

### Organization Snapshot

Kitsap County WA Citizens Patrol

Year Started: 1999

Number of Members: 25

City Population: 240,000

Website:

<http://cops.homestead.com>

*Provide an overview of your community, where the C.O.P. group operates (population, size, etc)*

Kitsap County, Washington, has a population of 240,000. The county is about 393 square miles and has a shoreline larger than any county in the contiguous United States. The major industries in the county are the Department of Defense, healthcare, tourism and forest products and it is the home base of one of only two Trident submarine bases in the world. The major cities and populations of each are, Bremerton, 38,000, Bainbridge Island, 22,000, Port Orchard, 8,000, and Poulsbo, 7,200.

*Who started the C.O.P organization and why?*

A concerned citizen from the county lobbied for a change in the law to allow trained citizens in the State of Washington to enforce the disabled parking law. The bill was passed by the legislature. This organization was then formed by the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). After two years, a member went to an NACOP Conference and recommended our group should join the NACOP and we did. After becoming affiliated with the NACOP, our organization changed our name to Kitsap County Citizens On Patrol and expanded our mission.

*How many people were initially involved and what did the organization look like then?*

The unit was organized in 1999 with four members and was supervised by the Crime Prevention Officer of the KCSO. The original four members are still active in the organization. (See photo of the original members in our original uniforms on next page.)

*What were your initial goals, crime reduction only, assist law enforcement with traffic, etc.*

A discussion with Deputy Pete Ball, Citizen Patrol Coordinator for the Kitsap County, Washington, Sheriff's Citizen Patrol Unit.

*By Arthur Femister*

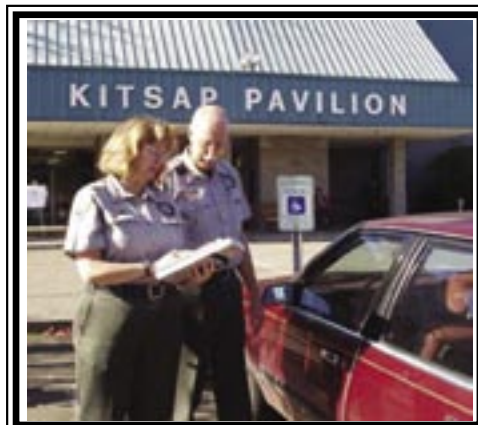


*Pictured above; Front row: Kurt Corey, Dick Todd, Don Hudspeth, Bob Kuligowski, & Dave Ojima. Middle row: John Albright, Jim Karosich, Denee Lambert, Mike Kennedy, Dianne Canafax, Carl Fleischmann, Bob Smolinsky, Rick Gonzales & Deputy Pete Ball. Back row: Ray Goforth, Shirley McConnell, Terry Strieck, Pat Garrett, Bob Croghan & Bill Mullins. Missing: Doug Abundis, John Forsdal, Doug Billings, Jack Dent, Pat Johnson, Bob Paulsen & Donny Shurland.*

The initial goal was to enforce the disabled parking laws only. The members were given a limited commission to issue citations for this infraction.

*What types of challenges did you face initially and what are they now if any?*

The members were faced with the challenges of being accepted by the public and some of the Deputy Sheriffs as volunteers. The uniform was a green plastic vest and a black cap with "VOLUNTEER" printed in large block letters on both the cap and vest.



*Pictured above: Dianne Canafax and John Albright write a Notice of Infraction citation.*

*If you have patrol cars, what was your first patrol car, (make, model, condition, etc.)*

The first patrol cars were our privately owned vehicles with magnetic signs on the doors identifying us as members of the KCSO. We even supplied our own fuel. The first county owned car we used as a patrol car was a cast-off 1990 Ford van in less than good condition. This vehicle was near the end of its useful life. It had several breakdowns before it was finally retired.

*What does your Citizen Patrol car fleet look like now, how many cars, what type, etc.*

The unit now has three 1996 Ford Crown Victoria retired deputies' vehicles. These vehicles are equipped with two-way radios, cell phones, mobile computer terminals (MCT) with computer aided dispatch (CAD), and yellow light bars. The cars are green in color with markings very similar as the deputies' cars except ours are identified as Citizens On Patrol with other Sheriff markings.

**What type of uniforms do you have? Polo shirts? Sheriff's uniforms? Combination?**

The members now wear a county provided grey shirt with epaulets and cloth badge, green trousers, black cap with embroidered star badge and embroidered "COP UNIT" under the star, black basket weave belt, and black jacket. The uniforms are different from the deputies but the two shoulder patches are the same that they wear.



*Pictured above, original members: Doug Abundis, Shirley McConnell, Dick Todd, and Kurt Covey in the beginning.*

**How many Citizen Patrol volunteers do you actively have now?**

We have 25 Volunteers at this time.

**What type of equipment do your members carry? Flashlights? Cuffs? Pepper Spray? etc.**

The members carry flashlights, portable two-way radios, pepper spray has recently been approved, and related safety gear provided by the county. Some members carry privately owned cell phones which often become handy.

**Where is your Citizen Patrol office located?**

Our office is in the patrol vehicles with mailboxes and storage of equipment and paperwork in various KCSO stations in the county. This affords us a good opportunity for interaction with other KCSO personnel.

**How do you communicate between cars, volunteers and Law Enforcement? Cell phones, radios?**

Each vehicle is equipped with wired-in cell phones, mobile two-way radios and mobile computer terminals. Off-duty communication between members is primarily by e-mail.

**How do you dispatch Citizen Patrol volunteers to accident scenes or calls for LE assistance?**

The 911 dispatchers and other law enforcement units can contact the Citizens On Patrol members by the mobile computer terminal, mobile two-way radio or cell phone. The unit maintains a phone tree for off-duty callouts of members to assist special LE activities.

