

LM 41 Natural Resource Day Speaker Bios

*Thank you to our speakers for generously donating their time
and expertise to support Leadership Missoula*

Michael Colyer, Chief of Police, Missoula Police Department

Email: colyerm@ci.missoula.mt.us

Chief Michael Colyer was born and raised Missoula. After high school, he attended the University of Montana and North Idaho College, and holds a degree in Law Enforcement. Chief Colyer began his law enforcement career as a police officer for the Coeur d'Alene (ID) Police Department. He worked for Cd'A PD from 1994 to 1996 before he returned to Missoula to begin his career with the Missoula Police Department on February 7, 1996.

As an MPD Officer, Chief Colyer was a motorcycle officer in the Traffic Unit and Field Training Officer before being promoted to Sergeant in 2001. As a Sergeant, he had various assignments which included supervision of Uniformed Patrol Teams, the Traffic Unit and the Street Crimes Unit.

He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2008 and served in the Office of Professional Standards in the Administrative Division where he was responsible for citizen complaint investigation, internal investigations, and recruitment processes.

In 2011 he graduated from the 244th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Later that year he was promoted to Captain and assigned to the Detective Division. A significant accomplishment in that position was his role in leading the Missoula Police Department's work with the United States Department of Justice to reform the MPD's response to sexual assault.

In 2022, Chief Colyer transferred back to the Administrative Division where he supervised the Office of Professional Standards, the Property and Evidence Unit, the Records Unit, Police Support Specialists, training, hiring and promotion processes.

Chief Colyer has held many collateral duties along the way such as SWAT Operator, SWAT Team Leader and the Tactical Operations Commander. He has also been an instructor in chemical agents, impact weapons, TASER and use of force. Chief Colyer was one of the first Drug Recognition Experts and Drug Recognition Expert Instructors in Montana and was Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Coordinator, Agency Coordinator and State Coordinator.

Mayor Jordan Hess appointed Chief Colyer to Police Chief in May 2023 and he was confirmed by the City Council in June 2023.

His wife, Susan, is an Investment Advisor for Edward Jones Investments. His son, Jack, is a University of Montana graduate working in the private sector in Missoula and his Kathleen, is in nursing school. His passion is to be on the water at Flathead Lake, most likely fishing, but he also enjoys hunting and endurance sports such as cycling, running and hiking.

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Patrick Erbacher, Patrol Lieutenant, Missoula Police Department

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I have been a police officer for the City of Missoula for 19 ½ years. I have spent the entirety of my career in the patrol division, including time as a DUI enforcement Officer and as the Sergeant for the traffic division. I have been a field training officer, a supervisor, and spent 11 years on the SWAT team, the last 2 of which I was the team leader. I am the Lieutenant for one side of the patrol division, with 30 employees under my supervision. I also equipping and maintaining the patrol vehicle fleet. Prior to joining MPD, I served 5 years in the United States Marine Corps and did another 4 years in the Montana Army National Guard.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Charlie Kirk did due to him always being willing to have an open and respectful conversation with people who disagreed with him.

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? True Crime Garage

What book(s) are you currently reading? Curious George Flies a Kite, just finished Horns by Joe Hill, To Kill and Kill Again, 11/22/63 by Stephen King, and the Stormlight Archives by Brandon Sanderson

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Patrol car stocking

Graffiti task force

We have a volunteer coordinator, I am sure there are many other options for volunteer opportunities that I am unaware of.

Donna Townsley, Missoula 911 Assistant Manager

Email: dtownsley@missoulacounty.us

I started w/ Missoula 911 on 1/3/1989 as a call taker/dispatcher. I worked aprox 10 years and was promoted to a “Lead” position. After 13 years, I moved to the Fort Worth area of Texas and dispatched there for 10 years. I moved back home to Missoula and went back to work at Missoula 911 for another 6 years. I left dispatching for some years but when the Assistant Manager position came up, I accepted the position and have been back with Missoula 911 as the Assistant Manager for the past 3 1/2 years. I am heavily involved in the recruitment and training of new dispatchers. I love what I do!

