



**SAIF SALEM
LEKHRAIBANI
AL NUAIMI**

*Major, Head of Security
Scenario Planning
Department,
Abu Dhabi Police
Headquarters, United
Arab Emirates*
Age: 36

MAJOR SAIF SALEM LEKHRAIBANI AL NUAIMI was inspired to pursue law enforcement after listening to his father continuously speak about his impact and service. Major Al Nuaimi is motivated by the leaders of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and by serving his country. Major Al Nuaimi puts his community above all else and serves it tirelessly.

In 2002, Major Al Nuaimi contributed to the establishment of a strategic and performance development department, now considered a best practice by the UAE government. Major Al Nuaimi was a main contributor to a team that won the federal government excellence award, and he led a team that won the RoSPA Gold Award in 2015. The RoSPA Gold Award is given to those who have achieved a very high level of performance and demonstrated well-developed occupational health and safety management systems and culture; outstanding control of risk; and very low levels of error, harm, and loss.

Major Al Nuaimi's leadership capabilities allow him to motivate command-level personnel to establish and implement the strategies needed to improve the agency.

“The employee's happiness in the workplace is the first priority to promote successful organizations. We are all one family and we serve each other.”



JOE BABKIEWICZ

*Lieutenant
Investigations Division,
Bluffton Police
Department, South
Carolina*
Age: 39

LIEUTENANT JOE BABKIEWICZ has not always been a law enforcement officer. His career in public safety started with the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. Lieutenant Babkiewicz volunteered his service at Ground Zero to provide a portable communication system to help the FBI communicate effectively. Following that, Lieutenant Babkiewicz served in the U.S. Marine Corps before transitioning to civilian law enforcement. Lieutenant Babkiewicz draws motivation from the opportunity to learn from his mistakes and persevere despite his difficult experiences, which have made him a better person, coach, mentor, and leader.

Lieutenant Babkiewicz completed a master's degree and graduated from the FBI National Academy. He gained the respect of his peers and was promoted to lieutenant at the age of 35. In addition, Lieutenant Babkiewicz introduced the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and K-9 unit to his division. SIU focuses on drug and gang activity and, since its implementation, has produced very high-level drug acquisitions. He oversees all of the management tasks for the K-9 unit, including ensuring that the dogs are acquired, trained, and have appropriate living conditions and overseeing the many other details required for the dogs' longevity and health. The K-9 unit was implemented in July 2016 and will be fully operational this year.

“I was placed on this earth for something greater. That ‘something greater’ was to become a law enforcement officer.”



Yael Bar-Tur
Digital Strategist
New York City Police
Department, New York
Age: 34

After serving in the Israeli Army, **Yael Bar-Tur** moved to the United States to complete a master's degree in public policy at Harvard University. While there, she began interning with the New York City Police Department and now serves as their digital strategist, where she has endeavored to vastly improve its social and digital media approaches.

As digital strategist, Yael has played a lead role in expanding the department's use of social media platforms, creating thoughtful and dynamic social media campaigns, and fostering unprecedented public access and awareness. According to others in the agency, the results have been absolutely phenomenal. Yael has helped expose the personal side of New York City police officers by teaching them to use social media to tell their own stories.

Among her greatest successes has been creating more than 100 individual Twitter accounts for each NYPD precinct and housing command, as well many specialized units and NYPD executives. In addition to the creation of these accounts, Yael trained more than 200 officers and commanders on the best means of telling their stories and using social media. She continues to be a mentor to officers throughout the agency as they effectively engage the community.

“Nothing we are doing is new—only the platform is. Every day, throughout the city, police officers are doing amazing things; now we just have a new way of telling our story and connecting with thousands of people in our community.”



Robin Bleich
*Police Officer/SPEAR
Coordinator*
Niagara Regional
Police, Ontario
Age: 31

Officer Robin Bleich has demonstrated her strong leadership abilities by taking the School Police Emergency Action Response (SPEAR) program to the international level of law enforcement. The SPEAR program is a successful solution for assisting law enforcement during high-risk, low-frequency incidents involving schools, while managing time and resources efficiently. Officer Bleich created this program in such a manner that it could be adapted to the private sector and further interagency collaboration.

Officer Bleich has also given over 19 years of service as a volunteer in her community for nonprofit organizations like the Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold, which provides for low-income families who need help accessing food and clothing, as well as the Niagara's Out of the Cold program, designed to help feed and shelter less fortunate citizens. Currently, she is a member of two regional committees, Niagara Children's Planning Council and Children Are Safe, both of which focus on the well-being of children and their families through various platforms.

Recently, Officer Bleich accepted a nomination to represent the Niagara Regional Police Service on the International Association of Chiefs of Police Crime Prevention Committee.

She is motivated by a passion for change and aims to push forward professionally and personally. Officer Bleich's devotion to service and leadership shines through in her vision for her department and her community.

“My passion is always pushing me to accomplish more, try harder, to be the best person I can be in ALL aspects of my life.”



DANIEL BUTLER
Commander
Mesa Police
Department, Arizona
Age: 38

Before **COMMANDER DANIEL BUTLER** became a law enforcement officer, he was a member of the U.S. Navy. It was in the Navy that he picked up the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. After leaving the military, he decided to pursue a career in law enforcement. He knew he wanted to be part of something bigger than himself, where he could continue to develop personally and serve those around him, so law enforcement was a perfect fit. Commander Butler is motivated by helping those he works with accomplish their goals.

During his time with the Mesa Police Department, he has served in many assignments, including SWAT, gangs, and chief's adjutant. Commander Butler is currently the Red Mountain Station Commander; he oversees 113 sworn officers and 9 civilian employees. Commander Butler previously oversaw the Human Resources Division, which includes the Hiring Unit, Regional Training Section, Peer Support Team, and Firearms Training Facility. Commander Butler's approach to leadership is focused on his genuine desire to develop the people around him to achieve their highest potential. As the head of the Hiring Unit, Commander Butler was able to diversify the department by employing the most qualified individuals to assume both sworn and civilian positions.

“Law enforcement contained all of the core values I learned in the U.S. Navy and also had elements of community service, where I could work side-by-side with men and women who wanted to make a difference for others.”



