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Visalia Police Department

Jerry Barker, Chief of Police

RECRUITMENT

The Visalia Police Department is continuously recruiting:

- Police Officer (California P.O.S.T. Academy Graduate)
- Police Officer Lateral (California Certified)
- Communications Operator (with one year experience)

Currently, sworn personnel of the Visalia Police Department are eligible for the following benefits:

1. Uniform allowance (\$975) – annually
2. Standby pay (\$1,000) – annually
3. Transfer & specialty incentive for SWAT, FTO, Youth Services, Bomb Squad, Certified Bilingual, and Investigations (\$750) – annually
4. Through participation in the Disability Avoidance Program and meeting specified criteria, up to 3% of annual income reimbursement
5. Use of physical fitness facility
6. Holiday hours (88) 44-hours comp time and 44 hours vacation pay

Other career opportunities include CSI (Crime Scene Investigations), Community Service Officers, Records Management, and Criminal Investigations positions. Volunteer positions are also available.

Applications may be obtained at, and submitted to, the City of Visalia, Human Resources Department, 707 W. Acequia Street, Visalia, CA 93291.
For application materials call (559) 713-4407.

Visit the City of Visalia's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us
and the Police Department's website at www.vpd.ci.visalia.ca.us

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer invites applications from women, minorities, and the disabled.

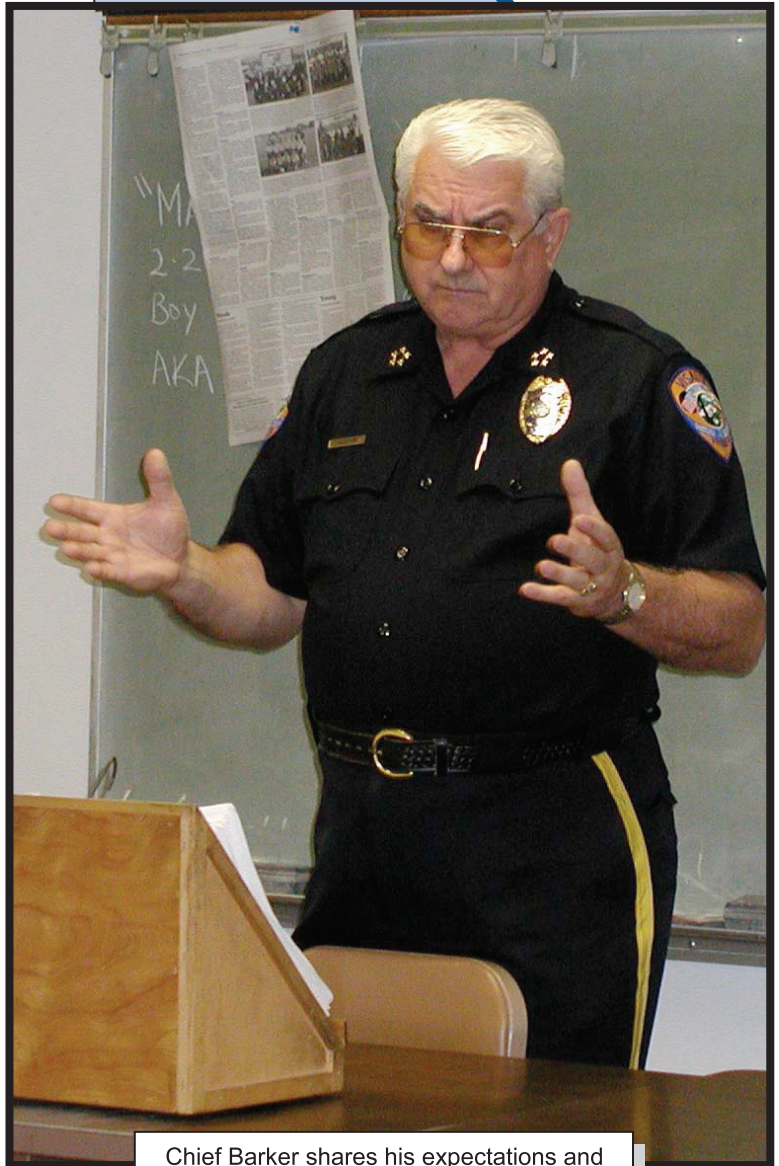
A Word from the Chief

The year 2004 was the year that Measure “T” began to show results. Measure “T” was a local proposition that increased Visalia’s sales tax by one-quarter percent to help fund public safety needs.

