



Visalia Police Department 2005 Annual Report

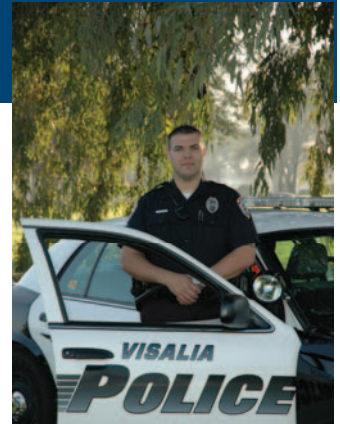
The cover and inside cover represent the 10 vehicles purchased and 10 officers hired with Measure T funds.



Officer Carmen Esparza



Officer Shane Logan



Officer Robert Gilson



Officer Adam Collins



Officer Kevin Kroeze



Officer Mike Short



Officer Matt Doherty



Officer Ben Beavers



Officer Jared Whaley

Visalia Police
Department 2005
Annual Report
Presented to the Visalia
City Council and the
Citizens of Visalia



Officer Daniel Ford



Chief Bob Williams



A Word from the Chief

The year 2005 was a year of preparing for the largest building projects in the history of this organization and a year of goodbyes and retirements.

With Measure “T” and other funding securely in place, the Visalia Police Department readied itself to not just add an additional five officers provided by Measure “T” to the organization, but to set the stage for building two new beautifully designed precinct buildings. This marks the first VPD construction project in over 36 years, and it is long overdue. Planning has also begun on the construction of a new 9-1-1 Communications Center/Administration building that will be completed prior to 2010.

Chief Jerry L. Barker retired in mid December. Officially, I retired at the end of December, but agreed to stay on as Interim Chief during the recruitment and search process for our next Chief of Police. What a wonderful experience that has been, and I will never forget it, as it is a perfect way to end my 35-year career in law enforcement.

This community, and the men and women of this agency who serve it, should take great pride and comfort in the fact that VPD is growing and building, and is the most energized law enforcement organization in the Central Valley. It has been a privilege to work for, work with, and now command such a professional and effective organization. Your next Chief of Police will indeed be a fortunate person. Serving this community and commanding this organization will, for our next Chief, also be a unique privilege.

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Watch Commander's Award - Det. Paul Esquibel -

The Watch Commander's Award is designed to honor an officer who has performed in a manner that best exemplifies basic police service of protecting those we serve. Det. Esquibel apprehended two suspects who robbed Washington Mutual Bank at gunpoint. Detective Esquibel's

observations, actions, and attention to duty best demonstrate the spirit of the Watch Commander's Award.

Police Officer of the Year - Officer Luma Fahoum - Officer Fahoum has been a member of the Visalia Police Department for the past five years. She is a former member of the Department's Rapid Response Team and is currently assigned to the Special Enforcement Unit. She has been instrumental in identifying suspects responsible for the commission of gang related crimes. She is able to do this due to her ability to cultivate a high volume of informants, her expertise of how gangs operate, and her knowledge of local gang members.

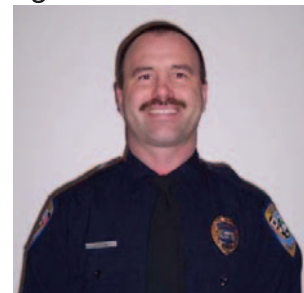


Communications Operator of the Year - Gloria House -

Gloria began with the Visalia Police Department in February of 2000. In August of 2001, she became a Tactical Communications Operator where she works closely with our agency's SWAT Team and handles the dispatch portion of their callouts from the field. In October of 2002, Gloria was promoted to the position of Senior

Communications Operator where her duties include being the shift supervisor and training of new employees.

Reserve Officer of the Year - James Jolly - Officer Jolly began as a reserve officer in 1991. He is a member of the SWAT Team as a Tactical Field Medic. James has been a member of the Department's Reserve Program since August of 1991 and is a former recipient of this award in the year 2000. Officer Jolly is the only reserve officer who is a member of the Department's SWAT Team. His assignment in that unit is that of a Tactical Field Medic and is due, in part, to his civilian occupation and experience as a registered nurse working in the Emergency Room at Kaweah Delta District Hospital.

