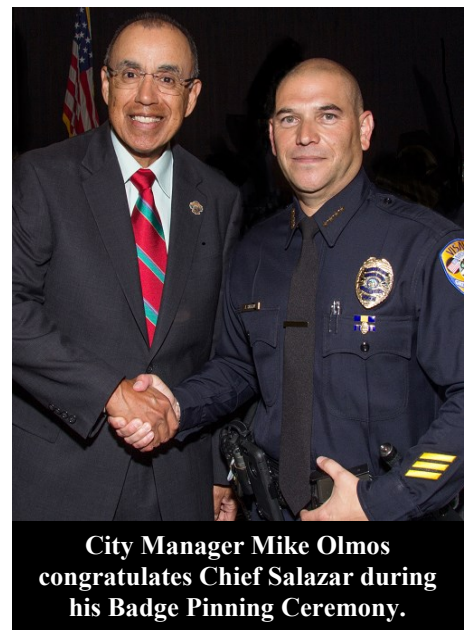
Jason Salazar was officially sworn-in as Chief of Police of the Visalia Police Department during the City Council Work Session held on July 6th.

Chief Salazar began his career with the Visalia Police Department in 1993 as a Community Service 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.

In 1999, Chief Salazar was recognized as the Visalia Police Department's Latino Peace Officer of the Year and Police Officer of the Year in 2002.

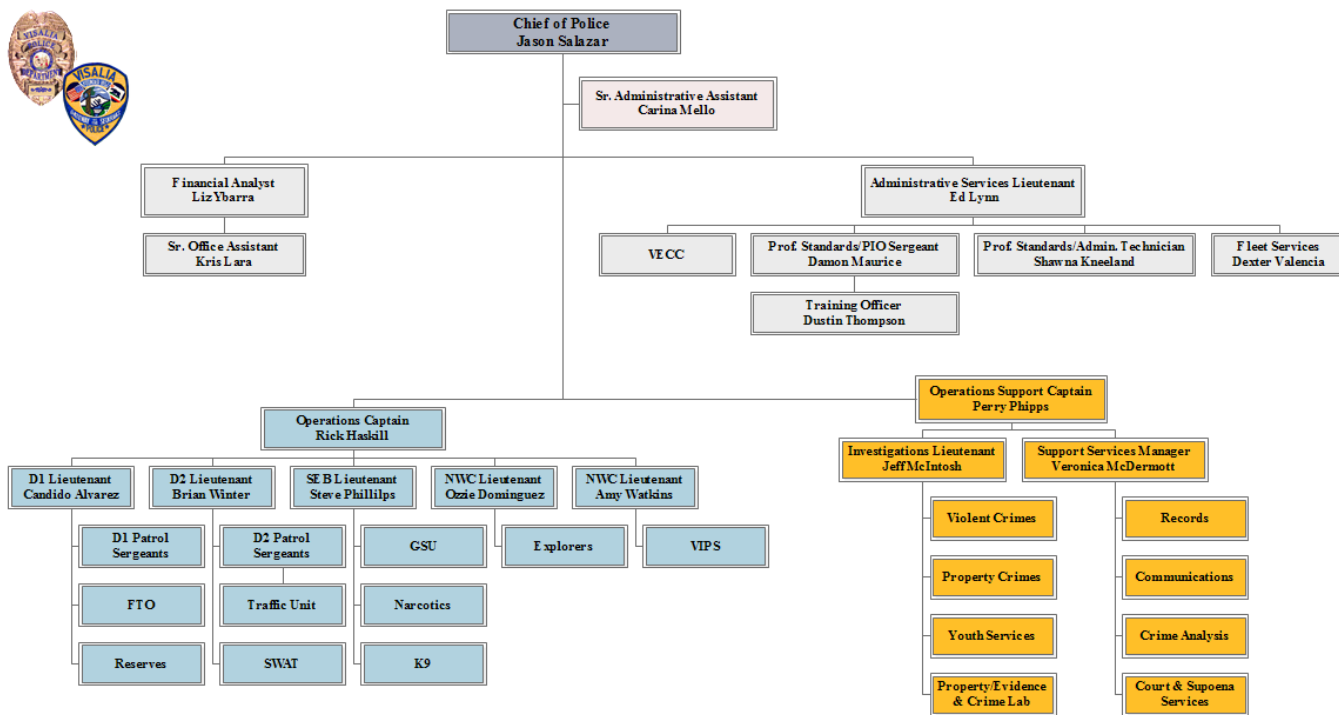
Chief Salazar has held a variety of assignments during his employment with the Visalia Police Department, including assignments in the Patrol Bureau, DUI Unit, S.W.A.T., and Violent Crimes Unit. As a Lieutenant, he oversaw the Special Enforcement Bureau which includes the Gang Suppression Unit and Narcotics Unit. As a Captain, he oversaw both the Operations Support Division and Operations Division.

Chief Salazar holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mountain State University and a Master's Degree in Leadership Studies from Fresno Pacific University. He is also a graduate of the Los Angeles Police Department's West Point Leadership Program, the Senior Management Institute of Police, and P.O.S.T. Command College.



City Manager Mike Olmos congratulates Chief Salazar during his Badge Pinning Ceremony.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



COMMAND STAFF

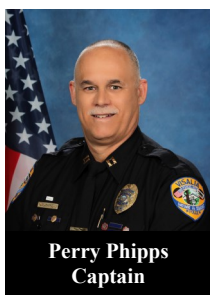
The Visalia Police Department’s Command Staff includes the Chief of Police, two Captains, seven Lieutenants, one Support Services Manager, and one Financial Analyst. The Department is comprised of two main Divisions: Operations and Operations Support, each led by a Captain. Administrative Services includes the Professional Standards Bureau, Fleet, and Budget which report directly to the Chief of Police.



Jason Salazar
Chief



Rick Haskill
Captain



Perry Phipps
Captain



Candido Alvarez
Lieutenant



Brian Winter
Lieutenant



Amy Watkins
Lieutenant



Osvaldo Dominguez
Lieutenant



Liz Ybarra
Financial Analyst



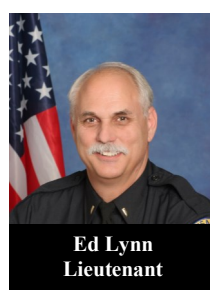
Veronica McDermott
Support Sves. Manager



Steve Phillips
Lieutenant



Jeff McIntosh
Lieutenant



Ed Lynn
Lieutenant

TEAM BUILDING



Several members of VPD's Supervisory Staff and Command Staff attended the Team Building and Strategic Planning Workshop.

In November 2015, members of the Visalia Police Department's Supervisory Staff and Command Staff held a Team Building and Strategic Planning Workshop at the Tenaya Lodge. The three day workshop was facilitated by Joe Kreins of Management Partners.

The workshop focused on leadership strategies, roles and responsibilities of team members, organizational analysis, community policing, crime reduction strategies, and planning for the future.

The workshop resulted in the identification of 13 action items to evaluate additional strategies related to the use of technology, crime reduction, traffic safety, recruitment, transition to the Visalia Emergency Communications Center, expansion of the Chief's Advisory Committee, and enhancing the Professional Standards Bureau. The workshop was funded through California P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards & Training).



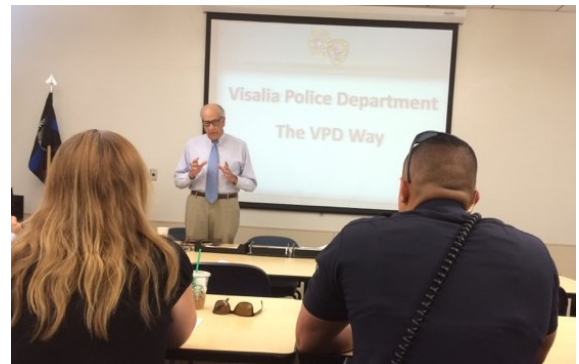
"VPD WAY" TRAINING

In 1984, Visalia Police Department Chief Raymond Forsyth introduced the Police Department to a working philosophy called the "VPD Way".

The idea came from what was developed as the "HP Way" (the Hewlett Packard Way). The HP Way is the idea that any organization, of long standing, who has worked together over a period of time, develops a philosophy, a series of traditions, and a set of values, and these, in total, are unique and fully define the organization.

After being appointed the Chief of Police for the Visalia Police Department, Chief Salazar restored the "VPD Way" philosophy by conducting a series of 11 training sessions that involved all members of the Police Department.

The sessions focused on the Police Department's core objectives and vision to be a progressive and professional law enforcement agency, employee growth and development, and building and enhancing police-community relations and involvement. In addition to these objectives, the training focused on the values of Integrity, Service, Fiscal Responsibility, and Our People.



In 2015, former Chief of Police Ray Forsyth kicked off a series of "VPD Way" trainings. "VPD Way" was originated during his tenure as Chief.

RETIREMENTS

Chief Colleen Mestas Retires



Chief Colleen Mestas retired from the Visalia Police Department after seven years of service to the community.

Chief Colleen Mestas was hired by the City of Visalia as the Assistant Chief of Police in July of 2008. In December of 2009, she became the first female Chief of Police in the history of the Visalia Police Department.

During her time with the Visalia Police Department, Chief Mestas focused on building relationships with Police Department personnel, allied law enforcement organizations, and community members.