RICHARD E. CARROLL
First Sergeant,
Commander
Emergency Services
Unit, Maryland State
Police
Age: 38

FIRST SERGEANT RICHARD CARROLL serves as the commander of the Maryland State Police Mobile Field Force, which played an integral role in responding to the Baltimore riots in 2015. After the riots, law enforcement agencies in Maryland committed to providing better training and equipment for officers responding to civil disturbances. Over a six-month period, First Sergeant Carroll's unit developed cost analyses and authored proposals that resulted in the acquisition of more than \$500,000 in personal protective equipment, less-lethal delivery systems, and munitions.

First Sergeant Carroll has also designed and developed a new curriculum through the Maryland Police Corrections Training Commissions for law enforcement response to civil disturbance. He delivered training to over 750 police officers throughout the state of Maryland. In addition, First Sergeant Carroll has served on the departments' SWAT team for eight years. He presently serves as an assistant team leader for a team of 22 operators and tactical medics that executed nearly 70 high-risk search and seizure warrants and resolved 5 barricade situations involving armed suspects in 2015.

First Sergeant Carroll's leadership position has allowed him to grow, assist, and motivate others. He draws his own motivation from the challenge of leading people and influencing them to achieve their highest potential.

“My focus is being a great leader, learning what's taught, mastering it, and inquiring into unanswered questions and under-explored ideas.”



DAVID (JUNYAN) CHEN

*Patrol Constable
Waterloo Regional
Police Service, Ontario
Age: 29*



KEVIN CORNETT

*Chief of Police/Agency
Head
Springdale Police
Department, South
Carolina
Age: 34*

PATROL CONSTABLE DAVID CHEN decided to pursue a career in law enforcement because he wanted to make a positive impact in his community. As a first generation Chinese immigrant in Canada, he has experienced the common challenges that all immigrants face. When he gathered enough confidence and experience as a Canadian, he felt a responsibility to give back to his country and help newcomers. As a police professional, Patrol Constable Chen sees every day as an opportunity to bring justice to his community and help immigrants understand the reasons behind law enforcement officers' actions.

In 2014, Patrol Constable Chen created an account on one of the largest Chinese social media networks—Weibo, which is similar to Twitter—to reach out to the Chinese community in Waterloo. The account is the first Canadian-Chinese social media account to be verified by Weibo. Currently Patrol Constable Chen's Weibo account has approximately 3,000 followers. The account has enhanced its followers' understanding of Canadian law enforcement and the legal system. As a result, he has broken down significant barriers with the local Chinese and Taiwanese communities by creating a bond that was previously blocked by cultural and language barriers. This interaction has encouraged the executive officials of the Waterloo Regional Police Service to liaise with the consular general and his officers to increase collaborations in the future. Additionally, Patrol Constable Chen is a member of his service's diversity committee and a school liaison officer with the region's two Chinese schools, a role which he balances with his patrol duties.

“I felt becoming a police officer would fulfil my desire to make a positive impact in my community, give back to Canada, and help newcomers in Canada.”

CHIEF KEVIN CORNETT has a unique perspective of law enforcement due to abuse he survived as a child. He understands the victim's perspective of the criminal justice system and how law enforcement plays a role in such situations. His ultimate goal as a law enforcement professional is to help children who are raised in unhealthy or unsafe homes and make sure they are aided and cared for. He is motivated by building relationships with the community he serves, as well as helping abused children and persons struggling with drug addiction. His leadership as the chief of police helped the department's jurisdiction earn recognition as the 18th safest city in the state of South Carolina. Under Chief Cornett's tenure, the Springdale Police Department has also been recognized by the National Association of Town Watch for the National Night Out event for small agencies.

A U.S. veteran, Chief Cornett was appointed as chief at the young age of 29. Prior to his current position, he served in a number of other roles, such as narcotics, patrol, fugitive team supervisor, and sergeant. Through active leadership, Chief Cornett was able to implement several programs including the K-9 unit, bike patrol, and community relations officers. Chief Cornett also helped implement the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education And Training (GREAT) programs at a local elementary school to help educate young students. Moreover, he serves on the Environmental Subcommittee for the Rise Above It Coalition, which collaborates with all community sectors to develop local solutions that improve the quality of life and create safe, drug-free communities.

“The best feeling is to have a child that we were able to help come up and hug me because they are thankful for us helping them.”



JENNIFER CORUM

Director
Real Time Crime
Center (RTCC),
Louisville Metro Police
Department, Kentucky
Age: 34

DIRECTOR JENNIFER CORUM chose a law enforcement career because it is a great opportunity to help the community and interact with victims of violent crimes. She wanted to help others to the best of her ability so that they would not be victimized. She receives her motivation from her team, Louisville Metro Police Department's (LMPD's) officers, her husband, and her inner self. Director Corum and her team improve the safety of their community by preventing crime, solving crimes, and helping to save lives on a daily basis.

Director Corum consistently demonstrates extraordinary leadership skills. She led the creation of the LMPD's Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) and created an extensive training plan to make sure each member of her team had the necessary skills to operate the RTCC.

The Real Time Crime Center, under Director Corum's leadership, has assisted officers by providing many different types of intelligence. Seeing the local officers provide such exceptional service to the public motivates Director Corum to provide them with the highest quality of support the RTCC can deliver. Director Corum has an outstanding work ethic and demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to her profession. In addition, she has won several awards including LMPD's Civilian Supervisor of the Year.

“I wanted to do my part in improving public safety and the well-being of the community as a whole.”



PAUL DADWAL

Staff Sergeant
Combined Forces
Special Enforcement
Unit, Royal Canadian
Mounted Police
Age: 36

STAFF SERGEANT PAUL DADWAL's decision to pursue law enforcement was heavily influenced by the mugging and assault of his grandfather. His entire mind-set changed because he was convinced that it was necessary to protect his community and ensure that senior citizens and innocent people are not targets of crime. As a result, Staff Sergeant Dadwal strives to inspire change and create an unbiased, non-judgmental police force that truly serves to protect.

