CERES
Police Department

2015 Annual Report

Pride • Integrity • Excellence

Vision & Mission

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Vision Statement:

We will set the standard for best practice police services in the Central Valley.

Mission Statement:

We are committed to partnering with the community to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Follow us on:

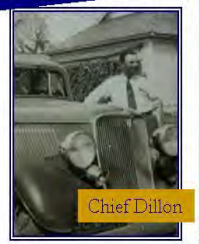
History of Ceres Police Department

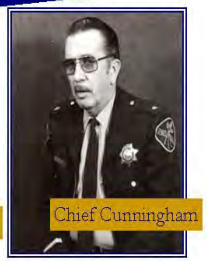
On February 25, 1918, the City of Ceres was incorporated. In August of the same year, the City Council voted to hire its first official Marshall, T. F. Perrin, at a monthly salary of $5.00.

By 1934, the Police Department had expanded and was in need of a Chief of Police. Jack Dillon was hired and served in this position for eight years.

Over the next 14 years, Ceres would have six Chiefs who led the Department, including Chief Foster and Chief Triplett.

In 1956, LeRoy Cunningham was appointed Chief and served until 1983. To date, Cunningham is the longest serving Police Chief in Stanislaus County history. Chief Cunningham made several changes through the years, such as purchasing police vehicles and the use of one-way radios for officers and clerk-dispatchers.


Chief Dillon


Chief Cunningham

Chief Foster

Chief Triplett

Ceres Police Chiefs

Jack Dillon	1934-1942
Louis Garl	1942-1943
A..R. White	1943-1944
S.M. Christiansen	1944-1945
J.M. McGuffey	1945-1946
Henry Triplett	1946-1951
Kenneth Foster	1951-1956
LeRoy Cunningham	1956-1983
G.W. "Pete" Peterson	1983-1999
Art de Werk	1999-2015
Brent Smith	2015-Present

Pete Peterson followed Chief Cunningham as Chief in 1983 and it was under his leadership that the Department was modernized, including our current two story police facility, with state-of-the-art technology that still stands today. Chief Peterson also developed many of our special units, such as: K-9, Traffic and SWAT. Peterson served until 1999.

From 1999 to 2014, the Department was led by Art de Werk. It was during Chief de Werk's tenure that the Department suffered its only Line-of-Duty Death when Sgt. Howie Stevenson was shot and killed on January 9, 2005.

In 2015, Brent Smith was appointed Chief. This past year Chief Smith has reorganized the department based on the needs of the city and officers. Chief Smith began exploring new police technology and how it can benefit the citizens and officers. This exploration led to the construction of a new Dispatch Center on the top floor of the police facility, along with a new and improved Computer-Automated-Dispatch software system.

During his first year, Chief Smith also established a Neighborhood Enhancement Team that focuses on blight issues in the city. This team works closely with neighborhoods and businesses to enhance the look of Ceres.

The Department currently has 47 full time Officers and serves a population of over 47,000 people.

Chief's Message

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Ceres Police Department, I am pleased to present our first Ceres Police Department Annual Report. Many changes occurred in our department last year, including being my first year as the Chief of Police.

During this year of transition, the department made a commitment to work closely with the community we serve, and I think you will see this commitment reflected throughout this report.

Additionally, we set a goal of employing the latest law enforcement technology to increase our efficiency, and better serve the Ceres Community. This technology includes a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management system, a state-of-the-art Police Dispatch Center, mobile license plate readers, and body worn cameras for every Officer.

During 2015, many faces changed, including an entirely new command staff through internal promotions, retirements, and some who transferred to other organizations. We hired seven new police officers during 2015 and, though it has been challenging, it's brought new energy and new ideas into our organization.

The City of Ceres is fortunate to have one of the lowest crime rates in Stanislaus County. We experienced an 18.1% decrease in violent crime from the previous year. Those crimes consist of homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Property crimes increased 1.4% in 2015; these include burglary, larceny and auto theft. Burglary decreased by 26.4%, larceny decreased by 7.2%. However, auto theft increased by 63.3%.

We are seeing a direct correlation between the passage of AB 109 in 2011 and Proposition 47, which became law in November, 2014, and the rise of property crimes in California's Central Valley. Although different, both measures affect the increase in property crimes because most "low level" offenders that are released back into our community commit thefts to support their continued drug habits.

Since the changes in AB 109 and Prop 47, many responsibilities have shifted from the state to the local level and we continue to have an excellent relationship with all of our external partners. Stanislaus County has been very fortunate to receive the necessary funding to build state-of-the-art corrections facilities that are not focused solely on incarceration, but have drug treatment, education and employment opportunities. The Sheriff's campus on Hackett Road in Ceres is in constant construction mode as this transition takes place.

However, we need the public's help to address the substantial rise in auto theft. Prevention is key, and there are things you can do to help make it more difficult for offenders to steal your vehicle:

- Locking your doors
- Using steering wheel locks
- Installing kill switches
- Parking in a secured facility, if available
- Researching which vehicles are more vulnerable to auto theft prior to purchase.

Last year we began using license plate readers, which assist us with safely stopping auto theft suspects. Our goal is to continue placing this technology throughout the City, as funding allows.

I am proud to serve as your Police Chief and call Ceres home.

Please visit our website at www.ci.ceres.ca.us for information regarding our services or how you can volunteer.

