

Hanford Police Department 2024 Annual Report



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<https://www.hanfordca.gov/Police>

Table of Contents

Chief's Message	3
Command Staff	4
Operations Division	5-7
Traffic	7-8
K-9 Unit	9-10
HART	11
SWAT	12
Support Division	13-16
Property & Evidence	17
SRO Program	18-19
Records	20
Communications	21



Message from Chief Huddleston

As I reflect on my first year as your Police Chief, it is my profound honor to present the Hanford Police Department's 2024 Annual Report. This year has been exceptional, marked by significant departmental achievements. We are blessed to serve such a remarkable community, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to each team member for their dedication and unwavering commitment to public safety. Serving in this role is a distinct privilege, and I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together during this transformative year.





Part I Crimes Statistics



Crime Type	2023	2024	% Change
Homicide	5	4	-20%
Rape	21	29	38.1%
Robbery	34	35	2.94%
Aggravated Assault	192	221	15.1%
Burglary	96	104	8.33%
Theft	355	468	31.8%
Arson	8	20	150%

- **Homicide** rates have decreased by 20%.
- **Rape** and **Aggravated Assault** increased by 38.1% and 15.1%.
- **Robbery** and **Burglary** rates saw marginal increases.
- **Theft** and **Arson** increased by 31.8% and 150%.

These statistics guide our strategic planning and resource allocation for the coming year, as we aim to address areas of rising crime and reinforce the effectiveness of our ongoing initiatives.

Operations Division



The Hanford Police Operations Division is the principal and most visible unit of our department, providing continuous, around-the-clock coverage across all 17.4 square miles of the city. As the core of our policing services, the division ensures safety and responsiveness, handling an average of 130 calls for service daily in 2024, totaling 46,975 for the year.

Officer deployment is strategically based on an analysis of crime rates, call patterns, and times, as well as community-specific quality-of-life issues. A key focus of the division is fostering community collaboration to develop sustainable solutions to ongoing neighborhood conflicts.

Patrol Operations Overview



Composition and Leadership: In 2024, Patrol Operations was staffed by 37 dedicated police officers, including four K-9 units, four Sergeants, and four Corporals. The Sergeants and Corporals served as Watch Commanders across various shifts, ensuring effective supervision both in the field and at the station. This leadership structure was crucial in maintaining operational efficiency and rapid response capabilities.

Operational Highlights: Throughout the year, Patrol Operations played a pivotal role in law enforcement activities within the city. Officers conducted proactive enforcement efforts, focusing on:

Traffic violations: 7,395 traffic stops, issuing 1,748 traffic citations.

Drug-related offenses, weapons violations, and other crimes: Resulting in 1,943 misdemeanor arrests and 701 felony arrests.

Officers were also engaged in follow-up investigations, actively searching for and apprehending wanted individuals, and fulfilling numerous other critical duties to ensure community safety.

Performance Metrics:

- Total calls for service: 46,975
- Average daily calls for service: 130
- Proactive enforcement actions: 7,395 traffic stops, 1,943 misdemeanor arrests, 701 felony arrests, 1,748 traffic citations
- Response times: 19.5 minutes for priority 2 and 3 calls, a 1.5-minute increase from 2023; 8 minutes for priority 1 calls, unchanged from the previous year
- Coverage area: 17.4 square miles

Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit is led by a supervisor and includes two dedicated motor officers. This team plays a crucial role in our ongoing efforts to ensure road safety and compliance within the city.

Mission:

Our mission is to significantly reduce the number of traffic-related incidents, including fatalities, injuries, and property damage. We focus on creating safer roadways for all city residents and visitors.



Traffic Unit

Key Activities:

- 1. **Public Education:** We engage with the community to increase awareness about traffic laws and safe driving practices.
- 2. **Vehicle Checkpoints:** These are strategically deployed to intercept and mitigate potential traffic violations before they result in accidents.
- 3. **Directed Enforcement:** Targeted enforcement actions are conducted based on insights derived from our data analysis.

Metric	2023	2024	% Change
Calls	1033	645	-37.6%
Collisions	232	326	40.5%
Fatal	6	4	-33.3%
Injury	64	72	12.5%
Property Damage	150	131	-12.7%
Citations	814	963	18.3%

K-9 UNIT

In 2024, the K-9 Unit was allocated four teams, with three teams activated to enhance our operational capabilities throughout the year. Each team played an integral part in our law enforcement and community engagement efforts.

Training and Preparedness: The activated K-9 teams completed a rigorous training regimen totaling 245 hours, ensuring that both handlers and their canine partners were well-prepared for their duties.



