

Quality Service, Citizen Satisfaction



**2025**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



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*At the Valdosta Police Department, our mission is more than just enforcing the law, it's about building trust, strengthening relationships, and ensuring the safety of every resident. I am proud of the dedication and professionalism our officers demonstrate daily, and we will remain committed to serving with integrity, accountability, and compassion*



**-Chief Leslie Manahan**

# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

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It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as Chief of Police for the City of Valdosta. The 2025 Annual Report reflects not only the work we do, but the heart behind our service.



Each year presents new challenges, evolving responsibilities, and opportunities to strengthen the trust we share with this community. Whether responding to critical incidents, assisting residents in times of uncertainty, or engaging in simple but meaningful interactions, our officers remain committed to professionalism, integrity, and compassion.

This year's report highlights the wide range of calls our department manages, from complex investigations to unexpected situations that require adaptability and calm leadership. It also reflects something equally important: connection. Moments when a child stops to thank an officer, when a detective uses unique skills to help resolve an unusual situation, or when officers take the time to ensure someone feels heard and supported, these are the interactions that define who we are.

I am incredibly proud of the men and women of the Valdosta Police Department. Their dedication to protecting and serving this community does not go unnoticed. They demonstrate resilience, accountability, and a deep commitment to doing what is right — even when no one is watching.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on strengthening partnerships, investing in training and technology, and continuing to build trust through transparency and engagement. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and we are grateful for the support of our residents, city leadership, and community partners. Thank you for allowing us the honor to serve.

Leslie Manahan  
Chief of Police

# COMMAND STAFF

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**ROBERT RENFRO**  
COMMANDER  
PATROL DIVISION



**BOBBI MCGRAW**  
COMMANDER  
SUPPORT SERVICES



**STEPHEN THOMPSON**  
COMMANDER  
INVESTIGATIONS



**BECKY PARKER-HALL**  
CRIME LAB  
DIRECTOR

# OUR MISSION

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The mission of the Valdosta Police Department is to maintain social order within prescribed ethical and constitutional limits while providing professional law enforcement services to the citizens and visitors of Valdosta.



# OUR DEPARTMENT

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The Valdosta Police Department is dedicated to protecting life, preserving peace, and strengthening partnerships throughout our community. Our department provides comprehensive law enforcement services to the City of Valdosta through a professional team of sworn officers and civilian staff who are committed to excellence, accountability, and service.

The department is structured to ensure effective response, proactive engagement, and operational efficiency across all areas of responsibility. Patrol Operations serves as the foundation of daily service delivery, providing 24-hour response to residents and businesses. Criminal Investigations and the Valdosta Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory, work diligently to conduct thorough evidence-based investigations that support victims and pursue justice. Special Operations addresses specialized enforcement and emerging public safety needs, while Community Engagement and Crime Prevention focus on building trust through education, outreach, and meaningful partnerships. Administrative and Support Services ensure policy compliance, communications coordination, records management, and overall organizational accountability. Together, these areas operate in alignment to deliver fair, professional, and responsive policing services.