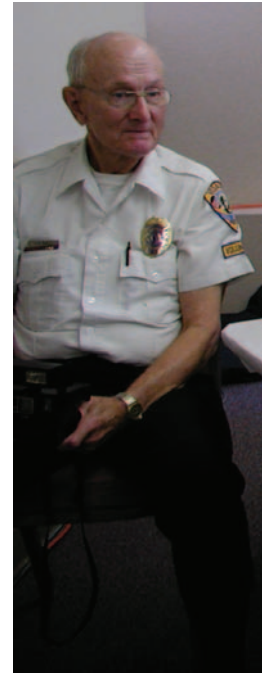




California PAL Volunteer of the Year - V.I.P.S. Member of the Year – Recipient of the Meritorious Service Ribbon - Jim Barnes - Jim volunteered 376 hours in 2005. He organized and established an 18-week space and science program and served as a counselor at PAL Honor Camp. He took five PAL kids to a weeklong NASA Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

He spends his volunteer hours in the Volunteers In Patrol and in the Crime Analysis Unit.

Senior Volunteer of the Year - John Durell - 83 years young - CSET recognized John Durell as the 2005 Senior Volunteer of the Year at their annual awards ceremony.



California Crime Prevention Officers Association Region 10 - Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year - Angie de Alba -



Angie has served as the Visalia Police Department's Crime Prevention Coordinator since April 1998. This award acknowledges her continuous commitment to crime prevention education and programs in the community of Visalia.

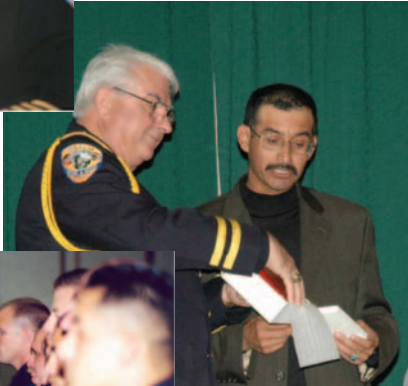
K-9 Officers Win in Statewide Competitions

- Officer Clay Moffett, 1st place Novice Division in Petuluma
- Officer Mark Lyon, 2nd place obedience in Petuluma, 1st place evidence, 3rd place agility and obedience, and 2nd place Open Division in the Visalia Trials
- Officer Rick Johnson, 1st place box search, 2nd place agility, and 4th place Open Division in the Visalia Trials.



Officers from left to right: Rick Johnson and Leo, James Andrews and Zeke, Sgt. Brent Abbott, Mark Lyon and Alex, and Clay Moffett and Bosco

Chief Barker and Assistant Chief Williams Retire



Jerry Barker retired in December 2005 after serving as Chief of Police for seven years.

While serving as Chief, Barker implemented the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) philosophy. Using this concept, patrol officers are assigned geographic areas of responsibility, which allows for unique solutions to area problems.

Barker was also one of the leaders in the successful effort to pass Measure T. He has been instrumental in advocating and planning for the northern and southern precinct stations.

Assistant Chief of Police – Bob Williams retires and appointed interim Chief of Police

When Police Chief Jerry Barker retired, police veteran Bob Williams began serving as interim Police Chief.

Williams started with the Department in 1976 and has served in a variety of command positions, including Assistant Chief.

Williams announced his retirement effective December 29, 2005, but he agreed to serve as the interim Chief until the new Chief begins work early in 2006.



Cost of Officers and Vehicles Measure T Dollars

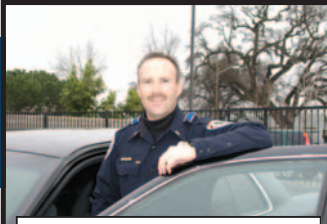
Costs associated with hiring an officer at entry level:		Costs associated with the purchase of a patrol vehicle:	
Annual salary	\$49,337	Vehicle	\$25,000
Retirement	\$17,169	Radio and safety equipment	\$6,000
Workers comp	\$5,743	Computer equipment	\$5,000
Group insurance	\$14,952	TOTAL VEHICLE COST	\$36,000
Long term disability	\$173	Costs associated with the purchase of safety equipment:	
Unemployment insurance	\$82	Handgun	\$450
F.I.C.A.	\$715	Shotgun	\$385
Holiday pay	\$1,044	Taser	\$850
Yearly clothing allowance	\$975	Hand-held radio	\$1,100
Yearly on call pay	\$1,000	Uniform (initial issue)	\$1,692
TOTAL SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$91,189	Ballistic vest	\$600
		Equipment (initial issue)	\$1,500
		TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$6,577

Total salary, benefits, vehicle, and safety equipment for an entry level officer = \$133,766.



Measure T officers from left to right: Daniel Ford, Carmen Esparza, Robert Gilson, Matt Doherty, Adam Collins, Shane Logan, Kevin Kroeze, Mike Short, Ben Beavers, Jared Whaley

Patrol Division



Lt. Rick Haskill,
District 1 Commander



Lt. Glen Newsom,
District 2 Commander

PATROL OVERVIEW

The Visalia Police Department Patrol Division adopted the Community Oriented Policing and Problem-Solving philosophy. Under the "COPPS" philosophy, the City is divided into a northern district (District 1), commanded by Lt. Rick Haskill, and a southern district (District 2), commanded by Lt. Glen Newsom. State Highway 198 separates the districts.

