

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



PORTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
2755 State Road 49
Valparaiso, IN. 46304

WWW.PORTERCOUNTYSHERIFF.COM

MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF BALON



To the Citizens of Porter County and members of the Porter County Sheriff's Office,

The Indiana Sheriff began in 1816 when Indiana joined the Union. However, the concept of "Sheriff" began approximately 900 years before in English legal history, making the Sheriff the oldest continuing, non-military, law enforcement entity in history. The history of the Porter County Sheriff began in 1836 when Governor Noah Noble appointed Benjamin Saylor as the first Sheriff of Porter County. Since then, there have been 42 Sheriffs in Porter County. The Sheriff is an elected position, has a term limit of two-4 year terms.

The responsibilities of the Sheriff of Porter County is vast, but the primary obligations are maintaining the county jail, preserve order in all county courts, serve all process order in all courts, pursue and jail all felons and offer police services to those in unincorporated areas of Porter County. However, the Porter County Sheriff's Office provides many more services, such as the Emergency Response Team, Drones, CSI, Bomb Team, Crash Reconstruction, Project Lifesaver, Motor Unit, Bicycle Unit, and many more.

On a personal note, I am honored to be the Sheriff of Porter County, I consider it a privilege to work alongside the men and women of the Porter County Sheriff's Office. The dedication, integrity and hard work the members of this agency perform on a daily basis is second to none, and I consider myself fortunate to be a to be part of an agency with such a strong culture and tradition of selflessly serving the citizens of Porter County.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Jeffrey A. Balon



MISSION STATEMENT

The Porter County Sheriff's Office is committed to protect the lives, property and rights of all people, to maintain order and to enforce the laws. The Porter County Sheriff's Office will strive to accomplish this mission by setting goals and objectives and practicing the values of the Sheriff's Office.

The Porter County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the professional care and custody of those confined in our jail, the security of our courts and the prompt investigation of crime when it occurs. It is our mission to improve and maintain the quality of life we enjoy and to ensure that our county is a safe place to live, work and visit.

We are totally dedicated to this mission, to the County we serve and to accept the responsibility of attaining our goal of achieving excellence within our profession.

The Porter County Sheriff's Office's values are its principles and beliefs, which guide its members as they pursue the Office's mission. The underlying premise of the Porter County Sheriff's Office is that officers shall dedicate themselves to treat people with respect, fairness and compassion.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Strive to meet the responsibilities of their assigned job duties, to be responsible for their actions and accountable to their supervisors and to the citizens they serve. Set goals and precisely measure objectives within a time limit that supports the achievement of these goals. Know the laws and rules that will aid them in performing their duties and serving the public. Strive for individual improvement. Be able to detect problems within their job assignments and be capable of making decisions in response to those issues such as problem-solving, crime reduction, traffic safety and police partnerships.

COMMUNITY RESPONSIVENESS

Understand that service is the primary purpose of our profession. Exhibit a compassionate and responsive attitude toward the community and express a genuine desire to satisfy the needs of the citizens of this county. This can be accomplished through establishing partnerships within the community to reduce crime, make our roads safer and provide assistance to the public. Understand that community support will result when trust and confidence is established within our community.

INTEGRITY

Understand that the integrity of the police department must never be compromised. The public demands and we must accept that the integrity as a police officer must be above reproach. We must constantly strive to reach the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

DEDICATION

They should strive to obtain individual goals for self-improvement. They are expected to perform at their highest potential by seeking individual objectives in reaching their goals with the maximum effort. They are expected to have pride in themselves and take ownership in their work product.

COOPERATION

It will be expected that all employees of the Porter County Sheriff's Office, the largest law enforcement agency in the county, will lead by example and be willing and able to assist any police or public agency when requested. We must recognize that the cooperation of all law enforcement agencies is essential for effective, efficient and responsive law enforcement.

INNOVATION

The Porter County Sheriff's Office will value innovation from all levels. The Porter County Sheriff's Office will strive to keep pace with the latest methods and technology through continuous training and education. All employees must understand the importance of creating a work environment that encourages innovation, input and participation.

SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Careful management of our financial resources demonstrates our respect for the citizens. Sound fiscal responsibility ensures accountability to the public and focuses resources for efficiently achieving the goals of the Porter County Sheriff's Office.



COUNTY COUNCIL



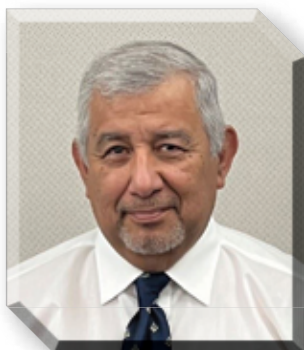
RONALD (RED) STONE
DISTRICT 1, COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



JEREMY RIVAS
DISTRICT 2, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



GREG SIMMS
DISTRICT 3



ANDY VASQUEZ
DISTRICT 4



ANDY BOZAK
AT LARGE



MIKE BRICKNER
AT LARGE



SYLVIA GRAHAM
AT LARGE



MIKE JESSEN

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



LAURA SHURR BLANEY
DISTRICT 1 (SOUTH)



BARB REGNITZ
DISTRICT 2 (CENTER)



JIM BIGGS
DISTRICT 3 (NORTH)



POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER

Lord I ask for **COURAGE**.

Courage to face and conquer my own fears.
Courage to take me where others will not go.

I ask for **STRENGTH**.

Strength of body to protect others and strength of
spirit to lead others.

I ask for **DEDICATION**.

Dedication to my job, to do it well. Dedication to
my community to keep it safe.

Give me Lord, **CONCERN** for others who trust me
and **COMPASSION** for those who need me.

And please Lord, through it all,
BE AT MY SIDE.

COMMAND STAFF



SHERIFF JEFFERY BALON



CHIEF TIMOTHY MANTEUFFEL



MAJOR GARY GEAR



CAPT. ERIK WISEMAN



CAPT. MATTHEW EDWARDS



**DETECTIVE CMDR.
ERIC JONES**



**PATROL CMDR.
JASON PRASCHAK**



**ADMIN. ASSISTANT
LAURA MEYER**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS

COFFEE WITH A COP

Every year, we participate in numerous 'Coffee with a Cop' events. The goal is to provide a stress free environment where Citizens can talk with us about Community issues, questions, or recent events that have occurred. We have multiple branches of our Agency that attend, ranging from Patrol, to the Detective Bureau and members of our Administration.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF

Year-round our Office provides a 24/7 prescription drugs drop off box for the Community. This box is located in our lobby and is frequently emptied. The items are collected and later delivered to a local DEA office. We also participate in two National Prescription Drug Take Back Days that are promoted by the DEA, these are typically scheduled on a Saturday in April and October every year from 10AM-2PM.