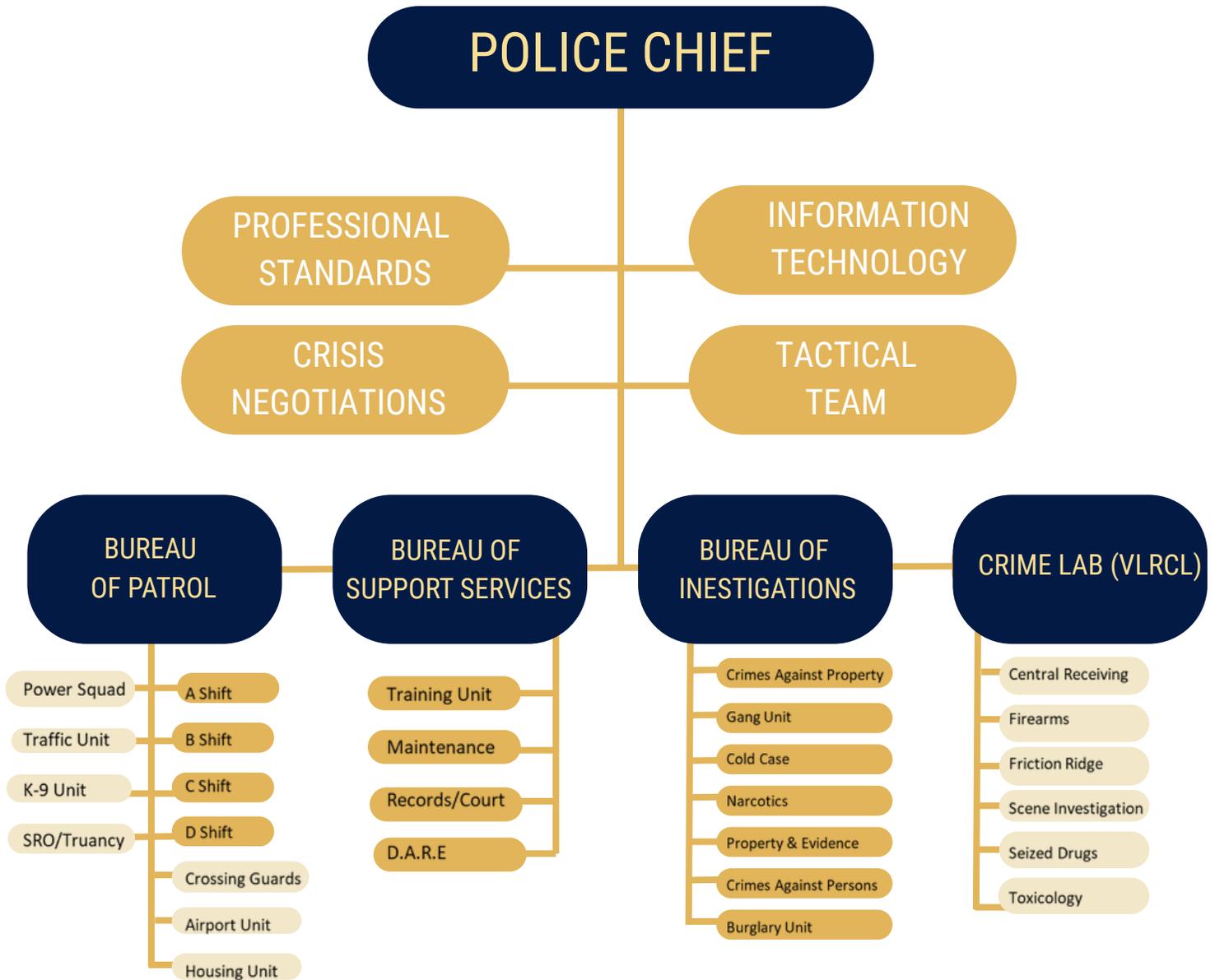
The Valdosta Police Department proudly maintains accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the gold standard in law enforcement professionalism. CALEA accreditation affirms that our policies, procedures, and operational practices meet nationally recognized benchmarks in areas such as use of force standards, evidence management, training requirements, risk management, and organizational transparency. Maintaining this accreditation requires continuous review, documentation, and adherence to rigorous standards, reinforcing our commitment to ethical conduct and operational excellence.

In addition to national accreditation, the department also maintains State of Georgia Certification, demonstrating compliance with state-mandated standards for law enforcement operations, training, and accountability. This certification reflects our adherence to Georgia-specific regulatory requirements and reinforces our commitment to maintaining high professional standards at both the state and national levels.

Above all, our department recognizes that public safety is built on relationships. We remain focused on strengthening community partnerships, investing in officer training and wellness, leveraging technology to improve efficiency, and practicing transparency in our communication and decision-making. Every call, every interaction, and every initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to serving Valdosta with integrity, professionalism, and dedication.