Sincerely,

Brent Smith
Chief of Police

Chief's Community Advisory Committee

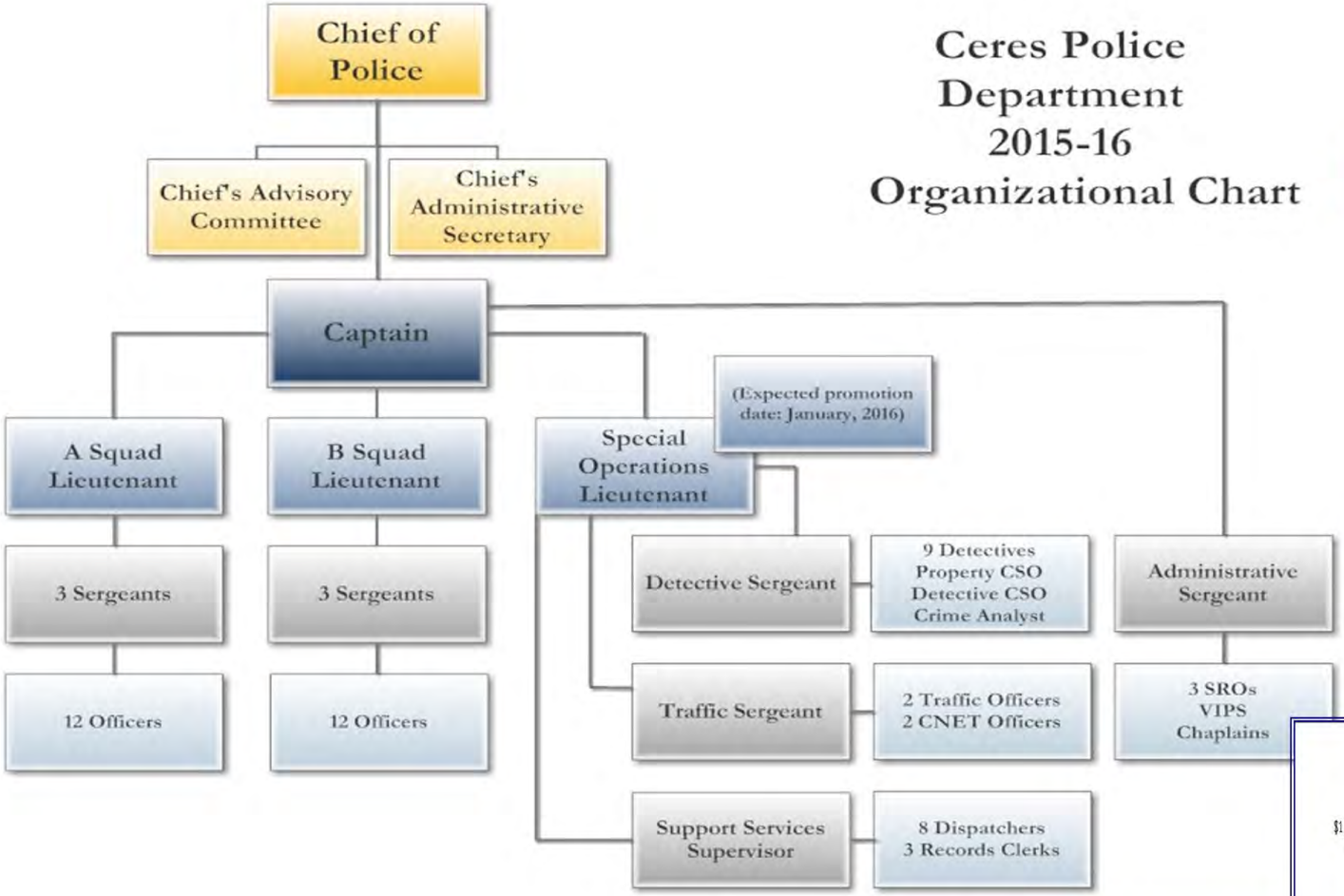
Comprised of seven professionals who live or work in Ceres, the Chief's Community Advisory Committee meets once a month to discuss local issues, make recommendations to Chief Smith, and to help him keep his finger on the pulse of the Community he and his Officers serve.

Community Advisory Committee Mission Statement

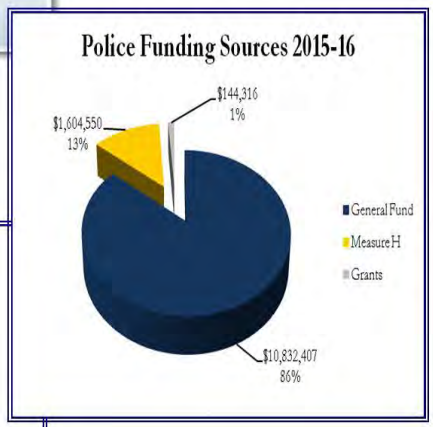
We are a passionate and motivated team of Ceres residents that are committed to supporting the actions of our Police Chief and our Police Department.

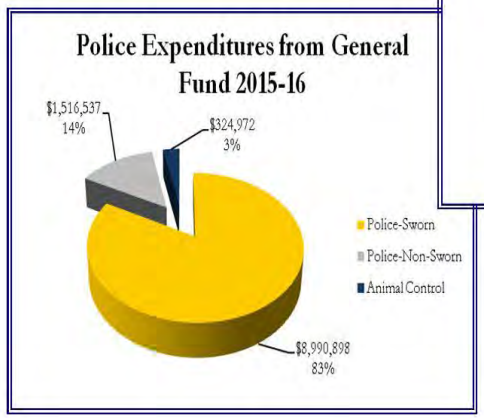
We are committed to providing advice, support and resources to the Police Chief in order to create integrated solutions that will improve the quality of life for our community.

Ceres Police Department 2015-16 Organizational Chart



The average age of a Ceres Police Officer is 39.8 years old





Mayor Chris Vierra
Vice Mayor Bret Durossette
Councilmember Ken Lane
Councilmember Mike Kline
Councilmember Linda Ryno

Command Staff

The **Command Staff** of the Ceres Police Department is made up of one Captain, two Lieutenants (with a third to be added in 2016) and an Administrative Assistant.
The Command Staff oversees the day-to-day running and administration of the entire Police Department. In addition, they are on call 24/7 should any emergency or crisis situation arise that requires their leadership skills.

