

Derek Mahlum

Curriculum Vitae

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EXPERIENCE

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

2025 – Present

Investigations Bureau Chief, Great Falls, Montana

Currently employed as the Investigations Bureau Chief, within the Division of Criminal Investigation, Montana Department of Justice. Responsible for overseeing multiple units to include Elder Justice, Major Case, Medicaid Fraud Control, Social Security Fraud, State Fire Marshal's Office, Office of Victim's Services, Office of Consumer Protection – In State, SAKI, Office of the Child and Family Ombudsman and Montana Child Sexual Abuse Response Team (MCSART). Position includes budget oversight within the respective bureau, presenting information to the Montana Legislature, providing training to partnering agencies, and completing long term strategic projects.

2024 – 2025

Major Case Agent, Great Falls, Montana

Assigned as a Major Case Agent with the Division of Criminal Investigation. Responsible for handling various criminal investigations from public corruption, property crimes, crimes against persons and homicide. Requested to assist smaller agencies with complex criminal cases to include crime scene processing, evidence handling and interview/interrogation. Required to work in concert with numerous agencies to achieve a successful outcome within the criminal justice system.

GREAT FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 – 2024

Detective Sergeant, Great Falls, Montana

Assigned as the General Case Detective Sergeant. Supervise investigative operations involving robberies, homicides, suspicious deaths, and property crimes. Review investigative reports and assign cases to various investigators. Assist with crime scene processing and train newly selected investigators on best practices and investigative methods. Maintained bureau technology subscriptions and warranty requirements according to budget availability. Developed a training program for new and seasoned investigators to include securing a funding source (~\$37,000). Researched and developed several proposals to increase the efficiency of detectives to include processes and equipment. Conducted internal investigations of subordinates to include recommendations on discipline actions. Responsible for collecting yearly data to complete year end bureau reports. Completed bi-annual evaluations of all assigned employees.

- 2020-2021 *Violent Crime Prevention Task Force Detective*, Great Falls, Montana
Assigned to the newly formed Cascade County Violent Crime Prevention Task Force. Investigations focus on repeat offenders to include narcotics possession/trafficking, weapons possession/trafficking, and violent crime to include robberies, assaults and homicides. Worked in unison with various partner agencies to includes FBI, DEA, and US Marshal's Service.
- 2015-2020 *General Case Detective*, Great Falls, Montana
Responsibilities include investigating death scenes to determine cause and manner. Process both violent homicide/assault scenes, non-violent property crime scenes, staged crime scenes, and officer involved shootings to preserve, identify, document and collect various items of evidence. Certified to operate and testify in use of the Faro 3D Crime Scene Scanner. Work closely with local coroner's office and State Medical Examiners while attending postmortem exams to complete equivocal death investigations. Research and recommend various items/equipment for crime scene processing for both field and department use. Complete detailed reports of incidents and provide expert testimony in court.
- 2011 - 2015 *Patrol Officer*, Great Falls, Montana
Responsibilities included responding to various radio calls which included both cold and in progress violent crimes. Follow up with various criminal cases to gather the needed evidence and information to obtain successful prosecutions. Was an active field training officer with emphasis spent teaching new officers the proper methods of processing crime scenes, importance of evidence collection, preservation and documentation.
- 2009 – 2011 **HAVRE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Sergeant, Havre, Montana
Responsibilities included supervising several officers while handling various criminal investigations. Mentored younger officers in proper crime scene investigation and processing methods and techniques. Was assigned lead officer on any natural or suspicious death scenes and worked closely with the assigned coroner to determine cause and manner of death. Worked closely with local prosecutors to build successful cases from the crime scene to court. Also served as a field training officer which allowed me to teach new officers how to properly handle both simple and complex crime scenes/investigations.
- 2005 – 2009 *Patrol Officer*, Havre, Montana
Responsibilities included responding to calls for service and processing various types of crime scenes in order to preserve, identify, document and collect items of evidence. Assigned to manage department's evidence inventory, research case status and handle according to case disposition. Also assisted in researching and ordering various evidence collection supplies and training on their proper use.