He started at the Surrey Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachment, then joined the Serious Crimes Team where he eventually went on to create the Surrey RCMP Unsolved Homicide Team. He moved on to the British Columbia RCMP Provincial Interview Team and then joined the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT), where he created a full-time internal Interview and Interrogation Team. Staff Sergeant Dadwal has conducted more than 400 interrogations in major crime investigations. He has shared his expertise at a number of international conferences and has travelled extensively, conducting interviews around the world. His work has been instrumental in creating new techniques to combat organized crime.

Within his community, Staff Sergeant Dadwal has hosted workshops at universities and schools about gang violence and the importance of communities working together to improve social issues. He has also participated in an RCMP basketball program at a local elementary school.

“I grew up in Surrey, British Columbia, where my grandfather, who was a proud World War II veteran, inspired me to join law enforcement. He believed in giving back to our community and instilled values of community, pride, and honesty into our family.”



BRANDI DELVECCHIO
Sergeant
 Traffic Division,
 Coconut Creek Police
 Department, Florida
 Age: 39

SERGEANT BRANDI DELVECCHIO decided to pursue a career in law enforcement because she wanted to inspire and motivate people, just as her 5th grade D.A.R.E officer inspired her. An officer since the age of 21, Sergeant DelVecchio has focused on doing the right thing and finding the best way to assist others.

Sergeant DelVecchio has worked in every aspect of the Community Involvement Unit, including serving as a school resource officer. In her spare time, DelVecchio has coached the local middle school and high school cheerleading squads, and she continues to coach the high school squad. She has also served as the Crime Prevention Liaison and supervised the unit for a year. Sergeant DelVecchio created and coordinated a series of women's safety lectures within the community, which led to the creation of the Red Flag Series that has been played on the local television channel and made available on YouTube. The series won an award in government television.

Additionally, Sergeant DelVecchio was able to create a Breast Cancer Awareness car for the city, and she dedicated it to the city's mayor, who is a survivor. She has worked with Coconut Creek's local Home Depot to renovate the supervisors' and traffic offices and has also collected supplies to be shipped to military troops overseas. She chaired Coconut Creek's first Fill the Firetruck with the local fire department and led the effort to raise a generous sum of money for one of the department's officers whose child was injured in a crash.

“If we cannot lead from the front, we fail to lead at all.”



AARON W. EASTON
Chief of Police
 City of Marysville
 Police Department,
 California
 Age: 35

On December 1, 2014, **CHIEF AARON EASTON** was appointed chief of police and set a record as the youngest working police chief in California. Chief Easton is an active volunteer within his community and is well-known for his altruism. As a law enforcement professional, Chief Easton is driven by the opportunity to make a difference by showing professionalism, compassion, and understanding to those he serves, especially when they need it most.

Chief Easton is motivated to lead by the service of others, and he carefully makes decisions that ensure his actions are guided by honesty, compassion, understanding, and diplomacy. Above all, his strongest motivation is the inspiration he received from his late wife, Sara, the most loving and caring person he has known.

In recognition of Chief Easton's efforts, he was awarded two Officer of the Year awards, the American Red Cross "Real Hero" Award, a life-saving medal, a community service award, and a Medal of Valor, among other accolades. In addition, Chief Easton is a member of the Marysville Rotary Executive Board, the United Way Board of Directors, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Sutter-Yuba Homeless Consortium Board, and the Rotary Foundation Board, and he is a past president of the Marysville Police Officer's Association.

“[My late wife's] beautiful example will not fade for me, and I constantly reaffirm my resolve to honor her through the service of others.”



DREW EVANS
Superintendent
Minnesota Bureau
of Criminal
Apprehension
Age: 38

SUPERINTENDENT DREW EVANS's choice of a career in law enforcement stems from his desire to help protect community members and be part of the solution to the vexing problems society faces. Being a law enforcement officer has enabled him to confront these issues head on, and he has positioned himself to truly make a difference in the lives of others.

Superintendent Evans joined the police profession in 1999 with a local police department, and he has served as a criminal investigator, supervisor overseeing violent crimes and missing persons, and homicide investigator before becoming the assistant superintendent overseeing the Investigations Division and other bureau-wide duties. He is also a licensed attorney, an IACP Leadership in Police Organizations graduate, and an FBI National Academy graduate.

Superintendent Evans recognizes that the value of a premier statewide law enforcement agency is bigger than just the traditional roles of sworn officers. In addition to investigative services, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension also provides the only full-service, accredited forensic science crime laboratory in Minnesota and serves as the state hub for all criminal justice data, information systems, and services. Prior to his appointment, the three divisions (Investigations, Forensic Science Service, and Minnesota Justice Information Services) functioned separately. However, Superintendent Evans is implementing his vision of integrating the three divisions into a unified bureau.

“Working to achieve justice for those most vulnerable in our society is a noble cause that I want to be a part of.”



TOON FONTEYNE
Police Commissioner
Local Police, Belgium
Age: 35

Although **COMMISSIONER TOON FONTEYNE** is fairly new to the field of policing, his leadership, focus, determination, and interpersonal skills have not gone without notice from his peers. After serving as the national director of a youth organization for five years, Commissioner Fonteyne sought a new challenge that would be valuable to society. When given the opportunity to reorganize the corps during his police training, he jumped at the chance.

Despite capacity issues and a very turbulent past, there was a strong desire from the corps personnel to participate in this project. It was very rewarding for Commissioner Fonteyne to see that, with some motivation, everyone began to work toward the goal of excellence in police work. The benefit of having a smaller corps was a very personalized approach that allowed the team to resolve present issues. With help from his team, Fonteyne implemented a new management and information structure to use the available tools more efficiently for optimal growth.

Also, by publicizing the ambitious project, Commissioner Fonteyne's team was able to improve the community's perception of the corps and attract new recruits who resided in the area, but originally chose to work with other police departments. For Commissioner Fonteyne, the honest and genuine interest of his colleagues helped him maintain the energy and passion needed.

“Law enforcement has always been a fascinating line of work to me; the fact that you can, during crisis moments and when the trust has been broken, play such an important role in restoring this trust, seems to me very relevant to what I was looking for in a new career.”



JACOB GREEN
Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal
Western District of Washington, U.S. Marshals Service
Age: 37

CHIEF DEPUTY JACOB GREEN understood that, in becoming a law enforcement officer, he would become a leader, a role model, and a professional who should encourage change. He holds that quality to be necessary to influence positive progression. Chief Deputy Green joined law enforcement because it is a career that offers limitless opportunities to effect change.