NARCAN PICKUP LOCATION PORTER COUNTY FAIR

New this year, our Agency has begun providing single use Narcan emergency kits in the lobby of our Jail. We decided it was imperative to help provide a second chance at life, for a member of our Community that may be struggling with an addiction. Police Social Worker Sam Burgett has been heading this initiative.

COPS CYCLING FOR SURVIVORS

In July, Our Office had the honor of being one of the pit stops for the Cops Cycling for Survivors on their 13-day journey across the State of Indiana. Representing our Office in the ride this year was Cpl. Reeder. Cops Cycling for Survivors is made up of active Officers and Civilian participant riders that raise awareness and actively support Law Enforcement survivors through the annual bicycle tour around the State of Indiana which raises funds to be utilized to support scholarships, camps and events held in memory of officers killed in the line of duty and other survivor causes.



During the, 'Ten Best Days of Summer' not only is our Agency providing a very visible presence and safety for all exhibiting and attending, but we also set up a tent with daily giveaways and free popcorn! Chaplain Birky is routinely on hand as is Sgt. McFalls. This year featured a Harley Davidson duty motorcycle, corn hole, and a large interactive uniform portrait display. Lastly, we had a free Hoverboard (4 in total) giveaway thanks to some amazing local businesses - Cappo's Restaurant of Portage, Signworks of Valparaiso, and Suzie's Restaurant of Valparaiso. Also featured are Demonstrations from some of our Specialty Units - Bomb Squad, CSI, K9, and ERT.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL SHERIFF'S KIDS CAMP

We held our 9th Annual Kids Camp this year at the beautiful Indiana Dunes State Park. This was done with the assistance of Indiana Dunes Tourism, Indiana DNR, South Haven Fire Department, Jasper and Lake County Sheriff's Offices, Valparaiso Police Department, and numerous other Volunteers. This is a great opportunity for interested youth to get a firsthand experience of what Law Enforcement is about and learn team building every day. Camp Directors Det. Sgt. Graf and Det. Cpl. Alonzo did a wonderful job orchestrating this 3-day event!

SOCIAL MEDIA & SHERIFF'S APP

Our Agency maintains Social Media accounts on Facebook (Porter County Sheriff's Office) and Instagram (portercountyso) as a way of connecting with our Community online. This not only keeps our Community current with Department events, but also provides another way to communicate with our Agency if there's a question or area of concern. We also have an app that Citizens can download on their phone, (Porter County Sheriff IN in the App Store), that shows our recent bookings in the Jail, current people in custody, as well as current events, and a way to anonymously 'Submit a Tip'. We are also able to send important push notifications to our Community if they elect to receive those via the app.



CAREER FAIRS & RECRUITING EFFORTS

This year we have made it a priority to ramp up our recruiting efforts and begin actively engaging potential new hires that are interested in Public Safety. We evaluated our process and implemented a new written test geared specifically toward Law Enforcement that is kept up to date and graded by a professional third party company. We also began attending Career Fairs across the Midwest in the Spring and Fall, getting our Department more exposure to those graduating High School and College in the near future. In addition, after identifying good candidates we have started a program to keep recruits engaged and involved at our Agency - this program is called P.R.E.P. (Police Recruit Engagement Program) and is overseen by Patrol Commander Praschak.

HEALTH FAIRS & SENIOR OUTREACH

We attend Health Fairs in Valparaiso and Portage yearly with Porter County Triad. PC Triad is a partnership of law enforcement, area seniors, senior health care providers, clergy, social service organizations and state and local agencies dedicated to creating a sense of belonging among the experienced and valued segment of our society, Our Seniors. Det. Lt. Hobgood presents on scams and fraud schemes that target our Community and Det. Lt. Dziedzinski presents on Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver is a premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. We also performed a live demonstration of the Project Lifesaver equipment to locate Sheriff Balon.



DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023 AGENCY WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We are committed to improving our Agency year in and year out. We wanted to compile a list of a few of the accomplishments and steps forward we have taken to serving and protecting our community better, each day. These annual accomplishments serve as a benchmark for which we will try to improve on every year.

THE FOLLOWING ARE JUST SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ATTAINED BY OUR AGENCY IN 2023:

- Integrated and Updated Department Policies with Lexipol
- Hired our Agency's first Police Social Worker, Sam Burgett
- Implemented Project Safe Roads Program for Traffic Complaints
- Started the L.O.S.S. Team (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors)
- Graduated 3 of Our Officers through the Indiana Sheriff's Association Leadership Academy
- Received a \$400,000 Federal Grant through Cops Technology and Equipment Funding Project
- Complete Renovation of our Workout Facility
- 5 of Our Officers Earned their Emergency Medical Responder Certification
- Added Agency's first Bomb Detection K9, Luna, named after K9 Fundraiser Partner, Abbiocco Luna Restaurant
- Implemented a new and efficient VIN check policy
- Added Jail Officer of the Month



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



CPL. MICHAEL STEEGE



OFC. MICHAEL KURZ



OFC. WILLIAM KNAPP

The mission of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program at the Porter County Sheriff's Office is to ensure that each school district we cover maintains a safe and secure learning environment for both students and staff members. This objective consists of being highly visible during the school day, checking for any unsecured exterior doors, helping teachers and administration with day to day operations and establishing a great rapport with the students and staff. Doing these helps keep a peace of mind in the buildings, thus the staff and students can focus on educating and learning. The school districts that we work with are Duneland School Corporation, East Porter County Schools, Porter Township Schools and Union Township Schools. Our 3 full-time School Resource Officers are Corporal Michael Steege, Officer Bill Knapp and Officer Michael Kurz. These officers are working in their assigned school districts each school day to carry out the mission of the PCSD.

Our SRO program has grown extensively since the 2018-2019 school year. Prior to that year, there were only part-time SROs working off duty at Union Twp and Porter Twp schools. During that time there were approximately 9 total part time officers between both school districts. At start of the 2017-2018 school year, Portage Twp Schools added Corporal Steege and Officer Kurz to their program as full-time SROs. The part-time SROs list of officers also grew in numbers. With the addition of East Porter County Schools requesting part-time SROs for security, the total amount of part-time SROs from the PCSP went up to approximately 45 officers. At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, East Porter County Schools added Officer Knapp as their districts sole full-time SRO.

Our SROs do a lot more than just provide a safe and secure school during the school day. We have been a part of coaching staffs, helped with food drives, assist with community fundraiser events, donate money to support school athletics and much more. While these are all great things our SROs do for the schools and community, the greatest part is being that friendly, familiar face that our students can come to with any issues or concerns and know that we will always help them.



