

David Lazar



David Lazar is Commander of the San Francisco Police Department's Investigations Division. A fourth generation San Franciscan, he has served in the SFPD for 19 years, during which he has been assigned to the Patrol Division, Administration and the Investigations Division. He has extensive experience in critical incident management, event planning, enforcement and undercover operation planning, policy development, project management, community engagement, instructional and course development, public speaking, training and working with the media.

Lazar initiated and completed five major projects for the Department, including promotional orientation courses for newly promoted sergeants and lieutenants; a training course for every sergeant in patrol; and a continued professional training course for lieutenants and captains. In 2003, realizing the need to have a comprehensive command post kit at the scene of critical incidents, he partnered with a sergeant and developed the Department's Critical Incident Command Post Kit, still used by sergeants and lieutenants in the field. Last, as part of a requirement in his Bachelor's Degree Program at St. Mary's College to initiate Department wide change, he developed a formal Supervisory Investigations Manual that has been assigned and is used by every sergeant, lieutenant, captain and command staff member in the Department.

In April 2009, the Police Chief selected Lazar as a captain to work with a dedicated staff to implement major organizational change as recommended by the Police Executive Research Forum. The approach was to drastically improve the way law enforcement services are provided to a community in a model Police District through changes in community engagement, technology, problem solving and data driven tactics.

He is seen in the SFPD as exemplifying a leadership style that involves forward thinking, risk taking and a winning attitude. Lazar holds a Bachelor's Degree from St. Mary's College in Project Management.