From these funds, we hired five new uniformed officers at the beginning of the fiscal year and will hire five additional officers in July of 2005. A small amount of Measure “T” funds is also being directed towards the two precinct buildings that will be under construction soon; one in north Visalia and one in south Visalia. Additional Measure “T” funds will offset the construction costs of the new 9-1-1 Communications Center/Administrative building that will be constructed in 2008 or 2009.

Continued Department growth of five officers per year will soon staff your Police Department at a level that will produce a difference that citizens can see and feel. We owe the voters who supported Measure “T” a vote of thanks from all of us.

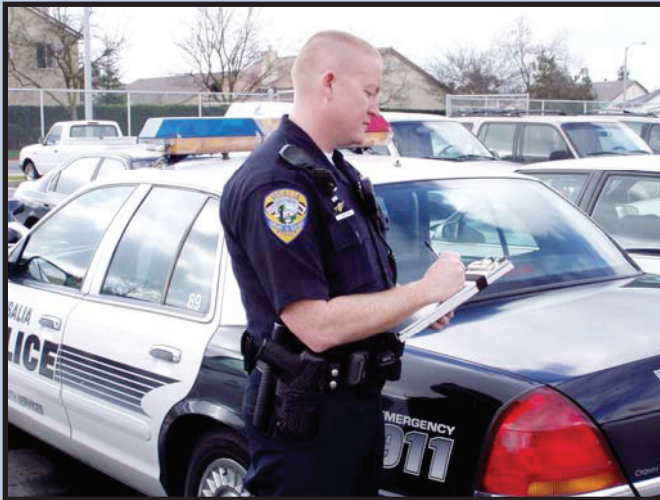
It has been a pleasure to both serve this community and the dedicated men and women of this agency. Thank you to our entire community for continuing to support this Department so strongly.



Chief Barker shares his expectations and vision at a Patrol Division briefing.

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Police Officer of the Year and Latino Peace Officer of the Year - Jason McWilliams

The Tenth Annual Tulare County Latino Peace Officers Association honored Tulare County Officers of the Year, including Visalia Police

Department's "Officer of the Year," Officer Jason McWilliams. "Assigned as an officer to the Special Enforcement Unit and previously as a Youth Services Officer, he has mentored many students."

Lt. Michele Figueroa

Communications Operator of the Year – Monica Cisneros

Monica began working as a dispatcher for the Visalia Police Department in June 2001. Previously, she dispatched for Corcoran Police Department. "Monica's dedication and professionalism is an asset to law enforcement and the community."

Stacy Handley, Dispatch Supervisor



Reserve Officer of the Year – Rich Sigmund

Rich has been a Reserve Officer since 1999. He is currently the President of the Reserve Officers Association. "He has put in numerous hours every month as a Police Reserve Officer. He is well liked by his peers and supervisors and was the natural choice for this award."

Sgt. Ernie Villa



V.I.P.S. Members of the Year – John Durell and Marvin Shields

The selection for Volunteer of the Year for 2004 was too close to call. So, for the first time since the Volunteers in Police Service began, there were two Volunteers of the Year. John Durell has been with the Department as a Volunteer in Police Service for over five years. He works in the Crime Analysis Unit and as a volunteer on patrol. Marvin Shields transports evidence to the lab on a weekly basis, works special events and as a volunteer on patrol. "Both men are outstanding individuals and put in hundreds of volunteer hours every year."



