2025

Port Angeles Police Department
2025 Annual Report



Port Angeles Police Department
321 East 5th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360.452-4545

CITY OF PORT ANGELES OFFICALS 2025

THE CITY OF PORT ANGELES WASHINGTON

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Chief's Message by Chief Brian Smith



2025 was an exciting and rewarding year for the Port Angeles Police Department. By year end we achieved full staffing in Operations (Records/Patrol, Administration and Investigations) and (notably) in PenCom. Maintaining full staffing and taking care of our people remains our top priority. In this report you will see submissions that reflect the hard work, commitment and excellence of our staff. Some highlights from 2025:

- The Downtown Resource Officer (DRO) completed year two. With the promotion of Corporal Zach Moore, Officer Harry Balderson took over as the DRO. The DRO program continues to be one of our of our most visible and valued in the community. To memorialize the focus of the position we have renamed the Downtown Office the Waterfront Foot Patrol station.
- The Kitsap Clallam Investigative Response Team (KCIRT) and the Detective Division: PAPD Detectives significantly reduced their open caseload and successfully worked on the tough cases while continuing to manage the KCIRT training and case workload. PAPD's leadership and work in KCIRT are important and it remains an unfunded mandate. Regardless, PAPD participation in KCIRT is critical to maintaining a functional and professional law enforcement agency. The Detective Division added two of our best to the School Resource Officer and Detective assignments respectively.
- OPNET: Clallam County dropped significantly in 2025 statewide for narcotics overdoses and overdose deaths. The work of OPNET continues to be critical in removing the drug trafficking organizations from the community and in providing support to area agencies in major crimes and case investigations. OPNET is the lead investigative agency in Clallam and Jefferson County for controlled substance homicide cases.

- The Patrol Teams (Red and Blue) as always, have some exciting 2025 stories. They are contained inside this report.
- Code Enforcement had another successful year in 2025. Our two full-time Code Enforcement Officers took on problems both large and small. Their work has improved the quality of life for our community. Much of their success can be seen when traveling around our community.
- PenCom succeeded with strong recruitment and retention efforts in 2025. The result was 6 new Communications Officers (from training and all the way to full performance). PenCom continues to lead Washington in the "narrowing the time to CPR" project.
- The Records Division had employee absences in 2025 and the new body worn cameras. The Records team managed Public Records requests, fingerprinting, concealed weapons permits, case entry and the new body worn camera program added workload with grace and professionalism.
- In November PAPD Officers responded to an incident that led to a fatal officer involved shooting. While the final report from the WA Office of Independent Investigations is still pending, I believe our entire Department has successfully worked through the impact of this event.
- During the 2025 Legislative session what is called the "Officer Funding Bill" or HB 2015 passed and went into effect in July of 2025. As for this writing, the PAPD grant application to add 4 additional Officers to the Department has been approved by the Criminal Justice Training Commission. There are additional steps that include City Council approval. Work that took six months went into the HB 2015 grant application. We continue to be optimistic as to the result.
- In 2025 we launched the Department wide body worn camera program. This was a multi-year effort and the result of excellent work on the part of PAPD staff. We also (some through grants) acquired and used new technology that included modern replacement aerial drones, license plate reader cameras and AI driven/ auto attendant business calls for Records and PenCom.
- In 2025 our K9 program added a third k9 team and completed the 400-hour K9 training for two new PAPD K9 teams and one Sequim PD K9 team. Through the efforts of our excellent K9 trainers and the receipt of a large donation PAPD has expanded our valuable K9 program.
- The Crisis Response Team (CRT- SWAT) expanded to 8 PAPD members assigned. The interagency team responded to several assignments with a newly acquired armored vehicle and with two PAPD Sergeant Josh Powless and Brian Stamon in leadership roles.
- The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is led by the PAPD Detective Sgt. Kori Malone and is a regional resource. CNT expanded their training in 2025 and responded to some important assignments.

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2025 was a challenging year in terms of staff vacancies and absences due to injuries. This was true both for Operations and for PenCom. It is a credit to the teamwork and dedication of staff that we managed all that we did with sustained gaps in our employee numbers. One of the primary objectives in the HB-2015 grant is to add to our staff in a meaningful way that will allow us to better manage the challenges from the normal ups and downs that come with retirements, career changes and lateral transfers.

I am very proud of the women and men of PAPD, both in the work that they do and the people that they are every day. It is an honor to be a part of a group that aspires to make PAPD the best police department in the world.



Officer of the Year 2025



On November 17, 2025 Sgt Dave Arand and other Blue Squad and OPNET officers were attempting to arrest a reportedly armed, violent and dangerous fugitive. He fled on foot through a neighborhood. During this foot pursuit he brandished a handgun, fired at Officers and there was an exchange of rounds that ultimately led to the fugitive being deceased.

For his leadership, courage, skill and professionalism during this incident Sergeant David Arand is the PAPD 2025-2026 Officer of the Year.







Red Squad Report by Sergeant Brian Stamon



Red Squad represents one half of the patrol operation division. Red Squad consists of eleven officers, which includes one sergeant and two corporals, and are split between days and nights. Red Squad works four days on, four days off, alternating with Blue Squad.

Red Squad had seen several personnel changes during 2025. In March, I transferred from Blue Squad after Corporal Sean Ryan was promoted to Operations Sergeant and left Red Squad.
In June, the department sadly said goodbye to Sergeant Kevin Miller, who retired after serving nearly 36 years. In 2016, Kevin was promoted to Sergeant and served as the Red Squad (back then Gold Squad) Sergeant ever since. Sergeant Miller devoted his career to caring for and protecting his community with professionalism, compassion, dedication, and honor. As Sergeant Miller entered his well-earned retirement, he left behind a respected legacy of service and commitment at PAPD.
Following Sgt. Miller's retirement, I was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and Officer Luke Brown was promoted to Corporal.

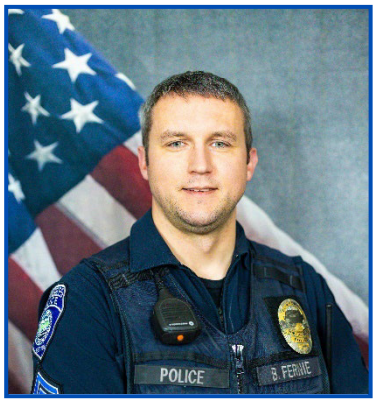
Officer Deckard completed his field training phase and has been a patrol officer since. Officer Brandon Woolman was hired and in July attended the Basic Law Enforcement Academy and graduated November 4th. Officer Woolman should be on his own as a patrol officer at the end of February 2026.

In July, Officer Beth Hollis became a detective and transferred to the Detective Division.
Officer McKnight and K9 Freddy completed their training and passed the Washington State certification test in August.

On December 22nd, Jayden Sotebeer was hired as our newest officer and is expected to attend the CJTC Basic Academy in early March. Red Squad is now comprised of myself, Corporal Bruce Fernie, Corporal Luke Brown, Officer Kelly Perry, Officer Kyle Buchanan, Officer Nate Clark, Officer Nathan Swanson, Officer/K9 Handler Ken McKnight, Officer Glenn Deckard, Officer Brandon Woolman, and Officer Jayden Sotebeer.

Each member of Red Squad has a great positive attitude and a commitment to our community, which contributes to making this department so great. This is an outstanding group of officers who I am proud to work with.

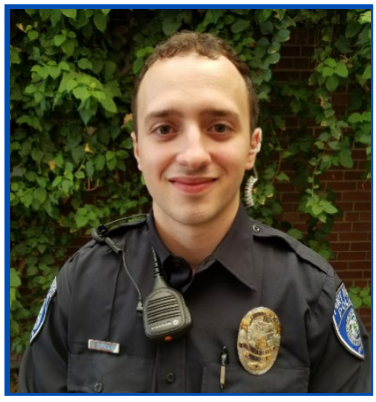
Red Squad



Corporal Fernie



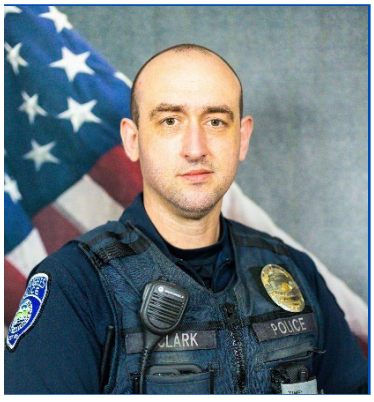
Corporal Brown



Officer Buchanan



Officer Perry

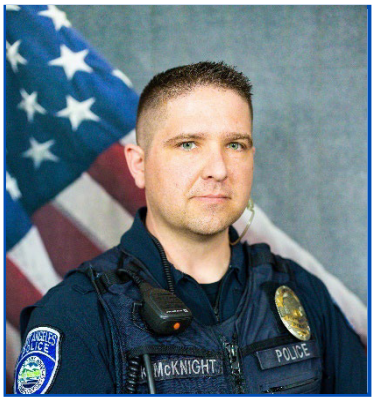


Officer Clark



Officer Swanson

Red Squad



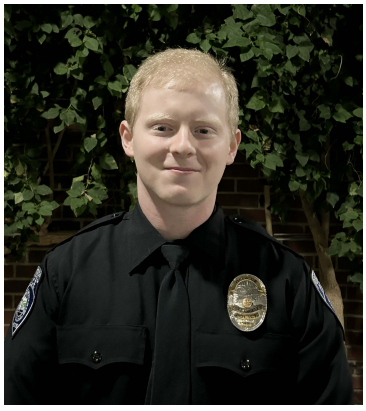
Officer McKnight



Officer Deckard



Officer Woolman



Recruit Officer Sotebeer



Notable Events – Red Squad

Corporal Brown, Corporal Moore, and Sergeant Stamon
2025-4902 – Attempted Murder 1st – Felony Harassment: 3/28/2025 Francis Street Park – Brian Lester

Sergeant Stamon, Corporal Brown, and Corporal Moore responded to an assault in progress with possible shots fired. Officers arrived within 1 minute after the initial call came into the dispatch center. Cpl. Brown and Cpl. Moore quickly located the 2 involved vehicles halfway down the vehicle path, inside the park. A possible female victim was called away from the vehicles and was escorted to safety. The two involved males were detained within minutes.

A bullet hole was found on the "B" pillar between the front and rear passenger door. A spent handgun casing was found on the pavement nearby. Initial interviews were completed, witnesses were contacted and interviewed, and the scene was secured. A search warrant was executed on both vehicles and a handgun was found in Lester's vehicle. The handgun and the spent round were the same caliber and later found that the round was fired from the handgun. Detectives and a Deputy Prosecutor arrived on scene and investigated the scene further.

A jury found Lester guilty of Attempted Murder 2 and Felony Harassment. He was sentenced to 11 ½ years in prison.

Corporal Moore, Corporal Brown, Officer Perry, Sergeant Stamon
2025-5305 – Felony Elude / DUI /Stolen Vehicle- 4/02/2025 Kenneth Brown

Corporal Moore attempted to perform a traffic stop on a small pickup on the truck route. The vehicle continued and turned west onto West Lauridsen Blvd. and Corporal Moore advised that he had reasonable suspicion that the driver was under the influence. Corporal Moore was given permission to pursue the vehicle The pursuit was terminated a short time later after Corporal Moore lost sight of the vehicle.

Five minutes later, Corporal Moore located the vehicle after the driver noticed Corporal Moore approaching the area. The driver almost struck Corporal Moore's patrol vehicle when the suspect vehicle fled onto West Lauridsen Blvd. from South Bean Road. Corporal Moore reengaged the pursuit.

Notable Events – Red Squad

Corporal Brown joined the pursuit as the vehicle passed his location at C Street and Lauridsen Blvd. The pursuit continued north on C Street, east on 8th Street, and to the area of Peninsula College. Corporal Brown attempted to utilize a pursuit intervention technique (PIT) in the area of Porter Street and Park Ave but the suspect was able to avoid it. Corporal Brown recognized the male driver as Kenneth Brown.

Officer Perry joined the pursuit after he observed the vehicle driving northbound on South Race Street from Park Ave. Kenneth Brown applied the brakes and locked up the tires, causing squealing sound as he attempted to make a left-hand turn heading west on East Lauridsen Blvd. Officer Perry took the opportunity to accelerate up to the rear driver's side of the pickup since the vehicle speed was down to approximately 25 mph. Officer Perry performed a PIT maneuver in the 800 block of East Lauridsen Blvd. which sent the pickup into a 300-degree spin towards the south side of the street and then slowly rolled backwards into a driveway.

Officer Perry noticed that the pickup was starting to move forward and moved his vehicle up to the pickup's front bumper to prevent the vehicle from moving forward again. Corporal Brown arrived and placed his vehicle on the passenger side of the pickup. Kenny Brown immediately jumped out of the driver side door and began running southeast.

Officer Perry pursued Kenneth Brown on foot until he lost sight of him. Corporal Moore arrived in the area to the south and immediately located Brown running from the north. Corporal Moore quickly caught up and tackled Brown and placed him into custody. Brown was booked for Felony Elude, driving under the influence—drugs, obstruction of law enforcement officer, and possession of stolen vehicle. Brown pled guilty.





Notable Events – Red Squad

Officer Hollis , Officer Clark, Corporal Fernie, Officer Deckard
2025-8157 Drive by shooting – 5/23/2025 Stephanie Baker-Paulsen

On 5/23/2025 at 1745 hours, Officer Hollis responded to a weapons discharge reported in the 100 block of West 5th Street. At the same time, a resident called to report that they had found a window of their rear sliding door had been shot out. Officer Hollis contacted the resident and started the investigation. Officer Hollis observed a shelf about ten feet inside from the rear door had damage consistent with a grazing bullet strike. A cardboard puzzle box on top of the shelf had a hole through the bottom and she located a deformed spent round on the floor. The spent 9mm round was collected for evidence. Officer Hollis interviewed the resident and neighbors. A witness had seen a white colored vehicle drive quickly through the alley.

From the information gathered by Officer Hollis, she determined that she had earlier contacted the possible suspect at 1705 hours in the courthouse parking lot. Stephanie Baker-Paulsen had reported damages sustained to her vehicle.

Corporal Fernie and Officer Clark contacted Stephanie Baker-Paulsen who was still with her vehicle in the courthouse parking lot. Based upon all the information gathered, Officer Hollis was able to obtain a telephonic search warrant to search the suspect vehicle.

The search warrant was executed by Officer Clark and Officer Deckard. A 9mm handgun and a spent shell casing were recovered from the vehicle. Baker-Paulsen was arrested for drive-by shooting, possession of controlled substance, and unlawful possession of firearm 2nd degree. Baker-Paulsen later pled guilty and is serving a 15-month sentence.

Code Enforcement Officer Miller, Officer Perry, Code Enforcement Officer Bower, Corporal Brown
2025-8920 – Assault 2nd degree, Assault 3rd degree, Robbery 1st, Obstruction of law enforcement officer—06/06/2025 Logan Farias

On 6/06/2025 at 0800 hours, Code Enforcement Officer Bower and Officer Perry (Officer Bower's field training officer) assisted Code Enforcement Officer Miller in the 2300 block of West 18th Street regarding a impound of a vehicle. The owner of the vehicle, Logan Farias, was inside the vehicle and agreed to step out to talk to officers. Farias, who had been given many warnings, was told that it was time that his vehicle would be towed. Farias began to pace around the vehicle while speaking to himself.

Notable Events – Red Squad

Farias made his way to the driver's side door and attempted to enter the vehicle. Farias, who is listed as 6'7" 265 lbs., grabbed onto Officer Bower's arm. Officer Bower immediately stepped back but Farias moved towards Officer Bower and attempted to grab him again. Officer Miller grabbed Farias around the legs and the three went down to the ground. Officer Perry announced on the radio that they had one resisting.