In August of 2010, Chief Mestas was instrumental in leading efforts to collaborate local law enforcement resources with the California Department of Justice in Operation Street Sweeper. Operation Street Sweeper was an intensive gang investigation that led to the arrest of 40 gang members. This investigation was instrumental in reducing gang-related violence in Visalia.

As a result of Operation Street Sweeper, Chief Mestas championed efforts to establish a State Department of Justice led multi-agency gang task force in Tulare County. These efforts resulted in the formation of the T.A.R.G.E.T. (Tulare Area Regional Gang Enforcement Team) Task Force that continues to combat gang activity in Tulare County today.

On June 12th, a retirement celebration for Chief Mestas was held and members of the community gathered to honor her years of service. Chief Mestas' official retirement date was June 26, 2015.



Members of the community attended Chief Mestas' retirement celebration held at the Convention Center on June 12th.



Chief Mestas pictured here with City Manager Mike Olmos during her retirement celebration.

RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh Retires After 31 Years of Law Enforcement Service



Jeff McIntosh
Lieutenant

Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh retired from the Visalia Police Department on December 18th after 31 years of law enforcement service.

Lieutenant McIntosh began his employment with the Visalia Police Department in 1984 as a Reserve Officer. In 1985, he was hired as a Community Service Officer and, in 1986, was sworn-in as a Police Officer.

As an Officer with the Visalia Police Department, Lieutenant McIntosh was assigned to the Patrol, K9, Youth Services, Property Crimes, Auto Theft, and Special Enforcement Units. Lieutenant McIntosh also served as a member of S.W.A.T. and as a Baton Instructor.

In 2007, Lieutenant McIntosh was promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to the Patrol, K9, Reserve, and Violent Crimes Units.

In 2011, Lieutenant McIntosh was promoted to Lieutenant and was assigned to the Special Enforcement Bureau, District 2 Substation, Night Watch Commander, and the Investigations Bureau.

During his tenure with the Visalia Police Department, Lieutenant McIntosh was recognized as the Visalia Police Department's Reserve Officer of the Year in 1985, the Visalia Police Department's Officer of the Year in 1999, and he is also a recipient of the 2003 Watch Commander's Award. Lieutenant McIntosh has also been recognized as an expert related to gangs and the use and sales of narcotics.



Lieutenant McIntosh receives his retirement badge from Chief Salazar during his retirement celebration at the Sons of Italy Hall on December 17th.



Lieutenant McIntosh addresses the crowd during his retirement celebration.

PROMOTIONS

Chief Salazar Promotes New Lieutenant and Sergeant



Amy Watkins was promoted to Lieutenant on April 4th.



Lieutenant Watkins is pinned by her spouse.

Amy Watkins was promoted to Lieutenant on April 4th. She is currently assigned as a Night Watch Commander.

Lieutenant Watkins began her employment with the Visalia Police Department in 2000. As an Officer, she held assignments in the Patrol Bureau, Youth Services Unit, and Violent Crimes Unit.

In April of 2009, Lieutenant Watkins was promoted to the position of Sergeant and held assignments in the Patrol Bureau and the Professional Standards Bureau where she served as both the Police Department's Public Information Officer and Training Sergeant. Prior to her promotion, Lieutenant Watkins was assigned as the Property Crimes Sergeant.

Lieutenant Watkins holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix.



Brent Miller was promoted to Sergeant on April 18th.



Sergeant Miller is pinned by his sons.

Brent Miller was promoted to Sergeant on April 18th. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Bureau.

Sergeant Miller began his employment with the Visalia Police Department in March of 1996.

During his employment with the Visalia Police Department, Sergeant Miller has held assignments in the Patrol Bureau, Traffic Unit, and Investigations Division.

Prior to his promotion, Sergeant Miller was assigned as a Commercial Policing Officer overseeing the North Dinuba Boulevard corridor.

Sergeant Miller holds an Associates of Arts Degree in Administration of Justice from Sacramento City College, and both a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Criminology from California State University-Fresno.

RECOGNITIONS

2015 VPD Employees of the Year



Agent Bill Diltz
Officer of the Year



Mike Stow
Reserve Officer of the Year



Bob Douglas
Civilian Employee
of the Year



Betty Shewey
Communications Operator
of the Year



Melissa Lujan
Records Employee
of the Year

Sergeant Mark Feller Graduates from the Supervisory Leadership Institute



Mark Feller
Sergeant

Sergeant Mark Feller graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute (SBSLI) on February 4th.

SBSLI is a program designed to stimulate personal growth, leadership, and ethical decision-making in California law enforcement front-line supervisors. It is an intense program based on experiential learning techniques. Students are challenged to learn new ways to resolve issues through group and individual work.

Sergeant Feller attended the course over a period of eight months. The final project for this course included completing and presenting an Adaptive Leadership Project. Through this process, Sergeant Feller's presentation on K9 Shift Deployment was adopted by the Visalia Police Department.

RECOGNITIONS

VPD Explorers Place 1st in Tulare County Explorer Competition

Members of the Visalia Police Department's Explorer Post 32 took First Place in the Tulare County Explorer Competition held on March 20th - 21st, at the Tulare County Fairgrounds. The Explorers competed against 27 teams from throughout the State of California. The competition included various scenarios and obstacles designed to test law enforcement skills. In addition to placing First Overall, the Explorers won a total of 12 trophies.



Back Row, L-R: Murad Bayless, Richard Smith, Anthony Pena, Aaron Douglas, Andy Klorman, Danny Klorman, Osvaldo Ramirez, & Luis Bercoles.

Front Row, L-R: Mia Monette, Janessa Sanchez, Hope Cano, Guadalupe Mendoza, & Mackenzie Costa.



Explorer Costa competes on the obstacle course.



Explorers Douglas, Smith, Costa, Cano, and Klorman pose after a Vehicle Search competition.

RECOGNITIONS

Support Services Manager Veronica McDermott Honored

Support Services Manager Veronica McDermott was recognized during the “Latina in Business & Professions Association” luncheon held on Thursday, May 21st, at the Holiday Inn. Veronica was honored for her accomplishments as a leading “Latina in Technology” by the United Women’s Organization - Latinas in Business & Professions Association.



Veronica McDermott displays the award she received for her accomplishments as a leading “Latina in Technology”.

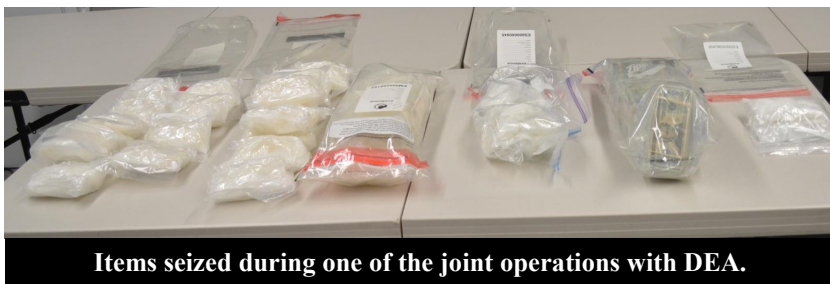
L-R: Financial Analyst Liz Ybarra, Records Supervisor Lisa Davis, Support Services Manager Veronica McDermott, Communications Supervisor John Demarest, & Senior Administrative Assistant Carina Mello.



Narcotics Unit Recognized by the Drug Enforcement Administration

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) presented the Police Department with a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding work conducted by the Police Department’s Narcotics Unit and its successful relationship with the Drug Enforcement Administration. This includes two wire-tap cases and numerous other joint operations, one of which resulted in the attempted armed robbery of an undercover DEA Agent. During this case, the Narcotics Unit was able to follow and arrest four suspects involved in the attempted robbery.

To date, joint operations with the Narcotics Unit and the DEA have resulted in the seizure of nearly 80 pounds of methamphetamine, two pounds of heroin, approximately \$150,000, and the arrests of 35 individuals.



Items seized during one of the joint operations with DEA.



DEA Agent David Escobar presents Chief Salazar with a Certificate of Appreciation.

RECOGNITIONS

United States Post Office Recognizes Property Crimes Detective



L-R: USPIS Inspector in Charge Rafael Nunez, Detective Jared Hughes, and Chief Salazar.

The US Postal Inspection Service recognized Property Crimes Detective Jared Hughes for his outstanding effort involving a serial burglar who had struck multiple locations, including a nearby US Post Office. This investigation spanned three counties and involved numerous law enforcement agencies.

Detective Hughes coordinated the investigation, which resulted in the suspect's conviction in Federal Court resulting in a sentence to State Prison.



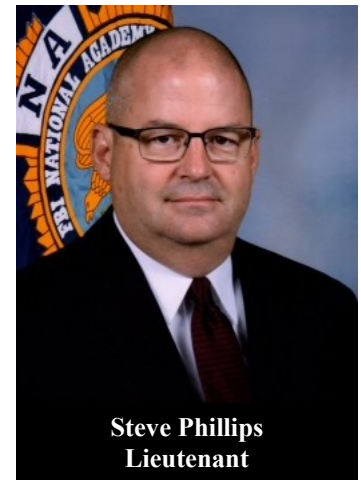
Lieutenant Steve Phillips Graduates from the FBI Academy



Lieutenant Steven Phillips graduated from the 261st Session of the FBI National Academy on September 11th.

The 261st Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 48 states. Included in the class were members of law enforcement agencies from the District of Columbia, 23 international countries, five military organizations, and five federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers ten weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies.