The districts are divided into service sectors with an officer assigned to each. There are three sergeants and three agents assigned to each district. Geographically, this allows the districts to be divided into thirds for supervision purposes.

On a monthly basis, officers are provided with a complete activity report for their sector. This report, along with their observations and activities, allows for a more complete evaluation of the particular problems in that area. With this information, officers are able to develop unique solutions to solve the problem.

COPPS PROJECT EXAMPLES

1. St. John's River Parkway Enforcement

The St. John's River Parkway experienced a rising trend and numerous complaints of off-highway-vehicles (OHV) being driven in the riverbed and on the paved parkway. This threatened the safety of bicyclists, pedestrians, and children playing in a nearby playground.

Officers addressed these complaints through several details focused on enforcing vehicle code and city ordinance violations.

The City of Visalia formed an OHV taskforce to further address problems in the area. The taskforce includes representatives from the Police Department, City Parks & Recreation, Tulare County Sheriff's Department, Kaweah Delta Water District, Visalia Unified School District, and California Department of Fish & Game.

2. Gang Crime Addressed

Officers found Loco Park gang members responsible for large amounts of graffiti and drive-by shootings in the Caldwell – Whitendale area. VPD officers, along with Probation, Parole, and the City Code Enforcement Officer resolved the problems through specialized gang details and code enforcement.

3. Fighting at Ben Maddox/Houston

This area has been plagued with disturbances and fights during the early morning hours of Fridays and Saturdays. Officers conducted numerous patrol checks in an effort to reduce these problems and enlisted the help of the State of California Alcoholic Beverage Control. This approach made a positive impact on this particular problem.

4. Holiday Season Detail

In an effort to keep citizens and businesses safe during the holidays, many special details were developed. Calls for service, reports of crimes, and arrests decreased from last year. The decrease in crime can be attributed to the many hours put in by the Commercial Policing Unit, citizen volunteers, sector officers, and property crime detectives. The officers adjusted work schedules to conduct multiple stake-outs, holiday safety campaigns, merchant contacts and increased office hours and patrols by police volunteers.

5. Street Racing Task Force Developed

A special detail was conducted in the Mooney Blvd. area. The operation was led by the Street Racing Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of officers from the Fresno, Reedley, Kingsburg, Selma, and Visalia Police Departments and the California Highway Patrol. The California Office of Traffic Safety provided funding.

As can be seen with the above projects, patrol officers rely on different entities to come together to resolve problems within our community.

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Unit Special Details for 2005

Red light enforcement

In addition to daily enforcement, the Traffic Unit conducted several red light details on Mooney Boulevard, due, in part, to citizens' complaints. As a result, officers cited 260 drivers for running red lights in the targeted area.

Pedestrian safety

After receiving complaints regarding pedestrian crossing problems near Visalia schools, the Traffic Unit conducted extra patrols during high-traffic periods. As a result, officers wrote 82 citations for vehicle right-of-way and pedestrian right-of-way violations.

Click it or ticket

In May and June, using monies from a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, officers participated in the national *Click It or Ticket It* campaign. Officers worked more than 852 hours and issued 1,524 citations for seatbelt violations and 80 citations for car seat violations. The Visalia Police Department ranked 20th out of 243 participating cities in the number of citations issued.

DUI checkpoints and saturation details

The Traffic Unit assisted the DUI Team with seven DUI checkpoints that resulted in checking 3,005 vehicles, giving 80 field sobriety tests, arresting 36 people for DUI, towing 122 vehicles, and issuing 70 citations.

Mini-grants provided funding for six additional DUI checkpoints. They resulted in checking 3,534 vehicles, giving 61 field sobriety tests, arresting 33 drivers for DUI, towing 165 vehicles, and issuing 223 citations.

The Unit also participated in seven DUI saturation details that resulted in arresting 40 for DUI, towing 75 vehicles, and issuing 166 citations.



Officer Carsten administers a Field Sobriety Test by testing the effects of alcohol on eye movement.



A driver under the influence of alcohol collided with a patrol car. The officer driving the car had a concussion and his partner received facial injuries. After recovery, they later returned to duty.

Visalia Police Department Focuses on Youth in 2005

PROGRAMS

Visalia Police Department - Youth Services Bureau provides safeguards against juvenile delinquency through intervention.