Officers continued to yell to Farias to stop resisting. Farias then grabbed Officer Miller's firearm with one hand while attempting to defeat the holster's retention lock with his other hand. Officer Perry grabbed onto both Farias' arms and pushed them off. Officer Miller then was able to activate his taser and attempted to drive-stun Farias. Farias was able to rip the taser away from Officer Miller and discharged it. Officer Miller was able to dislodge the taser from Farias and threw it away from their reach. Other officers arrived, including Corporal Brown. Farias was placed into custody. The physical altercation with Farias lasted approximately 5 minutes.

Farias was booked and later charged with 3 counts of Assault 3 on a law enforcement officer, attempt to disarm (firearm) a law enforcement officer, disarming (taser) a LEO, theft 1st degree, and obstructing a LEO. Farias was later civilly committed.

***Also, PAPD handled a total of 82 calls for service in a 24-hour period on 6/6/25

Officer Swanson, Corporal Fernie, Officer Deckard
2025-10808—Burglary 2nd Degree—07/08/2025

On 7/07/2025 at 0337 hours, Corporal Fernie, Officer Swanson, and Officer Deckard responded to an in-progress burglary in the 100 block of East 1st Street. The owner of the building reported that a male subject, armed with a hammer was inside the building and was attempting to access an interior door. Officers were able to see the male suspect through one of the interior windows.

The owner told Officer Swanson that he did not know the suspect. Officer Swanson recognized the suspect from an earlier disturbance that occurred at 0200 hours. Once Officer Swanson established reasonable suspicion that the suspect was committing a burglary, they entered the building and immediately placed the suspect into custody without incident.

It was found that the suspect had entered the building, found tools inside, including a hammer, and used the hammer to gain entry into an interior basement door. The suspect was booked for burglary 2nd degree and malicious mischief 3rd degree. Case is still pending.

Notable Events – Red Squad

Officer Clark, Corporal Fernie, Officer Swanson
2025-9023 – Arson 1st degree and resisting arrest—06/07/2025

On 6/07/2025 at 1910 hours, Corporal Fernie and Officer Clark responded to a possible fire in an apartment in the 2200 block of West 16th Street. Upon arrival, one apartment was found to have smoke venting out of a bedroom. The two assisted fire personnel in making sure tenants had evacuated. A female resident that lived in the smokey apartment, was contacted by Corporal Fernie behind the apartment. The same female resident was reported being seen by a neighbor just after the fire and was reported yelling and ranting behind the apartment. After the fire was extinguished by fire personnel, it was immediately determined that the fire was suspicious. Officer Clark established probable cause to arrest the female tenant for arson in the 1st degree.

Corporal Fernie and Officer Clark attempted to place the suspect into custody but started to resist the arrest and attempt to kick at the officers. Officer Swanson who was assisting fire personnel, arrived to assist. It took all three officers to gain control of the suspect and placed her into custody. The scene was turned over to the Detective Division for further investigation.

The suspect is out on bail and the case is still pending trial.







Notable Events – Red Squad

Officer Deckard, Corporal Fernie, Officer Woolman, Officer Clark
2025-19491 – Assault 2nd degree on police officer, 3 counts of Unlawful possession of firearm 1st degree, aim/discharging a firearm, and possession of controlled substance.

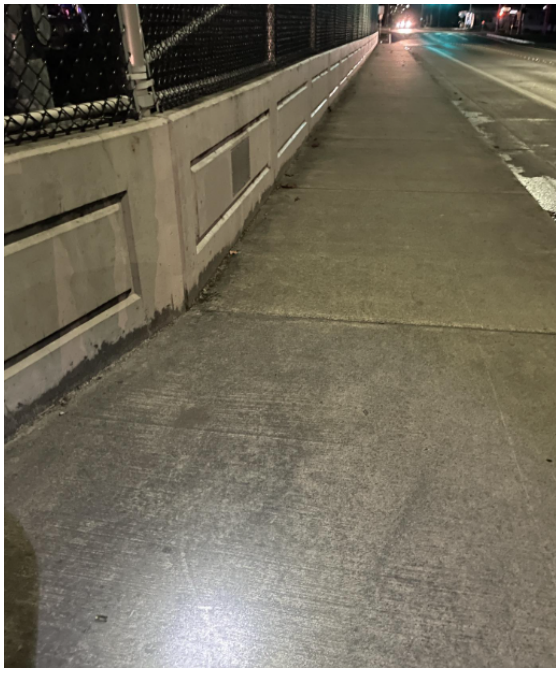
On 11/24/2025 at approximately 0302 hours, officers responded to the east West 8th Street bridge for multiple reports that a male was shooting a handgun from the bridge. At 0305 hours, Officer Deckard arrived and parked on the bridge after noticing a male subject was standing on west end of the bridge. Officer Deckard turned on his spotlights from his patrol vehicle towards the man.

After a brief interaction, the suspect raised and pointed a handgun at Officer Deckard. The suspect then ran westbound towards the end of the bridge, before fleeing towards the woods on the southeast area of West 8th Street and South Pine Street intersection.

Officer Deckard used his radio to broadcast that the suspect had a gun and fled. Corporal Fernie arrived and attempted to follow the suspect in his patrol vehicle. The suspect was last seen possibly running into the brush. Corporal Fernie and Officer Deckard briefly checked the area on foot and backed out to start setting up a perimeter. Other officers and CCSO Deputies started to arrive. PAPD deployed the K9 team, drone operators, and the Peninsula Crisis Response Team (CRT) responded.

The CRT team, Officer Emery and K9 Solo, started a secondary search of the area and evidence was located which including the suspect's ID. The suspect was later located, placed into custody, and booked for Assault 2nd degree on police officer, 3 counts of Unlawful possession of firearm 1st degree, aim/discharging a firearm, and possession of controlled substance. The case is still pending.





Blue Squad Report by Sergeant David Arand



The Port Angeles Police Department Patrol Division Blue Squad is comprised of 10-11 officers and works opposite of Red Squad. Each squad is responsible for providing 24-hour coverage on a four-day-on, four-day-off rotating schedule. Each squad has a dayshift and a night shift with staggered start times, optimizing manpower at peak call times. The operations division handled approximately 21,000 calls for police service in 2025, divided between the two squads. A large volume of those calls often requires at least two or more officers to respond, for officer safety and patrol tactics procedures adopted by law enforcement agencies statewide.

Working in a small city in a largely rural environment, the PAPD patrol division relies heavily on cooperation and support from our partner agencies, as they rely upon us. This is evident when there is a major event or critical incidents such as barricaded suspect standoffs, major crime investigations, or weather events such as our ever-increasing “snowmageddon” incidents. Some examples of these types of incidents are to follow in this report.

Our partner agencies are not just limited to other law enforcement. PAPD works extensively with other stakeholder agencies such as WA Department of Child, Youth and Family Services; Adult Protective Services; Healthy Families of Clallam County; Clallam County Juvenile and Family Services; Peninsula Behavioral Health; and ReDiscovery to name a few.

PAPD’s mission is to serve in a compassionate, courteous, and professional manner, to promote freedom and peace of mind, pride in our neighborhoods, and the safety of our families. The PAPD Patrol Division strives to fulfill this mission by living it

The PAPD Patrol Blue Squad saw numerous personnel changes in 2025. Following Sergeant Miller’s retirement, Corporal Stamon promoted to Patrol Sergeant, and now leads Red Squad. Detective Cooper was promoted to Corporal and filled Sergeant Stamon’s former position. Later in the year, Detective Corporal Smith retired, and Corporal Ordoña transferred into his position as Detective Corporal. Downtown Resource Officer Moore promoted to Corporal and filled Corporal Ordoña’s position.

Early in 2025, in anticipation of Sergeant Miller's retirement, a K9 Academy was held and coordinated primarily by Officer/K9 Handler Fairbanks under Sergeant Miller's guidance. Following his retirement, she left Blue Squad and is now PAPD's K9 coordinator and manager. Officer Emery and her new K9 partner Solo completed the academy and are now Blue Squad's K9 team.

In December, Blue Squad welcomed Recruit Officer Sam Barcklow, who will attend the WA Basic Law Enforcement Academy in early 2026. Officer Barcklow is a US Army veteran where he served as a medic. Prior to his military service, he served PAPD as a Communications Officer and Records Specialist. Blue Squad is now comprised of myself, Corporal Kyle Cooper, Corporal Zac Moore, Officer Dan Morse, Officer Jared Tait, Officer/K9 Handler Lilliana Emery, Officer Mikkiah Brady, Officer Brandon Wessel, Officer Logan Bennett, Recruit Officer Barcklow and K9 Solo.

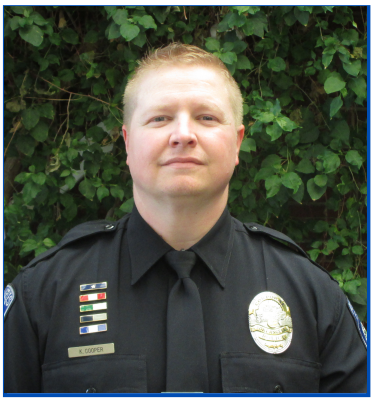








Blue Squad



Corporal Cooper



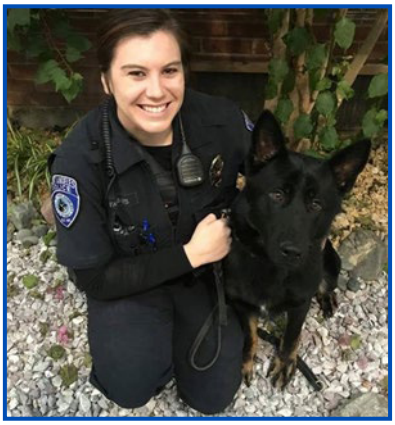
Corporal Moore



Officer Morse



Officer Tait



Officer Fairbanks
K-9 Copper

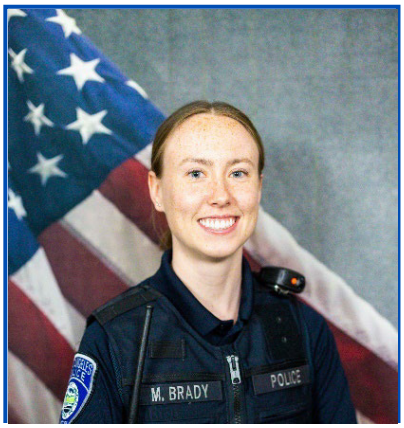


Officer Emery

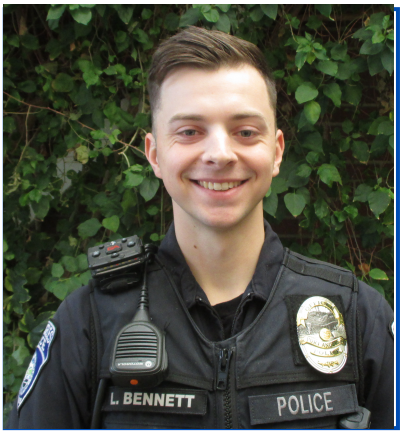
BLUE SQUAD



Officer Wessel



Officer Brady



Officer Bennett



Recruit Officer Barcklow



Notable Events – Blue Squad

The following are some notable events and cases from each of our officers from 2025 – some serious, some with a bit of humor, to give you, the reader a small slice of the days of our lives in patrol:





Sergeant Arand:

Sergeant Arand has the distinct privilege of leading this group of extraordinary men, women, and perhaps a couple patrol K9s who are both very good boys.

Collateral duties - Sergeant Arand represents PAPD on the Peninsula Behavioral Health Board of Directors, and currently serves as the Immediate Past President. Sergeant Arand is also an Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course Instructor and is a member of the West Sound Regional Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) cadre.

Corporal Moore:
2025-13682, Assault

Corporal Moore responded to a downtown call involving an adult male in apparent mental health crisis—likely aided by a mostly empty bottle of gin he had with him. The male spoke nonsensically, attempted to flee on a skateboard (crashing into a tree, then riding into traffic), and was arrested for disorderly conduct. He became combative in custody—kicking and attempting to headbutt officers—while yelling, "You're going to put poop and chew on me!" Corporal Moore de-escalated the situation and facilitated safe transport without further incident. The male was later sentenced to 13 months in prison for felony assault on two officers.

Collateral duties – Along with Corporal Cooper, Corporal Moore is also a Crisis Response Team (CRT) member, Field Training Officer (FTO), and Patrol Tactics Instructor. Corporal Moore also recently completed EVOC Instructor training and is also a member of the West Sound EVOC cadre.

Notable Events – Blue Squad

Corporal Cooper:
2025-9595 Other Agency Assist

On 06/17/2025 at approximately 0930 hours, Corporals Cooper and Moore responded as members of the Peninsula Crisis Response Team (CRT) to a barricaded-suspect incident at 211 Village Lane. The suspect had been harassing a nearby business, claiming he was the Messiah and stating he had access to guns and ammunition, before entering the residence under unclear authority. Deputies attempted contact, but the suspect armed himself with a rifle, an AK-47, threatened to kill deputies, and—due to multiple felony convictions—was prohibited from possessing firearms. CRT established containment while crisis negotiators attempted to communicate and persuade the suspect to surrender, and CRT developed arrest and contingency plans. A warrant was subsequently granted.

After repeated loudspeaker warnings, CRT introduced CS gas in an effort to deny the suspect a comfortable place to remain inside and to encourage movement to a safer point of surrender. Shortly after the gas was deployed, gunshots were heard from inside the residence. The suspect had immediately opened fire, striking the armored vehicle in which the Corporals were in and fracturing the passenger-side windshield, creating an immediate risk to officers inside. The suspect then fled the residence on foot, was quickly confirmed to be unarmed, and was captured by containment units. He remains in custody awaiting trial.

Collateral duties - Corporal Cooper is a member of the Peninsula Regional Crisis Response Team (CRT) where his duties include gas operations. Corporal Cooper is also a Field Training Officer and Patrol Tactics Instructor.



Notable Events – Blue Squad

Officer Morse:
2025-14151/2025-14713, ITA/Assault

On 08/29/25, Officer Morse assisted at Olympic Medical Center when an involuntarily committed male flipped a gurney and barricaded himself in an ER room. Officers safely entered and secured him, with Officer Morse using calm, clear communication—discovering that invoking “Bluey” (the Australian cartoon character) immediately de-escalated him. On 09/07/25, Officer Morse responded to a DV involving the same male (who had assaulted his partner). The male attempted to flee out the back door but was apprehended, and Officer Morse again de-escalated the situation—once more, with “Bluey.”

Collateral duties - Officer Morse is also a member of the CRT and is an assistant team leader for the Sierra (sniper) element of that team. Officer Morse serves as the Department Armorer, and is also a Firearms Instructor in handgun, rifle, shotgun, less lethal, and Active Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT).

Officer Tait:
2025-1416

On 01/24/2025 at approximately 2123 hours, Officer Tait responded to a report of a suspicious person outside 604 S Peabody St., where a male was shining a flashlight into church windows while yelling that he was going to break in. Officer Tait contacted the subject and confirmed an active warrant for his arrest; when he was advised he was under arrest, Officer Tait assisted with taking him into custody, searched him incident to arrest, and transported him to the Clallam County Corrections Facility for booking.

During the booking process, jail staff located a small amount of a white crystalline substance consistent with methamphetamine, which would probably explain him yelling out his criminal intent. The substance field-tested positive, and Officer Tait secured it for submission to the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory for confirmation.

Collateral duties - Officer Tait has served as the community block watch/crime prevention liaison.