Steve Phillips
Lieutenant

VPD Places 2nd in California Law Enforcement Challenge



Chief Salazar accepts the C.L.E.C. Award from Chief Jim Abrams of California Highway Patrol.

During a City Council meeting held on Monday, November 16th, the California Highway Patrol presented the Visalia Police Department with the 2014 California Law Enforcement Challenge (C.L.E.C.) Award. The Visalia Police Department placed 2nd in this statewide challenge.

C.L.E.C. Awards are presented to agencies whose traffic safety programs focus on efforts in occupant protection, impaired driving, and speed awareness.

This was the eighth straight year the Visalia Police Department has been a top three finisher.

RECOGNITIONS

Boy Scouts of America Honor VPD at Law Enforcement Support Rally

On November 21st, a law enforcement rally was held at VPD Headquarters. The rally was organized by the Road Church and Boy Scouts of America in support of local law enforcement. Members of the Police Department were greeted by the public, as well as the Boy Scouts of America Troop 338.



Members of the Department pose with Visalia's local Boy Scouts of America Troop 338 during a public rally in support of local law enforcement.



City Recognizes Employees for Years of Service

The City of Visalia held its Employee Service Awards on December 9th. A total of 46 members of the Visalia Police Department were recognized for a combined total of 515 years of service.

Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh and Lieutenant Ed Lynn were recognized for 30 years of service. Sergeant Ron Epp and Officer Dominic Mena were both recognized for 20 years of service.



City employees were served breakfast during the recognition ceremony held at the Convention Center.



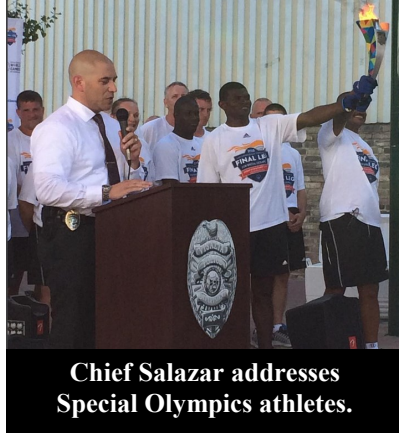
L-R: Sergeant Ron Epp, Lieutenant Ed Lynn, and Officer Dominic Mena.

SPECIAL EVENTS

VPD Supports Special Olympics World Games Participants



VPD Officers greet the Special Olympics athletes upon their arrival.



Chief Salazar addresses Special Olympics athletes.



The City of Visalia was designated as one of the final routes for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games Torch Run.

On July 16th, participants of the Special Olympics made their way through the streets of Visalia prior to heading to Los Angeles where the games were held. Chief Salazar, along with several members of the Police Department and City staff, were on hand to welcome and cheer on the athletes.

VPD Officers Participate in Bravefest



The 2015 Wish Upon A Star's Bravefest event was held on September 19th at the Garden Street Plaza. Law enforcement agencies from throughout the County participated in the event, which also included a chili bean cook-off.

Officer Jeremy Houser and Agent Bill Diltz participated in the event on behalf of VPD. The Tulare County Probation Department was the top agency in the County, raising \$5,800. Agent Bill Diltz was named "Top Cop" for his efforts in raising \$4,300. Over \$45,000 was raised during this year's event.

Wish Upon A Star helps grant wishes to terminally ill children.

Officer Jeremy Houser and Agent Bill Diltz prior to getting their heads shaved.



Officer Houser and Agent Diltz after their heads were shaved.

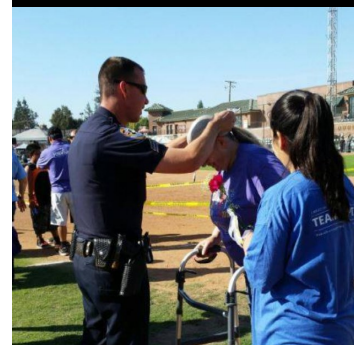
SPECIAL EVENTS

VPD Officers Greet Cancer Survivors at Visalia Relay For Life

The Visalia Relay for Life event was held at the Rawhide Stadium on September 26th - 27th. A total of 51 teams and 717 participants helped raise a grand total of \$92,022. VPD Officers were able to award cancer survivors with a ceremonial medal as they finished their event.



Sergeant Chris McLain greets a survivor.



Tour Against Human Trafficking Stops in Visalia

Captain Rick Haskill, top right, poses with participants.



On October 2nd, the "Tour Against Human Trafficking", a bicycle tour presented by the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, stopped in Visalia for a brief press conference. The tour was created to bring awareness to the epidemic of Human Trafficking.

In addition to the Visalia Police Department who was invited to speak, other agencies in attendance included the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, and Family Services of Tulare County.

VPD Officers Participate in Tip A Cop

Members of the Visalia Police Department participated in Red Robin's Tip A Cop event held on October 22nd. Law enforcement officers throughout the nation spend the day at Red Robin Restaurants serving members of the community in an effort to help raise funds for the Special Olympics.

This year's event helped raise over \$1,200 collected from our community.



Lieutenant Amy Watkins serves patrons at the Tip A Cop event.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Battle of the Badges

The 14th Annual South Valley Battle of the Badges blood drive competition was held between November 2nd - 10th. Members of the Visalia Police Department competed with other law enforcement agencies throughout Tulare County for the highest number of donations.

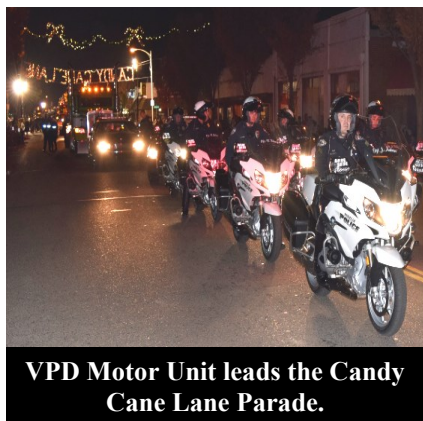


Lieutenant Candido Alvarez donates to a good cause.



Candy Cane Lane Parade

The 2015 Candy Cane Lane Parade was held on November 30th. VPD Staff and volunteers once again assisted with coordinating this great community event. This year's event drew 30,000 spectators, and over 111 floats were entered, including a float featuring the Police Department's Explorers. Chief Jason Salazar and the Police Department's Motor Unit led this year's parade down Main Street.



VPD Motor Unit leads the Candy Cane Lane Parade.



Chief Salazar participates in the parade.



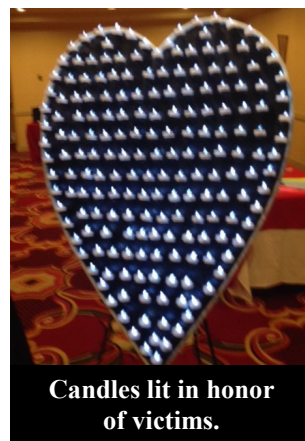
VPD Explorer Post #32 float.

MADD National Day of Remembrance

The Central Valley MADD office invited Chief Salazar to speak at this year's National Day of Remembrance event and Candlelight Vigil held on December 3rd at the Marriott Hotel. The event honored victims who have been killed or injured as a result of drunk driving, drugged driving, or underage drinking.



MADD
Activism | Victim Services | Education®



Candles lit in honor of victims.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Coffee With A Cop



“Coffee With A Cop” is a simple community policing concept that helps build trust and improve relationships with police officers and citizens in the community they serve, one cup of coffee at a time.

The “Coffee With A Cop” program was launched by the Hawthorne Police Department in 2011 in an effort to interact more with citizens of the Hawthorne community. What began as a simple concept, has grown into a successful community policing program that more than 2,000 communities in 49 states are utilizing. Countries such as Canada, Australia, and Africa have also begun utilizing this concept. Officers gather at a local coffee shop or restaurant and simply chat with citizens. No speeches or specific topics - just informal conversations about what matters to community residents.

“Coffee With A Cop” events allow Police Department staff a greater opportunity to build relationships and enjoy conversation with the community members they serve.

On June 2nd, the Visalia Police Department launched its first “Coffee With A Cop” event at Panera Bread. The event drew approximately 300 citizens.

A total of 1,450 citizen contacts were made during five “Coffee With a Cop” events held in 2015.

Officer Robert Gilson (L) and Officer Andrew Swarouth (R) pose with a citizen during the Police Department’s first Coffee With A Cop event held in June.



Officer Adam Aguallo visits with a citizen during one of the events held.



Sergeant James Andrews (L) and Sergeant Damon Maurice (R) chat with citizens.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

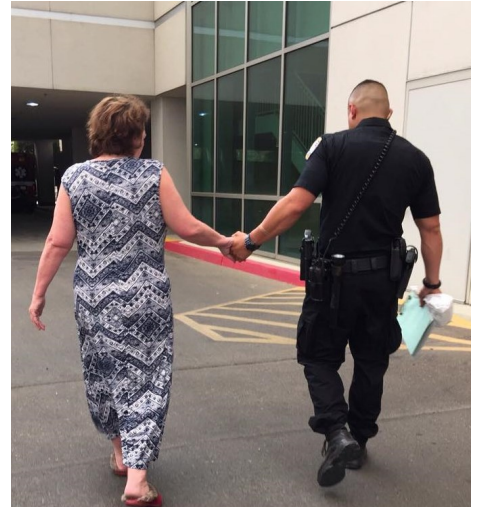
VPD Launches Facebook & Instagram



The Visalia Police Department expanded its social media presence in June with the addition of Facebook and Instagram. This was done in an effort to share more information with the community regarding matters of public safety, crime prevention, and crime fighting activities, as well as to highlight the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Visalia Police Department. As a result, Facebook followers reached 6,000 by year's end, with Instagram followers reaching over 750. Twitter, which was launched prior to 2015, increased to over 2,000 followers.