Lt. Steve Puder

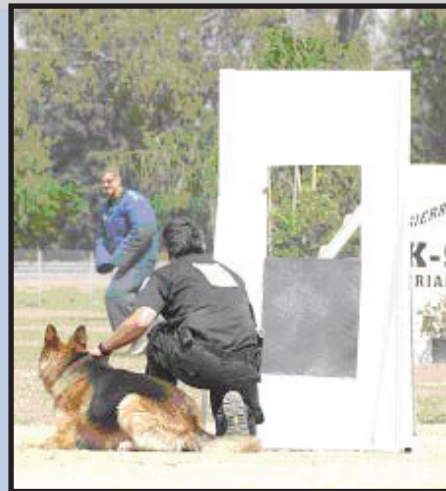
**Volunteers in Police Service
2004 Graduates**

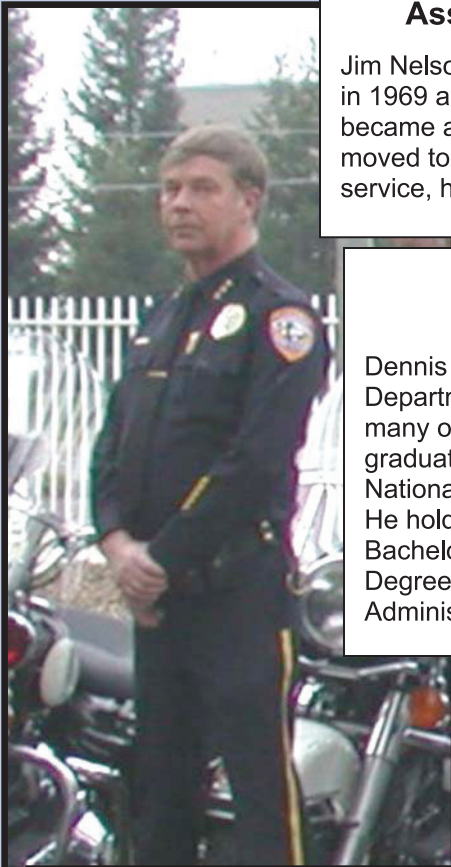


Sierra K-9 Trial Winners

The K-9 Unit hosted the 19th Annual K-9 Trials in April. Officers Rick Johnson, James Andrews, and Mark Lyon participated. The Unit placed 1st overall against 17 other teams. Officer Mark Lyon and his partner, Alex, placed first overall Novice. Officer Rick Johnson placed 5th overall in the Open Division. "Specialized training for K-9 handlers and dogs is required for police work. VPD partners have proven their skills in this event."

Sgt. Brent Abbott





Assistant Chief of Police – Jim Nelson Retires

Jim Nelson’s career in law enforcement began in 1969 as a Reserve Deputy for the Fresno Sheriff’s Office. He became a police officer in 1971 for Ventura Police Department. He moved to Visalia PD in 1979. After serving more than 35 years of service, he retired in May 2004.

Dennis Swiney Promoted to Assistant Chief of Police

Dennis Swiney began his career with the Visalia Police Department in 1977. He has worked in a supervisory capacity in many of the specialty units within the Department. Swiney is a graduate of the Law Enforcement Command College and the FBI National Academy. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration.



Administration (Left to Right)

- Veronica McDermott – Records Supervisor
- Michele Figueroa – Investigations Lt.
- Stacy Handley – Communications Supervisor
- Cheryl Jackson – Admin. Services Manager
- Ginger Jarvis – Court & Admin. Services Supervisor
- Mike McGee – Admin. Services Lt.
- Chuck Hindenburg – Admin. Services Manager
- Bob Williams – Asst. Chief of Police commanding the Administration Division of the Visalia Police Department

Promotions

- Lt. Dennis Swiney to Asst. Chief of Police
- Agent Brent Abbott to Sergeant
- Agent Steve Shear to Sergeant
- Officer Russ Gauger to Agent

- Sgt. Steve Puder to Lieutenant
- Agent Jason Salazar to Sergeant
- Officer Candido Alvarez to Agent
- Officer Steve Phillips to Agent



Lt. Rick Haskill – a 15-year law enforcement veteran is the District 1 Commander.

District 1 officers worked with community members to address complaints of arson, drugs, gang issues, and graffiti. Increased patrol presence affected crime in the area.

An example of a successful saturation detail occurred after officers and citizens met regarding the problems. The Special Enforcement Unit assisted with gang and graffiti related issues. The Visalia Fire Department addressed the arson problem. The Narcotics Unit assisted by focusing their attention on drug enforcement in the area.