2004 – 2005

WOLF POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrolman, Wolf Point, Montana

Responsibilities included patrolling city wide and responding to calls for service. Calls included disturbances, property crimes, sexual offenses, serious assaults to homicides. Was responsible for preserving, locating, documenting and collecting various items of evidence. Also testified in local, state, federal and tribal court rooms. Worked closely with drug task force and federal partners due to violent crime associated in Indian Country.

2002 – 2004

ROOSEVELT COUNTY / FORT PECK TRIBES 911 EMERGENCY CALL CENTER

Emergency Dispatcher, Wolf Point, Montana

Responsibilities included answering both emergent and non-emergent radio calls in order to organize and dispatch the appropriate resources. Resources included police, fire, medical, fish and game, and department of transportation. At the request of law enforcement would complete various CJIN/NCIC database checks.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- MVCIA - Homicide Conference, Tools in The Toolbox, Helena, Montana (2025)
- Criminal Investigations Using Cellular Technology Advanced Course – LexisNexis, Missoula Montana (2025)
- Criminal Investigations Using Cellular Technologies – LexisNexis online (2024)
- Shooting Incident Reconstruction – Michael Haag, Montana (2024)
- Montana Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators Conference “Fire Dynamics/Fatal Fires”, Montana (2023)
- North Carolina Homicide Investigators Association Conference, Asheville North Carolina (2024)
- MVCIA – Violent Encounters/Complex Homicide Investigations, Montana (2023)
- Crime Scene Metal Detector Operations, Montana (2023)
- Child Death Investigation, Montana (2023)
- 2023 National Institute of Justice/National Center on Forensics: Forensic Training Conference, George Mason University, Manassas, Virginia (2023)
- Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Montana (2023)
- Faro 3D Crime Scene Laser Scanner, Montana (2023)
- LexisNexis – Investigative Technology and Innovation, Las Vegas NV (2022)
- Courtroom Testimony and Expert Witness Training Rocky Mountain HIDTA, Virtual (2022)
- Amber Alert – National AMBER Alert and AMBER Alert in Indian Country Virtual Symposium, Virtual (2022)
- Deep Dive into Cell Phone Records and Tower Dumps Montana (2022)
- MVCIA - Missing Persons Homicide Investigation Montana (2021)

- Montana Executive Leadership Institute, Montana (2021)
- Montana Missing Persons Training, Montana (2021)
- MVCIA – No Body Homicide Investigation (2021)
- Zet-X Subject Matter Expert – Cellular Technologies 40 hours, Denver Colorado (2021)
- Detecting More Evidence with Alternate Light Sources, Montana (2021)
- Advanced Shooting Incident Reconstruction (2021)
- Shooting Incident Reconstruction (2020)
- Zet-X Forensic Analysis of Cellular Networks (2020)
- Truth2Lies Statement Profiling Detecting Deception 21 hours, Montana (2020)
- Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association Conference “Inter/Interrogation, Evidence Collection, Court Testimony” (2019)
- 2019 International Association of Identification Forensic Training Conference Reno Nevada (2019)
- Zet-X Criminal Investigations Using Cellular Technologies 40 hour course Montana (2019)
- Zet-X Criminal Investigations Using Cellular Technologies 24 hours course Montana (2019)
- MSTOA Operational Medicine Tract, Montana (2019)
- FLETC Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Training, Montana (2019)
- FBI Child Abduction Rapid Deployment, Montana (2019)
- Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association Conference “Enhanced Homicide Investigation Techniques” (2018)
- Forensic Examination of Violent Crime Scenes (2018)
- Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Workshop (2018)
- MT Coroner’s Refresher/Death Investigations, Great Falls, MT (2018)
- Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association, “Homicide Investigations From Call to Court” (various instructors), Missoula, Montana (2017)
- FBI Basic Historical Cell Site Analysis Course, Cellular Analysis Survey Team (CAST), Missoula, Montana (2017)
- Dustin Forensics/Faro Focus 3D Crime Scene Scanner, Great Falls, Montana (2017)
- Montana Medicolegal Death Investigation Conference, University of Montana School of Extended & Lifelong Learning, Missoula, Montana (2016)
- Fundamentals of Crime Scene Examination and Evidence Collection, Ron Smith and Associates, Great Falls, Montana (2016)
- Background Investigations for Public Safety Positions, Glacken and Associates, Billings, Montana (2016)
- Labor Relations Information System (LRIS), Advanced Course in Police Discipline, Las Vegas, Nevada (2015)
- Primary SWAT/Tactical Team Operations, Great Falls, Montana (2015)
- Inside the Tape Homicide Investigation & Crime Scene Management (2014)
- Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association “Advanced Homicide Investigation Officer Involved Shootings”, Billings, Montana (2013)
- Child Forensic Interview, Montana Department of Justice Criminal Investigations, Helena, Montana (2013)
- Police Vehicle Operations Course (PVOC) Instructor, Montana Law Enforcement Academy, Helena, Montana (2012)