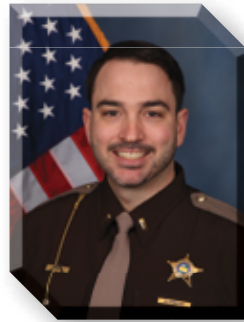
INVESTIGATIONS DETECTIVE BUREAU



DETECTIVE CMDR. ERIC JONES



LT. BRIAN DZIEDZINSKI



LT. DARRELL HOBGOOD



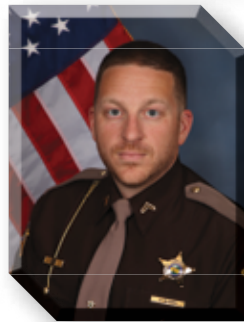
SGT. MICHAEL SPICER



SGT. NATHAN GRAF



SGT. WILLIAM MARSHALL



CPL. DANIEL ALONZO



CPL. GENE HOPKINS

The Porter County Sheriff’s Detective Bureau consists of eight highly trained Merit Officers and an Administrative Assistant. All Detectives had first served years developing their skills as Patrol Officers/Specialty Unit Officers and are assigned to the Detective Bureau after demonstrating a high aptitude for investigations. The Detectives specialize in and are assigned specific types of crimes: Crimes against People, Property Crimes, and Financial Crimes.

Due to the sometimes complicated nature of these crimes, the work necessary to bring about the successful conclusion may take a tremendous number of hours, days or even months of investigative work. To assist with the successful prosecution of these crimes, members of the PCSO Detective Bureau have specialized training in several areas:

- Crime Scene Investigation
- Computer Voice Stress Analysis
- Cell Phone Forensics
- Advanced Interviewing Techniques
- Practical Homicide Investigation
- Major Case Management
- 3D Laser Scanning/Drone Technologies

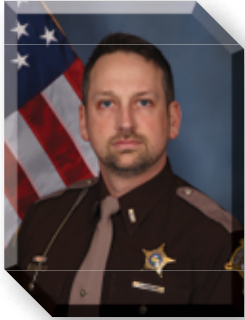
The PCSO Detective Bureau is dedicated to ethically and diligently investigate crimes against the citizens of Porter County and to help insure the successful prosecution of all of those that aim to harm our residents.



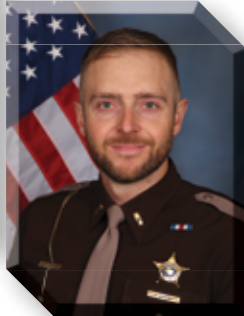
**INVESTIGATIONS ADMIN. ASSISTANT
LAURA CHAVEZ**

Category & Totals	2022	2023
Charges Forwarded to Pros. Office:		
Adult Felony	100	103
Adult Misdemeanor	16	22
Juvenile Probation	18	23
Cases Assigned & Investigated	205	214

PATROL DIVISION



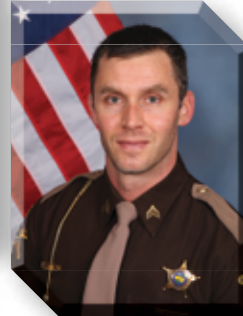
**PATROL CMDR.
JASON PRASCHAK**



LT. KEVIN VANKLEY



LT. JARED UNDERHILL



LT. ZACHARY WILLIAMS



LT. JOSEPH DOBSON

The Patrol Division, under the direction of the Patrol Division Commander, is the largest and most visible division within the Sheriff's Office. Lt. Jason Praschak currently supervises the Patrol Division. It is composed of uniformed Police Officers assigned to motor vehicle patrol. The division is responsible for the bulk of police services rendered by the department, including answering calls for service and proactively patrolling the county.

Currently, there are 44 Officers assigned to the Patrol Division. Officers are divided into four crews that work 12 hour shifts. There are two day crews and two midnight crews that alternate their days off with each other. This schedule allows for a higher minimum manpower of 7 officers per shift and provides officers to have every other weekend off. Each crew is comprised of three supervisory officers (Lieutenant, Sergeant, and Corporal).

Porter County is divided into different zones. At the beginning of their shift, officers are assigned a zone to patrol. They are required to remain in their respective zones throughout the shift in order to minimize response times. There are typically 7-10 officers on patrol throughout the County on each shift.

Every officer assigned to the Patrol Division is issued a marked police car for use both on and off duty, with the goal of deterring crime by maintaining a highly visible police presence.



A CREW



B CREW



C CREW



D CREW

COMPTROLLER & FINANCE ADMIN



**COMPTROLLER
KATHLEEN GRSKOVICH**

The Comptroller is responsible for all aspects of accounting for the Sheriff's Department. Duties include cost accounting, budgeting and forecasting. Development of internal control policies and procedures and management of all financial reporting are some other responsibilities of this position.



**FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
EDIE HAHN**

The Finance Administrator performs a variety of financial and administrative duties for the Sheriff's Department. Managing accounts receivable and payable, through the creation of budget specific ledgers. Maintaining all time clock records while preparing payroll for the department.

CIVIL BUREAU & RECORDS DIVISION



TANYA GEAR
SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTOR



RACHEL KLAIBER-CHRISTIAN
CIVIL BUREAU



MARGARET HAWKINS
CIVIL BUREAU



MARY HENDRICKSON
CIVIL BUREAU



LISA WOODS
RECORDS DIVISION



DARLA SMITH
RECORDS DIVISION



CANDACE EDWARDS
RECORDS DIVISION



ANDY HRIVNAK
PROCESS SERVER



CHARLIE DOUTHET
PROCESS SERVER



GEORGE GONZALEZ
PROCESS SERVER



STEVE FORD
PROCESS SERVER

CIVIL BUREAU & RECORDS DIVISION CONT.

The Porter County Sheriff's Office Support Division is comprised of two offices, Civil Bureau and Records Division. The two offices has 8 civilian employees and 4 process paper servers, all under the direction of the Support Services Director Tanya Gear.

CIVIL BUREAU DIVISION

The Civil Bureau maintains the central depository of protective orders and all warrants, criminal and civil for Porter County. The Civil Bureau Delivers, Subpoenas, Summons and other various court papers from Porter County as well as other counties throughout Indiana and other states.

The Civil Bureau Division also handles the execution of judgments, replevins, writ of executions, mortgage foreclosures, court ordered evictions, collect tax warrants, collect delinquent taxes for the State of Indiana, serves No Contact Orders, and completes power of attorneys for person's incarcerated in the Porter County Jail. Civil Bureau employees also handles inquires by phone and in person at the Sheriff's Office.

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division is responsible for answering the switchboard, helps register sex offenders, performs local record checks, processes accident reports, police reports generated by the Porter County Sheriff's Officers, processes the local portion of Indiana gun permits, register snowmobiles permits, releasing impounded vehicles, filing subpoenas and requests for public records. Records Division employees also handles inquires by phone and in person at the Sheriff's Office.

