

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Pentagon Force Protection Agency**  
Protecting Those Who Protect Our Nation



# OUR HISTORY

The Pentagon Force Protection Agency protects Department of Defense (DoD) missions, personnel, facilities, critical infrastructure, and command and control capabilities in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Pentagon associated areas of responsibility.



PFPA oversees protection of DoD's NCR based mission that are not located on military installations. It protects the Headquarters of the DoD and the U.S. Armed forces, as well as the senior civilian and Uniformed Service Leaders working at the Pentagon. PFPA is the protection providing organization to 33 Defense Agencies, the Offices of the Undersecretary of Defense and visiting international delegations.

During the 20 year span represented among these four directors, PFPA has grown its mission responsibilities, added critical security capabilities, and made vast improvements to legacy security. As threats against

the Department of Defense have become more complex, PFPA has rapidly evolved to mitigate those threats. The success of the PFPA mission ultimately lies with the people who execute the mission each day and those exceptional leaders who have created a culture of Excellence.

On May 3, 2002, PFPA was established in response to the 9/11, terrorist attack on the Pentagon and subsequent anthrax incidents within the NCR.

Since then, PFPA's capabilities have expanded to provide force protection and security that includes K 9, explosive ordnance, emergency management, and hazardous material response capabilities. Our agency also provides worldwide protection for Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) executives, counterintelligence, protective and open source intelligence, surveillance detection, technical surveillance countermeasures, air defense. physical security, access control, and counter unmanned aerial systems. PFPA also manages the 24/7 Pentagon Operations Center, a biothreat laboratory, mail and commercial parcel screening, a classified waste disposal incinerator, and the Pentagon lock shop.

PFPA continues to evolve to defeat threats in an ever changing environment, because *Protecting Those Who Protect Our Nation* isn't just a motto it's our sole mission.



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report. 2023 included significant milestones for the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, notably assuming protecting mission of the Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Virginia. We continue to be looked on to assume new missions, which is a testament to our hard working and dedicated employees. Three of our four senior executive positions were filled last year. In September, I had the honor of being sworn in as our 5th Agency director. We welcomed our new deputy director, Lewis Ratchford, Jr., a senior level national security veteran, who spent a good deal of his career with the Department of Veterans Affairs and is a 12-year Army veteran. Former PFPA division director Ms. Shelley Verdejo returned to PFPA to become our new Executive Director for Law Enforcement in June. Shelley has extensive law enforcement and protective services experience, and we are very fortunate to have her back with our Agency.

Ms. Verdejo and Mr. Lewis join Dr. James Day, who is our most seasoned senior executive, having served six years as our Executive Director for Security, Integration, and Technology. With our four senior executive positions now fully staffed, I look forward to the progress and positive changes that we will make in the upcoming years. You can read more about our senior executives on the next page of this publication.

Organizationally, we made a significant step in pulling together our emergency management and anti-terrorism/force protection functions under a new directorate, Mission Assurance. The Mission Assurance Directorate will report to our new Deputy Director and will play a crucial role of integrating and synchronizing aspects of DoD security, protection, and risk-management programs that directly relate to mission execution as described in the DoD Mission Assurance Strategy and Mission Assurance Construct. In a nutshell, these functions are focused on assuring the DoD mission continues no matter what is going on the world and at the Pentagon facilities we protect.

Finally, I want to express my congratulations to our employees, sergeants, special agents, and officers who were selected and recognized for their accomplishments in 2023 and 2022. We have some of the best employees in the federal government and I am truly proud to serve alongside them.

Chris Bargery  
Director

# KEY LEADERSHIP



**Mr. Chris Bargery**  
Director

► Mr. Chris Bargery currently serves as the 5th Director of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency. He is responsible for the full range of force protection functions for people, missions, and infrastructure of DoD-occupied facilities in the National Capital Region, including the Pentagon, Mark Center, Raven Rock Mountain Complex, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, Defense Health Headquarters, and the Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Army National Guard Readiness Center.

Mr. Bargery previously served in PFPA as the PFPA Deputy Director and Executive Director for Law Enforcement. Prior to joining PFPA, Mr. Bargery worked as a subject matter expert in the private defense industry, assuring the survivability of national and defense critical infrastructure and missions.

As a 28-year U.S. Air Force officer, Mr. Bargery served as the Commander, Air Force Security Forces Center, responsible for USAF security operations worldwide as well as an Air Base Wing Commander, and the wartime force protection director for Air Force operations throughout Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Middle East and later as the senior security officer protecting Air Force operations in Europe, Africa and the Levant.