He rose through the ranks of the U.S. Marshals Service quickly, and in four years, he was promoted from a deputy serving in the Eastern District of New York to supervisor and assistant chief deputy in Superior Court, Washington, D.C. Since his promotion, Chief Deputy Green has increased productivity of the Enforcement Section, developed an Occupation Emergency Plan, and ensured that the D.C. Superior Court passed audits with no issues. He oversees many different projects and people and produces many excellent results for the U.S. Marshals Service.

His colleagues note that what makes Chief Deputy Green an incredible deputy are his conflict management skills, his ability to leverage diversity, and his leadership capability to develop his peers. He encourages creative tension and differences of opinions and anticipates and takes the steps necessary to prevent counterproductive conflicts.

“Providing leadership, guidance, and mentoring to the “people”—be they college students or fellow law enforcement professionals—is motivation for me. Paying it forward is a priority of mine, and I am clear on the fact that without the people, we have nothing at all.”



TIFFANIE HAAG
Corporal
Arlington County Police Department, Virginia
Age: 31

CORPORAL TIFFANIE HAAG did not grow up with her career dreams set on law enforcement, but she found that her desire to serve her country and community aligned very well with the duties of a law enforcement officer. The responsibility of helping and serving others spoke to her and aligned with her abilities.

Corporal Haag is motivated by helping others and seeing how she is able to impact the lives of others through her service. Haag established the Women’s Peer Support Group for the Arlington County Police Department, which helps female law enforcement officers seeking promotions for supervisory ranks develop their leadership skills. The group also serves as a support group for women in the department. Haag has also participated in the Emerging Leaders Cohort with Arlington County, which provides leadership and management education for employees from a variety of agencies.

Corporal Haag is also a role model and motivator for young girls. She established an after-school group for elementary girls that teaches them leadership and life skills. Corporal Haag is passionate about working with children and helping them learn to be impactful citizens and leaders in their communities, and she strives to help young girls develop into strong, confident women.

Her supervisors and peers recognize Corporal Haag for the respect, sympathy, and strong investigative skills that allow her to get her work done in a caring, effective, and efficient manner.

“I feel great satisfaction when those around me succeed, especially if I could help them in some way.”



DON HEDRICK
Assistant Chief
Rapid City Police
Department, South
Dakota
Age: 36

ASSISTANT CHIEF DON HEDRICK refuses to dwell on the negativity in today's society. He strives each and every day to see the world as his young daughter does, with hopefulness and happiness. Assistant Chief Hedrick understands that law enforcement has a crucial role in maintaining that optimism within their communities.

Assistant Chief Hedrick has made many progressive changes in the Rapid City Police Department, including establishing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), a step that made the agency one of the first in the state of South Dakota to adopt CIT. More than half of the department's staff are now trained in critical de-escalation techniques. Assistant Chief Hedrick was also instrumental in obtaining a grant to train officers in peer support.

Assistant Chief Hedrick wanted to become a law enforcement professional because he witnessed how those in uniform can impact the lives of those around them to make the world a better place. The police chief of the town in which he grew up exemplified true community policing even before it was a well-known policing philosophy. In addition, Assistant Chief Hedrick's experience as an athlete and a coach has taught him the importance of teamwork. He believes that a police department cannot progressively serve their citizens without dedicated personnel.

“Every day I strive to be like my role models with the goal of making my city and department a better place to be through my job as a police officer.”



DONEENA HENRY
Sergeant
Queensland Police
Service, Australia
Age: 39

SERGEANT DONEENA HENRY started at the Queensland Police Service in 2001 and is now a sergeant shift supervisor at the Coomera Police Station. She chose a career in law enforcement to make a positive impact in the community in which she and her family live. The law enforcement career appeals to Sergeant Henry because she deals with a vast range of social problems and works as a team with her fellow officers to keep the community safe and secure.

Sergeant Henry rose to the occasion when she was tasked with being the Officer in Charge for the Runaway Bay Police Station with little experience or training in that leadership position. She set goals, provided guidance and support, and held people accountable for poor performance, which led to the station's rank as one of the highest performers in the district after only three months.

Sergeant Henry is a role model for all officers, particularly young female officers. She developed the Female Professional Development Course for young and junior female officers, which provides mentoring and modeling to enhance the strengths of women as future leaders. In her spare time, she volunteers at a community childcare center, cooks, and spends time with her family.

“Acting with integrity is at the core of my motivation, and I am driven to make my community safer and stronger where everyone can feel secure throughout their whole life.”



MICHAEL HENRY
Sergeant
Major Crimes,
Alaska Bureau of
Investigation, Alaska
State Troopers
Age: 36

SERGEANT MICHAEL HENRY, currently serving in the Alaska Bureau of Investigation, began his law enforcement career in 2003 and has selflessly devoted his time to improving his fellow officers and the field since the very beginning. The 2013 Alaska State Trooper-Alaska Bureau of Investigation Trooper of the Year for overall performance finds satisfaction in the law enforcement career through serving people, interacting with people, and helping them in a meaningful way.

In addition to his enforcement duties, Sergeant Henry trains other law enforcement officers throughout Alaska in sexual assault response and investigations, as well as strangulations investigations. In 2015 alone, Sergeant Henry trained more than 200 law enforcement professionals. He grasps the impact trauma can have on a victim and how that trauma can affect a case, and he seeks out new trainings and tools to improve the Alaska Bureau of Investigation's performance and effectiveness in protecting the public.

Sergeant Henry also teaches and works with youth throughout his community as a D.A.R.E. instructor.

“I am motivated by challenges and opportunities to help others. I am motivated by a desire to stop evil people from doing evil things. I have a strong desire to do my job to the very best of my ability and to learn ways to do better.”



DEBORAH HUFF
State Trooper/Major
Incident Reconstruction
Team Investigator
Highway Patrol
Division, Nevada
Department of Public
Safety
Age: 38

TROOPER DEBORAH HUFF has made impaired driving apprehension and efficiency in detecting impaired drivers her focus. Her goal is always to apprehend impaired drivers before they hurt others or themselves. Trooper Huff's exemplary leadership has led to most of her fellow Nevada Highway Patrol Troopers in Las Vegas becoming trained through the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program. Trooper Huff is also one of only five Drug Recognition Expert instructors within the entire Nevada Department of Public Safety.