- Leadership and Mastering Performance Management Phase I & II, Gallagher-Westfall Group, Inc, Helena, Montana (2010)
- React to Active Shooter, Billings Police Department, Havre Montana (2010)
- FLETC State and Local Law Enforcement Training Symposium, Helena Montana (2010)
- Field Training Officer, Kaminsky and Associates, Inc, Missoula Montana (2010)
- Sergeant's Academy, The Results Group, Ltd. Great Falls, Montana (2009)
- Basic Instructor Development, Great Falls, Montana (2009)
- Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association Conference, Homicide Investigation, Missoula, Montana (2008)
- Crime Scene Processing for Patrol Officers, Forensic Training Services, Inc, Billings Montana (2008)
- FLETC Drug Law Enforcement School for Patrol Officers, Shelby, Montana (2007)
- The Reid Technique of Interview and Interrogation, John E. Reid and Associates, Glasgow, Montana (2006)
- State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training, Tribal Lands Anti-Terrorism Briefing, US Department of Justice, Havre, Montana (2006)
- Gang Homicide Investigation, Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)/Arizona Homicide Investigators Association (AHIA), Scottsdale, Arizona (2006)
- Northern Border Narcotics Interdiction Targeting & Enforcement Operations, US Customs and Border Protection, Cut Bank Montana (2006)
- Montana Law Enforcement Academy Class #125, Helena, Montana (2005)
- Montana Law Enforcement Academy Class #25, Helena, Montana (2002)
- Arson Detection for the 1st Responder, Montana State University Extension Service, Wolf Point, Montana (2002)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle license– FAA (2024)
- Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis 2018/2023
- Focus Scanner User Certification Program – Public Safety Faro (2023/2017)
- Montana – POST Command Certificate 2022
- Zet-X Subject Matter Expert Call Detail Record and Geolocation Analysis 2022
- Advanced Shooting Analysis and Reconstruction 2021
- Basic Shooting Analysis and Reconstruction 2020
- Certified Crime Scene Analyst - International Association of Identification (2018/2023)
- Peace Officer Instructor-Firearms 2016
- Peace Officer Advanced Certificate 2016
- Police Vehicle Operations Course (PVOC) 2012
- Field Training Officer 2010
- Peace Officer Supervisory Certificate 2010
- Peace Officer Intermediate Certificate 2009
- Peace Officer Basic Certificate 2007
- Public Safety Communicator Certificate 2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 2025 National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES) Professional Development Seminar, Helena, Montana (2.5 hrs)
- 2025 Montana Coroner's Association Training Conference / Death Scenes, Homicide/Suicide, Bloodstain Pattern Awareness, Great Falls, Montana (8 hrs)
- 2024 North Carolina Homicide Investigator's Association Fall Conference / Antonio Renova Child Homicide Case Presentation, Carolina Beach North Carolina (4 hrs)
- 2024 Pacific Northwest International Association of Identification Conference, Missoula, Montana - Antonio Renova Homicide Case Presentation (2 hrs)
- 2024 Pacific Northwest International Association of Identification Conference, Missoula, MT – An Interactive Approach to Equivocal Death Scenes (2 hrs)
- 2024 North Carolina Homicide Investigator's Association Conference/Antonio Renova Child Homicide Case Presentation, Ashville North Carolina (4 hrs)
- 2023 MVCIA – Antonio Renova Child Homicide Case Presentation (4 hrs)
- 2023 React to Active Shooter – Great falls Police Department (3 day)
- 2022 Mid-West Counter Drug Training Center Drug Crime Scene Processing (5 day) St. Louis Metro Police Department, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2022 Mid-West Counter Drug Training Center Drug Crime Scene Processing (5 day) Great Falls, Montana
- 2021 Mid-West Counter Drug Training Center Drug Crime Scene Processing (5 day) Meridian Idaho – Idaho State Patrol
- 2021 Mid-West Counter Drug Training Center Drug Crime Scene Processing (5 day) Johnston, Iowa
- 2020 Montana Coroner's Basic (scene photography) 1.5 hrs
- 2019 RS&A Fundamentals of Crime Scene Processing (5 day) Glasgow, Montana
- 2019 Montana Coroner's Basic (scene photography) 3 hrs
- 2018 Great Falls Police Active Shooter (adjunct instructor)
- 2017 Great Falls Police Citizens Master Academy / Interview & Interrogation 4 hr