**Mr. Lewis Ratchford Jr.**  
Deputy Director

► Mr. Lewis Ratchford, Jr. serves as the PFPA Deputy Director. He serves as the principal advisor and executive confidant to the Director, PFPA, with complete authority to act for and make commitments on all matters regarding the functions and responsibilities of the PFPA. As the Deputy, he leads the Agency's Mission Assurance effort to mitigate risk to PFPA's mission.

Prior to joining PFPA, Mr. Lewis Ratchford served as the Chief Security Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he oversaw VA's national security operations, security administration, preparedness, intelligence, counterintelligence, and law enforcement portfolios. Prior to serving as the Chief Security Officer, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Emergency Management and Resilience, Department of Veterans Affairs.

He began his federal civilian career as an Antiterrorism Officer with the Department of the Army. He went on to manage multiple national security portfolios with the Department of the Air Force, Executive Office of the President of the United States, and the U.S. General Services Administration. He is a 12-year U.S. Army veteran having served in both enlisted and officer ranks.



**Ms. Shelley A. Verdejo**  
Executive Director for  
Law Enforcement

► Ms. Shelley Verdejo is the Executive Director for Law Enforcement and is the principal advisor to the PFPA Director on law enforcement and force protection matters for the Pentagon Reservation, the Raven Rock Mountain Complex and numerous DoD leased facilities within the National Capital Region.

She establishes policies and oversees operations for the Pentagon Police Directorate, Pentagon Operations Center Division, and Threat Management Division to include investigations, high risk personnel protection, and intelligence/counterintelligence. She is the focal point for coordination with DoD Components, executive departments and agencies, and state and local partners on matters involving law enforcement, force protection and activities that impact Pentagon facilities.

Prior to PFPA, Ms. Verdejo served as the Chief, Law Enforcement within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security. She also chaired the Defense Law Enforcement Council and the Department's Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. She was also detailed to the Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense & Americas' Security Affairs as the Director, Law Enforcement Policy.

She is a U.S. Army veteran having served as a military police officer. Following her military service, she spent seven years as a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service.



**Dr. James A. Day**  
Executive Director for Security,  
Integration, and Technology

► Dr. James A. Day serves as the Executive Director for Security, Integration, and Technology. He is responsible for the development and operation of the Pentagon's comprehensive technical solutions across the CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high explosive), information technology, security services, and systems engineering domains. He also oversees the following mission integration functions for the Agency: facilities, acquisitions, and logistics; recruitment, medical, and fitness; financial management; and human capital program management.

Dr. Day previously served in PFPA as the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Science and Technology.

Prior to joining the PFPA, Dr. Day worked for SAIC as a project lead for environmental, legislative, and budget support to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons). Dr. Day is a former member of the Homeland Security Institute—a Congressionally Chartered Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

Dr. Day began his professional career as a chemist at Midwest Research Institute, monitoring atmospheric samples for biological warfare agents and performing process improvement for chemical and biological monitoring systems.



# OUR AGENCY

Since its creation, our Agency has expanded its ever-evolving mission to provide force protection against a full spectrum of potential threats, to include protection responsibilities at the Pentagon Reservation, Mark Center, Raven Rock Mountain Complex, Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Army National Guard Readiness Center, Defense Health Agency Headquarters, and some 50 National Capital Region DoD occupied facilities.

Who we are is just as important as what we do. Our Agency's people are the heartbeat of this organization and dedicated to an important mission that requires excellence in everything that we do.

The men and women who protect this great Nation deserve nothing less.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ◆ Pentagon Police
- ◆ National Capital Region
- ◆ Raven Rock Operations
- ◆ Pentagon Operations Center

## MISSION





## SECURITY MANAGEMENT

- ◆ Technical Integration & Defense
- ◆ Security Services
- ◆ Enterprise Physical Security
- ◆ Professional Responsibility

## MISSION INTEGRATION

- ◆ Facilities, Acquisition & Logistics
- ◆ Financial Management
- ◆ Human Capital Program Management
- ◆ Recruiting, Medical & Fitness
- ◆ Training

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## IN NUMBERS

### Pentagon Police

**433**

Prohibited Items  
Confiscated

**439**

Prohibited Weapons  
Found

**61**

Drug Cases

**852**

Traffic Violation Notices  
Issued

**25,800**

Vehicles Inspected &  
Processed For Potential  
Threats

**69**

Arrests

**94**

Assists To Other Law  
Enforcement Agencies

**36,200**

Personnel  
Screened

**23,000**

Directed Patrols

### Pentagon Operations Center

**1,849**

Emergency (911)  
calls received

**155,000**

Service calls processed

**74,000**

Police Dispatches

**302**

Medical assistance  
calls

**505**

Alarms dispatched

The Pentagon Police Directorate (PPD) is often cited as being one of the premiere federal law enforcement organizations in the Department of Defense (DoD) by delivering exceptional law enforcement and security services, while ensuring a safe work environment for DoD personnel.

