

# CITY OF HYATTSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2019

### Annual Report



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*City of Hyattsville 2019 Annual Report*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

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On behalf of the women and men of the City of Hyattsville Police Department, I welcome and thank you for your interest in our agency. Our Department is internationally accredited and has a long and proud history dating back to 1886. Today it is recognized as a leader in municipal policing. Our employees are committed to our core values of service, integrity, and respect. With the support of City elected officials and other departments, we provide a safe, small-town atmosphere in a rapidly growing urban environment.

The Police Department currently has 44 police officers and 14 civilian employees and serves a diverse community of approximately 18,000 residents. Our officers recognize the importance of community partnerships and employ both proactive problem-solving strategies and data-driven enforcement tactics. We are also a full-service police department and offer a wide variety of employment opportunities including patrols, investigations, community services, school resource officers, property custodian and crime scene/evidence technician, records division, traffic enforcement, K-9, emergency response team (ERT), technical services, training, and communications.

Additionally, as of July 1, 2017, the Hyattsville City Police Department provides radio dispatch services for the neighboring Mount Rainier City Police Department.

The City of Hyattsville is a great place to live, work and visit. I invite you to learn more about us and the opportunities we can offer as a City and a police department. If I may be of any assistance, or if you want to learn more about us, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Amal Awad**  
**Chief of Police**

**Mayor**

Candace Hollingsworth

**Council President**

Kevin Ward

**Council Vice President**

Carrianna Suiter

**Council Members**

Bart Lawrence

Robert Croslin

Shani Warner

Tom Wright

Erica Spell

Joseph Solomon

**City Administrator**

Tracy Nicholson-Douglas

## MISSION, VALUES, AND VISION

We are committed to protecting life and property, improving the quality of life for all people, and protecting City interests. We will accomplish this by:

- Working with our community, City Departments and other government agencies;
- Developing and implementing proactive strategies;
- Growing to keep pace with our community; and,
- Maintaining a workplace that promotes equal employment opportunities respects employees as individuals and fosters teamwork.

## OUR CORE VALUES

We are committed to professionalism through:

- **Service** – Providing quality service and protection to all people in an efficient and competent manner, tempered with courtesy, compassion, and understanding;
- **Integrity** – Upholding the public trust through honest, consistent, forthright transparent interaction with all people, fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation; and,
- **Respect** – Treating all persons with dignity and respect by promoting equality and fairness in upholding the constitutional rights of all people.

## OUR VISION

We will seek to function as a team with City Departments, other government agencies, and our community to provide innovative, effective and efficient service to improve the quality of life for all people.

2019 CRIME STATISTICS

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	2018	2019	% CHANGE
HOMICIDE	0	4	400.00%
RAPE	3	3	0.00%
COMMERCIAL ROBBERY	1	4	300.00%
GUN	0	2	200.00%
KNIFE	0	0	0.00%
OTHER WEAPON	0	1	100.00%
STRONG ARM	1	1	0.00%
CITIZEN ROBBERY	48	48	0.00%
GUN	16	19	18.75%
KNIFE	7	10	42.86%
OTHER WEAPON	2	0	-200.00%
STRONG ARM	23	19	-17.39%
CARJACKING	1	2	100.00%
ASSAULT	85	116	36.47%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>28.26%</b>

<b>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
B & E RESIDENTIAL	35	42	20.00%
B & E COMMERCIAL	14	12	-14.29%
STOLEN VEHICLE	60	61	1.67%
THEFT	818	996	21.76%
ARSON	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>19.85%</b>

<b>CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATION	45	49	8.89%
WEAPON LAW VIOLATION	16	9	-43.75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-4.92%</b>

<b>STATISTICAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
CALLS FOR SERVICE	23929	26679	11.49%
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	6365	3910	-38.57%
ADULT ARRESTS	796	688	-13.57%
JUVENILE ARRESTS	54	93	72.22%

Crimes against persons, which include offenses such as homicide, increased from 138 in 2018 to 177 in 2019 (28.26%)

Crimes against property, which include offenses such as burglary, increased from 927 in 2018 to 1111 in 2019 (19.85%).