The Valdosta Police Department is proud to serve this community and remains steadfast in its mission to protect and lead with accountability and trust.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# YEARLY CALL STATS



63,770

CALLS FOR  
SERVICE

2,443

INVESTIGATIONS

2,594

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

3,956

ITEMS TESTED AT VLRCL

120

DUI ARRESTS

4,260

TRAFFIC CITATIONS

3,256

ARRESTS

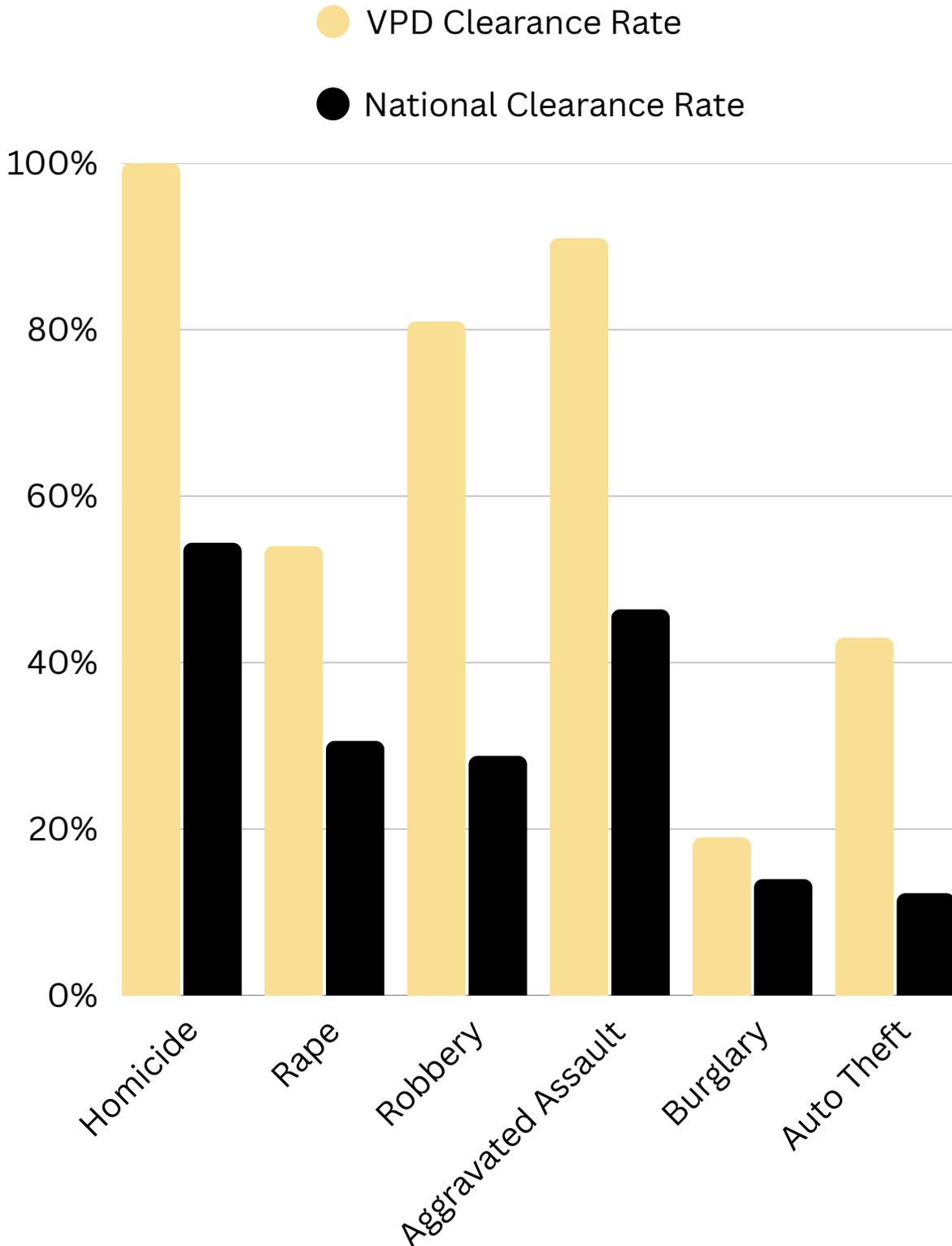
# CRIME STATS

The true purpose of any law enforcement agency is crime prevention and crime solution. The Valdosta Police Department monitors Part 1 Crimes as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which include arson, murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft, and larceny. In 2025, the department recorded 2,443 total Part 1 Crimes, representing a 2% overall decrease compared to 2024. Notably, homicides decreased by 27%, aggravated assaults declined by 11%, and burglaries were reduced by 21%. These reductions reflect continued proactive policing strategies, investigative diligence, and strong community partnerships.