Captain
Rick Collins

Lieutenant
Chris Perry

Lieutenant
James Yandell

Chief's Administrative Secretary
Marcy Pederson

Pride

Conveying a sense of positive identity to ourselves, to our organization, and to the community.

Operations & Team Building

The Ceres Police Department is a 24 hour, seven-day-a-week organization, with an allotted 52 sworn positions, including the Command Staff.

Encompassing six different units, the **Operations Division** oversees Patrol, K9, Traffic, SWAT, the Crisis Negotiation Team and the Ceres Neighborhood Enhancement Team.

Managing and leading this Division are Captain Collins, Lieutenant Perry, and Lieutenant Yandell, with a third Lieutenant to be added in January, 2016. In addition, six sergeants provide first line supervision/leadership for the 24 Officers and Reserve Police Officers who are arguably the most visible members of our organization.

Patrol Officers answer a variety of calls for service and proactively look for criminal activity.

Officers also actively engage our community by interacting with citizens from all walks of life with the hope of leaving a long-lasting, positive impact.

Bound by the Badge

When a Line of Duty Death occurs anywhere in the nation, a personalized condolence letter is sent from Chief Smith to the fallen Officer's Department. Since May of this year, we have sent over 50 letters to Chiefs, Sheriffs, Superintendents, Constables, Commanders, Directors, Colonels and Wardens in 22 different states.

2015 Team Building Workshop

In March, 2015, the leadership team of the Ceres Police Department met for a **Team Building Workshop** in beautiful Monterey, California. Before the commencement of the workshop, the leadership team, coupled with input from all of the Department staff, identified several primary goals of achievement.

After three days of meetings, candid conversations, and soul searching, the team emerged with everyone committed to achieving the following goals:

- Enhance our community engagement and build trust with our community stakeholders.
- Address staffing, hiring, and personnel shortages.
- Establish supervisory consistency, especially support of one supervisor or manager for another.
- Create a plan to restructure the roles and responsibilities of supervisors and managers.
- Purchase and implement a new CAD/RMS system to increase efficiency throughout the entire department, including field operations.
- Create and embody the new Mission and Vision statement.
- Improved uniform standards

The leadership team of the Ceres Police Department, under Chief Brent Smith's command, has worked tirelessly to achieve the listed goals. The Team Building Workshop set a new foundation for the Ceres Department to build upon and sent us on a path into a bright future. We will continue to identify ways to improve our operational efficiency, connect with our community, and implement best practice policing.

I • N • V • E • S • T • I • G • A • T • I • O • N • S

The Ceres Police Department's Investigations Unit consists of six full-time Detectives, a Crime Analyst and a Property and Evidence Community Service Officer. 3 of the full time detectives are currently assigned to county wide task forces: CVGIT – Central Valley Gang Impact Task force, SDEA – Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency and the Sacramento Valley High Technology Crimes Task Force, which is a multi-jurisdictional taskforce.

The Investigations Sergeant oversees the unit and acts as the Department's Training Coordinator. Each detective has a specific type of crime that they will typically investigate. These include: crimes against persons, crimes against children, high tech crimes, general crimes, gang-related crimes, and drug-related crimes.

In 2015, there were several detectives that rotated out of the Investigations Unit, bringing in three new Investigators:

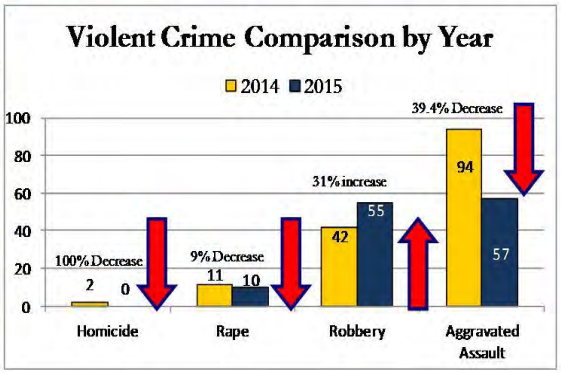
- Detective Bryan Ferreira – Crimes against Persons Detective
- Detective Carlos Quiroz – Crimes against Children and High Tech Detective Trainee
- Detective Trinidad Viramontes – General Crimes Detective

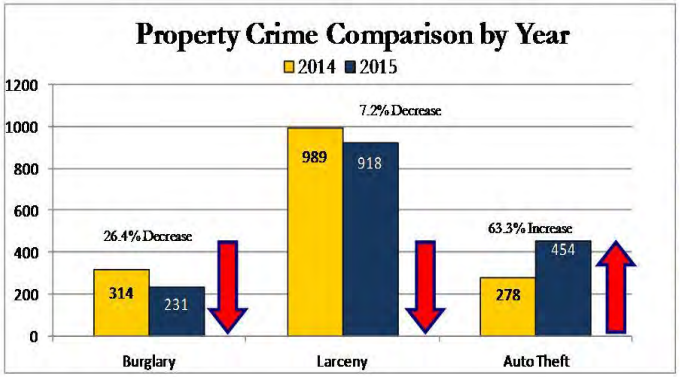
The Crime Analyst at the Ceres Police Department provides a dual role of both Crime Analyst and Crime Scene Technician. The primary role as an analyst is to assist detectives with the gathering of intelligence for a variety of different cases.

Information is sought out from several different sources and is provided to investigators in an effort to identify involved or responsible parties. Like detectives, this position is on call 24/7, in the event the assistance of an analyst or the crime scene technician is needed during an investigation.

At crime scenes, the technician will work with investigators by taking photos, checking for latent prints and collecting evidence. The analyst also provides crime related statistics, as needed, for both the department and the public.