Law enforcement operations comprise the bulk of PFPA's workforce with more than 850 uniformed Pentagon police officers—all graduates of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) or its equivalent. Law enforcement operations serve the Pentagon Reservation and numerous DoD-occupied leased and owned facilities in the National Capital Region.

PPD has a separate cadre of police officers who are charged with providing security, law enforcement, emergency services and other force protection support to the Raven Rock Mountain Complex (RRMC) in Adams County, Pennsylvania. These officers are assigned to the PFPA-RRMC Directorate. RRMC supports DoD's continuity program and is considered part of the Pentagon Reservation.

PPD's Special Operations Branch specialties include explosive detection canine teams, Emergency Response Teams (ERT), Counter Assault Teams (CAT), and a FBI-accredited Bomb Squad. The Contract Security Management Branch manages more than 200 armed and unarmed contract security officers serving at the Pentagon Visitor Screening Facility and delegated leased facilities.

The Technical Services Branch includes police officers and program analysts performing service & support functions, court liaison, evidence management, and parking enforcement.





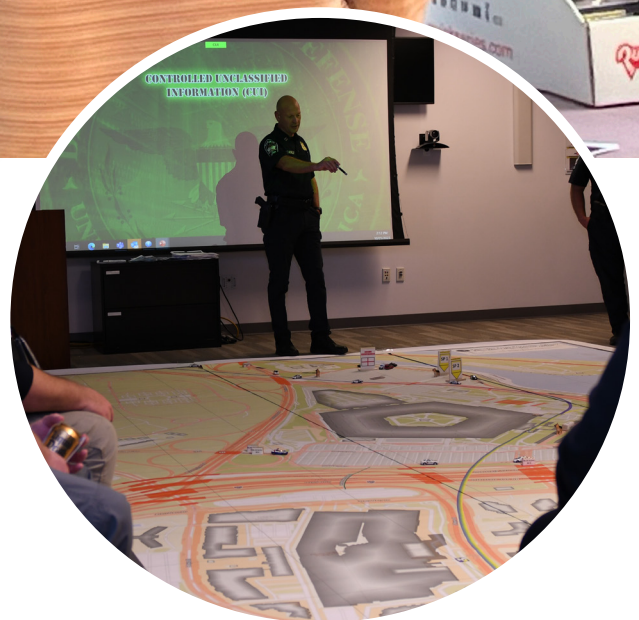


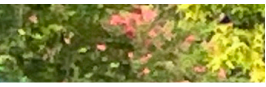
## MISSION ASSURANCE

**P**FPA's Office of Mission Assurance (MA) was formed in 2023 to align our Emergency Management (EMD) and Antiterrorism Force Protection Divisions (ATFP), while also integrating the Continuity of Operations (COOP) program.

MA establishes policy and assigns responsibilities to meet the goals of refining, integrating, and synchronizing aspects of DoD security, protection, and risk-management programs that directly relate to mission execution as described in the DoD Mission Assurance Strategy and Mission Assurance Construct.

EMD provides emergency management, preparedness, and COOP services to safeguard personnel, facilities, and infrastructure for the Pentagon Reservation. EMD routinely coordinates with DoD, federal, state, and local partners to ensure operational planning is fully integrated and synchronized to maintain the highest level of readiness for special events, multijurisdictional exercises, and emergency incidents. EMD also assists with the development, implementation, testing, evaluation, and maintenance of the Pentagon's Emergency Operations Plan.





ATFP is responsible for providing a full range of antiterrorism, critical infrastructure, force protection, and other services that provide safety, security, and protection strategies supporting risk reduction to tenants of the Pentagon Reservation, Mark Center Campus, Raven Rock Mountain Complex, Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Army National Guard Readiness Center, Defense Health Agency Headquarters, and DoD occupied facilities across the National Capital Region.

ATFP's Assessment Team execute antiterrorism vulnerability assessments and program reviews and provide recommendations regarding force protection posture, site-specific force protection conditions, random antiterrorism measures, critical infrastructure, and mission essential vulnerable areas of the Pentagon and DoD facilities.

