



# VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***  
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## Chief Jason Salazar Announces Sergeant Promotion

Chief Jason Salazar announces the promotions of Gerrit DeJong & Mike Verissimo to the positions of Police Sergeant.

Gerrit began his employment with the Visalia Police Department in 2003. During his career with VPD, Gerrit has been assigned to the Patrol Division as both a Police Officer and K9 Handler. Gerrit has also been assigned as a Youth Services Officer and as a Detective in the Violent Crimes Unit. Additionally, he also served as an Explorer Advisor, a member of the Rapid Response Team, and as a Weaponless Defense Instructor.

In July of 2016, Gerrit was promoted to the rank of Agent and was assigned to the Patrol Division at District 1.

Gerrit has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Management and also a Master's Degree in Leadership, Public Policy & Social Issues from Union Institute & University.

Mike began his law enforcement career with the Visalia Police Department in 1998. During his career with VPD, Mike has been assigned to the Patrol Division and has worked several specialty units. He was a Field Training Officer, a member of the DUI Enforcement Team, as well as the Hostage Negotiator Team.

Mike has also been assigned to the Investigations Division where he served as a Youth Services Officer and the Special Enforcement Bureau where he worked in the Gang Unit, as well as the Multi-agency Gang Networking Enforcement Team (MAGNET). Prior to his promotion, Mike was assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit as a Sexual Assault Detective.

Mike has an Associate of Science Degree from College of the Sequoias in Administration of Justice. He also has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute & University.

The promotion is effective Saturday, January 7, 2017.



Gerrit DeJong



Mike Verissimo