While overall crime trends moved in a positive direction, the department did see an increase in reported rapes, rising from 4 cases in 2024 to 13 cases in 2025. The Valdosta Police Department remains committed to thorough investigation, victim support, and prevention efforts in addressing these serious offenses. Through focused enforcement, community collaboration, and data-informed strategies, the Valdosta Police Department continues working to enhance public safety and build a stronger, safer Valdosta.



# CLEARANCE RATES



# DEPARTMENT STATS

# 255

GUNS TAKEN OUT OF OUR  
COMMUNITY



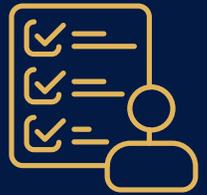
# 9

NEW  
OFFICERS



# 92

POSITIVE  
RATING  
FROM CITIZEN  
FEEDBACK  
SURVEYS



## RECOVERED

# \$1,596,815

VALUE IN STOLEN PROPERTY

## SEIZED

# \$326,168

VALUE IN NARCOTICS & CONTRABAND





# VALDOSTA-LOWNDES REGIONAL CRIME LAB



The Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory (VLRCL) continues to stand as a cornerstone of public safety and justice in South Georgia. Serving Valdosta, Lowndes County, and surrounding jurisdictions, the laboratory provides critical forensic services that support criminal investigations, strengthen prosecutions, and uphold the integrity of the judicial process.

In 2015, the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory achieved a significant milestone by earning national forensic laboratory accreditation. This recognition affirmed that the laboratory met rigorous professional standards for quality assurance, evidence handling, analytical procedures, and documentation practices. Demonstrating an ongoing commitment to excellence, the laboratory successfully participated in a virtual assessment with Assessors from the Ansi National Accreditation Board (ANAB), as part of the accreditation process. Accreditation renewal is not automatic; it requires documented compliance with updated standards, internal audits, proficiency testing, and a thorough review of laboratory operations. The VLRCL continues to meet and exceed national benchmarks for forensic science and quality control, as they prepare for their on-site inspection from ANAB Assessors in 2027.

Accreditation reflects the laboratory's dedication to maintaining scientific integrity, implementing best practices, and ensuring that all forensic results are reliable, objective, and defensible in court. Demonstrating an ongoing commitment to excellence, the laboratory successfully maintained its accreditation status in 2024 following a comprehensive assessment process. The 2024 accreditation reaffirmed that the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory continues to meet and exceed national benchmarks for forensic science and quality control.



Over the years, the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory has been recognized for its professionalism, operational standards, and contributions to regional public safety. These accolades underscore the lab's role not only as a technical resource, but as a trusted partner to law enforcement agencies and the courts.

# VALDOSTA-LOWNDES REGIONAL CRIME LAB STATS



PROVIDED ANALYSIS FOR  
OVER 29 AGENCIES

**1,648**

ITEMS PROCESSED FOR  
FINGERPRINTS



**2,378**

DANGEROUS DRUGS &  
NARCOTICS

**105**

CRIME SCENES

**808**

FIREARMS NIBIN  
ENTRIES



**2**

BLOOD ALCOHOL  
TOXIOLOGY



**7,041**

FINGERPRINT  
COMPARISONS



The Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory strengthens public trust each year by welcoming students, civic organizations, and community leaders for guided tours of its facility. These tours provide a clear and informative look at how evidence is received, processed, analyzed, and securely stored. Lab personnel explain the scientific methods used in forensic analysis and outline the strict quality assurance standards that ensure results are accurate and reliable for the judicial system.

In addition to promoting transparency, the tours serve as an educational opportunity for students interested in forensic science, criminal justice, and public service careers. Participants engage directly with forensic professionals, observe laboratory procedures, and gain a deeper understanding of how science supports investigations and prosecutions. These experiences often inspire the next generation of professionals who will serve communities through careers in public safety.

Through consistent outreach and community engagement, the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory demonstrates that its commitment extends beyond forensic analysis. By opening its doors and fostering dialogue, the laboratory reinforces accountability, strengthens regional partnerships, and continues to serve as a trusted resource for Valdosta, Lowndes County, and the surrounding region.



**VLRCCL  
TOURS**

# CALEA ACCREDITATION

The Valdosta Police Department proudly completed its most recent accreditation cycle through the CALEA Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, earning Meritorious Reaccreditation in August 2025. This distinction reflects the department's sustained commitment to professional excellence, accountability, and community trust.