ATFP also conducts cyber security assessments, provides antiterrorism training to for all OSD/ Pentagon personnel and other DoD entities, and manages the Agency's See Something Say Something Program.





## THREAT MANAGEMENT

The Threat Management Directorate is comprised of the Investigations and Intelligence Division (IID), OSD Insider Threat Hub and the Protective Services Division (PSD).

IID's five branches perform and coordinate investigations, collections, and analysis of suspected threat intelligence to safeguard personnel, facilities, and infrastructure for the Pentagon Reservation and designated DoD facilities, both within and outside the National Capital Region (NCR), all hereafter referred to as "Pentagon Facilities".

The Threat Intelligence Center (TIC) manages and integrates intelligence collection, law enforcement information sharing, analysis, foreign national vetting, and open-source monitoring for threats directed at PFFA areas of responsibilities.



It is not usual for our special agents to participate in community outreach events to showcase some of their tradecraft for the next generation of secret agents.

The Office of Counterintelligence (CI) conducts CI briefings and debriefings, supports investigations and inquiries conducted by external agency partners. It also takes proactive measures to detect, neutralize, and exploit technical surveillance and associated devices, technologies, and hazards that facilitate the unauthorized or inadvertent access to or removal of DoD information.

The Threat Management Unit (TMU) investigates violations of federal law and regulations within PFFA jurisdiction on the Pentagon Facilities to include high risk personnel. TMU conducts comprehensive assessments and investigations of all criminal, protective intelligence and threat activity.

Insider threats remain a significant challenge faced by the Department of Defense. All it takes is a trusted person with authorized physical or logical access to DoD facilities or information systems, wittingly or unwittingly, to cause grave damage to our nation. This threat is just one of the missions and one of the many reasons why PFFA's Threat Management Directorate (TMD) is critical to the DoD.

Under the threat management umbrella, the Protective Services Division (PSD) is responsible for providing security oversight and ensuring protective measures are in place for overseas travel for the Under Secretaries of Defense and a Senior Former Official. PSD Special Agents are part of a team designated to safeguarding



**PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
IN NUMBERS**

**126**

FOREIGN  
AMBASSADOR  
VISITS

**99**

CONGRESSIONAL/  
CABINET VISITS

**78**

MINISTRIES OF  
DEFENSE VISITS

**198**

CHIEFS OF DEFENSE  
VISITS

**15**

HEADS OF  
STATE VISITS

**3**

PRESIDENTIAL  
AND VP VISITS

**IN NUMBERS**

DoD senior leadership each day.

The Special Events Unit within PSD collaborates on all foreign counterpart visits to the Pentagon on a daily basis.

High-Risk Personnel Drivers provide executive transportation for our Under Secretaries of Defense from domicile to duty and in and around the National Capital Region.

**2,579**

Gift Inspections

**1,847**

Mail Threat Assessments

**415**

Comprehensive assessments and investigations of criminal, protective intelligence, and other threat activity





## SECURITY MANAGEMENT

**O**ur Agency prides itself on providing a proactive, innovative, and flexible approach to force protection and defeating ever-evolving threats. A key component to this approach is PFPA's Security Management Directorate, which is responsible for providing technical capabilities, solutions, and services to support PFPA and external customer requirements across the security services; technical integration & defense; enterprise physical security; and professional responsibility domains.

The Pentagon Reservation is protected from a number of different asymmetric threats thanks to newly created Technical Integration & Defense Division (TID&D). The division includes a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Systems Branch, Air Defense and Mail Screening Branches, and a CBRN

laboratory specializing in bioterror agent testing. TID&D employs a team of engineers and hazmat technicians dedicated to protecting occupants of the Pentagon Reservation and designated DoD facilities in the National Capital Region in the areas of CBRNE defense systems, hazmat response, mail security, laboratory analysis, situational awareness of the air domain and counter-small unmanned aerial systems (C-sUAS).

Security Service Division (SSD) personnel leverage innovative technology and industry best practices to mitigate threats – known and unknown. SSD provides a comprehensive range of operational security support and other services such as security administration programs, maintenance and sustainment to physical security devices and equipment, visitor vetting and screening, credentialing and badging, and material screening

### FY23 MAIL SCREENING IN NUMBERS

**459,050**

Number of mail & parcels screened

**8,036**

Threatening or suspicious communications identified

**102**

Confiscated Items

**33**

HAZMAT Assessments (packages with suspicious substances)



PFPA's laboratory was awarded re-accreditation to the International Standards Organization and International Electrotechnical Commission 17025 Standard as a Biothreat Agent Testing Laboratory.