Trooper Huff has never considered any other career. She worked her way from a civilian position at her local sheriff's office to a position at the detention center to a state trooper with the Highway Patrol Division. She has been a trooper for the Department of Public Safety since December 2005, where she assists with collision and impaired driving investigations and traffic enforcement. She is passionate about making a difference and helping those in her community.

As an instructor, Trooper Huff teaches sobriety testing classes, ARIDE courses, and Drug Recognition Evaluation and Classification training courses. She is motivated by educating those around her so that the whole department can become more efficient in impaired driving recognition. She strives every day to make sure that Nevada's highways are safe for all.

“I want to be able to pass along my passion and motivation for DWI enforcement to the next generation.”



MELRON KELLY
Deputy Chief of Police
Columbia Police
Department, South
Carolina
Age: 39

DEPUTY CHIEF MELRON KELLY knew he wanted to become a police officer from a very young age—improving the community, helping residents, and holding the right people accountable always appealed to him. He has proudly been a Columbia, South Carolina, Police Department officer for 17 years. His empathy and compassion for others, especially those who need it the most, shines through in his exemplary police work.

Through his efforts, the Columbia Police Department was able to establish a memorandum of agreement to provide offender data for individuals under community supervision for further analysis and decision-making. He has also championed efforts for partner agencies to work together and bring awareness to crucial issues, such as gun violence, judicial consequences, and community-based treatment services for offenders under supervision.

Deputy Chief Kelly has been described as a visionary with a passion for policing that continually grows. He understands the need to tackle issues of crime across the entire continuum, which, for Deputy Chief Kelly, includes proactively working with youth and the families of those involved in the justice system. He strives to develop the next generation of police leaders through constantly sharing his experiences with younger officers.

“No matter what zip code or financial status, always strive for excellence. Instead of looking for excuses, look for inspiration and hope. Dreams can be a reality even if they start at the age of nine.”



MICHAEL KENT
Lieutenant
Irvine Police
Department, California
Age: 39

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL KENT, a 12-year veteran of the Irvine Police Department, moved to the United States from Alexandria, Egypt, in 1989. An encounter with a kind U.S. officer as a youth led him to pursue a career in law enforcement. During his career, Lieutenant Kent has worked in patrol and served as a field training officer, detective, SWAT operator, and sergeant, among other roles; he is currently the manager of the Criminal Investigations Division, as well as working in crime analysis, mental health, and crime scene investigations. He has received numerous awards, including the Medal of Courage, Life Saving Award, and Community Award.

In 2010, Lieutenant Kent redesigned the department’s 22-year-old briefing room; the new design included the implementation of a computer and projection system to make briefings more dynamic. A year later, he developed Irvine-Connect 360, a program that allows police employees to create problem-oriented policing projects electronically, which can then be emailed to all officers on the relevant beat and shift.

Lieutenant Kent understands the priorities of contemporary policing—maintaining public trust, promoting transparency, and working in partnership with the community—and recognizes the pivotal role law enforcement officers play in achieving these goals. As a leader, he ensures that his team members realize the importance of these activities, as well. Lieutenant Kent’s motivation to serve lies with the community he lives in, and he takes pride in contributing to the community’s safety and its trust in the police department.

“I’m living my American Dream... I come to work every day motivated to continue building trust with the community I serve and to provide its members with a safe and desirable place to live.”



DAVID NUGENT
Captain, Operations Officer
U.S. Air Force 811th Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland
Age: 29

CAPTAIN DAVID NUGENT entered the U.S. Air Force following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He grew up just miles from New York City and was motivated to take action to protect his country and the American people. He started at the Air Force Academy in 2005 and became interested in Air Force Security Forces because he wanted a career where he could help develop Air Force personnel. His goal is to be a leader for law enforcement professionals everywhere.

Captain Nugent understands that the keys to truly effective and efficient law enforcement organizations are cooperation and coordination among agencies. He was recently recognized for realizing the need for interagency training and initiating the first-ever training courses with the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service. These training courses ensure that agents are familiarized with motorcade routes, safe house locations, and on-base command and control procedures. His regular interactions between agencies have resulted in more intelligence and information sharing and have improved the safety of all departments' agents and officers.

Captain Nugent has been recognized as an inspiring leader for motivating the 260 personnel he supervises to increase their commitment to the profession and to challenge themselves and each other to improve every day.

“As law enforcement leaders, we must operate as one team and not separate organizations.”



STEVEN O'DELL
Chief
Forensic Science and Evidence Management Division, Baltimore Police Department, Maryland
Age: 39

CHIEF STEVEN O'DELL has been with the Baltimore Police Department Forensic Science and Evidence Management Division since 2013. Since then, Chief O'Dell has made significant progress in improving forensic services for the city of Baltimore through several innovative initiatives. Whether in Arizona, Alabama, Iraq, or Maryland, Chief O'Dell has proven to be a change agent, and he has transformed the Baltimore Police Department's Crime Laboratory.

He previously led the Phoenix Police Department's Crime Scene Unit to accreditation as the first municipal police department to earn crime scene accreditation, and he has led the Baltimore Police Department's Forensic Laboratory and Crime Scene Sciences to international accreditation in Forensic Testing and Field Inspection. He established the Baltimore Forensic Institute of Training and Innovation, which has generated revenue for the city and brought advanced training to Baltimore. He has increased the scientific capabilities of forensic services through his diligence to evidence-based processes, leadership, and tireless innovation. Chief O'Dell has had an impact locally and globally in forensic science through auditing as a lead assessor, advising and consulting, and establishing laboratories. He continues to advance the forensic science field by teaching classes in the University of Maryland and University of Arkansas systems, as well as delivering talks and workshops at professional conferences around the United States.

“Learning, leading, change, and measurable outcomes motivate me. Not just in terms of numbers, but in developing real evidence-based solutions that work and make a difference in people's lives.”