Social media posts include traffic alerts, press releases, significant arrests, community events, videos, as well as staff recognition and accomplishments. Posts have reached individuals across the nation and other countries. The photo on the right is an example of one of the posts that went viral in 2015. In this photo, a nervous citizen asks Officer Miguel Leon to hold her hand as she walked into the hospital.

In addition to the social media outlets listed above, the Visalia Police Department is also active on Nixle and Nextdoor, a private social network site for neighborhood communities.



This photo went viral after being featured on Facebook & Instagram.



National Night Out

"National Night Out" is an annual national campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer and better places to live.

A total of 24 "National Night Out" gatherings were held on August 4th, with approximately 350 citizens in attendance across the City of Visalia.

In addition to VPD Staff, the Fire Department, National Resources Conservation Department, Code Enforcement, City Manager and members of City Council also participated.



McGruff visits with youth at NNO.



VPD Staff visit one of the NNO parties.

CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL

VPD Officers Attend California Peace Officers' Memorial in Sacramento



Annual California Peace Officers' Memorial Candlelight Vigil held in Sacramento.

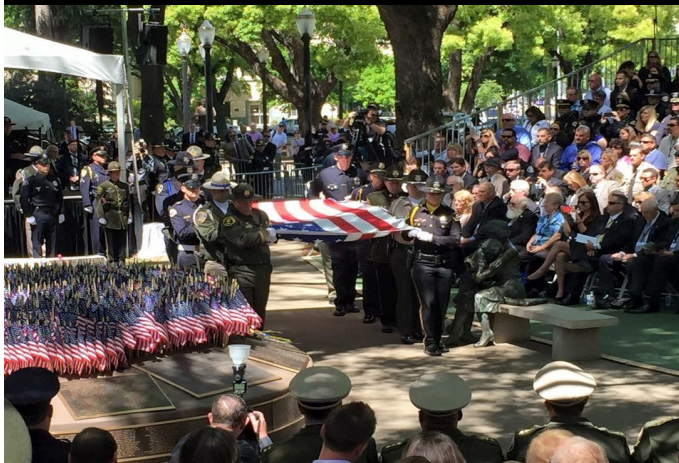
Chief Jason Salazar and members of the Visalia Police Department attended the annual California Peace Officers' Memorial Candlelight Vigil on May 3rd - 4th. The event is held at the State Capitol in Sacramento and honors those who have been killed in the line of duty.

At this year's memorial, 18 officers were honored for their sacrifice.

L-R: Officer Julie Peterson, Officer Samantha Gonzales, Chief Salazar, Officer Thomas Higgins, and Officer Vince Muto pose for a photo at the State Capitol.



Law enforcement officers from across the State of California participate in the Annual Memorial.



Thousands of law enforcement officers gather at the State Capitol for the Annual Memorial.



STATISTICS

Demographics

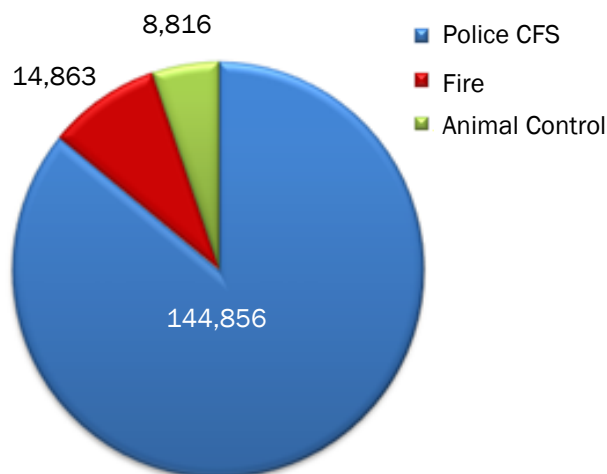
City Population	
2015	132,061
2014	129,582
% Difference	2%

Total Allocated Personnel	
Sworn Officers	140
Professional Staff	68
Hourly Staff	18
Volunteers (Includes Reserves, VIPs, Chaplains, Explorers)	87

Calls for Service

Call Type	2014	2015	% Difference
Police	134,287	144,856	8%
Fire	13,882	14,863	7%
Animal Control	9,599	8,816	-8%
911 Calls	82,527	96,819	17%

Total CFS	2014	2015	% Difference
Excluding 911	157,768	168,535	7%



Part 1 Crimes - Arrests - Reports - Anonymous Tips

Offense	2014	2015	% Difference
Criminal Homicide	9	7	-22%
*Rape	30	105	250%
Robbery	138	130	-6%
Assault	1,538	1,676	9%
Burglary	783	813	4%
Larceny - Theft	2,457	2,622	7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	556	560	1%
Total	5,511	5,913	7%

Arrests	2014	2015	% Difference
Adults	6,070	6,763	11%
Juveniles	593	557	-6%
Total	6,663	7,320	10%

*On January 1, 2015, the Department of Justice changed its definition of rape. Previously, offense data for forcible rape was collected under the legacy UCR definition, "The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will." VPD began using the revised definition, which excludes the term "forcible" from the offense title. Therefore, there is a significant increase in the reported cases of rape.

Reports	2014	2015	% Difference
Processed	15,933	18,240	14%

Online Reports	2014	2015	% Difference
Reports	894	1,080	21%

Online Tips	2014	2015	% Difference
Processed	204	145	-29%

STATISTICS

Traffic

Citations	2015
Speeding	3,332
Signs/Signals	480
Right of Way	306
DUI	513
Seatbelt	596
Cell phone	792

A total of 10,411 citations were issued in 2015. The table to the left lists some of the most frequent citations issued.

A total of 12,655 traffic violations were documented in 2015.

Collisions	2015
Fatal	15
Injury	412
Property Damage (Investigated)	870
Total Injuries	581

A total of 15 fatal collisions occurred in 2015, of which three were DUI related.

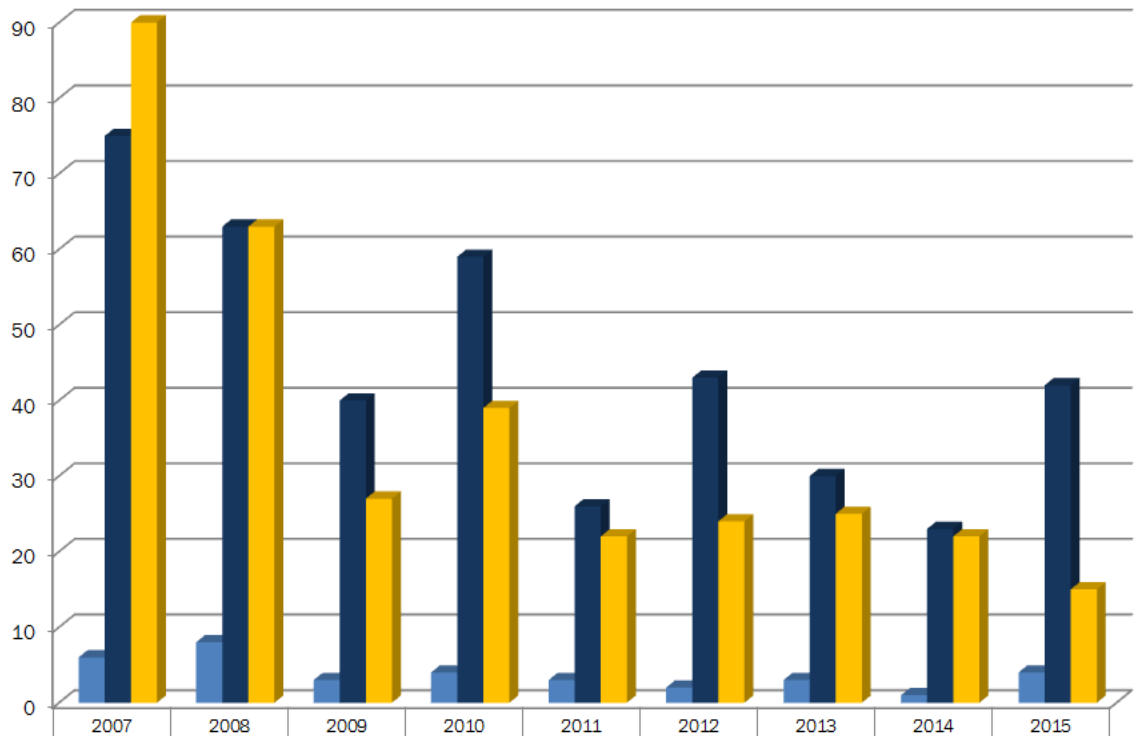
The most frequent primary collision factor was unsafe speed. The most frequently cited violation was also unsafe speed.



The Visalia Police Department enjoys a partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety. As a result of this partnership, the Police Department has benefited from a number of traffic safety grants as detailed below.