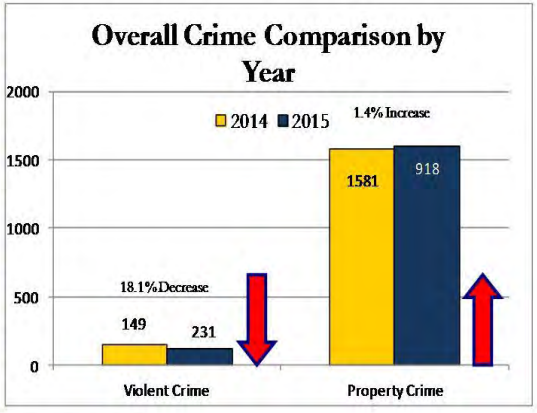
With the implementation of the new CAD/RMS system in 2016, the Crime Analyst will have the ability to provide the department with more accurate and targeted information in a more efficient and timely manner. Additionally, the Crime Analyst registers the City's sex, narcotic and arson offenders and keeps up on offenders who may be out of compliance.





The Property and Evidence Community Service Officer is tasked with checking in all evidence. Once the evidence is checked in, it must be stored in a manner that is compliant with DOJ standards and can be easily located when the need comes to release it.

All of the property that is booked into evidence is required to be purged on an annual basis. This requires a significant amount of time to determine the status of a case and whether or not the property may be released, destroyed, sent to auction or held for a longer period of time.



In 2015, the Ceres Police Department was subjected to a POST (Police Officer Standards and Training) audit, and was found to be compliant by way of their standards. The Property and Evidence CSO also handles releasing property to the public.

Crisis Negotiation Team

Negotiator: *"Influences all types of conflict, striking anywhere with speed, with combat capabilities, expecting victory and success through peaceful communication."*

The Ceres Police Crisis Negotiation Team, or CNT, is comprised of seven members from the Ceres Police Department, both sworn and civilian staff. It is overseen by Lt. Perry, who took over as the team's overall Commander earlier this year. Sgt. Vierra is the team leader and has been a part of the team since 2004. Officer Yotsuya (1998) and Officer Moore (2000) serve as assistant team leaders. Dispatcher Yotsuya (2003), Officer Carvalho (2013), and Officer Ruiz (2013) round out the team. Sgt. Venn (2005) retired from the team at the end of this year, having served with the team for 10 years.

The Ceres CNT has been a member of the California Association of Hostage Negotiators (CAHN) since the early 1990's. As part of the continuing training for Negotiators, CAHN holds quarterly regional training courses. In June, 2015, the Ceres CNT hosted one of these regional training courses, which was attended by well over 150 Negotiators from agencies throughout Northern California.

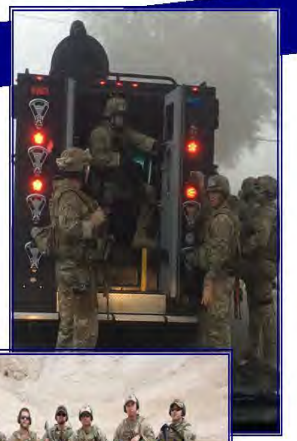
In September, all members of CNT attended a 32 hour training conference hosted by CAHN. This conference is highly sought after by not only negotiation teams throughout California, but also national and international teams, and was attended by Negotiation team members from as far away as England and China. Attendance to this conference was made possible by utilizing grant money secured by Sgt. Vierra.

The Ceres CNT responded with SWAT to one critical incident in 2015 involving a suicidal male armed with a handgun who had attempted to take his wife and her friend hostage. The wife and friend managed to escape from the residence, at which time the armed male barricaded himself inside the house. Negotiators made contact with the male approximately 30 minutes into this incident. Negotiations with the suicidal male lasted just over four hours. The negotiations ended with the male taking his own life, after setting the house on fire. Although the male took his life, the negotiations were deemed a success, in that there were no injuries to civilians or law enforcement personnel.

In addition to the above incident, the Ceres CNT, along with SWAT, made five deployments this year in the service of search warrants throughout Stanislaus County.

Integrity
Doing the right (ethical) thing even when no one is watching or when it is not easy.

SWAT Team



The Ceres Police **SWAT Team** was formed in 1991 under the command of Police Chief Pete Petersen. Commander John Chapman was in charge of forming the SWAT team (which consisted of 12 members) and outlining the policies and procedures.

Today, the Ceres SWAT Team is authorized to maintain 14 positions, which include a Team Leader and three Assistant Team Leaders. Within the team there are several specialty assignments which include Snipers, Breachers, Chemical Agents and Medics.

Retired Officer Dedra Borges (Goenawein) is the only female, to date, that has been part of the SWAT Team.

In 2005, after the death of Sgt. Howard Stevenson, the Police Department purchased an armored vehicle which changed the way the Team operated, allowing them to get much closer to critical incidents due to its armored capabilities.

The SWAT Team is used in a variety of ways, from rapidly evolving critical incidents to pre-planned operations. There are certain requirements that have to be met in order to have the SWAT Team assigned to a mission. This prevents the overuse or misuse of the SWAT Team.

Over the past several years, the Ceres SWAT Team has been utilized in numerous incidents that have resulted in dangerous criminals being taken off the streets. One of the more recent events was on April 12, 2012, when Stanislaus County Deputy Robert Paris was shot and killed. During this incident, the Ceres SWAT Team used their armored vehicle to safely rescue several people who were inside the same building as the suspect.

In 2015, the SWAT Team served eight high-risk warrants, handled one critical incident and was used by an outside agency to assist on a case.

The Team trains twice each month for a total of 16 hours and are tested twice each year on their firearms skills and their physical fitness.

Traffic

The Ceres Police Traffic Unit is responsible for traffic safety in the City of Ceres. The overall goal of the Unit is to reduce injury and fatal collisions in the City.