This is an accomplishment only five percent of more than 3,700 labs world-wide have achieved.

programs. The division also manages the Pentagon Classified Waste Destruction Facility, which collects, safeguards, and disposes of classified national security information from DoD and other federal agencies. SSD's Remote Delivery Facility screens and processes hundreds of thousands of pieces of cargo each year. SSD's portfolio also includes its Key and Lock Control, Access Control Center, the Credentialing Office and Visitor Security Facility (CO/VSF), and Records Management.

SMD's Enterprise Physical Security Division ensures a secure working environment for DoD civilians, military, and contract personnel through electronic security systems, physical security, mission applications, and command and control (C2) systems.



Finally, SMD's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) ensures the PFPA workforce performs their duties in accordance with the highest professional standards. OPR is committed to ensuring the integrity

of our Agency is maintained and that objectivity and fairness are the results of an impartial investigation, while protecting our employees from unfounded allegations.



## MISSION INTEGRATION

**P**FPA's Mission Integration Directorate (MID) is the backbone of the Agency, providing support and services that enable our workforce to focus on what matters—protecting those who protect our nation. MID is purposely structured into five divisions: Facilities, Acquisition & Logistics; Financial Management; Human Capital Program Management; Training; and Recruiting Medical & Fitness.

MID's specialized divisions provide a wide range of capabilities from acquisition/contract oversight and financial management that leverage fiscal policy and economic power across the range of complex law enforcement training exercises and enduring operations to human capital services for our Agency's workforce. They also deliver vital services such as facility maintenance, warehouse operations, recruiting, and medical fitness testing and services for law enforcement and hazmat teams.

Finally, the Training Division is responsible for training, qualification, requalification and certification for our law enforcement personnel, to include Basic-, Advanced-, and In-service training, along with specialized training for our agency's Special Agents, Emergency Response Teams, and Field Training Officers. The division also provides workforce professional development programs such as the Leadership Development Program (LDP), Leadership in Police Organizations (LPO), Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP), and Excellence in Learning (ELS).

MID's unique mission ensures the men and women of our agency have what they need—when they need it.



*PFPA's Recruitment Team significantly increased its efforts in 2023, and conducted dozens of events across the country, at colleges, military bases, and even the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico - a first for our Agency.*



*The PFPA Training Division Range/Armory Branch provides basic and advanced firearms instruction to all of PFPA's law enforcement personnel. In 2023, nearly 500,000 rounds of ammunition were safely fired without incident at our own state-of-the-art firing range.*

# WE ARE MISSION READY

Protecting against the full array of potential threats involves extensive planning, preparation, and training. We plan for all likely threat contingencies to ensure we have the requisite capabilities needed to deter, detect, and combat these threats.

For this reason, our workforce is multifaceted and includes physical security specialists, engineers, and architects; biological and forensic scientists; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear specialists; threat analysts and emergency response dispatchers; and, federally trained police officers and special agents.

Our police officers and special agents are trained at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Ga., and receive additional specialized training at the Pentagon, and at FLETC in Cheltenham, Md. The training of our police is long and rigorous, lasting roughly nine months; All designed to prepare them well for the unique set of responsibilities that await them as Pentagon Police Officers.

Training is a constant here at PFFA. In 2023, we conducted a wide-ranging series of exercises with our interagency partners to prepare for real-world contingencies involving a myriad of threats. The Pentagon Support Operations Center (PSOC) is one of our newest training facilities. It has an advanced K-9 training facility and advanced firing range for new and improved training for special agents, police officers, our K-9 unit, and Special Operations Brach teams.

Evaluating real-world incidents is a critical practice to validate our training and procedures and keep us mission ready. Our Critical Incident Review Team continues to adopt best practices and lessons learned from critical incidents and contingencies.

We installed dash cameras in selected police vehicles and procured new body cameras for our police officers and special agents. These initiatives put PFFA at the forefront of an ambitious federal law enforcement effort to comply with the Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety (EO 14074).

Vehicular modernization for ballistic protection; air defense capabilities to address the increasingly ubiquitous unmanned aerial threat; better integration and more comprehensive utilization of our cameras, sensors, and other electronic security systems; and threat and vulnerability assessments to preemptively identify and contain threats before they materialize are among the investments we made in the 2023.