STEP DUI Checkpoints	DUI Saturation Patrols	Court Sting Operations	Warrant Service Operations	Stakeout Operations	Traffic Enforcement Details
7	26	8	4	2	24
Distracted Driver Enforcement Operations	Motorcycle Safety Operation	Speed Enforcement Details	Night Time Click it or Ticket Operations	Bicycle/Pedestrian Details	AVOID Details
5	6	12	4	6	17

Gang Crime - Annual Trend



■ Gang Homicide	6	8	3	4	3	2	3	1	4
■ Assault with a Deadly Weapon	75	63	40	59	26	43	30	23	42
■ Shooting at Inhabited Dwelling	90	63	27	39	22	24	25	22	15

TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL

VPD Staff Attend Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial



VPD Staff members participate in the 2015 Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial.

L-R: Captain Phipps, Captain Haskill, & Chief Salazar.



Officers stand at attention during the memorial.



The boots represent fallen officers.

Visalia Police Department participated in the 2015 Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial held on May 6th. The event honors the memory of peace officers from Tulare County who were killed in the line of duty.

The memorial is located at Memorial Park at the corner of Burrel and Woodland Streets and is made up of two types of granite. The star represents the Sheriff's Office and the shield represents all other law enforcement agencies in Tulare County.



Members of the VPD Honor Guard stand at attention during the 2015 Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial.

OPERATION RED SOL - T.A.R.G.E.T. TASK FORCE

Multi-Agency Operation Nets Arrests of Violent Gang Members



L-R: Chief Jim Abrams, Sheriff Mike Boudreaux, Chief Jason Salazar, District Attorney Tim Ward, and DOJ Assistant Director Kent Shaw address the media during the Operation Red Sol press conference.

On October 1st, the Tulare County Agencies Regional Gang Enforcement Team (T.A.R.G.E.T.) Task Force, Visalia Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Tulare County District Attorney's Office, California Department of Justice, and the California Highway Patrol's Fresno based Special Operations Unit (SOU) jointly conducted a multi-month investigation titled Operation Red Sol".

"Operation Red Sol" resulted in the arrest of 111 gang members to date throughout the County of Tulare. The arrests were the result of an investigation into the violent Norteño gang activity in the County. The operation also resulted in the seizure of \$65,000 in cash, 34 firearms, 32 pounds of meth and five pounds of heroin.

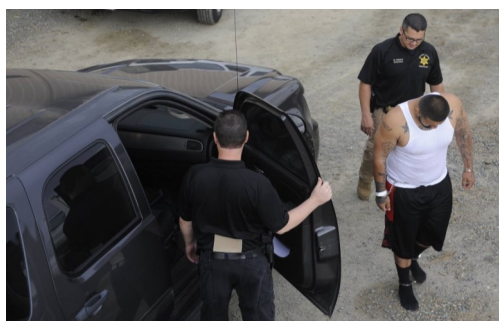
According to the Department of Justice's Special Operations Unit, the gang members arrested during this operation were the most violent group of Norteño gang members investigated by the Department of Justice's Special Operations Unit to date. "This operation captured dangerous criminals accused of terrorizing Central Valley communities through murder and violence," stated Attorney General Kamala Harris. "We will continue to target violent street gangs by dismantling their networks and taking these dangerous criminals off our streets. I thank our DOJ Special Agents and local law enforcement partners for their dedicated work to keeping our communities safe."

The T.A.R.G.E.T. Task Force was created by Attorney General Harris in 2011 and includes the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigation, Visalia Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Tulare Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

In 2015, T.A.R.G.E.T. members made a total of 146 arrests, seized 70.5 pounds of narcotics, recovered 46 firearms, conducted 85 search warrants, and also conducted a total of 50 probation, parole, and consent searches.



Chief Salazar views photos of suspects arrested during Operation Red Sol.



A suspect is transported to the County Jail after being arrested.



Law enforcement officials gather during Operation Red Sol.

Contract Awarded for New Computer-Aided Dispatch & Records Management System



technology for *safer* communities

In August, the Police Department signed a contract with Spillman Technologies of Salt Lake City, Utah, to replace its Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS), originally procured in 1984. The contract signing came after a rigorous and competitive proposal evaluation process and lengthy contract negotiations.

Spillman's integrated solution is consistent with the requirements identified in the Police Department's 2014 CAD/RMS Replacement Master Plan and features functionality such as quickest route dispatching, interactive mapping, streamlined data entry, advanced searching capabilities, visual involvement analysis and automated crime reporting. Spillman serves more than 25 other customers in the State of California, including the Kings County Sheriff's Office and has a history of success in the industry.

The new system will enable the Police Department to reduce its reliance of paper-based forms and will operate more efficiently and effectively. In addition to the core CAD/RMS, the solution will ultimately be interfaced to external systems such as those used by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, CrossRoads, HipLink and FileOnQ, among others, to support seamless data sharing.

The Police Department ended 2015 with a well-attended open house where staff members were able to preview the system, ask questions, and meet Spillman's project manager.

The Police Department anticipates transitioning to the new solution in late summer of 2016 after detailed system configuration, training, and testing periods are conducted.



VPD Staff attend one of the CAD/RMS demonstrations held.

VISALIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

City Council Authorizes Funding for New Communications Center



In August of 2015, the Visalia City Council authorized the funding for the Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC). The VECC will be a two-story building located near the intersection of School Street and Burke Street and will become the first building of what is hoped to be the home for the City's future Civic Center complex.

The VECC will include space for the emergency communications center, emergency operations center, traffic management center and the City's secure data center for Information Services. The City's Fire Department Administration and Prevention will occupy the first floor until additional buildings are added to the Civic Center. The Communications Center will be located on the second floor, which will have offices for Police Department personnel who are assigned to the Communications Unit.

Through the architecture and design that meets the downtown aesthetic appearance, the VECC will continue the City's downtown viability and growth. With the square footage over 18,000, it is anticipated that the space needs, which were projected for a period of 20 years, will actually serve the City for an estimated 50 years.

With the construction scheduled to begin in February of 2016, it is hoped that the VECC will be operational and begin serving the community in the Fall of 2017.



The Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC) is designed as an "essential services" building per California Building Code. The design of the VECC will be an extension of Visalia's downtown architectural appearance, while also meeting the needs of a public safety facility.

BUDGET

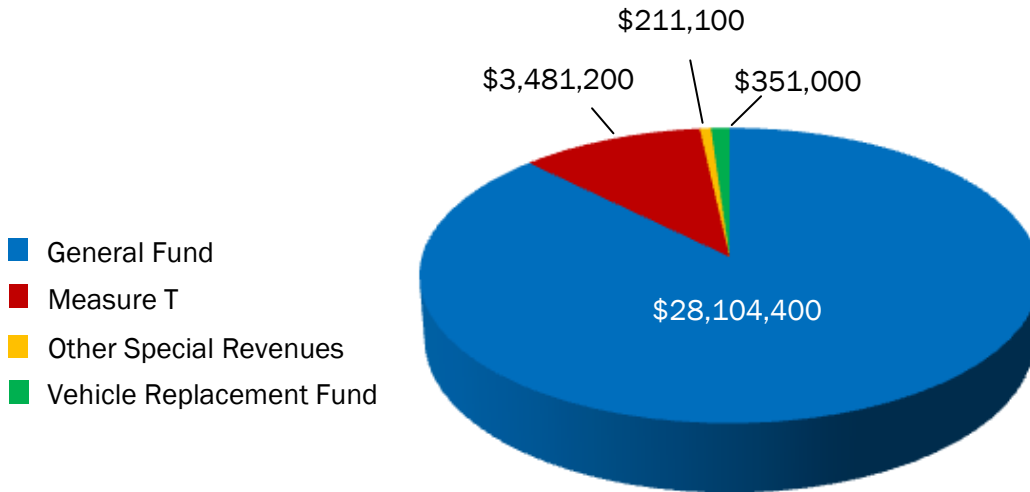


Liz Ybarra
Financial Analyst

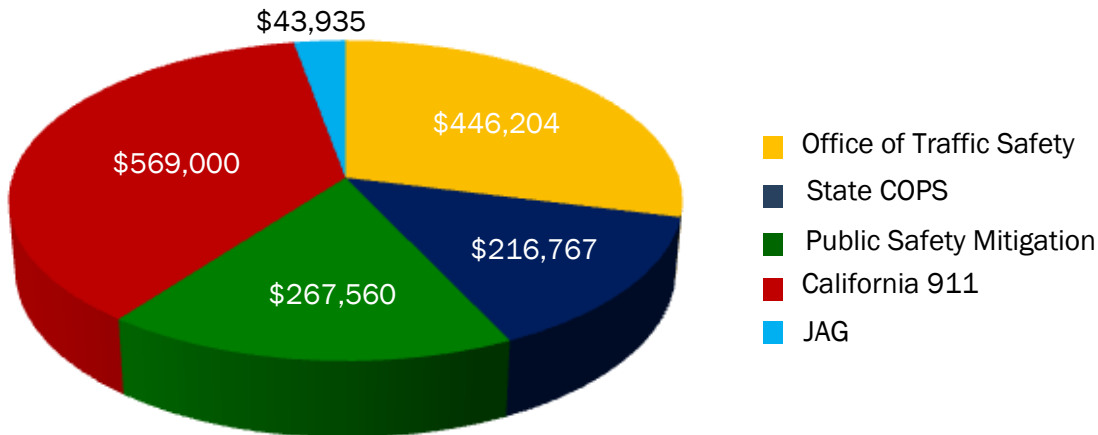
Financial Analyst Elizabeth Ybarra oversees the preparation and management of the Police Department's \$33.6 million annual budget. She reports directly to the Chief of Police and is responsible for coordinating expenditures, managing Capital Projects and Grants.