The Bureau provides guidance and police services to the students and staff of the Visalia Unified School District (VUSD), as well as to all youth in Visalia. They provide instruction, mentoring, counseling, and enforcement. They work toward a goal of making schools free of violence and intimidation. They work with administrators in making the overall environment of each campus one which is safe and conducive to learning.

Explorer Program teaches youth about law enforcement. Explorers serve the community by helping at area events. They provide traffic control and have participated in annual competitions.

Gang Awareness Program -- Officer Rob Zieg teaches gang awareness to primary grade students in the Visalia Unified School District.

The **Visalia Police Activities League (PAL)** - established in 1991, is dedicated to serving the youth of our community through quality activities designed to enhance self-worth and community involvement.

Highlighted activities are on page 10.



ACTIVITIES

Demonstrations by Officers

Officers give demonstrations to neighborhood kids at functions such as the Visalia Community Bank Children's Carnival grand opening at Summers Park.

Annual Trash-a-Thon

Students and officers work together to clean up Visalia neighborhoods during the 10th Annual Community Trash-a-Thon clean-up day.

Bicycle Rodeos

Officers teach children the importance of bicycle safety. Officers also give away new helmets.

Every 15-Minutes

This program is part of the high-school prevention component of the Strides to Reduce Impaired Driver Enforcement Project, partially funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety.

A DUI related collision is staged in front of a VUSD high school campus. Emergency personnel respond to investigate the collision and to render emergency assistance. Selected students participate by playing the role of victims.

At an assembly, guest speakers affected by DUI related collisions and students have an opportunity to share their experiences.



Police and Youth Recreational Programs

Police Activities League – PAL

The Visalia Police Activities League has experienced many significant changes during the 2005 calendar year. Many different activities are available to a record number of youth, approximately 2,000.

The Visalia PAL program continues to rely on volunteers and donors. With their help, PAL was able to host many activities:

- Christmas party for 400 underprivileged children
- Annual track meet
- California PAL basketball
- The Sacramento Experience
- Baseball (sponsored by the San Francisco Giants)
- Space and Science exploration program, which lasts 18 weeks
- The NASA Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama
- A multi-lingual computer lab at the Manuel Hernandez Community Center
- PAL Honor Camp, 41 youth and five officers attended
- Off-Road PAL program, which consists of six quads, a trailer, and safety equipment – a collaborative effort with the ATV Safety Institute, GA Motorsports, Kawasaki, and California PAL
- Boxing program -- a collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department – 135 kids enrolled, and 20 on a waiting list



Large Scale Drug Bust



Federal law enforcement officials present Chief Williams and Farmersville Chief Mario Kristc each with checks for \$173,257.43. This money, which was seized in a joint drug case, can only be used in areas related to future drug investigations. During this joint drug bust, officers seized \$433,319 in cash, 2 vehicles, 75 pounds of Marijuana, 5 pounds of Methamphetamine, 3 pounds of Crystal Methamphetamine, and 2 pounds of Cocaine. The estimated street value of these drugs is well over \$1,000,000.

This arrest and confiscation of property made a significant impact on drug trade in Tulare County.

Aggressive Action Against Gang Activity

Validated Gang Members

Total Gangs	22
Total Gang Members	923
Female	38
Male	885
Asian	118
Norteno	396
Crip	27
Prison	25
Sureno	97
White	98
Turf	232

Gang Related Arrests	396
Arrests with Gang Enhancement Charges	72
Gang Expert Evaluation and Testimony	69
Recovered Firearms	52
Search Warrants	48

Special Enforcement Unit

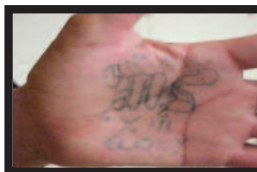
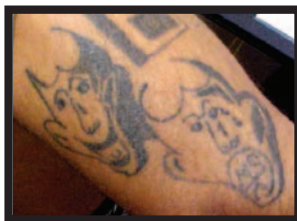
Little Known Facts

- ☞ Officers arrested one gang member for possession of a firearm every four working days.
- ☞ Officers arrested at least one gang member in a stolen vehicle every five working days.
- ☞ Officers arrested 40 gang members per month.

- ☞ Statistics show that Visalia has more gang members than 83% of communities our size.
- ☞ The dividing line for the northern and southern gangs is the Central Valley.

What are we doing about this problem?

- ☞ Six officers and a supervisor are dedicated to resolve gang issues.
- ☞ Visalia Police increased the number of gang experts from two to five.
- ☞ The number of confidential informants for gang intelligence purposes increased.
- ☞ Officers developed a working relationship with CHP and Parole that allows two officers from each agency to ride-along with gang officers four to six times each month.
- ☞ Officers work closely with the District Attorney to aggressively prosecute gang related cases.
- ☞ VPD implemented graffiti reduction enforcements and strategies.
- ☞ Gang Unit altered work hours and days to meet times of higher enforcement needs and to keep the gang members from knowing their work schedules.



