

Police Rosters in Washington State

WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission

HAD BEEN speterson@cjtc.state.wa.us

IN Late 2019 was: **recordsrequests@cjtc.wa.gov**

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REQUEST LANGUAGE

"This is a request for public records under Washington RCW 42.56.

- 1) I would like a copy of the database of all WA certified law enforcement officers, as of [Date].*
- 2) I would like a copy of the database of all WA DE-certified law enforcement officers, as of [Date].*

These database extracts should include the following Fields:

ID

FIRSTNAME

LASTNAME

FULLNAME

AGENCY

STUDENT ID

STATUS

RANK

HIRE DATE

EMAIL

PHONE

FAX

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

CITY

STATE

PROVINCE / REGION

ZIP / POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY

COMMENTS (Maiden name changes and similar ARE requested; confidential data such as might be stored here is NOT requested.)

CREATED DATE

CREATED BY

MODIFIED DATE

MODIFIED BY

CERTIFICATION DATE

CERTIFICATION TYPE "

DESCRIPTION:

This is the one-stop shop for all existing CERTIFIED law enforcement, and Board Decertified former Law Enforcement persons in WA.

This lets you track who is employed by a given agency without going through that agency for the data, but it's NOT always a cross check on who's hidden. They coordinate that part of the database and will withhold CURRENTLY covert officers. That fact is why you ask for this twice a year and process comparisons, to catch the moments that they slip and reveal who's whom long term.

This is also a source list for checking against SCHEDULES from individual Agencies, which will also reveal pre-Certification LE employees and Cadets that the state level data list misses until their swearing-in.

Baby Cops are called Explorers, Volunteers, Cadets, etcetera and can be employed or adjacent to an agency for up to 3 years prior to certification, though the period is commonly 6 months to a year and a half depending on availability at the Academy, performance, and prior experience. Part Time and Reduced Hours officers are often called Reserve Officers and may only be on shift a few days a month or at special events and emergencies.

[M CODE]

Process the Full Name into a Middle Initial if any is present, for comparison to other data sources

Process Maiden Names from COMMENTS field into separate Surname field MAIDEN_SURNAME for comparison to other data sources

Address and Phone fields are common office numbers and generally less interesting, but they can easily be spun off into smaller tables for Agency Contact info, and compacted.

Sorting the tables into Cohorts by which years they were hired will let you do a quick table merge to find out who's newly left the employment of an Agency in any year for which you have two tables to compare.

Finding EX cops in the other tables you will collect can inform you about their career paths; Security Guards? Faculty? Industry CIKR Consultant? Snake Oil Sales? Department of Licensing, Auditor filings can tell you more about what they're doing for that paycheck now.

Networks of Cops and former cops are the bread and butter of police intelligence; once someone becomes sworn, they should be considered a cop first and whatever else they do is modified by that noun. Politicians are often former Administrators of police agencies. Often, failed ones.

TTP Training Logs WSP

Request Language

'I would like a copy of Report ID: TRD0001-PD WASHINGTON STATE PATROL Official Transcript By Student Employee Number (sorted) but set for the [date range].'

Takes about a month to get.

A list of all WSP Sworn Officers who have trained in various classes, minus the officers who are considered COVERT and withheld by law.

Each officer record starts with an employee number and Name and proceeds through a roughly recent-first list of classes. The list is arbitrarily long, so short 1 or 2 year date ranges per request are easier to digest in Excel.

FIELDS

Student Name
Personnel Number
Course Code (AlphaNumeric)
Course Name
End Date (D/MM/YEAR)
Sponsor (agency)
Hours (integer)
Status (Enrolled, Incomplete, Passed, Exempt)

TTP Schedules From Agencies

Requesting past months work schedules from an Agency can reveal a whole host of information about shifts, special teams, managers, and exceptions.

Generally speaking, no Agency is going to release a future shift schedule of their officers in a public records request. This is always backward-looking data, but still incredibly predictive.