Both Divisions are open for business between the hours of 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

**Excluding Holiday's that are approved by the Porter County Board of Commissioner's.

Totals	2022	2023
Evictions	1,329	2,068
Total Civil Papers Served	11,234	11,713

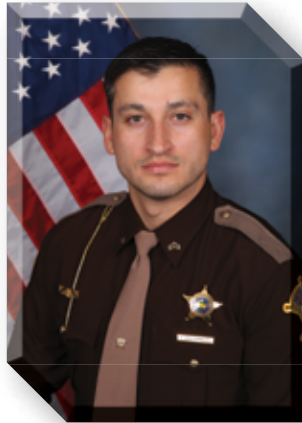
Evictions are included in the total

PROMOTIONS 2023

MERIT DIVISION



CPL. JAMISON SMITH



SGT. CHRISTOPHER WINTERHALER



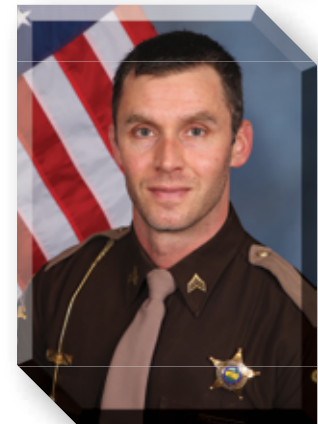
SGT. WILLIAM MARSHALL



LT. JARED UNDERHILL

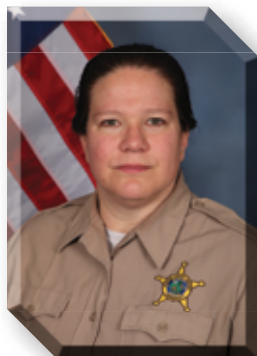


LT. JOSEPH DOBSON



LT. ZACHARY WILLIAMS

JAIL DIVISION



LT. KIMBERLY SORENSON



LT. CHERISE PARKER



CPL. ADAM EICH



CPL. SAM KIRMANI



RETIREMENTS



LT. JEREMY CHAVEZ
RETIRED IN 2023
WITH 23 YEARS OF SERVICE



OFC. CHAD CROSBY
RETIRED IN 2023
WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

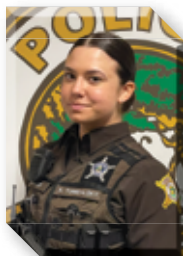


OFC JESSE KLEMZ
RETIRED IN 2023
WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



SUE ADAMCZEWSKI
RETIRED IN 2023
WITH 17 YEARS OF SERVICE

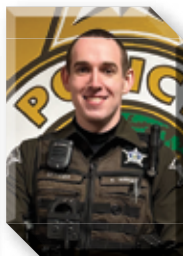
OFFICERS HIRED IN 2023



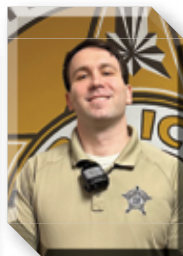
OFC. ALEXA TUMIDALSKY



OFC. ALEC BAUER



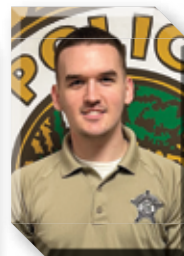
OFC. KYLE WRIGHT



OFC. JACK WALLACE



OFC. ELIO ZOMPARELLI



OFC. ALEC ZUCKLIN

JAIL DIVISION

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The Porter County Jail operates under the authority of the Porter County Sheriff's Office. The operation of the jail is under the direction of Steve Lawrence, Jail Commander.

The jail was constructed in 2001. All jail operations were moved to the new facility in October 2002 from the 136-bed facility located downtown. The Porter County Jail, comprised of approximately 126,400 square feet, contains twenty-two (22) housing units and a total rated bunk capacity for 449 inmates. The jail facility consists of an Administration section, Main Control unit, Intake/Holding area, Medical Isolation Ward, law library, kitchen, laundry area, multipurpose rooms for inmate classes, and indoor/outdoor recreation areas.

The Jail Division is broken down into two detachments, each under the command of a Jail Captain. The first is Security/Operations which oversees both security and the general operations of the facility such as security, training, and classification. The second is Support Services which is comprised of Classification, Inmate Trust Fund/Commissary, Visitation, Transportation, kitchen/laundry, medical and maintenance.

MISSION STATEMENT

In accordance with accepted standards of jail management, the Porter County Jail Division will strive to provide a safe, secure, and humane facility for all inmates and personnel, for better control of inmate behavior.

The Porter County Jail Division will provide inmate services, education and self-help programs to any inmate that wishes to participate in an effort to improve the wellbeing of the inmate.

Through continuous personal and professional development, the Porter County Jail Division will strive to achieve and maintain the highest standards in all aspects of professional service to the community and to all persons detained in the Porter County Jail.

VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the Porter County Jail Division to be an organization that has a strong value system that recognizes the inherent worth of all human beings, respects and recognizes the needs of the community, and holds the belief that, if they choose, offenders can change their lives.

Jail Statistics Totals	2022	2023
Average Jail Population	340	350
Total Persons Booked Into Jail	5,074	5,539
Average Daily Bookings	13.9	15.7
Male Arrestees Booked	3,606	3,968
Female Arrestees Booked	1,467	1,563
Juveniles Booked	1	5
Use of Force Incidents	38	20
Assaults on Officers	4	0