Mission readiness in 2023 translated into a new mission for PFFA protection of the Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Virginia.

We are mission ready because our mission is clearly defined and because we invest in our people: their tools, their training, and their preparation for a challenging and evolving threat environment.





# WE VALUE PARTNERSHIPS

Geography is destiny. Unlike most major U.S. military installations, the Pentagon is situated in an open and dense urban environment. Major transportation hubs, commercial businesses, residential areas, and tourist sites and attractions abound and surround our 244-acre reservation. There also are dozens of other DoD facilities outside of the Pentagon in similarly busy jurisdictions that we safeguard and protect.

For this reason, law enforcement and force protection at PFPA is necessarily a team sport. We partner with a myriad of federal, state and local agencies—including the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Park Police, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Protective Service (FPS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Virginia State Police, Arlington County Police and Fire, Metro Transit Police, and the City of Alexandria Police and Fire departments—to “Protect Those Who Protect Our Nation.”

The need for close interagency collaboration was an important lesson learned from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and this insight undergirds our work still today. No police or law enforcement agency can fulfill its mission independently, without the active assistance of other police and law enforcement agencies.

Thus in 2023, our Pentagon Police participated in a series of high-threat response drills with interagency partners to address a potential active shooter incident. Our Emergency Response Division conducted a series of tabletop exercises and coordination meetings with allied partners to address an emergency incident or contingency. And our CBRN response team completed a series of hazardous-chemical/hazardous-device response training in close collaboration with our teammates from allied agencies.

PFPA also sits on several FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces, and our partnerships extend overseas for protective service missions for the under secretaries of defense. In 2023, we conducted numerous protective service missions for the under secretaries and their foreign counterparts in countries across the globe.

Meanwhile, real-world events that required a robust interagency security posture included the Marine Corps Marathon, Army Ten-Miler, Rolling to Remember, and Presidential State of the Union Address.

Interagency collaboration and daily workplace interaction are the norm for our agency and our people. It is how we leverage the capabilities, situational awareness, and operational intelligence of a police and law enforcement community that, in the 21st Century, cannot afford to be constrained by geographic boundaries. The Internet, instantaneous communications, jet travel, cryptocurrency, and networked teams of bad and malign actors require a team-oriented approach to law enforcement and force protection.



# WE LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

In 2023, we deployed a Counter-Small Unmanned Aircraft System (C-sUAS) capability, which addresses the growing unmanned aerial threat and is an integral part of VIP and force protection. PFPA is one of the first agencies in the National Capital Region to have this state-of-art counter-drone capability, which is networked within the agency's more comprehensive suite of surveillance and detection capabilities for leveraged and multifaceted effects.

One important leveraged effect has been to extend the reach of our operations center for real-time, 24/7 reconnaissance and surveillance of the Pentagon Reservation and other protected DoD facilities.

Through the use of armored vehicles, networked and outfitted with the C-sUAS system, we have the ability to detect, deter and defeat threats, even in obscure and distant areas, on the outer edges of the reservation, before these threats can cause or inflict serious harm.

Biometrics is another area where PFPA continues to innovate. In 2023, we expanded our pilot program to 10 locations, and, for the first time, stood up scanners that could read both encrypted cards and biometrics (fingerprints and iris) for multifactor authentication. This pilot program is providing crucial insight on the feasibility of biometrics as a tool for identity management, access control, and electronic and physical security.

We also are at the forefront of crucial and much-needed innovation for body-worn cameras for our police officers and dash-cams for our police vehicles. These efforts require technical and networked capabilities involving cloud-based computing that are not available commercially, off-the-shelf, and in compliance with federal rules and regulations. However, PFPA worked closely with private-sector vendors and the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) to develop the requisite capabilities.

In 2023, we installed 220 body cameras and 20 flex or head-mounted cameras and configured them all within a laboratory environment for testing and analysis. We also, for the first time, outfitted 20 cameras on 10 of our police vehicles with dash cams.

PFPA's commitment to innovation has even extended to credentialing and Pentagon tours.







# 2023 PFPA TIMELINE

*Protecting Those Who Protect Our Nation*

## APR 27

PFPA celebrated Deputy Special Agent in Charge Yolonda D. Lockamy and her distinguished 28-year career in federal service. “When I think of the impossible, I say I am possible, because I made it. If you can be a good servant, you can be a good leader,” said Lockamy during her recent retirement ceremony.