REQUEST LANGUAGE

I would like a Shift Schedule or Work Schedule for hours as reported, during [time period by month / year, in one month increments]. Never ask for just one day's schedule. That never goes well.

Different departments will supply you with different formats depending on their redaction needs, the raw original format of the schedule system, etc.

Fortunately all of them have some basics figured out for posting these lists for shift bids by officers, so the layout ALWAYS EXISTS. They might play some games with nouns if you're imprecise in how you ask for the data.

TTP Computer Aided Dispatch Logs 3

The Computer Aided Dispatch Log, or CAD log, is a brief timeline of when various units notified the radio network of factual items, such as

When a patrol was dispatched to an incident or **when a patrol reported that they had initiated a Stop** on a person or vehicle.

When a patrol arriving in support of another officer arrived, and checked in with the Dispatcher, and was logged present at an incident.

Radio call signs or tags per officer

Sometimes **car numbers** or designators

Often **descriptions and basic details** about callers, complainants, suspects, and vehicle details.

Some counties run Dispatch agencies to bridge the records departments across a County, or Region. Some examples are Pierce County which has a South Sound 911 Agency (formerly LESA) that is separate from both the County Sheriff and Tacoma Police Department, but handles theirs and several smaller agencies records, nonetheless. The URL is <https://southsound911.org/>

SS911 is known to withhold records capriciously and also runs an intelligence real time center for the Police, which sets them up for Conflict Of Interest in handling public records disclosure.

Thurson County has a similar Agency which was known as CAPCOM but is now called TCOMM 911 at <http://tcomm911.org/>

REQUEST LANGUAGE

I would like the CAD log for [specific date, time, location if known, and any incident number or suspect ID that might help locate a specific record]

Often the quickest way to find out what happened, AT A ROUTINE EVENT. Can be the longest if SS911 wants you to never have it.

From the Website:

"South Sound 911's governance was originally defined by its member agencies — Pierce County,

the City of Tacoma, the City of Lakewood, West Pierce Fire & Rescue, the City of Fife, and the City of Puyallup — partnered in an interlocal agreement. However, as the agency grew and assumed more responsibilities, the stakeholders expressed a preference for a change in governance which better represented the regional agencies South Sound 911 supported.

"In 2019, South Sound 911 became a Public Development Authority (PDA) in accordance with RCW 35.21.730-755 and is now governed by an 11-member Board of Directors to which the South Sound 911 executive director reports. All local government agencies contracting for the agency's services are represented on the board, either directly or indirectly.

Meta Requests for Public Records Request Records

A study of who uses Public Records Requests can be deeply instructive in what records systems serve which requesters.

One early lesson is how rare individual Public Records researchers are, and how 90% of the traffic is one institution asking for another institution's records; i. e. A Lawyer, asking on behalf of a Client Insurance Agency, for the Discipline and Brady material about a named range of arresting officers, or a Sheriff's Department asking State Patrol for their records regarding an applicant for employment who might have a DUI, or might have a common name.

REQUEST LANGUAGE

I would like a csv file of the records of Public Records Requests served by [Agency Name] during [Year specified] from any and all requesters.

(Later you will use this comma separated value text file as an input to Excel or another spreadsheet program)

Fields vary, but usually include some master request number and some date on which the request was received and another field for when records were first provided, or most recently provided, and a Company Name, Contact Name, and sometimes an address set or contact email for the requester. The main things you want are **Who** asked, **When** they asked, and the **REQUEST LANGUAGE** used in each request. Various agencies try to categorize requestors, but this self-reporting method is poorly designed to capture actual roles for each company, office, or institution named as the sponsor of a request. What they asked for can say a lot about what role they play.

Anyone can ask for anything, and during Feuds they can and have documented deep torts and crimes in accusations framed as pointed public records queries. This usually happens between Officers, and rarely happens with other categories of public employee.