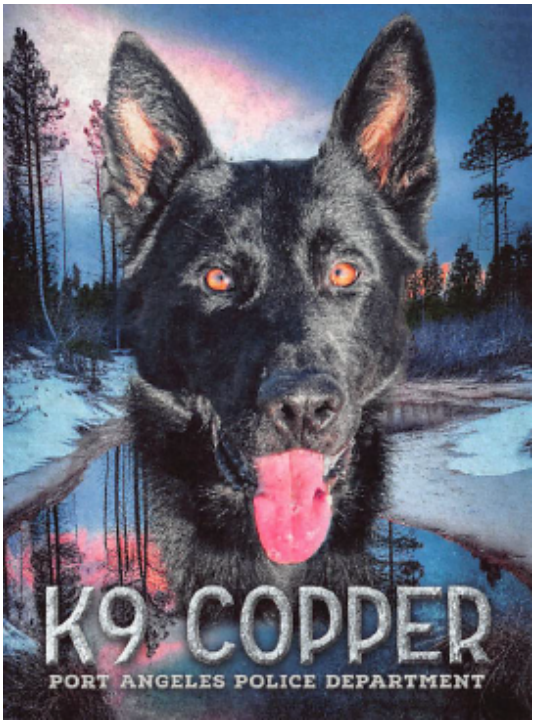
Notable Events – Blue Squad

K9 Officer Fairbanks:

Officer Fairbanks was the Blue Squad K9 handler from 2018 until March of this year with her K9 partner, Copper. Following Sergeant Miller's retirement, Officer Fairbanks was appointed to the K9 Program manager position. Officer Fairbanks now covers patrol shifts several days a week between both patrol squads. She and K9 Copper frequently deploy to assist other agencies throughout the peninsula, and also frequently speak at community events.





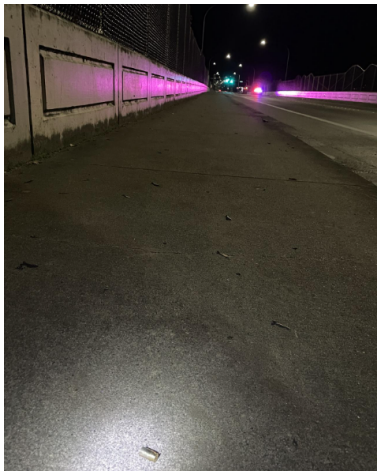






Notable Events – Blue Squad

K9 Officer Emery:
2025-19491 Assault/Unlawful Possession of Firearm

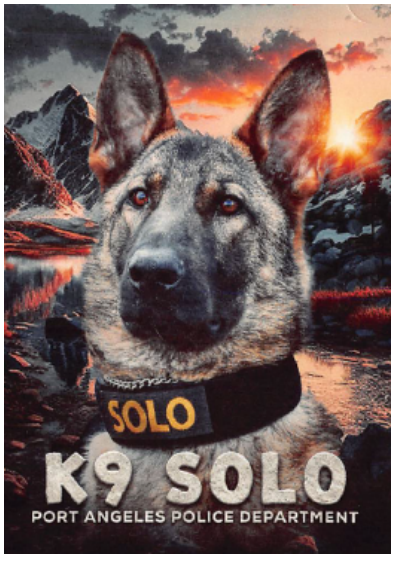


PAPD and Peninsula CRT responded in the early morning hours of November 24, 2025, following reports of an armed suspect who had fled on foot after pointing a firearm at an officer near the 8th Street Bridge. A perimeter was established by responding officers, and CRT teams were organized with Alpha Team assigned to containment and Bravo Team assigned to patrol operations. Officer Emery and K9 Solo were assigned to Bravo Team.



At approximately 05:32 hours—roughly two and a half hours after the suspect was last observed—Officer Emery deployed K9 Solo to initiate a track near the southeast corner of the Moose Lodge driveway, adjacent to the backyard next door. K9 Solo successfully followed a scent trail from the parking lot into a grassy area and then east toward Valley Street, demonstrating sustained tracking capability despite the time lapse. Although K9 Solo eventually lost the primary scent, the team continued to assess the initial track area.

While returning from the track, K9 Solo provided a clear indication on items located along the original trail. Officer Emery identified a wallet and flashlight, which were recovered at approximately 05:53 hours. The wallet contained identification belonging to the suspect, a known resident of a house nearby on West 10th Street. The discovery of this evidence along the K9's track directly linked the suspect to the flight path and significantly advanced the investigation ultimately leading to the suspect being charged with multiple offenses including Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Assault 2 of a Police Officer.



Collateral Duties – Officer Emery and K9 Solo completed a 400+ hour K9 academy and are now one of four K9 teams operating on the peninsula.

Notable Events – Blue Squad

Officer Brady:
2025-14143 Warrant Arrest

On 08/29/25, Officer Brady assisted in locating a male with an active warrant for rape near the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, alongside Sgt. Arand and Cpl. Moore. The suspect attempted to flee on a bicycle but crashed into a parked police car and became partially pinned under his bike and the patrol car. Officer Brady dragged the much larger suspect to safety and into custody; she assisted in treating him for injuries and he was transported to jail. He is currently awaiting trial on the original rape charge.

Collateral Duties/Accolades: Officer Brady was selected as the Patrol Partner of the Year by members of her squad for her work ethic, teamwork, and for spreading positivity in what can be a tough environment. Officer Brady has been selected to join the Regional Crisis Negotiator Team in 2026.

Officer Wessel:
2025-11116

On 07/12/2025, Officer Wessel responded to a reported DUI collision at 1025 W 16th St and found an intoxicated male (first name Taylor*) who had rear-ended his wife's (also first name Taylor*) parked vehicle at low speed. The male displayed clear impairment, denied obvious vehicle damage, and refused field sobriety tests; officers arrested him based on probable cause, during which he became verbally aggressive, resisted being seated in the patrol vehicle, scratched Officer Wessel, and repeatedly threatened officers. A search warrant was obtained for a blood draw, and at the hospital the male later admitted he had been drinking all day while despondent over baseball, drove to and from Lincoln Park while continuing to drink, knowingly struck his wife's vehicle while attempting to park, and acknowledged making the threats; officers also confirmed he was in violation of an active no-contact order. He was medically cleared and booked into jail on the associated charges.

*Names have been changed to protect the innocent

Collateral duties – Officer Wessel is a firearms instructor and is an active part of our firearms cadre. Along with Officer Brady, Officer Wessel has also been selected to join the Regional Crisis Negotiator Team in 2026.

Officer Bennett:
2025-3202



On 02/25/2025 at 2120 hours, Officer Bennett was in field training with Officer Fairbanks. He responded to a CPR-in-progress call at a residence and found Officer Emery administering CPR and Narcan to an unconscious adult male with blue lips and no response. Officer Bennett took over chest compressions until paramedics arrived and applied a Lucas device. During the response, a second patient was located unresponsive in a bedroom; Officer Bennett and Officer Fairbanks moved him, initiated CPR when no pulse was detected, and assisted paramedics as the patient's condition deteriorated and a Lucas device was requested. Officers supported patient packaging and transport. A third person was found to be overdosing and was revived by officers and medics, but refused transport by medics and was taken to the hospital by a friend. Officer Fairbanks located Rick and Morty-branded drug paraphernalia with residue consistent with the reported substance use, which Officer Bennett collected and booked into evidence. Two of the three individuals ultimately survived.

Officer Bennett completed his field training in the early months of 2025. Officer Bennett is an Army veteran who currently serves as a Staff Sergeant in the Washington Army National Guard.

Recruit Officer Barcklow:

Recruit Officer Barcklow is just really happy to be here. He currently serves as a Sergeant in the US Army Reserves.





Investigation Division Report by Detective Sergeant Kori Malone



The role of a Port Angeles Police detective is specialized with the purpose of fulfilling the breadth and depth needs of the department's investigations. To provide needed services to the community, all members of the division complete multiple trainings that prepare them for time-sensitive and complicated casework that pertains to crimes, which include felony assaults, homicides, robberies, sex crimes, child abuse, domestic violence, and arson. Initial detective training includes child abuse interviewing and assessment (CAIA), basic homicide investigation, and sexual assault investigations – victim-centered engagement and resiliency tactics (SAI-VCERT). These are in addition to the annual ongoing training attended by all commissioned officers.

The Investigations Division consists of six commissioned officers which include a Detective Sergeant who supervises the division. The Sergeant is responsible for reviewing cases as they are referred to the division. Due to volume, cases need to be prioritized for assignment with the primary focus being the protection and safety of victims, protection of the community at large, and recovery and preservation of tangible physical and digital evidence that could be altered or destroyed. The division also consists of a Detective Corporal, three Detectives, and the School Resource Officer. In 2025 82 cases were accepted for investigation in the Detective division. Detectives also provided investigative support on numerous other cases to assist the patrol division. Detectives completed 507 reports and served 78 search warrants. The school resource officer responded to 769 calls for service.

We experienced staffing changes with several retirements within the Police Department. Detective Corporal Erik Smith retired from law enforcement to pursue a new career. He continues to serve our community and help people in his capacity as a mental health counselor. We congratulate him on his new path. He was an extremely experienced Detective with specialty skills in internet crimes against children and was the forensic device examiner for digital evidence. Before his departure, he coordinated with the Attorney General's Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and People group to reopen the investigation into the 2016 murder of George David, a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation of Vancouver Island, B.C.. Working with MMIWP, he obtained an arrest for the suspect, Tina Alcorn, who ultimately pleaded guilty to Murder 2nd degree.

Jeff Ordona was selected to fill the open Detective Corporal position. Det. Cpl. Ordona previously served in the investigations division as a School Resource Officer and a Detective. He left the division in 2021 when he was promoted to Corporal and served as a patrol supervisor. His past investigations experience and his experience working supervising patrol is an asset to the division. He seamlessly stepped and began assisting other Detectives with investigations and working to clear a backlog of open cases, created by a staffing shortage for nearly half the year.



Detective Kyle Cooper first joined the division as the School Resource Officer and moved into a Detective position in 2024. In March of 2025 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and transitioned to the blue squad patrol team to serve as a patrol supervisor. Detective Cooper is a well-respected field training officer and known for his knowledge in patrol tactics and officer safety. Corporal Cooper was an asset to the division while he was with us. The investigative skills he developed while in the division will benefit his patrol officers.

Through a competitive process, Officer Beth Hollis was selected as a new Detective, joining the division in July of 2025. Detective Hollis has been with the department since 2019. She has prior experience as a Corrections Deputy in the Clallam County Jail. Prior to her law enforcement career, she served in the United States Army. Detective Hollis has already proven to be a highly competent investigator and a skilled interviewer. She understands the importance of applying trauma-informed principles to investigations and is developing strong working relationships with our partners at the prosecutor's office and Healthy Families.

For 2025, detectives conducted 21 child forensic interviews through the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Healthy Families of Clallam County (HFCC). Additional forensic child interviews were also conducted in different locales due to circumstantial necessity, exigency and the need to address immediate safety concerns. Numerous trauma-informed adult victim and witness interviews were also conducted at HFCC and other locations.

In addition to the annual recertification and training all officers receive, members of the detective division attend quarterly peer reviews for forensic child interviewing. Det. Sgt. Malone, Det. Cpl. Ordona, Det. Hollis and Det. Cameron attended a 40-hour Level 2 Crisis Negotiation Course as a team. As part of the training, we participated in two full-day practical scenarios representing critical incidents. In 2025, Det. Sgt. Malone attended the End Violence Against Women International conference. The cost of that training was fully funded through the Stop Grant, which focuses on training and equipment for domestic violence investigations. As a new member, Detective Hollis attended the 40-hour basic homicide class hosted by the Washington Homicide Investigation Association. In total, members of the division completed a combined 1030 hours of training in 2025.



KCIRT

Members of the Detective Division are members of the Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT). KCIRT is comprised of selected, regional investigators from the Olympic Peninsula and Kitsap County Agencies. When activated, KCIRT members investigate critical incidents that involve:

a) an officer using or being the victim of deadly force,
b) a person dying in custody, or
c) an officer involved in a fatal collision.

Port Angeles Police Department did not respond to any KCIRT activations in 2025. We completed regional training as a full team organized and hosted by the Bremerton Police Department. Det. Sgt. Malone, Det. Dropp and Det. Cameron are all certified as Independent Investigation Team Lead Investigators through the Criminal Justice Training Commission. Det. Cpl. Ordona and Det. Hollis meet the requirements and will be submitting their applications to CJTC.

The Team



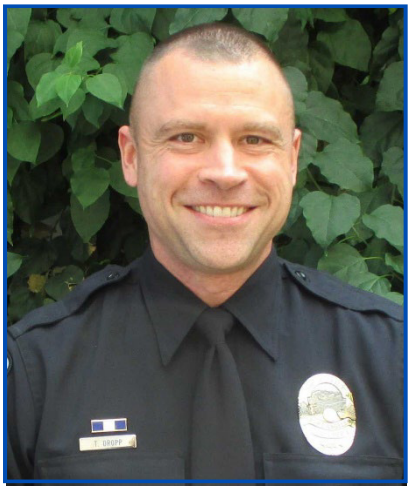
Detective Sergeant Kori Malone

Detective Sergeant Malone rejoined the division as its supervisor in January of 2021. Sgt. Malone has been a police officer for 25 years, 16 of those with PAPD. In addition to the noted training, she is also the department's Crisis Negotiator Team Leader and Western States Information Network Agency representative. She is a member of the county's STOP grant committee, a board member for Reflections Counseling, and a member of the multi-disciplinary team regarding crimes against children. She is certified through CJTC as an IIT Lead Investigator.



Detective Corporal Jeff Ordona

Detective Corporal Jeff Ordona joined the Port Angeles Police Department in 2015. He came to the department with experience working for both the Washington State Department of Corrections and the Clallam County Jail. He rejoined the division in 2025 with the retirement of Detective Corporal Smith. He previously served as both a Detective and School Resource Officer, which is invaluable experience. He previously served as a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team. In 2025 he competed in a competitive process and was selected as a member of the Crisis Response Team. He is the department's primary investigator for the Internet Crimes Against Children taskforce. We are an affiliate agency with the Seattle ICAC taskforce. This is one of the most difficult and demanding positions within the division.



Detective Trevor Dropp

Detective Dropp is our senior Detective, having joined the division in 2017. He provides valuable support and insight from working on numerous major cases within the city and in support of other local agencies. Detective Dropp attended an ATF-certified course to serve as one of the department's arson investigators following multiple incidents which required specialized training in this field. Detective Dropp is certified through CJTC as an IIT lead investigator. Detective Dropp has served the Port Angeles Police Department for 21 years.

Detective Dropp is also the manager of our department drone program. In addition to Detective Dropp, there are two other trained pilots in the department. The department operates two drones. Both are used for search and rescue, clearing buildings, crime scene documentation, negotiations, missing persons, and any operation requiring aerial views normally utilized by a manned aircraft.

In 2025, Detective Dropp had 7 drone deployments which included high-risk warrant attempts, a barricaded subject armed with a firearm, and overwatch for a felony assault suspect possibly armed with a firearm. We also used the drone for safety surveillance during the Canoe Journey and photography at Shop with a Hero.

Detective Ron Cameron



Detective Cameron joined the division in April 2021. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his law enforcement experiences in previous departments. He attended the ATF-certified course and serves as an arson investigator for our department. Detective Cameron is a member of the Crisis Negotiation team as a negotiator. Detective Cameron also has specialized training in the utilization of cell phone location data in investigations. This year Detective Cameron took the initiative and sought additional leadership training and attended the Sergeant's academy.

Detective Beth Hollis



Detective Beth Hollis joined the Port Angeles Police Department in 2019. Detective Hollis began her law enforcement career in the Clallam County Jail as a Corrections Deputy. She also served in the United States Army Reserves, including serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan (2011-2012). She also serves as a Defensive Tactics Instructor, a BolaWrap Instructor, a Child Forensic Interviewer, and a Trauma Informed Interviewer. She is also a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team. In 2025 she attended the Level 2 Crisis Negotiation Course, Strangulation Investigations, VCERT, and Basic Homicide.