BRANDON PERKINS

Chief
Tyrone Police
Department, Georgia
Age: 39

CHIEF BRANDON PERKINS grew up surrounded by law enforcement because his father, a former police officer, had many friends in the profession. Because of this, Chief Perkins grew up knowing what it means to wear the uniform and the badge. As the chief of the Tyrone Police Department since 2007, he maintains that level of dedication and service he grew up seeing as a child. He is constantly looking for ways to make the department, his officers, and the community better. As a result, Tyrone, Georgia, has ranked in the top eight safest cities in Georgia for three years straight and has experienced a 50 percent reduction in violent crime rates. In 2015, Chief Perkins founded the nonprofit American Armor Foundation, Inc., which assists smaller law enforcement agencies across the United States afford body armor for officers. Chief Perkins strives to make well-informed decisions that have a positive impact on the community every day. He is driven by the feeling of accomplishment that accompanies the implementation of a successful process that gets positive results.

Those around him describe Chief Perkins as passionate and highly skilled in areas such as community policing, public relations, organizational leadership, staff training, and policy development. He knows what it takes to lead a successful police department and works hard each day to make that a reality in his own community.

“Every decision that I make has the potential to impact thousands of citizens each day, and I refuse to take that lightly.”



JUSTIN PLETCHER

Sergeant
Columbia Heights
Police Department,
Minnesota
Age: 36

SERGEANT JUSTIN PLETCHER's decision to pursue law enforcement was influenced by his desire to help people and impact the lives of others. He joined the U.S. Army while in college and joined the Columbia Heights Police Department in 2010.

During the past six years, Sergeant Pletcher has met with congressmen, U.S. attorneys, elected officials, and community members in efforts to promote the City of Peace Park Recreation Center. Sergeant Pletcher plays an integral part on the project team that is working to construct a building that will house police services and allow for an increased sense of safety and security, as well as community-oriented recreational events and social services. Sergeant Pletcher supports officers under his supervision and encourages them to become better officers by getting more involved with community-based initiatives and constantly encourages them to think of the “bigger picture.”

Sergeant Pletcher researched, coordinated, and implemented the program to have Columbia Heights named a Heart Safe community. The Heart Safe designation recognizes a community's efforts to prepare its staff and citizens to recognize when someone suffers a sudden cardiac arrest and how to better respond.

“I believe in justice and protecting others from harm, helping them find the security needed to succeed on their own. I love being a cop—I always knew I would—but I never imagined I would be an instrument of change to the degree that I have been afforded thus far in my career.”



MICHAEL REIN
Deputy Chief
 Rutgers University
 Police Department,
 New Jersey
 Age: 34

DEPUTY CHIEF MICHAEL REIN started working at the Rutgers University Division of Public Safety in 2000 as a student employee, and he has quickly risen through the ranks, leaving his mark every step of the way.

As a sergeant, he overhauled the department's policies and procedures, which proved to be instrumental in attaining accreditation through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and achieving advanced law enforcement accreditation through CALEA. As a lieutenant, Deputy Chief Rein implemented an electronic records management system. As a captain, he was a crucial player in coordinating the integration of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Police Department into the Rutgers Police Department to create one of the largest university public safety organizations in the United States. Now, as a deputy chief, he oversees the department's Professional Standards Division to ensure that all department functions are uniform, consistent, and efficient, including the management of a state-of-the-art shared services E9-1-1 center that serves the Rutgers University community across the state of New Jersey.

It is Deputy Chief Rein's concept of always doing what is right that motivates him to work diligently to ensure that the agency and its services remain relevant and responsive to the needs of the ever-evolving communities it serves.

“These tremendous responsibilities along with the continuing opportunities to work with enthused, committed, and talented partners in order to ensure that the department continues to evolve and remain responsive to the needs of its employees and community are what I am motivated by.”



KRIS RICE
Detective Sergeant
 Victoria Police
 Department, British
 Columbia
 Age: 36

DETECTIVE SERGEANT KRIS RICE has been in the law enforcement field for 12 years, during which time he has had a very positive impact. For example, he developed a new warrant technique for tracking high-risk offenders that is now used across Canada to track sexual predators, murder suspects, gangsters, and other criminals. Detective Sergeant Rice is also a team leader with the regional Crowd Management Unit, an executive member of the Uniform Committee, and a drug investigations instructor at the Justice Institute of British Columbia, and he led the development of Major Case Management protocols for detectives at the Victoria Police Department. It is clear from these many accomplishments that Detective Sergeant Rice is an exceptional leader.

One way Detective Sergeant Rice shows his respect and honor for the profession is through his development of the Victoria Police Department's Honor Guard. The honor guard represents the department for nationally televised events, police functions, community events, and ceremonies. The honor guard is a positive representation of the department and the profession for the community and a morale boost for the officers within the department.

“My client-centered policing style is in keeping with my police department's values, vision, and mission and best serves the community. I lead by example, holding myself accountable to the same high standards I expect others to uphold.”



REBECCA RODRIGUEZ
Operations Support Manager
Round Rock Police Department, Texas
Age: 39

At the Round Rock Police Department, **REBECCA RODRIGUEZ** focuses on the operations of the 9-1-1 Communications Center, Records Unit, as well as department human resources matters. She has been a strong and effective leader through a number of projects that include partnering with agencies to construct a 200-foot radio tower to maximize radio coverage, converting the radio system from analog to digital, and ensuring a smooth transition for all employees moving to smartphones. She earned the prestigious Emergency Number Professional (ENP) certification and serves on the Capital Area Emergency Communications District committee, which is spearheading efforts to bring NextGen 9-1-1 services to the Central Texas region.

Rebecca also shows a genuine concern for others. Her passion for helping others who cannot help themselves is what drew her to a career in 9-1-1 communications.

Rebecca's kindness and concern is not limited to her professional field. She started a partnership between the Round Rock Police Department and Sharing Happy Birthdays, an organization that provides "birthday parties in a box" for children in her community who are in foster care or homeless. She has also participated in local mentoring programs and organized book drives for local hospitals.

“I was taught to help those who cannot help themselves and, most simply, to be kind and understanding—not for accolades, not for monetary gain, but simply because someone should.”