K-9 UNIT

Operational Performance and Community Engagement: The K-9 teams demonstrated their crucial role in tactical responses and community relations through various metrics, as detailed in the table below:

K-9 Unit Operational Metrics

Teams Allocated	4
Active Teams	3
Training Hours	245
Searches Conducted	58
Narcotics located	68.5 grams
Total Deployments	110
Suspects Apprehended	11
Community Demonstrations	9

Despite having only three of the four allocated teams activated, the K-9 Unit's impact on operational success and community safety has been significant. The dedication of our handlers and their canine partners to their training, operational tasks, and community involvement underscores the unit's invaluable role in our law enforcement strategy.

Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART)

Parks Resource Officer (PRO)

Established in 2019, the Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) is an integral part of the Hanford Police Department, tasked with addressing homelessness in the community through compassionate and balanced approaches. The team includes a Parks Resource Officer who specializes in issues related to homelessness and activities in city parks.

Strategic Approach: HART stays informed about the latest trends in homeless support and considers the perspectives of all community stakeholders to adapt and refine its strategies effectively.

Impact: Since its inception, HART has significantly improved the living conditions of the homeless and enhanced community safety and cleanliness, demonstrating the Hanford Police Department's commitment to community-oriented policing.

Calls	1,398
Reports	118
Arrests	122
Reunifications	70
Clean-ups	50
Contacts	1093
Homeless Population	417

HART exemplifies the department's dedication to solving complex social issues with empathy and cooperation, ensuring a balanced and respectful approach towards community and homeless population needs.



The SWAT team, officially known as the Central Valley Regional SWAT, consists of 20 dedicated members from various departments to enhance regional response capabilities.

Hanford PD: 14 members, Lemoore PD: 3 members, Corcoran PD: 2 members

In 2024, the SWAT team dedicated 132 total training hours, surpassing the minimum standard of 100 hours required to maintain operational readiness. Training topics covered a broad range of tactical scenarios including entry tactics, high-risk warrant service, and open area movements.

Operational Deployment: The team responded to 16 critical incidents across the region, including:

- Hanford: 8 callouts
- Corcoran: 2 callouts
- Lemoore: 2 callouts
- Other Cities: 4 callouts (Cutler, Fresno, Merced, Exeter)



Support Division Overview



General Detectives Unit

Street Crimes Detectives



Support Division Overview

The Detective Bureau serves as the Hanford Police Department's principal investigative section. It plays a critical role in the thorough investigation of criminal cases, the identification and apprehension of offenders, and the preparation of cases for successful prosecution.

Leadership: The bureau is led by a Lieutenant and a Sergeant who oversee the unit's operations.

Criminal Investigators: The team includes four criminal investigators who handle a broad range of criminal investigations, ensuring thorough case analysis and follow-through.

Street Crimes Investigators: Four street crimes investigators specialize in addressing gangs and narcotics violations, targeting areas of significant concern within the community.

Evidence Technicians: Two evidence technicians support the unit by managing and processing physical evidence critical for the prosecution of criminal cases.

Responsibilities and Impact: The Detective Bureau is integral to the Hanford Police Department's mission of delivering proactive, professional, and courteous law enforcement services. By investigating serious crimes and working closely with prosecution services, the bureau directly contributes to the safety and security of the community. Their efforts are pivotal in maintaining public trust and ensuring that justice is served efficiently and effectively.

Support Division Overview

Detective Bureau: The Detective Bureau has effectively managed a variety of critical tasks throughout the year, demonstrating significant progress in key areas of criminal investigation.

Metric	2023	2024	Change
Homicides	5	4	-20%
Attempted Homicides	14	15	7.1%
ICAC Tips	103	110	6.8%
ICAC Inv	35	50	42.9%
Search Warrants	128	115	-10.2%
Reports	474	609	28.5%
Callouts	56	50	-10.7%

The Detective Bureau's dedication and expert handling of complex criminal cases highlight the specialized capabilities within the Support Division. Their strategic approach to crime fighting and community safety underscores the department's commitment to upholding the law and protecting the citizens of Hanford.

Support Division Overview

Street Crimes Unit: This year, the Street Crimes Unit has focused on impactful operations against illegal firearms and narcotics activities, achieving significant enforcement outcomes.

Metric	2023	2024	Change
Cases	95	76	-20%
Search / Arrest Warrants	65	50	-23.1
Arrests	65	50	-14.1
Firearms Seized	21	25	19.5%
Reports	395	341	-13.7%

Highlighted Operations:

1. Illegal Fireworks and Guns:

Tip about illegal fireworks sales led to a warrant and the discovery of a firearm and extensive fireworks stock. Seizure of enough fireworks to fill a 15-foot U-Haul trailer and a manufactured firearm.

2. Gun Manufacturing:

Lead on in-home firearm manufacturing by a minor led to seizure of seven 3D-printed firearm lower receivers and associated ammunition.

3. Fully Automatic Handguns:

Served a warrant regarding an illegal discharge arrest. Led to the Discovery and seizure of two automatic-capable firearms with drum magazines; three arrests made.