The Police Department's budget for FY 2014-15 was funded by \$28.1 million from General Fund and \$4 million from Special Revenues, which includes \$3.4 million in Measure T Funds and \$351,000 from the Vehicle Replacement Fund. The Department was also awarded \$1.5 million in Grants.

FY 2014-15 Visalia Police Department Resources



FY 2014-15 Visalia Police Department Grant Resources



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



Ed Lynn
Lieutenant

Administrative Services is an extension of the Chief's Office and is led by Lieutenant Ed Lynn.

Administrative Services is comprised of the Professional Standards Bureau which includes the Public Information Officer, Internal Affairs, and Personnel and Training. Fleet Services is also part of Administrative Services.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU Public Information Officer - Internal Affairs - Personnel - Training

The Professional Standards Bureau is responsible for the administrative operations of the Police Department which has a total of 140 allocated sworn positions, 68 professional staff positions, and 18 hourly positions. The Bureau is comprised of Sergeant Damon Maurice, who is also the Public Information Officer, Administrative Technician Shawna Kneeland who oversees Personnel, and Officer Dustin Thompson who is the Police Department's Training Officer.



Damon Maurice
Sergeant



Shawna Kneeland
Admin. Technician



Dustin Thompson
Officer

FLEET SERVICES

Fleet Services oversees all vehicles pertaining to the Police Department, including the purchasing, usage, and maintenance of these vehicles. Fleet Services tracks the mileage, gas usage, and preventative maintenance logs. It is the responsibility of Fleet Services to ensure that Police Department vehicles are operating safely and efficiently.

Fleet Services stays abreast of new police-related equipment and technology available for vehicles and makes recommendations to staff. Fleet Services also works with other Departments within the City to evaluate its police vehicles to make sure that a timely replacement will occur within the set guidelines.



OPERATIONS DIVISION



Rick Haskill
Captain

Captain Rick Haskill oversees the Operations Division which is comprised of the Patrol Bureau and the Special Enforcement Bureau.

Lieutenants Candido Alvarez, Brian Winter, Amy Watkins and Ozzie Dominguez assist with managing the Patrol Bureau which includes the two Districts and oversight of units such as Field Training, Commercial Policing, Crime Prevention, Traffic, S.W.A.T., Reserves, and Volunteers in Police Service.

Lieutenant Steve Phillips manages the Special Enforcement Bureau which includes the Gang Suppression Unit and the Narcotics Unit. He also currently oversees the K9 Unit and the Tulare County Consolidated Bomb Squad.

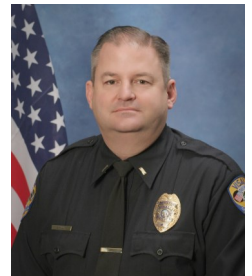


Candido Alvarez
Lieutenant
District 1

Brian Winter
Lieutenant
District 2

Amy Watkins
Lieutenant
Night Watch

Ozzie Dominguez
Lieutenant
Night Watch



Steve Phillips
Lieutenant
Special Enforcement

PATROL BUREAU Districts



**District 2 Substation located at
4100 South County Center.**

The two District Substations are located at 204 NW Third Avenue (District 1) and 4100 South County Center (District 2). Both substations are fully functional and staffed with Records personnel who provide services similar to those that are provided at the Headquarters facility. Patrol and units such as Crime Prevention, Crime Analysis, and Traffic are housed at the substations.

In addition to overseeing the Districts and units they are assigned to, District Commanders also represent the City and Police Department on several committees including, but not limited to, the City of Visalia's Site Plan Committee, City of Visalia Special Events Committee, City of Visalia's Specific, Measurable, Achievable Relevant, Time Bound (S.M.A.R.T.) Team, North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee, and Downtown Visalians Board.



**Citizens gather at the Districts' Open Houses
held on December 8th.**

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Commercial Policing Unit



Jason Dewitt
Officer

Dale Rush
Officer

Brian Young
Officer

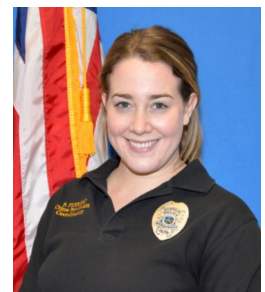
The Commercial Policing Unit serves businesses throughout the City of Visalia.

Officer Jason Dewitt is assigned as the Downtown Commercial Policing Officer. Officer Dale Rush is assigned to Dinuba Boulevard which includes the area surrounding the Oval Park. Officer Brian Young is assigned to the businesses on Mooney Boulevard. All three officers focus on developing relationships with business owners.

Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit assists in educating the community with information to help citizens understand why crime occurs, how to prevent the opportunity for crime to occur, and to help reduce the fear of crime within the community.

Crime Prevention Coordinator Samantha Ferrero focuses on educational programs such as Neighborhood Watch and the Citizens Academy. She participates in community events and is also the coordinator for Nextdoor, a private social network site for neighborhood communities. Since launching in 2014, a total of 99 neighborhoods and 3,981 residents are active on Nextdoor.



Samantha Ferrero
Crime Prevention
Coordinator

Community Service Officers & Duty Officers



Community Services Officers L-R:
Danny Gonzales, Desiree Gillioun,
& Paul Chao

The Visalia Police Department has three Community Services Officers who assist the Patrol Bureau and staff in numerous ways such as taking police reports, assisting at traffic collision scenes, processing paper during DUI saturation details, and much more. Community Service Officers Danny Gonzales, Desiree Gillioun, and Paul Chao work out of the District Substations and rotate shifts.

Duty Officer Heidi Voss, housed at Police Headquarters, assists with taking police reports from the public in person and over the phone. She also processes reports that are submitted online.

Duty Officer Shawna Doucette is assigned to the Special Enforcement Bureau and provides support to the Gang Suppression Unit and Narcotics Unit.



OPERATIONS DIVISION

Traffic Unit



L-R: Officer Adam Aguallo, Officer Joe Paddock, Officer Robert Gilson, Officer Bernie Villegas, Lieutenant Brian Winter, Sergeant James Andrews, Officer Scott Nelson, Officer Jeff Wheeler and Officer Andrew Souza.

The Traffic Unit consists of eight Motor Officers, as well as two full time Parking Enforcement Officers and one part-time Parking Enforcement Officer. The Unit is overseen by Lieutenant Brian Winter and Sergeant James Andrews.

In 2015, the total number of traffic citations issued by the Police Department was 10,411.



2015 BMW 1200 RTP Motorcycles

The Traffic Unit deployed its new fleet of nine 2015 BMW RTP police motorcycles that have replaced the Unit's 2011 Harley Davidson police motorcycles.

The new motorcycles are manufactured specifically for law enforcement and offer many safety features including decreased stopping distance and increased visibility.



The Parking Enforcement Officers monitor and enforce parking violations throughout the City including downtown, Mooney Boulevard, County Courthouse, County Civic Center, as well as the areas surrounding the College of the Sequoias.

In 2015, Parking Enforcement Officers issued a total of 12,734 citations.



L-R: Parking Enforcement Officers Juan Castro, Michelle Lopez, and Garrett Robertshaw.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

S.W.A.T.

Special Weapons And Tactics (S.W.A.T.) is led by Lieutenant Brian Winter and comprised of numerous officers from throughout the Police Department.

The Team is available for activation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. S.W.A.T. possesses specialized equipment and conducts monthly training, enabling them to respond to a wide variety of situations.

Visalia Police Department's S.W.A.T. prides itself on the fact that an overwhelmingly high number of its operations are successfully accomplished with no injuries to officers or citizens.

In 2015, S.W.A.T. conducted a total of 10 high-risk search warrants. S.W.A.T. also conducted 160 hours of tactical training at different venues to address various situations.



The S.W.A.T. Bearcat is utilized to protect officers and citizens from a variety of threats.

Explorer Post #32



VPD Explorer Post #32 pictured here with Advisors.



Explorers participate in events such as parades.

The Police Department's Explorer Post is a coed youth/young adult vocational and leadership development program. Participants' age range from 14 to 20 years. The Explorers' training focuses on the various operations of the Police Department through both classroom instruction and hands-on training.

In addition to training, the program offers invaluable experience. Explorers participate in several competitions and community events throughout the year.

The Explorer Post is overseen by Lieutenant Ozzie Dominguez and Sergeant Luma Fahoum.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Volunteers In Police Service



Visalia Police Department's Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.) Unit pose for a photo with Lieutenant Amy Watkins and Sergeant Jon Pree who oversee the Unit.

The goal of the Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.) Unit is to provide the Police Department with a trained and motivated group of volunteer workers who provide essential, but non-hazardous police services. Some of the assignments volunteers assist with include traffic control, DUI Checkpoints, Police Activities League functions, Crime Prevention details, public awareness events, Patrol, and support to the Administrative Service and Investigation Divisions. There are currently 60 members in the V.I.P.S. program.

During 2015, six citizens attended the 10-week Citizens Academy which takes place annually and is available to citizens who pass a background check and who are interested in adding value to the community. Upon the completion of the Academy, the graduates may become official members of the Volunteers in Police Service Unit.

In 2015, V.I.P.S. donated a total of 10,603 hours of service.