What speaker(s) inspire you? Nate Griesse, Missoula PD

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? I don’t listen to Podcasts unless I am on a long road trip. When I do, it is generally a podcast about a crime investigation. The last was “The Happy Face Killer” or something close to that.

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What book(s) are you currently reading? Stone Cross by Marc Cameron (I'm going on a cruise to Alaska in August with some friends and Marc so I thought I better read some of his books, which I am really enjoying!

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

We have no Volunteer positions at Missoula 911

Michael Kamerer, Captain of the Uniformed Patrol Division

Email: kamererm@ci.missoula.mt.us

Captain Michael Kamerer brings nearly 17 years of law enforcement experience and 4.5 years of military service to his instructional role. He currently serves as Captain of Uniformed Patrol and has held a broad range of leadership and specialty assignments throughout his career, including Tactical Operations Commander, SWAT Operator, K9 Handler, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and now Captain. Throughout his military and law enforcement service, he has spent nearly 15 years in leadership roles within special operations and command environments.

Captain Kamerer is a Montana POST-certified instructor in Mission Planning, Helicopter Operations, Tactical Operations, and Command Development. His professional expertise includes patrol leadership, tactical operations, critical incident response, officer development, and incident command. He currently holds Montana POST Advanced, Supervisory, Command, and Instructor Certificates, reflecting both his operational experience and commitment to professional instruction.

A graduate of FBI National Academy Session 290 and the Montana Executive Leadership Institute, Captain Kamerer is also a recipient of the FBI LEEDA Trilogy Award. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Criminology from Portland State University, along with an advanced certificate in Policing in America. He also earned a Master of Public Safety and a graduate certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia.

Before entering law enforcement, Captain Kamerer served 4.5 years in the United States Marine Corps, where he conducted combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, in addition to joint military training operations throughout Southeast Asia. He was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 2008. His instructional approach is grounded in real-world operational experience, principled leadership, and a commitment to developing capable, confident public safety professionals.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Non-Specific (Military Inspiration i.e. Jocko Willink, James Mattis

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What Podcasts are you currently listening to? Don't typically listen to podcasts. GBRs for motivation and self-improvement

What book(s) are you currently reading? Currently Between Books

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Internship through various fields

Volunteer Program

Role Players for SWAT Trainings

Ryan Kamura, Admin Training Sergeant

Email: kamurar@ci.missoula.mt.us

Born and raised in Missoula, MT where I attended U of M graduating with a Major in Sociology and minor in Criminology/Forensic Science while also interning at the State Crime lab for 1 year in ballistics. Hired by MPD in 2011 I spent 9 years in patrol taking on various assignments such as Master Taser instructor, ALERRT instructor, CIT instructor, Riot response, FTO, Negotiator, Background Investigator and more. For a promotion I returned to patrol as a Sergeant for 2 years prior to returning to the ADMIN division as the Training Sergeant and Axon accounts manager. I instruct and onboard our new Officers while also training all current staff in various topics. In my free time I enjoy teaching my daughter's soccer team, assisting at the MLEA, or guest speaking at local community groups.

The topic of conversation will be Crisis Negotiations.

Jesse Potter, SVU Detective

Email: potterj@ci.missoula.mt.us

I'm a police officer with the Missoula PD with over 12 years' experience and have been in my current role as a SVU Detective investigating child abuse for 4 years. As a detective, I've presented on several investigative topics primarily regarding child abuse to a variety of audiences such as Police Department, Child and Family Services, High Schools, Churches, and members of Missoula's Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Jeremiah Peterson, Missoula County Sheriff

Email: jpetersen@missoulacounty.us

Jeremiah grew up on a ranch in Frenchtown, MT where he learned the accomplishments and rewards of hard work. After graduating from Frenchtown High School, he attended the University of Montana and put both work ethic and mental and physical attributes to the test. He played football while attending U of M and is proud to say he is a member of the 1995 National

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Champion Football Team. He graduated from the U of M in December of 2000, with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with an emphasis in Justice Studies.