Lt. Glen Newsom – a 25-year law enforcement veteran is the District 2 Commander.

In 2004, the officers assigned to District 2 worked with members of the community to resolve issues in their sectors and neighborhoods. The issues included gang problems, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, and other blight.

An example of cooperation between police and citizens occurred after a drive by shooting on May 1st. Chief Barker, Lt. Newsom, concerned residents and property owners met and learned that a number of gang members occupied an apartment complex nearby. Opposing gang members were driving by the location and shooting weapons.

Because of the meeting, officers put into action an aggressive tactical plan to stop the criminal gang activity in this neighborhood. During the operation, officers made thirteen felony arrests. The arrests were for felony warrants, possession of drugs, selling drugs, and being under the influence of a controlled substance. The enforcement plan resulted in decreased gang activity in the area.



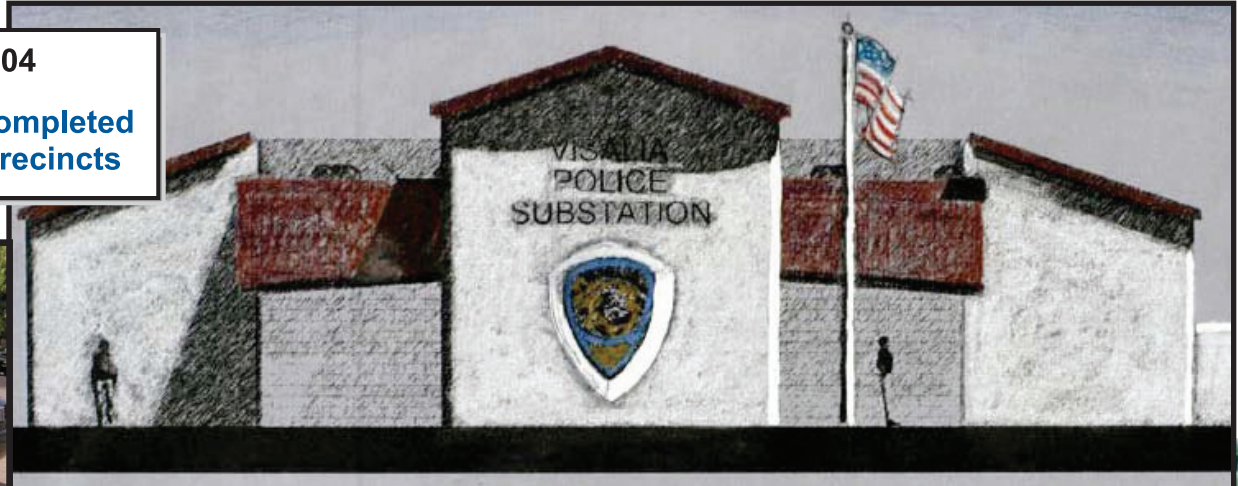
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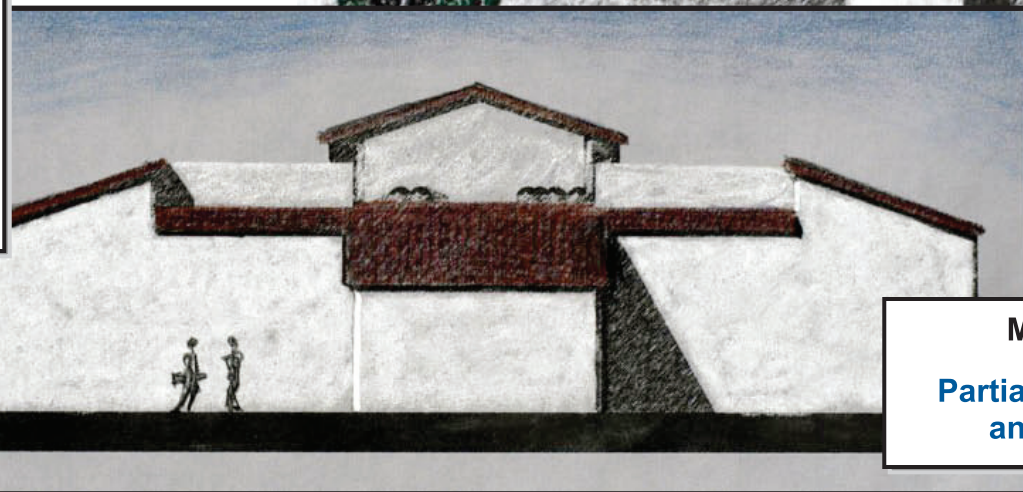