Six new citizens joined the Police Department's Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.) Unit in 2015. L-R: Lieutenant Amy Watkins, Captain Rick Haskill, Volunteer David Stronach, Volunteer Joe Burks, Volunteer Gloria Trevino, Volunteer Pat Line, Volunteer Ray Patino, Volunteer George Vidales, Chief Jason Salazar, Sergeant Jon Pree, and Crime Prevention Coordinator Samantha Ferrero.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Honor Guard



The Honor Guard represents VPD at funerals and events throughout the year.

The Visalia Police Department's Honor Guard represents the Police Department by providing a visible presence at significant events such as funerals, parades, and memorial services. It proudly represents the Police Department and the profession with honor and integrity.

The Honor Guard consists of 10 officers from throughout the Police Department who are trained to carry out details accordingly.

In 2015, the Honor Guard represented the Police Department at seven law enforcement funerals involving officers who died in the line of duty. The Honor Guard also participated in 10 public events.

K9 Unit

The Visalia Police Department's K9 Unit is comprised of five officers and their canine partners; four of the officers are assigned to the Patrol Bureau and one officer is assigned to the Narcotics Unit.

In 2015, the Unit competed in three canine trials and successfully placed at each of the events. Members of the VPD K9 Unit also conducted 22 demonstrations to various schools, community outreach groups, and City organizations throughout the year.

The Unit's success is achieved through the hard work of each handler, as well as volunteer agitators. The Unit trains a minimum of 20 hours per month and spends countless hours caring for their partners. VPD's canines are a valuable asset, and the love and care provided by each of the handlers is evident in the Unit's productivity and success.



L-R: Officer Mike Carsten and Bronson; Officer Daniel Roberts and Xero; Officer Ryan Park and Flic; Officer Rick Johnson and Deuce. Not pictured, Officer Ryan Lasalde and Ami.



Members of VPD K9 Unit with trophies won at the 2015 Kingsburg K9 Trials.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

Gang Suppression Unit

The Visalia Police Department's Gang Suppression Unit is comprised of one Sergeant, seven Officers, and one Probation Officer. The Gang Suppression Unit is responsible for monitoring and suppressing gang activity, fugitive apprehension, and conducting human trafficking investigations in the City of Visalia. The Unit is also home to a joint partnership with the Tulare County Probation Department, which is responsible for the supervision of many high-risk gang members being released on AB109 probation. Additionally, the Unit also partners with Federal Agencies aimed at conducting large scale human trafficking operations.

In 2015, there was a slight increase in gang activity which led to "Operation Red Sol", a multi-agency operation. The Gang Suppression Unit participated in Operation Red Sol, working hundreds of hours to help ensure the success of the investigation.

A total of 4 gang related homicides, 42 gang related assaults, and 15 gang related shootings at inhabited dwellings occurred in 2015. The Unit also made 290 arrests, of which 265 were gang related, completed 350 gang related field interviews, and seized 41 firearms.

Narcotics Unit



Items collected during a search warrant.

The Visalia Police Department's Narcotics Unit consists of one Sergeant and five Detectives.

The Unit is responsible for investigating various narcotic related crimes. The Unit also participates in many joint operations with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

In April, the Narcotics Unit concluded a joint wire-tap investigation with the Drug Enforcement Administration which resulted in the arrest of 18 individuals and the seizure of over 36 pounds of methamphetamine, over 2

pounds of heroin, 17 firearms, and \$51,000 in cash.

In 2015, the Narcotics Unit served 143 search warrants and arrested 112 individuals. Also, the Unit seized over 105 pounds of methamphetamine, over 8 pounds of heroin, over ½ pound of cocaine, over 2,095 pounds of marijuana, 49 firearms, and over \$180,000 in assets.

Tulare County Consolidated Bomb Squad

The Tulare County Consolidated Bomb Squad consists of members from the Visalia Police Department and Tulare County Sheriff's Office.

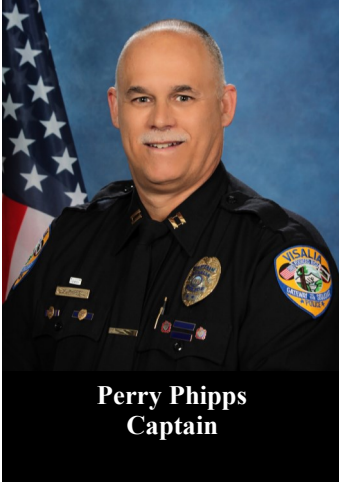
The Bomb Squad is responsible for responding to all possible explosive incidents in Tulare County. They respond to a wide variety of calls such as suspicious packages, old dynamite, military ordnance, and actual explosive devices. The Bomb Squad also provides training and demonstrations throughout the County.

In 2015, the Bomb Squad responded to 19 callouts and conducted 10 presentations.



Members of the Tulare Co. Consolidated Bomb Squad. L-R: Alan Knight (TCSO), Russ Gauger, Clay Moffett, Steve Phillips, and Jeremy Houser (VPD).

OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION



Perry Phipps
Captain



Veronica McDermott
Manager
Support Services

Jeff McIntosh
Lieutenant
Investigations

The Operations Support Division is led by Captain Perry Phipps and consists of the Support Services Bureau and the Investigations Bureau.

The Support Services Bureau is overseen by Support Services Manager Veronica McDermott and includes the Records, Crime Analysis, Communications, and Court & Subpoena Services Units.

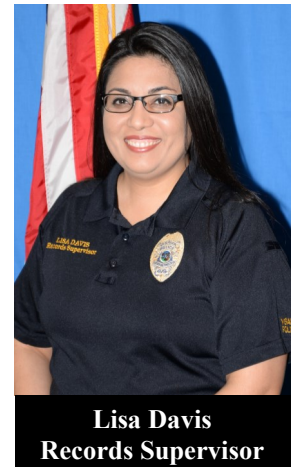
The Investigations Bureau is overseen by Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh and is

comprised of the Violent Crimes Unit, Property Crimes Unit, Youth Services Unit, Police Activities League, Property & Evidence Unit, and the Crime Lab.

SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU Records Unit

The Visalia Police Department's Records Unit is led by Records Supervisor Lisa Davis who oversees 15 full-time and 8 hourly employees. The Unit serves the public and the Police Department in maintaining and distributing all police files. Thousands of reports are received, processed, maintained, and distributed by the Records Unit each year.

In 2015, the Records Unit processed 18,240 reports in addition to providing services to the public at Headquarters and the District Substations.



Lisa Davis
Records Supervisor

Crime Analysis Unit



Robin Meyst
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 to reduce crime.

The Crime Analysis Unit is comprised of Crime Analyst Robin Meyst and two hourly employees who assist with providing statistics and entering data.

OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

Communications Unit

The Communications Unit proudly serves the City of Visalia with the highest degree of professionalism. The Unit is responsible for the receipt, disposition, and the documentation of telephone/radio calls in both routine and emergency matters for the Police and Fire Departments. The Unit is also responsible for handling all “9-1-1” and Animal Control calls generated within the City.

The Communications Unit includes one Communications Supervisor, four Senior Communications Operators, 23 Communications Operators & one hourly Animal Control Dispatcher. The Unit answers and processes seven emergency (9-1-1) lines, 15 non-emergency lines, & several radio frequencies. The Communications Center is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



The Communications Center is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In 2015, the Unit handled a total of 168,535 calls for services, which include 144,856 Police calls for service, 14,863 Fire calls per service, and 8,816 Animal Control calls for service. Additionally, a total of 96,819 9-1-1 calls were received in 2015.



Court & Subpoena Services Unit

The Court and Subpoena Services Unit is staffed with two full time professional staff members who maintain open lines of communication between the Police Department and various factions of the justice system. The Unit works closely with staff of the District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, County Courts and other allied agencies and elements of the City, County, & State Judicial Systems.

The Unit coordinates all case complaints for presentation to the District Attorney and allied agencies within the criminal justice system. The Unit also coordinates court appearances for members of the Police Department, including notifications, call-offs, and appearance-related issues.

In 2015, the Unit processed 5,295 subpoenas, 5,069 adult arrest packages, and 204 juvenile arrest packages.



L-R: Judy Morgan-Ronding, DA Liaison, and Alice Bejarano, DA Liaison Assistant.

OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU Violent Crimes Unit



L-R: Detective Mona Whaley, Investigator Sarah Wray, Detective Josh Pena, Detective Dan Ford, Detective Juan Saenz, Detective Gerrit De Jong, Sergeant Kevin Kroeze, Detective James Cummings, Detective Celestina Sanchez, & Investigator Priscilla Portillo.

The Violent Crimes Unit consists of one Sergeant, seven Detectives and two Civilian Investigators.

The Unit investigates crimes against persons including homicide, robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping, death reports, rape, child abuse, child molestation, elder abuse, and other felony assaults. The Unit also tracks 290 PC Sex Registrants to ensure that they are in compliance.

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

The primary goal of the Violent Crimes Unit is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Visalia by arresting and 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.

In 2015, the Violent Crimes Unit investigated a total of 1,376 cases, which included seven homicides, and made 147 arrests.

Property Crimes Unit - T.R.A.T.T.

The Visalia Police Department's Property Crimes Unit is comprised of one Sergeant, seven Detectives, and one Investigative Technician. The Property Crimes Unit investigations include burglary, grand and petty theft, check and credit card fraud, embezzlements, identity thefts, and financial elder abuse.