Jeremiah was hired as a Missoula County Sheriff's Office Deputy in January of 2002, by the former Sheriff, Doug Chase. He worked in the Patrol Division for over 15 years where he held many roles that included: Search and Rescue Coordinator, Field Training Officer, Corporal, and Sergeant. In November of 2016, he moved to the Detective Division and became the Task Force Commander of the Missoula Drug Task Force (HIDTA). He held that position until November of 2019, when he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and he was assigned to the Missoula County Detention Center in charge of operations.

Throughout his time of service, Jeremiah believed that our communities still, and always will, deserve the best in safety and service that the Sheriff's Office can provide. With that commitment and respected leadership skills, Jeremiah was elected Sheriff in November of 2022. Jeremiah resides in the Missoula area with his wife, two daughters and son. concentration in finance and economics.

Guy Baker, Retired Detective Missoula Police Department/Private Investigator

Email: kilo217@gmail.com

Guy Baker is a retired detective with 35 years of frontline law enforcement experience at the Missoula Police Department, including 25 years as a criminal investigator specializing in violent crimes. Over the course of his career, he served as a Lead Investigator or Case Agent on more than 1,200 criminal cases and he worked thousands of additional investigations that included physical and sexual assaults, robberies, homicides and death investigations. He also served 16 years on the MPD SWAT Team, exhibiting a sustained record of leadership, dependability and operational responsibility.

During the last 15 years of his career, Baker served on the FBI's Safe Streets Task Force, which was an assignment focused on identifying and prosecuting the region's most serious offenders. Within that role, he routinely investigated gang violence, firearms offenses, drug conspiracies, and sex trafficking. As an FBI Task Force Officer, he worked closely with other state and federal agencies and multi-jurisdictional partners on complex and high-impact cases.

A significant portion of Baker's investigative work involved both adult and minor victims of sex trafficking and child exploitation, including cases related to gang-involved trafficking activity. His cases resulted in numerous successful prosecutions in both federal court and state district courts as he established an effective partnership with the prosecutors assigned to his cases. He also served for over a decade on the United States Attorney Office's Human Trafficking Task

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Force, focusing on victim-centered investigative strategies, while emphasizing long-term case development and offender accountability.

In addition to his investigative work, Baker was a certified instructor through the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and a contracted presenter with the National Gang Center, providing specific instruction on gang-involved sex trafficking and practical investigative strategies. He's presented extensively throughout Montana and has been invited to provide specialized training in multiple states across the country. He has been Senior Vice President of the Northwest Gang Investigators Association for the last 27 years and was a past President of the Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association, reflecting his continuous leadership and peer trust within the law enforcement community.

Now retired from law enforcement, Baker will continue working as a private investigator while remaining committed to educating communities about the realities of sex trafficking. Drawing from his decades of investigative experience at both the local and federal level, he offers valued insight into how sex trafficking occurs in communities of all sizes and the important role leaders and citizens play in identifying and preventing exploitation in their communities.

Jordan Cross, K-9 Deputy

Email: jcross@missoulacounty.us

I graduated from the United States Military Academy with a B.S. in Psychology and served for almost 10 years as an active duty Army officer. I then joined the U.S. Forest Service as a wildland firefighter while working on a Master's degree at Colorado State University. I decided to transition into Law Enforcement and spent a little over a year with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office in northern Colorado before joining the Missoula County Sheriff's Office in 2021. I have been a K9 handler for just over a year. During my previous professional experience, I volunteered within a religious organization and as a leader in the Boy Scouts of America.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Simon Sinek, Jordan Peterson

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? Lex Fridman, K9 Talking Scents, Police K9 Radio

What book(s) are you currently reading? The Talent Code, K9 Tracking: The Straightest Path

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