RESPONSIBILITES:

- All major injury/fatal traffic collisions.
- Available for any and all traffic complaints throughout the city.
- Deployment of radar speed trailers throughout the city.
- DUI checkpoints and DUI Saturation patrols.
- Partner in the Stanislaus County CITE Team, which is deployed once a month to a chosen city in Stanislaus County and provides traffic safety for that city.
- Partner and managed the "Avoid the 12" DUI Enforcement Campaign from 2013-2015. The Avoid the 12 DUI Officers work throughout the county to apprehend drivers who are driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Promotes driver and pedestrian safety by talking to the public and the local schools.
- Provides traffic control for the Street Faire, Christmas Tree Lane, Halloween Festival, and other special events.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015:

- Avoid the 12 Regional Coordinator.
- Continued with the creation and implementation of the Positive Action Street Safety P.A.S.S. program.
- Active participants and supporters of the Safe Routes to Schools program.
- Partner with City of Ceres Engineers to improve road way effectiveness during roadway construction and school zone safety projects.
- Host and participate in the high school "Every 15 Minutes" Program.
- Active participant in community events such as Coffee with a Cop, Cops and Dogs, and National Night Out.
- Department representatives during fallen officer funeral details statewide.
- Known model agency for the use of electric motorcycles in policing.
- General traffic enforcement duties to include investigating fatal and major injury traffic collisions.

Patrol

The Patrol Division is the largest Division within the Ceres Police Department and is the backbone of the Organization. The Division's primary function is to serve the community through innovative crime reduction strategies.

In its effort to reduce crime, the Division blends technology and community engagement to enhance the quality of life for those that live, work and visit the city.

When fully staffed, the Patrol Division consists of two Lieutenants, six Sergeants and 24 Officers split between two patrol squads. During 2015, Officers assigned to patrol responded to 32,058 total calls for service with 20,255 being dispatched calls for service and 11,803 calls that were Officer initiated.

The men and women assigned to the Patrol Division are committed to the Organization's core values of Pride, Integrity and Excellence and will continue to provide prompt and exceptional service to residents and businesses within the City.

Community Involvement and Special Events

Black Tie Charity Ball

Concerts in the Park

♥ Ceres

Celebrity Waiter Night

Cops and Dogs

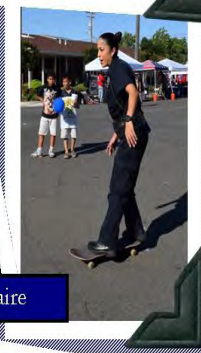
National Night Out

Coffee with a Cop

Beards for Kids/Shop with a Cop

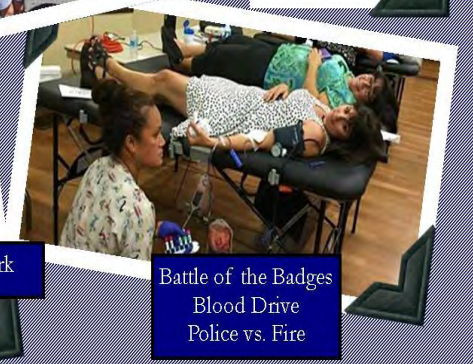
Soccer Coach Captain Collins

Ceres Street Faire



School Visit

Sam Ryno Park


Battle of the Badges Blood Drive Police vs. Fire

K-9 Units

Ceres Police K-9 Units:
K-9 Tyson & Officer Amador
K-9 Duke & Officer Guttierez
K-9 Dex & Officer Henson

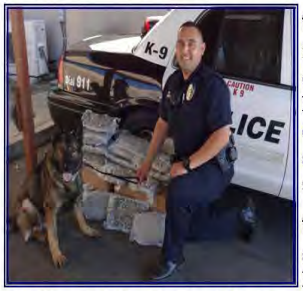
At the beginning of 2015, the Ceres Police K-9 Unit entered its 22nd year of operation. While we see this as a milestone for our Department, the use of K-9s in police work actually dates back to the 14th century when they were used to guard dock installations. The first K-9 Unit in America was established in New York City in 1907.

The Ceres Police Department's K-9 Unit plays a vital role in assisting the agency and others in the accomplishment of mission objectives. The superior sense of smell, hearing and potential aggressiveness of a trained law enforcement K-9 makes them a valuable supplement to law enforcement manpower.

Currently there are three K-9 teams within the patrol division, providing around the clock service to the community. We hope to acquire a 4th K-9 sometime in 2016.

On average, the K-9 units each receive over 240 hours of initial training *prior* to working patrol. Daily and weekly training is imperative, as the dogs and their handlers must annually pass the strict POST certification standards.

In addition, all of our K-9 teams work hard to complete the required monthly update training to maintain their certifications each year. During training, the teams are exposed to new situations and scenarios they might encounter while on patrol. This training mimics the real life applications of suspect tracking, building searches, area searches, obedience, suspect apprehensions and anything else a patrol K-9 team might encounter. The scenarios are constantly changing so that both dog and handler do not become complacent. This training will continue for the working life of the dog.



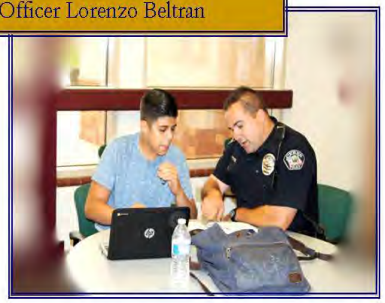
The K-9's are specifically trained in the tracking and trailing of fleeing felons, lost children and missing persons. They have the ability to locate discarded articles and can detect the odor of narcotics. K-9s are particularly efficient in searching large fields or buildings for hiding suspects and can enter small areas that officers would not be able to access. They are also useful in high-risk situations, such as foot chases where the K-9's speed and tracking ability is invaluable.

The commitment the officers feel to this program is quite strong, as this assignment is one of the longest and most demanding in the department. Not only are the dog and handler together constantly at work, the dogs also live with the family of the handler. At home these dogs act like ordinary family pets. However, once his handler puts him in the car for the trip to work, the dog's demeanor changes as they realize that they are now on duty. The dogs also have an innate sense of when they will be required to assist their partner and they look forward to coming to work each day.

The K-9 teams also attend numerous community functions each year. These include school visits, demonstrations at local civic groups, the Citizen and Youth Academies, and public education programs.