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards is a component of the Office of the Chief of Police. The three primary functions of Professional Standards are: The investigation of complaints involving police employees; recruitment and selection of prospective employees; policy management and best practices: and managing the agency’s accreditation program.

Internal Affairs and Disciplinary Actions 2019

Complaint Type	Administratively Closed	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Sustained	Unfounded	Open/ Suspended
Excessive Force	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unnecessary Force	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Collision	0	0	0	7	0	0
Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy Violation	0	0	0	1	1	1
Courtesy	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Unfounded- When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve Department personnel.

Exonerated- When the investigation discloses that the allege act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful, and/or proper.

Not Sustained- When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.

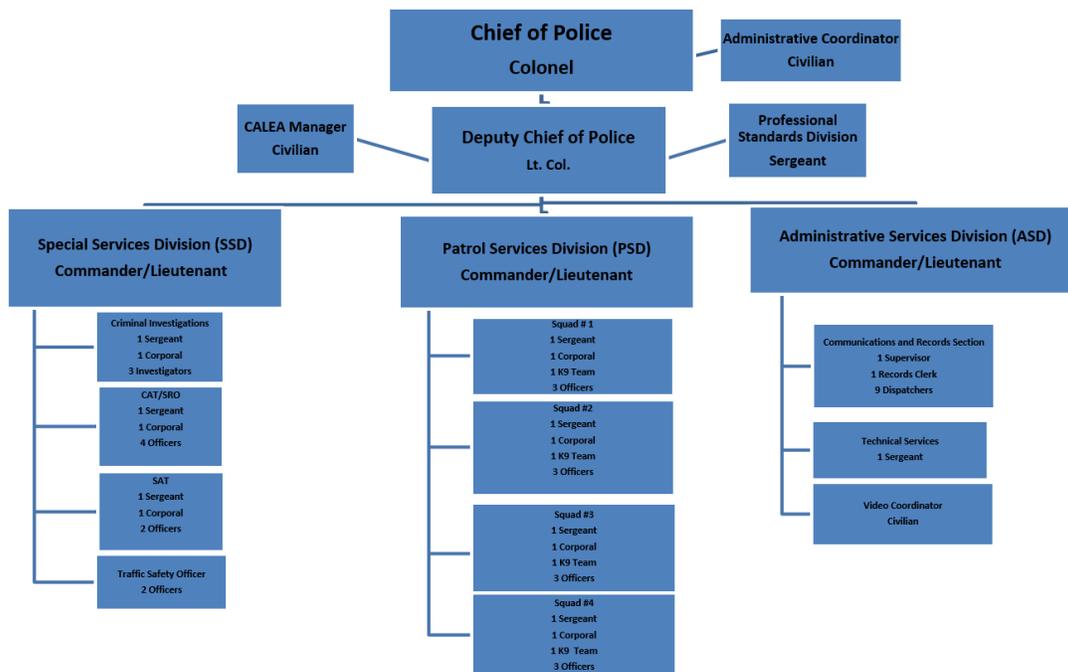
Sustained- When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

Open/ Suspended- The case has not been resolved.

**ACCREDITATION**

The Hyattsville City Police Department (HCPD) has been continuously accredited since 1999 through the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA). HCPD received its ninth award of Meritorious Accreditation in November of 2017 and successfully completed its first web-based assessment in January 2018.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**



**DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE**

**Captain Scott Dunklee, Deputy Chief of Police**

The Deputy Chief of the Police Department serves as the operational commander of the Police Department. As the second in command of the police department, the Deputy Chief oversees the field operations of the agency. The department’s three Division Commanders report directly to the Deputy Chief.

