



JAMES 'MAC' MCLAUGHLIN

DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT

CONTACT



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[Facebook](#)
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AWARDS & HONORS

- Oregon State Victor G. Atiyah Award for Leadership (2008)
- Two Distinguished Action Awards (2023, capture of three murder suspects)
- Life Saving Award from Portland Police Bureau (for incident command preventing mass casualty attack)
- Tri-County Major Incident Team Award (Kaylee Sawyer murder investigation, instrumental to Senate)
- Bill 576 "Kaylee's Law" defining campus security roles statewide)
- National Honor Guard Academy Award for Excellence
- Two Meritorious Promotions, United States Marine Corps
- Multiple letters of Accommodation and Recognition for law enforcement achievements

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Respected law enforcement executive with 18 years of progressive service and leadership in the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. Recognized statewide for investigative excellence, tactical expertise, and a proven commitment to accountability and public safety. Trusted instructor and mentor to law enforcement professionals in both local and federal jurisdictions. Proud Marine Corps veteran, decorated for leadership and service, honorably discharged. Dedicated to building partnerships, transparency, and safer communities throughout Deschutes County.

CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- Extensive leadership experience in investigations, tactical operations, narcotics, and crime prevention
- Commander and advanced supervision of specialized units and interagency task forces
- Acclaimed instructor in tactical, active shooter, and law enforcement operations statewide
- Award-winning record in life-saving, distinguished action, and legislative impact
- Committed to collaborative leadership, staff empowerment, and community trust
- Federally sworn Task Force Officer with the USMS; prior Task Force Officer with the FBI



EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Oregon State Sheriff's Association Command College Graduate
- DPSST Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Supervisory Certificates
- Over 3,000 hours of law enforcement training and instructing
- DPSST Detective Academy Graduate
- DEA Basic Academy Graduate
- Advanced Team Leader Course, National Tactical Officers Association
- Active Shooter Instructor; Tactical Operator Instructor; Taser Instructor
- Marine Corps Advanced Water Survival, US Army Airborne Schools
- Law enforcement training with FBI, DEA, Oregon State Police, International/California/Oregon
- Narcotics Officer Associations, Oregon State Homicide Association, DHS, and others
- College credits in Criminal Justice through Chemeketa and Kaplan University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Detective Lieutenant

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend, OR | 2025–Present

- Leads the Detective Division, including Criminal Investigations, Street Crimes Unit, Evidence Division, Concealed Handgun Licensing Unit, Digital Forensics Unit, and International Crimes Against Children Unit
- Oversees Deschutes County members of the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Team and Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Unit
- Provides executive leadership in major case management, operational planning, and multi-agency coordination
- Management over multiple division budgets within the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office while insuring accountability and fiscal responsibility

Street Crimes Detective Sergeant

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend, OR | 2022–2024

- Supervised the Street Crimes Unit, managing major criminal investigations and tactical enforcement operations
- Mentored detectives and implemented advanced investigative strategies for community safety

Detective / Patrol Sergeant / Narcotics Detective / Major Incident Team Detective

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend, OR | 2007–2022

- Served in patrol, criminal investigations, narcotics, street crimes, and major incident team assignments
- Led and resolved high-profile cases, complex undercover operations, and coordinated with state and federal agencies

SWAT Team Commander & Lead Instructor

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend, OR | 2010–Present

- Lead instructor for Oregon State Basic Tactical Operator School since inception, training tactical operators throughout Oregon for local and federal agencies
- Progressed from entry operator to commander of Deschutes County SWAT Team, providing tactical leadership as incident commander in high-risk law enforcement operations



PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Tactical Officers Association
- International Narcotics Association
- California Narcotics Officer Association
- Oregon Narcotics Officer Association
- Oregon Homicide Investigator Association
- Oregon State Sheriff's Association Tactical Command Council
- United States Marshal Service (USMS)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE *cont.*

Task Force Officer (TFO)

United States Marshal Service (USMS) | 2023-Present

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) | 2016-2018

- Sworn Task Force Officer, currently with USMS and previously with the FBI during undercover narcotics investigations
- Supports multi-jurisdictional operations targeting major threats to public safety and apprehension of violent offenders in Pacific NW

Peer Support

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend OR | 2019-Present

- Responsible for multi agency critical incident debriefs
- Responsible for First Responder stress debriefs, emotional health and well being

Deschutes County Honor Guard Member

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend OR | 2010-2025

- Member of state wide Honor Guard team responsible for planning, coordinating, and participating in line of duty death ceremonies, promotional ceremonies, memorial ceremonies

Ordained Minister & Board Member

Eagle Mountain 2004-2007

- Responsible for teaching, mentoring, and counseling community members
- Created various biblical curriculum courses
- Trained and equipped community members in biblical studies with practical life applications

Sergeant, First Force Reconnaissance Company

United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA | 1996-2000

- Achieved two meritorious promotions, ending service as Marine Corps Sergeant
- Trained in Close Quarter Battle, advanced water survival, and airborne operations
- Continued training in combat mission planning, special weapon systems transitions, and long range reconnaissance
- Honorably discharged