Tasers Reduce Officer Injuries

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Taser X26

One of the most important tasks for any law enforcement agency is the ability to equip its officers with the tools necessary to do their jobs effectively and safely. This includes the officers' ability to control potentially violent subjects while minimizing the number of injuries to both the officer and the subject.

To reduce injuries, reduce the cost associated with these incidents, and to provide officers with additional less-lethal capabilities, the Visalia Police Department purchased 98 Taser X26 units.

The Taser X26 is a conducted energy weapon that utilizes compressed nitrogen to shoot two small probes up to 25 feet. These probes are connected to the weapon by high voltage insulated wire. Once the probes make contact with the target, the Taser X26 transmits powerful electrical pulses along the wires and into the body of the target through up to 2" of clothing. The transmission of pulsed energy to the subject causes immediate involuntary incapacitation to the central nervous system. This allows the officer to take control of the subject with no permanent injury to either the officer or subject.



The Department has now equipped all uniformed officers with Taser units. This is just one of the many less lethal options available to Visalia police officers.



Officers routinely train by firing the taser into a foil target with a human silhouette. The blue dots indicate successful contact.

In 2005, officers deployed the Taser X26 during 55 separate incidents.

There was a 15% reduction in Taser use in 2005 compared to 2004.

The Taser was ineffective in three cases.

Officers used the Taser in a "Drive Stun" fashion on six separate occasions.

Officers gained compliance by merely displaying the laser from the Taser X26.

Funding for Tasers

2004 – State Technology grants	=	\$22,798
2004 – Asset forfeiture funds	=	\$50,418
2005 – Asset forfeiture funds	=	\$26,947

Individual Taser	=	\$845
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Cartridges range from \$16.50 to \$21.50 per unit.



Administrative Division - Civilian



2005 End of Year Statistics



ABOUT THE CITY	TOTAL
City limit square miles	34.5
Population (4.7% increase from 2004)	107,550
Daytime population	140,000



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT	TOTAL
Calls for service	104,957
Reports written (160 on-line)	22,392
Arrests (5,305 adults / 1,486 juveniles)	6,791
Gang cards generated	475
Web site hits	41,423

PERSONNEL	TOTAL
Personnel	179
120 sworn, 4 grant, 55 civilian	
Reserve officers	8
Volunteers - VIPS	45
Chaplains	7

FLEET	TOTAL
Total vehicles	173
Marked units	91
Unmarked units	44
Traffic units	16
Specialty units	14
Trailers	8
Approx. miles driven	1.2 million
Weekly checks	1,557
Service or repair orders	670

CRIME PREVENTION	TOTAL
New Neighborhood Watch groups	43
Safety presentations	43
Child ID events	12
VPD tours	10

GANG AWARENESS PROGRAM	TOTAL
Elementary school visits	11
Classroom presentations	175
Community presentations	5
Teacher presentations	5
Parent presentations	6
Students counseled	27

SEX REGISTRANT TRANSACTIONS	TOTAL
Registrants in Visalia	263
Out of compliance	17

SWAT	HOURS
Call outs (16 residences / 2 barricaded)	8
Diversion device deployment (1 gas)	7

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE				
Verbal	Hands	Knife	Gun	Other
556	288	24	5	48

REPORTED PART 1 CRIMES	TOTAL
Homicide	10
Rape	48
Robbery	192
Aggravated Assault	789
Burglary	1,216
Grand Theft	940
Vehicle Theft	1,202
TOTAL	4,397



State of California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control grant provides funding to enforce laws against selling alcohol to minors.

- Officers provided training to local businesses about alcohol laws
- 28 details completed using an undercover minor attempting to buy alcohol
- 231 buy attempts
- 77 businesses met requirements
- 27 establishments sold alcohol to the minor

INVESTIGATIONS - Violent Crimes Unit	TOTAL
Cases investigated	1,238
Active at end of 2005	2,558
Exceptionally cleared	475
Referred to the DA	623
Inactivated - insufficient leads	159
Arrests	192
Clearance rate %	26.27%

INVESTIGATIONS - Property Crimes Unit	TOTAL
Cases investigated	693
Active at end of 2005	193
Exceptionally cleared	190
Referred to the DA	292
Inactivated - insufficient leads	237
Arrests	132
Clearance rate %	15.80%

FINGERPRINTS through CAL-ID	TOTAL
Cases with fingerprints	214
Hits which identified a suspect	76
Percentage hit rate	36%