Measure T in 2004
Preliminary designs completed
for north and south precincts



Measure T in 2004

- Additional Officers
- Vehicles
- Harley-Davidson Motorcycles
- Patrol Cars and Light Bars
- Mobile Data Terminals



Measure T in 2004
Partial upgrade in Dispatch
and 9-1-1 equipment



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VISALIA and VIOLENCE

April 14, a day of chases, gunfight, and workplace violence.

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POLICE RESOURCES TAPPED

Officers responded to two high-stress situations simultaneously.

Cesario Rodriguez is shot by a fellow employee, Orlando Quinones, at the Pactiv plant on Elowin Court. The shooter flees the plant and goes home to a residence on Rinaldi Street.

6:55 a.m.

Visalia police officers and SWAT team members surround the Rinaldi address.

9:15 a.m.

Santa Cruz County police wanted Donald Bochet for shooting a California Highway Patrol officer, for a hit-and-run accident where he hit a woman and a child, and in connection with a string of commercial burglaries. When we found that he was in the area, Bochet led officers in a chase that began in Farmersville and ended in Visalia. More than 20 officers, detectives, and SWAT members responded.

10:13a.m.

SWAT team members entered the house on Rinaldi and found Quinones dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Officers found the .38-caliber handgun used in the Pactiv plant shooting.

10:20 a.m.

SWAT members and other officers leave Rinaldi address to join chase.

10:22 a.m.

Suspect in high-speed chase crashes his Ford Taurus on Mooney Blvd, escapes on foot, and then steals a second vehicle. The chase resumes.

10:25 a.m.

The chase ended at the corner of Giddings and Tulare where Bochat crashed. Bochat got out of the car carrying an AK-47 assault rifle. Police found body armor, a bulletproof vest, and a handgun in Bochat's car after the pursuit ended.

10:39 a.m.

Three shot, one killed, since Friday

HOMICIDES

STREET VIOLENCE

November 15

Peter Saechao allegedly shot Joe Lolo Fernandes multiple times after fighting over gang turf.

November 14

During an investigation, Jose Zavalla shot at a police officer and citizens from a vehicle. The driver, Billy Goodwin, died after the officer returned fire.

November 10

An unidentified suspect shot Clinton Brice Jr. inside his residence. A large quantity of marijuana was located in the house.

Four southern gang members arrested after a drive-by shooting killed Owen Bruce, a northern gang member.

August 1

At a funeral reception, there was a dispute over a girlfriend when a fight broke out. Jimmy Morales sustained fatal wounds from being stabbed and shot. One suspect was arrested, the second claimed self-defense.

May 11

Eric Crispin, a Northern gang member, was shot during a drive-by shooting. Three suspects were arrested and a fourth is still being sought.

May 7

Visalia Officers shot and killed Donald Bochat after a 25-minute pursuit. A \$500,000 warrant out of Santa Cruz County listed Bochat as the primary suspect in a string of commercial burglaries. He was also suspected of hitting a woman and child with his car and then shooting a Santa Cruz California Highway Patrol officer in the leg.

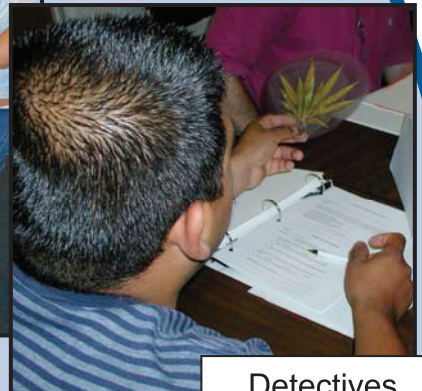
April 14

A domestic dispute ended tragically. Agapito Cerritos died at the hands of the victim's brother. Drug trafficking and gang affiliations existed.