During this evaluation cycle, a total of 378 standards were applicable to the agency, while 85 standards were deemed not applicable based on the department's structure and operations. The Valdosta Police Department achieved 100% compliance with all mandatory standards and 96.49% compliance with all "other than mandatory" standards. Although certain standards within this category are optional, the department elects to comply with all but two, demonstrating a proactive approach to best practices in modern law enforcement.

The CALEA reaccreditation process is rigorous and comprehensive. Over the four-year cycle, the department participated in four annual remote, web-based assessments, with approximately 25% of the more than 460 CALEA standards reviewed each year for applicability and compliance. In the final year, assessors conducted a multi-day, site-based evaluation that included facility inspections, operational reviews, and interviews with officers and community partners. The department also engaged in focused discussions with assessors addressing law enforcement operations, policy development, training, and community engagement.

Following successful completion of all remote and on-site assessments, the agency appeared before the CALEA Review Committee at the Summer CALEA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. In August 2025, Chief Leslie Manahan, Captain Clark, and Lieutenant Crews presented an overview of the department to a panel comprised of members of the CALEA Board of Commissioners and the Southeast CALEA Regional Program Manager. The Valdosta Police Department was unanimously recommended for reaccreditation and formally recognized at the Conference Banquet.

The Meritorious Reaccreditation distinction is reserved for agencies that have achieved 15 or more years of continuous accreditation. This recognition marked the department's ninth consecutive reaccreditation award, reinforcing its long-standing dedication to professional standards, transparency, and service excellence.

Accreditation is more than a credential. It is a continuous process that strengthens policies, enhances training, supports risk management, and builds public confidence. The Valdosta Police Department remains committed to upholding the highest standards in law enforcement while serving and protecting the community with integrity and professionalism.



# TRAINING



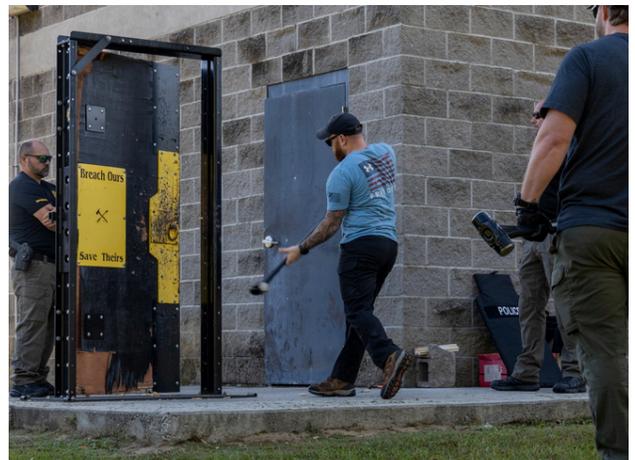
Throughout 2025, the Valdosta Police Department continued its commitment to professional excellence through comprehensive and specialized training programs designed to enhance operational readiness and public service. This year's training initiatives were guided by the department's focused priority of Community Safety, ensuring that every certification, exercise, and advanced course directly supported the protection and well-being of Valdosta residents.

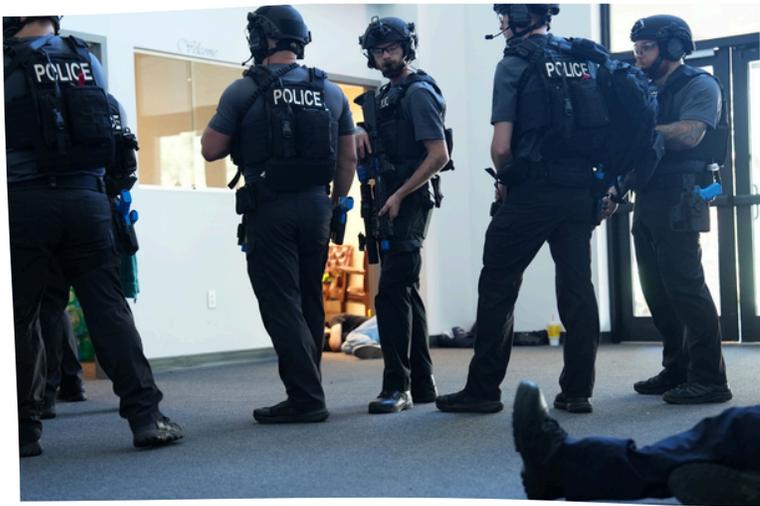
Sworn personnel participated in and maintained certifications in Crisis Intervention Training, Criminal Investigations, A.L.E.R.T. (Active Shooter Training), DUI Detection and Field Sobriety, High-Risk Warrant Service, Homicide Investigations, and SWAT operations. These specialized programs strengthen officers' ability to respond effectively to critical incidents, conduct thorough investigations, manage high-risk situations, and engage in safe, constitutionally sound policing practices. Emphasis was also placed on de-escalation techniques, officer safety, and coordinated response strategies that improve outcomes during complex calls for service.

