

Colonel Craig Hunter  
Director of Law Enforcement  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Prior to beginning his 31 years of state service, he had 9 years law enforcement experience at the municipal and county levels. This experience included assignments in patrol, narcotics, organized crime, and homicide.

Colonel Hunter holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Texas (now Texas A & M - Central Texas). He has served as an Adjunct Professor at Killeen/Fort Hood since 2000 where he teaches criminal justice for the United States Army.

He joined TPWD as a game warden in 1984. He was a graduate of the 38<sup>th</sup> Texas Game Warden Academy and was stationed in Montgomery County. He was one of the first to use a decoy deer to catch illegal night hunters and made more than 100 cases in Montgomery County on the first night of the operation and had a 100 per cent conviction rate.

In 1990, Hunter was promoted to Lieutenant in the Mt. Pleasant Regional Office. From 1991 until 2005, he served in and supervised the Internal Affairs Unit and the Executive Protection Team. From the 9/11 attacks until 2013, Hunter served in Governor Rick Perry's Special Operations Group and on the Homeland Security Council. In 2005, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel where he supervised Field Operations and the Special Operations Unit. He subsequently was promoted to Colonel in 2012.

Along with his state commission, he holds a federal commission as an agent for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1998, he became the first Texas Game Warden to graduate from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Hunter is currently the president-elect of the FBI National Academy Executive Board. In 2010, he was recognized with the "Lifetime Achievement" Award from the 100 Club of Texas.

Hunter has investigated and/or supervised hundreds of criminal investigations, several officer-involved shootings, and other critical incidents. He was involved in the management and supervision of many emergency responses such as the Jarrell Tornado, the Columbia Disaster, Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Ike, and many more. In 2005, Hunter led a team of 111 Texas Game Wardens sent to New Orleans to assist with search and rescue efforts following the devastating hurricane Katrina. During the operation, Texas Game Wardens were credited with more than 5,000 rescues.