January 17

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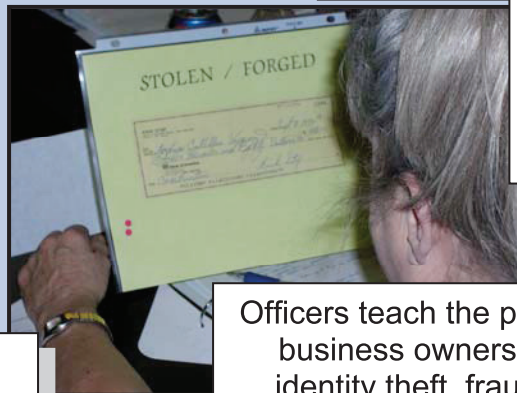
Visalia Unified School District and the Visalia Police Department sign a three-year contract for the Youth Services Officers Program



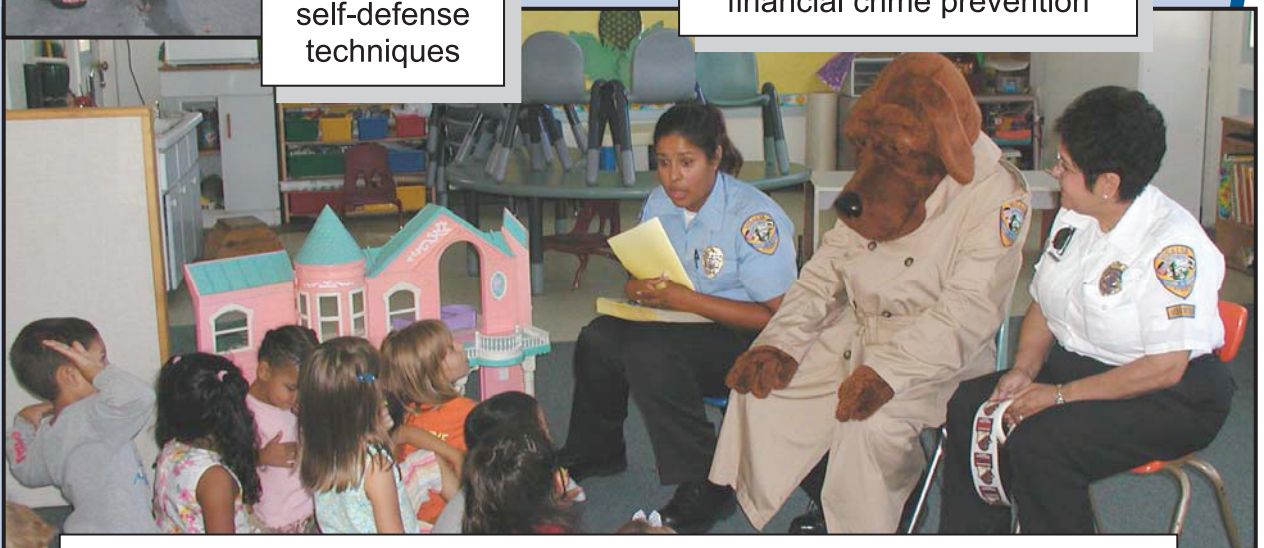
Detectives educate students and the public about drugs



Officers demonstrate self-defense techniques



Officers teach the public and business owners about identity theft, fraud, and financial crime prevention



McGruff visits classrooms and teaches students to "take a bite out of crime"