In 2015, the Property Crimes Unit investigated 1,045 cases, made 302 arrests, and served 56 warrants. Additionally, a total of \$214,700 in cash and property was recovered and returned to victims.

The Unit also investigates auto theft in cooperation with the Tulare County Reduce Auto Theft Taskforce (T.R.A.T.T.). T.R.A.T.T. is a multi-agency unit which includes the Visalia Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Porterville Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, and the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

In 2015, T.R.A.T.T. conducted 25 probation/parole searches and made 81 arrests. The most popular vehicles stolen in Tulare County during 2015 were the Honda Accord and the Honda Civic. In Visalia, a total of 473 vehicles were stolen and 492 were recovered.

As a result of T.R.A.T.T.'s efforts, auto theft in Tulare County has decreased by 6%.

OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

Youth Services Unit



The Youth Services Unit provides guidance and police services to the students and staff of the Visalia Unified School District, as well as to youth in the City of Visalia, through instruction, mentoring, counseling, and enforcement. The Unit ensures that the Visalia Unified School District is free of violence and intimidation, and works with site administrators in making the overall environment of each campus safe and conducive to learning. The Unit also provides the City of Visalia with safeguards against juvenile delinquency through intervention.

Youth Services Officers are currently assigned exclusively to each of the District's five high schools and four middle schools. The Youth Services Officers assigned to the middle schools also provide service to the 23 elementary feeder schools in Visalia.

In 2015, the Youth Services Officers conducted follow-up on 206 assigned investigations. In addition to the traditional law enforcement services and daily contact with youth, the Youth Services Officers assisted in 1,699 mentoring and counseling opportunities.



L-R: Officer Carmen Landin, Officer Julie Peterson, Officer Brian Scott, Officer Steve Howerton, Officer Dominic Mena, Sergeant Jon Pree, Officer Art Villarreal, Officer Michael Morgantini, Officer Dwight Brumley, & Officer Carol Cortez.



OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

P.A.L.

The Visalia Police Activities League (P.A.L.) is a program where police officers provide a positive influence to youth in the community. Visalia P.A.L. offers youth a chance to participate in a complete mixture of education and athletic-based programs. Officer Art Villarreal is assigned as the Police Department's P.A.L. Officer.



In 2015, Visalia P.A.L. served over 4,000 youth. This includes mentoring youth at the P.A.L. Center and serving them at several P.A.L. community events held throughout the City.



Athletes participate in the First Annual P.A.L. Games Competition.



A total of 42 athletes participated in the P.A.L. Games.

On June 13th, P.A.L. hosted its first annual "P.A.L. Games" Competition at Groppetti Stadium.

The "P.A.L. Games" is an athletic event where men and women put their strength and endurance to the test. The competition consists of core strength and conditioning.

A total of 42 participants battled for the top spot on the podium. All proceeds raised from the event were donated to the Visalia P.A.L. program.

On June 22nd, Visalia P.A.L. held its annual Honor Camp which takes place at Camp San Joaquin.

A total of 46 youth and police volunteers enjoyed a week-long camping adventure that included fishing, hiking, biking, and campfires.



P.A.L. Youth enjoy PAL Honor Camp.



OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

Property & Evidence Unit

The Property and Evidence Unit consists of one supervisor and three Police Technicians. The Unit is responsible for receiving, cataloging, organizing, safely storing, researching, purging, and maintaining the integrity of evidence, found property, and property for safekeeping.

Police Technicians assigned to the Property and Evidence Unit are responsible for total inventory control of all property and evidence booked into the Visalia Police Department.

When property and evidence is cleared for disposition, the property is restored to its rightful owners or disposed of in a manner specified by law.

In 2015, the Unit received a total of 12,425 items of property and evidence. The Unit dispositioned (returned, auctioned, or destroyed) a total of 16,670 items.



The Property & Evidence Unit is comprised of L-R: Police Technician Ross Ruiz, Supervisor Jim Potts, and Police Technician Sandy Tunnell.

Crime Lab

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. These services are 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 track, footwear, toolmark documentation, latent print processing and comparisons, serial number restorations, bullet trajectories, mobile forensics, and forensic video.

The Crime Lab is currently staffed by one Supervising Identification Technician, one Senior Identification Technician, one Identification Technician and three hourly positions. Two additional hourly positions were authorized in late 2015, which will be funded by the Tulare County CAL-ID RAN Board.



L-R: Identification Technicians Bob Douglas, Tracy Verdugo, Laura Lathrop, and Supervisor Jim Potts.

In 2015, the Crime Lab had a total of 512 total assignments, which include field call-outs, cell phone forensic analysis, and lab requests.



IN MEMORIAM

Never Forget



Charles Garrison
Officer

End of Watch: November 6, 1946

Sergeant Charles "Hugh" Garrison was fatally shot on November 6, 1946, after a brief struggle with a suspect. He was the first police officer to be killed in the line of duty in Visalia. He was survived by his wife.



James Rapozo
Officer

End of Watch: January 9, 1998

Officer James Rapozo was fatally shot during a S.W.A.T. raid on January 9, 1998. He was the first police officer killed in Visalia in more than half a century. He is survived by his wife and two children.

California Officers Killed in the Line of Duty in 2015



Officer Michael Jeremiah Johnson
San Jose Police Department
EOW: March 24, 2015

Officer David Joseph Nelson
Bakersfield Police Department
EOW: June 26, 2015

Sergeant Scott Paul Lunger
Hayward Police Department
EOW: July 22, 2015

Officer Bryce Edward Hanes
San Bernardino Police Department
EOW: November 5, 2015

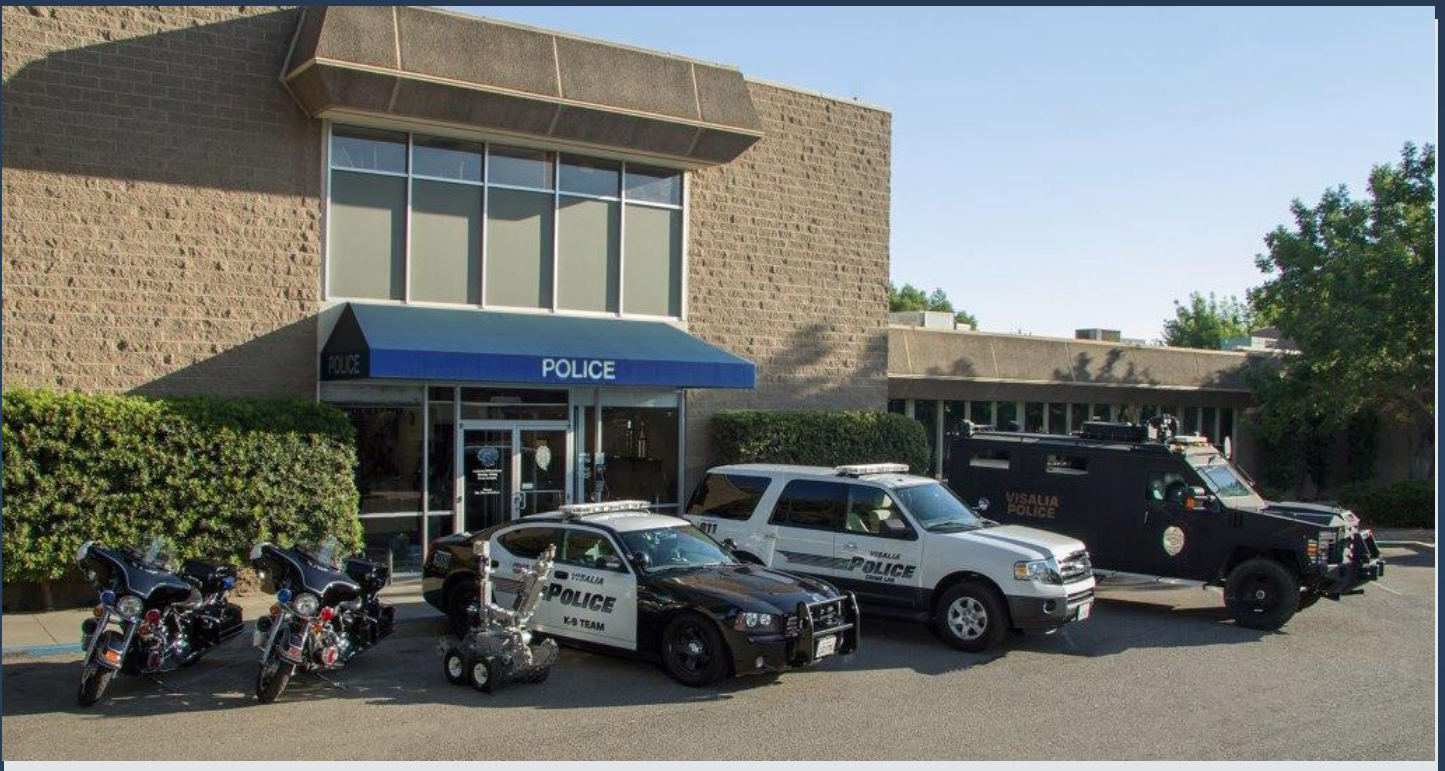
Officer Ricardo Galvez
Downey Police Department
EOW: November 18, 2015





303 South Johnson Street
Visalia, Ca 93291
(559) 734-8116

www.visalia.city/depts/police/



Like us on:



Visalia
Police Department

Follow us on:



@Visaliapd