NARCOTICS UNIT	TOTAL
Search warrants	69
Controlled buys	89
Attempted buys	43
Guns seized	24
Knock and talks	35
Special details	18
Arrests	140
Vehicle recoveries	8
Assets seized	\$457,892


PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE	TOTAL
Items of evidence processed	13,097
Destroyed, returned to owner, disposed of	5,945
Ratio of evidence received to disposed of	45%

CHAPLAINS	TOTAL
Chaplains	7
Ride-along hours	284
Hours of counseling	44
Called out	21
Hours worked on call outs	68
Special service hours	142
Chaplains are on-call 24 hours a day 365 days per year	

CRIME LAB	TOTAL
Crime Lab call-outs	109
Reports prepared	625
Fingerprint comparisons	138
Fingerprint identifications	115
Cases involving fingerprint lifts	277

PATROL	* Reports	* Arrests
Patrol	12,900	4,719
Motors	1,986	728
K-9	687	170
CSO	2,731	4
*Reports and arrests made by Patrol does not include those made by detectives in other units.		

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT - see page 11

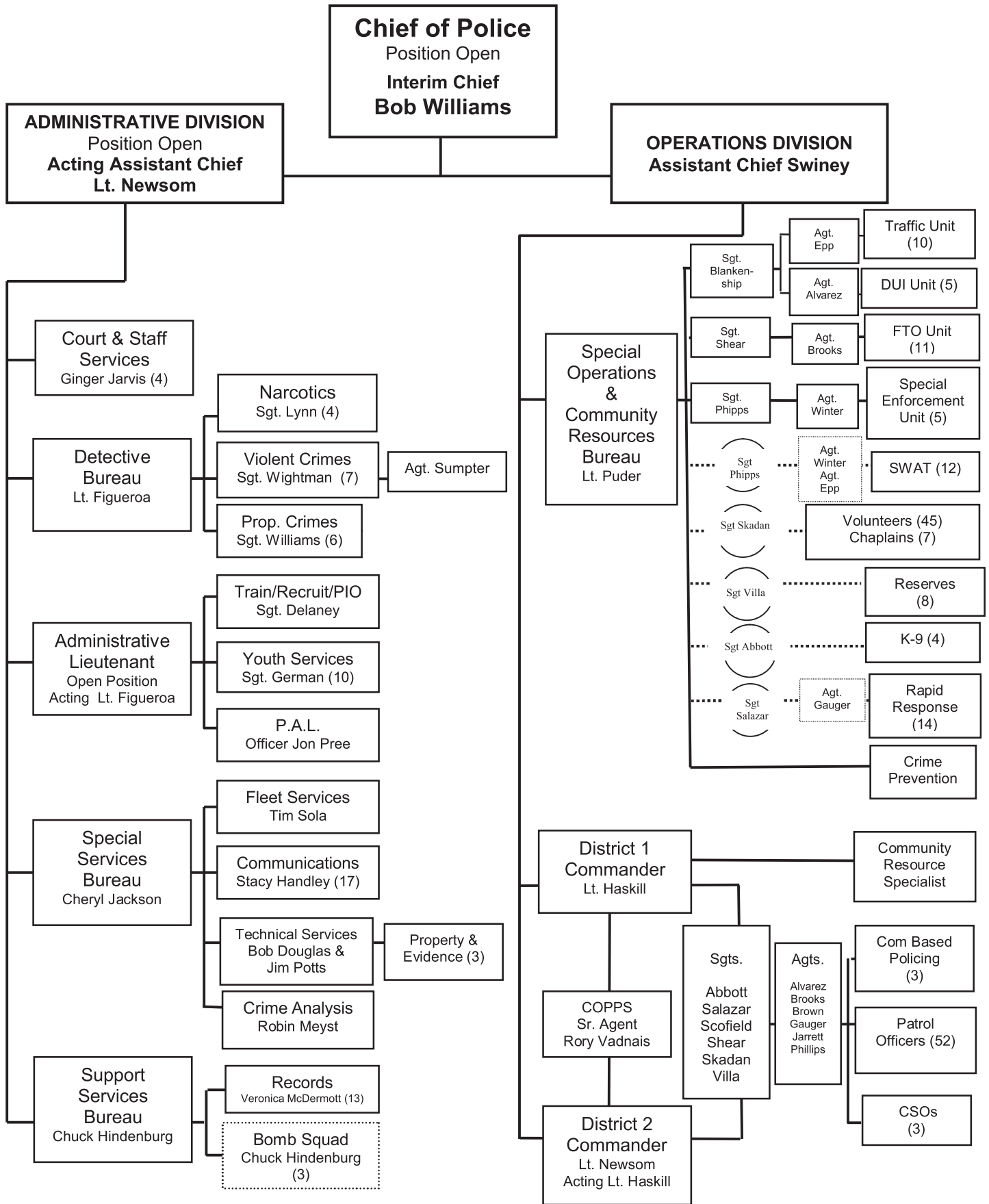
TRAFFIC UNIT		TOTAL
Collisions		2,729
Fatals		11
Collisions with injuries		725
Total injuries		1,244
DUI collisions		89
Bicycle collisions		57
Pedestrian collisions		38
Citations issued		13,961
Seat belt citations		3,690
Child restraint citations		341
Most frequent collision factor		Unsafe Speed
Most frequently cited violation		Unsafe Speed