School Resource Officers

Ceres Police Department SROs:
Officer Steve Carvalho
Officer Pat Dayton
Officer Lorenzo Beltran



Ceres Police Department School Resource Officer *MISSION STATEMENT*

In cooperation and collaboration with the Ceres Unified School District (CUSD), it is the primary mission of the **School Resource Officer** to keep and promote a safe and secure learning and working environment.

Protecting the lives of the students, employees and all those that visit a CUSD campus or site is of the utmost importance. The School Resource Officer is to be an additional source of help and support that students and staff members may access in times of need.

The School Resource Officer will work to help generate a positive understanding of law enforcement and promote good citizenship through interactions with students, parents and staff. The School Resource Officer will be polite, respectful and firm when necessary; but above all, a positive role model for the students. *Penned by former SRO Randy Moore*

CNET

Ceres Neighborhood Enhancement Team is supervised by Sergeant Joe Wren, who pitched the concept to the Chief of Police and City Manager earlier this year with the intent of "Cleaning up Ceres."

It is a holistic community policing concept that looks at issues concerning a particular neighborhood. This is not a new approach in policing and its foundation is based heavily on the "broken windows theory," where even the smallest of problems should be dealt with quickly in order to prevent more serious offenses from occurring.

Sgt. Wren acts as a project manager, developing plans to address issues, identifying resources and establishing a realistic time-frame for the problem to be resolved. With this concept, it was decided to move the oversight of Code Enforcement from the Fire Department to the Police Department. Assigning Code Enforcement to CNET would assist in many of the issues arising in neighborhoods, specifically blight, which contributes to the fear of crime.

Nicholas and Jesus helping Sgt. Wren clean up their neighborhood.

Another part of CNET is the AVA (Abandoned Vehicle Abatement) Team, which plays a significant role in cleaning up abandoned/blighted vehicles from the community.

Although this expanded concept only started in August of this year and is still in its evaluation phase, CNET has already dealt with everything from drug houses to illegal homeless encampments. In its short time, CNET has produced many tangible results, cleaning up neighborhoods and enhancing community pride among those living and working in Ceres.

One of the primary goals of CNET is to work in conjunction with all Departments in the City, bringing a unified voice that criminal behavior will not be tolerated in our community.

911 Dispatch

Our 911 Dispatch Center is usually exciting and this past year was no exception.

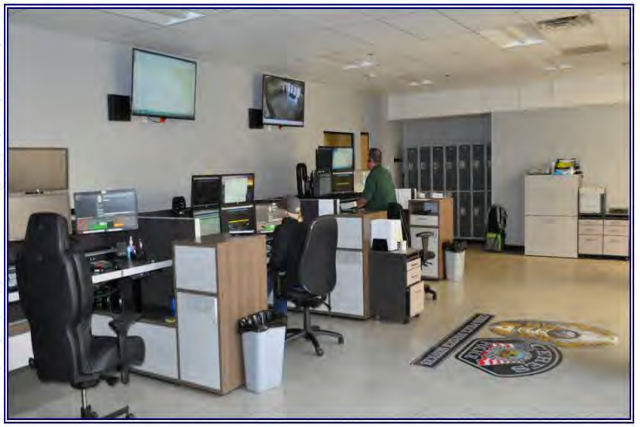
The current Police building we occupy was built in 1988, with Dispatch being placed on the ground floor, in the middle of the building. When we moved in, we brought our older, antiquated system and furniture with us.

In 2000, Dispatch was remodeled for the first time, which necessitated our dispatchers being in Turlock for about nine months. When we came back, we had the same location, but a whole new room with new furniture and a new radio system.

This year, after 15 years, we are again in remodeling mode! This latest remodel included a new 9-1-1 system, which is a more robust and modern system, which was paid for by the State of California.

Additionally, as part of the residual funding provided by the State (which can only be spent on certain things for dispatch), we have purchased a 60-inch screen for mapping, four 24/7 dispatch chairs, wireless headsets, and brand new furniture. A room upstairs, that opens to a balcony above the atrium, was remodeled, and we have a new home.

The department is also in the process of changing out our CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) system. We have been using HTE for 15 years, and will be changing to RIMS in the first part of 2016. While HTE served us well, there are certain limitations with the system, and the hardware/server was in Turlock. We will now, again, be autonomous with our system here. Plus, RIMS is proving to be a very user-friendly system.



Of course, you cannot do anything without your most important resource – personnel. We have been very fortunate to have brought two wonderful dispatchers on board, Derrick Faria and Oyre Echols. They work with our other full-time dispatchers, Shawnna Yotsuya, Kari Carvalho, Mark Anderson, Devin Ladd, Tammie Johnson, Justin Vosbein, and the supervisor, Cheryl Carpenter. This is the first time (in a very long time) that we are fully staffed with our allotted eight dispatchers.

How busy is 911 Dispatch? In 2015, our dispatchers handled:

- 44,747 CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) events,
- 24,294 calls received (20,453 Officer self-initiated calls)
- 25,494 911 calls
- 54,782 Administrative incoming calls
- 26,367 Administrative outgoing calls

Records

The three Records Clerks for the Ceres Police Department are the initial point of contact whenever anyone enters the lobby of the Police Department and are responsible for many different tasks, including speaking to people regarding vehicle releases, calls for service, report copy requests, and other topics.

They witnessed people in tears, people angry, and people who wanted to give back to the community by donating gifts and money to the Beards for Kids program during December.

The primary duties for the records clerks are: court liaison, warrants, subpoenas, report copies, scanning reports, data entry, and various statistical reporting for in-house use, surrounding agencies, the State of California and Federal agencies.

These duties are in addition to the customer service duties of the front counter and phone calls made to the unit. Callers typically are seeking information about reports that have been made, such as how to obtain a report or see if a report is ready for release. They also call about parking and moving citations. The records clerks deal with people who are disputing their parking citation, and are the liaison for the outside agency that processes the parking citations.