School Resource Officer Jason Hooper



Officer Hooper joined PAPD in 2021, graduating the basic law enforcement academy (BLEA) in 2022. He began as SRO for the 2024-2025 school year. He is the department liaison role for the Handle with Care Program, a resiliency project aimed at providing wraparound services for children who have experienced trauma or are in crisis. In 2025 Officer Hooper attended a 3-day Advanced SRO course, hosted by NASRO. Officer Hooper continued his involvement in the Shop with a Hero event to benefit children in need during the holiday

season. Officer Hooper also serves as a board member for the Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center.

In 2025 Officer Hooper competed in a competitive process and was selected as a member for the joint Crisis Response Team comprised of officers from Port Angeles PD, Clallam County Sheriff's Office, Sequim PD and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The officers have specialty training and tools for responding to critical incidents. The mission of the Peninsula CRT is to enhance the capabilities of the regions law enforcement agencies to conduct tactical operations exceeding patrol punctions or capabilities. Officer Hooper will attend continual training in this capacity and respond to situations in which there is a heightened likeliness of serious injury of death.

Officer Hooper is the only SRO for the Port Angeles School District and covers all elementary schools, Stevens Middle School, and Port Angeles High School. The SRO also works closely with the juvenile prosecutor.

Notable Events – Investigation Division

2016 Cold Case Homicide Investigation

On 12/15/2025, a Judge in Clallam County Superior Court sentenced Tina Marie Alcorn to more than 13 years in prison after she pleaded guilty to the 2016 murder of George David. Alcorn pleaded guilty to Murder 2nd degree with a deadly weapon enhancement. The initial investigative agency, Port Angeles Police Department, received assistance from the Attorney General's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Cold Case Investigations Unit, which provided valuable investigative and technical support, which helped secure the conviction.

Mr. David was found deceased on 03/28/2016 in Port Angeles, where he was staying at a friend's apartment, while enroute to visit family in British Columbia. Port Angeles Police immediately began an investigation and requested assistance from the Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team for crime scene processing. Through investigation, Tina Alcorn was identified as a suspect. Port Angeles Detectives located Alcorn in April of 2016, and she was arrested on an unrelated felony warrant out of Arkansas. At the time, there was not enough evidence to charge Alcorn, and she was extradited to Arkansas on the felony warrant.

In 2024, PAPD Det. Corporal Erik Smith contacted the MMIWP Cold Case Investigators to request their assistance in pursuing the investigation to solve the case. MMIWP Investigators conducted additional investigation into the original evidence collected by PAPD, which included additional DNA analysis performed by the WSP crime lab. Through further investigation, probable cause was established to arrest Tina Alcorn for the murder of Mr. David. An arrest warrant was obtained for Alcorn, who was located and taken into custody in Arkansas. Cold Case Investigators and Officers from PAPD traveled to Arkansas and facilitated her transport to Clallam County to face charges.

The Attorney General's Office charged Alcorn with murder in Clallam County Superior Court and secured her conviction.

Mr. George David was a renowned woodcarver, artist, loved family member, father, and grandfather. His daughter, Maria David, and other family members spoke at the sentencing.

"My dad was a master carver," said Maria David, George's daughter. "There are two half-finished puppets my dad was carving, that were to be used as a means of Indian Storytelling. But that never got to happen. I just have half-finished carvings, that never got to become puppets and tell their stories. Indian artwork is a way for us to tell our stories. And his stories can no longer be told, and we will never be able to see any of my dad's artwork again. Silver engraving, masks, totem poles, rattles, prints. It's all silent now. I am thankful to the Attorney General's Office and the Cold Case Unit for their work."

This case would not have reached this resolution without the assistance and dedication of the Attorney General's MMIWP Cold Case Unit and their mission. The Port Angeles Police Department is deeply grateful for the hard work of Lead Investigator Jim Lawrence, Investigator Steve Brennaman, and Assistant Attorney General Melanie Tratnik, and the members of their unit.

We also extend our thanks to the WSP Crime Scene Response Team and Crime Lab.

This tragedy represents not only an act of violence but an immeasurable loss for a family and community that deserves compassion, dignity, and support.





Cases from 2025

Due to the complexity and nature of the cases investigated by PAPD Detectives, many cases are in different stages of investigation or the court system, pending trial or prosecutor review. The following are only a few examples of investigations handled by our Detectives.

2024-18883 Assault 2nd DV Strangulation, Witness Tampering, Violation of Protection Order, Criminal Impersonation 1st degree

The investigation began when a resident in the 1000 block of Glenwood Street reported that a woman was outside her residence, knocking on her door, crying for help. Responding officers located an adult female who reported being strangled multiple times and being held against her will by her boyfriend, Clayton Folsom. She was transported and treated at the hospital for injuries consistent with her report. Folsom was under DOC supervision for prior convictions. He was initially located and arrested by DOC. Detectives took over the investigation, completed follow up with the victim and referred the case for charges of Assault 2nd Domestic Violence and Unlawful Imprisonment DV. Folsom was charged in Clallam County Superior Court. While in custody Folsom continued to commit crimes against the victim by violating the domestic violence protection order numerous times and telling the victim to change her statement and not testify against him. Through the ongoing investigation, which involved time-consuming monitoring of jail communications, Folsom was charged with 46 different criminal counts in Superior Court. On 5/27/25, Folsom pleaded guilty to 2 counts of Tampering with a Witness DV, 2 counts of Criminal Impersonation 1st degree, and 2 counts of Violation of Protection Order DV. He was sentenced to 126 months or 10.5 years in prison.

2023-21896 Rape of a Child 2nd, Possession of Depictions of Minors Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct

This case began when a mother reported concerns that Jacob Henson, age 25 at the time, was having inappropriate contact with her 13-year-old daughter. Henson was initially arrested for Felony Harassment for threats to kill the mother for interfering with his contact with her daughter. A search warrant was served for digital communications, and based on the evidence from that search warrant, Henson was charged in Superior Court for Possession of Depictions of a Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct and Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes. An additional search warrant was served to collect DNA from Henson. Based on the results of the DNA evidence, probable cause was established for Rape of a Child 2nd degree. On 02/26/2025, Henson pleaded guilty to Rape of a Child 2nd degree and Possession of Depictions of Minors Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct. Per the plea agreement he was sentenced to 84 months or 7 years of confinement, 5 years of Sex Offender treatment and lifetime community custody with the Department of Corrections. Upon his release he will be required to register as a sex offender.

2025-10651 Assault 2nd degree DV Strangulation, Unlawful Imprisonment DV

On July 5th an adult female reported that her boyfriend, Wyatt Hale, age 21, assaulted her and strangled her with his hands. She also reported that he physically prevented her from leaving her apartment when she tried to get away from him. He ultimately agreed to allow her to drive him home. Eventually, she was able to get in the car without him and drove away, fleeing to a relative's home for help. She was treated for injuries consistent with her statement and a violent felony assault. Hale was arrested at his residence with the assistance of the Clallam County Sheriff's Office. On 09/17/2025, Hale entered a guilty plea to Assault 2 DV Strangulation and Unlawful Imprisonment. He was sentenced to 14 months of imprisonment and 18 months of community supervision. He was also ordered to complete anger management and a domestic violence perpetrator course.

2024-21213 Armed Robbery of Frugals

On 12/05/2024 shortly after closing two armed and masked males entered Frugals restaurant. They pointed guns at the two employees, threatened them, forced an employee to open the safe and stole cash. They also demanded one of the employee's car keys and stole the car to drive away from the business. The car was located abandoned near civic field shortly after the robbery was reported. Detective Cameron took over the investigation. While canvassing near where the car was discovered Detective Cameron recovered one of the guns that was believed to be used in the robbery as well as clothing and gloves consistent with the suspects in Frugals security footage. Detective Cameron also conducted an exhaustive video canvas looking for any video that may have captured the suspects.

After identifying a suspect, Detective Cameron obtained warrants for cell phone information and location data, which was analyzed with the assistance of the FBI CAST team, placing the suspect in the area at the time of the robbery. Detective Cameron developed probable cause and obtained arrest warrants for two suspects, Anthony Reynolds, age 36, and Burton Brown, age 60. DNA evidence linked both suspects to the crime. Through examination of the digital evidence and video surveillance, Detective Cameron also developed probable cause for Makyla Cleveland, age 31, for Rendering Criminal Assistance 1st degree, related to the Robbery. On 11/05/2025, Cleveland pleaded guilty to Rendering Criminal Assistance 1st degree and was sentenced to 12 months confinement and 6.5 months of community custody. On 12/18/2025, Anthony Reynolds pleaded guilty to Robbery 1st degree with a deadly weapon enhancement, Assault 2nd degree with a deadly weapon, and Theft of a Motor Vehicle. He was sentenced to 210 months or 17.5 years. Brown is currently in Department of Corrections custody on an unrelated charge, and his trial for the Frugals robbery is still pending.

2025-04902 Attempted Murder, Felony Harassment





On 03/27/2025 Officers responded to the report of a disturbance at Francis Street Park, and that a male had fired a gun. Responding officers detained one male, Brian Lester, age 39, and secured the scene. The victim reported that he and another person were sleeping in a vehicle at Francis Street Park. The victim woke up to Lester assaulting him in the driver's seat of the vehicle. Lester displayed a firearm and threatened the victim. Lester fired one round in the direction of the victim. The round lodged in the B-pillar of the vehicle. Detectives took over the investigation. Detectives conducted interviews of the victim and witnesses and processed the crime scene. A handgun was recovered from the suspect's vehicle. A spent shell casing was also found on the ground near the victim's vehicle. Additional warrants were sought for a secondary search of the victim's vehicle and cell phone information. The B-pillar with the bullet was removed from the victim vehicle and sent to the WSP crime lab, along with the firearm and casing. Lester was charged in Superior Court with Attempted Murder 1st degree. In December, a jury found Lester guilty of Attempted Murder 2nd degree.

He was sentenced in Clallam County Superior Court on 01/20/2026. For count 1, Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree with a Deadly Weapon Enhancement, he was sentenced to 108 months plus 24 months for the enhancement. For count 2, Felony Harassment with a Deadly Weapon Enhancement, he was sentenced to 3 months, to run concurrently, plus 6 months for the enhancement, which will run consecutive. He was also sentenced to 36 months of community custody upon his release. Total time of confinement 138 months or 11.5 years.



The School Resource Officer (SRO is a carefully selected and specially trained sworn law enforcement officer assigned full-time to the school environment, serving Port Angeles High School, Stevens Middle School, and the five elementary schools within the Port Angeles School District. The primary goals of the SRO program are school safety, crime prevention, and relationship-building. In this role, the SRO works collaboratively with students, staff, parents, and school administrators to help maintain a secure and supportive learning environment.



The SRO position is proactive in nature and extends beyond enforcement to include early intervention, education, mentorship, and problem-solving. Throughout 2025, the SRO responded to safety concerns and incidents, provided classroom instruction, supported conflict resolution and de-escalation efforts, and served as a consistent and approachable resource for the school community.

The following summary outlines Officer Hooper's activities and contributions over the past year and provides context for the data presented, reflecting both the scope of the position and the needs of the school district.

Calls for Service and Investigations

In 2025, Officer Hooper responded to approximately 438 calls for service in his capacity as SRO. These calls varied in nature and included assaults, disturbances, social media–related crimes, sex crime investigations, drug- and alcohol-related offenses, traffic enforcement, community-oriented policing, and follow-up investigations.

Officer Hooper initiated and completed investigations when necessary, resulting in more than 32 cases referred to the juvenile prosecutor. The following cases represent a sample of those investigations.

Selected Case Summaries

2025-000305 — Disturbance & Assault

Officer Hooper responded to a large fight in progress near the 400 Hall bathrooms at Port Angeles High School. Upon arrival, he contacted an irate juvenile who was bleeding from the mouth. Rather than using force, Officer Hooper successfully de-escalated the situation and persuaded the individual to walk to the office while further information was gathered. Through witness interviews and review of surveillance footage, Officer Hooper determined the altercation stemmed from ongoing tensions between two juveniles. Although the case was declined by the prosecutor, the incident demonstrated Officer Hooper's ability to respond calmly to chaotic situations and employ effective de-escalation techniques. Following the incident, Officer Hooper addressed community concerns regarding school safety and provided reassurance through his actions and thorough investigation.

2025-00543 — School Threats

School staff reported a written threat discovered on a desk stating, "There is going to be a school shooting tomorrow during 5th period. 1-10-25." Officer Hooper immediately initiated an investigation, coordinated resources, and worked with school staff on safety planning. Handwriting samples were obtained and compared, and although the juvenile initially denied responsibility, the suspect later confessed to a family member. The incident significantly impacted students, staff, and parents, resulting in a substantial increase in absenteeism and widespread community concern. Officer Hooper obtained an arrest warrant for Threats to Bomb or Injure Property and Disorderly Conduct, coordinating with the Clallam County Sheriff's Office to take the juvenile into custody. This case demonstrated timely response, thorough investigation, coordinated planning, and carefully considered enforcement.

2025-03724 — Disclosing Intimate Images

Juvenile Services notified Officer Hooper that a juvenile wished to report that her ex-boyfriend had shared intimate images of her without consent. The victim was emotionally distressed upon initial contact. Officer Hooper established rapport and conducted a trauma-informed investigation, which included obtaining a technical search warrant for a Snapchat account. Probable cause was developed, and the case was referred to the juvenile prosecutor for review.

2025-12360- Rape of a Child 3rd Degree Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes

Officer Hooper was contacted regarding a report that a juvenile had been sexually assaulted by a 29-year-old adult male who was already a convicted sex offender. Officer Hooper completed the investigation from initial report through arrest, including search warrants for digital media and social platforms, video surveillance review, and conducting a child forensic interview. After the suspect fled to Spokane, Officer Hooper coordinated with prosecutors and law enforcement partners. The suspect was arrested by the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, and Officer Hooper assisted in transporting him back to Clallam County Jail. Officer Hooper noted this investigation as particularly meaningful due to the victim's willingness to report despite prior enforcement contacts, highlighting the importance of trust and rapport.

2025-18921 — Computer Trespass 1st Degree / Disclosing Intimate Images

Officer Hooper was contacted by a parent reporting that her daughter's ex-boyfriend hacked into the victim's Snapchat account and distributed intimate images. The investigation included multiple interviews, two search warrants (one for a physical device and one for Snapchat), and extensive digital evidence analysis. Officer Hooper developed probable cause for five counts of felony Computer Trespass and three counts of Disclosing Intimate Images. The case was referred to the prosecutor.

2025-19130 — Assault / Extortion

Officer Hooper responded to an assault report at Stevens Middle School involving a juvenile who was extorted for money and assaulted when he refused to comply. The investigation included interviews and surveillance review. One suspect voluntarily turned himself in, while Officer Hooper obtained and executed an arrest warrant for the second suspect.



Intangibles and Community Engagement

Beyond calls for service, Officer Hooper strives to be an integral part of the school community. He actively seeks opportunities to engage with students, staff, and parents beyond routine calls for service and day-to-day interactions.

Throughout the year, Officer Hooper provided classroom instruction, including social media safety presentations to seventh-grade students at Stevens Middle School and conflict resolution and de-escalation presentations to additional student groups there. He also delivered presentations on the dangers of drug and alcohol use and participated in multiple classroom Q&A sessions at Port Angeles High School.

Officer Hooper regularly engaged with elementary schools, visiting classrooms at Jefferson, Dry Creek, Roosevelt, and Franklin Elementary Schools to answer questions and build positive early interactions with students. He also participated in numerous school events, including homecoming, winter ball, senior events, assemblies, athletic events, and graduation-related activities.