Discipline cases and disputes get aired and counter-requested this way, again often among police. Once an officer loses their Union support structure they often strike out on their own via Public Records requests and this can reveal tons of things.

Lists of who's applying for State Employment or appearing on tip sheets at DOD commands are also revealed this way.

DUI's while in the Armed Forces get investigated via public records request. This reveals something of who's in which command, and who asks for each command. Both can be instructive as to how intelligence networks are structured in the Military and connect to civilian data sources.

Lexis Nexis serves as a kind of Insurance Agency Clearinghouse for requests, as a 3rd party handling this for each of the major carriers. Their requests get very specific about covered individuals, or those who have been identified as responsible parties in an accident against an insured. The degree to which these standard requests are revealed unaltered in the Records you are given,

serves therefore as a Known Visible Spectrum to test the channel. If they are withheld for details, you can bet the same source is also hiding details in the requests from other requesters, as well.

The move to putting Public Records onto third party website hosts (GovQA) is to limit the dwell of Public Records in email systems, which often don't expire or purge after a set period of time, as Law Enforcement records of certain types must (Intelligence about associations lasts about five years in a case where nothing turned up for prosecution, in THEORY if it isn't Open Sourced by the strategic publicity tactic). GovQA also creates a common operating picture, statewide, of who asks these Public Records questions as researchers outside the powers that want preservation of property relationships as they exist today. Dwell time on PRA websites is often 30 to 90 days, depending on settings chosen by the Municipality / County. Some agencies use GovQA to track and notify, but post yet another site as the actual transfer of files, which last even less time or burn up once used once (filelocker).

A quick read through the Request Language for a given agency in a given year can result in several Re-Requests, that is a "request for all files sent to Requester X in request XXXX-2019" as a shorthand, instead of spelling out the whole original topic again. These often produce responses quickly, and are a sure test of whether an agency is in Obstruction Mode, or Neutral Professional Mode, toward a given individual.

If you are on the BAD LIST(s) you won't get anyone's prior work handed to you, either.

TTP LEO Organizational Charts URLs

<https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff/office-organization.htm>

<https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff/bureau-support-services.htm> (Records including Public Records)

META Request: 2019 WSP Contact for TCSO requests for Public Records: 29 year veteran employee, Legal Assistant Jill Zimbelman (non sworn) until at least 2020

TTP Photon Spreads 6.0

A Photon Spread Request is a request for multiple email archives across an agency in both personnel, and time.

The intention is to reduce the administrative load on any one agency employee who needs to review emails by limiting the period of time asked for (say, one to two week's or a single month's worth) and asking for each subsequent period to be shifted by some number of days (say, five days or a week or two weeks) for each archive.

This lets the researcher spread an agency email request across 5 or 10 employees, while still covering emails regarding operations for up to six months or a year's worth of time. Doing this toward a command structure will often yield detailed lists of officers by specialty, shift schedules, incident reporting digests, and similar administrative views.

Doing this toward a Special Operations or Rapid Deployment Force structure should show Event or Protest Response planning, and maps, and rosters of specialty police in riot control, bikes, aviation, etc.

An extensive photon spread can be used to punish an entire agency by making each of them hand over two weeks of emails, in overlapping time periods, until every email week is covered for eternity in an ever-expanding list of email tribute.

If each officer must spend at least one time every year digesting two weeks of their emails, they will

begin to use it differently than they had before, if not drop its use entirely. It's up to you to decide if that is a good thing, or not.

The chokepoint of any Photon Spread is the review authority who has to review and tag material for redaction. If that clerk is alone in the task then the spread can be an overburden on the clerk's operations. They can, and will, turn responses into a never-ending '21-day Salute Cycle. A "polite" spread will be as few officers as possible, as carefully chosen as possible, to have the views of the administrative tasks needed to answer the research question in mind. An "impolite" one will be as many sergeants as the agency has, and cover every month of a year, for more than one year.