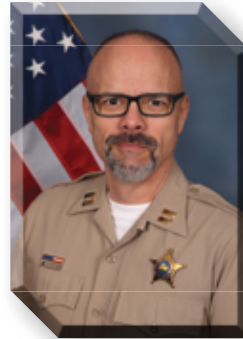
JAIL COMMAND STAFF & SHIFT LIEUTENANTS



JAIL CMDR. STEVEN LAWRENCE



ASST. JAIL CMDR.
RYAN TAYLOR



CAPT. RONALD GAYDOS



CAPT. RYAN WILLIAMS



LT. CODY BRZEZINSKI



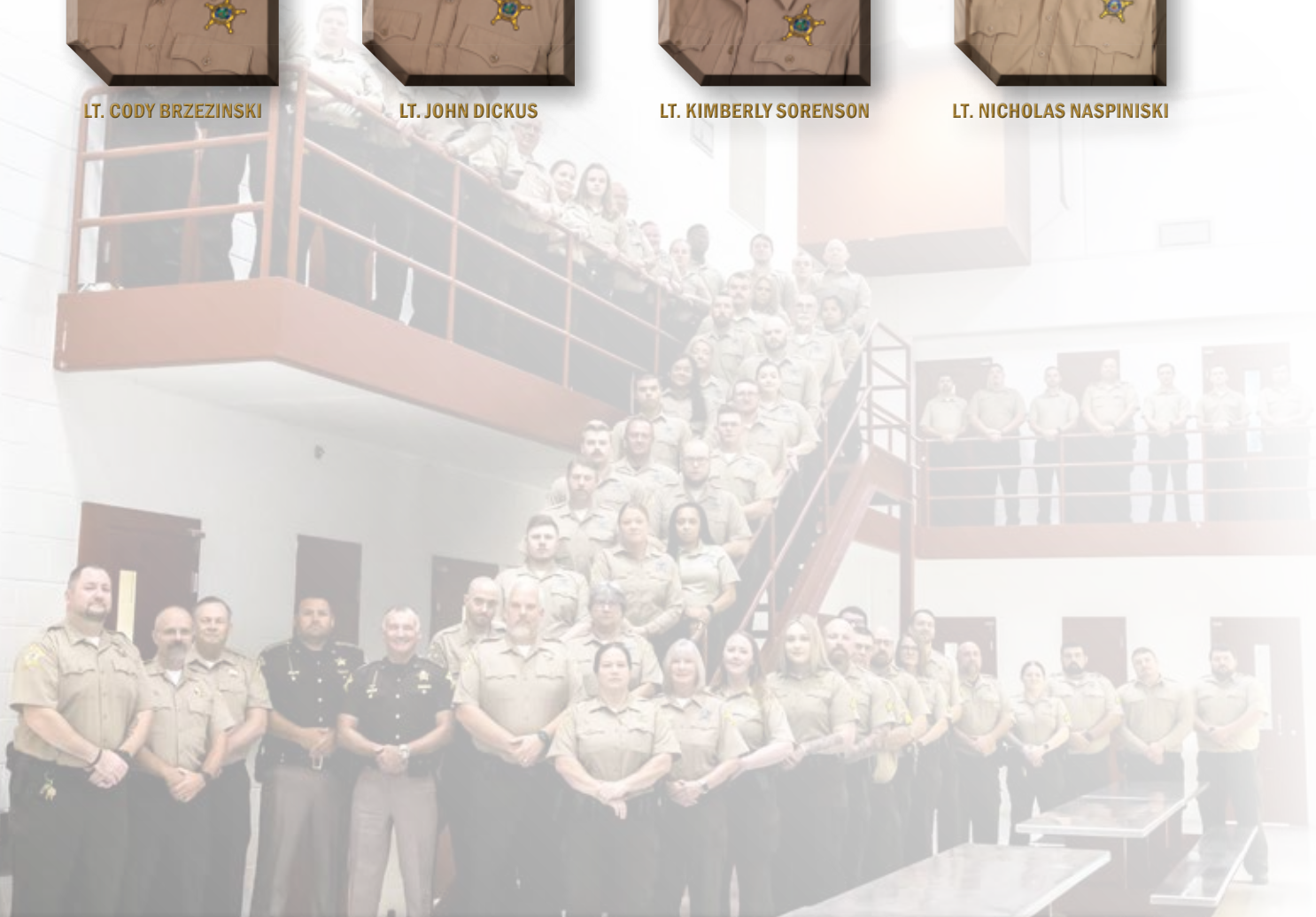
LT. JOHN DICKUS



LT. KIMBERLY SORENSON



LT. NICHOLAS NASPINISKI



COURT SECURITY



CAPT. WILLIAM MESICH



SGT. DANIEL BOCKNICK



SGT. MICHAEL MALAVE



OFC. DARROLYN BRADLEY



OFC. DAVID CAVANAUGH



OFC. GEOFF WELLS



OFC. GEORGE NICKOS



OFC. JAMES BISACKY

The mission of the Courthouse Security Office is to provide a safe environment for Judges, employees and all visitors coming into the Porter County Municipal Courts. The Courthouse Security Office shall maintain the security of the courthouse in order to protect the integrity of court procedures; to ensure the rights of individuals before it; to deter those who would take violent action against the court or its participants in court proceedings; and to sustain the decorum of the court.

Captain William Mesich oversees the daily operations of Court Security. Court Security Officers protect the Portage Court House, Juvenile Detention Center, 157 Franklin St. Building and the main Valparaiso Court House located at 16 E. Lincolnway ave.

Valparaiso Court House: 16 E.Lincolnway Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Portage Superior Court: 3560 Willowcreek Rd, Portage, IN 46368

Juvenile Detention Center: 1660 IN-2, Valparaiso, IN 46385

Valparaiso Prosecutor Office, 911 Dispatch Center, Child Support Division and Adult Probation: 157 Franklin St, Valparaiso, IN 46383



COURT SECURITY CONT.



OFC. JAVIER PALACIOS



OFC. JERRY GRUETT



OFC. JESSE KLEMZ



OFC. KEVIN LESNIAK



OFC. KIRK HAZEN



OFC. STEVEN JACKSON



OFC. WILLIAM YOUNG



OFC. TERRANCE KLINGENSMITH

WELLNESS DIVISION

OFFICER RESILIENCE AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 stands as a marker of the growth in understanding of the significance of keeping officers safe, healthy, and well on the job. Law Enforcement is a very difficult and stressful job and carries with it a higher potential for physical and mental health risks than many other professions. The overall health and welfare of the officers of the Porter County Sheriff's Office both Patrol, Jail and Civil Divisions is paramount to doing the best job possible.

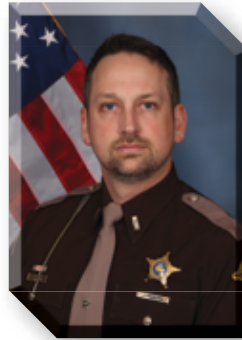
In 2020 the Sheriff's Office developed an Officer Wellness Unit. The Wellness Unit consists of 5 different teams made up of officers of the Sheriff's Office. Those teams are titled Finance and Retirement, Physical Fitness, Critical Incident, Peer Support and special events. This Team meets on a monthly basis and each Team Lead gives a report of their recent activity. The Unit also utilizes a Police Social Worker, a Mental Health Professional, and Chaplains.