The impact of the SRO position cannot be measured solely through calls for service or referrals. Officer Hooper routinely counsels and supports students in situations that do not rise to the level of formal investigations. During the school year so far, he documented approximately 50 such contacts, reinforcing the role of the SRO as a trusted resource. Both students, staff and fellow Officers have provided anecdotal feedback from juveniles and students, indicating increased comfort with police presence and a greater willingness to seek assistance, even in cases involving prior enforcement action.

Officer Hooper continued his involvement in the Shop with a Hero event in 2025, which is a shopping event that pairs foster children and other kids in need with a first responder to shop for Christmas gifts for their families and themselves.

Officer Hooper, along with Elwha Police Lieutenant Jimmy Thompson presented to the Port Angeles Rotary club regarding the program. The presentation generated further awareness of the program and resulted in donations from community members. Through the hard work of the planning board and the generosity of the many donors and volunteers, the program reached its fundraising goal of $30,000 and welcomed approximately 165 children in 2025.

Officer Hooper also participated in our first National Night Out event in August. National Night Out is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnership and brings together law enforcement agencies, Fire agencies, USCG, and local community resources for a free event for families at Civic Field. Officer Hooper collaborated with the City Parks Department to provide music for the event.

The work of the School Resource Officer supports the Port Angeles School District's commitment to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students. Through a balanced approach that emphasizes prevention, early intervention, education, and carefully considered enforcement, the SRO contributes to reducing disruptions, addressing safety concerns promptly, and strengthening trust between students, staff, families, and law enforcement. While calls for service and case referrals provide measurable data, the broader impact of the SRO is reflected in increased student engagement, improved communication, and a school culture where concerns are more likely to be reported and addressed before they escalate. This proactive presence helps ensure schools remain places where students can focus on learning and staff can focus on teaching.



Operations Report by Sergeant Sean Ryan



The 2025 **Green Team** included Code Enforcement Officers, the Downtown Resource Officer, and the Outreach Officer. The year brought a great deal of change:

Sergeant Rife, the Green Team Supervisor, retired. Corporal Ryan was promoted to Sergeant and moved from Red Squad to Green Team.

Code Enforcement Officer Miller was joined by Code Enforcement Officer Bower, who lateraled from the Lower Elwha Police Department.

Downtown Resource Officer Moore was promoted to Corporal and moved to Blue Squad. Officer Balderson was selected to fill the Downtown Resource Officer Position and moved from the Outreach Officer Position. The Outreach Officer was not filled due to funding.

Daily Operations:

Code Enforcement works to keep our community clean and safe, improving its quality of life for both its residents and business owners. They tow derelict vehicles and motor homes, address abandoned buildings, and build criminal cases against those who litter in public places (sidewalks, streets, and parks) and environmentally sensitive areas (streams and forests). Code Enforcement regularly pairs with outreach groups.

The Downtown / Waterfront Resource Officer (DRO) is a position jointly funded by Clallam Transit, the Downtown Business Association, and the City of Port Angeles. The DRO works with Clallam Transit and downtown businesses to address concerns in the Waterfront District and is a proactive presence in the area.

Green Team regularly responded to assist patrol with emergent calls for service and staffing issues:

Officer Miller and Bower were both assaulted while impounding a vehicle for expired registration, parked near Serenity House. The person in possession of the vehicle was given many opportunities to bring the registration current but failed to do so. He obstructed the impounding of the vehicle and violently resisted when they attempted to place him under arrest for the obstruction, assaulting both Officers.

Officer Miller and Officer Bower assisted with the service of a warrant on a high-profile case. Forensic processing of the property took two days.

Officer Balderson responded with patrol to attempt the arrest of a dangerous suspect in November. An officer involved shooting occurred during the arrest.

Officer Miller is a trained drone operator and flew several high-profile missions in 2025:
-Surveyed a tanker truck that overturned in Indian Creek
-Helped surveil a barricaded suspect after they fired at an armored police vehicle and then fled on foot.
-Assisted with the search for an elderly patient who left a nursing home.
-Was the “eye in the sky” during the Paddle to the Elwha event.

Noticeable Mentions:
200 N Orcas Avenue (25-09569) – Repeat Offender


BEFORE


AFTER


BEFORE


AFTER

VACANT LOT – S/W CORNER FOUNTAIN STREET/ SC STREET (25-05626)







BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

1900 S F STREET (25-19366)



BEFORE



AFTER

3012 S OAKCREST LOOP



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

902 W 5th Street – In process of being sold



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

835 W 14th Street – New Owner still cleaning



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

In 2025, PAPD Code Enforcement Officers completed the following:

Responded to 744 calls for service

- 446 of those calls were Code Enforcement calls
- 147 junk vehicle calls

82 junk vehicle affidavits provided

125 follow-ups pertaining to Code Enforcement

Case Reports – 36

Supplemental reports – 40

Arrests – 12

Trespass Notices - 29

Vehicles impounded – 70

Parking Citations - 89



Officer Miller



Officer Bower



Left: stake holders discussing the efforts in cleaning up the encampments along Tumwater Truck Route.

Port Angeles Police K9 by: Officer Whitney Fairbanks

The Port Angeles Police K9 Unit is comprised of patrol K9 teams, Officer Whitney Fairbanks/K9 Copper, Officer Kenneth McKnight/K9 Freddy and Officer Lilliana Emery/K9 Solo. One K9 team is assigned to Red Squad, the other to Blue Squad, and the third team split between the two squads with the goal to provide K9 coverage at all times. The teams provide K9 services to the entire county every day of the week. The K9 teams work for tracking fleeing suspects, locating evidence, and as a less lethal tool for critical police incidents. PAPD provides not only police K9 services to all law enforcement agencies in Clallam County, but in-service and advanced training for the entire NW region of the state.

Our K9 teams are involved in public demonstrations and classroom visits to teach the public about the dynamics these dogs bring to our community and police department.



K9 Training

2025 brought many changes to the K9 program. First, the program was the beneficiary of a significant donation from the estate of Evelyn Beckwith. This allowed the program to expand to three patrol dog teams. The first half of the year was spent completing the 400 hour Basic K9 Academy. The new handlers; Officer McKnight, Officer Emery and Officer Johnson (Sequim PD), spent every day training their K9 partners through various disciplines that included obedience, handler protection, building searches, evidence searches and tracking. At the completion of several hundred hours of training all three teams completed their state certification and were released to patrol the streets.



Thank you Sergeant Kevin Miller

The biggest change to the K9 program that occurred in 2025 was we said goodbye to Sergeant Kevin Miller who retired from PAPD in June. Shortly afterwards we also said goodbye to Sergeant Miller's partner K9 Bodie who passed away. K9 Bodie originally certified in 2016, was responsible for numerous captures of dangerous suspects during his career. Sergeant Miller was responsible for starting the PAPD K9 program in 1996. Throughout his career, Sergeant Miller worked three dogs, K9 Arco, K9 Jag and K9 Bodie. Not only was he the trainer for every PAPD K9 handler, Sergeant Miller is a Master Trainer with the Washington State Canine Association and has trained numerous dog teams across western Washington. Officer Fairbanks, Officer McKnight and Officer Emery would not be here today without the guidance and mentorship that we received from Sergeant Miller.







Port Angeles Police Department 2025 Annual Report

2025











Crisis Response Team (CRT)

The Port Angeles Police Department (PAPD) is a participating agency in the Peninsula Crisis Response Team (CRT). Peninsula CRT team members are equipped with specialized protective equipment, tactical tools, and ongoing training so they can resolve emergency situations in which serious injury or death could be imminent. The most common incidents among these emergency situations are barricaded suspects and high-risk search warrants. CRT works closely with the region's Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) to resolve incidents as peacefully as possible. CRT also has three tactical medics, who train consistently with the team.

As a participating agency, PAPD provides officers to the team as a collateral duty. This year, PAPD had several accomplishments for the betterment of the team. PAPD added four additional officers to the team and outfitted them with the necessary equipment for their assignment. This brings the total number of officers provided to the team by PAPD to eight, consisting of one team leader, one assistant team leader/sniper, and six operators. This year, the team leader and assistant team leader attended training specific to tactical team leadership, and the assistant team leader attended training on the supervision of sniper teams. Three team members attended the SWAT Basic training course, with the other four slated to attend in 2026.

PAPD recognizes the value of a trained team of competent tactical operators and the necessary tools to bring safer resolutions to highly volatile situations. In highly dangerous incidents, the utilization of CRT is in line with best practices and recent legislative mandates for the use of "deescalation tactics" when considering whether to use physical force. Deescalation tactics refer to actions used by law enforcement intended to minimize the likelihood of the need to use force. More specifically, deescalation tactics include things like creating physical distance and employing tactical repositioning to maintain the benefit of time, distance, and cover; utilizing support resources, such as the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT); and attempting to slow down or stabilize the situation so that more time, options, and resources are available to resolve the incident.

On June 17, 2025, the benefit of these descalation tactics, coupled with the use of the two armored vehicles assigned to the team, was clearly illustrated as it relates to the safety of officers, innocent civilians, and the suspects themselves. Clallam County deputies responded to the Carlsborg area of Sequim for a report of a male, later identified as Justin Cox, banging on windows while saying he is the Messiah and that he possessed guns and ammunition. When a deputy was able to locate Cox, he had made his way into a residence and refused to come out. Cox, a prohibited possessor of firearms, produced an AK-47-style rifle and made threats to shoot law enforcement.

Law enforcement officers were able to extract a male resident from the house safely and form a perimeter. Peninsula CRT responded with two armored vehicles, and negotiations with Cox were initiated. Eventually, it was determined that chemical munitions were necessary to encourage a peaceful resolution. CRT began to initiate a plan to introduce chemical munitions into the residence via a breaching arm on the armored vehicle. Cox responded by firing at least 30 rounds for the rifle, striking the armored vehicle. Despite the gunfire, chemical munitions were introduced into the residence. Cox then exited the residence due to the effects of the chemical munitions and attempted to flee on foot. Cox was taken into custody without injury to him or law enforcement.

The incident illustrates the value of ballistic cover provided by CRT's tools. Even though Cox used deadly force against officers, no officers were injured or killed, and officers were not forced to use deadly force against Cox. Prior to the formation of CRT, the introduction of chemical munitions in this incident would have been accomplished by a team of officers on foot without the ballistic protection of the armored vehicle, which very likely would have yielded a deadly result for officers and/or Cox.



In 2025, Peninsula CRT deployed for 21 missions, 7 of which originated in the jurisdiction of PAPD. Additionally, local law enforcement consulted CRT on an additional 10 incidents, which either resolved prior to CRT responding or were declined by CRT. CRT weighs various factors to decide whether response with the team is reasonable and appropriate for any given situation. The above-listed incidents consisted of 7 criminal barricade incidents, 17 high-risk search warrant operations, 3 manhunt/open-air patrolling operations, and 4 incidents involving the reported presence of a hostage or potential hostage. None of the incidents resulted in the use of deadly force by law enforcement. 96 hours of team training was held during the year. CRT training hours will be increased in 2026 to ensure continued competency by each operator.

In 2025, CRT participated in multiple community events, giving tours of the armored vehicles and answering questions regarding the duties of team. CRT members participated in community events like Unity of Effort, Boy Scouts law enforcement display, Trunk-or-Treat, and Shop with a Hero.



OPNET Report by Detective Sergeant Josh Powless

The Olympic Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Team (OPNET) is a small team of dedicated investigators from multiple Clallam and Jefferson County jurisdictions. OPNET's main purpose is identification, investigation, and enforcement of crimes related to drug trafficking, criminal organizations, illicit gangs, and violent crime. Participating agencies include the Clallam County Sheriff's Office, Port Angeles Police Department, Sequim Police Department, United States Border Patrol, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the Port Townsend Police Department.

Although the task force's name reflects its focus on narcotics crimes, OPNET's work spans the entirety of the criminal code, leading or assisting investigations into firearms crimes, serious assaults, robberies, burglaries, homicides, and any number of other offenses. OPNET's cooperative relationship with local and federal agencies, as well as police agencies across the state and county, is one reason for OPNET's level of success. OPNET is often called upon to track and locate wanted fugitives in Clallam and Jefferson Counties, as well as those who flee the county to other jurisdictions.

OPNET is just one of the 16 multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (MJTFs) within the state of Washington. Multi-jurisdictional drug task forces are utilized to investigate drug trafficking organizations whose reach is wider than jurisdictional boundaries, or the investigation of which surpasses the capability of traditional patrol. Unfortunately, the number and size of MJTFs in Washington has dwindled in recent years due to a combination of legislative changes, shifting of prosecution priorities, and most prominent - funding challenges. In June, like many Washington State MJTFs, OPNET suffered the loss of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, OPNET's main funding source. While the grant still exists, it was altered by the Washington Department of Commerce away from support of MJTFs and toward support of community programs, crime victim support, and increased data collection and evaluation. MJTFs continue to work with legislators to secure a reliable funding source.

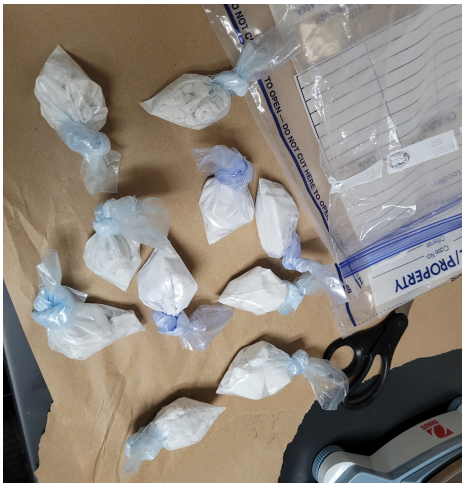
Even with limited staffing, OPNET continues to find value in educating community members and students on the dangers of drugs in our community. This year, OPNET conducted three drug recognition, fentanyl safety, and drug awareness presentations to schools and community groups, as well one presentation to middle school-aged students regarding the law enforcement career field and paths to success.

In 2025, OPNET opened 27 cases and closed 22 cases. OPNET arrested or assisted in the arrest of 11 individuals for felony drug crimes and an additional 5 individuals for other felony crimes. 90% of our submitted cases were accepted for prosecution, and 100% of those cases that have finished the prosecution phase were found guilty. OPNET seized 14 firearms associated with criminal activity.

Drug Seizures:

Substance	Amount	Approximate Street Value:
Methamphetamine	9,464.18 grams	$189,283.60
Fentanyl Powder/Chalk	872.62 grams	$52,357.20
Fentanyl Pills	50 pills	$150.00
Cocaine	234.33 grams	$14,059.80
Suboxone	101 dosage units	$1,010.00
Heroin	100.83 grams	$10,083.00





Below is just a small sample of OPNET's major casework and convictions this year. These cases are in addition to the typical drug investigations completed by the team. **The charges contained in the information below are only allegations. A person is presumed innocent unless and until he or she is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.**

Totem Pole recovery:

In October of 2024, the La Push Police Department reported that two totem poles were missing from the Quileute Tribe's 101 building in Forks, WA. The totem poles are approximately 15 years old and were valued at approximately $10,000 each.

In February, an OPNET detective followed a lead in the investigation that led him to a residence in Kitsap County, where he located the totem poles. The OPNET detective learned that the poles had been sold to Kitsap County residents who did not know they were stolen property. The detective recovered the totem poles and returned them to the Quileute Tribe. The prosecution is pending.