## **Police Advisory Committee**

The mission of the Police and Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee is “to promote civic participation and provide advisement and relevant feedback to the Mayor, City Council, and City Administration on issues related to community policing and public safety, including but not limited to policies and procedures, throughout the City.” The members request their selection from their ward representative and, once selected will serve for a period of two years. A Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary are selected by membership by vote of committee members. Two Council members serve as sponsors. These sponsors participate in committee discussions but are not voting members. Annually, members submit subject areas to the Chairman for the committee's focus during the coming year. The top three areas are selected. These focus areas are discussed and recommendations, if any, are formally submitted to the City Council for their consideration.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

### **Lieutenant Samuel Alexander, Special Service Commander**

The Special Services Section is comprised of the specialized units of the Police Department and is supplemented by key civilian staff. One of the units is the Community Action Team (CAT), which consists of (3) three members (1- Sergeant, 1- Corporal and 1-PFC/ Private). The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) also falls under the Special Services Section. The Criminal Investigation Section is made up of (5) five members (1- Sergeant, 2- Corporals and 2- PFC's/Private). The Evidence Technician/Property Custodian is a Key civilian staff member that is in charge of property and evidence collection.

### **Emergency Response Team**

The Emergency Response Team consists of a total of 10 members (8 operators and two tactical medics). The ERT units are responsible for all HCPD initiated High Risk Search and Seizure Warrants conducted in the City of Hyattsville and surrounding jurisdictions that have a Memorandum of Understanding with the City. The Emergency Response Team is a part-time unit and as such, the is made up of officers assigned to our Patrol Division, Criminal investigations Section and Community Action Team.

### **Criminal Investigations Section**

The Criminal Investigations Section of the Hyattsville City Police Department consists of 4 full- time detectives, one full-time Evidence Technician and the unit supervisor. Hyattsville City Police Department detectives are available 24 hours/7 days a week in order to efficiently respond to crimes that occur and conduct thorough follow up investigations. Detectives partner with other investigative units of the Prince George's County Police, federal, state and local agencies while conducting investigations. The Criminal Investigations Section is also responsible for developing and sharing intelligence related to criminal activity with the Hyattsville City Police Department, as well as other agencies in the region. The Criminal Investigations Section assists with applicant background investigations and administrative investigations at the direction of the Chief of Police. Hyattsville City Police Department detectives receive annual training in investigative procedures, current crime trends along with other courses essential to the job of an investigator.

### **Crime Scene Unit**

The Hyattsville City Police Department's Crime Scene Unit consists of one full-time civilian one crime scene investigator and one sworn officer that performs these duties in addition to their regular patrol assignment. These investigators are trained to respond to crime scenes, collect and process evidence. These crime scene investigators also responds out to calls that occur outside of "normal" hours to provide forensic processing. In addition to responding and processing crime scenes, crime scene investigators also serve as property custodians.

Crime scene investigators are utilized in the investigation of serious crimes within the City of Hyattsville, such as commercial burglaries, residential breaking and entering, assaults, and non-fatal shootings. Crime scene investigator are responsible for photographing and documenting the scene and recovering physical evidence from the scene, as well as processes evidence for latent fingerprints and DNA.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

The entirety of the Hyattsville Police Department believes in its core that we are part of the community we serve. Your police department shares in both the community problems and community accomplishments. The job of community outreach in the mission of each member of the department from the top down. Our outreach efforts are coordinated through the Community Action Team.

#### **Community Action Team (CAT)**

The City of Hyattsville Police Department's Community Action Team (CAT) is the unit primarily responsible for community-oriented policing. The focus of the CAT is to utilize community policing practices to positively impact the quality of life for the residents, business owners, and visitors to the City of Hyattsville. Members assigned to the CAT are also certified school resource officers, who do daily visits to all schools within the City. Members of the CAT establish and maintain communication with residents, homeowner associations, neighborhood watch groups and businesses. The CAT is also required to set up community meetings with residential properties and businesses about crime prevention strategies.