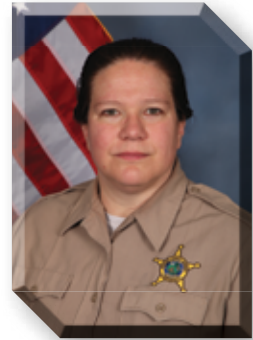
CHAPLAIN JAY BIRKY



CHIEF TIM MANTEUFFEL



CMDR. JASON PRASCHAK



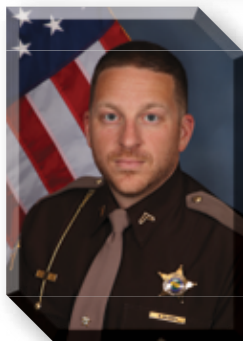
LT. KIMBERLY SORENSON



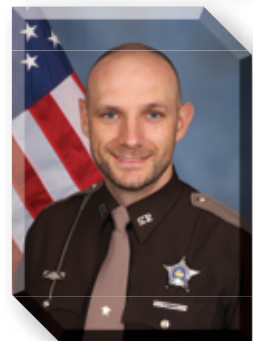
LT. ZACH WILLIAMS



SGT. TIMOTHY BELL



CPL. DANIEL ALONZO



CPL. JAMISON SMITH



OFC. DALE MARSHALL



OFC. LAUREN ELWOOD



OFC. WILLIAM KNAPP



**SOCIAL WORKER
SAM BURGETT**

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Public Information Officer is the link between the community and the Porter County Sheriff's Office. We take great pride in representing the Sheriff's Office in a positive and personable approach. We strive to keep the community informed and up-to-date with important, valuable information on all incidents and public events in the area. We make it a priority to get out details on emergency situations and safety issues, as quickly as we can with the most current information. Our positive and honest relationship with the media allows us to do that. The use of social media and our Sheriff's app has provided us with even more immediate access to reach the public and helps to spread important information. The Public Information Officer also works in close conjunction with the Porter County Hub Coalition (formerly the Substance Abuse Council) and the Drunk Driving Task Force, spreading awareness and helping in the fight against Substance Abuse in Porter County. We strive to interact and visit the area schools to continue building that positive bond with the community and show our love for serving the community where we all work and live.



SGT. BENJAMIN MCFALLS



SEX OFFENDER REGISTER



CAPT. LARRY SHEETS

SEX & VIOLENT OFFENDER COORDINATOR

Effective January 1, 2003, Zachary's Law required Sheriff's Departments to jointly establish the Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Registry to provide detailed information about individuals who register as sex or violent offenders in Indiana.

The sex and violent offender coordinator is generally responsible for registering, verifying, and monitoring convicted sex and violent offenders living, working, and attending secondary education in Porter County.

The Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Registry provides detailed information about individuals who register as sex or violent offenders in Indiana. The purpose of the registry is to inform the general public about the identity, location, and appearance of sex and violent offenders who live, work, or study in Indiana.

There are currently 135 sex and violent offenders currently registered in Porter County.

- 135 Total number of offenders
- 54 sex offenders
- 39 offenders against children
- 31 sexually violent predators
- 1 violent offenders
- 10 awaiting classification
- 30 offenders not listed currently incarcerated in county jails and the department of corrections, both state and federal.

SWAT & ERT

PORTER COUNTY ERT

The Porter County Emergency Response Team (ERT) was formed in 1999 under the direction of Sheriff David Reynolds. The department has successfully continued throughout the past 23 years with updating equipment, tactics and standards to ensure the best possible response to a critical incident in Porter County.

The team currently consists of 17 ERT Operators with the additional support of 2 MRAP drivers and 8 Negotiators. The team includes members of the Porter County Sheriff's Department, Valparaiso Police Department and Chesterton Police Department. In order to become a member of the team you must pass a strenuous physical fitness test, firearms qualification and team interview.

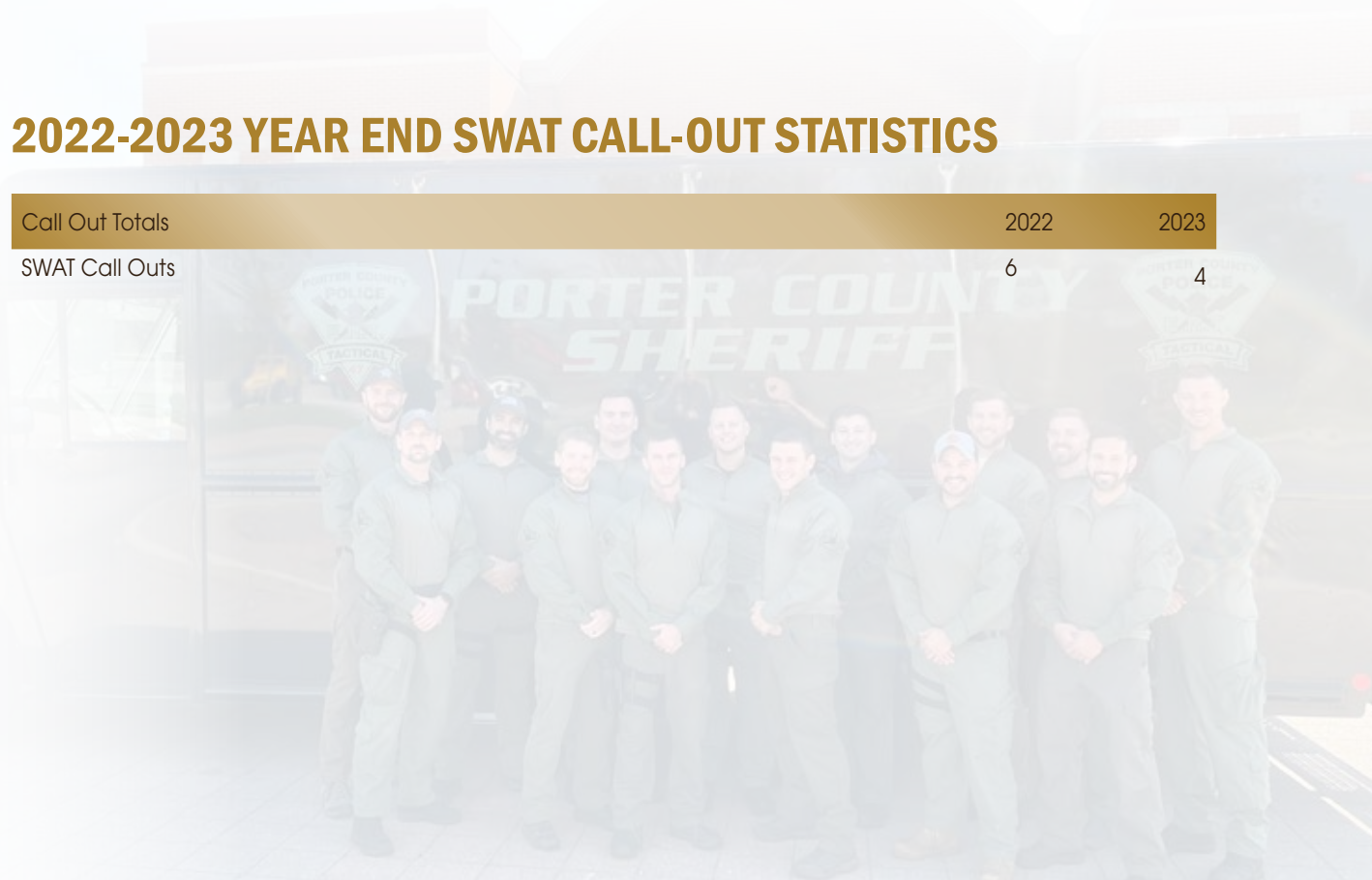
The team receives 136 hours of training throughout the year, not including the officer's mandatory training for their respective departments. The training consists of pistol training, rifle training, less lethal weapons usage, hostage rescue, building clearing, shield usage, outdoor searches, case law, robot usage and operational planning. Each member of the team must pass two PT tests throughout the year as well as a firearm course with both their pistols and rifles to remain on the team.

