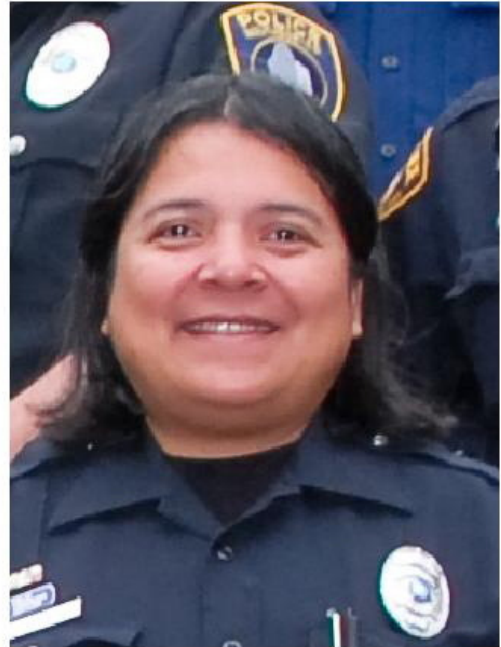




San Antonio, Texas

D.A.R.E. Officer - Instructor



**Officer Z. Vera,
Southside ISD P.D.**

I am **Officer Z. Vera**. I have 10 years of Law Enforcement experience 2 1/2 years as a Family Violence Investigator for Atascosa County Sheriffs Office. I have 8 years experience as an ISD Police Officer and have been a **D.A.R.E.** instructor since 2003. I have taught hundreds of students over the years and have seen some graduate and become professionals. I am an F T O (Field Training Officer) and training coordinator for my department. I am also a reservist with the Texas Army National Guard. I have one son and a husband who support me in whatever adventure that I find myself in. Remember *“Children are our future teach them well and let them lead the way”* (Whitney Houston). Through great partnerships we can all succeed.

*The County-Wide **D.A.R.E.** Officer - Instructors for Bexar County*

*Bexar County **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors (Officers/Deputies) are cross-trained as patrol officers, school resource officers (SRO's), Safety Officers (SO's), Community Policing Officers (CPO's) as well as Crime Prevention Specialist in regards to preventing, through education and drug awareness training, the harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs (ATOD's) on the business workforce and the Communities. **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors are certified in the elementary, middle/junior high and high school **D.A.R.E.** curriculums in addition to the **D.A.R.E.** Parenting Plus educational program curriculum receiving annual recurring re-certification training. Multi-faceted deputies performing a myriad of tasks within the San Antonio and *Bexar County* Communities - "Committed To Excellence" in serving the citizens of *Bexar County*.*

D.A.R.E. Officer/Instructors conduct numerous Community events designed to keep children safe and off the street in a productive learning environment. The primary focus of the **D.A.R.E.** Board is the "Children" - teaching them the harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol, illegal and prescription drug use and abuse, violence, of being responsible and accountable not only to themselves but others, thinking about the consequences of their choices, learning to deal with pressures especially "Peer Pressure", and the importance of good-decision making skills; teaching them to take charge and control of their lives and to make safe and healthy choices. For this **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors receive approximately 80-100 hours of specialized training each year. **D.A.R.E.** goes far beyond the classroom and just teaching kids to say "No" to drugs - **D.A.R.E.** does a whole lot more for this county than its citizens realize!

*Bexar County **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors serve as the School's immediate response force for all serious incidents, major emergencies and/or natural catastrophes - to back up and reinforce routine patrol officers in the field on a 24 hour, 7 days a week recall. **D.A.R.E.** Officers augment the patrol division during the summer months and most school holidays in addition to supporting numerous Community events and programs.*

*Bexar County **D.A.R.E.** Officers/Instructors work with local Child Protective Services (CPS) and conduct preliminary investigations to check the safety, health and welfare of children on cases referred to local Law Enforcement by CPS. If during their investigation they find any indication of criminal abuse or neglect they refer the case to local Law Enforcement Criminal Investigation Division or equivalent. This is just another example of the **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors commitment to saving and protecting our children through intervention.*

To e-mail one of the **D.A.R.E.** Instructors or supervisors, just click on their name.