#### **The Community Action Team coordinates many community outreach projects such as:**

**Shop with a Cop:** A partnership between the City of Hyattsville Police Department, Prince George's County Public Schools, Target Corporation, and the Mall at Prince George's. For our 15th Annual Shop with a Cop, we received over ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in donations from residents and business owners. The donated funds helped purchase \$100 Target gift cards, so children in our community could purchase holiday gifts for themselves and their family members. Over 100 children participated in this year's event. During this event, children were partnered with officers from the City of Hyattsville Police Department, Prince George's County Police Department, Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Maryland State Police-College Park, Prince George's County Sheriff Department, Seat Pleasant Police Department, Riverdale Park Police Department, University Park Police Department, Mount Rainier Police Department, Glenarden Police Department, Laurel Police Department, Forest Heights Police Department and the Glenn Dale Volunteer Fire Department during their shopping excursion at the Mall at Prince George's.

**National Drug Take Back Day:** In partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the City of Hyattsville Police Department held two events in 2018, giving the public an opportunity to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft by safely disposing expired, unused, and wanted prescription medications.

**National Night Out:** Is an annual community-building event that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer. National Night Out provides the opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

**Coffee with a Cop:** A monthly event that occurs at local shops in the City of Hyattsville. Residents are given the opportunity to speak to the Chief, Command Staff, or Police Officers over a cup of coffee while going over community concerns or complaints.

**Special Olympics Maryland:** Officers from the City of Hyattsville Police Department participate in Special Olympics Maryland events such as Cops on Roof Top, Torch Run, and Polar Bear Plunge.

**Drug Abuse Resistance Education D.A.R.E:** Certified instructors deliver D.A.R.E curriculum to 4th and 5th graders at Hyattsville Elementary and Edward Felegy Elementary School. Instructors teach different topics such as gang intervention, bullying awareness, and internet safety.

## **PATROL SERVICES DIVISION**

**A/Lieutenant Zach Nemser, Patrol Division Commander**

The Patrol Division consists of uniformed officers that respond to police calls for service and patrol the City of Hyattsville 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Department and consists of four patrol squads who work 12 hours shifts. Each Patrol Squad is made up of one Sergeant, one Corporal, and four officers. We currently have three K-9 teams that are assigned to patrol squads. The Patrol Division account for over 50% of the officers in the department.

The Patrol Division's function is to provide high-quality police service by protecting life and property, enforcing Maryland laws and City ordinances, and protecting the rights of all people. The officers assigned to the Patrol Division prides themselves on our short response to all calls for service in the City.

The Patrol Division uses the principals of Community Policing to form relationships with residents and business owners to create a safe and welcoming environment for all who live, work, play, and visit the City of Hyattsville. The Patrol Division is the most visible fuction of the department.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

**Lieutenant Frank DonBullian, Administrative Services Commander**

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for overseeing various functions that support the operational units in the agency. These functions include training, speed monitoring program, departmental accidents, workers compensation claims, communications and records sections, providing copies of in-car camera and body-worn camera footage for the States Attorney's Office, court liaison for

subpoenas and status of officers, police liaison for freedom of information requests, use of force review, technology support and implementation, CCTV program, budget preparation, and other administrative duties. The Administrative Services Commander is also responsible for fleet management, which includes ordering new vehicles, up-fitting of emergency equipment and decals, registration renewals, VEIP compliance, decommission and auctioning of older vehicles, scheduling of repairs, and the overall fleet management coordination.

#### **Communications & Records Section**

Our Communications & Records division consists of nine (9) dispatchers, a Records Clerk, and a Supervisor who also serves as a Records Clerk. Our dispatchers are responsible for answering both emergency and non-emergency phone calls, prioritizing same, and dispatching calls officers for action. They must keep cool heads and calm voices (both on the phone and the radio) when dealing with stressful calls for service. The dispatchers are also tasked with keeping a constant awareness of the location of all officers and ensuring their safety while on traffic stops, premise checks, etc. In 2018, they handled 23,546 calls for service. Our Records personnel are responsible for collecting and maintaining all police reports and answering citizen questions regarding the availability of them. There were 4,384 police reports written in 2018. They gather statistical information for weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly crime reports. Required monthly statistical information is provided to the State of Maryland as well as the FBI. Records personnel are also responsible for approval, issuance and clearances of Traffic Signal Violation notices (red light cameras) as well as testifying in court if a citation is being challenged.