The team is on call 24 hours a day for a quick response to any critical incident in Porter County. Callouts have consisted of hostage situations, armed suicidal subjects, barricaded murder suspects as well as pre-planned operations involving High Risk Search and arrest warrant services. The team has been requested by multiple federal agencies and local police departments for their assistance with serving search and arrest warrants throughout the years.

The objective of each deployment of the team is to provide more options, tactics and equipment that will help resolve each incident in the safest possible outcome for all involved.

2022-2023 YEAR END SWAT CALL-OUT STATISTICS

Call Out Totals	2022	2023
SWAT Call Outs	6	4



RECONSTRUCTION



SGT. WILLIAM MARSHALL



SGT. MEREDITH BROCKMAN



Ofc. MATTHEW REYNOLDS



Ofc. STEVEN LEONARD



Ofc. CHAD BARTON



Ofc. DIANA DJOKIC

The Porter County Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU) is responsible for investigating fatal and serious bodily injury crashes throughout Porter County.

The CRU has also assisted other jurisdictions with their fatal crash investigations. The unit currently consists of 7 fully certified Investigators. Each Investigator has undergone an extensive training process in which they have learned to determine the cause, at fault driver, and if any criminal extent is involved in a crash.

The team utilizes the drone, FARO diagraming technology, on scene data, and BOSCH "black box" technology to assist in their investigations.

2022-2023 CRASH RECONSTRUCTIONIST CALL-OUTS

Totals	2022	2023
Reconstruction Call-Outs	7	9



CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION



SGT. NATHAN GRAFF



CPL. DANIEL ALONZO



CPL. JAMISON SMITH



CPL. JOSHUA CRAYNE



OFC. SCOTT BROWN



OFC. LEONARD STEVEN

CRIME SCENE UNIT

The Porter County Crime Scene Unit consists of 7 merit officers that are trained in: evidence collection, crime scene documentation, photography, shooting reconstruction, and blood stain pattern analysis. Additionally, the unit has a monthly crime scene training where we practice the skills we have learned and try new forensic techniques.

As a unit, we respond to any major crime scenes within unincorporated Porter County and have assisted other area departments at their crime scenes. In 2021 the Crime Scene Unit responded to ten crime scenes in Porter County consisting of: shooting incidents, homicides, stabbings, suicides, and death investigations.

2022-2023 YEAR END CSI CALL-OUT STATISTICS

Totals	2022	2023
CSI Call-Outs	24	31

EOD - BOMB SQUAD

PORTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BOMB SQUAD

The Porter County Bomb Squad was established in 1976, and is comprised of 4 technicians and 4 non-technicians. Our area of operations is all of Northwest Indiana or the Region. This includes the counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke, Jasper, Newton, and Pulaski.

Technicians spend 6 weeks at the Hazardous Devices School, located at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama for basic training and then are required to recertify every 3 years.

The squad responds to on average 20 to 30 calls a year, and is involved in many other incidents that include working with a number of local and federal agencies on search warrants, large venue events, such as the Super Bowl in Indianapolis, and Presidential Campaigns and escorts.



CAPT. LARRY SHEETS



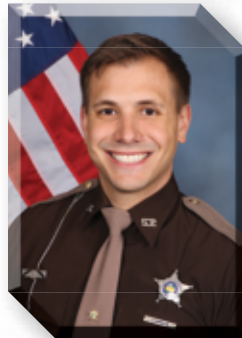
CPL. JUSTIN REEDER



OFC. CHAD BARTON



OFC. HUNTER BLANCHARD



OFC. SCOTT BROWN



OFC. WILLIAM KNAPP

2022-2023 YEAR END BOMB SQUAD STATISTICS

Bomb Squad Call Out Totals	2022	2023
Calls for Service	11	37

DRONE TEAM

PORTER COUNTY DRONE TEAM

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System (UAVS), are becoming increasingly popular for recreational enthusiasts and are becoming an essential part of investigations for Law Enforcement. Operating UAVs for evidence and information collection is when a UAV is being used in accordance with a search warrant; When there is reasonable suspicion swift action is needed to prevent imminent harm to life (missing person, high threat level such as hostage situation, etc.); Serious damage to property; Imminent escape of a suspect or the destruction of evidence; and the collection of evidence such as at a serious bodily injury or fatal crash scene.

The objective of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System (UAVS) is to provide aerial photographs, live surveillance, and/or a video record of specific law enforcement operations conducted by designated Public Aircraft Operators.

The Porter County Drone Team operates under a Jurisdictional Certificate of Authorization (COA) issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. It is the pilot's responsibility to know and adhere to the COA and FAA regulations.



CAPT. ERIK WISEMAN



SGT. NATHAN GRAFF



SGT. WILLIAM MARSHALL



CPL. DANIEL ALONZO



CPL. JOSHUA CRAYNE

2022-2023 YEAR END DRONE CALL-OUT STATISTICS

Totals	2022	2023
Drone Operator Call-Outs	21	16

JAIL PROGRAMS

PORTER COUNTY JAIL PROGRAMS

The Porter County Jail has a multifaceted approach to helping those incarcerated in our facility. We understand that those in our care are our neighbors, coworkers, relatives, community members and even fellow church-goers. Therefore, it's important to us that we do whatever we can to put tools in the hands of these individuals so that they can learn to live a healthy and sustainable life in our community and contribute to the well-being of the fellow citizens of Porter County.

We do our best to address different aspects of addiction, domestic violence, behavioral modification as well as cognitive change and development. We have programs designed to address these issues for both our male and female populations. Some of the clients are court-ordered to these programs, but a large percentage request them voluntarily.

JAIL PROGRAMS:

- **Chemical Dependency and Addictions (CDA)**
- **Therapeutic Community (TC)**
- **Biblical Life Principles Program (BLPP):**
- **Broken and Healed for Women:**
- **Broken and Healed for Men**
- **HSE Classes**
- **Art Expression:**
- **Porter County Vivitrol Program (VP):**
- **Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP):**



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)
CHIEF MANTEUFFEL, CASE MANAGER KAYLA WETZIG, LEAD CASE MANAGER KERRY
SLAGA, CHAPLAIN BIRKY, SOCIAL WORKER SAM BURGETT, SHERIFF BALON



CHAPLAIN JAY BIRKY



CASE WORKER
KAYLA WETZIG



CASE WORKER
KERRY SLAGA



PROJECT LIFESAVER

PROJECT LIFESAVER PROGRAM

Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for “at risk” individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

The Porter County Sheriff’s Office has been serving Porter County residents that are in need of this service since 2006. Over 100 Porter County residents have benefited from the program.