Support Division Overview

Property & Evidence Unit: The Property & Evidence Unit has seen significant activity and changes in 2024, reflecting increased efficiency and adjustments to operational protocols. Below is a detailed overview of the statistics and the notable increases in various aspects of their operations:

Metric	2023 Data	2024 Data	% Change
Physical Evidence Items	9,687	10,381	7.16%
Discovery Requests	2,760	3,640	31.88%
Items in Property Room	75,761	77,001	1.64%
Total Items on Evidence.com	72,494	236,460	226.31%
Digital Evidence	30,083	63,713	111.76%
Lab Trips	45	48	6.67%
Property Release	960	1,040	8.33%
Notary Appointments	52	44	-15.38%
Callouts for Scene Processing	8	6	-25%
Evidence Purging Hours	240 hrs	620 hrs	158.33%
Scanning & Filing Hours	120 hrs	135 hrs	12.5%
NIBIN	Not reported	15 trips	New Metric

Throughout 2024, the Property & Evidence Unit was stretched to its limits, responding to an unprecedented increase in evidence intake and management tasks. The team's resilience and adaptability under pressure ensured the continued high standard of service necessary for supporting law enforcement activities and the judicial process.

School Resource Officers

Team Composition and School Assignments:

The School Resource Officers (SRO) program plays a pivotal role in fostering a safe and secure educational environment across multiple school campuses in our community. In 2024, the program was staffed by a dedicated team consisting of a Sergeant, a Corporal, and six officers. These trained professionals were specifically assigned to the following schools:

- Hanford High
- Hanford West High
- Sierra Pacific High
- Woodrow Wilson Elementary
- John F. Kennedy Middle
- Pioneer Middle
- Community Day School
- Shelly Baird
- Earl F. Johnson



2023-2024 School Year	
Presentations	232
Home Visits	266
Student Counseling	503
Calls	381
Reports	142
Arrests	97
After School Events	344

School Resource Officers

Role and Responsibilities:

SROs are more than just law enforcement officers; they are integral community partners who contribute to the educational and social development of students. Their responsibilities include:

- **Safety and Security:** Providing a secure atmosphere conducive to learning and ensuring the safety of students and staff.
- **Mentorship and Guidance:** Acting as mentors and role models for students, offering guidance on various life challenges.
- **Crisis Management:** Equipped to handle emergencies, SROs are trained in crisis management and rapid response.
- **Educational Contributions:** SROs often participate in teaching students about law enforcement topics, promoting understanding and respect for the rules.
- **Conflict Resolution:** They play a critical role in resolving conflicts and fostering a peaceful social environment.
- **Impact and Community Engagement:** The presence of SROs on school campuses has proven to be invaluable. They not only handle issues related to safety and law enforcement but also actively participate in school events and functions, enhancing the bond between students and law enforcement agencies. Through their daily interactions, SROs build trust and rapport with students, which is fundamental in creating a supportive school community.



Records Division

The Records Division is a crucial component of the Hanford Police Department, tasked with the precise management and dissemination of law enforcement records. This bureau is vital for maintaining the integrity, security, and accessibility of critical departmental records.

Team Structure and Leadership:

The division is efficiently managed by a Senior Records Clerk, who oversees all record-keeping activities and ensures compliance with legal and departmental standards. The team includes three dedicated Records Clerks, who handle the day-to-day operations and play a key role in the department's ability to efficiently serve the community.

Key Functions and Responsibilities:

Record Management: The bureau is responsible for a wide range of documents, including incident reports, arrest records, and public information requests.

Data Processing and Accessibility: Clerks ensure timely data entry, update, and retrieval, facilitating quick access to records for law enforcement and eligible public members. **Community Interaction:** The team manages requests for information from the public, ensuring transparency and fostering trust within the community.

Volume of Work: In 2024, the bureau processed a total of 5,493 reports, showcasing their capability to manage a significant workload efficiently.

Dispatch Communications

The Communication Center offers essential 24/7 dispatch services for Hanford Police, Lemoore Police, and Lemoore Fire Department. It plays a pivotal role in public safety by efficiently managing emergency and non-emergency communications across multiple jurisdictions.

Operations and Staffing:

- **Volume of Calls:** In 2024, the center proficiently handled a total of 130,206 calls, showcasing their capability to manage high call volumes effectively.
- **Team Composition:** The center is budgeted for 16 Dispatchers to include four Lead Dispatchers. Lead Dispatchers serve as the first-line supervisors during shifts, ensuring smooth operation and quick response times.

Training and Technology:

Dispatchers and Lead Dispatchers regularly attend training sessions to stay up to date on the best practices and advancements in dispatch technology.

The team uses various sophisticated programs and applications daily to assist the public and coordinate with in-house personnel effectively. The Dispatch Communications team is a critical component of the public safety infrastructure for Hanford and Lemoore, demonstrating exceptional dedication and professionalism in their operations. Their ongoing commitment to training and technology adaptation ensures they remain at the forefront of emergency communication services.