Targeted Emphasis:

In the month of February, OPNET organized proactive emphasis patrols in known problem areas in and around the City of Port Angeles. With Washington State's law enforcement staffing being the lowest in the nation per capita, local patrol divisions typically stay very busy responding to calls for service. These emphasis patrols provided additional officers with the specific task of proactive patrols as opposed to responding to calls for service. These patrols occurred during CCSO and PAPD blue squads' already-busy patrol shifts. Just a few highlights of the cooperative efforts between the emphasis patrols and CCSO and PAPD's blue squads:

- An officer spotted a stolen vehicle in the 300 block of N. Ennis Street. It was the first of three stolen vehicles recovered in the same day by local law enforcement – two of the vehicles were stolen out of Seattle, and the third was stolen out of Ocean Shores. Four people were arrested in relation to the stolen vehicle investigations, and another male fled on foot, however, that male is known to law enforcement.

- An officer observed a subject parked in his vehicle in the area of Jesse Webster Park. The officer recognized the subject and recalled from a previous case that there was a no-contact order prohibiting the male from being within a specified distance of a residence in that area. The male was arrested for violating the order and booked into jail.

- A male and female were contacted together in a vehicle in the 600 block of W 11th Street. The male was arrested for an outstanding warrant. Officers observed controlled substances in the vehicle, resulting in a search warrant being obtained. Law enforcement located and seized fentanyl chalk in the vehicle. Law enforcement also located evidence in the vehicle indicating the couple's involvement in a recent residential burglary. Both suspects were booked into jail.

- Officers located a subject wanted for domestic violence crimes in the area of 4th and Baker Streets. The subject was arrested and booked into the jail.

The emphasis patrols were a cooperative effort between OPNET, the Port Angeles Police Department, the Clallam County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Corrections.

Justin Defrang:

In March, a team of officers assigned to the Pacific Northwest Violent Offender Task Force (PNVOTF) began an investigation into 44-year-old Port Angeles resident Justin W. Defrang. The PNVOTF is a U.S. Marshal-led, multi-agency task force focused on locating, arresting, and returning violent fugitives to the justice system. The team includes officers from DOC and consistently works cooperatively with OPNET. Defrang was under the supervision of the Department of Corrections (DOC) for a robbery conviction and failed to comply with the requirements of that supervision, resulting in the issuance of an arrest warrant.

On 3/12/2025, PNVOTF officers formulated a plan to locate and arrest Defrang for the warrant. The team was able to locate Defrang at a residence in the 200 block of S. Francis Street in Port Angeles. When officers attempted contact at the door, they observed Defrang exit the residence before going back inside. Officers entered the residence under DOC authority and took Defrang into custody. A DOC search of the residence resulted in the seizure of approximately 339.22 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 527.26 grams of suspected fentanyl, 120.85 grams of suspected cocaine, 23.02 grams of suspected heroin, and a variety of pills such as suspected fentanyl and Xanax pills. Three firearms were also recovered; Defrang is a convicted felon and thereby prohibited from possessing firearms.

The team of investigators contacted the Olympic Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Team (OPNET), but OPNET detectives were actively working another operation. The PNVOTF secured the evidence and later turned it over to OPNET.

OPNET later processed the evidence and investigated further. Through further investigation, OPNET was able to confirm two of the firearms had previously been reported stolen.

On June 25, 2025, 44-year-old Port Angeles resident Justin W. Defrang pled guilty in Clallam County Superior Court to two counts of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the 1st Degree. Defrang was subsequently sentenced to 120 months in prison.

Scam scheme:

In March, OPNET assisted Clallam County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) detectives in the investigation of a complicated scheme to scam elderly victims. The victim in this case reported that she was contacted by a man claiming to be from the Amazon Fraud Department. The man then put her on the phone with who he claimed was an agent with the Federal Trade Commission. After being told she was a suspect in a money laundering operation, the victim was tricked into handing over around $125,000 between three separate occasions.

OPNET assisted CCSO in an operation to arrest the scammers. Investigators set up another cash drop and intercepted and arrested a courier who had come to collect the money.

The investigation then led CCSO detectives to 39-year-old Bothell resident Pralay Kar, another suspect in the scheme. Kar was found in possession of evidence linking him to the scheme. In December, Kar was sentenced to 12 months and a day in prison for four counts of Theft in the first degree.

Makyla Cleveland:

On April 14, 2025, OPNET assisted the Port Angeles Police Department with a search warrant on an unrelated case at the residence of 31-year-old Port Angeles resident Makyla R. Cleveland in the 700 block of E. Lopez Avenue. While securing the residence for the search, OPNET detectives observed suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia in the residence. OPNET detectives obtained a separate search warrant to investigate Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver.

The search revealed approximately 266 grams of methamphetamine, approximately 200 grams of fentanyl, and approximately 28 grams of heroin. Detectives also located multiple digital scales, used and unused baggies, cash in small denominations, and two firearms. One firearm was determined to belong to Cleveland and the other belonged to an associate.

On 11/05/2025, Cleveland pled guilty in Clallam County Superior Court to two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver (fentanyl and heroin) and one count of Rendering Criminal Assistance First Degree. Cleveland was subsequently sentenced to a Prison Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA), consisting of 12 months in prison followed by 6.5 months of DOC supervision.

The charge of Rendering Criminal Assistance stemmed from Cleveland’s assistance in the robbery of Frugals restaurant in December of 2024. (See Frugals Robbery update below.)

Thomas Grotjan:

In June, OPNET worked with Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the FBI in arresting Thomas Grotjan in Port Angeles. Grotjan had been identified as a person selling large amounts of methamphetamine online. OPNET located Grotjan at a local hotel, arrested him, and executed a search warrant at his hotel room along with federal agencies.

Once Grotjan was in custody, a search of the hotel room recovered approximately 7.5 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine. Thousands of dollars of drug proceeds in cash were seized from Grotjan. Unfortunately, Grotjan was in poor health and died a few weeks later outside of Clallam County.

After Grotjan's death, another large amount of methamphetamine was discovered on his property. Those drugs were seized by law enforcement for destruction.

Frugals Robbery:

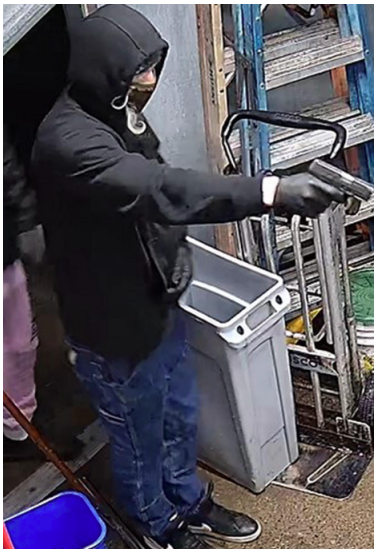
In December of 2024, OPNET assisted Port Angeles Police Department detectives in the investigation of a robbery at Frugals Restaurant. An OPNET detective assisted with the recovery of key evidence in the case.

Once both suspects were identified, and OPNET detectives began to track the whereabouts of the suspects. In August, OPNET identified a likely area for one of the suspects, Burton "Bill" Brown, in Centralia. OPNET, in coordination with Lewis County's Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET), located Brown and took him into custody without incident. During that arrest, Brown possessed a firearm and suspected methamphetamine. Brown quickly pled guilty to the charges in Lewis County and is currently in prison.

Anthony Reynolds pled guilty to 1st degree Robbery, 1st degree Kidnapping, and Theft of a Motor Vehicle. On December 18, 2025, he was sentenced to 210 months (17.5 years in prison.

Charges against Burton Brown are pending adjudication in court.

A third suspect, Makyla Cleveland, pled guilty to the charge of Rendering Criminal Assistance for her assistance of the two main suspects in this case.





FBI Search Warrants:

In August, OPNET participated in the execution of one of many FBI search warrants in Pierce County related to a large-scale drug trafficking operation. The suspect at the location attempted to flee out the back of the residence, but he was taken into custody without incident, and drugs and firearms were seized from the residence. Full details on the trafficking ring can be found in the U.S. Attorney's Office press release here: https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/members-tacoma-street-gang-indicted-fentanyl-trafficking-conspiracy

Various Fugitive Apprehension: Below are just a few of the fugitive apprehension operations OPNET has led or to which OPNET assisted this year.

- Christopher Asher:
  -The Port Angeles Police Department received information from the Fresno (CA) Police Department regarding Asher possibly being in the Port Angeles area. Fresno shared that Asher had been involved in a fraud scheme in which he convinced car dealerships that he was purchasing vehicles for a leasing broker business in the car industry. Part of the scheme involved writing a check for a vehicle and then driving it off the lot before the check bounced. Fresno PD advised that Asher had an extraditable warrant out of California for 57 charges of theft, fraud, and perjury. OPNET located Asher at a residence in Port Angeles and arranged with patrol officers to take him into custody. Asher was extradited to California.

- Dale Jaff
  -OPNET assisted the Sequim Police Department in locating Dale Jaff, who was wanted for Bank Robbery. OPNET also gathered valuable intelligence for the Peninsula Crisis Response Team (CRT), allowing for Jaff's safe apprehension and a safe evidence search at his residence. Jaff is awaiting trial in Clallam County Superior Court.

- Jesselee Fox
  -Everett Police Department requested the assistance of the Port Angeles Police Department in taking Fox into custody for an outstanding warrant for Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer. An OPNET detective located Fox at a residence in Port Angeles and continued surveillance of him, directing patrol officers to his location. Fox was taken into custody by PAPD without incident and turned over to Everett Police.

- Charles Butcher:

-The Sequim Police Department received information that Butcher, who was wanted on a federal probation violation for a sex offense, was in the Sequim area. OPNET detectives located Butcher at a business in Sequim and summoned patrol officers. Butcher was taken into custody without incident and turned over to federal authorities.

- Cole Douglas:

-OPNET assisted in tracking a hit and run suspect wanted by the Sequim Police Department. Douglas had been identified as the driver who struck a 12-year-old boy and fled the scene, leaving the boy critically injured. An OPNET detective tracked Douglas to Oklahoma. The OPNET detective and another officer travelled to Oklahoma and located Douglas, coordinating with local law enforcement to take him into custody. The officers also located the vehicle used in the collision and processed it for evidence.

- Ravi Bemis:

-OPNET assisted Clallam County Sheriff's Office detectives in locating and arresting Bemis. Bemis had an active felony warrant out of Oregon for Luring a Minor and Online Corruption of a Minor in the 2nd Degree. OPNET detectives also assisted in a search of Bemis' residence after the arrest for the recovery of evidence in the Oregon case. Bemis was turned over to Oregon authorities for prosecution.

- Joshua Goudie:

-OPNET located Goudie, who had an active DOC warrant for his arrest. Goudie had also been identified as a person who had eluded officers in vehicles on multiple occasions. OPNET located Goudie and coordinated with local law enforcement to arrest him when the risk of flight and danger to the public was minimized. CCSO deputies boxed Goudie's vehicle in at a gas station in Sequim as he attempted to flee in the vehicle. The coordination allowed officers to arrest Goudie without another vehicle pursuit. A large amount of controlled substances, scales, and packaging were possessed by Goudie at the time of arrest, and prosecution is pending.

Records Division Report by Records Supervisor Carla Jacobi



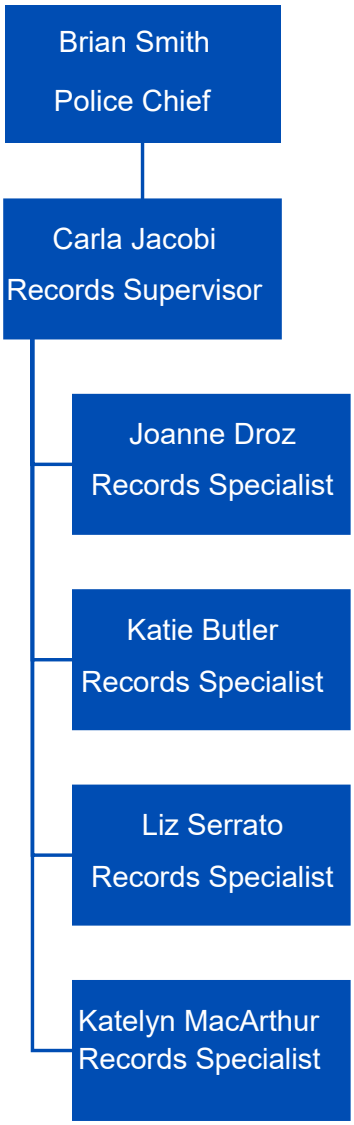
2025 continued the theme of bringing new challenges to the Records Division. In January we received notice from our digital media storage vendor that it was discontinuing the DataCollect program at the end of the year and we would need to make arrangements to manage the data transfer. Staff and volunteers worked diligently to convert these records manually before the end of they year; however, it was such a lengthy process that we were not successful. The remaining records were sent to us in large batch files, and we will need to learn how to access and manage these records.

In the spring months we began implementing body worn cameras (BWC) to select officers from each squad to manage training and data management issues. In July, all officers were using BWC, Axon Capture app, and Evidence.com to manage their digital media records. During this time, Records Staff were learning how to manage large volumes of digital media and troubleshooting the auto-tagging feature for the BWC. Many of the records were not tagged with a case or incident number, put in case files, or were tagged incorrectly by the auto-tagging feature. Katie Butler is the Lead BWC/Digital Media specialist and has been leading the charge to address these issues and develop procedures for managing these records. See the below table for the number of digital media records created and processed.

Officer Body Worn Camera	4,868
Officer all other Digital Media	10,439
Records Staff Digital Media (DataCollect Conversion, Search Warrant Recordings and documents, 911 call recordings and documents, digital media from other law enforcement agencies	29,962
HBO Categorized Digital Auto Purged, False Activations, and other manually deleted digital media	2,445
Total:	47,714

And you guessed it…BWC and more digital media records increase the workload for Records staff and processing public records requests. We received 35 requests with BWC listed in the requested records description specifically, and we locate many other records when the requester asks for "all digital media." Katie spent approximately 38 hours redacting BWC last year. Other challenges include proprietary players interfering with Records Staff and requesters' abilities to open and view the video files; not being able to open files due to file formatting restrictions; reviewing large amounts of digital media records for requests and performing redactions; massive Cellebrite reports from cell phone extractions; long BWC videos that need extensive audio and video redactions; and lengthy audio recordings. I recently had to review a 6 hour 50 minute audio recording of radio traffic for a records request and redact subject non-disclosures out of multiple audio and video interviews for a request for a Homicide case.

Public records requests have also had a significant impact on the division as well. Our total number of requests created in 2025 are down from previous years, however, the size of the requests are significantly larger. We are receiving more any and all requests for people, locations, etc., that include email searches; requests for body worn camera and digital media; requests for large homicide cases and all related digital media; all trespass notices issued within the last five years; all incident and case reports, digital media, and emails for suicides and suicide attempts in 2024; all use of force reports from 2020-2025; arrest reports and digital media records for certain crimes, such as Eluding, DUI, Resisting Arrest; Obstructing Law Enforcement Officer, Harassment, etc.; and all records pertaining to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs current accreditation (2023-2027). In prior years requests were managed relatively well by one Records Specialist; however, it is now occupying a majority of three staff (Katelyn MacArthur, Katie Butler, and myself). Last year Katelyn spent approximately 511 hours processing public records request, Katie spent approximately 38 hours on BWC redaction, and I spent approximately 481 hours.