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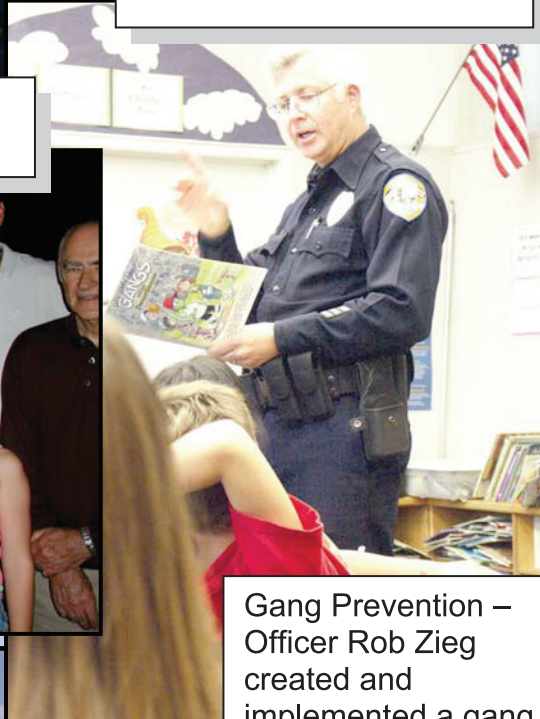
Child Safety Programs – ID kits provided for our children



Annual Trash-a-Thon – police and the community clean up Visalia



Visalians' Night Out – Residents and police personnel visit in Visalia neighborhoods



Gang Prevention – Officer Rob Zieg created and implemented a gang prevention program for students in Tulare County Schools. Curriculum includes dangers and myths of gang membership and its consequences. Teachers and parents learn how to identify gang activity and techniques to deter gang behavior.



Families enjoy the K-9 competition at Plaza Park

End of Year Statistics - 2004

ABOUT THE CITY	TOTAL
City limit square miles	34 sq. mi.
Miles of streets	438 mi.
Population (3.2% increase from 2003)	102,700
Daytime population (est. at 3.2%)	135,000

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT	TOTAL
Calls for service	99,820
Reports written (74 online)	22,957
Arrests (4,645 adults / 1,406 juveniles)	6,051
Web site hits	44,244

INVESTIGATIONS	TOTAL
Cases investigated - property crimes	942
Cases investigated - violent crimes	1,294
Controlled / attempted buys - narcotics	164
Narcotic search warrants	44
Methamphetamines seized	10.5 lbs.
Cocaine seized	1.1 lbs.
Heroin seized	2.12 lbs.
Marijuana seized	2.13 lbs. & 37 plants
Gang probation searches	352
Gang search warrants	27
Gang related firearms recovered	42
Gang members (known) in Visalia	749

PERSONNEL	TOTAL
Personnel	162*
* 106 sworn, 6 grant, 50 civilian -- filled positions 108 sworn (5 Measure T), 53 civilian -- allocated	
Reserve Officers	11
Volunteers - VIPS	52
Chaplains	8

TRAINING	HOURS
Total POST hours	3,998
Total Internal hours	1,504

COMMUNITY PROJECTS	TOTAL
Graffiti abatements	10,785
COPPS problem-solving plans	77
COPPS community contacts	1,227

TRAFFIC CONTROL	TOTAL
Collisions - fatal	7
Collisions - injury	752
Collisions - non-injury	2,022
Traffic citations	9,579

SEX REGISTRANT TRANSACTIONS	TOTAL
Actual registrants in Visalia	230
Registrant transactions	388

2004 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS

	TOTAL REPORTS	VER-BAL	HANDS/ FEET	KNIFE	GUN	OTHER
2004	944	574	293	18	7	52
2003	904	581	243	13	1	66
% IN/DE	4%	-1%	15%	38%	--	-21%