## MAY 28

PFPA ensured the safety of thousands of motorcyclists staging at the Pentagon’s North Parking area in advance of the Rolling to Remember motorcycle demonstration.



## JUNE 13

PFPA welcomed Ms. Shelley Verdejo as the Agency’s new Executive Director for Law Enforcement, becoming the first female to hold a senior executive position within PFPA.



## MAY 15

Each year in the middle of May, tens of thousands of tens of thousands of law enforcement officers, survivors, and citizens from around the world converge on Washington, DC to honor our nation’s fallen police and law enforcement officers.

## MAY 25

PFPA assumed a new force protection and physical security mission at the Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington.

# OUR STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE IS OUR PEOPLE!

## OCT 8

Pentagon Police and security forces played a critical role in ensuring the Army Ten-Miler proceeded smoothly and safely. The Pentagon Reservation is the staging area for the second-largest ten-mile race in the United States and an annual event in Washington, D.C. that attracts more than 35,000 runners and 900 teams worldwide



## JULY 1998

PFPA celebrates the 25th Anniversary of its Pentagon Police Canine (K-9) Program this year. The K-9 unit was established to take a more proactive approach to the growing threat of terrorism. The K-9 teams assigned to the Pentagon provide protection support for the Secretary of Defense, visiting dignitaries, and all Department of Defense personnel at the Pentagon and in the National Capital Region.

## SEPT 15

Mr. Chris Bargery was sworn-in as our Agency's fifth director. Mr. Sajeel Ahmed, Acting Deputy Director, Administration and Management, administered the oath of office and presented Mr. Bargery with the Agency colors, as his family, PFPA employees, past and present leadership, DoD senior leaders, and many close friends looked on.

## NOV 29

Our beloved K9s—Sunny, Patterson, and Sjeff retired after more than 22 combined years of service to our agency. While we will miss our four-legged friends, we are confident our four new explosives detection teammates: Scuba, Isa, Chief, and Bentley, will continue to support our important mission.

## NOV 17

Mr. Lewis Ratchford, Jr. was sworn in as our Agency's new Deputy Director at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes.



## IN NUMBERS

Processed more than 2,300 Police Officer applications

Processed 130 Special Agent applications

Processed over 75 Emergency Response and Counter Assault Team applications

Hired 58 new Police Officers in FY 23

# OUR UNITY IS WHAT MAKES US STRONG

As an agency, we recognize the importance of challenging our officers to be the best during their training. All recruits are evaluated on professional appearance and bearing, responsibility and accountability, leadership, initiative, communication, skills, technical and tactical weapons proficiency.

## Meet Our Recruiters



Ofc. LaQuanda Burgess



Ofc. Vera Vega



Ofc. Pakapri Sesay



Ofc. Eric Maldonado



Ofc. Devoras Murphy



# We Recognize Our Best 2023

**PFPA Sergeant of the Year**  
Sergeant Chadwick Brooks



Sergeant Chadwick Brooks serves as the transportation and equipment sergeant assigned to the Facilities and Logistics Division (FALD). Sgt. Brooks exemplifies the epitome of excellence and has created a culture of excellence within his division—demonstrating unparalleled objectivity and fairness in work assignments and employee performance evaluations. Sgt. Brooks adopted a quality control program for PFPA’s laundry service that ensured high standards of cleanliness and uniform care while maintaining competitive pricing. He always ensures timely and seamless communication within his team and with the Pentagon Operations Center. Sgt. Brooks’ swift and decisive response in administering CPR to a fellow officer during a critical moment undoubtedly saved a life.

**PFPA Employee of the Year**  
Mr. Edwin Herchert



Mr. Edwin R. Herchert serves as an engineer in the Enterprise Physical Security Division, whose analytical abilities and presentation skills are second to none. Herchert oversaw the adoption of a suite of mission applications used by virtually everyone within this agency, to include the computer-aided dispatch and resource management system, WebEOC, emergency mass notification systems, and an investigative case management system. Additionally, his work benefited the Office of the Secretary of Defense, which adopted a cloud-based solution made possible only by Herchert’s technical expertise and pioneering work with Salesforce and PFPA’s Electronic Security Systems Branch. His tireless work and analysis were also instrumental in expanding PFPA’s VIP protection mission.