RESERVES	TOTAL
Reserve Officers	8
Hours worked	1,064
Calls for Service	123
Reports Written	25

VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE	TOTAL
Active volunteers	45
Details worked	100
Hours volunteered	7,600
Volunteers worked more than 9,200 hours in 2005. Examples of volunteer work performed include bike rodeos, DUI checkpoints, parades, toy runs, entering pawn slips, transporting evidence, staff the Visalia Mall office and the Mary's Vineyard office, and entering statistical data into the records management system.	

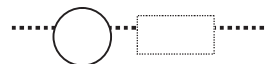
Organization Chart

February 21, 2006



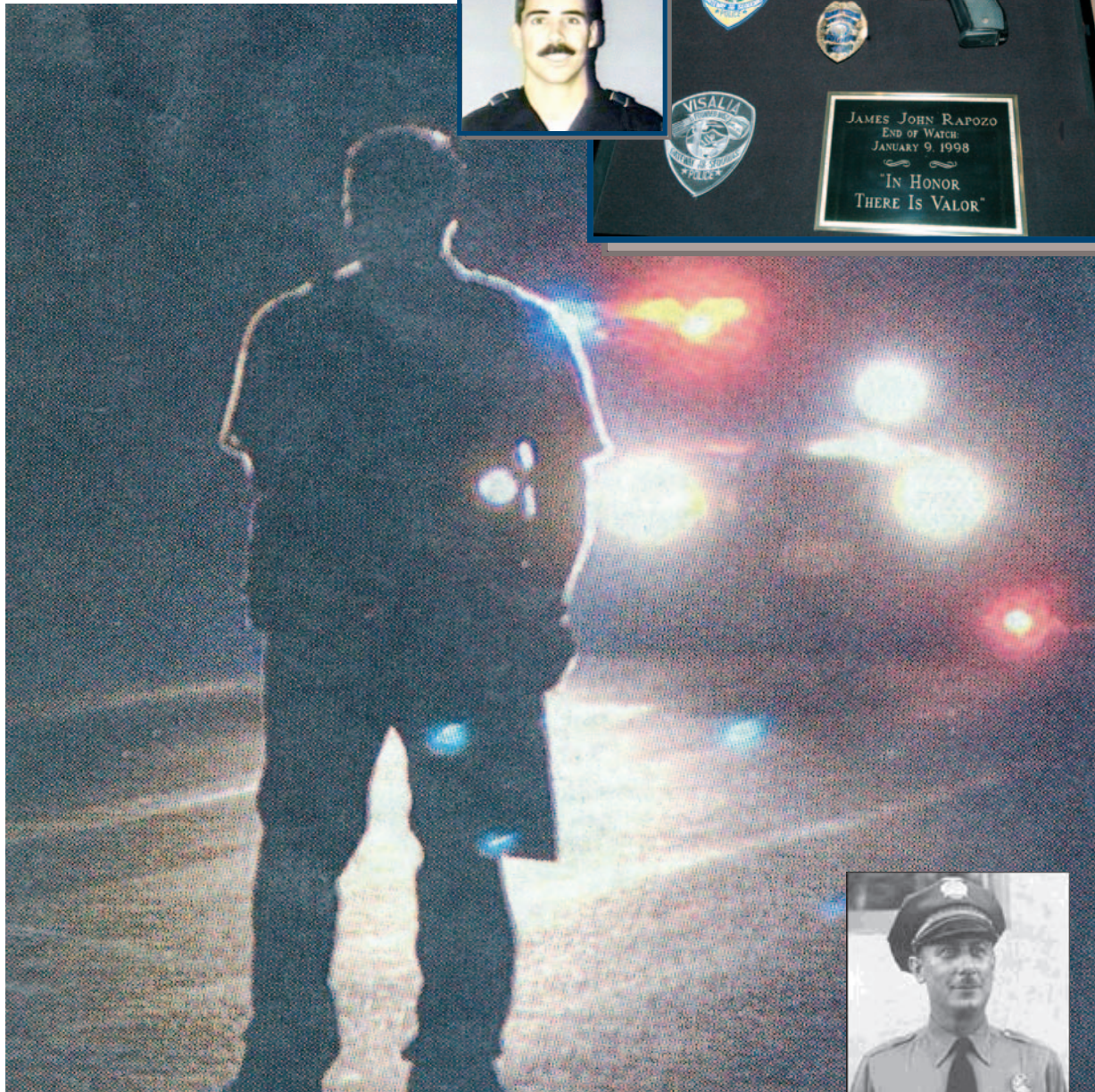
The number of officers and full-time civilian employees assigned to Unit shown as (#). Some officers are assigned to more than one specialty unit.