#### **Training Section**

The training section of the Hyattsville City Police Department is responsible for delivering various training courses to the members of the department. Officers are trained annually on topics including de-escalation, communication, legal updates, identify theft, fraud, effectively identifying and interacting with individuals with mental health issues, identifying and investigating human trafficking crimes, 21st Century Policing, providing first aid, use of force, defensive tactics, and firearms training. The training section ensures that all sworn officers receive 18 hours of annual in-service training for recertification as mandated by COMAR and MPCTC. HCPD officers regularly far exceed their mandated training hours by participating in training that is provided by departmental trainers, on-line training systems and by attending training throughout the United States. The department's commitment to training demonstrates its commitment to the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing report as defined in pillar five: Officer Training and Education. Officers participate in scenario-based learning to reinforce what is learned in their training courses. A critical component of this realistic training is de-escalation in order to prevent or reduce the use of force whenever possible. Officers are trained in de-escalation and participate in scenarios to practice communication skills. Officers receive firearms training, which also includes scenario-based training consisting of the use of a simulator. The simulator places the officer in scenarios that require de-escalation, critical thinking, and communication to successfully navigate various incidents. The scenarios are aimed at further developing the officer's ability to make sound decisions on use of force during stressful incidents. Active threat response training is taught by our firearms unit with large scale response training being taught at local businesses and schools. These events include training on tactics, communications, management and providing initial medical services. These large-scale training events often include multiple jurisdictions, role players and evaluators with a

total of 50 or more participants. Active Threat courses have been presented to local federal employees and houses of worship within the community as well. The Hyattsville City Police Department received training on NARCAN/Naloxone to prevent opioid overdoses in our jurisdiction. Officers have attended: Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and attended a presentation at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Training new officers also fall under the supervision of the training unit and are completed by departmental Field Training Officers. New officers undergo a three-month field training period where they are partnered with experienced officers. Departmental trainers often attend trainer courses in order to bring new courses back to the agency to enhance the capabilities of officers and our ability to deliver quality police services.

In addition to required annual firearm and taser training, all officers received the following training in 2019:

- Autism Awareness
- Notification of Crime Victims
- Tactical Casualty Care
- Mitigating Stress
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Health and Wellness Pillar
- Presentation on local gangs
- Rape / Sex Offenses & Abuse of Children
- Counterfeit Currency
- Use of Force review and updates
- Legal updates
- O.C. Spray refresher

#### Technical Services Section

The Technical Services Section is a special unit within the police department that oversees all of the agency's information technology needs, and works closely with the city's outside IT vendor to keep the department moving forward "technologically." The Technical Services Section's many areas of responsibility are listed below:

- \* Mobile, Portable and Base Station 2-Way Radio Equipment
- \* Police Communications Center: Dispatch Consoles & Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) Equipment
- \* Internal/City Building Video Camera Monitoring Systems.
- \* Automated Vehicle Speed Enforcement Systems

- \* Electronic Records Management System (RMS)
- \* Citywide Video Surveillance Equipment (w/vendor Skyline Technology)
- \* Mobile Data Communications Terminals (In-Vehicle Computers)
- \* Automated Vehicle Location Equipment (AVL/GPS)
- \* Mobile Command Center Electronic Equipment

The Technical Services Section also maintains the police department's portion of the City Website, and at times creates database applications which reduce paperwork and streamline internal operations, such as the Electronic Time Sheet, Employee Identification Cards, Employee Applicant Processing, and Emergency Command Notification Systems.

#### **Mobile Video Program Coordinator**

The Hyattsville City Police Department's Mobile Video Program comprises forty-one in-car camera units and twenty-seven body-worn cameras. Each patrol officer and marked police vehicle are equipped with our standard Panasonic Arbitrator camera technology. By approved policy, HCPD officers are required to activate their in-car cameras each time they are involved in a priority response, vehicle pursuit, traffic stops, and prisoner transports. The HCPD policy requires officers to activate their body-worn camera each time they are dispatched to a call for service.

There have been two hundred and seventy-five requests for video for 2018. Requests for official mobile video footage come to us mostly from the Office of the State's Attorney to help with the prosecution of criminal cases. Agency investigators and investigators from other law enforcement agencies make requests for mobile video footage to help with investigations as well.