Supervised by Cheryl Carpenter, are our clerks Lilia Franco, Patty Jackson, and Theresa Tejeda.

During 2015, the unit processed the following:

- 1,129 Warrants
- 1,330 Subpoenas
- 6,338 Scanned and entered reports
- 2,853 Scanned and entered citations

Additionally, they received $71,114 in revenue for:

- 642 Report copies
- 361 Released vehicles
- 102 Repossession fees
- 125 Cite sign-offs
- 47 Fingerprints
- 65 Other Police activities

Excellence
High personal and professional standards and work ethic; dependable; committed to seeing the job through.

VIPS

VIPS Mission Statement

The **Volunteers in Police Services** are committed to providing competent support to our citizens and local police officers.

Our mission is to build partnerships with the community improving the citizens' quality of life.

We currently have 13 VIPS who work tirelessly in their support of this Department.

What do the VIPS do?

Handicapped Parking Enforcement

Support the Records Department

Support for special City functions

Neighborhood Watch

Ride-a-longs

Shopping Center Patrol

Patrol Division Support

Support the Evidence CSO

Communications Center Support

Act as the eyes and ears of the Ceres Police Department

Technology & Social Media

The Ceres Police Department has always recognized the importance of staying on the cutting edge of the latest technology.

Our current Police Building was designed in the late 1980's with the most up-to-date technology available at that time.

This passion remains unchanged 20 years later as the Ceres Police Department strives to be the best.

ZERO MOTORCYCLES

In 2013, Ceres Police obtained a grant through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District to acquire three fully electric "Zero" Police Motorcycles.

The bikes provide the same daily services that gasoline powered bikes offer at a fraction of the cost; and, being fully electric, the bikes are emissions free.

Ceres Police is proud to be a trendsetter in the Central Valley's "Go Green" initiative with our Zero Police motorcycles.

LICENSE PLATE READER

In 2015, Ceres Police purchased our very first License Plate Reader (LPR). The LPR purchased is a mobile vehicle mount unit and is mounted to a Ceres Police patrol vehicle. Our goal is to purchase another Reader every year for the next few years.

We are linked through the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) data base and this data is available to us 24/7.

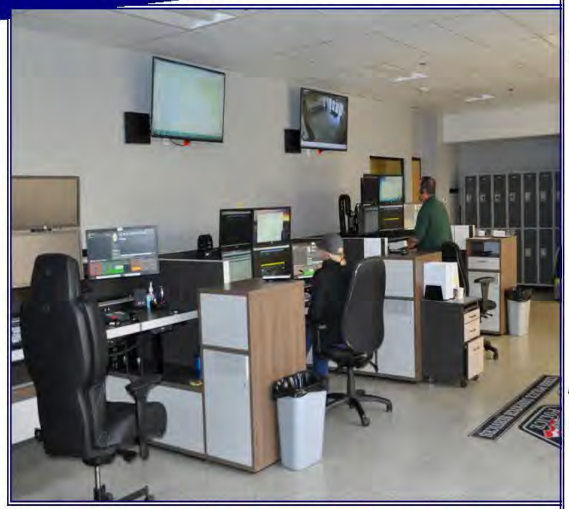
The license plate reader used by Ceres Police has the ability to read and capture data of about 3,600 license plates an hour. This technology assists our officers with crimes related to auto theft, child abduction and other high profile cases such as robberies and homicide where vehicles have been used.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

Ceres Police entered the era of body cameras in 2015. Through a series of grants we were able to purchase VIEVU LE3 body cameras for every patrol officer in the police organization.

The VIEVU body camera is an easy-to-use, rugged, waterproof camera that captures high-definition video and audio. The camera's battery life can last longer than an average patrol shift and each camera has the ability to store up to 12 hours of recorded video. The videos are downloaded to a secure evidence server, which case tracks the videos for future use. Additionally, if the camera is lost or stolen VIEVU's VidLock security software will prevent unauthorized access to video evidence.

Ceres Police Officers have taken a liking to this technology and are using the cameras during patrols.



NEW DISPATCH CENTER

2015 completed the building of an all new state-of-the-art Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center was relocated from the main level of the police operations building to the upper level.

This location allowed more room for the center with upgraded amenities including a private kitchen, bathroom, and in-house coffee bar.

In addition, the location of the center now provides an extra layer of safety and security for our valued dispatchers.

The dispatchers now work at up-to-date dispatch consoles, which are ergonomically correct to reduce fatigue and injuries.

They also now have the ability to stand, if they choose, while working and to adjust their consoles for their personal comfort, as each console a built-in fan and heater.

From the convenience of a smart phone, laptop or desktop computer, the Ceres Police Department, along with millions of Americans, has been using **Social Media** to engage others in our community.

Our goal as a Department is to build trust and strengthen relationships. Social Media is one way we can do this. It also provides a forum for citizens to give us feedback and constructive criticism.

Using Social Media allows us to immediately provide photos, video, news releases, alerts, and educational information to the community. Our Department also uses these tools to engage in community outreach, prevent and solve crimes, and answer questions. We have been able to reach thousands since we began using Social Media.

Currently, the Department has FaceBook, Twitter and Nixel accounts. This allows us to communicate with the community on many different levels. But more importantly, it allows us to get our message out immediately.

Where newspapers have to wait for the next publication, and television news stations have to get a reporter to the scene, social media allows news to come straight from the source in real time. This allows users to control the conversation by being the first to distribute information and by having the ability to immediately respond to inaccurate or negative information.

Where traditional forms of communication tend to be one-way, Social Media facilitates conversations and interactions among users. Users are also able to decide what content they want and how they want to receive it.

By reaching out in new ways, the Ceres Police Department is connecting with citizens that have, in the past, been difficult to reach. Many are citizens who may need to hear these messages the most. With worldwide users, social media channels provide the Ceres Police Department a platform to reach out to larger audiences than ever.