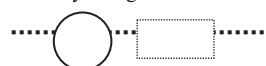
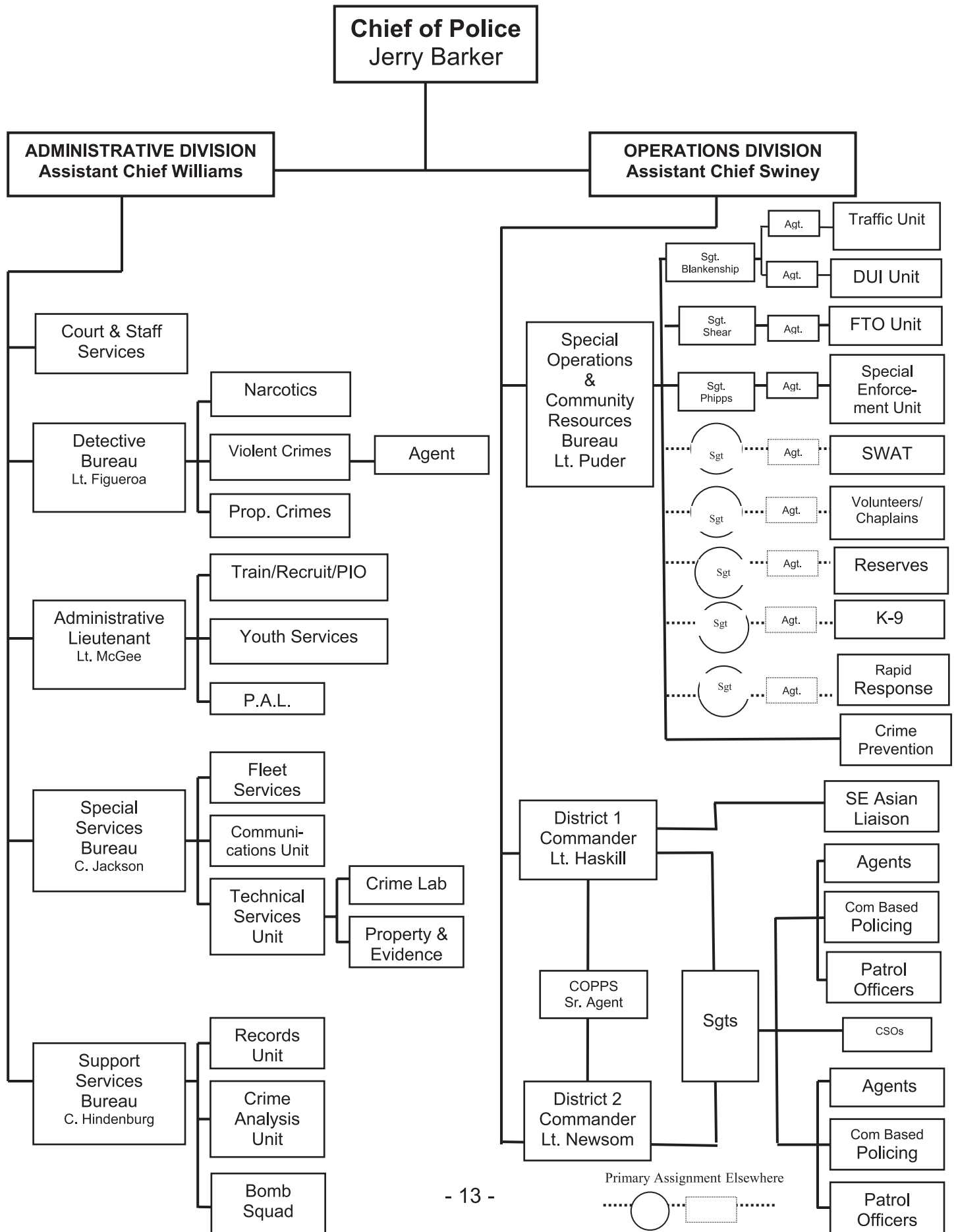


2004 REPORTED PART 1 CRIMES

	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAV ASSAULT	PERSON CRIMES	BURG	GRAND THEFT	VEH THEFT	PROP CRIMES	TOTAL CRIMES
2004	8	39	183	762	992	1,461	956	1,099	3,516	4,508
2003	9	47	144	589	789	1,081	777	806	2,664	3,453
% IN/DE	-11%	-17%	27%	29%	26%	35%	23%	36%	32%	31%

Tracking Trends for COPPS – The Community Oriented Police and Problem-Solving program began in 1999. Overall, in 2004, there was a 2.1% increase in calls-for-service over 2003 and 22.6% increase in calls compared to 1999.

Organization Chart – 2004 - 2005



**2004
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**Visalia Police Department
Chief Jerry Barker
303 S. Johnson
Visalia, CA 93291**

www.vpd.ci.visalia.ca.us

Report prepared by Lt. Mike McGee and
Robin Meyst, Crime Analysis Unit