Currently there are 6 Officers (Detective Lt. Dziejdzinski, Sgt. Bell, Cpl. Steege, Cpl. Brown, Officer D. Marshall and Officer Kurz) assigned to the program that maintain communication with the clients and respond when Project Lifesaver is activated.



LT. BRIAN DZIEDZINSKI



SGT. TIMOTHY BELL



SGT. WILLIAM MARSHALL



CPL. MICHAEL STEEGE



OFC. MICHAEL KURZ

2022-2023 YEAR END PROJECT LIFE SAVER STATISTICS

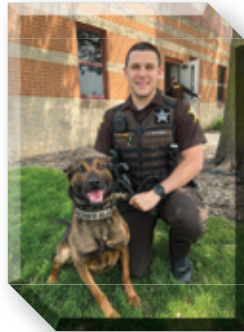
Totals	2022	2023
Total Clients	18	25
Call Outs	2	2

K9 DIVISION

The Porter County Sheriff's Office's Canine Unit is a valuable resource utilized by PCSO personnel and other agencies upon request. The canine team is overseen by Captain Matt Edwards who has been a canine handler 15 years. A canine team consists of an on-duty canine Police Officer and his assigned Department canine dog. PCSO currently has 7 teams that are available for assignments 24-hours per day. Canine team duties include conducting building or area searches for hidden offenders, locating missing persons, tracking suspects who have fled the scene of a crime, performing article searches, detecting narcotics, apprehending fleeing suspects, and handler protection. Each team goes through an annual re-certification with the NAPWDA organization.



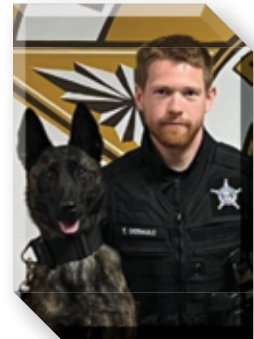
**OFC. DIANA DJOKIC
& K9 NOVA**



**OFC. MCKINNEY
& K9 KANE**



**OFC. ALEC KOSTELNIK
& K9 DJANGO**



**CPL. TIM DERNULC
& K9 REINA**



**OFC. TYLER BALL
& K9 OSOK**



**CPL. NICK BROWN
& K9 RICKY**



**CPL. ROBERT GOSBIN
& K9 LUNA**

FACTS & ZONES

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PORTER COUNTY INDIANA

- Porter County has the 3rd Largest unincorporated population in the state
- Porter County is the 6 largest county in the state by area/square miles
- Porter County has 817 miles of roadway
- Porter County has 444 square miles of unincorporated area
- Porter County has approx. 73,000 residents living in unincorporated rural areas
- Porter County Sheriff's Office has 71 full time Police Officers
- Porter County Sheriff's Office has 81 full time Jail and Court Security Officers

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PATROL ZONES

Porter County Sheriff's Office is responsible for 444 square miles of unincorporated Porter County. The Sheriff's Office also patrols 817 miles of roadway.

The Patrol Division patrol these areas by 4 different zones. Listed below are our patrol zones;

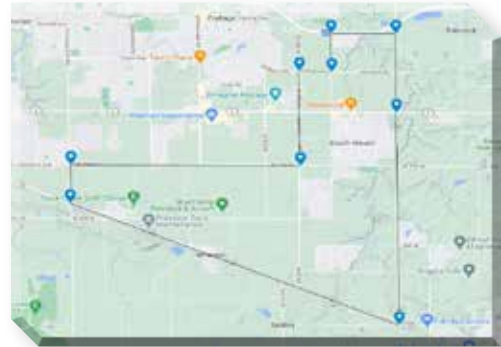
- Zone 1A covers the northwest corner of the Sheriff's Office Jurisdiction
- Zone 1B covers the northeast corner of the Sheriff's Office Jurisdiction
- Zone 2 covers the central portion of the Sheriff's Office Jurisdiction
- Zone 3 covers the southern portion of the Sheriff's Office Jurisdiction

The Sheriff's Office has a strong working relationship with all of the other police agencies in the County. Sheriff's Office assists the following agencies when an incident requires additional help;

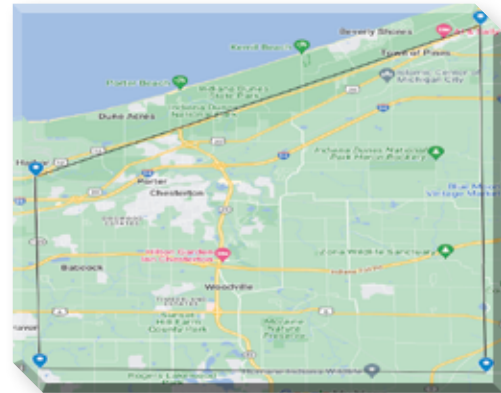
- Ogden Dunes P.D
- Beverly Shores P.D
- Portage Police Department
- Chesterton Police Department
- Porter Police Department
- Valparaiso Police Department
- Kouts Police Department
- Hebron Police Department
- Burns Harbor P.D

In addition to assisting these police departments, the Porter County Sheriff's Office also police the Town of Pines located in the most northeast portion of the county.

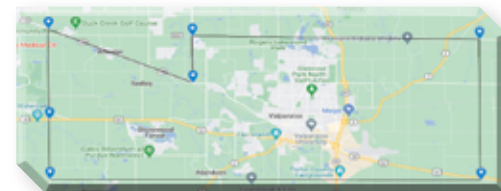
ZONE 1A



ZONE 1B



ZONE 2



ZONE 3



2022-2023 YEAR END STATISTICS

CRASH STATISTICS

Totals	2022	2023
Fatals	9	10
Personal Injury	276	231
Property Damage	1,275	1,183
Hit & Run	67	55
Reported as Unknown	78	80
Total Crashes	1,705	1,159

TRAFFIC STOPS, ARRESTS, COMPLAINTS, CALLS FOR SERVICE

Totals	2022	2023
Arrests	1,369	1,593
Traffic Stops	6,801	8,805
Traffic Complaints	-	52
Calls for Service	46,315	52,583
Reported as Unknown	78	80
Total Crashes	1,705	1,159

MAJOR OFFENSES

Totals	2022	2023
Homicide	1	1
Rape	5	7
Robbery	2	1
Aggravated Assault	13	16
Burglary	33	54
Theft	149	131
Vehicle Theft	22	16



IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN HERO, NEVER FORGOTTEN



OFFICER CHRISTOPHER VANDERPOOL

**Appointed to the Porter County Sheriff's Office
January 8th, 2018**

End of Watch, June 3rd 2023