By prioritizing ongoing professional development, the Valdosta Police Department reinforced its proactive approach to law enforcement in 2025. The department's investment in advanced training reflects a continued dedication to preparedness, accountability, and excellence, all centered on the shared mission of Community Safety for the City of Valdosta.



# HOURS OF TRAINING 6,500





In 2025, the Valdosta Police Department partnered with the Valdosta Fire Department and SGMC Health Emergency Services to conduct a comprehensive joint training exercise focused on coordinated emergency response. This collaborative session placed first responders in realistic, high-stakes scenarios designed to strengthen communication, clarify roles, and enhance decision-making under pressure.



# COLLABORATIVE TRAINING

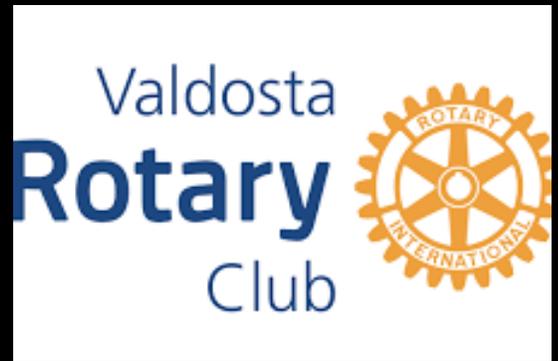
By training together in controlled but demanding environments, officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel refined their ability to operate seamlessly during critical incidents. Scenarios emphasized rapid response, scene safety, life-saving interventions, and unified command structure, ensuring each agency could effectively support the others when seconds matter most. This joint training reflects the department's continued commitment to preparedness and interagency collaboration. Through shared exercises and strengthened partnerships, the Valdosta Police Department remains dedicated to protecting the community with professionalism, coordination, and excellence.



The Valdosta Police Department's Tactical Operations Unit (TOU), Tactical Robot Unit (TRU), and Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) are specially trained to manage high-risk and rapidly evolving incidents while protecting both officers and the public. Through continuous, scenario-based training that mirrors real-life situations such as barricaded subjects, armed encounters, suicidal individuals, and high-risk warrant service, these units develop the ability to remain calm under pressure and make sound, split-second decisions.

The Tactical Operations Unit responds to dangerous incidents requiring advanced tactical coordination, while the Tactical Robot Unit deploys robotic technology to safely assess threats, gather intelligence, and reduce direct exposure to harm. At the same time, the Crisis Negotiation Unit focuses on communication and de-escalation, working to peacefully resolve volatile situations whenever possible. Together, these specialized teams strengthen the department's readiness and reflect its commitment to disciplined response, coordinated teamwork, and the continued protection of the Valdosta community.

# ROTARY OFFICER OF THE YEAR



In 2025, Officer Dilan Boutwell was honored as one of the Valdosta Rotary Club's Officers of the Year, a distinction that reflects both professional excellence and unwavering dedication to service. A former United States Army veteran, Officer Boutwell serves as a patrol officer and is an active member of the department's Tactical Robot Team, Tactical Operations Unit, and Field Training Officer program. His advanced training, including completion of S.W.A.T. School, underscores his commitment to preparedness and operational excellence.