Despite these new challenges the show must go on! Records staff must continue to provide customer service to people for fingerprinting, concealed pistol licenses, and property and evidence services. Records need to be entered into our records management systems: parking tickets, infractions, correction notices, case reports, trespass notices, residential alarm registrations, business trespass program entries, etc. Arrest and prosecutor referral reports need to be copied and criminal history ran to send to the prosecutor's office. We need to perform digital media searches to forward the records for the arrest and prosecutor reports to the prosecutor's office as well. Evidence lockers need to be checked daily to process the items, store in appropriate locations, and send letters to the owners for found and safekeeping items. Evidence needs to be shipped to the lab, eligible items need to be released or destroyed, drug boxes need to be audited, and sensitive item audits need to be randomly performed. Monthly ACCESS validations need to be completed for stolen guns, vehicles, license plates, and trailers; and missing persons, violent persons, and identity theft entries. **I want to thank my fierce and mighty Records staff for masterfully championing these tasks and making the division and the Port Angeles Police Department shine:**



Joanne Droz
Lead Property and Evidence Officer



Katie Butler
Lead BWC and Digital Media Specialist



Liz Serrato
Records Specialist- Case Entry



Katelyn MacArthur
Records Specialist-Assistant Public Records Officer

Records Statistics

	2023	2024	2025
Crime Reports Processed	3,229	3,155	3,016
Crime Reports Taken by Records Staff	84	46	50
Concealed Pistol Licenses	257	220	221
Fingerprints-General Public	83	86	74
Parking Infractions	197	248	180
Traffic Infractions	283	316	287
Public Records Requests	1,220	1,273	1,115
Coplogic Reports Processed	194	135	144
Trespass Field Investigations	514	427	442
All Other Field Investigations	17	14	16
Parking Ticket Fees	$855.00	$1,052.72	$2,105.00

Group A Offenses

Offense Type	2023	2024	2025
Homicide	0	2	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	0
Forcible Sex Offenses	39	36	31
Robbery	12	11	12
Aggravated Assault	81	73	52
Simple Assault	208	247	233
Intimidation	68	54	48
Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	8	1	3
Kidnapping	6	10	9
Burglary	91	108	97
Arson	11	1	5
Larceny	486	379	392
Motor Vehicle Theft	46	51	32
Extortion/Blackmail	2	2	4
Counterfeiting/Forgery	24	8	12
Fraud	39	47	37
Embezzlement	0	2	2

Stolen Property	24	22	15
Destruction/Vandalism	270	296	245
Drugs/Narcotic Offenses	39	97	84
Gambling	0	0	0
Prostitution	1	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0
Weapons Violations	21	29	23
Pornography/Obscene Material	6	6	10
Violation of Court Orders	75	86	89
Animal Cruelty	0	2	0
Human Trafficking	0	1	0

Group B Offenses

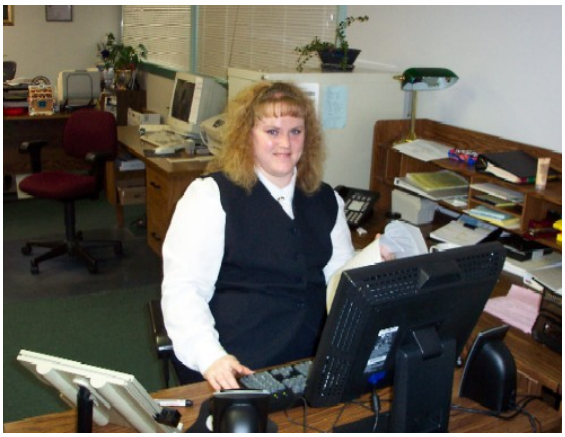
	2023	2024	2025
90A Bad Checks	0	1	0
90B Curfew, Loitering, and Vagrancy	0	0	0
90C Disorderly Conduct	22	17	13
90D DUI	71	77	71
90E Drunkenness	0	0	0
90F Family Offenses	1	0	1
90G Liquor Law Violations	20	33	12
90H Peeping Tom	1	1	1
90I Runaway	62	55	38
90J Trespass	134	124	80
90X Misc Crime and Criminal Traffic	1,689	1,699	1,760
90Z All Other Offenses	183	234	180

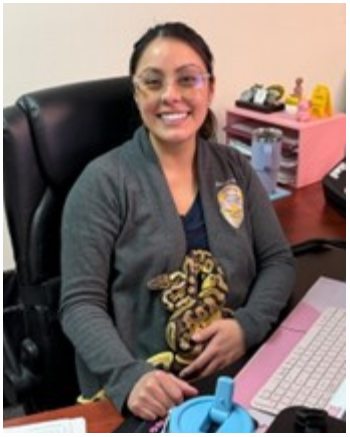
Arrests

	2023	2024	2025
Adult Arrests	554	671	514
Juvenile Arrests	99	118	69


BIOHAZARD
BIOHAZARD










Happy birthday!

Police Chaplain Report by Chaplain David Byer



Our Chaplain team consists of four Chaplains who serve all law enforcement agencies within Clallam County. In 2025, the team worked over 1800 volunteer hours. I personally worked 632 total volunteer hours. Of the 632 hours, I worked 342 hours exclusively in support of the Port Angeles Police Department. Our Chaplains were dispatched to over 100 death scenes. We also participated in several CISM debriefings after traumatic incidents. Chaplains spent considerable effort riding along at the jail and with patrol deputies and police officers. This year, in addition to our typical calls to service, we were called to several suicides, some traffic fatalities, and five drownings. We also officiated at some memorials, funerals, and burials as part of our community service. Chaplains have attended LE Academy graduations and other key events when possible. And we are called on occasionally to council those in crisis. One of our key responsibilities, regardless of the situation, is to always provide a peaceful, calming, and divine presence, especially at shocking and terrible scenes. We serve with compassion, courtesy, and professionalism.

Sometimes I am asked what is required to be a Law Enforcement Chaplain. There are various requirements such as being physically, mentally, and spiritually fit and being academy trained. Being a Chaplain is not a choice as much as it is a Spiritual calling. However, availability is the key requirement for being a Chaplain. We strive to be available when needed. Our phones are always on 24x7. This is very important because the members of Law Enforcement and the communities we serve need to know they can count on us. Many of the situations we face are “worst day of your life” situations. There are no easy Chaplain calls. The fact is, no one knows when the next call for support is coming or how horrific the incident will be. The law enforcement officers and other first responders depend on our support. We are exceptionally blessed and grateful for the opportunity to serve within the Law Enforcement community.

Respectfully,

Chaplain David Byer

Police Volunteers

Police volunteers are a vital part of the police department. The primary duties of the volunteers are working traffic for parades and special events, vehicle transport of police vehicles to various garages for repairs, vacation house checks and helping officers whenever extra help is needed.

During 2025, our volunteers worked a total of 120 hours. Here is a brief breakdown:

*Special events / Music on the Pier – 43 hours

*Vehicle transports – 71 hours

*Other – 6 hours

Currently, we have three volunteers: Darrell Reetz, Scott Ferguson and retired Code Enforcement Officer Glenn McFall.



PENCOM Report by Communications Supervisor Mike O'Connor

911 PenCom

POLICE - FIRE - EMS

Our Mission Statement



"We, the men and women of Clallam County Peninsula Communications, are the first of the first responders. We are committed to answering all 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls with professionalism and integrity, while efficiently dispatching police, fire, and emergency medical services. With our commitment to excellence we can help save lives, protect property, and assist the public in their time of need."

Peninsula Communications, or PenCom, is the Communications Division of the Port Angeles Police Department and is the 911 answering point for all 911 calls in Clallam County, as well as the Clallam and Jefferson County portions of the Olympic National Park. The Communications Center provides quality emergency dispatch services to the Clallam County Sheriff's Department, Port Angeles Police and Fire Departments, Sequim Police Department, Lower Elwha Tribal Police and Wildlife Officers, Forks Police Department, Forks Hospital District, La Push Tribal Police and Wildlife Officers, Jamestown Fish and Wildlife, Olympic National Park Rangers, and six fire protection districts.

PenCom Dispatchers answer 9-1-1 and other emergency telephone systems in a multi-jurisdictional dispatch center. Dispatchers perform radio dispatch of operational and emergency police, fire, and medical calls for assistance, which involve performing a wide variety of computer transactions and records functions. The position requires shift work on a 24-hour, 7 day a week basis with variable days off and 3 month rotating shifts, as well as a 30-minute response time for emergency situations. Currently employees work 12 hour shifts, 6am-6pm and 6pm-6am.

Employees of the Communications Division of the Port Angeles Police Department, (PenCom) abide by the City of Port Angeles Statement of Values as well as the Port Angeles Police Department Mission Statement and the PenCom Mission Statement, on a daily basis. Pen Com Communications Officers are distinguished by the critical nature of Public Safety (Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical) dispatch work and the specialized knowledge and skills required to perform these duties. The City of Port Angeles recognizes our Public Safety Telecommunicators as the First of the First-Responders. 2025 was another year that PenCom operated with a staffing shortage with Communications Officers working an extreme amount of overtime throughout the year to cover shifts. To help alleviate some of the pressures of exorbitant overtime, PenCom sought the assistance of Dispatch on Demand which brought in trained, experienced Dispatchers From various locations across the country, to help supplement our staffing, and relieve the pressure on our Dispatch staff. We made some new friends and are thankful to them for helping us out

An additional benefit was that one of the visiting Dispatchers fell in love with the area, and with us, applied for a permanent position and was hired effective January 1, 2026.







Public Education

Our outreach for public education is going strong this year. We attend many public forums such as - KONP Home Show, Port Angeles High School and Sequim High School career fairs, Clallam County Fair, Port Angeles Senior Center Safety Fair, Trick or Treat Hallway for the City of PA, YMCA Family Night, and National Night Out. When we attend these public gatherings we always hand out 911 swag and try to educate children and adults on the appropriate use of 911. The main messages we use are: "Knowing your location" when you call 911, "Lock it in your pocket" about locking you cell phone before putting it in your pocket and "Call if you can, Text if you can't" to educate that we have text to 911 available all throughout Washington State. All of these save time when someone is seeking assistance from 911.

Communications Officer Recruitment

For many of the past years, PenCom had seen a steady decline in the number of trained Communications Officers that we have on staff, until 2025. During the year of 2025, we had 142 inquire or apply. We interviewed 33 people. We had 12 go through the background/ polygraph/psychological testing. We were able to hire 2 people. We had been having difficulties with the recruitment process and reaching people with the diverse skill set that a Dispatcher needs. The process from application to getting hired can take 2 to 3 months. Getting applicants to complete all our hiring steps is labor intensive. Applicants take a Civil Service test through a company called Public Safety Testing. If they pass that screening test, then they have an interview. Pass the interview and they take a polygraph test and a psychological evaluation and then finally the Chief's interview, drug test and hearing screening. It is a lot!

In 2025, along with increased advertising, we had a $5000 hiring bonus, a $2000 referral bonus and with our newer union contracts a higher wage and benefits package to entice people to apply. Through our efforts, the number of applicants has increased. We recently hired dispatchers 15 and 16 and we are excited to see the momentum pick up.





PenCom 2025 Training

2025 was a historical year for PenCom. At the beginning of 2025, we had 11 full time dispatchers working. Within the first quarter we had 1 dispatcher retire and 2 more were on FMLA. This brought our staffing to 8 dispatchers handling the center's daily operations. As you can imagine, this created a lot of overtime and weighed on our staff heavily. Working with only 8 dispatchers out of 20 had us operating at 40% staffing. This critical level prompted our management group to make big decisions and hire traveling dispatchers to support our center. This put a lot on our trainers (just three of us) having to train our travelers alongside the new hires from our area. In total, our trainers successfully trained 14 different individuals in 2025; 6 were travelers and 8 were local hires. This was by far the most challenging year, but our training staff adapted and committed to the process by staying focused on the big picture.

At the end of this process, we were successfully able to add 5 new dispatchers to our staff in 2025. Congratulations to Communication Officers Camryn Mason, Samantha Taylor, Tanner Wilcox, Grace Kendall and Scott Jackson for successfully completing our training program and going on their own in 2025. This bumped our staffing to 15 Communication Officers, giving us a huge boost in our numbers. Although this was a demanding task, I couldn't be prouder of our training staff and our centers resiliency to adapt and stay positive.

In 2025, we had 2 candidates wash out and could not complete our training program. We still have one actively in training and we hope to add her to our staff as a full time dispatcher in the first quarter of 2026.

2025 was a success for our center and we go into 2026 with our staffing at 15 full time Communication Officers with 1 in training. We continue to get applicants and strive to hire highly qualified candidates to reach our staffing goals. Gaining 5 dispatchers in 2025 was a huge accomplishment. We know we will lose people along the way, but we remain optimistic that we can have more success in the coming years.

We are very proud of our training staff that stay positive, focused and resilient. Our staff continues to motivate, encourage and adapt to the various personalities and different styles of learning. Our trainers acknowledge that the road to being fully staffed will take some doing but we are eager to continue training and getting people in the door.

Furthermore, PenCom continues to keep up to date with our continuing education to stay current with WA State Telecommunicator requirements.

At the end of 2025 we were happy to announce that Samantha Taylor, Grace Kendall, Camryn Mason, Scott Jackson and Tanner Wilcox completed their training and were released to their assigned teams. We welcome them to full time status and wish them much success in their new chosen career. Alexis Zifer joined us and started her training in the last quarter of 2025. She is progressing well and we look forward to her completing training and being released to a team in the near future.

PenCom IT



The IT Department entered 2025 with a strong focus on modernization and operational resilience. Early in the year, the team moved key services from on-premises systems to Microsoft 365 and SharePoint, improving accessibility and collaboration while supporting long-term maintainability. These cloud-focused efforts were paired with infrastructure upgrades that enhanced network redundancy and improved workstation management. Together, these initiatives strengthened the technical foundation supporting the dispatch center's mission-critical operations.

Throughout the year, we prioritized cybersecurity and system reliability. Key initiatives included expanding endpoint protection, updating access-control policies, and improving monitoring tools that provide greater visibility into system performance. The team also supported software enhancements for CAD, telephony, and radio consoles. We further strengthened operations by implementing Aurelian, an AI-driven call-handling solution designed to enhance call triage and support dispatcher workflows during peak activity and high-impact incidents.

The GIS program made significant progress in 2025 as the department advanced its transition from traditional road-centerline-based addressing to a more precise, address-point-driven dataset. This shift aligns with emerging state standards and supports the accuracy required for modern NG9-1-1 systems. The team completed substantial updates to address points, ensuring that new construction, redevelopment, and jurisdictional changes were

captured with greater spatial precision. By reducing reliance on RCL data and expanding high-quality address points, the dispatch center strengthened call-routing accuracy, improved unit recommendations, and enhanced overall situational awareness for frontline staff.

In addition to technical improvements, 2025 was marked by strong collaboration with our IT partners at JeffCom. Their expertise and shared commitment to operational excellence played a key role in streamlining workflows, supporting new technological initiatives, and ensuring continuity across systems used by both agencies. At the same time, our team continued strengthening its own capabilities through targeted training on the platforms and services we manage, ensuring we remained prepared to support an expanding and increasingly complex technology environment. This collective focus on partnership, readiness, and long-term planning positioned the dispatch center for continued success in 2026.

Warrants and Protection Orders

TOTAL WARRANTS YTD 2025

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	YTD
Felony Warrants:					
Bench Warrants	52	61	50	49	212
Juvenile Warrants	31	27	7	7	72
Misdemeanors:					
DC1	108	103	131	94	436
Forks DC2	22	18	26	13	79
Totals	213	209	214	163	799
Protection Orders	195	180	161	156	692

Recordings for 2025

Telephonic Search Warrants: 231

Other Recording requests: 215

(phone calls, radio traffic etc)

Emailed recordings: 9

2025 Call for Service Totals

-for all agencies served combined-

LAW ENFORCEMENT= 71,853

FIRE & EMS= 25,667

911 Procedures

When calling 911, it is important to answer the Communications Officer's questions. By asking these questions the operator is not delaying any emergency response and is actually helping to prepare the emergency responders for your specific emergency. Some example questions that will be asked include:

- Your location - Address, street/intersection, nearby businesses or landmarks. If you are calling from a cell phone we may not be able to see an accurate location of where you are calling from.
- The nature of the emergency with detailed information about what is occurring and who is involved.
- Your name and telephone number.