**What type on initial training do Citizen Patrol volunteers get and is there any ongoing training?**

There is 24 hours of classroom training, four hours riding with a deputy, two four hour shifts with two COP members on patrol and then riding with a field training officer (FTO) until the FTO feels the trainee is competent to patrol with any COP member, two one-hours sessions in traffic court, and a four-hour session with a 911 dispatcher. Ongoing training includes but is not limited to ACCESS/WACIC, First Aid/CPR, Blood Borne Pathogens, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course, Diffusing Potentially Violent Situations, Notice of Infraction Data Entry, Methamphetamine Lab Recognition, Safe/Defensive Driving, and Diversity and Anti-Harassment. During the monthly meetings we often have training sessions.

**Do you offer any Special Services to the public or LE such as fingerprinting, vacation checks, traffic control, crime scene control, stolen car checks, etc?**

Unit members do vacation checks, traffic control, special events, abandoned vehicle checks, VIN checks, parking enforcement, eyes and ears patrols, business checks, small business and home security checks.

**What are the qualifications to become a Citizen Patrol member and what type of background check do applicants go through?**

Members must be 21 years old or older, possess a valid Washington State driver's license, have a good driving record with no suspensions, pass a background check similar to the deputies' background check and successfully pass either a Computerized Voice Stress Analysis or polygraph test. The applicant is then interviewed by the unit coordinator, captain, lieutenant, and the county Volunteer Services

Coordinator.

**What were your most current year's statistics such as amount of miles patrolled, total hours volunteered by all members, drop in crime rate due to C.O.P., specific crimes stopped in progress or caught?**

During calendar year 2005 unit members volunteered a total of 12,003 hours, (of those hours, about 7,000 were actual patrol duties the other 5,000 were other events and training) an almost 10% increase in total hours from 2004, Disabled Parking tickets written 747, other tickets: 99, warnings (written and verbal combined): 1,756, vacation house checks: 714, abandoned vehicle towing: 916, junk vehicle processing: 596

**What is your number one ongoing challenge, assuming you have one?**

I feel my biggest challenge is increasing the number of patrol hours in parts of the county and increasing the evening patrol hours in all parts of the county.

**How do you recruit new members and what is your average turn over of members?**

Initial training is conducted once each year. We have recruiting booths at events, talk to groups, give flyers to interested persons, maintain a high visibility in public, newspaper articles and word of mouth. The turnover is very low. We average less than 1.5 persons that quit the unit each of the years of our existence.

**How do you rate the overall acceptance of your C.P. group with the public and LE department?**

Acceptance by the public has been extremely high. The perception is the unit has been well received by most of the law enforcement with which we come into contact.



*Pictured above, one of the Kitsap Citizen Patrol vehicles pictured at the 2004 NACOP Conference winning the "Furthest Driven Patrol Vehicle to the Conference" award.*



**Pictured above:** Kitsap County Sheriff's patch represents the Olympic mountains seen from the county and the deep waters of Hood Canal which is home to one of only two Trident Submarine bases in the world hence the submarine with King Neptune's Trident pictured in the patch.

**If you could wave a "magic wand" and get whatever you wanted for your Citizen Patrol group, what one thing would you ask for?**

As a group, we have more than one thing on our "wish list". We would like a rechargeable flashlight and portable radio for each member, dedicated office space, and more and better or newer patrol cars.

**What are the most common issues/problems you face (if you wish to discuss this)?**

We would like to be better staffed to be able to cover all the civil events that we are asked to support.

**What is your annual operating budget in dollars, assuming you have one?**

This is difficult to quantify because it is a part of the Community Resource Officer's budget.

**What special events do you provide support for such as High School football games, Fairs, Graduations, traffic control, etc?**

We control the disabled parking lot at the Kitsap County Fair, provide traffic control for the hazardous waste collection, provide traffic control for the Soapbox Derby because the street had to be closed to traffic, provide security for the Tractor Pull Exhibit, judge for a bus driving competition, provide traffic control for a community salmon bake, helped with child ID at public displays, participate in several parades, and provide security and traffic controls at several walks and runs.

**Has any Citizen Patrol member ever been injured while performing their duties?**

We're very happy to report the most serious "injury" occurred during an interesting story that happened to a member while on patrol. While he was obtaining forms from the trunk of his patrol vehicle, he received a sharp blow on his head. His first thought was someone had smacked him across his head. He looked over to his partner and saw he had a surprised look on his face because he heard the slap. A goose had flown overhead and dropped a poop

bomb. It hit him on the back of his head, across his equipment belt, down one side of his trousers, and onto one shoe. In addition the goose managed to hit the inside of the trunk and the paperwork. Both he and the cruiser were a mess, not much of the bomb reached the ground. The whole thing was so bazaar, they could only laugh.

**How do you motivate, recognize and reward your Citizen Patrol Volunteers?**

There is an annual awards banquet hosted by the county for our Citizen Patrol Volunteers. Several people from the Sheriff's Office are invited and attend. Placards and certificates are given to the volunteers. The Sheriff never misses an opportunity to praise the unit.

### *Most Significant Event*

While no single event stands out, our members have extinguished fires, had drunk drivers and individuals with warrants arrested, located suspect thieves, found stolen autos, participated in all-unit callouts to search for missing persons and more.



*Kitsap County Citizen Patrol Volunteers Receive their Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award for 500 plus hours of service. Pictured above from Left to Right: COP Coordinator Deputy Pete Ball, Kurt Corey, Sheriff Steve Boyer, Shirley McConnell, Jim Karosigh, Dick Todd, and John Albright.*