The best way to get the material you want is to understand who's likely to have it, and least likely to have a clerk used to withholding it. When police share intelligence distribution with school districts, for instance, the school district becomes the better source for some of that material. They'll focus on student's IDs and names and leave third party attachments alone, likely as not.

TTP Access Logs Analysis 7

The central function of a police intelligence system is the near instantaneous sharing of reputation information from any node, to any other node, of the police apparatus. In Washington State the central repository of this records check system is called ACCESS. This is an acronym meaning "A Central Computerized Enforcement Services System" and it is used to look up someone's name, license plate number, Driver's License Number, and Social Security Number during searches to confirm their identity, find an address to try to contact them in person, or locate their vehicle's description and number.

The ACCESS Logs - or Journals, as they are also known, are a public record which contains the Searches themselves, formatted in a type of markup language. In addition to this is a separate metadata layer, also formatted in a markup language, that describes who made the request, when they made it, and which case number it was related to when it was made, if one already exists, to refer the results back to. Often these are PDF files if they need redaction, and you will need to process the text back to a spreadsheet or database to process the records.

Because this public record is very rich and quite large, it can take 7 or 8 hours of computing time just to see any results, or none at all, for a given search. The horizon is about 6 years, give or take. A search at the end of a calendar year might be made too late, if the record needed is on the edge of that range. For

safety's sake and follow-up requests it is best practice to treat the Horizon as if it is three years, and use the extra three as a margin, when planning a request series. It cannot be emphasized enough that this method is a recursive task and is never done in one cycle.

The Standard ACCESS request is a self-request of one's own Nouns and Identifiers in the record, to compare to one's own experience in the system as it stands. This entails a risk of putting one's identity into a public record, and cannot be made without consideration to one's threat profile. If you're being watched by the police already then better to know that for certain, and to know which ones - and when. But to keep your own details out of the summary request it might be your tactic to use this through an attorney so their address information is what leaks, should any leaks be sought. Other requesters will have the same access to your request records, that you are seeking to ACCESS Journals and their contents.

The results YOU are given, are also public records now, with their own horizon. You can extend the information kept in these systems if you ask for it too late in the cycle, by OSINTing the data into a records request under separate retention rules. Beware of this. 28 CFR 23 usually requires records to age out in 18 months to 5 years. 28 CFR 23 covers most Police intelligence and what little military intelligence is shared municipally. If you put that into an Open Source, you're extending that horizon possibly a decade or more for practical purposes, possibly forever if someone is clever.

An extended or Advanced ACCESS request is the Agency Catalog, which uses an index to identify every Terminal number used by a given Agency for ACCESS, and then requests counts of how many times each channel was used in [period of time.] The active terminals can be subdivided into further requests on the most active channels, for instance - or the least used.

This INDEX is known as the **ORI list**, for Originating Number list, which identifies the Terminals and Agencies assigned them.

As part of beginning any ACCESS Journal series, it is best to have a basic **ORI index** to reference, so ask for one up front.

Another extended or Advanced ACCESS request is the **ATN field analysis**. For a given agency, ask for all ACCESS Journal Logs where ATN is not empty, that contain [Officer surname or Case number]. The results can be a list of all the persons attached to a given set of ACCESS searches; the list of every witness or suspect they searched, and the time codes of when they did.

This is as close to case notes as you will ever get out of the FBI, for example, who use these indexes just like anyone else.

A similar request can be made of "*Every request through [ORI channel] for [time period less than 5 years].*"

This will usually reveal more than one individual is using the terminal number, and the ATN fields will tell you whom, and which cases they searched on. The WSP tends to use Officer ID numbers, and this lets one reconstruct who's in which Detachment of WSP at a given time series of requests, apart from payrolls or Time and Activity Reports, but ONLY if you have an index of who used which number at that time. ATN means Attention. It's used to tell the officer which case the data referenced.