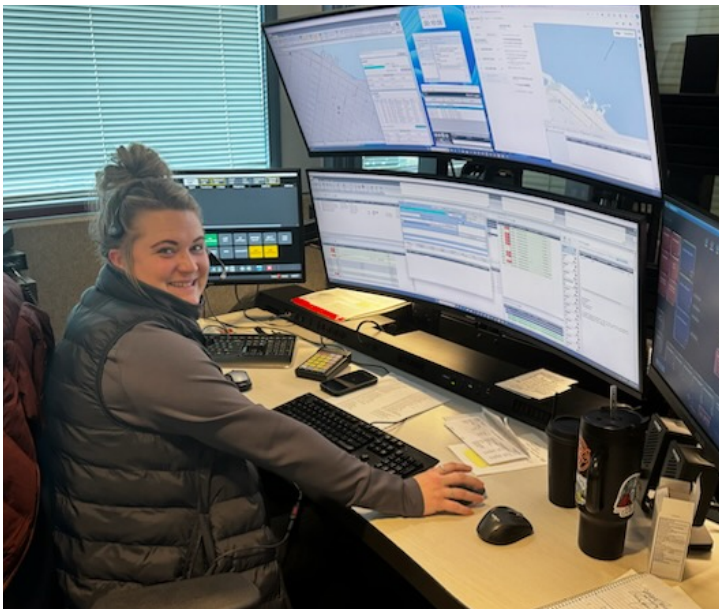
Try to stay on the line as long as possible. It is very important for the dispatchers to be aware of any changes that may occur on scene. Do not hang up until instructed to do so!







PenCom- Communications Officer of the Year



Communications Officer Sara M. Hoch

Sara started with us in April 2023. She successfully completed all aspects of our training program in November 2023 and has become a valuable asset to our operation.

She is well respected by members of the agencies we serve as well as her co-workers. She always strives to do the best possible job she can and is always eager to learn new processes to better herself and to better help provide quality service to our user agencies. Her quality and quantity of work is commendable.

During our staffing shortage Sara covered many hours of overtime, sometimes at short notice and has been able to adjust her work and home life balance to accommodate the needs of both..

Her positive attitude, often under difficult, and stressful situations has proven herself to be an example to our newly hired Communications Officers.

We are proud to nominate Sara for this award and look forward to having her as part of our “family” for many years to come.

Message from Deputy Director Karl Hatton



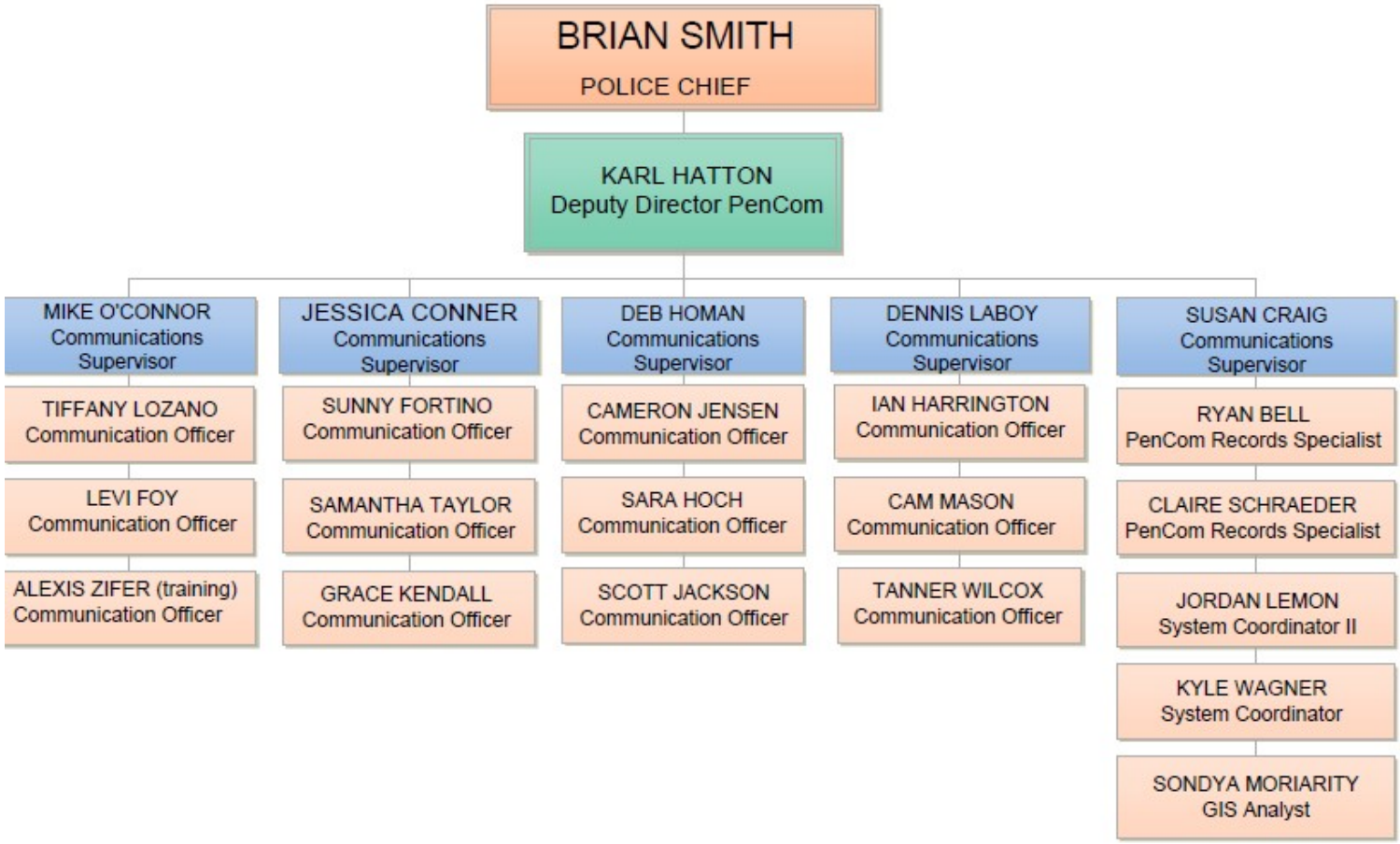
2025 was a challenging year marked by significant staffing constraints and ongoing organizational change. Of our 18 authorized positions, only 11 employees were able to work full time hours, with two staff members on long term disability. Recognizing at the end of 2024 that staffing would remain a major obstacle, we entered an eight month contract with a company providing “traveling dispatchers.” Training these temporary personnel added to our already substantial training workload, but we successfully onboarded five individuals who collectively covered the equivalent of approximately three full-time positions during the summer and fall.

We continued refining our hiring and training processes. Of nine new hires, seven completed training and remained with the agency, and we recorded one retirement during the year. By midyear, one of our long-term disability employees returned to full-time work, while the other transitioned to primarily light-duty and office assignments. We closed the year with 16 of our 18 positions filled. Additionally, two Jeffcom 911 employees worked part time shifts as public safety dispatchers, and I provided 140 hours of console support, primarily within the first half of the year.

The combination of traveling dispatchers and the deployment of an AI solution for business line calls significantly reduced operational pressure. Aurelian’s AI system, Ava, went live on April 28, 2025, and processed roughly 18,000 non-emergency calls by year's end, successfully resolving approximately 65% without requiring a voice transfer to a public safety telecommunicator.

We implemented additional AI tools that supported training through simulated emergency calls and launched a QA/QI program capable of reviewing 100% of incoming 911 calls. We also completed major updates to our GIS mapping layers, improving both usability and address accuracy across Clallam and Jefferson Counties. Progress continued on the Joint Public Safety Facility project, including resolving budget and funding challenges and completing detailed design work.

Port Angeles Police Department
Peninsula Communications Organizational Chart



Use of Force Report by Deputy Chief Jason Viada



In 2025 there were 58 use of force incidents at PAPD. This was a drop from 2024's 62 incidents.

In 2025 PAPD handled 21,398 police incidents. This was also a drop from 2024's 22,742 incidents. In other words, in 2025 PAPD used force in 1 of every 368 police incidents, which was statistical drop from 2024 when PAPD used force in 1 of every 366 police incidents.

Level 1 Control Tactics (empty open hand techniques) continued to be the most commonly used type of force. 53 of the 58 incidents involved Level 1, which is the lowest level of force available to Officers in the Use of Force Array. There were no uses of Level 2 Defensive Tactics (strikes), or baton, or less lethal impact munitions. Taser actuation plummeted to just 6, which is half of 2024's 12 incidents. We had one Officer Involved Shooting in 2025. The last one was in 2024, and the one before that was in 2016. A preliminary finding indicates that the 2025 use of deadly force was within policy.

Also, this year's use of force events were reviewed soon after their occurrence, and all events were determined to be within policy. Nevertheless, additional analysis was completed in an effort to find early warning signs. PAPD employs 35 Officers. 30 Officers filed reports because they used force or were involved in an incident during which force was used. In 2025 no Officer filed more than 12 such reports. Two Officers filed 12 reports. Two filed 10. Two filed 8. The others filed 7 or fewer. By contrast, in 2023 one Officer filed 14, and in 2022 one Officer filed 19. The Officers filing these reports tend to be Officers who are assigned to the patrol division, and respond to high volumes of calls for service. Nothing in thorough examinations revealed any early warning signs whatsoever.

Recommendations for the future indicate the continued expansion of our less lethal and pepper ball program, as well as continued updates of our Tasers and firearms. We recently changed our training program to provide officers with more frequent training opportunities throughout the year. Finally, we will continue to employ updated patrol tactics with emphasis on legal authority, communication, threat management, position and movement, and equipment management.

One of the 2025 Use of Force Incidents was an Officer Involved Shooting. On Sunday, November 16, Clallam County Sheriff's Deputies were contacted by a Clallam County resident regarding community safety concerns due to the recent behavior of a Port Angeles resident. These concerns included their knowledge of the subject's criminal history, relapse into drug use, and observing the subject in possession of a handgun.

After speaking with the concerned resident, Deputies learned that the subject had a confirmed US Marshals Service arrest warrant. The investigation showed that the person in question was prohibited from possessing a firearm and indicated the subject was a violent crime suspect.

Due to the nature of concerns Deputies requested the assistance of the Olympic Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Team (OPNET) in locating the subject.

On Monday, November 17, OPNET Detectives and Port Angeles Police Department (PAPD) Officers responded to a location of interest on the west side of Port Angeles. OPNET Detectives observed the subject walking on 10th Street between F & G Streets. When uniformed PAPD Officers attempted contact, the subject attempted to evade the Officers. Officers made multiple attempts at de-escalation and attempted to use non-lethal force to stop the subject.

The information that has been gathered to this point indicates that the subject fled on foot, displayed and pointed a handgun, and exchanged rounds in a shooting with multiple PAPD Officers. After the shooting occurred, Officers rendered medical aid to the subject and secured the subject's handgun as evidence. Port Angeles Fire Department Paramedics took over care and administered advanced life support. The subject was transported to the hospital and later pronounced as deceased

In accordance with the Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act (LETCSA) and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 139-12, PAPD was identified as the agency whose officers were involved in the use of deadly force. In compliance with RCW 43.102, the PAPD incident commander notified the Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII).

PAPD and area law enforcement secured the scene and preserved evidence prior to OII arrival. At approximately 4:00 p.m., the first OII Investigators arrived at the scene. The OII has now assumed jurisdiction of the investigation. Once the OII investigation is complete, the case will be forwarded to the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney for review. OII will release a final case report to the public once the investigation is complete.

2025 Retirements



Sergeant Kevin Miller retired from the Police Department after 36 years with the department.



Detective Corporal Erik Mordecai-Smith worked for the Police Department for 17 years.



Sergeant Clay Rife and PENCOM supervisor Mary Rife retired together. Clay worked for the Police Department for 19 years, and Mary worked as a supervisor 911 dispatcher with PENCOM for over 20 years.

Memorable Moments









Memorable Moments









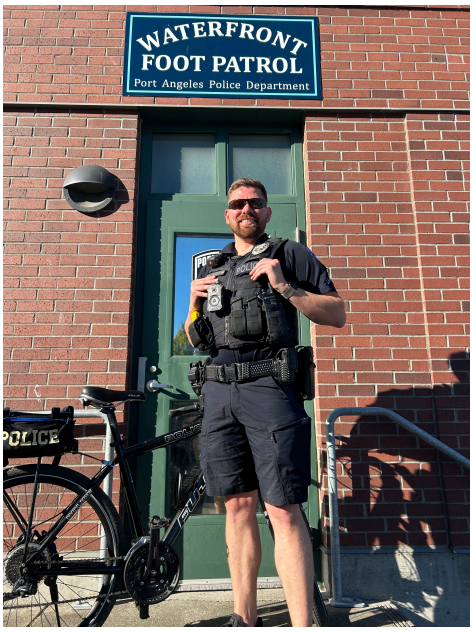


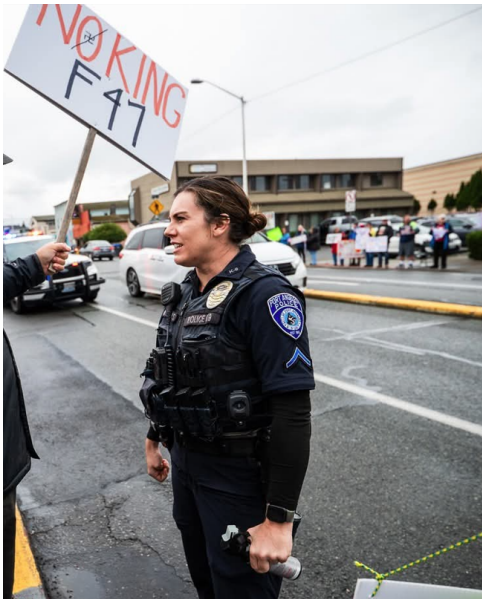


Port Angeles Police Department 2025 Annual Report

2025













Memorable Moments

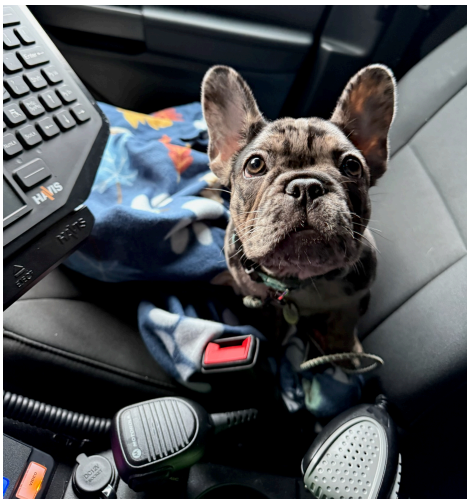












ADMINISTRATION

Brian Smith
Chief of Police
Phone: (360) 417-4901
Email: bsmith@cityofpa.us

Karl Hatton
Deputy Director PENCOM
Phone: (360) 417-4911
Email: khatton@pencom.us

Kori Malone
Detective Sergeant
Phone: (360) 417-4957
Email: kmalone@cityofpa.us

Jason Viada
Deputy Chief
Phone: (360) 417-4902
Email: jviada@cityofpa.us

Susan Craig
Administrative Coordinator
Phone: (360) 417-4910
Email: scraig@pencom.us

Carla Jacobi
Records Supervisor
Phone: (360) 417-4915
Email: cjacobi@cityofpa.us



Agency Information

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Port-Angeles-Police-Department

Port Angeles Police Department
321 East Fifth Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 452-4545
Fax: (360) 417-4909
Email:
pdrecords@cityofpa.us