

Karen Falks Biography

Karen Falks is a Deputy Chief with the San Antonio Police Department. She has served the Department and the citizens of San Antonio for thirty-one (31) years. Deputy Chief Falks was born in Houston as her father was a Houston police officer. She has several other family members who are now retired from both federal and municipal law enforcement agencies but were all influential in her desire to pursue this profession. She knew at a very early age that she wanted to be a police officer and followed that dream to achievement.

Deputy Chief Falks received her Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Wharton County Junior College where she received a basketball scholarship. Upon graduating, she transferred to the University of Texas at San Antonio and was accepted into the San Antonio Police Academy in 1989. Deputy Chief Falks earned her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and Master's Degree in Leadership after becoming a San Antonio Police Officer.

After graduating from cadet class 89A, Deputy Chief Falks worked patrol in the North, South and Central service areas of the City. In 1997, Deputy Chief Falks was promoted to detective where she worked in the Youth Crimes Section, Gang Detail and Sex Crimes Unit. Deputy Chief Falks was promoted to sergeant in 2002. As a new sergeant, she was assigned to the Patrol Division's Central service area for two (2) years and then returned to the Sex Crimes Unit as a supervisor. Deputy Chief Falks was promoted to lieutenant in 2007 where her first assignment was at the Training Academy. During this assignment, Deputy Chief Falks managed Applicant Processing, the Recruiting Detail, the Cadet Training Program and was the Field Training Coordinator for the Department's FTO Program. Her next assignment took her to the helm of the Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Unit and Gang Detail. It must be pointed out that the POP Unit won the 2012 Unit of the Year for the San Antonio Police Department with Deputy Chief Falks at the lead. After leaving POP and Gang, Deputy Chief Falks spent some time in the Patrol Division as the Shift Director for a patrol shift in the Central service area and as the Assistant Commander of Airport Operations. In 2018, Deputy Chief Falks was promoted to Captain where she served as the Commander of the Community Engagement and Technology Section. There, she oversaw the implementation of the Department's new Record Management System, Mark43, and several other new technology projects. On August 28, 2020, Chief William McManus appointed Karen to Deputy Chief where she is currently serving as the Fusion and Covert Division Commander.

Deputy Chief Falks is currently the Department's liaison to the City of San Antonio's Equity Committee. She is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Deputy Chief Falks has served on the Alamo Area Council of Government Law Enforcement Academy Advisory Board and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Basic Peace Officer Patrol Committee. She has volunteered with the San Antonio Youth Literacy Program as a reading mentor and with the Catholic Youth Organization as a basketball coach.

Deputy Chief Falks is married and has a thirteen (13) year old daughter, who keeps her very busy with golf, volleyball and piano. She and her family travel as much as possible and are die-hard Dallas Cowboys fans.