MATTHEW SANDERS
Sergeant
Austin Police Department, Texas
Age: 39

For **SERGEANT MATTHEW SANDERS**, true success comes when his department and 11-officer patrol unit are successful. Sergeant Sanders' positive can-do attitude, high level of care for each individual he works with, and dedication to the responsibility of the profession make him an effective supervisor, as well as an effective law enforcement officer.

Sergeant Sanders' leadership skills were clearly illustrated when he took ownership of Operation Catch a Thief in order to decrease property crimes that were the cause of major concern for citizens and negatively affected their perceptions of quality-of-life issues. Sergeant Sanders empowered other officers, networked with other units, acquired the necessary resources, and directed a plan, which led to the successful completion of the operation in six months.

After two years with the Austin Police Department, he was asked to become a field training officer, and after six years on the force, he was selected as a member of the cadet training staff. Sergeant Sanders enjoys the opportunity to support his fellow officers.

“I really enjoy seeing one of my officers improve in their job or to increase their enjoyment at work. I love being in a position to support my officers in accomplishing their goals.”



AMBER SMITH

Corporal
Royal Canadian
Mounted Police,
Ontario
Age: 38

CORPORAL AMBER SMITH began her career providing front-line policing services; however, she was quickly identified as a leader by colleagues and management and was given supervisory roles in large-scale organized crime investigations. Corporal Smith's talent for interviewing youth and her passion to protect children led her to a role with the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre in 2009. Her outstanding performance resulted in a position in the Victim Identification and Undercover Unit, a highly specialized and dedicated covert group that investigates the most serious child exploitation offenders on the Internet.

Her list of accomplishments within the unit includes leading roles in several international investigations in which multiple offenders were arrested and children were rescued, including one investigation in Canada that led to the arrest of 56 offenders and the rescue of 17 victims. In a recent case involving a serial offender that evaded convictions on past charges, Corporal Smith was instrumental in developing an investigational online undercover technique that successfully engaged the offender and enabled her to capture sufficient evidence to charge him. She was also recently recognized by the FBI for her work and excellent cooperation in international crimes.

“It's the kids who think that no one is watching or no one is coming to help them that motivate me every single day.”



FRANCIS SOUSA

Police Captain
Fort Lauderdale Police
Department, Florida
Age: 36

CAPTAIN FRANK SOUSA has been employed with the City of Fort Lauderdale since 1999, serving in various roles, including patrol officer, tactical impact officer, narcotics detective, and federal task force officer, as well as supervisory positions. In addition, Captain Sousa was the agency's public information officer for five years and continues to be a subject matter expert in media relations. He also serves on the Board of Public Information Officers for the state of Florida. He has received a number of commendations and awards for his work in public information, policing, and education.

Captain Sousa was instrumental in researching, developing, and assisting in the implementation of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's intelligence-led policing (ILP) model. He developed an ILP unit and coordinated an ILP training program that was presented to all three bureaus. In 2014, the ILP program contributed to the lowest crime rate in the department's history. In addition, Captain Sousa developed and implemented the department's Police Explorer program and administered the first in-house Explorer academy, which continues today.

“It is important to have pride in all that we do. It is fulfilling to create an image that is respected but also known to give respect.”



LATESHA WATSON

*Deputy Police Chief
Arlington Police
Department, Texas
Age: 38*

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF LATESHA WATSON joined the Arlington Police Department in 2002 after working her way through college holding non-sworn positions in local law enforcement agencies as a community service officer and dispatcher. In 2014, she became Arlington Police Department's youngest chief in tenure and age with only 12 years of service as a police officer at the department. Watson has excelled professionally as well as academically, obtaining a PhD in management and organizational leadership. Because Deputy Chief Watson thrives within operational environments, she has overseen a myriad of critical events in the city. Deputy Chief Watson has taken her leadership role to heart, mentoring future leaders and working to advance women in policing on all levels. She presents at symposiums and conferences illustrating the value of diversity in the recruitment, retention, selection, and promotion of women in the law enforcement profession. In addition, she participates in the development of key programs such as a departmental Women Leadership Development Series and youth mentoring programs.

Deputy Chief Watson leads by placing an emphasis on the importance of building relationships with people. She is recognized by many for providing inspiration and motivation while assisting others in the attainment of goals by uncovering their strengths, providing opportunities, and cultivating excellence in those around her.

“With the understanding that leadership is a journey rather than a destination, I welcome the challenge to excel even further on this journey as I continue to work to perfect my craft.”



WAYNE WEGENER

*Public Safety Captain
Lino Lakes Public
Safety Department,
Minnesota
Age: 37*

CAPTAIN WAYNE WEGENER has served with the Lino Lakes Public Safety Department since 2004, during which time he earned a master's degree and was promoted to sergeant and, then, captain. He has managed several solutions for his agency, including the automation of the payroll system to improve accountability and transparency. Captain Wegener's breadth of experience is extraordinary; during his law enforcement career, he has also served as a use-of-force instructor, field training officer, school resource officer, investigator, and DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) task force officer.

In 2014, the Lino Lakes Police Department began the process to incorporate fire services and become the Lino Lakes Public Safety Department. With only 18 months to accomplish this change, Captain Wegener coordinated firefighting training for 25 police officers while maintaining shift coverage—and attending the training himself. In addition, he was instrumental in the construction and operation of the new fire station.

“On a professional level, I will always be motivated by the intrinsic value of helping others... helping the victim of a medical emergency, investigating a crime, arresting an individual for breaking a law, or stopping to talk with some kids in the park.”



JESSE A. WELLEN
Assistant Chief of Police
Watford City Police
Department, North
Dakota
Age: 31

ASSISTANT CHIEF JESSE WELLEN started his career as a specialist with the U.S. Army, where he was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and earned multiple awards and citations. When Assistant Chief Wellen left the Army, he was not sure where his career path would take him next, but, with a strong desire to help others and a sense of teamwork, he knew it would include law enforcement.

That mission led him to a small, five-officer department in Watford City, North Dakota, on the verge of extraordinary change. Two years later, at 28, he was promoted to chief of police. Assistant Chief Wellen played a critical role in the police department during North Dakota's oil boom when the community expanded from a population of 1,200 to over 15,000 in a short, four-year time period, and the department grew from 5 officers to more than 20 officers.