2017-present	Armed Intruder / Medical blocks (several 2 hour blocks)
2017	Tourniquet application/Combat Casualty Care Havre Police Department 8 hr
2017	Great Falls Police Citizen's Academy Investigations overview/case study
2016	Great Falls Police Citizen's Master Academy / Interview & Interrogation 4 hr
2016	Great Falls Police SWAT Basic (adjunct instructor)
2016	Tourniquet application/Combat Casualty Care Department Homeland Security (Great Falls)
2015-2022	Tourniquet application/Combat Casualty Care Great Falls Police
2015	Great Falls Police Citizen's Academy Investigations overview/case study
2012-2015	Police Vehicle Operations Montana Law Enforcement Academy (adjunct instructor/primary agency instructor)
2011-2019	Montana Law Enforcement Academy Firearms Basic Academy (adjunct instructor)
2008-2011	Havre Police Department Firearms (interagency)
2008	Havre School District Law Related Education (1 hour blocks)
2007	Havre Middle School District Safe Driving (1 hour blocks)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Pacific Northwest Division of the International Association of Identification

- 2021 – Current Montana Regional Vice President
- 2017 – Active Member

International Association of Identification

- 2017 – Current Member

Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association

- 2023 – 2025 Trustee
- 2017 - 2023 Secretary/Treasurer

Great Falls Police Protective Association

- 2018 President
- 2017 Vice President
- 2016 Vice President

Montana Police Protective Association

- 2010 Executive Board Member
- 2009 Executive Board Member

Special Olympics Montana

- 2006-2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run Leg Leader
- 2006-2011 Law Enforcement Special Event Coordinator

CAREER AWARDS

- 2023 Great Falls Police Award of Commendation
- 2022 Great Falls Exchange Club Officer of the Year
- 2022 Great Falls Police Department Officer of the Year
- 2021 Cascade County Meritorious Service Award
- 2020 Great Falls Police Valorous Unity Award
- 2019 Victim Witness – Crime Victim Referrals Award
- 2017 Great Falls Police Award of Commendation
- 2015 MPPA/MACOP Officer Of the Year (State of Montana)
- 2015 Great Falls Police Letter of Commendation
- 2012 Great Falls Police Letter of Commendation
- 2011 Letter of Appreciation Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office (agency assistance)
- 2010 Special Olympics Montana "Un-Sung Hero Award"
- 2009 NAPO Top Cop Honorable Mention
- 2009 Medal of Honor Montana Police Protective Association/MT Chief's Of Police
- 2008 Medal of Valor Havre Police Department