Officer Boutwell's nomination came from fellow officers who have witnessed firsthand his courage, composure, and selflessness in critical moments. Over the past year, he played a key role in several life-saving incidents. During a suicide intervention call involving a woman attempting to jump from an overpass, Officer Boutwell acted decisively when an opportunity presented itself, pulling her to safety and preventing tragedy until emergency medical personnel arrived. In two separate shooting incidents, he also provided immediate lifesaving medical care to victims, delivering critical aid during some of the most urgent and dangerous circumstances officers face.

The Valdosta Police Department proudly recognizes Officer Boutwell's leadership, bravery, and dedication to protecting the community. His actions exemplify the department's core values of service, integrity, and professionalism.

# RECRUITMENT & RETENTION



In 2025, the Valdosta Police Department continued to prioritize strategic recruitment and long-term retention to ensure the department remains staffed with highly qualified, service-driven professionals. Through targeted outreach efforts, community engagement events, career fairs, and digital recruitment campaigns, VPD actively sought candidates who demonstrate integrity, resilience, and a commitment to serving the Valdosta community.

Recruitment efforts emphasized transparency about the profession, competitive benefits, specialized unit opportunities, and clear pathways for professional growth. By highlighting advanced training programs, leadership development, and specialized assignments such as investigations, tactical operations, and community policing, the department positioned itself as an agency where officers can build meaningful, long-term careers.

Retention remains equally important. In 2025, VPD focused on officer wellness, mentorship through Field Training Officers, ongoing professional development, and fostering a culture of accountability and teamwork. By investing in its personnel and maintaining strong internal support systems, the Valdosta Police Department continues to strengthen morale, reduce turnover, and ensure consistent, high-quality service to the citizens of Valdosta.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



In 2025, the Valdosta Police Department continued to strengthen its connection with the community through meaningful engagement and active involvement across the city. Department staff participated in neighborhood meetings, school visits, hosted departmental tours, community festivals, faith based gatherings, and youth mentorships. These interactions create space for open dialogue, improve understanding, and reinforce trust between law enforcement and the residents they serve.

VPD also expanded outreach through programs such as the Citizens Police Academy, school partnerships, and collaborative events with local organizations. Officers took time to educate residents about crime prevention strategies, public safety resources, and the role of law enforcement in maintaining a safe community. By maintaining a visible and approachable presence, the department continues to encourage cooperation and shared responsibility for public safety.

Community engagement remains a foundational component of the Valdosta Police Department's mission. Through consistent outreach, transparency, and service, VPD demonstrates that effective policing is rooted in partnership. These ongoing efforts reflect the department's commitment to fostering trust, strengthening relationships, and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of Valdosta.



# CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Valdosta Police Department continued to strengthen transparency and community partnerships through its Citizens Police Academy. This multi-week program provides residents with a comprehensive, behind-the-scenes look at the operations, responsibilities, and challenges of modern law enforcement. Participants gain firsthand insight into the policies, procedures, and decision-making processes that guide officers in serving and protecting the community.



Each division within the department presented throughout the class sessions, ensuring participants received a well-rounded understanding of VPD's structure and mission. Patrol Operations, Criminal Investigations, Special Operations, Community Services, Communications, and other specialized units shared detailed overviews of their roles, training requirements, and daily responsibilities. These presentations allowed residents to ask questions directly, observe demonstrations, and better understand how various divisions collaborate to ensure public safety.

The Citizens Police Academy continues to serve as a valuable bridge between law enforcement and the community. By fostering open dialogue, education, and direct interaction with department personnel, the program strengthens trust, promotes civic engagement, and reinforces the shared responsibility of maintaining a safe and thriving Valdosta.



# DRUG EDUCATION FOR YOUTH D.E.F.Y.



Each year, the Valdosta Police Department hosts D.E.F.Y. Camp, which stands for Drug Education for Youth. This prevention focused program equips young participants with the tools to resist drugs, make positive decisions, and build leadership skills while strengthening relationships with law enforcement officers.

Throughout the camp, officers serve as mentors and instructors, guiding youth through lessons on drug awareness, teamwork, personal responsibility, and goal setting. By investing in early intervention and positive engagement, D.E.F.Y. Camp supports safer choices and reinforces the department's commitment to building a stronger and more connected Valdosta community.



The Valdosta Police Department's S.A.Y.V.E. Program, which stands for Stand Against Youth Violence Education, is designed to proactively address youth violence through education, awareness, and positive engagement. This initiative provides students with practical tools to resolve conflict, make responsible choices, and understand the real-life consequences of violence.