Primary Assignment Elsewhere



END OF WATCH In Memory of Officer James Rapozo

On January 9, 1998, Officer James Rapozo was fatally shot during a raid. On September 6, 2005, Chief Jerry Barker presented the badge and weapon of Officer James Rapozo to his widow. Chief Barker said that Officer Rapozo earned the badge by paying the ultimate price, his life. The badge and gun were retired from duty at the End of Watch ceremony.



Two officers died in the line of duty, **Officer James Rapozo** in 1998 and **Sgt. Charles "Hugh" Garrison** in 1946.

Sgt. Charles Hugh Garrison was fatally shot on November 6, 1946, while attempting to arrest Clyde Bauer for burglary and vehicle theft. In 1992, relatives donated his badge and Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver inscribed "CHG" to the Visalia Police Department museum.

In Honor There Is Valor

Police Department Services

Address  <http://www.vpd.ci.visalia.ca.us/>



WELCOME TO THE VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

HOME

Dept. Contacts

Crime Map

FAQ

History

Recruitment

Report Crime

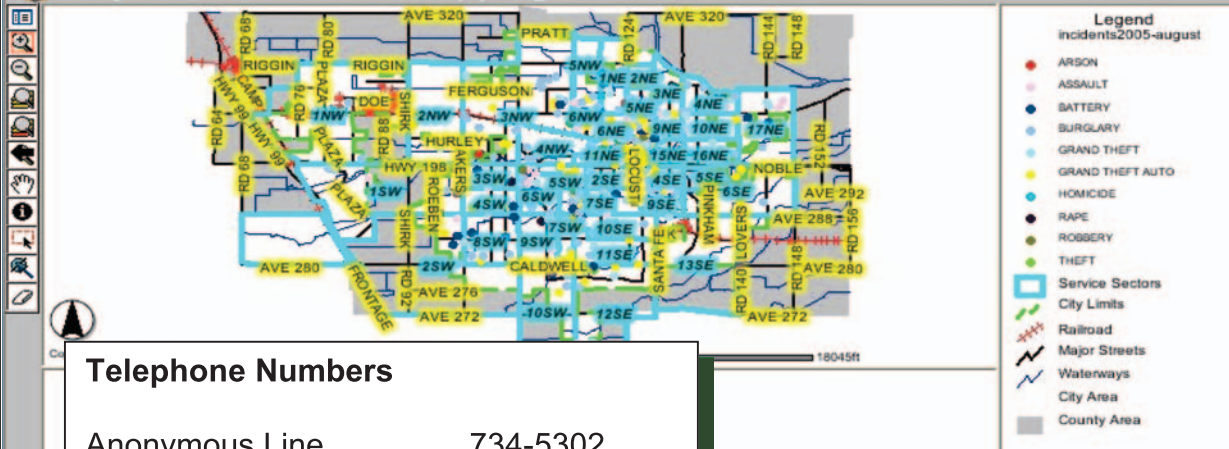
Site Map

Online Crime Report Form

The Visalia Police Department accepts crime reports "on-line." If you are a victim of a crime that occurred within our city, you can submit your initial report here. This form is to be used for "cold" crimes (non-emergency) for which there are no suspects or evidence. For emergencies, please dial 9-1-1.

Address  <http://204.155.47.66/website/crime01/viewer.htm>

City of Visalia Crime Mapping



Telephone Numbers

Anonymous Line	734-5302
Chief of Police	713-4215
Crime Prevention	713-4370
Dispatch Non-Emergency	734-8116
Duty Officer	713-4257
Emergency	911
Explorers	622-8773 x 5028
Gang Hotline	713-4737
Police Activities League	713-4081
Records	713-4222
Recruitment	713-4216
Sector Officer Voicemail	622-8773

FAX

Chief's Office	713-4825
Records	713-4861

Email

vpdhome@ci.visalia.ca.us

www.vpd.ci.visalia.ca.us