**PFPA Officer of the Year**  
Officer James Harris



Officer James Harris is a highly experienced and long-serving K-9 Officer within the Special Operation Division’s K-9 Unit. His broad knowledge base, honed over years of service, and his natural ability to make sound decisions in high-pressure situations, makes him an invaluable asset to the team. In fact, Ofc. Harris designed explosive detection training for 23 K9 teams, and oversaw training and instruction for all of the handlers. Ofc. Harris played a pivotal role creating and implementing internal and external certification processes for the unit, and his work with the national and international K-9 accreditation groups have made PFPA’s K-9 Unit a crown jewel in the agency’s force protection mission. Ofc. Harris embodies the highest qualities of a true leader, displaying a level of professionalism, dedication to duty, and leadership.

**PFPA Special Agent of the Year**  
SA Tamara Robinson



Special Agent Robinson is assigned to the agency’s Office of Professional Responsibility and has distinguished herself as a leader within PFPA’s elite cadre of special agents. Her portfolio of work spans the full spectrum of PFPA missions, ranging from protection missions to stateside protection missions for visiting foreign dignitaries. Special Agent Robinson was tasked with conducting PFPA’s most complex investigations and our most challenging inspections, and she consistently delivered stellar, standout results. Indeed, her inspections identified gaps in policies and procedures that this agency remedied only because of her skill and attention to detail. Special Agent Robinson always promotes a positive demeanor and takes great pride in helping other officers and agents with career development and growth. She is committed to team and mission, and has demonstrated excellence in senior leader protection and investigations.

## 2023 Divisional Awardees



Officer Giovanni Aguilar  
PPD Operations Division  
2023 Officer of the Year



Officer Christopher Sanford  
Raven Rock Mountain Complex Division  
2023 Officer of the Year



Officer Shawn Morris  
National Capital Region Division  
2023 Officer of the Year

# Honoring Those In 2022

**PFPA Sergeant of the Year**  
Sergeant Christopher Watkins



Sergeant Christopher Watkins serves as a Field Training Instructor with the Training Division's Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) and supervises a cadre responsible for the professional development of all police recruits to the agency—84 within the past year with a 100 percent completion rate. Sgt. Watkins continuously looks for opportunities to improve the training and development for Field Training Officers (FTO) under his supervision -- from sending them to the Law Enforcement Instructor Skills Training Program (LEISTP) to sharpen their skills as instructors, to implementing a First Line Supervisors Course. He also created the "Top Performer" Award to recognize FTOs for their outstanding performance. Sergeant Watkins also spearheaded the "Use of Force" training for new recruits utilizing the Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) simulator to improve their tactical judgement and firearms skills.

**PFPA Employee of the Year**  
Mr. Edward Yu



Mr. Edward Yu serves as the Command-and-Control Lead for the Enterprise Physical Security Division (ESPD) where he oversees the implementation of the Agency's Physical Security Information Management System (PSIM)—a system of more than 60,000 alarms and alert devices that allows the Pentagon Operations Center (POC) to make more timely and informed decisions. Yu began efforts to begin shaping what the next generation of operations center will look like. Meanwhile, Yu was instrumental in building relationships with industry partners, such as collaborating with the National Geospatial Agency (NGA) to improve mapping within the PSIM environment at no cost. Yu's expert technical knowledge in Electronic Security Systems (ESS) has made him a key player on several of the Agency's largest ESS projects, while ensuring PFPA deploys the absolute best technology to accomplish its mission.

**PFPA Officer of the Year**  
Corporal Robert Phillips



Corporal Robert L. Phillips is a Lead Police Officer assigned to the Pentagon Police Emergency Response Team (ERT). Between Jan 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2022, Cpl. Phillips planned, organized, and instructed weekly ERT Tactical Training sessions which greatly increased ERT Officers ability to respond to Critical Incidents. As an ERT Lead Police Officer, he also assisted in the operational planning of at least 40 PFPA Special Events to include Enhanced Honor Cordons for Visiting Foreign Dignitaries. He has on many occasions assisted the Agency's Counter Assault Team in support of the protective detail assigned to the Secretary of Defense. As a member of Emergency Response Team, Corporal Phillips played a pivotal role in safeguarding the Pentagon and the people who work here. His technical and operational knowledge, customer-first attitude and initiative was instrumental to the agency's success.

## 2022 Divisional Awardees



Officer Louis Hemans Jr.  
PPD - National Capital Region Division  
2022 Officer Of The Year



Corporal Herbert Greene  
PPD - Pentagon Police Operations Division  
2022 Officer Of The Year



Officer Alexander Huertas  
PPD - Raven Rock Operations Division  
2022 Officer Of The Year

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# *Pentagon Force Protection Agency*

*Protecting Those Who Protect Our Nation*