## **GRANTS**

#### **Traffic Safety Grant**

The City of Hyattsville Police Department has actively participated in the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) grant program since 2015. The purpose of this grant program is to fund activities aimed at reducing the number of motor vehicle-related crashes, deaths and injuries on Maryland roadways. Impaired driving, aggressive driving and pedestrian safety are enforcement activities that are subsidized by these grants.

#### **Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN)**

Starting in 2017 the police department was invited to participate in a grant program funded by the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Preventions (GOCCP). This State funded program was targeted against violent offenders in Hyattsville and surrounding communities. A coalition of local municipalities and Prince George's County met monthly to exchange information about crime trends and to develop strategies to apprehend these violent offenders. In January of 2019, GOCCP changed the focus of the grant, adding drug trafficking, firearms offenses, and human trafficking as well as the gang related violent crimes. The Hyattsville City Police Department and its coalition partners have been very successful in disrupting these types of serious crimes.

## AWARDS

Each year the police department holds an awards ceremony to recognize its employees that have performed exceptionally well during thy year. For 2019, the following police department employees received the prestigious awards.

### **Police Officer of the Year**

PFC. Mitchell Lowery

### **Community Police Officer of the Year**

PFC. Jessica Mathews

### **Civilian Employee of the Year**

Evidence Technician Alexandra Lehosky

### **Bronze Medal**

PFC Joseph Valko

### **Leadership Award**

Acting Sergeant Danielle Gray

### **Life Saving Awards**

June 1, 2019 – PFC Derek Chrismer

December 14, 2019 – (1) PFC Derek Chrismer, (2) Private Travon Campbell

### **Meritorious Service Awards**

Detective Sergeant Scott Ratty

PFC Kelly Hernandez

### **Unit Citations**

January 21, 2019 – (1) PFC Michael McQuade, (2) PFC Kelly Hernandez

March 19, 2019 – (1) Acting Lt. Zach Nemser, (2) Cpl. Tulio Quevedo & K-9 “Rudy” (3) PFC Derek Chrismer, (4) PFC Jessica Mathews

May 25, 2019 – (1) Acting Corporal Scott Hurley, (2) PFC Mayra Umanzor, (3) PFC Joseph Valko

September 12, 2019 – (1) PFC Mayra Umanzor, (2) PFC Darrell Benjamin, (3) PFC Brian Padgett

December 14, 2019 – (1) Acting Cpl. Matthew Cross, (2) PFC Brian Padgett, (3) PFC Derek Chrismer, (4) PVT. Travon Campbell, (5) PVT. Sean Furr

**Command Recognition**

March 12, 2019 – PFC Shaun Wesberry

April 8, 2019 – PFC Brian Padgett

May 5, 2019 – PFC Kelly Hernandez

October 19, 2019 – (1) Lt. Samuel Alexander, (2) Sgt. Patrick O’Hagan (3) Administrative Assistant Michelle Dunklee

September 25, 2019 – (1) Acting Lt. Zach Nemser, (2) Detective Sergeant Scott Ratty, (3) Cpl. Tulio Quevedo & K-9 “Rudy”, (4) Acting Cpl. Chris Evans, (5) Acting Cpl. Kirk Pile, (6) Detective Acting Cpl. Mark Filuta, (7) Detective Acting Cpl. Edwin Ramirez, (8) PFC Michael McQuade, (9) PFC Mayra Umanzor, (10) PFC Mitchell Lowery, (11) Detective PFC Katelyn Koslosky, (12) PFC Joseph Valko, (13) PFC Matthew Cross, (14) PFC Kelly Hernandez

November 13 and 15, 2019 – Detective Edwin Ramirez

December 2, 2019 – Evidence Technician Alexandra Lehosky

December 19, 2019 – (1) Detective Sergeant Scott Ratty, (2) Acting Cpl. Kirk Pile (3) PFC Mayra Umanzor, (4) PFC Darrell Benjamin, (5) PVT. Christopher Callejas,