Through presentations and interactive discussions, officers connect directly with young people to promote accountability, respect, and personal responsibility. By fostering open dialogue and reinforcing positive decision making, the S.A.Y.V.E. Program reflects VPD's ongoing commitment to prevention, mentorship, and creating a safer future for the youth of Valdosta.

# STAND AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE EDUCATION **S.A.Y.V.E.**

# BATTLE OF THE BADGES

BLOOD DRIVE

The graphic features two logos side-by-side. On the left is the Valdosta Police badge, which is gold with a central seal and the words 'PATROL VALDOSTA' and 'POLICE' on banners. On the right is the Valdosta Fire Department Maltese cross, which is white with a red border and contains symbols for a fire hydrant, ladder, and fire axes. The background of the graphic is split vertically into blue and red sections.

The Valdosta Police Department once again proudly participated in the annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive alongside the Valdosta Fire Department. While the Fire Department earned the top spot this year, the true victory belonged to the community members whose generous donations helped save lives. This friendly competition continues to strengthen the bond between VPD and VFD while supporting a cause that extends far beyond bragging rights. In partnership with LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, first responders and residents came together to ensure local hospitals maintained a critical blood supply. Although the trophy may rest with our Fire Department partners this year, the Valdosta Police Department remains committed to returning strong in 2026. Most importantly, we remain united in our shared mission to serve the community both on and off duty.



In March 2025, the Valdosta Police Department earned first place at the Boys and Girls Club's Great American Cook Off, Battle of the First Responders. The event brought together local first responder agencies for a friendly competition in support of the youth served by the Boys and Girls Club. Officers proudly represented the department while engaging with community members and supporting a meaningful cause. The event, hosted by the Boys and Girls Club and Seasons Valdosta, highlighted the importance of partnership and community investment. Proceeds from the cook off directly benefit programs that provide mentorship, academic support, and positive development opportunities for local youth.

The department also extends appreciation to Renasant Bank for serving as a sponsor and supporting this community focused initiative. Events like this reflect VPD's continued commitment to engagement beyond enforcement and to building strong relationships throughout Valdosta.



Let  
it  
Snow



In January 2025, a rare winter storm brought snowfall to Valdosta, covering the city in an unusual blanket of white. While many residents experienced the excitement of the rare weather event, officers with the Valdosta Police Department worked throughout the night and into the following day to ensure roads remained safe and emergency calls were answered without interruption.

Despite hazardous travel conditions and freezing temperatures, officers continued patrol operations, responded to calls for service, and assisted motorists as needed. The snow did not stop the department's commitment to public safety. Instead, it demonstrated the resilience, professionalism, and dedication of the men and women who serve this community. The winter storm served as a reminder that no matter the conditions, the Valdosta Police Department remains steadfast in its mission to protect and serve the citizens of Valdosta.

# SHOP with a COP





The Valdosta Police Department's Annual Shop with a Cop program once again brought smiles and holiday cheer to families across the community in 2025. Officers partnered with local youth for a special shopping experience, creating meaningful one on one moments that extend far beyond the holiday season.

The success of this year's event was reflected in the laughter, gratitude, and excitement shared throughout the day. For many children, the opportunity to shop alongside an officer builds positive connections and lasting memories. For the department, it reinforces the importance of compassion, presence, and partnership within the community. Through the continued support of local sponsors and volunteers, Shop with a Cop remains a cherished tradition that strengthens trust, uplifts families, and highlights the heart of service within the Valdosta Police Department.

# PUBLIC SAFETY SANTA

On the day before Christmas Eve, the Valdosta Police Department joined forces with our partners at the Valdosta Fire Department to deliver holiday joy to deserving children in our community. With Santa leading the way, first responders worked together to distribute free Christmas gifts and create unforgettable moments for local families.

The event reflected the heart of service shared by both departments. Beyond emergency response, officers and firefighters came together to ensure children experienced the excitement and magic of the season. Smiles, laughter, and gratitude filled the day as gifts were delivered and holiday memories were made.

This collaborative effort highlights the strong partnership between VPD and VFD and reinforces our shared commitment to serving the Valdosta community both in times of need and in moments of celebration.



osta Police Department