Follow us on:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CeresPoliceDepartment
Twitter: @CeresPD
Nixel: Ceres Police Department

Explorers & Chaplains

Ceres Police Explorer Post 451 is a co-educational program that has been overseen by an affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America, Learning for Life, since 1998.

The goal of the Police Explorer Program is to teach young adults, ages 14-20, the values needed to succeed in a law enforcement career and in life.

In the program, Cadets learn:

- Self-Discipline
- Self-Confidence
- Self-Respect
- Teamwork
- The desire to help others

In 2015, the Ceres Police Department had approximately 14 Explorer Cadets that were overseen by Police Advisors Sergeant Sullivan, Officer Ortiz, Officer Ruiz, Officer Vera and Officer Gallegos.

During their time as Explorers, the Cadets are introduced to what it is to be a Police Officer, how to take reports, how to make traffic stops, how to complete paperwork and other hands-on training.

They also volunteer their time for many organizations including the Ceres Street Faire, Gallo events and the Smoke on the River event. Many of these events have donated money to the Explorer Post, funding which provides them with new equipment and pays their yearly fees.

The Explorers also volunteer to assist in other events, such as Gang Awareness events at Central Valley High School, Christmas Tree Lane, gift wrapping for Beards for Kids, and DUI Checkpoints.

Our Explorer Program continues to grow and has had several past Explorers become Police Officers for this organization and surrounding agencies.

Chaplains Mission Statement

Believing that God is the answer to humanity's dilemma, the Ceres Police Chaplains bear witness to the love and power of God to Law Enforcement Officers, their families, other members of the Police Department, and all the people they serve.

This pastoral care is offered to all people, regardless of race, gender, creed, or religion.

The Ceres Police Chaplain is led by his or her own faith and actions, by God's reconciling love, to be available and ready to serve those in need.

The Ceres Police Chaplain's ministry provides a source of strength to the law enforcement officers and their families, other department members, the community, and the incarcerated.

Ceres Police Department currently has three Chaplains who care for the spiritual, emotional and psychological needs of all Department personnel.

We Are Called Upon To:...

Counsel Peace Officers, other members of the Department, and their families
Visit sick and injured Officers and Department personnel in home and the hospital
Make death notifications
Provide assistance to victims
Equip officers in areas such as stress management, ethics, family life, and pre-retirement
Serve as part of the Crisis Response Team
Assist at suicide incidents
Serves as a liaison with other clergy in the community
Provide for the spiritual needs of prisoners
Furnish answers to religious questions

Promotions

Lieutenant Chris Perry
Date of Promotion:
March 15, 2015

Captain Richard Collins
Date of Promotion:
March 9, 2015

Chief Brent Smith
Date of Promotion:
February 9, 2015

Sergeant Darren Venn
Date of Promotion:
July 15, 2015

Sergeant Jason Coley
Date of Promotion:
May 25, 2015

Lieutenant James Yandell
Date of Promotion:
July 19, 2015

Sergeant Keith Griebel
Date of Promotion:
July 19, 2015

New Hires

Officer George Woodward
Date of Hire:
May 21, 2015

Officer Justin Canatsy
Date of Hire:
April 27, 2015

Officer Daniel Graziose
Date of Hire:
February 15, 2015

Officer Matthew Berlier
Date of Hire:
February 15, 2015

Officer Kevin Sakasegawa
Date of Hire:
August 15, 2015

Officer Miguel Villalobos
Date of Hire:
July 19, 2015

Officer Jesus Salinas
Date of Hire:
June 2, 2015

AVA Officer
Michael Ghimenti
Date of Hire:
October 12, 2015

Chief's Administrative Sec.
Marcy Pederson
Date of Hire:
March 16, 2015

Dispatcher Cyre Echols
Date of Hire:
March 13, 2015

Dispatcher Derrick Faria
Date of Hire:
January 20, 2015

2015 Honorees

Life-Saving Award
Officer Pat Dayton

Officer of the Year
Officer Hector Pulido

Professional Staff of the Year
Dispatcher Justin Vosbein

Volunteer of the Year
VIPS David McCann

Explorer of the Year
Michael Ghimenti

Retirees

Sergeant Rob Robbins
Date of Hire:
January 12, 1988
Date of Retirement:
November 22, 2014

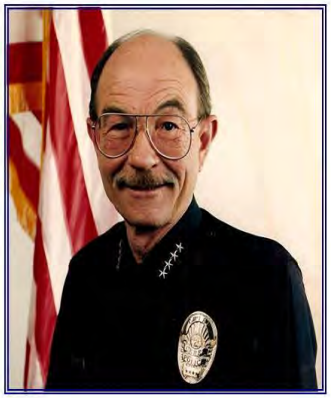
Detective Tonya Smith
Date of Hire:
July 12, 1999
Date of Retirement:
December 17, 2015

Sergeant Dennis Perry
Date of Hire:
February 16, 1999
Date of Retirement:
February 25, 2015

It was with great sadness that the Ceres Police Department said good-bye to former Chief G. W. "Pete" Peterson this past year.

Pete was our Chief from 1983 to 1999.

In June, 500 people joined us at a Memorial Service to pay honor to a man who exemplified strength, integrity and compassion.



He will never be forgotten by those who were privileged to be touched by his life.

On November 13, 2015 the Ceres Police Building was officially renamed the G. W. "Pete" Peterson Building in his honor.

Date of Birth: November 28, 1937

End of Watch: May 21, 2015

Ceres Police Department
2727 Third Street
Ceres, CA 95307
Phone: 209-538-5726
FAX: 209-538-5707

We are a caring organization that serves our community
and employs progressive, creative members
who are encouraged to grow personally and professionally

Follow us on:

http://local.nixle.com/ceres-police-department/

https://www.facebook.com/CeresPoliceDepartment

@Ceres PD