In 2014, his path took another turn when he felt his personal and professional commitment to the community was best served if he took an active role in leadership and investigations in the field instead of performing the administrative duties of chief, so he made the decision to move to the assistant chief position. Now, Assistant Chief Wellen collaborates closely with the chief and serves as the Detective Division commander, which allows him to lead important investigations, including homicides, drug crimes, and burglaries.

“I chose law enforcement because it is a self-fulfilling career, where you take pride in the work that you do and the difference you can make by helping others.”



ERIC BRANDON WILKES
*Sergeant, Assistant Post
Commander*
Georgia State Patrol
Age: 35

SERGEANT ERIC WILKES has been with the Georgia Department of Public Safety since 2005 and served as a state trooper since 2007, rising through the ranks to the position of assistant post commander and troop task force commander. In addition, he is the assistant coordinator (and a founding member) of the State of Georgia Critical Incident Support Team, which assists those involved in critical incidents return to their professions and daily lives without experiencing debilitating psychological issues. This role requires Sergeant Wilkes to be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year and to travel across the state to help others whenever needed.

Sergeant Wilkes has won a number of awards and commendations for his service from his department and external sources, including the Georgia Governor's Award for Heroism, Douglas County Trooper of the Year, and the 200 Club Medal of Valor.

“Law enforcement professionals face challenges today like never before. I am very proud to have the opportunity to help so many officers in need.”



WILLEM WILLEMSSENS

Staff Officer
Antwerp Local Police
Department, Belgium
Age: 34

OFFICER WILLEM WILLEMSSENS has served the Antwerp Local Police Department as a patrol officer; a commissioner; and, now, a staff officer, assuming responsibility for safety plans, coordinating police operations, and overseeing technological innovations. During his time as a commissioner, Officer Willemsens led the unit responsible for the safety of the Antwerp Diamond District (\$58 billion industry) and the Jewish community (70 institutions). He reorganized the unit, implemented professional training sessions for the officers, optimized the relations with the different communities, and introduced new technology. In addition, he used strong negotiation skills to realize a service-level agreement between the city, the police department, and the communities.

In addition, Officer Willemsens worked with the Antwerp World Diamond Centre to build a program to prevent “tiger kidnappings”—armed robberies by groups of attackers who have carefully selected and watched their target, whom they compel to commit a crime on their behalf in order to save the kidnapped individual or stolen item. The program was effective; there have been no tiger kidnappings since its implementation. Officer Willemsens also installed the first automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) network in Antwerp, which is undergoing expansion to become the largest ANPR network in Belgium.

“The possibility to achieve more and better things together with a group of skilled and motivated colleagues is very challenging and motivating.”



ANTHONY WILLIAMS

Police Officer
Northwest Missouri
State University Police
Department
Age: 27

OFFICER ANTHONY WILLIAMS began his service at the Northwest Missouri State University Police Department while he was still a university student, and he has served as a police officer with the agency for five years. Officer Williams leads the department in all arrest and referral categories, as well as the monthly “satisfactions of service” delivered from perception surveys sent to each victim and offender.

He has created relationships with all segments of the community, including those not typically supportive of law enforcement, and he has served as an academic mentor for college students, a mentor for underprivileged children during the holiday season, and an advisor for student organizations. These relationships have benefited the community and department; for example, due to his relationship to students, a student group contacted Officer Williams prior to holding a protest to support the Ferguson, Missouri, protesters, and, with his help, worked with law enforcement to create a safe, respectful environment for the event.

“I enjoy the impact that I can make on a person’s life. I also like that I can leave a person knowing that they have made an impact on my life as well. We both leave the situation better and different than when we first met.”



NICHELLE L. WOODROW
Sergeant
Wichita Police
Department, Kansas
Age: 37

SERGEANT NICHELLE L. WOODROW joined the Wichita Police Department at the age of 21. As a 16-year veteran of the department, she has served in the ranks of police officer, detective, and sergeant.

In 2011, Sergeant Woodrow was recognized as the American Red Cross Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for her continuous work with the homeless. In addition, Sergeant Woodrow is the founder and president of the Four Legged Project, Inc., a nonprofit that donates ballistic vests for police dogs in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. The organization was established after more than 20 police K-9s were killed in the line of duty by either gunfire or stabbing between 2012 and the organization's founding.

Sergeant Woodrow currently serves as the public information officer, the spokesperson for the department. She supervises the Community Affairs Unit, which includes the department's social media accounts.

Prior to becoming public information officer, Sergeant Woodrow served as the Special Community Action Team supervisor, where she was responsible for scheduling, coordinating, and directing officers who specialized in investigations of neighborhood drug activity, violent crimes, and gang activity. In 2015, under Sergeant Woodrow's management, her team assisted on several homicide investigations, successfully conducted follow-up for 94 neighborhood drug complaints, and served 12 search warrants that resulted in the seizures of more than 48,000 grams of marijuana, 10 grams of cocaine, 129 grams of crack cocaine, 20 grams of heroin, 4,600 grams of methamphetamine, 23 firearms, and \$32,000 in U.S. currency.

“As a supervisor, I enjoy coming to work to lead a great group of officers. The officers can learn from my experience, and I get to learn from them.”



FLORENCE E. YU
Special Investigator
Office of the Inspector
General, Los Angeles
Board of Police
Commissioners,
California
Age: 33

FLORENCE YU serves as a special investigator for the Los Angeles Police Commission's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Audits and Complaints Section. Her background as an attorney for a nonprofit legal services organization and her dedication to bettering community relations with law enforcement demonstrate her commitment to public service. During her time with the OIG, Florence has shown a passion for her work and for the people, both sworn and civilian, who benefit in many ways from her service. For example, Florence volunteered to participate in a project that evaluated whether the Los Angeles Police Department accurately reported crimes to the FBI.

Despite being one of the youngest members of the OIG staff, Florence has capably stepped into leadership roles, including serving as acting inspector general at times. As a civilian working with sworn law enforcement, her ability to work collaboratively with LAPD command staff shows strong leadership and dedication to serving the public.

“I have always imagined myself serving the public and leaving a positive impact on society. At the end of the day, knowing that I tried my best to make life better for one person, even if it is simply listening to them over the phone, is enough to keep me going.”